

May 31, 2005

Mr. Jim White
Underwood Conservation District
P.O. Box 96
White Salmon, WA 98672

Dear Mr. White:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 14, 2004, regarding Washington State's Water Quality Assessment for 2002/2004. The department received over 45 comment letters during this last review process and is appreciative of the time you took to review and comment on this assessment. We realize that there is an extensive amount of information in the Water Quality Assessment. The scrutiny given by you and other public reviewers has resulted in many changes and corrections that improved the accurateness of the final submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Water Quality Assessment is being submitted to EPA as an "integrated report" to meet the Clean Water Act requirements of sections 305(b) and 303(d). EPA will only take approval action on Category 5 of the assessment, which represents the state's 303(d) list. The Water Quality Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html>.

Responses to your specific comments, noted below, correspond to the order provided in your letter.

1. **Listing ID 21590:** Comment noted. This listing is on Category 2.
2. **Listing ID 5888:** This listing was a duplicate of #21590 and has been deleted.
3. **Listing ID 5890:** This listing was a duplicate of #21587 which contains newer and more data. It has been deleted.
4. **Listing ID 21588:** The listing location has been corrected based on your information.
5. **Listing ID 16775:** Corrections were made to the 3 paragraphs improperly citing UCD data collected in 1997, 2001, and 2002.
6. **Listing ID 21587:** Your correction has been made in the basis. Please note also that this listing was a duplicate of 5890, noted above.

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7. **Listing 21676:** Ecology appreciates the more recent data on this listing, which is substantially more data than the original listing. Ecology further notes UCD's comments that the earlier listings may have been due to equipment errors. This listing has been moved to Category 1.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments to Ecology. If you have questions regarding the above responses, or would like further clarification, please feel free to call me at 360-407-6414.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Braley".

Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Watershed Management Section