

G2-29053

*Jill*



**NORTHWESTTREK**

A Wildlife Park

Conservation • Education • Recreation

RECEIVED

JUN 17 2008

Washington State  
Department of Ecology

11610 Trek Drive East  
Eatonville, WA 98328-9502  
Tel 360.832.6117  
Fax 360.832.6118  
www.nwtrek.org

June 16, 2008

Ms. Jill Walsh, Water Resources  
Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Dear Jill:

Our Northwest Trek domestic water system is due for its 5-year Sanitary Survey required by the state Department of Health. The last survey suggested I contact you to determine the water rights status of our main well as it was in question.

Back in 1994 I discovered that Trek's main well did not have a water right. We have been using this well since 1983 – when it was drilled - as a replacement of the park's original well (water right: G2-21966C).

I applied for a water right for Trek's main well in March of 1994. I re-checked the status in December of 1997 and again in October 1998. Finally we exchanged e-mails in 2005 when you reported that the application was in the "dreaded" queue.

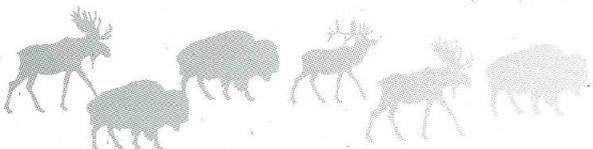
Can you please tell me if, to date, there has been any action taken on our 1994 application? I'm sending this via snail mail as your e-mail ([ivan461@ECY.WA.GOV](mailto:ivan461@ECY.WA.GOV)) was kicked back.

Thanks,

Chip Heinz  
Operations and Special Projects Manager  
360-832-7153  
[chip.heinz@nwtrek.org](mailto:chip.heinz@nwtrek.org)

*Called and spoke on 6/24/08. Status is unchanged.*  
*JH*

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**NORTHWESTREK**  
A Wildlife Park

G2-29053

October 14, 1998

Ms. Jill Walsh, Water Resources  
Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, WA 98504-7775

Dear Jill:

Thanks for the information you sent regarding water rights. As we discussed on the phone previously, the following is a brief update on our water rights situation at Northwest Trek.

- 1) In 1994, I realized that we did not have a Certificate of Water Right granted to the main park well. I contacted the Department of Ecology and was sent an application for the well. I completed that document and submitted it in March of 1994.
- 2) As I had not heard anything from the Department, I made contact again in December of 1997 and was advised that the application was still being processed.
- 3) In August of 1998, I was contacted by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and advised that the Trek water system was selected to be a participant in the Small Water System Project which included a site visit, a review of record keeping practices, etc. I believe part of our selection was due to a "flag" on our system which raised questions about the clients our water system served. (Our system is unusual as we serve only one permanent residence comprised of two individuals. The rest of our clientele is composed of staff and visitors who utilize the system on a daytime basis.) The Health Department officials directed us to prepare maps and descriptions of our water system to submit to the state Department of Health - Drinking Water Division - NW Region. I was also directed to first contact you and clarify the park's water rights status before contacting the Department of Ecology.
- 4) Early this month, I contacted you and discussed the water rights issue. You thought there was a possibility that the well (for which we applied for water rights in 1994) may be covered under the certified well it was replacing. You quickly sent some information regarding that possibility.
- 5) In reviewing that information, it appears that the well, for which water rights were applied in 1994, does not qualify as a replacement well as it is rated for a higher annual acre feet than the certified well.

- continued -

NW Trek Water Rights

October 14, 1998

With that in mind, it appears that the application for Trek's main well still needs to be processed. It may be helpful for you to review the park's three wells which are used for public consumption. The accompanying map of the park indicates the location of these three wells in question.

**Well #1**

This is the newest well and was drilled in March of 1983. It *is the current main source of domestic water for the park*. It does not have a CERTIFICATE OF WATER RIGHT. This well replaced well #2 as the primary water source in 1983. Statistically, it is 300 feet deep and delivers 100 gpm. It is located within 100 feet of well #2.

**Well #2**

This was the park's original source of domestic water for public usage. It was drilled in October of 1974. Records suggest that it had a *WATER RIGHT CLAIM* (registry #MAY1074063123) received by the Department of Ecology on 2/25/74. A *CERTIFICATE OF WATER RIGHT* (G2-21966C) dated 3/4/74 was also found. Statistically, this well is 293 feet deep and delivers 20 gpm. It is currently not in use, however, it is plumbed into the park's domestic water system so it *can be utilized temporarily should the submersible pump fail in well #1*.

**Well #3**

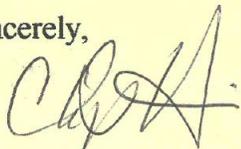
This well is located in the park Animal Quarantine Facility and is **not** connected to the park domestic water system. It *serves the needs of watering animals which are held temporarily off exhibit and the original caretaker house* which is occasionally used by park interns. I could not locate a date for the drilling of the well but was informed by the park benefactor that it was drilled shortly after the caretaker house was constructed in 1942. Statistically, it is 170 feet and delivers 10 gpm. If a water right is needed for this well, I will submit an application upon confirmation of that need. I believe you mentioned that wells drilled before 1945 might be exempt. Future plans (within the next 10 years) are to extend water lines to this area from the park's domestic water system.

So that's our situation here at Trek. As much as I can determine, it appears...

- 1) we need to continue processing the application for water rights for well #1
- 2) we **might** have to apply for water rights for well #3

If you determine that I need to apply for water rights for well #3, could you please send me an application? If not, I will assume it does not need one. And, meanwhile, I will also assume that the application for well #1 is still being processed. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 360-832-7153 or FAX: 360-832-6118. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Chip Heinz  
Visitor Services Manager



SECTION  
27

NE CORNER — SECTION 34

Well #3  
serves quarantine area  
only (no water right)

Well #2  
back-up well for domestic  
water system (Certificate  
of Water Right)

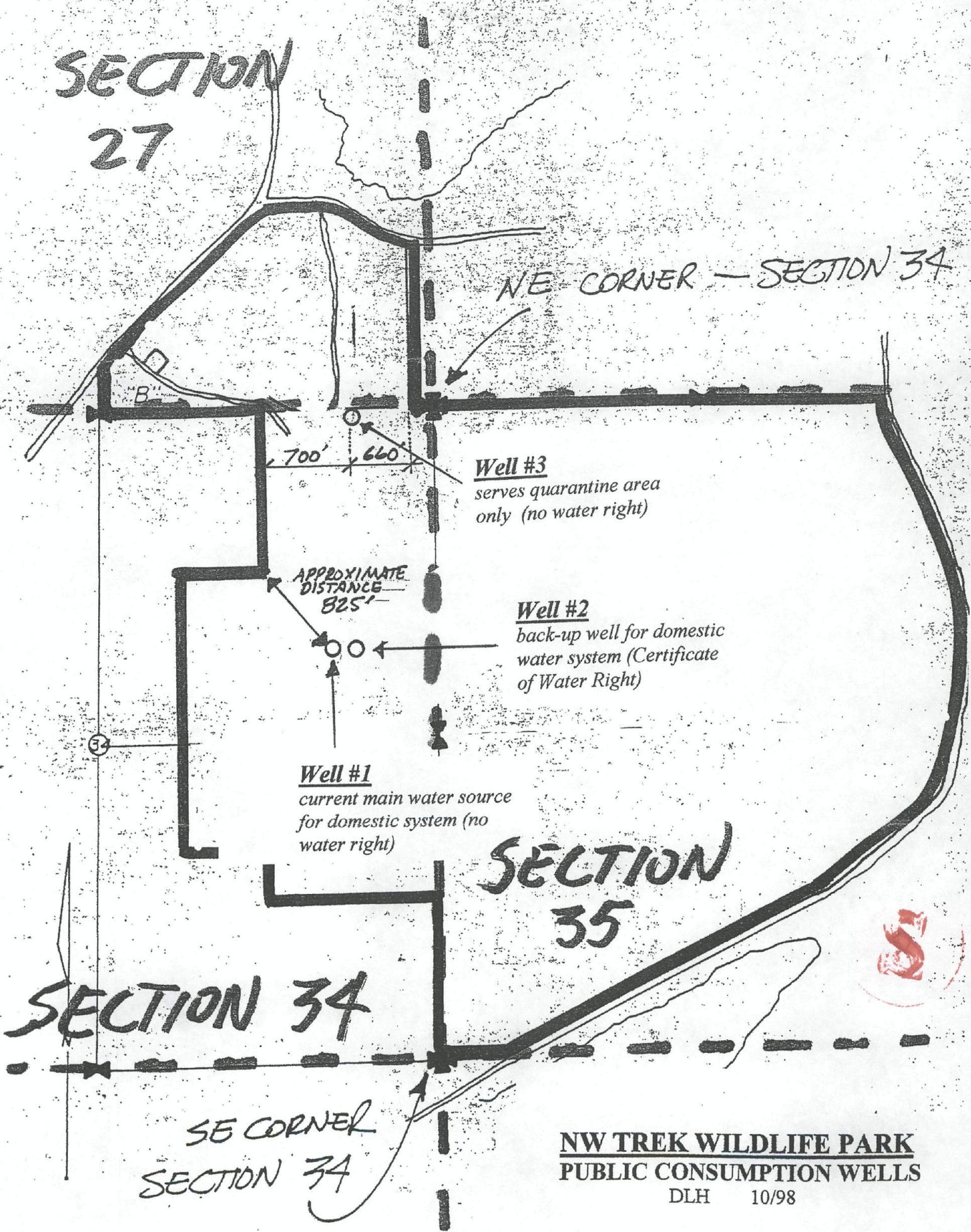
Well #1  
current main water source  
for domestic system (no  
water right)

SECTION  
35

SECTION 34

SE CORNER  
SECTION 34

NW TREK WILDLIFE PARK  
PUBLIC CONSUMPTION WELLS  
DLH 10/98





STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600 •

May 18, 1994

Dear Water Right Applicant:

As you may recall, the 1993 Washington State Legislature passed legislation intended to enhance the Department of Ecology's program for water right decisions. The bill created a Water Rights Fees Task Force to examine the process for making water right decisions, recommend efficiency measures, and develop a new water right fee structure to support 50 percent of the activities and services surrounding water right decisions. Half of the program's funding for water right decisions during the second portion of the biennium was expected to be generated from new fees. Unfortunately, the task force recommendations on increased fees did not pass the 1994 legislature and Ecology has been forced to cut 35 staff.

With help from my staff and representatives of the many water interests, I have examined priorities for our program. Rendering water right decisions is listed among our new priorities. However, due to specific language in the budget, staffing devoted to this activity has been cut significantly. Effective May 1, 1994, we will give priority to water right applications needed for emergencies concerning public health or safety. Priority also will be given to requests for water right changes and transfers and short-term authorizations for public projects, such as road-building. Decisions on other water right applications will be delayed, probably for several years.

This means that the majority of new water right applications and many applications for change will continue to await decisions. You will be notified when we are ready to work on your application. Your priority date will be maintained during this waiting period.

Please review the attached Focus Sheet for other priorities and more details. If you still have questions, please call the person listed on the attached sheet. To better manage the use of staff time, I have set office hours as follows:

Telephone Calls  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Walk-ins  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
8:00 a.m. to noon

Our limited staff will respond to your questions and concerns as soon as possible. Special appointments can be arranged as necessary.

Sincerely,

*Carol L. Fleskes*

Carol Fleskes, Manager  
Water Resources Program

Enclosure





STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7272 Cleanwater Lane • PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (206) 753-2353

March 30, 1994.

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma  
Northwest Trek  
4702 South 19th Street  
Tacoma, Washington 98405

Dear Sir or Madame:

We are in receipt of your water right application. This notice is to advise you the 1993 Legislature passed a new law requiring applicants to pay a \$100.00 surcharge on each water right application submitted between July 1, 1993 and June 30, 1994. This new law applies to your application and is in addition to the \$10.00 minimum fee that must accompany your application, as indicated on the application form. Ecology can not further process your application until the fee is paid in full.

We are requesting you pay your \$100.00 surcharge upon receipt of this letter. If we do not receive payment within 30 days, we will send you an official notice and billing by certified mail. If payment is not received within 60 days from receipt of that notice, Ecology will reject your application, and your priority date will be lost. There will be no further notice regarding payment of the surcharge. Payment must be by check or money order (not cash) to:

Department of Ecology  
Water Resources  
PO Box 47775  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7775

If you have any questions regarding the surcharge or the status of your application, please call our office at (206) 407-6300.

Sincerely,

  
Gale Blomstrom  
Water Resources Supervisor

GB:th

