

From: [Walker, Brian M \(DFW\)](#)
To: [Spangle, Herm \(ECY\)](#)
Cc: [Baker, Bill P \(DFW\)](#); [Behen, Kenneth P \(DFW\)](#); [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Comment on SEPA Project #25-014, Upper WBL Cutthroat Trout Restoration
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 12:31:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good morning, Herm,

Hope this finds you doing well! I appreciate your review of our SEPA determination, and am glad to be working with you again.

Thank you for your comment on the Upper West Branch LeClerc Creek Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration project. I've included it here for reference:

Any surface water diversion(s) will require an application for a water right permit to the Department of Ecology. No diversion of surface water shall take place without the department's authorization.

No water diversion will occur for this project, and our efforts will have no impact to nor use any water resources. The beaver structure notching that we've included in the proposal will consist of temporarily creating an opening in inactive beaver structures (e.g., dams) by hand/hand tools to release impounded water. This allows the creek to channelize, reducing the volume of rotenone needed, speeds water flow, and removes refugia for targeted fish species. Any notched structures will be restored to functionality following non-native fish eradication and reintroduction of native fish by installation of post-assisted log structure beaver dam analogues (BDA). The installation of these BDA's will be by hand/hand tools. The BDA's will be small (1-2 m wide, < 2 m high) and will be installed in a flowing stream without the need to divert water.

This work is larger in scope but the same as what we were permitted to do and conducted on Highline Creek in 2017. I appreciated working with you on that project, as well as the others we've coordinated on since (e.g., Flume Creek non-native fish removals, Gypsy Pool/Seep non-native fish removals). As always, we will consult with you if there are any changes in our plans that would impact water rights or diversions.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Brian

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