

## Mike Leavitt

As I have read through the EPA definition of Tier III waters it seems Ecology is bastardizing the definition in order to designate waters and bypass the legislature. Please postpone any designations of Tier III waters until clear transparency has been met. Given that this is the first time ever that Ecology is designating these waters, a very high standard and clear and specific information should be available so we can have both meaningful public participation and transparent analysis. Right now there is a lack of sufficient water quality data to support the designations and the benefits of this proposal are unclear since many of the waters already have protection. There will be significant economic impacts, the environmental impact on land and shoreline use is undisclosed, and the potential restriction of human activities without adequate public and legislative approval is troubling. We urge the Department of Ecology to pause the rulemaking, conduct thorough and transparent analysis with site-specific data, and consider public input to ensure benefits outweigh costs and regain public confidence in the rule-making process.