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TO: Kenneth Koch, Watershed Assessment Coordinator, DOE
fax: 360-407-6426

RE: My request for 303(d) listing information for King County's Sammamish River/
Bear Creek area, and for Island County, between Deception Pass and Ault
Field aka Whidbey Island NAS.

I do very much appreciate your taking the time and effort to sort out what I really want when I requested the above - I can't say when I've gotten such good cooperation in finding out something.

Obviously there's much more information available than I want. Since I merely wish to know whether the same type of unsupported and opinionated information as was used in previous 303(d) listings for the Sammamish River/Bear Creek area (for which I did submit written comments) is still being used, let's just skip to using this letter's comments as my public-record input this year.

1. WHIDBEY ISLAND, NORTH: Since the maps show no category colors there, unlike when Cranberry Lake was previously included, I have no comments.

2. SAMMAMISH RIVER/BEAR CREEK: Category 5 (303(d)) waters are shown for both the Sammamish and for Bear Creek.

The state should not rely on King County "science" as that science is goals-oriented and selective. (I have several examples in my files.)

The source of impairments should definitely be determined; i.e., whether from natural sources, such as geese, or from human sources, such as failing septic systems.

Out-of-date excursions, with no current excursions, should result in the removal of stream segments from impairment listings.

Temperature impairments in the Sammamish River, are seldom if ever mentioned in WRIA 8 documents from King County, even though a state official said that the river's temperature problems are caused by withdrawal of heated water from the surface of Lake Sammamish at the weir there, and that the further from the lake the cooler the temperature. WRIA 8 recommendations include many millions of dollars in expenditures to "restore" the Sammamish River, including shade plantings, without any recommendation of preventing surface withdrawal from Lake Sammamish. (WRIA 8 also recommends re-meandering the river - which of course will not lower temperature readings but will bring those meanders nearer and possibly into the turf-farm lawns with their herbicides, pesticides, etc.)

To sum up, all of these, as you say, reams of paperwork for these relatively small areas, which lead to the imposition of ever-more regulations, need significant injections of common sense and an overriding commitment to less, not more, paperwork and regulations.

Sincerely,

Maxine Keesling