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From: "Whit Whitman" <htwhitma@pacbell.net>
To: <rrvwspmail@gp.usbr.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 30, 2006 11:38 PM
Subject: Public Comment for RRVWSP EIS

EIS Comments,

Mar 30, 2006

I was flabbergasted to learn of the RRVWSP and its scope today. My family has owned land in Otter Tail county for 65 years and if I read your charts correctly, we fall within your PRSPA. We do not live there year around, but we do have mail service year around and today was the first we have heard about this boondoggle. Your public noticing has been severely deficient. I feel that my notice criticism is valid as I have been on the Solano County HCP steering committee for 5 years and people out here at least know about that plan.

One evening is not sufficient time to digest 6 years of work, but I wish to raise several issues. I've been unable to find out very much about the PRSP and ORO aquifers. What I did find was that your EIS on page 70 seems to say there is a probability they have a very low recharge rate. I don't see a comparison of the increased draw under the Red River Basin scenario to the recharge rate. In fact, all I saw was a "we don't know" statement of impacts. Certainly if the aquifer is drawn down, you will cause thousands of shallow well users to drill deeper. Also is the water quality the same throughout the depth of the aquifer? I believe you listed 36 wells for the PRSP. Do you plan to prohibit the use of agricultural fertilizer around each of these wells? If you do prohibit fertilizer, what about the economic consequences for farmers? Are you going to use Eminent Domain to acquire the land and right to drill these wells? What about the pipeline right of way?

In short, I adamantly oppose this plan which has apparently had a stealth cloaking. You need a lot more public notice, before it moves forward!

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