

Nathan Greenley

Dept. Of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead populations, including substantial losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead. This reach of the river is one of the Chehalis Basin's most important spawning areas, and once these habitats are damaged or lost, they cannot be effectively replaced.

I am also concerned about the overall scale and cost of the proposed project, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. With an estimated cost ranging from \$1.3 to \$2.3 billion, the dam appears to offer limited flood-reduction benefits while posing long-term ecological risks to the river and economic and safety risks to the communities that depend on it.

More effective and less environmentally damaging flood-reduction strategies already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I urge the Department of Ecology to prioritize and pursue these alternatives rather than moving forward with the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Nathan Greenley, FWCS undergrad student - Oregon State University