



Aerial view of the flood-through dam.

## An innovative flow-through dam for flood control proposed for the Chehalis Basin

BY THE ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District has released new information about the proposed flow-through dam for flood control on the Chehalis River near Pe Ell, an innovative flood risk solution that reduces flood damage to downstream communities during major storm events while minimally affecting the river's natural flows under normal conditions.

This approach to flood damage reduction has been highlighted by the United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network as an important adaptation technology.

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control District is a special purpose district based in Chehalis and is the project applicant for the Chehalis River Flood Damage Reduction Project that is currently undergoing environmental review by state and federal agencies. In 2020, the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers released Draft Environmental Impact Statements (DEISs) that described potential impacts on environmental resources from the construction and operation of the flow-through dam.

To address the findings described in the DEISs, the facility has undergone considerable design revisions, and the mitigation plan has been enhanced to provide a robust suite of actions that target multiple natural resources.

■ SEE **BASIN**, PAGE B3

### DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*Enjoy some golf, an open house, then roll up your sleeves*

BY RICHARD DEBOLT

Executive Director - Economic Alliance of Lewis County

Summer for all intents is over. The kids are back in school, vacations have come and gone, and it's time to roll up the sleeves and go at it.

But there is one last fun fling with the Economic Alliance of Lewis County — the annual Alliance Open Golf Tournament fundraiser is on Friday, Sept. 13, with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. at Riverside Golf Course in Chehalis.



RICHARD DEBOLT  
Director — Economic Alliance of Lewis County

Along with the fun of hanging out with me and my staff, playing 18 holes and the chance to win sweet prizes, all on an end-of-the-workweek (a chance to play a little hooky), this also goes for a good cause. Money raised from the Alliance Open goes toward our small business development center, which offers programs, speakers and tools to help your business thrive.

Lucky for you, there are still a few spots open for players and teams. If you want to play, contact Economic Alliance of Lewis County External Relations Manager Eric Sonnenberg at [eric@lewiscountyalliance.org](mailto:eric@lewiscountyalliance.org) or 208-206-5407.

### Open house

Still under the banner of late summer fun, I invite you to our new digs.

We've moved and we're proud of our new office, and are celebrating and letting you know a bit more about us and our new location with an open house.

Come join us this Thursday, Sept. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. We will even feed and quench your thirst with light appetizers and beverages. Our new location is 1209 Borthwick St., Centralia.

### Economic Forecast

With all the fun of playing golf for a good cause and coming to our open house, it is time to get down to brass tacks.

On Thursday, Oct. 3, from 1 to 3 p.m., the Alliance is inviting you to an Economic Forecast, focusing on expert discussions on inflation, the possible recession, interest rates, the economy and housing trends.

Keynote speakers are from the Western Washington University's College of Business and Economics — professor in Economics Hart Hodges and Director of Economics James McCafferty.

Held at The Loft located at 347 NW Pacific Ave. in Chehalis, cost is \$20 per person. The event is sponsored by Security State Bank, Centralia College, The Industrial Commission, Lightcurve (formerly Rainier Connect), Minuteman Press in Chehalis and TwinStar Credit Union.

To pre-register, call Dolly at 360-748-0114.

## Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association projects are planned in Oregon, Washington and Montana

### The Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub gets influx of cash

BY SAMANTHA WOHLFEIL

The Inlander

The Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association has been awarded \$27.5 million from the federal Department of Energy to start the first phase of planning for the regional production, storage, transportation and use of hydrogen fuel.

Lewis County Transit, a participant in the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub, is the first transit agency in Washington to take delivery of hydrogen fuel cell buses as part of the move toward hydrogen powered vehicles. It has three new coaches that are undergoing testing this summer before anticipated entry into service around November/December.

The award made the region's federally designated "Hydrogen Hub" the second of seven in the country to get funding (California's was the first). Over the next decade, the hub — a col-



Courtesy of Lewis County Transit

Lewis County Transit, a participant in the Pacific NW Hydrogen Hub, is the first transit agency in Washington to take delivery of hydrogen fuel cell buses. Its three new coaches, including this one, are undergoing testing this summer before anticipated entry into service around November/December.

laboration of public and private organizations and businesses — may receive up to \$1 billion from the 2021 Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act. In the Pacific Northwest, most of that federal money will be leveraged for at least four times as much in private and local investment.

During Phase 1, the nonprofit Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association

(aka PNWH2) will spend the next 12 to 18 months helping develop at least eight projects across Washington, Oregon and Montana.

Each of the projects in the Pacific Northwest hub will produce or use "green" electrolytic hydrogen fuel, which is made by using renewable

■ SEE **HUB**, PAGE B2

### SPONSORED CONTENT

## THURSTON-LEWIS-MASON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

# Labor Day Fun Day: Celebrate with Food, Fun, and Family!

The Thurston Lewis Mason Central Labor Council is excited to invite you to our annual event that brings our Labor community together: the Labor Day Fun Day! Mark your calendars for September 2nd, and join your labor siblings in connection, and celebration.

### Event Details:

- Date: Monday, September 2, 2024
- Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Location: VR Lee Building, next to Penny Playground, Chehalis

A Day of Family Fun: Labor Day Fun Day is designed for families, union members, and all

community members who want to enjoy a day of relaxation and togetherness. From 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the VR Lee Building and the surrounding area will be transformed into a hub of fun activities, delicious food, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

### What to Expect:

- Activities: Adults alike will find plenty to enjoy with games hosted by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, and entertainment throughout the day. We will be next the beautiful Penny Playground and the Water Park is just around the corner! Whether you're looking to participate in a friendly competition to win a Sasquatch statue, eat some

## Pacific Northwest Labor History Association

delicious food or simply enjoy the festive atmosphere, there will be something for everyone.

- Union Pride: This event is not just about fun—it's about celebrating our union community. Connect with union siblings, learn more about the work we do, and enjoy the solidarity that makes our community strong.

Why You Should Attend: Labor Day is more than just a holiday; it's a time to honor the contributions of workers and the strength of our community.

Labor Day Fun Day is the perfect opportunity to celebrate these values with your family, friends, and neighbors. Whether you're a longtime union member or just want to enjoy a great day out, this event is open to all.

### Join Us!

Don't miss out on this chance to celebrate Labor Day with a day full of fun, food, and family-friendly activities. Bring your loved ones, meet new friends, and enjoy the spirit of community that makes our area so special.



[tllmlabor.org](http://tllmlabor.org)

We look forward to seeing you at the VR Lee Building on September 2nd!

For more information, follow us on social media or contact the Thurston Lewis Mason Central Labor Council directly at [tllmlabor.org](http://tllmlabor.org).

# Discover Art in Lewis County: A vibrant and inspiring celebration of creativity

BY LENE LANGDON

Tourism Alliance Project Coordinator

This September, immerse yourself in the vibrant art scene of Lewis County.

The county's diverse artistic community comes alive with a series of exciting events that promise to inspire and captivate art enthusiasts and tourists alike.

## ARTrails 2024 Studio Tour

The ARTrails 2024 Studio Tour is the highlight of September, celebrating its 22nd year.

Held over two weekends, Sept. 21-22 and Sept. 28-29, this open studio tour allows visitors to explore the studios of local artists across Lewis County.

Follow the Studio Guide map to visit artists in their creative spaces, witness live demonstrations and engage in conversations about their art.

## Art Gallery 505 in Toledo

Art Gallery 505 is a hidden gem located in Toledo. This unique gallery has a different theme each month and features a variety of works by local

and regional artists, including paintings, sculptures and mixed media. Art Gallery 505 is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 2 until 5 p.m.

## Morton's BCJ Gallery

In Morton, the BCJ Gallery will feature internationally acclaimed Western artist Kenneth J. Hurley and renowned Pacific Northwest landscape artist Kris Ellen Jenott through September.

Hurley, known as the "Buffalo Man," is celebrated for his Western and rodeo art, while Jenott's stunning landscapes capture the essence of the Pacific Northwest.

## Chehalis self-guided art tour

Chehalis invites you to explore its rich history and cultural heritage through a self-guided art tour.

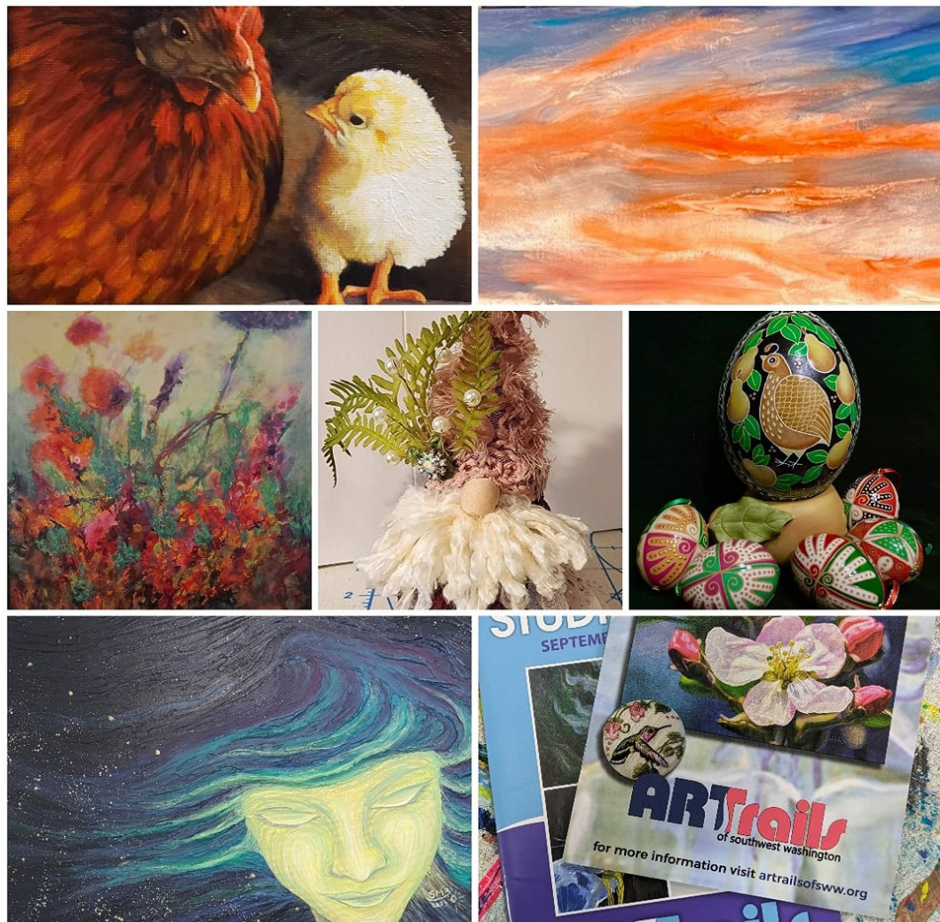
This tour features a variety of murals and public art pieces, including "Chehalis Through Time" and "We Love Chehalis," which reflect the town's community pride and history.

Each piece is accompanied by information about the artwork and its creator, providing a comprehensive and enriching experience.

## Rectangle Gallery in Centralia

Located in the heart of historic downtown Centralia, the Rectangle Gallery is a must-visit destination.

This cooperative gallery showcases the work of 21 of Southwest Wash-



ARTrails 2024 Studio Tour

Photo Provided

ington's finest artists, offering a wide range of styles and mediums. From paintings and photography to turned wood and mixed media, the gallery provides a diverse and dynamic art experience.

The Rectangle Gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

...

Discover Lewis County this September and celebrate the vibrant

art scene that thrives in its charming towns and scenic landscapes. Whether you're an art aficionado or simply looking for a delightful weekend getaway, these events offer a unique and enriching experience that highlights the creativity and cultural richness of this beautiful region.

For more information and to stay updated on upcoming events, visit Discover Lewis County.

## HUB:

Continued From Page B1

energy sources to power the electrolysis process that rips hydrogen atoms from the oxygen in water molecules. The renewable energy will come from the region's abundant hydropower, as well as wind and solar.

The hope is that the eight projects, which the association refers to as "nodes," will help reduce greenhouse

gas emissions in energy intensive industries, potentially replacing fuel sources in high-heat manufacturing, heavy duty transportation, and fertilizer production.

"PNWH2 is going to speed up our decarbonization efforts and the transition to a clean energy economy," U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Washington, said in a news release the day funding was announced.

Chris Green, the president of PNWH2, said in a webinar last week that the hub has a unique challenge ahead.

"We have to basically create supply and demand for a new energy commodity at the same time, and that's not been done as far as I know anytime recently," Green said.

He later tells the Inlander that while there are some imperfect analogues — say, the petroleum industry in its early years, or the iPhone coming on the scene in 2007 and paving the way for a transition to smartphones — historic examples show that the supply has to be ready once you've built the demand.

"When we convince others, by

whichever means — by incentive or by some regulation — that they need to buy that product or should buy that product," Green says, "we need to have enough supply for it, ready to go."

All but one of the eight nodes in the Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Association are focused on producing hydrogen fuel for heavy-duty transportation needs along major interstate corridors, and public transit. The other project will use green hydrogen to produce ammonium nitrates needed for fertilizer, which are often currently made using fossil fuel inputs.

Part of the reason for the focus on heavy-duty transportation is because heavy-duty vehicles are likely the first customers that will be ready to use hydrogen fuel.

"In transit for example, you can buy hydrogen fuel cell buses now, many transit agencies are buying these, so that part of the value chain is prepared to produce that equipment," Green says. "Right next to it ... would be long-haul trucking, because there are fuel cell trucks you can buy right now."

While some of those vehicles may be expensive at the moment, they already exist in the market in North America and Europe, so the next step is just being able to produce the fuel and get it where it's needed, Green says.

Getting those kinds of vehicles to transition in a significant way will also help with an overall goal of the hubs, which is to stabilize the price of hydrogen and make it affordable, Green says.

"I don't know that we'll get to the point where we have kind of the global stability we have like on gasoline, but the idea is that you get the price to stabilize and the best way to do that is to get lots of long-term offtake cus-

tomers, and then hopefully the rest will come online," Green says. "Those value chains need to catch up: the cruise ship lines, the Maersk shipping vessels, those boats are being ordered, and some of them are being built, but that takes awhile to replace those huge fleets."

As the hub works through the National Environmental Policy Act process in coming months, individual projects may be able to move into the second phase sooner than others, he says. The hub will be able to manage that so no project is held up because another one isn't quite ready.

Green says he's looking forward to the work ahead, even though the progress may not be linear.

"For the next eight years of this hub, it's going to be bumpy, and we're going to have to just keep at it and see if we can make sure these customers appear and start buying the product," Green says. "This is a transition. It's going to take a few decades, probably, to be able to really look back and say, 'OK, is that work that we did back in the early 2020s, did that work?' It's going to be hard to tell for a little while."

The ingredients to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are there, though, and there's more global capital being invested in this than ever before, Green says.

"I think we really are making some of the early stages of the overall industrial transportation transition to green energy," Green says.

**Economic Alliance**  
Open House  
Join us...  
Thursday, September 5th, 2024  
1209 BORTHWICK STREET  
CENTRALIA, WA  
LIGHT APPETIZERS & BEVERAGES  
WILL BE SERVED

Thurston Mason Lewis Central Labor Council  
**LABOR DAY FUN DAY**  
September 2, 11-3  
V.R. Lee Building, Chehalis  
Next to Penny Playground  
Bring the family for an afternoon of food and connection.  
Labor Rights Trivia hosted by PNWLHA  
Win the coveted Sasquatch statue  
tlmlabor.org

**SAVE THE DATE**  
ECONOMIC ALLIANCE OF LEWIS COUNTY  
**Alliance OPEN**  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
SEPT. 13  
FRIDAY | 2024  
IOAM SHOTGUN START  
AT RIVERSIDE GOLF COURSE

**CONTACT:**

**Eric Eisenberg**  
Deputy District Administrator  
Chehalis River Basin Flood Control  
Zone District  
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**BASIN:**

*Continued From Page B1*

Most of the time, the Chehalis River would move freely through the flow-through dam for flood control, allowing fish to pass upstream and downstream on their own. During major floods, however, the flow-through dam would allow normal winter flows to continue downstream while storing excess water in a temporary reservoir.

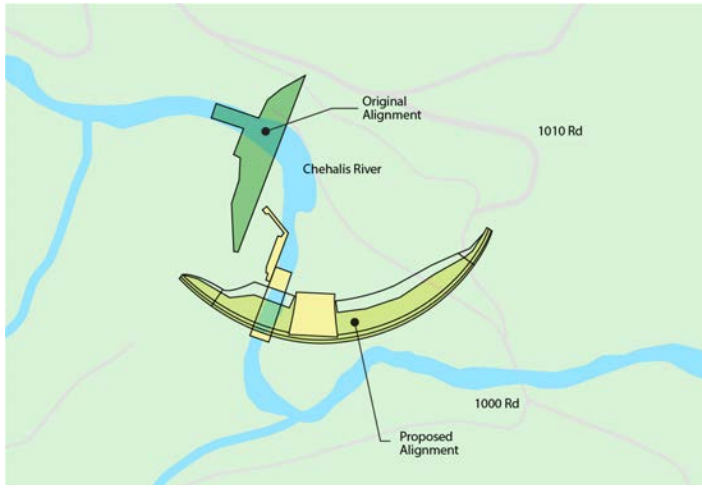
The stored water would slowly be released back to the river as conditions return to normal. With the flow-through design and no permanent storage of water — along with revised mitigation plans to improve habitat function throughout the Basin — the goal is to provide significant flood protection benefits while avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the impacts to fish, wildlife, ecosystems and the community.

The Chehalis Basin is already experiencing more frequent and intense flooding, with the largest floods on record all occurring within the past 30 years. Flood risk in the Basin is expected to continue increasing in the future, making flood damage protection an increasingly important topic to residents in the Basin.

The August 2021 Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan estimated that, for near-term future floods like the ones that occurred in the Basin in 1996 and 2007, the flow-through dam would reduce flood damage by about 70%, protect 1,700 people from displacement and prevent over \$240 million in damage. By late-century (about 2080), catastrophic flooding is projected to cause nearly \$670 million in damage each time a flood occurs; the flow-through dam would prevent about \$330 million of that damage.

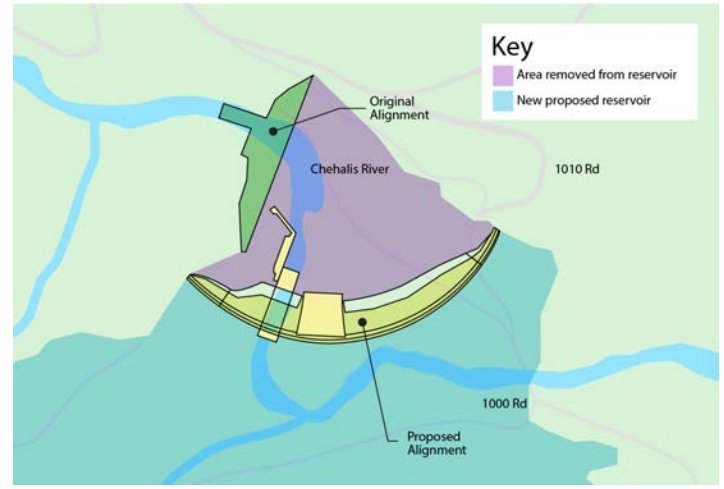
The flow-through dam is one option for flood protection being analyzed as part of the Chehalis Basin Strategy, a holistic set of actions aimed at reducing flood damage and restoring fish habitat.

See [ChehalisBasinStrategy.com](http://ChehalisBasinStrategy.com) to learn more about the Chehalis Basin



**UPDATED ALIGNMENT**

The location and alignment of the flow-through dam were adjusted to minimize impacts to a nearby area of cultural significance to the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation. Its wider span creates design opportunities to minimize and avoid environmental impacts, and its new curved shape leverages the hillside to support its weight and ability to hold back water.



**REDUCED RESERVOIR AREA**

The new design will reduce the size of the reservoir by 32 acres, which means that a smaller area will be inundated when the flow-through dam is holding back flood water. The design change will result in less vegetation being impacted during operation.



**UPDATED SPILLWAY DESIGN**

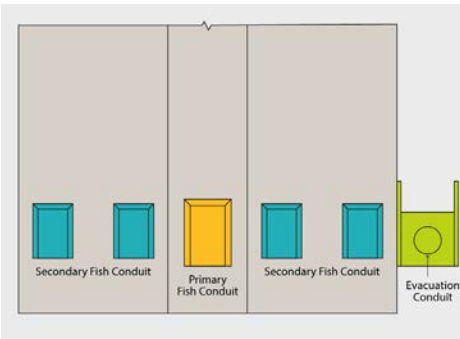
The updated design has a wider, more efficient stepped spillway to dissipate energy from high water flows and reduce downstream impacts.

Strategy and visit [ChehalisRiverBasin-FCZD.com](http://ChehalisRiverBasin-FCZD.com) to read more about updates to the flow-through dam for flood control and benefits of the facility.

**Updated information available regarding proposed flood retention facility in Chehalis Basin**

The Chehalis River Basin Flood Control Zone District has released a new website with updated information about the proposed flood retention facility near Pe Ell.

The District is proposing a structure called a flow-through dam for flood con-



**UPDATED FISH PASSAGE AND EVACUATION CONDUITS**

The fish passage conduits are designed for the sole purpose of mimicking river flow and velocity, allowing fish to pass through the flow-through dam. A separate evacuation conduit has been added in the new design to control reservoir releases more precisely during the flooding and reservoir drawdown, making the reservoir more efficient during and after flow-through dam operation.

Control, an innovative solution from the United Nations Environment Programme that minimizes impacts to the environment and river while reducing flood risk in the Basin.

In response to community feedback, the updated design includes new engineering elements to mimic the natural river and allow fish to swim freely through the structure when the facility is not operating — in other words, except when there is a major flood event.



**BYPASS CHANNEL DURING CONSTRUCTION**

With the new location, there is room to create a bypass channel that mimics the natural river for fish to pass through during construction, rather than using a trap-and-haul system with a diversion tunnel to pass flows. This provides open-channel fish passage throughout every phase of construction.

This means the structure will provide significant flood protection benefits while avoiding, minimizing and mitigating the impacts to fish, wildlife, ecosystems and the community outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Visit [ChehalisRiverBasinFCZD.com](http://ChehalisRiverBasinFCZD.com) to read more about updates to the design and benefits of the facility, and to view a short video showing how this state-of-the-art structure would operate.



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**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**



**HART HODGES**  
PROFESSOR IN ECONOMICS



**JAMES MCCAFFERTY**  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMICS

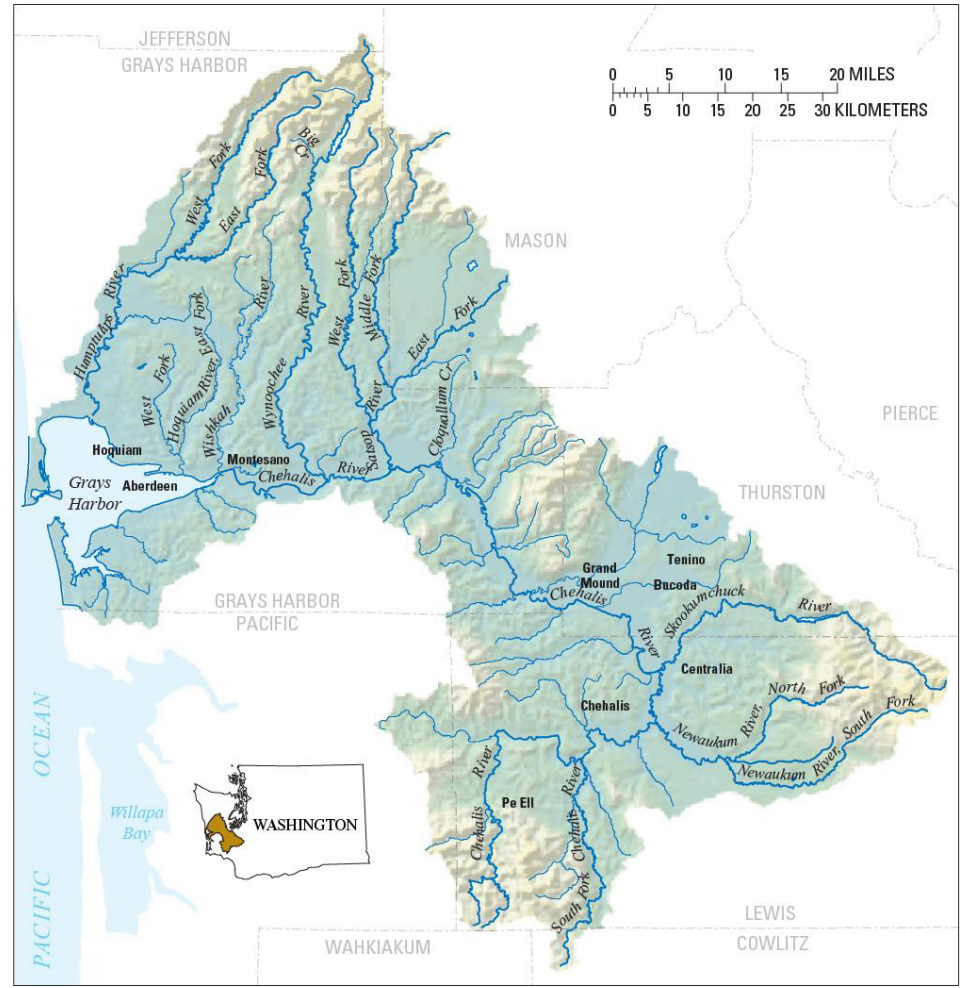
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**THURSDAY**  
**OCT 3RD, 2024**  
**1:00PM - 3:00PM**  
**@THE LOFT**  
**347 NW PACIFIC-CHEHALIS**



The Chehalis Basin region in Southwest Washington. The Chehalis Basin is the only major river basin in Washington with no salmon species listed as threatened or endangered. The region's agricultural community alone brings in \$650 million every year for the state of Washington. Forestry and fishing have also long served as economic engines within the Chehalis Basin. Interstate 5, the West Coast's key transportation corridor for commerce, food supplies and public health, runs directly through the heart of the Chehalis Basin and its floodplains.

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