

James Wood

I strongly urge the Washington Department of Ecology to decline or deny any attempt to build a dam on the Chehalis River. As an aquatic ecologist (PhD Odum School of Ecology - 20017) it is well known that dams are devastating to the ecology of rivers by their impairment of fish and animal migrations, and negative impacts on carbon flow and sediment movement. A much more effective use of money is to work with downstream communities to make their communities more flood-resilient. I strongly encourage you to prevent dam construction on the Chehalis River and protect the ecology of this important aquatic community, which supports local economies and community identity. I live in Tennessee and we are currently living with the devastating aftermath of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which dammed the Tennessee River. The river now functions as a series of lakes with declining water quality, increasing algal blooms, a significant loss of native biodiversity and many other negative impacts. Dam removal is the future of sustainability, not dam building, especially on large river systems.

Sincerely
~James