Thanks for talking with me today. Based on what I saw in DOH sentry, the water right application submitted by Triangle Recreation Camp, and what you’ve told me about their system, using a well under the groundwater permit exemption would probably meet their needs.

When the Stillaguamish Instream Flow Rule (WAC 173-505) was established, a reservation for permit-exempt domestic uses was also established. Anyone in the Stillaguamish basin who seeks to use water for domestic use may use water under this reservation, as long as the 5000 gallon a day limit isn’t exceeded.

If the members of the triangle recreation camp keep their water use within the limits of the domestic groundwater permit exemption, they wouldn’t have to get a permit from Ecology. This may save time and money, because a) the applicants wouldn’t have to wait for a decision from Ecology, b) the applicants wouldn’t have to create a mitigation plan and/or demonstrate that their water withdrawals would have no impact on the river.

However, I encourage anyone using water under the groundwater permit exemption to meter their water use. At this time, I don’t see a reason to require Triangle Recreation Camp to report their water use to Ecology, but I encourage Triangle Recreation camp to record their water use volumes monthly. That way, Triangle Recreation Camp can demonstrate that they’ve established a water use, but they’re not exceeding the 5000 gallon per day limit.

Here’s a summary of the groundwater permit exemption. Start here, work with the Camp’s leaders to decide if water use under the exemption will meet their needs, and after, have them fill out that form we sent (The Statement of Intent), and return it to Ecology.

Oh, one last thing. Rainwater Collection! Currently, Ecology does not require a water right for rainwater harvesting. So, if someone has a structure for a primary purpose other than capturing water (like a home, a barn, or a storage shed), they can use that building to collect rainwater.

Make sense? Call or email me with questions if anything comes up while Triangle Recreation camp is filling out that form. Or just if you have other questions.

Have a great weekend!

**Kellie Gillingham, GT**

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