

# Snohomish Basin Floodplain Acquisition Strategy



# Purpose

- **Guidance for implementation of Salmon Conservation Plan**
- **Framework to prioritize parcels for conservation/restoration of floodplain/instream processes**
- **Nexus to obtain proactive SRFB acquisition money**
- **Enable more nimble and effective acquisition by capitalizing on opportunistic property availability**

# Goal

- **Corridor naturally functioning riverine processes**
- **Secure Treaty protected resources**
- **Protect floodplain from development**
- **Accelerated project implementation**
- **Flood storage/conveyance**
- **Human safety**
- **Decrease flood damage claims**

# Background

- **Process based restoration is most effective**
  - **Channel migration, floodplain forest development, etc.**
  - **Requires large river adjacent areas and long time frames**
- **Longitudinal connectivity is vital**
  - **Armoring/dike removal, etc.**
- **Long term opportunistic approach**
- **All floodplain properties are highly valuable**

# Existing Strategies

- **The Acquisition Strategy of the Stillaguamish Chinook Recovery Plan (Stilly/SWC)**
- **Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (Tulalip, State, Counties, Cities)**
  - Skykomish Basin Land Protection Assessment and Mapping Project (Forterra)
  - Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (Snohomish County, King County, Tulalip)
  - Snohomish County Agriculture Resilience Plan (Snohomish Conservation District)
  - Sustainable Lands Strategy Lower Skykomish River Reach-scale Plan (SLS)
  - TDR Bank Concept (Forterra)
  - Great Northern Corridor (Forterra)
  - Integrated Riparian Stewardship in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish basins (SCD)
  - Sky to Sound Water Trail (Snohomish County)
  - Snohomish Watershed Open Space Strategy (Regional Open Space Strategy/UW)

# The Acquisition Strategy of the Stillaguamish Chinook Recovery Plan

- Draws Heavily from Stillaguamish Peak Flows study
- GIS tool to prioritize floodplain areas
- Divides floodplain into “floodplain units” (FPUs)
- FPUs were ranked for conservation or restoration acquisitions
- Protected “Corridor” approach

## Peak Flows and Chinook Survival in the Stillaguamish Watershed

Spatial Prioritization for  
Conservation and Restoration Action

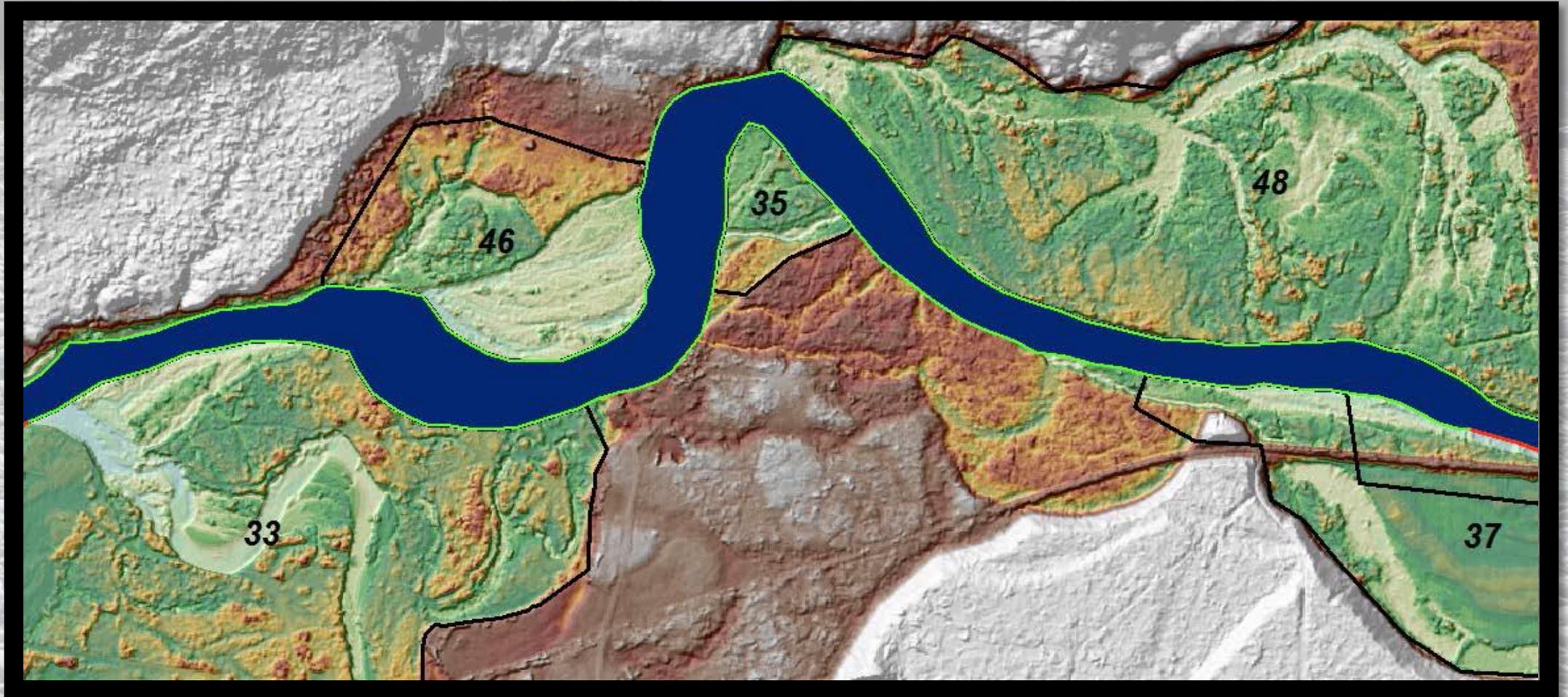


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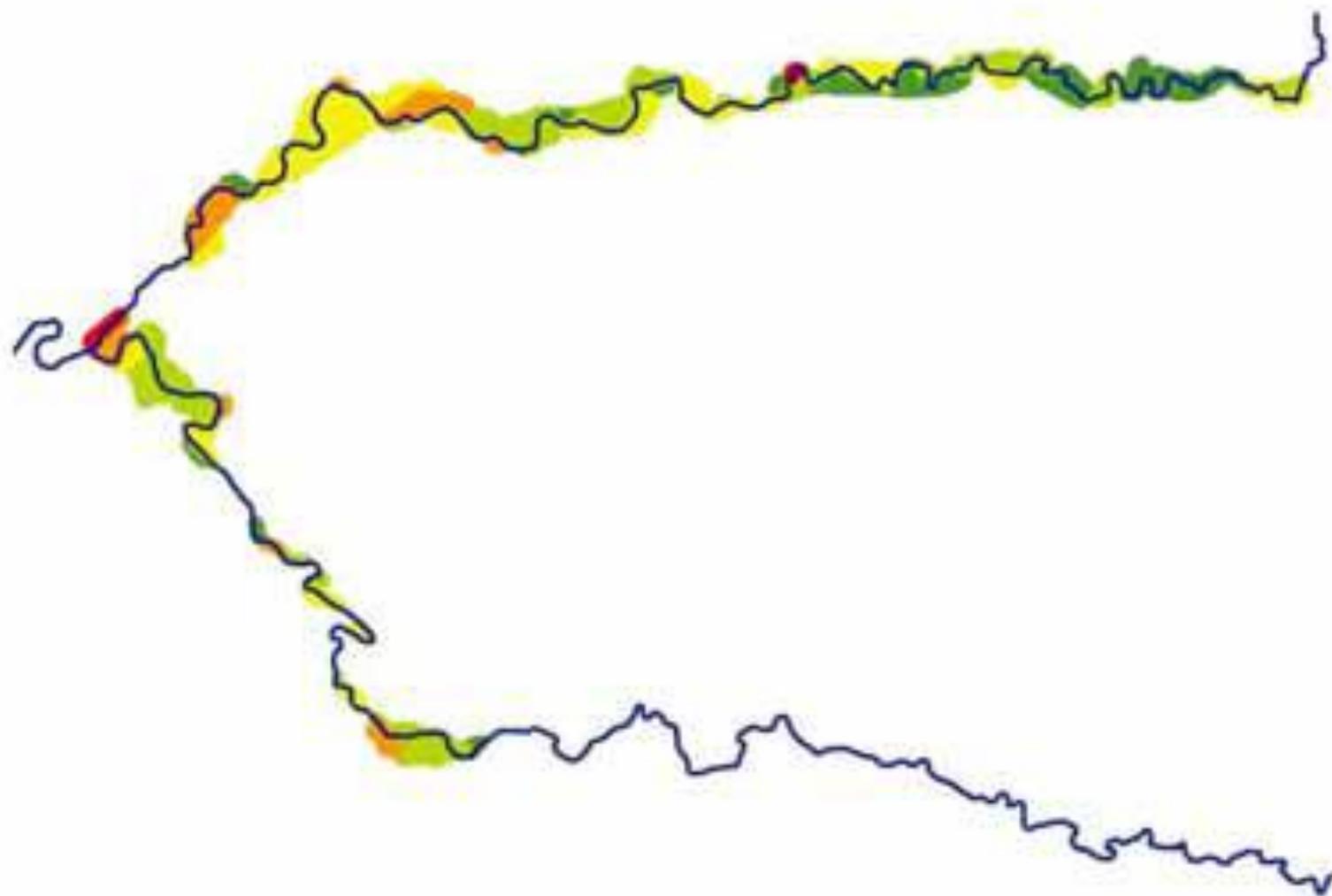
# Floodplain Units



# Ranking Metrics

- Chanel Constriction
- Sinuosity
- Armoring
- Land Use Type
- Number of Landowners
- Floodplain Elevation
- Adjacency

# Floodplain Restoration Priority

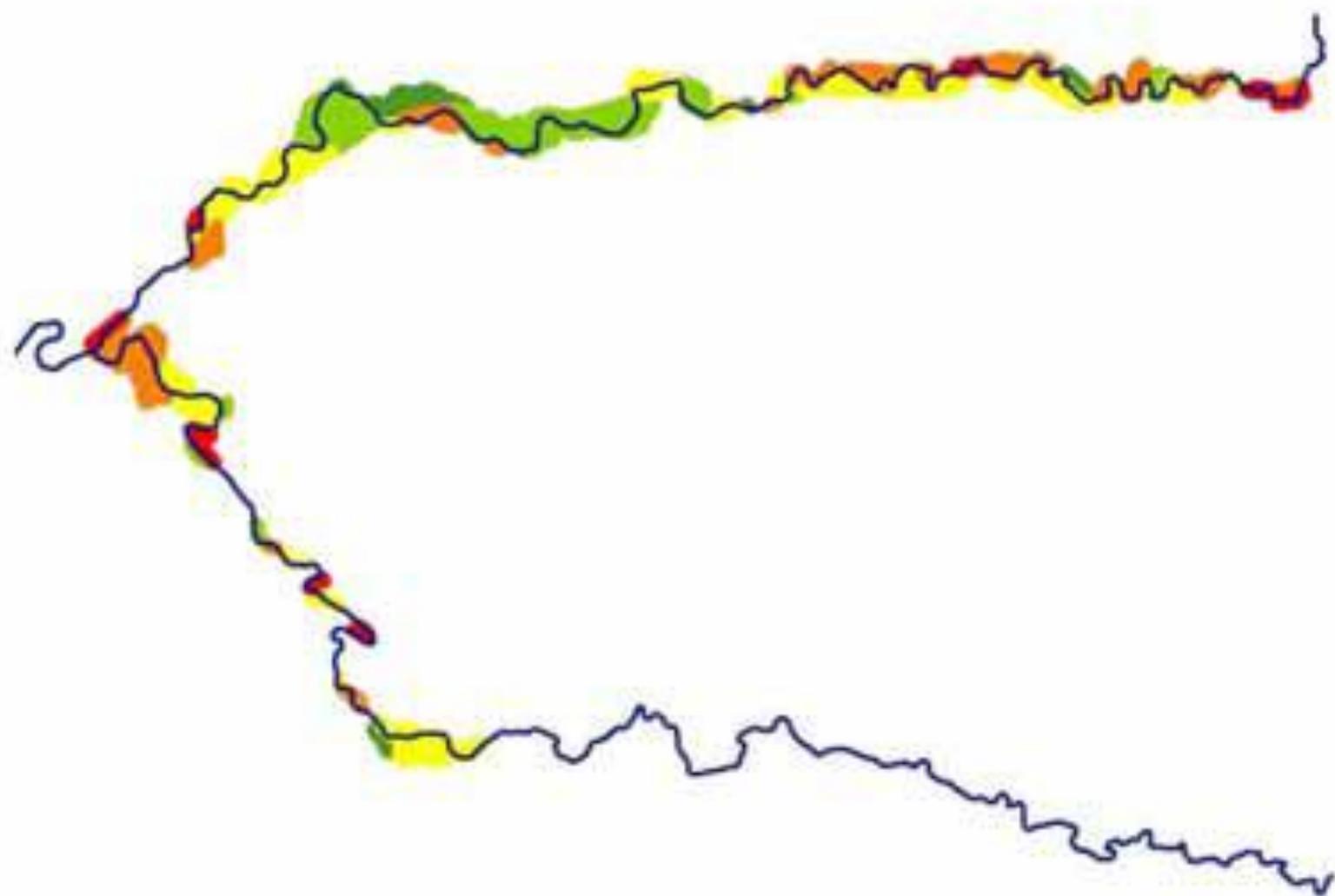


Most Desirable  
Candidate



Least Desirable  
Candidate

# Floodplain Conservation Priority



Most Desirable  
Candidate



Least Desirable  
Candidate

# Scoring Matrix

NF/SF	Conservation Score	Restoration Score	Adjacency Score	Total
Score	0-10	0-10	0-10	0-30

# **Snohomish Basin Considerations**

- **All floodplain property is high priority**
- **“Corridors” are necessary to achieve process based protection/restoration**
- **Limiting factors are most often land and funding availability**
- **Stakeholder buy in is critical to achieve intended project purpose**
- **Flexibility is important to capitalize on opportunistic property availability**



Questions ?

