

Penny Becker

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. As a biologist, I have followed the process and read the DEIS closely. The project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats can never be replaced.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At huge financial cost, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at risk.

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

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Penny Becker