From:	J. E. Z. and Theresa Grate
To:	Ashbrook, Charmane E (DFW)
Subject:	Fly and fly fishing definitions re proposed rule change #2
Date:	Wednesday, September 02, 2015 8:06:53 PM

Current regulations around fly fishing are due for a major update.
The fly definition and fly fishing only rule as currently written generate problems with regard to all of the following things that fall within the modern sport of fly fishing.

Tube flies
Indicators
Spey lines less than 25 feet.
Tenkara
Tippet rings and small swivels
Shot to help get subsurface flies down in rivers or stillwater

It is also my understanding that current fly fishing rules are a relic from days before catch and release fishing practices became wide spread.

WDFWs recent proposed rule change #2 addressed clarifying the definition of a fly, to the following extent:
"Add foam, rubber and lead wire/tape to clarify what materials are allowable for the construction of a fishing fly."

This WDFW proposed rule change does not address all the issues noted above.

Here I propose actual text for revised rules, and have written them to be as inclusive as possible with regard to modern fly fishing.

FLY - Current:
A lure on which thread, feathers, hackle or yarn over a minimum of half the shank of the hook. Metallic colored tape, tinsel, mylar, or bead eyes may be used as an integral part of the fly pattern.

FLY FISHING ONLY - Current
In Fly Fishing Only waters, an angler may use only the following tackle: up to 2 flies, each with a barbless single-point hook, not to exceed ½" from point to shank, and a conventional fly line (other line may be attached to at least 25 feet of fly line). Anglers may not use fixed spool reels, bait, or weight attached to the leader o line. Only knotless nets may be used to land fish.

FLY(REVISED
A lure on which natural or synthetic fly tying materials are attached to a hook or a shank or a tube, typically with thread and/or glue. Natural fly

tying materials include, but are not limited to fiber and feather, such as hair, fur, dubbing, feathers, hackle and marabou, while synthetic materials include but are not limited to foam, rubber, tinsel, flash, mylar, yarns, and dubbing. Metal wires may be used. In addition, glass, plastic and metal beads, as well as dumbbell or bead chain eyes, may be used as part of the design. The hook may be a stinger hook tied or looped on behind a shank, or on the line behind a tube, or may be the foundation for the fly itself. A bead pegged to the line in front of a hook is not a fly. Manufactured billed plug bodies may not be used as part of the lure, nor is a manufactured metal spoon or spinner a fly.

FLY FISHING ONLY(REVISED

In fly fishing waters, the only lures allowed are flies, and they must be cast by the method of fly casting where the mass of the fly line makes the cast using a fly rod, rather than casting the mass of a lure attached to monofilament or braid fishing line. Anglers may not use fixed spool reels. Anglers may not use bait or apply scent to their fly. The fly line may be a floating or sinking line, including conventional fly lines, spey casting and Tenkara lines. Other line may be attached to the fly line as backing and running line. Fly fishing indicators may be used on the leader. Weights may not be used on the line or leader except up to three pieces of small shot up to size BB, or their equivalent, for fishing subsurface flies. Beads may not be pegged to the leader or tippet above the hook or fly. Metal tippet rings or small swivels may be used to attach tippet to leader. Only knotless nets may be used to land fish. In fly fishing only waters, up to 2 flies, each with a barbless single-point hook, not to exceed ½" from point to shank, may be used. (note, selective gear rules allow up to three lures with barbless single-pointed hooks)

Some people may disagree about the split shot up to size BB, I have no strong opinion on this, but if a metal bead can be on the fly, why not?

One final comment, In my own opinion, I don't think it is wise to specifically call out lead as acceptable. While lead wire or ribbon to weight the fly is generally accepted in the art fly tying, it is not allowed in some locations, and its dispersal in the environment is not approved by some sportsmen. It seems likely that rules around lead could change at some point and it might be wise, as I see it, to not specifically call it out in the rules for flies.

the line above that metal wires may be used accomodates lead without specifically calling it out in a way that would require changes later if lead were outlawed.

I was given your email via "Ira" who attended the Mill Creek public forum some weeks ago.

I am emailing directly as the on-line comment section for rule changes only accomodates 1000 characters, so I could not put the proposed rewrites into the onlline comment to rule change @2.

Discussion about these definition issues can also be found at:
http://www.washingtonflyfishing.com/forum/threads/fly-definition-and-fly-fishing-only-rules.110041/

Jay W. Grate
West Richland WA
jeztgr8@gmail.com