

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 01, 2012 7:22 PM
To: Wessel, Ann (ECY)
Subject: re: DWR formal comment

To: Ann Wessel, WA State Dept. of Ecology

From: Beth Garrison/Randy Holtkamp

Re: Dungeness Water Rule formal comment

Date: July 2, 2012

In 2000, my husband and I bought a 2.5 acre parcel of land in Sequim, WA for our future retirement home. From 2000 to 2005, we cleared approximately one acre, installed a well, a pressurized septic system, and underground plumbing and electricity to the building site. Total costs for these improvements were \$25,000. We also seeded the property with hay and wildflowers to help deter thistle infestations. In 2005 we parked a 26 ft. 5th wheeler on our property which we have used as a “cabin” a few weeks every September and April. Over the years, we have had many friends and family stay with us on our property. We strongly feel that our property qualifies as “beneficial use”.

In August 2008, we were ready to build our future home and had spent \$5,000 in building permits and engineer’s reports. Subcontractors were ready to start. Unfortunately, the sale of our current home in Alaska fell through at the last minute, and the housing market took a downturn nationwide. While our plans to build our retirement home have been put on hold, the value of our property has decreased, and our property taxes have quadrupled.

In our opinion, the proposed Dungeness Water Rule is flawed and has too many unknowns. How much would it cost property owners to buy water rights for their wells? Who would be responsible for installing and checking metered wells? How will the proposed rule affect future landowners who want to start small home businesses on their land with metered wells? The current DWR plan would further depreciate the land values of properties (not grandfathered), therefore causing a further decline in the economic health of Clallam County. The quality of life for all residents in the Dungeness Valley would be negatively affected if the proposed DWR takes effect. We hope you will reconsider.

Sincerely,

Beth Garrison/Randy Holtkamp

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