

Jamie Jones

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of spring Chinook, coho, fall Chinook, and steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced. Years long efforts are under way to remove dams and other structures that have inhibited river and creek flow, thus impacting salmon, steelhead, and other wildlife, as well as local communities, and if this dam is built, it is only a matter of time before it too is dismantled, likely at exorbitant costs.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk.

More effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches already exist and/or are under way, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. Please pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Jamie