

Karen Anderson

I oppose having a Dam built on the Chehalis River as a way to mitigate flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin. The area of the proposed water retention dam located on the upper Chehalis River would have a significant impact on salmon runs and specifically Chinook Salmon which are a primary source of food for the Orca Whales and are already returning in very small numbers. I have seen this beautiful stretch of the river which is a real treasure and it would be a loss for a variety for many justifiable reasons should this Dam be built. In addition to violating existing treaty rights, the water quality of this free flowing section of the river would be greatly diminished from this DAM which could lead to warmer temperatures in the water in which Algae blooms have been known to take hold. Construction of this DAM in projected studies I have read would not reduce the flooding potential to make that much of a difference in mitigating a floods and there are better and more sustainable alternatives that have been suggested and are proven to work that could be implemented now without spending 2 billion dollars or more on a Dam that has no proven outcomes and which will have substantial negative environmental impacts. Please, lets make choices to build a better future by prioritizing other options to reduce flood risks without further degrading our clean water, while maintaining a healthy aquatic environment and habit for salmon recovery, and adopt solutions that will maintain tribal treaty rights. I have also read that the proposed area for the Dam has some concerning geological issues that should be a red flag warning to NOT Build A Dam in this area because their are fractures in the bedrock and some possible land slide risks. So many reasons to not build a Dam and persue better alternatives. I also feel that Lewis county should not approve large development projects in an area that is prone to flooding at this time. Let's fix the issues with the land and water for those that reside there now without adding any further burden in this valley.