

## Steve Laing

"Dear Washington Department of Ecology, 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 precious 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. What many people forget, or do not realize, is that what happens upstream affects the water quality downstream, and when streams are channelized and not allowed to flow and spread within their natural floodplains, it severely diminishes anadromous fish spawning habitats while increasing the possibility of more damaging flooding. Now is the time to protect some of the state's most outstanding waters and prevent degradation of stretches of rivers, streams, wetlands and other freshwater bodies with high water quality or other unique characteristics. I urge Ecology to designate the Cascade, Green, and Napeequa river systems as the state's first Outstanding Resource Waters so that Washingtonians and our visitors can enjoy these waters now and for generations to come. Sincerely, Steve Laing 8479 42nd Ave SW #BSeattle, WA 98136 [stevemlaing@gmail.com](mailto:stevemlaing@gmail.com)"