

## Jennifer Hiebert

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed Chehalis River dam. I write out of lifelong and deep concern for the natural world, and its ongoing pollution and loss of habitat caused by human activity. This dam need not be built, and would cause harm: other options exist in the Local Actions Non-Dam Proposal, which would provide protection for a greater area than the dam--while, if it were built, it would destroy critical salmon habitat, with downstream effects for resident orca in Puget Sound. The DEIS for this dam details significant adverse impacts on salmon, habitat, wildlife, cultural resources, and environmental justice. It is just such effects as these that make dam-building a remedy of the past. We are removing dams so as to restore our natural heritage, not building more of them. Dams everywhere are now exacerbating the effects of climate change by heating stream water, and thus causing increased salmon morbidity. None of this, as I have said, is necessary. The dam is also expensive, with an estimated cost of \$2 billion, with no plan for its payment. The state's budget is already precarious, and we may be facing economic downturn, making this debt even more concerning. For all of these reasons, I oppose the dam, and urge its denial.