

## Stockwater Consolidated Issues

### **1. History surrounding the issue. Such as exempt wells, stock watering, livestock industry.**

- History of exempt wells.
- History of stock watering.
- History of the Washington livestock industry.

### **2. What is the definition of stock water?**

- Define stock watering, what types of water uses should be exempt? Need to consider societal expectations and changes in the industry.

### **3. Information regarding the exemption as it currently operates**

- Is there a real problem? If so what action is really needed?
- What are the existing statutory protections to protect senior water rights? Evidence of impairment to senior water rights, instream flows, etc. from the use of the stock water exemption. Are these protections sufficient to protect neighboring exempt wells from impairment?
- To what extent could these withdrawals harm senior water rights, instream flows, groundwater levels, or ESA listed fish stocks? Potential for future harm?
- What is the status of water resource permitting in areas where stock water exemptions are being used?
- To what extent could these operations be brought into the water resource permitting system? i.e., is water available to issue new water rights or are transferable existing rights available where these livestock facilities are located?
- Need data regarding stock watering, with consideration of to what extent livestock operations rely on the stock water exemption, for what types of uses, and the amount of usage.

### **4. How should livestock industry be viewed? Should something be done to maintain its presence in Washington? What are the economic impacts of a change and how do we ensure economic viability?**

- Should it be the state's policy to severely restrict an industry that has operated under existing statutes for over 60 years?
- Should the livestock industry prosper?
- If food production is seen as a good thing, should not public policy encourage promotion and enhancement of food production? What policies can be adopted to reverse the current decline in locally based livestock?
- How do we retain and improve the viability of the state's livestock industry while also protecting senior water users and environmental values?
- How we maintain an economically viable livestock industry.
- Need to consider the economic impact that changing this statute will have on both the families that rely on this and on the state's economy.

### **5. Should there be reporting and conservation requirements, and if so, what are the barriers?**

- To what extent are withdrawals tracked and metered?
- Are there barriers and burdens to instituting reporting and conservation requirements? If so, what are they?
- Should a volume limit be adopted, and if so, what would the conditions surrounding the limit be? Should volume limit be basin specific?
- Recycling/reclamation technology for stock water.

### **6. What ways can we use the existing framework to create a solution considering existing wells?**

- How should existing wells be treated? Including consideration of priority date.
- If the exemption covers only smaller operations, should the state adopt a means to provide for expedited permit decisions?