

Eowyn Savela

Hello, I am a resident of Whatcom County and it is important to me that we prioritize ecosystem health over rural development in our watersheds.

The rule and supporting document provide little information about water conservation. Please provide information on how much water existing rural residents and businesses could save with rebates for efficient water fixtures (toilets, dishwashers, washing machines).

Please tell us the cost per quantity of water saved for each project. In the supporting document, please include the cost per acre-foot of water offset each year (\$/AFY). Knowing the cost per quantity of water offset will be important for decision-makers to judge which projects do the greatest good for the lowest cost to taxpayers.

Please don't subsidize rural development with agriculture water projects. The SRA was written to address the impacts of new rural development using exempt wells. Any improvements in irrigation efficiencies and other agricultural water projects should provide water rights for farmers who lack sufficient legal water rights and improving streamflows. Please remove Projects 2 and 26 from consideration.

Please remove expensive, unpredictable projects requiring many permits. Projects 8, 24, and 28 won't be needed if water conservation is prioritized and implemented over the next few years. Please remove those 3 projects.

Please remove the new section on exemptions. WAC 173-501-074 opens up interruptible rights for Projects 2, 8, 26, and 28. This won't be needed if water conservation is implemented.

Address climate change impact on projects. Please add information on what effect climate change will have on all of the projects.

Reduce water demand. Thank you for reducing withdrawal limits to 500 gallons per day (this is down from 3,000 gallons per day annual average).

Thank you!