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Attention: Candace McKinley
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CC: David Lester, Yakima Herald
Joanna Markell, Ellensburg Daily Record
Courtney Flatt, NWPR

COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO YAKIMA WORKGROUP – September 26th, 2012

RE: Proposed New Bumping Lake Dam

It was a wonderful summer at Bumping Lake! I personally spent over 25 wonderful nights in the cabin built by my grandfather and great-grandfather. My children – Gus, 3 and Raina, 6 – really blossomed into nature lovers this year, not asking once to go home or return to some place with television. Here are some highlights from the summer at Bumping:

- My mother, Naydene, spent her 75th summer there and spent even more time than myself at the lake. Nearly every morning after breakfast would find her donning her Friends of Bumping Lake shirt, loading flyers into a waterproof bag, and paddling across the lake to the campgrounds. She typically spent 2 hours going from site to site, handing out fliers and talking to people about the plans YBIWMP has for the lake they were recreating on. Their reactions ranged from shock to anger to, in the case of one small boy, tears. 90% people she spoke with had heard nothing of this plan. Nearly every last person expressed gratitude for our time in this, pledged to do whatever they could do to help, and signed up as members of FOBL.
- My daughter turned 6 while we were at the cabin this summer. With the help of a friend who came to the lake with us, she overcame her fears and learned to swim in Bumping Lake. Now she's intent on breaking her father's record of being the youngest family member to swim across the lake with no life jacket.
- Just 2 weeks ago, FOBL hosted 25 members of the Sierra Club and heads of other environmental organizations at the cabin for an astonishingly warm weekend of fun and recreation. One highlight included separate trips to two groves of massive ancient trees that will be flooded and destroyed with the installation of a high Bumping Dam. But the unequivocal highlight was the big group dinner that went late into the night. Surrounded by great food and lovely Yakima Valley wines, it was an amazing experience to be surrounded by people dedicated to the preservation of a pristine wilderness that is adored by tens of thousands of people.

- One last highlight: on our way home from the annual Sierra Club outing, we were flagged down near the spillway at twilight by Susie and Tom Cyr, the owners of Cabin 17 that originally housed the dam tenders that preceded the cabins. They had been watching enormous Chinook salmon spawning at the base of the dam, some of which looked to be over 3 feet long. That was a beautiful moment. Once the Bumping Dam is taken out of consideration and Bumping has achieved permanent preservation, it is FOBL's third operational goal to work to bridge the gap between those salmon and the lake without resorting to widespread flooding and destruction.

I realize that it's not in any of your best interest to do this, but if you really want to know how people feel about this, I would advise that you go to the campground any day next summer and talk to people about it. People who care about this place are not a small handful of cabin owners, they are tens of thousands of people from Yakima to Spokane to Ellensburg to Seattle – over **20,000 people every summer** alone. From them you will hear the full story of Bumping.

One person here who knows the full story of Bumping is Mr. Jeff Tayer, who has been going to the lake far longer than I have. Jeff, you were recently quoted in the Ellensburg Daily Record as saying “My heart tells me no, don't flood this beautiful place ... But my head tells me that the amount of conservation in this plan so far exceeds the amount of impact.” To that, I would counter with this quote from writer Karen Marie Moning:

*“The most confused we ever get is when we're trying to convince our heads
of something our heart knows is a lie.”*

My request to the workgroup, as it shall be until it is done, is please remove the Bumping Lake Dam from this plan and utilize mandated conservation and water marketing to get the water you desire instead.

Thank you,

Chris Maykut, President
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