

adrian slade

Dear Department of Ecology,

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed FRE dam on the upper Chehalis River. Based on the DEIS, the project would cause major and unavoidable harm to salmon and steelhead, including significant losses of Spring Chinook, Coho, Fall Chinook, and Steelhead populations. This stretch of the river is one of the Basin's key spawning areas, held sacred by indigenous people, and once damaged, these habitats cannot be replaced. Have we not already learned our lessons from the salmon populations we have previously ravaged by enacting dams across the region? Salmon are a life force of the Pacific Northwest. Additional destruction of their habitat is unacceptable. If approved, this will have consequences for many generations to come.

I am also worried about the scale and cost of the proposed structure, as well as the unaddressed safety and geotechnical risks identified in the DEIS. At an estimated \$1.3–\$2.3 billion, the dam would offer limited benefits while putting the river's ecological integrity and the communities that depend on it at long-term risk.

More effective, less damaging flood-reduction approaches already exist, including the Local Actions Non-Dam Alternative. I strongly urge Ecology to pursue these solutions instead of the proposed dam.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Adrian Slade