

Emma Olney

Dear Washington Department of Ecology,

I oppose the proposed Goldendale Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project "Project" because of the damaging impacts that it will have on tribal cultural and religious resources, as expressly stated by members of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council. This Project threatens to destroy numerous archeological, ceremonial, and ancestral use sites sacred to the Yakama Nation. Construction and operation of the pumped storage facility would interfere with the exercise of my gathering and fishing practices. I agree with the Draft EIS finding that there will be "significant and unavoidable adverse impacts" to my cultural and tribal resources. Any proposed mitigation for these impacts is insufficient and none are supported by Tribal Nations. I am also concerned about the environmental impacts such as ground water quality, invasive species introduction and soil disturbances. The plants and roots gathered at Juniper Point for food and medicine will not be available for future traditional practices if this project moves forward. Tackling the climate crisis needs to also achieve environmental justice and prevent further burdens on Indigenous communities. "Clean energy" must not be licensed to flood tribal cultural sites. This project is tone deaf and ignores the parallels between the flooding of Celiolo, a project built for others' benefit with the burdens and heartache placed on our Native Peoples to bear for generations. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Emma Olney