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First name: Zhiqiang

Last name: Li

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I don't agree with the proposal. I wish to raise several concerns regarding the Gold Creek Valley Restoration Project:

1. Lack of Baseline and Target Data for Bull Trout Populations: The project proposal does not mention the current population size of bull trout in Gold Creek, nor does it provide any projected increase in the population following the implementation of the restoration activities. This raises concerns about the starting point of the project, as it is unclear whether there is a sufficient number of bull trout present in Gold Creek to justify the restoration efforts. Additionally, the expected outcomes or success metrics of the project are not supported by any data, making it difficult to assess the potential effectiveness of the proposed actions.
2. Cost-Benefit Analysis of Restoring a Developed Area: Gold Creek Pond is a developed recreational site, and any efforts to restore this area must undergo a transparent and fair cost-benefit analysis. The allocation of public funds should be carefully evaluated to ensure that they are being used effectively and that the benefits of restoration outweigh the costs, especially in areas that already serve as established recreational amenities.
3. Water Usage in the Yakima Basin: Gold Creek is located in the upper Yakima Basin, where unrestricted agricultural water withdrawals in the lower basin have significantly contributed to the depletion of water resources in Gold Creek and Keechelus Lake. However, the project does not address the possibility of regulating downstream agricultural water use to help raise water levels in Keechelus Lake. I have not seen any research or discussion on this critical aspect of water management in the proposal.
4. Impact on Accessibility: Gold Creek Pond is one of the few accessible recreational sites in the greater Seattle area that is friendly to individuals with disabilities and families with strollers. The removal of Gold Creek Pond as part of the restoration project would impose a significant cost on the community, particularly for those who rely on this site for accessible outdoor experiences.