



KLICKITAT COUNTY

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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Mr. Patrick Lizon
Washington State Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Proposed 2012 Water Quality Assessment—Buck Creek temperature, Listing ID 21594

Dear Mr. Lizon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed category 5 temperature listing for Buck Creek (Listing ID 21594). Klickitat County believes that the proposed category 5 listing is not appropriate for multiple reasons and requests that the listing remain as a category 3 for insufficient data. Furthermore, we believe that the designated use of Buck Creek (i.e., Salmonid Spawning, Rearing, and Migration) should not be changed for the 2012 Water Quality Assessment.

Condit Dam on the White Salmon River was breached in October 2011 and dam removal was completed in 2012. Removal of Condit Dam was a very significant event with respect to water quality in the White Salmon River from a point upstream of the mouth of Buck Creek to its Confluence with the Columbia River, as well as in Buck Creek from its confluence with the White Salmon River to a point upstream of where temperature monitoring station WQ-2 was located. It was likely also an important event with respect to future designated use classifications in the White Salmon River and its tributaries downstream of river mile 16, including Buck Creek. Importantly, however, is an event that occurred well after the timeframe of the 2012 Water Quality Assessment.

Temperature monitoring station WQ-2 was influenced by Northwestern Lake, the impoundment behind Condit Dam, and is not representative of the free flowing reaches of Buck Creek. The GPS location of the logger can clearly be seen to be in the backwaters of the dam impoundment. The location of the temperature monitor was scoured out with the removal of the dam suggesting that the influence was significant. The location of the Logger was scoured out 4.5 feet (attached Photo 1.A). The mouth of buck creek itself dropped over 20 feet. See attached (photo 2.A)

Station WQ-2A (which is just 1.5 miles upstream of WQ-2) clearly meets both the 17.5 degrees C temperature criterion (which was applicable in 2010) and the 16 degrees C temperature criterion, which might be applicable in the water quality assessment applicable to conditions

after October 2011. It is not appropriate to extend a category 5 water quality over a length of Buck Creek delineated in the proposed water quality assessment. A category 5 temperature listing, might, however, appear to be appropriate for the former Northwestern Lake.

In the proposed 2012 water quality assessment the designated use for Buck Creek is proposed to be changed from Salmonid Spawning, Rearing, and Migration (17.5 degrees C) to Core Summer Salmonid Habitat (16 degrees C). This change of use while appropriate to the new conditions should not occur until new data from the new use can be considered. Changing should not be considered until the next assessment cycle when data from 2011 onward can be considered.

Regards,



Jacob Anderson
Project Coordinator
Klickitat County Natural Resources Department

Photo 1.A



Photo 2.A

