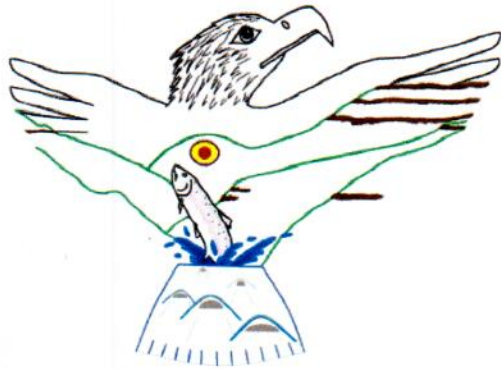


Bronsko Jim

Comment letter by Bronsko Jim Jr., Kahmiltpah Band leader



Bronsko Jim Jr.

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August 9, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Park,

I am the designated chief of the Kah-Milt-Pah (Rock Creek) Band of this area. I am writing in regards to this proposed Goldendale Pump Storage Project in Goldendale, Washington near the John Day Dam at the bottom and at the top of Juniper Point. I understand this is a draft environmental Impact Statement for this project. I was designated by the elders to be a leader on behalf of the Kah-Milt-Pah Band and I write this letter on behalf of the Band members and our future generations.

This land where this proposed project is planned is within our sacred site called "Put-a-lish" where we continue to gather our First Foods and medicines along the ridge and we fish at the valley toe of this ridge. Amongst the Yakama Nation, there are other language dialects and the Yakama Nation call this site "Pushpum." I wanted to make this clarification so there will be no confusion. The local tribal ancestral names of Juniper Point are Put-a-lish and Pushpum. This area is a very sacred site for our people who continue to reside in our ancestral lands. We continue to live here within the Goldendale Community and we have our longhouse at the Rock Creek canyon. We gather our traditional foods from all these lands in this area just as our ancestors have for many generations and time immemorial.

I understand the plan is to drill a 20-30 feet diameter tunnel through our sacred site and construct a powerhouse and two reservoirs (~60 acres) at the top and bottom. I have concern with this project and the total desecration to our sacred mountain, First Foods, and medicines. I have concerns for the potential negative impacts to the water, fish, wildlife, birds and native plants of this land. I have a grave concern for the Aluminum Plant site since that is a toxic waste site and has not been cleaned up for many years, yet this project is planning to proceed. I am concerned for further contamination to the land and water resources from these poisonous material left behind from this old industrial site.

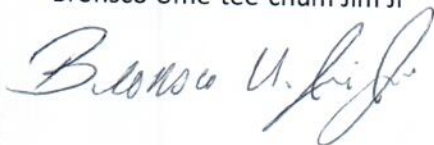
Our people have already survived the construction of the Dalles and John Day dams which literally removed our people from various village sites permanently. We lost fishing sites (including Celilo Falls), home sites, burial grounds, archeological sites, and other sacred sites to "green energy." Today, our salmon populations continue to decline because of the Columbia River dams fish passage impediments, turbines, and warming waters. Then in the 1990s, there was a "green energy" movement for industrial wind. Again, more of our First Food gathering lands were lost to wind energy and many of the lands that were converted to wind farms totally exclude our Band members from entering their property. Only one landowner allows us to access their lands to gather our First Foods annually.

Green energy is not new to us. Our people experienced first-hand, the impacts that the Columbia River dams had on the fish resources and loss of homes. We experienced the effects of wind energy to our lands and wildlife. We are now seeing the expansion of industrial solar in our ancestral lands of Pow-un-putt (Pine Creek) lands near Roosevelt, Washington. Green energy has impacted our life from the start and we continue to endure the burden of green energy. We receive no benefits from green energy. The Klickitat PUD commissioners stated they purchase power from a hydro source and will continue to do so. The green energy produced in this county is destined to other regions and states, yet we have to endure the burden of these projects. The permanent jobs after all of these green energy projects are constructed will be minimal.

Once again, I am writing this letter to ensure we are being counted while voicing our concern from our people of Kah-Milt-Pah and the surrounding areas along N'chi Wana (Columbia River). We are still here and practice our ways such as our ancestors did for thousands of years. We are in opposition of this project to proceed since it will directly desecrate our sacred site and cultural resources.

Thank you,

Bronsko Ume-tee-chum Jim Jr

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bronsko U. Jr.", written in dark ink.