

• Tony L. Gable, Pres. • Woman's resident

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

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Subject: Paradise Lost
Project # 2105

To whom it may concern:

Fifteen years ago I married my entire
company from California due to hostile conditions
towards small businesses. Thousands of
others followed - and now about

Your project 2105! It will probably
cause greater harm to the state & more burden.
If it passes or proceeds - I'll sell and
I'll take out full page ads in Reno, Chin
Charter & Susanville letting everyone ^{know} that property
values will drop 30-40-50% when the
Lake Woman water comes - I recall &
no more trophy fishing - why punish
the land owners. When this happens the
revenues will drop as values drop.
Why is it when lawyers, politicians and

college professors are put out to them
positions - the first thing they do is go to
the bathroom & punch someone's nose down.
The damn! Stop the madness.

Thank You so advance for consideration.

SAVE OUR LAKES!

4 August 2004

Feather River water. It generally flows fast and cold in the spring, but it slows and warms by mid summer. That's probably how it has been for tens of thousands of years.

When hydroelectric facilities were installed on the North Fork of the Feather River during the early part of the last century, the behavior of the river was modified. It was no longer free flowing. A series of dams impounded pools of water at several locations, tunnels and penstocks (pipes) moved the liquid along alternate paths, and electricity was generated by turbines driven by the power of falling water. But with all those significant changes, the water was still colder in the spring than in summer.

When it came time a few years back for PG&E to relicense its hydroelectric facilities in the Rock Creek - Cresta reach of the river, something interesting happened. Somebody decided that it would be nice to improve the trout habitat in that portion of the river by lowering the summertime water temperature there so that it didn't exceed 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit). PG&E agreed, and the FERC Project Number 1982 settlement that resulted carries such a requirement.

Now I'm sure that the trout in the lower stretch of the river would truly appreciate colder water in July and August. But apparently the euphoria of settling the relicensing agreement caused the folks involved to overlook a small question, as in: "How the heck are we gonna do that?"

Later came FERC Project Number 2106, which is aimed at relicensing PG&E's facilities on the upper reach of the river. In an inspired moment, PG&E decided to solve its dilemma about the temperature of the lower portion of the river by quietly placing the burden on the upper portion of the river. After all, Plumas County doesn't have many voters to complain about the issue, and they're a long distance from the seat of political power.

And along came the thermal curtain. First for Lake Almanor, and more recently, for Butt Lake as well. That's so that PG&E can suck up the cold water at the bottom of Lake Almanor, quickly pass it through Butt Lake and send it downstream to cool those nasty warm waters down by Rock Creek and Cresta.

Oh, and yes, there will be some underwater dredging too, and we'll need to dump that muck along your shores but you'll get used to it. And did we mention that we'll be making some minor alterations to your fisheries while we're at it? Butt Lake will no longer be a trophy trout site, and we'll be eliminating about half of the cold water fishery in Almanor, but you'll get used to warm water fish. And just ignore those increased algae blooms. What? ... the water heater size floats for the 770 foot by 800 foot thermal curtain? ... just pretend you don't see them (and please don't run into them with your boat or jet ski).

You'd think that story was bad enough, but it isn't over. Guess who gets to pay for all this? PG&E ratepayers (that's you and me) will be stuck with the roughly \$40 million dollars to install thermal curtains on Lake Almanor and Butt Lake, plus an undisclosed annual maintenance cost.

But wait, there's more. Remember that cold Lake Almanor water that started down the hill? Well, it gets mixed with a lot of warmer water from other sources before it gets to Rock Creek. So, as a final insult, all of this expensive and environmentally damaging activity is expected to result in (drum roll, please) ... about a one (1) degree Celsius reduction in summertime water temperature in the Rock Creek - Cresta reach of the river.