Virtual Tour of Snohomish Conservation District

Snohomish County and Camano Island

Presenters: Linda Lyshall, Carrie Brausieck, and Kristin Marshall
Multi-functional Working Buffers
WSDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
Agroforestry Restoration
Proposed project with NOAA & Tulalip Tribes
Seed to Fork
Community Food Forest and Stormwater Bioswale
Integrating Agriculture Resilience Projects into Farm/Fish/Flood Multi-Benefit Packages
The Agriculture Resilience Plan is an effort to help all of us farmers weather the changes that are coming in the future. It’s a way for farmers to raise their voices together and create change to benefit agriculture.”

- Libby Reed
Farmer Dialogue – County Wide Priority Needs

- Drainage Infrastructure and Maintenance
- Compensation for Upland Runoff
- Flood Protection
- Farmland Conservation
- Access to Irrigation Water
- Drought Resilience Practices
- Additional Groundwater Analysis

www.snohomishcd.org/ag -resilience -priorities
The groundwork was complete for meaningful action

- Science-based plan with hundreds of hours of input from agriculture
- Reach-scale and County-wide priority needs
- A project list generated by farmers, for farmers
- Partners
- A mandate – get (back) to work
Considering the floodplain agroecosystem

- Populations
  - Farmers
  - Homeowners
  - Tribes
- Habitat functions
  - Birds
  - Fish
  - Amphibians
  - Soil health
- Ecosystem services
  - Water and air quality
  - Flood storage
  - Green/open space
Farm, fish, and flood interests are all essential to the floodplain, the question is how to find common ground
Floodplains face:
Increasing development
Degraded/decreasing habitat
Rising groundwater
Increased precipitation and flooding
The floodplain sits in a crux of competing needs. Collaborative planning is the best way to address shared concerns.
New funding has played a critical role in collaborative planning
Bringing farmers’ and landowners’ voices to the table
Supporting SLS and the Integration Teams
Project Packages

Community Floodplain Solutions
Together we can keep local farms viable, restore habitat for fish and wildlife, and reduce flood impacts.
A Case Study

Multi-benefit project conceptual design in Swans’ Trail Slough
Historical (1980s) 10-year Flood Inundation Depths (left) and Future 2050 10-year Flood Inundation Depths for RCP 8.5 High Emissions Scenario with 50% Likelihood (right). – Cardno/ESA 2021

Alternatives

Explore different ways to split habitat and agriculture drainage systems.

Could include:

Levee improvements, ditch plugging, culvert upgrades, pump relocation, and changes to outlets to Snohomish river.
The Snohomish Integration Team groups include:
- Flood management planners
- Fish habitat specialists
- Tribes
- Farmer interest groups
SCD farm planner

Eric Schuh surveys a full ditch on Douglas Creek in Diking District 7, Stanwood, WA
Catchment and stream relocation project concepts to deal with sediment and runoff in Sultan (left – landowner concept) and Stanwood (right – SCD engineer concept)

2018 July background
21.04.09 Sketch
Coordinated fish passage and flood risk projects
Working toward a common goal: creating a resilient floodplain
Acknowledge Funders

- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Floodplains by Design
- EPA National Estuary Program, Puget Sound Partnership NTAs
- NOAA
- USDA
- Department of Ecology
- ESRP Learning Program
Questions?