

To All,

The Town of Carbonado is about to start a complete replacement of our 100 year old wastewater collection and water distribution system. The Town secured Centennial, USDA and State Appropriation grants of approximately \$11.8 million; unfortunately, we are still left with a \$2 plus million dollar debt to be paid by 212 sewer users and 269 water users. We are grateful for the grants, but the repayment of the loans will increase the utility rates above and beyond extreme hardship.

The Town of Carbonado's next big project will be acquisition of our water source property. We own the water rights, but White River School District owns the land. White River purchased the original forest land property in Bonney Lake WA, from Pierce County for \$1 to use for educational purposes and revenue. The Town has attempted to acquire the watershed property several times over the decades; most recently in 2004-2005, when the previous owner, Plum Creek Timber Company, assured Carbonado it would sell to them, Instead, Plum Creek traded White River School District for the property in Bonney Lake now known as the Tehaleh Community. The Town of Carbonado and the White River School District share good relations, and there is a shared verbal understanding between the Water Operator and the Forest Contractor to communicate with one other, but there are no specific contractual obligations to protect the water source beyond Department of Natural Resources regulations. The Town is working with the Forterra to locate equivalent property to swap and also looking for grants for about \$2.5 million to purchase the property to trade. Carbonado does have a letter from White River stating they are willing to trade property. If Councilman Roach or any member of the 1<sup>st</sup> District Council has any advice for us I would be most grateful and willing to meet with you.

Thank you for your time!

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*Read into the record by  
Councilmember Dan Roach at  
the 03/27/2018 Council meeting.*