Funding Multi-Benefit Projects

Farm  Fish  Flood

Write down thoughts for discussion at end…
Land Use – The Ultimate Strategy Game
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Funding Programs

- **CREP** – Payments Low ($1,000 per year) plus Paperwork & Tours
- **RCPP** – EQIP/ACEP – Hard to match, ACEP slow
- **SARE** - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, WSU uses
- **WWRP** - Farmland Preservation - Underfunded
- **FbD** – Some future potential but farmers don’t know what it is yet
- **Conservation Futures** – Competes against parks
- **REET CIP** – “Mostly feel good projects”, Low impact for agriculture
- **TDR/PDR** – Not yet functional, TDR potential if there are buyers?
Concerns & Opportunities

1. Low amount of public funding
2. Many farm grants not working well for farmers?
3. Match requirements too hard
4. Multiple pressures on farms, losing ground
5. Farms support ecosystem services, integrated design for FFF?
6. Farms generate funding – drive economic activity.
Areas to Explore

1. State or local match for EQIP/CREP?
2. Local funding (TDR?) for farms?
3. More opportunities for farms in FbD Grant Program?
4. Farmer engagement for projects and reach-scale design for agriculture?
5. Defining a role for farms in CFHMP?
6. New “Sustainable Farms and Fields Grant Program” (WSCC)
7. SARE?
Funding Programs

- **NOAA Community-based Restoration** – Multi-benefit but fish first. Project development, but construction first. Restoration only. $9-10M nationally. Leque Island, Pilchuck Dam, Ebey Plan, TNC and Carol MacIlroy.

- **EPA National Estuary Program** – Very flexible funding. SLS IT planning, Ag resilience project, reach-scale planning, etc. Funds Action Agenda NTAs.

- **USFWS National Coastal Wetlands** – typically WA state receives millions every year. Acquisition and restoration. Leque, Port Susan

- **USACE GI/PSNERP** – Cost share for specific projects (Spencer Island)

- **ALEA Aquatic Land Enhancement Account** – Eligible projects include acquisition, restoration, other -Recreation focused.

- **WWRP** – ~$100 million every two years. Can be aligned with restoration projects, but could be something for SLS to look further into.
Funding Programs

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Funding Programs

- **Floodplains by Design** – (ECY) – Flood and Habitat, mentions farm. Ascending, now 30 - $50 million per biennium.

- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program** (RCO-WDFW) – Puget Sound shorelines and estuaries, $10 million per biennium. Funding in ALL estuary projects.

- **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** (RCO/PSP) – Statewide Salmon, Includes NOAA PCSRF allocation by Lead Entity, ~$20 million per biennium.

- **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration** (RCO/PSP) – augments SRFB, but also Large Capital Projects (if > $30M). Leque Island, Qwuloolt, Pilchuck Dam, Smith Island ~$30-50 per biennium.

- **Streamflow Restoration**

- **Fish Passage**

- **County Match** – SWM Staffing, Culvert Backlog
Concerns & Opportunities

1. Substantial and increasing due to listings and legal challenges amid collapsing ecosystem – potential cash for large projects.

2. Some funds can meet some needs of agricultural interests (infrastructure, flood protection, planning, modeling).

3. Mostly single purpose funding (FbD, NFWF, CRP examples of new vision of “ecosystem as infrastructure”).

4. Redundancies in application, administration, and reporting – project development is an painful art form.

5. For restoration to not adversely impact Ag, need ag resiliency planning and ag funding for upland acquisition.
Areas to Explore

1. New funding opportunity development: Sustainable Farms and Fields Grant Program.

2. Improvements to existing funding sources: standard budgets, standard applications, improved match rules, coordinated reporting.
# Art Form

**Fish**

**Prairie Creek Example**

$6.4M project

16 Grants

Acquisition started in 2002

Nine grants for construction

Each grant lasts only 2-3 years

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**Table:**

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<th>Phase</th>
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<td>Design and construction of fish hatchery</td>
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**Cost Summary:**

- Total Cost: $6.4M
- 16 Grants
- Acquisition started in 2002
- Nine grants for construction
- Each grant lasts only 2-3 years
Funding Programs

- **FEMA Stafford et al** – Buyouts by County, Could be more? Opportunity?
- **FEMA Pre-disaster Mitigation Grants** – Small pot, national competition
- **USACE Assistance** – small pots, unclear process, Silver Jackets
- **NFWF Resilience** – New pot, limited allowance for design ($200k)
- **Floodplains by Design** – Unique Explicitly funds FFF.
- **Floodplain Planning (ECY)** – Defunded in early 2000s
- **ESRP/SRFB/PSAR** – Habitat projects may have flood hazard reduction benefit.
- **Streamflow Restoration** – Hirst v. Whatcom outcome – increase infiltration or put water rights in stream – tributary urbanization management?
Concerns & Opportunities

1. Very limited funding (FbD Critical)
2. Can we integrate restoration and flood reduction?
3. Effect of balkanized flood districts
   (Compare to Pierce, King, Whatcom)
4. Role for USACE?
5. Status of Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans?
6. Use habitat work to better understand future conditions?
7. How can we share reliable and locally relevant information that helps people?
Role of SLS Executive Committee?

- Mediating Local Conflicts.
- Local, State or Federal Policy Work?
- Existing Program Improvements?
- Propose bill(s) to WA Legislature?
- Coordinate with FbD Allies?