

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee

WDFW Office, Mill Creek

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Jan. 8, 2019

In attendance:

1. Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
2. Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County
3. Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
4. Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
5. Denise Krownbell, SCL
6. Carson Moscoso, SCD
7. Kevin Lee, WDFW
8. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
9. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
10. Karina Siliverstova, WDFW
11. Kimberly Givan, WDFW
12. Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
13. Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
14. Doug Hennick, Wild Fish Conservancy
15. Larry Lowe, Snohomish PUD
16. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
17. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

Mike opened the meeting with introductions and then reviewed the agenda.

Updates – Basin, Regional, State

Governor's Budget – The Governor's budget has been released. There has been \$1.1 billion allocated for "orca recovery", however, there isn't much going towards habitat recovery when you take a closer look. There is a small increase for ESRP, but PSAR's share is disappointing. PSAR Large Cap only has enough funding to cover the first project on their ranked list at this allocation level.

Gretchen is working to distill the information to share in case partners would like to write to representatives in support of increased funding.

A significant amount of funding seems to be going towards fish barrier removal, but it's unsure what that will actually mean for Chinook recovery. Overall, some programs saw increases and some saw the same levels as usual or decreases.

National Estuary Program – At least 5 Near Term Actions in our basin are being considered for funding.

Watershed Restoration & Enhancement Committee – Gretchen attended a few of the meetings so far along with other members of Tech Comm represented on the WRE committee. She is currently exploring how best for the Lead Entity to be involved with the process. Perry will be representing the Snoqualmie Forum with an ex officio seat on the WRE committee.

Kirk commented that there aren't many new faces on this new committee and perhaps someone who already has a seat at the table could serve as the interface for the Lead Entity. There was much discussion and Gretchen will continue to keep the committees informed as things develop.

Snohomish Forum

We will have a focus on water quality at the Feb. 7th meeting. Sandi O'Neil and others will be presenting (maybe Nat Schultz and/or Josh Kubo). There may also be presentations from project sponsors doing water quality work with time afterwards for discussion on next steps. This meeting will be held at a different location than usual to accommodate a larger anticipated audience.

Snoqualmie Update

The next meeting of the Snoqualmie Forum will be Jan. 16th at Carnation City Hall at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend. The agenda will include legislative priorities, membership policies, a presentation from Matt Pouley on the screw trap, and the Cooperative Watershed Management RFP and funding guidelines.

10-Year Status & Trends Report

Work on the report has stalled a little since the government shutdown as we wait for remaining data from our federal partners. But overall, it's coming together and there should be a draft for review soon.

Steelhead Recovery Plan

David Price was unable to present on the plan, as scheduled, due to the government shutdown. The Tech Comm discussed the regional recovery plan which NOAA published in the federal register for public comment in December. The document outlines 10 major pressures on steelhead, which are familiar. Climate change and beavers are considered in their strategies. Early marine mortality and predation are also discussed. There are a lot of questions for research and adaptive management around those topics. Morgan commented that this could change the priorities of our Plan's recommended actions e.g.) culverts had been a lower tier priority, but is this still the case now?

Susan advised reviewers to look for anything missing at a local level (pressure or strategy). Comments from the the Lead Entity are due to the Tech Comm by Jan. 22nd for Forum approval and then final submission.

Cherry Creek Phase 1 Update

Rodney Pond presented an overview and update of the project. 5 years ago the site was very channelized and lacked gravel. This is an identified priority area of the Snoqualmie Mainstem for habitat recovery and a vital connection to projects upstream. The project aims to increase complexity, remove rip rap, install LWD jams, and install riparian plantings. The project needs an additional \$50,000 to complete the project due to cost overruns. See handout for additional budget details.

There was much discussion about the cost increases and new budget estimates.

The Tech Comm approved the use of set aside PSAR return funds and submission of a request for the additional \$50,000 cost increase.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.