

Project Introduction May 15, 2019

Hello,

This email contains information about an upcoming project on the South Fork Nooksack River in the Fish Camp (Ts'eq) Reach (upstream of Acme, River Miles 9.0-9.6) to reduce flooding risks and improve habitat conditions for Chinook salmon. The project is a collaborative effort between the Nooksack Tribe and the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District.

You have been identified as an important stakeholder in this effort.

Project purpose

The project, called the *South Fork Nooksack River Fish Camp (Ts'eq) Reach Integrated Design Project*, aims to solve two key, interrelated issues in the lower South Fork Nooksack Valley near Acme:

- Reduce flood risk within the Acme area.
- Improve habitat conditions to support recovery of Chinook salmon.

Who will benefit?

This project is expected to benefit residents of Acme and surrounding residential and agricultural lands by reducing flood and/or erosion risk. Additionally, the project is expected to improve habitat conditions for threatened Chinook salmon populations. This will benefit both State and Tribal salmon recovery efforts and fisheries. While it is in the Nooksack Tribe's best cultural and Treaty Rights interest to recover Chinook salmon populations, a natural extension of the Tribe's work to restore salmon habitat incorporates landowner and community interests. Through this partnership with Whatcom County and the established relationships with residents of the South Fork Nooksack Valley area, the project sponsors are committed to hearing and incorporating the concerns of the local community into design efforts.

Current Work and Project Timeline

Currently, the project team is assessing geomorphic and hydraulic conditions in the river. Upon completion, design alternatives will be developed to reduce flood risk and improve Chinook salmon habitat. We are seeking input from stakeholders to help develop and select a preferred alternative. Please see the project timeline on the enclosed fact sheet for more details.

The project timeline will be fluid since we anticipate much of the design process will be guided

by landowner and stakeholder outreach efforts and input. However, our *goal* is to have a preferred preliminary design by October 2019.

Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities

We are committed to working with and engaging stakeholders throughout the duration of the project. We will take the following actions in order to accomplish this:

- Meet with individual and groups of landowners/stakeholders to discuss the project.
- Host two community workshops in late spring and early fall (dates to be determined).
- Provide project updates via a Listserv and the project webpage: <http://whatcomcounty.us/3106>

Stakeholders will have opportunities to weigh in on various aspects of the project, including but not limited to:

- The scope and scale of the problems the project is intended to address.
- Thoughts and concerns regarding results of preliminary geomorphic and hydraulic assessment.
- Prioritization approach and criteria for design alternatives.
- Preferred design alternative.

If you would like to schedule a phone call to discuss this project, please e-mail Hilary Wilkinson at hilary@vedaenv.com.

Additional Information

More information on the project can be found on **the enclosed fact sheet and at the project website:** <http://whatcomcounty.us/3106>.

Please feel free to contact either of the project co-leads with questions.

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For information regarding engagement opportunities, to schedule a phone call, or to be added to the Listserv, contact:

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