

Lindsay Schuelke

My name is Lindsay Schuelke and I'm a resident of Portland. My background is in healthcare, childcare, and nonprofits. I care deeply about the wellbeing of people and of the environment; which are fundamentally interconnected. The topic of water quality is a profound example of this, and why I write to you with concern today. Washington must begin safeguarding freshwater resources with any and all, and more, tools possible -- including the Department's designation of the Cascade, Green, and Napeequa rivers as Outstanding Water Resources. The Green River as a starting point is particularly important, as it's under threat of extractive mining. This would be extremely destructive to this valley of old growth and cause serious pollution, a high risk to health of habitat, of water quality, of wildlife, and of people. Please make these ORW designations a high priority of your Department, with a timeline that can ensure these important waterways will get the additional protections they desperately require. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.