

Anna Veltkamp

Department of Ecology,

I am writing in opposition to this proposed project. Improving means of flood control is obviously very important as this past year has shown, but it's incredibly short sighted and self defeating to try to alleviate the symptoms of climate change by causing further destruction to the environment. The EIS shows that the project would cause devastating and irreversible damage to salmon populations by destroying one of their few remaining natural habitats, risking extinction of several species. The potential benefits of the dam's construction are unproven and not guaranteed to succeed, so moving forward with this plan could mean knowingly destroying another of the planet's dwindling wild animal populations for insignificant human benefit in return.

Even if the dam proves to be effective in preventing flooding, however, I still do not believe it would justify the damage it will cause, both from a moral standpoint and a purely practical one. If the last hundred years of human ecological impact in America show us anything, it's that any significant disruption of nature can lead to much larger unforeseen consequences - a history that includes many cases of dramatic increase in river flooding due to the careless rerouting and damming of rivers. We are far beyond the stage in the unfolding global climate crisis where we can continue to make short sighted band-aid fixes that ultimately make the problem they're trying to solve worse. I would ask the Department to please prioritize the protection and maintenance of nature in Washington and act in a way that prioritizes the state's long term wellness over short term results.

Thank you,
Anna Veltkamp
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