



Open House

Proposed Quilcene-Snow Water Management Rule

from Ecology's Water Resources Program

Proposed Quilcene-Snow Water Management Rule

OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, Sept. 20
6:30 pm

Presentation 7:00 pm

Port Townsend
Fort Worden
200 Battery Way
USO Hall

Suggestions on the features of the proposed rule may be sent to:

Department of Ecology
Attn: Brian Walsh
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA
98504-7600
Phone: (360) 407-6647
Email: bwal@ecy.wa.gov

Web site:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/isfhtm.html>

The Department of Ecology (Ecology), working with the Quilcene-Snow Watershed Planning Unit, is developing a water-management rule for the Quilcene-Snow watershed (Water Resources Inventory Area, WRIA, 17). The proposed rule will reserve water for future human needs while preserving flows to protect important fish species.

A previous open house was held in February of this year where elements of the proposed rule and instream flows were discussed. Since then, revisions to the proposal have been made and Ecology is holding another open house to continue the discussions on these revisions, including the reserves for domestic uses and the designated ground water areas.

Background

The locally-led Quilcene-Snow Watershed Planning Unit completed a comprehensive watershed plan for the Quilcene-Snow in October 2003. The committee decided it did not have sufficient information at that time to make instream-flow recommendations to Ecology, although a key plan commitment was to continue working with the state in an attempt to reach consensus on instream flows. The watershed management plan was approved by Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners on January 10, 2005.

Under the proposed rule, instream flows would be set for Chimacum, Salmon, Snow, Tarboo and Thorndyke creeks, and the Big Quilcene and Little Quilcene rivers.

Elements of the proposed rule to be discussed

Some of the key elements of the draft water management rule to be discussed include:

- Establishing "reserves" of safe, reliable supplies of underground or "ground" water for future human domestic needs, distributed by sub-basin.
- Establishing "designated ground water areas" to allow for future supplies in areas not otherwise covered by the reserves.
- Both the reserves and the designated ground water areas have conditions of use specified in the proposed rule.

The proposed rule would **not** affect:

- Existing or "senior" water rights, including permit-exempt withdrawals.
- People currently supplied by municipal or community water systems.



Open house information

The open house will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with a presentation at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, in Port Townsend at Fort Worden, 200 Battery Way, in the USO Hall.

Suggestions on the features and issues for consideration in the proposed Quilcene-Snow water management rule may be sent to Brian Walsh, Department of Ecology, PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA. 98504-7600. Phone: (360) 407-6647 (Email: bwal461@ecy.wa.gov).

For information on this and other proposed rules, you can visit Ecology's Web site at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/instream-flows/isfhm.html>

If you would like more information on the open house, please call Judy Beitel, Department of Ecology at (360) 407-6878 (Email: jbei461@ecy.wa.gov).

If you require this publication in an alternate format please contact the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6600. For the speech or hearing impaired, call 711 for relay service or 1-800-833-6388 for TTY.