

July 8, 2009

Department of Ecology
Water Resources Program
Attn: Ann Wessel
PO Box 47600
Olympia, Wa. 98504-7600

Re: WRIA 17 Proposed Instream Flow Rule, WAC Chapter 173-517

Dear Ms. Wessel:

My husband, Ken Lechner and I are long term residents of Jefferson County. I am a small business owner and independent contractor. We are very concerned about the Department of Ecology's proposed instream flow plan as it is currently being discussed.

We believe that the data, mapping and actual on-site analysis is not only flawed, but absolutely inaccurate. The mapping has no basis for fact and even with on-site visits by you and your Department, the question is why has no attempt been made to correct the inaccuracies? If "science" is being presented as "fact" in just the one scenario we are familiar with (the unnamed stream), how many other technical errors will be inflicted on the balance of the County? These inaccuracies will cause an undue burden on landowners as they will be required dispute and correct your "facts" in order to use their property.

We can guarantee that there is no fish stream flowing in any direction, as you incorrectly identify, on our near our property. There is also no landslide hazard area, as incorrectly mapped by the County, on our property.

We have additional concerns with the increasing regulations of water provided, or in this case, not provided to possible residential and agricultural parcels. Jefferson County is known for its "green" viewpoint and dedication to small farming and sustainable uses. It does not appear that the DOE, in any way, will be assisting new farmers, small business owners or agricultural users in our rural areas by further restricting water

flow. It appears the DOE is at cross purposes with the State and the County in the development of rural agricultural uses.

There should be no changes made by DOE until you can provide accurate mapping, identification and proof of need.

Sincerely,

Dale C. Barron
Kenneth D. Lechner
251 S. Edwards Rd.
Port Townsend, Wa. 98368