



Lower Skykomish Reach Scale package available for review

SLS Executive Committee members were treated last week to the first two parts of the Lower Skykomish Reach Scale Package with a request for comments and suggestions.

Focusing on the background and goals of the Sustainable Lands Strategy as well as the technical direction that reach scale packages will follow in terms of project selection, the two parts lay the foundation for reach scale packages in the Lower Snohomish River, Snohomish Estuary and the Stillaguamish River areas.

“Part of what makes the Sustainable Lands Strategy program successful is that it’s an accepted model for large- and small-scale projects to restore salmon and protect farms,” said Debbie Terwilleger, Snohomish County’s Surface Water Management director. “With a consistent review process, a host of expertise and the idea that projects must show net gains, we are showing the region and the state how such projects should be done.”

Part 3 will focus specifically on projects within the Lower Skykomish reach and should be



Snohomish County
October 2013

This e-newsletter will provide you with the latest information about Snohomish County’s Sustainable Lands Strategy.

Contacts

For information on projects associated with this initiative, please contact:
Bob Aldrich

ready for review when the Executive Committee meets in November. With Part 3 in hand, the first-ever reach scale package will be completed leading to the production of other expected reach scales and a continued discussion on which projects will provide the net gains needed for each area and Snohomish County overall.

To read a draft of the first two parts, [click here](#).

Next month's SLS Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for **9:30-11:30 a.m. Nov. 12** at the Snohomish County Campus, [3000 Rockefeller Avenue, Everett](#).

Smith Island dike design meets and exceeds all standards

Snohomish County reviewed dike design, farmland drainage and groundwater seepage data with members of Diking Improvement District #5 during its October meeting.

The County's consultant team has demonstrated how the Smith Island Restoration Project setback dike will meet or exceed all applicable design standards adopted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The County is designing to a 15-foot elevation, similar to the construction of other new dikes within the District. As a new dike built to current standards, and with a consistent top elevation, the proposed dike will provide a greater level of flood protection than the old dike it replaces.

Following review of drainage design concepts with the District, the County is moving forward with the District's preference for a new toe ditch that flows directly to a new storage facility, tide gate and pump system. Adjacent farmland and other landowners will be protected during heavy rainfall during storm events, and the new system will provide better drainage than is provided today.

Consensus on project design and associated measures to protect and benefit the District are important as the County prepares to reissue its final Smith Island Environmental

Project Manager
425-388-6424
bob.aldrich@snoco.org

Follow us on [Facebook!](#)

Impact Statement, expected next month, and as it prepares to receive a shoreline permit, the first of those needed to proceed to construction.

“With construction slated for next summer, momentum is building for a project that plays a large role in the Sustainable Lands Strategy and salmon recovery in the Snohomish River estuary and the Puget Sound,” said Debbie Terwilleger, the county’s Surface Water Management director.

To review the County’s Dike Design Matrix, [click here](#). To view the new Smith Island web pages, [click here](#).

New habitat targets proposed for Stillaguamish Chinook plan

Proposed Estuary Targets

Habitat type	Est. Current Ac. (2011)	Est. Historic Ac. (~1870)	% Reduction from Hist.	NEW 80% of Hist. Target (Ac.)	NEW 10-Yr. Rest. Target (Ac.)	NEW 11-50 Yr. Rest. Target (Ac.)
Emergent Marsh	1,250	2,878	57%	2,302	210	842
Shrub Scrub	9	1,120	99%	896	177	710
Tidal Forested	41	1,050	96%	840	160	640
Total	1,300	5,048		4,039	548	2,191

Original Targets

		10 Yr Target (Ac.)	50 Yr. Target (Ac.)
"Estuary"	Acres Restored	195	1055
	Acres Created	120	650
	Totals	315	1705

The Stillaguamish Tribe's Jason Griffith presented proposed updates to the Stillaguamish Chinook Recovery Plan, specifically new numbers for estuary restoration.

The work, completed by the Stillaguamish Tribe and The Nature Conservancy, shows the significance of increasing not just emergent marsh but also shrub scrub and tidal forested land along the river, Griffith said. The new numbers, which assume no sea level rise or loss of marsh since 2005, will be proposed to the Stillaguamish Watershed Council later this month for approval.

WDFW to discuss Leque Island alternatives, design process

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has scheduled a public meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 30**, from **6:30 to 8 p.m.** to discuss long-term solutions for chronic dike failures on Leque Island.

The meeting will be held in the Stanwood Middle School cafeteria, located at [9405 271st St NW Stanwood, WA 98292](#).

Dikes built on the island in the early 1900s have failed multiple times during the past 10 years and have required costly temporary repairs. WDFW owns and manages Leque Island, which is part of the Skagit Wildlife Area.

Agency staff will provide background information, an overview of the project's alternatives analysis and design process, and an expected timeline for drafting conceptual designs and selecting a preferred alternative.

Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions about the project and take a survey about how they use Leque Island. A citizen-based work group will be formed to look more closely at issues that arise throughout the design and alternatives analysis process.

As the project moves forward, WDFW will consider several concepts to address the failures. Those include rebuilding stronger dikes in various locations on the island, fortifying existing dikes, or removing them completely to restore natural tidal processes and salt marsh habitat.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please reply to this email and ask us to remove your name.

