



SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM

February 1, 2018

Floodplains by Design Reviewers

Washington State Dept. of Ecology Floods and Floodplain Management

P.O. Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (Forum) writes this letter in support of the joint Snohomish County and Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) ***Sustainable Lands Strategy: Implementing Skykomish River Subreach Solutions*** pre-application for 2019-2020 Floodplains by Design funding.

The Forum is a citizens committee that includes tribal, city and county governments, state and federal agencies as well as representatives from business, agriculture, recreation and environmental interests. As the Lead Entity for Snohomish Basin salmon recovery, the Forum works collaboratively to protect and restore salmon habitat in the Basin by following and promoting scientifically supported recommendations provided in the 2005 Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (Plan) and the 2015 Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (SBPP).

The proposal concept put forward by the County and SCD provides a path to restoration and open space protection actions in areas identified in the Plan as among the highest priority. Located within the Mainstem-Primary Restoration sub-basin strategy group, proposed capital construction, acquisition, and design components advance some of our top restoration priorities such as: restoration of hydrologic and sediment processes, removal of human-made instream barriers, and restoration of shoreline conditions through edge and riparian enhancement. Proposed acquisition and agricultural BMPs align with Forum goals of collaboration with interest groups in the Basin, and also have the potential to improve communication and understanding between salmon recovery and agricultural parties that is essential to accelerating hydrologic protection strategies outlined in the SBPP.

If project sponsors are invited to submit a full proposal, Forum technical and policy expertise will be available to assist, to ensure capital and acquisition elements are advanced with an emphasis on restoring and protecting the natural processes that create and sustain fish habitat and lead to a more resilient floodplain for people and fish.

Thank you for considering this important pre-application for funding.

Sincerely,

Terry Williams
Forum Chair

Jim Miller
Forum Vice-chair

cc: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum members and alternates