

Nooksack River Floodplain Workgroup

June 28, 2017

PLEASE REVIEW THESE EXCERPTS FROM EARLIER PLANS FOR IDEAS

From 1999 Lower Nooksack River Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (CFHMP)

Purposes of a CFHMP:

- Minimize future flood damages
- Direct development and use of the floodplain
- Reduce existing flood damages

Mission Statement from 1999 CFHMP

Have a comprehensive program in place to minimize flood hazards to lives and property while providing a net positive impact on natural and human resources, and have an ongoing effort to continue into the future, consistent with proper stewardship of economic resources.

Goals from the 1999 CFHMP (Broadest expression of community's desires)

- Protect lives
- Minimize damage to public and private property and to public resources
- Provide a comprehensive understanding of the river
- Propose projects with a positive environmental benefit
- Maintain ongoing jurisdictional involvement and cooperation
- Emphasize long-term solutions
- Minimize public expenditures related to flooding

Excerpts from 2005 WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan (SRP)

Purpose of 2005 SRP

The purpose of this plan is to identify the actions necessary to recover WRIA 1 salmonid populations, especially listed species, and to outline the framework for implementation of recommended actions that have been agreed to by local, state, tribal and federal governments and stakeholders in WRIA 1.

GOALS FROM 2005 SRP

Watershed Vision

The local vision for salmon recovery in WRIA 1 is to recover self-sustaining salmonid runs to harvestable levels through the restoration of healthy rivers and natural stream processes, careful use of hatcheries, and responsible harvest, and with the active participation and support of local landowners, businesses, and the larger community. Achieving this vision will require: (1) a range of voluntary actions that will accommodate community needs and interests; (2) regulatory actions to ensure no net loss of properly functioning conditions in salmonid habitats; and (3) on-going public involvement and education, both to help policymakers understand community needs and balance competing interests, and to build public support for actions necessary to successfully recover salmon.

Near-Term Priorities (10-year time frame)

- Prioritize salmon recovery efforts to maximize benefit to North/Middle Fork Nooksack early-timed Chinook
- Address late-timed Chinook through adaptive management, focusing in the near-term on identifying hatchery versus naturally produced population
- Facilitate recovery of WRIA 1 bull trout by:
 - Implementing actions with mutual benefits to both early chinook and bull trout
 - Removing fish passage barriers in presumed bull trout spawning and rearing habitats in the upper Nooksack River watershed.
- Address other salmonid populations by:
 - Protecting and restoring salmonid habitats and habitat-forming processes throughout WRIA 1 through regulatory and incentive-based programs.
 - Encouraging and supporting voluntary actions that benefit other WRIA 1 salmonid populations without diverting attention from early Chinook recovery.

Treaty Rights and tribal goals with respect to fisheries harvest

- Near-term (1-10 years)
 - Manage harvest to provide for exercise of treaty-reserved fishing rights while not impeding recovery of early Chinook populations.
 - Protect current harvest levels for late –timed Chinook, sockeye, pink, coho, steelhead, and chum salmon
- Intermediate time frame (11 to 25 years)
 - Expand harvest of early Chinook to include more meaningful ceremonial and subsistence use and of other stocks.
- Long-term (25 to 100 years)
 - Expand fisheries further to sustainably harvest recovered, self-sustaining salmonid populations.

Biological Goals

The success of the recovery plan will be measured by the recovery of listed salmonids and the quantity and quality of habitats upon which they depend. Biological goals in the form of species-specific targets are presented (i.e. numbers of fish in each Chinook population) in the plan.

Helpful information for the planning process can be found at:

<http://www.whatcomcounty.us/2572/Completed-Plans>