

STANLEY LANGLAND

My name is Stanley Langland. I am currently an advisory board member for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input regarding the recent environmental impact study conducted by the Department of Ecology regarding the project. I have been a resident of Lewis County for almost 30 years, I hold a bachelor's degree in soil science, and I would like to comment on two of the categories of impact described in this report.

While I respect the opinion of the department of ecology, and don't necessarily disagree with their comments regarding soil erosion in the area of the retention structure itself, I believe the statements regarding "Earth" fail to address what will be positive impacts that this structure could bring.

The study states that landslide risks would result in areas around the temporary reservoir area. I agree this would be possible or even likely to some extent. Areas of soil not recently subjected to inundation could be encouraged by inundation to slump and fall into the pool, increasing turbidity to some extent.

What the study failed to note is that river banks and flood plain areas downstream would see significantly less erosion. Anyone who witnessed the fast moving and destructive waters of the flood events in 1996 and 2007 can attest to the destructive force of fast moving flood waters to farms, homes, property, and lives, in addition to severely eroded riverbanks and altered river courses.

Although there would be some erosional impacts to areas in or near the reservoir pool, I'm confident that the significant reduction in turbulent flow this structure would provide would greatly reduce the overall erosion impacts of the next flooding event, especially in areas downstream most adversely affected by recent severe floods.

The study also described potential impacts to "Water" including reduced vegetation and shade cover along the Chehalis River. I agree that in the area of the reservoir pool and retention structure, there would be some reduction in vegetation, due to some extent from inundation and for the structure itself. But the reduction of turbulent flow that the structure will bring would reduce the damage and removal of vegetation along and near the river channel caused by a major flood. And this would be a benefit for the entire length of the river channel downstream of the structure. Overall, it seems clear that if removal of vegetation is a concern, having a retention structure that would allow reduced turbulent flow would be highly beneficial.

The study does present some contradiction. It mentions a concern for the elimination of peak downstream flows, but also describes a concern for reduced large woody debris in the river basins and streams, which is generally caused by peak flows. It's difficult to determine from this report whether they believe peak flows are good or bad. It seems plausible to me that if the hope is to encourage woody debris to collect more in and around streams, and it's better to have increased vegetation along streambanks, then the reduction in severe flood events that a temporary retention structure will provide is the way to go.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide input, and I strongly encourage others who have experienced or understand the severe impacts that floods can bring to areas near the Chehalis River to also provide accounts of their experiences as well as statements in favor of this highly beneficial project.

