

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Bob Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 7:51 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: County Ordinance 16581

Ms. Cathy Jimenez
201 South Jackson Street, Room 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

I am writing you to voice my opposition to proposed county ordinance 16581. The addition of large woody debris to stream ecosystems is a critical component of any habitat restoration strategy and imposing onerous recreational safety standards could adversely affect restoration efforts by limiting the implementation of these vital habitat structures.

Woody debris placement has been an effective means of increasing river habitat complexity which benefits our county by providing quality riverine habitat for threatened salmon and other species. Rivers are dynamic places which are never guaranteed to be safe, however with cautious boating and recreation the risk posed by engineered log jams is extremely trivial. Most incidents of boating related fatalities or injuries are related to poor judgment, inexperience, and the over consumption of alcohol.

The best way to address boater safety issues is by educating river users about the risks posed by boating and how to use the river safely. Over the last decade King County has been a national leader in stream restoration and stewardship and this measure represents a major step backwards. Please do not adopt ordinance 16581 as it would place undue regulations on an important habitat restoration activity in our county.

Sincerely,

Bob Anderson
West Seattle, WA

Jimenez, Cathy

From: William Atlas [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2010 5:02 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: RE: Large Woody Debris (ordinance 16581)

Dear Mrs. Jimenez,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to proposed county ordinance 16581. The addition of large woody debris to stream ecosystems is a critical component of any habitat restoration strategy and imposing onerous recreational safety standards could adversely affect restoration efforts by limiting the implementation of these critical habitat structures. Woody debris placement has been an effective means of increasing river habitat complexity which benefits our county by providing quality riverine habitat for threatened salmon and other species. I regularly fish and boat on many of the rivers in the county and have never had an encounter with an engineered log jam that posed any danger to my personal safety. Rivers are dynamic places which are never guaranteed to be safe, however with cautious boating and recreation the risk posed by engineered log jams is extremely trivial. Most incidents of boating related fatalities or injuries are related to poor judgment and the over consumption of alcohol.

Public safety is important however we must balance the need to public safety with the need to restore and protect fragile populations of wild salmon in our county. For too long the salmon and their habitats have taken a backseat to human uses of our watersheds. The best way to address boater safety issues is by educating river users about the risks posed by boating and how to use the river safely. Over the last decade King County has been a national leader in stream restoration and this measure represents a step backwards. Please do not adopt ordinance 16581, as it would place undue regulations on an important habitat restoration activity in our county.

Sincerely,

William Atlas
[REDACTED]

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:23 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: King County Ordinance 16581 Placing Large Wood in King County Rivers

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Attn: Cathy Jimenez
201 South Jackson Street, Room 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855
cathy.jimenez@kingcounty.gov

My name is Alan Barrie, [REDACTED]
I participated in the 'Large Wood Stakeholder Committee' representing the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited. I have been a member of Trout Unlimited for 39 years and am a charter member of the Mid Puget Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group and served as Board President for two years. I am an original appointee on the WRIA9 Steering Committee/Forum as the representative of MPSFEG and TU. I advocate for the preservation and enhancement of salmonid species in our Washington waters.

I first became aware of the King County Council's actions back in December 2007, when I was notified of the proposed action **County Council LWD Resolution 2007-0622**. After doing some research into the subject, I discovered that a 'movement' lead by some members of the Cedar River Council had convinced Councilmen Phillips and Dunn that placed large wood was dangerous to the recreational users of King County's rivers. Much solemn hand wringing, fear mongering and exaggeration of the 'implied facts', lead the council to move forward on June 29, 2009 to enact their earlier actions to declare that 'Safety' is the premier consideration with Engineered Large Wood placement in King County rivers. The directions to King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks was to prepare procedures to enact their legislation. Thus the Large Wood Stakeholders Committee.

The make-up of the Stakeholder Committee was full spectrum in interest and involvement. We all professed to care about the fishery resources. The recreational boating / floating interests continued with their claims that any wood was dangerous and that rivers should be 'safe' for every user from the 'expert to the youth tuber'. The committee sought 'facts and data' on the perils to river users and the KC Sheriff's representative was able to recover and present actual statistics. However, the structure and procedures used by the Facilitator, Margaret Norton-Arnold, prevented the 'open and honest' full expression of thoughts. Despite all of the controls, the Committee adapted a 'Final Report and Recommendations' document. Disappointingly, the KC DNRP staff waived from the committee's report to come up with the Proposed Rule, neither reviewed or endorsed by the committee.

The Proposed Rule calls for additional studies of KC rivers to determine the usage by recreational boaters.

The annual development of a projects list, an e-mail list of interested members of the public, hosting annual public meetings for information dissemination, development of timelines for public comment, preparation and conducting 30%, 60%, and 100% design reviews,

documentation of projects, comments, responses, post construction monitoring, periodic inspections, etc. etc. None of these activities advances the restoration of the salmonid resources that occupy these rivers.

Our WRIA9 Habitat Plan, '**Fit for a King**' calls for many riparian habitat projects that include the placement of large wood. With the limited funds for salmonid restoration projects under careful review, the expenditure of thousands of hours and dollars by staff of KC DNR&P and WLRD, for the study, and citizen review of large wood in the riparian habitat seems to be money wasted. The KC Engineering staff are all educated, licensed and competent to do their jobs. Let them!!

I have taken the opportunity to do some Q & A on my own with 'Risk involved outdoor recreationists'. The 'River Runners I have spoken with are unanimous in their belief that 'character' in the river is paramount to the experience. They insist that risk prevention and education of the youth is key to good river safety practices. Wood removal destroys the 'challenge and experience' of a natural free flowing river.

Mountaineers claim that there are those that would make mountain climbing 'safe'. This was equated to 'Hiking up Queen Anne Hill' with a backpack.

Skiers claim that the removal of 'character' on the mountain would restrict all skiing to the 'Bunny Slopes'.

The King County Council erred in their judgement to enact the 'Safety First' decree on large wood placement in King County. They would do themselves and the dedicated interest groups for the restoration of the salmonid resources a great favor by completely eliminating King County Ordinance 16581.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan R. Barrie

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Georgia & Andy Batcho [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2010 11:39 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Cc: editor@seattletimes.com
Subject: Comment: King Co. Ordinance 16581 "Wood in Rivers"

Comment on King County Ordinance 16581, adopted by the King County Council on June 29, 2009, "Wood in Rivers".

- California has a law that prohibits playing with Silly String in Lodi, California.
- In Tennessee, it's against the law to sell bologna on Sundays.
- In Los Angeles, it's against the law to hunt moths under streetlights.
- In Alaska, it's illegal to push a live moose out of an airplane.
- In Indiana, it's illegal to open a can of food with a gun!
- The list of these "loony Laws" goes on & on in a book I have on the subject...

Apparently, King County has a desire to "join the list" of legislators spending tax payers money on wasteful, "loony" legislation.....have they nothing better to do?

- In King County, it's illegal to place wood in a river in an unsafe manner? After viewing last night's presentation on King Co. Ordinance 16581; I decided to take a look at what other States do to protect themselves from liability due to hazardous activities by citizens.

At the meeting, one member mentioned that Arizona has an; in effect a "stupid citizen" law, that essentially says the State is not responsible or liable for citizens engaging in hazardous sports or activities.

I would think, rather than raising King Counties potential for liabilities by putting laws in place that dictate that wood must be "safely designed" (essentially impossible) to be put in a river; the County / State would research laws implemented by other States to put the responsibility of hazardous sports activities back on the participant citizens. By instituting a law that says wood in rivers must be safe, the County is de-facto saying that no unsafe engineered wood is in the river, therefore anyone injured by placed wood may sue the County due to improper design.

As an alternative; See an example of a "stupid citizen" law in California below....there are others.

Apparently there are States that realized that you can't legislate the safety of citizens

that insist on participating in hazardous sporting activities without any prior safety education or preparation. These States have not only placed the responsibility for these activities on the citizen, but also include any rescue costs be paid the citizen.

Wyoming law says anyone involved in river rafting must: have a permit and wear a helmet & Personal Floatation Device. They must realize that these activities are inherently dangerous and require citizens to take appropriate actions....not passing legislation that assumes the liability for reckless activities for the tax payers of their State.

I also think that if the King County Council members that voted for this "safe design wood" law were personally liable for their decision....read: had to pay for law suits out their personal pockets"; rather than using my tax money to pay for their decisions.....they'd change their mind in a hurry about implementing "stupid laws" instead of "stupid citizen laws"

Especially after 80% of their appointed advisory team recommended against such a law!

The members of the King County Council have the power to avoid adding King County to the list of "loony Laws"; please investigate how other lawmakers address these issues & use your authority wisely.

Just a thought,

Andy Batcho

Normandy Park, WA.

See full text of CA law @ Link : <http://law.onecle.com/california/government/831.7.html>

California Government Code Section 831.7

Sponsored Links

(a) Neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable to any person who participates in a hazardous recreational activity, including any person who assists the participant, or to any spectator who knew or reasonably should have known that the hazardous recreational activity created a substantial risk of injury to himself or herself and was voluntarily in the place of risk, or having the ability to do so failed to leave, for any damage or injury to property or persons arising out of that hazardous recreational activity.

Keeping things wild

Recently I watched the PBS program, "National Parks – Our Best Idea". The program chronicled the history of the formation of our National Parks. I was taken by the efforts of a few visionary citizens of the day to protect the "wildness" of these national treasures. It is so obvious to all the citizens of this country NOW that these places are a national treasure, to the point that we take their beauty and protected status for granted.

It absolutely amazed me, as the story unfolded, that there were people at the time that resisted these preservation efforts, putting their personal, political and financial aspirations ahead of preserving some of God's most spectacular creations. In retrospect, their actions could only be viewed as "shameful".

We have all received the fruits of these "Conservation Heroes" unsung, life-long efforts. John Muir, President Roosevelt, Ansell Adams, John D. Rockefeller, to name a few. Without the visionary and exhaustive efforts of a few, the natural wonders of this Country would have been lost to those who see no value in the beauty and wildness of nature; only striving to increase their net worth and political standing.

I for one can't imagine this great Country without the raw beauty of Yellowstone National Park, Glacier National Park, the Grand Canyon, Mount Rainier National Park, Denali and all the other wild places in the United States. It's hard for me to imagine that there are those that would cut down the last grove of giant Sequoia trees to build fences in their back yard, but they existed then and their progeny are still at work today.

It's hard to refute that the arrival of people to an area usually defines the beginning of the degradation of areas natural resources. And for the past century putting the wants of people ahead of the needs nature was accepted without concern.

But, there is a glimmer of hope. In the past decade or two, humans have turned to science and some have begun to understand that people and nature are not separate entities. Ultimately, the way nature goes, so go people.

It's amazing to me that we allowed the icon of the Northwest, the Salmon, to slip thru our fingers while we were focused on profits. Those that realize what we have done have begun to attempt restorations to the damage done in the past. But some still resist those efforts in the attempt to "make things safe".

The key word being "some" humans understand. There are still those that are intent upon managing the wild elements of God's creations. They would remove the "wildness" of our

rivers in an attempt to make them safe. They don't understand that "living" is not safe. "Existing" is safe, but that's not really living!

I would no more try to make a wild river a safe than I would remove the teeth from a Grizzly Bear to make it safe, tranquilize a Moose to remove it's cantankerous attitude, or cut the antlers off all the Elk in Yellowstone National Park to make it safe for tourists to take pictures.

I wouldn't flatten the mountains to make them safe to climb or cut the branches from the trees to prevent kids from climbing them and falling. I wouldn't put out the sun to keep its rays from causing skin cancer or quell the roar of the ocean waves to make it a safe place to swim.

You may think these things as appropriate to assure human safety, but I contend that a perfectly safe human is as close to dead as you can be without being six feet underground.

I request that you, as the current elected stewards of our natural resources, think about the legacy that you'll leave for future generations and pause to consider the benefits of nature as God created it. Will the future look back at your actions and comment on your reverence for nature.....or will they say, with a tear in their eye, "I wish they'd saved the wildness of this river." There are many that take the easy road and fall into the "dust bin" of history; only a few are remembered for their willingness to take the more difficult "right" road. How will your term as stewards be remembered?

Andy Batcho

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 8:51 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Re: Large wood in KC rivers.

I think we should not force the lumber people to keep the law as it is. I feel that the lumber industry is hurting and it costs them a lot more to truck the logs. I would vote "No".

george behrend

woodinville,
wa

Jimenez, Cathy

From: david v. dahlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 6:49 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Cc: Lambert, Kathy; Chuck Pillon; Marilyn Zevart; Rick Spence; James Osborne; Jeanette mckague; Jack Brooks; Keith Ervin
Subject: just plain stupid

Thank you for taking the input from the affected people.

While it is a noble effort to TRY to mitigate the decline of the salmon runs, putting "large woody debris in slow moving rivers is, at the very least, counter-productive.

As one stands in the Maple Valley and views the meandering Cedar River, we are not able to see even one rapid from it's end in Lake Washington, to its many beginnings throughout the Cedar River Valley.

Therefore, the insertion of "large woody debris" MUST be for some other reason than for resting fish.

County bureaucrats who look at the world from their office cubicles and swear an allegiance to an agenda that is dangerous to PEOPLE, must be fanatical rather than scientific.

Having been a resident of King County for 33 years and an elected official of the Four Creeks Unincorporated Areas Council from May Valley, I have observed and experienced the agenda driven political

insanity that justifies such actions as "large woody debris" inserted where swimmers and canoers play.

If this were a natural state, both the Columbia and the Snake rivers would have large amounts of such obstacles.

The Skykomish, the Snohomish and the Sammamish rivers would ALLOW such woody debris to remain in their channels. No matter WHAT Stephanie Warden says, the "natural" state is for the river to scrub itself clean OR, in the case of a slow mover like the Cedar, to flood its banks and rechannelize itself when clogged!

The long range effect of that river action is to endanger the frye by trapping them in shallow pools and providing predators to readily access them in the shallows.

ONLY in the mountains where steep approaches to fast moving waterfalls with swirling pools of cold, fresh water, is there a need for salmon to "rest".

"Large woody debris"

in slow moving rivers creates siltation in the rivers and, eventually, raises the level of the bottom so that the river overflows it's channel, floods the valley and pollutes the wells and destroys the drain fields of the residents.

Even a grade school student knows that fish need cold, moving water with rocky bottoms to spawn.

Inhibiting the travel of the fish toward that end is maniacle.

We residents of May Valley have watched as King County's FINEST has choked off a most marvelous run of native Salmon placed there in the late thirties, by the folks at the Issaquah fish hatchery.

By fouling up the natural drainage run and flow of May Valley, the thousands of dollars spent to create a fish ladder has become a terrible example of the legacy of the tweedle dum and tweedle dee approach to habitat restoration and preservation.

The only thing that the county installed "Large Woody Debris" accomplishes is to create a

drainage block that floods the valley, out of it's channelized ditch, and silts up the bottom by never drying the banks allowing them to sluff.

For years, the Cedar River has been successfully utilized as a home for spawning salmon, fresh water for irrigation and recreational use by the citizens of King County.

I was **THERE** when the hatchery workers were ordered to destroy **BILLIONS** of salmon eggs!
How does **THAT** restore the resource?

The fanatical environmentalists who are locked into their government jobs by similar agenda driven supervisors, continue to manipulate "facts" and "best available science" information in order to achieve the desired result of de-populating certain areas of already developed areas of land adjacent to rivers and streams.

History has proven that land owners are the **BEST** stewards of their own property and, as such, should be **HELPED** by county workers rather than threatened and intimidated by them.

Working together to improve the lands ability to survive incredible rain events and drought times will help the resource survive into the future.

Altering the army Corps of Engineers well designed and approved dredging and cleaning of the river will only damage and destroy the habitat for both residents and fish and will continue to threaten children and those adults who choose to enjoy the natural beauty of the rivers by playing in them **AS WELL** as the developed city of Renton, Maple Valley and the other small towns that live on the tributaries.

Trading **ONE** human life, by placing terrible traps in **ANY** river for the purpose of advancing an agenda of pureism is **CRIMINAL** behavior!

County workers are hired to preserve the resources for the residents, not to hold them hostage to an agenda of flawed science.

If the "Large Woody Debris" were so natural, why would the county environmental geniuses have to **CHAIN** it down?

David V. Dahlin


Working on casting all of my cares upon Him...

Jimenez, Cathy

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David V. Dablin

Working on casting all of my cares upon Him...

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Wood in rivers

I want to comment as a former river rafter. There needs to be regulation to take into consideration the human "wildlife" in our state's rivers. The rivers in Washington are truly gifts and there needs to be some compromise to benefit all. We are not going to save wildlife habitat for long anyway unless people stop having children and we lower and reverse population growth, which is never going to happen. The worst pollution on the planet is people, we are far more destructive than rats and breed similarly. But given these conditions, we might as well enjoy the place before we all kill ourselves off. In case you think this is tongue in cheek, I believe I am being quite serious and rational in my assessments however distasteful they might seem and I hope that my dismay at the overall human condition does not taint my opinion on the wood in rivers issue in your mind. Thank you, David Ammon

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Eric Doyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 10:44 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Re: Procedures for considering recreational safety when placing large wood in King County rivers

Greetings,

I wish to comment on the "proposed rule" for regulating where and how engineered woody debris structures will be placed in river systems in King County. As a citizen of the county and a regular voter, I am deeply concerned by this proposal and the bad precedent it will set for the future protection and restoration of our imperiled aquatic resources.

I work in a scientific field and have extensive knowledge of the land and water use issues that have degraded our river systems, and an in depth understanding of the types of measures, including placement of large wood, that will be required to restore and enhance degraded habitat functions. I am also a *dedicated fisherman and boater who regularly uses King County's rivers for recreation* and I have navigated my way around many log jams, natural and engineered. My experience as an outdoorsman has taught me a healthy respect for both the enjoyment and the hazards associated with river recreation. I exercise that respect by using the proper equipment and good judgment appropriate for the situation, and by avoiding areas that I don't have the skill or the equipment to navigate safely. With common sense safety measures like these rivers are a ton of fun and not unduly dangerous.

I also recognize that wood is a critical functional element governing the ecological health of rivers in the Pacific Northwest (and elsewhere in the world). Many people in this region have little idea of what a healthy river is supposed to look like because most of our waterways have been substantially modified by human activities that include, amongst other things, the wholesale removal of large woody debris from the channel during much of the last century. I understand that a number of forms of water recreation matured during this historical blip so folks have gotten used to things being the way that they are. However, it is both unfair and in conflict with the core values of this region to insist that these expectations be protected at the expense of majority interest. Specifically, our once wondrous salmon and steelhead are iconic cultural resources and their restoration is a major policy priority at all levels of government. In truth, if these resources of this region are merely going to survive, much less thrive, in the coming century we are going to have to invest heavily to restore our rivers to some semblance of their historical function. Returning wood to the river is a critical and necessary tool in the habitat restoration toolbox. I also note emphatically that engineered large woody debris structures can provide more durable, ecologically beneficial, and cost effective infrastructure protection than many other *currently available alternatives*. These projects have many benefits.

In this context, I find the arguments posed by the so called "River Safety Council" (RSC) to be incoherent and unreasonable. It appears that the motives of this group are to minimize the risks to inherently unsafe forms of river recreation at the expense of ecological restoration and salmon recovery favored by a large majority of the population. Their primary arguments reflect a poor understanding of how rivers actually work. Consider for example, the RSC's vague and pseudoscientific suggestions that wood can be placed "in safer locations" and provide equal ecological benefit. Engineered wood structures are typically placed where nature puts wood, mimicking a natural process that beneficially transforms habitat. Absentmindedly placing wood in places where nature wouldn't just won't provide the same benefits. I am also bemused by their forceful reliance on the basic physics of flowing water to

2/17/2010

argue that “the numbers are on our side.” Yeah people can get stuck in a strainer, especially little kids in innertubes and water wings. What does this prove about the true hazards posed by placed wood structures?

The emotional appeals the RSC uses to drive their argument are, quite frankly, disingenuous. For example, they repeatedly cite a November 2006 incident on the Sol Duc River where a young woman got hung up on a WDFW structure and drowned as evidence of the risk posed by placed wood. I have floated the Sol Duc many times and know quite well that this river can be hazardous even under the best of conditions. I grew curious enough about this story to review relevant newspaper articles and study data on the weather and flow conditions for the date in question. The facts behind this incident are very different from the tale being sold by the RSC.

It appears that the unfortunate victim, a woman in her early 20s, chose to float the river with a friend during flood stage conditions that an expert kayaker called “off the charts dangerous” (so dangerous in fact that the two Olympic National Park rangers who recovered the body were honored for their skill and bravery). The decision to float the river under these conditions was risky enough, but the risk was compounded exponentially by the fact that they were using float tubes. Float tubes are intended for still water lakes, not hazardous rivers during flood conditions. All of this clearly indicates that this entirely avoidable tragedy was the result of poor judgment. The incidental fact that an engineered logjam was involved says nothing meaningful about any risk they might pose. Since the RSC is so reliant on this example I must ask, is this kind of river use decisions they are advocating to protect? Are the County and the rest of its citizens to be compelled to accept responsibility for these kinds of choices?

I have a number of substantive questions about the river safety issue in general and about the proposed rule in particular.

GENERAL ISSUE QUESTIONS

First, I have yet to see any evidence indicating how much of a safety risk placed wood structures actually pose. Please respond to the following:

- What objective evidence does the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (the Department) have to show that placed wood structures present a problem sufficient to warrant the proposed solution?
- How many people have been killed or injured due to encounters with placed wood in King County rivers?
- Of those, how many were unimpaired and using watercraft and safety equipment appropriate for the conditions?

If the Department is willing to undermine other crucial policies and goals (e.g., salmon recovery, river bank protection) then they must convincingly demonstrate that a problem of sufficient magnitude exists in order to warrant such a drastic solution.

Second, this proposal creates a slippery slope. Rivers are wild environments that are never inherently safe at all times. Won't propagating the myth that wood placement makes otherwise safe places dangerous encourage even more poor choices by river recreationists (the Sol Duc comes to mind again)? By extension would the County then also be responsible for avalanche control to make the back country less dangerous? Would we be responsible for providing lighting and guardrails on all rural roads so

people could drive faster? Why are we now assuming responsibility for the safety of people who voluntarily enter an inherently dangerous environment and make risky choices?

Third, who will pay for all of this? The County is laying off dedicated employees, reducing transit services, and closing animal shelters all in the interest of closing a yawning budget gap. Can we afford to add a whole new layer of process to nearly every flood facility repair project and habitat restoration project in order to provide a false sense of safety to a minority of river users? How many flood repairs and restoration projects will have to be delayed or canceled to accommodate this special class of citizens?

Fourth, how will this ordinance affect salmon recovery? The historical removal of large woody debris from rivers and the elimination of new sources of recruitment are broadly recognized as contributing to the *degradation of habitats relied on by native fish populations*, including salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA. The restoration of listed populations is both a legal requirement and a policy objective that has broad public support. The replacement of lost wood with engineered structures is an accepted and effective form of habitat restoration that demonstrably improves habitat productivity. State and federal grant funding agencies have indicated that the County may not be considered for future restoration funding if this ordinance takes effect. Is the County prepared to abdicate this commitment? If not, is the County prepared to forgo state and federal salmon recovery funding? Does the County intend to raise taxes to make up the difference?

Finally, in terms of the sheer volume of material in our rivers, natural wood outnumbers placed wood by orders of magnitude. Given this indisputable fact, this proposal will have no meaningful effect on river safety. In contrast, it will have a marked effect on the County's ability to conduct flood protection activities and to make strategic choices about where placed wood can best benefit river processes and salmon recovery. Are we going to start managing natural wood accumulations in the same way? How will we provide flood and infrastructure protection if some of our most effective tools are neutered?

SPECIFIC POINTS REGARDING THE RULE

The proposed rule includes provisions for signage and other notification indicating where wood structures have been placed. It is appropriate and sufficient for the Department to provide information about where it has placed wood structures via a website or other means of distribution. Such information should include a map, brief description and photograph of the project. This will allow responsible river users who actually scout conditions to make choices appropriate for their equipment and skill level. In my opinion, measures beyond simple notification will create a false sense of safety and encourage irresponsible users.

The proposed rule should state that the Department SHALL ensure that any loss of ecological benefit resulting from project design changes made for the sake of recreational safety shall be fully compensated. These projects are often intended to mitigate damage elsewhere in the watershed, or to provide an expected level of ecological performance in pursuit of habitat restoration goals. The design changes must be evaluated by a trained aquatic ecologist and the reduction in ecological function must also be quantified in order to ensure that a net benefit is achieved.

The procedures call for periodic "third party" evaluation of placed wood structures. Who would this third party be? A panel of pseudoscientific innertube enthusiasts perhaps? I strongly recommend against this element as allowing unqualified individuals to influence how projects are designed and maintained will unbalance and bog down the regulatory process. However, if it is adopted, the procedures should also include qualified state and tribal biologists and river scientists in the review process to evaluate the

effect of any proposed changes on ecological function and recommend appropriate mitigation.

In closing, The County deserves to be commended for their considerable and proactive efforts in river management over the past 15 years. The County has set a regional example for how salmon recovery efforts can be integrated successfully with other priorities. This proposal represents a huge step *backward that will undermine this successful effort*. I fear that any momentum gained here will embolden the RSC and their allies to expand their efforts, unnecessarily complicating salmon restoration efforts at the state level in order to minimize an imaginary risk. Are we to sacrifice the preservation and restoration of our natural heritage just so a small group of users can feel safer while exercising bad judgment? I strongly urge you to reconsider this ill conceived and poorly considered proposal.

Best regards,

Eric Doyle

Shoreline, Washington

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Schuyler Dunphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2010 2:41 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: ordinance 16581 comments

Dear Ms. Jimenez,

Large woody debris placements are essential parts of river restoration and King county has done an excellent job in recent years by supporting restoration. Unfortunately this ordinance would unduly hinder such restoration efforts. Boating is a generally safe proposition as long as the boaters take basic safety precautions (check what lies behind blind corners before proceeding) and do not use excessive alcohol. Adopting this ordinance would put unnecessary obstacles on restoring fish and wildlife that make king county a desirable place to live. Please do not allow its passage.

Schuyler Dunphy

2/16/2010

LAWRENCE D. FISHER



February 12, 2010

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks
ATTN: Cathy Jimenez
201 South Jackson Street, Room 600
Seattle, Washington 98104-3855

Dear Ms Jimenez:

SUBJECT: Public Review Draft – Procedures for Considering Recreational Safety when Placing Large Wood in King County Rivers

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced document. I personally have a passion for the ecological integrity of our rivers and have been a recreational user of these resources since I was old enough to walk (over 50 years).

The document states the importance of large wood in the ecology of river and stream systems, which was not adequately recognized by humans until the last 30 years. People have severely damaged the habitat in these systems since the settlement of this region by non-Indigenous people; only recently has there been a concerted effort to restore the natural productivity of our rivers. This effort has appropriately focused on replacement of large wood in rivers and streams after it was unwisely removed to the detriment of the public at large.

I have always understood when voyaging into a river environment there are inherent risks involved. Part of this understanding has been to know the limitations of myself and my gear or boat. This seems to be a lost art among many or even most of the river users now. It has also come to my attention the King County Sheriff's Office has documented the main factors related to emergency responses on King County rivers do not include large wood. Rather, lack of common sense, use of intoxicating beverages, and cold water temperature are the most significant factors related to river safety, and large wood is not a significant factor in river safety problems. It can be derived, therefore, if King County wants to be proactive in improving public safety on rivers, it needs to focus more on public education and managing access where needed.

There is already a properly functioning framework to address safety issues related to placing large wood in King County rivers. There has been too much focus on limiting placement of large wood for restoration of properly functioning habitat due to the efforts of some dubious, questionable sources. This is also placing the King County Council at odds with salmon recovery efforts at the local, state, and federal levels of government.

In conclusion, the proposed procedures would be an added, unnecessary level of bureaucracy at further public expense, and the King County Council needs to revoke Ordinance No. 16581.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence D. Fisher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Lawrence D. Fisher
Professional Biologist and Recreational River User

Kaje, Janne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 4:28 PM
To: Kaje, Janne
Cc: Knauss, James; Isaacson, Mark
Subject: Floating hazards in Lake Washington relating to LARGE WOOD.

A response.

SOMEONE, some organization, must be responsible for the minimization of risk to boaters using navigable waters.

Presently, at least at Cedar River with which I am familiar, NO system has been established to prevent ANY large floating objects from entering navigable waters, ie, Lake Washington.

Sincerely,

**FM Andrews
Seattle/ Renton**

1/5/2010

Jimenez, Cathy

From: matthew fontaine [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 5:01 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Comments on: Procedures for considering recreational safety when placing large wood in King County rivers

Greetings,

I wish to comment on the "proposed rule" for regulating where and how engineered woody debris structures will be placed in river systems in King County. As a citizen of the county and a regular voter, I am deeply concerned by this proposal and the bad precedent it will set for the future protection and restoration of our imperiled aquatic resources.

I work in the engineering and science field and have extensive knowledge of the land and water use issues that have degraded our river systems, and an in depth understanding of the types of measures, including placement of large wood, that will be required to restore and enhance degraded habitat functions. I am also a recreational whitewater kayaker and have a healthy respect for the hazards associated with river recreation.

I believe that it is appropriate and sufficient for the Department to provide information about where it has placed wood structures via a website or other means of distribution. Such information should include a map, brief description and photograph of the project. This will allow responsible river users who actually scout conditions to make choices appropriate for their equipment and skill level. In my opinion, measures beyond simple notification will create a false sense of safety and encourage irresponsible users.

I understand that a number of forms of water recreation matured during this historical blip so folks have gotten used to things being the way that they are. However, it is both unfair and quite probably in conflict with the core values of this region to expect that these expectations be protected at the expense of majority interest. Specifically, our once wondrous salmon and steelhead are iconic cultural resources and their restoration is a major policy priority at all levels of government. In truth, if these resources of this region are merely going to survive, much less thrive, in the coming century we are going to have to invest heavily to restore our rivers to some semblance of their historical function. Returning wood to the river is a critical and necessary tool in the habitat restoration toolbox. I also note emphatically that engineered large woody debris structures can provide more durable, ecologically beneficial, and cost effective infrastructure protection than many other currently available alternatives.

The County is laying off dedicated employees, reducing transit services, and closing animal shelters all in the interest of closing a yawning budget gap. Can we afford to add a whole new layer of process to nearly every flood facility repair project and habitat restoration project in order to provide a false sense of safety to a minority of river users? How many flood repairs and restoration projects will have to be delayed or canceled to accommodate this special class of citizens? I believe the proposed rule would reduce the safety of the majority by delaying these critical projects.

Best Regards,

Matt Fontaine,

Seattle Resident

2/22/2010

Jean Garber, [REDACTED] Newcastle WA 98056

I bring two perspectives to the issue before us tonight. First, while a Councilmember in Newcastle, I served for 10 years on the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council and its predecessor forums. From that perspective, I recognize that placement of large wood is essential to salmon recovery.

Second, in a previous life, I canoed the rivers of the East Coast, and more recently have canoed the Snoqualmie River in springtime. As a canoeist, I encountered natural hazards such as boulders, large wood, and other debris regularly and regarded them as part of the canoeing experience.

Given the substantial natural hazards already present in rivers, it is hard for me to believe that adding some well designed large wood projects at appropriate locations would significantly increase the hazard. In fact, large wood is typically intended to restore ecological functions that used to occur naturally when the river had a mature riparian system.

Don't get me wrong. I understand the need for a reasonable balance between what's good for salmon and what's safe for the public. But I fear that the proposed procedures would be so costly and time-consuming that badly needed large wood projects would be unnecessarily delayed or abandoned, or their design watered down to the point where they would no longer fulfill their intended purpose. I encourage a more streamlined, process that includes the following elements, some of which are included in the draft procedures:

1. Educating river users about natural hazards, the potential to encounter large wood projects, and the purpose of such projects. Maps showing the location of large wood projects could be made available. Education could also emphasize the need for personal responsibility on the part of river users, including appropriate skills and equipment, constant vigilance, and common sense.
2. Requiring that the design and installation of large wood projects take into consideration the safety of river users and be approved by a licensed professional civil engineer and a professional ecologist.
3. Using the required environmental review process to obtain public input rather than creating a separate process.
4. Post-construction monitoring and adaptive management to assure the project is effective in improving salmon habitat, as well as safe for river users.

Given the importance of large wood projects to salmon recovery, I hope we can find a way to seek public input and mitigate potential safety impacts without adding layers of costly and time-consuming process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Chris Grieve [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 10:22 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Cc: Kaje, Janne
Subject: Comments on Procedures for considering recreational safety when placing large wood in King County rivers

Hi Cathy,

I was one of the "Large Wood" committee members and I was present for the first three meetings. Scheduling conflicts prevented me from attending the last few meetings, however, I was able to stay involved through email and review of the work that was done during the meetings.

I have a couple comments that I would like to have on record.

1. I believe it is important to address safety considerations during the design of large wood placement projects to prevent unnecessary injuries to river users.
2. I believe safety should be a consideration, but I do not believe that safety should be the primary consideration. The primary consideration should be the actual intended function of the large wood. The secondary consideration should be the impact or benefit to habitat. Safety should be considered during the design.
3. It should be noted that habitat enhancement is not the only reason for incorporating large wood in stabilization projects. It is often the case that incorporating large wood can make the project more permanent and better able to accomplish the intended goal, in addition to providing enhancements to habitat.
4. In the instances where large wood was used, and it did not stay in place. The project is not a total failure because that large wood end up somewhere in the river and will still provide additional habitat. The same can not be said for hard repairs which use rock alone.
5. It is imperative that we educate the masses about the dangers of moving water. This should be done in grade schools, junior high, and high school. It should also be a requirement for all RFEG's that place wood. It should be incorporated into their education program....if they have one.
6. The policy of removing large wood from rivers to make them safe for the public is a outdated practice that history and science has shown to have very damaging results to the rivers and the animals that call them home. The general public needs to get used to the fact that our rivers contain large wood and be prepared to deal with it while on the water. i.e. know where it is and how to maneuver around it, or know when and where to not go in the river. This is the responsibility of the river users and not the government.
7. I believe WDFW should be consulted during the design of large wood placement projects and not just consulted when the design is complete. I would like to think this is already the standard procedure.
8. I believe this is the first time that the safety considerations have been seriously considered in the

2/22/2010

design of large wood projects and the process for incorporating safety into the design documented and a procedure put in place. This may become a template for other counties, so it is very important to get this right.

—
James "Chris" Grieve
President,
Northwest Fly Fishing Adventures, Inc.
www.northwestflyfishingadventures.com



Jimenez, Cathy

From: Anna Hook [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 12:04 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: River Safety and Large Wood Proposed Ruling

I recently heard about King County's proposed rule regarding limiting large wood in rivers for the safety of boaters and river recreationalists. As a fisherman, rafter, and environmental advocate I was appalled by the potential ruling. Large wood is a vital component to the health of river system. A system, that even without wood, is dangerous. The idea of altering an ecosystem in order to provide the misconceived, public notion of safer place is ridiculous.

Rivers are wild places that do not guarantee safety. They do require responsibility on the part of the user. Accidents are bound to happen but these can be avoided with preparedness and experience. If the County wants to get involved in river safety there are a number of other alternatives that would be much more effective and would not undermine the river's health such as enforcing a PFD law, requiring safe watercraft, or funding outreach and education programs. These alternatives are both more sustainable and substantial measures in improving river safety.

Before ruling on river safety, the Council needs to work with local governments, state and private organizations to come to more holistic and effective solution.

Thank you,

Anna Hook | [REDACTED]

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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Jimenez, Cathy

From: Sean Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 9:01 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Proposed County Ordinance 16581 - King County Resident - Comments

Cathy Jimenez
201 South Jackson Street, Room 600
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

I am a resident of King County and ask that you reconsider the DNRPs support of proposed county ordinance 16581 on the following basis:

The addition of large woody debris to river ecosystems is a critical component of any habitat restoration strategy and imposing onerous recreational safety standards could adversely affect restoration efforts by limiting the implementation of these vital habitat structures. Woody debris placement has been an effective means of increasing river habitat complexity which benefits our county by providing quality riverine habitat for threatened salmon and other species. Rivers are dynamic places which are never guaranteed to be safe, however with cautious boating and recreation the risk posed by engineered log jams can be mitigated. Most incidents of boating related fatalities or injuries are the result of poor judgment and the over consumption of alcohol.

The best way to address boater safety issues is by educating river users about the risks posed by boating and how to use the river safely. Over the last decade King County has been a national leader in stream restoration and stewardship and this measure represents a major step backwards. Please do not adopt ordinance 16581 as it would place undue regulations on an important habitat restoration activity in our county.

Sincerely,
Sean Hughes



cc: The Seattle Times

Maxine Keesling

Woodinville, WA 98072

January 13, 2010

King County Department of Natural Resources & Parks (fax 206-296-0192)
Attention: Cathy Jimenez

RE: Large Wood Placement in King County Rivers

Is it coincidence that the county's early-January notice of intent to adopt public rules on large wood placement in county rivers was closely followed by the January 13th Seattle Times editorial/article by Phil Eldenberg-Moppe on the inadequacy of man's "hard-engineering approaches" - such as dredging - for minimizing flooding.

I remember years ago attending a legislative hearing in Olympia where farmer after farmer testified that since the government ceased dredging the Snoqualmie River there had been nothing but exacerbated flooding.

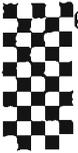
And I remember back when the U.S. Congress approved King County's maintenance take-over of the straightened and riprapped Sammamish River, congressional instructions were to plant nothing on the banks that could fall into the river and to place nothing instream that could block river flow/navigation. Yet since then King County has placed large woody debris upstream of the NE 116th Street bridge and advocates planting trees on the river bank. (Copied below is a picture of what can happen when trees fall into rivers.)

Furthermore, it's been years since "uncontrolled clear-cutting has been allowed in either public or private forests.

Unfortunately the handwriting on the wall is that man's solutions for handling problems associated with accommodating urban development could be gradually replaced by the insertion of log jams in rivers as the ultimate back-to-nature solution. That's despite the fact that previous pre-civilized-man centuries of flooding produced the slides that resulted in today's fertile river valleys between the hills.

Maxine Keesling





Maxine Keesling
[Redacted]
Woodinville, WA 98072
[Redacted]

January 13, 2009

TO: King County Water & Land Resources Division (fax: 206-296-0192)

ATTENTION: Cathy Jimenez

RE: Large Wood Placement in K.C. Rivers

While I do not do computers/e-mail, I have relatives who do and who would like to be placed on the e-mail list of interested members of the public for dissemination of information about large wood projects - they all fish and use the rivers:

- Jared Valenta - - - [Redacted]
- Frank Valenta - - - [Redacted]
- Fred Valenta - - - [Redacted]

Thank you -

Maxine Keesling

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2010 8:46 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy; Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Comments on draft public rule on wood

Dear Ms. Jimenez and King County Council members,

I am contacting you to comment on King County's draft proposal for wood placement. I live in Seattle, frequent King County parks and rivers and am involved professionally in river salmonid restoration projects. I think the proposed rule is cumbersome, expensive and may serve as a disincentive for groups that fund salmon restoration projects to place wood in King County rivers. Placed wood currently undergoes major review and frequently has specific components designed to protect against boat accidents.

Additionally, attempting to make the County wholly responsible for safety around built restoration projects and naturally occurring jams while doing nothing to educate boaters, swimmers, inner tube users, etc., is absurd. There is no PFD law in place and nothing is being asked of the boaters/floaters in terms of personal responsibility. In fact, the data from local sheriff and fire offices show that most river accidents are a result of alcohol or inexperience.

I recommend the King County Council rescind the Order requiring the rule development so as not to adopt an unbalanced rule. If the Council insists on adopting a rule, I suggest adding language to define the ambiguity that exists once a citizen makes a complaint about an already completed project.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment and thank you for your service as Council members.

Denise Krownbell
[REDACTED]
Seattle 98144

JJimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Blake Merwin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2010 9:38 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: ordinance 16581

Hi Cathy,

I am writing you to voice my opposition to proposed county ordinance 16581. The addition of large woody debris to stream ecosystems is a critical component of any habitat restoration strategy and imposing onerous recreational safety standards could adversely affect restoration efforts by limiting the implementation of these vital habitat structures. Woody debris placement has been an effective means of increasing river habitat complexity which benefits our county by providing quality riverine habitat for threatened salmon and other species. Rivers are dynamic places which are never guaranteed to be safe, however with cautious boating and recreation the risk posed by engineered log jams is extremely trivial. Most incidents of boating related fatalities or injuries are related to poor judgment and the over consumption of alcohol.

The best way to address boater safety issues is by educating river users about the risks posed by boating and how to use the river safely. Over the last decade King County has been a national leader in stream restoration and stewardship and this measure represents a major step backwards. Please do not adopt ordinance 16581 as it would place undue regulations on an important habitat restoration activity in our county.

Sincerely,

Blake Merwin

--

Blake and Allison Merwin
www.GigHarborFlyShop.com
www.gigharborflyshop.blogspot.com

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Dan Page [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 10:49 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: County Ordinance 16581

Dear Cathy,

I am opposed to King County Ordinance 16581. I am not a resident of King County, but this Ordinance affects more than King County. Because woody debris is a critical component of anadromous fish habitat its' removal decreases the survival of young fish. Our anadromous fish are in such peril due to many causes. Loss of habitat is one of the main causes. I hope other ways to increase boater safety can be implemented that do not have adverse affects on our environment.

Thank you,
Dan Page

[REDACTED]
Yelm, Wa. 98597

Kaje, Janne

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2010 1:45 PM
To: Kaje, Janne

Subject: Large Wood Placement and Recreational Use

As a fly fisherman and environmental planner, I appreciate the importance of LWD in rivers and streams as a *critical habitat component and a key element in any recovery strategy*. As a river boater and ex-kayaker I also understand the danger such features can be to boaters and kayakers due to the ease with which such users can become entrapped and drowned. Careful scouting can do much to limit this risk but not everybody bothers, especially on rivers that are routinely run. A solution is early warning, perhaps in the form of widespread notice such as suggested by the proposed Procedures. For example, an updated river map showing location and size of installed structures with reference to main channel and fastest current would be helpful in alerting users of the potential danger.

Given that boating accidents are very unpredictable and pinning accidents can occur in many different ways, I am unconvinced that the structural demands of habitat can be met while guarding boater safety solely through design, although there may be things that one can do to reduce the threat. Therefore, I respectfully suggest that less effort be given to design consultation and more focus placed location and safe passage around the obstacle. Some recognition of the considerable danger of floating local rivers in inner tubes, often without life jackets, should also be considered.

Michael Paine
Environmental Planning Manager
Development Services Department
City of Bellevue

[REDACTED]

1/4/2010

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 10:30 PM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Cc: LaBrache, Lisa; Kinno, Erika
Subject: Comments on Proposed Public Rule on Large Wood Safety

To King County Water and Land Resources Division,

Here are some comments about the proposed King County Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD) "Procedures for Considering Recreational Safety when Placing Large Wood in King County Rivers", also called large woody debris (LWD).

I was a "member at large" in the discussions held June through September by the Large Wood Stakeholder Group. These meetings produced a document, part of which is similar to the proposed procedure. The group had a majority of people primarily concerned with fish restoration. Of 12 committee members, 4 were affiliated with river recreation.

I've been involved in the use of LWD for 14 years. A few years ago I found out about the drowning death of a 20 year old against an LWD project created by 2 state agencies in another county.

I've recreated on Washington rivers since 1968, some 46 in all, and I agree with the proposed list of river reaches used by recreationists in King County.

On page 2 of the Procedures, line 14, I suggest adding Comprehensive Plan policy E-407 to the list, because it mentions "public hazards". This is because loose woody debris is a public hazard as it floats in floods. On January 8, 2009 a Cedar Rapids project group of 3 loose logs impacted the steel Williams Avenue bridge in Renton and dented the understructure.

Also on page 2 of the Procedures, line 21, I suggest adding Flood Hazard Management Plan policy G-2 to the list because it mentions "Threat to public safety" and "Damage to public infrastructure", also because of the Williams Avenue bridge damage.

I note line 23 on page 3, which gives a purpose of the procedures to "minimize risks to public safety." This implies not just recreation safety but public safety in general, which would include the Williams Avenue bridge above.

I note the 2 documents listed at the top of page 5. These are the "Guidelines for Bank Stabilization Projects", 1993 by King County Water Resources Division, and the "Integrated Streambank Protection Guidelines", 2003 by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. I understand they are listed because they're cited in the Ordinance 16581.

However, some of us in the recreation community have carefully examined those documents. I believe we are unanimous in deciding they do not address recreational safety adequately, may ignore it, or even recommend designs that are dangerous.

We in the recreation community have complained about a couple of diagrams in the Guidelines, which

now are labeled on the county's website as "no longer used due to safety concerns". These diagrams both place rootwads in the potential path of swimmers or boaters which can entrap them. That's what happened to the 20 year old.

There is other LWD literature that does not ignore safety. We have Technical Supplement 14J in the Stream Restoration Design CD by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture. We also have scientific paper references from the Journal of Hydraulic Engineering, published by the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Corps of Engineers EMRRP Technical Notes Collection. EMRRP is the Corps Ecosystem Management and Restoration Research Program.

On the top of page 6, line 7, I object to the phrase "as appropriate". My view is that any time a wood structure is placed in a river, hydraulic analysis should be done, unless there are strong similarities to other projects on rivers with similar velocities in 100 year flood.

The lack of such analysis has been the reason for at least three failures of WLRD projects. Two were in the 1990's: Hamakami Farm on the Green, and Elliott levee on the Cedar. Both of these used LWD partly embedded in the bank, some of which were torn out of the bank in high water later. The third failure is the 2008 Cedar Rapids project, mentioned above. Eight groups of 3 trees, chained together, were lost downstream. Four of these groups were lost in the relatively mild high water (2000 cfs) of November 2008. The others lost were in the real flood of over 8000 cfs in January 2009.

I strongly agree with the proposed procedure on the top of page 6 (lines 4 though 10). This specifies designs done by professionals, and signed by a Licensed Professional Civil Engineer (PE). River restoration with large wood is a civil engineering enterprise. This is proven by a series of river restoration conferences held by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Regarding pages 5 - 7, I have doubts about the need for a return to the public at 3 different phases of LWD design: 30%, 60-70% and 90%. Without an engineering drawing, I feel there is too much room for misunderstanding. Descriptive language alone cannot have enough detail to assess the safety of a structure. Therefore, I prefer public input when engineering drawings are available.

On page 8, line 10, I strongly favor the notification of cities downstream of any LWD project.

Martha L. Parker, [REDACTED]

References

Bernard, J., J. Fripp and K. Robinson, (2007) "The use of large woody material for habitat and bank protection" in Technical Supplement 14J, National Engineering Handbook NEH-654, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.
In FREE CD at <http://landcare.nrcs.usda.gov>

D'Aoust, S.G. and R.G. Millar (2000), "Stability of Ballasted Woody Debris Habitat Structures", J. of Hydraul. Eng. 126 (11): 810-817.

Fischenich, C. and J.V. Morrow, Jr., (2000) "Streambank enhancement with large woody debris", EMRRP Tech. Notes Collection ERDC TN-EMRRP-SR-13. U.S. Corps of Army Engineers, Engineer

Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS.
<http://el.erd.c.usace.army.mil/elpubs/pdf/sr13.pdf>

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 10, 2010 7:42 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Large Wood

Cathy,

I am for any project that enhances and maintains the natural resources, and habitats of our area wildlife.

Thank you,

Robin Quiroga

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Daniel Ronco [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2010 7:31 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Wood Placement in King County Rivers

Cathy,

I have serious concerns regarding the possibility of imposing a rule restricting the placement of wood in King County rivers due to concerns about safety of recreational boat users. I believe that rivers are a resource to be enjoyed by every responsible citizen, but that every river user has a responsibility to look after their own safety, and not look to the government to implement measures that put at risk other valuable interests. It is my understanding that a very small group of people have requested some changes on wood placement out of concerns for their safety. My questions/comments to you, are:

The amount of wood being placed in rivers is far outnumbered by natural wood. If we restrict the placement of wood for salmon habitat preservation, to achieve the 100% safe goal, does the county also take responsibility to remove the vast quantities of naturally occurring wood debris in rivers, and if so, at what operational and litigation costs, given the impact that would have on salmon habitat and the stakeholders who depend on salmon?

Rivers, like many other natural resources and habitat, can never be 100% risk free to users. By suggesting that County wood placement makes a safe river a dangerous one, we will encourage even more poor choices by river recreationists. Why are we undertaking such an enormous financial and administrative commitment when PFDs are not even required? If safety is truly a driving concern for this, how can a zero cost, high return measure such as mandatory PFDs not yet have been implemented?

How will the county address the concerns of those adversely affected by the restriction or elimination of wood placement? For every recreational user with safety concerns there are 10 stakeholders who depend on a healthy river environment for their livelihood, or well-being. Is the county prepared to deal with angry salmon fishers, and area residents who believe their homes are at risk because of the damage this will do to the county's flood control capabilities?

Last, an incredibly relevant question --- who is paying for this? The country is struggling to maintain some basic services right now, so how will something like this get funding approval? Is it fair to ask taxpayers to undertake this burden, or is it more equitable to ask those that choose rivers as their recreation source, do so while undertaking some basic safety precautions, thus greatly reducing their risk, at little or no expense to themselves or the county?

Sincerely,

Dan Ronco
Concerned King County resident

Hotmail: Free, trusted and rich email service. [Get it now.](#)

1/6/2010

Jimenez, Cathy

From: Vradenburg, John [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2010 11:05 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: River Wood

Good morning,

I'm an avid fisherman and spend a lot of time on the Snoqualmie River. I'm elated over the work done on the river, in Carnation, to restore habitat for the fish and wildlife-fantastic! Restoration can be done with safety in mind. Logjams and woody debris are essential for a healthy river. River recreationalists can co-exist safely with the debris when they use good sense and safety.

Thank you,

John Vradenburg

1/15/2010

Jimenez, Cathy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2010 9:48 AM
To: Jimenez, Cathy
Subject: Comments on Procedures for considering recreational safety when placing large wood In King County rivers

Hi Cathy,

I'm taking the time to comment on the proposed procedures for considering recreational safety when placing large wood in King County rivers. I don't think there's enough evidence to support these procedures and believe there are different more cost effective procedures that could reduce recreational accidents. What evidence is there that placed wood has killed or injured people in King County Rivers? Second, who is paying for the proposed actions? In an era when the county is laying off employees and reducing or eliminating public services, why are we adding an additional process to almost all flood facility repair and habitat restoration project? Since natural wood substantially outnumbers placed wood, recreational safety will not be improved, but the county's ability to conduct flood protection activities and provide habitat restoration will be jeopardized. According to the Stakeholder Committee report, the most important step the County can take to improve recreational safety is to invest in education and public outreach. The County should require life jackets used by all persons recreating on flowing waters since accident data shows that virtually all river rescues were for users without PFDs. One action the County should take is to provide information about where it has placed wood structures via a website or other public outreach. This information could include a map, brief description and photograph of the project which would allow responsible river users to prepare for their recreational activities.

Thank you for your time.

Clair Yoder