

P-12569-001



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forest

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File Code: 2770

Date: February 27, 2010

ORIGINAL

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Kimberly,

The US Forest Service, Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest offers these comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission after reviewing the December 2009 "Application Ready for Environmental Analysis" for the Enloe Hydroelectric Project.

The Omnibus Lands Bill of March 2009, designated the Pacific Northwest trail as a National Scenic trail. In that act, the US Forest Service was assigned as the lead agency for the trail, with responsibility for coordinating with other agencies to develop management plans and objectives for the trail. The act designated the route of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic trail following the Similkameen River west of Oroville and across the site of the Enloe Hydroelectric Project. While the US Forest Service does not manage lands in this area we do have a vested interest in the hydroelectric project due to our management responsibilities for the Pacific Northwest trail.

In discussions with the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) they shared a draft of the BLM response for the Enloe Hydroelectric Project. In the BLM reply to you they made two recommendations. Both recommendation No. 2 addressing Recreation management and recommendation No. 3 relating to Non-Motorized trails provide suggestions regarding the Pacific Northwest Trail. The US Forest Service wishes to go on record as supporting these BLM recommendations. We feel the BLM recommendations are consistent with the long term management direction for the Pacific Northwest trail, and will complement the recreation objectives of local communities and Okanogan County.

The Similkameen River valley provides a variety of recreation opportunities for the public. To the extent that current recreation activities are modified by Enloe hydroelectric project mitigation measures will need to be taken to accommodate the recreating public. We feel the BLM response to you, does a good job of presenting this situation.

If you have questions or wish to discuss specific mitigation actions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Lockett Heath

REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor, Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forest

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SECRETARY OF THE
FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION
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cc: Mark S Morris, Martinez, Robert A Martinez, Diane Priebe, BLM Wenatchee, John Knechtel, Pacific Northwest Trail Association