

## Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee

WDFW Office, Mill Creek

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, June 4, 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. Kevin Lee, WDFW
6. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
7. Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District
8. Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD
9. Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
10. Denise Krownbell, Seattle City Light
11. Tad Schwager, Hart Crowser/Port of Everett
12. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
13. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
14. Jessica Lange, Sound Salmon Solutions
15. David Wilson, Snohomish County
16. Michelle Totman, Tulalip Tribes
17. Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes
18. Julie Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
19. Erin Murray, Puget Sound Partnership
20. Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy

### Meeting Summary:

#### **Introductions**

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

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

Cooperative Watershed Management: This year there were a lot of great capital projects proposed. There was \$1M in funding to allocate and the request totaled greater than \$2M so it was a challenge to rank the projects. Beckler and Hafner-Barfuse rose to the top. \$125K is going to the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum for capacity and to support the smaller jurisdictions' continued participation. The baseline monitoring program also received funding as did the fish screen placement program through the Watershed Improvement District. There are a lot of riparian plantings being funded as well. Projects above the falls did not get funded with the exception of North Bend.

SnoSCAT: This effort is focused on the observed warm temperatures in the middle fork Snoqualmie River. It is a collaborative group made up of many partners including the Snoqualmie Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, King County, and USFS. The group has helped secure two grant awards for studies and modeling. A lot of great work is being coordinated via quarterly SnoSCAT meetings.

Steelhead: The Salmon Recovery Council met a few weeks ago. The comment period closed. Around 5 watersheds submitted comments. The project team hopes to finish revising and publish the recovery plan by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

PSAR Criteria: There is consideration of adding a salmon benefit index to the criteria. The idea was to add transparency, but it seems redundant and when analyzed wouldn't change past project rankings significantly. Kollin Higgins voiced concerns at the meeting. The decision needs to be made by July. This is something we may want to comment on.

WREC: The SBPP subbasins were proposed. The initial temperature read of committee members showed a leaning towards larger/fewer basins. The vote may have been premature though and the final decision has not been made yet. The committee wants to know more about the growth projections first. They will need to decide on a number to use for the projected growth and projected consumptive use amounts. They're looking at the Office of Financial Management's numbers and Vision 2050's estimates. The consultants prefer a lumping rather than splitting approach, but it needs to be the WREC that decides. The reasoning behind larger subbasins is it can be difficult to find appropriate offset projects in smaller basins.

There was a WebEx meeting last week on project development. The committee will be working to develop projects this summer through the winter.

Orca Bill Rider: The ORCA bill passed but the portion of the bill had highlighted the Snohomish as an area for a dredging pilot project (along with Whatcom County and Grays Harbor) was vetoed by the Governor.

Status & Trends Report: There are some language revisions in progress, but the report is very close to being finalized.

### **Tulalip Acquisition Prioritization Tool**

Brett Shattuck, with the Tulalip Tribes, gave a status update on the project. The purpose is to develop guidance for implementation of the salmon recovery plan. The goals are salmon-centric with some multi-benefit elements. The tool currently includes the Skykomish River, Mainstem Snohomish River, Sultan and Wallace Rivers. It prioritizes the areas and allows purchasers to be opportunistic by allowing funds to be secured before having specific parcels are identified. It allows project sponsors to be proactive in acquiring land instead of being in a position where they have to ask landowners to wait 1.5 years while grant funding gets lined up.

There is a Conservation Priority map and a Restoration Priority map. The prioritization was completed using several categories of metrics for scoring criteria including: importance, feasibility, degradation, and adjacency to other protected parcels. Next steps include normalizing and weighting criteria with Criterion Decision Plus and EMDS then the team will propose the tool for adoption by the Forum as an update to the salmon plan.

Concerns were raised about the tool not including the Snoqualmie and King County portion of WRIA 7. King County does have its own acquisition strategy in place. It was suggested that the Forum adopts both strategies. But there were strong feelings that federal grant agencies will not support the Snohomish having two distinct strategies. However, the project team does plan to develop the tool for those geographies as well in the future. The team doesn't estimate that the tool will be ready to implement until the 2021 SRF round.

### **Roundtable Updates and topics for future meetings**

- Gretchen and Morgan have an upcoming presentation to the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board. This is an opportunity to tell them what we're doing and give feedback on what is and isn't working with the program. Originally, the basin had prioritized the Pilchuck as the "watershed pathway". They want to know more about how we chose to prioritize that area. Do we want to strategize about a different priority location now? The committee will delve deeper into this topic next year. Attendees were asked to follow-up with Gretchen if they had insights to add to the presentation.
- Fish, Farm, Flood buffer paper is out. The task force is working on developing the flow charts more and would like to bring it to the Tech Comm. for feedback this fall.

- Snohomish PUD completed their latest capital project. Now they're transitioning to the implementation phase. They're working controlling the water temperature through flow regulation from different reservoir depths. Reduced mining dredging for mineral prospecting too. Now permits will be required year-round for suction dredging activities. Next year, there are plans to install another smolt trap as well.
- A new paper on Shifting Habitat and Fish Production by Brennan et al. was released recently. The findings show that productivity shifts year-to-year. The link will be posted on the Tech Comm webpage.
- Construction has started on the Blue Heron Slough project levee.
- There is a desire to learn more about the interception rates for our salmon populations since a significant amount are taken by Canada.
- There is a desire to hear more about other fish passage projects beyond those in SRFB and the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board grant rounds.

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