

## Regulatory Boondoggle

Our new watershed group made a great start;  
We were sincere folks working straight from the heart.  
Our mission statement we did quickly write;  
We would share info with all of our might.  
But- Lo and Behold! Little did we know,  
Along came the system with agencies in tow.  
Local, state, and federal, too;  
They put an end to our naïve view.  
We were told to apply for a grant to do;  
It would show us the project to pursue.  
Folks came along to work up a study,  
But they took the bucks and ran with the money.  
\$86,000 has already been spent,  
With nothing to show from our original intent.  
At 86 pages, that's \$1,000 a page;  
It must have been written by a wonderful sage.  
It sounded well done and full of book knowledge;  
The person who wrote it had certainly been to college.  
Still, the poor fish are dying in the stream  
While the system continues to delay our dream.  
You can't get a grant from DF & G  
Until a study is done to a T-  
When the study is fully completed,  
There's no project 'cause the funds are depleted.  
We're not sure whether the study  
Is to study the problem or the previous study.  
Five years later the fish are still waiting;  
New people arriving are now stating,  
"Let's do a study to see what we'll do,  
And then get a grant to carry it through!" (the study, that is).  
Did you ever wonder how the planet came to be  
Without all the regulations that we have come to see?

John and Charline Ford  
Willits Watershed Group 2007