



April 21st, 2025

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

2025-2027 Triennial Review of Chapter 173-201A WAC, Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington

Dear Marla Koberstein,

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe [Tribe] is a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe and a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855 in which it reserved to itself certain rights and privileges and ceded certain lands to the United States. As a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliot, the Tribe specifically reserved to itself, among other things, the right to fish at usual and accustomed areas and the "privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries on open and unclaimed lands" off-reservation throughout the modern-day state of Washington. Treaty of Point Elliot, art. V, 12 Stat. 928. The Snoqualmie people have stewarded the waters of Tribal ancestral lands since time immemorial and the Tribe seeks to work collaboratively with the Department of Ecology to continue to protect these waters for future generations.

We submit the following responses to Ecology's 2025 Triennial Review of surface water quality standards 2025-2027 draft workplan:

1. We are supportive of the project priorities as Ecology has identified them.
2. We request that Ecology adopt the most conservative values for PFOA and PFOS.
3. Tribal cultural uses should be included in the State's considerations for assigning designated uses for a water body. Cultural uses for waters throughout Washington State can be understood and included in planning through tribal consultation.
4. When setting natural conditions, please take into consideration cumulative effects on waterways from human activities, and how our current status and trends differ from historic baselines.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



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Kelsey Payne

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Director of Ecology
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