

**SUMMARY NOTES**  
**SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY**  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PHASE 3.7 2017**  
**JULY 13, 2017**

**Stillaguamish Natural Resources Center 22712 6th Ave. NE Arlington, WA 98223**  
 (Take I-5 Exit 210 west, turn left on 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, ½ mile turn right before end of road)  
**10:00 – 12:30 SLS Executive Committee Meeting & Informal Brown Bag Lunch**

**PARTICIPANTS**

Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, SLS Co-Chair (Fish)	Tristan Klesick, Stillaguamish farmer, SLS Co-Chair (Ag)
Brian Bookey, National Food, SLS EC Ag rep	Kristin Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society
Monte Marti, Sno Conservation Dist. Manager, EC Ag rep	C.K. Eidem, Ducks Unlimited, SLS EC Fish rep
Amy Gamache, Sno Conservation Dist.	Ann Bylin, SnoCo SWM Planning Manager
Ann Seabott, US Senator Patty Murray's NW WA Representative	Cindy Dittbrenner, Sno Conservation Dist.
Dan Bartelheimer, Snohomish County Farm Bureau	Dan Calvert, Puget Sound Partnership Liaison
Dan Evans, SLS Facilitator	Deborah Knight, Stanwood Consultant
Dianne Hennessey, WA Dept. of Ecology	Emily Howe, TNC, Aquatic Ecologist
Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County SWM Special Projects Coordinator	Jay Krienitz, WDFW, ESRP Program Manager
Kirk Lakey, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Katrina Sukola, SnoCo SWM Planner
Kat Morgan, TNC, Associate Director Puget Sound Conservation	Kit Crump, SnoCo SWM Planner, Stilly Basin Coordinator
Linda Neunzig, SnoCo Ag Coordinator	Lindsey Desmul, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Loren Brokaw, WDFW Project Manager	Meg Bommarito, WA Dept. of Ecology
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes	Nick Bratton, Forterra
Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe, Environment Program Director	Robin Fey, PCC Farmland Trust
Patrick Capper, WA Dept of Ag	

**PURPOSE:** Update SLS Executive Committee and partners on Stillaguamish Basin indicators (e.g., fish status) and farm-fish-flood projects, including FbD projects, waterfowl replacement lands, SVPI, Stilly Reach Plan, Port Susan Monitoring, Ovenell Park. The EC will also receive updates on and discuss several countywide issues and initiatives, including an SLS strategic priorities, regulatory efficiency, and Legislative session / funding.

## 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION

- a. **Review purpose, agenda:** The Executive Committee was called to order. Dan Evans reviewed the agenda and purpose for the monthly Executive Committee meeting, noting there are many substantive items on the agenda and that time is limited, and that the Executive Committee had met in executive session prior to the full session to discuss the SLS priorities and implementation strategies. Dan also amended the agenda to accommodate presenter availability.
- b. **Introductions:** Dan introduced several of the presenters, thanked the Stillaguamish Tribe for making their Natural Resource Center conference available for the SLS meetings, and called for self-introduction of participants.

## 2. LOWER STILLAGUAMISH BASIN FOCUS, UPDATES

### a. **Stilly indicators: salmon status, shellfish, farmland, flood mgt**

Stillaguamish Tribe's Pat Stevenson provided an update on salmon stocks status and shellfish. Currently, there are no in-season updates. Because of the weakness of Stillaguamish Basin salmon stocks, there is no commercial, recreational, or tribal fish harvesting under way. Fishing for Chinook salmon, as well as Coho, chum, pink, and steelhead is prohibited, with the exception of a few ceremonial fish. The population trend for Chinook is better for this season, however the population is 300, compared to the goal of 3000. Resulting in restrictions on harvest and hatchery production. There are multiple causes of the weak stock status, with habitat loss being the main concern. Interception by Canada – primarily off the west coast of Vancouver Island -- has taken the biggest bite out of returning adult Stilly salmon. Many salmon fish are caught incidentally in the north Pacific by bottom fisheries. Once the harvest threshold is reached, the fishery is shut down. (See Appendix 1 for links to salmon and shellfish status).

Terry Williams stated that another Issue is how NOAA manages fish harvest and fisheries policy. Conversations with North Pacific and Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the State, and Tribes have improved somewhat, but further improvements in fisheries management are needed. Large areas have been closed, with NOAA also limiting fish from hatcheries and other outside systems to prevent competition with wild stocks. Because the Stilly stocks are so severely depressed, NOAA uses a "weak stock" management approach that also limits the harvest of other Puget Sound salmon stocks.

The Snohomish and Stilly fisheries are managed in the same way, with both in favor of wild salmon genetics. The genetics of Puget Sound salmon stocks are being stressed by the need to adapt rapidly to changing environmental conditions, specifically changes in hydrology resulting from climate change. Fisheries managers are limiting hatchery production to prevent genetic mixing and ecosystem competition with wild stocks.

New federal regulations are looking to streamline the fisheries management process and may influence how fisheries are managed in the Northwest. NOAA, through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS), seeks

public input on identifying existing regulations to evaluate and improve regulations and regulatory processes. Comments are due August 21, 2017.

Pat also provided a summary of shellfish issues in Port Susan Bay. A section of the shellfish harvest area has been closed, as one of the zones in Port Susan Bay has been downgraded again to *no harvest* due to a temporary spike in fecal coliform levels. Ongoing monitoring found bacterial levels spiked in November, related to two discharge events in Miller Creek. SWM is investigating the source(s) of the spikes. To upgrade the status, 30 samples with mean values below a threshold are required to reopen the area to harvest, but it may take up to two years of compliant samples to do so. SnoCo SWM should have a report on issue within a month or two, perhaps in time for the September 13th SLS Executive Committee meeting.

A potential improvement in dairy manure management, which would reduce or eliminate manure storage lagoons and over-application or release of related waste water, is the Janicki system that has been described in past EC meetings. The Janicki manure processing and distillation system proposed for the Stillaguamish Basin, which uses advanced recompression and heat recovery technology, can treat manure from 1000 cows. The dairies in the Miller Creek area have approximately 3000 cows. Thus, it would require three Janicki units to treat all the manure in the area. Dairies, of course, are not the only potential sources of fecal coliform in the area. Anne Bylin stated that Snohomish County has to develop a response strategy. Terry noted that treatment facilities, such as the Qualco anaerobic digester in the Tualco Valley that processes manure from approximately 2000 dairy cows, can have a huge beneficial impact on dairy nutrient, odor, and pathogen management. Terry noted nutrient loading – especially nitrogen -- is also related to damaging changes in Puget Sound plankton. Too much nitrogen upsets the nitrogen-silica balance that undermines the production of beneficial phytoplankton that are the base of the Puget Sound food chain. Tulalip monitoring indicates a 20-40% loss of such phytoplankton in the Harbor according Terry.

Pat also reported that recent Snohomish watershed fish monitoring shows an increase in the Coho salmon population, apparently the result of an increase in juvenile production, in-stream habitat improvements, and better at-sea conditions.

Ag members reported that after several weeks of dry, warm weather, irrigation is now required in many areas, although river levels remain high. During the drought two years ago, drought emergency water management measures were in place to keep farming alive, and water management for fish and farms remains a top SLS priority.

**b. Floodplains by Design (FbD) Projects: Leque, Zis-a-ba, Irvine Slough, Ellingsen dike setback, sediment mgmt.)**

Pat summarized the C19 Floodplain by Design projects underway in the Stillaguamish Basin:

- Irvine slough -- The first phase (design) of the project has been completed. Currently in Phase II, and the City of Stanwood is looking for funding for a conveyance system, which will be the next step.

- Zis-a-ba – The Stillaguamish Tribe’s project contractor, Trimax, is working ahead of schedule. This was originally expected to be a two-year project but will be completed in one year (by the end of 2017). The original plan was to remove a dike, but the adapted plan now calls for six breaches all the way around the dike. A tide gate is also being installed.
- Leque Island – The WDFW-Ducks Unlimited project is in the first phase, starting next week with work on the interior of dike. Staged removal of the dike will occur over the next 1-2 years.
- Ellingsen dike setback – The project is still in the design phase, evaluating a proposed 20-30 acre dike setback alternative, which will have 30% design soon.
- Gold Basin sediment stabilization project – Work is focused in the Verlot/Silverton area. The environmental review is complete and the construction project is going out to bid.
- Diking District 7 Dike Repair -- 100% design for dike repairs completed; funding is now needed to repair 10,000 feet of the dike.
- Janicki manure processor system demonstration – Approximately \$250,000 left in the original CI9 grant; with \$1 million in a demonstration grant from NRCS to match state funds expected in the Capital Budget.

The soon-to-be launched reach plan for the Lower Stillaguamish will include these projects, and future additions, into the reach plan.

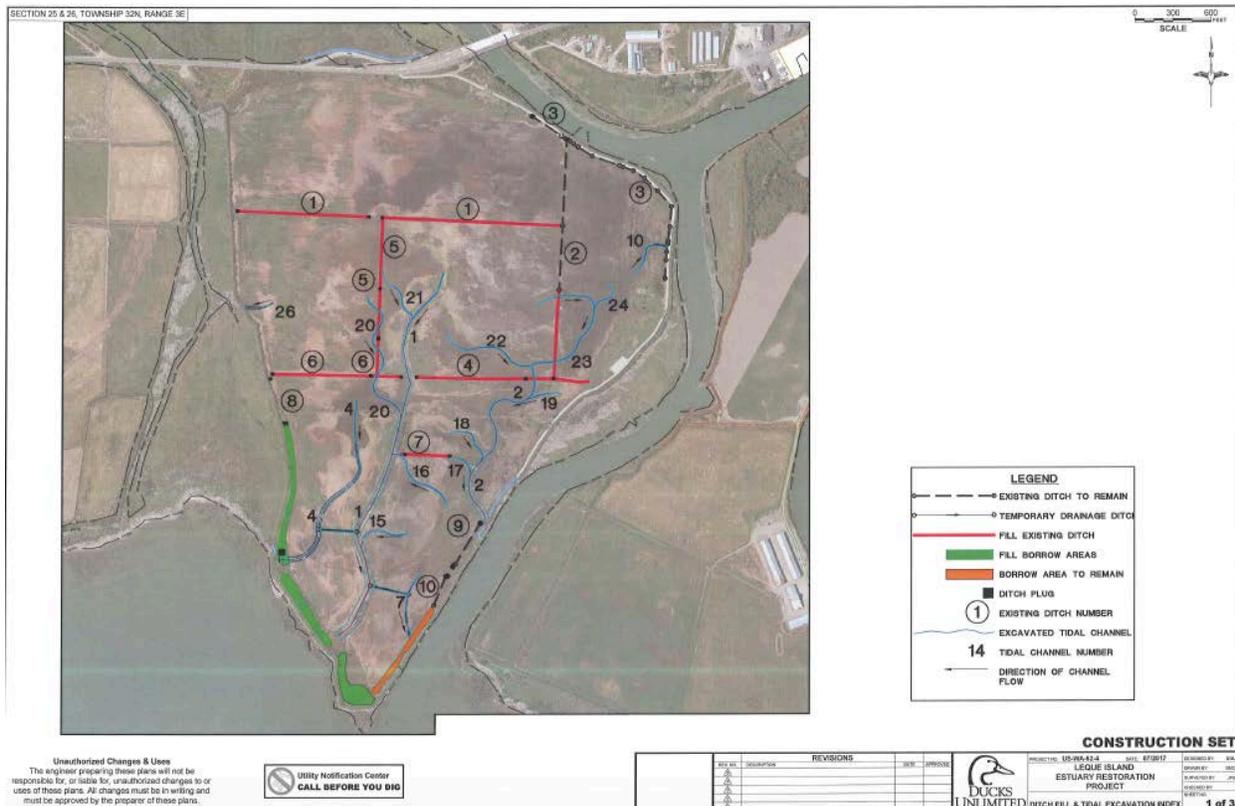
**c. Leque waterfowl replacement land issue (CK Eiden, Loren Brokaw)**

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Loren Brokaw summarized his previous presentation and request for a support letter to RCO from SLS on behalf of WDFW seeking flexibility under a grant used to acquire most of Leque Island for waterfowl habitat and forage. WDFW also seeks flexibility from RCO to secure replacement habitat for water fowl with salmon funds in light of the fact that the design of the Leque restoration project has been altered to focus on intertidal salt marsh, which is the top priority for salmon recovery in the area. Concerns about using scarce salmon funds for replacement habitat has resulted in SLS discussions on the subject, with CK Eiden and Pat Stevenson delegated to attempt to resolve the matter and come back to the EC with draft language.

See below map of current Leque Island project design, which includes dike removal and restoration of intertidal salt marsh with excavated tidal channels.

More specifically, the language of the acquisition grant is problematic. The current design for the Leque Island project would remove the perimeter dikes and restore tidal function to the area, providing key intertidal salmon habitat, which also has value for water fowl. However, the change in use may not be consistent with the original grant terms. Therefore, additional funding from RCO is being sought for replacement water fowl habitat. WDFW / ESRP’s Jay Krienitz noted the area is covered by a conservation easement, with legal obligations relating to water fowl habitat and forage.

*Leque Island current project design emphasizing restoration of intertidal habitat*



The conflict arises from a 1993 USFWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant for 180 acres of natural and farmed wetland habitat. If tidal flows are restored, water fowl managed agriculture would be removed. Complicating the issue further is the fact that Leque levees are failing and would cost millions of dollars to repair and sustain, in addition to the cost of constructing interior dikes to partition farmed wetlands, natural water fowl habitat, and intertidal fish habitat. CK and Pat are expected to report back to the full group in the near future. See the WDFW proposed letter of support, which is subject to review and likely revision, in Appendix 2.

**d. Resource Land Protection: Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI), Betcher & Johnson farms, PCC Farmland Trust Prioritization**

- Betcher Farm (Arlington School District) -- Brian Bookey summarized the status of the initiative to save as farmland the 160-acre property owned by Arlington school district, which is potentially developable (zoned R-5) in 5-acre lots or could be mined for sand and gravel. The SLS agreed at previous EC meetings to support efforts to retain the property as farmland. SLS's initial proposal was rejected, but the Arlington School District has delayed a decision on the matter to allow time to evaluate the options. Potential extraction of sand and gravel could make the value of the site too expensive for purchase as farmland, so Brian, on behalf of the SLS, is investigating the purchase of a conservation easement. Another option is to retain a portion of the property for agriculture and allow for mining on a portion. Brian will report back as additional information becomes available.

- PCC Farmland Trust Prioritization – The SLS farmland prioritization effort spearheaded by PCC Farmland Trust, in partnership with Forterra and other SLS stakeholders, has developed a draft map and modeling tool. They are currently reaching out to farmers and other land owners and seeking additional input re criteria. The prioritization initiative has been included as a part of the SLS strategic priority list (see Appendix 4) under the Ag Resilience Plan sponsored by the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD), but is also part of the Resource Lands SLS Strategic Priority.
- Conservation Easement and TDR – A related effort involving PCC FT, Forterra, SnoCo, SCD, tribes, and others is the SVPI initiative to develop a flexible easement and use TDR (transfer of development rights) monies to fund the purchase of easements. Early “sign ups” by farmers will lend credibility to the conservation easement / TDR initiative, which is part of the SLS’s Resource Lands Protection strategic priority. Terry added that funds are needed from the County (e.g., Conservations Futures) to purchase resource land easements. Available parcels could also be mapped and identified. Farmers are being challenged by support services leaving the region and conversion of farmland to other uses that is needed for unfragmented blocks of farmland. To make it easier for farmers to sign up, Linda is working on the possibility of postponing major easement fees until the close of the easement agreement, so that potential participants don’t have to front significant amounts of money prior to close, which could be years and is speculative. Nick Bratton agreed that there is a need to lower barriers to entry and early sign-ups. It helps to break the chicken and egg dynamic that has slowed the use of conservation easements funded by TDR monies. However, Tristan noted some small upfront fee (an “ante”) might be helpful to ensure applicants are serious and have some “skin in the game.” Early sign-ups would establish the availability of “sending” areas, which will help generate demand for TDR funds from urban “receiving” areas. In 1998, the County sold \$2.5 million in TDR credits, which is now being used as development credit in Seattle.

**e. Stillaguamish Integrated Reach Plan (Kit Crump, Erik Stockdale)**

Erik summarized the development and roll out of the Lower Skykomish Reach Plan. Comments have been received, which will guide final edits and revisions. Erik expects to have a final draft report back next week for review.

Kit noted that much of what will be learned in the Skykomish Reach Plan can be used in the Stilly and Snohomish Reach Plans, although some of the tools and methods will be adapted to these different geographies.

**f. Port Susan Monitoring Initiative (TNC’s Kat Morgan, Emily Howe)**

Emily Howe (The Nature Conservancy) summarized results from a recently completed 5-year monitoring project focused on loss of Port Susan Bay intertidal marsh. Results showed that the intertidal marsh is retreating at a rapid rate due to three factors: high salinity due to less freshwater input from the Stillaguamish River to PSB, water fowl grazing on rhizomes, and wave action. With less freshwater input, marsh vegetation is less productive and in decline. The reduction in freshwater is largely attributable to the

southerly flow of the Stillaguamish River through the Hat Slough delta, reduced capacity of the Old Stillaguamish Channel, and some low-flow years. There is enough accretion to keep up with sea level rise, due mainly to the additional sediment load from melting glaciers and slides (i.e., the mammoth Oso slide). Terry noted a [new sea level rise study](#) from the Union of Concerned Scientists, showing inundation is expected to occur at a faster rate than previously anticipated.

#### **g. Stanwood's Ovenell Park (Deborah Knight)**

Deborah Knight summarized the work being conducted at the former 15-acre Ovenell dairy farm. The Ovenell Park project is uniquely situated at the point where the Old Channel of the Stillaguamish River empties into Port Susan Bay to the south and Skagit Bay to the north. The City of Stanwood funded a visioning project. The general vision is to create a regional project; and to provide public access to the waterfront in an area where the river is hard to see and access. The City wants to bring to the site research, recreation, and education that emphasizes the natural and human history and resources associated with the area. Initial work by the City on the project has involved removing dilapidated buildings and other public hazards so it can open the property in late summer/early fall to the public. Deborah noted the project will not get the necessary support or funding if people cannot see the project. For the first time residents will have access to Port Susan via a levee and the new park. Deborah provided a fact sheet for the park project (attached as Appendix 3).

The Johnson farm is one of the few remaining large farms (180 acre) in the Snohomish Basin. The City of Stanwood is protecting approximately 150 acres of the farm with a conservation easement and purchasing 30 acres of dike and buildings so that it can repair and maintain the seawall on the west side of the property. The SLS supported a \$500,000 grant to the City for the Johnson farm through the County's Conservation Futures program.

### **3. COUNTYWIDE FARM-FISH-FLOOD MGT. UPDATES**

#### **a. SLS Strategic Priorities and Work Plans (Exec. Cmte.)**

The Executive Committee, meeting in executive session immediately prior to the full SLS monthly meeting, review SLS strategic priorities and specific objectives. Short descriptions of the strategic priorities and objectives are outlined below and in the Appendix 4 worksheet, with identified leads who will develop work plans for their task and report periodically to the SLS Executive Committee on progress.

- Regulatory Coordination and Efficiency – streamlined processes, culvert replacement and maintenance, responsible stewardship
- Reach-scale Plans - Skykomish and Stillaguamish Design and Implementation
- Resource Lands – Betcher Farms, TDR easement/early sign-ups, Easement Opportunity River Mile 10-13 (mitigating farmland loss)
- Ag resilience – PCC Farmland Trust
- Confluence Project

- Communications and Engagement Strategies – Annual Dinner, on-line materials

Monty stated we want a vibrant and active Ag community. Terry noted getting the same objectives and coming together is something to discuss at the annual dinner.

#### **b. Ditch screening overview by WDFW (Kirk Lakey)**

WDFW's Kirk Lakey discussed the ditch screen program, which is mainly focused on irrigation and flood control. The program was initially designed for irrigation diversions, from a creek or river, to screen out debris and move fish past it. The Farm Bureau's Dan Bartelheimer raised concerns about the stranding of fall chum and other salmon in Haybo Creek, which resulted in this briefing by WDFW. The Haybo Creek system has a number of drainage ditches that are connected to streams that have headwaters, and some of the streams have been straightened. See WDFW map of Haybo Creek. It is not uncommon to see fish spawning in Haybo Creek ditches that go dry seasonally. Juvenile fish also get stranded in such ditches and areas around roads with low spots. The WDFW maps of Haybo Creek classify the watercourses by fish population (only chum data is shown, but other fish are present as well) and another map classifies habitat. Based on this data, ditch cleaning can be prioritized and scheduled. Kirk provided a map classifying the fish in Haybo Creek, a Fish Screening Program pamphlet.

Dan Bartelheimer added that after storm events, shallow ditches form, where salmon may also get stranded. He suggested screening these ditches would resolve this issue.

Kirk responded that screens are expensive, hard to maintain, and that they can block access to watercourses that may offer good spawning and rearing habitat. While screens may be workable and allowable on some drainage ditches, they would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and then funding would need to be secured. Kirk invited SLS participants to work with the WDFW screen shop and program staff in Ellensburg. He also referred us to WDFW screening policies and considerations in WDFW's *Fish Passage Barrier and Surface Water Diversion Screening Assessment and Prioritization Manual, Chapter 8: Surface Water Diversions*, which he made available to interested participants.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE, FUNDING UPDATE**

- a. Legislative update: The Capital Budget has been held up by a lack of agreement around the Hirst Case, so there was no final report on funding for Floodplains by Design, Conservation Commission funding for the Janicki distillation system, or ESRP funding.

#### **5. WRAP UP, ADJOURN (12:25-12:30)**

The next SLS EC meeting is scheduled for 10:00 – 12:00 August 8th (Tuesday) in Snohomish County Room 6A04 (Admin. East Building)

## **APPENDIX 1:**

Stillaguamsh Basin Salmon and Shellfish Status Information  
(Links provided by Pat Stevenson and Kit Crump)

[Salmon Harvest Management Presentation](#)

[WA Department of Health Shellfish Closure Presentation](#)

[Snohomish County Shellfish Closure Response Plan Handout](#)

## APPENDIX 2:

# WDFW PROPOSED SUPPORT LETTER RE LEQUE REPLACEMENT HABITAT



### Executive Committee

**Terry Williams, Co-chair**  
*Tulalip Tribes*

**Tristan Klesick, Co-chair**  
*Klesick Family Farm*

**Kristin Kelly**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Pilchuck Audubon Society*

**Brian Bookey**  
*Cherry Lane Farms*

**C.K. Eidem**  
*Ducks Unlimited*

**Monte Marti**  
*Snohomish*  
*Conservation District*

**Dave Remlinger**  
*Lord Hill Farms*

**Shawn Yanity**  
*Stillaguamish Tribe*

## Sustainable Lands Strategy

*Working together for fish, farm and water net gain*

**DRAFT**

June 13, 2017

Kaleen Cottingham, Director  
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Sustainable Lands Strategy support for the WDFW Substitution Property

Dear Ms. Cottingham:

We are writing to support the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in securing recreation and farmed waterfowl forage substitution acreage needed to advance high priority estuary restoration projects in Puget Sound that provide multiple benefits.

The mission of the SLS is to generate fish, farm, and flood management "net gain" under the proposition that advocates of these interests can make more progress working together than fighting. Members of the SLS have collaborated with WDFW for several years to provide input on land management decisions in the Snoqualmie and Skagit Wildlife Areas, including support for estuary restoration projects and long-term leases to farmers.

As you know, some of the largest and highest priority estuary restoration projects in North Puget Sound have been implemented on lands owned by WDFW, including projects in Skagit County at Wiley Slough, Deepwater Slough, Fir Island Farm, and, soon, in Snohomish County at Leque Island. In total, these four projects add up to almost 800 acres of land that functioned as farmland for waterfowl forage crops or freshwater wetlands and provided walk-in outdoor recreation opportunities for the community. Restoring intertidal habitat function has made access more difficult (reducing recreational use by an estimated 75%) and displaced farming. Since the need to secure substitution acreage arises because of estuary restoration projects, it would be logical for grant programs that support estuary restoration projects to provide funds for substitution acreage. For example, if a restoration project was being developed on privately owned land, part of the project's funding could include acquisition. The SLS Executive Committee requests that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) consider changing or modifying its interpretation of its policy (Manual 3, Acquisition Projects, Section 2, Page 24) to allow for the expenditure of funds in programs it administers for this purpose.

When funds are available for substitution acreage, through RCO or otherwise, the SLS stands ready to collaborate with WDFW to develop methods to secure lands that realize a net gain for agricultural preservation while also meeting the needs of WDFW to provide waterfowl forage and

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date

recreational access. Through this collaboration, the group could evaluate the feasibility of additional methods beyond fee title acquisition, including easements and long-term leases.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

# APPENDIX 3

## Ovenell Park Overview

### Next Steps

**2017**

- Continue to work with partners
- Clear site
- Install historic banners
- Open park to the public

**2018**

- Develop regional vision
- Design event space
- Design site improvements



## City of Stanwood

# Ovenell Property

## Fast Facts

**Total Acres:** 15

**Shoreline:** 1700 feet Stillaguamish River

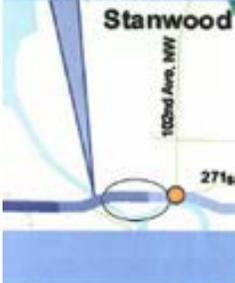
**Location:** Stillaguamish River Delta at the Confluence of Port Susan and Port Skagit Bays, Stanwood, WA

**Existing Structures:** Farm house, dairy barns and outbuildings

**Current Use:** Open space

**Nearby Restoration Projects:**  
 Port Susan Estuary—The Nature Conservancy  
 Leque Island— WDFW  
 Zis-a-Ba— Stillaguamish Tribe

**Why Now:**  
 Developing Ovenell Park provides the public access point needed to create a unique connection to surrounding tidal estuary lands that are hidden from view. Together with other nearby restoration projects, the region can create a distinctive passive park connecting residents and visitors to the river system that initially drew settlers to the area and created the town of Stanwood.



**Stanwood**



**Port Susan Bay Reserve**





# City of Stanwood

## Ovenell Park

**Priority Conservation Area**  
 The Ovenell property is uniquely situated at the point where the Stillaguamish River empties into Port Susan Bay to the south and Skagit Bay to the north.

The Nature Conservancy has recognized Port Susan as a "Priority Conservation Area" by using metrics for consideration of regional importance, habitat diversity, near-shore marine fish, seabirds, marine mammals and invertebrates, as well as integration with terrestrial features.

### Preservation of a Historical Stanwood Landmark



The Ovenell property is a 15 acre historic dairy farm purchased with Snohomish Co Conservation Futures Grant in 2014. The site includes 3 acres with the family homestead and 12 acres south of SR532 which was used to raise dairy cattle. The property fronts 1700 ft of the Stillaguamish River. A community driven master plan will be completed in 2016.

### Access to a Unique Marine Estuary

The Ovenell property is one of the few locations where residents and visitors can access the Stillaguamish River and view the unique marine estuary created by the confluence of the Stillaguamish River with Port Susan Bay and the surrounding tidal lands. Visitors can enjoy territorial views of Port Susan Bay, Camano Island and the Olympics.



### Regional Connection to Open Space and River Walk



The Nature Conservancy owns the 4,122 acre Port Susan Bay Preserve, with much of the Stillaguamish River estuary abutting the Ovenell property. In the future visitors may be able to access Port Susan Bay and Skagit Bay via the existing levee system from the Ovenell property north into the Skagit Wildlife Area trail system.

### Important Bird Area

The Audubon Society designated Port Susan Bay as an "Important Bird Area," one of only four sites in Puget Sound that regularly supports more than 20,000 shorebirds in a season, which draws many birders to the area. Despite the incredible value of the resources in Port Susan, the ecosystem status is in decline. The Ovenell Property will help preserve this resource.

### Project Phases and Funding

In 2015, the city funded a series of technical reports to lay the ground work for a community driven master plan for the site. The master plan was finished in 2016. *The city is seeking partners to further develop the site. Interested stakeholders include* Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Nature Conservancy, and Snohomish County.

Project Phase	Funding Source	Year	Cost
<b>Acquisition</b>	Grants/City Funds	2014	\$1,300,000
<b>Planning</b>	City Funds	2015	\$100,000
<b>Phase I Site Improvements</b>	Washington State RCO City Funds (50%match)	2018-2020	\$1,500,000
<b>SR532 Improvements</b>	Grants/City Funds	2021-2022	\$1,500,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$4,800,000</b>

## APPENDIX 4

### SLS PRIORITY OBJECTIVES WORKSHEET (work-in-progress draft) JULY 17, 2017

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Task Group, <b>Lead</b> (policy, <i>tech</i> )
<p>1. Regulatory Efficiency</p> <p>(a) Streamlined Culvert Replacemt Programmatic Permitting Demo</p> <p>(b) 5-year Drainage Maintenance Permit Package</p> <p>(c) Responsible Stewardship</p>	<p>Develop streamlined multi-agency programmatic permitting paths for:</p> <p>(a) culvert replacemt (based on SnoCo demo), and</p> <p>(b) 5-yr drainage maintenance approvals</p> <p>(c) reward farmers for hi-levels of conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define scope, WP, personnel, budget</li> <li>• ID water course types &amp; BMPs</li> <li>• Multi-agency BMP menu by water course type</li> <li>• Coordinated multi-agency review &amp; approval process</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paul Cereghino</b> noaa Monte / Cindy scd Erik Stockdale sno Dan Evans sls <i>Kirk Lakey wdfw</i> <i>Jim Wright noaa</i> <i>Diane Hennessey ecy</i> <i>Frank Nichols acoe</i> <i>Tribal reps</i> <i>PDS rep... etc.</i></p>
<p>2. Reach-scale Plans</p> <p>(a) Lower Skykomish</p> <p>(b) Lower Stillaguamish</p> <p>(c) Snohomish River &amp; Estuary</p>	<p>Complete Lower Sky reach-scale plan (Aug)</p> <p>Launch reach-scale plans for:</p> <p>(b) Lower Stillaguamish River in July 2017 (due end of year)</p> <p>(c) Snohomish River &amp; Estuary (combined) in fall 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Sky reach plan template &amp; lessons to develop scope, structure</li> <li>• ID team, key stakeholders (S/H)</li> <li>• Engage S/Hs</li> <li>• Develop draft RP with team</li> <li>• Review/revise draft with S/H input</li> </ul>	<p>(a) <b>Erik Stockdale</b> <i>Anchor QEA</i></p> <p>(b) Stilly Reach Plan: <b>Erik Stocdale &amp; Kit Crump</b> SnoCo Pat Stevenson stilly Erik Stockdale <i>AnchorQEA</i> Others TBD</p> <p>(c) Snohomish/Estuary Reach Plan: <b>Erik Stockdale</b> Sno <i>AnchorQEA</i> Others TBD</p>
<p>3. Resource Land Protection</p> <p>(a) Betcher farm (ASD)</p> <p>(b) TDR / easement</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define scope, WP, personnel, budget</li> <li>• ID team, key stakeholders (S/H)</li> </ul>	<p>(a) Betcher: <b>Brian Bookey</b></p> <p>(b) Easement: <b>Heather Cole /</b></p>

(c) Sky farmland easemnt swap (RN 10-13)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage S/Hs</li> <li>Develop draft RP with team</li> <li>Review/revise draft with S/H input</li> </ul>	<b>Tristan Klesick / Hilary Aten</b> (c) Sky farmland easement / [swap]: <b>Linda Neunzig</b>
4. Ag Resilience Plan (a) Ag Resilience Report (b) PCC Farmland Trust Prioritization of farmland	(from Cindy)	(from Cindy and Hilary)	(a) Ag Resilience: <b>Cindy Dittbrenner</b> scd  (b) PCC Prioritization: <b>Hilary Aten</b> pccft
5. Confluence Project (Lower Sky)			<b>Dave Remlinger / Tulalip</b>
6. Communications			<b>Kate Riley</b> scd Kristin Kelly pas Lindsey Desmul wdfw Others...