

## Tyler Forman

Washington's rivers, streams, and wetlands supply drinking water to residents across the state, sustain wildlife habitat, and provide an economic boost to local communities. As a Washingtonian, I want to see the state's freshwater resources safeguarded. Washington's waters are under increasing threat as the climate warms and the population grows, placing greater stress and demand on freshwater resources. We need to protect the state's most outstanding waters and prevent degradation of freshwater bodies with high water quality or other unique characteristics.

As a mountain biker and advocate for multi-use trails I have a special connection to the Green River which is a very unique river deserving of one of Washington's first ORW designations. The Green River Trail, Goat Mountain Trail, and Green River Horse Camp are enjoyed by mountain bikers, hikers, horseback riders, hunters, and anglers. For mountain bikers the area is truly special because it offers us a non-motorized backcountry experience that is rare in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. If the area wasn't in the St. Helens National Monument it would likely have been designated as Wilderness and we wouldn't be able to ride there. Most of the rest of the Gifford Pinchot trails that access high country are motorized.

The Green River is also an eligible Wild and Scenic River, a designated gene bank for winter steelhead populations, and provides excellent spawning habitat for endangered salmon. The forests along the Green River contain some of the last remaining stands of old-growth trees in the area to survive the Mount St. Helens blast. These old-growth stands supply critical habitat for old-growth dependent species.

I urge Ecology to designate the Cascade, Green, and Napeequa river systems as the state's first Outstanding Resource Waters so that Washingtonians can enjoy these waters now and for generations to come.