

SUMMARY NOTES
SNOHOMISH SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
10:00 – 12:30 NOVEMBER 9, 2017
12:00 – 12:30 Informal Brown Bag Lunch

Stillaguamish Natural Resources Center 22712 6th Ave. NE Arlington, WA 98223
 (Take I-5 Exit 210 west, turn left on 6th Ave, ½ mile turn right before end of road)

PARTICIPANTS

Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe for SLS EC Fish rep Shawn Yanity	Tristan Klesick, Stillaguamish farmer, SLS Co-Chair (Ag rep)
Monte Marti, Sno Conservation Dist. Manager, EC Ag rep	C.K. Eidem, Ducks Unlimited, SLS EC Fish rep
Kristen Kelly, Pilchuck Audubon Society, SLS EC Fish rep	Dan Bartelheimer, Snohomish County Farm Bureau
Dan Evans, SLS Facilitator	Erik Stockdale, Snohomish County SWM Special Projects Coordinator
Loren Brokaw, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Lindsey Desmul, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Linda Neunzig, SnoCo Ag Coordinator	Lauren Tracy, SnoCo SWM
Seth Ballhorn, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Jay Krienitz, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, ESRP
Meg Bommarito, Ecology	Diane Hennessey, Ecology, NW regional office
Shana Joy, WA St Conservation Commission, PS regional dir.	Alexa Ramos, SnoCo SWM
Adam Pfundt, NOAA Corps, detailed to NOAA Restoration Center	Paul Cereghino, NOAA Restoration Center, Coordinated Investment
Ryan Larsen, City of Stanwood	Paul Marczin, SnoCo Public Works
Robin Fay, PCC Farmland Trust	

PURPOSE: Update SLS Executive Committee and partners on Stillaguamish Basin indicators (e.g., fish status) and farm-fish-flood projects, including a focus on the Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiatives (SVPI), Leque, Zis-a-ba, Irvine Slough, Ovenell. The EC will also receive updates on SLS Priority Objectives, including resource lands protection, regulatory efficiency, reach plans, ag resilience, Confluence project, communications, and Legislative session / funding.

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTION (10:00-10:10)

a. Review purpose, agenda

Dan Evans opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda, and thanked Pat Stevenson and Chairman Yanity for hosting today's meeting at the Stillaguamish Tribe's Natural Resources Center. He summarized the three-month SLS Executive Committee rotation, sequentially emphasizing the Snohomish Basin, Stillaguamish Basin, and Countywide issues, noting this meeting was focused on the Stillaguamish Basin.

b. Introductions

Paul Cereghino introduced Adam Pfundt, a NOAA Corps Officer, who will be helping at the NOAA Restoration Center for the next three years. He has been with NOAA for about eight years so far working mostly on hydrographic charting. He was a fisheries biologist for the Lummi Tribe for ten years prior to starting at NOAA. He is a Washington State native with family in Bellingham.

2. LOWER STILLAGUAMISH BASIN FOCUS, UPDATES (10:10-11:00)

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

Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe's Environment Program Dir. provided an update on Stilly indicators.

SALMON: The news is similar to the last report three months ago – the status is a very low return year for all salmon stocks. The Chinook run is a little better than the last two years, especially compared with the record low in 2015. But we are still a long ways off from the targets set in the Salmon Recovery Plan. The best we've been able to do is around 1,000 fish, compared with a target of 32,000.

Chairman Yanity couldn't be here today because he is negotiating with the state on fishing harvest limitations for next year. It appeared the parties might be close to an agreement.

The newly formed Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Orca Recovery Group met here a couple months ago. There is more pressure on Chinook recovery to ensure the orca survive. The orca switch their diet from Chinook to Coho in October. Those runs are seriously depressed and the orca are having a hard time finding food.

NOAA Fisheries conducted a 15-year study on urban streams around Seattle and southward. Stocks are looking at 60 – 90% of the coho run is destroyed within approximately three hours of getting to the streams. Studies are seeking to determine the compounds in stormwater and in the organs of the fish after death. Initial results indicate these outcomes are all automobile related (tires, uncombusted fuel, copper from brake linings, etc.).

Paul commented on the population scale impact on fish mortality. This is a smoking gun of urbanization impacts on fish populations. This information creates a legal pressure for good stewardship of roads and bridges, and

managing stormwater runoff, especially in close communication with key coho spawning and rearing habitat.

Pat mentioned that filtering the water through compost barrels cleans the water so well that the fish are fine. The Duwamish was the first major river, as opposed to a tributary, that showed pre-spawning mortality.

Erik noted the challenges associated with retrofitting hundreds of miles of surfaces that accumulate pollutants. This is a matter of numbers and maintenance history of vehicles and stormwater biofiltration, among other factors. New roads and bridges, and major repairs, require stormwater retention and filtration; old roads and bridges do not. How can these retrofits be accomplished cost effectively? What are people willing to pay? How much will municipalities be required to invest in remedial action? Who pays?

SHELLFISH: Pat reported that Snohomish County is working on a shellfish plan in response to the recent Port Susan shellfish harvest zone downgrades. It will probably take a year to a year and half before required water quality samples can be analyzed and, if below fecal coliform thresholds, the closed zones can be re-opened.

A recent algal bloom in Port Susan Bay containing a dangerous neurotoxin was the first time this neurotoxin has been found in Port Susan.

b. Floodplains by Design (CI-9) project updates; 2018 requests

Pat noted that of the seven original CI-9 projects, we're down to two with significant work left to do under the original agreements. In the finished category -- Irvine Slough and zis a ba. Leque Island restoration project is under construction. Gold Basin sediment control work is proceeding well. DD7 sea-dike has 100% design ready to go to construction. The two projects requiring additional work include -- the Janicki distillation system, which has a \$1M grant from NRCS but is waiting for additional State Capital Budget match; and the Ellingson farm dike setback project, requires a feasibility assessment to see if realignment is worth it.

In the yet-to-be-completed State Capital (hung up pending resolution of the *Hirst* case issue), the House and Senate agreed to a \$35M budget for FbD. We're at the \$40M line in the Stillaguamish. There are some projects tied to Army Corps funding (i.e., in Skagit County), which, if deleted or postponed, would elevate the next round of Stillaguamish projects into the funded position.

Paul added that the Ellingson project would be good fit for NOS money.

c. Leque Island update (CK Eiden DU, Loren Brokaw WDFW)

Loren Brokaw (WDFW) and CK Eidem (Ducks Unlimited and EC Fish rep) provided an update on the Leque Island restoration project. Phase I (completed) included earthmoving and creating channels; Phase II, opening the dikes to tidal influence, doesn't yet have all the needed money in hand. It's on the FbD and ESRP funding lists in the Capital Budget once it is enacted. Project sponsors have also applied for a

USFWS grant but don't know how it scored yet. They asked for \$1M. They have \$700K in the NOAA Coastal Resiliency grant as well.

The first phase of construction took place this past summer. In July 2017 construction was initiated. Scoping included preparing the site for future tidal inundation. Work went through mid-October. The second phase is set for summer 2019. Dikes are to be removed and channels are to be connected to the estuary. The principal breach is at the south tip of the island. The site is re-opened to the public and it will continue to be open for hunting after the project is completed. The sponsors did not release pheasant this year, but people are hunting waterfowl right now. The water in the channels is an attraction for waterfowl.

d. **Zis-a-ba restoration project update (Stillaguamish Tribe, Pat Stevenson)**

Similar work was conducted this past year. Channels were dug inside the dike. Work happened very quickly. The contractor thought he could get it all done this year. There were seven breaches along the dike by this October. The contractor is effectively done now except for the tidegate flaps for the structure. The project will help drain flooding Florence Island when it floods. With the project completed, Florence Island should drain in a couple days instead of a couple weeks.

Johnson Farm & Ovenell (Stanwood): The Johnson farm acquisition by Stanwood should be signed, sealed, and delivered this month. Only half of the dike is on the Johnson Farm. The rest is on WDFW property. The City needs to set up a meeting with Diking District 7 and WDFW about access and public use. The appraisal is moving forward. The City's environmental consultant is moving ahead and is looking at having SCD at the site one day/week until Ovenell is up and running. Ovenell Park completion is 5 – 10 years down the road. Jay Brennan is on staff to deal with the barns, tearing down some barns and rehabilitating others. Stanwood is also developing a master plan for Ovenell Park.

The City has also hired a firm to address Irvine Slough water management issues -- looking at fixing pumps and piping to better drain Stanwood storm water and flooding.

Tristan added that we need to have a conversation about the viability of small diking districts. He suggested SLS might proactively engage diking and flood control districts and other stakeholders to evaluate options for sustaining services at a difficult time for many districts. There's something of a perfect storm confronting districts – increased flood frequency, sea level rise, subsiding lands behind dikes, less public funding for districts, and a rising regulatory tide. It's more than the local farmers can manage alone. Some DD's hire a lawyer to lead them through the red tape; economy of scale is increasingly important. King County has consolidated districts into a single countywide operation.

Erik commented that it would be best if districts met and expanded the conversation to other stakeholders. District consolidation is not currently part of the SWM Business Plan, and it isn't SWM's place to hold that conversation.

Dan agreed that it is better for districts to take the initiative than the County, and that, if helpful, the SLS could help provide a forum for such a conversation.

Paul announced that WDFW, RCO, NOAA Restoration Center, and other agencies are hosting a workshop to bring together state and federal funders that provide money for land acquisition and connect them to the organization's buying land. They're considering long-term stewardship challenges. The Stillaguamish could well be used as a test case to demonstrate coordinated, multi-benefit acquisition. Land owners and resource land protection interests should let him know what administrative challenges they face going forward so the fed-state funders group can address them.

Monte Marti raised the issue of the SCD's role in this long-term stewardship of conservation easements on resource lands (e.g., through farm plans, technical assistance, and landowner agreements). CDs have been around for 70 years. They are a public entity that should be around in the future and whose purpose is to provide one-on-one technical assistance to landowners to make sure they're maintaining their stewardship plan. So we may not need this upfront lump sum of money for long-term stewardship (see below) if there is a public entity responsible for doing this. CDs are non-regulatory, which facilitates openness on the part of landowners, and land trusts could perform the enforcement requirements to protect the purposes of the easements.

Jay spoke of fee title acquisition as a means to fund operational maintenance of the land. Easements require monitoring and long-term maintenance (stewardship). Typically, funding for monitoring is paid upfront at the acquisition of that land for the long-term maintenance of the land.

Robin added that PCC Farmland Trust could hold the enforcement right if the SCD does the maintenance work.

Tristan asked Robin and Monte to write-up this potential solution.

CK mentioned a clearinghouse would be great. PCCFT could use that.

Monte suggested that Paul link up with Robin Fay (PCCFT) and the working lands group.

Dan summarized steps to facilitate acceptance of conservation easement (CE) deals by farmers and other landowner:

- Reduce or eliminate up front CE fees (Linda)
- Reduce acquisition / CE funding restrictions to allow for greater long-term flexibility in the protection of resource lands (i.e., farmland to restoration site and visa versa) in light of climate change and changing needs (Paul C)
- Create a list of farmers open to / interested in a CE; prequalify such landowners to demonstrate need for funding and accelerate CEs

- Prioritize high value farmland, habitat, and other resource lands for protection

e. **Stillaguamish Valley Protection Init. (SVPI): Betcher, Johnson, PCCFT**

Tristan reminded the group that he is hosting a meeting on his farm Nov. 15th for key SVPI Task Group members and local farmers in the Lower Stillaguamish Valley who would be interested in a possible conservation easement on their land. Flyers went out. There's good consensus that the farmers think we need to do something about preserving farmland. The next generation is probably not going to be as invested in farming and may see farms as more of a hassle than an asset. Two recent generational farm transfers resulted in motocross raceways on the former farmland. The SLS goal is to protect farmland from conversion to development, such as motocross tracks. The meeting on the 15th is geared towards landowners and the tools they can use going forward. This will help address SLS goals by serving this community, by providing options for voluntary land preservation. It also builds a collaborative dynamic for working together as a community. Afterwards, they'll be given a 3x5 survey card to get a sense of their interest levels. Then Tristan and the SVPI will hold another meeting for those who couldn't make it to the first one, and for farmers further up-river. Funding for the initiative is provided by ESRP through the SCD.

Linda commented that the certification and transfer of development rights (TDRs) are on the Council docket for April/May.

Dan asked that the County post the prioritization map on the SLS website, noting it could also be helpful for Tristan's meeting on the 15th.

f. **Stillaguamish Integrated Reach Scale Plan (RSP, Erik Stockdale)**

Erik gave an update on the RSP effort. Work continues on the content for the farm-fish-flood (F3) chapters of the Stillaguamish Reach Plan. He wants to talk about SVPI and the land transactions that have already occurred to provide a vision. Katrina has left SWM. So things are a couple months behind due to the transition. The next person in line for the position is a current SWM employee, Bob Bernhard, who will be starting on Monday. So things should be able to get going again right away. The water quality chapter is 29 pages long right now so we have to work to pare it down. Riverbend Farm is going to be one of the featured success stories.

Tristan noted that it would be helpful to work on storytelling re SLS successes because it will make our grant applications more competitive.

g. **WDFW sea level rise grant (Jay Krienitz, Lindsey Desmul)**

WDFW was awarded \$50,000 through a NOAA grant to focus on video storytelling about what is happening in Snohomish County. A RFP has been written and is ready to launch. It should be published shortly, followed closely by selection of a team/company to do the work. WDFW is going to create a interview team. Would it be helpful to have an SLS representative on the interview panel if there is interest to do so.

Interested SLS members were invited to discuss the opportunity with Jay afterwards.

Monte mentioned that the SnoCo Farm Bureau has 30 hours of video of conversations with 15 farmer families. WDFW should keep this in mind as a potential resource for the ag story.

Jay also noted that the RFP for ESRP grants is going out shortly. Pre-applications are due in February; full applications are due in July. Depending on passage of the State capital budget, there may be some additional time and funding for communications projects.

NOAA's Ecosystem Services Values grant award will study how restoration work is beneficial to recreation, flood control, and other community interests in terms of monetary value? The study will be an iterative, "living" document that will be updated as new information becomes available. It will focus on Leque and Zis a ba and will evaluate costs and benefits.

3. SLS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE TASK GROUP REPORTS (11:00-12:00)

a. Regulatory Efficiency: culverts, drainage, Responsible Stewardship

Paul reported that an electronic update was sent out last night (see Attachment 1, below). They're shifting from interviewing people to generating the first suite of products. French Slough Flood Control District (FSFCD) will have some form of management plan authored by the district and submitted as a proposal for doing a variety of work (re-vegetation, ditch cleaning) that will be net gain. They're adopting the updated Whatcom drainage maintenance model developed with WDFW and other agencies and talking to Whatcom folks re BMPs and example habitat improvements. Beaver management is a challenge in maintaining ditches. Vegetated buffers can create beaver-friendly habitat, so beaver management must be factored into drainage maintenance and habitat improvement plans. There may be a draft drainage maintenance stewardship plan to present around Christmas. The Task Group is still working on the relationship with Army Corps.

Culverts: a workshop is scheduled for the afternoon of Dec 12th. Next steps include finishing up interviews and sitting down as a regulatory team to figure out the path forward. The Task Group is putting forward a list of 30 culverts, which would be more efficient than an individual approach, but Paul and the group will be evaluating how best to streamline the process.

Monte asked about private culverts. He suggested that a package of private culvert projects be evaluated as well as the public culvert projects, and that the two packages could move forward together. He will talk to Cindy about developing a group of private culvert projects.

b. Reach Plans: Sky, Stilly, Sno-Estuary

Erik, having already reported on the Stillaguamish RSP (see 2(f) above), briefly noted that the Sky RSV is going through additional editing to streamline the document but is very close to initial completion (it is a "living" document that will be updated periodically). Work on the

Snohomish and Estuary is underway but includes many major on-going and future initiatives.

c. Resource Lands Protection: TDR, PCC prioritization, AFT, SVPI, projects

The focus is on the meeting at Tristan's with Stilly Valley farmers re conservation easements. In addition, the Lands Protection Group met recently in a session facilitated by Abby Hook. And Nick Bratton (Forterra) is finishing up work on the TDR bank for the County Forterra. See Task Group lead Heather Cole's report (Attachment 2, below).

d. Ag Resilience Plan: plan development, ag engagement, climate impacts

In Cindy's absence, Monte reported the Ag Resilience Plan is progressing as planned, and that it will need funding for additional phases to be successful and impactful. He noted the handout (See Attachment 3, below) and electronic update online at [Ag Resilience Plan](#).

e. Confluence Projects: 180 ac restoration, Meadow Wood, sub-reach plan

Dave Remlinger has been out of town for two weeks. The Task Group will be meeting with him again shortly.

The Task Group and partnership includes the Tulalip Tribes and Ducks Unlimited as well as Remlinger and other landowners. See progress report, Attachment 4, below).

f. Communications: essential items, flyer, basics & capacity, Leg rept

The group did not take up the communications strategy, as it's going to take several hours to discuss it in the context of SLS "basics" (mission, goals, objectives, approach, role). Dan proposed converting the December meeting to an executive level session dedicated to this effort. It will be a mini-retreat 8:30am – 12:30pm since there's an Ag Board meeting at 12:30pm. The executive level meeting will use the room the County reserved, but can look into other venues. Tristan suggested a longer meeting might be needed.

4. OTHER FARM, FISH, FLOOD UPDATES & ISSUES (12:00-12:10)

5. BROWN BAG LUNCH, ADJOURN (12:10-12:30)

a. Earth Economics Workshop (Lauren Tracy)

The workshop was well attended: 40 people were in the room and 74 on the webcast. Reviews were mixed. It's very hard to communicate these concepts that we're not used to thinking of in a monetary mindset. The purpose of the exercise was to highlight what nature gives us for free, and how it helps the public understand where they want to spend money to protect these "free" resources. Valuation shows what the public gets out of it. With imputed values for nature's free resources, Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) can be used as a tool to support decision making.

ATTACHMENT 1. REGULATORY EFFICIENCY TASK GROUP UPDATE

Regulatory Efficiency - Monthly SLS Steering Committee Report (Paul Cereghino)
Nov 2017

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
1. Regulatory Efficiency (a) Culvert Replacement Permitting Strategy (b) French Slough Drainage Maintenance Permitting Strategy	(a) Reduce the cost per culvert of regulatory review. (b) Obtain permits for drainage maintenance and test mechanism for more efficient reach scale regulatory assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarize regulatory regime • Assess protected resources (water types, etc.) • Scope impacts • Define stewardship approach and document net-gain • Secure permits 	Paul Cereghino (NOAA, lead) Monte Marti (SCD) Erik Stockdale (SnoCo) Dan Evans (SLS) Kirk Lakey (WDFW) Janet Curran (NOAA) Diane Hennessey (Ecology) Frank Nichols (USACE) Morgan Ruff (Tulalip) Sean Curran (SnoCo)

CULVERTS

PROGRESS – Stockdale started the conversation with WashDOT/USACE staff, who are helping us explore the best culvert replacement pathways. We are deep in the weeds of different ESA vehicles, nationwide permit types, and the threshold between maintenance and non-maintenance. It seems likely that a large batch consultation may be better than finding easier paths for lots of individual applications. We have a workshop scheduled Dec 13, 10-2pm where we hope to finalize a culvert replacement strategy. This gives us a deadline for all other consultations and GIS work.

(October) Snohomish County provided NOAA with complete spatial data of culvert locations. Stockdale has continued interview work with key technical partners to improve problem identification, including identification of tribal concerns with maintenance exemption. Cereghino is in the middle of swapping out his computer, which will slow down GIS support.

NEXT STEPS – Follow up conversations with regulatory staff and preparation for the Dec 13 workshop.

DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

PROGRESS – French Slough district completed an inventory of water crossings and updated the stream map. We are getting final feedback before drafting a “management plan” from Tulalip Tribes, and US Army Corps.

(October) A 9/14 meeting with French Slough Commissioners resulted in agreement to proceed in collaboration with Neil Wheeler. On 10/5 Paul Cereghino completed an initial site visit, resolved questions about ditch locations, discussed of scope of district activities, and discussed maintenance methods and issues of concern, particularly beaver activity. Cereghino reviewed [Whatcom Drainage Maintenance Manual](#), as potential model for adoption.

NEXT STEPS – Complete conversations with Tribes and US Army Corps, and then draft a management plan. Start exploring NRCS/WSCC resources to support implementation of the management plan.

ATTACHMENT 2. RESOURCE LANDS UPDATE

Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative (SVPI) PROGRESS REPORT Nov. 7th, 2017

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
1) preserve large blocks of farmland in the Stillaguamish valley that supports habitat restoration, but limits future development.	(a) Landowner outreach (b) Manage a Resource Lands Working Group (c) Create a SVPI Easement template (d) Research other models/processes (e) Sno. Co. TDR bank (f) Develop TDR demand in Sno. Co.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grower meeting scheduled for Nov. 15th 6:30-8 • Develop a Sno. Co. Farmland Conservation Strategy • Johnson Property and implementing a flexible easement. • Scope research project • Complete TDR bank 	Heather Cole (TNC, lead) Hilary Aten (PCC Farmland Trust) Adam Draper (Forterra) Nick Bratton (Forterra) Linda Neunzig (Sno. Co.) Cindy Dittbrenner (SCD) Jay Krienitz (WDFW) Tristan Klesick (Klesick Farms)

PROGRESS:

Resource lands working group: We will have four meetings facilitated by Abby Hook between now and the end of Jan. The final working group name is the Snohomish County Farmland Conservation Working group. The focus will be facilitating and coordinating landscape scale transactions that support both salmon recovery and farmland protection.

SVPI: We are convening our first grower outreach meeting hosted by Klesick Farms on Nov. 15th 6:30-8:00 for landowners interested in learning about voluntary options to protect farmland.

Johnson Property: Hilary and Robin are in negotiations with the City of Stanwood. The City has an aggressive timeline for completing the easement. They are sorting out how a flexible easement will be applied to the Johnson property given the timeline.

Forterra is working with Sno. Co. to complete a TDR bank by December 2017.

Forterra is working with Klesick farms to research alternative models/processes for protecting large blocks of farmland.

NEXT STEPS:

Grower meeting scheduled for Nov. 15th at 6:30 at Klesick Packing Facility
 Sno. Co. Farmland Conservation Strategy- finalize strategy
 Forterra and Tristan will develop an outline of the research project, including how this model could be applied to SVPI.

ATTACHMENT 3.

AGRICULTURE RESILIENCE PLAN TASK GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Work Group
2. Ag Resilience Plan (a) Ag Resilience Report (b) Farmland protection prioritization	(a) Ag Resilience Plan: ii. Develop plan of priority ag resilience projects iii. Secure funding for project implementation (b) Land Prioritization: County-wide analysis of farmland protection opportunities to inform Resource Land Protection Strategy and Ag Resilience Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholders • Complete flood, groundwater, and crop impacts modeling • Scope and design priority ag resilience projects • Implement priority objectives 	(a) Ag Resilience: Cindy Dittbrenner , SCD (b) PCC Prioritization: Hilary Aten , PCC FT

The Agriculture Resilience Plan will help farmers plan for future changes and risk, and scope and prioritize landscape-scale agriculture projects that can be incorporated into a multi-benefit approach to floodplain management in Snohomish County. This plan will help build a resilient agricultural community into the future through a combination of information gathering and sharing, creation of online planning tools, project scoping and design, project implementation, and farmland protection. This planning effort is driven by a Steering Committee of farmers and will also be vetted by the larger agricultural community. For more information see www.snohomishcd.org/ag-resilience.

PROGRESS

Flood modeling – Started September (to be completed by March 2018). UW and SSBN are under contract to complete the flood modeling for the Stillaguamish and Snohomish Rivers.

Groundwater modeling – Working with partners to gather all existing groundwater level monitoring data (continuous) in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish estuaries. Will then determine if additional wells are needed. Planning a technical modeling committee meeting in mid-October to plan next steps and ensure collaboration with other partners. This group will be expanded to include Tulalip Tribes (SLAMM modeling), Stillaguamish Tribe, Snohomish County Emergency Management, American Farmland Trust, and NOAA.

Additional modeling – Working with partners, consultants and ESRP to re-scope the grant proposal currently on hold due to the state budget process. This new proposal may include ag land subsidence modeling, saltwater intrusion (groundwater), and water storage modeling in the upper watersheds. This new scope of work will need to be re-reviewed.

Farmland protection prioritization – Ongoing. The first phase of the prioritization mapping was completed. The map will be refined to incorporate results of flood and groundwater modeling.

Crop impacts modeling and online tool – Tool to be completed December, 2017 (no funding secured for crop impacts modeling).

OBSTACLES and OPPORTUNITIES: Have not been able to secure funding to scope and design projects or complete the crop impacts modeling work. Advocate for funding to keep this moving forward.

ATTACHMENT 4.
CONFLUENCE PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT

Priority Objective	Description	Tasks	Task Group, Lead (policy, <i>tech</i>)
5. Confluence Project (Lower Sky RM 0-9)	Private landowner-tribal-NGO joint venture to demo subreach farm-fish-flood net gain action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define scope, WP, personnel, structure • ID / engage team, key stakeholder S/H • Review Meadow Wd • Protect / enhance Confluence site • Dev subreach strat 	Morgan Ruff, Dave Remlinger / Tulalip, Ducks Unltd <i>Bob Aldrich, Dan Evans</i>

The Confluence suite of projects include: 1) the conservation and enhancement of natural habitat and farmland on approximately 180 acres of private property at the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers through a joint venture between the landowner, Tulalip Tribes, and potentially other entities; 2) the net gain design and permitting of the Meadow Wood Equestrian Center; and 3) the development and potential implementation of a sub-reach scale plan for the Lower Skykomish River, within the Lower Skykomish Reach-Scale Plan, involving river and bank protection and enhancement measures that improve conditions for fish, landowners, and flood hazard reduction, as a joint venture between landowners, Tulalip Tribes, and potentially other entities.

RECENT PROGRESS

The Confluence Projects Task Group, with Morgan Ruff (Tulalip) as designated lead, accomplished the following in recent months:

- Organized an initial Task Group
- Met twice at Tulalip, and members had numerous individual and small group conference calls and meetings
- Developed a working mission statement with objectives and next steps
- Identified potential organizational structures
- Outlined next steps and a rudimentary work plan
- Added Ducks Unlimited (CK Eidem) as a partner in the initiative

OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Task Group identified the following challenges and opportunities:

- Creating a joint venture between private landowners and a tribe (Tulalip) to demonstrate a “cheaper, faster, smarter” way of improving conditions for fish, farmers / landowners, and flood management
- Developing project self-funding mechanisms, such as sale of sand and gravel from back channel excavation, that is a net gain for fish and hydrology and is transparent and driven by the multiple benefit mission

SUPPORT FROM SLS AND PARTNERS

- Coordination with the Lower Sky Reach Plan, support from Plan partners
- Infor re sub-reach river dynamics -- share hydro/geo assessment and modeling analysis
- Technical and permitting support