

# Bryan Kern

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause significant and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including major losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced. Why are we doing this, when we know how destructive our current federal government is? It does not care about ecological damage, so why are we adding to it?

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 limited benefits while putting the river's ecological health and the communities that rely on it at long-term risk. Just like what happened with the Elwha Dam, we will need to dismantle it in the future due to the amount of destruction it has caused.

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.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Bryan Kern