

Dear County Commissioners:

There are many details about this Preliminary Draft Water Rule that have not yet been worked out. Originally, the County had envisioned that an applicant for a building permit could go up to the counter at the Courthouse, pay their mitigation fee, show their well log, and proof that they had purchased a wireless meter, and continue on with the permit process. But, now, we are being told that we must first go to the Exchange, to purchase mitigation credits to allow for our domestic (inside) use of the well--and, more mitigation credits, if we want to water a little bit outside. Then, we go to the county, with our certificate of mitigation credits. The Exchange only has a small amount of water available. And, people have been told that they can buy these mitigation credits ahead of time (by Bob Barwin, Water Resources Manager for Ecology's Yakima office). What happens when the Reserve is used up, for Cassalary Creek and Bell Creek and Bagley Creek? Ecology has said that they would help the County with any litigation problems. Is that really what the County wants?

The Local Leaders Water Group is not yet done with their work. We would like to see their report, and recommendations. But, regardless of how much is still left to do, Ecology is determined to proceed with a March 21st Rule filing date. This Rule has been in the process for years. If it is not ready to go now, what's the push?

I understand that we need to protect the endangered species in the River and streams. But, as my friend Pam Cameron said, back in the "old days," the River was dredged for gravel, when the fish weren't spawning; and, the ditches flowed freely. Up on the hill, at their family farm, on Towne and Woodcock, they had a high water table, because those leaky ditches were feeding it. The River was flowing well; and, there were lots of fish. She feels that there should definitely be a leaky pipe, along side the solid pipe, in the ditches, to feed the aquifer.

With Ecology's response to Senator Hargrove's questions about the flows in WRIA 18, they continue to perpetuate the myth that the "existing water rights in the Dungeness River far exceed the summer natural flow..." That is only on paper, and not in reality. What will the flow amounts be for the irrigators, in the superseding certificates that they and Ecology are working on? Should that be known, before this Rule is filed? Will everything be known, at the last minute? Someone should take a look at the ACTUAL withdrawals from the River. They are far less than they were, in the days of large fish runs. People have not used those large rights; and, so they have been relinquished, and cannot be used, at that level, again. The

exempt wells are just a way to show control, for a minute amount of water--which will require much more in transaction, management, and enforcement costs than any possible benefit to the River. The small streams would be helped more by drilling wells deeper, and providing aquifer recharge, than they would by any mitigation fee, along with a transaction fee, management fees, and enforcement fees.

Thank you for listening to me, and to all of your constituents!

Sincerely,

Marguerite A Glover
103 Pond Lane
Sequim WA 98382
marg@sequim.com
[360-461-3365](tel:360-461-3365)