



PO Box 1344
Chehalis, WA 98532
360.748.1230 phone
360.740.0954 fax

www.flycls.com

April 24, 2012

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority
Lewis County – Community Development
2025 NE Kresky Avenue
Chehalis, WA 98532

Dear Flood Authority Members:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the levee at the Chehalis-Centralia Airport. I have listed our response to your questions below:

How many acres of land are behind your levee?

To simplify the request, we utilized Interstate 5 to define the boundary of where the levee protection area ceases. Ultimately, however, there is some level of protection beyond the Interstate. We utilized a GIS calculation of the area outlined on the attachment and get a result of exactly **400 acres**.

Who built the levee and what was the purpose for constructing it?

Prior to 1943 the Chehalis-Centralia Airport was simply an airstrip known as Donahoe Field. During World War II the Federal government approached the community and offered to provide a modern airport infrastructure in exchange for the required land; this offer was accepted. The Navy built the runways and taxiways, while the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a levee around the airport to protect it from flooding for the purposes of allowing year round military tests and allowing for commercial airport development. In 1945 the Airport was released back to the community under the Surplus Act of 1944 which was to foster development of civil aviation and to preserve a nationwide system of airports for national defense purposes.

How many acres have been filled behind the levee?

Approximately 70 acres of land has been filled for commercial retail use.

I hope this satisfies your request; please let me know if I can assist further.

Best regards,

Allyn J. Roe
Airport Manager

Enclosure: GIS calculated area