

JJ Lindsey

My concerns start with your own narrative, calling a "dam" a "flood retention facility".

That is a euphemism.

It's a dam.

We will call it like it is.

We understand that is not a popular concept these days, and that's why you don't use the word--we now know the dangers to our habitats and our cousins the salmon, and the orca, and others. But it is for exactly THOSE reasons, that we cannot permit another DAM.

Too much harm has been allowed, for too many decades.

Too many treaties have not been upheld under the law.

We have allowed the Southern Resident orcas to languish into a slow extinction. And we have allowed their prey the Chinook Salmon, and the central identity of numerous tribes in WA and beyond, to suffer catastrophic losses.

The Salmon People must now be the ones we listen to--to show us the way back from our harm.

WE cannot allow this dam to enable that extinction, those losses.

We in fact must be in the habit of NOT just rejecting the building of new dams, but of removing old ones.

The Chehalis River is one of the only large & free-flowing rivers in Washington--what a treasure!!

This is a point upon which to PROTECT this piece of Nature....not to degrade it.

Sports-people, fisher-people, tour operators, and so many others--reject this dam all for good reasons.

And why must we even be talking of this dam?

Humans have unwisely located their homes and businesses near a river which has ALWAYS been known to flood. We do not now build a dam, to enable these few to prevent their losses...in a time in which the losses of so many more, and so MUCH more, are at stake.

We can help these people mitigate their unwise location.

But we DO NOT do that with a dam.

WE have learned beyond such foolish measures.

I submit this comment in DEEP and informed opposition of this proposed dam and to the harm it would impose on our communities, our fish runs, AND our state budget in a time of critical shortfalls.

There are many impacts that the DEIS itself points out cannot be mitigated:

~The proposed dam would cause IRREPARABLE harm to our fish runs, especially the increasingly scarce Spring Chinook run, as well as Fall Chinook, and steelhead.

~The dam would significantly degrade water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreation both above and below the proposed site area.

~The DEIS clearly lays out the reality that this is a dam (despite attempts to characterize it otherwise!), that will have catastrophic impacts similar to those that have caused so much damage

to rivers, fish, and communities through our state and our nation. Around our state and around the country, we are removing dams for these reasons, not building new ones!

~The proposed dam would cause irreparable harm to our water supply, since dam construction will require an immense water expenditure and river disruption during construction, as well as impacting water rights holders downstream.

~The proposed dam would cause irreparable harms to tribal cultural, fish, and livelihood interests above and below the site, including all the way down to Grays Harbor.

It is clear...this dam would be a disaster in the making.

We can and WILL do better.

Reject this dam.

Thank you for your listening.