

Kim Kosa

Washington's rivers are key to our quality of life. They provide clean drinking water for communities, support local economies, are critical to fish and wildlife, and create recreation opportunities. They are vital to our future. But they also face growing threats, including drought, diminished snowpack, rising temperatures, wildfire, development, and pollution.

ORW designation would provide powerful new protections for our most important rivers, streams, and wetlands. I am writing in support of ORW designation for the Cascade (Skagit) river system, as well as the other systems under consideration (Green and Napeequa) Rivers.

The Skagit/Cascade system fits well with the ORW rubric of waters of exceptional recreational, environmental, or ecological significance. It's worth noting as well that WA State lags behind its neighbors in making such protective designations -- and it seems rare that WA lags in conservation efforts.

I strongly urge you to consider ORW designations for the Skagit and other river systems on the docket, for the future of our communities, wildlife, and fish. Thank you.