

## Micahel Smell

Let's talk rainfall. As the 9 December 2025 rainfall event showed, most of it occurred below the dam site which made the dam, should it have been in place, now worth one. The flooding that occurred was the 5th highest flood on the Newaukum River. The rainfall event that started it all in 2007 was an ANOMALY and may never happen again. If the dam was needed so much, 18 years have past and the dam would not have been used during this time. The 9 December 2025 flood showed the threshold at Grand Mound was not met, so the dam would not have been used either. I believe that a project that may never be used and costing from \$1 billion to \$2 billion should not be persued. I feel the money should be spent on preparing for the inevitable. I lived at 470 Hamilton Rd, Chehalis for 36 years from February 1989 to June 2025 by, on, and in the Newaukum River. During that time, the Newaukum River, by Lewis County Standards, flooded 44 times. I went through 9 of the top 10 and 18 of the top 20 floods. The key to flooding is PREPARATION. I would rather see the \$1 - \$2 billion spent on critter/equipment pads, elevating structures, buying out floodway/frequently flooded floodplain parcels with structures on them, and creating new wetland areas. Work with Mother Nature not against it. And with an initial full capacity of over 200,000,000,000 gallons of water with an option to double that amount, I feel it is a disaster waiting to happen should the dam fail by mechanical or natural means.