

Ronnie Washines

I am compelled to speak out about why I am against the wished-for pumped storage hydroelectric project near Goldendale, Washington.

Creator felt it necessary to place my people to live, use and protect the foods and medicines He placed on the land of the Goldendale region. My people have, since time immemorial, been birthed, lived, died and buried among the lands we speak of and we have unwritten Creator's rules, regulations and laws that govern how we are left to ensure all of that is protected, preserved and is perpetually kept alive for our continued use.

It was done for us by those that signed the Yakama Treaty of 1855 because they received their instructions to do so from their ancestors.

I hear that there have been people who have looked into how this project would affect all that I speak of and more, and I feel that if the project goes forward, we will lose forever all those things I speak of.

There may be smart people who use science to say this is a good thing, but I don't think they take into consideration how it will harm the ground, the water, the air, and the lives of those of us who count on it being kept the way we found it.

I and, I believe, that my ancestors do not want such a project to be built as it is wished for.

I thank you for listening to my words. - Ronnie Washines, Toppenish, Wash.