

Attention: Derek Sandison  
Director, Office of Columbia River  
Department of Ecology

Attention: Candace McKinley  
Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia-Cascades Area Office  
Environmental Program Manager

COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO YAKIMA WORKGROUP – June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013

RE: Bumping Lake Controversy

Dear Workgroup members:

As you all know, Friends of Bumping Lake has been, and will continue to be, very active in the process of the Yakima Basin Plan. Over the past 18 months, I've gotten myself up to speed on the issues and the data associated with this plan. Something that I've intended to ask the Workgroup since our last meeting is simply "why Bumping?" Until recently, the answer given to us numerous times at each Workgroup meeting and to the press has been the rhetorical statement "the plan cannot change, or it will fall apart."

Something that stood out to me in stark contrast to that assertion was a brief exchange between Senator Jim Honeyford and Derrick Sandison at the Senate Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development Committee Work Session in Olympia which I attended and spoke at on February 7th of this year.

After hearing a half dozen people come up and specifically voice opposition to Bumping Lake, Senator Honeyford asked Mr. Sandison to come back up for a series of questions. He specifically asked about fish passage at Bumping, and also asked "If any of these storage sites fall off the plan, what is the backup plan?"

Derrick answered "The backup if one of the identified reservoir projects would not come to fruition.... we've discussed it in the Workgroup and we would look towards another source of water to compensate for the loss of any particular project that we've identified so far. So if one of the major reservoir projects goes off the table we go to a list of other projects that are considered maybe less desirable by the Workgroup at this time but would nevertheless supply water. Specifically we're talking about inactive storage at other reservoirs. Kachess reservoir isn't the only reservoir with an inactive block of water stored below the current outlet that could be accessed."\*

Now, I realize that it's good process for the Workgroup to have a backup plan in place, but the statement "we go to a list" that has been clearly generated for such purposes implies to me that the Yakima Plan that is eventually implemented will quite possibly not be the one that is currently proposed. And indeed, it is possible for the plan to change and not "fall apart." Otherwise, why bother generating a backup list at all?

So that brings me back to my question to you. If the question "Why Bumping" cannot be answered with "because the plan will fall apart without it", then what is the answer? Bumping is not the most cost-effective

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\* [http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com\\_tvwplayer&eventID=2013020061](http://www.tvw.org/index.php?option=com_tvwplayer&eventID=2013020061)

way for taxpayers to provide water to the Yakima Valley, and that has been clearly demonstrated in every feasibility study done on it over the past century: it will never provide economic benefits to our state that will match the cost of it.

Why Bumping? Bumping is not the most effective way to provide irrigation security for the Yakima Valley. It is well known that the watershed behind a new dam will not replenish it and be useless in helping alleviate consecutive drought years.

Why Bumping? A massive dam at Bumping is not necessary to restore historic salmon runs and would destroy the critical Bull Trout habitat in Deep Creek.

And clearly, Bumping is one of the most controversial elements of this plan. Dozens of groups and thousands of citizens oppose it, and the work I have taken on is that those numbers will continue to grow and grow.

If my question isn't something you're able to give the public, the press, and the stakeholders at Bumping Lake an answer to, I would still say that you will need to come up with an answer in the near future. As this plan moves farther along, people whom you wish to gain funding from will also ask this question of you as well, and they will need a better answer than "the plan will fall apart without it."

Thank you for the opportunity to speak, I greatly appreciate it.

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