AGENDA—STOCK WATER WORK GROUP

Date: December 2, 2009  Time: 9:30AM – 12:30PM
Location: Washington State Legislature Capital Campus,  
John A. Cherberg Building—Conference Rooms A-B-C

9:30 - 9:45
- Gather, welcome, review minutes and meeting notes

9:45 - 12:00
- Report on Stakeholder Meetings held on October 22, 2009 and November 24, 2009.
- Report from Caucuses on the following topics*:
  1) Define "stock-watering purposes"
  2) Provide a process for Ecology to tentatively confirm (and register?) the extent and validity of the water rights put to beneficial use by existing operations under the authority of the exemption.
  3) Provide a process for existing operations that rely upon the exemption to have their authorized withdrawal quantities and beneficial uses of water registered and verified by Ecology.
  4) Establish clear quantity limits for new livestock operations that intend to rely upon the exemption in the future.
  5) Provide a process to recognize and protect from relinquishment the reduced water use of registered livestock operations.
  6) Facilitate more efficient consolidation and movement of livestock and their associated water requirements among registered livestock operations.
  7) Create mechanisms to manage the use of the permit exemption and ensure that existing water rights are not impaired.

* The stakeholder group did discuss changing the order of these topics or consolidating topics and their discussion may include those changes.

- Report from Caucuses on Senator Rockefeller’s proposals addressing the following topics:
  1) Adopting a sustainability policy for ground water
  2) Ground water data and management
  3) Requiring water users that need additional ground water above a volumetric cap in the exemption to obtain a water right permit
  4) Regulation among water rights based upon priority dates
  5) General stream adjudications
  6) Assisting new livestock operations to find water

12:00 - 12:15
- Discussion of Draft Report

12:15 - 12:30
- Next steps, adjournment

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