



Washington State Dairy Federation  
P.O. Box 1768  
Elma, WA. 98541

February 4, 2020

To House and Senate Leadership in the Chehalis Basin:

We support and are asking you to support a budget proviso for \$900,000 to assist with the next phase of work to restore the natural river channel in the Lower Satsop. We are finally united after years of disagreement, discussion, and inaction. We have a community of landowners, regulatory agencies, tribes and fish advocates, united in agreement on solutions and next steps.

When completed, this plan will benefit fish through restoring fish habitat, reduce flood damage to prime farmland that has occurred over the past 65 years due to poor decisions, and diminish the unchecked catastrophic erosion outside the river migration corridor. This “collaborative conservation” approach we’ve taken is significant for what we’ve accomplished, and is a model for other watersheds in the state facing fish, flood, erosion and regulatory issues.

This past summer an early “proof of concept” phase of the project was begun and completed with the help of many stakeholders and outstanding assistance from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (a key partner). This work started the restoration of the Lower Satsop River to help the river return to its historic river migration zone. Over \$3 million has already been invested.

This coming summer (2020) the stakeholders, farmers, agencies, and county hope to start and complete Phase II – a comprehensive set of engineered wood structures to help the river move back into its historic channel. Phase II has already secured 65 percent of the funding needed, including money from Grays Harbor County local “distressed county” funds.

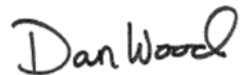
This project will protect a key public water system that supports the Satsop Business Park, owned and operated by the Port of Grays Harbor, and the hundreds of jobs that park provides for the region. The phase II work will protect critical Keys Road infrastructure leading to the business park. In addition, local farms affected by flooding on the Satsop provide feed for over 5,000 cows, most of which are in King, Thurston, and Lewis counties. The impacts of this restoration project will be felt across a multi-county region of the state.

The plan is ready for the next step, the stakeholders are willing, and permits are primed and waiting to be finalized. We hope the project will gain this additional and critical funding to get started and finished this summer. We have had four significant flooding events this winter already, and homes and lands are at risk. We are hoping the erosion this winter is not so severe as to take out houses and more acres of prime and productive crop land and further diminish the fish habitat of the Satsop river.

Thank you for your consideration.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Wood". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial "D".

Dan Wood, Executive Director

P.S. We have uploaded a video of one of the recent Satsop flood events (1/06-09/2020) as viewed through one of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority's flood watch webcams. Scroll to the bottom of Lower Satsop webpage here

[https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias\\_1492/37609/lower\\_satsop\\_restoration\\_and\\_protection\\_program.aspx](https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1492/37609/lower_satsop_restoration_and_protection_program.aspx).