

Robin Boyer

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my grave concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause irreparable and unavoidable harm to indigenous salmon and steelhead, including major losses of native Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key and vital spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced.

I am also concerned about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unresolved safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer very limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk. How will the State of Washington manage to pay for this work when the State budget is already in peril?

More effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam. The people of Washington and all the species that rely on this river and its various habitats deserve well being. I urge you to most carefully and respectfully - pursue alternatives for this region. Thank you for considering my comments.

Kind Regards,
Robin Boyer