

FFF Implementation Oversight Committee

Agenda

October 24, 2019

8:30-9:00 *Light refreshments and catch up!*

9:00-4:00 Meeting

Carnation Farm

9:00 – 9:15	1. Co-chair Welcome and Introductions (click here to view meeting notes from April 4, 2019)	Cindy Spiry
9:15 - 9:45	2. The FFF Agreement – How we got to where we are and progress gained. We’ve come so far and there is still more to do.	Tamie Kellogg/All
9:45- 10:00	3. Flood Caucus Priority and recent observations a. Update on the Causeway study and other priority actions.	Tamie Kellogg
10:00- 10:20	4. Update on Related King County Efforts	Josh Baldi
10:20- 10:30	Break (10 min)	
	5. Bundled Activities Update and Recommendations for IOC Consideration	
10:30- 11:30	a. Buffers Task Force Recommendation on Buffer Widths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief update on the synthesis of science and the methodology and key information for each flowchart. Share initial TF recommendations (or status) on buffer width based on 10/16 discussions, and the remaining Task force workplan. IOC Questions: What is the likely path for the implementation plan? Are there additional types of implementation issues that should be considered? Policy and political, and funding considerations? Site specific implementation or prioritization? Who do we need to be bringing along and ideas for how that will be accomplished? What are the implementation Plan next steps, roles and resources needed to actually increase plantings in the valley? 	Beth LeDoux
11:30- 11:55	b. Regulatory Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates on Key Successes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress on Incidental Take Coverage through a Safe Harbor Agreement with NMFS for listed salmonids Alluvial Fan management Beaver management update Transmittal to IOC: On-Site Mitigation Priority, Findings on Advance Mitigation, Multi-year permitting HPA Introduce Recommendations Questions? 	Eric Beach
11:55- 12:30	Lunch	

12:30-12:40	Public Comment	Tamie Kellogg
12:40-1:45	b. Regulatory Task Force Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Potential 2D Modeling (20 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Flood caucus made a recommendation to the Regulatory TF to discuss how a 2D model may be able to answer questions that have arisen throughout FFF. ii. IOC Question: What else would you need to know to support a letter from this group in January to pursue this work? ○ Comprehensive Drainage Maintenance Program (15 min) ○ Sub-basin Planning (30 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. IOC Questions: What questions do you have? Do you support continued work to pursue developing out these concepts? 	Larry Karpack Lou Beck Cynthia Krass & Erin Erickson
1:45-2:10	c. Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share TF approved framework and assumptions. ○ Share the process of what farms need to be productive (farm scale). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. IOC Questions: Are we on the right track? Is there something in addition that you'd like to see this group consider? 	Patrice Barrentine
2:10-2:30	d. Update on Large Cap Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hafner Barfuse status update. Share the updated engagement plan, project materials and next steps. ○ Share timing of when farming lease expire and plantings will occur. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. IOC Questions: any other information you need? 	Janne Kaje
2:30-3:10	6. Develop a road map for moving forward on acreage needs for Fish and Farm (Farm 4 – Action 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The original group of FFF 1.0 members who are on the 2.0 IOC panel discuss the origins of this recommendation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the history/story of this recommendation? What was FFF 1.0 thinking at the time? ○ What were we really trying to achieve with this task? What was it thought that change because of this action? ○ What did you think may not change or was out of bounds? ○ What are the potential challenges? b. Large group and small group conversation about discuss guidance and next step for developing a road map. c. Report out. 	Tamie Kellogg & FFF 1.0 Advisory Committee member (also on IOC)
3:00-3:40	7. Share Finalized Milestones and Queue up Exercise to Prioritization the Remaining 32 Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Discuss how to prioritize the remaining recommendations and timing? 	Beth LeDoux
3:40-3:55	8. Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Share “What is FFF?” b. Show the updated FFF website 	Beth LeDoux
3:55-4:00	9. Next Steps and Follow-up Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Share the 2020 Meeting Schedule - Proposed Meeting schedule. b. Are there any other follow-up items we need to take note of? 	Tamie Kellogg

4:00	10. Adjourn	
Next Year FFF meeting Schedule IOC Meeting - Jan 16, 2020 IOC Meeting – April 16, 2020 IOC Meeting – Aug 6, 2020 IOC Meeting – Oct 29, 2020		

Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, Flood 2.0
Implementation Oversight Committee
MEETING NOTES

Thursday, April 4th, 2019
Chamber of Commerce, Duvall Visitor and Community Center
15619 Main St. NE, Duvall, WA, 98019

1) Introductions, Welcome by Co-Chair (*Tamie Kellogg, Josh Monaghan*)

Meeting facilitator Tamie Kellogg called the meeting to order.

Farm caucus co-chair Joshua Monaghan opened with a quote he remembered Cindy Spiry reciting: “When we go alone we go fast, but if we go together we go far” (quoting an old African proverb). This work is powerful when done together. The measurement work will set a strong foundation to be clear about what success looks like, but there’s amazing stuff happening along the way from this collaborative work. Cynthia shared some examples during a recent presentation and there were two that stood out to Josh: 1) comprehensive agricultural drainage – they’re looking at sub-basins as a whole to reduce costs and create bigger benefits to fish; and 2) fish screens – some irrigation intake pumps aren’t safe for fish, but they’re expensive so how do we talk to the farmers? As a result of relationships from FFF, Matt Baerwalde gave Cynthia a list of farms and asked if she could help. She did, and the outcome of this collaboration is that they expect to have 100% of mainstem irrigators screened by 2020 with financial support from Ecology, a CWM grant and DNRP cost share. This wasn’t in the FFF agreement but happened as a result of it. Josh urged the committee to keep looking for similar opportunities to collaborate.

Josh B asked if there was a way for this type of success to be celebrated and there was general agreement that it should be celebrated and talked about as a success resulting from the FFF effort.

Lara thanked Angela and Joan for their help building relationships, and said she met someone from the Roads Division for the first time in 17 years.

2) Public Comment (*Tamie Kellogg*)

There was no public comment.

3) Milestones (*Tamie Kellogg, Caucus Co-Chairs*)

A) Caucus Co-Chairs

Angela (Flood) – Flood 3 is the top priority. She met with Jennifer, the Roads Strategic Planner, and discussed the Roads Needs Assessment. They also talked about finding multi-benefit partners to lift the assessment and get the feasibility off the ground by the end of next year, which is a huge success. Flood storage capacity is the next priority. Regarding elevations, Angela she said there is funding available but most are going on in the upper valley; the lower valley needs lift. The caucus would like to get an update on the Hazard Management Plan and Tamie said there is a placeholder for this on a future IOC agenda.

Josh K (Fish) – No big changes. Summarized what’s on the milestone tracking sheet.

Josh M (Agriculture) – Specific measures and details are the same; the last caucus focused on the goal statement. If successful, what would it look like?

B) Break Out Into Caucus Discussion of All Milestones

C) Share With Full Group

Josh M (Agriculture)

- 1) Fish 1 Goal: In the agreement, Fish has the big picture (2-3 projects) but details are not spelled out, while Farm has details spelled out but no big picture. In the materials, more details were built out so they had to figure out how those details tie back to the agreement. Are they new things? What they'd like to ask is for some way, maybe as part of the communications plan, to give a holistic understanding of how those pieces in the pipeline fit into the goal of 2 – 3 projects. They would like to have a clear package that can be shared with constituents. Also, when a new project opportunity comes up, what's the approach? How does farm/fish stuff get weighed?
- 2) Collaborative milestone Farm 4 – permanently protecting farmland. It's starting to bubble up so it's time to get a scope developed on it.
- 3) A collaborative milestone to add is sub-basin planning that includes fish, farm and flood concerns, rather than project by project.

Cynthia added that it's important to be clear that they've been trying very hard to stay within the bounds of what's included in the scope of bundled items, but there may be multiple benefits to the sub-basin approach. For example, there may alternative mitigation options that could result in reduced impact to farmers while providing enhanced habitat benefits. We want to start talking about what that might look like.

Lara doesn't think there's drift from the original agreement; rather now we're focusing in on a closer level and adapting. It's more about the intent of FFF 1.0.

Bobbi added that they want to understand the process for picking projects; she understands it can take time and unexpected projects can pop up. It's the same for agricultural drainage projects – they're adapting as they go. It has been helpful to go through the FFF process and get an understanding of how important communication among groups is.

Daryl said that when the County gave a presentation during the initial FFF effort showing proposed projects and the best options for constructing them, the presenter made it clear they could end up with something different than what was shown. What they were trying to do was give a range of total acreage that might be converted from active farmland into restoration work to see if it was acceptable to the farm community if other things got going. He thinks the County is trying to stay within the original acreage range. Some projects may not be done at all for a variety of reasons, so they're looking at the option to bring in other projects to fill those gaps. He also pointed out the initial FFF agreement didn't address projects other organizations may do on their own.

Micah (Fish)

- 1) Measure 3 of Fish – clarification regarding basin stewards: They're looking for 2.5 FTEs to move projects forward and get the pipeline going rather than the .5 that's listed. Perry said there's currently one steward and a half-time steward is being added this spring, but these are complex projects and there are additional requirements including more outreach so it will take more than 1.5 stewards to accelerate the progress.

2) Measure 2 of Farm: They're concerned about the language in the last sentence - "while minimizing impacts on the resources" – and suggested changing it to "while complying with all regulatory requirements" to make sure it's meeting the rules of the ESA and CWA.

3) Water quality: If we're expanding the drain tile system (Measure 3), we need to explore how effluent affects water quality. We know that low DO (dissolved oxygen) is an issue in the system and DO levels in water coming out of drain tile systems is typically low, so what are possible solutions? Possibly treatment on site, aeration, retention ponds, planting schemes. Cynthia said they're doing pilot monitoring programs on two sites and will share the results. Daryl added that they're also concerned with high nitrogen. Tamie suggested that they collaborate on the water monitoring and said there will be another meeting with the caucus liaisons and co-chairs to go over clarifications. Josh M added that there's real interest in adding more water quality evaluation to the drainage program.

Angela (Flood)

1) Roads: Talked a lot about roads and it is expected to lead to fruitful conversations in all the other areas. Main points discussed:

- sub-basin collaboration,
- incidence rates of road closures and homes that are landlocked,
- multi-benefit funding partners,
- prioritize the areas that are real pain points for farmers and people in the APD, and
- coordinate state/county/city road closures and gather data to allow for better prioritization and response to flood warnings.

Lara added that data collection is important, but it is equally important to share information and data collection methodologies. Not all agencies/communities are collecting important information, so they need better access to data that are being collected. If there's a big project down the road, where is the biggest benefit, the economy of scale? Lara stressed that the primary focus of the flood caucus is public safety and whether farmers and other valley residents are able to get in and out of the valley during flooding. There's also concern that home elevations in the lower valley are not proceeding as quickly as in the upper valley.

4) Communications

A) Communications Plan update, goal objectives and key messages (*Tamie Kellogg, All*)

B) Input on quarterly communications tool mock up

The intent is that the first one will have background information so it'll be very dense, but the rest won't be as wordy. Josh Baldi asked what the best format/distribution would be? Lara said it should be a multi-pronged approach (both social media and print version). The FFF website is also being updated and will contain a link to the communications tool. The next quarter's communication tool will just have current information.

C) FFF Communication messaging exercise

D) Share resources/documents and general updates

Josh Baldi said there's a proviso for the ADAP program that's due to Council by the end of September, so he has to have it sent to the Executive by the end of July. He read the proviso,

and in summary, it establishes an ADAP ongoing maintenance plan, including but not limited to:

- information on agricultural waterways in KC,
- a plan for a one-time inspection maintenance repair and clearing of all ag waterways within 7 years of acceptance of the maintenance plan, and
- an ongoing maintenance schedule for the inspection and maintenance of all agricultural waterways on a 7-year maintenance cycle.

Councilwoman Kathy Lambert is very supportive of the proviso and funding has already been increased. There is money for some pilots of non-traditional ADAP projects (beavers, floodgates, alluvial fans, etc.) as well as staff. There's also enough money for a fisheries person to advise on ADAP projects this summer. As the proviso response is developed, it's a great opportunity to tell the FFF story and recommend how to ramp up the program and do it while being consistent with the Regulatory Task Force work and advice from the IOC. Ultimately, the Department [of Natural Resources and Parks] has to agree with what goes to the Executive, but Josh would like partners (WID, SVPA, KCD) and anyone else interested to review and comment on the response so it will be as strong and representative as possible. IOC input is needed for the program to be successful.

Josh also discussed the Flood Hazard Management Plan Update – As Angela mentioned, the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update is currently underway and is due at the end of this year to FEMA (it will hold our current rating for the national flood insurance program); a better tool that would give more points is the Flood Hazard Management Plan (FHMP). The Executive approved [to update the FHMP] and sent a letter to Council and the Flood Control District requesting to initiate scoping for a 1.5 year process beginning in June of 2021. Josh plans to engage the IOC in that work (e.g. what will be included and what won't) and said the FHMP will feed into the 2023 comprehensive plan update.

Bobbi commented that Snohomish County is moving forward with an [Agriculture Resilience Plan](#). There might be a way for the IOC to access some of the work that has been done already and share information on consultants, etc.

5) Action Updates and Recommendations (*Tamie Kellogg*)

A) Regulatory Task Force Presentation (*Eric Beach*)

See PowerPoint presentation attached. There were no questions.

B) Buffers Task Force (*Daryl Williams*)

Daryl reviewed the Buffer Task Force meeting handouts and said the “synthesis document” should be finalized at the next meeting on April 17th. He also, as a reminder, read the original goals/responsibilities of the FFF 1.0 effort and summarized the tasks to be accomplished with the WDFW grant, namely the three deliverables (a literature review of the best available science for agricultural riparian areas, a technical memo of agricultural benefits and challenges of riparian buffer plantings in agricultural areas of KC, and develop a decision tool for planting riparian buffers on agricultural land in Snoqualmie Valley). The grant will end in December of this year unless an extension is requested and granted. At the last meeting, they established a smaller work group (Erin, Collin, Wayne, Elissa) to get together between regularly scheduled meetings to help think through the steps and generate products to bring to meetings for the IOC Committee to review and discuss.

C) Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force (*Patrice Barrentine*)

The task force kicked off last Wednesday and will likely be meeting on the 3rd Monday afternoon of each month. Patrice will send updates to the Fish caucus since they don't have capacity to assign a representative to the task force. She'll also update KCD and some subject matter experts. See PowerPoint presentation attached.

Questions: Angela asked if there is anything in the Agriculture Resiliency plan that creates a preparedness plan for natural hazards? Patrice said she wasn't aware of it and Bobbi said no, it's more climate impacts related to groundwater, saltwater intrusion, sea level rise, flood impact needs, etc. It could be a component but it hasn't been a focus yet; they just finished the modeling. Angela believes it could be bundled with the flood safety initiative.

D) Large Cap Projects, Haffner Barfuse Update and Next Steps (*Janne Kaje*)

Fauna Nopp and her team have been visiting key audiences to talk about the Haffner Barfuse project and get feedback.

- Snohomish Basin Technical Committee - great feedback and strong support for the project.
- Fall City Community Association meeting (FCCA) - great turnout and people were very interested in hearing about the project. The FCCA wants them to come back when they're further along in the process. The next meeting will be at the SVPA on May 14th at 6:30 at the Senior Center.

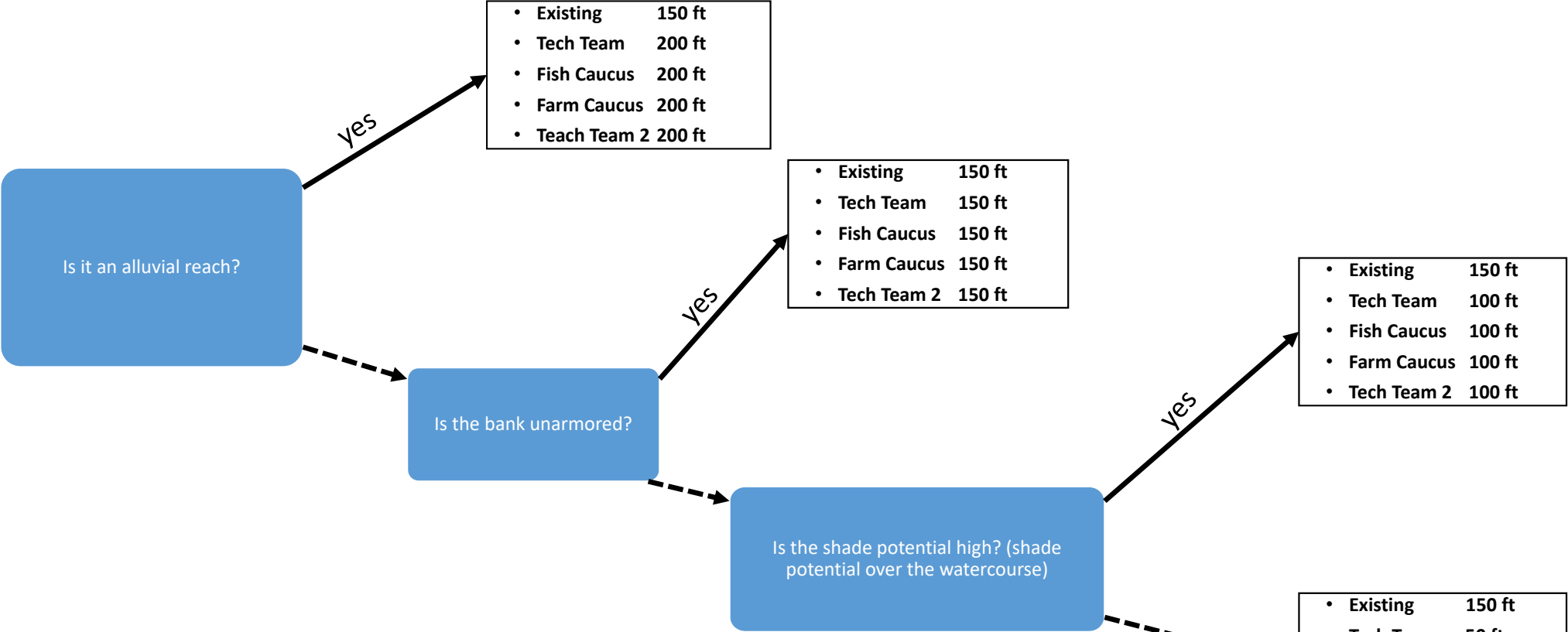
At the last meeting a couple of questions came up. Regarding a communications plan for Haffner Barfuse, yes, there is one being developed and it will be shared once finished. Ideas from FFF 1.0 are being incorporated into the plan. Regarding modeling the project, there is a consultant on board and in the fall, maybe October, some initial results should be available. During the fall meeting there will be a more in-depth presentation. Perry added that he presented the Haffner Barfuse project to the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum and it was well-received.

6) Closing/Adjourn (*Tamie Kellogg*)

Tamie suggested having the meetings start and end 30 minutes later (9am – 12:30pm) due to delays causing the meeting to start late. Nobody disagreed so future meetings will be from 9am - 12:30pm as long as the venue is available at that time. Tamie also asked everyone to review the meeting dates for 2020.

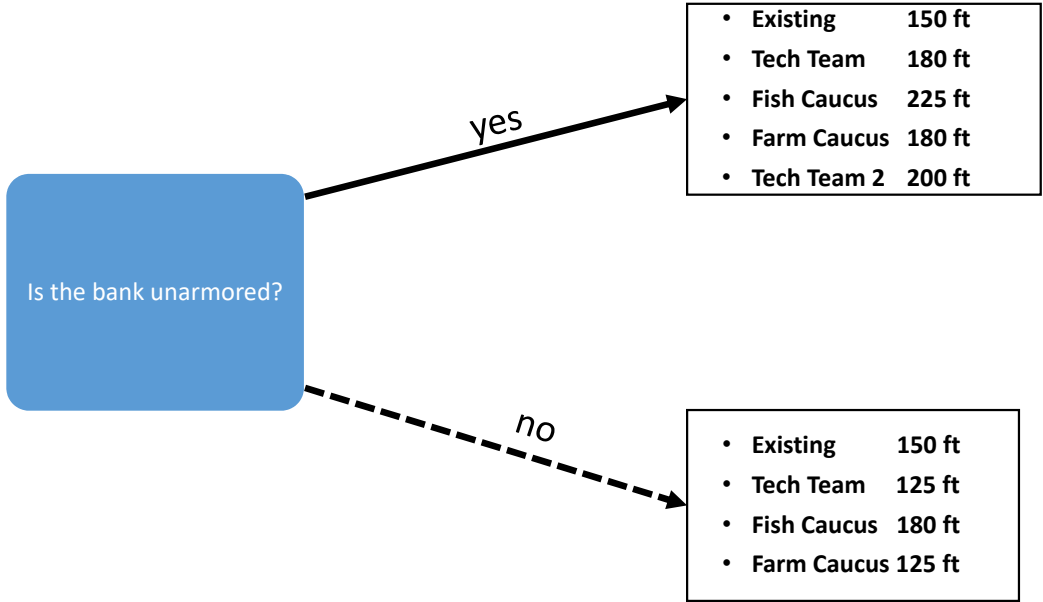
Next IOC Meeting: Due to the August meeting being cancelled, the next meeting will be a full day, held on October 24th, 2019 at Carnation Farms, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Mainstem



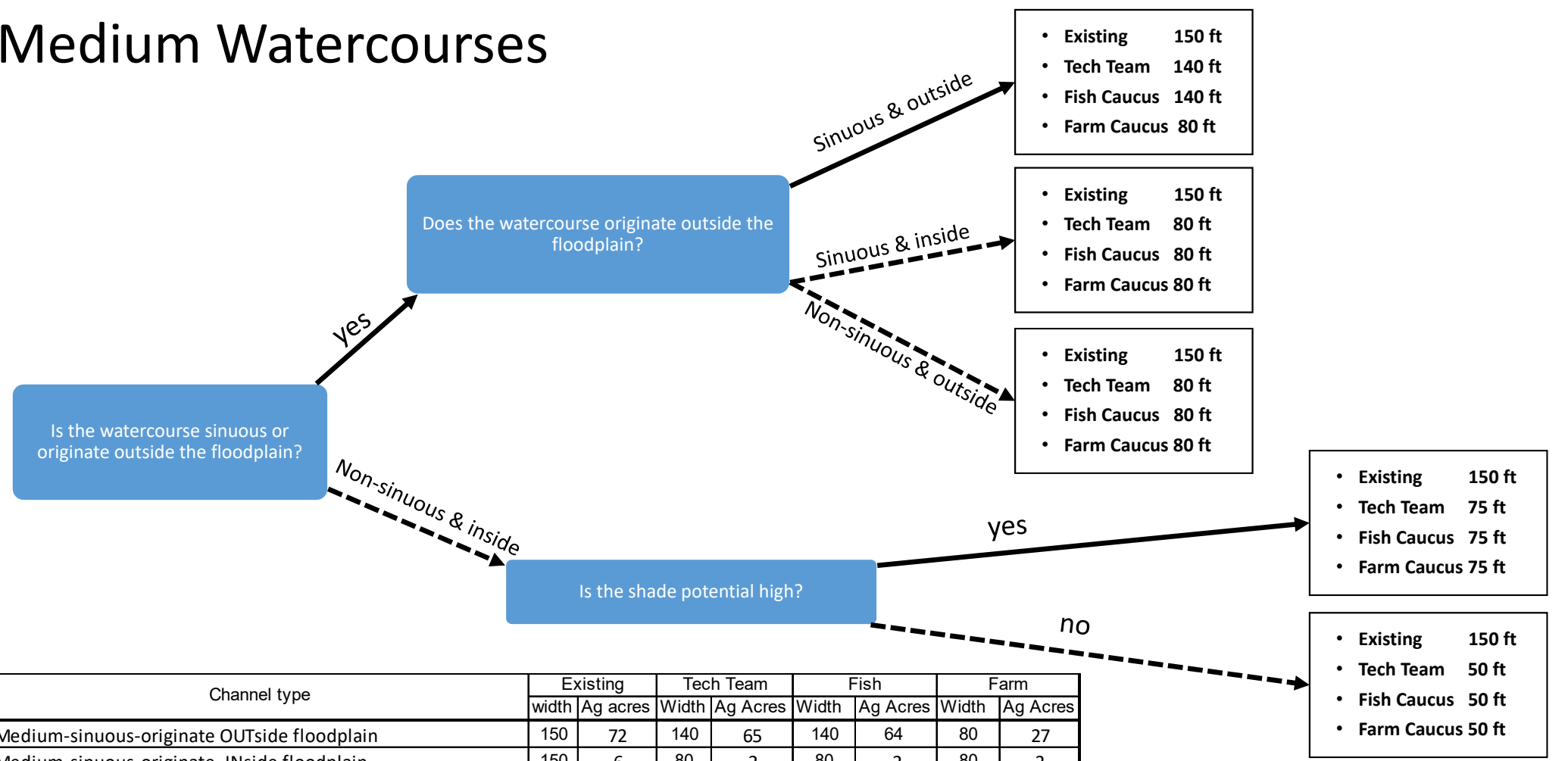
Channel type	Existing		Tech Team		Fish		Farm	
	width	Ag acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres
River-Alluvial	150	65	200	101	200	101	200	101
River-Nonalluvial-no armor	150	126	150	126	150	126	150	126
River-Nonalluvial-armored high shade	150	76	100	34	100	34	100	34
River-Nonalluvial-armored low shade	150	51	50	4	50	4	50	4
subtotal	319		266		266		266	

Large Watercourses



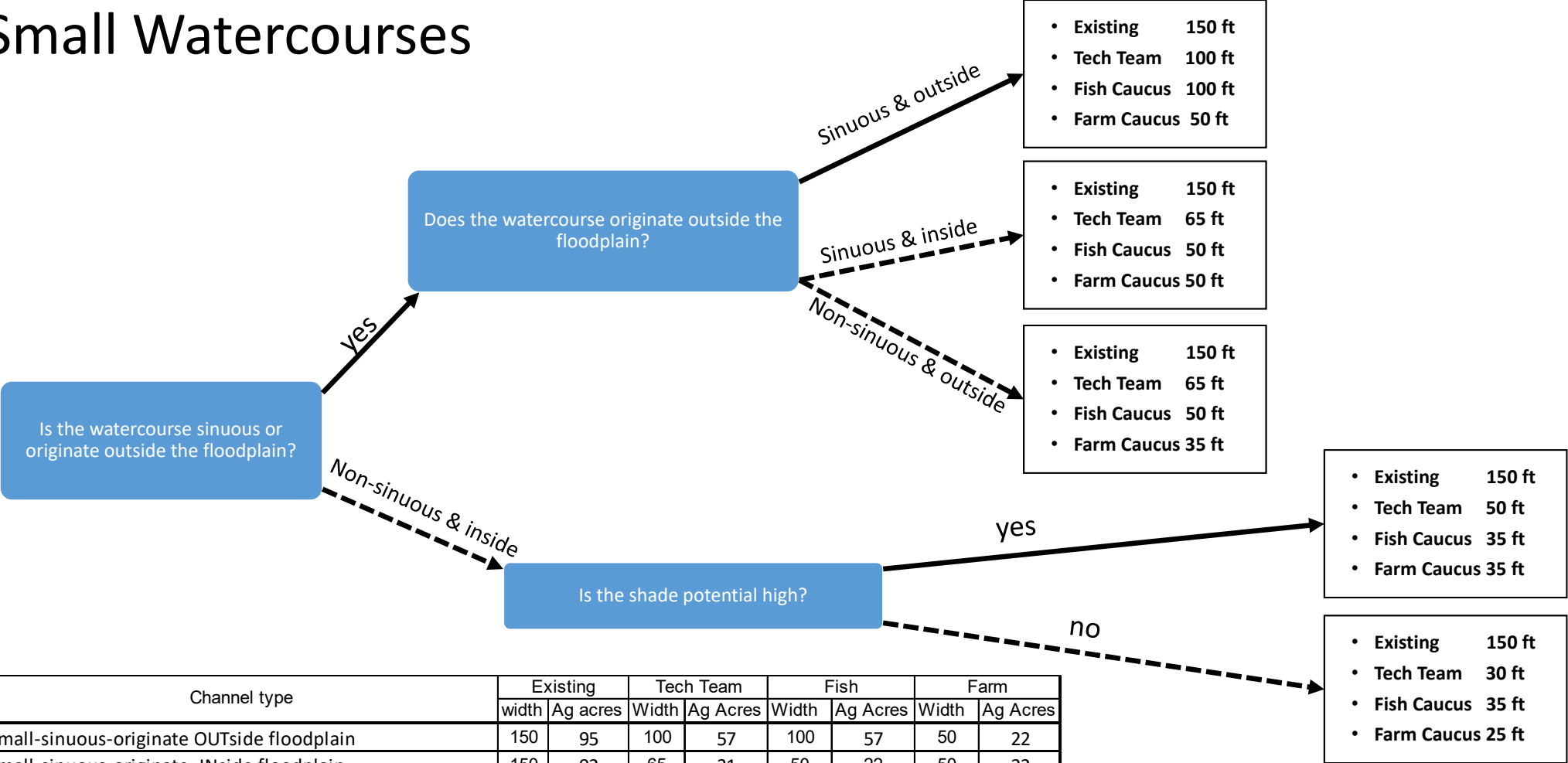
Channel type	Existing		Tech Team		Fish		Farm	
	width	Ag acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres
Large Stream Unarmored	150	77	180	97	225	126	180	97
Large Stream armored	150	21	125	17	180	25	125	17
subtotal		98		114		151		114

Medium Watercourses



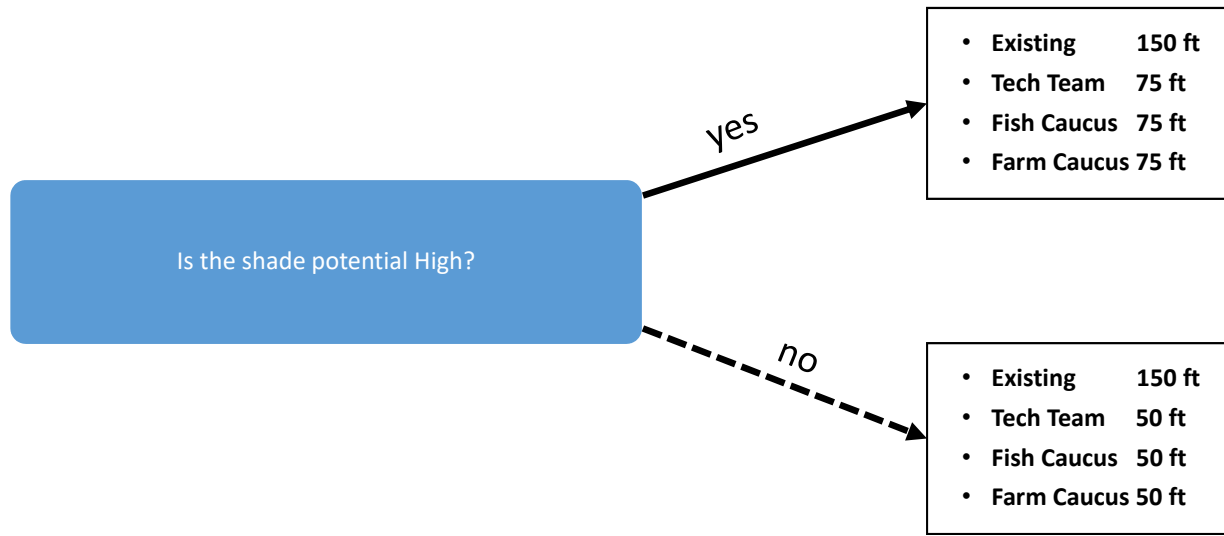
Channel type	Existing		Tech Team		Fish		Farm	
	width	Ag acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres
Medium-sinuous-originate OUTside floodplain	150	72	140	65	140	64	80	27
Medium-sinuous-originate_INside floodplain	150	6	80	2	80	2	80	2
Medium-NONsinuous-originate outside floodplain	150	422	80	201	80	201	80	201
Medium-NONsinuous-originate-inside floodplain-HIGH Shade	150	6	75	3	75	3	75	3
Medium-NONsinuous-originate-inside floodplain-LOW shade	150	1	50	0	50	0	50	0
subtotal		505		271		271		233

Small Watercourses



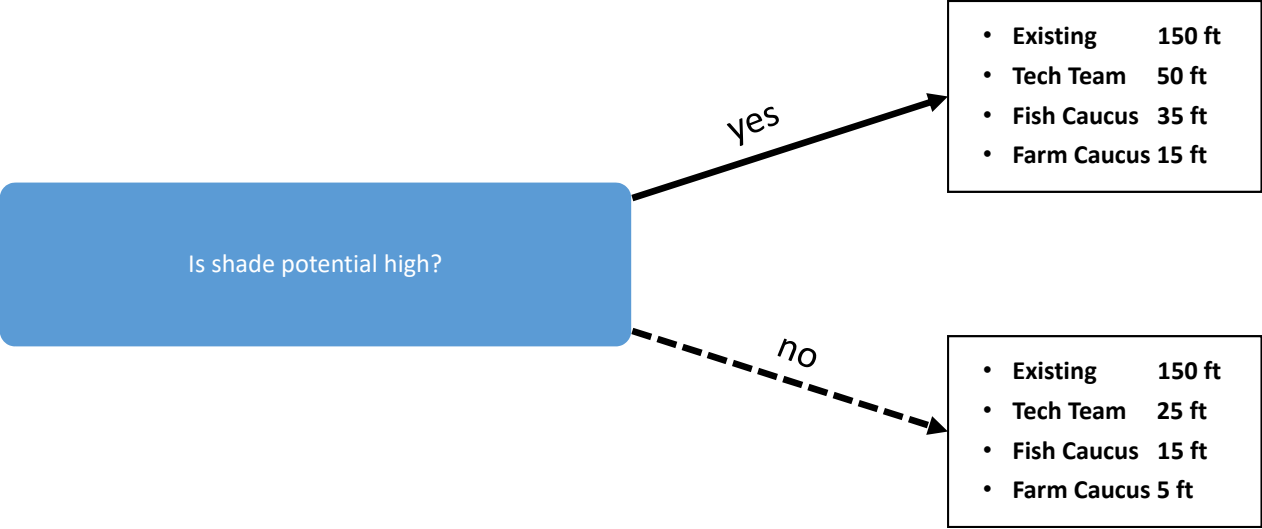
Channel type	Existing		Tech Team		Fish		Farm	
	width	Ag acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres
Small-sinuuous-originate OUTside floodplain	150	95	100	57	100	57	50	22
Small-sinuuous-originate_INside floodplain	150	92	65	31	50	22	50	22
Small-NONsinuous-originate outside floodplain	150	421	65	168	50	121	35	76
Small-NONsinuous-originate-inside floodplain-HIGH Shade	150	288	50	87	35	57	35	57
Small-NONsinuous-originate-inside floodplain-LOW shade	150	132	30	22	35	27	25	18
subtotal		1,029		365		284		195

Oxbows/Ponds



Channel type	Existing		Tech Team		Fish		Farm	
	width	Ag acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres
Oxbow-HIGH shade	150	134	75	53	75	54	75	56
Oxbow-LOW shade	150	71	50	13	50	13	50	13
subtotal		205		66		66		69

Artificial Watercourses



Channel type	Existing		Tech Team		Fish		Farm	
	width	Ag acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres	Width	Ag Acres
Artificial-HIGH shade	150	286	50	102	35	66	15	23
Artificial-LOW shade	150	105	25	16	15	9	5	3
subtotal		391		118		75		26

FFF Regulatory Task Force Background, Goals, Assumptions and Processes

FFF Background: In 2017 the Farm, Flood, Fish Advisory Committee agreed to a set of more than 30 recommendations that, if implemented, would significantly improve ecological function and habitat quality, while at the same time strengthening the agricultural economy, and reduce flood risk. The immediate priorities were to improve drainage and accelerate large capital projects for salmon recovery. The Regulatory Task Force will be instrumental in achieving these objectives.

Task Force Goals: Identify actionsⁱ (from FFF 1.0) that will:

1. Make drainage projects cheaper and easier (Farm 2)
2. Make farms safer during floods (Farm 3)
3. Minimize the impact of mitigation actions on farmable land (Farm 5)
4. Maintain the current level of environmental protections

Products: Several distinct tasks within each of the goals are identified in the FFF Scope of Work. Each type of task has a specific outcome. The Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) is the recipient of the Task Force work products. The IOC will review and determine which recommendations and processes to include in a FFF Decision Package transmittal to the County Executive's Office.

Task	Clarify Regulations	Identify Regulatory Barriers	Develop Strategies
Action	Determine code requirements for projects, Identify permitting pathways	Pinpoint regulations and processes that create obstacles to farming	Evaluate and develop approaches to enable farming in the floodplain
Outcome	Obtain Agency concurrence with findings	Recommend regulatory remedies to IOC	Recommend process improvements to IOC
Implementation	Create and distribute guidance materials *	Include in FFF IOC Decision package that potentially includes legislative actions and funding requests	
Desired Effect	Consistent application of code, increased certainty	Cheaper, faster permitting, more productive farmland available, durable regulatory framework	

* In consultation with regulatory agencies, the Task Force will provide plain spoken guidance on the regulatory requirements for resource issues associated with commercial agriculture.

Base Assumptions:

We are working at a local level within a regulatory hierarchy that involves federal, state and local codes that are structured to meet the requirements of governing statutes e.g., Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Growth Management Act, Shorelines Management Act, the Hydraulic Code and SEPA.

Most of the *Priority Topics* in the Regulatory Task Force Scope of Work can be effectively addressed within the existing regulatory environment. The existing Washington State Hydraulic Code and the Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP), provides a permitting pathway for most agricultural drainage activities.

Task Force recommendations might include permit process improvements, interpretation /clarification of regulations, technical and/or financial assistance. Change to the regulations themselves might be proposed for regulations that are inappropriate in an agricultural landscape or where the goal of the regulation could be achieved through an approach that has less of an impact on agriculture while still being protective of fish habitat.

ⁱDRAFT Agriculture Measures of Success that have the Regulatory Task Force as the Responsible Party. The Fish and Flood Measures of Success did not specifically mention the RTF.

Measure 2: A drainage comprehensive technical needs assessment to inform a "Drainage Recovery Plan" that involves the SVWID, KCD, and the Flood Control District.

- 2.1 Overall drainage assessment. A basin delineation and prioritization plan was adopted by the WID August 2017. Project lists are completed for 1 basin, 5 remain to be completed. Timeline: December 2020
- 2.2 Detailed sub-basin drainage and restoration plans adopted for each of the top 6 sub-basins. The plans will include, in addition to ditch maintenance and associated plantings; tiles, floodgates, pumps, alluvial fan and beaver management strategies. Timeline: plan for one sub-basin complete by December 2020.
- 2.3 Funding plan for implementation of Adopted Plans Timeline: December 2020.
- 2.4 Sustained funding for development of remaining sub-basin plans. Timeline: December 2020.
- 2.5 Pathway articulated for landowners not in SVWID priority basins so they can pursue on their own if they choose to accelerate beyond SVWID's schedule. Timeline: December 2020

Measure 3: Opportunities to install and/or improve necessary drainage infrastructure including field tiles, flood gates, and pumps on modified waterways and activities not currently covered by ADAP aka Comprehensive Drainage

- 3.1 Quantify/identify waterways that qualify for this expansion.
- 3.2 Agreement on a clear permit pathway for streams identified in 3.1. Timeline: RTF take up in December 2019.
- 3.4 In a public facing format, show the steps and resources available (permitting, funding, etc.) for maintenance and replacement of pumps and floodgates. Timeline: December 2019.

Measure 4: Address alluvial fan management in partnership with relevant agencies, KCD, and community-based organizations.

- 4.2 Code language allowing for work on alluvial fans drafted by Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and transmitted to Council. Timeline: Summer 2020.
- 4.3 In a public facing format, show the steps and resources available (permitting, funding, etc.) to address alluvial fan management. Timeline: Once there is a code change, estimating by December 2020.

Measure 5: Address beaver management in partnership with relevant federal agencies, KCD, and community-based organizations.

- 5.1 Code language allowing for landowner management of beaver dams prepared by Department of Local Services - Permitting Division and transmitted to Council. Responsible party: DLS-PD with support from Regulatory Task Force. Timeline: transmitted to Council by Summer 2020.
- 5.2 In a public facing format, show the steps and resources available to address beaver and dam management options. Responsible party: Regulatory Task Force with support from WID. Timeline: Once there is a code change, estimating summer 2020.

Measure 6: Evaluate the total cost of drainage and look for ways to reduce costs including regulatory-driven components.

- 6.1 King County staff are exploring what *Comprehensive Drainage Assistance* looks like and what is possible (see Table from FFF 1.0 Draft Agreement). Topic for Regulatory Task Force at spring 2019 meetings for discussion.
- 6.2 In a public facing format, show the steps and resources available (permitting, funding, etc.) for agricultural drainage. Include a list of the options for mitigation. Obtain policy sign off from DLS-PD and WDFW. Timeline: December 2020.
- 6.4 Caucuses will support related Regulatory Task Force recommendations which may include: promulgating ordinances to create specific resource-related pilot projects and funding BMP (planting, fish impacts, specific maintenance techniques, etc.) effectiveness monitoring by WLRD, KCD or the SV WID. Timeline: Ongoing, through December 2020.

Measure 7: Explore utilizing the individual permit for turbidity standards that larger projects use. If there is a positive outcome, pursue a pilot project followed by widespread implementation.

- 7.1 Turbidity BMPs will be discussed at the RTF with Ecology staff in early 2020

Measure 8: Research mitigation requirements for projects that need periodic maintenance. In the case of mitigation for re-dredging, find out whether farmers owe new net acres.

Timing: The Regulatory Task Force has met regularly since February 2018. Meetings are held every six weeks. The Task Force has already provided recommendations to IOC on the requirement to pursue ESA coverage for drainage work, the utility of revising the Farm Plan to be drainage specific and through the Task Force process, identified and implemented procedural changes for fish handling and movement as part of ADAP. The Task Force anticipates concluding their activities by end of Second Quarter 2020.

Transmittal to FFF Implementation Oversight Committee				
Date:	10/24/2019	From:	Regulatory Task Force (RTF)	Is this a complete action? yes _ no <u>x</u>
FFF Recommendation:	Farm 5 Farm 2 Appendix V	Action:	1 2 Regulatory Task Force Scope	
Title:	Recommendations to the IOC related to <i>On-Site Mitigation</i>			
Description:	<p>The RTF Scope of Work identifies ~ 20 Priority Topics. The RTF prioritized these topics. A complete treatment of the topics is in the “On-Site Mitigation” Issue paper posted on the FFF website https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/watersheds/snoqualmie-skykomish/fish-farms-flooding.aspx .</p> <p>The following topics were examined by the RTF as elements of “On-Site Mitigation”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation required when farmers maintain drainage ditches or build a farm pad or other structure in a wetland or a buffer of a wetland or stream <i>FFF Appendix V 2. Addressing Regulatory Barriers to Agriculture pg. 11</i> • Mitigation for impacts to Critical Areas: strategies that minimize impact on farmable land <i>FFF Appendix V 2. Addressing Regulatory Barriers to Agriculture pg. 11</i> • Research mitigation requirements for projects that need periodic maintenance. In the case of mitigation for re-dredging, find out whether Farmers owe new net acres. <i>Farm 2 Activity 2</i> • Understanding when voluntary buffer plantings on a waterway can be used as mitigation for drainage maintenance. What are the requirements for setting up an advance mitigation program? <i>FFF Appendix V 2. Addressing Regulatory Barriers to Agriculture pg. 13</i> • Flexibility in siting mitigation plantings i.e. not adjacent to the project site <i>Farm 5 Activity 2 FFF Appendix V 2. Addressing Regulatory Barriers to Agriculture pg. 13</i> 			
Recommendation(s):	These findings will be reviewed by the Department of Local Services Permitting Division (DLS-PD) Regulatory Review Committee (RRC). The RRC is the King County mechanism for making binding determinations on application of King County Code. Once the findings are affirmed by the RRC these will be available online on the Permitting Division website (ref.) and included in the “Farm Practices Illustrated” reference bulletin being developed by the Agriculture team in WLRD.			
Alternatives:	Not Applicable. The On-Site Priority Topic provides answers to existing conditions			
Action Requested	The RTF requests that the IOC review these recommendations and write a thank you letter to King County DLS-PD acknowledging their assistance is addressing priority topics of the FFF			

Priority Topic “On-Site Mitigation”

Introduction

The assignment of the Regulatory Task Force (RTF) is to evaluate regulations and recommend process improvements and statutory changes related to issues identified by FFF participants (farmers, affected Tribes, NGO’s and local government representatives). The Task Force Scope of Work (Appendix V, Addressing Regulatory Barriers to Agriculture, Fish, Farm and Flood Final Agreement) identified Priority Topics that were prioritized by the Agriculture Caucus in spring 2018. The Task Force consolidated a number of items identified in FFF Activities, Actions and Scope of Work under the “On-Site” mitigation.

Findings

1. *Mitigation required when farmers maintain drainage ditches or build a farm pad or other structure in a wetland or a buffer of a wetland or stream*

Agricultural uses including maintaining drainage ditches, building farm pads and constructing agricultural buildings are Allowed Alterations within Wetlands and Aquatic Areas buffers as long as work is consistent with certain conditions as described in King County Code 21A.24 and that the alteration complies with the ...mitigation requirements of 21A.24.130ⁱ (these are usually plantings on an area based on mitigation ratios). An Agricultural project must be associated with an approved farm management plan

2. *Mitigation for impacts to Critical Areas: strategies that minimize impact on farmable land*
King County Code recognizes the impacts that Critical Area buffers can have on farmable lands. The Agriculture Development Standards prioritize the productive agricultural land base and economic viability of agriculture on the site over maintain, restore or enhance critical areas to the maximum extent practical in accordance with the site specific goals of the landowner. Agricultural activities have reduced wetlands buffer width requirements; half those of high impact land uses and a third less than moderate impact land uses. Buffer averaging may be used to accommodate existing structures. With a livestock management plan, buffers are reduced to 50 ft. between grazing areas and aquatic areas / wetland edges. The grazing area buffer may be reduced to 25 ft. feet where a buffer of diverse, mature vegetation already exists. Mitigation for impacts to critical areas and buffers are generally at a 1:1 ratio to satisfy King County requirements.

3. *Mitigation requirements for projects that need periodic maintenance*

The requirement for mitigation of repeated dredging was not explicitly addressed in the ADAP agreement. Ongoing maintenance of the buffer becomes the landowner’s responsibility after three years after planting. The WDFW lead biologist for the Snoqualmie area stated that if a buffer was cut down when the channel was re-dredged, the landowner would be responsible for replacing damaged areas of the buffer, provided it was well established. In cases where the existing buffer had not been effectively established then augmentation planting to the original specifications would be appropriate. We interviewed resource leads from (Department of Local Services- Permitting Division, WA Department of Ecology Water Quality Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Program), and they all indicated that mitigation

for impacts to buffers for re-dredging would not require additional acres. If dredging the same area is necessary on a frequent basis (i.e. every 5-10 years), WDFW expressed the need to address the cause i.e. upslope sources of sediment and consider whether the area downstream of the channel is sediment-starved (linkage to additional recommendation number 2 below)

4. *Requirements for setting up an advance mitigation program*

The DLS-PD gives mitigation credit for previous on-site plantings on a project specific basis. In most cases, the source of funding for the plantings generally determines whether it is allowed to be used as “mitigation credit.” If public monies were used then plantings usually cannot be credited towards meeting project mitigation requirements.

What are the requirements for setting up an advance mitigation program?

Landowners should be incentivized, rather than discouraged for this type of work. However, the time-consuming process to establish a consistent, defensible mitigation ratio and effectively track credits in such an exchange seems to offer little lift over the status quo; where the DLS-PD will allow for landowner funded, existing plantings to meet mitigation requirements on a project specific basis.

5. *Flexibility in siting mitigation plantings*

Under the existing ADAP the HPA is the permit/ approving action and the WDFW Habitat Biologist issuing the permit is the conditioning authority. In combination with the established ADAP BMPs, the Habitat Biologist takes a site specific, common sense approach. There is flexibility to locate exact planting sites with the objective of providing optimum lift or protections in the context of site conditions.

In addition to answering mitigation requirements identified in the FFF report, through discussion on the Priority Topic, the RTF identified two additional challenges/opportunities with the current on-site mitigation structure:

1. Providing “in-kind” mitigation, through fish passage barrier removal, as part of ADAP; and
2. Completing a comprehensive site assessment when drainage systems require maintenance more frequently than every 10 yrs.

These two items will be addressed more fully in the forthcoming description of the Comprehensive Drainage Assistance

Implementation Requirements

The RTF coordinator will work with the DLS-PD legislative specialist to obtain review of the findings by the Regulatory Review Committee. When accomplished the findings will be posted on the PD website and included in informational bulletins

21A.24.130 Mitigation and monitoring.

A. If mitigation is required under this chapter to compensate for adverse impacts, unless otherwise provided, an applicant shall:

1. Mitigate adverse impacts to:
 - a. critical areas and their buffers; and
 - b. the development proposal as a result of the proposed alterations on or near the critical areas; and

2. Monitor the performance of any required mitigation.

B. The department shall not approve a development proposal until mitigation and monitoring plans are in place to mitigate for alterations to critical areas and buffers.

C. Whenever mitigation is required, an applicant shall submit a critical area report that includes:

1. An analysis of potential impacts;
2. A mitigation plan that meets the specific mitigation requirements in this chapter for each critical area impacted; and
3. A monitoring plan that includes:
 - a. a demonstration of compliance with this title;
 - b. a contingency plan in the event of a failure of mitigation or of unforeseen impacts if:
 - (1) the department determines that failure of the mitigation would result in a significant impact on the critical area or buffer; or
 - (2) the mitigation involves the creation of a wetland; and
 - c. a monitoring schedule that may extend throughout the impact of the activity or, for hazard areas, for as long as the hazard exists.

D. Mitigation shall not be implemented until after the department approves the mitigation and monitoring plan. The applicant shall notify the department when mitigation is installed and monitoring is commenced and shall provide King County with reasonable access to the mitigation for the purpose of inspections during any monitoring period.

E. If monitoring reveals a significant deviation from predicted impact or a failure of mitigation requirements, the applicant shall implement an approved contingency plan. The contingency plan constitutes new mitigation and is subject to all mitigation including a monitoring plan and financial guarantee requirements. (Ord. 15051 § 150, 2004; Ord. 10870 § 460, 1993)

Comprehensive Drainage Maintenance Program

What will it do?

IMPROVE OR MAINTAIN MODIFIED

DRAINAGE

Streamlined ADAP
Dredge Large Channels
Culverts/Bridges
Beavers
Alluvial Fans
Drain Tiles
Daylighting
Floodgates/Flap Gates/Pumps
Drainage issue identified as part of an approved sub-basin plan

Who will be involved?

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY APD COMMUNITY PARTNERS

King County WLRD
King Conservation District
Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District
Farmers
Interested Stakeholders

How will it work?

COLLABORATE TO SOLVE DRAINAGE ISSUES

1. Projects identified for comprehensive drainage assistance are prioritized by available budget and agricultural metrics
2. Partners work collaboratively to plan and implement a solution to the identified drainage problem
3. Partners work within complimentary roles so as not to duplicate resources

Comprehensive Drainage Background, Assumptions and Intended Outcomes

FFF Background

Beginning in late 2013, King County Executive Dow Constantine assembled representatives from the Snoqualmie Valley to explore the issues that were creating obstacles and conflict around salmon recovery, flood protection and productive agriculture with the purpose of advising King County on how best to advance all three interests. These representatives included a cross-section of agricultural, salmon recovery and flood risk reduction interests, as well as tribal, state and local jurisdictions.

Through a collaborative 3-year process, the Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to a set of more than 30 recommendations that, if implemented, would significantly improve ecological function and habitat quality, while at the same time strengthening the agricultural economy, and reducing flood risk. Several of these recommendations relate to the development of comprehensive drainage assistance to be followed through on by King County WLRD and partners:

Farm 2, Action 1	Create a program to provide <i>comprehensive drainage</i> assistance and establish routine management For all types of drainage infrastructure: Dredging and Culverts in larger Modified Channels, Tiles new/old, Beavers, Alluvial Fans, Flood gates and pumps, Daylighting.
Farm 2, Action 2	Regulatory issues related to the establishment of a <i>comprehensive drainage</i> assistance program should be high priorities for the Regulatory Task Force.
Farm 2, Action 3	Allocate sufficient funding to fund the drainage services identified above.

The King County Water and Land Resource Division (WLRD) is exploring a *comprehensive drainage* maintenance program (Comprehensive Drainage) that addresses the FFF 1.0 recommendations. The solutions needed to achieve the envisioned outcomes are complex and expensive. The necessary expertise, resources and responsibilities are found in different organizations.

Goal

Deliver cost-effective solutions to the broad suite of drainage issues in the Snoqualmie Valley.

Drainage issues identified in FFF 1.0

- Streamlined ADAP
- Dredge Larger Channels
- Culverts
- Beavers
- Alluvial Fans
- Drain Tiles
- Daylighting
- Floodgates/Flap Gates/Pumps

Best Possible Outcome

Farms with drainage issues that limit crop production receive timely, effective and well-engineered solutions that address the range of factors that create poor drainage. Potential partners can identify areas on the landscape that can optimize the effect of maintenance work and provide landowners with financial assistance for operational costs.

Givens

- The expanded drainage engineering services are beyond those provided by the current streamlined ADAP
- There have been increased funding /resources to provide engineering services in the current budget cycle.
- Funding for operations is currently provided by Flood Control District grants. This funding stream is not guaranteed
- To achieve some of the goals identified in FFF 1.0, regulatory streamlining or programmatic permitting will need to be explored.

- The development of the Comprehensive Drainage program will require resources, both in King County staff time and the participating of partners.

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SNOQUALMIE VALLEY Watershed Improvement District

DRAFT

Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Planning Phase 1 – Demonstration Project

The Concept

Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Planning provides a systematic approach to solving drainage problems in the Snoqualmie Valley. Other drainage solutions, such as King County's ADAP, are response driven. By looking across an entire sub-basin, the SV WID is able to address all drainage challenges, thus better serving landowners and applying options for conservation that focus on high-value salmon habitat by utilizing tools including mitigation and in-stream improvements.

Who – Potentially Who will participate in Plan development and approval and how?

Entity	Role
Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID)	Lead, project proponent; develop demonstration project
SVWID Landowners	Grant permission for documentation of baseline habitat conditions; enter into conservation easement agreements as necessary
Tribes (Tulalip and Snoqualmie)	Support and review the demonstration project; provide recommendations during development stage
King County WLRD	Assist with determination of King County pathway for Plan development; provide recommendations during development stage
King County DLS-Permitting Division	Provide staff assistance to identify Plan permit pathway; Review project for consistency with King County codes
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Permit agency for individual activities (HPA); Support and review the demonstration project; provide recommendations
NOAA	Voluntary Conservation Measure, extend take coverage

Why – Why is this proposed action necessary?

In FFF 1.0, the agricultural community's number one priority, FARM 2 (bundled item), is improving drainage, reducing costs and complexity of drainage projects, and increasing certainty. All FFF 1.0 signatories agreed to support the Farm caucus goal, provided there is no loss of ecological protection.

The FFF 2.0 Regulatory Task Force was formed to address the Farm 2 goal. The Regulatory Task Force has worked cooperatively for over a year to generate deliverables toward this goal. Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Planning leverages many of the individual components of the Regulatory Task Force work to establish a strategic approach to drainage that maintains current levels of environmental protection.

The Fish, Farm, Flood Regulatory Task Force determined that changes in King County Code are necessary to accomplish the Farm 2 goal. Farms need alternatives to the King County Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) in order to proceed with projects on their own timeline. Agencies actively working on agricultural drainage maintenance projects, like the SVWID, also need a mechanism to ensure consistent permitting and mitigation requirements. Snoqualmie Valley agriculture operators need assurance that regular drainage maintenance activities, when conducted with notification and best management practices, will not be in violation of the Endangered Species Act or other state and federal statutes.

What - What is needed to achieve a comprehensive drainage maintenance program that addresses the practical, financial and regulatory hurdles associated with various types of drainage issues and infrastructure (Farm 2)?

Issue: King County staff determined that no simple permitting pathway exists for an individual/agency to obtain a King County permit for agricultural drainage maintenance projects on waterways located within the 100-year floodplain, shoreline or other critical area, outside of ADAP. As over 95% of the Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District is within the shoreline area obtaining a permit without enrolling in ADAP likely requires a Critical Areas Alteration Exception or variance.

Solution: The success of the **Farm 2** goal is dependent on approval of streamlined permitting pathways, additional to ADAP for agricultural drainage maintenance projects.

1. **Individual permit pathway.** Any individual with appropriate background or skilled consultant/contractor should be able to apply for and receive a King County permit for agricultural drainage maintenance activities. This pathway, including any specific mitigation requirements, should be clearly outlined by King County staff, along with any necessary code amendments. This is beyond the scope of this proposed demonstration project but is equally important and should be addressed within the scope of FFF.
2. **Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Plan (“Plan”) pathway.** Develop a King County streamlined permit pathway for agricultural drainage maintenance activities included in an approved Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Plan. The SVWID will work with King County WLRD and DLS-DP staff to determine the appropriate approval pathway for Plan development and approval. A possible pathway includes:
 - Develop the Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Plan template and associated demonstration Plans as a demonstration project under King County Code 21A.55.¹ The

¹ 21A.55.010 Purpose. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide for "demonstration projects" as a mechanism to test and evaluate alternative development standards and processes prior to amending King County policies and regulations.

demonstration project would outline the process for Plan review and approval by King County WLRD, King County DLS-DP, Tribes, and WDFW.

Each SVWID Plan would include one to several SVWID drainage basins and a primary conservation activity receiving area. The spatial extent of Plans will be developed around specific waterways identified as potential high value for salmonid habitat. The SVWID would work with partners and landowners to secure legal access to conduct conservation activities in these areas. Conservation activities would take place as necessary to achieve net ecological benefit in a Plan area coincident with drainage maintenance.

The final Drainage and Conservation Plan template will be developed in consultation with listed partners. An Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Plan will include specific spatial boundaries, baseline habitat conditions, proposed agricultural drainage activities, proposed conservation areas, conservation activities, maintenance activities, and monitoring plan. The conservation activity goals will be agreed to by King County, WDFW, Tribes, and the SVWID as part of the Plan approval process. The following is a Draft example of a possible Plan outline.

Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Plan - DRAFT

Existing Conditions/Background (desktop analysis)

- Plan area boundaries
- SVWID sub-basins/parcels in Plan area
- Background data (e.g. mapped environmental data, other applicable background information)

Agricultural Drainage Maintenance Activities

- Instream vegetation removal
- Instream sediment removal
- Culvert replacement/Fish passage
- Drainage pump replacement
- Flood gate replacement
- Subsurface drainage replacement (controlled drainage)

Agricultural Drainage BMP's – Best Management Practices will be described and correspond as appropriate with agreed upon BMP's developed through the ADAP and expanded King County Comprehensive Drainage Program.

Conservation Activities

- Riparian buffer planting
- Instream habitat improvement (e.g. LWD)
- Fish passage (e.g. culvert replacements)
- Wetland enhancement
- Instream flow augmentation

Monitoring Plan

- Water quality
- Salmonid use
- Performance standards

Baseline Conditions (field analysis) – Conducted as an SVWID sub-basin that is part of a Plan is included in the SVWID Drainage Improvement Program work plan.

- Water quality monitoring plan implementation/data collection
- Fish Use assessment
- Land uses/cover
- Drainage Survey
- Drainage/fish passage issues

Agricultural Drainage Activities Work Plan – Specific agricultural drainage projects and timeline will be developed during the SVWID sub-basin field analysis phase. The SVWID would notify partners of specific projects proposed for implementation as part of an annual work plan notification process. The SVWID would apply for an HPA from WDFW for each drainage maintenance project and associated proposed conservation activities.

Conservation Activities Work Plan – Specific conservation activities will be identified with partner input and partners will be notified annually of conservation activities proposed for implementation during an SVWID program year. As previously noted, The SVWID would apply for an HPA from WDFW for each drainage maintenance project and associated proposed conservation activities.

Endangered Species Act

In addition to expanding the King County permit process for drainage maintenance projects, landowners will also need regulatory assurance that drainage maintenance activities will not be in violation of the Endangered Species Act. One mechanism to achieve this is a federal Safe Harbor Agreement and many of the Plan elements align with the requirements for a Safe Harbor Agreement including documentation of baseline conditions and the activities that will be implemented to demonstrate net ecological benefit.

Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement: Consult with National Marine Fisheries Service to determine if a Safe Harbor Agreement providing take coverage to landowners could be coordinated with development of Agricultural Drainage and Conservation Plans.

Where – Where will these Plans be developed?

The SVWID has 71 unique sub-drainage basins that were delineated as part of a hydrogeologic analysis. The sub-basins were subsequently ranked based on severity of drainage concerns and this ranking is the basis for the SVWID's strategic work plan. Sub-basins vary in size, drainage concerns, and high value conservation opportunities.

The SVWID proposes delineating a Plan's spatial extent by watercourses with high potential for increasing salmonid habitat. The purpose for this grouping is twofold: 1) Each plan area needs to include a watercourse identified as high priority for improving salmonid habitat to allow for drainage activities to access conservation receiving areas for mitigation activities as necessary; 2) Grouping SVWID sub-

basins as appropriate allows for a manageable project. The proposed basins for SVWID Drainage and Conservation Plans, based on primary conservation receiving areas, are:

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Tuck Creek – Proposed as “Demonstration Project” – includes SVWID sub-basins 1,5,6,7,9,10

Cherry Creek

Deer Creek

Weiss Creek

Ames Creek

Harris Creek

Langlois Creek – Proposed as “Demonstration Project” – includes SVWID sub-basins 56,54

Griffin Creek

Patterson Creek

Snoqualmie River

How – How will this be accomplished?

A key component to success will be developing an approval process that everyone is comfortable with. This should be scaled to the size of activity being done. For examples it needs to be figured out at what step should partners provide input for larger design projects, e.g. Watercourse remeanders. Below is a draft concept of steps that could be taken to achieve this.

Typical Individual Plan approval process

1. Develop a spatial boundary for plan. *Input and approval by partners*
2. Document existing conditions
3. Identify conservation receiving area(s) and activities. *Partners provide recommendations and approval on priority conservation area and activities.*
4. Description of typical drainage maintenance activities. *Input and approval by partners*
5. Description of drainage maintenance best management practices. *Input and approval by partners*
6. Field data collection plan. *Input and approval by partners*

Individual Plan Implementation

1. Baseline data collection
2. Identification of drainage activities in active SVWID sub-basin work plan
3. Partner notification of annual work plan* and specific sub-basin information, including baseline data, drainage and conservation activities
4. WDFW HPA permit
5. Conduct activities in compliance with established Best Management Practices
6. Annual summary of work report

Agriculture Land Resource Strategic Plan Task Force
Background, Goals, Assumptions and Processes
Version 10.17.19

FFF Background: In 2017 the Farm, Flood, Fish Advisory Committee agreed to a set of more than 30 recommendations that, if implemented, would significantly improve ecological function and habitat quality, while at the same time strengthening the agricultural economy, and reducing flood risk. The Fish and Flood Caucuses were driven by their strategic plans, but in order to create equity at the FFF table, a land resource strategic plan including implementation timeline is needed for the Snoqualmie Valley Agricultural Production District (SVAPD). The Ag Strategic Plan Task Force is the body tasked with creating that plan.

Goals:

- 1)** Improve the long-term productivity of farmland, bring more acres into production, especially food production, and increase opportunities for farmers to develop the necessary infrastructure to support or increase their farm businesses.
- 2)** Inform the development of acreage targets for permanently protected farmland (recommendation #32).

Base Assumptions:

1. The Ag Strategic Plan will provide data and analysis, contain specific proposals for projects, funding strategies, and a timeline for implementation that includes adequate time for equitable negotiation and problem-solving in current and future multi-objective planning processes.
2. It will complement other related efforts, such as King County's Local Food Initiative which is an economic development and marketing plan for food and agriculture in the region, as well as Snohomish Conservation District's Ag Resiliency Plan which features climate change planning.
3. The strategic plan for Snoqualmie Valley agriculture will represent the agricultural needs in future Fish Farm Flood (FFF)-related decision-making, similar to how the Salmon Recovery Plans and the Flood Plan represent the needs for salmon recovery and flood risk reduction, respectively.
4. The strategic plan will present a timeline for implementation in relation to #2 and #3 above.
5. The Ag Strategic Plan will serve a generation of agricultural production (25 years), with reviews every 5 years to address progress.
6. Soil health is essential to productivity.
7. Recommendations for acreage targets (net acreage over period of time) will be created through a systematic approach.
8. This plan supports all crops/livestock and utilizes the [King County Code definition of agriculture](#) in relation to productivity.
9. While informed by science, policy and economic models, much of the systematic process requires best professional judgement.

Priority Topics: The FFF Actions Farm 4, A & B, as well as Action 2 & 3 shaped the scope of work for the Agriculture Strategic Plan Task Force. *Priority Topics* include:

A. Data to Examine

1. Drainage
 - a. ditches
 - b. tiles
 - c. flap/flood control gates
 - d. pump stations
 - e. revetments
 - f. culverts
2. Property improvements and assets
 - a. farm pads
 - b. farm access roads
 - c. high tunnels
 - d. irrigation systems
 - e. water rights
 - f. homes, and whether they are elevated above BFE [draw upon the Lower Valley Needs Assessment recently completed by King County]
 - g. farmworker housing
3. FPP Properties
4. Primary agricultural transportation corridors
5. Active commercial farms in the Snoqualmie Valley APD (*estimate around 180?*)
6. Riparian buffers, restoration and mitigation projects
7. Leased farmland
8. Existing wildlife corridors or other known habitat areas
9. Existing beaver activity and areas of potential future beaver activity
10. Areas of high quality agricultural soils that are not currently farmed
11. Areas that have low agriculture potential and thus could be kept out of ag production permanently with little impact to current or future farm operations
12. Known patterns of flooding
13. Field level changes regarding zero rise (How much organic matter is added annually? Is field level lower than it used to be due to subsidence? GPS field level.)
14. *Other as determined by Advisory Committee (see culverts and farmworker housing above)*

B. Inform the development of acreage targets

1. Permanently protected farmland in the APD and
2. APD acreage that is Unfarmable (defined in the 2017 Ag Land Use Survey) and suited to other uses

Process: As the Task Force works through *Priority Topics*, each item is assessed and evaluated for quality, relevance, and ranked for most significant impact. Where more information is needed, we have allocated funding to collect such data in summer 2019. Subject matter experts will provide additional information this fall to inform the process including economic models that justify a land base for an economic sector. The task force will work with farmers/landowners to create and vet the plan that is due to FFF IOC in July 2020.

Deliverable: Provide the Implementation Oversight Committee with a systematic approach (clear, actionable recommendations and timelines for implementation) in an Agriculture Land Resource Strategic Plan that will support, sustain, and improve the SVAPD ag sector. The *Priority Topics* identified in the scope of work will be used to clarify the agricultural goals and land resource needs in a uniform, vetted, and supported plan for 25 years while providing in depth analysis of acreage required to maintain long-term productivity of agricultural lands for the ag sector, and acreage that is more suitable to other uses.

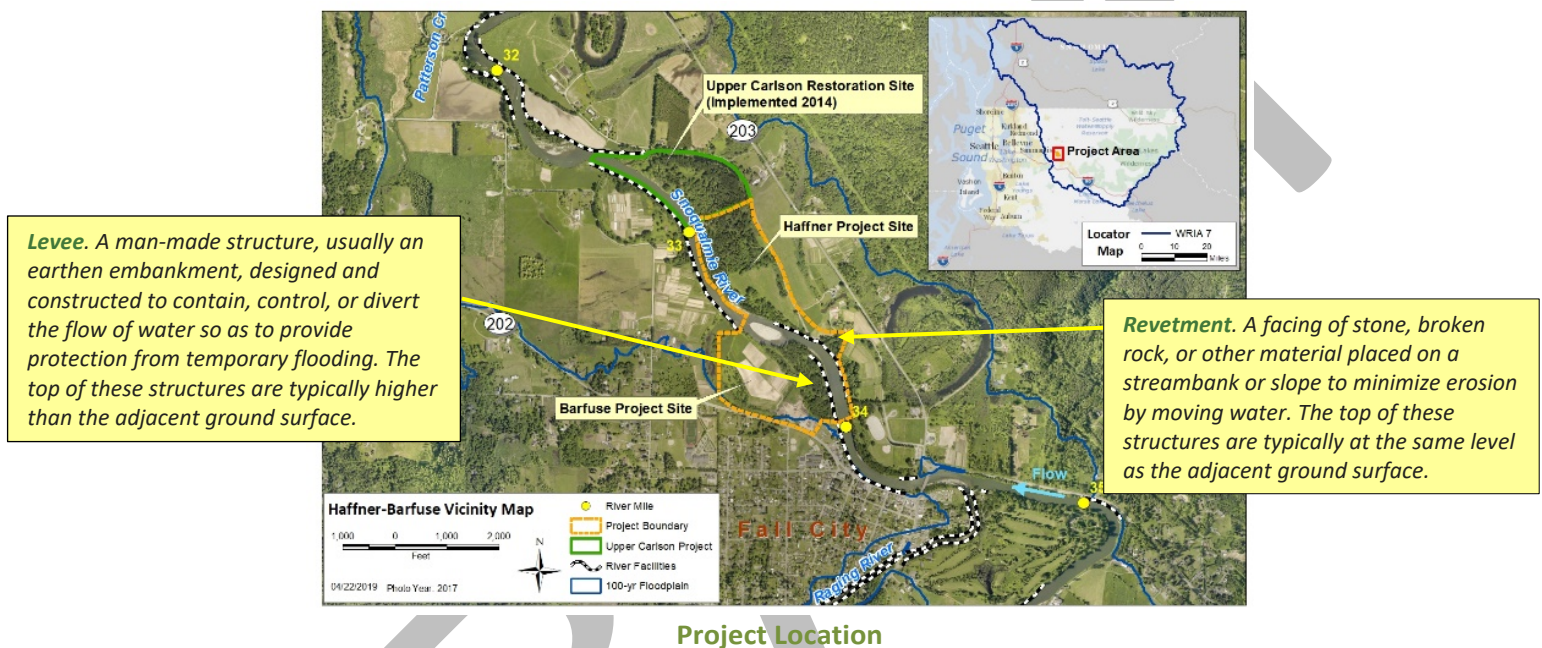
Fall City Floodplain Restoration

Haffner-Barfuse Project

FACT SHEET

Location

The project encompasses two river facilities (one levee, one revetment) that are across from each other on the mainstem Snoqualmie River about a half-mile downstream of the State Route 202 Bridge in the town of Fall City.



Project Location

The Urgent Need for Floodplain Restoration

Chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead trout are listed as threatened and the Puget Sound Southern Resident Orca population is endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Chinook salmon in the Snoqualmie and across Puget Sound are at less than 10 percent of their historic population. Puget Sound Steelhead trout populations are currently 5-10 percent of historical abundance and showing little sign of recovery since their listing in 2007. The Southern Resident Orca population has dwindled to 74 individuals, the lowest abundance since the live-capture of these whales for marine parks was terminated in 1975. The population was listed as Endangered in 2005. Chinook salmon are the main prey species for the Southern Resident Orca population who have been showing signs of undernourishment among other distress factors. Immediate and bold actions are needed to save these populations.

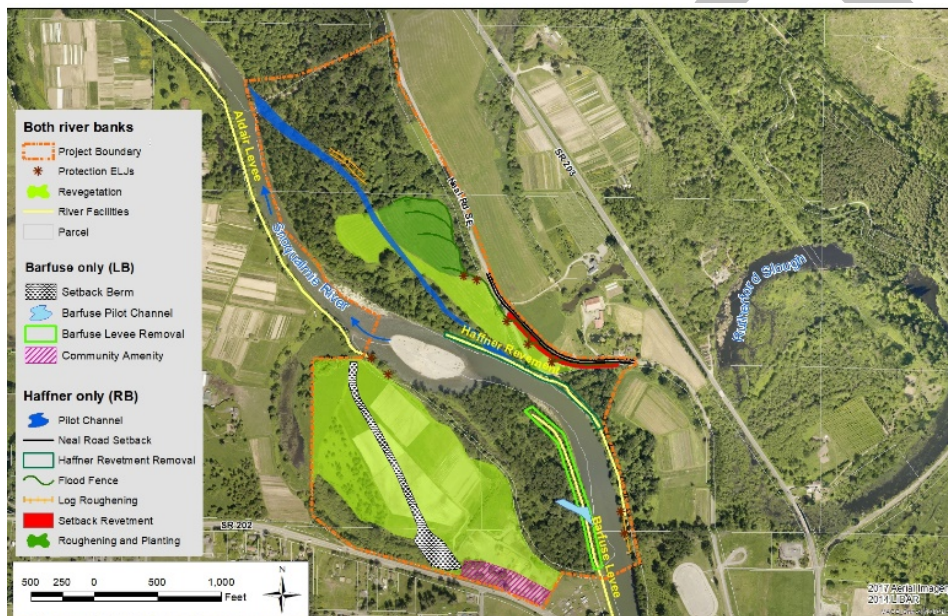
The mainstem Snoqualmie River and the Tolt and Raging Rivers were historically very productive for Chinook and other salmonids (salmon and trout). However, the habitat needed for salmon to thrive, both spawning and rearing, has been greatly limited as a result of removing trees from a once forested valley; construction of levees and revetments to keep rivers locked in place and to reduce bank erosion and flooding has prevented the rivers from forming and re-forming essential salmon habitat features.

In particular, for young salmon, areas of slow moving waters associated with floodplain side channels, log jams and complex river edges provide hiding places from predators and relief from strong river currents. The [Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan](#) (Salmon Plan) prioritized restoration on the mainstem Snoqualmie River and the Tolt and Raging Rivers and set targets for the first 10 years – to be completed by 2015. We are dramatically behind in several milestones including edge habitat, currently at 19% of the 10-year target, and off-channel habitat, currently at 8% of the

10-year target. Haffner-Barfuse will make substantial gains by adding an estimated 10,000 lineal feet towards the target of 55,000 lineal feet of edge habitat and approximately 14 acres to the target of 168 acres off-channel habitat.

Project Details

This project combines two major actions that were previously thought of as separate projects – the removal of the Haffner revetment on the right (north) bank of the Snoqualmie River and the removal of the Barfuse levee on the left (west) bank. The projects will restore almost one half-mile of river edge habitat; restore the connection of the river to approximately 134 acres of its floodplain; construct an estimated 2,500 feet of floodplain side channel; control invasive weeds; and restore native plants on more than 80 acres. On both banks, setback facilities will be constructed to protect farmland and infrastructure that are outside the project footprint. Those new flood and erosion hazard facilities will be constructed to current engineering standards, including approximately 1,200 feet of Neal Road that will be relocated to improve public safety and maintain access to private properties.



Project Elements

Timeline

Project design will take place over the next two years and construction is expected to begin in 2022.



Estimated Cost

The total estimated cost to implement the Haffner and Barfuse projects is between \$14 and \$17 million dollars. Projects of this scale and nature are typically funded by multiple sources, with the majority of funds secured through competitive federal, state and local grants. While many grant sources are specifically focused on salmon recovery, water quality and watershed health, King County will also pursue multi-objective grants that can combine actions for overall ecological improvement with others that reduce flood and erosion risks and support agricultural priorities.

Project Funding To Date – Acquisition & Design:

- King County Surface Water Management Fees; Washington State Department of Ecology – Floodplains by Design; Snoqualmie Tribe; Washington State Recreation & Conservation Office; King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grant; Conservation Futures Tax; King County Parks Levy; King County Flood Control District; Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Fall City Floodplain Restoration

Haffner-Barfuse Project

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is King County approaching solutions to the complex, intertwined challenges facing fish habitat restoration, farming and flood risk reduction in the Snoqualmie Valley?

In late 2013, King County Executive Dow Constantine assembled representatives from throughout the Snoqualmie Valley to provide advice on how to overcome the issues that were creating obstacles and conflict around salmon habitat restoration, farming and flood risk reduction. They included a cross-section of agricultural, salmon recovery and flood risk reduction interests, as well as tribal, state and local jurisdictions.

In 2017, the Snoqualmie Fish, Farm, and Flood (FFF) Advisory Committee forged the first major agreement in King County to strike a balance between farming interests and salmon recovery. The Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to 34 recommendations that, if funded and implemented, would significantly improve ecological function and habitat quality, strengthen the agricultural sector, and reduce flood and erosion risks.



How is this restoration project consistent with the FFF agreements?

A cornerstone principle of the FFF 1.0 agreement was that the top priorities of the fish and farm caucuses-- large capital restoration projects for fish, and durable changes to agricultural drainage management for farms--would move forward in tandem. These tandem or “bundled” actions included the two following top recommendations from the Fish and agricultural communities:

- **Accelerating the pace of large-scale habitat restoration projects.** Project acceleration was the number one priority for

the salmon recovery interests of the FFF Advisory Committee (tribes and other salmon recovery proponents). The FFF 1.0 agreement recommends projects and alternatives that provide the most benefit to salmon recovery at sites like Haffner and Barfuse that are considered ecologically critical. In the case of Haffner-Barfuse, the project will also result in the loss of approximately 30 acres of floodplain area that is currently, or has recently been in agriculture production, to restore former salmon habitat.

- **Provide durable programs and regulations that make agricultural drainage easier and less expensive.** The top recommendation from the agricultural community is to create durable, cost-effective, and environmentally sound approaches to maintaining productive agricultural lands in the Snoqualmie Valley. King County and partners are exploring roles and responsibilities in developing and funding comprehensive assistance that includes engineering review, permitting guidance, identification of regulatory barriers, and identification of strategies to change King County Code when needed.

The project will also reduce flood impacts, potential road closures and provide greater protection of Neal Road, while also reducing maintenance costs of aging levees.

How was the decision to convert agricultural land to habitat restoration land reached?

Since salmon recovery planning began in earnest in the late 1990s, this reach of the Snoqualmie at the confluence of the Raging River has been identified as critical for salmon due to its very high level of use for spawning as well as rearing. Over the last seven years King County purchased three parcels behind the Barfuse levee for the specific purpose of implementing a major salmon restoration project that would allow the river to move and re-form habitat where salmon can thrive from spawning through rearing. The FFF agreement acknowledges that in critical locations, restoring lost salmon habitat will mean the loss of some currently farmed or potentially farmable land. In the Fall City reach, at least 50-75 acres of farmland are expected to be converted to large restoration projects in the next decade, with potentially more to follow. Those losses are not taken lightly and the FFF work deepened the mutual understanding of the need for both this kind of salmon recovery project and the urgent need to protect farmland. Opportunities to convert land back to agriculture production are continuously being pursued, such as the conversion of the Tall Chief Golf Course which is now fully integrated into the operations of the valley's largest remaining dairy farm.

King County is leasing a portion of the Barfuse site to local farmers. The lease agreement includes the understanding that farming will end once on-the-ground project implementation begins; one-year notice is provided to lessees.

What are the near-term actions? (see website for more specific detail???)

Between now and October 2021, the following actions will help inform the design and prepare the site for construction.

- Conducting hydraulic modeling and other technical analyses of site characteristics.
- The Snoqualmie Tribe will begin controlling weeds and planting trees and shrubs at the Barfuse site in 2019.
- Continue agricultural operations on the Barfuse site with one-year notice in advance of site changes (initially, plantings).
- Meet and talk with nearby landowners.
- Update the Fish, Farm, Flood Implementation Oversight Committee.
- Update Tribes, community groups and stakeholders.
- Have a third-party evaluator participate in the identification of potential (pre-) and actual (post-) impacts of the project
- Establish a plan to monitor the project site for 10 years and address any issues that arise.

How can I get more information or take actions to help improve salmon habitat and protect water quality?

Visit this [Haffner-Barfuse Floodplain Restoration project website \(www.kingcounty.gov/restoration\)](http://www.kingcounty.gov/restoration) for more information and updates as they become available. Be sure to check out this [Healthy Habitat video \(https://www.govlink.org/watersheds/7/\)](https://www.govlink.org/watersheds/7/) to learn more about salmon needs and how you can help.

**Fish Farm Flood 2.0 Implementation Oversight Committee
Member Attendance List – October 24, 2019 Meeting
Carnation Farms Alpine Room – Carnation, WA**

Gary Bahr, WA Department of Agriculture (*ex officio*)

Josh Baldi, King County DNRP/WLRD (*ex officio*)

Brendan Brokes, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (*ex officio*)

Tom Buroker, WA Department of Ecology (*ex officio*)

Angela Donaldson, Fall City Community Association

Cynthia Krass, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance

Denise Krownbell, Snohomish Forum

Bobbi Lindemulder, farmer

Meredith Molli, farmer/Agriculture Commission

Josh Monaghan, King Conservation District

Libby Reed, Sno Valley Tilth

Cindy Spiry, Snoqualmie Tribe

Lara Thomas, City of Duvall

Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes