



State of Washington  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia WA 98501-1091, (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia WA

August 14, 2013

Mr. Rick Lind  
8 Sage Lane  
Tonasket, Washington 98855-8808

Dear Mr. Lind:

Thank you for your comments and numerous concerns regarding the lake rehabilitation (rehab) planned for Spectacle Lake during the fall of this year. I hope my responses below will help improve your understanding of our planned activities. I will attempt to address your concerns in approximately the same order in which you wrote them in your letter.

Although we do spend thousands of dollars every year for our lake rehab program the expense is easily justifiable. Statewide preference surveys of licensed anglers consistently show that lowland lake trout are the most preferred angling opportunity across the state. The state responds to this by providing the general public with trout fishing opportunities throughout Washington. Maintaining the lakes we have chosen as trout-only by rehabilitating them, when needed, has been proven many times over to be cost-effective and it recoups the cost of the rehab program usually within two to three years.

You say our rehabs have “mixed results” which I assume means not a complete kill of all the fish in the lake. That can be the case with brown bullhead, carp, or goldfish, but with bass and panfish a complete kill is the expected goal. The appearance of largemouth bass or panfish after a rehab to eliminate smallmouth bass, as is the case with Spectacle Lake, is not a problem with the treatment process. Illegal stocking is unfortunately all too common, and our response to that will continue to be treatment of selected lakes with rotenone. My suggestion to anglers that wish to fish for bass or panfish is to go to lakes where we already have a mature mixed species or warmwater fish community. Leader, Whitestone, Palmer, Washburn, Conconully, and Paterson are examples of excellent warmwater or mixed species fisheries in Okanogan County.

Although invasive aquatic weed control is not the expertise or area of responsibility of Washington Department Fish and Wildlife (Department), we are willing to collaborate with the Department of Ecology to help address the problem.

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Please let me put your concerns at ease that the Department is not following the required water quality monitoring pre- and post-treatment. We are very careful to fulfill every safety and monitoring requirement regulated by the permits that allow us to maintain our program.

Thank you again for your comments. We will take all of them into consideration when determining whether to go forward with our lake treatment program.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bolding  
Warmwater Fish Program Manager