Jessica Mitchell

I am opposed to new rule-making based on the lack of information provided to the public as to what these rules will be, what specific problem(s) these rules will be designed to solve, and how the success of the problem-solving will be measured. The Department of Ecology needs to assure the citizens of the state that thorough research has been conducted, included a very detailed GIS map and an explanation on why additional rules need to be established, and what the potential effect will be on habitat and fire management, as well on private property use. There must be citizen input and approval on these rules. Otherwise, there is no restriction on additional limitations and potential costs placed upon landowners by unelected government employees. The unknown or unstated definition of "relatively pristine" alone is cause for concern on how the DOE could restrict property rights. We currently have Wild and Scenic designations. Are these not adequate? If not, it is wondered why we have these. It is important also for the DOE to establish who would oversee the designation ORW when allowing or preventing various uses. Continuing to add a multiplicity of rules limits freedom, adds undue burden and expense on all citizens, and rarely solves any real problems.