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While I was a resident of Aberdeen, Washington I was very aware of the proposed dam on the Chehalis River, but since I have moved away, it has been very difficult to find out any information about the proposed dam and the Draft EIS. There have been no articles in the major newspapers in the state and no public hearings held in Tacoma, Seattle, Spokane or Bellingham.

I believe that because of the significant impacts of the proposed dam on publicly owned resources including salmon, water quality and other natural resources the distribution of information about the DEIS has been inadequate. The residents of Washington State are the beneficiaries and owners of these resources and should have a say in assessing whether or not the DEIS assessment of environmental impacts are correctly assessed. Statewide hearings and presentations should be held and an effort made to get more media coverage of the significant impacts of the proposed dam. These are OUR resources whether or not we live in the watershed.

I believe that the cause of flooding in the Chehalis River Basin is logging by Weyerhaeuser in the headwaters, not climate change. First, there is research which casts doubt on whether or not the Forest Practices Act rules are sufficient to prevent landslides and flooding from large rain events, yet the DEIS is based on these inadequate rules. Second, there is new research out of British Columbia that quantifies the impact of clearcuts in a large watershed - separate from climate change - that concludes:

"The models showed logging only 21 per cent of the watershed led to a 38 per cent increase in mean flood levels; at Joe Ross Creek, the same amount of logging spiked flood levels by 84 per cent.

But the biggest surprise, said to Younes Alila, a professor at the University of British Columbia's department of forest resources management, was how frequent small, medium and big floods were expected to return when clear-cut logging occurs.

In both rivers, seven-year and 20-year flood events became twice and four times more frequent. Fifty-year flood events were found to occur six times more often. And floods so rare they happened once in a 100 years increased in frequency 10 fold, meaning a flood of that size would return once every decade instead of once a century." "The larger the events, the more frequent it becomes as a result of this level of logging." ("B.C. clear-cut logging makes 100 year flood 10 times more likely, study finds." Vancouver is Awesome, Aug 2, 2023, Stefan Labbe).

The DEIS is inadequate because it fails to include this research on large watershed impacts as one of its references and it is based on the flawed assumption that the Forest Practices Act rules are working effectively during high rainfall.

Finally, we have to do more, way more, to get people and property out of harm's way. It is unconscionable that it has been almost 20 years since the 2007 flood and there are still so many people at risk.