

Aug 22, 2013

Wash Dept of Fish & Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, Wa 98501-1091
Attn: SEPA Responsible Official
Habitat Program



Subject: Fazon Lake Outlet Beaver Dam Removal – Whatcom Co.

ref: SEPA comments

Mr. Bob Zeigler:

The Borderline Bassin Contenders, a fishing & hunting club since 1973 is in favor of removing a beaver dam now restricting water flow from a manmade outlet on the northeast end of Fazon Lake. The outlet was originally put in approximately 1912 by the local farming community per approval from Whatcom County. The inlet & outlet was dug by hand tools and then redone again by machine in the 1940's. This outlet was put in to control flooding issues within a mile and a half area for farming and also keeping water off the E Hemmi Rd and Central Rd. The Drainage outlet & manmade drainage control ditch extends northward meandering approximately for a mile- and – a-half and basically fiddles out in low areas and ponds downstream – some of them in existing cow pastures. The main outlet and ditch has never been attached to any other flowing streams or connected in any way to the Nooksack River drainage system and therefore is not under tribal nor any other anadromous fisheries control or restrictions. To our best knowledge the only native fish to Fazon Lake is the stickleback. The brown bullhead catfish was introduced sometime in late 1800's and then other species rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill, tiger muskie, perch, and brown trout were all introduced some time quite a few years later.

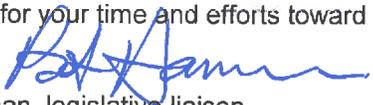
The now existing WDFW owned boat launch pad and roundabout height elevations was set years ago according to pre-dam average high/low water tables, and because of this beaver dam, water levels are now above these levels causing flooding over the boat launch, and into the roundabout paved turn around area as well as local farm pasture & blueberry farms. Launching boats has been very difficult because of this flooding situation for about 2yrs now and the manmade inlet at the E Hemmi Rd undercrossing culvert has been backing up causing continual cleaning by the County.

Myself and the north shore landowner Spencer Ahrens discovered this dam last month after walking in a half of a mile from his property access point of land on the north side of the lake. After discovery and as a representative of the club, I turned in the information to WDFW – biologist Danny Garrett to start the process of removal.

We are also in favor of yearly maintenance to make sure the dam is not rebuilt and are in favor of having the WDFW or private individuals keeping the beaver trapped out of the area.

Please consider these SEPA comments in favor of allowing removal of the Dam and also the beavers.

Thank you for your time and efforts toward our wildlife resources.
Sincerely,


Bob Harriman, legislative liaison
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