PRE-REHABILITATION PLAN

BLUE AND PARK LAKES and drainages
Including Vic Meyers (Rainbow), Mirror, and Alkali Lakes

I. PROPOSAL

A. Justification for Proposed Rehabilitation

Blue and Park Lakes and the associated drainages including Vic Meyers, Mirror, and Alkali Lakes are part of the Sun Lakes chain of lakes south of Banks Lake. Blue and Park Lakes are among the state's top attractions for trout angling and arguably the most important opening day waters in Grant County since the 1950s. When relatively free from competing species, the fishery produced in Blue and Park Lakes supports up to 4-6,000 angler trips on opening day alone. Only about a fourth of these anglers are from the local area, while over 50% come from the west side of the state. Four resorts and a state park cater to anglers from all of Washington. Vic Meyers (Rainbow) Lake is also an opening day trout fishery, and this small lake is especially popular with local anglers. Mirror Lake (Pond) is very small and shallow, primarily a wide spot in the connecting drainage between Vic Meyers and Park lakes. Alkali Lake is on the downstream end of the chain, and is managed for spiny-rayed fish species. It is open year around and supports a relatively low-key fishery primarily for bass and bluegill.

Poor trout survival at Blue and Park lakes was indicated by the decline in catch per angler (Table 1). The first decline in catch occurred in 2002 and was also accompanied by an abrupt jump in the size of yearling trout and increase in the percentage of carryover trout. The larger size of yearling trout and relative increase in carryover trout was an indication of declining spring fingerling survival.

Table 1. Blue and Park Lakes April opening day catch summary - 1997 – 2006.

Year	Catch/ angler	Avg size yearling (in.)	CO size (in.)	%	Comments
06	0.8	14.6	16-27	~ 10	catchables added, but few in catch; browns tr < 1% 20-27"; bass capture
05	3.7	12.0	15-20	5-8	catchables added; bass capture
04	4.3	11.6	16-20	1-5	catchables added
03	4.3	13.5	18-19	5	catchables added; carryover/yrlg overlap
02	2.0	14.0	16+	8-9	catchables added; carryover/yrlg overlap; brown tr ~ 1% 12-14" perch,bass abundant
01	4.1	12.5	15	5	brown tr ~ 1% 12-15"
00	4.2	12.3	14-15	2-3	brown tr ~ 1% 12-18"; perch, bass noted
99	4.3	11.0	13.0	10	
98	4.5	11.6	14	7	
97	3.2	10.4	catchables added		
96	Blue/Park Lakes last rehabilitated; fall 1996.				

Relatively high numbers of bass, perch, bullheads, and sunfish were also noted by 2002. Among these, a new species was present; smallmouth bass had not been present during the 1996 rehabilitation. Although catchables were added for the 2002 opener, the catch per angler was still low. The trout stocking strategy for the 2003 fishery was changed to manage around the increasing numbers of other fish species (Table 2). Half the 2002 fingerling trout allotment was stocked as usual in spring, and the remaining half held at the hatchery and stocked in the fall.

This modified stocking scheme decreases competition among the spring-stocked fingerlings and produces a larger fingerling for fall stocking. The largest yearling trout in the resulting fishery are generally from the spring plant; however, better survival is apparent from the fall plant.

The stocking modification combined with the addition of catchable-sized trout propped up the fishery for the next three years. Catch rates were once again high for the 2003 and 2004 openers. By 2005, catch rates showed signs of decline, and the numbers of bass, perch, and sunfish were very high as evidenced by the growing fisheries for some of these species and their relative numbers in the sampling by-catch. Little evidence of spring or fall fingerlings survival was seen in the early part of 2006. Catch per angler during the 2006 opener was among the lowest in Blue and Park Lakes' history, and roughly the same as 1996 just prior to the last rehabilitation. Without adequate contribution from the fingerling stocked trout, the catchables that had been added just previous to the opener were too few to contribute much to the catch.

Table 2. Blue and Park Lakes stocking summary - 1997 – 2006; all fish rainbow unless otherwise noted (br tr = brown trout; tg tr = tiger trout).

	Blue Lake			**Park Lake**		
Fishery Year	Spring Fingerlings	Fall Fingerlings	Catchables	Spring Fingerlings	Fall Fingerlings	Catchables
06	100,158	70,016	29,062	65,017	40,019	23,731
05	100,023	49,992	25,004	64,967	65,100	19,316
04	100,275	90,180	35,263	64,978	55,002	35,041
03	100,000	100,000	55,000	65,000	55,830	30,000 7,000 tg tr
02	199,919		24,000 7,500 tg tr	129,854		25,000
01	187,292	4,950 br tr	2,300 br tr	178,024	4,614 br tr	1,503 br tr
00	232,465	4,998 br tr	5,002 br tr	156,973	4,998 br tr	5,000 br tr
99	200,069	10,097 br tr		152,148	10,027 br tr	4,000 br tr
98	201,996	10,003 br tr		120,150	14,036 br tr	
97			103,189			63,100
96	Blue/Park Lakes last rehabilitated; fall 1996.					

Spring Fingerlings @ 60-100/lb 2-3 inches average; stocked one year before fishery
Fall Fingerlings @ 10-20/lb 5-7 inches average; stocked six months before fishery
Catchables @ 2-4/lb 8-11 inches average; stocked one to two months before fishery

Lake rehabilitation with rotenone has been a standard and successful management tool for Blue and Park Lakes since their earliest days as a fishery. Rehabilitations of the entire lakes have occurred in 1952, 1959, 1963, 1969, 1976, 1981, 1986, and 1996. Treatments averaged about every 5-6 years through 1986. The spring-fall fingerling stocking strategy described earlier and started in the mid-1990s has successfully extended the fishery another three to four years so that rehabilitations have only been necessary every 9-10 years. It has now been 10 years since the last rehabilitation of Blue and Park Lakes. Survival of both spring and fall fingerling trout has diminished to the point that these cohorts cannot meet the fishery expectations of the public. The effects of competition and predation due to expanding populations of spiny-rayed fishes have depressed trout survival and angler success dramatically in 2006.

The invasion of the drainage upstream of Park Lake by the same spiny-ray species makes treatment of these waters desirable not only to recover the fishery in Vic Meyers Lake, but also to delay the inevitable return of these species to Park and Blue lakes. The management plan for Alkali Lake emphasizes the bass and bluegill as the primary fisheries. The numbers of pumpkinseed sunfish and yellow perch in Alkali Lake have increased substantially and are considered detrimental to the primary management goals. Since large numbers of these fish are found in the shallow, northern portion of the lake, allowing treated water from Blue Lake to infiltrate this area should reduce the population of these species. A complete kill of Alkali Lake is not anticipated.

Alternatives to rehabilitation are far more costly. To maintain a comparable fishery in Blue and Park Lakes with catchable-sized fish would take at least 200,000 catchable rainbow. The District's entire normal allotment of catchable trout for all waters is currently only 110,000 fish. Region Two lacks the hatchery space and water to institute a catchable fish- stocking program as a substitute for lake rehabilitation. If hatchery space and water were available, stocking catchable-sized fish still costs almost ten times the cost of stocking fingerlings. Given the demands on hatchery space, the lake-raised yearling trout are larger and better quality than the hatchery-reared catchable trout.

B. <u>Physical Description of Water Proposed for Rehabilitation</u> (upstream to lower):

l. WATER: **Vic Meyers (Rainbow) Lake**
2. LOCATION: Sec 12, T24N R27E, Grant Co.
3. SURFACE ACRES: 12 MAXIMUM DEPTH: 15 feet
4. VOLUME: 120 acre-feet; 326,177,280 lbs water
5. INLET STREAM: subterranean flow, main spring in southeast arm of lake; ~ 2-5 cfs.
6. OUTLET STREAM: perennial to Park Lake; , joined by creeks from Delaney Springs and Deep lakes; 5-10 cfs; ~ 175 m.
7. PUBLIC ACCESS: Sun Lakes State Park; primitive boat launch, parking, toilets, camping.
8. LAND OWNERSHIP: Public 100% State Parks.
9. ESTABLISHED RESORTS: none on lake.

l. WATER: **Park Lake**
2. LOCATION: Sec 10, 11, 15 T24N R27E, Grant Co.
3. SURFACE ACRES: 342 MAXIMUM DEPTH: 85 feet
4. VOLUME: 13,049 acre-feet; 35,468,875,000 lbs water
5. INLET STREAM: small creek from Vic Meyers, joined by creeks from Delaney Springs and

Deep lakes; Mirror Lake, a shallow, wide spot in the creek just above Park Lake, will also be treated as part of the inlet system; 5-10 cfs; ~ ½ mile.
6. OUTLET STREAM: perennial to Blue Lake; 5-10 cfs; ~ 175 m.
7. PUBLIC ACCESS: Sun Lakes State Park boat launch, parking, toilets, camping, swimming; well maintained. Most of DOT land along Hwy 17 is accessible by car for shoreline angling; camping allowed; no services or maintenance.
8. LAND OWNERSHIP: Public 40% DOT, State Parks; Private 60%;
9. ESTABLISHED RESORTS: Two well-developed resorts with cabins, camping, launches, stores, and boat rentals.

l. WATER: **Blue Lake**
2. LOCATION: Sec 20, 21, 29, T24N R27E, Grant Co.
3. SURFACE ACRES: 532. MAXIMUM DEPTH: 69 feet
4. VOLUME: 21,353 acre-feet; 58,040,783,000 lbs water
5. INLET STREAM: perennial from Park Lake; 5-10 cfs; ~ 175 m.
6. OUTLET STREAM: mostly perennial, drains to Alkali Lake, w/ water control structure and rotating drum type screen, repaired 1994; 5-10 cfs; ~ ¾ miles.
7. PUBLIC ACCESS: WDFW boat launch, parking, toilets; no camping; well maintained. Most of DOT land along Hwy 17 accessible by car for shoreline angling; camping allowed; no services or maintenance.
8. LAND OWNERSHIP: Public 30% DOT and WDFW; Private 70%;
9. ESTABLISHED RESORTS: Three well-developed resorts with cabins, camping, launches, stores, and boat rentals.

l. WATER: **Alkali Lake**
2. LOCATION: Sec 36 T24N R26E, and Sec 1 T23N R26E, Grant Co.
3. SURFACE ACRES: 293 MAXIMUM DEPTH: 14 feet
4. VOLUME: 2,449 acre-feet; 6,656,375,000 lbs water
5. INLET STREAM: mostly perennial, from Blue Lake, w/ water control structure and rotating drum type screen, repaired 1994; 5-10 cfs; ~ ¾ miles.
6. OUTLET STREAM: intermittent creek to Lake Lenore; dry during fall/winter; flows through rock fill under Hwy 17; 0-10 cfs; ~ 40 m.
7. PUBLIC ACCESS: WDFW boat launch, parking, toilets, camping.
8. LAND OWNERSHIP: Public 50% DOT and WDFW; Private 50%;
9. ESTABLISHED RESORTS: None

C. <u>Proposed Management Actions</u> (upstream to lower)

1. WATER: **Vic Meyers Lake** (including outlet to Park Lake)
2. TARGET SPECIES: yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, brown bullheads, and sculpins.
3. DATE LAST REHABED: November 3, 1986
4. PROPOSED TREATMENT DATE: October-November, 2006
5. REPLANTING DATE: Spring 2007
6. SPECIES: rainbow trout; CATCHABLES: 2,000 (~175-200/acre)
FINGERLINGS: 4,000 (~350-400/acre)
7. PROPOSED TOXICANT: Rotenone, powder and liquid; CONCENTRATION: 4 ppm
AMOUNT (ROTENONE AT 5% ACT. INGRED): 1,300 lbs. powder, 60 gal. liquid.

1. WATER: **Park Lake**
2. TARGET SPECIES: yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown bullheads, bluegill, and sculpins.
3. DATE LAST REHABED: November 1, 1996
4. PROPOSED TREATMENT DATE: October-November, 2006
5. REPLANTING DATE: Spring 2007
6. SPECIES: rainbow trout; CATCHABLES: 60,000 (~175-200/acre)
FINGERLINGS: 120,000 (~350-400/acre)
7. PROPOSED TOXICANT: Rotenone, powder and liquid; CONCENTRATION: 1 ppm
AMOUNT (ROTENONE AT 5% ACT. INGRED): 35,100 lbs. powder, 30 gal. liquid.

1. WATER: **Blue Lake**
2. TARGET SPECIES: yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown bullheads, bluegill, and sculpins.
3. DATE LAST REHABED: October 30-31, 1996
4. PROPOSED TREATMENT DATE: October-November, 2006
5. REPLANTING DATE: Spring 2007
6. SPECIES: rainbow trout; CATCHABLES: 100,000 (~175-200/acre)
FINGERLINGS: 200,000 (~350-400/acre)
7. PROPOSED TOXICANT: Rotenone, powder and liquid; CONCENTRATION: 1 ppm
AMOUNT (ROTENONE AT 5% ACT. INGRED): 57,500 lbs. powder, 30 gal. liquid.

For **all** of the above listed waters and drainages:
1. METHOD OF APPLICATION: pumper boats and slurry, airboat, canoe, and ATV with electric pumper spray will be used where suitable
2. CREW DESCRIPTION: Leader(s) Jeff Korth Personnel ~ 12

1. WATER: **Alkali Lake**
2. TARGET SPECIES: yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish
3. DATE LAST REHABED: October 1996
4. PROPOSED TREATMENT DATE: partial treatment, October-November, 2006
5. REPLANTING DATE: no stocking planned
6. PROPOSED TOXICANT: Rotenone, powder and liquid; CONCENTRATION: 1 ppm or less; concentration dependent on outflow from Blue Lake; no other rotenone added. .

TOTAL PROPOSED TOXICANT: Rotenone CONCENTRATION: 1 ppm
AMOUNT (ROTENONE AT 5% ACT. INGRED): 93,900 lbs. powder and 120 gal. liquid.

II. PURPOSE:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) provides many types of fisheries in response to public desires. DFW manages both trout and warmwater recreational fisheries based on many different species of fish and levels of difficulty. Pubic demand for and participation in opening day trout fisheries is very high. These fisheries are prized as opportunities for families to recreate together as well as providing an appropriate challenge for occasional or novice anglers. Opening day trout fisheries are also integral to the state and many local economies.

Blue and Park Lakes have a long and storied history as lowland lake trout management waters. Both waters are among the most known and visited opening day waters in the state. Many generations of anglers have started angling careers on these waters and continue to enjoy the social aspects of opening day on these waters.

Only the complete rehabilitation or the stocking of catchable-sized fish can restore the trout fishery in Park and Blue Lakes now. Rehabilitation will eliminate or drastically reduce inter-specific competition and predation, allowing the trout fingerlings to flourish. The cost of annually stocking of catchable-sized trout and creating a mixed species fishery would be an order of magnitude greater for the larger trout necessary to attract anglers. Without a very significant capital investment, current resources are not available to provide catchable-sized trout on a regular basis without severely impacting hatchery production for many other fisheries. Managing these waters as warmwater fisheries will not create the same amount of recreation, as evidenced by the decline in participation as the trout fishery ebbs.

The current management of Blue and Park lakes as opening day trout fisheries requires the periodic rehabilitation of these waters. Blue and Park Lakes have been rehabilitated many times. Complete kills are difficult to attain in such large, deep bodies of water, but populations of undesirable species can be reduced to the point that trout fisheries are again economical to sustain for 8 to 10 years. The management plan for both waters lists periodic rehabilitation as a tool for controlling populations of competing fishes, and DFW policy states that lake rehabilitation is an option for eliminating illegally planted fish.

III. INTENDED OUTCOME/MEASURE OF SUCCESS:

DFW intends to restore Blue, Park, and Vic Meyers lakes to popular, easily accessible opening day trout fishery based on fingerling-stocked trout. The average catch rates should be at least three to four 10-12 inch trout per angler. Participation of 4,000 to 6,000 anglers on opening day is anticipated. Success will be measured during annual creel surveys. Given a reasonable chance of reducing the populations of undesirable species dramatically, the beneficial effects should last approximately 8 to 10 years under current management schemes. In addition to reasons listed under Resource, Recreational and Economic Impacts, to abandon these lakes as trout fisheries is to invite other incursions across the state. The reduction of numbers of pumpkinseed sunfish and yellow perch in Alkali Lake is also anticipated. An increase in the relative density and size of the desired species (bluegill, bass) should ensue. Success will be

measured through biological surveys.

IV. RESOURCE IMPACTS:

1. The populations of the target species (yellow perch, pumpkinseed sunfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, and bluegill), which are exotic species in Washington, will be severely and negatively impacted. The population of sculpins will also be negatively impacted; however, this species has recovered after every rehabilitation of these waters in the past. Complete kills of any of the target species are unlikely.

2. Regional and District Habitat, Wildlife and Non-Game managers have been apprised of our rehabilitation plans. No unmitigated concerns have been expressed on the potential impacts to non-targeted species**.**

According to Bradbury (1986), the effects of rotenone on benthos are variable, depending on the concentrations and species. Crustaceans are most tolerant while the smaller insects are most affected. Immediate reduction of populations averages 25%, and survival doubles when access to bottom sediments exists. Benthic communities generally recover to at least pretreatment levels within two months. Zooplankton is more severely impacted, and communities generally take two to twelve months to fully recover. While relatively tolerant of even heavy doses of rotenone, amphibians (especially larval) are at risk, and herptiles are affected somewhat less so. Almost no chance of eliminating an entire population exists.

3. Water withdrawal from the lake for irrigation will be halted until the rotenone has degraded below levels detectable by bioassay (trout survive in the water for 48 hrs). Most irrigation will have ceased for the season by the time treatment occurs. A portion of the waters treated is a source of drinking water for livestock. The product label does not restrict livestock watering at allowable concentrations of use, and the levels of rotenone used in this treatment (1 ppm or less) are lower than the maximum allowable (4 ppm). All known water rights holders will be advised of these restrictions.

These waters are not a source of potable water for humans. The Grant Co. Health District reviewed water sample test results for water systems on Blue and Park Lakes for the period October through November 1996 just after the previous rehabilitation. They did not find any unsatisfactory water samples in their review.

The lakes will be closed to angling and retention of fish during the treatment and until the season reopens the following spring. The fishery for perch and bass will be eliminated. The following year's opening day fishery will occur as planned with an early plant of catchable sized rainbow. Other recreational uses such as hunting, boating, and swimming will be curtailed during the planned period of treatment (2-3 weeks, probably late Oct). Most of these activities would be limited by cold temperatures by the time treatment occurs.

Probably the largest resource impact to near-lake residents will be the dead fish accumulating along the shoreline. Besides aesthetic concerns, some odor may occur depending on the weather

following the rehabilitation. Exactly where and how many dead fish accumulate will also depend on the weather, particularly wind speed and direction.

4. Professional biologists and other naturalists have visited this site frequently over the past 50 years. To our knowledge, no endemic, rare, threatened or otherwise listed species will be significantly impacted by the rehabilitation.

V. MITIGATING FOR ADVERSE IMPACTS:

1. A season extension from early September until the time of treatment and dropping the daily limit will be sought to allow harvest of as many of the remaining desirable fishes as possible by the public. Provided catchable-sized fish are available the following spring, no loss of recreational trout fishing will occur. Trout fry survival and growth will be greatly enhanced, and future trout fisheries will attain their previous status. This outcome more than mitigates the loss of current angling, and hunting or other human recreation during the planned time of rehabilitation. No removal of dead fish is planned as the nutrient base contained therein is best returned to the lake, nor do resources permit such a removal. Timing the rehabilitation late in the fall will reduce the impact to all resources substantially.

2. Portions of Blue Lake, Alkali Lake, and the connecting stream are sources of drinking water for livestock. The concentration of rotenone used in the treatment of Blue Lake will be far below that considered harmful to mammals. The landowners will be notified of the rehabilitation and consequent exposure of livestock to rotenone.

3. Fall rehabilitation will not interfere with waterfowl spring nesting. The eradication of spiny-ray fishes would also benefit waterfowl through increased production of invertebrates. Stocked populations of trout will not be anywhere near as numerous as the current spiny-ray population. No endemic, rare, threatened or otherwise listed species are known to inhabit this area during the time proposed for this treatment.

4. Protective wear for the eyes, face and hands will be supplied on-site for all purveyors of rotenone. Superior techniques and equipment not available during previous rehabilitation attempts will be employed during this rehabilitation, further increasing the chances for success.

5. All landowners will be notified of the treatment, and access to the lakes will be posted during treatment according to Department of Ecology NPDES guidelines. Water withdrawals, swimming, possessing or consuming dead fish will cease during the period of toxicity.

VI. RECREATIONAL IMPACT: also see I.A., II and III

Recreational opportunity will be increased. Fewer than 14,000 angler trips are estimated to occur at Blue and Park Lakes this year due to the decline in the fishery; and at least a third of that total occured on opening weekend of fishing. The level of participation will quickly decline further, probably to around 7-8,000 annually if no action is taken immediately (no opener, fewer

trout overall, but six months good warmwater fishing, ~ 40 trips/day). Given the success of the planned management action, 5-6,000 angler trips are estimated for opening day alone. Another 30,000 angler trips are conservatively estimated for the remainder of the season.

Angler success should reach three to five fish per trip. Yearling trout should average about 12 inches. Carryovers should be expected to be about 5% of the catch and average 14-16 inches for 2-year-olds and 16-18 inches for 3-year-olds.

VII. ECONOMIC IMPACTS:

Conservatively, at least 35,000 trips annually will be made to Blue and Park lakes as a result of the proposed management action These trips would have an economic impact totaling at least $1,326,500 per year (1991 dollars; based WDW estimate of $37.90 per trip). With roughly 50% of the participants in the opening day fishery coming from the Westside, much of this economic boon would be outside dollars infused into the local economy. The fishery as it now exists generates far less as participation decreases with the declining trout catch. Rehabilitation would bring back the fishery and associated economic activity.

Allowing these waters to revert to primarily spiny ray fishing might produce about 10,000 trips annually with an associated value of $379,000. This assumes the warmwater fish populations' stay in balance and angling success is at least fair. Without an opening day event, fewer of these dollars would come from outside the region. The cost to manage a warmwater fishery in terms of monitoring, setting appropriate regulations, surveying the creel, etc is difficult to determine, but generally more time consuming than for trout-only management.

The total annual costs to Columbia Basin Hatchery to plant Park and Blue lakes with 320,000 fingerlings is $13,440 (based on 1989 in-house cost analysis $0.042/fingerling). The cost of annual planting with enough catchables necessary to attract the same participation with the current environment is $146,272 (70% survival on 320,000 fingerlings = 224,000 at $0.653/fish). The rehabilitation will cost the Department about $175,000 (including costs of rotenone, time, travel).

If rehabilitations occur every 10 years, the cost the rehab, a one time catchable plant (after rehabilitation), and fingerling plants (9 yrs.), and totals about $442,000. During this same 10 years, the fishery could be worth over $13 million, approximately a 30-fold profit to the state's economy.

The cost to manage with annual catchable plants over the same 10-year period is approximately $1,462,720; more than three times the amount to manage with rehabilitation and fingerlings. However, hatchery space and water are fully utilized in accomplishing the current program. If greater numbers of larger, catchable fish were to be raised, many other waters statewide would suffer cutbacks in current planting allotments. Hatchery sites are at a premium, and even if sites were available, the additional Department investment in hatcheries, time and equipment dollars to manage our fisheries in this manner would be considerable in the long term.

VIII. RELATED MANAGEMENT ACTION:

Blue and Park Lakes will be planted with 150,000 catchable rainbow trout @ 2-4/lb. for the 2007 opener. The spring of 2007 and thereafter, 320,000 rainbow trout fry @ <100/lb. will be planted to produce a fishery the following year. Creel surveys will continue on opening days.

IX. PUBLIC CONTACT:

Public meetings were held in Ephrata and Olympia to explain Region Two 2005-06 rehabilitation proposals, assess public opinion, and address local concerns. The announcement was provided statewide and to area papers and radio stations and mailed to landowners and residents near the lakes.

The public meeting in Ephrata was held at 6 pm on July 13, 2006 at the Ephrata High School. Twenty-seven members of the public attended including at least one newspaper reporter. Local residents, primarily from Blue Lake, made up the majority of those present. After DFW's presentation explaining rehabilitations in general and the current proposals, eleven people provided comment. Ten of those providing comment were against the rehabilitation of Park and Blue Lakes, and one spoke in favor of the proposals.

Most of those who spoke in opposition to the rehabilitation favored a mixed species fishery including a smaller number of large trout (7 comments). Most also suggested other management options (7 comments including changed limits and seasons, stocking bigger fish, charge additional fees to pay for bigger fish, stock later in season, stock at night, get rid of cormorants, conduct tournaments) and/or did not believe DFW's data (6 comments including CPUE, stocking, fingerling survival, economic impact, viability of rehabilitations in general). Apprehension concerning the use of rotenone and associated compounds was also often cited, including well contamination, nutrient loading from dead fish, violation of Clean Water Act, and impacts to the lakes' ecology in general (7 comments). Also contentious were the large number of shoreline campers, effluent, garbage, and other types of water-related recreation (3 comments). Some wanted to wait at least another year to see what developed (2 comments). One person recommended a higher dosage of rotenone if the rehabilitation proceeds.

While at least three resorts were represented in the crowd, only one chose to speak publicly and was in favor of the treatments. Comments included the economic benefit county-wide, family recreation provided over many generations, algae blooms occur whether lakes had been rehabbed or not, and no impact ever found to any resorts' wells after rehabilitation.

The public meeting in Olympia was held at 7 pm on July 19, 2006 at the Dept of Natural Resources Building. No one from the public attended.

In addition to comments at the public meetings, over 50 letters (14), e-mails (29), and calls (10) were received from residents statewide concerning the rehabilitation of Blue and Park Lakes. Of this these contacts, 49 were in favor of the treatment and four were against the treatment. Most of the correspondences in favor cited good trout fishing as their reason to support the

rehabilitation, and many of these made it a point to say that their extended families were also in favor. Some were signed by up to a half dozen adults.

With approximately 50% of the lake's users living outside Grant County, actual percentages pro and con are difficult to obtain. Public support may be best judged by the number of participants in the fishery (vis-à-vis Recreational Impacts).

Comments on the SEPA for rehabilitations statewide will also be accepted during the month of August. The SEPA can be found on WDFW or WA Dept of Ecology's web sites, or at County offices (usually Planning Commission). Additional comments may be sent directly to WDFW via mail or e-mail.

Initiated by: Region Two Fisheries Management