

Tom Westergreen

I strongly disagree with DOE considering all of the proposed outstanding resources waters and the Cascade River in particular. DOE maps for this designation were extremely hard to interpret and seems like information is being hidden. Our state regulations already highly protect these waters under the Clean Water Act, many state rules, and land designations. This is only an attempt to add another layer of bureaucracy to please a few special interest groups. We are already seeing how climate change is impacting our forests and preservation designations are hindering the needed changes and management required to protect them. How will this designation impact fire risk reduction projects and fire fighting efforts? You are setting us up for more wildfire damage that will require centuries to correct and restore. The more restrictions you put in place now the more environmental damage will result in the next few decades.

These proposals provide no clear benefit, no economic analysis, or outline environmental impacts. Once again city dwellers are impacting our rural environment and values. DOE needs to concentrate efforts on the water quality around Seattle and Tacoma and leave our rural already protected areas alone.