

February 11, 2003

Mark Stenberg
PacifiCorp
825 NE Multnomah, Suite 1500
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Whitewater Access Sites and Flow Information
Merwin Hydropower Project, FERC Project No. 935

Dear Mr. Stenberg:

Thank you for your recent note confirming PacifiCorp's proposed plan to improve the access point for non-motorized craft at the Yale Bridge (Highway 503) on the Merwin Reservoir as a condition of relicensing for the Lewis River projects. We are reviewing this proposal among our constituency. We would also like to bring to your attention the need for real-time flow information on Canyon Creek and the East Fork of the Lewis River. These popular whitewater runs are tributaries to the Lewis River and due to project impacts on whitewater recreation opportunities are warranted as mitigation.

The dams and associated reservoirs associated with the series of hydropower projects on the Lewis River have buried the natural river channel of Canyon Creek at its confluence with the Lewis River and countless miles of the Lewis. This conversion of many river miles to reservoir has greatly impacted whitewater boating opportunities. Presently, boaters running the popular whitewater run on Canyon Creek must paddle 1.5 miles of flatwater on Merwin Reservoir and then ascend a steep muddy bank to the take-out.

We understand that some time in the next two months additional scoping for this project will take place. In this scoping phase or before we ask that PacifiCorp also explore alternative sites for a take-out particularly a site that would eliminate the 1.5 mile flatwater paddle. Whitewater boats are not designed for flatwater which makes this part of the Canyon Creek run very unappealing. A take-out on PacifiCorp land closer to the mouth of Canyon Creek may be more desirable than the existing site at the Yale Bridge. Several alternative sites should be considered in this scoping. We would be happy to work with you on a list of possible sites.

Kayakers need very little if anything in the manner of infrastructure. The most important item requested by the recreational whitewater community is a take-out site with an agreement for the life of the license. We look forward to working with you in developing a schematic design for the respective alternative sites. We favor a low level of development that can be easily maintained and is not obtrusive to the natural setting.

The loss of whitewater opportunities on the mainstem Lewis River has forced paddlers to seek whitewater opportunities on tributaries to the Lewis River. Canyon Creek and the East Fork Lewis River have provided two such opportunities. We request that PacifiCorp provide internet and toll free phone line accessible flow information for each of these runs. PacifiCorp should

ensure continued operation of the East Fork Lewis River gauge (USGS 14222500) and public availability of real-time data for the life of the license. PacifiCorp is currently a cooperating partner in the operation of this gauge. We request PacifiCorp continue as a cooperating partner for the life of the license. No publicly accessible real-time stream gauge currently exists for Canyon Creek. As mitigation for the Lewis River hydropower projects, PacifiCorp should establish a stream gauge accessible to the public for Canyon Creek.

Sincerely,



Thomas O'Keefe

cc:

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