

## Meeting Summary

### Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee

WDFW Office, Mill Creek

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, April 2, 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. Carson Moscoso, SCD
6. Kevin Lee, WDFW
7. Kirk Lakey, WDFW
8. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
9. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
10. Karina Siliverstova, WDFW
11. Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
12. Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
13. Julie Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
14. Doug Hennick, Wild Fish Conservancy
15. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
16. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes

#### Meeting Summary:

##### **Introductions**

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

##### **Business**

##### **Updates – Basin, Regional, State**

Habitat Work Schedule: WA Recreation & Conservation Office has requested that lead entities tag all 2019 and potential 2020 SRFB projects in HWS so that they can create better communication tools for speaking to legislators about the funding need for restoration. Alexa asked that the members review the spreadsheet of projects pulled from our 4YWP Smartsheet, marked 2017 – 2021, and communicate if there are missing projects or projects that should be removed. The deadline for this exercise is April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Budget: Erin provided an update on the capital budget negotiations and to what level restoration funding programs of interest are expected to be funded.

Steelhead Recovery Plan Comments: Mike updated the committee on the comment letter status which was submitted by the deadline. He asked for feedback on the committee's letter approval process and reviewed the membership list with the group.

Pilchuck Work Group: Morgan updated the group on recent PWG happenings. It had been a long time since the PWG met, but they reconvened last month to discuss projects and updates. The meeting demonstrated the need for increased coordination. They would like to meet more regularly. At the meeting, Kirt Hanson requested that the project review committee provide support for revising the Middle Pilchuck project that did not move forward last round.

Pilchuck Dam Removal Project Open House: The open house was held on March 19<sup>th</sup>. There were around 50-60 attendees and it was exciting to see that good of a turn out for the event. The target audience (local residents) did attend which was great. The poster session format seemed to be an effective approach for answering people's questions. In general, there was a lot of support for the project. There will be another public meeting held in the fall to demonstrate how questions and concerns have been addressed.

Letter of Support Request: WDFW submitted a pre-application for the NOAA Community-based Restoration grant program and was asked to submit a full applications. This proposal is a compilation of several organization's projects including the Pilchuck Dam Removal, Port Susan Bay, and the Snohomish Conservation District integration team. They will be using the Ebey Island project's ESRP funding as match.

The committee approved submitting a letter of support.

### **Fish Screen Compliance (Danny Didricksen & Karina Siliverstova)**

Danny provided an overview on the history of fish screening and the different types of fish screens. WDFW has received funding to do outreach and help purchase screens. They will be sending postcards out to agricultural properties to get the word out about the technical assistance that's available.

### **Fish In, Fish Out (Colin Wahl)**

Colin presented the annual fish in, fish out status report. A number of models are used to determine these projections.

For the Skykomish and Snoqualmie the numbers look like 3,000 and 1,100 Chinook, respectively. For the Snohomish, the 2019 forecast is 3,700 Chinook, which is similar to last year's projection. The high productivity goal is 14,000. The low productivity goal is 64,000. The Skykomish has a larger population, but the trends mirror the Snoqualmie. Coho, for 2017, experienced overharvest due to an over-forecast. But work is being done on a stock rebuilding plan to raise the geometric mean above 50,000. We have 8 years to reach that target. Chum have seen their worst numbers on record in recent years. They didn't reach the goals in 2018, but there was some improvement. Forecast for this year is 4,583 fish which is well below the odd year goal (10,200) and even year goal (28,000). Pink are forecasted at 128,000.

Ocean conditions impact our populations. The Pacific Decadal Oscillation resulted in a warm regime from 1980 – 2000. We are recently approaching normal ranges again. El Nino and ocean upwelling in summer as well as downwelling in winter correlate to changes in Chinook and Coho populations.

### **Status & Trends Section Reviews**

The group reviewed the draft bull trout section and discussed what exactly the messaging should be. The Tech Comm also reviewed the restoration and protection strategies. There was much discussion. A draft will be out for comment next week with a short turn around for review.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.**