

Hi Kelly,

Just wanted to give you some perspective on the involvement of the Spokane Riverkeeper with regards to agricultural, non-point source pollution. Additionally, we want to voice our support for Ecology as they conduct watershed assessments, construct compliance plans for agricultural related, non-point source pollution, and enforce laws designed protect our water.

We have been present at the Agricultural and Water Quality Advisory Committee meetings with Director Bellon, we have been present for Ecology's presentations in Fairfield WA, we have presented our priorities to the Water Resources team in the Eastern region, and we have met with the Eastern Region Ecology, non-point team to learn more about the issues. Additionally, we are in discussions with legal experts and other waterkeepers across the country who are dealing with parallel situations. In short, we have dedicated a great deal of time and resources to the issue and deeply engaged in the in this process.

The Spokane Riverkeeper staff has designated **both Hangman Creek (Latah) and the Little Spokane River** as priority areas in addressing pollution from erosional runoff due to poor tillage practices, livestock practices that endanger the health and well-being of these streams and their tributaries, and the loss of riparian habitat and its contribution to degraded biological function and water quality.

The Spokane Riverkeeper is determined to contribute to the change towards agricultural practices that protect our watershed, restore habitats for redband trout and return other ecological and cultural values to the public. We intend to do this through a vigorous public education campaign that rests upon water quality testing program that has already started. As a function of this campaign we will be talking to grass tops like county commissioners about the need for clean water and reform around agricultural practices. We will also be filing complaints supported by the "substantial potential to pollute" language in Washington law in an effort to protect the public's water. We recognize the importance of the TMDL in guiding the effort to clean up and restore Hangman Creek. The TMDL is a very useful tool that clearly states the goals of restoring salmonid habitats in the basin.

I want you to understand that much of the public that we represent stands with Ecology in their efforts to develop a non-point plan, establish the terms of compliance to this plan and we stand by the regulatory efforts of your ground teams to consistently hold parties accountable in protecting Washington's public water resources. We believe that Ecology is on the right track and a publicly supported track as they develop blue prints for sustainable agricultural practices that retain the public values that clean water and healthy rivers bring to communities who live with those rivers.

Recently we posted these photos on Facebook that described Hangman Creek as it blew out and rose 10 fold in its flow in 24 hours (from less than 100 cfs to over 1000 cfs). Take the time to read the comments carefully. This is a public that cares about their rivers, they care about their ecosystems and this voice will only grow. <https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneRiverkeeper/posts/804741812895421>

Additionally, I have attached photos of a small denuded tributary of Deadman Creek in North Spokane County. This is on Peone Prairie. I have included these so that you have a visual on just how severe and egregious some of these pollution sources are.

We will be engaging in this issue closely and applaud Ecology's efforts in protecting and restoring the public's right to clean waters and healthy rivers through enforcement of non-point source pollution.

Thank you for your time, thank you for you efforts, and I look forward to talking more about these issues with you. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Best,

Jerry White, Jr

