

Matt St John

My name is Paul Sundquist. My wife Tammy and I live at 4730 Londonberry Drive in Larkfield on Mark West Creek. I am deeply concerned about the quality of the creek environment during the summer months and want to share with you my observation of the creek when I was growing up. In the late sixties and early seventies I vividly remember playing in the creek below our house during late August trying to pry the last bits of fun from summer vacation. My friend Gene and I would float on our backs drifting down stream, a leafy green canopy filtered the afternoon above us. The current quickly gathered and swept us spinning down stream bouncing us off the alder root bank toward the outstretched branches of a big willow thicket. Now we took a deep breath, turned on our bellies and swam under the willow tangle with the current eyes open silver schools of fish darted out of our way. At the last of our breath we burst from the other side of the tangle, stood up and raced each other back up stream through the shallows and dove back into the deep shaded pool. Gene always won being taller and leaner and me kind of short and pudgy. Now my wife and I own the property and until three years ago we to enjoyed swimming in coolness of the creek during the hot days of summer. The creek has given me many great memories. It has been very unfortunate during this last summer the same areas I just described dried up completely and the hottest days of August seemed to cause the willows to wilt. Where has the water gone? Conditions like this equal an environmental disaster and will cause the eradication of many aquatic species and terrestrial species that depend on the creek for survival. With your help and changing the future TMDL (total maximum daily load) action plan to an immediate adoption date maybe we can still Mark West Creek salmon and steelhead.

Sincerely Paul Sundquist

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