

Catherine Staunton

Department of Ecology Staff,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. My primary concern is for the irreversible environmental damage the project would create including harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced.

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, Catherine Staunton