

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/15/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Bob

Last name: Mecklenburg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This letter was manually added to the Reading Room by the Forest Service.

Professor Robert C. Wissmar on Gold Creek Pond: "filling the pond will achieve nothing".

[Forest Service note: Commenter provided an image of a document cover reading "Strategies for Restoring River Ecosystems: Sources of Variability and Uncertainty in Natural and Managed Systems, Robert C. Wissmar and Peter A. Bisson, editors." Due to formatting constraints, the image could not be converted to text.]

Robert Wissmar, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of aquatic ecology in the School of Fisheries and Center for Streamside Studies at the University of Washington. He has international standing for his studies on fish habitat, including definitive research on selection of spawning sites by bull trout in Gold Creek. Here's a link to 57 of his publications.

https://www.researchgate.net/scientific-contributions/11062985_Robert_C_Wissmar

Following our recent posting of the 1936 image of a dewatered Gold Creek, I heard from Professor Wissmar regarding Gold Creek and Gold Creek Pond:

From: Robert Wissmar

Subject: Dewatering of Gold Creek in 1936

Date: June 8, 2020 at 11:19 AM PDT

To: Robert Mecklenburg

Robert: Past studies suggest that ponds & subsurface water flows provide important water storage for the entire Gold Creek hydrological system. The current hydrology benefits Bull Trout! [hellip]

On Wed, Jun 10, 2020 at 3:32 PM Robert Mecklenburg wrote:

Dear Professor Wissmar,

[hellip] As you may know, consultants have suggested partially or completely filling Gold Creek Pond and Heli's Pond (a much smaller pond north of Gold Creek Pond) to correct seasonal dewatering of approximately one mile of Gold Creek. The intent is to remove the passage barrier for bull trout. Since there is historical and photographic evidence that dewatering occurred long before these ponds existed, I do not understand the rationale this proposed action...

On June 10, 2020 at 4:00:34 PM Robert Wissmar replied:

Filling the pond will achieve nothing. Fluvial and geomorphic process over thousands of years have created massive fluvial - geomoporphic deposits in the Gold Creek channels and valley. Subsurface flows within these deposits will always occur. Subsurface flows are common in streams & valleys of the Cascades. Good Luck

[Forest Service note: Commenter provided an image of a photo referenced above. Due to formatting constraints, the referenced image could not be converted to text. Text overlaying the image reads "Contributing institution: Roslyn Public Library Resource identifier: panier0913 Title: Gold Creek Washington, August 13, 1936 Creator: Panieri, Pio, 1903-1991 Remarks on enclosure read: 'Gold Creek WA 8-13-36.'" Image is available for review in the original document.]

06.14.2020