

Charlotte Persons

I am a member of the board of directors for Black Hills Audubon Society, a nonprofit organization listed in this report as concerned with the TDML for Budd Inlet, but I am writing this comment as an individual resident. In fact, I live less than one block from Budd Inlet, just off East Bay Drive. I walk the public trail around the inlet often, and I am always saddened by the severe decrease in aquatic birds I see in the southernmost part of Budd Inlet.

I applaud this report for its clear analysis of the DO levels and actions needed over the next 18 years to correct this problem and bring levels down to 1997 levels. However, I have two urgent suggestions:

First, the draft EIS for the Estuary solution for Capitol Lake/Deschutes Estuary became the preferred solution. We are still waiting for the publication of the Final EIS. I am sure you are aware that the draft EIS has one major obstacle to achieving the goals of this report -- its timeline for removal of the Capitol Lake Dam is 25 years from 2021, or 2046. That is 11 years past the implementation date listed in this report's timeline. Department of Ecology needs to work with the permitting jurisdictions and legislature to speed up that process! A first step would be to include that recommendation in the report itself.

Second, the report lists many, many state and local jurisdictions and agencies that can contribute to implementing this plan. The report mentions a stakeholder group in operation until 2018 to create this analysis of DO levels and an implementation plan to reduce them. I urge Department of Ecology to include in recommendations in this report the creation of a similar stakeholder group to implement the DO remediation plan. Alternately, Ecology could recommend that one local jurisdiction take responsibility for coordinating the efforts of all the stakeholders. Without this kind of coordination, funding and other implementation efforts may be disjointed and I fear the goals of this report will not be met.

Thank you for reading my comments -- I am sure my ideas are not new, but maybe will help show public support for these two actions.