

Tausha McCarthy

To the Department of Ecology,

I am writing to voice my concern over the progress toward the institution of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project and the introduction of yet another dam on a valuable salmon river in the Pacific Northwest. I believe this is the only free-flowing river in Washington south of the Olympic Peninsula that allows coho salmon in the Pacific access into interior broad-river environments. We are seeing such a reduction in coho salmon numbers due both to the rivers we have of damming up and to the road runoff of 6PPD-quinone from all of our tires. There's no fix in for 6PPD-quinone remediation. The only fix we have is river and stream restoration. This project proposes the opposite. I can only oppose it and view its very inception as a final disregard for the health of our rivers. It makes zero environmental sense. The project is solely advanced to remediate possible downstream flood events and this is only relevant to properties in the flood plain. I'm sorry, there is a lot more to this state and this planet and you can't disregard all of the above and about for that which was built a bit too low. There are different flood-impact remediation strategies that can be utilized. Let's see these tried first.

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