

## Beth R

Please do not implement such harsh restrictions of water use for the residents of the Nooksack River watershed for the following reasons: 1. It is already incredibly hard for the small farmers in this area to make a living. If you implement new fees and new regulations it is one more blockade in their path to making local food.

2. As an educator, I have found that my students learn best when they take personal ownership of a subject or a project. Educating land owners on how to conserve water and why it is important can be very powerful. Could a reward system be put in place for the residents that come up with the most effective water conserving methods? The hope would be that local residents will become stewards of the land and then help others to do the same. Harsh regulations and taxes produces resistance, which creates more harsh regulations and cost in order to enforce them. It seems like a lose, lose situation.

Water conservation is necessary, but in a supportive and cooperative manner. Not punitively and in an alienating way. Thank you for your time and consideration.