

Robert F. Barwin
Department of Ecology
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Re: Leavenworth Fish Hatchery Comments

Dear Mr. Barwin:

Icicle Creek drains the eastern portion of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and attracts thousands of visitors a year. The Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery has been on the banks of Icicle Creek since 1940 and while it serves important social functions it is also been responsible for unacceptable environmental impacts to Icicle Creek, including blocking fish and navigation, diverting water into the “canal,” withdrawing water through an unscreened intake, and polluting Icicle Creek.

Ecology has a duty to condition the “certification” so that the river is protected, and enough information already exists for it to direct the Hatchery to change its operations and better protect the river. Unfortunately, Ecology is allowing the Hatchery to continue to conduct business as usual. This certification should include steps that will protect and restore the river and its wild fish populations while the Hatchery studies what is needed to permanently restore Icicle Creek to a free-flowing Wilderness river. Ecology must order the Leavenworth Hatchery to:

- ✓ keep its dams open during the bull trout migration period to ensure that the “designated uses” of upper Icicle Creek are protected now;
- ✓ ensure that the river adjacent to the Hatchery has minimum instream flows to immediately protect those designated uses as directed in WAC 173-545-060(7) and (10);
- ✓ work immediately to screen its intake to prevent trapping fish in the facility; and
- ✓ investigate recirculation methods or other alternatives to reduce the amount of water the facility needs and the pollutants it discharges.

This Wilderness river deserves better than what the Hatchery proposes for Icicle Creek.

Sincerely,

cc: Governor Christine Gregoire (Jay Manning, Chief of Staff) jay.manning@gov.wa.gov
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