

May 31, 2005

Mr. John Gross
Kalispel Tribe
P.O. Box 39
Usk, WA 99180

Dear Mr. Gross:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 17, 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.

Listing ID 42164: Per your comment, the name was changed from CALISPELL CREEK, S.F. to CALISPELL CREEK.

West Pend Oreille River and Skookum Creek: These were added into the Water Quality Assessment database since they are not located on tribal land.

Listing ID 21714: Le Clerc Creek was confirmed to be a Class A stream because it does not lie within the Colville National Forest and is tributary to the Pend Oreille River which is Class A. As a result the data for this segment has been reassessed and changed from Category 5 to Category 1.

Listing ID 21867 & 21868: These segments were reassessed after being determined to be Class RAA instead of Class RA. As a result, these listings have been changed from Category 1 to Category 2.

Listing ID 21864: This listing was changed to a Category 2 based on a review of the basis for listing.

Mr. John Gross

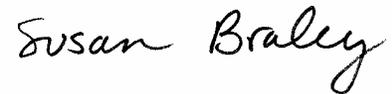
Page 2

May 31, 2005

Listing ID 19860: Per your comment, the name has been changed from CALISPELL CREEK to CALISPELL CREEK, N.F.

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". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Susan Braley

Unit Supervisor

Watershed Management Section