



## SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM

August 2, 2018

Floodplains by Design Reviewers  
Dept. of Ecology, Floods and Floodplain Management  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (Forum) writes to express our support for the City of North Bend's *South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback* project.

The Forum is a citizens committee that includes tribal, city and county governments, state and federal agencies as well as representatives from business, agriculture, recreation and environmental interests. As the Lead Entity for Snohomish Basin salmon recovery, the Forum works collaboratively to protect and restore salmon habitat in the Basin by following and promoting scientifically supported recommendations provided in the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (2005) (Plan) and the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (2015) (SBPP).

The City of North Bend's Levee Setback project is located above Snoqualmie Falls, a natural barrier to anadromy. While listed Chinook and steelhead do not directly use this reach of the river (resident bull trout are presumed), our salmon recovery Plan identifies the need to make restoration gains throughout the Snohomish Basin. In developed areas above natural barriers, the Plan and the SBPP prioritize actions that restore and preserve natural hydrologic and sediment processes.

This proposal addresses several priority ecological actions identified in the Plan such as: restoring hydrologic and sediment processes, restoring of wetland functions, enhancing riparian areas, and protecting water quality (Plan page 11-84 & 11-86, 2005). These restoration actions in the headwaters are critical to a watershed approach to reconnect floodplain and restoring habitat forming hydrologic processes for salmon downstream.

Due to climate change, the basin will experience more frequent and intense high-flow events, higher suspended sediment load and significantly lower summer stream flows. Our hope is that this is one of many future projects in our upper-basin that will help restore and protect floodplain function. It is the cumulative effects of increased floodplain connectivity that will positively influence downstream processes that create and maintain habitat for anadromous salmon and contribute to the overall climate change resiliency of the Snohomish Basin.

We appreciate the City's leadership and vision for floodplain restoration. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support to this worthy project.

Sincerely,

  
Terry Williams  
SBSRF Chair

  
Jim Miller  
SBSRF Vice-chair

Cc: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum members and alternates