

July 10, 2020



To: Washington State Departments of Ecology:

The Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) Executive Committee is pleased to provide this letter in Floodplains by Design program. The project supports the “integrated floodplain management” approach of the FbD grant program. The project will lead to on-the-ground actions that balance community needs for flood protection and agricultural viability with ecological needs, such as habitat improvements that help recover threatened fisheries.

The *Community Floodplains Solution Program* will:

- Protect hundreds of acres of habitat and farmland,
- Advance and implement multiple-benefit projects identified in the Agriculture Resilience Plan for Snohomish County,
- Determine the feasibility of and advance designs for large-scale floodplain projects on the Lower Skykomish River that advance fish, farm, and flood interests, and
- Promote the enabling conditions that allow for integrated floodplain management at the Snohomish Watershed scale and implement the actions recommended in the SLS Lower Skykomish River Reach-scale Plan.

We support this proposal as it seeks to balance fish, farm and flood benefits. The proposal aligns with the SLS project attributes by implementing a package of actions that are locally developed, implements and integrates strategies developed in various resource planning documents, deepens and builds partnerships, are fundable, permittable, well-scoped and budgeted, resilient, and transparent. The Snohomish Integration Team have engaged SLS partners throughout the development of this CFS program package, incorporating changes and additions to achieve a better balance.

The SLS Executive Committee endorses this proposal as a practical, cost-effective means to achieve multiple benefits and model a more sustainable approach to floodplain management.

Thank you for considering this project for funding.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures are shown above a horizontal line. The signature on the left is 'Brian V. Bookey' and the signature on the right is 'Terry Williams'.

Brian Bookey
Co-Chair

Terry Williams
Co-Chair