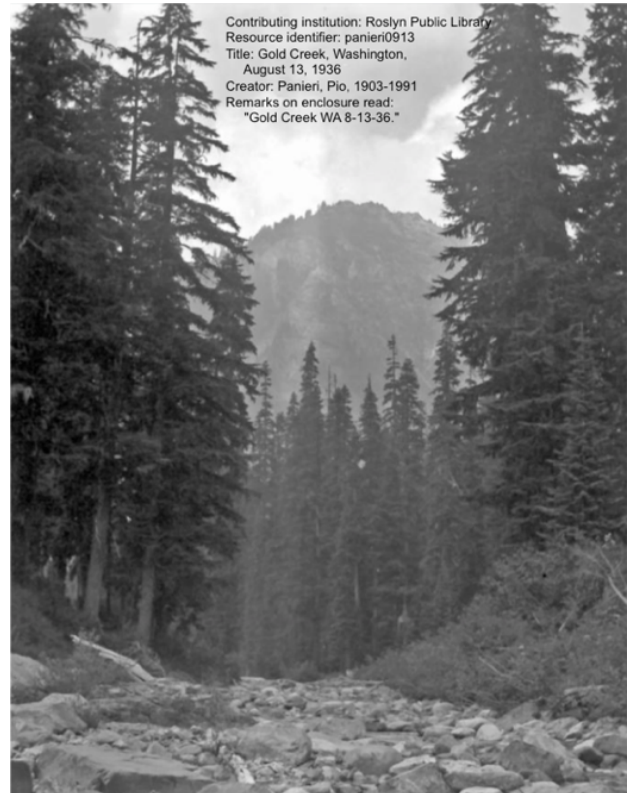June 5, 2020
Dear Gold Creek Pond stakeholders,

This image of Gold Creek was taken on August 13, 1936 by Roslyn resident, Pio Panieri. The photo shows a dewatered Gold Creek following a winter snowfall of 494", above the 1930s annual average of 428".

Current proposals for restoring Gold Creek Valley are based on the assumption that manmade changes – logging, gravel mining that created ponds, drain lines -- are the primary contributors to the dewatering of Gold Creek. We can't turn back time but we can see what Gold Creek looked like 80 years ago, before the majority of those changes occurred. Kittitas Conservation Trust asserts that dewatering of Gold Creek was caused by Gold Creek Pond, created in 1983; Heli's Pond, created in 1994; and the Starwater drain line, created in 1981. They recommend filling the ponds and capping the drain line to re-water the creek to benefit approximately 50 resident bull trout.

Contributing institution: Roslyn Public Library
Resource identifier: panieri0913
Title: Gold Creek, Washington, August 13, 1936
Creator: Panieri, Pio, 1903-1991
Remarks on enclosure read: "Gold Creek WA 8-13-36."

What does this photo tell us?
- Gold Creek was dewatering 80 years ago, even following high snowfall.
- Since April snowpack has dropped at least 60% since 1936, it is likely that seasonal dewatering has become progressive and likely irreversible.
- In 1936, dewatering occurred despite a narrow watercourse anchored by large trees.
- Dewatering occurred decades before the creation of Gold Creek Pond, Heli's Pond and the Starwater drain line.
- This image aligns with Jim Bennett's published history, official construction records, and multiple first-hand accounts of cabin owners living at the creek, which all confirm consistent seasonal dewatering of a mile of Gold Creek that occurred at least 10 years prior to the creation of the pond, 13 years prior to Starwater drain lines, and 26 years prior to creation of Heli's Pond.
- Project proponents admit that the proposed "restoration" efforts will not re-water the creek.

I am hopeful that you will find this information useful in evaluating whether there is any material benefit in "restoring" Gold Creek Valley.

Bob Mecklenburg
Friends of Gold Creek Pond