



January 11, 2018

Via email to: [BOR-PNR-SnowLakeEA@usbr.gov](mailto:BOR-PNR-SnowLakeEA@usbr.gov)

Mr. Stephen Kolk  
Wenatchee Subbasin Liaison  
Bureau of Reclamation  
301 Yakima Street, Room 319  
Wenatchee, WA 98801-2966

RE: **Snow Lake Valve Environmental Assessment**

Dear Mr. Kolk:

The Seattle Audubon Society remains vigilant in our long history of protecting the Alpine lakes region and is concerned about the revised Snow Lake Water Release Control Valve Replacement Environmental Assessment (Revised EA).

We are particularly concerned that the public comment period is too short given the ecological importance of the changes being proposed. Additionally, the Seattle Audubon Society was a signatory on a letter sent in previously with 24 other parties. In spite of these efforts, the letter was treated as 1 party. This representation misstates the number of organizations and citizens concerned with these revisions.

In addition to the lack of time given for public comment, we believe that the increasing the valve discharge rate was a significant enough proposal that it required an EIS, not just an EA. We have grave concerns about many aspects of the EA and would like to be able to address these issues. We hope that you recognize that the proposed EA should be put back up for revision and issues related to the sustainability of the region, water rights, and proposed valve increase appropriately addressed.

Thank you for taking into account these concerns,

Megan Friesen, PhD

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Friesen".

Conservation Manager  
Seattle Audubon Society