

## Caroline Armon

The dam would cost up to \$2 billion. There is no plan for how to pay for it, but the cost would likely go to Washington tax payers.

Alternate plans already exist through the Local Actions Non-Dam proposal. These would benefit the entire basin as opposed to the proposed facility, which would only protect some structures some of the time.

This is an era of dam removal, not new construction. Around the country, dams are being removed because of the damage they cause to rivers, fish and communities.

The proposed dam would cause irreparable harm to local Tribes, their culture and livelihoods, and Tribes in the area have spoken in opposition to the project.

The dam would drown critical salmon and steelhead spawning habitat, degrade water quality and wildlife habitat, and result in increased water temperature.

The Chehalis River is the largest watershed entirely within the state of Washington and one of the only remaining free flowing (undammed) rivers on the west coast.

The Chehalis is one of the top salmon producing rivers in the state, and the majority are wild fish as opposed to hatchery.

Chehalis River salmon are not yet listed as endangered but they have declined dramatically from historic numbers.

Chehalis River salmon are part of the Washington Coast stock which is listed as a priority Chinook stock for Southern Resident orcas.

Data from NOAA shows that Southern Resident continue to target Chinook salmon as their preferred prey year-round, and that outer coast Chinook is an important food source, particularly in the winter. Tagging data also shows that Southern Resident orcas are likely foraging off Grays Harbor at the mouth of the Chehalis.