

# Rebecca Winn

Hello,

My name is Rebecca Winn and I am a mother, a teacher, and a resident of Port Angeles, Washington. Thank you for proposing to take steps to protect our non fish bearing streams. These streams are critical for a healthy ecosystem. This ecosystem is my home.

I am surrounded by nature and it is part of the reason that I live here. My son is 16 and I worry about the impact of climate change on his future world. Our fresh water supply is fragile. Non-fish bearing streams flow into fish bearing streams, and they impact our major rivers such as the Elwha. It has been a privilege to watch the restoration of the river, and to celebrate with members of my community when Indigenous people could finally fish again on their sacred waters. These fish are not only vital to the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, they are important to the many species who depend on them, including whales.

Protecting the land along non-fish bearing streams is key to sustaining and growing the fish populations in rivers like the Elwha. I am in the forest almost on a daily basis. I take my dog into the woods to romp around, I go mushroom hunting with friends, and I especially love walking along the tributaries of the Elwha. I have seen trees that have likely been around since before colonization of these lands. These trees are working in tandem with the soil, the animal and plant life, the water, and the humans around them to create a rich, healthy environment. Why wouldn't we protect this?

We just had an environmental disaster on Indian Creek, here in Port Angeles. Fish populations were decimated as a result of a fuel tanker spill. Whatever we can do to minimize the stress on these important waterways, we need to implement them now.

I understand that money is often the driving factor for the destruction and harvesting of resources. I would be in support of a tax on my income before I would support cutting down biodiverse legacy and old growth forests. We can find solutions, if we investigate other possible sources of revenue. Please speak for the future generations by implementing the draft forest practices buffer rule.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Winn