



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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June 24, 2011

Mr. Gary Christensen
Skagit County Planning and Development Services
1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Ms. Corrine Story
Skagit County Public Health Department
700 South Second
Room 301
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Re: Official Notice of the June 27, 2011, Carpenter-Fisher Sub-basin Management Unit Closure to New Wells and Fifty Percent Allocation of the Nookachamps Creek-Upper Subbasin Management Unit

Dear Mr. Christensen and Ms. Story:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Department of Ecology (Ecology) will be closing the Carpenter-Fisher Sub-basin management unit on June 27, 2011, due to full allocation of the reservation established for domestic, municipal, and commercial/industrial uses, Chapter 173-503 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), Instream Resources Protection Program-Lower and Upper Skagit Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 3 and 4. *See* WAC 173-503-073 and 173-503-074. The closure will be effective upon receipt of the closure notice. A copy of the closure notice is enclosed and will be published in the Everett Herald and Skagit Valley Herald on June 27, 2011. The closure determination can be appealed up to 30 days after receipt of the notice per the instructions contained in the notice.

Water use information indicates that the reservation established for the Carpenter-Fisher sub-basin has been fully allocated. Consequently, the sub-basin is closed to new, unmitigated water uses, including permit-exempt wells. Water may be available only under the following provisions of the Instream Resources Protection Program-Lower and Upper Skagit WRIA 3 and 4, WAC 173-503:

- WAC 173-503-060, WAC 173-503-081, WAC 173-503-100, and WAC 173-503-110.

By law, local governments are required to assist Ecology in administering the reservation, including compliance with the closure. Please be mindful of the closure as you carry out your responsibilities associated with water reviews for the purposes of reviewing building permits and land divisions in the Carpenter-Fisher sub-basin.



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Ecology has several communication materials, including focus sheets, frequently asked questions and maps of the sub-basin on our Skagit Instream Flow Rule website that will be helpful for the public and your staff. You can find the information at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/skagitbasin.html>

Residents relying upon public water systems for water supply, and those residents served by existing water rights, including existing permit-exempt wells, will not be affected by the closure.

Ecology is working on several initiatives which could result in changes in water availability in the Carpenter-Fisher basin. This work includes evaluating mitigation opportunities through existing water rights, additional groundwater modeling and the metering project being conducted by Skagit County. Once results are in from these projects, Ecology will review the information to determine whether it alters water availability in the Carpenter-Fisher basin.

Nookachamps Creek-Upper Subbasin Management Unit

As required by WAC 173-503-073(5), Ecology is providing official notice to Skagit County that the water reservation for the Nookachamps Creek-Upper subbasin management unit has been fifty percent allocated. Ecology is required to provide notice to Skagit County when it determines that fifty percent, seventy-five percent and one hundred percent of the reservation for each subbasin management unit has been allocated.

We appreciate your cooperation in carrying out your implementation responsibilities under WAC 173-503 and especially, Skagit County's active engagement with Ecology to identify water supply alternatives. If you need assistance please contact me at (425) 649-7270 or Jacque.Klug@ecy.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Klug
Section Manager
Water Resources Program

jk/mc

Enclosures: Skagit Instream Flow Rule Reservation Accounting Report
Public Notice
Map of Carpenter-Fisher Subbasin

By certified mail: 7008 1140 0000 2359 8268

cc: Gary Stoyka, Skagit County Public Works

ecc: Maia Bellon, Water Resources Deputy Program Manager, Ecology
Ken Slattery, Water Resources Program Manager, Ecology
Jeannie Summerhays, Regional Director, Ecology-Northwest Regional Office