



CLALLAM COUNTY
Department of Community Development
County Courthouse
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smiller@co.clallam.wa.us

Sheila Roark Miller, Director

June 15, 2012

Ms. Ann Wessel
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775
Olympia WA 98504-7775

RE: Economic Analysis - Water Resource Management Program WRIA 18

On June 5, 2012, at the Local Leaders Work Group, you asked that I submit my comments in writing:

LOGISTICS:

- Include an Appendix to qualify the terms, definitions, while making it more user friendly for the common person.
- Use the correct references, concerning new homes and manufactured homes. Those figures were provided by the Clallam County Community Development Permit Center.

PRINCIPLE:

- Compare the economic value per fish, to that of **saving family wage jobs**, specifically in the construction industry. These citizens will be affected if water is not available for new construction.
- Several land-dependent occupations are affected economically by this proposed rule. Lending institutions, realtors, septic designers, well drillers and contractors, to name a few.
- Land owners, stemming back as far as the 1800's are affected by the rule. Many expect their great-grand children to move onto their property to assist them as they age. Some expect to pass on acreage as part of an estate, or to sell parcels to support their retirement, but will be economically encumbered by the increased cost of purchasing a mitigated water right.
- Many families are moving into this area to help support farming. Through a home based industry or through Sequim's Lavender tourism, they are part of a group that sells farm-related products (soaps, oils, wreaths and other products), encouraging a lifestyle specific to this region.

My office is concerned about the numerous Short Plats that were approved based on ONE well that established the availability of water to the numerous, vacant parcels of land that were legally developed.

- What about the legal costs that we may incur, should these land divisions be challenged due to sub basin closures?
- What about the loss of a tax base, due the drop in assessment values?

That a State DOE Economist agreed that there is no economic benefit to the proposed Dungeness Water Rule, only enforces the belief that the State Department of Ecology is deceiving Clallam County citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Smiller".

Sheila Roark Miller
Elected Official

cc

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CLALLAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE
223 E. 4TH ST, SUITE 5
PORT ANGELES, WA 98362

Ann Wessel

Economic Analysis