

SUMMARY NOTES
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PHASE 3.5 2016
Wednesday March 23, 2016 10:00 – 12:30
Stillaguamish Tribe's Natural Resources Center
22712 6th Ave. NE Arlington, WA 98223

PARTICIPANTS

Shawn Yanity, Stillaguamish Tribal Chair, SLS EC Fish rep	Tristan Klesick, Stilly farmer, SLS Co-Chair (Ag)
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe Env't Mgr, Stilly Watershed Council co-lead	Brian Bookey, National Food, SLS EC Agriculture rep
Bill Blake, City of Arlington, Stilly Watershed Council co-lead	Monte Marti, Snohomish CD, SLS EC Agriculture rep
Kit Crump, Stillaguamish Basin coordinator for SnoCo	Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, SLS Co-Chair (Fish)
Cynthia Carlstad, SLS co-facilitator	Kristin Kelly, SLS EC Pilchuck Audubon
Dan Evans, SLS co-facilitator (by phone)	C.K. Eidem, SLS Executive
Gregg Farris, SnoCo SWM	Kirt Hanson, SnoCo SWM
Kirk Lakey, WA Depart Fish & Wildlife	Leif Fixen, American Farmland Trust
Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restor. Center	Ralph Svrjcek, Ecology
Steve Landino, NOAA Fisheries	Chantell Krider, Sno Story Map
Janet Curren, NOAA Fisheries	Heather Cole, TNC
Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership	Chuck Hazleton, Stillaguamish Flood Control District
Doug Hennick, Wild Fish Conservancy	Linda Neunzig, SnoCo Ag Coordinator

PURPOSE: Ag Caucus meeting to identify priority actions and strategy (10:00); SLS Executive Committee meeting with back to back session with the Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC). The SLS EC meeting included three major elements: 1) salmon stock status report (serious declines in returns) by tribal reps and responses; 2) Coordinated Investment Initiative presentation and discussion (per Paul Cereghino); and 3) Snohomish Story Map (per Chantell Krider). Following the SLS EC session, a brown bag lunch was held so that informal EC discussions could continue with participating members of the SWC.

1. SLS AG CAUCUS MEETING (10:00-11:00)

- a. Members of the SLS Ag Caucus (including Brian Bookey, Tristan Klesick, and several partners, including SnoCo Ag Coordinator Linda Neunzig, NOAA/CII's Paul Cereghino and Steve Landino) met to discuss ag priorities in Snohomish County and strategies.
- b. The group discussed the need for a long-term, multi-generational approach, borrowing the Seven Generations theme from Puget Sound tribes.
- c. Primary needs include: a 7-generations approach to land protection, water management, and economic viability for the farm community. It was noted that the ag voice has diminished in Snohomish County and must be raised if a vital ag community is to be sustained in the face of rapid development and other challenges.
- d. Ag needs are also fish and community needs – land, water, cultural viability.
- e. The following key priorities emerged from the session:
 - **Farmland Protection:** using growth management tools, a broad resource land protection coalition (F3), TDR/PDR, low-cost / friction easements,
 - **Economic Viability:** greater regulatory efficiency and certainty, infrastructure / flood control support, local and export markets, capital
 - **Climate Resilience:** best available information re changes in climate; opportunities to adapt to changes in storm frequency and flooding, changing hydrograph, sea rise, drought, etc.
 - **Water Management:** especially with changes in climate, flexible and efficient water management tools – from drainage maintenance, to flood control, to water storage (surface and ground), to water for irrigation and fish water needs – are increasingly important.
 - **Trust / Place at the Table:** Ag needs to establish rapport and trust with fish, forestry, flood control, and others engaged in land and resource management policy decisions and resource allocation; Ag also needs to have a clearer and strong voice in such processes.
 - **Education:** Ag needs to better understand the needs and strategies of other key stakeholder groups, such as fish restoration – thus the need to engage in discussions with fish leads.

2. SLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WELCOME, INTRODUCTION (11:00-11:05)

- a. **Welcome:** The SLS Executive Committee meeting was called to order and participants were welcomed by the facilitation team (Cynthia Carlstad, Dan Evans by phone). A special welcome was extended to Paul

Cereghino and Steve Landino (NOAA) and Chantell Krider of the Snohomish Story Map Project, who presented during the EC meeting.

- b. **Agenda:** The meeting agenda was summarized by the facilitation team.
- c. **Introductions:** Participants introduced themselves.
- d. **Updates:** Terry Williams and Shawn Yanity, the SLS' tribal representative from the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, respectively, ask for and received the floor prior to the scheduled presentations to update the EC on the declining returns of Puget Sound salmon stocks and the threat to their viability.

3. TRIBAL UPDATE ON DECLINING SALMON STOCKS (11:05 – 11:15)

- a. Terry Williams (Tulalip) and Shawn Yanity (Stillaguamish) outlined the bleak forecast and low counts for returning Puget Sound salmon stocks. Last year was bad, this year is worse, and next year is also expected to show serious continuing decline.
- b. Shawn, just back from the Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting in Vancouver, summarized the forecast adult returns this season vs. the actual returns for several stocks:
 - **Skagit Coho --** forecast: 121,000; actual: 9,000
 - **Stillaguamish Coho --** forecast: 35,000; actual: 2,800
 - **Snohomish Coho --** forecast: 138,000; actual: 20,000
- c. What are the drivers of decline? There are several identified and likely drivers of these declining returns:
 - **Ocean conditions:** warmer waters, reduced prey, more predations
 - **Estuary conditions:** warmer temperatures, loss of estuary habitat (especially important for listed Chinook), reduced food sources
 - **River hydrology:** loss of late season snow melt to supply cold clean water throughout the summer and fall; reduced groundwater infiltration and aquifer levels; high water temperatures (often lethal) during summer and early fall; changed flow structure leading to mismatch of run-timing and water in stream
 - **Spawning and rearing habitat:** channelized rivers and spikey flows that blow out redds and habitat have reduced spawning and rearing habitat.
 - **Harvest:** fishing pressures on weak stocks are being reduced, but harvest in the ocean (e.g., along British Columbia's Vancouver Island), at the mouth of natal rivers, and in the rivers and streams has taken a toll on these weak wild fish stocks.
- d. **What's next?** The poor returns suggest that more ESA listings petitions will be filed, there will be greater regulatory pressure to reduce harvest of

wild stocks, loss of habitat and “properly functioning conditions”, and efforts to improve habitat restoration, creating potential conflicts with agriculture, flood control, water uses.

- e. **Collaboration:** Recognizing that measureable changes in temperatures, sea rise, flood frequency and other climate related trends are outside of our immediate control, there are also opportunities to farm-fish-flood control interests to work together on common agenda items, especially over the long-term:

- Water storage and management strategies
- Resource land protection
- Greater adaptability / flexibility in the regulatory realm to achieve multiple benefits

4. FED/ST COORDINATED INVESTMENT INITIATIVE & SLS (11:15-11:45)

- a. **Overview of CII (Paul Cereghino):** NOAA Restoration Center’s Paul Cereghino was introduced with a description of the work that he has undertaken to foster and increase a coordinated investment approach by federal and state agencies, with growing connections with local and tribal governments and multiple stakeholders (F3). Recently, Paul has interviewed a number of key stakeholders, including farmers, flood control and drainage districts, and fish recovery groups.

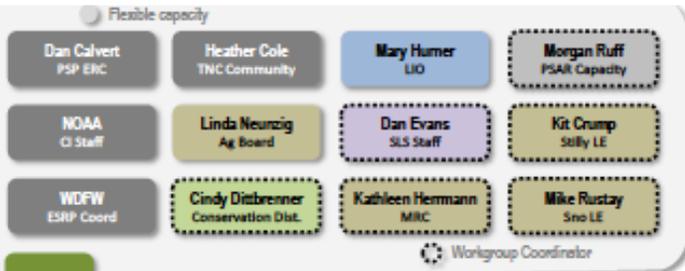
Objectives of the CII include:

- Build on, empower, and make more efficient and effective existing fed / st / local / tribal systems and coordinators
- Identify needs
- Streamline pathways for multi-benefit projects and measures
- Provide access to resources for implementation
- Tell the story and encourage application and adaptation

The Coordinated Investment Initiative was presented by Paul through the following handout materials:

Coordination Network

Existing coordination staff, supported by agency partners, are the foundation of coordinated investment. They track ecosystem recovery effort, and can route coordinated resources to workgroups, and insure policy cohesion within and among agencies, both through coordinated investment mechanisms, and through the coordinating committees they staff.



Coordinated Investment

Quarterly steering committee resolves issues, and evaluates progress. Efforts are driven by workgroup requests. Progress is tracked through Results Washington and OMB pass-back coordination.



Action Agenda Implementation

Workgroups develop multi-benefit, place-based projects, that hit vital sign targets. Their requests for support drive coordinated investment. Quality implementation planning is rewarded with funding efficiency.



Community Engagement Workgroup

Regional and local staff collaborate to define a strong local communication effort that consistently reinforces and builds from workgroup efforts.

Efforts and Initial Tasks

A – Coordination Infrastructure

When multi-agency project management is not explicit and accountable, projects flounder, increasing costs and reducing public trust, resulting in missed opportunities. Clearly allocating duties among a coordination team provides clarity in leadership, and provides the foundation for collaboration.

A1 - Refine Landscape Workgroups – Building on existing efforts, define a lead coordinator in each landscape and define a forward looking multi-agency recovery effort. Existing coordinators are supported through agency labor that support the needs of the coordination team.

A2 – Shared Project Pipeline - For each landscape develop a multi-agency project scope and sequence that supports strategic development of place-based multi-benefit projects.

B - Project design capacity

Project implementation rate is limited by local capacity. Some agency programs can provide value to local projects through technical services. These services must be prompt, reliable, and integrated into local project management.

B2 - Identify Needs and Placement Mechanisms - Identify a pool of agency staff with skills that are aligned with the project pipeline. Work with the coordination team to develop the agreements and institutional mechanisms necessary that allow for staff placement that is of an appropriate character and duration.

C – Regulatory Efficiency

Multi-party negotiations over project requirements under local, state, and federal code can protract project implementation and muddy already difficult project design processes.

C1 - French Creek Pilot – For the purpose of developing a proactive regulatory support team, develop an integrated drainage management strategy for the French Creek Drainage District that increases ecosystem services and stabilizes farm operations. This initial work becomes the basis for reducing regulatory barriers to multi-benefit floodplain redevelopment.

D – Funding Efficiency

Even when a project has been well vetted and represents a critical ecosystem target, project managers may still need to compete for and assemble multiple grants for every project phase. This inflates administrative costs and delays project completion.

D1 - Full Project Budget Template – Building from the “project pipeline” work with the Water and Salmon Grant Coordination group to develop a “full project budget and scope template” that can be used to apply for and manage multiple grants.

D2 - Accelerate LIO System – Use landscape workgroups to develop integrated strategies that hit emerging Vital Sign targets to secure predictable NEP funding.

E – Coordinated Landscape Protection

Recovery requires creative land use strategies and development of green infrastructure that includes multi-benefit acquisitions. Acquisition funding is “stove-piped” and limits development of needed public-private partnerships.

E1 - Integrated Farmland Protection – Build from NEP planning efforts, and collaborate with land trusts and acquisition agencies to trouble shoot and develop a streamlined procedures that supports multi-benefit acquisition and enhancement efforts that promote and leverage local PDR/TDR programs, and maximize benefits for fish, flood, and farm within an agricultural landscape.

F – Ecosystem Observation

Ecosystem observation follows development of place-based problems and objectives.

G – Knowledge Management

Knowledge management follows working group needs.

H – Resilience Planning

Climate change impacts are not being “scaled down” to identify local risks that will require a strategic response both in terms of capital projects and land use regulation. Future costs need to be included as part of cost-benefit analyses.

H1 - Sea Level Rise Vulnerability – Use NOS workshop and initiate inter-agency gap analysis, testing our existing planning and regulatory strategies against anticipated climate change impacts, starting with sea-level rise.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

5. SNOHOMISH STORY MAP PROJECT UPDATE (11:45-12:00)

- a. Chantell Krider, funded by an ESRP Grant (per Jay Krienitz, WDFW), is developing a web-based Snohomish Story Map, highlighting fish, farm, flood control, and community efforts to work together for multiple benefits in the County's floodplains and estuaries.
- b. A summary of Chantell's progress to date is appended at the end of the document.

6. ADJOURN (Noon) / BROWN BAG LUNCH SLS AND SWC PARTICIPANTS

DRAFT

APPENDIX

Snohomish Story Map: Initial Discussion Draft (Chantell Krider)

Farms, Fish, and Floods – Restoring the Snohomish Delta

March 15, 2016

Link to Story Map: <http://arcg.is/1OPbtsd>

Purpose and Audience

The goal of the Snohomish story map is to capture spirit of collaboration surrounding a future vision for the delta. The story map is intended to be created and utilized by various groups to showcase multiple benefit outcomes at a landscape scale, thus empowering the vision of the local community for farms, fish, and flood protection.

Support of Coordinated Investment / SLS

- Coordinated Investment – Phase 1 – Community Engagement (A)
- Unified multi-agency voice and message to the community
- Highlight high-risk areas and costs relative to sea-level rise
- Introduce Delta vision – Reach 1 – Benefits to fish / farms and flood
- Educated the community regarding history of salmon decline / ecosystem function / net gains
- Illustrate avenues of multi-benefit restoration efforts
- Provide background and context from agency programs / contact information

Note:

This current version of the Farms, Fish, and Floods – Restoring the Snohomish Delta story map does not include landowner interviews; we plan to conduct interviews mid-April.

Stay tuned for an updated version that includes the landowner perspective.

Story Map – What’s a Story Map?

A story map is a communication tool that incorporates interactive maps and multi-media into a single communication package to be shared via iframe, weblinks and social media.

For the most part, story maps are designed for general, non-technical audiences. Many story maps are aimed at everyone, that is, anyone with access to the Internet and a curiosity about the world. However, story maps can also serve highly specialized audiences. They can summarize issues for managers and decision makers. They can help departments or teams within organizations to communicate with their colleagues (ESRI January 2015).

Examples:

<http://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/gallery/#s=0>

Story Map – Structure

The anatomy of a story map includes a Main Stage and a Side Panel (Figure 1). The Main Stage can consist of an interactive map, video, image or web page. Main Stage features may be configured to have pop-ups with additional information and images. The Side Panel is typically descriptive text, but may also include an image, video, links, or static map.



Figure 1: Story Map Layout – Image center (Main Stage – red hatched), text left (Side Panel

–blue hatched)

Storyboard

Slide 1: Farms, Fish and Flood – Developing the Landscape for Everyone

Message: Overview of the Snohomish delta – farmers are an important part of the landscape

Main Stage 1: Image of salt of the earth farmer

Side Panel: Farming and salmon production play a key role in the history, culture and economy of the Snohomish Basin, both can be enhanced through collaborative multi-benefit restoration projects. Local partners are working together to identify projects that provide flood protection for landowners, salmon habitat, and access to recreation and hunting opportunities.

Slide 2: History of the Snohomish Delta

Message: The Snohomish Delta has a long rich history of subsistence fishing, farming, lumber and industrial use. Some of the uses, such as the smelter, landfill, and rendering plant negatively affected the delta, but these uses are now opportunities for restoration through mitigation (e.g. Qwuloolt).

Mainstage: Historic image of Chinook landings

Side Panel: Historically Chinook salmon runs numbered **XXX**, which supported vibrant native communities; alterations to the landscape and over harvesting during the early 1900's led in salmon decline (Link: Tableau graph of salmon decline using landings, historic to present (source NOAA Fisheries (Bolt decision and cannery era)).

Alterations to the delta islands, such as the Tulalip landfill, smelter, and rendering plant reduced habitat available to salmonids and produced toxic by-products.

Today, lessons learned from early landuses provide opportunities through mitigation to restore ecosystem processes, such as tidal flow and reconnection to the Snohomish River and sediment sources. The Qwuloolt Restoration, for example, project...**(example details)**

Slide 3: Snohomish Delta – The Situation

Message: Current landuse activities need to be evaluated in the context on natural processes and sea level rise.

Main Stage 1: Illustration of elevations in the delta, cross section diagram showing land subsiding and predicted sea rise. The delta increases in elevation where there is unconstrained tidal flow (arrows indicate subsidence, sediment deposition, and pumping costs)

Side Panel: Living below sea-level has its challenges. Levees protect landuses on delta islands; however the continued subsidence and predicted sea level rise present an on-going challenge for delta island residents and city infrastructure. In the long-term, the cost of levee maintenance and pumping may outweigh the benefits for many landowners.

Slide 4: Decade of Restoration Success

Message: Salmon need the delta for growth and marine survival need to balance the imminent sea-level rise with current land uses. Together we can find area of low conflict that benefits farming, local community and restoration.

Main Stage 1: Image of Spencer Island restoration

Side Panel: Delta multi-benefit projects balance restoration with community protection and enhancement. Investments in delta restoration have provided flood protection for local landowners, city roads, and infrastructure through dike setbacks and tidal flow reconnection with the historic delta. On Ebey Island, restoration benefits agriculture by enhancing grazing potential through investments in drainage. Additionally, restored wetlands enrich the community by providing wildlife viewing and public access, including hunting and fishing opportunities.

Slide 5: Why Multi-Benefit Restoration?

Message: Multi-benefit restoration benefits everyone.

Main Stage 1: Image restoration in progress – Spencer Island

Side Panel: Restoration isn't just for salmon. Today, restoration projects are designed for multiple benefits, enhancing natural systems while also protecting communities and providing local jobs.

A functioning delta plays a critical role in providing natural goods and services that contribute to an enhanced quality of life and locally-sourced food base. Restoration increases the capacity of natural systems to buffer communities from flooding and sea level rise, while also improving habitat and water quality. Additionally, the influx of restoration dollars brings local job opportunities.

Slide 6: Snohomish Delta – Restoration Benefits for Salmon

Message: Salmon need the delta for growth and marine survival, need to balance the imminent sea-level rise with current land uses.

Main Stage 1: Map of Delta projects (Pop up: Species presence data, project link to Salish Wiki, acres restored).

Side Panel: Snohomish basin is the second largest basin in Puget Sound and home to two species of trout and four species of salmon, including ESA-listed Chinook salmon.

For over a decade local partners have been working together to reverse salmon decline. Beginning in 2005, local communities agreed to the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan. The plan highlighted the need to restore delta rearing habitat, vital for producing sea-worthy Chinook that eventually return to their ancestral rivers to spawn. The forum recommended dedicating a large portion of their resources toward delta restoration.

Today, **XXX** acres of the 1,237 acres have been restored in the Snohomish delta, with an estimated smolt production of **XXX**. The successful work continues through multi-agency partnerships and coordinated investments involving federal, state, county, non-profits, Tribes, and community members like you.

Learn More:

- Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS)
- ESRP
- Other Programs?

Slide 7: Facing the Challenges Ahead - Together

Message: Building on previous success, multi-benefit project can help chart a “net gain” future.

Main Stage 1: Sea-level rise swipe / urbanization trajectories

Side Panel: Maintaining restoration gains in the face of increased urbanization and rising sea-levels will be a significant challenge in the years to come. By working with communities and agriculture, local partners hope to develop a restoration framework that supports “net gain” for fish restoration and farms.

Defining Net Gain for Agriculture:

- Improve agricultural economic viability
- Farmland protection
- Regulatory certainty
- Infrastructure support

Defining Net Gain for Fish/Environment:

- Continued progress toward Salmon Plan targets ([Link to Tabelau / SASI abundance graphs](#))
- Improvements in water quality ([EIM?](#))
- Broad based community support for actions
- Recognition of changing watershed dynamics

Slide 8: Vision for Our Delta

Message: Restoration takes time. We need to maintain and communicate a strong unified delta vision

Main Stage 1: Map of completed projects and Delta Region.

Side Panel: Restoring ecological function takes time. Restoration is a process with several phases of growth and adjustment before reaching a productive steady state. Restoration begins with an initial investment of resources, collaborative assessment, and reconnection to existing natural systems.

Net gains for agriculture for fish and environment are tracked through...[State of the Sound / State of the Salmon??](#)

Slide 9: More Information

Message: Contacts for more information about the program and projects

Main Stage: ESRP Webpage

Side Panel: **Contacts NOAA CI / SLS / LE Tribe / County / ESRP**

Describe specific questions and contacts