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Title:

Comments: I have owned and operated an irrigated farm in the Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District for over 50 years. I therefore have experience with water and how it moves through differing soil types. The Gold Creek restoration efforts being planned by NSD and KCT are in good intent to keep the creek from dewatering from Aug.through Oct. However, making more channels to divide the water is not a good idea. The area west of Ski Tur Valley, the dewatering area will not store water any better with the planned channels. I believe the area is loaded with runoff from the north and west during the wet season. The dividing of the water into these planned multiple channels will not leave sufficient water for any one channel to keep running during the dry spell. Being the owner of a cabin, for the past 19 years, adjoining Gold Creek, I have noticed that when the snow pack is gone, there is no water even 5'or more below the creek bed surface. It is DRY! It is just like when I order the water off on the farm, there is no more water. We all know the snow pack has been declining for the past 60 years. My question is, why do all of this excavating of channels, driving pilings, flying in logs etc. to make a creek not dewater when it is going to go dry anyway because of the declining snow pack. Please think about that. The next issue of great concern is the changing or filling of Heli's Pond. It is the flood protection for the cabins in Ski Tur Valley. In its present state, during high flows from the east the water over flows to Gold Creek. The rest of the time it leaks as all pond do, which subs water slowly into Gold Creek during the dry spells. It helps with dewatering. Filling or changing Gold Pond is my next issue. I realize that filling the west deep side of the pond, could keep Gold Creek just to west of the pond and a few hundred feet to the north from dewatering. However, the fish have to wait to go up stream to spawn until the entire creek rewaters. That short distance of dewatering by the filling of Gold Pond is not going to be a positive out come for the bull trout. The massive amount of excavation and destruction of what Mother Nature has accomplished, and the extreme funds that are being planned to do this is not even close to being sensible. A more sensible way to help bull trout and other fish is to introduce other viable young fish that can mix with the current fish and be like hybrids in agriculture. These new hybrids will probably flourish and be able to learn to survive in the present environment. Please consider my comments and thoughts.