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Dear Washington State Department of Ecology,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement. In an era of increasingly tight state revenues, we should not continue to fund projects like this. Dam proposals for the Chehalis River have been floated (bad pun, I know) since at least 2009. Those proposals all had many things in common including:

- The dam proposals did not deal with continued development in the flood plain or moving homes and businesses out of harm's way.
- The dam proposals would all destroy various miles of the free-flowing Chehalis river.
- The dam proposals would all harm native salmon and steelhead runs.

This proposed dam also joins the previous proposals for a Chehalis River dam that should not be built. Modeling suggests it would reduce flood impacts but not eliminate them. Construction of the dam will increase sediment load in the river from clearcutting within the proposed reservoir area, reduce river shading, and increase river temperatures; all of these issues putting more pressure on already decreasing runs of native salmon and steelhead.

Section 5.3: Key findings from the Department of Ecology's "State Environmental Policy Act Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement" state:

"- Construction and operation of the Proposed Action would have a significant adverse impact on aquatic habitat from the headwaters of the Chehalis River to the middle mainstem. The removal of vegetation, increase in temperature, and reduced water quality would negatively affect aquatic habitat and species.

- Construction and operation would have significant adverse impacts on spring-run Chinook salmon, fall-run Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead from degraded habitat, noise and fewer fish surviving passage around the FRE facility.

- Construction would have a significant adverse impact on migratory non-salmon fish such as lamprey and whitefish from degraded fish passage around the FRE construction area, and a less than significant adverse impact on resident fish such as minnows and sculpin. However, operations would have significant adverse impacts on all types of fish.

- Construction and operation would have significant adverse impacts on shellfish and aquatic macroinvertebrates. It would have a less than significant adverse impact on Southern Resident killer whales and other fish-eating marine mammals and birds.

- These impacts on fish and aquatic species and habitat would be significant and unavoidable unless the Applicant's proposed Fish and Aquatic Species and Habitat Management Plan and other mitigation plans meet regulatory requirements and implementation is feasible."

With these key impacts identified, the proposed dam should not go forward.

The Chehalis is the second largest river basin in Washington State, one of the largest free-flowing rivers in Washington State. In the early to mid 1990's, the whitewater sections of the Chehalis River (always upstream of Pe Ell) were some of my favorite whitewater kayak runs in WA state. While these river miles are no longer accessible, they are a resource that should not be drowned.

Washington State has been a leader in removal of "deadbeat dams." We should learn from our experiences in dealing with these type dams and not allow more to be built.