

## **242 Bob Barnes – Attachment**

Subject **Comments to Capitol Lake EIS proposal**  
From holly BARNES [REDACTED]  
To <comment@CapitolLakeWatershedEIS.org>  
Date 2018-11-13 18:46  
Priority Normal



- Deschutes Valley historical (675x504).jpg (~125 KB)
- IMG\_7230 (1280x1018) (2).jpg (~830 KB)
- P40-96.jpg (~951 KB)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Restored Estuary Alternative.

#### Capitol Lake - Deschutes Watershed EIS Process

The Deschutes Watershed must be viewed as a connected habitat that supports fisheries, wildlife, and water quantity and quality from mountains and tributaries to the river's mouth. I support a Restored Estuary which is the most respectful of the Earth, and foundational to natural processes.

In 2015, the Department of Ecology published a TMDL Report (December 2015 Publication No. 15-10-012) that indicated that portions of the Deschutes River, Percival Creek, and Budd Inlet Tributaries do not meet water quality standards for one or more of the following parameters: Fecal coliform bacteria, temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH or fine sediment.

Native Americans lived here for thousands of years (Steh-Chass People, Squaxin, Nisqually, Puyallup and Muckleshoot Tribes) without wreaking havoc with this watershed. They signed a Treaty with the United States giving up possession of the South Sound in exchange for perpetual rights to share the fish, shellfish, and game in the usual and accustomed places. Impacts caused by urbanization, logging and agriculture have degraded riparian buffers and wetlands so important to maintaining water quality and quantity. Repairing damage inflicted by heavy human use and abuse of wetland systems requires removing the cause of degradation at the watershed level to permit natural recovery and implementing management practices to improve hydrologic functioning and facilitate reestablishment of native vegetation.

Much of the historic habitat in the Deschutes Watershed has been altered. An inadequate application of existing regulations has the potential to threaten Deschutes fish resources as well as other Tribal Treaty Rights. Capitol Lake (formerly part of Budd's Inlet (see 1873 Map), the middle Deschutes and Upper Deschutes are all connected. They affect one another. They should all be addressed during this process.

At the least, the EIS should consider the following:

- 1- Acquire sensitive and significant properties in the upper watershed by establishing a community forest that expands riparian buffers to a 250' minimum standard, decommission logging roads, use bioengineering to stabilize erosion prone areas, and use compost, native plants and mulch to accelerate developing and maintaining a stable forest plant community.
- 2- Acquire properties that protect cold water inputs (springs and upland forests).
- 3- Add wood (large woody debris) to the entire watershed including tributaries. This wood was removed as part of the harvesting practices prior to the 1970's. Wood helps with gravel sorting (essential for spawning), creating hiding places for young fish, and acts as a shock absorber during high water events. No stream protection buffers were required prior to the

1970's, and streams were generally harvested or farmed to the water's edge (this is about the time the EPA and Department of Ecology were established). The buffer widths in the mid 1990's increased to about 75 feet, and since 2001 the width of buffers on fish streams increased to 100 feet.

4- R-establish a healthy and competitive riparian buffer to the new standard (250' plus channel migration zone). This buffer should consider using methodologies that promote and accelerate the evolutionary process of reforestation. This should consider the use of compost and mulch blankets (3" thickness of each) to improve establishment and increase survival rate. Utilize primarily native plants that are appropriate and adaptable to the riparian zone.

5- Rewild the floodplain – don't build or intrude into the 100 year floodplain and remove or mitigate any development that remains. Re-establish historic channels, wetlands and side channels as closely as possible. Remove the fill caused by the Olympia Brewery Bottling Plant and Golf Course within the historic wetlands or channel migration zone (attached).

6- Establish a watershed center for education and outreach that has detailed information and activities to explain, interpret and improve the watershed.

7- Construct a new fish hatchery facility in an environmentally appropriate area (not in the 100 year floodplain). This will improve and enhance the existing Hatchery Facility at Tumwater Falls.

8- Restore the estuary (remove 5th Ave Dam and reconfigure 5th Ave Bridge and Deschutes Parkway connection).

9- Mitigate impacts to freshwater wetlands around Capitol Lake by replacing in Middle Watershed Area.

10- Provide stormwater treatment for all runoff to State, Thurston County or City Roads. Utilize best management practices and rain garden – low impact development concepts to filter and absorb stormwater runoff.

11- Remove all barriers (adjust or remove culverts, dams, or replace with bridges, etc) to fish migration and provide enhancement.

All of these steps will help with water quality and quantity in the watershed, improve fisheries, habitat and serve all of our communities. I hope we can all work together to get off the planning treadmill and on to action to improve the watershed. Our children and grandchildren are planning on it. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bob Barnes



Here, an unknown photographer stood on the roof of the modern Olympia brewery and took a picture of the valley to the southeast. In 1953, the brewery was preparing to expand into this area—the first steps were clearing the site and filling in the marsh to provide solid footing for the large buildings to come.

Deschutes Valley historical (675x504).jpg

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In 1965, the Olympia Brewing Company developed part of its land along the Deschutes River into a public golf course. Building teahouses and greenhouses took some time. Trees and fields were cleared from the site, the river channel was reinforced with volcanic rock, and straight steel was hauled in to raise the concrete floor above its original level. The Tualatin Valley Club Course was purchased by the City of Tualatin in 1986. Estates of Olympia Brewing Boarded



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In 1968, the Olympia Brewing Company developed part of its land along the Deschutes River into a public golf course. Building fairways and greens in a floodplain took some doing. Trees and brush were cleared from the site, the river channel was embanked with volcanic rock, and enough sand was hauled in to raise the entire site 5 feet above its original level. The Tumwater Valley Golf Course was purchased by the City of Tumwater in 1996. (Courtesy of Olympia Tumwater Foundation.)

