

# SLS FbD STILLY PACKAGE PROJECT ATTRIBUTES

## June, 2020

### Consistent with SLS mission

- The Stilly IT believes this package represents projects that deliver significant benefit to the ag and fish communities
- Proposed project list draws from:
  - Recently completed Ag Resilience Plan
  - Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative;
  - Chinook Recovery Plan;
  - Mutually supported flood risk reduction measures.

### Transparency: SLS sees all the parts

- Stilly IT presented at numerous 2019 SLS meetings: September, October, December and 2020 meetings: January and June SLS meetings.
- Stilly IT participated in 2020 SLS meetings with updates: March and April.
- Available or offered to answer questions and provide information either on SLS calls or outside of a meeting structure.
- Sought input on near-term projects under consideration for FbD package from SLS in January and presented to FbD program reviewers in April and made changes to the list based on input.

### Identifies money, scope and schedule

- Actions have estimated budgets and scopes.
- Actions larger than available funding from one source have working notes on other funding sources either secured or pursued.
- Schedules would be developed once funding secured.

### Fundable

- Stilly IT is comprised of partners with extensive grant writing/management expertise.
- Selected actions identify work most important to advance at this time.
- Actions were selected and the overall package trimmed based on priority, consistency with FbD guidelines and feedback, focus on capital investments, and ability to implement in 2-3 year timeframe.

### Permittable

- Comprised of partners with project implementation/permitting expertise.
- Actions predominately permittable.
- Actions potentially challenging to permits or regulations have been noted.

### Locally developed

- Near-term actions flow from Ag Resilience Plan, Chinook Recovery Plan, Habitat Work Schedule, SVPI or the Reach Scale plans.

- The Stilly IT, an integrated group of fish-farm interests, developed FbD actions based on long-standing possible projects that could be mutually supported.
- Actions vetted with a number of individual landowners/community members.
- Due to issues with development of ITs relative to SLS EC and then COVID, local outreach was more limited than initially hoped. Outreach to 9 valley farmers, work with the Ag Caucus, SLS and Stilly IT partner work with a variety of landowners and partners.
- Work underway to secure letters of support.

### **Explainable to a local community with buy-in**

- Yes.

### **Context and alignment in the bigger strategy**

- Actions draw from ag and salmon strategies put forward through plans as noted above. There is not yet an integrated strategy from which to draw. One of the stated actions may help craft such a strategy.
- Actions flow from an underlying, but not overtly agreed upon, strategy that continued flooding of the valley benefits agriculture and fish if there is continued work to reduce farm damages and fish impacts resulting from flooding.
- Collective advancement of this body of work is the result of a more robust/collaborative process and seeks, through the stimulation of movement and funding to build trust, strengthen relationships, and foster community discussion to see if a more collective integrated strategy can be achieved.

### **Opportunity costs understood**

- A number of actions on the list have been in various phases of exploration or movement forward for a decade or more.
- The inability to deliver NRCS ag easement funding to willing landowners has created frustration that additional easement funding can help address.
- At Port Susan Bay salmon recovery actions are needed now, as Chinook runs are in dire shape (1-5% of historical numbers). On-the-ground restoration at the Stillaguamish Tribe's adjacent Thurmond property is likely 5-10 years out. However, Stillaguamish Chinook populations (and the people and animals that depend on them) need habitat improvements as soon as possible to avoid the high extinction risk that such low numbers of fish represent. The PSB site is in a pivotal location for juvenile Chinook and the habitat they utilize on their way to the sea.
- A key opportunity is providing a clear signal to the community that collaborative work is moving forward, and actions are seen on the ground.
- Significant time and effort was provided by the ag community to develop the Ag Resilience plan, FbD is a key opportunity to advance actions in that plan.

### **Identifies political (or policy – added by IT) issues, if any**

- The proposed FbD action list identifies various political/policy/funding issues.

### **Builds or deepens partnerships**

- The Stilly IT has met twelve times to develop the current list of actions with significant work across partners and with additional outreach in between meetings.
- Members work directly with existing local structures: SVPI, SWC, DD 7, City of Stanwood, individual landowners, Stillaguamish Flood Control District.
- By collectively moving real work with real money, these actions provide an incentive and mechanism to advance collaborative work within the Stilly Valley and across Snohomish County through the SLS partnership.

### **Climate change/Resilience**

- These actions respond to climate change studies and analysis undertaken both by the Stillaguamish Watershed Council and the Agriculture Resilience Plan.