

**WRIA 14 Lead Entity Workgroup
Mason Conservation District Board Room
10/19/2017**

In attendance	
Brian Combs, SPSSEG	Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe
Jennifer Holderman, MCD	Gary Schayton, Citizen
Jim Irving, Citizen	Erik Schwartz, MC
Jeanne Kinney, TC	Bill Young, Citizen
Alicia Olivas, HCCC	Sarah Zaniewski, Squaxin Island Tribe
Mitch Redfern, MCD	

Squaxin Island Tribe analysis and data collection efforts since 2002

S. Steltzner provided an overview of analysis and data collection efforts lead by the Tribe since 2002 in WRIA 14. **Analysis work includes** Nearshore Assessments (2002 and 2004), Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment in Goldsbrough, Johns and Skookum basins (2004), the Stream Ranking model (found in Appendix B of 2004 strategy), Stillwater Limiting Factors Analysis in Cranberry, Mill and Sherwood basins (2007), Field work in Sherwood of temperature and impacts to juvenile rearing in the basin (2008), the Nearshore Project Selection Tool (2009), Pocket Estuary Prioritization (2011), and Coastal Catchment Analysis (2015). **Data collection work includes** temperature on Goldsbrough, Johns and Skookum (forward looking infrared—FLIR) and Skookum, Mill, Johns, Sherwood-Schumacher (data loggers), stream flow monitoring on Goldsbrough (continuous gauge) and Skookum, Mill, Johns, Sherwood-Schumacher and Cranberry (staff gauge), adult trap (Cranberry), adult stream surveys (throughout) Smolt traps (Cranberry, Mill, Skookum, Goldsbrough, Johns, Sherwood and Gosnell), Snorkel surveys (Cranberry, Sherwood, Johns, Skookum, Mill and Goldsbrough), beach seining and acoustic work (transmitters placed in smolt raised in netpens).

This data collection and analysis along with low percent impervious surface and significant amount of land base in long term forestry/legacy status has helped prioritize restoration efforts by the Tribe and others in Goldsbrough with significant additional work accomplished since 2001 dam removal.

See *WRIA 14 Studies* presentation for more details.

Discussion: Questions on presentation and approaches to updating WRIA 14 strategy

How is fish use data stored and incorporated into other efforts? How well does SalmonScape align?

- Smolt counts are used by WDFW to forecast annual adult returns to the system; compiled smolt data can be found on at http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/research/projects/wild_coho/
- SalmonScape does align but sometimes the descriptions are ambiguous and passage barriers data isn't updated

Lots of important work has been done concurrent and subsequent to 2004 Strategy; where can it be stored, how will it inform our priorities?

- Meeting today marks the beginning of an important conversation to answer these questions

How would the Tribe like to see an update to strategy proceed? Should they lead these efforts?

- The Tribe would like to see recovery plans (identify timeline for getting projects implemented, monitor and adaptively management)
- All interested parties in the update need to buy-in, whether financially or through in-kind commitments, to ensure implementation success

What about a strategy for Steelhead in WRIA 14?

- Tribe is not prioritizing steelhead. Attempts at stocking it in Goldsborough and Kennedy during the 1970s didn't result in subsequent sustaining populations.

Strategy Update conversation

Bill's suggestion: move away from projects of opportunity and prioritize work in one or two basins to attempt to understand whether what we are doing is resulting in a measurable impact to wild salmon; focus on summer/fall rearing choke points (temperature, low flows and dissolved oxygen)

- The current approach in Hood Canal, RFPs for particular basins, can be seen as a similar approach. Hood Canal has thought about implication of an approach similar to what's been suggested by Bill.
- The current RFP approach is easy to defend and discourages turf battles. On the other hand, outreach (time needed to develop a project) takes longer running the risk of missing opportunistic projects and it may limit the pool of prospective projects.
- If efforts are concentrated in one basin then we're running the risk of other basins becoming too degraded. If we concentrate our efforts in the top tier streams we'll have a level of certainty.

How much needs to happen in the interim to get it ready for 2018 grant round?

- Take a year off from the grant round in light of no budget and this work and just recycle the list; may not be wise as 2018 is large funding year
- Revise scoring process to better reflect prioritization of current tiers; continue with 2004 strategy until fixed

What are possible approaches to updating the strategy?

- Limiting factors has gaps; these can be addressed with new data and analysis developed since 2004; current strategy is also poorly organized; document implementation in WRIA 14
- Consultants are skilled at this type of task and can accomplish for 30-40K; subcommittee is needed (4-5 people) who've expressed commitment in writing; **verbal commitment from Bill, Brian and Sarah at this time**; subcommittee may choose to bow out during 2018 grant round for time management purposes
- Review and brief other strategies to the subcommittee; continue formulating a strategy for the strategy; identify dates for next two meetings