# Chehalis Basin Alliance Meeting September 17, 2020

Facilitator: Brian Steward, Conservation NW

DEIS is due out Friday, Sept 18.

Speaker: Emelie McKain “Aquatic Species Restoration Plan” (ASRP) with WDFW

Phase I Nov2019 with 60 day public comment period included:

-Summaries of historical and existing conditions in 10 ecological regions

-Identification of 3 restoration and protection scenarios

-summary of potential results of aquatic species and costs of project

-recommended actions

Phase IIK ASRP 2020:

-Scenario refinement

-Sequencing recommendations

-Implementation Planning

-Monitoring and Adaptive management

-Community planning strategy

Draft recommendations:

-To increase overall miles of protection

-Modifications of intensities and actions throughout the area

Phase I and Phase II contain 450-550 miles of protection on the Chehalis Basic

Sequencing Recommendations:

-30- year time frame

-10 year segments

Priorities would work on critically endangered species ie., spring chinook, spotted frog and focus on connectivity for species

Option1) Streamline and improve existing framework and organizations to minimize bottlenecks;

Option 2) Larger changes to streamline and improve framework, organization, and processes to implement ASRP

The trend is toward a combination of options 1 and 2

The pace of implementation will need to be increased from 5-10 years to 2-3 years to protect species.

Legislative Outreach:

Legislators are telling lobbyists that they are not hearing opposition to the dams from constituents. We want conditions on the dam regarding protecting aquatic species (ASRP). We will wait until Friday to hear what NEPA comes out with. We can revamp our SEPA comments, use information from the governor’s letter, as well as add the stipulation about ASRP on our comments. We also want a more extensive environmental review. The Cascade BB is scheduled for legislative outreach on the issue 10/19 through 10/25. We have a scheduled Advocacy night on 9/22 for this issue. In our comments we need to tell them why we love ASRP as well as the Flood Control Project.

Items from the Chehalis Board Meeting:

The Chehalis Board is gung-ho in support of the dam. The design outcomes for the dam have been established and implementation of the dam is moving fast. The board has also included both tribes and environmental groups in their plan. However, there is not a lot of funding support from the legislature. Sept 30 NEPA has a presentation to the board and the board meeting follows the next day. The big question is appropriation and it doesn’t look like they can pull it off financially. ASRP is a critical piece and we don’t want that to disappear if the dam concept disappears, so we need funding for the ASRP. We need to make this clear in our comments and letters.

Alliance members and Broads need to submit comments to state reps as well as reps in Chehalis basin. There is a spreadsheet for that.

Next Alliance Meeting Oct 22 at 10am.