

View from Lake Chaplain Dam

Contact

Charlotte Lattimore
(360) 407-6066
Charlotte.Lattimore@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7668 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

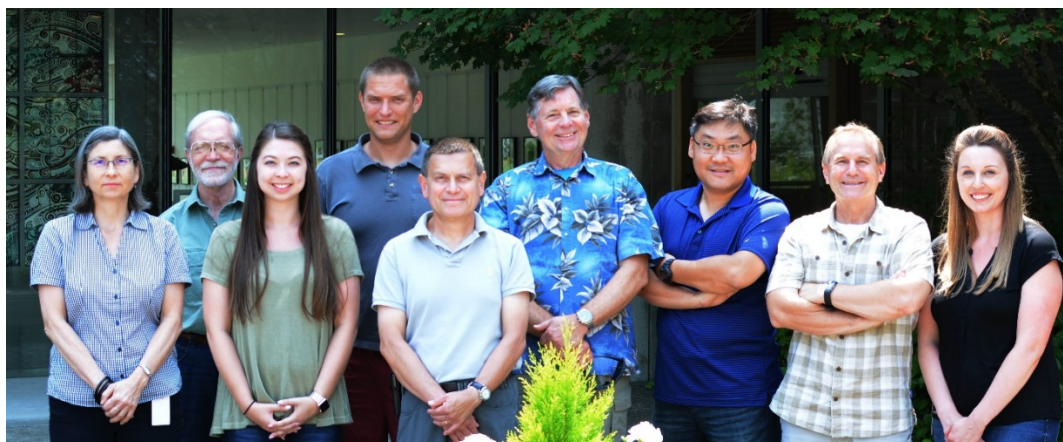
Meet the Dam Safety Office!

The Washington State Dam Safety Office (DSO) ensures dams are properly designed and constructed through plan review and construction inspections. We also inspect existing dams to ensure they are properly operated and maintained. Safety is our priority and we have rigorous procedures in place to protect people and property located downstream of dams.

DSO regulates **1,139 dams** in Washington. Of those, 416 receive prioritized attention because they are located in areas where dam failure poses a risk for loss of life. Those are called “significant hazard” or “high hazard” dams and all pay an annual fee to Ecology.

- The 416 dams are inspected every five years; DSO conducts about 80 inspections of existing dams per year.
- The remaining 723 dams are called “low hazard” dams and must meet dam safety regulations but are only inspected by DSO staff upon request or complaint.

DSO’s 2018 budget is **\$1.1 million** and includes funds for six engineers who inspect existing dams, approve permits for new or modified dams, and provide emergency response services. The annual fees pay for about 25 percent of those costs.



From left: Charlotte Lattimore, Marty Walther, Madison Lyon, Craig Jordan, Gus Ordonez, Guy Hoyle-Dodson, Jintae Lee, Joe Witczak, and Amy Pearson. Not Pictured: Tom Satterthwaite

Resources for dam owners and operators

Along with the DSO website (<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Dams>) and staff, there are other helpful resources for dam owners and operators in Washington:

ASDSO – Resources for Dam Owners and Operators

The Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) is a national non-profit group that is dedicated to educating the public on dam safety. Membership provides discounts on technical trainings, access to professionals, and many other resources that can benefit dam owners and operators greatly.

<https://damsafety.org/dam-owners>

ASDSO – Dam Safety 2018 Conference in Seattle

ASDSO is hosting its 35th Annual Dam Safety Conference in Seattle this September. It will include over 100 presentations and 1,000 dam safety professionals.

<https://damsafety.org/training-center/conference/dam-safety-2018>

FEMA – National Dam Safety Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an office devoted to dam safety: the National Dam Safety Program (NDSP). The NDSP website provides helpful information including publications, training, and information on dam ownership in the United States.

<https://www.fema.gov/national-dam-safety-program>

Don't forget—you can pay online

To provide you with additional payment options, we accept online payments for annual inspection fees. Log in to our EcoPay system at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/ecoepay/> and follow the prompts. For assistance, call (360) 407-6066.

- Our secure online payment system meets all e-commerce standards and best practices.
- There are **no** additional fees for using this system when payments are made using an electronic check or direct account withdrawal.
- Payments made with a credit or debit card will be charged an additional 2.5% fee.
- As always, you are still welcome to pay by check or money order.

Coming soon: E-mail billing

Behind the scenes, we are modernizing our billing system to increase efficiency and help you track multiple fees and payments. An additional benefit of this new system is that we will be able to bill you by e-mail. We will keep you posted on this project with our email list.

Stay connected via email!

We are starting an email list to share useful information and updates with people interested in dam safety. We will add the email addresses we have on file for existing dam owners, but want anyone interested in being on the list to join. There is no limit to the number of email addresses for any one dam.

Please send Charlotte Lattimore your current email address or you are welcome to sign yourself up for the list by visiting http://listserv.ecology.wa.gov/scripts/wa-ECOLOGY.exe?AO=WA_STATE_DAM_SAFETY and selecting “subscribe” on the right-hand side of the page. Then, follow the instructions to join the email list.