

Andy Zahn

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed FRE dam on the Upper Chehalis River. Not only would such a dam result in catastrophic and irreparable damage to salmon runs, it would pose an extreme risk to the safety of downstream communities. The DEIS identified significant safety and geotechnical risks. Furthermore, such a dam would be a colossal waste of money. There are far better ways to spend \$2.3 billion than on building a gigantic dam on a river which is so vital to Washington's salmon runs.

Solutions which do not include the construction of a dam should be pursued instead. First of all, forest practices reforms should be implemented across the Chehalis River Basin to prohibit clearcut logging and plantation forest practices. Restoring native forests will greatly reduce flood and landslide risk over time. Ecology should also pursue a strategy of acquisition of properties most endangered by flood risk, and build dense, affordable, flood-proof housing in existing communities. In doing so we can simultaneously reduce flood risk and revitalize struggling communities in the region.

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