

From: Troy & Marcia  
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2009 1:06 PM  
To: Wessel, Ann (ECY)  
Subject: Comments on Proposed Rule for WRIA 17 Quilcene-Snow Water Resources Management Program

Good morning, Ms. Wessel.

We live in the area in WRIA 17 considered under Tarboo Creek management, although our little unnamed stream has no impact on Tarboo Creek, considering its mouth is at about river mile .1 or .2 of Tarboo Creek. I have talked with Vikki Cline, Tom Loranger and Charlotte Lattimore about our situation, and written to Tom. To give you a little background, we bought our property on Dabob Road about 4 years ago. We had a well drilled (we call it our 320-foot, \$13,000 hole-in-the-ground) that produces salty water at a non-useable rate of 1/2 pint a minute. We put a pump in the creek, and are now working with DOE on a water right, which I understand, if WRIA 17 becomes law as written, we have no chance of obtaining. I am sending to you a copy of the letter I sent to Tom Loranger, which I would like to register as our public comment. I sincerely hope that our situation and others' like ours will be taken into consideration before the draft becomes law. If we are left without a chance of a water right for surface water, our family of six will A) be without a place to live, and B) be financially upside-down with no way to re-coop what we have invested. In these economic times in which we live, this is a huge consideration. Also, as I note in the letter to Tom, our creek has no bearing in a practical sense on Tarboo Creek and its management, either for in-stream flow or fish-spawning reasons. If WRIA 17 as written becomes law, that portion of it that concerns our area will become a senseless, one-size-fits-all approach that doesn't work, and doesn't take into consideration the geography, topography, and needs of the land owners here. Here is the letter I sent to Tom on May 14, 2009:

Good morning, Mr. Loranger.

It was good to talk with you this morning and have a clearer understanding of the Preliminary Draft Rule for WRIA 17.

As you know, we live in an area that has great difficulty in finding wells that produce at a level or purity that is useable. We have a 320-foot well that produces salty water at the rate of approximately 70 gallons/24 hours. After we drilled our well, we heard, but can't confirm, that over the course of many years, prior owners have drilled 3 different wells on this property that were all non-producing. That is a typical story for the properties in our locality, as related by Susan Porto of Jefferson County Environmental Health.

I understand that in the Preliminary Draft Rule for Tarboo Creek in WRIA 17, reserves for wells have been set aside. However, that would be of no help in our situation, as outlined in the above paragraph. I would ask that the board take into consideration situations like ours before they draft the final rule; and, as the assumption is that "surface water" and "ground water" are often from the same source, consider drafting in allowances for reserves for surface water rights for domestic use.

I would also like to point out that our little unnamed tributary of Tarboo Creek is not a salmon-spawning stream, runs year round even in dry years, and flows into Tarboo Creek well below the stream gauging station located at RM 0.8 (the mouth of our creek is perhaps at RM 0.1 or 0.2.) We have used the creek as our sole source of water for almost 3 years now. We supplement by buckets under the downspouts to catch water for watering our garden and pets. In the summer months, the creek produces but the downspouts usually don't.

Thanks for taking this into consideration. I look forward to hearing back from you. If you are ever in the area, we would welcome the chance to show you or anyone interested what we have.

have a good day,  
Marcia (Marcella) Weicht  
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Ms. Wessel, we have kept a rain gauge for the whole 3 years we have lived here-this will be our 4th summer of measurements. I have the data for that, collected on a weekly basis, that I would be happy to share with anyone. We do not get enough rain for 3-4 months every summer to support a rainwater-catchment system. On the other hand, this creek has consistently good flow that supports all our needs and more - even in the driest months. Our surest way to procure a source of potable water for our land is to be able to pursue a surface-water right, which WRIA 17 would deny us if left as is. Thank you for listening to this and logging it into the public comments. We will be out of state on June 25 and so unable to attend the public hearing. I look forward to hearing back and keeping in touch.

Marcia Weicht