

## Timothy Manns

As a resident of Mount Vernon I strongly support designation of the Cascade River as an Outstanding Resource Water. I wish the proposed designation included more of the Cascade than the portion on lands managed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, but I realize that strident opposition from some of my fellow citizens of Skagit County would make that problematic. The proposed designation is a very modest one but nonetheless important. Mount Vernon and other Skagit communities take domestic water from the Skagit, which makes protecting the water quality of tributaries such as the Cascade of utmost importance. I drink that water. I'm also in favor of this proposal because it supports the salmon runs we are trying so hard to recover and benefits other wildlife dependent on the river. Congress' 1978 designation of some of the Cascade River as part of the Skagit Wild and Scenic River System did not include its tributaries nor did it focus on protecting the Cascade's all-important water quality. Declaring the upper Cascade an Outstanding Resource Water would be a significant move towards truly protecting the Cascade River. Thank you for your attention to my concerns.