

Topic: Letter of Support for Skykomish-focused Floodplains by Design PRE-PROPOSAL

Background: Snohomish County, in partnership with the Snohomish Conservation District, are submitting a Floodplains by Design proposal. The submitters request that the Forum sign a letter of support for the pre-proposal submission.

Proposal overview:

The Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) engages partners with fish, farm, and flood management interests in Snohomish County in long-term floodplain management that will:

- Reduce the risk of flood damages in the floodplain.
- Support and strengthen the agricultural sector,
- And restore and protect habitat for salmon

Proposed activities are part of a multi-year SLS implementation strategy for the Snohomish watershed. Modeling, hazard risk mapping, and climate change predictions will inform basin-wide hazard planning, flood inundation mapping, climate change decision tools and agricultural resilience planning. Construction, acquisition, and resilience designs will occur within a 5-mile reach of the Skykomish River in the vicinity of the City of Sultan. Proposal elements include:

- **Construction** of county road elevations at two sites subject to repetitive flooding which isolates hundreds of homes and restricts passage of salmon.
- **Acquisition** of floodplain properties using a variety of protection tools to remove homes from the floodway, protect priority agriculture, and promote restoration of river and habitat processes.
- **Informing Safe and Sustainable Community Choices** - Modeling to understand flood depth and extent at present and future scenarios, mapping of channel migration zones and an infrastructure assessment of levees will provide policymakers and landowners necessary information to assess floodplain management actions. Information will be incorporated into the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, Climate Impacts Decision tool, and SLS Reach-Scale Plans. Snohomish CD will incorporate information in to agricultural resilience plan.
- **Facilitate Sustainable Land Solutions** –An SLS Implementation Coordinator will lead integration and implementation of an array of projects to address floodplain management needs and advance SLS goals. The Coordinator will also develop communication tools and lead outreach efforts to communicate risks associated with climate change and flooding.
- **Riparian and Ag Resilience Designs** - An array of projects will be scoped, designed, permitted and implemented employing a combination of solutions to improve agricultural viability, restore habitat and alleviate flood risk.