AGENDA—STOCK WATER WORK GROUP

Date: October 2, 2009  Time: 3:30PM - 5:30 pm
Location: Washington State Legislature Capital Campus,
John A. Cherberg Building—Conference Rooms A-B-C

3:30 - 3:40
  • Gather, welcome

3:40 - 5:15
  • Discussion of proposals from work group members
    o From Jack Field, Washington Cattlemen's Association:
      ▪ Forage-based operations (cow-calf, stocker operators, and sheep operations) should
        remain on exempt wells.
    o From Chris Cheney, Washington Dairy Federation:
      ▪ The current exemption is vital to our survival. There is no other feasible way to
        accommodate the herd/fluctuations and incremental growth. Any changes proposed
        must allow for the orderly growth of our industry.
      ▪ We believe the definition should be agreed to and codified with no "sharp shooting" of
        minutiae.
      ▪ We acknowledge there may be now and will be sometime in the future problems in some
        watersheds but we don't have a ready solution to propose as to what is an appropriate
        amount that is less than unlimited.
    o From Mo McBroom, Washington Environmental Council:
      ▪ There needs to be policies that take into account the needs of the existing industry, and
        also gets at the following issues:
        · A prospective quantity limit (with protections for existing facilities);
        · A prospective definition of stock watering use that allows for drinking, cleaning of
          animals, misting, but does not include dust control, irrigation or other uses not
          directly related;
        · Recording and reporting of water use for existing and prospective operations;
        and
        · Safeguards to ensure limits can be effectively put in place where there is
          impairment of senior water rights, including streamflows.
    o From Senator Rockefeller:
      ▪ A "package" of ideas intended to provide a fair and balanced resolution of this very
        complex and controversial topic, though many could be enacted independently and may
        stand individually upon their own merits. The proposals address the following topics:
        · A definition of "stock-watering purposes"
        · Not affecting existing stock water permit exempt well users
        · Adopting a sustainability policy for ground water
        · Ground water data and management
        · Establishing a volumetric cap for the stock water exemption
        · Requiring water users that need additional ground water above the volumetric
          cap in the exemption to obtain a water right permit
        · Regulation among water rights based upon priority dates
        · General stream adjudications
        · Assisting new livestock operations to find water

5:15 - 5:30
  • Final thoughts, next steps, additional meeting dates, adjournment

Please visit Ecology’s website for background and upcoming meeting information:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/hq/swwg.html