December 2018
Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

SEPA EIS Scoping Summary Report

Prepared for
Washington Department of Ecology

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Scoping Summary Report

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a determination of significance and scoping notice on September 28, 2018, for a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing a proposed flood retention facility and levee improvements in the Chehalis River Basin in Southwestern Washington. This report describes the scoping activities and summarizes comments received during the scoping period.

To reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District) is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington.

Ecology determined the District’s proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment, requiring a SEPA EIS under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 43.21C.030 (2)(c) to be prepared per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 197-11 procedures. The determination of significance/scoping notice for the SEPA EIS initiated Ecology’s environmental review process. Separately, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a Notice of Intent to conduct an environmental review for the proposed project under the federal process, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Ecology and USACE agreed to participate in a joint scoping effort to simplify the public comment process for the two EISs. The scoping period started September 28, 2018, ended on October 29, 2018, and included two public scoping meetings held on October 16 and 17, 2018.

This scoping summary report provides an overview of the District’s proposed project, the environmental review and scoping processes, and a summary of the scoping comments received. The notices, news releases, and meeting materials used during scoping are included as attachments.

1.2 EIS Process

SEPA requires agencies to consider environmental factors before taking action on state and local government decisions, such as issuing permits for projects. The SEPA review process helps agency decision-makers, applicants, and the public understand how the entire proposal will affect the environment. SEPA can be used to modify or deny a permit in order to avoid, reduce, or compensate for probable impacts.

An EIS provides a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. The SEPA EIS prepared by Ecology for the
Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project will be used to inform permit decisions, but no permit decisions can be made until the environmental review process is complete. USACE, representing the federal government, will conduct a separate review as required by NEPA.

Scoping is the first step in the EIS process. Additional public involvement and comment opportunities will be available once the SEPA Draft EIS is available for public review.

1.3 Scoping Process and Purpose

Scoping is designed to establish and confirm the focus of the EIS by seeking input from tribes, agencies, members of the public, and stakeholders on the content and emphasis (scope) of the EIS. For scoping, these parties are notified that an EIS is being prepared, thus initiating their involvement.

Ecology conducted a 31-day EIS scoping period from **September 28 through October 29, 2018**, in accordance with SEPA requirements per WAC 197-11-408. Two public scoping meetings were held during the scoping period on October 16 and 17, 2018. Ecology invited tribes, agencies, members of the public, and stakeholders to provide input on the scope of the EIS relating to the following:

- Potentially affected resources and the extent of study and analysis needed to understand each probable impact
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (offset) effects of the proposal
- A reasonable range of alternatives, including alternative sites and project designs

Ecology will consider the scoping comments and determine what should be studied in the SEPA EIS.
2 PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 Proposed Project Description

The District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near Pe Ell and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis (Figure 1). A summary of the proposed project is below. The District’s full project description was available on the EIS website, Ecology’s website, and at scoping meetings for review during the scoping period.

2.1.1 Flood Retention Expandable Facility

The proposed project includes a Flood Retention Expandable (FRE) facility and associated temporary reservoir to reduce damages during a major flood. It would not protect communities from all flooding, nor would it be designed to stop regular annual flooding from the Chehalis River.

During a major flood, the proposed facility would be designed to substantially reduce flood damages in parts of the Chehalis River Basin by storing up to 65,000 acre-feet of water in a temporary reservoir (Figure 2). When it is safe to do so, retained floodwater water would be released slowly back to the river over time. Most of the time, however, the Chehalis River would flow through the facility's low-level outlet works at the river's normal rate of flow and volume, allowing fish to pass upstream and downstream (Figure 3).

The proposed flood retention facility is considered to be expandable because it would be built with a foundation and hydraulic structure extents capable of supporting the future construction of a larger structure and reservoir that could expand the water storage from 65,000 acre-feet up to 130,000 acre-feet. This expansion may or may not occur, but if pursued would be subject to a separate environmental review and permitting process.

The top of the proposed flood retention structure would be 1,220 feet long and up to 254 feet high (including 3 to 5 feet of freeboard for safety and a 210-foot-wide emergency spillway). To construct the flood retention facility, trees and vegetation at the site would need to be removed. A new power line would be constructed to operate the facility’s pumps, gates, instruments, and other controls. The project also would include developing a quarry, identifying material storage and processing sites, and setting aside areas for offices and storing equipment.

The proposed flood retention facility would include temporary fish passage during construction using a river bypass tunnel. Following construction, fish would pass upstream and downstream through low-level passageways that would remain open during normal conditions and smaller floods (Figure 3). During major floods, the low-level outlet would be closed, blocking fish passage. A fish collection, handling, transport, and release facility (trap and haul) would be used when the structure outlets are closed.
Figure 1
Vicinity Map

Airport Levee Improvements
Flood Retention Facility with Fish Passage and Temporary Reservoir
Figure 2
Maximum Reservoir Extent

The temporary reservoir would extend 5.3 miles, on average, during a major flood. The maximum periodic inundation extent would be 6.2 miles in a flood event similar to the 2007 flood.
Figure 3
Flood Retention Facility Schematic

Proposed Project
Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
6
SEPA EIS Scoping Summary Report
2.1.2 Airport Levee Improvements

To protect the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and area transportation from damages from 100-year floods, the District is also proposing to raise the existing airport levee and part of Airport Road (Figure 4). The project would include the following elements:

- Add 4 to 7 feet to the height of the existing 9,511-foot-long levee with earthen materials or floodwalls
- Raise about 1,700 feet of Airport Road along the southern extent of the airport
- Potentially change the northwest corner of the levee to avoid interfering with the runway glide path
- Replace utility infrastructure and terminate the West Street over-cross approach
2.1.3 Connection to the Chehalis Basin Strategy

The State of Washington, local leaders, and tribes are developing the Chehalis Basin Strategy to improve river habitat and reduce flood damage. The strategy is a collection of potential actions to address the challenges of increased flooding, declining salmon runs, and degraded river habitat. The SEPA Programmatic EIS for the Chehalis Basin Strategy was published on June 2, 2017 (Ecology 2017), and assessed broad program-level issues related to implementing an integrated strategy for reducing damages from catastrophic floods and restoring degraded aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis River Basin. The programmatic study also evaluated types of water retention facilities and levee improvements as potential large-scale actions to reduce flood damage as part of the strategy.

The Governor’s Work Group recommended a project-level EIS be conducted to identify the potential impacts of a flood retention facility. While this separate project-level EIS will evaluate the specific proposal from the District, the Chehalis Basin Board members developing the Chehalis Basin Strategy have not agreed that a flood retention facility should be constructed.

2.2 Agency Determination of Significance

Scoping under SEPA began with the issuance and publication of a Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on the Scope of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction EIS (Attachment A). The Scoping Notice included a description of the District’s proposed project and made the determination that the District’s proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and would require an EIS under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). The Scoping Notice also announced public scoping meeting dates and the duration of the scoping comment period.

In the Determination of Significance, Ecology stated the SEPA EIS would evaluate alternatives, including a No Action Alternative. The following elements of the environment were identified by Ecology for discussion in the EIS:

- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources (Historic and Archaeological)
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Fish and Wildlife
- Geology and Soils (Landslides)
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources
- Water Quality
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Vegetation
3 SCOPING PROCESS

3.1 Overview
Ecology and USACE held a joint 31-day EIS scoping period from September 28 through October 29, 2018. During the scoping period, Ecology and USACE held two public scoping meetings on October 16 and 17, 2018, for the public to provide oral and written comments. A variety of scoping materials were available for public review throughout the entire length of the scoping period.

The project EIS website (www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis) was developed prior to the start of the scoping period to provide information on the upcoming scoping period; it was maintained throughout the scoping period to allow for the submission of online scoping comments and provide information. The Ecology project website (https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-Basin/EIS) was also developed to provide information throughout the scoping period and linked to the EIS website and online comment form.

Tribes, agencies, members of the public, and stakeholders were invited to participate in the scoping process and provide comments, as described in the following sections.

3.2 Ways to Provide Comments
During the scoping period, Ecology provided multiple ways to submit scoping comments, including the following methods:

- Using the online comment form that was available on the project EIS website at www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form
- Sending a comment by mail to:
  Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
  Anchor QEA
  720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
  Seattle, Washington 98101
- Submitting a written comment form, made available at the scoping meetings, which were placed in a comment box
- Making a public oral comment at a scoping meeting
- Providing an individual oral comment at a scoping meeting in a quiet area

3.3 Scoping Notifications
Ecology conducted the following public notice and outreach activities to notify tribes, agencies, members of the public, and stakeholders of the scoping period and announce upcoming public scoping meeting dates. Care was taken to ensure that notice of the scoping period and meetings reached
minority or low-income residents. A variety of outreach and notification methods were used to communicate information about scoping.

- **Published legal notices** (Attachment A)
  - The **Determination of Significance/Scoping Notice**, including a description of the District’s proposed project, how to submit comments, and scoping meeting announcements, was issued on September 28, 2018
  - Ecology’s **SEPA Register** published the Determination of Significance/Scoping Notice on September 28, 2018
  - **Legal notices** were published in three legal newspapers of local circulation on September 28, 2018 (*The Olympian* [Olympia]) and September 29, 2018 (*The Daily World* [Aberdeen] and *The Chronicle* [Centralia])

- **Public and Media Notification** (Attachment B)
  - A joint Ecology-USACE **news release** was distributed in English and Spanish on September 28, 2018, to Spanish-language media; media in Lewis, Grays Harbor, and Thurston counties; and Seattle primary media (e.g., Seattle TV affiliates, Associated Press, Seattle Times, TVW, and public radio stations)
  - **Postcards** were mailed on September 27, 2018, to over 5,000 addresses, including properties within 500 feet of the 100-year floodplain within the Chehalis River Basin and contacts from the Chehalis Basin Strategy mailing list
  - A **flyer** was developed and distributed to local community locations for posting to community boards
  - An **email** news release was sent to interested parties using the Ecology email listserv on September 28, 2018
  - **Emails** were sent to state and federal legislators for areas that could be affected by the proposed project
  - **News ads** announcing the public scoping meetings were published in three legal newspapers of local circulation (*The Olympian*, *The Daily World*, and *The Chronicle*) on October 9, 2018
  - A **Twitter** message was posted to Ecology’s primary twitter account: @ecologyWA

- **Websites** (Attachment B)
  - A **project EIS website** was developed as a part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy website (including information available in Spanish) providing information on the District’s proposed project, the EIS process, scoping process, and scoping materials at: http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/
  - **Ecology** also developed and published a project-specific website at: https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-Basin/EIS
3.4 Public Scoping Meetings

Two public scoping meetings were held in the lower and upper Chehalis River Basin during the scoping period. The first scoping meeting was on October 16, 2018, at the Montesano City Hall in Montesano. The second meeting was held on October 17, 2018, at Centralia College in Centralia.

The public scoping meetings were held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and included the following:

- **A welcome area** to learn about the meeting format and obtain a ticket to provide oral comments
- **An open house/exhibit area** where display boards provided information on the environmental review process and the District’s proposed project, with staff available to answer questions from the public
- **A presentation and public comment area**, which opened with a 20-minute presentation followed by a lottery-style public comment period for oral comments to USACE and Ecology representatives; the presentation and oral comments were recorded by a court reporter
- **Writing stations** to provide written comments in a comment box
- **A quiet area to provide private oral comments** by talking to a court reporter

Scoping meeting materials, including the scoping boards, PowerPoint presentation, and scoping handouts (Attachment D) were available to the public on the project EIS website throughout the entire length of the scoping period. These handouts were made available in both English and Spanish.

Approximately 65 people attended the October 16 scoping meeting in Montesano, and approximately 135 people attended the October 17 scoping meeting in Centralia. A total of 63 written and oral comments were received during the scoping meetings, which are summarized in Table 1.
Table 1
Scoping Meeting Comments

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4 SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS

4.1 Scoping Comment Overview

During the scoping period from September 28 to October 29, 2018, a total of 265 comments were received from tribes, agencies, organizations, businesses, and citizens through the following means:

- Online form (181)
- Oral comment (37)
- Written comment (26)
- Email (19)
- Mailed letter (2)

Of the 265 comments received, 47 comments were form letters (i.e., 3 unique form letters submitted multiple times), and 6 were duplicates (i.e., the same comment submitted more than once by the same commenter). So, 215 unique comments were submitted in total.

Since it was a joint scoping comment effort, to reduce confusion, Ecology announced that all comments submitted during the scoping period would be considered, if submitted for Ecology or for the USACE. All comments received were treated equally. An index of the scoping comments is included in Attachment E.

4.1.1 Tribes and Agencies

Comments from tribes and agencies were submitted by the following:

- Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
- Lewis County Board of County Commissioners
- Quinault Indian Nation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Washington Department of Natural Resources

4.1.2 Citizens, Businesses, and Organizations

Individual citizens provided 235 comments. A list of individuals who submitted comments is in Attachment E. Comments from businesses and organizations were submitted by the following:

- American Rivers
- American Whitewater
- Audubon Washington
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Chehalis Basin Lead Entity Habitat Work Group
- Conservation Northwest
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Endangered Species Coalition
- Friends of the San Juans
- Lewis County Community Trails Association
4.2 Summary of Scoping Comments

This section provides a brief summary, organized by topic, of the substantive comments received during the public comment period. Comments that were not substantive, such as general support or opposition to the proposed project, were also submitted but are not included in this summary. The EIS is an impartial, factual document for use by the public and decision-makers and support or opposition are not considered as factors in determining the scope of the EIS. This summary is not intended to be a recitation of all unique comments received. Rather, it attempts to capture substantive comments and common themes discussed by commenters.

This summary report is provided for general information on topics identified in scoping comments. Substantive scoping comments will be considered during the development of the EIS by agency experts and the consultant team.

The summary of scoping comments is categorized under the following general topics:

- Proposed project purpose and objectives
- Proposed project description
- Scope of EIS analysis
- General flood damage
- Project alternatives
- Elements of the environment
- Mitigation
- Environmental review process

4.2.1 Proposed Project Purpose and Objectives

Comments on the proposed project’s purpose and objectives to reduce flood damage included topics such as prioritizing protection of residences in both the upstream and downstream portions of the Chehalis River Basin, addressing the root causes of flooding, and considering aquatic species habitat degradation. Commenters stated that the proposed project seemed to focus most of the flood damage...
reduction benefit to the upper Chehalis River Basin and not to other communities or sub-basins. Additional commenters noted that flood protection appeared to address corporate interests over local cities. Commenters requested clarification that project goals should be “flood damage reduction” and not “flood reduction.”

Comments were received stating that the proposal does not meet the objectives of the Chehalis Basin Strategy and should be tied to the strategy’s dual goals of flood damage reduction and restoration of degraded aquatic species habitat across the entire Chehalis River Basin.

4.2.2 Proposed Project Description
Comments received on the proposed project description included comments on the construction, design, operation, and maintenance of the FRE facility. Commenters requested that the EIS identify entities who will be responsible for future management of the FRE facility. Comments were also received stating that analysis of the potential expansion of the FRE facility should be included in the EIS. Commenters asked why the flood retention facility and levee improvements were included in the same proposal. Commenters also requested that the EIS consider the impact of the proposed project on other elements of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, particularly how the project would affect restoration activities completed as part of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan (ASRP).

4.2.3 Scope of EIS Analysis
Comments received on the scope of the EIS analysis included evaluating costs, benefits, and economic viability; socioeconomic impacts; geospatial effectiveness; and cumulative impacts. Comments about cost/benefit analysis included consideration of the costs and impacts of continued flooding in the Chehalis River Basin without the project, costs of construction, operation, maintenance, and environmental impacts of the FRE facility. Comments stated analysis should be done for the full life span of the proposal. The use of accurate, recent, and pending studies and data on topics such as hydrologic inputs, climate change, and aquatic species were also requested. Comments were also received that the geographic scope of the study area should include impacts to southern resident killer whales.

4.2.4 General Flood Damage
Comments were received about the proposed project’s effects on flood damage reduction and on general flood damage concerns related to the proposed project, such as how the Airport Levee Improvements would increase chances of flooding Interstate 5 (I-5) along Salazar Creek and other surrounding communities and infrastructure. Comments were also received on how the proposed project would provide flood damage reduction from localized storm events along the Chehalis River tributaries affecting the South Fork Chehalis, Newaukum, or Skookumchuck watersheds and how project impacts to special flood hazard areas would affect new or existing structures.
4.2.5 **Project Alternatives**

Ecology identified in the September 28, 2018 Determination of Significance that the No Action Alternative would be analyzed in the SEPA EIS.

Comments received on the project alternatives to be considered in the EIS included a mixture of structural and non-structural options for flood damage reduction. Some commenters requested the FRE facility and Airport Levee Improvements be considered separate alternatives. Comments also requested the inclusion of alternatives from the Chehalis Basin Strategy SEPA Programmatic EIS (Ecology 2017).

Structural alternatives were proposed by commenters for consideration in the EIS. Comments included infrastructure related alternatives such as re-routing or raising I-5, building I-5 floodwalls, raising Highway 6 and Highway 12, and providing a Highway 99 detour. Additional comments related to structural alternatives included considering trans-mountain storage options, including flow augmentation with the FRE facility, including a larger (higher) dam with a permanent reservoir, dredging the river bed, utilizing the Skookumchuck Dam for flood control, building additional levees or dams, building smaller retention facilities on tributaries, and building retention ponds along the Chehalis River mainstem and its tributaries.

Non-structural alternatives proposed for consideration in the scoping comments included methods to restore floodplain functions. Comments included options such as an updated restorative flood protection alternative (as described in the SEPA Programmatic EIS), removing constrictions in the floodplain, wetland restoration, reforestation, purchasing floodplain properties, purchasing farmlands next to rivers to restore floodplains, and looking at opportunities to remove shoreline armoring in areas to restore floodplain functions. Proposed non-structural land use management alternatives included considering voluntary incentives to relocate residences out of the floodplain, changing zoning requirements, limiting land use in floodplains to agricultural and recreational uses, limiting new development in the floodplain, managing forestry lands, and encouraging older growth forestry lands.

Comments were also received related to the Chehalis Basin Strategy and SEPA Programmatic EIS, such as including the ASRP with the FRE facility alternative to help ensure full mitigation of FRE facility impacts, while other comments requested the ASRP remain separate and independent of the FRE facility. Some commenters suggested relying on local-scale flood damage reduction options (described in the SEPA Programmatic EIS) and ASRP to achieve flood damage reduction. Commenters also suggested including implementation of ASRP under the No Action Alternative, and allowing sufficient time to pass to establish a new ecological baseline prior to implementation of any large-scale flood damage reduction actions.

4.2.6 **Elements of the Environment**

Ecology identified in the September 28, 2018 Determination of Significance that the following elements of the environment would be analyzed in the SEPA EIS.
A substantial number of comments received during the scoping period were related to elements of the environment to be analyzed in the EIS, largely associated with the proposed FRE facility. While comments were provided on all elements of the environment identified in Ecology’s Determination of Significance (listed above), most of them related specifically to fish and wildlife, including the southern resident killer whale population. Geology and soils, water resources, wetlands and vegetation, tribal resources, water quality, and climate change also received comments.

Fish and Wildlife
Comments on fish and wildlife included topics such as the potential for the FRE facility to affect anadromous salmon and steelhead, impacts to the endangered southern resident killer whale by impacting populations of its primary food source (Chinook salmon), other aquatic species (such as lamprey, dace, mudminnow, sturgeon), and amphibians (such as western toad, Oregon spotted frog, and Van dyke’s salamander). Commenters also expressed concern about FRE facility impacts on terrestrial species (such as elk and black bear), beavers, and avian species (such as the marbled murrelet) and their associated migration corridors.

Commenters expressed concern about FRE facility construction and operational impacts on anadromous salmon and aquatic species including fish passage and migration concerns, life stage-specific impacts from temporary inundations, changes in survival rates, scour, altered river flow and temperatures, sediment, invasive aquatic species, loss of connected floodplains, and degraded aquatic and riparian habitat, including degraded salmon-spawning habitat. Comments about the effectiveness of fish passage for the FRE facility for fish were submitted. Commenters also requested the effects of cumulative stressors on salmon populations be considered, including impacts that could lead to Endangered Species Act listing of native species.

Commenters requested analysis of non-native fish and non-game native fish. Comments requested information on impacts from changes in invasive fish populations upon native species.

Wetlands and Vegetation
Comments requested analysis of impacts to habitat from changes in flow regime and vegetation of the floodplain flora. Comments included evaluating impacts from reducing forest cover within the footprint
of the reservoir and inundation events. Commenters requested analysis of the impacts of the FRE facility on wetlands and wetland functions upstream and downstream of the FRE facility site.

**Geology and Geomorphology**

Comments on geology and soils included the impacts of the FRE facility on sediment transport, accumulation, and management and bank stability and erosion. Commenters requested analysis of the dam site geology and impacts to habitat upstream and downstream of the FRE facility site.

Commenters requested analysis of landslides, including changes in frequency and likelihood and the effect of the impounded water. Comments included looking at impacts of removing soil and overburden and disposal of soil. Comments requested analysis of the impacts of FRE operations on large woody debris and subsequent impacts on habitat.

Commenters expressed concern about the FRE facility’s forest road bypass routes within steep slopes. Commenters questioned how the FRE facility would be designed to withstand earthquakes, considering the proposed location’s proximity to fault lines.

**Water Resources**

Comments on water resources included topics such as FRE facility impacts on hydrologic, hydraulic, and geomorphic impacts, groundwater impacts, FRE facility effectiveness of flood damage reduction based on the location of storm events within the Chehalis River Basin (upper versus middle to lower basin storm occurrences), construction impacts on flow regimes, potential drinking water quality impacts, and the impact of FRE facility on new exempt wells. Commenters also requested analysis of the impacts of altered flow regimes on wetlands, riparian habitat, and vegetation.

Comments on water quality included topics such as dissolved oxygen, sedimentation, and water temperatures. These comments included impacts from FRE construction, operations, and vegetation management plans.

**Tribal Resources**

Comments were received on tribal resources such as FRE facility-related impacts on fishing treaty rights and local fisheries, including anadromous salmon, steelhead, lamprey, and other aquatic species. Commenters also requested analysis of impacts on traditional plants and hunting and treaty resources. Comments were received on analyzing impacts to historical and cultural tribal sites and traditional, cultural properties.

**Climate Change**

Commenters requested climate change impacts be considered when analyzing the No Action Alternative and action alternatives, including analysis of FRE facility design and impacts in the context of climate change, and how climate change will affect species distribution and habitat. Comments were also received requesting analysis of greenhouse gas emission impacts associated with the temporary
reservoir and ocean acidification. Comments were received on changes in carbon storage and changes to the frequency, timing, and intensity of flood events due to climate change.

**Environmental Health and Safety**
Commenters requested analysis of impacts that could affect communities and people, including use of the bypass road, landslides, dam failure, operational errors, and overtopping of the FRE facility.
Comments were also received on the impacts to Pe Ell drinking water supply, evacuation plans for Pe Ell, and requested consideration of safety alert systems upstream and downstream of the facility.

**Other Elements of the Environment**
Commenters also requested a range of considerations related to land uses, including the potential for increased floodplain development as a result of the FRE facility, FRE facility impacts on agricultural lands, and changes to forest practices to reduce sedimentation. Comments were received to conduct an assessment of historical and cultural resources. Comments were submitted on impacts to hunting, recreational activities, and recreational fishing. Comments on transportation included analysis of the use of the proposed FRE bypass route and routes for construction vehicles.

**4.2.7 Mitigation**
Comments received on mitigation included providing financial restitution to affected landowners, relocating Pe Ell as mitigation for the FRE facility, building wildlife underpasses at key places under I-5 and Highway 12 to provide elk migration corridors, and purchasing key properties to protect cold-water refugia for aquatic and amphibian species. Some commenters noted that fish hatchery production should not be considered as a mitigation option for impacts on fish.

Commenters also requested the EIS include actions to enhance efforts under the ASRP to mitigate downstream impacts of the FRE facility during construction and operation, while other commenters requested a formal link between FRE facility approval and ASRP funding. Other commenters expressed concern that restoration actions under ASRP will end up as mitigation for the FRE facility.
5 NEXT STEPS

The next step in Ecology’s environmental review process is to begin work on the SEPA Draft EIS. This will include gathering data, conducting studies, and analyzing information. Scoping comments will be considered in refining the EIS scope and alternatives, and while developing the environmental analysis. Once a SEPA Draft EIS is published, tribes, agencies, members of the public, and stakeholders will be invited to review and comment on the document and participate in public hearings. Ecology plans broad outreach when the SEPA Draft EIS is available for public review.

The project EIS website (www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis) will be maintained and updated throughout the environmental review process. Interested parties can sign up to receive email updates at: http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/contact/.
REFERENCES


Attachment A
Published Legal Notices

SEPA Determination of Significance/Scoping Notice ................................................................. A-1
SEPA Register .......................................................................................................................... A-7
Local Newspaper Legal Notices .............................................................................................. A-8
DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PROPONENT: Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District)

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: The District proposes to construct a flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir, called a Flood Retention Expandable facility, on the Chehalis River near Pe Ell at river mile 108 to reduce damage from a major flood or larger. A major flood is defined as having a 15% probability of occurrence in any year (a 7-year recurrence interval). As designed, the Chehalis River would normally flow through the low-level outlet works, which would also allow fish to pass both up- and downstream of the facility. During major floods or larger, the structure would temporarily store up to 65,000 acre-feet of water in a pool behind the proposed flood retention facility. Water would be released back to the river system over a period of time and when it is safe to do so. The facility would reduce flood damage from major floods or larger but would not protect communities from all flooding, nor would it stop regular annual flooding from the Chehalis River.

The top of the flood retention facility would be 1,220 feet long with a maximum structural height of 254 feet, including 3 to 5 feet of freeboard as a factor of safety. At maximum inundation, the temporary reservoir would hold floodwaters to reduce damages downstream. It would extend 6.2 miles and inundate 778 acres along the Chehalis River from river mile 108 to 114. The proposed flood retention facility includes a 210-foot-wide emergency spillway that would discharge into a 70-foot stilling basin. The spillway is expected to be used very rarely for major flood events lasting a short duration. A flip bucket would launch flow from the spillway a safe distance downstream of the facility. Upstream of the facility, an anchored log boom would help contain large woody material.

The proposed flood retention facility is considered to be expandable because it would be built with a foundation and hydraulic structure extents capable of supporting the future construction of a larger facility that could expand the water storage from 65,000 acre-feet to up to 130,000 acre feet. This expansion may or may not occur and if pursued in the future, it would be subject to a separate environmental review and permitting process.

Fish passage would be provided primarily through five 230-foot long low-level outlets installed along the river bottom at the base of the structure. During flood events when water is impounded in the reservoir, the low-level outlets would be closed and fish passage would be provided via a collection, handling, transport, and release facility (also called a trap-and-haul facility). It would consist of a short fish ladder, a fish lift, holding galleries, sorting stations, and transportation via...
trucks to release sites upstream of the reservoir. During construction, a temporary 20-foot
diameter diversion tunnel would be constructed for use until the permanent outlets are completed.

In addition to removal of vegetation for the flood retention facility, tree clearing and vegetation
removal would occur within the reservoir area. A new power line would be built to construct and
operate the power pumps, gates, instruments and other controls for the facility. The proposed
facility would require building a bypass road for Forest Road 1000. In addition, constructing the
structure includes developing a quarry site, material storage, and materials processing as well as
areas for construction offices and equipment storage near the facility site. For construction, a
concrete production facility would also be located above and northeast of the facility to produce
concrete and concrete aggregate may be mined within the reservoir footprint or nearby.

Along with the flood retention facility, the District also proposes raising the existing 9,511-foot
long Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee by 4 to 7 feet as part of its proposal to reduce flood
impacts from a catastrophic flood. The project would raise the existing levee by adding earthen
materials or floodwalls on top. In addition, 1,700 feet of Airport Road would be raised to meet
the airport levee height along the southern extent of the airport. The project would require
replacing all utility infrastructure and terminating the West Street overcross approach.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: The proposed flood retention facility would be located on
Weyerhauser and Panesko Tree Farm property, south of State Route (SR) 6 in Lewis County, on
the main-stem Chehalis River at river mile 108, about 1 mile south of (upstream of) the Town of
Pe Ell. The property is at: Section 03 Township 12N Range 05W; on Government Lot 13 and a
portion of Government Lot 14 (the west half of the southwest quarter and the southeast quarter of
the southwest quarter, excluding roads). The Parcel Number is 016392004000. The Airport
Levee Improvements would be located at: Section 30 Township 14N Range 02W; on a portion of
Sections 19 and 30 between the highway, St. Helens Avenue, and Lawrence Road; on a portion
on the highway; and on a portion of Louisiana Street. The Parcel Number is 005605080001.

LEAD AGENCY: Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

ACTION: Ecology is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the State
Environmental Policy Act which will assess a project proposed by the District to build and
operate a flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir on the Chehalis River south
of Pe Ell, Washington, and to make improvements to the Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee to
reduce flood damage during a major or catastrophic flood.

Separately, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting an environmental review
under the federal process under the National Environmental Policy Act for the proposed project.
Ecology and USACE have agreed to participate in joint scoping to simplify the public comment
process for the two Environmental Impact Statements.

EIS REQUIRED: Ecology has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant
adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will
be prepared. Ecology will make notifications related to the environmental review process in
accordance with adopted State procedures.
Ecology has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

- Water Resources and Water Quality
- Geology and Geomorphology (Landslides and Earthquakes)
- Wetlands and Vegetation
- Fish and Wildlife
- Tribal Resources
- Cultural Resources (Historic and Archaeological)
- Recreation
- Land Use
- Climate Change
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Alternatives, including a No Action Alternative will also be evaluated.

SCOPING: Scoping is an opportunity for interested parties to provide input on the content and emphasis (the scope) of the EIS. Ecology invites agencies, tribal governments, and members of the public to provide input on the EIS scope relating to alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. A description of the proposed project and information on the EIS process is available at http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis.

HOW TO COMMENT: You can provide comments on the scope of the EIS by submitting written comments using the online form or by mail, as well as commenting at the public scoping meetings, as described below. Comments will be accepted September 28, 2018 through October 29, 2018.

MEETING DATES: Scoping meetings will be held at the following communities, dates, and times:

- Montesano City Hall, Banquet Room at 112 North Main Street, Montesano, WA 98563 on October 16, 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm; 5:15 pm presentation followed by public comment period. An open house will be available 5 pm to 8 pm.
- Centralia College, Bowman Rotary Banquet Rooms A and B at 600 Centralia College Boulevard, Centralia, WA 98531 on October 17, 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm; 5:15 pm presentation followed by public comment period. An open house will be available 5 pm to 8 pm.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Submit written scoping comments using the comment form on the website at http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/comment-form or send by mail to:

Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
c/o Anchor QEA
720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
Seattle, WA 98101
To request ADA accommodation for disabilities or printed materials in a format for the visually impaired, please call 206-219-5900. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341. Please submit requests for ADA accommodation for disabilities or for translation services at meetings at least 72 hours in advance.

**CONNECTION TO THE CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY:** The State of Washington, local leaders, and Tribes are developing the Chehalis Basin Strategy to improve river habitat and reduce flood damage. The Strategy is a collection of potential actions to address the challenges of increased flooding, declining salmon runs, and degraded river habitat. It includes near-term and long-term actions, as well as small- and large-scale projects. The Governor’s Work Group recommended a project level EIS be conducted to identify the potential impacts of a flood retention facility. The Chehalis Basin Board members developing the Chehalis Basin Strategy have not agreed a flood retention facility should be constructed.

A programmatic EIS for the Chehalis Basin Strategy was completed June 2, 2017 and assessed broad program-level issues related to implementing an integrated strategy for reducing damages from catastrophic floods and restoring degraded aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis Basin. The programmatic study evaluated large-scale actions to restore aquatic species. The programmatic study also evaluated types of water retention facilities and levee improvements as potential large-scale actions to reduce flood damage as part of the Strategy. The programmatic EIS evaluated impacts and alternatives broadly. This scoping notice is for a separate project-level EIS that will evaluate the specific proposal from the District described above.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING SUMMARY:** Comments received during scoping meetings and from comments received during the scoping period will be summarized into a scoping summary document that will be made available at: [http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis).

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE:** Before including your name, address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, anonymity is not guaranteed.

**CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Diane Butorac, Ecology, at diane.butorac@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 407-6573. TTY users may dial 711 to obtain a toll free TTY relay.

**RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:**
Gordon White, Program Manager
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:** 9/24/18
Vicinity Map of Flood Retention Facility and Airport Levee

Flood Retention Facility (Dam and Associated Reservoir)

Major Roads

Rivers and Streams

Large-scale Flood Damage Reduction Actions

Airport Levee Improvements

Existing

Railroad

Chehalis River
201805373 - WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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<td>Notes</td>
<td>Written comments on the scope of the EIS can be submitted using the online form or by mail, as well as commenting at the public scoping meetings (see attachment). For more information, visit: <a href="http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/">http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/</a> or <a href="https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-BasinEIS">https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Get-to-know-us/Our-Programs/Office-of-Chehalis-BasinEIS</a></td>
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<td>Address: The flood retention facility would be located on Weyerhauser and Panesko Tree Farm property, south of State Route (SR) 6 in Lewis County, on the main-stem Chehalis River at river mile 108, about 1 mile south of (upstream of) the Town of Pe Ell Parcel: 016392004000, 005605080001</td>
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<td>Section/Town/Range</td>
<td>Flood Retention Facility: Section 03, T12N, R5W and Airport Levee Improvements: Section 30, T14N, R2W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District</td>
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<td>Applicant Contact</td>
<td></td>
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LOCAL NEWSPAPER LEGAL NOTICES
**LEGAL NOTICES**

- **Notice of Public Hearing**
  - The City of Napavine Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider an application for an Adjustment of a Development Plan to allow for the construction of a residence at 008369009008, commonly known as 423 3rd Ave NW, Napavine, WA 98565, at 10:00 AM on October 8, 2018 at the Napavine City Hall, 106642 Public Scoping Notice of Public Hearing.

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**WDFW: Most Willapa Bay tributaries to open for coho**

**The Daily World**

Action Opens salmon in Willapa Bay tributaries with scheduled salmon season, except the Naselle River. Salmon daily limit is six fish, up to two adults may be retained and no more than one adult may be a wild coho.

Release all chum

Effective date: Oct. 1

Until further notice.

**Sunday Crossword Solution**

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**Jumble Answers**

Juxtaposition - MOUTH - MOSAIC - PALLET

**Sudoko Solution**

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**Crossword Solution**

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
Attachment B
Public and Media Notifications

News Release ................................................................................................................................. B-1
Postcard ......................................................................................................................................... B-5
Flyer .............................................................................................................................................. B-6
Email News Releases .................................................................................................................... B-7
Local Newspaper Ads .................................................................................................................. B-11
Websites ....................................................................................................................................... B-14
Environmental review starts for Chehalis River project
Public comments sought in first step of environmental assessment process

CHEHALIS – To reduce flood risks in the state’s second-largest river system, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new floodwater retention structure on the Chehalis River near the town of Pe Ell in Lewis County.

The district also is seeking to raise the current levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, including elevating part of Airport Road and making other improvements.

Since the proposal is likely to adversely affect the environment, the Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are seeking public comment to help the agencies define what should be studied in the environmental review for the proposed flood-damage reduction project.

Under the proposal, the Chehalis River would flow normally through the structure except during major floods, when the facility could be operated to hold up to 65,000 acre feet of floodwaters in a temporary reservoir. The water would be released back to the river system as soon as it was safe to do so.

The two agencies are leading separate environmental reviews of the district’s proposal but are holding a joint scoping period to make it easier for the public to submit comments. The agencies have established a project website with information about the scoping process, public meetings, how to submit comments, and other information about the environmental review process.

Ecology is using the State Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the proposal while the USACE is conducting its environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. Each agency will develop a separate environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the project.

The first step in the environmental review process is obtaining public input about the scope of the EIS to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

In mid-October, USACE and Ecology will conduct two open house-style public meetings to gather comments:

- **Montesano:** Oct. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Montesano City Hall, 112 N. Main St.
- **Centralia:** Oct. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Centralia College, Bowman Rotary Banquet Rooms, 600 Centralia College Boulevard.
Both agencies will accept public comments through Oct. 29. Comments can be submitted electronically through the project website or mailed to:

Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
Anchor QEA
720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
Seattle, WA 98101

Each agency will summarize the comments received during scoping into a summary document, and make the summaries available on the project website.

###

UNSUBSCRIBE: Please reply to this email and ask to be removed from our news distribution list.
Comienza la Revisión Ambiental del proyecto del Río Chehalis

Se solicitan los comentarios del público como el primer paso en el proceso de evaluación ambiental.

CHEHALIS – Para reducir los riesgos de inundaciones en el segundo sistema fluvial más largo del estado, el Distrito de Control de Inundaciones en la Cuenca del Río Chehalis está proponiendo construir una nueva estructura para el control de inundaciones en el Río Chehalis cerca del pueblo de Pe Ell en el condado de Lewis.

El distrito también está solicitando incrementar el nivel corriente del dique del río a lo largo del Aeropuerto de Chehalis-Centralia incluyendo elevar parte de Airport Road y hacer otras mejoras.

Como es muy posible que esta propuesta cause efectos adversos al medioambiente, el Departamento de Ecología de Washington y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los Estados Unidos (USACE; por sus siglas en inglés) solicitan los comentarios del público para ayudar a las agencias a definir qué aspectos se deben estudiar durante la Revisión Ambiental del proyecto de reducción de daños por inundaciones.

Bajo el propuesto proyecto, el Río Chehalis fluiría normalmente a través de la represa excepto durante crecidas mayores, durante las cuales la estructura podría retener hasta 65,000 pies acre de crecida en una reserva temporera. El agua sería descargada de vuelta al río tan pronto fuese seguro hacerlo.

Ambas agencias están ejecutando la revisión de la propuesta del distrito por separado pero llevarán a cabo un periodo de exploración en conjunto para hacerle más fácil al público el someter sus comentarios. Las agencias han establecido un sitio web del proyecto con la información acerca del proceso de alcance, las reuniones públicas, cómo someter comentarios, y otra información acerca del proceso de Revisión Ambiental.

Ecología está utilizando la Ley Estatal de Política Ambiental para evaluar la propuesta mientras tanto la USACE está ejecutando su Revisión Ambiental bajo la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental. Cada agencia desarrollará una Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) para evaluar el proyecto.

El primer paso en el proceso de Revisión Ambiental es obtener las contribuciones del público acerca del alcance del EIS para ayudar a identificar las alternativas del proyecto, probables
impactos adversos significativos, medidas de mitigación potenciales, licencias y otras aprobaciones que sean necesarias.

A mediados de octubre, USACE y Ecología llevarán a cabo dos asambleas públicas a manera de casa abierta para recopilar comentarios. Cada evento se llevará a cabo en las siguientes localidades y fechas:

- **Montesano:** 16 de octubre, de 5 a 8 p.m. en la alcaldía de Montesano; 112 N. Main St.
- **Centralia:** 17 de octubre, de 5 a 8 p.m. en Centralia College, Bowman Rotary Banquet Rooms A y B; 600 Centralia College Boulevard.

Ambas agencias aceptarán comentario público hasta el 29 de octubre. Pueden someter sus comentarios electrónicamente a través del sitio web del proyecto, mientras que comentarios por escrito se pueden enviar por correo a:

Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS  
Anchor QEA  
720 Olive Way, Suite 1900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Cada agencia resumirá los comentarios que reciba en un documento y hará disponibles los resúmenes en el sitio web del proyecto.

###

Para darse de baja: Por favor responda a este correo electrónico y solicite ser removido de nuestra lista de distribución.
AGENCIES SEEK PUBLIC COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

The Proposed Project

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is seeking to reduce flood damage by:

- Constructing a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir on the Chehalis River near the town of Pe Ell in Lewis County, Washington
- Raising the current levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are seeking public comments to help define what should be studied in the environmental review for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District’s proposed flood damage reduction project for the Chehalis River Basin.

Ecology and USACE have determined the proposal could have significant adverse environmental impacts and will require formal studies of those probable impacts through separate state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes. The first step in the environmental review process is obtaining public input about the scope of the EIS to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

The scoping period for public comment is open between September 28 and October 29, 2018.

Public scoping meetings will be held October 16 and 17, 2018

Tuesday, October 16
Montesano City Hall
112 N. Main Street
Montesano, WA 98563

Wednesday, October 17
Centralia College – Bowman
Rotary Banquet Room
600 Centralia College Boulevard
Centralia, WA 98531

Scoping Meeting Format
- Open house from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Short presentation at 5:15 p.m.
- Oral comments received through 8 p.m.

All the information provided at the scoping meetings will be available for online viewing at: www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis.

How to Provide Comments

There are multiple ways to provide scoping comments. All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

- **IN PERSON:** Attend a public scoping meeting
- **ONLINE:** [http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form)
- **MAIL:** Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
  Anchor QEA – 720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
  Seattle, WA 98101

**TIMING:**
The comment scoping period is September 28 through October 29, 2018.
Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

Agencies seek public comments on scope of environmental studies

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District) is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington, to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are seeking public comments to help define what should be studied in the environmental review for the District’s proposed project.

Ecology and USACE have determined the proposal could have significant adverse environmental impacts and will require formal studies of those probable impacts using separate state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes. Ecology will evaluate the proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). USACE, representing the federal government, will conduct a separate, but synchronized review as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Both EIS documents will provide a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. No permit decisions can be made until after the environmental review of the District’s proposal is complete.

There are multiple ways to submit comments. All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

- IN PERSON: Attend a public scoping meeting
- ONLINE: chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form
- MAIL: Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS Anchor QEA–720 Olive Way, Suite 1900 Seattle, WA 98101

TIMING:
The scoping comment period is September 28 through October 29, 2018.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS WILL BE HELD OCTOBER 16 AND 17, 2018

The purpose of the scoping meetings is to seek public comment on the environmental issues that should be studied. There are two public scoping meetings planned in the lower and upper Chehalis River Basin.

MEETING LOCATIONS AND FORMAT

Tuesday, October 16
Montesano City Hall
112 N. Main Street
Montesano, WA 98563

Wednesday, October 17
Centralia College – Bowman Rotary Banquet Room
600 Centralia College Boulevard
Centralia, WA 98531

- Open house from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Short presentation at 5:15 p.m.
- Oral comments received through 8 p.m.

All the information provided at the scoping meetings will be available for online viewing at: www.chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis.

EQUAL ACCESS

To ensure equal access to materials, Ecology and USACE will provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Please call (206) 219-5900 with any requests. Persons with hearing loss and speech disability can contact 711 for the Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability may call TTY at (877) 833-6341. All meeting-related requests must be received 72 hours in advance.
Environmental review starts for Chehalis River project

Public comments sought in first step of environmental assessment process

CHEHALIS – To reduce flood risks in the state’s second-largest river system, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new floodwater retention structure on the Chehalis River near the town of Pe Ell in Lewis County.

The district also is seeking to raise the current levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, including elevating part of Airport Road and making other improvements.

Since the proposal is likely to adversely affect the environment, the Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are seeking public comment to help the agencies define what should be studied in the environmental review for the proposed flood-damage reduction project.

Under the proposal, the Chehalis River would flow normally through the structure except during major floods, when the facility could be operated to hold up to 65,000 acre feet of floodwaters in a temporary reservoir. The water would be released back to the river system as soon as it was safe to do so.

The two agencies are leading separate environmental reviews of the district’s proposal but are holding a joint scoping period to make it easier for the public to submit comments. The agencies have established a project website with information about the scoping process, public meetings, how to submit comments, and other information about the environmental review process.

Ecology is using the State Environmental Policy Act to evaluate the proposal while the USACE is conducting its environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act. Each agency will develop a separate environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the project.

The first step in the environmental review process is obtaining public input about the scope of the EIS to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.
In mid-October, USACE and Ecology will conduct two open house-style public meetings to gather comments:

- **Montesano**: Oct. 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Montesano City Hall, 112 N. Main St.
- **Centralia**: Oct. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Centralia College, Bowman Rotary Banquet Rooms, 600 Centralia College Boulevard.

Both agencies will accept public comments through Oct. 29. Comments can be submitted electronically through the [project website](#) or mailed to:

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS  
Anchor QEA  
720 Olive Way, Suite 1900  
Seattle, WA 98101

Each agency will summarize the comments received during scoping into a summary document, and make the summaries available on the project website.

###

UNSUBSCRIBE: Please reply to this email and ask to be removed from our news distribution list.
Environmental review starts for Chehalis River project

Public comments sought in first step of environmental assessment process

CHEHALIS – To reduce flood risks in the state’s second-largest river system, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new floodwater retention structure on the Chehalis River near the town of Pe Ell in Lewis County.

The district also is seeking to raise the current levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, including elevating part of Airport Road and making other improvements.

Since the proposal is likely to adversely affect the environment, the Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are seeking public comment to help the agencies define what should be studied in the environmental review for the proposed flood-damage reduction project.

Under the proposal, the Chehalis River would flow normally through the structure except during major floods, when the facility could be operated to hold up to 65,000 acre feet of floodwaters in a temporary reservoir. The water would be released back to the river system as soon as it was safe to do so.

The two agencies are leading separate environmental reviews of the district’s proposal but are holding a joint scoping period to make it easier for the public to submit comments. The agencies have established a project website (http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/) with information about the scoping process, public meetings, how to submit comments, and other information about the environmental review process.

Ecology is using the State Environmental Policy Act (https://ecology.wa.gov/regulations-permits/SEPA-environmental-review) to evaluate the proposal while the USACE is conducting its environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (https://openei.org/wiki/RAPID/Roadmap/9-FD-k). Each agency will develop a separate environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess the project.

The first step in the environmental review process is obtaining public input about the scope of the EIS to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

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Both agencies will accept public comments through Oct. 29. Comments can be submitted electronically through the project website (http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/) or mailed to:

Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS Anchor QEA
720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
Seattle, WA 98101

Each agency will summarize the comments received during scoping into a summary document, and make the summaries available on the project website.

Contacts:
Curt Hart, Ecology communications, 360-407-6944, @ecologyWA Patricia Graesser, USACE communications, 206-764-3750

Thank you.
LOCAL NEWSPAPER ADS
Great looking king size bed, 5’10”, great condition, $300. 360-262-3534


desk, old wooden school

9am-3pm

9am-3pm
DEATH NOTICES
Byron Hyde Sr. A memorial service for Byron Hyde Sr., a lifetime resident of Montesano, was held Friday, Oct. 5, 2018, in Montesano. He was born Jan. 29, 1944, to Artemus and Dorothy Callaghan and died June 9, 1948. He passed away Oct. 3, 2018, in Montesano. He was the loan officer and then later assistant manager. She was very talented with knitting, crocheting, and making beautiful quilts. She also enjoyed Hooky Bobing with all her children. She was a talented cook and enjoyed spending time in the kitchen. She loved family and friends and enjoyed going to family gatherings. She was a generous person and always made sure there was enough food for everyone. She was especially loved by her grandchildren, and she always made sure they had plenty of food. She will be missed by her family and friends, and her passing has left a void in our hearts. She is survived by her sister, Kathy Wright, niece, Adam Arthur Wright, nephews, David Wright and Kyle Wright, grandchildren, Aarin, William, Maxwell, Max, Owen and Alex, and numerous nieces, nephews and other family members. Services will be Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, at noon in Montesano. Arrangements are by the Townes Funeral Home in Montesano, Wash.

Horner both of Fishers, Ind.; numerous nieces, nephews, and their families too. There will be a time of remembrance and viewing for Barbara on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, from 10 a.m. until noon in the central city home in Aberdeen. Burial will take place at the Aberdeen Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to the Tidwell's Fern Hill Funeral Home in Aberdeen, Wash.

FRANK J. MONTGOMERY
Born in Montesano, WA 98563
Diana P. Plunkett of Ocean Shores died Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, at Pa-Home, Aberdeen. She will be laid to rest in the family plot. Arrangements are by Dfay Funeral Directors in Aberdeen._afb

Diane Wright.

by those he leaves behind. He is survived by his wife,

and 13 grandchildren.

on the North Olympic Penn-insula, especially Port Townsend and Forks.

and his joy. When those three things come together, there is a certain peace that

in Salt Lake City. She enjoyed a good meal and making more forts.

The customer service was so bad that

something she wants to im-

The board of directors of Grays Harbor County is challenging the

phone service.

the office, and at public meetings where both oral and written comments can be accepted.

El Departamento de Ecología de Washington y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército han determinado que la construcción de un nuevo recinto de retención de inundaciones y un resguardo temporal cerca del pueblo de Pe Ell, Washington, es necesaria. El Departamento de Ecología de Washington y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército han determinado que la construcción de un nuevo recinto de retención de inundaciones y un resguardo temporal cerca del pueblo de Pe Ell, Washington, es necesaria.

El Departamento de Ecología de Washington y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército han determinado que la construcción de un nuevo recinto de retención de inundaciones y un resguardo temporal cerca del pueblo de Pe Ell, Washington, es necesaria.

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington. The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington.

There will be no service.
EIS Scoping

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

SEPA and NEPA EIS Scoping Period (CLOSED)

Ecology and USACE held a 31-day EIS scoping period from September 28 through October 29, 2018, which is the first step in the environmental review process. Scoping is designed to receive public input on the scope of the EIS for the proposed project to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

During the scoping period, Ecology and USACE held two public scoping meetings on October 16 and 17, 2018, where the public provided oral and written comments. Scoping comments were also submitted via the online comment form, mail, and email. Scoping comments were received from citizens, agencies, tribes, and organizations during the public scoping period. Scoping comments will be summarized, and separate SEPA and NEPA scoping reports will be issued later in 2018. The scoping reports will summarize input received on what should be included in the draft EISs.

Scoping Meeting Materials

The following scoping materials were available for public review throughout the entire length of the scoping period:

- EIS Scoping Handout (English)
- EIS Scoping Handout (en Español)
- Scoping Meeting Presentation
- Scoping Meeting Exhibit Boards
- Scoping Flyer
- Scoping Postcard
- Environmental review starts for Chehalis River project (NEWS)
- Comienza la Revisión Ambiental del proyecto del Río Chehalis (NOTICIAS)

Public Scoping Period (CLOSED)

September 20 through October 29, 2018

The purpose of scoping is to seek public comment on the environmental issues that should be studied. Scoping comments can only be considered if they are submitted during the comment period.

Public Scoping Meetings Locations and Format

Two public scoping meetings were held in the lower and upper Chehalis River Basin.

Tuesday, October 16
Montesano City Hall
112 N. Main Street
Montesano, WA 98563

Wednesday, October 17
Centralia College - Bowman Rotary Banquet Room
600 Centralia College Boulevard
Centralia, WA 98531

- Open house from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Short presentation at 5:15 p.m.
- Oral comments received through 8 p.m.

All scoping meeting materials are available for online viewing [here](#).

Contact Us

For questions or comments on the Chehalis Basin Strategy, or to be added to the email list, use the form at right.
Chehalis River Flood Damage Reduction
Project Environmental Impact Statement

To reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River basin, the Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the Lewis County town of Pe Ell, and make levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport.

We and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have determined the proposal could have significant adverse environmental impacts and will require formal studies through separate state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes.

See our Determination of Significance for the project proposal.

Our role in reviewing the District's proposed flood damage reduction project will be to:

- Conduct the state environmental review process under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).
- Offer public engagement opportunities.
- Should the project proceed after the environmental review is complete, issue environmental permits consistent with state and federal laws and rule.

USACE, the lead federal environmental agency, will conduct a separate review under the National Environmental Policy Act. We and the USACE will each develop a separate Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). No permit decisions can happen until after the state and federal environmental reviews are complete.

I want to...
- Sign up to receive email updates about the project
- See our Determination of Significance
- More about the Chehalis Basin Strategy

EIS scoping period closed

Scoping is the first step in the environmental review process. We and the USACE held a 31-day joint SEPA and NEPA EIS scoping period from Sept. 28 through Oct. 29, 2018—including conducting two public scoping meetings. Although the EIS scoping period is closed, the public input we received regarding the scope of the EIS will help us identify:

- A reasonable range of alternatives, including alternative sites and project designs, based on the purpose of each project.
- Potentially affected natural, cultural, or community resources and the extent of study and analysis needed to understand different potential impacts.
- Likely significant, unavoidable adverse environmental impacts.
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and offset any adverse effects.

We and the USACE received comments from citizens, local and tribal governments, state and federal agencies, and organizations. These comments will be summarized, our agencies will issue separate SEPA and NEPA scoping reports later in 2018. The scoping reports will summarize the input we received about what should be included in each draft EIS. The meeting materials presented at the EIS scoping meetings are available at the project EIS website.

Proposed project details

The EIS scoping period will help us and the USACE decide what resources and impacts to analyze for the proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project that includes:

- Building a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell in Lewis County. The proposed structure would have an expandable foundation.
- Making levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport.
Proposed flood retention facility would only operate during major floods

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's proposed project involves constructing a new floodwater retention facility and temporary reservoir on the Chehalis River near the town of Pe Ell in Lewis County.

During a major flood, the proposed facility is designed to substantially reduce flood damages in parts of the Chehalis River basin by storing up to 65,000 acre feet of water in a temporary reservoir. When it is safe to do so, retained floodwater water would be released slowly back to the river over a period of time. Most of the time, however, the Chehalis River would flow through the structure's low-level outlet works at the river's normal rate of flow and volume — allowing fish to pass upstream and downstream.

The flood retention facility is not designed to protect communities from all flooding, nor would it stop regular annual flooding from the Chehalis River.

Proposed flood retention facility details

The top of the proposed flood retention structure would be 1,220 feet long and up 254 feet high — including three to five feet of freeboard for safety and a 210 foot-wide emergency spillway. The structure would be built on a foundation that could be expanded should a permanent reservoir and additional water retention capability be needed in the future. However, any structure expansion or major operational changes would require new environmental reviews and permits.

To construct the retention facility and reservoir, trees and vegetation at the site would need to be removed. A new power line would be constructed to operate the dam's pumps, gates, instruments, and other controls. The project also would include developing a quarry, material storage and processing sites, and setting aside areas for offices and storing equipment.

Proposed Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee improvements

To protect the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and area transportation from damages from 100-year floods, the district also proposes raising the existing airport levee and part of Airport Road. The project would:

- Add four to seven feet to the height of the existing 9,500 foot-long levee by adding earthen materials or flood walls.
- Raise about 1,700 feet of Airport Road along the southern extent of the airport.
- Potentially change the northwest corner of the levee to avoid interfering with the runway glide path.
- Include utility infrastructure and other transportation improvements.

Next steps

Now that scoping is complete, the next environmental review step will be developing a draft and then a final EIS for the project proposal. The USACE will follow similar steps. The EIS process provides many opportunities for public involvement, guidance, and comments. Each agency will summarize the comments received during scoping into a summary document, and make the summaries available on the project website. No permit decisions can be made until after the final EIS is issued.

Administrative and SEPA process questions

- What is SEPA?
- Why are Environmental Impact Statements being done for the proposed Chehalis basin project?
- Who decides what the Environmental Impact Statements will evaluate?
- What is a substantive scoping comment?
- Does it matter how many times a comment is made?
- Where can I find a response to my scoping comment?
- Will comments at meetings be more valued?
I made a comment on the programmatic EIS for the Chehalis basin. Will it be automatically included?

Related links

- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District
- Environmental Impact Statements
- Chehalis Basin Strategy

Contact information

Environmental review

Diane Butorac
EIS Project Manager
diane.butorac@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6573

Media contact

Curt Hart
Communication manager
curt.hart@ecy.wa.gov
360-407-6944

Website feedback: tell us how we're doing.
Attachment C
Tribal Notifications

Letter to Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation ................................................................. C-1
Letter to Quinault Indian Nation ........................................................................................................... C-4
September 24, 2018

The Honorable Harry Pickernell Sr.
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
420 Howanut Road
Oakville, WA 98568

Subject: Scoping for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Chairperson Pickernell:

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District has proposed a Chehalis River Flood Damage Reduction project. The proposal is to build and operate a flood retention facility with an associated temporary reservoir near Pe Ell, Washington to reduce damage from major floods and to extend the Airport Levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport to reduce flood damage from catastrophic floods.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is the lead agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction project proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will prepare a separate document under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Ecology and the USACE are planning a joint scoping period for the EISs, with a 31-day scoping period beginning September 28, 2018, and ending October 29, 2018. I invite you to provide comments on what the EIS should analyze. The scoping notice and project description for the proposal will be available at: http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis once the scoping period begins.

I am aware of the Chehalis Tribe’s engagement as part of the Chehalis Basin Board and participation in technical studies for the Chehalis Basin Strategy and I appreciate your involvement in this important work. In addition to these efforts and the opportunities for providing scoping comments as described below, direct government-to-government consultation can be arranged if requested.

Ecology will consider all comments regarding the scope of the SEPA EIS, and determine what should be included in the environmental review. We will consider the work done on the
The Honorable Harry Pickernell, Sr.
September 24, 2018
Page 2

Chehalis Basin Strategy Programmatic EIS and studies conducted as part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy since the release of the Programmatic EIS. Ecology has the responsibility to ensure that the proposal receives an objective and thorough review through the EIS process, consistent with the requirements of SEPA and its related regulations.

Scoping is an important step in the environmental review process. It is during the scoping process that tribal governments, other agencies and organizations, and the public are invited to comment on what should be covered in the EIS document. This includes: a reasonable range of alternatives; potentially affected resources and the extent of analysis for those resources; significant unavoidable adverse impacts; and measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate effects of the proposal.

As mentioned earlier, the 31-day scoping period begins September 28, 2018 and ends on October 29, 2018. Scoping comments will be accepted by the methods below:

• Public meeting comments: Oral and written comments will be accepted during two public scoping meetings at:
  - Montesano City Hall, Banquet Room at 112 North Main Street, Montesano, WA 98563 on October 16, 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm; 5:15 pm presentation followed by public comment period. An open house will be available 5 pm to 8 pm.
  - Centralia College, Bowman Rotary Banquet Rooms A and B at 600 Centralia College Boulevard, Centralia, WA 98531 on October 17, 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm; 5:15 pm presentation followed by public comment period. An open house will be available 5 pm to 8 pm.

• Electronic Written Comments: Electronic written comments will be accepted via a web form at http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/comment-form.

• Written Comments: Written comments will be accepted by mail to the following address:
  Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
  c/o Anchor QEA
  720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
  Seattle, WA 98101

Following scoping, a contractor will prepare a draft SEPA EIS under the direction of Ecology. The purpose of an EIS is to provide the public and agency decision makers with information on likely adverse environmental effects of the proposed project, as well as reasonable measures to reduce those effects.
When the draft SEPA EIS is available, it will be broadly announced and circulated so that tribes, other agencies, and the public have an opportunity to comment on its content, analysis, and accuracy. Public hearings will also occur during the public review of the draft SEPA EIS.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange government-to-government consultation, please contact me at (360) 407-6977 or by email at gordon.white@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Gordon White
Responsible Official
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Manager

cc: David Burnett, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
    Glen Connelly, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
    Sally Toteff, Ecology
    Tom Laurie, Ecology
September 24, 2018

The Honorable Fawn Sharp
Quinault Indian Nation
PO Box 189
Taholah, WA 98587

Subject: Scoping for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
Environmental Impact Statement

Dear President Sharp:

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District has proposed a Chehalis River Flood Damage Reduction project. The proposal is to build and operate a flood retention facility with an associated temporary reservoir near Pe Ell, Washington to reduce damage from major floods and to extend the Airport Levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport to reduce flood damage from catastrophic floods.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is the lead agency for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction project proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will prepare a separate document under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Ecology and the USACE are planning a joint scoping period for the EISs, with a 31-day scoping period beginning September 28, 2018, and ending October 29, 2018. I invite you to provide comments on what the EIS should analyze. The scoping notice and project description for the proposal will be available at: http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis once the scoping period begins.

I am aware of the Quinault Indian Nation’s engagement as part of the Chehalis Basin Board and participation in technical studies for the Chehalis Basin Strategy and I appreciate your involvement in this important work. In addition to these efforts and the opportunities for providing scoping comments as described below, direct government-to-government consultation can be arranged if requested.

Ecology will consider all comments regarding the scope of the SEPA EIS, and determine what should be included in the environmental review. We will consider the work done on the Chehalis Basin Strategy Programmatic EIS and studies conducted as part of the Chehalis Basin
Strategy since the release of the Programmatic EIS. Ecology has the responsibility to ensure that the proposal receives an objective and thorough review through the EIS process, consistent with the requirements of SEPA and its related regulations.

Scoping is an important step in the environmental review process. It is during the scoping process that tribal governments, other agencies and organizations, and the public are invited to comment on what should be covered in the EIS document. This includes: a reasonable range of alternatives; potentially affected resources and the extent of analysis for those resources; significant unavoidable adverse impacts; and measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate effects of the proposal.

As mentioned earlier, the 31-day scoping period begins September 28, 2018 and ends on October 29, 2018. Scoping comments will be accepted by the methods below:

- Public meeting comments: Oral and written comments will be accepted during two public scoping meetings at:
  - Montesano City Hall, Banquet Room at 112 North Main Street, Montesano, WA 98563 on October 16, 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm; 5:15 pm presentation followed by public comment period. An open house will be available 5 pm to 8 pm.
  - Centralia College, Bowman Rotary Banquet Rooms A and B at 600 Centralia College Boulevard, Centralia, WA 98531 on October 17, 2018 from 5 pm to 8 pm; 5:15 pm presentation followed by public comment period. An open house will be available 5 pm to 8 pm.

- Electronic Written Comments: Electronic written comments will be accepted via a web form at [http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/comment-form](http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/comment-form).

- Written Comments: Written comments will be accepted by mail to the following address:
  
  Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS  
  c/o Anchor QEA  
  720 Olive Way, Suite 1900  
  Seattle, WA 98101

Following scoping, a contractor will prepare a draft SEPA EIS under the direction of Ecology. The purpose of an EIS is to provide the public and agency decision makers with information on likely adverse environmental effects of the proposed project, as well as reasonable measures to reduce those effects.

When the draft SEPA EIS is available, it will be broadly announced and circulated so that tribes, other agencies, and the public have an opportunity to comment on its content, analysis, and accuracy. Public hearings will also occur during the public review of the draft SEPA EIS.
If you have any questions or would like to arrange government-to-government consultation, please contact me at (360) 407-6977 or by email at gordon.white@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Gordon White
Responsible Official
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program Manager

cc: Tyson Johnston, Vice-President, Quinault Indian Nation
    Dave Bingaman, Natural Resources Department, Quinault Indian Nation
    Sally Toteff, Southwest Regional Director, Ecology
    Tom Laurie, Executive Advisor for Tribal & Environmental Affairs, Ecology
Attachment D
Scoping Materials

Scoping Boards........................................................................................................................................... D-1
PowerPoint Presentation............................................................................................................................... D-11
Scoping Handout ..................................................................................................................................... D-31
Proposed Project Description ..................................................................................................................... D-39
SCOPING BOARDS
Scoping Meeting Agenda

WELCOME

Open house
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Short presentation
5:15 p.m.

Oral comments received through 8 p.m.

At this meeting, you can:
  • Review displays about the proposed project and the state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes
  • Talk to team members
  • Provide written and/or oral comments

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
Meeting Ground Rules

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are committed to providing safe and effective scoping meetings. Public input is an important part of scoping. The scoping period and related meetings offer the public an opportunity to be involved in the environmental review process and hear suggestions, questions, and concerns.

Ecology and USACE propose specific ground rules to create a secure, non-intimidating, and respectful atmosphere that allows all voices to be heard. Individuals who do not follow the ground rules and create an unsafe or intimidating environment will be asked to leave scoping meetings.

Ecology and USACE ask all participants to honor the ground rules to help maintain an open, secure, and respectful tone for each meeting, and allow everyone’s voice to be heard equally. Use of these ground rules will support productive and civil meetings.

Ground Rules

- Intimidating behavior will not be tolerated because it creates a disrespectful and threatening environment. Examples of intimidation that are prohibited include:
  - Confronting, blocking, or interfering with attendees when they approach, enter, or engage in the scoping meeting venue
  - Conducting rallies or demonstrations at the entrance or within the scoping meeting venue

- Ecology and USACE may close the space to additional attendance if facility capacity is reached. When people depart and space becomes available, additional people will be allowed to enter.

- Ecology and USACE reserve the right to close the meeting at any time if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for participants to make oral comments before an audience or if there is a safety risk.

- In anticipation that many people will want to provide oral comments to the agencies, Ecology and USACE have established a 2-minute time limit per speaker for all scoping meetings; and this limit will be enforced.

- Speakers will be chosen by a lottery drawing method to provide an unbiased selection of speakers.

- Silent expressions of support or opposition by giving a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” or raising one’s hand, or a small sign for a few seconds are allowed if they do not disrupt speakers.

- Clapping, cheering, or jeering disrupts speakers. Such noise contributes to an intimidating atmosphere and is prohibited within the scoping meetings.

- Speakers may be stopped when disruptive behavior such as sign waving or a mass activity like standing up as a group occurs. These actions will reduce the overall time allotted for people to speak and therefore fewer people will be able to provide comments.

- Signs no larger than 100 square inches (such as 10” x 10”) are allowed in the public comment areas. Signs should not be held up for extended periods as they block the view of others.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
What is an Environmental Impact Statement?
An EIS provides a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. This analysis is necessary before an agency can act on any permit.

What is scoping?
Scoping is the first step in the EIS process. The purpose of scoping is to receive public input on the project to identify probable impacts to environmental resources and alternatives.

How can you provide comments?

- **Scoping meetings:** oral comments through the court reporter or written comment cards
- **Online comment form via the website:** chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form
- **Mail:** Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS Anchor QEA–720 Olive Way, Suite 1900 Seattle, WA 98101

All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.
Applicant’s Proposal

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington.

Applicant’s Purpose

The proposed project is intended to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin and includes:

- **A flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir** near Pe Ell to reduce damages during a major flood. It will not protect communities from all flooding, nor is it designed to stop regular annual flooding from the Chehalis River.

- **Fish passage facilities** at the flood retention facility to allow fish to pass both upstream and downstream.

- **Airport levee improvements** to protect the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and area transportation from damage from a 100-year flood.

A major flood in the Basin (events greater than 38,800 cubic feet per second at the Grand Mound gage located along the Chehalis River in Thurston County) has a 15% probability of occurring in any given year (an approximate 7-year recurrence interval).
SEPA Process

What is SEPA?
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires agencies to take environmental factors into consideration before taking action on state and local government decisions, such as issuing permits for projects. The EIS will be used to inform permit decisions but no permit decisions can be made until the environmental review process is complete.

Areas of the Environment Proposed for Analysis in the EIS

- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources (Historic and Archaeological)
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Fish and Wildlife
- Geology and Soils (Landslides)
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources
- Water Quality
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Vegetation

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

We are here

Conduct SEPA Scoping

Prepare Draft EIS

Issue Draft EIS

Draft EIS Public Comment Period and Public Meetings

Prepare Final EIS

Issue Final EIS
NEPA Process

What is NEPA?
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider environmental values alongside the technical and economic considerations that are inherent factors in federal permit decision making. It is important to emphasize that no permit decisions can be made until after the environmental review process is complete.

Areas of the Environment Proposed for Analysis in the EIS

- Climate Change
- Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Geology (Landslides and Earthquakes)
- Geomorphology
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources (including Tribal Treaty Rights)
- Water Resources
- Wetland/Riparian Habitat and Wildlife

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
The project includes a proposed flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir near Pe Ell. The facility would only store floodwater during major floods and then slowly release retained floodwater when it is safe to do so and over a period of time.

Most of the time, the Chehalis River would flow through the structure’s low-level outlet works at its normal rate of flow and volume—and allow fish to pass both upstream and downstream.

The proposed flood retention facility is considered to be expandable because it would be built with a foundation and hydraulic structure extents capable of supporting the future construction of a larger structure and reservoir that could expand the water storage from 65,000 acre-feet to up to 130,000 acre-feet. This expansion may or may not occur, but if pursued would be subject to a separate environmental review and permitting process.

The temporary reservoir would extend 5.3 miles, on average, during a major flood. The maximum periodic inundation extent would be 6.2 miles in a flood event similar to the 2007 flood.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facility Length</strong></td>
<td>1,220 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Facility Height</strong></td>
<td>254 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity</strong></td>
<td>65,000 acre-ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>River Inundation Length</strong></td>
<td>6.2 miles for a 100-year flood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The project would also include:
- Spillway, flip bucket, and stilling basin for the flood retention facility
- Bypass road for Forest Road 1000
- On-site or nearby rock quarry, concrete batch plant, and aggregate mining
- Tree and vegetation removal
- New power line
Flood Retention Facility Fish Passage

Fish Passage During Construction

The proposed project includes temporary fish passage during construction using a river bypass tunnel.

Fish Passage During Normal Flows

Following construction, fish would pass upstream and downstream of the structure through low-level passageways that would remain open during normal conditions and smaller floods.

Fish Passage During Major Floods

During major floods, the low-level outlet would be closed, blocking fish passage. A fish collection, handling, transport, and release facility (trap and haul) would be used when the structure outlets are closed.
The proposed project includes airport levee improvements to protect the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and area transportation corridors from damage from 100-year flood levels.

Levee improvements include:

- Elevating the existing 9,500-foot long levee 4 to 7 feet
- Raising 1,700 feet of Airport Road to meet the new airport levee height
- Potentially changing the raised levee (northwest corner) to avoid interference with the runway glide path
- Improving associated utilities and transportation corridor
Environmental Impact Statement
Scoping Meetings

for the Proposed Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

October 16, 2018 (Montesano City Hall)
October 17, 2018 (Centralia College)
Overview

• Welcome, Meeting Purpose, and Agenda
• Meeting Ground Rules
• Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Processes
• Proposed Project
• How to Provide Scoping Comments
• Scoping Comments
## Meeting Agenda

### Open House
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Staffed exhibits
- Opportunity to provide written comments
- Court reporter available to record private oral comments

### Oral Public Comments
5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Welcome
- Short presentation
- Lottery style oral comment period
- Adjourn
Meeting Ground Rules
Meeting Ground Rules

Purpose

• Provide safe and effective scoping meetings
• Create a secure, non-intimidating, and respectful atmosphere that allows all voices to be heard

All participants are asked to honor the ground rules to help maintain an open, secure, and respectful tone for each meeting.
Meeting Ground Rules

Providing Oral Comments

• Speakers will be chosen by a lottery drawing method.

• Silent expressions of support or opposition are allowed if they do not disrupt speakers.

• Activities or behaviors that may be intimidating are prohibited.
SEPA and NEPA EIS Processes
Scoping Overview

• **What is an Environmental Impact Statement?**
  An EIS provides a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. This analysis is necessary before an agency can act on any permit.

• **What is Scoping?**
  Scoping is the first step in the EIS process. The purpose of scoping is to receive public input on the project to identify probable impacts to environmental resources and alternatives.
SEPA Process

What is SEPA?
The State Environmental Policy Act – or SEPA – requires agencies to take environmental factors into consideration before taking action on state and local government decisions, such as issuing permits for projects. The EIS will be used to inform permit decisions but no permit decisions can be made until the environmental review process is complete.
Areas of the environment proposed for analysis in the SEPA EIS:

- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources (Historic and Archaeological)
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Fish and Wildlife
- Geology and Soils (Landslides)
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources
- Water Quality
- Water Resources
- Wetlands and Vegetation
What is NEPA?
The National Environmental Policy Act – or NEPA – requires federal agencies to consider environmental values alongside the technical and economic considerations that are inherent factors in federal permit decision making. It is important to emphasize that no permit decisions can be made until after the environmental review process is complete.
Areas of the environment proposed for analysis in the NEPA EIS:

- Climate Change
- Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Geology (Landslides and Earthquakes)
- Geomorphology
- Land Use
- Public Services and Utilities
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Resources (including Tribal Treaty Rights)
- Water Resources
- Wetland/Riparian Habitat and Wildlife
Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District’s Proposed Project

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project
Applicant’s Proposal
The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington.

Applicant’s Purpose
The proposed project is intended to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin.
Vicinity Map

Airport Levee Improvements

Flood Retention Facility with Fish Passage and Temporary Reservoir

Major Roads

Rivers and Streams within the Chehalis Basin
Flood Retention Facility – Expandable (FRE)
Airport Levee Improvements

- Airport Levee Improvements
- Raised Road
- Railroad

Existing

Chehalis River
Chehalis
We Want Your Input!
Providing Scoping Comments

Ways to Comment – from Sept 28 through Oct 29

• **Scoping Meetings**
  Oral comments through the court reporter or written comment cards

• **Online comment form via the website**
  chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form

• **Mail**
  Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
  Anchor QEA – 720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
  Seattle, Washington 98101

All comments will be valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.
We want to hear from you

The most useful scoping comments focus on the following topics:

• Potentially affected resources and extent of study and analysis needed to understand each probable impact

• Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (offset) effects of the proposal

• A reasonable range of alternatives, including alternative sites and project designs
Public Scoping Meeting Agenda

Open House:
5 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Staffed exhibits
- Opportunity to provide written comments
- Court reporter available to record private oral comments

Oral Public Comments:
5:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Welcome
- Short presentation
- Lottery style oral comment period
- Adjourn

Comments on the Scope of Environmental Studies

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District is proposing the Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are holding a 31-day scoping period for the environmental review process on the proposed project from September 28 through October 29, 2018. Ecology and USACE have determined the proposal could have significant adverse environmental impacts and will require formal studies of those probable impacts through separate state and federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) processes. The first step in the environmental review process is to receive public input on the scope of the EIS to help identify project alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, potential mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Ecology will evaluate the proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). USACE, representing the federal government, will conduct a separate, but synchronized review as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Each state and federal EIS document will provide a comprehensive and objective evaluation of probable environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that would avoid or minimize impacts. This analysis is necessary before any agency can act on any permit.
Flood Retention Facility

Chehalis-Centralia Airport Levee Improvements

Vicinity Map
Proposed Project

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (District) is proposing to construct a new flood retention facility and temporary reservoir near the town of Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport in Chehalis, Washington, to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin. Project elements include:

A proposed flood retention facility and associated temporary reservoir intended to reduce damages during a major flood. The temporary reservoir would be present only during a major flood, and the water in the reservoir would be released back to the Chehalis River as soon as it is safe to do so. At all other times the river would flow through the structure’s low-level outlet works at its normal rate of flow and volume and allow fish passage both upstream and downstream.

Airport Levee Improvements would include raising the existing levee around the Chehalis-Centralia Airport as well as a portion of Airport Road, to provide protection from 100-year flood levels for the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and a portion of I-5. In addition to the levee, 1,700 feet of Airport Road would be raised to meet the airport levee height along the southern extent of the airport.

Participating in SEPA and NEPA Scoping

Scoping Period: September 28 through October 29, 2018

During the scoping period from September 28 through October 29, 2018, you can learn about the District’s proposal, the EIS process, and provide scoping comments. There are multiple ways to submit comments. All scoping comments are valued equally, regardless of how they are submitted.

Each Scoping Meeting Will Include:

- In person at a public scoping meeting
- Online: chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/comment-form
- By mail: Chehalis Flood Damage Reduction Project EIS
  Anchor QEA—720 Olive Way, Suite 1900
  Seattle, WA 98101

Scoping Comments

Scoping is designed to gather input for developing the draft EISs. Ecology and USACE have already determined that there may be probable significant adverse impacts from this proposal and that is why the EISs are being developed.

The most useful scoping comments focus on the topics below and provide input to Ecology and USACE on what should be included in environmental reviews.

- Potentially affected resources and extent of study and analysis needed to understand each probable impact
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate (offset) effects of the proposal
- A reasonable range of alternatives, including alternative sites and project designs

All substantive comments will be considered by the reviewing agencies. Scoping comments will be summarized, and separate SEPA and NEPA scoping reports will be issued later in 2018.
Scoping Meeting Ground Rules

Ecology and USACE are committed to providing safe and effective scoping meetings. Public input is an important part of scoping. The scoping period and related meetings offer the public an opportunity to be involved in the environmental review process and hear suggestions, questions, and concerns.

Ecology and USACE propose specific ground rules to create a secure, non-intimidating, and respectful atmosphere that allows all voices to be heard. Individuals who do not follow the ground rules and create an unsafe or intimidating environment will be asked to leave scoping meetings.

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Ground Rules

1. Intimidating behavior will not be tolerated because it creates a disrespectful and threatening environment. Examples of intimidation that are prohibited include:
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   - Conducting rallies or demonstrations at the entrance or within the scoping meeting venue

2. Ecology and USACE may close the space to additional attendance if facility capacity is reached. When people depart and space becomes available, additional people will be allowed to enter.

3. Ecology and USACE reserve the right to close the meeting at any time if disruptions interfere with the opportunity for participants to make oral comments before an audience or if there is a safety risk.

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Guía del alcance del trabajo de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental
Proyecto de reducción de daños por inundaciones en la cuenca del Río Chehalis

Agenda de la reunión pública para determinar el Alcance del Trabajo

Jornada de puertas abiertas:
5 p.m. a 8 p.m.

- Exhibiciones atendidas por el personal
- Oportunidad de proporcionar comentarios por escrito
- Reportero judicial disponible para grabar comentarios orales en privado

Comentarios Públicos Orales:
5:15 p.m. a 8 p.m.

- Bienvenida
- Presentación corta
- Periodo de comentario oral al estilo de lotería
- Cierre de sesión

Comentarios sobre el Alcance de Trabajo de los Estudios Ambientales

El Distrito de la Zona de Control de Inundaciones de la Cuenca del Río Chehalis (Distrito) está proponiendo el Proyecto de reducción de daños por inundaciones en la cuenca del Río Chehalis. El Departamento de Ecología de Washington (Ecología) y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de EE. UU. (USACE por sus siglas en inglés) tendrán un periodo de determinación del alcance del trabajo de 31 días (del 28 de septiembre al 29 de octubre de 2018) para el proceso de Revisión Ambiental del propuesto proyecto. Ecología y USACE determinaron que la propuesta podría tener impactos ambientales adversos significativos y requerirán estudios formales de esos probables impactos por separado a través de los procesos estatales y federales de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS por sus siglas en inglés). El primer paso en el proceso de Revisión Ambiental es recibir contribuciones del público acerca del alcance del EIS para ayudar a identificar las alternativas del proyecto, probables impactos adversos significativos, medidas de mitigación potenciales, licencias y otras aprobaciones que puedan ser requeridas.

Ecología evaluará la propuesta según es requerido por la Ley Estatal de Política Ambiental (SEPA por sus siglas en inglés). USACE, en representación del gobierno federal, llevará a cabo una revisión separada, pero sincronizada, como es requerida por la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental (NEPA por sus siglas en inglés). Cada documento de EIS, estatal y federal, proporcionará una evaluación integral y objetiva de probables impactos ambientales, alternativas razonables, y medidas de mitigación que evitarían o minimizarían los impactos. Este análisis es necesario antes de que cualquier agencia pueda proseguir con cualquier permiso.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN:
Sitio web de EIS del Proyecto de la Cuenca del Río Chehalis:
chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis
Para ser Agregado a la Lista de Correo Electrónico:
info@chehalisbasinstrategy.com

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Janelle Leeson
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Twitter: @seattledistrict

Igualdad de Acceso
Para asegurar el acceso equitativo a los materiales, Ecología y USACE proporcionarán servicios a personas con discapacidades. Favor de llamar al (206) 219-5900 con cualquier solicitud. Las personas con discapacidad auditiva o discapacidad del habla pueden comunicarse al 711 para el Servicio de Retransmisión de Washington. Las personas con discapacidad del habla pueden llamar a TTY al (877) 833-6341.
Instalación de Retención de Inundación

Vertedero de Exceso de Flujo

Vertedero de Cubo

Cuens de Posición de Salida de Nivel Bajo

Salida de Desviación de Construcción

Rio Chehalis

Instalación de Paso de Peces y Flujo Normal

Instalación de Retención de Inundación (con Paso de Peces y Embalse Temporal)
Proyecto Propuesto

El Distrito de la Zona de Control de Inundaciones de la Cuenca del Río Chehalis (Distrito) propone construir una nueva instalación de retención de inundaciones y un embalse temporal cerca de la ciudad de Pe Ell, Washington, y hacer mejoras al dique cerca del aeropuerto Chehalis-Centralia en Chehalis, Washington, para reducir los daños debidos a inundaciones dentro de la cuenca del Río Chehalis. Los elementos del proyecto incluyen:

Una propuesta para una presa de retención de inundaciones y su embalse temporal asociado el cual está destinado a reducir daños durante una inundación mayor. El embalse temporal estaría presente sólo durante una inundación mayor, y el agua en el embalse sería devuelta al Río Chehalis tan pronto como sea seguro hacerlo. El resto del tiempo, el río fluiría a través de las salidas del nivel bajo de la presa a su velocidad normal de flujo y volumen, y permitiría el paso de peces tanto río arriba como río abajo.

Mejoras al dique del Aeropuerto incluirían elevar el dique existente alrededor del Aeropuerto Chehalis-Centralia, así como también una parte de Airport Road, para brindar protección contra niveles de inundación de 100 años para el Aeropuerto Chehalis-Centralia, negocios locales, y una porción de la I-5. Además del dique, se levantarían 1,700 pies de Airport Road para unirse con la altura del dique a lo largo de la extensión sur del aeropuerto.

Participar en la determinación del alcance del trabajo de SEPA y NEPA

Período de determinación del alcance del trabajo: del 28 de septiembre al 29 de octubre de 2018

Usted puede obtener información sobre la propuesta del Distrito, el proceso EIS, y proporcionar comentarios sobre la determinación del alcance del trabajo entre el 28 de septiembre al 29 de octubre de 2018 durante el período de alcance. Hay varias formas de enviar comentarios. Todos los comentarios se valoran por igual, independientemente de cómo sean enviados.

Cada reunión para determinar el alcance del trabajo incluirá:

- Un área de bienvenida donde puede aprender sobre el formato de la reunión y obtener un boleto para proporcionar comentarios oralmente.
- Una breve presentación que comenzará a las 5:15 p.m.
- Un área de exhibición donde podrá revisar la información y hablar con el personal.
- Un área tranquila donde pueda proporcionar comentarios por escrito ya sea completando un formulario de comentarios o hablando con un reportero de la corte
- Un área de comentarios públicos donde usted pueda proporcionar comentarios orales a los representantes de USACE y Ecología

Comentarios sobre la determinación del alcance del trabajo

El proceso de determinar el alcance del trabajo está diseñado para recopilar información para desarrollar los EIS. Ecología y USACE ya han determinado que puede haber impactos adversos significativos probables a raíz de esta propuesta y es por eso que se están desarrollando los EIS.

Los comentarios más útiles se centran en los temas a continuación y proporcionan información a Ecología y USACE sobre lo que se debe incluir en las revisiones ambientales.

- Recursos potencialmente afectados y el grado de estudio y análisis necesarios para comprender cada impacto probable
- Medidas para evitar, minimizar, y mitigar (compensar) los efectos de la propuesta
- Una gama razonable de alternativas, incluyendo sitios y diseños de proyectos alternos

Todos los comentarios significativos serán considerados por las agencias revisoras. Los comentarios sobre el proceso de determinar el alcance del trabajo se resumirán, y más adelante en 2018 se publicarán en reportes por separado de SEPA y NEPA.
Reglas Básicas para la Reunión sobre la determinación del alcance del trabajo

Ecología y USACE se comprometen a proveer reuniones seguras y efectivas. El aporte público es una parte importante del proceso. El periodo oficial y las reuniones relacionadas ofrecen al público la oportunidad de participar en el proceso de revisión ambiental y escuchar sugerencias, preguntas, y preocupaciones.

Ecología y USACE proponen reglas básicas específicas para crear una atmósfera segura, no intimidante, y respetuosa que permita que todas las voces sean escuchadas. A las personas que no sigan las reglas básicas y creen un ambiente inseguro o intimidante se les pedirá que abandonen las reuniones.

Ecología y USACE piden a todos los participantes que respeten las reglas básicas para ayudar a mantener un tono abierto, seguro y respetuoso en cada reunión, y permitan que la voz de todos sea escuchada por igual. El seguir estas reglas básicas resultará en reuniones productivas y civiles.

Reglas Básicas

1. **El comportamiento intimidante no será tolerado porque crea un ambiente irrespetuoso y amenazante.** Ejemplos de intimidación que están prohibidos incluyen:
   - Confrontar, bloquear, o interferir con los asistentes cuando se acercan, entran, o participan en la reunión.
   - Realización de manifestaciones o demostraciones en la entrada o dentro del lugar de la reunión.

2. Ecología y USACE pueden cerrar el lugar para asistencia adicional si se alcanza la capacidad de las facilidades. Si gente se va y espacio queda disponible, se permitirá la entrada de personas adicionales.

3. Ecología y USACE se reservan el derecho de cerrar la reunión en cualquier momento si hay interrupciones que interfieran con la oportunidad de que los participantes realicen comentarios orales ante una audiencia o si existe un riesgo de seguridad.

4. Anticipando que muchas personas querrán proveer comentarios orales a las agencias, Ecología y USACE han establecido un límite de 2 minutos por orador en todas las reuniones, y éste límite se hará cumplir.
   - Los oradores serán elegidos por un método de sorteo para proporcionar una selección imparcial de oradores.
   - Expresiones silenciosas de apoyo u oposición dando un “pulgar hacia arriba” o un “pulgar hacia abajo” o levantando la mano o un pequeño cartel por unos segundos serán permitidas si no interrumpen a los oradores.
   - Aplaudir, animar, o abuchear interrumpe a los oradores. Estos ruidos contribuyen a una atmósfera intimidante y están prohibidos dentro de las reuniones.
   - Los oradores se pueden cortar cuando ocurre un comportamiento perturbador, como mover un letrero o una actividad masiva como pararse de pie en grupo. Estas acciones reducirán el tiempo total asignado para que las personas hablen y por lo tanto, menos personas podrán proveer comentarios.
   - Se permiten carteles que no superen las 100 pulgadas cuadradas (como 10 “x 10”) en las áreas de comentarios públicos. Los carteles no deben ser levantados por periodos prolongados ya que bloquean la vista de los demás.
Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project

Project Description

Occasional catastrophic flood damage from the Chehalis River devastates homes, farms, businesses, churches, and schools. It also freezes transportation in much of Southwest Washington when I-5 and Highways 6 and 12 are closed.

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) is proposing to construct a flood retention facility, or dam, near Pe Ell, Washington, and levee improvements around the Centralia-Chehalis Airport in Chehalis, Washington, to reduce flood damage during a major or catastrophic flood (see Figure 1, Vicinity Map below). This document provides a description of FCZD’s proposal to inform the public scoping process for the separate federal and state Environmental Impact Statements.

Figure 1
Vicinity Map
The proposed facilities are intended to substantially reduce damages during a major or catastrophic flood. The amount of flood risk reduction will vary throughout the basin. Previous studies and research have predicted that the project will:

1. Reduce of the closure due to overtopping of Interstate 5 freeway to 24 hours or less during a 100-year flood event.
2. Reduce damage from major flooding along the Chehalis River main stem. Hydraulic analysis shows that 100-year flood peak levels will be lowered by 10 feet or more at the Doty gauge, and by 1 foot or more at the Mellen Street gauge in Centralia. This level of reduction in flood levels translates to a substantial decrease in the severity of flooding on more than 4,000 acres as well as substantial relief from the more than $900 million of economic impacts estimated to occur during a major flood event.
3. Provide future leaders in the Chehalis Basin the flexibility to address additional increases in peak flood levels and decreases in stream flow during summer months through an adaptable design approach.

The project would have significant reductions to flood risk, however it will not protect communities from all flooding, nor is it designed to stop regular, small-scale annual flooding from the Chehalis River. Flood protection provided by the facilities would not result in immediate changes to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood hazard mapping; however, FEMA mapping updates would continue to occur. This large scale flood project is also not intended to supplant the need for smaller local flooding projects, such as flood proofing or farm pads. Projects constructed within the existing floodplain will continue to follow floodplain development regulations.

The temporary reservoir associated with the dam would be present only during major flooding. The water in the reservoir would be released as soon as it is safe to do so after the flood event, and is therefore considered to be temporary. At all other times, the river will flow through the dam’s low level outlet works at its normal rate of flow and volume and allow fish passage both upstream and downstream. This system will achieve dual goals of flood damage reduction benefit while having minimal, if any, impacts on normal streamflow in the Chehalis River.

A “major flood” along the Chehalis River is the level at which flooding in Lewis County results in road closures and floodwaters encroach on some homes and businesses. In addition, major flooding in Thurston County results in the inundation of farmlands and roads, including U.S. 12. The threshold for a major flood is defined as 38,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) at the Grand Mound gage located along the Chehalis River in Thurston County. This flood has about a 15% probability of occurrence in any year (or a 7-year recurrence interval). Major floods include events greater than 38,800 cfs with a lower frequency of occurrence such as 10-year, 100-year, and 500-year floods (10%, 1%, and 0.02% probability of occurrence in any year).
The type of dam that has been selected for EIS analysis is known as a Flood Retention Expandable (FRE) facility, which consists of a dam with a temporary reservoir. The FRE dam would temporarily retain water in the event a major flood as previously described. The river would flow normally during regular conditions or in smaller floods. The dam would only transition to flood retention operations during a major flood. Specific flow release operations would depend on inflow and the need to hold water to relieve downstream flooding as flood waters recede.

The FRE dam is considered to be expandable because it is proposed to be built with a foundation and hydraulic structure capable of supporting future construction of a larger dam with up to 130,000 acre feet of storage. This project, which may or may not occur, would be subject to a separate NEPA and SEPA process and permitting if pursued in the future.

Conceptual FRE plan views and cross-section views are provided in Figures 2 through 4.
Figure 2
FRE Site Plan View
Figure 3
FRE Dam Plan View
Figure 4
FRE Section Views

Section A-A
FRE Dam Non-Overflow Section

Section B-B
FRE Dam Overflow Spillway

Section C-C
FRE Dam Low Level Outlet Works (LLO)
The dam is not intended to result in any residential or community development at or around the reservoir. Creation of a temporary reservoir is not intended to encourage development because it would be contrary to the Chehalis Basin Strategy objectives of reducing flood damage to properties, minimizing threats to human safety from floods, and protecting and restoring aquatic species habitat.

**Construction Considerations**

A summary of construction and operational considerations for the FRE is described below. For more information, refer to the Combined Dam and Fish Passage Design Conceptual Report (July 2017) and Supplemental Design Report for the FRE Dam Alternative (September 2018) available at http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/publications/.

**Infrastructure**

Construction activities would necessitate a detour or bypass road for Forest Road (FR) 1000, which is a main access road for Weyerhaeuser forestry operations. The FR 1000 bypass or detour would also be needed during flood conditions when the dam is in operation and FR 1000 is inundated. Up to 6 miles of FR 1000 would be inundated and unavailable during major peak flood retention, at which time a detour could be used consisting of FR A-line, FR F line, and FR 2000 to rejoin FR 1000 upstream of the reservoir.

Construction of the FRE dam would include development of a quarry site, material storage, material processing, and areas for construction offices and equipment storage. Concrete aggregate could be mined within the FRE facility site or nearby, depending on aggregate availability and a concrete batch plant would be located nearby to produce concrete. Three potential quarry sites have been identified; the most promising is within the reservoir inundation area approximately 2 miles from the potential dam location and accessed from Forest Road (FR) 1000. Material from the quarry site would be crushed and processed for use in the dam and other structures. A concrete production facility would include both roller compacted concrete (RCC) and conventional concrete production. It would be located above and northeast of the dam. The location was chosen based on access for transport of materials to the site and to allow efficient transport of the RCC to the dam. The site would include the following:

- RCC batch plant
- Conventional concrete batch plant
- Aggregate crushing and screening
- Aggregate storage
- Fly ash storage

The dam would be constructed with roller-compacted concrete, which is more cost-effective than other types of construction methods, and would be designed to retain a flow volume similar to the 2007 flood. A new power line would be needed for the construction and operation of the dam to power pumps, gates, instruments, and other controls. The alignment for new power lines would be selected to avoid
and minimize impacts, including using existing local transmission lines and locating the line along areas cleared for dam construction.

**Temporary Construction Flow Diversion and Fish Passage**
A 20-foot modified horseshoe-shaped tunnel would carry water past the construction site. An upstream cofferdam would direct upstream water into the diversion tunnel. A much smaller downstream cofferdam would be constructed to protect the construction area for the stilling basin and fish collection channel.

The temporary diversion tunnel would accommodate fish passage during construction of the dam, and permanent fish passage facilities would be constructed and operated with the dam. Fish passage facility designs are currently conceptual in nature. The most conservative guidance for fish passage and protection was followed, and the following documents provided the engineering design guidelines used during conceptual design:

- *Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design* (NMFS 2011)
- *Best Management Practices to Minimize Adverse Effects to Pacific Lamprey* (Entosphenus tridentatus; USFWS 2010)
- *Draft Fish Protection Screen Guidelines for Washington State* (Nordlund and Bates 2000)
- *Water Crossing Design Guidelines* (Barnard 2013)

**Vegetation Management**
In addition to removal of vegetation for the dam structure, tree clearing and vegetation removal would occur within the reservoir area; details have been provided in a Pre-construction Vegetation Management Plan (Appendix J to the Programmatic EIS). Goals of the Pre-construction Vegetation Management Plan include reducing the extent of tree clearing and vegetation removal in the reservoir footprint and reducing the amount of woody material that would accumulate in the reservoir during a flood. The FCZD is working to improve the Vegetation Management Plan to address the long-term vegetation management as part of the maintenance and operation of the dam. It is expected that a very conservative approach will be studied as part of the Project EIS, and the final Plan will have fewer impacts than what is being currently assumed.

**Permanent Structure**
The top of the dam structure would be 1,220 feet long. The maximum structural height of the dam is estimated to be up to 254 feet, including 3 to 5 feet of freeboard as a factor of safety. The dam includes a 210-foot-wide emergency spillway, which would discharge into a 70-foot-wide and 230-foot-long stilling basin. The stilling basin would allow for containment and control of all flows over the emergency spillway. The spillway crest elevation (628 feet) would be above the maximum estimated reservoir flood
pool elevation for a 100-year flood. The spillway is expected to be used very rarely, and for events of very short duration. A flip bucket would be constructed to launch the spillway flow a safe distance downstream of the dam and to dissipate the energy in the river channel. Upstream of the dam, an anchored log boom would help contain large woody material (LWM). At the dam, steel bar racks would protect the river opening entrances from LWM that could not pass through the low-level outlet works downstream.

Table 1 provides a summary of the potential changes to surface water quantity at and above the dam, and the inundation extent is provided on Figure 5.

**Table 1**
FRE Temporary Reservoir Conditions for Surface Water Quantity

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<td>Reservoir inundation upstream of the FRE dam would be temporary (up to 32 days)</td>
<td>Up to 32 days</td>
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<td>Inundation extent</td>
<td>Temporary reservoir would extend 5.3 miles, on average</td>
<td>6.2 miles</td>
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<td>Inundated area</td>
<td>188 acres (median)</td>
<td>778 acres</td>
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<td>Reservoir elevation</td>
<td>513 feet (median)</td>
<td>620 feet</td>
<td>Elevation of the river bed at the proposed dam site is 420 feet</td>
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<td>Maximum design reservoir elevation</td>
<td>628 feet</td>
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<td>Design reservoir elevation is defined as the invert of the spillway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reservoir depth</td>
<td>88 feet</td>
<td>195 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum design reservoir depth</td>
<td>203 feet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>65,000 acre-feet</td>
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<td>Capacity is defined as from the base of the dam to the invert of the spillway</td>
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</table>

1. Major is any time flood retention occurs. That threshold is measured at Grand Mound and corresponds to emergency management declarations. “Major Flood” has flow of 38,800 cfs at Grand Mound
2. To account for a flood similar to the 2007 flood
Figure 5
FRE Reservoir Extent

The temporary reservoir would extend 5.3 miles, on average, during a major flood. The maximum periodic inundation extent would be 6.2 miles in a flood event similar to the 2007 flood.
Permanent Fish Passage

Fish passage would be provided primarily through five openings installed along the river bottom at the base of the dam. During construction, a river bypass tunnel would be constructed for use until the dam openings are operational. The dam outlet openings would be 230 feet in length. They are anticipated to replicate the stream discharge and velocity rating curves exhibited by the natural channel at the dam site (through which fish currently pass without the dam), up through river discharges of 4,000 cfs.

The primary means of upstream and downstream fish passage at the dam is via the low-level outlet openings. However, when water is impounded behind the dam during high-flow events, the low-level outlet would be closed. Fish passage would be provided via a collection, handling, transport, and release (CHTR) facility during the high-flow, short-term periods of time when the dam outlets are closed. The CHTR facility is also commonly referred to as a trap-and-haul facility. The CHTR would be operated as needed, which is anticipated to be approximately 30 days after a major flood event, while the reservoir is being drawn down. The CHTR would consist of a short fish ladder, a fish lift, holding galleries, sorting stations, and transportation via trucks to release sites upstream of the reservoir. A detailed description of the need, research, methods, and physical design can be found in the CHTR Preliminary Design Report, available at http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/publications/.

Location

The proposed dam would be located on Weyerhaeuser and Panesko Tree Farm property, south of State Route (SR) 6 in Lewis County, on the main-stem Chehalis River at approximate River Mile 108, about 1 mile south of (upstream of) the Town of Pe Ell. The legal description of the property is: Section 03 Township 12N Range 05W Gov Lot 13 Pt Gov Lot 14 W2 SW & SE SW EX RD, and the parcel number is 016392004000.

Property acquisition within the dam and reservoir footprint would be required, and the land would no longer be managed as commercial forestland.

The watershed area upstream of the dam is 68.9 square miles.

Project Description – Airport Levee Improvements

The Airport Levee Improvements include raising the existing levee around the Centralia-Chehalis Airport as well as a portion of Airport Road, to provide protection from 100-year flood levels for the Chehalis-Centralia Airport, local businesses, and a portion of I-5 (see Figure 6). This would elevate the height of the existing 9,511-foot-long levee by 4 to 7 feet. The existing levee would be raised by adding earthen materials or floodwalls on top. There is no proposed change to the extent or location of the levee unless it is raised by 7 feet. This would affect the northwest corner of the levee and could require “bumping” the levee out to avoid interference with the flight path of the airport runway.
In addition to the levee, 1,700 feet of Airport Road would be raised to meet the airport levee height along the southern extent of the airport. All utility infrastructure would be replaced, and the West Street over-cross approach would be terminated. Overall, these improvements result in up to 11,211 lineal feet of protective levee.

The legal description of the property is: Section 30 Township 14N Range 02W -- PT SEC 19 & 30 BTWN HWY, ST HELENS AVE. The parcel number is 005605080001.

**Figure 6**

Airport Levee
References


Attachment E
Scoping Comment Index
## SCOPING COMMENT INDEX

Reference number acronyms indicate scoping comment delivery method:
- EML: email
- RML: mailed letter
- SMO: oral comment
- SMW: written comment
- WEB: online form

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