

Good Afternoon. My name is Dan Cohan from rural Klamath County, OR. I am a recently retired wildlife biologist from the USFWS and own and reside on a small ranch located in the Klamath River Basin near the where the Proposed Swan Lake North Pumped Storage project is located.

I am opposed the SCR1 measure. I believe all pumped storage or similar hydro energy projects should be evaluated on their own individual basis and merits rather than being given blanket support from the State or Federal Government.

While many proposed pumped storage projects can have multiple benefits when planned in a manner that results in minimal environmental and other impacts, the cumulative effects of all impacts associated with the Swan Lake Hydro project outweigh its benefits.

It is important to note that the vast majority of local citizens share this point of view especially with respect to potential impacts to the aquifer, and surface water flows, agriculture, rural county esthetics, cultural resources, property values, rangelands, forests, private lands, etc. A good representation of public views in opposition to the Swan Lake Hydro project can be found on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Website under Docket P-13318-003.

One potential impact of major concern is fact that 100% of the water to be used in the Swan Lake Hydro project is from ground water sources. Water will be drawn from the aquifer to fill the project reservoirs and provide additional water needed to replace 300 to 1000 acre/feet of water loss annually due to evaporation and leakage. This is very concerning when you consider that water use is already over allocated in the Klamath Basin. Adding an additional major user of this water is problematic given continued and prolonged droughts and increasing demands from all other users.

Potential impacts to migratory birds are significant as well if this project is approved. The Klamath Basin is widely recognized as one of the most significant bird conservation areas in North America. Over 1 million migratory birds use wetlands and other habitats there during migration. Over 350 species of birds occur in the Basin. Six National Wildlife Refuges, as well as numerous Federal, State, county and city conservation lands, have been established to provided valued wetland habitats to these birds and other wildlife. Eighty percent of all migratory birds in the Pacific Flyway utilize habitats within the Basin annually.

One area of special concern occurs on the Lost River at Harpold Gap. Hundreds to thousands of geese, ducks, herons, pelicans, shorebirds, etc. use this area extensively due to the fact that warm water springs feed into these waters keeping them from freezing in the winter and spring. This open water habitat is critical for these birds given that most other bodies of water can become frozen and unavailable to these birds during that time of year.

Several American Bald Eagle nests also occur near to the Swan Lake Hydro project infrastructure as well. These eagles use Harpold Reservoir and Lost River regularly given the availability of prey items for them to feed on.

A key component of this project includes the construction of a 32.8 mile long 230kV high voltage power line corridor which includes 274 power line poles. This infrastructure occurs immediately adjacent to or within several important bird habitat areas including the NRCS Swan Lake Wetland Conservation Easement, Lost River, Alkali Lake, Harpold Reservoir and numerous privately owned lakes, ponds and marshes.

The proposed high voltage transmission lines would span approximately 1400' across the Harpold gap and would be placed directly in the flight paths of large numbers of birds. The likelihood of bird mortality is very high at this and other locations due to bird strikes on power lines and the large numbers of birds using that area. This impact is compounded by the fact that the life span of the project is 45 years and will likely be extended for an additional 45 years. The cumulative effects of this and other impacts over the 90 year life span of the project is significant. Once this infrastructure is installed, it will essentially become a permanent feature on the landscape.

While many of these impacts have been addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Swan Lake North Pumped Storage project, detrimental impacts to migratory birds and several other areas of concern is simply not acceptable.

The approval of SCR1 would, in effect, help to 'green light' and expedite this and other similar pumped storage energy projects which may lead to many unnecessary adverse environmental impacts. I, therefore, recommend that you do not approve this resolution.