

# Mason County PUD No. 1

## Findings

16. Some participants voiced concern over the scenario whereby an entity buys a water right with no plan to put it to beneficial use (other than instream flows), but rather with the express intent of simply reselling the water right at a later time for a higher price. They view this activity as speculative and therefore a misuse of the legislative intent of the TWRP.

- There should be a stipulation in place for the for said water right and it cannot be used for resale purposes.

## Policy

11. Align disclosure laws for water right sales with the laws for land sales. Require that water right sales (including prices) are reported to the state and made publically available. (page 22)

-There needs to be a clarification on water right sales. Is the water right already in use or is it for future use? If it is pertaining to water rights already in use, the sale and or purchase of small water systems may be difficult to do in the future if there is going to be a price put on water rights. This could cause small water systems to go in disrepair and effect water quality.

12. Require that before the place of use of a water right may be transferred downstream out-of-basin, Ecology must determine that the change will not be detrimental to the public interest. (Page 23)

-They make the point that is shouldn't be detrimental to Public Interest, but do not define what "Public Interest" entails. I feel compelled to suggest property value, development of rural areas and purveyors water service areas are considered "Public Interest".

13. Establish that before a water right may be sold for transfer out of the basin of origin, state, local, and tribal governments, and non-profits are provided a "right of first refusal." (Page 24-25)

-It is helpful to establish a revolving fund for water right purchase as suggested in point 14, although structure of hierarchy should be considered. How is economical benefit leveraged with ecologic benefit or are they mutually exclusive depending on which entity the water right is transferred or sold to?

21. Restrict how long a temporarily donated water right may remain in trust (Page 26)

I would agree that rushing trusted water would lead to irresponsible and inefficient use of water. It makes sense that it isn't recommended for future legislative action.