

CHEHALIS BASIN BOARD: 2019-2021 CAPITAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATION



The Chehalis Basin Board (Board) unanimously recommends a \$73.2 Million 2019-2021 Capital Budget appropriation to continue aggressively pursuing the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

The time is right to build on the successes achieved to date.

- Building on Ecology's Chehalis Basin Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) (completed in June 2017), successful completion of dozens of small-scale projects, and careful study, planning, and design efforts, this 2019-2021 budget request is needed to aggressively pursue the next steps in the strategy to reduce catastrophic flood damages and restore habitat for aquatic species.
- Basin stakeholders remain committed to the Strategy's integrated approach, creating unique opportunities to address complex fish & flood challenges in a collaborative way.



Aerial photo of Chehalis River

The 2019-2021 budget request will fund the next phase of priority aquatic species habitat restoration and flood damage reduction projects and allow the Board to complete its development of the long-term strategy. More specifically, the \$73.2 Million will make possible:

- **Construction of an unprecedented extent of aquatic species habitat restoration** — up to five, one- to two-mile-long restoration projects in five different sub-basins and several new fish passage correction projects.
- **Construction of the first phase of the North Shore Levee and seven other local flood damage reduction projects** to protect the cities of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, as well as other critical infrastructure throughout the basin.
- **Completion of the state and federal EISs** on the proposed flood retention facility near the headwaters of the Chehalis River and raising of the Chehalis-Centralia Airport levee, which will allow the Board to make a final recommendation on whether and how to proceed with the flood retention facility and levee improvements in 2020 before the next capital budget cycle.
- **Beginning implementation of a basin-wide community flood assistance and resilience program** that will provide technical assistance and grant funds to local jurisdictions for priority property protection actions.
- **Completion of the Aquatic Species Restoration Plan**, which will detail the targeted actions and locations for the long-term investments needed to restore several hundred miles of priority habitat and achieve larger and more resilient Chinook populations.
- **Completion of the long-term capital investment strategy required by statute** to prioritize the detailed actions needed to reduce catastrophic flood damage and restore aquatic species habitat.

While success may seem more expensive in the short run, failure to act aggressively now will be more costly in the long run. Failure to respond to these dual fish and flood challenges is projected to result in more than \$3.5 Billion in future flood-related damage as well as possible ESA listings in the basin, particularly when factoring in climate change.

- Damage includes costs associated with I-5 closures, crop losses, destruction of public infrastructure, and other public and private property.
- With climate change, projections show more rapid and severe loss of salmon, including likely ESA listings and possible extinction of spring Chinook within the basin.
- With climate change, projections also show bigger, more frequent and expensive catastrophic floods are likely.



Chehalis Basin during 2007 flood

Proposed 2019-2021 Projects

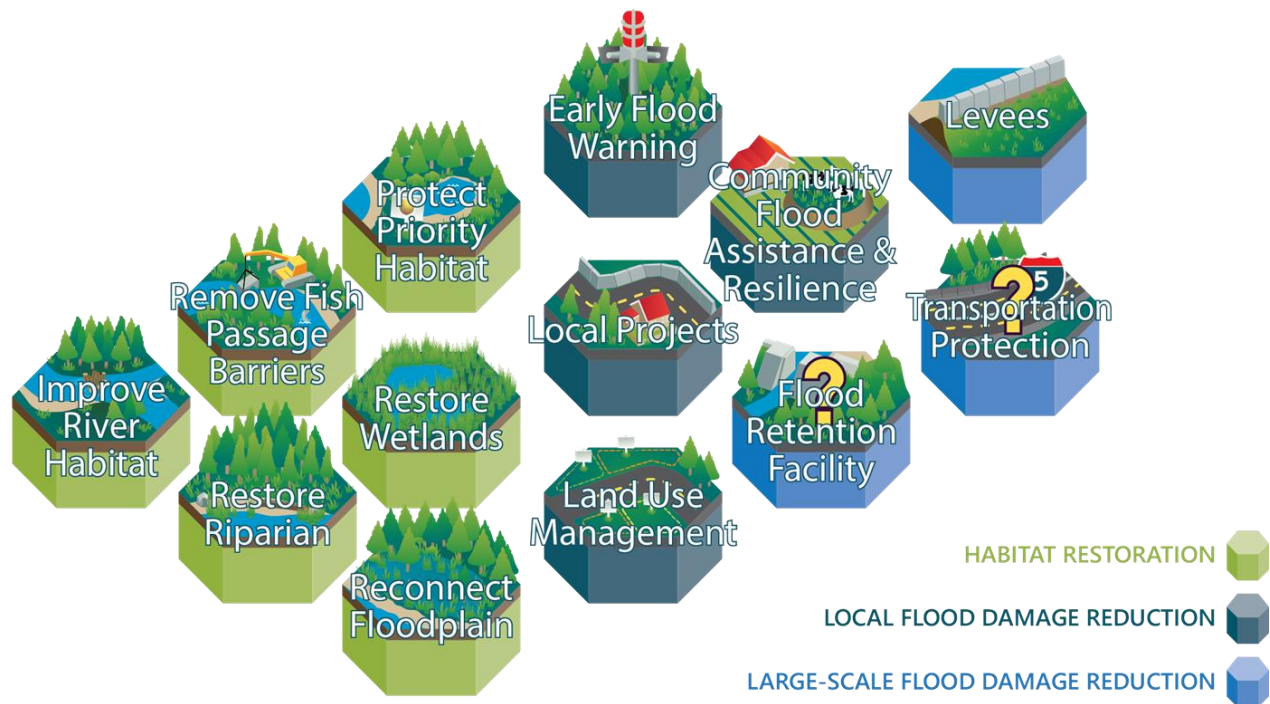
Aquatic Species Restoration Plan "Early Action" Reach Restoration Projects	Local Flood Damage Reduction Projects Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority	Aquatic Species Restoration Plan Potential Fish Barrier Correction or Other Restoration Projects
<p>Five Subbasin Reaches, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wynoochee (in Grays Harbor County) • South Fork Chehalis, Stillman Creek (in Lewis County) • East Fork Satsop (in Grays Harbor County) • Skookumchuck (in Thurston County) • South Fork Newaukum (in Lewis County) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fry Creek Restoration & Flood Reduction Project – City of Aberdeen • China Creek Flood and Habitat Mitigation, Phase 2 – City of Centralia • Northshore Levee (West Segment) – City of Hoquiam • Chehalis Flood Storage and Habitat Enhancement Master Plan – City of Chehalis • Grays Harbor County Keys Road Flood Protection – Grays Harbor County • Berwick Creek Flood Reduction – Port of Chehalis • Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District, Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan – Lewis County within the Chehalis River Basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newaukum/Cascades Ecological Diversity Region (2 projects) • Humptulips/Grays Harbor Tributaries Ecological Diversity Region • Satsop/Lower Chehalis Tributaries Ecological Diversity Region (3 projects) • Wynoochee/Olympic Mountains Ecological Diversity Region

*Each early action reach is approximately 2 miles in length, estimated \$4 million investment per reach.

*The Chehalis Basin Board has recommended a \$3.8 million investment to implement these projects.

*Potential projects represent anticipated total number of projects and geographic range; commitment to fund specific projects will occur after solicitation and ranking of proposals in 2019. Estimated \$4 million total investment.

Elements of the Chehalis Basin Strategy



For More Information

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