
Snohomish County
Sustainable Lands Strategy
Phase 1 Framework Report

Prepared by
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On behalf of the
Sustainable Lands Strategy Executive Committee

March 14, 2011

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I. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the provisions of an initial Framework developed by representatives of key agricultural and fish/wildlife interests to reconcile the land-base needs of agriculture and habitat restoration activities in Snohomish County.

The initiative is referred to as the Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS) Framework. Its purpose is to define general guidelines and principles upon which the parties agree that future actions to preserve farmlands and restore fish and wildlife habitat should be based. The agreement recognizes the importance of other issues as well, including clean water, economic viability, and tribal cultural concerns.

The SLS Framework is non-regulatory in nature and requires further development to become fully effective, including drafting and adopting policy and code provisions and designing, funding, and implementing “net gain” actions.

The signatories to this initial Framework represent only that it reflects progress toward the essential interests of their constituencies at this stage of the initiative, and that they are committed to participating in the SLS deliberative process to further its goals. A three-year SLS review, with sunset clause, is recommended.

II. BACKGROUND OF THE SUSTAINABLE LANDS STRATEGY INITIATIVE

Protection of resource lands – farmlands and natural lands and waters – is mandated in federal, state, and county policies, treaties, and statutes. Snohomish County’s Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan contains goals and objectives aimed at both preserving agricultural lands and restoring native salmon habitat. However, the county’s land use and development code – the means for implementing GMA goals and objectives – provides little guidance for resolving conflicts when these differing uses lay claim to the same lands, and, of course, these provisions cannot infringe or violate tribal treaty rights or other federal obligations and statutes.

The primary areas of contention between agricultural and restoration interests are the estuaries of the Snohomish and Stillaguamish Rivers, the county’s two main river systems. Much of the county’s designated agricultural land lies within these estuaries. It is in these same estuaries that habitat restoration projects are the most crucial to salmon recovery efforts, the most expensive, and the largest in physical scale. Most of these projects involve breaching earthen dikes and flooding large tracts of designated farmland. These factors make estuary restoration projects particularly difficult to accomplish and susceptible to delay or failure where there is substantial opposition.

In 2008, the total amount of designated agricultural land targeted for potential habitat restoration and compensatory mitigation projects by Snohomish County and other sponsors in the Stillaguamish and

Snohomish River basins amounted to several thousand acres. The perception of this potential impact on the county's agricultural land base brought the issue of conflicting land-use priorities to a head. On September 9, 2008, the Snohomish County Agriculture Advisory Board adopted a resolution requesting Snohomish County government to *"balance the goals and policies of the GMA and the county's GMA General Policy Plan relating to protection and enhancement of agriculture and agricultural lands."*

As a way of achieving this balance, the board submitted a recommended set of criteria to be used by the county in evaluating and compensating for all wetland restoration or mitigation proposals that would convert designated farmlands to fish and wildlife habitat. The board called for a moratorium on habitat restoration projects until its concerns were addressed.

At the same time, tribes and other restoration interests note that we currently do not have viable salmon fisheries, that the very existence of these fish and the cultures that depend on them are threatened, and that federal laws (i.e., the Endangered Species and Clean Water Acts) and treaties with sovereign tribes can be asserted to help restore protected fish stocks.

In spring 2010, County Executive Aaron Reardon and County Councilmember Dave Somers co-sponsored and launched, with State agencies and the Tulalip and Stillaguamish Tribes, the Sustainable Lands Strategy initiative for the purpose of reconciling agricultural and restoration imperatives.

The primary charge of the SLS initiative is to carefully evaluate problems and opportunities for both "fish and farms" and to design a framework for reconciling differences and meeting the resource needs of both interests. The initial steps of the initiative were to form a project work group, develop a work plan, and convene stakeholders to assist in accomplishing the SLS mission:

To generate net gains in agricultural, tribal cultural, and ecological productivity and health in Snohomish County by developing, within six months, a broadly supported framework of tools, strategies, and policies, including Comprehensive Plan amendments, that will drive harmonized sustainable land-use and resource management decisions. [Adopted July 16, 2010]

After extensive stakeholder consultation and preparation, the SLS process was convened in June 2010 by the State of Washington Puget Sound Partnership, Conservation Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Snohomish County Executive Office and County Council; and the tribal governments of the Tulalip Tribes and the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians.

The SLS conveners directed that the initiative be governed by an eight-member Executive Committee consisting of four agricultural and four habitat restoration leaders (including two tribal government representatives) and that it operate on a consensus decision-making basis: all members must agree on recommendations advanced to the conveners.

A Support Team composed of county, tribal, agricultural, and watershed “staff” and experts was assembled on an ad hoc basis to help develop the SLS Framework. Independent consultants Dan Evans and Lew Moore were selected to facilitate the initial six-month “SLS Framework” phase of the initiative.

The SLS Executive Committee held its first meeting on June 21, 2010. There followed a fast-paced process of stakeholder group and individual interviews, staff consultations, and Executive Committee meetings culminating in the completion of this SLS initial Framework.

The Executive Committee considered several means of achieving SLS goals, including new regulatory and formal administrative review processes. One potential option involved the requirement to de-designate agricultural land before a restoration project on that land could proceed. Another option involved requiring a Conditional Use Permit for habitat projects on designated agricultural lands.

In the end, the Committee concluded that a streamlined, cooperative, non-regulatory review emphasizing agriculture and watershed group coordination and early engagement was the best course of action to pursue, along with emphasis on a package of specific “net gain” enhancements for both agriculture and salmon recovery.

Table 1: SLS Participation

Sustainable Lands Strategy Participation

SLS Initiative Conveners	SLS Executive Committee	SLS Support Team Leads
Snohomish County:	Habitat Restoration	County Leads:
Aaron Reardon, County Executive	Representatives:	Debbie Terwilleger, SWM Dir.
Dave Somers, County Council	Kristin Kelly, Futurewise	Ryan Hembree, Ag Coordinator
State of Washington:	Nick Harper, Cascade Land Conservancy	Will Hall, Council staff
Joe Ryan, Puget Sound Partnership	Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes	Watersheds:
Bob Everitt, Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Shawn Yanity, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Bob Aldrich, Bill Blake, John Engel, Roy Feiring, Tim Walls
Ron Schultz, Conservation Commission	Agriculture Representatives:	Tribal Staff Leads:
	Brian Bookey, Agricultural Advisory Board	Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish
	Monte Marti, Conservation District	Kit Rawson, Tulalip
Tribal:	John Postema, Agricultural Advisory Board	State Agency Leads:
Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes		Morgan Schneider, PSP;
Shawn Yanity, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians		Doug Hennick, WDFW
		Agricultural:

Dave Remlinger, Agricultural
Advisory Board

Conserv. Dist, NRCS

Facilitators:

Dan Evans & Lew Moore

III. PROVISIONS OF THE SLS INITIAL FRAMEWORK

SLS Framework Accords

The basic provisions of the SLS initial (Phase 1) Framework are based on the following accords:

1. Agreement on guiding principles for developing future SLS implementation actions.
2. Agreement that all parties support each other's legal imperatives, including specifically, tribal treaty rights.
3. Agreement that both agriculture and habitat restoration have cultural and food production importance; that fish and wildlife preservation, clean water and healthy natural systems serve food production; and that farmers are not only food producers but key stewards of the environment.
4. Agreement that a county-wide "net gain" approach for both agriculture and habitat restoration is preferable to imposing project-specific mitigation requirements; that no group is being called out to compensate another.
5. Agreement that a solid foundation of expertise and information already exists upon which to build future SLS implementation proposals.
6. Agreement that the Sustainable Lands Strategy development work must continue through the implementation phase and that opportunities for broad community engagement and oversight, including continuation of the Executive Committee, must be retained throughout the process.

SLS Guiding Principles

As the foundation for development of a future SLS implementation plan for Snohomish County, the SLS Executive Committee adopted the following guiding principles:

1. **Tribal Authority:** One of the cardinal principles of the Sustainable Lands Strategy process is that it will not infringe upon tribal treaty rights or authority. Tribal authority over Trust and other lands is well established. It is the intention of the SLS initiative to be respectful of ongoing legal process on such matters without in any way assuming the future direction of court decisions. Effective implementation of the SLS suggests that the County *and* tribal authorities affirm SLS policy recommendations, including efforts to coordinate SLS implementation cooperatively between the jurisdictions via Inter-Local Agreement (ILA).

2. Net gain: An effective Sustainable¹ Lands Strategy must simultaneously and substantially improve agricultural economic vitality and potential productivity; ecological health and restoration of fish and wildlife populations to harvestable levels; and quality of life, including tribal culture rooted in fish, wildlife, and native plants.
3. Informed decisions: Accurate information must be provided to support good decision-making – agricultural and restoration GIS mapping, scientific studies and analysis, planning documents – should be integrated and presented in ways that facilitate use by policy, technical, and public participants.
4. Multiple imperatives: To ensure that informed decisions also help reconcile agricultural, wildlife, and salmon-recovery imperatives, an informal (non-regulatory) “viability analysis” – which considers habitat needs and priorities, tribal food production and culture, effect on agricultural lands and productivity, and opportunity (funding, permitting, real property issues) -- should be conducted early on and throughout the development of habitat project proposals and other SLS initiatives.
5. Integrated land-use plans for farms & fish/wildlife: Although both agricultural and restoration imperatives are outlined in existing authorities, an integrated, overarching county-wide SLS strategy is important to help guide land and resource decisions that reconcile these imperatives and prevent isolated decisions that create conflict and one-sided outcomes. An important objective of these plans – at the county, reach, and demonstration project scales -- will be to prioritize both restoration and agricultural enhancements and to optimize allocation of the land base for farms, fish/wildlife recovery, and other uses.
6. Mutual respect: Agreement and mutually beneficial outcomes result from mutual respect among the interested parties and recognition of the need to communicate, especially early in resource land decisions, with each other about all facets involved in implementing multiple imperatives.
7. Win-win actions: SLS implementation actions should emphasize benefits for both farms, and fish/wildlife, such as installing anaerobic digesters for agricultural wastes that improve water quality and dairy economics while providing a new source of renewable, climate-safe energy.
8. Outcome-based approach: SLS implementation actions should use the most efficient and least burdensome means to deliver tangible outcomes while avoiding additional regulatory and bureaucratic processes whenever possible.

¹ Sustainable core principles include the “triple bottom line” (simultaneous improvement in environmental, economic, and cultural health) and long-term “inter-generational equity.”

9. Process drivers: Top priority should be given to protecting and restoring the health of natural processes (e.g., hydrology) that support a broad spectrum of farming, fish, wildlife, and community needs rather than protection and restoration of site-specific functions or individual assets.

Net Gain Approach

The meaning of “net gain” is that the measure or value of something shows an increase after all deductions and adjustments against it have been made. The goal of achieving net gain for agricultural, ecological, and tribal values is at the core of the Sustainable Lands Strategy.

During the course of the SLS process, the Executive Committee considered requiring net gain at both the “transactional” level (for each habitat project) and at the county-wide level. The Committee concluded that it was not feasible or desirable to rigidly apply the net gain principle to each habitat project, which would involve specific offsets or mitigation, and a “bean counting” evaluation, for each restoration project that impacts agricultural land or productivity. Instead, the Committee decided that net gain for both farms and fish should be achieved through a broad package of enhancements over the next seven years, coinciding with the time remaining in the current federally approved salmon recovery plans for the Snohomish and Stillaguamish basins that are the primary drivers of habitat restoration projects that impact agricultural lands and wildlife.

A list of potential net gain actions for agricultural, ecological, and tribal interests is included in the Recommendations section of this report.

Existing Foundation of Expertise and Experience

Of great importance to the SLS initiative is the ability to marshal existing information on habitat needs and priorities, agricultural lands and uses, and other relevant information needed to make informed decisions regarding improvements for farms and fish. Key sources of guidance in this respect include:

Watershed and Salmon Recovery Resources:

- Snohomish River Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Plan (federally approved)
- Stillaguamish Watershed Council Plan (federally approved)
- Reach-level assessments (hydrology) & priorities (for most areas)

Agricultural Development and Enhancement Resources:

- Snohomish County Agriculture Action Plan 2005
- Snohomish County Agriculture Sustainability Project Report (SAEDAT) 2009
- Snohomish Sustainable Futures Reconnaissance 2008
- Snohomish County Agriculture Advisory Board Farm & Fish Working Group 2009/10

Snohomish County GIS Mapping Resources:

- The county’s GIS mapping capabilities include the ability to integrate agriculture, restoration, and other land-use data that will facilitate SLS review of proposed restoration projects and help

decision-makers maximize restoration opportunities, minimize impacts to farms, and enhance potential farm productivity.

A great deal of planning, study, and community involvement has already gone into producing current strategies for sustaining both salmon and agriculture in Snohomish County. However, the two efforts have largely taken place on separate tracks and some key elements of each have not yet been completed. The unfortunate outcome of this disparate approach is that today fish and farm interests often find themselves pitted against each other in the late stages of decision-making as they attempt to implement projects.

The SLS initiative is intended to forge a link between fish/wildlife and farm enhancement plans and to create a method for reconciling the land and water resource needs of each. To do this, SLS implementation plans will incorporate and build upon the significant bodies of work already accomplished by watershed and salmon recovery groups, agriculture industry groups, tribal governments, local jurisdictions, and public agencies.

Coordination with Additional Agencies and Initiatives

Further development of the SLS Framework and initial implementation will require the involvement of additional entities, especially regulatory agencies, and possibly coordination with other initiatives, such as the critical area proposal developed by the Ruckelshaus Center that is now moving through the State Legislature.

The full promise of the SLS net gain approach -- particularly reach-level planning, streamlined programmatic permitting,² and regulatory certainty and assurances³ -- cannot be fully realized without the cooperation of local, state, federal, and tribal authorities that have jurisdiction in land use and relevant regulatory matters. A high priority for SLS Phase 2 will be expanding direct communication and collaboration from the current group of SLS conveners and participants to other key agencies and jurisdictions, including the State's Office of Regulatory Assistance and Department of Ecology, and the Federal ESA Services (NMFS, USFWS), EPA, FEMA, NRCS/USDA, and Army Corps of Engineers.

In addition, a legislative proposal (Substitute SB 5713) developed by the Ruckelshaus Center is currently advancing through the State Legislature to address conflicts between agricultural and environmental interests created by critical area requirements under the state's Growth Management Act. The Center's proposal -- three years in the making with counties, farmers, and environmental stakeholders (but so far

² "programmatic permitting" refers to pre-approval of specified actions under the umbrella of a single permit agreement. For example, as part of a diking district or reach level plan, regulatory agencies (singly, or preferably together) could approve specified ditch cleaning, dike and tidegate replacement/repair, and other activities as part of a package that ensures water quality and habitat needs are being met.

³ "regulatory certainty and assurances" means that participants know what the requirements are and that regulatory authorities are willing to provide written assurances to that effect, such as in a letter or Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act on a SLS reach plan.

without broad tribal participation) – would create the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) as an option for counties to “protect and enhance” critical areas used for agricultural activities through voluntary actions by agricultural operators. The State Conservation Commission would administer the VSP and establish policies and procedures for implementation by locals and, with technical panel support, review county and watershed plans to address VSP goals.

The SLS has been seen as a valuable part of a locally-driven mechanism that could implement VSP goals. Given the short timeline for developing a VSP plan, the SLS would provide Snohomish County with a timely “plug in” should the legislation be approved and the county decide to opt into the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Continuation of the SLS Process

The currently constituted SLS Executive Committee should continue to drive development, and initial implementation, of the Framework. Snohomish County, with the participation of tribal governments and other authorities, should play a central role in coordinating a Sustainable Lands Strategy implementation plan. While the County has much of the effective authority over land use, it must collaborate with and help coordinate other authorities and participants – cities, tribes, state, federal, and community entities.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The SLS Executive Committee submits the following recommendations for consideration and further action by the conveners of the SLS initiative:

- 1. Affirm the SLS initial Framework (Phase 1) and authorize development of an SLS Implementation Plan (Phase 2).**

The primary means of reconciling agricultural and restoration imperatives on a long-term, sustainable basis is the continued commitment of SLS stakeholders and convening governments and agencies to the SLS mission.

Especially valuable in advancing SLS principles and reconciling farm and fish/wildlife values in a more detailed and site-specific manner than is possible in this high-level framework document, is the collaborative development of integrated strategic plans for enhancing both agricultural and ecological productivity within the county’s two main river systems – at the county, reach, and demonstration project levels. An essential element at the county scale is the definition of a “critical mass” of protected farmland to match the specificity of salmon and watershed plans.

The county’s 2009 Agriculture Sustainability Project report provides the foundation for completion of the SLS strategic plan for agriculture. It provides a wealth of current data on the distribution and productivity of the county’s farmlands. It also contains insightful and detailed

recommendations for protecting and preserving the agricultural land base through programs such as the Transfer and Purchase of Development Rights (TDRs, PDRs), and for reconciling conflicts between agricultural and environmental priorities. Many of the SLS net gain proposals are consistent with recommendations made in this and other agricultural planning documents sponsored by Snohomish County over the past six to eight years. These provide valuable building blocks for the agricultural component of SLS strategic plans.

The same is true for the habitat restoration component of an integrated SLS strategic plan. In the Snohomish and Stillaguamish watersheds, citizens, tribes, agencies, and non-governmental organizations have worked for many years to create the federally-approved salmon plans that are now a part of the regional recovery plan. These too should be incorporated into SLS strategic plan documents.

- 2. The County (PDS & Public Works, Council), with Executive Committee input, should undertake strategic SLS plans and a code development process for implementing SLS land goals.**

As well-developed as they are, both agricultural and salmon recovery plans require additional work to precisely identify and quantify the specific land and water resources needed by each to fulfill their missions on a long-term, sustainable basis. It is axiomatic that what can't be measured, can't be protected.

Reconciling the resource needs of fish and farms, and advancing both, is at the heart of the SLS mission. The first step in this effort should be to demonstrate the application of SLS principles in a restoration project or two. A second, and perhaps concurrent, action is to develop reach-level land allocation and protection plans for the Snohomish and Stillaguamish River basins.

Especially important are reach or sub-basin plans for the two estuaries, where proposed dike-breaching habitat projects to restore critical estuary habitat for ESA-listed salmon and other species constitute more than 90% of the potential impact to designated agricultural lands in the county. Other priority reaches would include areas where there are critical issues that would benefit from SLS coordination – surface and ground water management strategies in upper watershed areas, Skykomish Scenic River protections and drainage, side-channel habitat and flood control on the mainstems.

In developing SLS policy and code language for habitat restoration and agricultural lands, it will be important to recognize and address all factors contributing to the conversion and loss of farmlands in Snohomish County, as well as the imperative to restore habitat and ecological function. Monitoring and evaluating effects and “net gain” toward measureable goals for farms and fish/wildlife is an essential SLS component.

- 3. The SLS Executive Committee will provide policy-level guidance for SLS implementation and, with technical and other assistance, convene an ad hoc farm & fish/wildlife coordination group to undertake specific tasks.**

A mechanism is needed to ensure the balanced and thoughtful implementation of SLS principles and guidance. It is recommended that the SLS Executive Committee be designated to advise the county and other entities regarding SLS implementation, and, in addition, to convene an ad hoc SLS farm and fish/wildlife coordination group to address specific SLS issues and coordination tasks. The farm & fish/wildlife group will reflect the ag-fish/wildlife balance of the Executive Committee and could be composed of Executive Committee designees and/or technical or policy representatives of participating entities (e.g., watershed, Conservation District, Ag Advisory Board, tribal staff) as needed for specific projects and tasks. To initiate early discussion on SLS issues, avoid duplication, and provide consistent and integrated input, the farm & fish/wildlife coordination group will operate within the watershed councils, Agricultural Advisory Board, and other venues. This ad hoc group (not a standing body) will be convened as needed for the following purposes:

- To provide information and counsel to habitat project proponents (i.e., Snohomish Watershed Forum & Stillaguamish Watershed Council) and agricultural interests (i.e., Ag Advisory Board) regarding SLS principles and guidance.
- To review and provide comment to decision-makers on issues related to fish-friendly farming practices.
- To use the informal (non-regulatory) “viability analysis” to help evaluate the effects of a project on farm, tribal, and fish/wildlife values. The viability analysis should include consideration of the proposed project’s restoration value and priority (within the context of reach-level or basin-scale strategic plans), contribution to tribal food production and culture, its potential effect on farmland and productivity (negative or positive), on wildlife, and assessment of the project’s “opportunity” (i.e., willing landowner or seller, funding, permits, etc).
- To review and comment on agricultural activities and habitat projects going through regulatory permitting and environmental review processes guided by SLS principles and the viability analysis.
- To provide early and continuing engagement with habitat project proponents and farmers whose lands, and adjacent properties, may be affected by such activities.
- To engage with watershed and agricultural groups in developing farm and restoration plans.
- To provide a forum for ongoing dialog on all topics of interest and concern to agriculture and habitat restoration groups and to foster a culture of collaboration.

As the primary mechanism for implementing SLS policy, the practical application work of the farm & fish/wildlife coordinating group would benefit from policy-level oversight and support. The existing SLS Executive Committee and conveners group currently performs this function and could continue to do so in the future. At the final December 14, 2010, meeting, the Executive Committee unanimously supported its continuation to provide policy-level support for the SLS initiative. It is therefore recommended that a carefully balanced SLS policy oversight group, following the Executive Committee model, be established.

3. Pursue funding and commit to making investments that will yield net gains for both the farming economy and fish/wildlife restoration.

Securing a sustainable agricultural land base is not alone sufficient to support robust and economically viable agriculture, as demonstrated by the thousands of acres of idle designated farmland in the county today. By the same token, achieving the current 1,700-acre target for habitat restoration projects is not alone sufficient to return native salmon populations to harvestable and sustainable levels or to ensure the ecological health of the county's river systems. It is important to make strategic business and infrastructure investments to fully support both farms and fish.

The actions and investments recommended in this agreement will yield both immediate and long-term gains for local agriculture, water quality, and native fish and wildlife. The proposed timeframe for achieving these enhancements is seven years, coinciding with the time remaining in the current federally approved salmon recovery plans for the Snohomish and Stillaguamish basins that are the primary drivers of habitat restoration projects that impact agricultural lands. It is recommended that the innovative SLS initiative be subjected to a review and evaluation three years from initial implementation, including suggested changes and a recommendation regarding reauthorization needed to continue the SLS.

The SLS Executive Committee recommends that SLS convening authorities launch a concerted effort to fund and implement the actions listed in Table 2 below.

Table 2: SLS Recommended Net Gain Actions

SLS Recommended Net Gain Actions and Investments to Support Fish and Farms (7-Year Implementation Timeline)	Primary Beneficiary	
	Agriculture	Salmon Recovery
<u>Land Base</u> : Add 2,000 acres to protected farmlands and other resource land through PDR/TDR, zoning changes, incentives, etc.	X	X
<u>Hydrology</u> : Develop watershed-based hydrologic management plans, including sediment management, forest cover, duff, etc.	X	X
<u>Riparian Programs</u> : Seek funding for shoreline and flood protection projects: flood fencing; edible buffers, CREP	X	X
<u>Water Quality</u> : Seek seed funding for organic waste co-op; clean water plans; regulatory and financial incentives	X	X
<u>Animal Waste Management</u> : Seek seed funding for innovative Ag waste tools; e.g., digesters, compost, pelletization	X	X

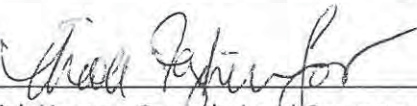
<u>Strategic Farm and Fish Plans</u> : Provide support for development of example SLS projects, and reach-level plans (i.e., for estuaries) that identify project priorities, enhancements, land-base needs	X	X
<u>County SLS Plan</u> : Develop overarching SLS land-resource sustainability plan to integrate Farm and Fish plans	X	X
<u>Stakeholder Support</u> : Secure critical mass of support to sustain land base, seek funding for SLS implementation	X	X
<u>Cross Coordination</u> : Ensure Ag Board representation on watershed and salmon recovery groups and vice versa	X	X
<u>SLS Review & Guidance</u> : Codify form and function of Farm & Fish/Wildlife Coordination Group; charter, role	X	X
<u>Habitat Restoration</u> : Secure and restore approx. 1,700 acres of estuary and other habitat in Snohomish and Stillaguamish basins	X	X
<u>Restoration Project Approvals</u> : Obtain programmatic or streamlined approvals for restoration actions in SLS-based example project or reach-level plans		X
<u>Farm Project Approvals</u> : Obtain programmatic or streamlined approvals for farming activities that meet SLS guidance, best practices, conservation plans	X	
<u>Agricultural Economy</u> : Seek funding to implement business development and infrastructure recommendations in 2005 Ag Action Plan and 2009 Agriculture Sustainability Project Report	X	

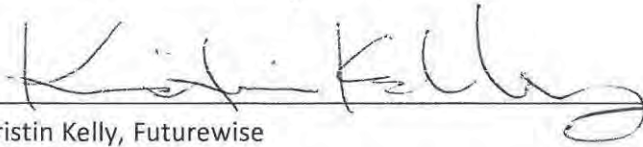
V. SLS INITIAL FRAMEWORK SIGNATORIES

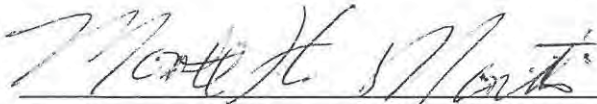
We, the members of the Snohomish Sustainable Lands Strategy Executive Committee, affirm the principle of net gain for agricultural productivity, restoration of habitat and water quality, and tribal cultural values as outlined in this SLS initial (Phase 1) Framework Report, with the agreement that Phase 2 will further develop the SLS Framework and launch initial implementation measures.

Respectfully Submitted by the Sustainable Lands Strategy Executive Committee,


Brian Bookey, Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board

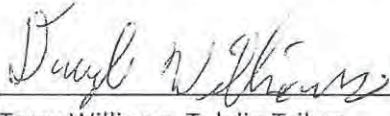

Nick Harper, Cascade Land Conservancy

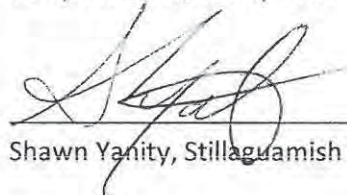

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