

Good afternoon Senators Dembrow, Olsen, Bentz, Prozanski and Roblan. 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.

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.

Reasons why I have taken this position include the following:

1. Pumped storage energy projects can have multiple benefits with proper planning but poorly planned or poorly located pumped storage projects typically have negative environmental impacts.
2. An example of a poorly planned pumped storage energy project is the proposed Swan Lake North Pumped Storage project located in the Klamath Basin. It is widely viewed by the local citizens that the cumulative effects of all impacts associated with this Hydro project outweigh its benefits.
3. Areas of special concern associated with the Swan Lake Hydro project include potential impacts to the water aquifer, surface water flows, migratory birds, agriculture, rural country esthetics, cultural resources, private property values, forest, rangelands, etc.
4. One hundred percent of the water needed for this pumped storage energy project is from the ground water aquifer which is a very limited and valued resource.
5. Potential impacts to migratory birds are significant given that this proposed project is located in Klamath River Basin which is one of the most significant bird conservation areas in North America. Eighty percent of all birds on the Pacific Flyway utilize habitats within the Basin annually due to the availability of valued wetland, riparian and open water habitats. Bird strikes on project infrastructure will likely result in large numbers of bird mortalities. A 32.8 mile long 230kV high voltage power transmission line will be placed within or immediately adjacent to key habitats and flight paths of these birds putting them at great risk.

The cumulative effects of this and other impacts can not be emphasized enough given the 45 year life span of the Swan Lake Hydro project if it is approved and will likely be extended for an additional 45 years resulting in a 90 year total project life span.

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 were not adequately addressed and are 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 un-necessary and adverse environmental impacts. I, therefore, recommend that you do not approve this resolution.