

## 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

# 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.

# 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.

## 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](https://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.

# Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District's Proposed 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.

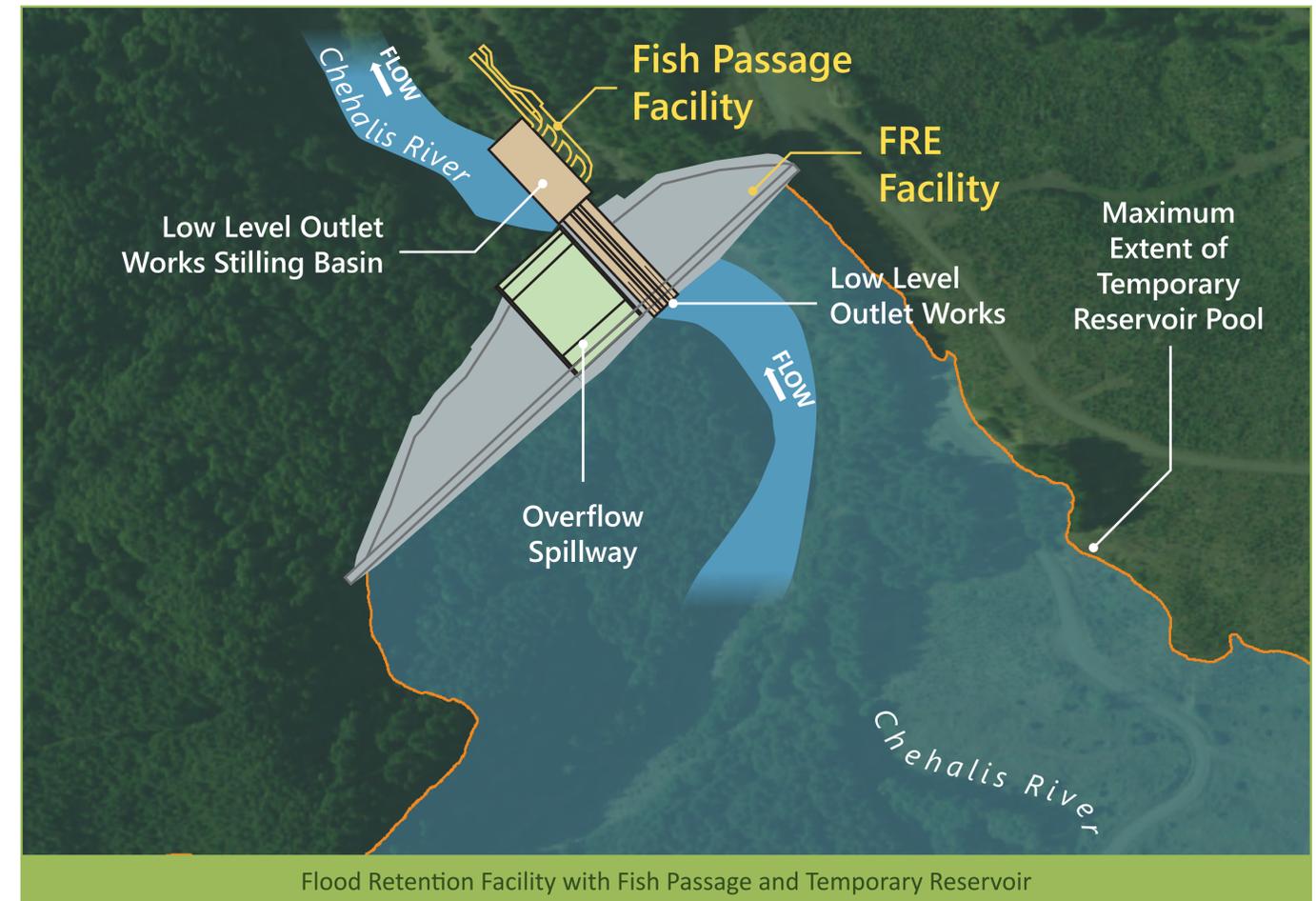
## Applicant's Purpose

The proposed project is intended to reduce flood damage in the Chehalis River Basin 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).

## Project Elements



# SEPA Process

## What is SEPA?

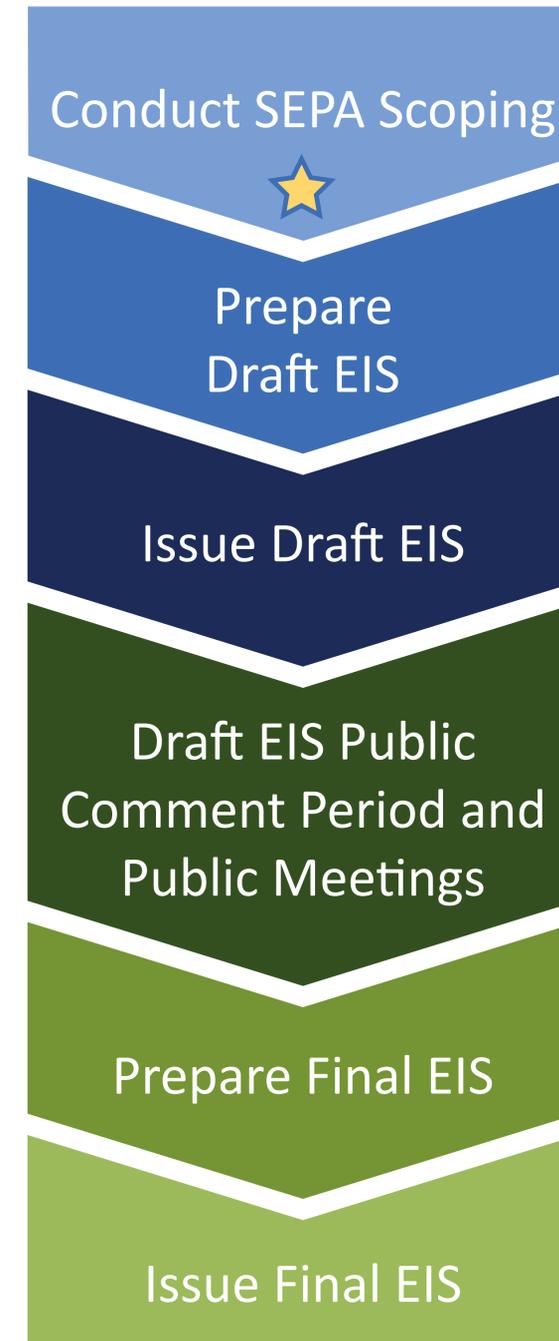
The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires agencies to take environmental factors into consideration before taking action on state and local government decisions, such as issuing permits for projects. The EIS will be used to inform permit decisions but no permit decisions can be made until the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



We are here



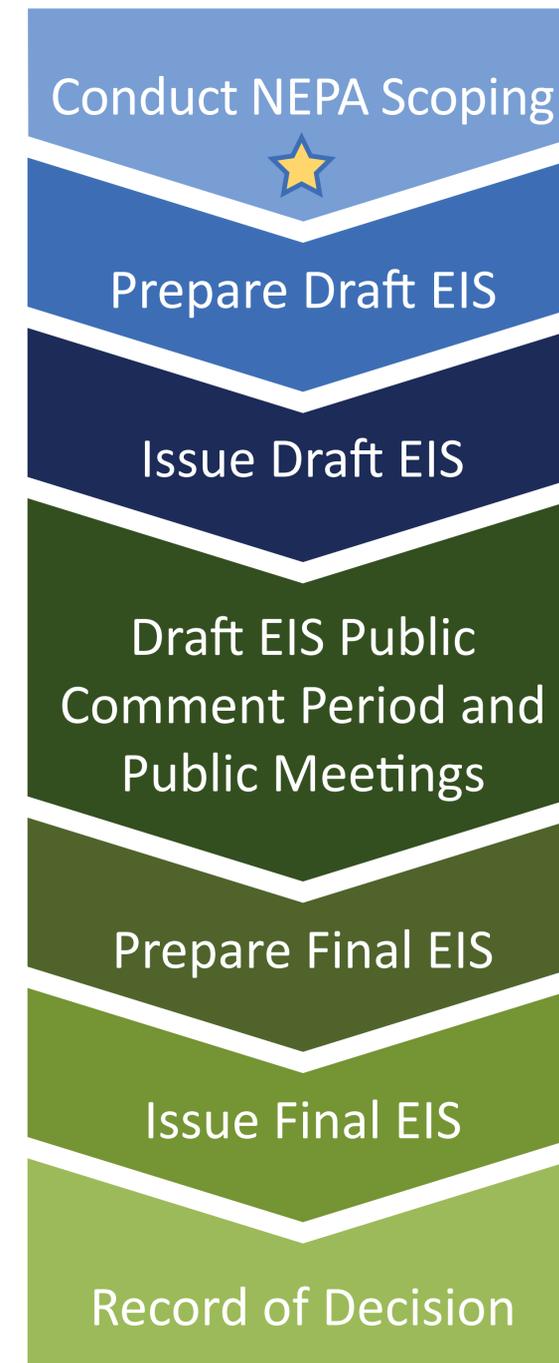
# NEPA Process

## 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



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Seattle District

# Vicinity Map



# Flood Retention Facility – Expandable (FRE)



FRE Maximum Inundation Extent

## 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

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.

<i>Facility Length</i>	1,220 ft
<i>Facility Height</i>	254 ft
<i>Capacity</i>	65,000 acre-ft
<i>River Inundation Length</i>	6.2 miles for a 100-year flood

# Flood Retention Facility Fish Passage

## Fish Passage During Construction

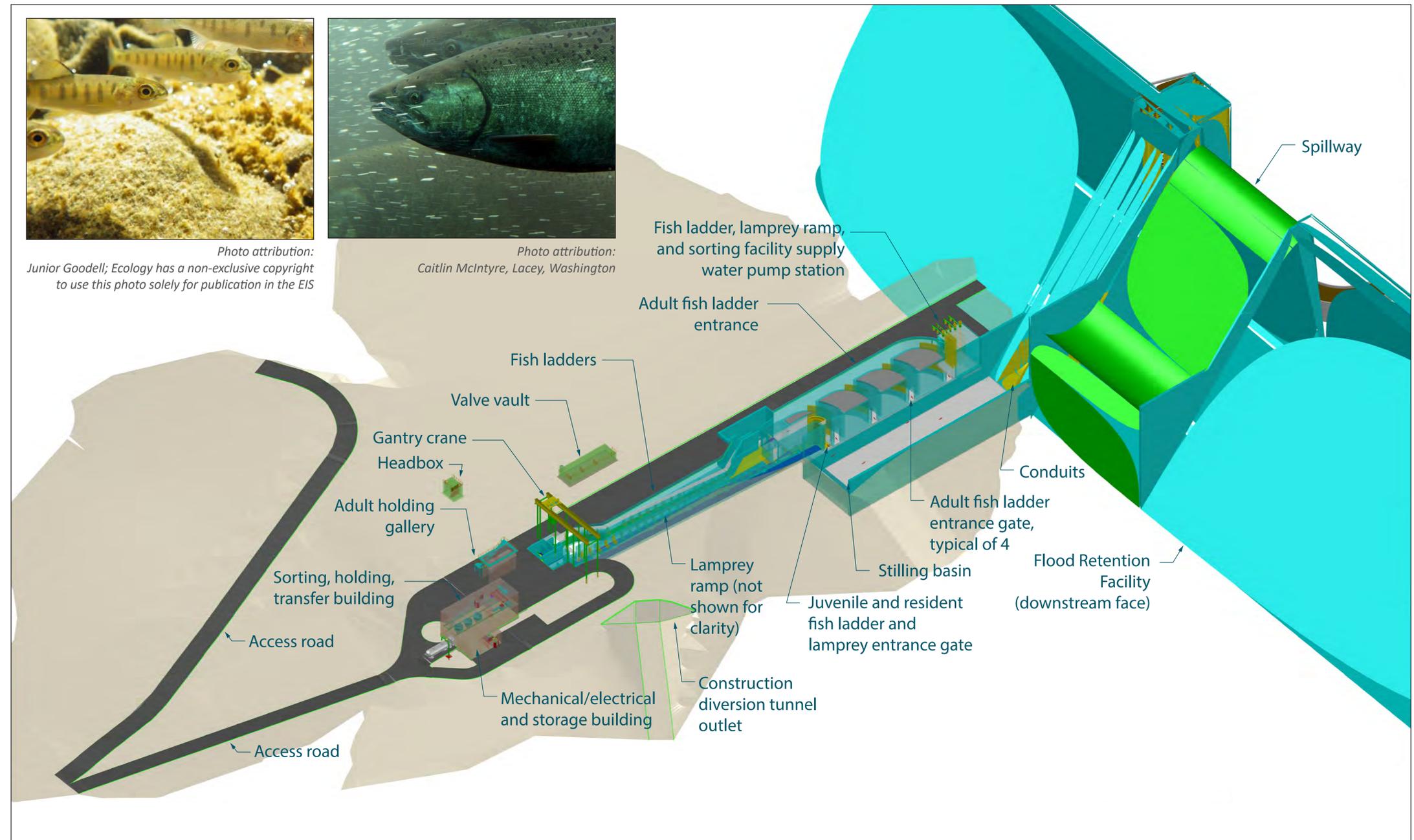
The proposed project includes temporary fish passage during construction using a river bypass tunnel.

## 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.



# Airport Levee Improvements

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

