

July 10, 2020



To: Washington State Departments of Ecology:

The Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) Executive Committee is pleased to provide this letter in support of the “*Stillaguamish Integrated Floodplain Management*” application to the 2021 – 2023 Floodplains by Design grant round. This application, submitted by the Stillaguamish Tribe and partners of the Sustainable Lands Strategy, represents a balanced package of projects that advances salmon recovery, agricultural viability, and flood protection in our river’s floodplain and exemplifies the “integrated floodplain management” approach of the Floodplains by Design program.

The *Stillaguamish Integrated Floodplain Management* proposal aligns with the SLS mission and achieves SLS’s project attributes. The project is consistent with SLS’s mission to deliver significant benefit to farm, fish, and flood priorities and draws from the Stillaguamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan, the Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative partnership to protect priority agricultural land, and the Agriculture Resilience Plan for Snohomish County.

The SLS Stillaguamish Integration Team developed the actions included in this proposal by engaging SLS partners and the local community in advancing priority actions that bring together an integrated, collaborative approach to on-the-ground implementation. This package presents a cost-effective, achievable, strategic, and collaborative application that builds upon existing partnerships and will:

- Reduce flood impacts to the City of Stanwood and improve water quality for salmon, other Puget Sound species, and for people through construction of stormwater retention facilities in Irvine Slough;
- Protect hundreds of acres of farmland and help protect the viability of agriculture in the Stillaguamish valley;
- Design, permit, and construct drainage improvements and climate resilience practices on prime agricultural farmland in the Stillaguamish Flood Control District and Diking and Drainage District 7;
- Restore and improve critical salmon habitat for critically threatened Chinook salmon, including restoration of key ecological processes to 150 acres of estuarine tidal marsh at the Port Susan Bay property and restoration of floodplain processes on over 200 acres in the Trafton Reach of the North Fork Stillaguamish River

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian V. Bookey".

Brian Bookey  
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Williams".

Terry Williams  
Co-Chair