

In regards to: Ref # 607856 - NW Cascade Inc. Septage experiment in Fairfax
To David Bosch,

We respectfully request a meeting before this permit is approved, for the following reasons. We are residents, landowners, concerned taxpayers and are very concerned about the DNS. There should be an EIS, SEPA review, notification of all neighbors, and public meetings before an "EXPERIMENT" of this magnitude in our neighborhood.

- ① This is NOT remote forestlands — it's our backyard!! We ride horses, bikes, quads, pick berries & mushrooms, hunt and hike on this property. There is always someone up there, it is heavily used, and a few signs won't prevent that.
- ② Gale creek, west fork, and it's head waters is in this area. This is perhaps one of the most important streams for salmon in our state. It's one of the few streams that have not been stocked with non-native fish. It's also an "index stream" for F&W, they check it for an index to predict runs in the Puyallup Basin. Fish run way up Gale Creek, and salmon spawning grounds must be protected. That should trigger reviews.
- ③ This area is part of the last North/south wildlife migration zone from Mt. Rainier to the Puget Sound. All other ~~zones~~ ^{have} ~~or~~ are being built on and closed off to migration. The last other one off the Tubbs Rd. is being developed right now, that leaves only the Evan's Creek on the west side to this area on the east for migration. All other areas are too steep or developed. Our elk, deer, bear, cougar, bobcat, lynx are precious to us, and this waste/septage is NOT appropriate. This is also their feeding/birthing grounds.....

②

- 4) Pierce County has spent a lot of time and money securing lands for Parks + Recreation up here. We are trying to keep the rustic nature to encourage tourism - one of the state's most vital industries. At this moment, Skip Ferrucci is developing a stewardship plan for this Upper Carbon Valley. Conservation Futures money has been used to buy nearly 2,000 acres, some bordering this potential "spray" area. The National Park Service is buying hundreds of acres at the south end of the valley for future Park Expansion plans. Why would you allow septage spray? (The Park may border this spray area soon)

- 5) My group - Friends of the Carbon Canyon - a 400+ member watchdog group - has been working on this project for 11 years; Wildlife restoration after the heavy logging, public lands acquisition and park (national park) expansion. And now we are looking at a six-mile long, 24,000 gallons a day, septage spraying "Experiment" in our precious valley?

Mt. Rainier Nat. Park is an inland, temperate rainforest, one of the few in the world. We have rainforest amounts of rain. We have over a dozen Federally and State Endangered and Protected animal species here and several plant species.

Doesn't that trigger an EIS or SEPA review? Our wildlife was wiped out after the heavy herbicide/pesticide spraying in the late 1990's, and from the trapping. Only in the last few years have we seen return of frogs, birds, bees, coyotes, cougar, bear, elk, deer, rabbits, etc. Now you want to spray 1,300 to 3,000 acres with potentially toxic septage?

Our group has worked with the county agencies, the

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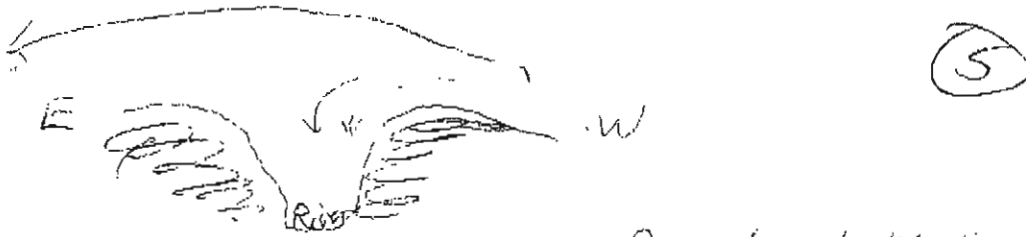
National Park Service, the Fish + Wildlife, Forest Service, logging companies, State Patrol, and over a dozen major environmental groups. Through these we have worked to prevent dangerous logging/spraying practices, eliminate the meth labs, poaching, speeding, target practicing near our houses, (50 people live up here) and garbage dumping. We've also fought to get logging lands being sold, to get them into public hands so our children + their children can enjoy our beautiful valley and its wildlife. This septage spray is not conducive to what we've worked for 11 years to attain.

④ From the maps it looks as though the spraying would be within 600 feet ^{or above} from the Carbon River, 1/4 mile from the Carbonado water supply and within 1/2 mile from residents in Fairfax. Does this make sense? We get 3 times as much rain as Puyallup - we get 100" to 120" annually. All the heavy metals and household toxins, medications, household cleaners, ^{commercial wastes}, etc. will wash into the ground water and into our streams rapidly. Especially around Gale Creek and above the Carbon - this should trigger EIS + SEPA reviews.

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I know I'm rambling, but we are passionate about this area and have really worked hard on it for many years. We really resent outsiders (flat-landers) coming up here and dumping their s... on our backyard, which brings up another major point of contention:

- ⑦ Vandalism is a real problem up here. Every kid up here has a gun and a car. What will prevent a spill if the tanks have bullet holes like every road sign does in our valley? The Lahar Early Warning monitors were vandalised and copper wire is stolen from everything, the phones get ripped out of the Ranger station. Who would pay for clean-up from vandalism, tanker accidents, etc? The school district, the NW Cascade, the county?
- ⑧ Other concerns are the "wind drift" reports from studys done in the 1960's. It determined our valley actually has stagnant air. This can be seen when fog sits near the river, it may move slightly up river or down, but doesn't move much. That's because most wind patterns move west to East and actually pass over



our North/south valley, and actually "billows" the air down toward the river. Therefore — we are very concerned about the smell factor also.

This spray area borders our future Foethills hiking trail for most of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. That should make some pleasant hiking & biking.

And the whole area bordering S.R. 765 — is on the ridge above it at about an 80% grade. I could throw a golf ball from the top to the road. This could not have spray going toward the road.

9) Also — weight limits on the O'Farrell Bridge would dictate using the Wilkeson entrance. This passes past the Wilkeson Historic School. We already have dump trucks, logging trucks and Sandstone Quarry trucks. How many tanker trucks and traffic would be added?

As you can see — we don't want this here, we will fight it any way we can. We will be approaching the school district, but until then we will be asking for an extension for approval of the permit to allow local citizens to have their concerns heard and questions answered. With a public meeting.

⑥

Concerns

- Effects on wildlife - especially Federal/State Endangered and protected species, including salmon, bull trout, ferruginous Falcon, Bald Eagle, Van Dyke salamander, Pacific Yew trees, Calypso Forest Orchid, Lynx, and many more.
- Fish - Coho, steelhead, cutthroat and Chinook
- Seepage of contaminants into ground water - including heavy metals, caustic ^{or industrial} household cleansers, toxic medicines, etc.
- Wildlife migration zone being disturbed with a 6-mile long spray area. Feeding/birthing area is in this flat area.
- Heavy use by locals could not be stopped with intermittent signage - only roping off the whole area.
- Vandalism, tanker spillage, truck traffic
- Smell to local residents and Foothills trail traffic. We know there will be a smell.
- Coal mine shafts
- Signage notification was sneaky - as if they knew this would not be welcome. Why? Signs were behind locked gate and paper notification was not where any of us would see it.

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Questions

- Why were signs placed behind a locked gate?
- How long will this "experiment" go on for?
- Why DNS and no EIS + SEPA?
- How do you know what effects it will have on groundwater and wildlife? Who will monitor, who would be responsible for long-term damage-taxpayers?
- What has Fish + Wildlife, the Puyallup Tribes, County Parks + Rec, neighbors said about this?
- How long before this land is safe to access after spraying is done?
- What is White River School District making from this?
- Why is this not composted down or run into city sewer systems?
- How will you keep people off of 6 miles of our backyard?
- How will you prevent vandalism?
- How many trucks a day going through town?
- And many more questions.

(8)

Thank you for your time to read and consider this letter. I'm sorry it's so long, but that underscores our concerns. As residents and taxpayers-we have a right to a say in our neighborhood.

Respectfully - Mardel Chouen

spokeperson for Friends of the Carbon Canyon

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