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Thank you for your work struggling to find a solution to our limited water that works for most people, and the fish. The bottom line is that the Nooksack Basin is over-appropriated and has been closed to new water rights permits for a long time. Rural permit-exempt wells for homes are the exception. Even though the basin is over-appropriated, rural land owners and developers want to continue to take more water, and under current state law, they can. This is unfair to all senior rights holders, including in-stream uses.

The bare minimum that new rural exempt well owners should have to do is to meter their use and demonstrate water efficiency practices to minimize their impact on senior rights holders. We are just quibbling over the daily average usage numbers if we do not have a requirement to meter usage to hold users accountable to the permit limits. Everybody else has metered water. It's the only way to build awareness of water usage and even voluntarily reduce water use.

If you can't bring yourselves to include metering in this new rule, please, at the very least, create some sort of voluntary incentive program for metering for both new and current well owners. Those of us who care about water conservation can help make metering of rural wells normal. I contend that metering water is normal, but in some rural circles, it is not, yet.