

Ann Almond

A friend of mine informed me that your agency was about to implement changes to policies that could affect our own land use and that of our friends.

So I clicked on Hannah Roe's "Readers' Guide" to see what actions are so worrisome to my friend. But her guide only mentioned parts that were changed, without actually listing WHAT the agency was getting ready to do!

So I opened the document itself, hoping to learn exactly what is going on. But I quickly became dismayed because it is 298 pages long!

So I don't wish to read it.

All I wanted to do was become informed on the issue of "No Source" pollution and your department's planned actions.

Yet your voluminous document and Hannah's fake-help "Readers' Guide" serve to effectively snow the issue with so many words that people like me simply can't sift through it to learn of your actual plans.

Why not produce a simple 1 or 2-page chart listing current policies on the left and proposed policies on the right? Make it possible for the average citizen to know your plans.

Because as it is, I am inclined to suspect you're trying to hide your true motives and actions from us.

So I can't specify sections or pages, only give you "holistic" (your word) feelings on the subject.

I am very concerned if your plans intend to impose significant costs to enact the "voluntary" measures. (which may evolve into compulsory measures)

I've been told that implementing the proposed non point plan will cause extreme financial burdens for the smallest producers of livestock across our state. I fear this will remove important locally sourced beef from the marketplace especially in Western Washington such as that raised safely and humanely by several of my friends, some of whose beef we purchase annually, knowing it's best to consume local beef rather than "road-runner" meat from God knows where, raised God knows how.

Despite the mention of federal and state funding to provide resources in developing best management practices related to livestock nutrients there will probably be a lack of funding for many beef producers across Washington to implement the proposed plans.

Whatever you do, please don't make it harder (or impossible) for all the local, small farmers to provide us clean, safe, nutritious beef independently of the giant producers.