

From: John Roskelley <john@johnroskelley.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2019 11:16 AM
To: 'Carl Einberger'
Cc: Hermanson, Mike
Subject: RE: A comment from the Feb 20th Meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Carl:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a bit of input from the last meeting.

This process for WRIA 55 is advertised as based on best available science. CELP joins other groups in committees and discussions with an open mind, but encourages the agencies and parties to solicit and use science to ensure the outcome is accurate and usable. The Legislature provided a groundwork for the WRIA committees to adjust their procedures according to the WRIA. As such, CELP encourages the committee to seek accurate numbers from the Farm Bureau or Cattlemen's Association on how many rural residents within WRIA 55 are actively raising cattle, pigs, sheep or horses; a realistic number of stock animals in the district; and water use for stock animals from exempt well use. According to CELP's attorney, Don Von Seggern, the bill says that an applicant may obtain approval for an exempt water withdrawal "for domestic use only." He would argue that this does not include stock watering. In addition, the bill puts a daily limit of 950 or 3000 gallons on the withdrawal, which is less than the unlimited quantity allowed by "Five Corners". As cattle will drink 7% to 10% of their body weight each day, depending on the season, stock watering could have an significant impact where there are numerous cattle operations in the same sub-basin.

Just within a few miles of my place on Peone Prairie, there are a number of rural ranchers raising from eight to 20 animals, maybe more. There is also a horse farm along Highway 206 on the way up to Mt. Spokane. The rancher a quarter mile from me was raising almost 20 head on an exempt well and surface water off Peone Creek. He recently sold all but three. But the impact to the watershed should be accounted for in our effort to determine what we need to do to mitigate for each sub-basin. Just doing in-home and out-of-home irrigation of lawns and gardens (domestic use) is not accurate.

In addition, we feel that mitigation should be within the sub-basin the water is being removed from and it should be water for water, such as a water right.

Cheers,

John Roskelley