

# DRAFT Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee

Tulalip Tribes, Tulalip

9:00 am - 12:00pm, October 3, 2017

## In attendance:

Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County  
Colin Wahl, Tulalip Tribes (Co-Chair)  
Denise Krownbell, Seattle City Light  
Scott Powell, Seattle City Light  
Paul Crane, City of Everett  
Lindsey Desmul, WDFW  
Josh Kubo, Tulalip Tribes  
Alex Pittman, Snohomish Conservation District  
Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County  
Mike Rustay, Snohomish County (Co-Chair)  
Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes  
Andrew McDonnell, Snohomish PUD  
Kollin Higgins, King County DNRP  
Luke Hanna, Snohomish County  
Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe  
Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County

## Meeting Summary:

### Introductions

### Basin Updates

- **Port of Everett, Blue Heron Slough project:** Mike gave a brief update on the project as a follow-up to his Smith Island update last meeting. The Port continues construction of the setback levee and expects to breach in 2019. He will follow up and get more details on the timeline. This mitigation project will restore around 300 acres of habitat.
- **Capital Budget:** Gretchen gave an update on the current State funding situation. Currently PSAR funding for projects on the 2016 list is on hold due to the State capital budget delays. Our partners are feeling the impacts of the budget delay. Funds have been shifted around which should cover lead entity capacity through the end of the year. Jeff Parsons (PSP) has hope for a budget agreement in December. Gretchen will continue to track this and give updates as information becomes available.
- **Funding and 2017 grant round update:** There are also approximately \$200k in returned 2015-17 PSAR funds from the beach nourishment and Qwuloolt projects that can be reallocated to current projects. These funds can go to projects with cost overruns, 2016 PSAR projects waiting for state funding, or potentially unfunded alternates from previous rounds. It would probably be wise to use the money to keep any projects afloat that might be greatly impacted by the budget delay. It's also important to prioritize making projects whole.

- **Upcoming Forum meeting:** There is a Forum meeting this Thursday. SWM director, Will Hall, will be presenting on the SWM Business Plan. See the handout for discussion questions. This is an opportunity for our partners to voice their opinions on the work that SWM does. There is a 16-person stakeholder committee comprised of NGOs, citizens, and other partner agencies to provide input on the plan.

After the Forum meeting, there will be a potluck lunch.

- **Salmon Projects Reference Document:** PSP has put out a reference document on how to incorporate climate change into salmon projects. It includes some of our work from the climate change white paper. The doc will be sent to committee members for reference
- **SCD Hydro-modeling for ag resilience:** Alex gave an update on behalf of Cindy Dittbrenner.
  - Hydro modeling: this was completed in March by a consultant. It will include flooding models for 100 years out.
  - Ground water modeling: Eric Grossman with USGS is doing this work. It will cover both the basins and account for sea level rise. Please send any ground water modeling information if you have it.
  - Ag. Land subsidence: Cardno will be handling this element. Let Cindy know if you know of anyone doing related work.
  - Hydrologic and hydraulic modeling: The plan is to start with Dept. of Ecology's watershed characterization. Beth and Kollin will be in touch with SCD with information.

- **Other updates:**

Andrew McDonnell mentioned that their river gages at Young Creek in Sultan have been picking up on some strange activity. There have been consistent low flow drops taking 80% of the water for about 6 hours every night, Monday through Friday. There's a theory that perhaps the water is being taken to water crops at night. He added that on the Sultan, Pink salmon are having fair return numbers and they are big specimens (bigger than in 2015). Also, Chinook are getting through the diversion dam.

Colin noted that Matt Pouley has reported seeing the most Chinook ever in the trap. The final report is not out yet.

- **10-Year Status Report:** Colin has gotten the draft 2016 land cover data from NOAA and is working to finish the analysis. He should be able to report back at the next meeting. Luke and Mike have digitized the log jam data. There's been a net gain 90 jams in the mainstem – most formed naturally, some engineered.

### River Temperature Review

- **Snoqualmie 2016:** Josh Kubo gave a presentation on the monitoring results. We are gaining ground water in this reach. The water warms as you travel downstream but in 2015, there were localized temperature drops. 14 thermistors were deployed and retrieved temperature data continuously from June through September. Most likely, hyporheic exchange is responsible for the cool spots. Overall though, temperatures were consistently above state standards.
- **Snohomish/Skykomish 2016:** Luke described the side channel and mainstem temperature logger sites. There appear to be cold water refugia sites above the Pilchuck dam and in Skykomish floodplain channels. See handout.

### **Snoqualmie Chinook Life History Pilot**

- Josh gave a presentation on the pilot results. Last year was one of the best juvenile production years in a decade. They used a custom electro-fishing vessel to assess presence of yearling Chinook and 38 were observed. The TC discussed current state of knowledge of Chinook life history types in the basin.

**Salmon Recovery and River Recreation – technical considerations:** Mike and Colin introduced this topic to inform the TC of recent conversations between Tulalip Tribes and Snohomish County Parks and Executive staff about a Parks led effort to plan for and promote recreation and tourism along the Skykomish and Snohomish Rivers. Mike gave a brief overview of the proposed Sky to Sound trail planning effort and explained that the official name of this effort is being reevaluated. There is a stakeholder group (Coalition) composed of representatives from the cities along the Skykomish and Snohomish rivers, river user and recreation interest groups, state and federal agencies with river/park jurisdiction, Tulalip Tribes and others. While one of the goals is to facilitate and regulate access to the river for recreation, the coalition also strongly supports promoting a stewardship message and to explain to users why these rivers are important to salmon and people that live near them.

Colin relayed that there is concern at Tulalip about increased public use and river dangers that may impact fish and could hinder restoration efforts. There was much discussion about the current state of recreation use which, especially on the King County side of basin, is already above what can be handled. There was also much discussion about King County and the Cedar River's history with river user lawsuits, life jacket ordinances and impacts on LWD restoration projects. Beth will track down the Snoqualmie recreation report to pass on. Jamie expressed support for the process and the Coalition (she is one of the participants from WDFW). While there are many policy questions around recreation and salmon recovery, Mike asked the committee to be thinking about the technical questions that members may be able to provide information to help answer.

Discussions with Parks and the Tribes are ongoing as is the planning process. The co-chairs will track the discussion and give updates at future meetings.

**Wrap Up:** The meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be held on 11/7/17.

### **Next Steps**

- Continued analysis for 10-Year Status and Trends Report
- More discussion needed around 10-Year target update
- Co-chairs will track

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Policy Development Committee meeting: 10/19/17
- Forum meeting: 10/5/17
- Technical Committee meeting: 11/7/17