

Water Resources Management Program for the Quilcene-Snow Water Resources Inventory Area, Chapter 173-517 WAC

The Department of Ecology is proposing to adopt a water management program for the Quilcene-Snow Water Resources Inventory Area 17 (WRIA 17). The proposal notice will be published in the Washington State Register on June 3, 2009. Ecology is taking public comments on the proposed rule until **July 10, 2009**.

The primary purpose of the rule is to help manage water to meet the current and future needs of people, farms and fish in the Quilcene-Snow watershed. The key elements of the proposed rule are:

- Setting instream flow levels on 13 streams to protect aquatic resources, including habitat for threatened and endangered salmonids, from future withdrawals.
- Guiding the issuance of new water rights.
- Establishing limited reserves of water for future use and specifying conditions of use for the reserves.
- Specifying water use conservation standards for new permit-exempt well use to benefit instream resources and better manage limited supply.
- Setting conditions for new water uses in designated coastal areas.
- Allowing the collection and use of rooftop rainwater.
- Closing streams and tributaries to new uses, with some exceptions.

Ecology has issued a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act, a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS), and a preliminary cost-benefit analysis, which are also available for review and comment until **July 10, 2009**.

Public hearing schedule

Thursday, June 25, 2009 -- 6:30 pm
Fort Worden Commons
210 Battery Way
Port Townsend, WA

WHY IT MATTERS

The proposed rule lays down guidelines that will protect existing water rights and instream resources while providing water for future urban and rural needs. It affects how water will be managed in WRIA 17 from the rule adoption date forward.

Contact information:

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Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6872. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call (877) 833-6341.

How to submit your comments

Comment period ends **July 10, 2009**. Comments must be received by 5:00 pm.

You can give us your official comments in the following ways:

1. Testify at public hearings.
2. Visit our website and submit comments electronically at:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/quilsnowbasin.html>
3. Email your comments to Ann Wessel at: awes461@ecy.wa.gov
4. Fax comments to (360) 407-6574, Attention: Ann Wessel
5. Mail comments to:

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

Ecology's response to your comments

All of the comments we receive will become part of the official record (Concise Explanatory Statement). The Concise Explanatory Statement is required by the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05) and is published after the rule is adopted. You will be able to find your name listed in the document with a reference to where, in the document, Ecology responded your comments.

Expected adoption date

Ecology expects to adopt this rule no earlier than **August 28, 2009**.