

Submitted by the Olympic Stewardship Foundation. Comments on the WRIA 17 proposed water rules.

1. Extensive studies are underway to understand the structure of the Chimacum Sub Basin and the amount of water stored in it. WIRA 17 water rules should be postponed until the results are published so the water rules can be based on science and are not political ly motivated. This is a anti growth attempt by the State Dept. of Ecology to bypass the State of Washington's Growth Management Act and control growth through the DOE.
2. According to the USGS only 4% of the water falling on WRIA 17 is being used. More than half of that is returned to the aquifer. The USGS estimates that more than 80% of water going into a septic system goes back into the ground. If a property owner has a 5 acre lot or more, they could use 5000 gallons of water a day and still not use the water falling on the property. The average property owner uses only about 200 gallons of water a day. No water shortage exists. The State DOE creates a shortage on paper by making assumptions that the average house will use vastly more water than they do.
3. In one of the first DOE public forums, the DOE hydrologist said, and I have it on film, that water migrated through aquifers at a rate of 8 inches to 2 feet per year. At that rate it would take 100 years for a well 200 feet from Chimacum creek to affect the flow rate in Chimacum creek. It's obvious, the State DOE decided what they wanted and then created a bogus science to get what they wanted.
4. The DOE decided to set aside 1/4 of one percent of the flow rare of Chimacum creek at low water for new wells. This makes the assumption that the water from the wells comes from Chimacum creek. The State DOE's own hydrologist said that water migrates through aquifers at a rate of 8 inches to 2 feet per year. The DOE's basic assumption are false. It would take hundreds of years of most wells to affect he creek.
5. The DOE wants the right to shut wells down during dry summers To increase the flow rate of Chemicum creek. Again, it would take hundreds of

years for the stoppage to affect the creek.

6. Most new wells would get water from deep confined aquifers, but the water from the septic systems would go into the surface aquifers. As a result the new wells would actually increase the water in the surface aquifer. Drilling new wells and requiring them to get water from deeper aquifers would benefit Chimacum Creek.

7. Without a well, hundreds of lots would be of little value. This would be a Lucas taking, and the cost and legal expenses would be immense.

8. Jefferson County is a depressed rural county. Restricting building would hurt it further. The State Dept. of Ecology is not only guilty of bogus science, they are guilty of wildly inaccurate cost benefit figures. If you exclude the Tri-area urban growth area and Port Townsend, there are only several thousand building lots available. This will never be a high density county.

9. The state is broke and shutting down fish hatcheries. The landowners will have to work to save the salmon. If the State Dept. of Ecology gets a running battle going with the landowners, then the salmon are doomed.

10. When the Chimacum creek floods up on the Short farm, there is hardly any water down at the Grange building. Because of all of the trees and brush planted along the creek, it can't be cleared of obstruction.

11. When there are salmon running, there are 10 to 20 California Sea lions at the mouth of Chimacum creek. People are being asked to make sacrifices to feed the sea lions. They each eat 80 pounds of salmon a day.

12. Jefferson County is a high fire danger area. Houses must have a outside water tap and a charged garden hose.

Sincerely ,

*James Fruty* 6/25/09

James Fritz  
271 Crutcher Road  
Port Townsend Washington, 98368

