

# Mike Petersen

I would like to comment on the riparian and surface water quality section of the Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture. I have three specific comments.

1. My experience with planting trees along riparian areas in eastern Washington indicates that Ponderosa pine is actually a good selection. Ponderosa grow along many creeks and rivers in Spokane County and do very well with little maintenance. They tolerate flooding, as well as drought, unlike many hardwood species that are hard to get started and need watering for several years.

2. I have participated in a study that indicated biochar is very capable of trapping contaminants, including PCB's, metals and petroleum products. I believe that applying biochar along riparian areas could assist in trapping fertilizers and herbicides that are making their way from farms and ranches into water bodies. Biochar has other benefits as well that could benefit riparian restoration, and there is a gassifier located near Rockford that could be used to produce it locally.

3. While physical fences are discussed as ways to keep livestock out of riparian areas, I did not see mention of using electronic fencing, which could be a way to herd and keep livestock out of key areas, while not impacting wildlife like physical fences can do.

Thank you for your work on this important issue of protecting riparian areas and surface water from agricultural impacts. Please feel free to reach out if you want more details about Ponderosa planting or biochar.

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