

Jacob Ostheller

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unnecessary harm to salmon and Steelhead Trout, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook salmon, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once disturbed, will require significant and costly remediation.

I am 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 limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health, and the communities that rely on it, at long-term risk

More effective flood-reduction approaches are viable alternatives, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Jacob Ostheller