

Ronald DeSilva Comment and Reply to Soos Creek Hatchery MDNS

From: Mackey, Douglas W (DFW)
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2013 8:58 AM
To: Yota DeSilva; Zeigler, Robert C (DFW)
Cc: Wilson, Michael L (DFW); Ron Desilva
Subject: RE: Soos Creek Redevelopment Project No. 13075

Dear Mr. DeSilva,

Thank you for letter responding to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) public comment period for the Soos Creek Hatchery Redevelopment. We concur with your sense of the importance of the role of this hatchery in sustaining salmon populations within the Green River system

Your letter identifies several of the important programs the hatchery and its staff will continue to work on with the Duwamish/Green Chapter of Trout Unlimited and others. Of particular note is your reference to TU's important work to improve Steelhead returns to the Green River.

WDFW is continuing the work on the other permits required for this project and remains hopeful that construction can begin during the coming year.

Sincerely,
Douglas

Douglas Mackey
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, WDFW
Capital and Asset Management Program
(360) 902-8380

From: Yota DeSilva [<mailto:ykcdesilva@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2013 6:33 PM
To: Zeigler, Robert C (DFW); Mackey, Douglas W (DFW)
Cc: Wilson, Michael L (DFW); Ron Desilva
Subject: Soos Creek Redevelopment Project No. 13075

November 2013

Mr. Zeigler,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the construction of a new Soos Creek Hatchery. I speak for myself and also on behalf of the Duwamish/Green Chapter of Trout Unlimited to say that the Hatchery provides a valuable service to the community and the health and productivity of our streams, rivers and fish.

Since 1982 the hatchery has provided eyed Coho Salmon eggs for us to raise in our hatchery on Miller Creek in Burien. The intent is to create a self-sustaining run of Salmon in three local

streams in the South Seattle area. (Miller, Walker and DesMoines Creeks). Last year the crew from the hatchery took the time to work with us to improve the methods we are using in our hatchery.

For nearly a decade they have also provide eggs for our "Salmon in the Classroom Program" that we conduct in three elementary schools in the Highline School District.

In conjunction with Washington State Parks and Puget Sound Anglers, our TU Chapter maintains two seasonal imprinting ponds at Flaming Geyser State Park. Soos Creek Hatchery supplies our chapter with 15,000 Wild Steelhead that we raise and release into the Green River usually in late April or early May. We are working directly with the Soos Creek Hatchery employee's to do everything we can to restore a small part of the Steelhead returns to the Green River.

We recently started working with the City of Federal Way and their School District to develop a Clean Water and a Salmon in the Classroom program. The program will be starting in the Elementary Schools and go all the way to the High Schools. Mike Wilson from the Soos Creek Hatchery has offered to support the program by providing a Field Trip Program at the hatchery for all school levels.

The employees from the Soos Creek Hatchery and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are a most important part of our salmon awareness programs throughout all of our communities. A new Hatchery at Soos Creek will be a blessing that will benefit the Salmon, Steelhead and all the communities that they support. Trout Unlimited and I will be there to offer all we can to support the redevelopment project and it's success.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. DeSilva

President of Trout Unlimited

Duwamish/Green Chapter 115

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PS: We would be happy to provide photographs of all TU Chapter programs to emphasize the importance of