

## John Stepanek

The revised EIS for the Chehalis River Dam is very clear that there are significant and unavoidable risks to numerous environmental and cultural resources. The Chehalis Basin is the only basin in Washington without any endangered Salmon stocks, and a big reason for that is we don't have the same large-scale infrastructure and development as the watersheds of the Puget Sound and Columbia River Basin. Those watersheds with all the endangered and extirpated stocks taught us decades ago how bad dams are for fish, and it is absurdly shortsighted to consider building a new dam when we need to be taking dams out. It's not just bad for fish, but it's a bad investment. Dams require maintenance, and climate change isn't going to stop in 2085. We could spend billions of dollars trying to control the environment or we could spend less making smart choices about getting out of the floodplains. The CFAR program, Erosion Management Program, and other local actions through the Chehalis Basin Strategy are far more likely to make lasting impacts through collective small actions because getting infrastructure out of harm's way is an investment that you never have to maintain, especially as climate change accelerates. We need to be thinking in timespans longer than 50 years. For the sake of our salmon, our communities, and future generations, this dam should not be built. The EIS rightfully recognizes these harms and should be heeded by OCB, Ecology, and any other entity that has the authority to stop this dam and develop better alternatives.