



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

September 21, 2023

Via Electronic Submission

Marla Koberstein
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
300 Desmond Dr SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: WDFW Support for Proposed Designations under WAC 173-201A

Dear Ms. Koberstein:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife supports the proposal to designate four Washington waterbodies as Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) under Washington's anti-degradation rules implementing the Clean Water Act.

The designation of the Cascade, Green, and Napeequa rivers and Soap Lake as ORWs will help preserve their chemical, physical, and biological integrity by increasing protections against discharges of pollutants. Maintaining and protecting water quality in these Washington waterbodies is essential to the preservation of the near-pristine or unique ecosystems they support.

The candidate waterbodies represent a diverse array of what makes Washington special: from cold montane creeks and rivers supporting Washington's iconic salmon populations, to a saline, meromictic lake supporting a rare assemblage of species and important cultural practices, these places deserve the increased protections afforded by WAC 173-201A-330.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Margen Carlson
Habitat Program Director