



Columbia Riverkeeper  
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February 12, 2021

Sage Park  
Washington Department of Ecology  
1250 West Alder Street  
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009  
Attn: Goldendale Scoping

*Submitted via email to: [sage.park@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:sage.park@ecy.wa.gov).*

*Submitted via email.*

**RE: Public Comments Responsive to Ecology's SEPA Scoping Comment  
Period on the Proposed Goldendale Pumped Storage Project, FERC Docket  
No. P-14861-002.**

Dear Washington Department of Ecology,

Columbia Riverkeeper (Riverkeeper) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to protect and restore the Columbia River, from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Riverkeeper plays an active role in educating the public about proposed developments along the Columbia River that may threaten life connected to and dependent on the River. Rye Development (Rye), dba Free Flow Power 101, LLC, proposes the Northwest's largest pumped storage hydroelectric project along the Columbia River in Klickitat County, Washington, near the John Day Dam. The Goldendale Energy Storage Hydroelectric Project (Project) threatens irreplaceable tribal cultural and religious resources, water quality, fish, and wildlife. On behalf of our 16,000 members in Oregon and Washington, Columbia Riverkeeper transmits the collected, attached 110 comments gathered through our website and virtual outreach.

The comment letter signed by the attached list of people states:

*Dear Washington Dept. of Ecology,*

*I strongly support the decision of the Washington Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Free Flow Power 101, LLC Goldendale Pumped Storage Project (Project) because of the adverse significant impacts to the environment. Ecology's EIS must analyze the following:*

- 1. A robust "No Action" Alternative. This alternative should describe in detail all of the ecological, cultural, recreational and commercial benefits and activities the site does and could support if the project is not developed.*
- 2. The Project's environmental justice impacts, including the Project's direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to Tribal Nations and Indigenous people, and low-income ratepayers;*
- 3. Alternative designs and clean energy alternatives to the Project; and*
- 4. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on fish, wildlife, and water quality.*

The signers in the attachment submit the above comment for your consideration. Many added their own personalized comments, which are included in a table to ease your review. Please consider these as individual comments.

Sincerely,



Simone Anter  
Staff Attorney  
Columbia Riverkeeper  
simone@columbiariverkeeper.org  
Columbia Riverkeeper

	Last Name	First Name	City	State	Zip Code	Comment
1	Adamson	Chris	Gig Harbor	WA	98335	We need to work together with the tribes to respect and care for the land that is integral to their culture and everyone's future. We need to find alternatives that do not just consider profit. We need to consider our childrens future instead of an easy quick solution. There are better ways.
2	alexandra	Kathryn	Anacortes	WA	98221-8581	This project will result in direct indirect and cumulative impacts on fish wildlife and water quality and should not be approved
3	Aoki	David	Vancouver	WA	98683-1851	
4	Armstrong	Amber	White Salmon	WA	98672-2521	
5	Bailey	Jacob	Orting	WA	98360-9638	
6	Banks	Wesley	Vancouver	WA	98682-0067	While the concept sounds good, this project is not good. Its impacts on indigenous people would completely outweigh the benefits, if any, of the project.
7	Becker	Jessica	Yacolt	WA	98675-9526	The damming of the Columbia River has already negatively impacts local Native Americans. This project seems to continue to do irreparable damage. There are other ways to create renewable energy.
8	Bingle	Bonnie	Vancouver	WA	98665-0903	
9	Blackwood	Barbara	Spokane Valley	WA	99206-5728	
10	BOYD	MARILYN	Seattle	WA	98125-6625	1. This project has not been identified as a need to meet the state,Äôs regional clean energy goals. 2. I am concerned about this project negatively affecting wildlife, including golden and bald eagles, and water quality. 3. For too long, tribal rights have been diminished, neglected and ignored.
11	Burch	Kristian	Camas	WA	98607-8977	
12	Campbell	Roberta	Tacoma	WA	98408-3625	I am deeply concerned about the environment, wildlife and climate change and what we can do.
13	Canale	Shaw	Coupeville	WA	98239	Environment before profit c

14	Cetas	Elijah	Portland	OR	97222-6569	We need to move beyond 'sacrifice zones'. We can build renewable energy, reduce consumption and waste, and give benefits to the most marginalized without further harm to plants and animals, cultural resources, and sacred landscapes. I am a climate organizer, part of the Sunrise Movement, and other groups. It is difficult to oppose any renewable energy project, given the enormous changes we need to see in my lifetime to reduce emissions. But I also know that all our efforts to stop the climate crisis are in vain if it leads to more extinction and injustice. This is the wrong project. Listen to the Yakama Nation, sovereign stewards of these lands for millennia. Don't make the mistake of thinking you know best for their landscape. Thank you,
15	Choma	Becky	Brush Prairie	WA	98606	
16	Ciancibelli	Allison	Twisp	WA	98856-9786	
17	Clark	Roger	Bellingham	WA	98225-6213	There are too many negatives and doubtful benefits as well as unlikely economic success to justify this project.
18	Cody	Heidi	Vancouver	WA	98664-5432	If this affects the Yakama nation, fish, wildlife and water quality, make sure you shouldn't do it differently or not do it at all.
19	Cole	Jackie	Woodinville	WA	98072-6501	
20	Couture	Ray	Seatac	WA	98168-3035	I care about the planet which sustains all life not just human. If we do not care about the planet we are nothing more than a virus confidently destroying our host. Our demise will follow.
21	Curry	Linda	Kelso	WA	98626-5308	
22	Derie	Joann	Vancouver	WA	98682-7063	I strongly believe in clean energy alternatives that promote a healthier environment. I live next to the Columbia River and this will effect our fish, wildlife, and water quality.

23	dicken	don	Ellensburg	WA	98926-8007	i appreciate the 'clean' power columbia river dams deliver but they are not without costs. i think right now we should be talking about removing snake river dams rather than talking of adding additional structures to mess with my favorite river
24	Dixon	Angie	Clinton	WA	98236-9622	We must work with our rivers and other ecosystems, not impose our shortsighted demands that always cause problems and destruction to the life support of every living creature that depends on the river or other ecosystem. WE MUST START TO THINK AND ACT DIFFERENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATURE OR WE ARE DOOMED AND DOOM EVERY OTHER LIVING SPECIES ON THIS PLANET. And if we continue our destructive practices, shame on us and we will all pay the price.
25	Doane	Anne	Camas	WA	98607-7986	
26	Dodge	Tiffany	Seattle	WA	98103-8874	
27	Ellison	Richard	Seattle	WA	98115-4639	As a biologist, i believe any large project that expects multiple impacts, especially to cultural and ecological resources, should require a full EIS.
28	Featherstone	Suz	Olympia	WA	98512	We need to do all we can to help build stable salmon populations for the health of the orcas and the Puget Sound Eco system

29	Fischlin	Segue	Seattle	WA	98102-3203	While I don't understand what 'pumped storage' means, I am concerned about the effects of hydroelectric dams upon salmon spawning, as it has been proven that fish ladders (mostly) don't work. I would like to see a greater focus placed upon energy efficiency and looking at ways to reduce energy use. For example, supporting infrastructure development for small electric vehicles such as ebikes and etrikes over electric cars and resisting the catastrophic energy demands of 'smart cities' and self-driving vehicles, along with 5g. John McAfee has pointed out that a tremendous amount of energy is wasted sending SPAM alone. Why aren't spammers hunted down and shut down? So there are many many ways to reduce energy usage without a reduction in quality of life that aren't being explored. Wind and solar (esp in eastern WA) should also be examined, esp if there are any efficient designs of VAWT now available.
30	Fisher	Karen	Ferndale	WA	98248-9650	
31	Gannon	Vicky	Seattle	WA	98121-2121	I care about the environment and the damage that we are close to being able to undo and I care about the rights of native Americans.
32	Genest	Karen	Vancouver	WA	98683	I am concerned that this project has the potential to negatively impact the environment as well as the local native residents in the areas. We have a tendency to want to protect "white" cultural resource but mindlessly destroy those that are important to any indigenous cultures. We need to make a change.
33	Gillespie	Bob	Mount Vernon	WA	98273-5817	
34	Gilmore	Thomas	Bellingham	WA	98225-7910	
35	Hackett	Alex	Nampa	ID	83686-5125	

36	Herron	Lorena	Battle Ground	WA	98604-3225	This project is very alarming to me because of tensional detrimental effects on indigenous peoples as well as native species.
37	Heye	Lydia	Portland	OR	97224-4494	It is important that lawmakers don't overlook Tribal needs, especially when approving new infrastructure projects such as these.
38	Hinman	Bill	Longview	WA	98632-1837	We only have one earth and republicans are doing everything they can to destroy it.
39	Houghton	Abigail	Seattle	WA	98118-3937	
40	Ikenberry	Julie	Lyle	WA	98635-9512	Environmental and social impacts must be at the forefront of all considerations. We can no longer move forward with development that does not take these into account. Please drop this project.
41	Jacobs	Diane	Portland	OR	97213-4654	I stand firmly in solidarity with the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in opposing the construction of the massive pumped storage hydroelectric project. The cultural significance of this area must be respected.
42	Jacobs	Kelsey	Moses Lake	WA	98837	Projects such as these must not be undertaken lightly and must have the full review of the Department of Ecology, as well as review by all local tribal parties.
43	Jim	Debra	Toppenish	WA	98948-5594	Adverse effect on Salmon and other water life in the Columbia River.
44	Johnson	Lorraine	Seattle	WA	98125-2600	So we have a future that is robust and varied.
45	Johnson	Nancy	Edmonds	WA	98020-3936	
46	Kays	Noah	Camas	WA	98607-8573	Honor our environment and the Indian treaties
47	Keely	S.	Kalama	WA	98625-9511	The Goldendale Project's environmental justice impacts to Tribal Nations and Indigenous people, is not right. The state of Washington should stand with our BIPOC communities in protecting their health and prosperity. I urge you to provide a robust 'No Action' Alternative.

48	Kepford	Pam	Everett	WA	98203	We need our fish! Orcas need our fish. Respect the rights of the Indigenous, they were here for 10,000 years and left the land pristine. We need to become in tune with the Earth, rather than exploit her to death.
49	Kramer	Robin	Olympia	WA	98506-2826	
50	Kreher	Leslie	Monroe	WA	98272-2322	We need to protect our environment. The future is in power sources that are not carbon based. Please support putting funds toward clean, renewable energy.
51	Kreider	Tawn	Vancouver	WA	98661-4951	Soooo tired of having to convince the government and powers that be to always consider the environment first, future generations second and money last. Why is it so hard to understand that we as humans don't get to abuse and trash the environment on a whim??? Does climate change, species extinction and native culture mean nothing?!? I care about all these things passionately and vehemently oppose Goldendale Pumped Storage Project. Let the Washington Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) to conduct an Environmental Impact Statement !
52	Krueger	Gail	Vancouver	WA	98661-4813	
53	Kuzma	Ken	Longview	WA	98632-9819	
54	lane	Kathy	Vancouver	WA	98663	
55	Leavitt	Donna	Edmonds	WA	98026-8214	This is sacred landscape and should not be violated further.
56	Lee	Mona	Seattle	WA	98118-3851	There is no Planet B.
57	Leed	Mark	Vancouver	WA	98661-5176	This project's footprint on the landscape, and its impact on cultural resources of the Yakama Nation render it unacceptable. This is not the type of clean energy project needed to meet Washington's goals for greenhouse gas emissions reduction.



58	Lindberg	Robert	Vancouver	WA	98662-3328	This decision should not be taken lightly considering the potential environmental impact if this project were approved.
59	Long	Robyn	Seattle	WA	98117	
60	Lybarger	Lisa	Kalama	WA	98625-9476	The Columbia river has had enough!
61	Mackey	Melvin	Vashon	WA	98070-7547	The Yakama Nation has vehemently opposed this development because of the proposal,Â devastating impacts to irreplaceable tribal cultural resources.
62	Magliola	Lawrence	Sequim	WA	98382-9310	
63	Magner	Millie	Seattle	WA	98199-1441	If we are to save salmon, the time to act is now. We have the opportunity to save much more than salmon and orca. The steps we take to save these iconic species will reverberate - they'll ripple like a stone thrown into a pool of water. They will be that action that proves to us that we care enough to take on climate change. By saving these species, we take the steps to save ourselves.
64	Marre	Rosemary	Vancouver	WA	98683	I live near the Columbia river and my husband is a site steward for the Department of Natural Resources Nature Preserves in our area. My husband and I frequently enjoy outings in the Columbia Gorge. I am concerned about the impact of the project on the river, the natural environment and scenery. I think it is an ill conceived plan and unnecessarily destructive. I think it is a poor use of resources that could and should be directed toward low impact green energy projects. Please put a stop to this project. Thank you.
65	Marrs	Christopher	Port Townsend	WA	98368-9237	It's past time to work with and to honor the tribe's cares and the needs of the environment. I support the Dept. of Ecology's decision and hope you will also.
66	Marshall	Liz	Bellingham	WA	98225-4762	

67	Martinson	Julianne	Everett	WA	98201-1114	The EIS must be done to analyze impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife, but the Project's impacts on indigenous and low-income ratepayers must bear heavy scrutiny. I support a strong 'No Action' alternative.
68	McDonough	Rebecca	Eastsound	WA	98245-0165	We all need to work to save the environment in any way we can - including this.
69	Melton	Nancy	Seattle	WA	98115-6564	This is Tribal Land! It is not the government's to disrupt. Goldendale is a beautiful spot, leave it alone. Think of the major impact this would have on the area- plant life, animal life and ecological disruption. An EIS must be required. I do not think that we have enough time on the planet to waste on any further destruction of the earth. I care-we all should- about saving open spaces. Listen to reason. Please. We only have so little time to secure our challenges on this 'blue marble'.
70	Mintz Kavas	Lisa M.	Lynnwood	WA	98087-6057	
71	Montour Lewis	Sara	Everett	WA	98203	
72	Neumeister	John	New York	NY	10032	
73	Pence	Joanne	Columbia City	OR	97018-9784	I live next to the Columbia River in Oregon. Decisions made in Washington directly affect my life here. Please work to save our environment.
74	Pendergast	Betsy	Port Townsend	WA	98368-4434	
75	Perkins	Sherry	Seattle	WA	98178-4405	
76	Pinsonault	Kathleen	Portland	OR	97222-5756	
77	Pyz	Anastasia	Vancouver	WA	98685-1912	We must act with care and intention when it comes to our environment since we as humans are so intimately connected with the earth around us. Failure to properly build and inspect these kinds of projects can lead to grave harm to the environment, local wildlife, and downstream ... us.
78	Rall	Ben	Spokane	WA	99205-5635	
79	Raymond	Teri	Orient	WA	99160-9406	My grand kids need a viable earth too.
80	Rietz	Marguerite	Blaine	WA	98230-9353	

81	Riggin	Joyce	Longview	WA	98632-3308	
82	Roberts	Brad	White Salmon	WA	98672-1068	If science tells us water temperature in the Columbia River is already too high for the salmon why would we add another water heating piece of infrastructure? Short sighted corporate greed should not be allowed to further damage salmon habitat. Send these carpet baggers a message that we are trying to save the salmon not destroy them!
83	Roberts	Caroline Y.	White Salmon	WA	98672-1068	We already have the aftereffects of nuclear, oil, coal, dams and other energy development. We need to research this thoroughly BEFORE devastating harmful effects come to light.
84	Rojas	Jessica	Portland	OR	97211-6527	Projects like this can only do one thing- disturb a already fragile ecosystem and fisheries, and create greater biological and economic loss to our region. The dollars saved from not allowing this project to proceed will greatly exceed the minimal gains of allowing these dollars to leave our region and create a domino effect of greater loss.
85	Rucker	Pat	Vancouver	WA	98661-5336	Pumped storage will help with climate change, but it cannot come at the expense of everything else. The Yakama deserve to have final say in any project that would impact their cultural sites. This was their home first and that should always be respected.
86	Rummerfield	Mike	Onalaska	WA	98570-0661	
87	Ryan-Mapolski	Cassie	Portland	OR	97206-3550	
88	Saul	Greg	Olympia	WA	98501-3917	
89	Scavezze	Barbara	Olympia	WA	98501-5994	
90	Shea	Joan	Spokane	WA	99223-7223	Immediate action is essential to protecting restoring ecological balance NOW, and into the future!
91	Shikuma	Stanley	Seattle	WA	98144-6512	

92	shirley	john	Vancouver	WA	98665-8540	These systems interrupt the natural flow of a river system. This leads to disrupted animal migration paths, issues with water quality, and wildlife displacement.
93	Snook	Richard	Tumwater	WA	98501	Not everything needs to be sold to the highest bidder!!! There is always a requirement to respect ownership first!.....especially when it comes to land and endangered habitats! Am sure the company building this power facility had other options; and if they didn, they should be encouraged to fine other locations.
94	Snyder	Nichole	Federal Way	WA	98023-2327	We have already destroyed enough indigenous land. Now is the time to really think about why we are doing to make sure we protect ALL communities and especially the sacred and historical sites of our indigenous communities. All impacts need to be properly explored and documented and weighed before moving forward to destroy more land for a project like this. How will it impact the Yakama Nation, our salmon, our resident orcas? These things are all connected. We need to protect life and stop destroying it.
95	SOWDON	Lyn	Vancouver	WA	98684-5704	It's time we support the rights of all people.
96	Spurling	Leslie	Shoreline	WA	98133-6209	In this day and time, it seems incredible that we would need to petition to protect indigenous lands and the environment. Obviously, we still do.
97	Staley	Sheri	Shelton	WA	98584-8848	
98	Stewart	Todd	Olympia	WA	98502-7655	
99	Studley	Linda	Marysville	WA	98271-7805	We need to fully investigate clean energy development in this area before proceeding
100	Swihart	Janet	Long Beach	WA	98631-1506	As Earth's stewards we must make wiser, forward thinking choices. Let's all try harder than this.

101	Tseu	Christy	Ariel	WA	98603-9736	Ecology determined that the pumped-storage hydroelectric development may lead to significant adverse impacts on the environment, which requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
102	Turnbull	Laura	Portland	OR	97217-4365	It is past time to take a stand to protect our natural environment! Environmentally neutral or beneficial projects must replace those with negative consequences. This is no time for short cuts and easy approvals.
103	Van Haalen	Teresa	Spokane Valley	WA	99016-5299	Our Columbia river is a source of all that sustains up here in the northwest!
104	Vogel	Sally	Lacey	WA	98503-3132	The past is important to me. Modern civilization has erased all too many of the cultural treasures that are important both historically and spiritually to the descendants of the people who made them. Fighting climate change is important but perhaps there are other ways to do it.
105	WARNER	Donna	El Paso	TX	79934-3318	
106	Way	Steve	Vashon	WA	98070-7850	There's so much wrong with this project. If the power generated is truly needed, why not spend an equivalent amount on renewable energy projects that do not harm the environment or, most importantly, trample once again on the rights and standing of Indigenous people. Best alternative of all: consult with Indigenous people as the equals that you are, truly work together, and arrive at a place that is acceptable to all.
107	Whitefield	Donna	Camas	WA	98607-8049	The Yakima Nation deserves to have its feelings respected in regard to this. Please don't do anything without an environmental impact statement and a cultural impact statement.
108	Wilkins	Mary Jo	Kennewick	WA	99337-4614	I live along the Columbia River. I want this area's wild flora and fauna to remain pollution free.
109	wilson	bea	Edmonds	WA	98020-3909	
110	Wright	Janet	Friday Harbor	WA	98250-8966	