

Linda Popp

The Department's proposed regulatory changes appear to infringe on property rights in a way never intended by the federal Clean Water Act. Such changes will unduly burden Washington agriculture, particularly the smaller farms that compose a significant percentage of state agriculture. I'm concerned about the burdensome costs of implementing voluntary measures.

As a private landowner with three acres and a small stream running through one corner of our property, we care deeply about protecting water quality and being responsible stewards of the land. That's why we're concerned by how Ecology presents its role in managing nonpoint source pollution from forest practices in the draft plan. The way the background is framed appears incomplete or misleading, which risks damaging public trust and discouraging landowners like us from working in good faith with the state on water quality goals.

Our concerns include what kinds of remedial actions we might be forced to comply with? My husband and I, are both retired. We don't have a huge income. How are people going to stay in their homes when they're forced to put out large amounts of money to get work done to comply with new regulations that you're wanting to impose? Clear, accurate communication is essential if Ecology wants to maintain strong partnerships with private landowners who are trying to do the right thing. Thank you for this opportunity to share our concerns.

Sincerely,

Linda and Mike Popp

Concerned Citizens in Kitsap County