

DRAFT TALKING POINTS

Date: July 7, 2022

Re: Gov. Inslee site tours with the Chehalis Basin Strategy

The Chehalis Basin Strategy

- **The Chehalis Basin Strategy and its partners have been working for a decade** to make sure residents, fish, and wildlife are prepared to stay safe and strong.
- **Because of the State of Washington's foresight** to create the Chehalis Basin Strategy a decade ago, this effort has already made important strides in supporting safe and resilient communities in a changing climate.
- **How the Chehalis Basin Strategy works:**
 - **Collaboration is at the core.** The Strategy is a network of partnerships including community leaders, tribal representatives from the Chehalis Tribe and Quinault Indian Nation, government officials, scientists, and local residents.
 - **Community-driven solutions.** The Chehalis Basin Strategy depends on local experiences, knowledge, and input to decide where and how to invest in solutions across the Chehalis Basin
 - **Immediate action and planning for the long-term.** The Strategy is putting solutions into action now to protect people, fish, and wildlife while also planning for a future shaped by climate change.
- **Funding information:**
 - **Since 2017, the Chehalis Basin Strategy has invested nearly \$100 million** in flood preparation, flood damage mitigation, and aquatic species restoration and have completed 100+ projects, with more underway.
 - **Total budget for 2021-23 biennium:** \$70 million
 - **Currently investing** about \$23 million in state funding on local projects throughout the Chehalis Basin

About the Chehalis Basin

- What happens in the Chehalis Basin impacts all of Washington
 - The Chehalis Basin is the engine behind some of the state's most important industries, transportation corridors, and culturally- and ecologically-significant aquatic species.
 - The Chehalis Basin is the only remaining stronghold in Washington where no salmon species are listed as threatened or endangered.
- Aquatic species habitat degradation and worsening seasonal flooding have been long-standing challenges in the Basin, which climate change is intensifying
- The Chehalis Basin is home to many unique people and communities—commercial and recreational fishers, farmers, foresters, tribal members, urban center residents
- The land is stewarded by the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, and the Quinault Indian Nation which has treaty rights to fish, hunt and gather in the Basin