

To: Kittitas County Board of County Commissioners
Re: Compliance Hearing

May 6, 2008

First – please let the records show Kittitas county officials never notified me about this hearing – a hearing that could significantly impact my rights as a Kittitas County property owner and tax payer.

I have owned and paid taxes on 0.54 acre of land at Hyak/Gold Creek since 1981. Kittitas County regulations require a minimum of 1 acre for a septic system so I have patiently waited for Snoqualmie Pass Utility District (SPUD) to provide the property with utilities, which have been on SPUD planning and project schedules for at least 10 years.

Kittitas County is considering a “down zone” of my property. This proposed down zone would prohibit me from ever building on the property. I wonder why the county wants to take away my property rights.

I am not a tree hugger, but I am a member of the Arbor Day Foundation. I recognize the need for trees and natural habitat, and am personally responsible for planting over 100 trees over the past few years. When planting trees I’m reminded that government is too willing to tell private landowners they can’t cut down trees, yet there are vast amounts of public lands that could benefit from better stewardship. The area around my Hyak property is a classic example. There is about a 5 acre USFS property that adjoins my property. If it had been planted with trees 27 years ago, it would be a very nice treed area today. Instead, it remains a barren remnant of the gravel pit used in the original I-90 construction

Regarding animal habitat, I question statements that the Hyak/Gold Creek area is a wildlife “corridor”. In 27 yrs of going to Hyak at least 6 times a year – 160 visits – I have NEVER seen deer, elk, bear, coyote, fox, or other wildlife animals on or near my property. The lack of wildlife must have something to do with the noise and visual pollution of I-90. Since traffic and noise of I-90 already keep wildlife away, property development along the I-90 “human corridor” will not materially change the impact already caused by I-90 itself.

So I am left wondering why government wants to take away my property rights.

Down zoning is a way government, perhaps prodded by tricky special interest groups, can hijack an individual’s property rights. Down zoning of property within the SPUD is short-sighted and ignores the reality of the need to allow for future population growth and expansion. I strongly urge Kittitas county officials to NOT down zone properties within the SPUD.

Respectfully submitted,


Dale Kerslake

Exhibit 2
Dale Kerslake
5/6/08