

Wendy Steffensen

I have seen a few presentations on the dam and have reviewed the Executive Summary of the DEIS.

This dam should not be built. We should be exploring the no dam alternative which would do the following: prevent filling of flood plains (that has already exacerbated this problem), assist with the raising of structures and residences where needed, and revamp forest practices such that more percolation takes place on the forest floor rather than washing off.

It is true that climate change is going to make flooding problems worse. Building a dam will, however, compound problems for habitat and the species that live there, possibly wiping out the salmon runs of the area.

I looked at the proposed mitigation. It did not come anywhere near compensating for the loss of habitat. In addition, the high temperatures of the water during construction and operation are lethal to salmon. There is no easy fix for this- no compensation for these salmon runs or mitigation that makes this okay.

Experts also say that this dam will not address all of the flooding concerns. It is a massive undertaking, extending multiple years, and will wreak havoc on the ecology of the area. It is clearly not worth the risk. Pursue the no-dam alternative.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Wendy Steffensen