

## Jessi Roberts

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**From:** Ryan Ericson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** George Boggs; Oliver Grah  
**Cc:** Wendy Steffensen (wendys@re-sources.org); Cliff Strong; Chris Clark  
**Subject:** RE: NRCS Conservation Practices

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

George,

I would like to add to the discussion some background information. The permit we reviewed and approved did receive an HPA from DFW. The waterbody was considered a non-fish bearing stream. The CAO is not specific on allowing water quality improvement projects in HCA's or their buffers. My request was to allow this activity out right as a water quality improvement BMP. During the application intake the applicant explained NRSC was approving water quality grants and to expect a number of similar projects in the future. I wanted to jump out ahead with the CAO update to ensure these types of projects would be clearly allowed in the future to improve downstream habitat and water quality.

**\*The following is my summary of the conservation\***

Oliver made the comment this would not be appropriate for fish bearing waters or if a CWA violation existed. I asked if it we had a project which was a fish stream would the WQ benefits be a greater benefit than a modified channel without riparian vegetation. We allow culverts for roads and right of way crossings. The length of the culvert was discussed as having more impact than a standard road or right of way crossing. We had a brief discussion and I believe landed on if it was a non-fish bearing stream it may be appropriate; we had to leave the room before a formal conclusion occurred.

The intent of the conversation was to discuss a clear path for WQ BMPs for CPAL projects. The county has not permitted nor has there been an application to place a fish bearing stream in a culvert for purposes of WQ.

Kind Regards,

Ryan Ericson  
Planning and Development Services Supervisor  
p: (360) 778-5937

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**From:** George Boggs [<mailto:GBoggs@whatcomcd.org>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 20, 2015 4:40 AM  
**To:** Oliver Grah; Ryan Ericson  
**Cc:** Wendy Steffensen ([wendys@re-sources.org](mailto:wendys@re-sources.org)); Cliff Strong; Chris Clark  
**Subject:** RE: NRCS Conservation Practices

Good morning

Point of clarification, we do NOT put "steams in culverts" we cover field ditches through prior converted farmland to keep nutrients, pathogens and sediment from entering surface water. I've asked our engineer Chris Clark to connect with Oliver on this practice to answer questions and provide detail.

Cheers  
GEO

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Oliver Grah <[ograh@nooksack-nsn.gov](mailto:ograh@nooksack-nsn.gov)>

Date: 10/19/2015 10:57 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: [REricson@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:REricson@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Cc: "Wendy Steffensen ([wendys@re-sources.org](mailto:wendys@re-sources.org))" <[wendys@re-sources.org](mailto:wendys@re-sources.org)>, "Cliff Strong ([CStrong@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:CStrong@co.whatcom.wa.us))" <[CStrong@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:CStrong@co.whatcom.wa.us)>, George Boggs <[GBoggs@whatcomcd.org](mailto:GBoggs@whatcomcd.org)>

Subject: NRCS Conservation Practices

Hi Ryan:

At our last CAO-TAC meeting you mentioned a proposed practice to put long sections of streams in culverts to address ag pollution. Could you please provide background on that proposal? I think you mentioned it was related to NRCS grant funding. If this is the case, could you identify which specific conservation practice this is consistent with and the specific funding source?

Cheers,

Oliver John Grah  
Water Resources Program Manager  
Natural Resources Department  
Nooksack Indian Tribe  
P.O. Box 157  
Deming, WA 98224  
360. 592-5140 Ext. 3139  
[ograh@nooksack-nsn.gov](mailto:ograh@nooksack-nsn.gov)



## Jessi Roberts

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**From:** Ryan Ericson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 11:33 AM  
**To:** Cliff Strong  
**Subject:** RE: Critical Areas CAC: Reminder - NO MEETING TODAY

Cliff,

We need to add language in the CAO update a change from a non-conforming use to another non-conforming use. We should meet with Mark to discuss what to bring forward.

Ryan Ericson  
Planning and Development Services Supervisor  
p: (360) 778-5937

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**From:** Cliff Strong  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 8:46 AM  
**To:** Audrey Borders; David Haggith; Kate Blystone; Laura Sachs; Mark Personius; Roger Almskaar; Virginia Watson; Wendy Harris; Wes Kentch  
**Cc:** Amy de Vera; Dannon Traxler; David Onkels; Debbie Vander Veen; Dena Jensen; Dick Conaboy; Doug McIntyre; Elizabeth Binney; George Boggs; Heather MacKay; Jessica Shaw; John Patten; Linda Twitchell; Max & Carole Perry; Michele; Pam Borso; Perry Eskridge; Scott Luchessa; Vikki; Bert Rubash; Dan McShane; Joel Ingram; Kara Kuhlman; Oliver Grah; Pete Sim; Susan Meyer; Wendy Steffensen; Amy Dearborn; Andrew Wiser; Chris Elder; Erin Page; John Thompson; Matthew Mahaffie; Ryan Ericson; Travis Bouma  
**Subject:** Critical Areas CAC: Reminder - NO MEETING TODAY

Just a reminder.

Thanks,

**Cliff Strong**  
Senior Planner  
Whatcom County Planning & Development Services

[cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us)

360.778.5942 ←Note new phone number

[www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/pds)