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From: Thomas Thomas

Sent: Friday, July 10, 2009 12:57 PM

To: Wessel, Ann (ECY)

Subject: Comments on Proposed Rule for WRIA 17 Quilcene-Snow Water Resources Management Program

July 10, 2009

After spending a lifetime involved in the business of energy and agriculture and being currently involved in agricultural activities in WRIA -17.

Myself like many others involved in the business of providing energy, are now convinced that we are heading into a long term permanent decline in the product of inexpensive fossil fuels. With this decline comes a great need for local agricultural.

As cheap mobile fuels become more scarce. Both the cost of growing and transporting food will grow exponentially. Cost of transport alone could cause the doubling of food prices grown even at the other side of the state. So it is now more important than ever that we begin making the transition to a more self reliant system of local agriculture. If we do not begin this process now we could be in for a very rough ride in just a few short years.

At this time we are at a critical juncture for agriculture in WRIA-17. It is at the very least criminal if not treasonous that the Washington Department of Ecology is moving to severely limit the ability of local farmers the ability to ramp up food production to meet future needs of the local area.

Specific Questions:

Given the obvious need for drastically increasing food production in WRIA 17, is there any good reason why the proposed rule cannot be modified prior to adoption to require the state to begin immediate implementation of a well system designed to actively support stream flow?

In the past agriculture has always been considered first and best use of water rights.

Why has this changed after over 100 years of it being current practice.

I would also like to have a straight answer why the Department of Ecology does not use a "juried and published peer review system" in it's studies instead of the "Junk Science" review system currently in place.

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