

## Karen Davis

We are facing an extinction crisis and a climate crisis. I find it hard to believe you are even considering building a dam now that we know the devastation that dams bring to biodiversity and the environment as a whole.

I recently drove as much of the Chehalis river basin as I could without trespassing on private property (mostly "owned" by Weyerhaeuser). On several occasions, I got out of my car and walked along the roadside, peering down at the steep chasm and the beautiful, wild river below. When I looked up, I saw rampant mismanagement of the land. There were massive clear-cuts along steep hillsides flanking the river corridor. It's no wonder it floods!

Why on earth are we discussing building a dam when those kinds of environmental atrocities are allowed? A dam is not the solution! The solution is addressing the mismanagement of the land that already exists and using proper land management strategies to mitigate flooding in the future.

We are seeing keystone species like salmon and steelhead being driven to extinction by human activities. Their numbers are already declining even without this dam. So that means we must work even harder to restore the habitat for these crucial species, not put the final nail in their coffin by building this misguided facility! This is our habitat, too. This is OUR ecosystem. And like it or not, we rely on it to sustain us.

We devastate our environment with clear cutting and we issue building permits in a known flood plain and then we build a dam to clean up our mess. Well, one environmental atrocity doesn't fix another. The United Nations recently put out a report that states, "Humans are making Earth a broken and increasingly unlivable planet through climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. So the world must make dramatic changes to society, economics and daily life."

A dam should not even be on the list of options. You must come up with a REAL solution that works with the environment and takes these critical species into account, as well as the tribes, fishermen, the orcas and all the others who would be harmed by its construction. If you continue on the path towards building a dam, you are in for the fight of your lives, because OUR lives depend on preserving our environment and we will fight to the death to protect it.

Sincerely,  
Karen Davis