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October 30, 2015

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FISH AND
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Proposal #9 to open Summit Lake to year round fishing

Dear Governor Inslee:

You have already received letters from other residents of Summit Lake stating reasons for opposition to the WDFW proposal #9. The foremost opposition deals with the fact that almost all residents of this community must rely on Summit Lake for household water as there is no municipal or private water system anywhere near this community. This proposal - initiated by six or seven bass fishing enthusiasts and one WDFW employee - impacts many hundred people who want their families drinking safe clean water.

The opposition to WDFW proposal #9 that I would like to bring to your attention is one of security.
Access to the vast majority of dwellings around the lake, whether they be seasonal summertime cabins or year round homes, is typically secluded in the trees or down steep driveways. When driving the road around the lake it is not possible to know if a dwelling is occupied. From the lake however it is extremely easy to slowly cruise the shoreline (as bass fishermen typically do) and observe which dwellings appear to be occupied and those that aren't. Anyone intent on robbery can easily mimic the actions of fishermen to scope out their next victim.

A fairly large group of Summit Lake property owners are of the baby-boomer era. We've worked hard to be able to afford to purchase our dream home, let alone to afford the property taxes. Being retired with more flexibility, we enjoy travelling during the late fall and winter months. We have grave concerns about our house being targeted for theft while we are travelling. Many of us have neighbors that are not year round residents so we cannot rely on them to attempt to watch our property. And although the Summit Lake community adopted the Neighborhood Watch Program many years ago, it does not deter thieves when a house is nestled in the trees.

Our community has established very good report with the Thurston County Sheriff Department. With budgetary issues, their staff is stretched incredibly thin. Our community is approx. 15 miles from central Olympia making the response time to a phone call sometimes quite long.

We realize that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has come under close scrutiny recently regarding the issue of cougars and don't especially want to cause you additional headaches. The WDFW Commission is considering adding 5 Thurston County lakes to year round fishing this year (which is more than any other county in the state.) If they only approve 4 of the 5, leaving Summit Lake as it is, with fishing six months of the year, they will still have 75% of the lakes in Thurston County open year round and we will be more assured of good drinking water and safer homes.

Please give us your support and use your influence to convince the WDFW Commission that this proposal for Summit Lake should be dropped. Surely, the wellbeing of 600 residents/voters is more important than the wishes of a few fishermen!

Sincerely,
Sharon and Bruce Roberts

Sharon and Bruce Roberts

cc: WDFW Commission Chair: Bradley Smith, Ph.D. and Vice Chair: Larry Carpenter