

## Carla Helm

Please designate the upper Cascade River an Outstanding Resource Water. It meets the criteria for this designation and is a critically important tributary of the Skagit River. Residents of Skagit rely on the Skagit for drinking water, which makes it imperative to protect a major tributary such as the Cascade. The Cascade River is also an important salmon river and both the mainstem and the tributaries are important habitat for other fish as well as aquatic birds and mammals. We must do whatever is needed to protect the water quality of a pristine river such as the Cascade and ensure that our possible future actions do not damage it. Please use your authority under the Clean Water Act to designate the upper Cascade River an Outstanding Resource Water. Thank you.