

# Anonymous Anonymous

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River.

Having spent time on the chehalis, researching salmonid populations and invasive aquatic vegetation I am disappointed that this beautiful and vital ecological system is at risk.

Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable 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. There are also multiple esa listed species that would be impacted directly and indirectly through trophic impacts. Our salmonid populations and resident orca populations may not survive such troubling proposals when already faced with declining populations from regional impacts, habitat removal, and historical decision making.

Damming and levying our rivers is the opposite of progress to manage flood control and power generation. This proposal is a step backward for ecological management in the face of known negative impacts. Particularly when known and less damaging alternatives are available.

Once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced. Once lost, these species are lost forever. Decisions must not be made in an administrative vacuum and the impacts are real and lasting.

I am further concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. 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.

I urge Ecology to pursue more effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches which already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Eric