

## Laura Sheehan

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am submitting comments regarding the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. After reviewing the DEIS, I am deeply concerned that the project would result in substantial and irreversible impacts to salmon and steelhead, including severe declines in Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This reach of the river is a critical spawning area within the basin, and damage to these habitats would be permanent and impossible to mitigate.

The size, cost, and risk profile of the proposed dam are also troubling. The DEIS identifies unresolved safety and geotechnical concerns, yet the project's estimated cost of \$1.3–\$2.3 billion remains extraordinarily high for benefits that appear limited and uncertain. Moving forward with such a large structure places both the river's ecological integrity and downstream communities at long-term risk.

Viable alternatives already exist that would reduce flood risk without causing this level of harm. In particular, the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative offers a more effective and less destructive approach. I strongly encourage Ecology to prioritize these solutions over construction of the proposed dam.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,

Laura Sheehan