

## Meeting Summary

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee  
WDFW Office, Mill Creek  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sept. 6, 2018

### In attendance:

1. Doug Hennick, WFC
2. Alexa Ramos, Snohomish County
3. Beth leDoux, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum/King County
4. Morgan Ruff, Tulalip Tribes
5. Seth Ballhorn, WDFW
6. Elissa Ostergaard, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
7. Jim Shannon, Hart Crowser for Port of Everett and City of Everett
8. Mike Rustay, Snohomish County
9. Andrew McDonnell, SnoCo PUD
10. Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish County
11. Kirk Lakey, WDFW
12. Lindsey Desmul, WDFW
13. Wadii Boughdir, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

### Meeting Summary:

#### **Introductions**

Mike opened the meeting with introductions.

#### **Basin Updates**

##### **SRFB 2018**

There isn't enough funding to cover all of the proposed projects fully. The Pilchuck Dam project went for PSAR large cap. and placed third behind two big ticket projects. The project sponsors decided to withdraw it from consideration for PSAR large cap.

WRIA 8 had a project drop out (~\$800K) so we will be taking a loan from them and will repay it next year. Therefore, as the funding situation stands now, we will not run a grant round next year. There are upcoming funding sources around orca recovery and the governor's task force that could potentially fund some of our projects down the road.

The final ranked list will be approved in December, but funds won't be available until July 2019.

Cherry Creek needs to get under contract for cost overruns related to the soils removal. We have set aside \$100K for this.

#### **Scope Change - S. Fork Skykomish Acquisitions project**

The committees previously approved a scope change for the S. Fork Skykomish Acquisitions project. However, the property that was to be used for match no longer can per the Flood Control District so the scope will need to revert to the original scope.

#### **10-Year Status & Trends**

Lots of comments were received in response to the draft circulated for review. We are working on a contract to keep Anchor working to help wrap the report up. The report doesn't really provide recommendations to update the 2005 Plan. Next steps will be to work on figuring out how we want to update the Plan going forward.

### **Orca Recovery Task Force**

Gretchen attended the last meeting in Anacortes. They're working on a preliminary list of actions, but we haven't seen the outcome of that yet. The public can submit comments on the Governor's website. Gretchen would like to submit comments from the basin. We could coordinate with the Snoqualmie Forum on this. The Snoqualmie Forum next meets on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>.

It's not clear how they plan to increase populations of salmon in a stressed environment. Political will is still lacking in addressing the real issues at the heart of Chinook recovery focus remains on hatcheries, predation, and the Snake River dams rather than habitat.

The next meeting is on October 18<sup>th</sup>. There is supposed to be more time for public discourse then. Deadlines for comments were extended by 2 weeks. There are three upcoming webinars mostly focused on dams.

### **Snoqualmie Update**

There have recently been complaints made about jet skis on the river. There are concerns about impacts to spawning habitat. This has happened in the Snohomish too. But there doesn't seem to be documentation to show impacts to off-channel habitat; it's mostly just conjecture. King County has an ordinance limiting jet skis to 5mph on all rivers *except* the Snoqualmie and Skykomish (not sure why). Lakes have motor prohibitions stemming from noise and erosion. Maybe we could pull from that. Someone also suggested reaching out the local recreational groups as a first step.

The CWM grants have been approved including the Tolt San Soucci project. The recent strike has delayed construction though.

FFF 2.0 is ongoing. The buffer task force is pulling together the best available science to apply to the Snoqualmie Valley. The ag issues paper is looking at impacts of buffers on ag land. The regulatory task force is looking at the potential for ESA applicability to ditch dredging on farms and clarifying when permits are needed for ditches on ag land. Mitigation credits for plantings on farms are also being explored.

NOAA suggested changes to the ESA in July and King County is drafting a comment letter in response. Specifically, they seek to address the definition of 'foreseeable future', economic considerations, and the occupied habitat considerations. Comments are due by Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. They will be sending around the draft letter next week for review.

### **ESSB 6091 (Hirst Fix)**

The Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee will meet in October at the Everett Library. The plan is for the committee to meet monthly at the start and then transition to every other month meetings.

The draft Streamflow Restoration Grant RFP was released and the final version will be posted in two weeks. There is a webinar scheduled for Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>. Members discussed potential project proposals.

- North Bend levee setback water rights purchase
- King County Patterson Creek wetland storage
- Snoqualmie Valley WID increase of storage in closed basins

Perhaps the Tech Comm could develop guidelines for sponsors to strengthen their proposals with alignment to the SBPP. Ecology staffers have mentioned they're looking or groups to review projects too.

### **Ebey Island Planning**

Lindsey Desmul gave a presentation on the Ebey Island Planning. 2,200 acres of the land is in public ownership and we have lots of monitoring data to draw from. WDFW will work on next steps to coordinate with partners on the project going forward.

**Smith Island**

Mike Rustay gave an update on the Smith Island project. The dike breach took place on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Now they will be begin on the starter channels working clockwise around the site.

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.**