

## Stilly- IT Proposed FbD Application Package

### DISCUSSION DRAFT ONLY – May 2020 Version (revised from broader Suites of Actions March 2020 version)

The following list of actions are being proposed by the Stilly IT for submittal on July 31, 2020 as part of the FbD grant. This list will be discussed at the June 11th, SLS monthly meeting. Please send comments to [cmacilroy@gmail.com](mailto:cmacilroy@gmail.com) or call at 206-293-4741. If you have specific discussion focus requests it would be helpful to know in advance given the limited time during the meeting.

Name of Project	Project Description	Project Proponent	7.8M Total FbD Package	Fish	Farm	Flood	City
<b>Administration</b>							
Stilly IT Coordination	Developing a robust and agreed upon project pipeline for the Stillaguamish will help move projects forward more quickly and efficiently. Funding would support the process to continue to build and implement a suite of actions supported by the community and the Sustainable Lands Strategy partners that utilizes multiple sources of funding and further develops project proponent skills and capacity. <i>SLS: Budget will depend on success and future coordination needs of Stilly IT.</i>	Snohomish Conservation District	\$90,000	X	X	X	X
FbD Grant Administration	Small administrative fee requested by Department of Ecology in FbD 2019-2021 grant round. Considered potential request for 2021-2023 round.	Stillaguamish Tribe	\$10,000	X	X	X	X
<b>Agriculture Resilience Plan Implementation</b>							
Agricultural land protection comprehensive planning	The Snohomish Conservation District, PCC Farmland Trust, and other partners will work with the agricultural community to refine farmland protection priorities and develop a strategic plan to keep agriculture viable in the Stillaguamish River floodplain. This work builds off of Agriculture Resilience Plan priorities and farmland prioritization mapping completed by the Snohomish Farmland Conservation Working Group in collaboration with local producers and the SLS. It will take into account Farm, Fish, and Flood interests to support multi-benefit solutions in the Stillaguamish watershed	Snohomish Conservation District	\$30,000		X		
Improve drainage and drainage infrastructure	Build off completed work to identify several locations where existing drainage infrastructure is undersized or in need of maintenance in the Stillaguamish Flood Control District and Drainage District 7. Complete a drainage inventory to identify project needs. Complete design and construction for 2-3 projects (most likely culvert and/or flood gate replacements). This will include replacing failing tide gate infrastructure on Jorgenson Slough with a fish passable side-flap gate (\$1,100,000). This will also include a prioritization of the drainage inventory completed by the	Snohomish Conservation District	\$1,630,000		X		

	County for DD7 to identify, design, and build culvert replacements or channel excavation projects.						
Improve flood protection	Through the Agriculture Resilience Plan, farmers identified reduction of flood-related damages as the highest priority in the Middle Stillaguamish Reach (Silvana to Arlington). This project will develop and implement actions to better protect farms from flood debris damage. This will primarily include flood fencing and riparian buffer planting (consistent with the riparian buffer program). <i>SLS: For this project to be successful political support from SLS and close partnership with Snohomish County will be necessary.</i>	Snohomish Conservation District	\$240,000		X	X	
Drought resilience BMPs	Through the Agriculture Resilience Plan, concern about drought impacts was highlighted by Stillaguamish farmers. Improving the water holding capacity of the soil and/or installing agricultural practices that better utilize water will enable farming to remain viable without requiring additional water. Funding will support installation of cover crops, agroforestry practices, soil amendments, and potentially research into drought resilience crop varieties on commercial agricultural land in the Lower Stillaguamish to expose farmers to new ideas and methods. This funding would support 400 acres of cover crops/year for 2 years and installation of 4 acres (75% cost-share) of agroforestry practices. Using these projects as demonstration projects and pilots will be important to expanding the program over time.	Snohomish Conservation District	\$115,000		X		
Saltwater study	This project will refine the saltwater intrusion study completed by Cardno as part of the development of the 2019 Agriculture Resilience Plan to provide farmers with more accurate predictions for saltwater intrusion by adding a well array on Florence island and in DD7. Bayfront agriculture has been some of the most valuable agricultural lands in the Stillaguamish Valley and is also the highest priority for salmon recovery efforts. Understanding the future of this area is critical to reaching agreement on the future of agriculture and salmon recovery. The project includes well installation, data collection, and working with Cardno and Pacific Groundwater Group to re-run a model with the new data.	Snohomish Conservation District	\$120,000		X		
Irrigation efficiencies and water availability	Development of a project pipeline for creative solutions that allow access to irrigation water while not harming summer flows is increasing imperative in the Valley and was noted as a Tier I priority in the Agriculture Resilience Plan. Farmers that have not traditionally needed to irrigate have noticed increasingly drier and hotter summers and climate change projection indicate this will continue. With no additional water rights to be had, there is a need to work with agencies (including Department of Ecology and the WREC) to develop projects that support irrigation access during the summer. Discussions have already been initiated and include changing regulations to allow for water storage from upland runoff for commercial agriculture or opening up winter water rights to allow farmers to store water for summer use. Funding would support staff time to pursue these approaches. In	Snohomish Conservation District	\$15,000		X		

	<p>addition, funding would support staff time to promote irrigation efficiency and/or sub-irrigation projects with farmers.</p> <p><i>SLS: For this project to be successful, political and policy support from SLS will likely be necessary alongside support and leadership from Dept. of Ecology.</i></p>						
<b>Agricultural Easements</b>							
SVPI - Ag easements (Lower or Middle Stillaguamish Reach)	<p>This project will fund between 3-6 agricultural easements based on the Snohomish Farmland Conservation Working Group's identification of the Lower and Middle Stillaguamish (Estuary to Arlington) as a high priority for removal of development rights. Many high priority easements are located in the Lower Stillaguamish reach where there is a concentration of high-quality contiguous farmland and the investment in conservation could help farmers stay viable despite changing climate conditions. This project is consistent with Ag Resilience Plan priorities and expressed interest by 24 farmers in pursuing easements on their farms.</p> <p><i>SLS: PCC Farmland Trust has resolved the issue of co-hold and right of assignment for FbD 2019-2021 round.</i></p>	PCC Farmland Trust	\$750,000			X	
<b>Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation</b>							
Cicero Acquisition	<p>This project would acquire 8 parcels along the NF Stillaguamish totaling over 6000 feet of river frontage and 143 acres. Acquisition will allow for a reach scale floodplain restoration project to eventually take place at this location, making substantial progress towards the restoration targets outlined in the 2005 Stillaguamish Chinook Recovery Plan. Future log jam construction, riparian planting, and side channel restoration is planned for this site. This site is in the highest priority tier of the Stillaguamish Watershed Council's Acquisition strategy along with first tier for floodplain and large wood restoration projects.</p>	Stillaguamish Tribe	\$700,000			X	
Trafton Floodplain Restoration	<p>Restore floodplain processes in the Trafton reach of the North Fork Stillaguamish across nearly two miles of channel and more than 200 acres of floodplain. The Tribe is in the initial design stages with SnoCo parks to determine the extent of the project and preferred alternative (design work funded by SRFB). The restoration work will likely entail removing a mile of levee, digging channels to spread the NF's energy and sediment across the floodplain, installing thousands of pieces of wood to improve instream habitat, and encouraging beaver to impound water once again in this area. The aerial photo record gives a hint at the dynamic floodplain habitat that this reach used to have, despite significant habitat alterations already in place by 1933. The work will be designed to directly benefit both juvenile and adult salmonids as it is in priority areas for floodplain, riparian, large wood, and instream habitat restoration detailed in the Stillaguamish Chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. In fact, this reach is in the highest priority tier for floodplain restoration in the watershed. Final estimates of project cost are in the \$3-5m range.</p> <p><i>SLS: This project added in March 2020. Not yet discussed at SLS monthly meeting.</i></p>	Stillaguamish Tribe	\$1,150,000			X	

TNC Port Susan Bay	<p>The Port Susan Bay (PSB) restoration project, at the mouth of the Stillaguamish River, will restore key ecological processes to 150 acres of estuarine tidal marsh through distributary channel excavation, blind channel excavation, and removal of remnant dike material that currently inhibits freshwater input. The PSB project, by expanding the amount of viable estuarine habitat in the delta, will increase juvenile salmon rearing capacity for several species, including ESA-listed Chinook salmon. This project will further ensure the effectiveness of upstream salmon recovery projects by alleviating a habitat bottleneck for fish at the estuary and enhance future floodplain and estuary restoration in the area. Estuarine habitat restoration is identified as a priority in the Stillaguamish Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan (SCR,2005), the Northwest Indian Commission’s State of Our Watershed report (2016), the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Ecosystem Recovery Plan (2017), and the current Stillaguamish Four-Year Work Plan which identifies the restoration of properly functioning estuary habitat, through process-based restoration, as a key goal.</p>	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,050,000	X	X		
<b>Flood</b>							
Irvine Slough/City of Stanwood	<p>This project is a continuation of work funded in the FbD 2019-2021 grant. The next phase of work will include construction of stormwater retention facilities and pumps. These improvements will reduce flood impacts to the City of Stanwood while also improving water quality for salmon and other species consistent with the Stillaguamish Salmon Recovery plan priorities.</p>	City of Stanwood	\$2,000,000	X		X	X