

Spencer Hoyt

I have helped with research on the North Fork Toutle River, a prime example of what happens when a river is developed for human purposes without minding the impacts on the ecology of the river. Increased development, especially a mine, will have different but comparable results. A mine will have an impact on sediment size, which will change the distribution of fish. Designating the Green River as an ORW will prevent these impacts. Additionally, the Green River is upstream of many populations. Designating the Green River and other rivers as ORWs will help protect people from waterborne contaminants such as heavy metals that could come from upstream disturbances. I support the designation of the Green River and comparable rivers, either undisturbed or in various stages of ecological succession, as ORWs in order to improve habitat of fish, and to minimize the adverse effects of river disturbances (including, but not limited to, sedimentation, hazardous chemicals, decreased recreation, and increased flashiness).