

SAVE KILARC COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 194 WHITMORE CA 96096

www.savekilarc.org

530-472-3929

Kimberly D. Bose,

Tuesday 17th August 2010

Secretary

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First St. N.E.

Washington D.C.20426

Draft EIS (June 22 10) Docket P606-027 Kilarc/South Cow Creek

Dear Secretary Bose,

On behalf of the Save Kilarc Committee, myself, the residents of Whitmore CA & of Shasta County I must address several inaccuracies & fatuous assumptions in The Draft EIS document!

In the conclusions it is stated that:

- ✚ 1). We can fish elsewhere!
- ✚ 2). We can recreate & see scenic vistas elsewhere!
- ✚ 3) This does not adversely affect the disabled!
- ✚ 4) Water for fire suppression may be obtained elsewhere.
- ✚ 5) The decommissioning will not adversely affect the residents/businesses of Whitmore & environs!

1). We can fish elsewhere!

{Marie- Antoinette said "let them eat cake!"}

Shasta County, indeed Northern California is full of lakes! **This does not mean they are easily accessible.**

Much of the fishing river banks are on private property! Access is governed by several factors such as proximity, ease of access & finances. Some have an entrance fee of \$10.00 or more. Kilarc Reservoir is easily accessed both by distance and accessibility for all particularly the disabled & is free. It is also accessible most of the year whilst others are not!

Many people cannot drive further for economic reasons as the alternatives are difficult to access due to the distance from our homes and are often on poor roads. Altitude also affects access. Even county roads are affected by weather conditions and many unadopted roads are often muddy and impassable except by large four wheel drive vehicles. Many lakes require a boat for fishing. This is another economic constraint. We don't all have such vehicles or boats! Due to road conditions long detours (as much as 40

miles) may be necessary which is inconvenient and often financially prohibited. Sometimes fishing conditions are unsatisfactory making it pretty unsatisfactory & disappointing after a long, hard drive.

Many folks contact the **Whitmore Store** for weather, fishing conditions before setting out. Such information is not available elsewhere.



Clean & algae free! Easy Accessed most days of the year and wheelchair accessible even in poor weather! Also well used and loved for over 106 years. (See Appendix A).

Nora Lake:

See distance, access constraints & conditions below (section 3).NOT Wheelchair accessible.

Grace Lake:

“Ditto”

Lake McCumber:

Is 8 miles from Shingletown & fishing is only possible by boat! **NO pedestrian (for fishing) or wheelchair access!**

Manzanita Lake:

(Lassen Park) only open 3-4 months of the year! There is a \$10.00 admission to the park.

Shasta Lake 35+ miles takes about 1 ¼ hours

2). We can recreate & see scenic vistas elsewhere!

This assumption borders on arrogance and at best is inaccurate!

Latour State Forest has limited access & needs 4 wheel drive on a long road several miles long and up to altitudes of 6500 ft. It is really accessible & open to traffic from about June to first snow! (Sept-December) (There is often snow on Road mid to late June in places!) Some areas are closed off by gates due to logging activities. Is about 12 miles at summit from Whitmore.

MAP <http://www.stateparks.com/gmaps/curlocation.asp?lat=40.63944&lon=-121.72278&z=12>

Mt. Lassen Park is approximately 30 miles from Whitmore across winding roads (as are the lakes) & has an entrance fee of \$10.00. The roads are not free of snow for very long; occasionally as late as July, & due to the altitude may experience fog, rain & snow in the early fall.

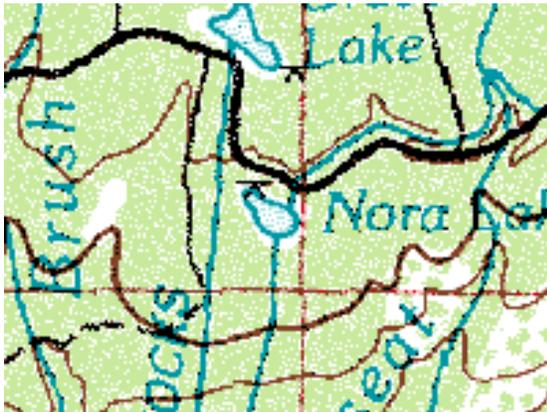
Whiskeytown Lake (Beaches/vistas) is more than 45 miles from Whitmore.

Lake Shasta is at least 35 miles from Whitmore.

Mt. Shasta is approximately 75 miles from Whitmore and in winter or bad weather hard to access even on the freeway unless one has a 4 wheel drive vehicle.

ALL OF THESE may be inconvenient, have limited access and are inaccessible due to financial considerations. Many residents are on fixed or low incomes from retirement or disability and have very tight budgets.

3) This does not adversely affect the disabled!



Nora Lake

Is 4-5 miles from Shingletown (E). (Therefore approx. 20 miles from Whitmore). The county winding (sometimes single track and obstructed by uncooperative grazing animals) road is at 3000-3500 feet and the road there is not always passable. The last 3 miles off the highway is a very bumpy dirt road for which a four wheel drive vehicle is required. It is easy to get lost! It has limited use constrained by wet, snowy weather/altitude.

There is NO wheelchair access.

The lake is plagued by lots of algae & there are large hewn trees (stumps) dotted along the shore which is very marshy. To get water deeper enough for fish one needs a boat to fish. It could be dangerous as water is very cold and people have drowned.

Grace Lake

Is the same distance & has the same road conditions from Whitmore! The road was in very bad condition today (8/16/2010). See picture of stairs from parking area



STAIRS FROM PARKING AREA



A local man sent this report today:

----- Original Message ----- **From:** [Mike Rubin](mailto:Mike.Rubin) **To:** maggiestewart@frontiernet.net
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2010 4:38 PM **Subject:** re-Grace Lake

"I hadn't been there for a couple of months. The road is worse than usual. **Lake has a lot of algae bloom in the best fishing areas. Hardly anyone fishing there and the conditions are terrible!**"

4) Water for fire suppression may be obtained elsewhere. This is NOT true!



These pictures were taken in June 2008 when over 1500 fires in Shasta County were caused by one dry lightning storm. Trinity County fire to the west burned for nearly two months! Concurrently there were

massive fires in Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou counties & southern California. Fire personnel came from many areas north & south to assist in fire suppression. All water sources were utilized as it was a drought year. Any water was extremely valuable.

This weekend 461 fires were started by lightening in Shasta County. **Today (8/16/10) there was a fire in Whitmore** on a logging area, possibly caused by motor vehicles or logging equipment. This was only 1 mile from the Whitmore store & very close to homes. **During the last major fire in Whitmore in 2008 the fire was only a couple of miles or a couple of minutes away from residences & the center of Whitmore.**

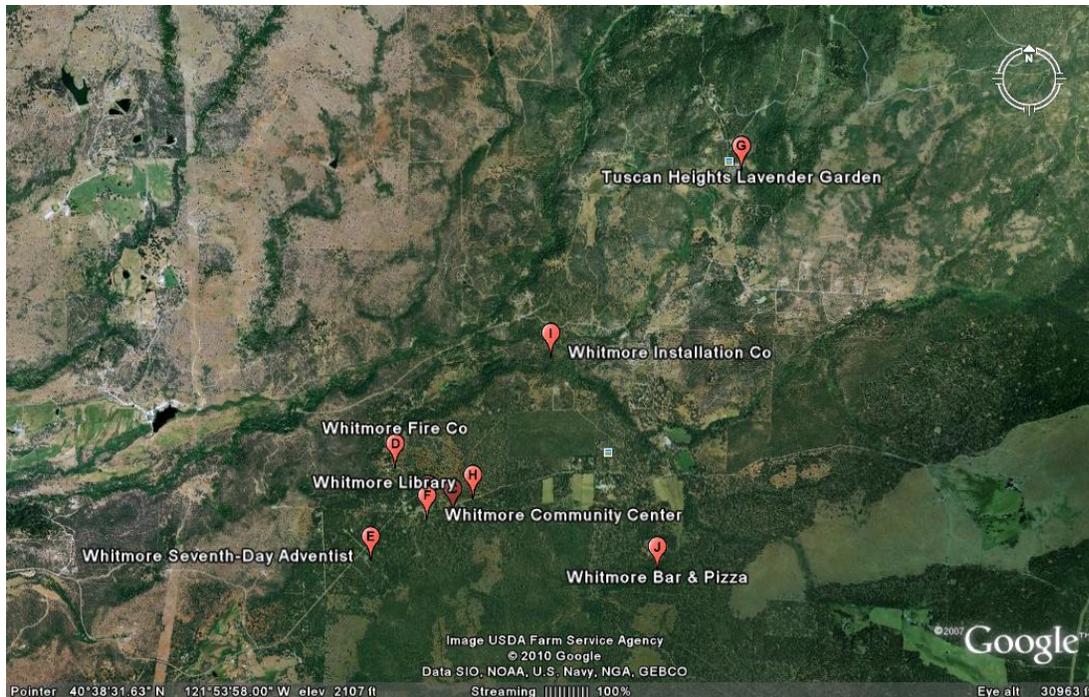
We also have a problem with **illegal camp fires** that may be part of the campsites of genuine hikers.

*In other instances there have been problems in the forest within 3-4 miles of the Whitmore Store caused by illegal camping by brazen illegal aliens who work for **Mexican drug cartels**. Camp fires and illegal hunting may cause major/minor fires.*

Even with insurance it is nerve wracking to leave ones homes & livestock even to go to Redding to shop.

Once again the Whitmore Store is a source of information. The Community Center is the designated alternative accommodation & distribution center for emergency supplies.

5) The decommissioning will not adversely affect the residents/businesses of Whitmore & environs!



This is an image from Google Earth of the central area of Whitmore. Not ALL businesses are marked. The **Whitmore Store** is a few yards east of the Fire Department and Post Office.

Geographically the residences of **Whitmore** (an unincorporated area of Shasta County) are spread over **an area of roughly 49 square miles!**

In addition to residences the physical buildings & businesses are: **The Whitmore Store & gas station, The School, The U.S. Post Office, The Community Center (built in 2005-2007) Grace Community Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, The Way Station & Tuscan Heights Lavender Gardens.** In addition there are several businesses run from Whitmore including (but NOT restricted to) The Llama Farm, North State Masonary, Palmer Tile, B & E Brady, & The Cutting Edge. Many residents telecommute from their homes.

All these businesses are affected by the possible loss of water supply (seepage feeds aquifers which load wells & springs) & fires. You cannot just dig another well and costs are high and often prohibitive. Digging deeper does not guarantee potable water. Property values could decrease significantly if water is diminished or lost. Lower property values affect the County tax base which pays for amenities for the community such as the school, public safety and fire suppression.

Devalued or worthless property leads to loss of residents and prevents new people from buying property. Less people affects the school population and the store & businesses. Many rely on the store for groceries (the next nearest store is 20 miles away). The store is also source of information & communication. The loss of Kilarc affects the viability of the store as does the potential lack of visitors who fish locally at Kilarc. In addition many cyclists, campers and motor bike riders use the store for refreshments and lunch. Fishermen buy bait and supplies, ice & refreshments. In hunting season hunters also buy ammunition and provisions.

Hunters, fishermen and visitors also attend the frequent fund raising events that benefit the fire department and other community charities. We only receive \$2700.00 a year for fire suppression, our firefighters are all volunteers and many pieces of equipment, supplies & large items like an ambulance are purchased with funds raised by these events.

All is all it's a 'chicken & egg' situation. Whatever affects any person in Whitmore has a domino effect and affects us all.

Other subjects, that are inaccurate or without basis in the Draft EIS, such as the ecosystem is addressed by others tonight.

Respectfully

Margaret M. E. Trevelyan
13618 E Fern Road
Whitmore CA 96096

Stakeholder/Resident
Save Kilarc Committee

Copy E-filed 8/17/2010, Original submitted by hand at the FERC meeting at Whitmore Community Center & copy to Congressman Wally Herger

APPENDIX (A)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Henrietta Markley** <henri_markley@hotmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 22, 2010 at 6:15 PM

Subject: I hope that Kilarc can be save for fishing and family picnicking.

To: savekilarc@gmail.com

We have been coming to Kilarc for over 20 years several times a year.

We have been fishing, relaxing, and watching the different wildlife.

We need more places to go to get away from the cities.

We have had a lot of good times there. We come up from Citrus Heights, outside of Sacramento, to relax and fish. My husband's family has been fishing there for four generations.

Several years ago, we saw an EMU running around. We have seen deer and different types of birds there.

One winter day, we came up to fish but the lake was frozen and snow on the ground. It was warmer then it was in Redding. We had a good nap in the fresh cool air.

(I will be sending you a check for a couple of T-shirts in a couple of days.)

I hope you all will have a very nice picnic and the weather will be nice. Unfortunately we have a prior engagement. My thoughts will be with you all.

I will be praying that Kilarc can be saved.

(You have my permission to print this. PC 7/26/10 8.30pm)

Your friends,

Sam and Henrietta Markley

Email: henri_markley@hotmail.com

Phone: 916-723-2334

APPENDIX (B)

From: <lad359@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Jul 18, 2010 at 10:57 AM
Subject: Kilarc Reservoir
To: info@savekilarc.org

Dear Whitmore, Save Kilarc Committee,

We will be most happy to join you on August 1st at Kilarc Reservoir to help SAVE Kilarc Reservoir.

My husband and I tried to locate this Reservoir in April and must have traveled 5 or 6 miles over dirt roads, but never found the reservoir. But we had a wonderful time trying.

Would you please send directions from Red Bluff on how to get to your reservoir? We have watched as you have tried and tried to save you reservoir and we would like to support your effort. We also like to fish (fly fish).

Your friends and supporters,

Bob and Linda Larsen
Red Bluff
Lad359@aol.com