

-----Original Message-----
From: Carter Maden [mailto:carter_m@hotmail.com]
Posted At: Thursday, October 20, 2005 8:41 PM
Posted To: Condit Dam
Conversation: Public Comment Condit Dam Removal
Subject: Public Comment Condit Dam Removal

I am writing in support of removing the Condit Dam on the White Salmon River. Removing this dam will not only allow anadromous fish to use this

river for spawning but could also restore native fishing grounds. The positive impacts of removing the dam very much outweigh the upfront costs.

Please record my comment as support for Condit Dam removal.

Thank you,
Carter Maden

I14-1
Preference acknowledged.

I14-1

Sandison, Derek

From: Curt&Elaina Mathisen [mathisen@gorge.net]
Posted At: Sunday, October 09, 2005 12:40 PM
Conversation: Condit Dam opinion
Posted To: Condit Dam
Subject: Condit Dam opinion

Hello, just responding to the article in the 10/6/05 Enterprise paper, White Salmon,WA.

My wife and I both really enjoy the lake above the Condit dam, and would hate to lose that recreational resource. I also feel the river quality and salmon habitat would be greatly disturbed for quite some time with the dam removal. Hard to imagine a technique for removing that big structure without significantly affecting the environment.

About 3 years ago we heard of a fish ladder alternative (some kind of a large pipe with sections in it) designed by a group up in the Seattle area that sounded like a great choice versus the high cost of building a conventional fish ladder at Condit. This way the salmon could still resume their original runs upriver. Please consider this alternative and keeping the dam as it is.

Thanks for accepting public comments like ours.

Sincerely,

Dr. and Mrs. Curt Mathisen
 White Salmon, WA

I15-1

I15-2

I15-1

Comment noted. The FERC EISs addressed recreational losses and gains that would result from dam removal.

I15-2

PacifiCorp considered the alternative of installing a fish ladder in the original EIS. It was concluded that the cost of installing and maintaining a fish ladder would far exceed the value of ongoing power generation and that downstream passage of smolts would be problematical. Considering the requirement of establishing anadromous salmonid populations above the dam, removal is the best balance between costs and benefits. It would be impractical for PacifiCorp to construct passage facilities that cost more than the value generated by power production.

Sandison, Derek

From: Emma and/or Clint [phreethinkers@yahoo.com]
Posted At: Monday, October 24, 2005 3:20 PM
Conversation: Condit Dam removal - public comment ATTN: Derek Sandison
Posted To: Condit Dam
Subject: Condit Dam removal - public comment ATTN: Derek Sandison

Greetings!

My name is Emma McBride-Nickelson. I reside in Portland, Oregon.

I just wanted to let you know that myself and my family support the removal of the Condit dam 100%

We feel that it is the wisest course of action not only for the land, and fish but also the people of the region. I teach Earth Science, so this is a quite founded position on the subject.

Thanks so much for hearing my voice.

Ms. Emma McBride-Nickelson

Yahoo! FareChase: Search multiple travel sites in one click. <http://farechase.yahoo.com>

I16-1
Preference acknowledged.

I16-1

Sandison, Derek

From: John O'Shea [banjoist@qwest.net]
Posted At: Sunday, October 30, 2005 8:08 PM
Conversation: Dam removal
Posted To: Condit Dam

Subject: Dam removal

I am for removing dams on the White Salmon, perhaps the best river around here. Our salmon need their namesake river back, and they've been there for 150 million years, so we're the new tenants. John O'Shea, Consulting Arborist
(503) 408-9308
433 SE 70th Avenue
Portland, OR 97215
banjoist@qwest.net
www.im4trees.com

| 117-1

117-1
Preference acknowledged.

PO Box 616
White Salmon WA 98672
parkinsontm@yahoo.com

11 November 2005

Derek Sandison
WDOE
15 W Yakima Ave, Suite 200
Yakima WA 98902

via e-mail

Dear Mr. Sandison:

The White Salmon River-Condit Dam ecosystem has existed and matured over the last 90 years. It is an outstanding habitat for birds, including migratory waterfowl; rainbow trout above and salmon and steelhead below the dam; animals, including several families of beaver, reptiles, and amphibians; and beautiful trees, shrubs, and flowers. Condit Dam removal will disrupt this lake environment, irreversibly around Northwestern Lake and perhaps downstream of the dam, and only slowly allow its replacement with an uninterrupted river environment.

I am concerned that the dam removal process is being driven by PacifiCorp's financial considerations. I understand their responsibility to their shareholders not to undertake activities with negative financial impacts. However, I question whether evaluation of the costs of dam removal should focus primarily on the cost to PacifiCorp and not on the overall costs to the environment in southwestern Klickitat and southeastern Skamania counties. I also question whether PacifiCorp's "blow and go" preferred alternative is really the cheapest. I can not believe that installing a fish ladder in the dam to allow salmonid passage really would cost \$13-20 million dollars. Surely more cost-effective ladders have been developed over the last 10 years since the original recertification proposal was submitted to FERC.

I also am seriously concerned about the impact of releasing millions of cubic yards of glacial silt and its entrapped potentially toxic residues from decades of logging, farming, and living in the White Salmon valley on downstream wildlife habitats and water quality, including those in the Columbia River. I am sure that if someone proposed releasing much smaller amounts of silt from a new construction project in this area, the request would be refused because of the environmental damage. In the case of Condit Dam, pulling the plug would indeed release the silt genie from the bottle and you can't put it back!

I urge WDOE to consider all the positive and negative impacts of the proposed Condit Dam removal before making a decision on whether it is likely to meet state water and environmental mandates. The savings of the "blow and go" proposal accrue to PacifiCorp; the costs are shared by all the people living, working, and recreating in the White Salmon valley.

Sincerely

T. M. Parkinson

I18-1

Comment acknowledged. The SEIS acknowledges unavoidable adverse impacts.

I18-2

Opinion acknowledged.

I18-3

Comment acknowledged.

I18-4

Concerns acknowledged. The effects have been well studied.

I18-5

There is an overall standard that considers the benefits as well as the impacts to the environment. On that basis, it is likely that a project with impacts and no benefits to the environment would not be allowed without appropriate mitigation.

I18-6

Preference and comment acknowledged. Environmental costs and benefits will be shared.

I18-1

I18-2

I18-3

I18-4

I18-5

I18-6



November 5, 2005
 1501 K Street
 Washougal, WA 98671

Mr. Derek Sandison
 Washington State Department of Ecology
 15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200
 Yakima, WA 98902
 Re: Condit Hydroelectric Project

Dear Mr. Sandison,

Please accept my affirmation of the present plan for removal of the Condit Hydroelectric Project located on the White Salmon River in Washington.

An avid whitewater kayaker, I have paddled the White Salmon about 95 times over the last 16 years. I live about 50 miles away, in Washougal, Washington. There is widespread support for dam removal for the following reasons:

Federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and tribal fisheries experts agree that removing the Condit dam and restoring the White Salmon River provides the best means to restore endangered salmon and steelhead.

Dam removal will help restore Native American treaty rights to fish at traditional sites on the White Salmon River.

Dam removal will create economic growth for surrounding communities, including additional recreational fishing and boating opportunities, turning this area into a much stronger draw for fishermen, and for commercial and recreational whitewater boaters. With whitewater boating opportunities opened up on the lower river, the White Salmon will become much more of a "world class" whitewater boating destination, which will benefit all communities in the Columbia River Gorge, particularly on the economically-depressed Washington side. Local raft-guiding outfitters already have an energetic new look and have growing businesses. Dam removal will greatly stimulate their business and that of the food and lodging businesses in the area. The longer run will stimulate more overnight and weekend boating trips.

I strongly support the present "blow-and-go" plan for dam removal because it provides the best and most cost-effective means of removing the facilities and sediments while also protecting environmental resources.

The flow and sediment discharge, while significant, is much smaller than many naturally occurring phenomenon.

Winter floods, such as those in 1996, 1974, 1982, 1917 and 1977 certainly scoured and disrupted the riverbed as much as the dam breach flows will.

The great Cascade Landslide, which occurred in 1260 A.D., without doubt deposited many orders of magnitude more sediment and debris in the Columbia than the Condit dam breach will. Yet, when Lewis and Clark passed down the

119-1

Preference and comments acknowledged.

119-1

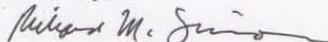
river 545 years later, they observed bountiful salmon runs – certainly much greater than we see now days.

The 50-or more Bretz Floods, while they occurred 14,000 years ago, flooded the White Salmon drainage with astronomical amounts of sediment and debris probably as far up as Trout Lake, yet the ecosystems have recovered very well from those onslaughts.

In other words, the sediment and debris that will be released from breaching Condit Dam by the “blow-and-go” procedure is small from a geological perspective, and the impact is something that the ecosystems can easily handle.

I urge the Washington State Department of Ecology to grant the Permits required to complete this project, a project already agreed upon by PacifiCorp, Native American tribes, state and federal agencies, and fishing and environmental groups.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Sisson

I19-1
Continued

If you would like to be on this project mailing list, please provide your contact information below:

Name: JASON SPADARO
 Address: Po Box 2666
 City: Bungen WA 98605
 State/Zip:
 E-mail (optional):
 Telephone (optional):

Send Comments to:
 Derek Sandison
 WA Dept. of Ecology
 15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200
 Yakima, WA 98902-3452
 Email: ConditDam@ecy.wa.gov

Derek Sandison
 WA Dept. of Ecology
 15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200
 Yakima, WA 98902-3452

Place
Stamp
Here

**CONDIT DAM
REMOVAL
PROJECT**

**OPEN HOUSE and
PUBLIC MEETING**

October 25, 2005

COMMENT FORM

Please drop off at tonight's meeting or mail to Ecology

Please provide your comments below: *Must do's.*

1. Evaluate impacts and compensate neighboring landowners for diminution in value as a result of removal process and its long term effects on value (intrinsic value included)

I20-1

2. Evaluate short and long term effects to City of White Salmon's municipal drinking water supply and quality, and all neighboring private wells.

I20-2

3. Eliminate any adverse effects on endangered species in the Columbia River.

I20-3

Please return this form to the sign-in table or mail it to Ecology at the address on the reverse side.
Thank you for your comments!

I20-1

It should not be assumed that property values would diminish. It is at least equally likely that people interested in river-based recreation would provide enough demand to keep the value at or above current levels.

I20-2

Section 4.2.2 of the FSEIS addresses potential water quality issues related to the on-site disposal of concrete near the City of White Salmon Production Well #2. The FSEIS concludes that the quality of the water in this well should not be degraded, and the well is considered to be too deep to be affected by the draining of Northwestern Lake. The FSEIS includes a new mitigation measure in Section 4.2.3 that recommends monitoring shallow groundwater in the event that onsite concrete disposal is selected. If groundwater quality standards were exceeded as a result of on-site disposal, additional measures (e.g., remediation) could be required by regulations such as the Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulations (WAC 173-340). These mitigation measures would also protect the quality of water in private wells.

In Section 4.12.2 of the FSEIS, it is acknowledged that the City of White Salmon's 14-inch supply line across the reservoir would be affected by dam breaching and removal activities, potentially resulting in a disruption of service to water use customers. The quality of this water supply would not be affected by the proposed action alternative. Mitigation measures are recommended in Section 4.12.3 of the FSEIS to minimize or eliminate this interruption.

I20-3

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) issued their Biological Opinion for ESA Section 7 Consultation for the Condit Hydroelectric Project removal on October 12, 2006 (NMFS 2006). That document included an incidental take statement allowing the short-term impacts disclosed in the EIS documents in order to achieve the long-term benefits to listed species. Similar provisions are in the USFWS Biological Opinion (USFWS 2005) as it relates to bull trout.

-----Original Message-----
 From: Dstover@aol.com [mailto:Dstover@aol.com]
 Posted At: Tuesday, November 15, 2005 4:00 PM
 Posted To: Condit Dam
 Conversation: Comments on Condit Dam removal DSEIS
 Subject: Comments on Condit Dam removal DSEIS

I will also be sending a hard copy of these comments by U.S. mail.

November 15, 2005

Mr. Derek Sandison
 SEPA Responsible Official
 Washington Department of Ecology
 15 W Yakima Ave., Ste. 200
 Yakima, WA 98902-3452

Re: Proposed Condit Dam Removal Project, FERC No 2342

Draft Supplemental EIS

Dear Mr. Sandison:

I am writing to comment on the Draft Supplement EIS (DSEIS) for the removal of Condit Dam. I have lived in the White Salmon area for thirteen and a half years. I have followed the progress of the dam-removal proposal for most of that time, and have attended numerous public meetings and hearings about the proposal. What I have learned over these many years is that the best available science supports going ahead with dam removal, and that the short-term impacts of dam removal will be far outweighed by the long-term benefits.

I am quite excited about the prospect of a free-flowing river and the restoration of anadromous fish to our local river. This will be a wonderful thing for fish and fishermen, especially native people who rely on fish for their subsistence; for rafters, kayakers and others who recreate on the river; and for our local community. I hope you will do everything you can to expedite this process so that we can finally bring salmon home to the White Salmon. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

I urge you to consider the environmental impacts of dam removal in its full context. Think of all the fish that have perished over the years because of the failure of dam operators to provide fish passage. Think of all the fish that will perish in the future if this valuable habitat is not restored. And finally, consider the sediment load that will be released by dam breaching in the context of natural events that frequently release much larger amounts of sediment into the Columbia River.

Within the DSEIS, I find a number of statements that are misleading or erroneous, as well as a number of important omissions. I urge you to make the following corrections:

I21-1

Comments and preferences acknowledged.

I21-1

1. References to "Northwestern Lake"

Although this name is commonly used to refer to the impoundment behind Condit Dam, it is misleading. This impoundment is not a natural lake and did not provide any habitat or natural services prior to dam construction. It should properly be referred to as a "reservoir" or "impoundment."

I21-2

I21-2

Comment acknowledged. While technically correct, longstanding convention, including in maps and earlier documents, uses the term lake. It may also be true that a manmade structure may deteriorate and fail, given enough time and the right circumstances. When those things might occur is a matter of speculation.

2. The Inevitability of Dam Removal

The DSEIS should address the fact that no dam lasts forever, and that sediment will continue to accumulate behind the dam if it is left in place. The DSEIS

I21-3

I21-3

should weigh the impacts of releasing sediment now against the more significant impacts that can be expected if the dam is allowed to continue operation.

The DSEIS should explicitly state that environmental damages associated with dam decommissioning can never be entirely avoided—and that the longer dam removal is delayed, the worse these damages will be. In particular, the DSEIS should evaluate the possibility that if the dam is not removed, an accidental breach could occur.

3. Turbidity Levels

The turbidity and sediment transport that will occur as a result of dam removal cannot be evaluated in a vacuum. Turbidity

I21-4

It is correct that additional sediment would be expected to collect behind the dam because sediment continues to enter the reservoir from upstream. Calculations of the amount of sediment in the reservoir based on a 2006 bathymetric survey are very close (and slightly smaller) than the amount of sediment calculated in 1997. Therefore, the length of time before the reservoir would be effectively not a reservoir is uncertain. It is also not clear whether the power plant could be operated as a run-of-river facility, even with the reservoir full of sediment. If the dam continues to be deemed safe, a reason to remove the dam and release the sediment would have to come from some other process and would not be a certainty.

of dam removal should be evaluated in the context of these regularly occurring natural events.

4. Impacts on Chum Salmon

The DSEIS states that an entire year-class of chum salmon will be lost because of sediment impacts, and that four to five generations of chum may be affected. This exaggerates the likely impacts on chum salmon. Chum born at the same

I21-5

I21-4

time do not all return to the river at the same time, so it's unlikely that an entire age class will be lost. Also, the time at which chum are most likely to return to the river will be well after the dam is breached. The DSEIS does not provide an explanation of why four to five generations would be affected. And finally, although it is true that spawning habitat below the dam will not yet be restored during the second year of removal, new habitat above the dam will be available by that time. This new habitat should be considered in the overall assessment of impacts on spawning.

I21-6

The removal of the dam would, with time, restore the natural condition of flow and water quality on the reach of the White Salmon River below Condit Dam. Sediment that would have been captured by the dam would now be free to move downstream and would be deposited in the Bonneville pool. After the sediment released during dam breaching stabilizes, suspended sediment load in the river above and below the dam would be similar.

5. Impacts on Steelhead

As with chum salmon, it is misleading to state that an entire class of winter-run steelhead will be lost as a result of high turbidity following dam removal. These fish return at different ages, so it's unlikely that an entire age class will be lost. These references should be corrected to reflect a better understanding of the life cycles of these fish.

I21-7

I21-5

6. Endangered Species Act "Take"

The DSEIS does not provide a basis for why displacing fish in the Bonneville Pool during dam removal would constitute a "take." The Department of Ecology has no expertise or authority regarding takes, which are routinely issued by fish and wildlife agencies for activities that, unlike the dam removal project, have no long-term benefit for endangered species.

I21-8

The FSEIS provides further clarification. Only two chum salmon have been documented in the White Salmon River in recent years, and there is no evidence that spawning is occurring in the White Salmon River. However, the statement that "one year-class of chum salmon" would be lost is accurate. A year-class describes the salmon smolts produced during a single reproductive season. Adult chum salmon spawners returning in a single year represent several year-classes.

7. Aesthetic and Scenic Resources

The DSEIS states that new recreational opportunities will help mitigate loss of aesthetic and scenic resources. I do not see any loss of aesthetic or scenic resources associated with the dam. The manmade structures and artificial lake are eyesores on what is otherwise a wild and scenic river. Even if they weren't, it's not clear how improved recreational opportunities would provide mitigation for aesthetic and scenic losses.

I21-9

I21-6

Chum salmon have less capacity to leap water falls and generally do not migrate as far upstream as Chinook, coho, or sockeye salmon and steelhead trout, particularly in higher gradient rivers with frequent falls, such as the White Salmon River (Johnson et al. 1997). Reiser et al. (2006) set the maximum jumping height of chum salmon as 4 feet. The fall at RM 2.6 on the mainstem of the White Salmon and other falls on the mainstem may be barriers to the upstream migration of chum salmon adult spawners. Because chum salmon characteristically utilize the lower reaches of high-gradient streams, they may not be able to access this habitat, and additional year-classes may be affected until clean spawning gravels are formed in the lower couple of miles of the river channel. The documentation of two adult chum salmon is not evidence that chum salmon are reproducing in the White Salmon River at the present time, but represents the potential for eventual recolonization of the river if suitable spawning habitat is available. The long-term effect of dam removal would be an improvement of spawning conditions for chum salmon, but it is not known at this time if chum salmon would be able to utilize additional habitat above the dam.

I21-7

The entire year-class of age-0 (juveniles produced during the spring of the year of dam removal) winter-run steelhead are expected to be lost as a result of turbidity levels in the river associated with the proposed dam removal. This would substantially reduce the number of expected returning adult steelhead 4 years in the future, when the majority of the lost year-class of steelhead would have been expected to return. During that year, the return of winter-run steelhead would be primarily composed of 3-year-old steelhead and strays from other river basins. Returns of winter-run steelhead would likely be reduced every fourth year for several generation cycles. A portion of the previous year-class of steelhead juveniles (age-1 fish) would also be lost. Section 2.3.1 of the FSEIS has been clarified.

I21-8

Comment acknowledged. Short-term increases in turbidity within the Bonneville pool after the removal of Condit Dam would likely cause

avoidance behavior and “displacement” of some fish in the Bonneville pool. These fish would not be displaced from the Bonneville pool, but would seek out areas of the pool with lower turbidity. Korstrom and Birtwell (2006), found that the ability of sediment-exposed Chinook salmon to escape to cover was impaired and that there was a significant increase in stuporous behavior and a significant reduction in cover-seeking response in sediment-exposed fish. They concluded that exposure to elevated levels of suspended sediment could indirectly jeopardize survival in the wild, as such overt performance and behavioral changes would probably render juvenile Chinook salmon more conspicuous and therefore more susceptible to avian and aquatic predators. NOAA has considered this a “take” (NMFS 2006). The sentence regarding “take” has been modified.

I21-9

Aesthetics involves the perception of one’s surroundings, which includes more than views. There would be a short-term significant unavoidable adverse impact to some residents living along the existing lake until the area transitions from a lake to a stream environment. Long term, there would be a significant unavoidable adverse impact to the aesthetic perceptions of residents who participate in recreational activities such as lake fishing and boating. However, the aesthetic perceptions associated with new recreational opportunities such as kayaking, white-water rafting, and stream fishing may help offset the effects.

8. Impacts of No Action

The DSEIS must include an assessment of the impacts of leaving the dam in place. As the FERC FSEIS and numerous experts have concluded, taking no action would be more environmentally damaging than dam removal. This should be stated explicitly in the DSEIS.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Dawn Stover
1208 Snowden Rd.
White Salmon, WA 98672

I21-10

I21-10

The SEPA DSEIS and FSEIS have adopted, as adequate for SEPA purposes, the treatment of the no action alternative as addressed in the FERC EISs. It is acknowledged that the ongoing impacts that resulted from the original construction of the Condit Dam could be greater than the impacts of removal of the dam.

If you would like to be on this project mailing list, please provide your contact information below:

Name: Elizabeth Vogt

Address: PO box 211

City: White Salmon

State/Zip: WA 98672

E-mail (optional): evogt@white-salmon.com

Telephone (optional):

Send Comments to:

Derek Sandison
WA Dept. of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452

Email: ConditDam@ecy.wa.gov

Derek Sandison
WA Dept. of Ecology
15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200
Yakima, WA 98902-3452

Place Stamp Here

CONDIT DAM
REMOVAL
PROJECT

OPEN HOUSE and
PUBLIC MEETING

October 25, 2005

COMMENT FORM

Please drop off at tonight's meeting or mail to Ecology

Please provide your comments below:

I wouldn't want the clam
to be removed because
of many of wildlife. They're
used to slow moving water.
And ~~the~~ once the dam is
removed most of the wildlife
will die. And I was wondering
will you be able to even
swim in the river or
will it be too fast moving to
go in it. how fast will the
water be once the dam
is removed? Will we be able
to use the ropeswings once
the dam is removed? Will
we able to paddle around
in our canoes and fish
once its removed?
Thats why I wouldn't
want to see it removed,

I22-1

I22-1

Concerns acknowledged. The loss of lake-based habitats and activities is acknowledged in the SEIS as adverse and unavoidable. They will be replaced by river-based habitats and activities.

Please return this form to the sign-in table or mail
it to Ecology at the address on the reverse side.

Thank you for your comments!

Please provide your comments below:

Should the dam be removed, I am worried about the level of dam debris clean up. As a boater on the White Salmon I would like to know that all rebar and other un-natural dangers are removed.

I23-1

I23-1

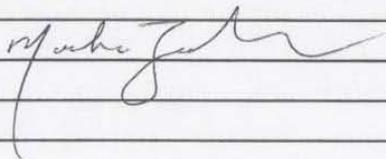
Dam debris would be removed. However, large woody debris, rocks, and other hazards to boating would undoubtedly be present in the river after dam removal.

I23-2

Some important documents are available on the FERC website. The FSEIS will be available on the Ecology website. At the time of actual dam removal preparation, PacifiCorp may provide a public information contact.

How can I learn about the clean up plans?

I23-2



Please return this form to the sign-in table or mail it to Ecology at the address on the reverse side. Thank you for your comments!