

Honorable Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington DC 20426

Subject: Comment on Proposed Study Plan for Wells Hydroelectric Project No. 2149-131

August 10, 2007

Dear Secretary Bose:

The City of Brewster and the City of Pateros have requested a study on the economic impacts of the Wells project on neighboring communities. This has been deemed inappropriate for study by Douglas PUD. We understand FERC's reluctance historically to delve into economic affects, but respectfully disagree with Douglas PUD's decision. In addition, we would like to point out a fundamental difference in the way Douglas PUD manages its shoreline.

The City of Pateros was completely moved during the building of the Dam. City officials have loads of documents describing the decrease in business and population after the move. The City of Brewster has faced similar issues, though most are more subdued than moving our entire town.

In the past the Wells pool has been viewed and maintained by Douglas PUD, WDFW and others primarily for habitat conservation. These ongoing activities have limited the increase in recreational activities other than hunting. While the wildlife related opportunities have been good, access to and from the reservoir has been kept relatively low. This stifling of recreational opportunities has most certainly created a negative impact on our communities.

One has only to drive along highway 97 from Brewster to Wenatchee on any hot summer day and see the numbers of recreationists on the Columbia River. There are typically hundreds more people enjoying the water below Wells Dam than above, primarily because of the way these two reservoirs have been managed.

A shift is needed in the way the Wells pool is managed: from primarily habitat conservation to a multi faceted approach where both water-based recreation and habitat conservation co-exist. All of our local communities are working hard to increase our appeal to travelers of the Highway 97 corridor. We believe a partnership with Douglas PUD can only help achieve our economic development goals.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the relicensing of the Wells Project.

Lee Webster, Mayor
City of Brewster
PO Box 340
Brewster, WA 98812
(509) 689-3464
brewstermayor@verizon.net

Submission Contents

Comments on proposed study plans for the Wells project, Douglas County PUD ProposedStudyPlansComments.doc.....	1-1
---	-----