

**From:** Moran, Bowen ENV:EX  
**Sent:** June-21-10 1:54 PM  
**To:** Living Water Smart ENV:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Kettle River Stockmen's Association

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug & Erika Fossen  
Sent: June-09-10 5:21 PM  
To: Thomas, Diana L  
Subject: Water Act

Here is a submission for the Modernization of the Water Act.

Doug Fossen  
President, Kettle River Stockmen's Association

Water is absolutely essential to sustain cattle production in the Kettle Valley. The members of the Kettle River Stockmen's Association urge you to consider the following points as part of the modernization of the water act.

1. All ranches in the Kettle Valley rely on water for both livestock watering and raising forage and they lie in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Without access to irrigation water, forage production on a scale necessary for ranches to remain viable is impossible. It is not consistent with the goals of the ALR to keep land in the ALR, but not guarantee adequate water to farm the land.

2. Most ranches in the Kettle Valley hold water licenses that are long standing and these ranches were incorporated into the ALR on the basis that they were viable operations. The "First in Time" model MUST remain intact to provide secure water supply to ALR land so as to keep these ranches viable.

3. We are in support of licensing groundwater, however the licensing process must:

- Not supersede the "first in time" rights of surface withdrawal.

- Include groundwater withdrawals under the existing surface water rights, both in terms of withdrawal amounts and the fees associated with the amounts of water used.

- ALL users of groundwater must be subject to the same rules. The position paper released by the government shows that more than 90% of groundwater withdrawal is for domestic use. However, the proposed restriction of "users who make large withdrawals" will clearly target agriculture in this area. It is not consistent to simply shut down individual users who make large withdrawals, while allowing the largest user group, by far, to be immune from restrictions.

4. The cattle industry in the Kettle Valley is not sustainable without access to rangeland. Water is absolutely required to maintain cattle on range. Although most rangeland is not within the ALR it is a critical extension of our business. Therefore, we must have assurance that cattle will be provided with adequate access to water to maintain viable rangeland.

5. There must be an effective drought management policy. It is not possible for a farm operation to simply shut off the water on a few days notice. There must be adequate warning of impending drought restrictions so that effective plans can be made.

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