

# DRAFT SLS VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

Input from May 13, 2021 SLS Partners Meeting

## Vision:

Proposed language:

Snohomish County is an outstanding place to live and work for future generations where:

- policies and funding optimize the productivity of the land, prevent and reduce the impact of sprawl, and protect resource lands;
- rural land stewardship and ecosystem services are valued;
- floodplain river corridors are restored to create habitat, support agricultural businesses, and minimize flood risk; and
- fish populations return, farming is increasingly viable, and local food is abundant.

*Note: For readability I have organized the original proposal with bullets. DR*

Input:

### General comments

- Simplify, shorten, reduce words, limit concepts, clarify
- Focus on SLS's direct influence
- Should be action oriented
- Discuss importance of understanding each other and what we need to do
- Encourage proactive language surrounding human expansion rather than reactionary language

### Specific suggested changes

- Start with...“In the next decade we hope to be...”
- Start with...“Where rural land...”
- Include a statement about acquisition to bring land into farming
- Include concerns of recreational interests
- Include water quantity
- Include resources in general
- Include refocusing and working together
- Include advancing projects
- Add public benefit
- Add mutual benefit and respect
- Add harmonization
- Add willingness to make trade-offs
- Add current generations
- Add the importance of local food systems
- Add adaptation to climate change

## Other suggestions

- Look at zoning
- What is the reach scale look
- Next level of collaboration
- Look at other integrated groups (eg. Farmland for the Future)
- Policy could also contribute to restoration, protection and enhancement
- Need to protect farmland and businesses. Need to support habitat and ecosystem functions, viable fish pops

## Examples:

### **Vision for Floodplains for the Future**

Restored connections between rivers and land improve habitat for salmon, protect communities and critical infrastructure from flooding, and provide new opportunities for recreational and cultural uses while preserving agricultural lands in the Puyallup River Watershed.

### **Vision for Habitat for Humanity**

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

## **Mission:**

### Proposed language:

The mission of the Sustainable Lands Strategy collaborative is to forge a link between people who are implementing fish/flood/wildlife and farm enhancement plans, to provide a space for reconciling differences and achieve a shared vision for the land and water resource needs of all.

### Input:

#### General comments

- This isn't inspirational!
- Missing the action component
- Make it a little more concise; Leave less room for interpretation
- Make it more digestible for the public so they can understand the project better
- Should be an elevator pitch that you can say in a few seconds
- Should be an expression of the outcome you're working for, not the process
- Bring groups together to give input and find the best strategy to move forward
- Focus on being a partnership
- Should convey a more proactive role
- Is identification of projects part of the mission?
- Reads like we get people talking but not identifying projects or identifying challenges
- Where does SLS end and its partners begin?
- A lot of jargon; develop definitions

- Take another step back for what SLS can really do, what is our capacity, political capital, how much is... (achievable)?
- How much is collaboration vs coordination?
- What is our ability to impact the vision and put that in mission?
- How do the goals of the ITs fitting into this mission?
- Focus on enabling conditions: funding, policy, and let the ITs implement the work.
- We can bring our voices together to plan at a landscape level
- Mutual benefit – spell out in a more descriptive way
- Creating discussion vs creating collaboration; Collaboration among groups
- Define who is at the table; Should be inclusive to fishermen, farmers, recreationists, etc.

#### Specific suggested changes

- Change “connect people” instead of “forge a link”
- Leave out “enhancement plan”, “farm enhancement plans” isn’t the right term – sounds too much like a farm-specific plan.
- Should say “flood risk reduction” or “flood hazard management”
- Bring people together in a collaborative ways so they can advocate for both projects and policies
- Slashes don’t work, commas are better

#### Other suggestions

- Does SLS have a responsibility to bring a shared vision to the people that can implement it? What are the relationships?
- Don’t want confrontation in the mission statement

#### Specific suggestions for language:

- A place for fish and farm and flood interests to come together to find compromise
- “people who are integrating agricultural viability, salmon recovery, and flood risk reduction”
- “Maintaining or maximizing farm viability while restoring fish populations and reducing flood risks”
- “Mission is to provide a space for reaching agreement on actions that maintain or maximize farm viability while restoring fish populations and reducing flood risks”
- To provide a space for achieving a shared vision for the land and water resource needs in Snohomish County by connecting groups implementing fish, food, wildlife and farm enhancement plans.

#### Examples:

##### **Mission for Floodplains for the Future**

To encourage shared leadership in a trusting and transparent environment in order to plan, fund, and implement multi-benefit floodplain projects in the Puyallup, White, and Carbon River floodplains.

##### **Mission for Habitat for Humanity**

Seeking to put God’s love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

## Goals:

### Proposed language:

An effective sustainable land strategy which simultaneously and substantially improves:

- agricultural economic vitality and productivity;
- ecological health and restoration of fish and wildlife populations to harvestable levels;
- quality of life for all, including tribal culture rooted in fish, wildlife, and native plants; and
- adaptation to create a landscape that is more resilient to flooding.

Note: See SLS Goals Landscape 21-0510 for an interpretation of how the input on goals can be displayed graphically. (Paul Cereghino)

### Likes:

- ✓ Quality of life goal including tribes
- ✓ Heart is good, but need to word-smith it down
- ✓ Primary goals are well stated. Take out wordiness to make it more precise.
- ✓ Group liked simultaneously and substantially wording as well as inclusion of tribal culture. Just be sure to defer to them on preferred language.
- ✓ Quality of life is good.

### Input:

- a place to share the same information
- Look to new information coming out this summer (e.g. NOAA LCM, Snohomish Plan Update, etc.) may have more clarity for goals. Build from these efforts.
- should be specific things we can measure progress toward within purview of SLS OR they should be clear and specific about what we're trying to influence (E.g. enabling conditions, funding, policy). may not be able to achieve ag economic viability but we do want to ensure that there are a consistent and sufficient funding source, etc.
- look at how King County is demonstrating ways to improve agricultural economic viability for ideas.
- SMART goals with parameters of specific, measurable, actionable, relevant, and timely. Make them more precise.
- How do you measure the "quality of life for all"?
- What is harvestable?
- Goals should show what steps we take to reach our vision.
- No need for lofty, fluffy goals.
- need to know where ag is now in terms of "viability" to be able to measure an increase in viability in the future.
- It's natural to have flooding – should we tweak the word resilient?
- Utilizing the best available science to adapt for climate change – or incorporate climate change into the first sentence?
- Do we need to incorporate environmental justice?

- Simultaneously and substantially is unnecessary
- Ag resilience, productivity, and economic vitality.
- What does SLS do? What is our area of influence compared to what our partners do? How does that fit into the goals?
- Agricultural viability is enough. Let people define that over time.
- Quality of life for all is too expansive.
- Should be we more explicit about tribal treaty rights?
- Perhaps define things in ways that are more simplistic “ecological health”
- Should there be goals for strategic work that are different than simpler goals for communications.
- Protecting lands from development is important and should be explicit in our goals.
- developing the relationships that can work toward solutions - less tangible, but worth focusing on
- Some of the words used are not well defined. “Ecological health” “quality of life” “harvestable levels”.
- Define what SLS wants to be (Create projects, be a forum) before setting goals (*see Structure and roles document*)
- Incorporate both tribal and agricultural heritage. Need to include the agricultural heritage because farms have been in in families for generations.
- Take out the words simultaneously and substantially.
- Land use planning needs to be an SLS goal to keep our floodplains for fish, open space, and farmland.
- may not need the word restoration on second bullet.
- Put ecological health as its own bullet.
- Harvestable fish and wildlife is a good standalone goal.
- What about climate resilience and farmland, as well as fish and ecosystems.

#### Specific suggestions for language:

"Recognize and value the ties to the land while honoring and working to sustain agricultural and tribal heritage."

#### Examples:

##### **Goals of Floodplains for the Future**

<https://floodplainsforthefuture.org/aboutus/>

- Make communities more resilient to flooding and reduce flood risk and damage to private property
- Reduce flood risk and damage to public infrastructure
- Integrate agricultural interests into proposed large levee setback projects
- Protect/conservate agricultural lands
- Minimize conversion of agricultural lands to non-ag uses

- Maintain viable farming economy/critical mass of farmland and farm businesses
- Improve drainage on existing farms
- Reconnect floodplain to the river (at various flow levels)
- Protect existing functional salmon habitat
- Restore historic function for spawning, foraging, and rearing habitat
- Increase salmon abundance
- Provide more space for the river to migrate
- Improve water quality
- Increase integration and collaboration across FFTF members and interests (fish, farm, and flood)
- Increase the resilience of flood management infrastructure, the ecosystem, and agriculture as climate changes

#### Description of Floodplains for the Future

Floodplains for the Future is a partnership of stakeholders working together to unite the interests of communities, agriculture, and salmon in order to transform floodplain management in the Puyallup Watershed. Through our actions, we strive to protect what people in our watershed value most:

- Communities resilient to flood events
- A robust farming economy
- Habitat needed to recover salmon runs

Since 2013, our partners have collaborated to support, fund, and implement multi-benefit floodplain projects and activities in the Puyallup River Watershed.

#### **Big question:**

Do we need to delay this discussion until fall so more of our agricultural friends can participate?