

SLS FbD STILLY PACKAGE PROJECT ATTRIBUTES

March 2022

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:
 - Highest priority agricultural infrastructure needs building on the Snohomish CD's Ag Resilience Plan
 - Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative; and
 - Chinook Recovery Plan.

Transparency: SLS sees all the parts

- Stilly IT worked with SLS Steering Committee to develop the timeline and interactions in support of the Stillaguamish Tribe's FbD package.
- Stilly IT provided SLS the FbD pre-app and solicited input or comments.
- Stilly IT is presenting at the March SLS Partner meeting to receive input or comments.
- Stilly IT made itself available for additional engagement, discussion and follow-up.

Identifies money, scope and schedule

- Actions have estimated budgets and initial scopes.
- Schedules would be developed once funding secured.

Fundable

- Stilly IT is comprised of partners with extensive grant writing/management expertise.
- 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 3-year timeframe.
- Selected actions identify work most important to advance at this time.

Permittable

- Comprised of partners with project implementation/permitting expertise.
- Actions are permittable.

Locally developed

- Near-term actions flow from key priorities of Stilly Valley farmers, 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 continued stressors related to the pandemic local outreach and in person engagement continues to be limited and focused on highest priority engagement.
- 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. Additional scoping work by Bruce Prengruber using NOAA funding summer/fall of 2022 will help advance the foundation for agriculture to have better tools to work towards an integrated strategy.
- Actions flow from the 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 Stilly IT project tracking and pipeline list have been in various phases of exploration or movement forward for a decade or more.
- Jorgensen and DD7 projects are critical ag infrastructure needs that are important to move forward.
- The continued 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). 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

- There is continued discussion about how to make the Jorgensen tide gate investment achieve farm and fish needs.

Builds or deepens partnerships

- The Stilly IT has been meeting since 2019 and developing these project ideas in partnership with others in the Stilly valley. The package represents a list of actions resulting from significant work across partners.
- 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.