

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

September 21, 2021, 10:30am –12:00pm, Zoom Meeting

(Underline indicates decision point; parentheses indicate attachment #)

Attending: Richard Brocksmith (SWC, co-chair), Greg Hood (SRSC co-chair), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC, notes), Eric Beamer (SRSC), Jennifer O’Neal (Natural Systems Design)

Absent: Jeff Fisher (SCL)

Beginning Business

- Draft Agenda approved
- Approved August 2021 notes (moved by Bob, 2nd by Rick, all approved)

Presentation by Tim Hyatt

- Updated hydrography for single thread for all and bank full channel width for larger streams
- Does not establish CMZ
- We need more time periods of the same data
- This is an excellent status and trends monitoring tool to repeat in future
- Can be used as basin-wide data layer for other remote sensing like riparian monitoring
- Might be worth while to assess error in past studies based on old hydrography
- **Write letter** to DNR and others to encourage them to adopt better method for improved hydrography layer. Which regulations would benefit from the improved data layer? Yes
- How is Skagit County using Tim’s layer? Other managers locally?

4 Year Work Plan

- Based on 2006 and later science, all pocket estuaries in Whidbey Basin have Skagit Chinook rearing in them and thus should qualify as Tier 2 restoration/acquisition sites under the strategy. **SWC staff will draft language.**
- Will continue discussion (ran out of time)

Updates and Announcements

- Science summit is a good idea. SRSC will participate. We need to decide on target audience.
- Ran out of time for project updates.
- **Aundrea will circulate a Doodle Poll for our next meeting mid October**

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	
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.		monitoring			
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.		monitoring			
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			
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.		planning			
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	Facilitate a process to develop an implementation monitoring framework for freshwater mainstem and tributary restoration and protection projects to track progress and compare to our strategy. Connect this framework to broader ambient habitat status and trends frameworks.		planning			
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			
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			

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			
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			
ideas?	Nearshore, Tier 2	Monitoring marine mammal predation of salmon	This idea requires further information from WDFW.		monitoring			
An update on the science is necessary to inform policy discussions about prioritizing pocket estuary restoration throughout Whidbey Basin.	Nearshore, Tier 2		This is not a project, but a reminder/place holder to get an update from Eric and SRSC					