

POL-1025 WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM POLICY

Resource Contact: Policy and Technical Support Effective Date: 10/7/94Section

Revised: NEW

References: Chapters 90.03 and 90.22 RCW

POLICY FOR CONVEYING STOCKWATER AWAY FROM STREAMS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

Purpose: To provide a simple, consistent response to water right related issues when conveying stockwater away from streams to protect water quality and stream habitat.

Application: This policy applies to all water resource staff when responding to inquiries or inspecting diversions intended to remove livestock from streams for the purpose of protecting water quality and stream habitat. This policy does not apply to stockwatering relating to feedlots and other activities which are not related to normal stock grazing land uses.

1. ECOLOGY SHALL ENCOURAGE CONVEYANCE OF STOCKWATER AWAY FROM STREAMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING WATER QUALITY.The Department of Ecology recognizes that removing livestock from streams will protect water quality and improve vegetative zones associated with stream banks. Small amounts of water may be diverted (screened and piped) to nearby stockwater tanks for consumption by livestock. If a float or demand type valve is not used, the tank overflow must return to the same source, at or near the point of diversion. The stock tank must serve stock which normally range that parcel of property. The quantity consumed from the stock tank should not exceed the quantity consumed if the stock drank directly from the stream.
2. 2. SYSTEMS DESIGNED TO CONVEY STOCKWATER TO A STOCK TANK MUST HAVE A MINIMUM IMPACT TO THE BYPASSED REACH OF THE STREAM.Stockwater tanks shall be located close to the surface water source, and have as short a bypass reach as possible, while affording protection to the water body, stream bank, and associated vegetative zone.

The decision to divert stockwater from the stream and into a tank does not constitute an adjudication of any claim to the right to the use of the water as between the claimant and the state, or as between one or more water use claimants and another or others.