

I support the listing of the Spokane River as impaired by sediment pollution. Sedimentation from Hangman Creek has long been a significant issue, adversely impacting water quality, aquatic habitat, and the overall ecological health of the Spokane River. Elevated sediment levels degrade habitat for native fish species, including redband trout, and impair the river's ability to support other aquatic life.

The draft listing provides a vital framework for developing and implementing effective strategies to mitigate sediment pollution, restore impaired habitats, and improve the overall health of both Hangman Creek and the Spokane River. By officially recognizing the Spokane River's impairment, Ecology lays the groundwork for comprehensive actions that align with the Clean Water Act's objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of our waters.

Addressing sediment pollution is essential not only for environmental protection but also for the communities that depend on a clean and healthy Spokane River. This river is a vital resource for recreation, cultural significance, and economic value. Restoring its health ensures that it remains a cherished resource for future generations.

I commend the Department of Ecology for taking this important step and urge continued collaboration with stakeholders, including local governments, tribes, conservation organizations, and community members, to implement effective solutions to sediment pollution in the Spokane River watershed.

Thank you for taking this significant step in addressing the sediment pollution in our river.