

AGENDA
King County FFF 2.0
Buffer Task Force Meeting #9
Wednesday, December 11, 2019
12:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Carnation Library
4804 Tolt Ave, Carnation WA 98019

Task Force Objective: The Buffer Task Force will create a variable buffer width decision-making framework in the Snoqualmie Valley that supports salmon health and farming.

Meeting Purpose: Discuss updated basin planting history and establish a recommended goal for planting buffers in the SVAPD. Discuss in greater detail the recommended next steps for Buffers Task Force recommendations, including implementation plan.

12:00 -2:10	1. Welcome, introductions and grab a bite to eat!	Tamie Kellogg
12:10-12:25	2. Snoqualmie Basin Buffer Planting History a. Additional information on width and shoreline length Q and A	Beth LeDoux
12:25-1:50	3. Buffer Task Force Implementation Topics Review updated draft implementation considerations. Prioritize and discuss next steps. 1. Incentive/compensation 2. Site Specific flexibility 3. Drainage 4. Data gaps 5. Communications	Tamie Kellogg & Beth LeDoux
1:50-2:00	Break	
2:00-2:50	4. Buffer Task Force Implementation Topics – Continued 6. Establishing a buffer planting goals or milestones. 7. How will we manage adaptation? 8. What are the next steps to complete the task force work?	Tamie Kellogg & Beth LeDoux
2:50 -3:30	5. Celebrate the BTF Accomplishments and Final Recommendations a. Reflections: o What have we learned that we can share with others? o What surprised you? o What are you proud of? o If you had one magical wish left to apply to the buffers issue... what would you wish for? b. What guidance or words of wisdom would you pass on to the IOC to accompany the recommendations from this task force?	All
3:30	6. Adjourn	
Important dates and responsibilities for Task Force Members Please keep your organizations, colleagues, neighbors up to date on the work of the Buffers Task Force. Next FFF Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC) meeting will be in February 2020.		

Meeting Summary
King County FFF 2.0
Buffer Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, December 11th, 2019
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Carnation Library

Task Force Members in Attendance: Matt Baerwalde, Preston Drew, Chris LaPointe, Elissa Ostergaard, Steve Van Ess, Daryl Williams

Facilitator: Tamie Kellogg

Introductions and Updates

- Congratulations to Buffer Task Force members, support staff, and participatory parties for willingness to engage and work through the objectives of the Buffer Task Force
 - o Special thanks to the sub-committee, Tribal partners, and agricultural representatives for setting aside time for the Buffer Task Force
 - o Incredible effort and exceptional participation and work
- Information for buffer planting in the Snoqualmie Agricultural Production District (APD)
 - o Difficulty in tracking linear footage, width, and locations of all planting projects in the APD (work is still ongoing to fill this information need)
 - o This information gathering is a priority task and is currently being worked on
- Agricultural Caucus had requested that the transmittal letter to the FFF Implementation and Oversight Committee (FFF-IOC) include specific messaging meant to emphasize that the process, actions, and deliverables coming out of the Buffer Task Force are only appropriate for voluntary buffers and not mean for regulatory use
 - o Buffer Task Force generally approves of the requested messaging but will need additional time for support staff to review the specific messaging
 - o Transmittal letter will be drafted by Beth leDoux and sent to the Buffer Task Force for review
 - o FFF-IOC has seen draft riparian buffer recommendations but still need to review a transmittal letter as well as the finalized buffer width recommendations
- Further discussion needed of minimum buffer widths, overarching measures of success, and potential incentives.
 - o Discussion and understanding of minimums and measures of success needed for the Tribes to be able to sign-off
 - o Meeting discussion of draft implementation concepts and ideas aimed to capture measures of success and implementation strategies

Draft Implementation Concepts (discussion and prioritization)

- Conservation Easements
 - o May be difficult for private land owners
 - o Also difficult to manage for sponsor organizations
 - o Scenarios where easements may be beneficial: areas at risk of channel migration, providing a one-time payment rather than annual payments (e.g., CREP), continuity after CREP contract to maintain riparian vegetation over time (potential for pairing CREP with easements)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- Federal government (Farm Services Agency) decreasing CREP payments
- Potential for utilizing CREP for 10-15 years and then switching to an easement for the long-term
- CREP can't be put on lands that require regulatory buffers and are currently only used on agricultural lands
- Carbon Credits: clarity needed on how lands can apply for carbon credit programs
- Corporate Sponsored Buffers:
 - Stewardship partners has successfully aligned corporate sponsorship of buffers
 - Participants of program have expressed positive experience
- Advanced Mitigation (future credit for current riparian plantings)
 - Currently exists in practice (through King County DLS)
 - Currently only allowed when land owner pays for the plantings
 - Off-site mitigations (being discussed/addressed in the FFF Regulatory Task Force) needs further exploration and clarification
- King County Bond: to provide funds for riparian planting and landowner incentive payments (potentially similar fund generation as the previous Farmland Preservation bond)
- Establish clearing house of incentive options: maybe use a website or database to house/communicate incentive options and programs
- Current Use Taxation Programs
 - Could riparian area be included in any ongoing programs?
 - Support for agricultural land owners to benefit from tax relief programs (e.g., PBRs)
 - Importance of communicating long-term tax implication of land-uses and potential riparian plantings
- Buffer Task Force priority Incentives/Compensation
 - Conservation easements:
 - CREP/King County version of CREP
 - Corporate sponsored buffers
 - Carbon credits
 - Compensation for loss of production due to riparian shade
- Suggested that a follow-up workgroup focus on refining and finalizing the implementation concepts list
- Data Gaps
 - Evaluating and gauging small watercourses to get flow across watercourse types and locations
 - Efficient tracking of riparian plantings and implementation
 - Further evaluation of fish use among watercourses
- Next Steps
 - Key implementers of riparian plantings may need to get together to discuss implementation issues and potential strategies for improvement; also help to share insight among strategies as well as coordinate efforts
 - Tracking system for riparian plantings in the Snoqualmie APD
 - Need for an implementation work group (may be beneficial to have some overlap in membership between Buffer Task Force and the implementation group)
- Implementation Workgroup
 - Should highlight experience among collaborators and implementers
 - Need for a pilot project to utilize the priority implementation strategies

- Maybe have a smaller group including implementers that have worked with land owners in the valley
- Refine list of actions and items so that tasks are manageable and deliverables are clear
- Possibly look at the WRIA 9 Revegetation Strategy as an example

Goals and Milestones (which capture FFF agreement and accelerate riparian plantings)

- Salmon plan outlines a desire of 80% habitat restoration
- BTF member suggestion = 5-yr goal could align with 85% of stream length planted with 75% of the total riparian acreage coming from the buffer recommendations
- Suggestion of 150 acres/year
- Potential focuses on a reach-scale project area or a complete watercourse to adequately show benefits of riparian plantings and projects
- Reach-scale project: tie riparian buffer attributes to buffer width recommendations; need for large-scale projects
- Acceleration in key areas
 - Potentially in alluvial reaches (priority in the 2005 Salmon Conservation Plan)
 - Potentially focus on tributaries and smaller watercourses (potentially the quickest measurable response)
 - Confluences of small streams with the mainstem
 - Possibly 1-3 key areas (more focused and less opportunistic) while also utilizing valley opportunities when available
 - Focusing on riparian buffer length and continuity
- Need a focused planning horizon (25-30 year timeline)
- Importance of accelerated effort in initial years due to time-lag with riparian tree growth; also important since Chinook salmon are at critically low levels
- Importance of initiating and maintaining landowner outreach and communication as soon as possible
- BTF member suggestion = 5-yr goal of 85% (of a focused system) at 36-40 acres/year
- BTF member suggestion = 5-yr goal (1-3 accelerated) at 20-50 acres/year
- BTF member suggestion = extending to a 7-year goal with accelerated efforts in the first few years
- Buffer Task Force generally agreed upon goals and milestones
 - 7-yr goal in a focused system
 - Year 1-2 has a minimum of 40 acres/year with year 7 having 85% of stream length planted with 75% of the total riparian acreage planted
 - Paired with broad landowner outreach
 - Also utilizing opportunities when available