

Stephen Sharrett

As a biologist and community member, I adamantly oppose the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project.

Vieling this project as "flood damage reduction" is simply a way to pull the wool over the eyes of everyone living in the Chehalis River watershed. It is in fact absurd that even after the findings of EIS, which clearly states that "constructing and operating the flow-through dam and temporary reservoir would significantly and negatively impact fish and wildlife as well as aquatic and land habitats, recreation, earth, water, transportation, wetlands, land use, Tribal resources, cultural resources, environmental health and safety, environmental justice, and public services and utilities" the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone Distric is considering moving forward with this project. The reality is that dams don't protect communities and lands from flooding - healthy, well-managed, and maintained ecosystems do. I urge the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District to redirect the funds for this project to riparian habitat and wetland restoration and maintenance projects in the area, especially those overseen by or incorporating input from Tribal communities. Such efforts will offer long-term protection to communities potentially impacted by flooding, rather than the costly band-aid that is the proposed flow-through dam and reservoir.