



# Skagit System Cooperative

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**MR. KURT BUCHANAN**

October 28, 1996

Area Habitat Biologist  
Department of Fish and Wildlife  
333 E. Blackburn Road  
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273-9006

**Subject: HANSEN CREEK DREDGING AND RED CREEK FLOOD GATE**

Skagit System Cooperative, the fisheries resource management unit for the Swinomish, Upper Skagit and Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribes, submits the following comments regarding the subject proposal.

In our telephone conversation, you stated that you would limit the dredging to the Red Creek culvert invert so as not to perch the pipe exit which would create a passage barrier for juveniles. Also, you would require that a manual control mechanism be added to the flood flapper valve to facilitate fish passage.

We had some "quick" comments from our personnel here given the need to move on this proposal:

1. We need to get away from the "same old way" of handling these chronic problems.
2. Would a long term solution be to set back the levies to improve conveyance and reduce the flood stage and Red Creek backwater stage?
3. Since we (SSC) frequently have personnel in the vicinity, could we get permission for our people to inspect the gate position during the periods when it should be open? Also, since the gate mechanism should be locked in position to prevent vandalism, could SSC be supplied with a key to the mechanism lock?
4. If access for SSC or WDFW or the county is discouraged for this purpose, Is there a way that the land owner can be held accountable for the gate operation? Perhaps a fine could be imposed for not keeping the gate open during the non flood seasons.
5. Why aren't stronger mitigation measures required of projects that are done under "emergency" provisions?

SSC appreciates the opportunity to submit comments regarding this proposal. If you have any questions please contact me at (360) 466-7226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob LaRock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Robert G. LaRock  
Water Quality Coordinator  
Skagit System Cooperative