



SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM

TO: Members of the WRIA 7 (Snohomish) Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

FROM: Terry Williams and Jim Miller, on behalf of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum

DATE: May 2, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposal for *Ex Officio* Membership

Introduction: The 40+ member Snohomish River Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (Forum) includes members from Snohomish and King Counties, Tulalip Tribes, 14 cities, special purpose districts, interest groups, and citizens. The Forum's mission is: *"To protect, restore, and enhance the productivity and diversity of all wild salmon stocks in the Snohomish River basin to a level that will sustain fisheries and non-consumptive salmon related cultural and ecological values."* The Forum is supported by the Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee (Technical Committee). The Technical Committee assists the Forum and includes scientific staff from agencies and organizations represented on the Forum. The Forum and the Technical Committee serve as the recognized citizen and technical bodies for the WRIA 7 lead entity.

Relationship to the Watershed: In 1994, a cooperative effort to address Snohomish basin-wide salmon conservation needs formed as the Snohomish River Basin Work Group. After the passage of the State Salmon Recovery Act in 1998 and the listing of Chinook salmon and bull trout as threatened species in 1999, the working group evolved and expanded in to two groups, the Forum and the Technical Committee. The Forum, supported by the Technical Committee, developed the *Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan* in 2005 (Salmon Plan), setting the recovery strategies for salmon in the Snohomish Basin; the Plan serves as the NOAA-approved endangered species recovery plan for Chinook salmon for the Snohomish Basin.

The Forum actively works to implement the salmon recovery strategies outlined in the Salmon Plan and adaptively manage the Plan over time. The roles of the Forum include promoting the implementation of the Salmon Plan, monitoring implementation and adaptively managing the Salmon Plan over time, advocating for continued funding and identifying new sources of funding to implement the Plans, and providing a forum for local governments and organizations to coordinate and communicate about watershed issues.

The Forum and its subcommittees also convene to prioritize projects and determine funding recommendations for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant rounds. As part of this work, the Forum and lead entity staff maintain a 4-year work plan and coordinate projects that address the basin's recovery priorities. The Forum and Technical Committee review and provide input for other salmon habitat restoration-related projects and programs including: Ecology's Floodplains by Design program, WDFW's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, and the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda. The Forum also participates and coordinates with stakeholder groups including Snohomish County's Sustainable Lands Strategy, King County's Fish Farm Flood Initiative, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization.

Interest in the Committee and the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan: The WREC process directly relates to the Forum's salmon recovery mission. The Forum would like to participate in an *ex officio* capacity on the WREC in order to ensure that the WREC process and the Forum's work can operate in coordination and promote complementary efforts where possible. The Forum has a specific interest in the project list that will be developed by the WREC process. These projects could create an opportunity to address both the WREC's goals and the Forum's salmon recovery priorities. An *ex officio* seat on the WREC would also promote the inclusion of the Forum's voice as the basin's comprehensive entity focused on the recovery of salmon and restoration of salmon habitat. While there are several member organizations on the WREC that are also Forum members, they are responsible for representing their agency's priorities which may at times during the WREC process differ from the recovery-focused position that the Forum is mission-driven to uphold. Designating a specific seat for the basin's longstanding salmon interest group would bolster collaboration of the WREC process.

Benefit to the Committee: The Forum's *ex officio* membership would offer multiple benefits to the WREC. Broadly, Forum membership could promote project coordination and sharing of information between the Forum, Technical Committee and WREC. The Forum has conducted multiple studies and assessments that could be of use to the WREC planning process, such as the Snohomish River Basin Ecological Analysis for Salmonid Conservation and Watershed Characterization Hydrologic Importance Assessment and the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan. It would also be beneficial to both groups to utilize the Forum's Technical Committee in WREC project development and review.

Morgan Ruff, Snohomish Basin Capital Projects Manager, would serve as the Forum *Ex Officio* representative. Morgan has over 10 years of experience working in the Snohomish Basin and has a broad understanding of the basin's salmon recovery strategies and implementation efforts.

Submitted on behalf of the Forum,

Terry Williams

Jim Miller

Chair, Snohomish Basin
Recovery Forum

Vice-Chair, Snohomish Basin Salmon
Salmon Recovery Forum

Cc: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Members
Morgan Ruff, Capital Projects Coordinator, Snohomish Basin
Gretchen Glaub, Lead Entity Coordinator, Snohomish Basin