

## Final Notes, Skagit Watershed Council Technical Work Group (TWiG) June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 1:00pm-3:00pm

(decisions underlined, **action items in bold**)

**Attendees:** Alison Studley (SFEG, Chair), Bob Warinner (WDFW), Aundrea McBride (SWC), Regina Wandler (Skagit Land Trust), Colin Wahl (SRSC), Rick Hartson (Upper Skagit Indian Tribe), Emily Derenne (Skagit County), Doug Bruland (PSE)

**Absent:** Jeremy Gilman (USFS), Jeff Fisher (Seattle City Light)

**Guests:** Richard Brocksmith (SWC), Hannah Liss (PSP ERC), Taylor Studzinski (SCD)

### Beginning Business

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Introductions and check-in

Agenda review

Approved May notes as revised, motion by Regina, second by Emily, approved unanimously.

### Committee Reports

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Board: did not meet

Protection Subcommittee: did not meet

M&AM: did not meet

Approval Process for Restorable Lands small group is still working. Meet next on June 27<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Riparian Work Group: worked on the conference, identified potential speakers

### Grant Round Updates

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Sponsors are responding to comments. Final drafts due June 27<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Barnaby Fish Model monitoring project was disqualified from the grant round for being an assessment rather than a monitoring project. We are waiting to hear back from the monitoring panel after we made the case for reinstating the project.

### Cedar Grove decision on proposed language/process

- The project would not be ranked; it would be funded yes or no
- We will include the original project scores and rank when a project is under consideration for cost increase (include on cost increase form)
- There needs to be consensus to follow through on projects previously funded
- Motion by Aundrea, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Regina to approve new language as revised (see attached) and recommend it to the Board for approval.

\$75 million from legislature

- \$25 million (for projects < \$5 million) less RCO's cut will come to LEs via the usual allocation formula except that an additional amount will go to North East Region because they will not be getting a share of the \$50 million. That means about 1.4 million to Skagit for the 2022 grant round. Excess can be carried over to 2023 grant round.
- \$50 million (for projects > \$5 million) less RCO's cut will be distributed to the Regions with about \$6 million coming to Puget Sound. PSP is deciding how to allocate that, probably using the PSAR Large Cap list.

4 Year Work Plan

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Motion to approve the PPFL/4YWP by Colin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob, all approve. See attached.

Announcements and Updates

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- 4S-Workshop links on our website has recordings and PowerPoints. Next one is Sept. 21, Zoom or in person to be determined.
- America the Beautiful RFP is out. They are looking for bundled projects totaling \$1 million
- Lamprey training was great. Could be repeated for SWC.
- Celebration for closing of the doughnut hole June 30<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 at Farmstrong Brewing

Adjourn 2:10

**Upcoming TWG Meetings:**

July 14 TRC followed by TWG

September 15

October 20

## EXCERPT FROM 2022 SWC LE PROGRAM GUIDE, INCLUDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ALLOW COST INCREASES THROUGH A COMPETITIVE PROCESS FOR LOCAL ALLOCATIONS

V6.14.2022

### PUGET SOUND ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION (PSAR) FUNDS

Since 2007 the state capital budget has included funds to accelerate implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. The SRFB in coordination with the Puget Sound Partnership distributes these funds to each Puget Sound watershed based on an allocation formula adopted by the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council. There is some discretion available to Lead Entities in allocating these funds through a process different from state or federal SRFB funds. It is the intent of the State of Washington and the Council that these funds be expended as quickly and effectively as prudent; delays in allocation and expenditure may cause funds to be rescinded. Lead Entities work with the Puget Sound Partnership in the process of allocating PSAR funds outside of their annual SRFB grant round.

If an approved Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project cannot be implemented due to a change in circumstances or is completed under budget, unused funds are considered to be returned funds and remain within the watershed for up to 4 years as opposed to returning to Puget Sound-wide accounts. The lead entity may request that these funds be applied to cost increases associated with another PSAR project in its lead entity area. Any cost increase requests must adhere to the SRFB amendment process. See SRFB Manual 18 Appendix B. Return funds also may be used by the lead entity in the next grant cycle for another approved PSAR project.

All funds must be expended within four years after the funds were appropriated. If an approved PSAR project cannot be implemented due to a change in circumstances or is completed under budget within the 4-year window (follows state biennial fiscal years), return funds will be advertised to all active Skagit project sponsors as available for competitive reallocation to be (in order of preference):

- Awarded to another project within the lead entity for cost overruns if it can be expended within the 4-year window.
- Awarded to another lead entity needing funds to complete an approved PSAR project if it can be implemented within the 4-year window.
- If the return funds cannot be used within the 4-year window, these funds may be pooled into a regional fund to address cost increases for PSAR projects in areas where lead entities have no PSAR funds available to complete the project. These funds will be limited to completing projects within their existing scope.

Beginning in 2013, the Partnership's Salmon Recovery Council created an additional funding category called the Large Capital PSAR program. Generally, it is a funding vehicle for regionally important salmon habitat projects typically larger than those able to be completed given an individual watershed's needs versus resources. For each biennial Large Capital PSAR grant request (occurring every other year), the Council will expand the RFP to include these larger projects, evaluating and ranking them in a manner similar to other projects. However, they will then be submitted with answers for supplemental questions to the Partnership in August to compete regionally. If successful, they will be proposed to the Legislature for funding in the appropriate biennium. It is recognized that these large projects proposed at least one year earlier than funding is available may have less specific and certain details than other

projects. Which projects are most appropriate for this funding source and how the process may need to be amended to complete the local ranking process will be determined by the TRC, TWG, and the LECC, with the latter acting as the final decision body locally.

Beginning in 2016, the Partnership altered the grant cycle and moved the PSAR grant round up one year so that a final, vetted list of typical and large PSAR projects would be available to propose to the Legislature for consideration of funding. Thus all projects proposed for PSAR funding wouldn't be awarded funds until the beginning of the subsequent biennium in July. This presents significant uncertainty into the process, which is mostly outside of the control of the Skagit Watershed Council and state agencies.

## CHANGES TO ACTIVE GRANTS

After projects move from proposed to funded it is not uncommon that projects evolve and the outcomes become different than what was proposed in the application process. SRFB Manual 18 outlines the process for SRFB approval of contract amendments. Most project amendments require consultation with the Lead Entity, which involve the Technical Work Group and Board. Once contracted with the RCO, changes to the scope, location, or cost of a project different than originally reviewed and approved by the lead entity require the sponsor to obtain a decision from the Lead Entity, prior to submitting the amendment request to the RCO-SRFB for consideration. Sponsors are to submit grant amendment requests to the Lead Entity Coordinator in the current format used by RCO (Appendix G or Manual 18). No grant amendment requests will be accepted after the grant expiration date.

If the amendment is for a cost increase less than 20% of total project cost and less than \$50,000, with no change in scope, then the Lead Entity Coordinator can approve the change, prior to submittal to the RCO-SRFB for consideration. All other amendments are processed by the Lead Entity Coordinator working with the Technical Work Group and Board. The process is for the TWG to review the request and make recommendations to the Board for its decision. This can occur via email or a meeting if further clarification is required. The lead entity decision is forwarded to the RCO-SRFB.

If no returned PSAR funds are available locally and no or limited cost increase funds are available regionally or at the state level, or at the discretion of the Board of Directors and/or LECC, then projects seeking cost increases are eligible to submit that cost increase request into the annual, local grant round for competitive awards with newly proposed projects. Typically, this process does not require a new PRISM grant application but does require a grant amendment request form be completed describing the request, the reason for that request, and what happens if the request isn't funded. At that point the TRC and LECC will conduct a standard review of the cost, benefits, certainty of success, and community impact of the proposal so that it can be compared to new project funding requests. Using their existing evaluation criteria, the cost increase (not the full project costs) will be analyzed in context with the full project benefits. The committees will work to understand what happens if the project isn't funded and what the missed project opportunities are if it is funded. The TRC will recommend whether the cost increase should be funded (but not ranked) on the final project list and the LECC will make the final determination.

**4 Year Work Plan 6.15.22**

Grant Round	Project Type	Primary Sponsor	Project Name	Project Summary	Proposed Amt
2023	Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2023 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition VII a	Acquisition of floodplain properties for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update; Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 500,000
2023	Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2023 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition VII b	Acquisition of floodplain properties for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update; Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 500,000
2023	Monitoring & Research	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	River Hydromodification Status Update	Complete status and trends monitoring of hydromodifications along the Chinook-bearing waters in the Skagit System. Update the 2015 inventory.	\$ 150,000
2023	Planning	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Cascade River Floodplain Reconnection Final Design	Advance preferred alternative to final designs for installing wood placements in the lower Cascade River above and below Rockport Cascade Road Bridge. This will reconnect side channels and improve instream conditions for rearing habitat which limits Chinook salmon productivity.	\$ 147,059
2023	Planning	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Race Lagoon Culverts	Replace two fish barrier culverts under Race Road near Coupeville, WA. These two coastal streams drain to Race Lagoon which has been identified as important pocket estuary habitat for out-migrating salmon from the Skagit, Stillaguamish, and Snohomish Rivers.	\$ 250,000
2023	Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	Tenas Creek Final Design	Final design of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap is underway; final design 2022; construct 2024?	\$ 350,000

2023	Planning	Department of Transportation	OBrian Reach FP Reconnection Preliminary Design	Design reconnection of side channels and abandoned meanders within a 3.7 mile reach. Engage stakeholders to develop a project concept.	\$ 500,000
2023	Planning	Skagit County Public Works	Debays Slough Design	Design preferred alternatives to restore hydraulic and fish passage connectivity into an abandoned oxbow.	\$ 300,000
2023	Planning	Skagit Watershed Council	Telegraph Slough Reconnection Feasibility	Create stakeholder process to analyze feasibility of reconnecting hydrology and select preferred alternative for restoring distributary channels between Swinomish Channel and Padilla Bay.	\$ 255,000
2023	Planning	Department of Fish and Wildlife	IMW Island Unit Final Design	In the final design and permitting phase, WDFW will work with consultants, tribes, stakeholders and other community partners to finish and permit designs. Full restoration option was selected and is anticipated to provide 270 acres of emergent marsh, scrub-shrub and floodplain riparian habitat. An analysis by SRSC estimated full restoration will provide 10.31 acres of channel and room for 72,820 (predicted range = 59,377 - 86,035) additional Chinook smolts per year.	\$ 1,421,000
2023	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Skiyou Island Floodplain Restoration Phase 2	Restore native vegetation on 25 additional acres along the Skagit River and Skiyou Slough.	\$ 320,000
2023	Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2023 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting SFEG	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 75,000
2023	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Milltown Revegetation Project	Replant 15 acres along constructed Channels	\$ 240,000
2023	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	2023 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting SRSC	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 75,000

2024	Acquisition	Seattle City Light	2024 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition VIII SCL	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 1,000,000
2024	Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2024 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition VIII SLT	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 1,000,000
2024	Monitoring & Research	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Milltown Island Post Project Monitoring	Monitor post-project effectiveness for BACI design fish monitoring and vegetation monitoring. The proposed project area covers approximately 216 acres of the middle and northern portions of the island.	\$ 150,000
2024	Planning	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Suiattle Confluence Channel Enhancements Feasibility	Feasibility of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap; final design 2025; construct 2026?	\$ 125,000
2024	Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	Barnaby Reach Phase 2 Final Design	Final design and permitting to improve hydrology and fish access to isolated oxbows in Barnaby Reach of the Skagit River above Rockport. Likely removes fish barriers, creates new channels, and potential re-aligns lower Illabot Creek.	\$ 545,826
2024	Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	Skiyou Slough Ross Island Design	Design landscape-scale restoration in the Ross Island Reach.	\$ 500,000
2024	Planning	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Bowman Bay Design	Design a connection for a historic tidal wetland with Bowman Bay. Bowman Bay, a 2,100-foot-long pocket beach, is located in Deception Pass State Park on the southwest shore of Fidalgo Island	\$ 81,000

2024	Planning & Acquisition	Skagit River System Cooperative	Gilligan Floodplain Restoration Design	Design restoration of side channel and floodplain habitat in the Skagit River downstream of Gilligan Creek by removing 550-1500 feet of flood control dike and associated riprap bank protection, restoring function to approximately 170 acres of floodplain, depending on landowner willingness.	\$ 350,000
2024	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Milltown Revegetation Project Phase 2	<span style="font-family: Calibri, sans-serif; font-size: 14.6667px;">Replant 20 acres along constructed Channels 	\$ 320,000
2024	Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2024 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting SEFG	Partner with landowners to restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship. Includes 3-5 years of site maintenance to ensure plant survival. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 150,000
2024	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Hansen Vegetation Adaptive Management	Plant additional riparian areas along Hansen Creek. These were omitted during first phase or are newly created by dynamic hydrology.	\$ 150,000
2024	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	2024 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Planting SRSC	Partner with landowners to restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship. Includes 3-5 years of site maintenance to ensure plant survival. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 150,000
2024	Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Cascade River Floodplain Reconnection Construction	Install wood placements in the lower Cascade River above and below Rockport Cascade Road Bridge. This will reconnect side channels and improve instream conditions for rearing habitat which limits Chinook salmon productivity.	\$ 340,000
2024	Restoration	Swinomish Tribe	Similk Beach Restoration Construction	Restore ~22 acres of intertidal pocket estuary by replacing road fill w/bridge.	\$ 6,500,000
2025	Planning	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Suiattle Confluence Channel Enhancements Design	Design of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap; construct 2024?	\$ 125,000



2025	Planning	Skagit County Public Works	Debays Slough Construction	Restore hydraulic and fish passage connectivity into an abandoned oxbow.	\$ 1,200,000
2025	Planning	Seattle City Light	Car Body Riprap Removal Feasibility	Complete feasibility study and select preferred alternative to remove 550 m of riprap and restore overbank flows and backwaters; begin preliminary designs.	\$ 239,500
2025	Planning	Skagit River System Cooperative	IMW McGlinn Design	This project evaluates potential modifications to the McGlinn Island Jetty and/or Causeway to improve connectivity for fish between the Skagit River and the Swinomish Channel without creating unacceptable changes to sedimentation.	\$ 1,000,000
2025	Planning & Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2025 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition-SLT	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 500,000
2025	Planning & Acquisition	Seattle City Light	2025 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition-SCL	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 500,000
2025	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Tenas Creek Floodplain Restoration	construction of floodplain reconnection by expanding road crossing and removing riprap	\$ 6,500,000
2025	Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2025 Collaborative Riparian Restoration-SFEG	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 75,000
2025	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	2025 Collaborative Riparian Restoration-SRSC	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 75,000
2025	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Barnaby Reach Restoration Phase 2 Construction	Construct preferred alternatives from Phase 2 Design for improving hydrology and fish access to isolated oxbows in Barnaby Reach of the Skagit River above Rockport. Removes fish barriers, creates new channels, and potentially re-aligns lower Illabot Creek.	\$ 3,000,000

2025	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Gilligan Floodplain Restoration Construction	Restore side channel and floodplain habitat in the Skagit River downstream of Gilligan Creek by removing ~560 feet of flood control dike and associated riprap bank protection, restoring function to approximately 170 acres of floodplain. Floodplain vegetation will be improved by removing non-native vegetation and planting native trees.	\$ 2,000,000
2025	Restoration	Department of Fish and Wildlife	IMW Island Unit Construction	Full restoration option was selected and is anticipated to provide 270 acres of emergent marsh, scrub-shrub and floodplain riparian habitat. An analysis by SRSC estimated full restoration will provide 10.31 acres of channel and room for 72,820 (predicted range = 59,377 - 86,035) additional Chinook smolts per year.	\$ 11,800,000
2025	Restoration	Swinomish Tribe	Smokehouse Tidal Marsh Restoration Construction	Construct 5900' levee setback along Swinomish Channel, providing 120 acres of tidal wetland habitat.	\$ 10,000,000
2026	Planning	Skagit County Public Works	Hart Slough Design	A design report was developed that evaluates the potential for restoring habitat functions in historic river channels that are now partially blocked off from the mainstem Skagit River. The second phase will be coordination with key stakeholders. Coordination efforts also lead to the third phase, production of the design report and project development. Based on the results of coordination, an alternative analyses will be conducted and a recommended action selected. A cost estimate, conceptual design, and proposed funding sources will be developed for the recommended action.	\$ 780,000
2026	Planning & Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	2026 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition-SLT	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 1,000,000
2026	Planning & Acquisition	Seattle City Light	2026 Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition-SCL	Acquire floodplain and riparian properties from willing landowners for protection of high quality habitat using 2017 SWC Protection Strategy Update. Tier 1, 2, & 2S in SWC Strategy.	\$ 1,000,000
2026	Restoration	Skagit County Public Works	Gilligan Creek Culvert Construction	Replace a culvert with a fish passable structure.	\$ 1,000,000

2026	Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2026 Collaborative Riparian Restoration-SFEG	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 150,000
2026	Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	2026 Collaborative Riparian Restoration-SRSC	Restore habitat and water quality via native riparian and floodplain forest and estuarine revegetation & stewardship; includes assessment needs; Tier 1, 2, & 2S from SWC Strategy.	\$ 150,000
2026	Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Bowman Bay Construction	Reconnect a historic tidal wetland with Bowman Bay. Bowman Bay, a 2,100-foot-long pocket beach, is located in Deception Pass State Park on the southwest shore of Fidalgo Island	\$ 236,000