

Elliott Winter

The proposed dam in the upper Chehalis basin should not be constructed, plain and simple. There is no way to mitigate the impacts of a permanent dam structure that will absolutely impact salmon and steelhead. The dam itself will permanently prevent migration, displace spawning habitat, and the operation of this dam, as with all other dams in western Washington (such as Electron, Mud Mountain, etc.), will likely impact federally and state-protected species during improper drawdowns that strand fish, excessive releases that smother reds, and sediment displacement in perpetuity. Not to mention, this project is illegal due to the impossibility to properly mitigate impacts on protected species (WAC 220-660-080(3)), and damages to the property rights of Indian Tribes as defined in the Boldt Decision.

There are alternative flood management practices being developed, and a dam is NOT the answer. This project will have impacts to protected species IN PERPETUITY and should not go forward.