

Low Impact Hydropower Institute  
68 Harrison Ave Ste 605  
PMB 113938  
Boston, Massachusetts 02111-1929  
Via email only to [comments@lowimpacthydro.org](mailto:comments@lowimpacthydro.org)

July 10, 2025

Re: Wells Dam Project Comments

To Whom It May Concern,

As the highest-ranking elected official and representative of the city of Brewster, Washington, I write in support of Douglas County Public Utility District's (Douglas PUD) continued Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) certification for the Wells Hydroelectric Project.

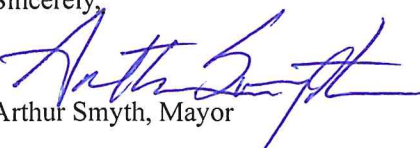
Our community lies directly along the Columbia River, where the Wells Project plays a central role not only in power generation but also in helping to sustain the recreational lifeblood of our region. Besides energy production, the Wells Project supports the very activities that define the identity, well-being, and economy of our small towns. The support of recreational opportunities brings visitors from across the region and provides an economic boost to our communities through tourism, lodging, dining, and retail.

Moreover, Douglas PUD actively supports fisheries enhancement programs, which improve angling opportunities and contribute to the ecological richness of the river system—further strengthening our reputation as a recreational destination. The Okanogan Basin Sockeye program known as Fish and Water Management Tool has been essential for our recreational success. Every July anglers from all over the Pacific Northwest come to participate in this excellent fishery. In our classrooms Douglas PUD staff provide hatchery tours, hands on hatchery releases programs and continuing education for local staff and students. From maintaining public boat launches and docks to developing and preserving waterfront parks and facilities, the PUD has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to ensuring that residents and visitors alike have safe, high-quality access to the Columbia River.

Douglas PUD's stewardship of the Wells Project reflects the core values of the LIHI certification program—balancing power production with environmental protection, cultural respect, and especially recreational access and programs. Douglas PUD has proven to be a thoughtful and engaged partner with our city in planning and maintaining infrastructure that directly benefits our quality of life and local economies.

We support Douglas PUD's certification through the Low Impact Hydropower Institute and recognize the Wells Hydroelectric Project as a model of responsible hydroelectric operation that brings lasting value to the people and communities of north central Washington.

Sincerely,

  
Arthur Smyth, Mayor

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