

Dawn Jensen-Nobile

Dear Department of Ecology,

Most people talk about how expensive the proposed FRE dam on the Chehalis River would be to build, or how salmon and the forests would be harmed, or how it could create safety issues. I worry most about the future of our accessibility to water.

Dams are not the best way to prevent flooding. The long-term way is the only way that really works: partner with the waterways and the land. Plan housing around nature, not the other way around. Restore: 1) the original meandering patterns of rivers, 2) the tree canopy that captures and regulates the rain, 3) soil permeability in both rural and urban environments. We need to help to water get back underground, not hold it in a big expensive impermeable bowl.

There are many wonderful dam-alternative solutions, all cheaper and yet much more effective. They are by now well studied and well known. Please explore them first.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Dawn Jensen Nobile