Appendix A
Snohomish County Council Resolution No. 05-026

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 05-026

A RESOLUTION OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY RELATING TO
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SNOHOMISH BASIN
SALMON CONSERVATION PLAN

WHEREAS, in March 1999, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Fisheries listed the Puget Sound Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit as a threatened species
under the Endangered Species (ESA); and

WHEREAS, in November 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed the
Puget Sound bull trout distinct population segment as a threatened species under the ESA; and

WHEREAS, both listings under the ESA are for species that exist within the jurisdiction of
Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, the County has previously stated its commitment to work toward the recovery of
these listed species; and

WHEREAS, under ESA Section 4(d), NOAA Fisheries (for the Chinook salmon) and USFWS (for
bull trout) are required to develop and implement recovery plans to address the recovery of the species;
and

WHEREAS, one of the most essential elements for the development and implementation of
effective recovery programs is coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies,
tribes, non-governmental organizations, and private citizens; and

WHEREAS, Shared Strategy for Puget Sound, a regional non-profit organization, has assumed a
lead role in the Puget Sound response to developing a recovery plan for submission to NOAA Fisheries and
USFWS, and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County is a member of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum and
led the development of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (plan) that will become a chapter
in the regional recovery plan; and

WHEREAS, Shared Strategy intends that its recovery plan will include implementation
commitments from partners such as local governments, special districts, non-governmental organizations,
and interest groups; and

WHEREAS, NOAA Fisheries and USFWS can provide certain regulatory assurances to local
governments that commit to implement a recovery plan; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County values ecosystem health, the protection of salmonids, water
quality, and flood hazard reduction; and maintaining a legacy for future generations that includes:
commercial, tribal, and sport fishing, aesthetics and quality of life, healthy natural resources, and
-cultural heritage; and

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WHEREAS, Snohomish County values the importance and contribution of agriculture to the community and economy and supports actions that benefit both farming and salmon recovery; and

WHEREAS, since 1998, Snohomish County has consistently implemented projects and programs outlined in Exhibit A that protect and restore salmonid habitat; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County supports regional cooperation that sets effective priorities for action among partners towards the most direct path for species recovery and, provides for efficient use of resources and investments; and

WHEREAS, it is important to provide local governments, the private sector, and the public with certainty and predictability regarding the course of salmon recovery actions that will be taken in the Snohomish River basin:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Snohomish County Council does hereby indicate its approval of and support for the goal of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum to protect, restore, and enhance the productivity of all wild salmon stocks in the Snohomish Basin to a level that will sustain fisheries and non-consumptive salmon-related cultural and ecological values.

The County Council further states its support for the long-term vision in the Plan of working toward the Chinook and bull trout recovery targets established by the Washington State co-managers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and for taking actions to avoid future salmonid listings under the Endangered Species Act. The County Council also states its support for the ten-year habitat improvement milestones in the Plan that provides a path to make significant progress towards salmon recovery, and the consideration of continued salmon recovery work that includes, to the extent possible,

1. Working with NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, and Shared Strategy for Puget Sound or a future Puget Sound regional recovery organization, and the State of Washington;

2. Participating on and providing lead staff support to the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum during Plan implementation, evaluation, and adjustment; and

3. Continuing to serve as the Snohomish Lead Entity;

4. Implementing and maintaining restoration and protection projects in unincorporated Snohomish County and on County property consistent with the Plan as outlined in Exhibit B;

5. Adopting, where appropriate, plans, policies, and regulations that are consistent with the County commitments toward achieving salmon recovery needs and goals and recognize our local authority to choose policies that work for our residents;

6. Providing technical assistance, stewardship, education, and incentives to landowners to help protect and restore important habitat;

7. Providing technical resources for monitoring and evaluating habitat actions and Plan implementation;

8. Creating and advocating for a regional, unified 10-year funding program that prioritizes the most important actions and level of investment for the implementation of the recovery plan;

9. Supporting and using the concepts of adaptive management as recovery efforts proceed to help ensure effective and efficient implementation; and

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10. Encouraging mitigation efforts that help achieve the Plan priorities.

The County Council takes note that in order to implement the regional recovery plan, NOAA Fisheries and USFWS must adopt and incorporate the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Plan as part of an operative element of their recovery plans for the Puget Sound Chinook salmon and bull trout; and the State of Washington must accept the Plan and basin recovery strategy for the purposes of allocating funding.

The Council further resolves it is interested in partnering with federal and state agencies to learn more about how the county and its citizens can benefit from collaboration in federal recovery planning and implementation under the Endangered Species Act such as, but not limited to, additional federal funding and incentives for county implementation efforts, streamlined and programmatic permitting for projects that accomplish habitat restoration, increased flexibility to pool grant awards and mitigation funding for some types of projects, and flexibility to identify and select conservation measures that are consistent with the plan for capital projects that require an ESA Section 7 consultation.

The Council also resolves that it will review its participation and implementation commitment in five years.

APPROVED this 25th day of May, 2005

[Signatures]

Gary Nelson
Chair

[Signatures]

Kirke Sievers
Councilmember

[Signatures]

Jeff Saez
Councilmember

[Signatures]

Dave Gossett
Councilmember

[Signatures]

[Signature]

Asst. Clerk of the Council
Exhibit A to Snohomish County Council Resolution 05-026

Snohomish County Projects and Programs Implemented in the Snohomish River Basin since 1998

PROGRAMMATIC ACTIONS
Snohomish County has actively participated in and developed programs to address salmon recovery. These include:

A. Participating in the NOAA-Fisheries-approved Regional Road Maintenance Program since 1999.

B. Serving as Lead Entity for the Snohomish (WRJA 7). Since 1999, our efforts have garnered over $10,000,000 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for 27 projects basin-wide with a local match of over $11,000,000.


D. Providing leadership and support to regional recovery efforts including the Tri-County and the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound.

E. Developing County ESA Salmon Conservation Early Action Program in 1999.

F. Providing lead staff support for the Snohomish County Marine Resources Committee since 2000. Actions have included a marine shore inventory, forage fish spawning habitat survey, nearshore enhancement pilot projects, identification of candidate sites for nearshore habitat protection and restoration, and annual public education events.

G. Developing sub-basin plans and actions that improve salmon habitat. These include the Quilceda/Allen Watershed Management Plan (1999) and French Creek Watershed Management Plan (2004) that address water quality, aquatic habitat, as well as flooding and drainage and participation on the Quilceda/Allen Watershed Action Team and Woods Creek Coalition and development of projects in those sub-basins.

H. Developing an agricultural initiative to support farmers. Preservation of farming is an important part of preserving and restoring habitat.

I. Fulfilling obligations under the County's NPDES permit through annual implementation of the County NPDES program. This consists of a range of activities including water quality monitoring, pollution investigation, education, stewardship, and water-quality-related drainage improvement and riparian restoration projects.

J. Updating policies, programs, and regulations in accordance with the Growth Management Act and Shoreline Master Program guidelines. The current status of these updates is:

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• **Comprehensive Plan.** Snohomish County is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan to require the use of Best Available Science to protect critical areas and shorelines. This is scheduled to be adopted in late 2005.

• **Critical Areas Regulations.** Snohomish County is in the process of updating the Critical Areas Regulations and these are scheduled to be adopted by December 2005. This update considered the recommendations in the *Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan.*

• **Shoreline Master Program.** Snohomish County is in the process of updating the Shoreline Master Program and these are scheduled to be adopted by December 2005. This update considered the recommendations in the *Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan.*

J. Providing outreach and technical assistance to landowners to support best management practices. Additional assistance is provided to agricultural landowners by a County contract with the Snohomish Conservation District.

N. Initiating a multi-year program in 1999 to inventory habitat and bank conditions in Snohomish County wadable streams. These data provide an important technical foundation for the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan and establish a baseline for monitoring progress toward plan goals.

K. Implementing the Snohomish Pollutant Diagnosis and Implementation Centennial Grant to identify water quality and habitat problems and solutions along Snohomish Basin mainstem rivers. This project supports implementation of the salmon conservation plan through riparian planting and technical assistance to interested landowners and provides baseline data for monitoring and flood hazard planning.

L. Sponsoring a Cooperative Bank Stabilization Program that supports landowners by designing and helping construct habitat-friendly bank stabilization projects.

M. Supporting a pilot methane digester project to treat dairy waste and improve water quality.

O. Maintaining a river flow and gauging network that provides real time data for flood emergencies, as well as long-term data used for calibrating hydrologic models and restoration actions.

P. Classifying and analyzing landcover data derived from satellite imagery, an important tool for hydrologic modeling, native plant restoration, river management, and flood hazard planning projects and programs.


R. Monitoring habitat restoration projects to evaluate effectiveness, increase scientific understanding, and promote efficient expenditure of restoration funding.

**CAPITAL RESTORATION PROJECTS**
Snohomish County has actively and consistently pursued and implemented restoration projects. Key projects in the Snohomish Basin include:
A. **Snohomish River Estuary.** Purchased approximately 310 acres on Smith and Ebey islands since 1999 for restoration, mitigation, and public access. Completed stewardship plan and preliminary designs for tidal marsh restoration. Planted hundreds of spruce trees along decommissioned dikes on mid-Spencer and North Ebey Islands. Actively worked with the City of Everett, Tulalip Tribes, and others on coordination of estuary restoration efforts.

B. **Twin Rivers.** Acquired a 157-acre site on the Snohomish River near the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers. The riparian area has been replanted and design is underway to reconnect the Twin Rivers side-channel to the Snohomish River.

C. **Snohomish River Confluence Reach.** Completed feasibility and design for a reach-scale restoration effort on three miles of the Snohomish River downstream from the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers. Actions at the three primary sites will include riparian planting, bank restoration, large woody debris placement, and reconnection of off-channel areas.

D. **Skykomish River Braided Reach.** Completed initial assessment and analysis to identify and design projects that will protect and improve habitat complexity and water quality, while continuing to provide protection for critical infrastructure along the reach between the cities of Gold Bar and Sultan.

E. **Small Stream Restoration.** Completed many culvert replacements, riparian planting projects and in-stream structures that improve fish access, water quality and habitat features on smaller tributaries throughout the basin.
Exhibit B to Snohomish County Council Resolution 05-026

Snohomish County Commitments related to Capital Projects

These are the top priority projects that Snohomish County would lead or participate in, as funding is available. More detail on these projects is in the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Plan.

NEARSHORE
- Participate in efforts to explore options to restore the former Priest Point tidal lagoon.
- Participate in the development of strategies and projects to protect and restore shorelines habitat and natural processes, including alternatives to bulkheads.
- Continue to provide support to the Marine Resources Committee and implement projects to restore marine habitat.
- Work with partners to develop a coordinated restoration and mitigation strategy to help improve efficiency of nearshore efforts.

ESTUARY
- Continue to lead tidal marsh restoration project planning and implementation on Smith Island, North Ebey Island, the north tip of Ebey Island, and in Drainage District 6.
- Continue to develop solutions to assist farmers and improve habitat along Sunnyside Hill.
- Work with partners to explore restoration options along the mainstem Snohomish River in the estuary.
- Work with the agricultural community and partners to find solutions that benefit farming and salmon.
- Work with partners to develop a coordinated restoration and mitigation strategy to help improve efficiency of estuary efforts.
- Support efforts to encourage passive recreation in the estuary.

MAINSTEM RIVERS
- Continue to lead restoration efforts in the Snohomish Confluence and the Skykomish Braided Reach.
- Explore and develop other capital projects as appropriate and described in the Plan.

LOWLAND TRIBUTARIES
- Continue to support, and where appropriate, lead community-based efforts to improve water quality and habitat in Quilceda/Allen and Woods Creeks.
- Explore and develop other capital projects as appropriate and described in the Plan.