

Felton Jenkins

I am commenting on the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. Flood risk in the Chehalis–Centralia area is a problem, but this is not the solution. You should be working with landowners upstream in all of the watershed, making sure the forests are managed on much longer timber rotations, or put into conservation easements that really ensure mature forests. The watershed is denuded of trees in many places, and that has messed up the hydrology of the watershed, leading to more serious high water events downstream. I have said before in a public zoom mtg, but I don't think you all have done anything about this.

I have serious concerns & oppose the proposed flood retention facility (a damn DAM) and reservoir on the Chehalis River. Flooding is a natural and necessary process in river systems, and the Revised Draft EIS identifies significant and unavoidable impacts to fish habitat, water quality, and overall river function. In particular, the documented impacts to salmon and steelhead raise concerns that the ecological costs of this project may outweigh the flood-reduction benefits.

Many businesses and also tribal members' livelihoods are directly tied to the health of the Chehalis River and its fishing opportunities. The local fishing community depends on healthy, functioning river systems to support sustainable salmon and steelhead populations. Projects that further disrupt migration, spawning habitat, or natural flow regimes place both the resource and the small businesses that depend on it at risk. For these reasons, I oppose this project and urge decision-makers to prioritize non-structural, nature-based flood management solutions that reduce risk while protecting the long-term ecological and economic value of the Chehalis River basin.

Thank you,

Felton Jenkins, Klickitat County, WA