

Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Monitoring and Adaptive Management (M&AM) Subcommittee

October 25, 2021, 9:00am –10:30am, Zoom Meeting

(Underline indicates decision point; **bold** are action items)

Attending: Richard Brocksmith (SWC, co-chair), Greg Hood (SRSC co-chair), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC, notes), Eric Beamer (SRSC), Jeff Fisher (SCL)

Absent: Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Jen O’Neal (Natural Systems Design),

Beginning Business

- Draft Agenda approved
- Approved September 2021 notes as revised (moved by Eric, 2nd by Aundrea, all approved)

Science Summit

- Goals:
 - Provide a framework for tracking and discussing salmon recovery (public really needs this)
 - Share recent monitoring data (adult returns)
 - Speak to the public
 - Speak to conservation professionals
- Focus
 - General status and trends of fish
 - Status and trends of habitat
 - Implementation status
 - Effectiveness monitoring results
- Idea to do this in many science meetings/symposia at the next several quarterly meetings, starting with the framework then delving into science more
- **Ask the Board what specifically they want the symposium/s to focus on**

4 Year Work Plan

- Removed seal predation study topic
- Broke freshwater framework development into subtopics
- Started discussion of which topic should be advanced next grant round (possibly Milltown monitoring)
- **Follow-up needed to find out if Pressentin is being monitored**
- See table in progress below

Updates and Announcements

- Reviewed revised language for pocket estuary section of Strategic Approach
- Britt Slough and South Fork are being monitored.
- Smokehouse monitoring is fully funded for 3 years

Explanation	Target Area	Project Name	Project Summary	Status	Phase	Grant Year	Estimated Project Cost	Project Sponsor	
new project proposed for 4YWP	Estuary, Tier 1	Milltown Island Monitoring	Post project fish monitoring for BACI design effectiveness monitoring and vegetation monitoring at the Milltown Island project site.	planned	monitoring	2024	\$ 150,000	SRSC/WDFW	not funded
	Estuary, Tier 1	Britt Slough and South Fork Monitoring	Post project fish monitoring for BACI design effectiveness monitoring and vegetation monitoring.	active	monitoring	2021			funded and happening
Part of habitat quality and fish use analysis underway in estuary.	Estuary, Tier 1	Historical vegetation trends monitoring	Analyze historical photos for cattail extent and trends over time. This builds upon current work for 2004, 2013, and 2019.	active	monitoring		\$ -	WDFW/SRSC	happening
A data gap for the scale at which WDFW does eradication	Estuary, Tier 1	Cattail eradication effectiveness monitoring	Conduct field experiments on the effectiveness of cattail eradication methods.	active	monitoring		\$ -	WDFW/SRSC	happening
	Upper Skagit, Tier 1	Pressentin Side Channel	Effectiveness monitoring.	?	monitoring				is it happening?
	Estuary, Tier 1	Smokehouse Monitoring	Nested effectiveness monitoring under IMW.		monitoring				funded and happening
A big effort. Goal to complete every 10yrs. Widely used tool. Data are 10yrs old.	Skagit Watershed Tiers 1, 2, & 2s	River hydromodification status update	Update the inventory (2015) of hydromodifications in Chinook-bearing waters. This will take 3 or more seasons. Current data spans 2009-2015.		monitoring		\$ 125,000	USIT	very rough estimate from Rick
Requires a policy decision to expand efforts to include steelhead.	Skagit/Samish Watershed Tier 2s	Barrier assessment phase 3: Samish	Complete an inventory of fish passage barriers in the Samish watershed.	dormant	planning				wait to move forward until comanagers are ready

Big picture. Similar to ongoing effort in estuary only for freshwater. Need a day long meeting. Possibility of match from SCL.	Skagit Watershed Tiers 1, 2, & 2s	Freshwater monitoring framework development	Create a spatial dataset of locations and types of actions of freshwater restoration to track progress and compare to our strategy (2005 to current). Connect this framework to broader ambient habitat status and trends frameworks. We have this for riparian (less CREP). Need for other projects. Feedback into restoration planning, better tools.	partially underway	planning				can we create a spatial dataset of where and what projects have happened in freshwater. Barnaby and Illabot designed to fit this.
	Upper Skagit, Tier 1	Illabot?							funded
This tool has many uses and is underway. Compile products from different sources and makes usable.	Skagit Watershed Tiers 1, 2, & 2s	Relative elevation modeling synthesis	Assimilate existing SRSC REM data, NPS Upper Skagit REM data, and Sauk REM data into a usable, basin-wide tool. Define what it could be used for.	active/planned	monitoring				How do we use REM for prioritizing floodplain restoration? Geomorphic change detection. Looking for rearing habitat. Focus in on areas with potential.
This is planned in collaboration with SCL.	Upper Skagit, Tier 1	Effectiveness monitoring at Barnaby Reach	Complete post-restoration monitoring at Barnaby Slough restoration site.	planned	monitoring		\$ -		funded through Phase 1. Will need funding for further phases.
Get an update on this work underway.	Skagit Watershed Tiers 1, 2, & 2s	Single thread hydrography	Update the state hydrography with more precise local hydrography and channel information from high resolution LiDAR.	active	monitoring				essentially done
Get an update on this ongoing work.	Skagit Watershed Tiers 1, 2, & 2s	Riparian habitat gain and loss monitoring	Track riparian planting/restoration (SWC) and riparian loss (WDFW) for status and trends monitoring.	active	monitoring				use WDFW 2 year NAIP detection (KenPierce)