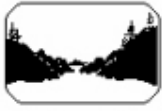


Letter to the Editor, June 26, 2007



The Enterprise

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Husum plan could bring water disaster

The water shortage in White Salmon is indeed a big deal. Can you even imagine what life would be like if we ran out! And what if we ran out more than once, or perpetually had to drill new expensive wells for millions of dollars?

Well, we may be closer to such a situation than you think. The Klickitat County Planning Commission has approved a plan to allow hundreds of new homes in the Husum and BZ Corner area.

How would you like to see hundreds of new houses lining the road from White Salmon to Husum, and again from BZ Corner north toward Trout Lake a few miles? Most new houses would have their own well and sewer, and sewers are not perfect, and would inevitably pollute the river. Not only that, but all the new wells could lower the water table substantially and potentially threaten White Salmon's own wells, which are already failing. I'm not a certified hydrologist, but it seems common sense to know that drilling hundreds of new wells up and down the valley and practically right on top of the White Salmon well-field can only be bad news for White Salmon residents.

Not only this, but the county's Planning Commission has also deemed the hundreds of new houses to be so insignificant that they did not even require an environmental impact statement to evaluate the effects on ground water. As fire season approaches, I wonder what would happen if the city ran out of water this summer and we had a bad fire on a windy day. I wonder if my own well will continue to produce enough water. I hear of individual wells that have already failed in the area and now the gigantic White Salmon wells are failing too, and I just have to shake my head and wonder about the plan to build all those hundreds of new houses and wells in the White Salmon well-field aquifer.

We have asked the Klickitat County Planning Commission to provide us an informational meeting about the plan in the Pioneer Center, to let everyone know what they have proposed, but they have said they can't.

I wonder, just who are they serving – the general public or some special interests? Perhaps it's time for us, the concerned citizens of this end of the county, to hold our informational meeting!

Michael Kohnle
Husum