

From: [Hodge, David](#)
To: [Bolding, Bruce D \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [SEPADesk2 \(DFW\)](#)
Subject: Re: Comment on SEPA No. 16041 (Park Lake and Blue Lake Rotenone Treatment Proposal)
Date: Friday, July 22, 2016 9:10:31 PM
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)

Dear Mr. Bolding,

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough response to my comments. I completely understand the logic behind the decision. If the demand for such fishing is high and Blue Lake is a logical choice for this option, it does present a compelling argument.

However, having said that and experienced the lake for so many years, I come to a different conclusion. I am not a big fan of this procedure except when absolutely necessary, and I do not consider this such an instance. While it is true that there is self-interest here (and I am an avid fly fishing trout fisherman as well), I simply believe the lake is better used as a multi-species lake.

I very much appreciate the care in your response. Again, while we come to different conclusions, I understand the logic behind the decision.

While we are connecting, I would like to take the opportunity to raise a question and concern about Lenore. I have not fished it for more than a year - my vacation in the middle of summer was not conducive for it. But before that I had observed a significant decline in the fishery. It coincided with very unfortunate poaching, but I am convinced that it was also part of the excess harvesting of the fish by the Russian immigrant community. I personally observed individuals returning multiple times per day to collect a fish. Please understand that I am not meaning to sound anti-immigrants. Rather, I mean it as a simple observation and also a question as to why the lake, which had true trophy quality, is not a catch and release lake. Has that ever been an option, especially given its alkaline water?

I also understand that there may be some water issues, though I have been unable to determine that more clearly.

As I have just retired, I look forward to spending much more time in the area and appreciate your care of the lakes,

Sincerely,

David Hodge

On Wed, Jul 20, 2016 at 1:12 PM, Bolding, Bruce D (DFW) <Bruce.Bolding@dfw.wa.gov> wrote:

Mr. Hodge,

Thank you for your interest and response to our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) public comment opportunity on the Park Lake and Blue Lake rotenone treatment proposal. We take all public comments into consideration before our agency makes a final decision on the treatment proposals.

Both Park and Blue Lakes have been managed as “trout-only” lakes for many years. The reason for this management strategy is the WDFW Fish Program response to the general public preference for lowland lake trout fishing opportunities. We get the preference data from a “preference survey” that is conducted every five to eight years, by a private survey firm hired by WDFW to do that work. Every survey shows that lowland lake trout are far-and-away, the most-preferred fish in the state.

As you mentioned, you have seen one “rehabilitation” since you purchased your property on the lake in 2000. The last three treatments were done in 2006, 1996 and 1986. The treatments are done in response to illegal stocking of species, that, as you point out, consume or compete with stocked trout fingerlings, making that stocking strategy ineffective. The species that would be targeted for eradication in Park Lake and Blue Lake include: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Pumpkinseed Sunfish, Bluegill, Yellow Perch and a bullhead species. I will admit that currently, it is an interesting, diverse and fun community of fish to angle for. What we normally see with a community like this though, is that the Bluebill, Pumpkinseed and Yellow Perch will end up overpopulating and stunting, creating fish populations that are no longer fun to fish for or desirable.

There are other nearby fish communities that are managed as “mixed species fisheries”, such as Banks, Billy Clapp, Moses Lake, Potholes Reservoir, Stan Coffin and the Desert Chain, just south of O’Sullivan Dam. I understand that it is far more convenient to be able to fish for those species out of your back door, since you have property on the lake, but as I mentioned before, both Park and Blue Lake have been managed for many, many years as “trout only”.

There will be a public meeting for the Park and Blue Lake treatment proposal on Monday, July 25, from 6-8 p.m. at the Grant County Public Works Department Building at 124 Enterprise St SE, Ephrata. That would be another opportunity to voice your opinion and learn more about the proposal from Chad Jackson and Jeff Korth, the District Fish Biologist and Regional Fish Program Manager, respectively.

Thank you again for your comments.

Bruce Bolding

Warmwater Fish Program Manager

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www.wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/washington/

From: Hodge, David [mailto:hodgedc@miamioh.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 8:01 AM

To: SEPADesk2 (DFW)

Subject: Comment on SEPA No. 16041

We have owned property on Blue Lake since 2000 and have experienced previous "rehabilitation."

While it serves the purpose of reducing species that prey on smaller trout, it does so only temporarily.

Meanwhile, what becomes a robust multi-species lake is reduced to a trout put and take experience.

Most of us who live on the lake (we live in Rimrock Cove) would much prefer the multi-species profile.

As such we strongly object to the poisoning of the lake scheduled for this fall.

Sincerely,

David Hodge