

ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES FACT SHEET



Near flood stage in the Chehalis Basin

Photo Credit: Rollingbay Works

CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY PROGRAMMATIC EIS

This programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluates options to reduce flood damage and restore aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis River Basin.

These options are made up of actions, grouped into programs called alternatives.

The basin has experienced both major flooding and wide-spread degradation of aquatic species habitat. These problems have continued for almost 100 years without a coordinated response.

The Chehalis Basin Strategy will need to provide a long-term, integrated approach to positively effect change in the Chehalis Basin.

Special accommodations

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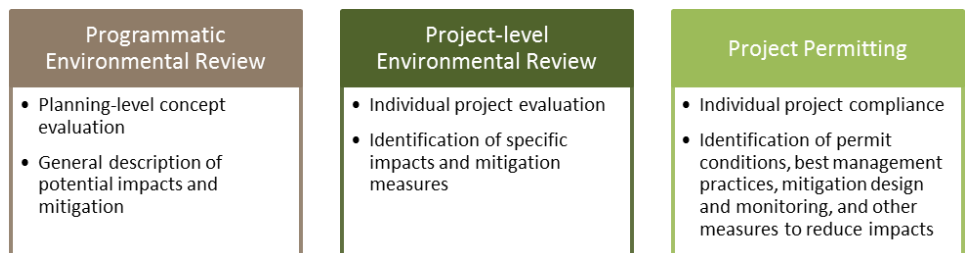
Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Programmatic EIS: How it's different

A programmatic State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review considers the effects of a broad proposal or planning-level decisions. The impact assessment in a programmatic EIS is more qualitative than a project-specific environmental review. Mitigation measures are also more general and focus on actions that could be implemented or might be required.

If a preferred alternative is selected for the Chehalis Basin Strategy, more concrete evaluations will occur through following project-level environmental reviews. These will identify site and project-specific impacts connected with implementing the actions chosen.

Environmental and land use permits could also be necessary for construction of any projects that move forward. The following graph illustrates different levels of environmental review and how they apply.



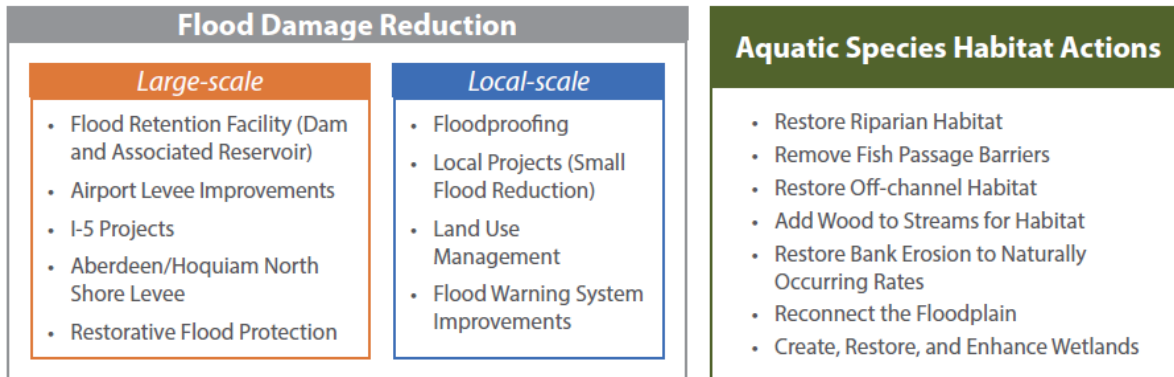
What is analyzed in the Programmatic EIS?

There is a need to reduce flood damage and restore aquatic species habitat in the Chehalis Basin. The programmatic EIS evaluates how combinations of actions could function together to meet this need.

It describes how the Chehalis Basin Strategy would be put into practice, and the potential human and environmental impacts that could result. In the programmatic EIS, Ecology reviews each of the action elements, the groups of action elements—called alternatives, and the risk of no action.

What are the EIS action elements?

The EIS action elements are projects that could be implemented in the basin to address the need of reducing flood damage and restoring aquatic species habitat. The action elements are grouped into three categories: Large-Scale Flood Damage Reduction, Local-Scale Flood Damage Reduction and Aquatic Species Habitat.



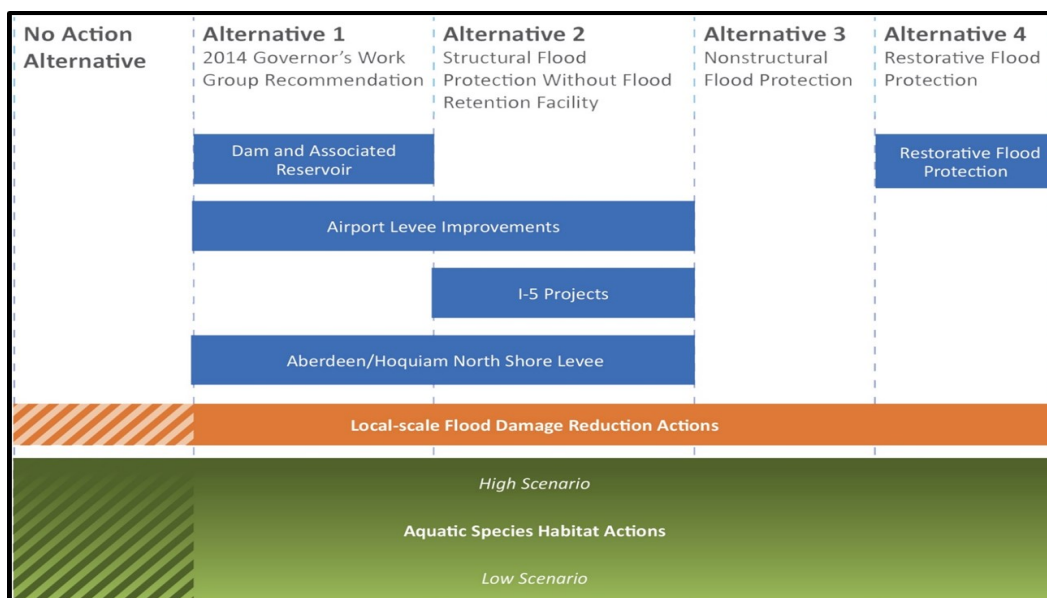
The EIS evaluates each action element separately, as well as in combined programs, called “alternatives.”

Decision-makers may recommend a final Chehalis Basin Strategy made up of a different combination of action elements than those evaluated under the alternative groups identified below; therefore, each action element was evaluated on it’s own so they could understand the impacts and benefits of each when considered alone.

What are the combined alternatives in the EIS ?

As described above, the action elements evaluated in this EIS are grouped into combined alternatives. A No Action Alternative is also included. Under this No Action Alternative, actions to reduce flood damage and improve aquatic habitat conditions would continue to a lesser extent than under the ‘action’ alternatives.

Each alternative includes a distinct combination of Large-Scale Flood Damage Reduction actions. All alternatives include the same Local-Scale Flood Damage Reduction actions and Aquatic Species Habitat actions.



This table illustrates the Large-Scale Flood Damage Reduction actions associated with each combined alternative.

Alternative 3 does not include Large-Scale Flood Damage Reduction actions.

This fact sheet provides a very general overview for public outreach purposes. This summary does not include all aspects of the analysis. The detailed analysis, data, and findings are available in the draft programmatic EIS online at <http://chehalisbasinstrategy.com/eis/>.