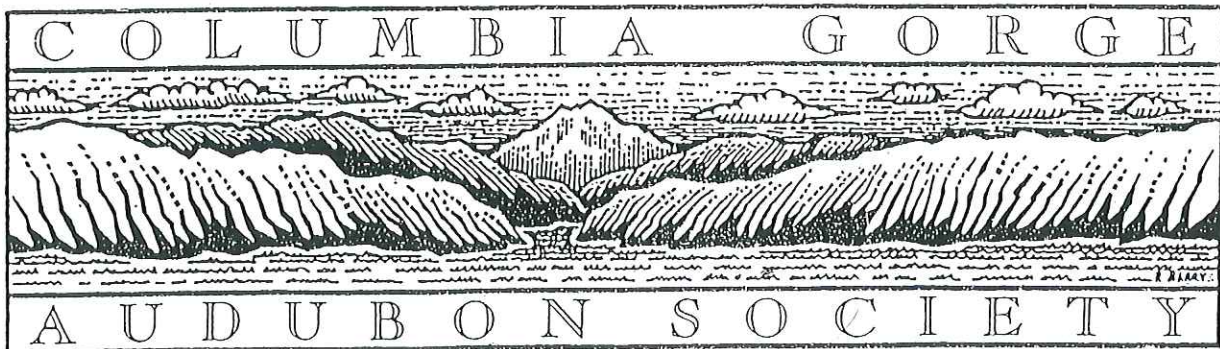


David Thies

Columbia Gorge Audubon Society



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

RECEIVED

AUG 04 2022

**Dept of Ecology
Central Regional Office**

FROM: David Thies
Columbia Gorge Audubon Society
PO Box 1393
White Salmon, WA 98672

DATE: August 2, 2022

RE: Goldendale Energy Storage Draft EIS (Public Comment II)

Kind People:

I talked with "Joy" (Sage Park's assistant) today and she confirmed that Columbia Gorge Audubon's public comment letter of 7-13-22 has been received.

Thank you for extending the public comment period.

The local Goldendale Sentinel Newspaper has reported that a "huge" crowd of people (fifty people were reported) attended the DOE hearing in Goldendale, and that they were all in support of the energy storage project. Just as I noted in my previous letter, these are the boosters that stand to gain if the project is built. The most recent accounting (2022) of Klickitat County citizens lists a population of 22,055 people. The boosters at your hearing represent a very tiny micro-minority of this county's citizens.

In our previous letter (on pages 16-17) we noted that the pump storage holding ponds would attract even more birds to the Columbia Hills, and into the wind power kill zone. We did not mention the windmill towers themselves as another attraction for birds, particularly the raptors. Raptors use "safe" high points for roosting and perching, especially around water, but also from distant in-sight points. We do not believe that restricting wind towers immediately around the ponds will solve this problem.

Our previous letter described how renewable energy build-out cannot occur without energy storage (p. 8), but did not clearly state that energy storage cannot exist without renewable energy build-out. Energy storage and renewable energy build-out are joined at the hip, and they cannot be separated and survive. This is why we believe it would be a huge mistake to artificially limit the EIS to energy storage. Reviewing the impacts of this energy storage proposal must include the impacts of the renewable energy build-out because that is where most of the impacts of energy storage will occur, and those impacts will only occur if energy storage is built.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Thies" followed by a horizontal flourish.

David Thies, President
Columbia Gorge Audubon Society