

## Myron Cronk

The focus of this rule change should be on flexibility in ways to provide measurable increased flow to the Nooksack or other creeks, rather than trying to limit and meter future domestic wells. Many comments I see submitted look like spam messages, because they all parrot the same calls to limit water to 500 gpd and meter the wells. I wonder how many of these people even have wells? A better solution would be to set a voluntary metering program, so all these people who are so concerned about this issue can contribute to the solution. This rule change will make no MEASURABLE difference in stream flows. This is impossible to measure, so it will pose no measurable benefit to the salmon. The fact is that putting limits on domestic wells, that make up 1% of the water withdrawn from the Nooksack, will have less than 1% affect on streamflows and on salmon. This is a big waste of time, and money, and the only thing it accomplishes it to further the urban-rural divide between people.

So lets focus our time and money instead on projects that contribute measurable amounts to streamflow. Good examples are farmers contributing irrigation water to maintain streamflows near Lynden, and filtering dairy process water at Coldstream farms in Acme to discharge into the South Fork.

We are incredibly blessed to be in northwest Washington and to have water to argue about, but many other areas in the arid west have come up with creative compromises and solutions to water issues by necessity. The difference is that these ideas come from collaboration with farmers and rural people, rather than edicts from big cities, lawyers and universities.

thanks for reading.