

Wilhem Diehl

Hello. My name is Wilhem Diehl - I have a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Oregon State University, and I have specific experience in post-disturbance restoration of watersheds and the ensuing impacts of restoration on communities of anadromous fishes.

I have read (partially) the revised DEIS from the DoE, and I find it to be very clear that the negative effects of this structure vastly outweigh the positives.

I am not immune to an argument for the safety of infrastructure and human lives and the role that dams play in that - however, by DoE's estimation, the reductions in flooding resulting from a catastrophic flood in the town of Chehalis would be a moot point, as the majority of the town would be ten feet underwater with the FRE in place.

I fear that the construction of the FRE would potentially increase the dangers to human life and property, as it is often found that constructions of dams increase the area in which humans feel safer occupying and building structures, which would in turn put more infrastructure in the risk zone of a catastrophic flood, and potentially provide greater justification for more river alteration in the future to fix a problem we have engineered.

This is all to say nothing of the effects on the aquatic communities of the Chehalis. The risks to these communities are extremely clear in the DEIS - and the cost of continuing to shrink available habitat to anadromous and local fishes is not zero. If we continue to have competing interest for the protection of infrastructure and the preservation of key species, which I imagine we will, we will be performing even more elaborate river restoration schemes on the Chehalis in the near future should the dam project proceed.

I wish to make it known that I am significantly opposed to this project, and hope that the No Action Alternative is taken.