

## Troy Mason

After reviewing the DEIS, it is clear that the project would cause significant and irreversible harm to salmon and steelhead populations, including Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead. This stretch of river is one of the basin's most important spawning areas, and once these habitats are damaged, they cannot realistically be replaced.

I am also troubled by the scale and cost of the proposed dam, along with the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks outlined in the DEIS. At an estimated cost of \$1.3 to \$2.3 billion, the project appears to offer limited benefits while placing the river's long-term ecological health, and the communities that depend on it, at serious risk.

More effective and far less damaging flood-reduction options already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I strongly urge Ecology to pursue these approaches rather than moving forward with a large-scale dam that would permanently alter this river system.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for considering these concerns.