

## Steven Halterman

Just learned about your proposed rule changes on water access to private wells in Whatcom County.

This proposal is draconian to the thousands of families reliant on water to live and use the property.

These proposed changes do not take into account or specify these things:

What is needed for a family to use and live on their property?

What is needed to provide a healthy shelter for farm or domestic animals?

What is needed to operate a small and lawful business on the property?

How much of the water withdrawn is returned to the watershed?

How much water is needed to provide the property owner, business, or family the ability to provide local, homegrown food on their property?

Where is the report stating that these issues are addressed and your proof that private well water withdrawal is an issue for Whatcom County?

What agency would recommend this type of damaging change to an entire County without 100% proof that private well withdrawal is a threat to the health of the County?

Do not adopt these rule changes. DOE does not write law and should not do so through rule-making on law that does not exist.

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