



December 11, 2012

Wendy Christiansen
Columbia-Cascades Area Office - Bureau of Reclamation
1917 Marsh Road
Yakima, WA 98901-2058

Derek Sandison
Director, Office of Columbia River- Department of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452

Re: Yakima Workgroup Meeting – December 12, 2012

Dear Ms. Christiansen & Mr. Sandison:

Friends of the Earth is a national environmental organization that defends the environment and champions a healthy and just world. Friends of the Earth is a part of Friends of the Earth International, a global grassroots environmental network representing more than two million activists in 77 different countries.

Friends of the Earth has been involved in Yakima Basin issues in south central Washington State since the mid-1970s. In Congress, we successfully helped defeat a new Bumping Lake dam in the Okanogan-Wentachee National Forest. We also supported passage of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project bill in 1979, to improve fish passage facilities including fish screening as well as increase water conservation.

On March 30, 2012, we joined with 15 other local, state and national environmental and conservation organizations in commenting to the Bureau and Department of Ecology on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the "Integrated Water Resource Management Plan, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Benton, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties, Washington." See http://www.washington.sierraclub.org/uppercol/pdf/Yakima_FEIS_Conservationists-comments_3-2012.pdf.

Our comments concerned early actions taken prior to the release of the Draft Programmatic Environment Impact Statement and lack of alternatives to a large Bumping Lake irrigation dam that would destroy ancient forests and endangered species habitat for bull trout and spotted owls, and a large Wymer irrigation dam that would destroy endangered species habitat for sage grouse. In addition we commented on the proposal that was added after the close of the public

comment period for the Draft Programmatic Environment Impact Statement to designate National Recreation Areas for off-road vehicle use. We requested a written response to our Final Proposed Environmental Impact Statement comments. To date, we have received no reply so we repeat our request for a written response.

Friends of the Earth is also a member of the Green Scissors Campaign, along with budget watchdog Taxpayers for Common Sense, and the free-market think tank R Street Institute. Since its inception in 1994, the Green Scissors Campaign has fought to make environmental and fiscal responsibility priorities in Washington by eliminating subsidies and programs that both harm the environment and waste taxpayer dollars. In 2012, the Green Scissors Campaign identified the proposed \$1.4 billion for a new Bumping Lake Dam and Wymer Dam as harmful to the environment and a waste of taxpayer dollars. We request that a copy of the Green Scissors 2012 report be made part of the December 12, 2012 Workgroup meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erich Pica', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erich Pica, President
Friends of the Earth