

## Seedpod Farm (Julie Gullett)

Greetings. My name is Julie Gullett. My family and I own Seedpod Farm on the banks of the Skookumchuck River just north of Centralia. I have attended most of the hearings on the Flow Through Dam's EIS. I would first like to start by thanking the Department of Ecology and the OCB Board for this type of participatory process where public input is solicited to in part, identify gaps in our thinking. Clearly, a lot of resources- time, money and brain power are being put towards problem-solving what is a complex array of challenges with no quick and easy solutions

As I've listened deeply to the concerns of my neighbors at each of these sessions I have heard the concerns about habitat and aquatic species impact. I do share some of these concerns and we are working in our own way, to mitigate what we can on our farm. We all need to do better in our own way. I am also impressed with the innovative approach of the Flow through Dam. Ten years ago, a traditional dam was proposed, scrutinized and sent back to the drawing board. What they have come back with is an innovative design that is used elsewhere in the world ---- in Japan for example with good success.

As I understand it, part of the estimated cost of the FRE is to restore forest habitat back to proper riparian forests which can withstand an occasional flooding event unlike the board/paper timber that is planted there now. What I know about restoration comes from being a farmer on land that includes prairie habitat and 2 1/2 acres of riparian zone. Restoration takes time and research. We know more now.

Between the Chehalis, Newaukum, and Skookumchuck we have three hoses going into the Chehalis Basin bucket. But we do have a spigot on one of those hoses. Mitigation of the Skookumchuck Dam and Reservoir- a piece of infrastructure owned by Trans Alta, was outside of the bounds of this EIS but is certainly integral to the impact of flooding in the basin. By improving the water retention capacity of the reservoir and reworking fish passage- we have the potential to dramatically effect the amount of water entering the basin during a flooding event. It would seem to me that in order to determine the effectiveness of the FRE, we would need to ask ourselves if we can expand reservoir capacity at the Skookumchuck Dam.

Looking at the before and after hydrological maps shows that the FRE can be a promising investment for the Chehalis Basin to address flooding impacts with sensitivity to the environment. I wonder how they would change if the Skookumchuck Reservoir was greatly improved not just for water retention in the event of a flood, but also to do everything we can to improve fish passage. When you know better, you do better.....I appreciate all of your efforts to help us all do better for the place we call home.