

Kersti Muul

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the proposed Flood Retention Expandable (FRE) dam on the upper Chehalis River.

According to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), this project would result in significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead populations, specifically impacting Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead. As this section of the river serves as a critical spawning area, the resulting habitat degradation would be irreparable.

Furthermore, I have serious concerns regarding the scale, cost, and unresolved geotechnical and safety risks identified in the DEIS. With an estimated cost between \$1.3 billion and \$2.3 billion, the project offers limited benefits while posing a long-term risk to the ecological health of the river and the surrounding communities.

I urge the Department of Ecology to prioritize more effective and less damaging flood-reduction strategies, such as the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative, rather than proceeding with the proposed dam.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Best regards,

Kersti Muu