

Michael Beaty

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Project. I write as an Oregon resident and long time Pacific Northwest salmon recovery advocate and active conservationist. I also have 32 years of work experience providing technical support to the US Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and the Soil Conservation Service water and ecological systems management programs. In that capacity, I have also worked with Washington DNR and DOE. My interest in the Chehalis Basin is to improve the habitat and vitality of its Spring Chinook population, a sub-species on extinction's brink here in the Grande Ronde Basin. To that end, I support non-structural solutions for flood management, as presented by the Local Actions Non-Dam (LAND) alternative. As a hydrologist and conservationist, I am especially excited about the rapidly spreading beaver reintroduction projects and their profound benefits to hydrology, as demonstrated by Dr. Emily Fairfax, University of Minnesota, and to fish populations, as demonstrated by Ian Wilson, Greater Hells Canyon Council (GHCC), on the Wallowa River. I look forward to further ecological and cost/benefit analyses of the LAND alternative(s) in their diversity and sustainability; this is clearly Washington's best choice. Thank you.