

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee
WDFW Office, Mill Creek
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, October 1, 2019

In attendance:

1. Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
2. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
3. Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
4. Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
5. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
6. Kirk Lakey, WDFW
7. Elizabeth Butler, RCO
8. Doug Hennick, Wild Fish Conservancy
9. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
10. Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District
11. Julie Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
12. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
13. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
14. Jessica Lange, Sound Salmon Solutions
15. Erin Murray, Puget Sound Partnership

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

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

Updates – Basin, Regional, State

2020 SRFB/PSAR Round – Gretchen reminded the committee that the grant round timelines are being changed in response to RCO's lean study results. The RFP will be coming out in the next couple of weeks. There will now be one less feedback loop between project reviewers and sponsors. Full applications will be due before site visits are conducted now. Site visits will likely be held in mid-March. So it will probably make sense to have the Forum approve the ranked list earlier (probable May or June). A draft schedule and criteria were distributed for review and comment. The criteria is the same as past years. The most recent change was implementing a minimum score threshold a couple of years ago. The project ranking subcommittee list needs updating.

Gretchen asked if people were interested in following the Stillaguamish's approach with sponsor presentations to the Forum and Tech Comm. rather than trusting the scoring committee with the decision alone. Those presentations could potentially occur around January while sponsors are developing their project proposals. Or we may want to wait until all of the letters of intent are received to get a sense of the projects applying for funding and then ask certain sponsors to present to the committees.

Attendees mentioned that it would be good to get updates from sponsors on our nearly completed projects too because that helps build the relationship between the Forum and project partners. The committee discussed the need to find a balance between promoting shared ownership and the risk of debating and changing the ranked list. We could bring this up at the November meeting and discuss the scope and guidelines more. Others cautioned that numerous presentations could put a strain on sponsors' capacity. Mike added that there should be a clear expectation to funded sponsors that they will come back and provide an update separate from new project proposals. Gretchen will revise the grant round schedule to see where to put that step for engagement

with sponsors in the timeline. The she will send the schedule, criteria, and list of ranking subcommittee members back out for review.

Snogualmie Basin – The job posting for Beth’s former position closed Sunday. They received 10 applications which are currently being screened to determine next steps (proceed with selection process or repost the recruitment).

Salmon Recovery Council – At the last meeting, the large cap. PSAR RFP was approved. Sponsors will have more work to do for that application. In the Snohomish basin, we’d like to do what we can to support sponsors with this process.

Return Funds – We will need to re-appropriate project funds in the basin. Gretchen plans to have final figures to present at the next meeting and will follow-up with a recommendation for review and approval.

4-Year Work Plan Update

This year is an update year. The requirements for this process have lessened over recent years. Now a narrative component is no longer required. But we also have the recently completed Status and Trends Report that covers that information. This year, we want to include questions for sponsors about potential streamflow restoration benefits of projects. This would be a complementary effort with the WREC which is developing projects for inclusion in their plan development. It can also help us to think about water quality and water quantity synthesis and expanding out 4YWP scope a bit by looking at streamflow. See handouts for more details.

We will be asking sponsors to update their project information in Smartsheet. Habitat Work Schedule has been renamed to Salmon Recovery Portal and with RCO taking over there are other changes in the works. So we’re not going to ask sponsors to do anything in that program until those changes are fully finalized.

DNR Salmon Recovery Plan – The DNR reached out to Tulalip Tribes and will engage with us on the salmon recovery plan they’re developing with a focus on Snohomish basin and the lands they have authority over. This could help accelerate estuary and forestry work. They also seem to be interested in the creosote pilings and derelict vessels.

Chapter Update

PSP had been hoping to help support four watersheds’ updates, but after discussions with the contracted consultants (ESA), they have decided to proceed conservatively with three instead. Whatcom, Deschutes, and Snohomish will each be awarded \$100K for plan updates. Susan O’Neil, with ESA, will be our coach and should be available to attend our next Tech Comm meeting. The Tech Comm considered that it might be useful to have a draft scope of work by that time and what PSP’s vision for this update process looks like. Erin commented that this work is based on the Monitoring and Adaptive Management plan from 2016 and it could be Susan’s job to sift through that and help us determine our approach. Morgan added that Susan is already reviewing the draft Status & Trends Report and that she thinks we have a good starting place to plan for next steps. The hardest part will be establishing sideboards. The group decided that a core team of basin staff will meet first with Susan and then bring those ideas (draft scope, budget, timeline) to the full Tech Comm at the next meeting.

There was discussion about the capacity for fully vetting and adopting the plan update at the Forum level by June 2021.

There was discussion about the Tulalip Tribes lifecycle modeling work and whether that could help us update our recovery targets.

There was discussion round the gaps in our plan strategies that best available science could be used to address in this plan update around water quality, nearshore restoration, and riparian health.

Oil Spill Response Plan

Nora Haider with Department of Ecology presented on the oil spill response strategies that are being revised. The strategies were created in 2006 and a lot of restoration has been done since then that would impact the response plan. The Geographic Response Plan (GRP) pre-identifies sensitive resources and directs boom placement priorities for “average conditions”. The GRP was updated in 2013, but didn’t really touch the Snohomish. A small set of attendees stayed to advise Nora on suitable ways to update the response plans based on the most recent restoration landscape.

Roundtable Updates

Brett announced that the Tulalip Tribes has a Washington Conservation Corps crew for marine cleanup work building off of the MyCoast app.

Lindsey announced that the Leque Project will be breaching in two weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.