

**From:** [mudlakes12@ncidata.com](mailto:mudlakes12@ncidata.com)  
**To:** [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on SEPA No. 21023  
**Date:** Monday, June 21, 2021 10:40:45 AM

---

### External Email

I am commenting on the proposal to “rehabilitate” Fish Lake and Schalow pond in Okanogan County. Fish Lake is NOT a quality trout lake no matter how it is managed. The West end of Fish Lake is shallow and mossy and warm. You can catch nice trout early in the season and they are delicious. By midsummer the trout are getting soft and taste muddy. Schalow pond is hard to fish, because it has reeds and cattails around about ¾ of it and an abundance of rattlesnakes. Fishermen have to walk in because it is a no vehicles allowed road. It is just a nice pond and not a quality trout lake, but I see you have already drained it before the comment period is even over. Why?

I have lived in Okanogan County for 67 years. As a kid we fished the East end of Fish Lake in a boat on opening day and had a great time. There are a lot of campers that do the same thing. On most holidays and hunting season you will see group camps. If you go to the lake the rest of the time, there will be a few locals fishing from the bank here and there. During the summer, Fish Lake is almost impossible to fish from the bank because of the Poison Oak that is all around the lake banks. The best spot to fish (and swim) is a sand bar on the East end that was caused by a flood after the fire of 2015. However this spot usually has a vehicle parked on it or in the entry to it, blocking the way for anyone else to use it.

There are getting to be catchable bass in the lake. They are fun to catch and usually good tasting. Why is it so necessary to make this a trout only lake? I think if you did a survey, no one would care. Plant a bunch of nice catchable trout in the fall and let people have a delicious tasting and fun to catch fish on opening day and save the time and money of rehabbing. The Conconully Lakes are multi-species and attract fishermen every year and you have Blue Lake in the Sinlehekin for the catch and release crowd.

If you have extra money and time, sign the boat ramps and put up a no camping sign on the sand bar. If you want people to have a pleasant experience, figure out a way to kill the poison oak. Before rehabbing this lake, send whoever thinks it is such a great idea, for a week or two in the summer, when it is 90 to 100 degrees, to camp with the rattlesnakes and eat “muddy” tasting trout. Be sure they pack calamine lotion.

Debbi Burbery  
438 Fish Lake Rd.  
Tonasket, WA. 98855  
509-486-2219