

Bernice Tannenbaum

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed upper Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. The proposed massive dam and temporary reservoir that could exceed 824 acres and impact 5.6 river miles, would cause significant and unavoidable harm to fish populations, including major damage of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead habitats. These populations are currently stressed and this stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key salmonid spawning areas. Once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced under the operation of the proposed development.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, both during construction and long-term operation. For example, sediment and debris management concepts in the proposal would be enormously costly in the long-term. Additionally, the DEIS identifies very troubling unresolved safety and geotechnical risks for the proposed alternative. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk.

More effective, less damaging flood reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non Dam Alternative. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Bernice Tannenbaum