

## Thomas Trott

I oppose the proposed Chehalis River dam. Large-scale impoundment would cause significant and irreversible harm to salmon habitat connectivity, sediment transport, water temperature, and overall river function in the Chehalis River basin. These impacts would undermine salmon recovery efforts and directly affect Tribal communities and others whose cultural, subsistence, and economic relationships with the river remain active today.

Healthy rivers reduce flood risk by dispersing water across connected floodplains, storing sediment naturally, and adjusting dynamically to seasonal and climatic variability. Large dams replace these distributed, adaptive processes with a single, rigid structure that concentrates risk, disrupts natural hydrology, and creates long-term ecological and operational vulnerabilities—particularly under changing climate conditions.

Effective flood risk reduction should work with natural river processes rather than overriding them. Floodplain reconnection, setback levees, upstream land management, and early-warning systems reduce flood impacts while preserving river function and ecological resilience. Stewardship means protecting communities without permanently degrading the river systems that support salmon, Tribal communities, and future generations. The Chehalis River should remain a living, functioning river—not a controlled reservoir.