

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY: LOCAL ACTIONS PROGRAM POTENTIAL ELEMENTS

The Local Actions Program evaluation is being completed by the Chehalis Basin Board and Office of Chehalis Basin. Per Governor Inslee's request, the Chehalis Basin Board will complete a preliminary feasibility evaluation and make recommendations for a basin-wide non-dam alternative to reducing flood damage by March 30, 2021. Potential elements of a Local Actions Program for basin-wide flood damage are provided below. Many of these elements have been investigated in the past, and some are already part of the Board's strategy on a small scale, such as through the Community Flood Assistance and Resilience effort currently underway. But the Governor and Chehalis Basin Board are committed to taking a fresh look at what has been considered in the past, as well as considering some new potential actions that collectively can form a comprehensive approach to flood damage reduction throughout all parts of the basin.

In undertaking this evaluation, the Board's stated goal is to substantially reduce flood damage caused by catastrophic floods, while taking into account predicted increases in the frequency and magnitude of these floods caused by climate change over time. The Board has approved a set of eight measurable outcomes to guide the work of the technical and implementation advisory groups and the Board. These targeted outcomes will be used to help identify and evaluate the potential feasibility of the types, location, and magnitude of actions that will be needed to substantially reduce the risk of future damage to residential and commercial content and structures, destruction of agricultural crops and livestock, closure of transportation systems, and impaired critical facilities.

Potential Elements of a Local Actions Program

Evaluation of a Local Actions Program may include the elements listed below (note that this list is not meant to reflect a priority order). A Local Actions Program will also need to be complementary of the goals and actions of in the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan.

1. Develop or potentially improve existing flood models and climate change predictions for the Chehalis Basin with a focus on high priority areas. High priority areas, which will be confirmed by the Board, include locations of significant known historical and potential future flood risk.
2. Identify erosion and channel migration hazards in the Chehalis Basin to reduce near-term and long-term risks and damages from bank erosion, channel migration, or avulsions.
3. Develop recommendations and techniques for bank protection in the Chehalis Basin based on federal, state, and local guidance.

4. Identify opportunities and locations in the upper Chehalis Basin to increase floodplain storage for a 100-year flood event in 2080. Potential locations for floodplain storage include South Fork Chehalis River, Newaukum River, and the mainstem Chehalis River from Pe Ell to Centralia.
5. Identify improved or new local flood protection actions in high priority areas. These include improving or creating new levees, floodwalls, flood gates or pump stations to protect high value structures and critical infrastructure (such as roads and water treatment facilities).
6. Identify opportunities to protect high value residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural structures through floodproofing or elevation.
7. Identify opportunities for relocation of structures and people outside of flood and erosion or channel migration hazard areas.
8. Identify opportunities for floodplain agriculture 'stay-in-place' assistance tailored to address site-specific flood and erosion risks.
9. Identify opportunities to improving flood emergency response actions.
10. Prevent new at-risk development through adoption of model floodplain ordinances and construction and building code standards that support flood damage risk reduction.
11. Evaluate contemporary forest practices.