

Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee Mission, Roles and Guiding Principles

Adopted November 9, 2004

Revised by the Core Team for review by the Committee 6/1/21

Mission Statement

The mission of the Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee (“Committee”) is to provide scientific support for protection and enhancement of the abundance, productivity, diversity, and spatial structure of all salmonid populations in the Snohomish River Basin. The Committee is an independent, self-guiding and self-directing body that works in parallel with, and in support of, the Snohomish Forum, but makes its own decisions about its structure, function, and scope of work.

Committee Roles

1. Provide technical support to the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum on implementation and adaptive management of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan (SBSRF, 2005),
2. Serves as the Snohomish Basin lead entity’s technical advisory group (see Manual 19);
3. Scope and coordinate a research, monitoring and adaptive management strategy for the Snohomish Basin Salmon Conservation Plan;
4. Share information about current research related to salmonid habitat, hydropower, harvest and hatchery management;
5. Evaluate, review, prioritize and/or make recommendations on project proposals for grant processes such as SRFB, PSAR, FbD, CWM, and as requested by the Snohomish Forum; and
6. Review and provide technical comment related to harvest, hatchery, hydropower, and habitat—specifically, land use, water quality and water quantity management.¹

Guiding Principles

1. Use the highest quality scientific data available to develop and test hypotheses;

¹ It is important to note that the Committee does not have jurisdiction over harvest, hatchery, or hydropower management decision-making, and all review and commentary on these three “H”s is done in a technical advisory capacity only. The Committee’s job is to stay current with all the “H”s and how they meet or impact objectives of the Salmon Plan. It may comment when specifically asked; or, it may provide unsolicited letters of support or concern if decisions are made in line or in conflict with the Plan.

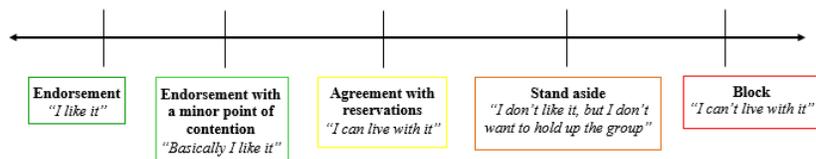
2. Promote preservation and restoration strategies that work with natural ecosystem processes and recognize the dynamic nature of rivers and watersheds; and
3. Emphasize restoration of habitat for salmonids and other native flora and fauna through the restoration of properly functioning ecosystems;
4. Use historical information on site conditions to guide restoration;
5. Use monitoring and assessment to guide adaptive management.

Ground Rules

1. Members accept responsibility to attend all meetings and prepare for discussions.
2. Members agree to contribute to the preparation of committee work products.
3. Members are all equal participants and will be given equal opportunities to voice opinions and ideas.
4. Members agree to back up their position with literature citations and other relevant supporting evidence.
5. Members agree to focus on science and defer policy issues to the Policy Development Committee.
6. Members should be open to other points of view and commit to treating each other with respect and civility.
7. Decisions will be reached using a consensus continuum². In rare cases where consensus is not possible, the dissenter will have an opportunity to document their alternative view in an appendix.

² A consensus continuum is defined as a gradient of agreement. Rather than attempt to reach unanimous consensus where everyone has the same level of enthusiasm about a decision, the consensus continuum allows groups to reach decision points without “pure” consensus, making room for a level of dissent and enabling leaders to get a strong sense of everyone’s level of agreement. For more information, see <http://www.gracesocialsector.com/missionimpact/consensus-doesnt-have-to-be-pure>. A visual example of the continuum:

CONSENSUS CONTINUUM



8. If you cannot live with the emerging consensus of the group, you must offer an alternative that you believe everyone else can live with too.
9. Absence from meetings and failure to designate an alternate or communicate views signals concurrence with the consensus outcome.
10. Media contact will be coordinated through both co-chairs.
11. Attendees other than voting members (e.g., interested parties, Basin or Forum staff, etc.) are expected to adhere to ground rules 3-6 above, and strongly encouraged to adhere to ground rules 1-2, although we recognize that members have a greater responsibility than non-members. Although non-voting members are welcome (and encouraged) to provide input and feedback on decisions unless otherwise specified, ground rules 7, 8, and 9 apply more specifically to members than to non-members.

Membership

Committee membership has evolved considerably over the years. The Committee has latitude to decide who to invite as its member organizations and how to structure voting membership; prescriptive guidelines defining membership do not exist. House Bill 2496 (also known as the Salmon Recovery Act), which established the current system of salmon recovery in 1998, provided very broad guidelines for the development of Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs), of which the Committee is one, in the original bill; however, the bill was amended in 2005 and the section outlining requirements for TAGs was removed entirely³.

The TAG is described in Manual 19 as local, technical experts such as “biologists, engineers, hydrologists, or other natural resource experts who are often from city, county, state, federal, tribal, private, or other organizations in the lead entity area,” who are “often the most knowledgeable about the local watershed, habitat, and fish conditions, and

³ Read the original bill as passed in 1998 at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/1997-98/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/2496-S.SL.pdf> . Section 10 includes the language about TAGs. Read the 2005 amended version at <http://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2005-06/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5610-S.sl.pdf>; note that the language about TAGs has been removed entirely. The current iteration of the bill, with links to other revisions, in the Revised Code of Washington is at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=77.85.005>.

their expertise is invaluable to ensure priorities and projects are based on ecological conditions and processes.”⁴

No specific membership guidelines exist in statute or in the Manual 19, therefore, it is entirely up to the Committee itself to define its membership.

As of 6/2/21, the Committee defines its member organizations, members, and alternates as follows:

Member organizations are those who have voting privileges for any formal decision-making the Committee engages in. Member organizations must have a significant organizational nexus with salmon recovery in WRIA7 and be actively participating in salmon recovery and/or research. Member organizations have one designated voting member, and one alternate who can stand in for the designated member. Both members and alternates will ultimately be designated by their organization, not by the Committee, but the Committee may make requests of the organization regarding the suitability of members and alternates. Members and alternates, when voting, should be representing the views of their organization; at other times, such as when providing input on a technical issue, they should make a distinction as to when they may/may not be representing those views. Members and alternates are expected to adhere to the ground rules as outlined in the Ground Rules section. Member organizations may send as many interested parties as they would like to Committee meetings.

Like member organizations, non-member organizations may also send as many non-member interested parties as they would like to Committee meetings. Non-member organizations are those with more of a peripheral, but still important, nexus to salmon recovery, such as WSDA, DOH, universities, and others. We encourage these organizations to participate as interested parties. Non-member interested parties are encouraged to provide input and technical expertise, but do not have decision-making power. It is also possible that an entity may be invited by the Committee to participate as a member, but if that entity has limited staffing capacity and cannot commit to full membership, it may choose to participate as an interested party by sending non-voting participants to provide input.

⁴ RCO’s Manual 19: Regional Organization and Lead Entity Capacity Grants, May 2020.
<https://rcow.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Manual19.pdf>

A list of member organizations, members, alternates, and interested parties from all organizations will be kept up-to-date by Committee leadership and reviewed annually by the Committee.

Current member organizations as of 6/2/21:

- Snohomish County
- Snohomish Conservation District
- King County
- Tulalip Tribes
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Wild Fish Conservancy
- City of Seattle
- Department of Ecology
- U.S. Forest Service
- NOAA
- City of Everett/Port of Everett
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Snohomish Public Utility District
- Snoqualmie Watershed Forum
- Sound Salmon Solutions

Staff organizations are those that send staff members to support the function of the Committee; these are not considered member organizations or interested parties. These entities send participants who provide logistical support and technical input, but do not have decision-making power. These include:

- Puget Sound Partnership
- WRIA7 Lead Entity staff, regardless of organization housing these staff (both Tulalip and Snohomish County house Lead Entity staff)
- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
- Snoqualmie Watershed Forum?
- Department of Natural Resources?

Commented [ED1]: Actual members and alternates to be designated by these respective orgs. After list of member orgs is finalized, we will reach out to orgs to request designation.

Commented [ED2]: Organizations to invite (with the blessing of the Committee): USFWS; KCD; more cities. Does DNR have enough of a salmon nexus to be a voting member or should we leave them as an interested party non member org? Invite AASF since they were involved in the past—if they have capacity and interest they are welcome

Commented [ED3]: Is SWF supposed to be a voting org? Or should staff repping SWF just be (nonvoting) staff/interested parties?

Commented [ED4]: See above comment