

Martha Atkinson

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Dear Central Region Director Park
Dear Washington Department of Ecology and Governor Jay Inslee,
As a former biologist for the U.S. National Park Service, I oppose the proposed Goldendale Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project (Project) because of the irreparably damaging impacts that it will have on tribal cultural and religious resources, as explicitly expressed by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation). This Project threatens to destroy numerous archeological, ceremonial, burial, petroglyph monumental and ancestral use sites sacred to the Yakama Nation, and would interfere with the exercise of gathering, fishing, ceremony and passing of Yakama Nation's traditions. The Draft EIS finds that there will be "significant and unavoidable adverse impacts" to cultural and tribal resources. It also indicates that there is no proposed mitigation for these impacts that is supported by Tribal Nations. While renewable energy and grid resilience are important considerations as we tackle the climate crisis, so too is the need to achieve environmental justice and to prevent disproportionate impacts of energy development on Indigenous communities. "Clean energy" must not be built on the backs of Tribal Nations. Sincerely,
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