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First name: Richard

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Organization: Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS)

Title: President

Comments: Dear Cle Elum District Ranger, USFS:

These are comments from the Alpine Lakes Protection Society (ALPS) on the "Gold Creek Restoration Project."

We oppose this project as currently proposed. Gold Creek Pond is there because the site was used as a gravel source during construction of I-90. While most manmade constructions such as this are detrimental to the environment, occasionally one happens that actually enriches a place. We believe Gold Creek Pond is an example of such, rare though they be.

While we generally support efforts to retain or enhance anadromous species such as bull trout, we do not believe that this project will be a net gain. It will dewater Gold Creek Pond and adversely affect all the species that now live there.

We cannot help but wonder if this project is a case of an agency wanting to be seen to do something for the environment, while disregarding what will actually happen. Is this project a "mitigation" for the Kachess pumping station? What is the role of the Kittitas Conservation Trust in it? What is its role in the "Yakima Integrated Plan?"

The "Yakima Integrated Plan" is in our opinion little more than a massive water grab. Such "mitigation" measures such as the Gold Creek "restoration" project are little more than fig leaves intended to mask the destructive overall nature of the Plan.

The word "restoration" has been used to label so many destructive projects that it is now virtually meaningless. We do not believe this project will restore anything. It will not put back water into Gold Creek. It will destroy the artificial but nonetheless beneficial Gold Creek Pond.

We believe this project is nothing more than a PR endeavor to make it look like the Yakima Integrated Plan is doing good things for the environment. We thus oppose it, and request that you not permit it to go forward.

Sincerely,

Rick McGuire

ALPS President