

1
2
3
4
5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
7 AT TACOMA

8 JESS R. SMITH,

9 Plaintiff,

v.

10 BARBARA GRONSETH, et al.,

11 Defendants.

CASE NO. C16-5775 BHS-DWC

ORDER ADOPTING REPORT
AND RECOMMENDATION

12
13 This matter comes before the Court on the Report and Recommendation (“R&R”) of the Honorable David W. Christel, United States Magistrate Judge (Dkt. 71), Judge Christel’s order denying Plaintiff Jess Smith’s (“Smith”) motion to reopen discovery (Dkt. 70), and Smith’s objections to the R&R and the order (Dkts. 73, 74).

17 On June 7, 2018, Judge Christel denied Smith’s motion because Smith failed to show good cause to amend the scheduling order to reopen discovery. Dkt. 70. Judge Christel also issued the R&R recommending that the Court deny Smith’s motion for injunctive relief because it seeks preliminary relief on issues outside of the complaint. Dkt. 71. On June 11, Smith filed objections to both. Dkts. 73, 74.

1 Regarding nondispositive matters, the district judge in the case must consider
2 timely objections and modify or set aside any part of the order that is clearly erroneous or
3 is contrary to law. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72

4 Regarding dispositive matters, the district judge must determine de novo any part
5 of the magistrate judge's disposition that has been properly objected to. The district judge
6 may accept, reject, or modify the recommended disposition; receive further evidence; or
7 return the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3).

8 In this case, Smith has failed to identify any error in Judge Christel's rulings.
9 First, Smith has failed to show that Judge Christel's finding that there was not good cause
10 to reopen discovery is clearly erroneous or contrary to law. Smith had over four months
11 before the stay was imposed and three months after the stay was lifted to conduct
12 discovery. Smith has failed to show why this was insufficient time to conduct discovery.
13 Therefore, the Court denies Smith's objections to Judge Christel's order.

14 Second, the Court agrees with Judge Christel that injunctive relief requiring
15 Defendants to serve him by regular mail instead of by electronic notice is outside the
16 scope of his complaint. While the Court is concerned that Smith is not receiving
17 Defendants' responses, it seems that Smith is receiving Court orders as well as
18 Defendants' motion to summary judgment because he has responded to these items. If
19 Smith fails to receive documents in the future, then he may file a motion for
20 reconsideration identifying the specific due process violation and resulting prejudice.
21 However, at this time, Smith's requested injunctive relief is beyond the scope of his
22 complaint.

1 Therefore, the Court having considered the order, the R&R, Smith's objections,
2 and the remaining record, does hereby find and order as follows:

- 3 (1) Smith's objections are **OVERRULED**;
4 (2) The R&R is **ADOPTED**; and
5 (3) The matter is re-referred for further proceedings.

6 Dated this 26th day of July, 2018.

7
8 
9 _____
10 BENJAMIN H. SETTLE
11 United States District Judge
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22