

Richard Curtis

"Dear Washington Department of Ecology, As an avid fisherman, hiker, kayaker, naturalist and steward of our streams and rivers I personally know the importance of protecting rivers like the Green, the Cascade and the Napeequa from threats like mining and development. These are critical resources for all Americans that must be preserved and protected. Once these rivers are degraded it is very unlikely they will ever recover in our lifetime or the lifetime of our children and grandchildren. Washington's rivers, streams, and wetlands are essential to supply clean drinking water to residents across the state, sustain wildlife habitat, and provide an economic boost to local communities. As a Washingtonian, I want to see the state's precious freshwater resources safeguarded. Washington's waters are under increasing threat as the climate warms and the population grows, placing greater stress and demand on freshwater resources. Now is the time to protect some of the state's most outstanding waters and prevent degradation of stretches of rivers, streams, wetlands and other freshwater bodies with high water quality or other unique characteristics. I urge Ecology to designate the Cascade, Green, and Napeequa river systems as the state's first Outstanding Resource Waters so that Washingtonians and our visitors can enjoy these waters now and for generations to come. Sincerely, Richard Curtis 772 US Highway 12 Chehalis, WA 98532 oakotter@gmail.com"