

**Alpine Lakes Protection Society
California Water Impact Network
Endangered Species Coalition
Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs
North Cascades Conservation Council
Sierra Club, Washington State Chapter
Western Lands Project
Western Watersheds Project**

October 24, 2011

The Ancient Forests of Bumping Lake: No to Sacrificing Our Wild Heritage

Dear Member:

We write to apprise you of a proposed Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project proposal from the Bureau of Reclamation/Washington State Department of Ecology “Yakima Basin Working Group” -- which, if enacted, would destroy one of the now-rarest biological treasures remaining in our state: over 2000 acres of wild and magnificent ancient forests just east of Mt. Rainier National Park, and abutting the William O. Douglas Wilderness.

If these forests are allowed to be destroyed by a new dam proposed by the Working Group, gone forever also will be their superlative habitat for endangered species such as the Bull Trout and the Northern Spotted Owl, as well as their irreplaceable spiritual, aesthetic, and recreational values.

The ostensible ‘reason’ for even considering such a dam (after the Bureau of Reclamation’s refusal in 2008 to further study the project, and the Forest Service’s strong opposition) is to provide “insurance water” for Yakima Basin irrigators in case of a future drought, and improve instream flows.

We are completely opposed to any proposals which would require the elimination of National Forest roadless area surrounding Bumping Lake, including spectacular ancient forests. After over a century of heavy logging in the Washington Cascades, these forests are all that remain, of such ecological variety and huge individual size, still unprotected.

We can and want to support some of the other stated goals of the Working Group – including enhancement of salmon runs, more water supply through efficient water conservation, and acquisition of open space. But there are other and better – certainly less costly – ways to achieve these goals.

There is simply no way to replace, or to “mitigate” for these ancient forests, once they are gone.

We find it ironic – even tragic – that at the very same time as the whole state is celebrating the removal of two dams on the Elwha River, other special interests are actively promoting building new dams, which will be just as destructive.

Please join with us to say “No” to destroying this wild forest heritage. The proposed Bumping Lake Expansion Dam is one “insurance proposal” that is simply not worth it.

Sincerely

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