

Judith Akins

I am writing in support of designating the Cascade River as an Outstanding Water Resource (ORV) pursuant to WAC 173-201A-330. I have lived in this area for over a decade and have come to love the natural beauty of this unique place in western WA. We need to keep our pristine rivers clean, clear and cool for salmon habitat as well as other creatures that call these waters home from the large number of insects, invertebrates such as crayfish, snails to the kingfishers that fly above the waters. We have allowed pollution to poison the waters below the Cascade as the waters pass through towns and agriculture areas. Cities and Counties have spent millions of dollars cleaning waterways from the pollutants and clearing fish barriers so that fish can spawn and return to feed the orcas. It is of the utmost importance that we keep our river sources clean, cool and free flowing and this designation will do that. We have so few of these waterways left and we should not allow man's needs for recreation and development to change yet another waterway.