

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee
WDFW Office, Mill Creek
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, January 9, 2018

In attendance:

Mike Rustay, Snohomish County (Co-Chair)
Doug Hennick, WFC
Esther Moseichuk, Snohomish County
Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County
Seth Amrhein, King County River Floodplain Management
Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
Alex Pittman, Snohomish County
Kevin Lee, SSS
Jennifer Whitney, WDFW
Peter Verhey, WDFW
Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes (Co-Chair)
Scott Powell, Seattle City Light

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Mike Rustay opened the meeting with introductions.

Basin Updates

Gretchen said legislature session is about to begin. Representatives are optimistic but there are no predictions, and no latest updates. Gretchen will send out an update.

SRFB/PSAR RFP will be released in February. The Forum will be approving it on February 1st.

10-yr Status Report

Progress is being made including work to bring on a consultant to help with organization and editing for a single voice. Mike will work with Snoqualmie team to get updated bank condition information into report.

Pearson's Eddy update

Colin gave a brief background and update of discussions concerning Pearson's Eddy. The Ag community south of the King/SnoCo county line feels that NRCS restoration plantings downstream on property in Snohomish County are exacerbating flooding and drainage issues. Tensions among landowners are high, but a work group including King and Snohomish Counties, NRCS, Tribes and landowners are working toward both defining the problem through modeling and exploring possible fixes. Landowners are adamant that any solutions include removal of riparian vegetation. Modeling indicates vegetation may contribute to a small rise during moderate floods but doesn't consider other factors such as non-operational pump station, other drainage issues and effects of upstream riparian restoration.

Snoqualmie Restoration Targets

Beth reported that work is progressing on the Snoqualmie team's update of 10-yr restoration targets. She gave a brief description of the work and said they are currently focusing on the addition of floodplain tributary metrics. Stay tuned, Beth will share at a future meeting.

2018 CWM round

Beth announced pending approval of CWM RFP in March (\$870,000 this year). She distributed out draft schedules. Beth added that the funding source is very flexible and has fewer requirements (especially match) compared to state and federal funds. It is a good source of seed money for projects that are seeking SRFB/PSAR funds. SRFB ranking criteria is used in scoring to keep project ranking consistent.

Snoqualmie Chinook life history tech memo

Josh Kubo has begun a fascinating study on yearling Chinook in the Snoqualmie. Beth briefly described the study and the committee discussed state of the knowledge of yearling contribution to returning adults. The memo and supporting info will be put on the TC webpage.

2018 Project Review Sub-committee

Gretchen announced there are 8 reviewers currently on sub-committee but we are hoping to get 10 for the 2018 round. We will be looking at scoring criteria and decide whether we will establish minimal score criteria for projects to move ahead in the round. Committee members brought up pros and cons of a having a minimum score and how this would have affected projects in past rounds. The sub-committee will meet and make some decisions on this and it is on the work plan for the TC to discuss and approve in March.

NTA information

Jessica and Gretchen discussed this round of NTA proposals. Lists of Basin, combined Stillaguamish and Snohomish and regional NTA's were distributed. LIO is getting a review team together and has about 8-9 people interested. Looking for engineers to add to list of reviewers. If folks are interested in being on the review team contact Gretchen or Jessica. The first round of reviews will focus on how well proposals are aligned. Full review will be in late April. If there are NTA's on the list anyone wants to learn more about, there are workshops coming up. The deadline for the draft is February 6. Contact Jessica or Gretchen for directions, interest or concerns.

4-yr Work Plan review and discussion

Gretchen provided so background and reminded all that updating the 4 year plan is a task we do every two years. It takes a lot of administrative work to keep the list updated and it is a requirement to apply for salmon funds. The 4 year work plan needs to be approved by the Forum and be submitted to PSP. Sheets with all projects, updated and unchanged project lists were handed out (216 projects, 43 new projects.)

The committee discussed the usefulness of the 4YWP and how prioritization was developed and its relationship to Habitat Work Schedule. More work will be done in the coming month, so expect emails from Morgan and Alexa. Send any updates to Alexa. Gretchen will send out an updated version via email. Updates are due January 19th. The forum meeting is February 1st.

Snoqualmie Temperature Study

Aimee Fullerton and Ashley Steele presented their Snoqualmie temperature study results. The presentation showed temperature change over time across the watershed and illustrated how temps might influence salmon and warm water fish. The committee offered additional information that might be helpful to future model runs. Presentation materials will be forwarded to the Co-chairs and made accessible to the TC when they become available.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting February 6th