

Tracy Ouellette

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. I am very concerned about adding any dams into an ecosystem where salmon are critical parts of the food chain for so many species, including humans. Recognizing their critical role, we have begun dismantling dams, so it is not the time to build new dams.

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, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced.

The cost and return on investment is also objectionable. 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.

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Tracy Ouellette MD
Edison WA