

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with a fence. In the middle ground, a large body of water, possibly a reservoir or a wide river, stretches across the scene. On the left side of the water, there is a barn with a red roof and a tall, white silo. The background is filled with trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is overcast. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image, with a green bar at the top and a blue bar at the bottom.

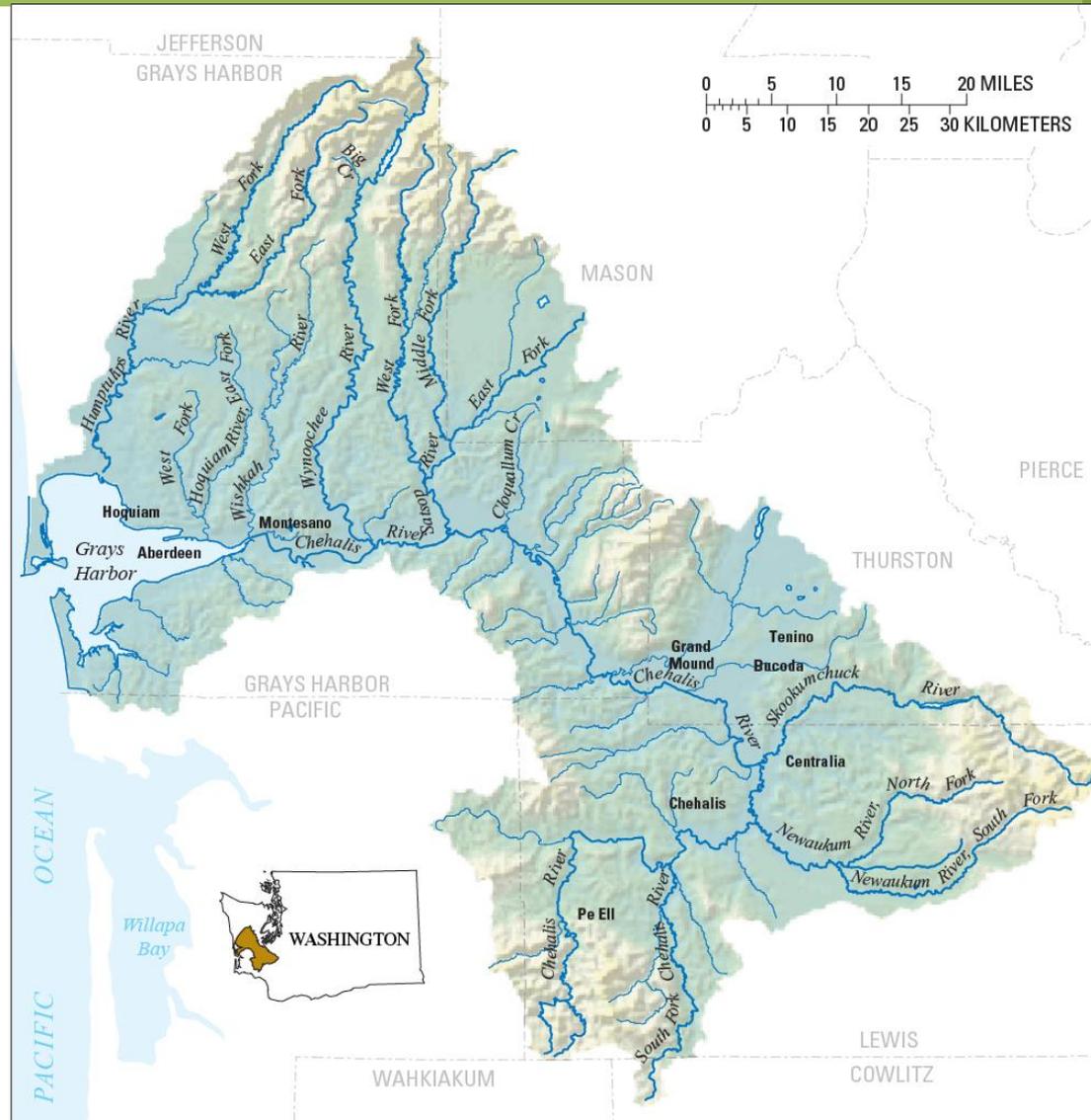
# **Chehalis Basin Strategy Local Actions Program Advisory Groups Kickoff Meeting**

**October 20, 2020**

# Meeting Objectives

- Provide Overview of Chehalis Basin Strategy and Chehalis Basin Board process for the next five months in response to Governor Inslee
- Provide Overview of Local Actions Program
- Review Roles and Expectations of Technical *and* Implementation Advisory Groups

# The Chehalis Basin



# A Fertile & Bucolic Region ...



# ... With Extreme Flooding

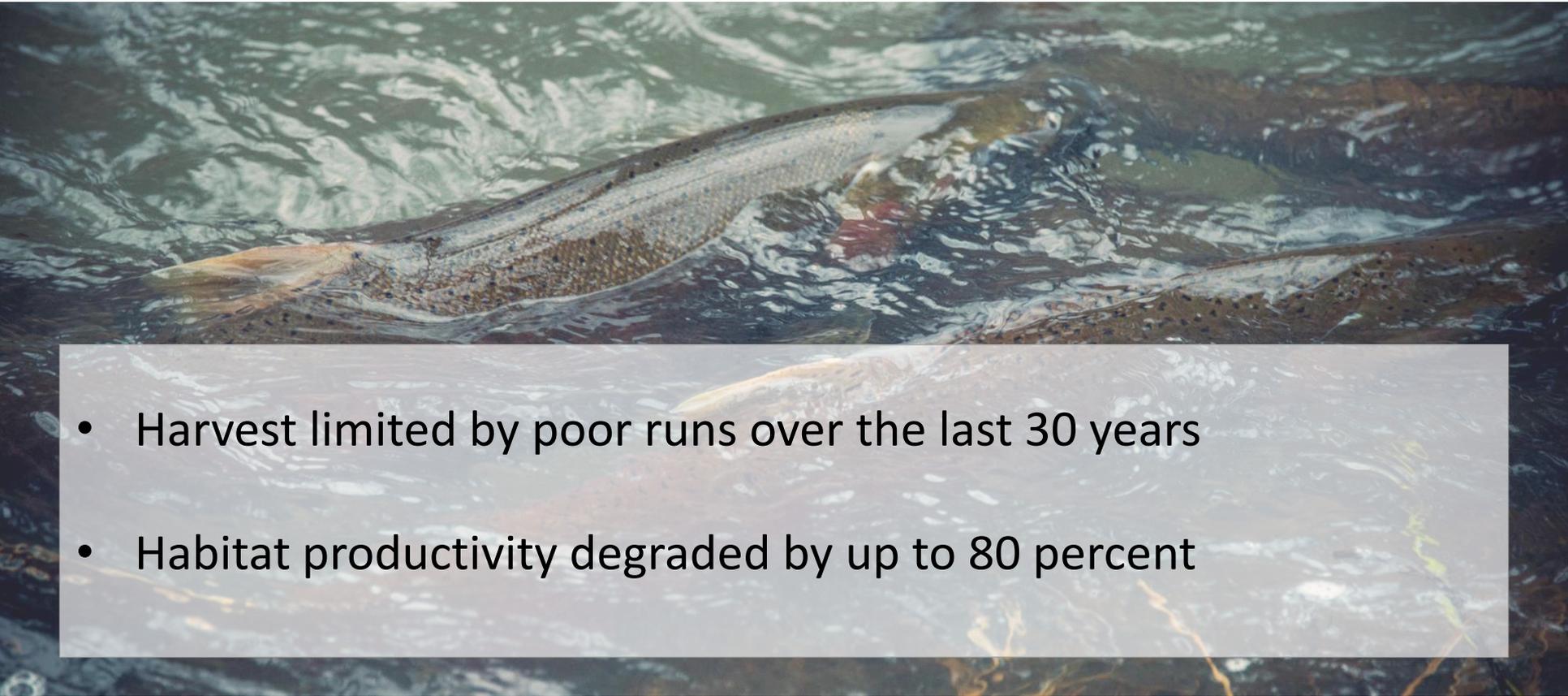


# An Abundant River Basin...



# Aquatic Species are Struggling

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- A large fish, likely a salmon, is shown swimming in water. The fish is the central focus, with its body angled towards the right. The water is dark and rippled, suggesting movement. The fish's scales are visible, and its fins are partially submerged. The overall scene is a close-up of the fish in its natural habitat.
- Harvest limited by poor runs over the last 30 years
  - Habitat productivity degraded by up to 80 percent

# OCB MISSION

To aggressively pursue an integrated strategy & funding for:

- Long-term flood damage reduction
- Aquatic species habitat restoration

# Governor's July 2020 letter to Board

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



July 22, 2020

Dear Members of the Chehalis Basin Board:

I value the important work that you do to advance consensus-based, win-win solutions for flooding and fish in the Chehalis Basin. The complex challenges facing our communities require science, collaboration, and innovative thinking to forge lasting solutions.

Recent work evaluating a proposed large-scale flood retention project in the upper Chehalis River has brought additional and significant questions and concerns about impacts and alternatives. In light of these concerns, I am requesting that the board work together to:

- Define a process and timeline for developing and evaluating a basin-wide non-dam alternative to reducing flood damage.
- Continue evaluating the issues raised regarding the retention project and other flood risk reduction projects and the potential to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the identified impacts.
- Deliver a consensus recommendation on the process back to me no later than the end of **September 2020** that will lead to a long-term strategy for consideration by me and the legislature in the first quarter of 2021.

- Define process & timeline for developing & evaluating a basin-wide non-dam alternative to reducing flood damage
- Continue evaluating ability to avoid, minimize and mitigate dam impacts
- By March 2021, recommend next steps for Chehalis Basin Strategy

# Board Objectives (Sep 2020 – Mar 2021)

## Determine:

1. Potential for flood damage reduction through Local Actions Program, CFAR, local projects, etc., with and without dam (including estimated costs)
2. Potential to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate aquatic habitat and species impacts of dam (including est. costs)
3. Magnitude, priority and sequence of ASRP actions necessary to protect and restore freshwater habitat and the abundance and resilience of aquatic species (including est. costs)

# Board Objectives (Sep 2020 - Mar 2021) *continued*

## **Recommend by March 30, 2021:**

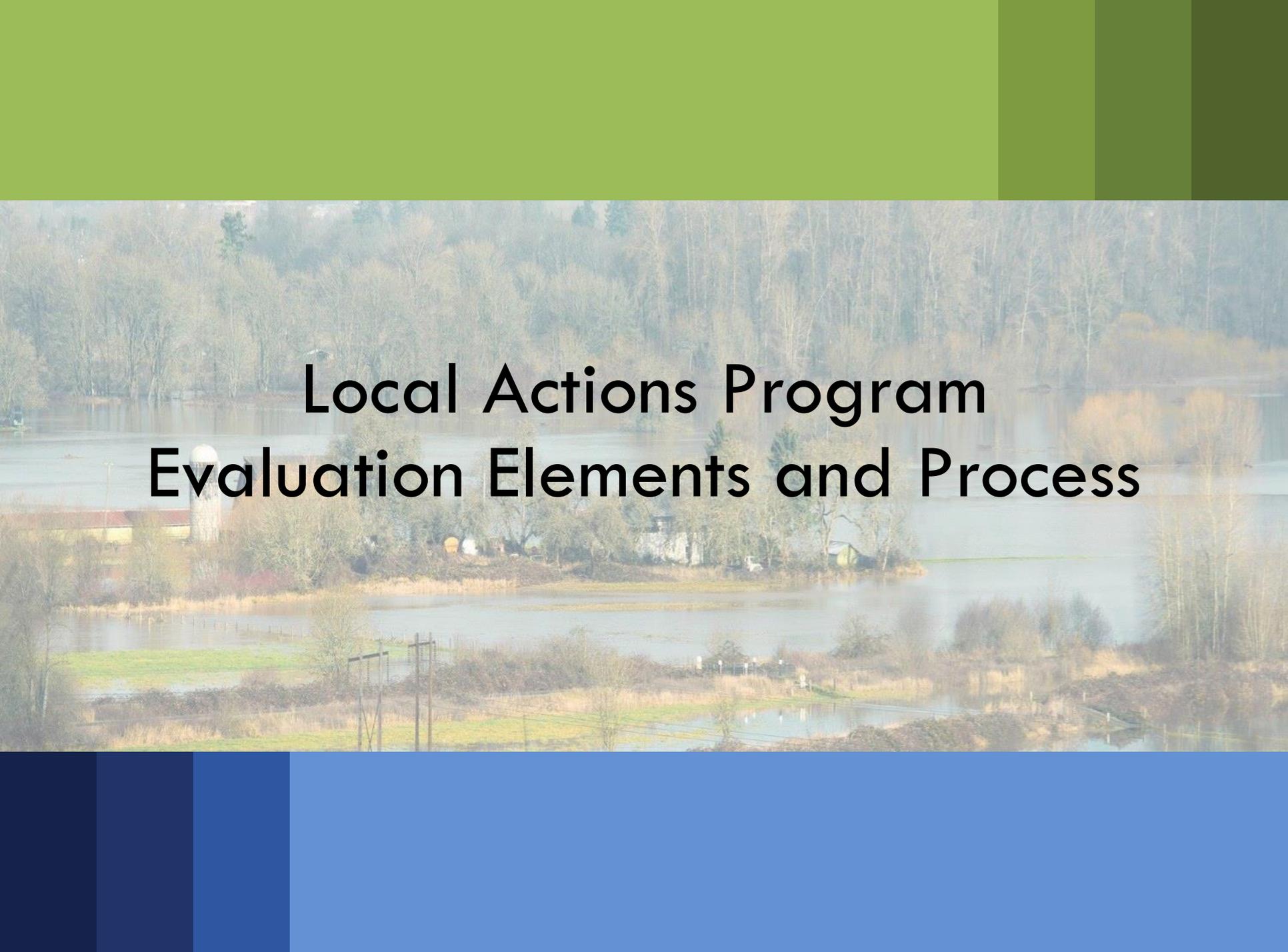
1. Which actions are ready to be implemented as part of long-term strategy
2. Which need more evaluation before determining whether they should be implemented
3. Which should not move forward
4. Next steps & resources needed to advance long-term Strategy over next 4-6 years
5. 2021-2023 biennial capital budget request

Increase awareness & support for strategy across basin and with key interest groups & decision-makers statewide.

# Public Workshops

In addition to targeted outreach to affected communities, public workshops proposed:

- **October 29, 2020** – give input on the actions and analyses that will be considered for development of a Local Actions Program and feasibility of FRE mitigation
- **Nov 2020 – mid-Feb 2021** – review initial conclusions of technical analyses and perspectives on implementation feasibility for Local Actions Program, FRE mitigation, and ASRP
- **Mid-Feb – Mar 2021** – consider conclusions of technical analyses and implementation feasibility, and potential options for the long-term strategy for Board consideration



# Local Actions Program Evaluation Elements and Process

# Local Actions Program Evaluation

## **Review:**

1. Board approved Local Actions Program planning assumptions and outcomes
2. Organizational structure for OCB, Board, and Advisory Groups
3. Potential elements of Local Actions Program
4. Draft Chehalis Basin flood damage sub-area map

# Approved Planning Assumptions for Local Actions Program

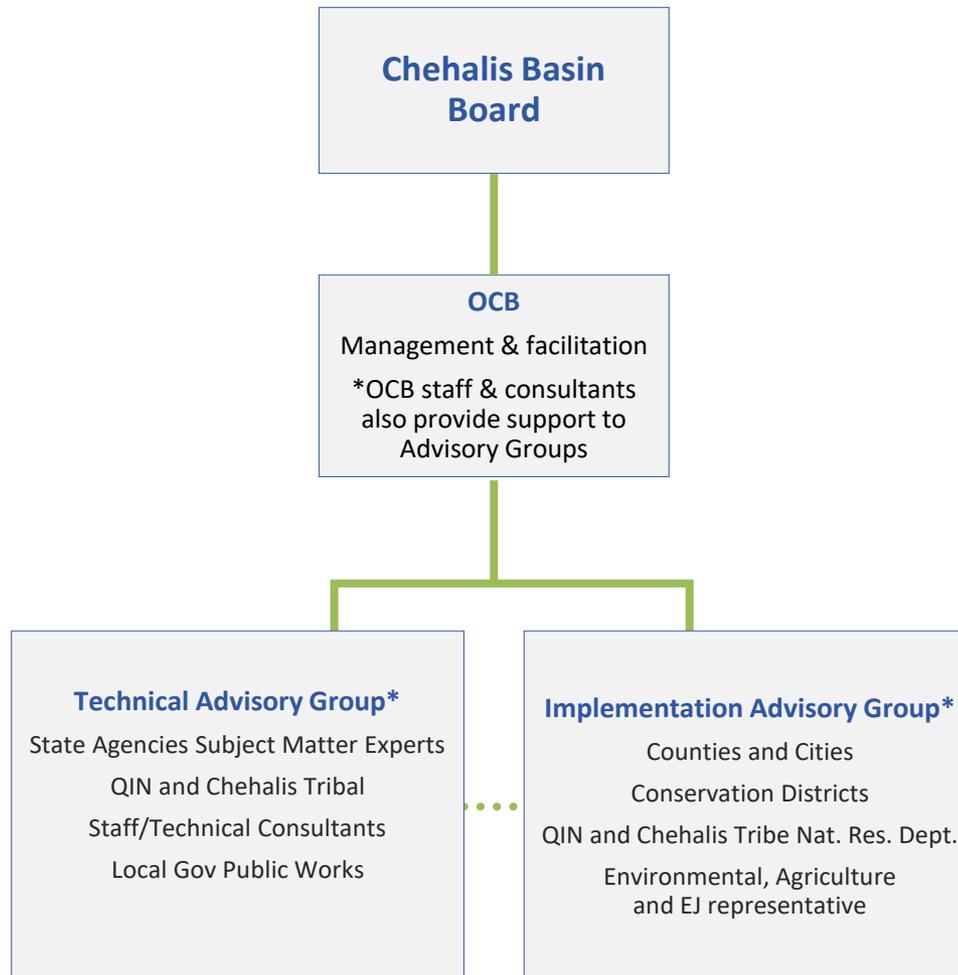
## **The Board will:**

1. Consider a timeframe of up to 30 years to implement the actions necessary to achieve outcomes.
2. Utilize future flood conditions that are predicted for the 100-year flood in 2080.
3. Require projects funded through the Local Actions Program to be designed, implemented, and mitigated to avoid making flood damage worse in other areas.

# Approved Measurable Flood Damage Reduction Outcomes

1. Valuable structures protected from mainstem, catastrophic flooding
2. Homes & businesses protected from seasonal urban flooding
3. Lower basin properties & businesses protected from coastal storm surges
4. Farmland and rural structures protected
5. Critical facilities protected
6. Transportation routes protected
7. Environmental justice advanced
8. Prevent new at-risk development

# Organizational Structure to Implement Work Plan (Sep 2020 – Mar 2021)

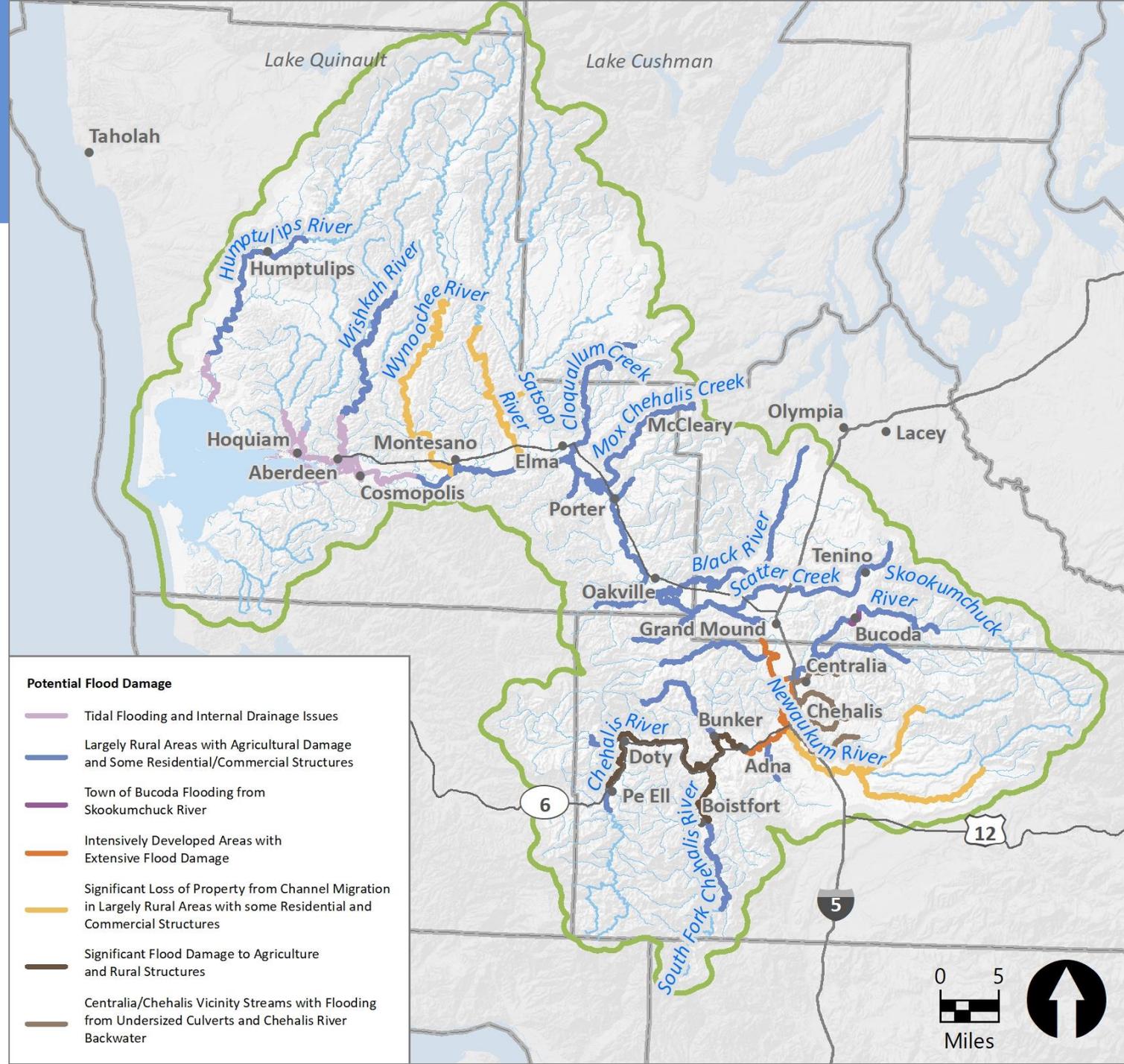


# Potential Elements of Local Actions Program

1. Use of Flood Models and Climate Change Predictions
2. Identify erosion and channel migration hazards
3. Evaluate options for bank protection
4. Identify opportunities to increase floodplain storage

# Potential Elements of Local Actions Program

5. Evaluate potential for structural solutions in high priority areas.
6. Identify opportunities to protect structures floodproofing, elevation and/or relocation.
7. Identify opportunities for floodplain agriculture 'stay-in-place' assistance tailored to address site-specific flood and erosion risks.
8. Identify opportunities to improve flood emergency response actions.
9. Prevent new at-risk development.



The background image shows a rural landscape. In the foreground, there's a grassy field with some utility poles. A large body of water, possibly a reservoir or lake, occupies the middle ground. In the background, a dense forest of trees covers a hillside. On the left side, a farm is visible, including a large barn and a tall, cylindrical silo. The sky is overcast and grey. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Technical and Implementation Advisory Groups Roles and Process

# Local Actions Program

## Work Plan for Oct '20 – Feb '21

Advisory groups assist Board to:

- Understand certainty and uncertainty in the use of technical information and how policy/programs could be affected by different approaches
- Identify additional information needed (short-term and long-term) for Board deliberations on next steps

# Expectations for Advisory Group Member

Technical and Implementation Advisory Group members are all expected to:

- Participate in approximately six to seven advisory group meetings from Oct 2020 – Feb 2021
- Review pre-work (e.g., tech memos and materials) from OCB staff and consultants in advance of all advisory group meetings and actively provide input during meetings
- Provide perspectives on issues in order for the Board to understand implications
- Will not be asked to make formal decisions on any aspect of the Local Actions Program or be expected to conduct any new analyses or evaluations

# Technical Advisory Group Issues

- Use of existing models and other information used to predict the cause and extent of flooding
- Climate change predictions have been used to predict future flood conditions
- Additional locations to increase flood storage either through restoration of natural conditions or removal of infrastructure
- Additional approaches to protect high value structures and critical infrastructure such as improving or building new levees, floodwalls, or pump stations.
- Ways to address damage from accelerated bank erosion
- Additional technical issues may be added as the Board deliberates during the six-month process

# Technical Advisory Group

- Members have technical expertise on the following topics:
- Models and other methods for predicting flood damage
  - Floodplain extent from climate change
  - Erosion hazards
  - Bank protection options
  - Potential for additional flood storage and structural facilities
  - Membership: technical staff from state agencies (Ecology, Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, Transportation, Conservation Commission), local jurisdictions, QIN, Chehalis Tribe, and technical consultant staff

# Implementation Advisory Group Issues

- Feasibility of flood damage reduction actions in different subareas of the basin: acquisitions, buyouts/relocations of structures, agriculture-related actions, and structural protection measures.
- Potential changes to land use management at the local-government level to prevent additional at-risk development in areas.

# Implementation Advisory Group

- Implementation Group will communicate with their respective communities and bring perspectives to group deliberations on community support/acceptance for potential Local Actions Program actions
- Membership: Lewis, Thurston, Grays Harbor County staff and Conservation Districts, cities of Chehalis, Centralia, Hoquiam, QIN and Chehalis Tribe, state agencies, environmental and agricultural community representatives

# Interaction Between Groups

- Floodplain increase from climate change
- Potential structural actions
- Potential non-structural actions

# Local Actions Program

## Work Plan for Oct – Nov/Dec 2020

### Technical Advisory Group Issues

1. Evaluate and determine improvements to climate change assumptions and future flood predictions
2. Research effectiveness of past and current programs to reduce flood damage through local actions
3. Refine understanding of causes and extent of flood damage at basin and sub-basin scales
4. Identify and evaluate technical effectiveness of potential actions for addressing flood damage at basin and sub-basin scales

### Implementation Advisory Group Issues

1. Evaluate feasibility of implementing potential local actions
2. Determine how potential local actions would impact communities & populations with EJ concerns
3. Assess effectiveness of current local government approaches to preventing new at-risk development and identify gaps

# Local Actions Program

## Work Plan for Nov/Dec 20 – Feb 21

### Technical Advisory Group Issues

1. Evaluate magnitude of different potential actions identified by Technical Advisory Group in October – November 2020 necessary to significantly reduce flood damage and meet approved outcomes
2. Determine technical issues that must be addressed for success of individual and combinations of potential actions
3. Determine additional information needed (short-term and long-term) for Board deliberations on next steps related to development of LAP

### Implementation Advisory Group Issues

1. Evaluate feasibility of implementing potential local actions
2. Determine how potential local actions would impact communities & populations with EJ concerns
3. Assess effectiveness of current local government approaches to preventing new at-risk development and identify gaps
4. Continue to communicate to and from constituent communities <sup>30</sup>

# Advisory Group Members

- Preparation in advance of meetings
- Respectful sharing of perspectives
- Review meeting summaries
- Timely feedback
- Highlight common areas of agreement and areas of differences

# OCB Staff Roles

1. Provide direction and oversight for technical analyses necessary for Board's approved process and outcomes
2. Facilitate Implementation and Technical Advisory groups
3. Identify differing technical and policy perspectives to the Board for their resolution
4. Summarize technical and policy analyses and provide options for Board consideration
5. Organize, facilitate, and summarize results from workshops

# Schedule/Upcoming Meetings

1. Oct 27, 2020: Technical Advisory Group #1
2. Oct 29, 2020: Public Workshop #1
3. Nov 16, 2020: Implementation Advisory Group #1
4. Mid-Nov 2020: Technical Advisory Group #2 & 3
5. Mid-Dec 2020: Technical Advisory Group #4
6. Dec 20 – Jan 21: Implementation Advisory Group #2

A landscape photograph showing a flooded rural area. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with a fence. In the middle ground, a large body of water (likely a reservoir or a flooded field) is visible. On the left side of the water, there is a large barn with a red roof and a tall, cylindrical silo. The background is a dense forest of trees, some of which are bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is overcast. The text "Questions & Discussion" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Questions & Discussion