

Jamie Hillery
8424 Skinner Rd
Granite Falls, WA 98252
9/25/23

Marla Koberstein
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
PO BOX 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Dear Marla Koberstein:

I am writing in opposition to the proposal for Tier III designation of the Cascade River.

I have read the proposal and participated in the informational meetings and do not believe the proponent has adequately met the qualifications for the listing. I believe it a mistake for the DOE to move forward with this listing without any scientific or quantifiable data to support it. The mere number of recommendations from environmental and recreational activists is not reason enough for the listing. Below are my arguments.

- ***Proposal does not demonstrate required characterization of being “pristine”.***
- ***Only a small portion of the area proposed meets the requirement that it “occurs in federal and state parks, monuments, preserves, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, marine sanctuaries, estuarine research reserves or wild scenic rivers”.***
- ***Data is not provided demonstrating it meets the requirement of having “high water quality”.***
- ***No data to support it meets the requirement of having “regionally unique recreational value”***
- ***Proponent fails to show how the Cascade River meets the requirement that the water is “of exceptional statewide ecological significance”.***
- ***Private property is included within the proposal despite it claiming otherwise.***
- ***The proponent incorrectly asserts no mineral rights are contained in the proposed area.***

Furthermore, the DOE could not answer questions such as how many acres would be impacted, how recreational use would not have impact (road use, garbage, human waste), and what other river systems are being considered.

I believe the Tier III listing is an overreach and redundant and that current restrictions and forest policy are more than adequate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Hillery
Private Industry, Forest Operations Manager