

Kathryn Lafond

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River in a stretch of the river that is one of the Basin's key spawning areas. Once damaged, these habitats are irreplaceable. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead; major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations.

There has got to be a better direction to go. I grew up in that area and treasure nature's resources that currently exist. The scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS are most concerning. The dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk. And then there is the cost estimated to be up to 2.3\$bil. We cannot afford this!

More effective, less damaging flood reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non Dam Alternative. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lafond