

## Kelly Kingdon

I'm an AmeriCorps member serving with a non-profit that focuses on marine conservation and education. While I may not live on the Chehalis River, the marine life that we're so lucky to live with in Washington like Southern Resident Killer Whales and their main food source salmon will be severely impacted by the proposed dam project.

Chehalis River salmon are not yet listed as endangered but they have declined dramatically from historic numbers, and as part of the Washington Coast stock they are listed as a priority Chinook stock for Southern Resident Killer Whales. Data from NOAA shows that Southern Resident Killer Whales continue to target Chinook salmon as their preferred prey year-round, and that outer coast Chinook are an important food source, especially in the winter. Tagging data has shown that Southern Resident Killer Whales are likely foraging off of Grays Harbor at the mouth of the Chehalis, therefore adding this dam would further deplete SRKW's already limited food supply.

While flooding in the Chehalis River Basin and protecting homes is also extremely important, it cannot be at the cost of destroying our surrounding environment. The Local Action Non-Dam Alternative Plan is a better step in the right direction, focusing on less invasive means of controlling flooding in residential areas like adding levees instead of dams. Furthermore, continued funding for wetland restoration doesn't just help provide ecological benefits but also decreases flooding risks.

I strongly oppose building a new dam in the Chehalis river, and fully support dam-alternative actions like levee development, voluntary buyouts in continually flooded zones, and increased wetland restoration.

Thank you