



SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM

August 2, 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) would like to offer our support for Snohomish County's Floodplains by Design proposal: *Advancing Sustainable Lands Strategies in the Snohomish Basin*.

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 Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (Plan) (2005) and the Snohomish Basin Protection Plan (SBPP) (2015).

This proposal put forward by the County and SLS partners has many elements that are easily supported by the Forum as they provide a path to restoration and protection actions in areas identified in the Plan as among the highest priority. Located within the mainstem priority subbasin strategy group, the proposed capital construction projects, acquisition and design components result in measurable gains for fish habitat. The modeling and hazards assessment will be useful to inform future restoration projects within the whole Basin and the integrated floodway designs provide a path to accomplish restoration advancements within the mainstem where progress has been difficult to make. Design elements also advance a project identified in the 2005 salmon recovery plan, Shinglebolt Slough. Furthermore the proposed outreach, project implementation team and agricultural resilience design elements align with Forum goals of collaboration with interest groups in the Basin.

If the proposal is accepted for funding, the Forum and its committees look forward to being heavily engaged in all aspects of the proposal. We are committed to providing our technical and policy expertise to ensure capital projects are advanced, whenever possible, with emphasis on restoring and protection 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 application for funding.

Sincerely,

Terry Williams
Forum Chair

Jim Miller
Forum Vice-chair

Cc: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum members and alternates