

Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee
Online Meeting—Zoom

June 1, 2021 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Attendees

Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
Alexa Cummings, Snohomish County
Mark Stamey, GeoEngineers
Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
Jim Shannon, Hart Crowser
Denise Krownbell, Seattle City Light
Stephanie Cotton, Snohomish County
Tholen Blasko, Snohomish County
Daniel Howe, Snohomish County
Ashley Kees, WDFW
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
Kirk Lakey, WDFW
John Klochak, King County
Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District
Lisa Tario, Snohomish County
Heather Khan, WA Dept. of Ecology
Marty Jacobson, WA Dept. of Ecology
Ryan Lewis, Snoqualmie Tribe
Kevin Lee, WDFW
Kollin Higgins, King County
Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe
Brett Shattuck, Tulalip Tribes
Darcey Hughes, Snohomish County
Andrea Mojzak, King County
Aimee Fullerton, NOAA
Amea Bahr, RCO
Cory Zyla, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
Emily Davis, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
Brett Gaddis, Snohomish County
Keith Binkley, SnoPUD
Susan O'Neil, ESA
Dan Restivo, USGS
Stephanie Celt, DNR
Jamie Glasgow, WFC

Intros, brief agenda review

Mike and Emily, committee co-chairs, opened the meeting with brief introductions and agenda review.

Regional and basin updates

Gretchen provided an update on this year's grant round [ranked list](#) for committee approval. The Langlois Creek culvert replacement projects were marked "project of concern" by the SRFB technical reviewers and have withdrawn their applications from consideration. Attendees used the Consensus Continuum via Google Slide and reactions on Zoom to vote. The ranked list was approved.

Snohomish Basin 2021 SRFB Grant Round Ranked List Recommendations							
RANK	Project Title	PRISM link	Benefit to Salmon		Certainty of Success		Budget
			Total	Total possible	Total	Total Possible	\$511,397* available
1	Snoqualmie River LW Placement Concept Design, Micah Wait, Wild Fish Conservancy	#21-1070	85.4	100	79.4	100	\$84,984
2	Catherine Creek LWD Final Design* Rodney Pond, Sound Salmon Solutions	#21-1210	65.1	100	73.0	100	\$87,120
3	Woods Creek Culvert Cooperative – 118 th St Construction, Carson Moscoso, Snohomish Conservation District	#21-1072	62.0	100	80.8	100	\$255,143
TOTAL Requested*							\$427,247
Total to loan**							\$84,150

Removed from Consideration	
Langlois Creek Culvert Replacement Project, Upstream, Andy Obst, Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District	
Langlois Creek Culvert Replacement Projects, Downstream, Andy Obst, Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District	

*budgets finalized at end of June

** Basin has some returned PSAR funds that could increase the amount of funding available to loan

It is likely that the Basin will have more SRFB funding available than projects to fund.

Staff recommended that we take the following approaches to allocating our funding:

- Fund any cost increase needs for active Basin projects
- Work to enter a loan agreement with another Puget Sound lead entity where by our basin will "loan" funds to cover another lead entities project(s) and expects to get "paid back" the loan amount next grant round

Gretchen discussed the possibility of lending extra funds to a neighboring watershed this year to be repaid next year since we will likely have more SRFB funding available than projects to fund this round. Next year we will likely have a larger number of projects applying so it would be helpful to have more funds to allocate at that time.

Gretchen mentioned that there is a Forum meeting this Thursday. She highlighted some agenda items of interest. Pete Verhey, Matt Pouley, and Andrew McDonnell will be presenting on calculating fish estimates and operating the traps. There will also be review of a comment letter to Ecology regarding the WREC planning process.

Gretchen gave an SRC summary and follow-up to last month's discussion. She shared the options for focusing the '23-'25 PSAR large capital RFP and asked attendees to vote for their preferred idea below via www.menti.com code 9438 7288

- One (or more) habitat type (large estuaries, nearshore, riparian areas, floodplains)
- The Chinook population(s) at highest risk of extinction (i.e. Dungeness, Stilly, Nooksack)
- The Chinook population(s) closest to attaining recovery goals (i.e. Suiattle, Skagit)
- The watershed(s) where Chinook population status is most acutely limiting harvest (Stilly, Nooksack, Mid-Hood Canal)
- Populations contributing to SRKW diet

The first option received most votes (45%) from attendees. There was much discussion about what the next biennium of PSAR large capital funding should focus on prioritizing including whether the above options adequately address salmon recovery needs. Gretchen suggested if people are interested in following up on this conversation, maybe forming a small working group that could document our key points and frustrations. Attendees could volunteer in the Google Slide.

Temperature mapping in Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers

Dan Restivo with USGS provided a presentation on the preliminary results of their temperature mapping. This project aims to help us understand temperature dynamics in these rivers and what restoration projects are possible and the effect they would have on these systems. Studying water temperature is important because it is a limiting factor for the distribution and health of fish and aquatic life by affecting their physiology and behavior. This study was informed by the temperature TMDL in the Snoqualmie and worked to identify areas of persistent thermal contrasts, profiling water temperatures and comparing methodologies for mapping.

Results show the Tolt is significantly colder than the mainstem and helps lower temperatures, hyporheic flow from wetlands upstream of Griffin Creek contributes cooling, cooling also occurs where Patterson Creek meets the Snoqualmie. The Raging River comes in much warmer where it meets the mainstem Snoqualmie and continues downstream. Hyporheic flow from groundwater inflow was identified at Snoqualmie Falls Golf Course. In the Three Forks Natural Area, they saw significant cooling from the other two tributaries versus the middle fork. Overall, the Snoqualmie River Longitudinal Temperature Profile shows a warming trend as the water moves downstream.

In the middle fork Snoqualmie, there were notable groundwater inflow features recorded. Upstream of Granite Creek it's significantly colder especially in the national forest. Overall, the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Longitudinal Temperature Profile shows a warming trend.

In the Skykomish, upstream of the confluence with the Snoqualmie we see the Sultan River significantly cooling river temperatures as well as other groundwater inflow features throughout. Overall, the Skykomish River Longitudinal Temperature Profile shows a warming trend and then a large temperature drop when the Sky and Sultan meet the mainstem and cool the water.

Next steps are to compare the drone-based thermal infrared surveys to the helicopter results.

Continuing the Exploration of Tech Comm Mission, Roles and Membership

Mike reminded the committee of the discussion from the last meeting and that the goal is to come to agreement on this guiding document. Emily highlighted the most recent changes to the document made in order to align with Manual 19 and the Lead Entity contract agreement, clarify the consensus continuum, and the committee's role in H-integration.

Elissa asked what the need is to define members and alternates since we operate on a consensus continuum and not by voting. Emily noted that a benefit of defined members is a sense of accountability to participation which helps ensure that the designated representative(s) for an organization come with a unified voice on behalf of that organization and that they have reviewed materials in advance, and come to meetings prepared to engage. There was endorsement of the committee Mission and Roles.

The member organization list was reviewed. There was discussion about whether basin staff should be official voting members. For example, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County holds a co-chair seat so that may be odd to have a co-chair that cannot vote on things. Adopt-a-Stream was also nominated for official member status as a historically engaged NGO partner. DNR was suggested for invitation to become a member as well.

Elissa commented that the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum may differ in position on matters from King County so it probably does not make sense to lump the membership and voting rights into one member role. Brett Shattuck commented that Tulalip Tribes has concerns about their voting weight and treaty rights stance being diluted among the various listed members. Tulalip may also find that representatives from different departments would have different positions on certain topics. Mike responded that it may

make sense for Tulalip to have representatives from more than one relevant department and that likely goes for other large member organizations as well. Member organizations interested in this can request that for committee consideration. Emily noted that today the exact representative for each organization does not need to be decided.

Emily and Mike asked attendees to submit votes on the consensus continuum in response to the Mission, Roles, and Membership documents. If there is consensus with the general membership list, Mike and Emily will move forward with agencies to figure out who will be the representative or if more than one representative is needed i.e.) Tulalip, King County, etc.

Plan Update - Progress on Targets

Floodplain Connectivity

Mike provided background to changes in floodplain target. The committee decided to replace Restored Off Channel Habitat target with Floodplain Connectivity because off channel was hard to define and quantify. The team is now moving forward using the PSP's connected natural land cover and floodplain extent data layers for mapping to inform target setting. Mike highlighted caveats and considerations for this process:

- Ideally we would rely on the life Cycle Model output for this target so for now consider this an interim target
- There are issues with the PSP floodplain layer and improvements should be made in coordination with PSP
- Useful for implementation target setting but will need better floodplain function attributes for tracking progress
- Using broad definitions for connected, partially connected, disconnected and “functional” versus “degraded” means any improvement in any condition counts toward target.

Next steps will be to continue checking in with the committee for approval and guidance, follow-up with PSP on the floodplain layer, and possibly develop high, medium, low alternatives.

Riparian

Elissa explained the target update process for these targets is being led by a riparian work group. She reviewed the 2005 targets and the new information that will be informing the setting of these new targets.

The goals of the work group have been to:

- Simplify the target
- Create new riparian targets for headwaters above falls/dams/natural barriers
- Based on best available science keep some 2005 targets and use WDFW's 2020 guidance
- Specify that the implementation target guides efforts and leads to desired future conditions

Elissa shared the proposed riparian targets for acreage and tree height for the committee to discuss.

Next steps are to take the committee's suggestions back to the work group, determine outstanding decisions and analysis needed, develop quantitative targets for vetting, add quantitative guidelines and finalize the proposal by August or September for another presentation to the technical committee.

Freshwater

This includes bank armoring removal renamed from “restored edged habitat”. The work group is keeping the 50-year targets that were developed in 2005 and not doing any new GIS analysis.

The meeting was adjourned.