

Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee

WDFW Office, Mill Creek

9:00 am – 12:00 pm, September 5, 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. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
7. Kirk Lakey, WDFW
8. David Beedle, Seattle City Light
9. Elizabeth Butler, RCO
10. Andrea Mojzak, King County
11. Denise Di Santo, King County
12. Doug Hennick, Wild Fish Conservancy
13. Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes
14. Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District
15. Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
16. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
17. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
18. Jessica Lange, Sound Salmon Solutions
19. Jen Ford, US Forest Service
20. Heather Khan, Dept. of Ecology
21. Erin Murray, Puget Sound Partnership
22. Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy

Meeting Summary:

Introductions

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

Updates – Basin, Regional, State

Status & Trends Report – Gretchen gave an update on the Status & Trends Report. It isn't officially finished yet, but very close to being done. The county's contract with Anchor QEA wasn't able to cover the final finishing touches on the graphics, etc. Tulalip is picking up that contract to get it over the finish line.

Upcoming SRFB/PSAR Round – Gretchen reminded the committee that the grant round timelines are being changed. 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 February/March. The RFP is expected to be released in October. We're planning to use the same process as last time by requesting a letter of intent first. We're estimating around \$2.2 M to allocate for this upcoming year. We are also considering asking sponsors to submit water storage/WREC projects with this solicitation too.

SRFB/PSAR funding – WDFW received a NOAA grant award; the award will partially fund the Pilchuck Dam removal project and the Project Integration Teams that are in the Stilly and Snohomish (SCD). The funding for the Pilchuck Dam frees up some basin-controlled SRFB/PSAR funds that can go to active and alternate projects on the basin's ranked list. There are PSAR return funds that are tied to other projects in the basin that also need

to be re-allocated. Gretchen/Morgan will be bringing decisions to the Tech Comm and/or Project Ranking Committee to make a recommendation to the Forum for re-allocating those funds at a later date. Gretchen distributed a spreadsheet with the draft funding estimates.

Snogualmie Basin – Elissa provided an update. Perry has accepted a new position at King County working on Kokanee recovery. Beth has accepted a new position at King County leading the buffer task force of the FFF effort. Perry's old position is being filled by Cory Zyla. Work has begun to back fill Beth's position. It will be an 18-month temporary role. The communications intern left at the end of August, but before that he developed a draft communications plan. The plan looks at their communication priorities and how to address them. It includes a list of suggested methods/actions. They are looking into hiring one or two more interns and maybe eventually a permanent position for this work. They are also exploring social marketing and behavior change methods.

The CWM grants were approved in July (totaling around \$1 M) and the projects should be under contract now. The next RFP will be released in January.

Project Updates

Forterra's North Fork Skykomish project will be closing. PSAR funds allocated to this project can be re-allocated to active and alternate projects on the basin's ranked list.

Mid Spencer Island- Mike provided an update. This site is next estuary project following Smith Island.; there are 74 acres that will receive "enhancement" - the area has been breached to tidal inundation since the 1960s, but not as much as it could be. This project is an enhancement of the breach so that fish can use the habitat. This project was re-scoped once the team learned more about the site and realized it required a different approach. There have been recent spruce plantings and natural tidal channel development. Construction mobilized in early August. The county contracted with BCI and cut the levy back to the mean high water level. So far lots of new edge habitat has been provided and the project is about 1/3 done overall. There is continued monitoring and measuring of sedimentation.

Cherry Creek – Gretchen provided a brief update. Cherry Creek Phase 1 is nearly complete; the last invoice was officially submitted. Mike shared photos of the construction. There will be a future conversation about Phase 2 & 3; SSS has many lessons learned from Phase 1 to share and consider.

Tolt San Soucci – The project is in its last phase. The culverts are being pulled out. Plants have been planted.

Lower Snoqualmie – There is freshwater mussel mapping work being done from Plum's Landing to RM 3 or 4. There will be maps in GIS that can be shared with interested partners. There's also been a grant award from the Bureau of Reclamation for a riparian planting along the river corridor.

Ebey – WDFW received grant funds from ESRP and NOAA to begin planning. There was a presentation given to SLS about a bog on the site. Apparently, one of the largest bogs in the US is at the site. The team isn't sure how that could impact restoration projects.

Offshore Marine Sampling – Tulalip received funding from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for this work. The scope may expand to around the entire Puget Sound. This is the last year that Chinook will be returning from the sample year. There is funding for FLUR flights in the basin (summer and winter) next year through funding from the Dept. of Ecology (around \$249K).

Salmon Plan Update

PSP asked for funding to support basin chapter updates and their request was half funded. So they are able to offer support funds for four watersheds. There are currently five watersheds interested and being considered to receive the funding (\$100K each). The awarded watersheds would also receive consultant support from Susan

O'Neil with ESA to be funded out of that \$100K. That would leave around \$40K for technical work. June 2021 would be the deadline for a completed product. See handouts for more details.

The committee discussed whether they would be interested in accepting the support funds and whether this work would align with other related projects underway in the basin. Members advocated for accepting the funding to help maintain the momentum from wrapping up the Status and Trends Report and also as a complementary effort to the other work occurring in the basin, e.g.) Tulalip life cycle modeling project. The watershed selections will be finalized next week. A letter of support from the Technical Committee will be drafted by Colin. The letter is due September 12th.

FFF Buffer Task Force

Beth gave an update on the buffer task force. The Best Available Science (BAS) report is posted on the website. The task force is only considering voluntary buffers on agricultural land for introducing variable buffer widths in the APD. The BAS document includes a literature review of buffer functions to determine the intended buffer widths' benefits and what widths can achieve those benefits. It is being reviewed by the respective FFF caucuses currently. Beth presented the logic behind their thinking and the draft buffer widths. There was much discussion around King County potentially capping their funds that would go towards buffers exceeding 100 feet.

Roundtable Updates

Ecology's Centennial Combined Funding grant program is now open.

Matt mentioned the Snoqualmie Tribe's disagreement with the tribal history narrative in the Status and Trends Report. Colin stated Tulalip Tribes' position and there was no further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.