

Stillaguamish Estuary Beneficial Sediment Re-Use Assessment

DRAFT Agenda

2/5/2014, 12-4pm, Everett WA

Snohomish County, East Administration Building, 6th Floor, Room 6A04

Meeting Objective:

Identify the technical and scientific issues that a design feasibility study would need to address.

Background: The Stillaguamish Flood Control District has proposed to dredge the Old Stilly river channel in order to reduce drainage problems on farmland. They have proposed using dredged sediment to enhance tidal marshes in the estuary, to assist with Chinook recovery. This project is being considered within the context of Snohomish County's Sustainable Lands Strategy, an effort among fish and farm interests to develop strategies that generate net gains for both. Re-use of dredged sediment to enhance tidal marshes has been done in other regions, but is uncommon here. To evaluate whether re-use should be considered, a feasibility study will need to address some key issues. The purpose of this meeting is to identify those issues.

12:00 Introductions, Project Overview and Context

12:30 What do we know about current conditions in the Stillaguamish estuary
(Summary of past and current research, recovery plans, and climate change impacts)

1:00 Is there a positive role for sediment re-use in the estuary?
This project concept should not be just a way to get rid of unwanted fill. Before a design and feasibility study even begins, how do you determine whether dredged sediment re-use should even be considered? What are the potential benefits and impacts? Is there a better or more feasible way to achieve the same benefits?

1:30 Project Design and Feasibility - What information is needed to determine where and how to apply sediment?

How do you design a project to be sustainable in the context of geomorphic and hydrodynamic controlling factors? What information is needed, and how do you get it? How should climate change effects be considered? What are the potential ways of using sediment? How do you select among them?

Some potential uses may include: place sediment in areas where marsh has been disappearing, to slow the loss; apply it in areas that are more vulnerable to sea level rise, before loss begins; augment tidelflat areas to accelerate the initiation of new marsh at the seaward marsh boundary; create new marsh islands; apply it to existing marshes to accelerate development of higher marsh or scrub-shrub; use it to raise the elevation of subsided restoration sites.

3:30 Synthesis and Next Steps