

May 31, 2005

Mr. Gene Williams
Snohomish County Public Works
2731 Wetmore Ave.
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Mr. Williams

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 15, 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>.

Since most of your comments focus on the attached table of lakes listings, our responses follow the table format where changes were made or considered. Please also note that some lakes will not show up on the map tool because the map layer only shows water bodies at the 1:100,000 scale. The following lakes were reassessed:

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Beecher—Remains on Category 2.

Blackman—Listing 40728 was inactivated, data was rolled into 6313.

Bosworth—Listing 40729 was inactivated, data was rolled into 22608.

Cochran—Information was corrected based on comments.

Crabapple—Listing 22615 was inactivated, data was rolled into 6330. Listing was moved to a Category2 because data does not exceed standards.

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Crystal—Data provided in your comments was used to create a new listing for Crystal Lake, #43037 which has been placed in Category 2 for total phosphorus.

Devils—It appears there was a merging of two different Devils Lake listings. This referenced listing was moved to a Category 2 based on the county's 2003 State of the Lakes Report indicating the lake as "at risk" for total phosphorus.

Echo—Placed in Category 2.

Gissberg Twin—Correction was made on spelling.

Goodwin—Listing 6338 was inactivated and data rolled into 22625. Listing moved to Category 1 based on county's 2003 report. The fecal coliform listing appears to be in error and was moved to Category 2 until further information can determine status.

Lome—Listing 22466 was inactivated and data rolled into 6350. Listing was left on Category 5.

Martha N.—Listing 22460 was inactivated, data rolled into 6350. Listing remains on Category 5.

Panther—Corrections were made.

Roesiger N.—Corrections were made, total phosphorus listing for 6365 has been placed on Category 1 based on information provided

Rowland—Listing was placed on Category 2 based on data provided.

Serene—This listing was changed to Category 2.

Shoecraft—Listing 22660 was inactivated and data rolled into 6369. Fecal coliform listing was moved to Category 2 based on information provided.

Spring—This listing was added to the database as #43038.

Stevens—Listing 43024 was created and listed as a Category 2 based on the county's State of the Lakes Report (2003) that indicates this lake is "at risk" of future impairment. Listing 22829 is actually in WRIA 34. This has been corrected. The listing for invasive species (4666) has been moved to Category 2 based on information provided.

Sunday—After reviewing the information provided, Ecology cannot conclude that this listing should be moved to a Category 2 since it appears nitrogen is still causing impairment. When a TMDL or waterbody recovery plan is done for this lake, it should include consideration of nitrogen, even if the result is to focus on phosphorus. That will allow both listings to be moved off Category 5 when a TMDL or equivalent is done.

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Thomas—Correction was made to change the name to Heritage Lake.

Wagner—This listing was changed to Category 1 based on the county's 2003 report.

Weallup—This listing was changed to Category 1 based on information provided.

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