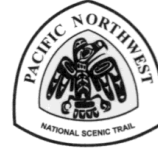


RE: P-12569
P-12569



24854 CJ Memorial Circle #4
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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REGULATORY COMMISSION



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To Whom it May Concern:

It was recently brought to my attention that the water flow across the waterfalls on the Similkameen River will be seriously diminished, if not non-existent, if the Enloe Dam project goes forward. Having sat through all the meetings over the last three years regarding Enloe Dam, I find it very unusual that this significant fact was never brought to light by the PUD.

With the amount of money put into the construction and restoration of the rail grade, and the number of users that traverse the trail to look at and revel in the gorge and waterfalls, I find it very disconcerting. The rail grade is a proposed portion of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail and as such, should strive to maintain the visual corridor attached to such an entity. The economic impacts of having such a destination as the gorge and waterfalls can play a large part in the economics of Northern Okanogan County and the City of Oroville. Personally, I can visualize thousands of people descending on Oroville to trek up the rail grade just to take in the splendor of the gorge and waterfalls over the coming years. Think of what that means to the tourist industry in Oroville!

What are the economic benefits to the area if a cash-strapped and I feel very deceptive, PUD spends taxpayer dollars to raise the dam? Where are the pay backs to the community? Is there irrigational value to the raising of the dam? Is there a benefit to the local residents of lower electrical rates because of this project? What about the impact on Salmon and Steelhead?

Although I am not a resident of Okanogan County, just a very frequent visitor, these are all things that I would be concerned about and thought I should express my opinions.

Jon Knechtel

Director of Trail Operations