

DRAFT

SWAT General Meeting, March 22, 2007  
Mason Conservation District Office in Shelton, WA

Agenda:

9:30 -- Welcome by John Bolender, MCD district manager, and brief introductions  
9:45 -- Announcement of EPA grant  
10:00 -- Presentation of the SWAT's 3-Year Action Plan to Restore the Skokomish Watershed (Mike Anderson, Richard Brocksmith, Robin Stoddard, Rich Geiger, Jack Turner).  
10:45 -- Break  
11:00 -- Discussion of 3-Year Plan  
12:00 -- Lunch  
1:00 -- Information sharing and coordination  
2:00 -- Funding opportunities  
2:30 -- Pine Creek Stewardship Project  
3:00 -- Adjourn

Attendees:

Allen Gibbs, USFS R-6  
Ed Messer, EPA  
Denise Forbes, Mason County  
Marc Wicke, Tacoma Power  
Bruce Huntley, USFS ONF  
Kathy O'Halloran, USFS ONF  
Dusty Watz, JX Construction  
Robin Stoddard, USFS ONF  
Patti Case, Green Diamond  
Sandy Hunter, Skokomish resident  
Shelley Johnson, Skokomish resident  
Jayni Kamin, Skokomish resident  
Mike Anderson, Wilderness Society  
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District  
Rich Geiger, Mason Conservation District  
Jennifer Stephens, Wilderness Society  
Shelley Spalding, US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jack Turner, Skokomish Tribe  
Keith Dublanica, Skokomish Tribe  
Emmett Dobey, Mason County  
Sara Crumb, Congressman Norm Dicks office  
Dean Yoshina, USFS district ranger  
Richard Brocksmith, Hood Canal Coordinating Council  
Kevin Geraghty, Olympic Forest Coalition  
Neil Werner, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Bob Dick, American Forest Resource Council

Welcome by John Bolender, followed by brief introductions. Mike Anderson (MA) gave a brief overview of what the SWAT is, how long we've been around (2 years), and what we do.

#### Announcement of EPA grant

319 Non-point Source grant was successful!! \$150,000 submitted by Skokomish Tribe on behalf of SWAT to do work on road stabilization and drainage upgrades of federal roads in the upper Skokomish. This would reduce sedimentation from roads, and eventually improve flood mitigation and fish habitat, possibly even Hood Canal marine water quality. Keith Dublanica discussed the role of SWAT and the help they/we have provided in reviewing and supporting efforts, and how collaborative efforts have helped biological and social networks in the watershed. Several folks in attendance thanked people involved. 14 groups within SWAT signed on to the letter of support, and Norm Dicks also sent a letter. Tribe is only taking \$5K out of \$150K so that almost all the money goes to work on the ground.

#### Presentation of 3-Year Plan

MA started the power-point presentation with background context of how we got to this process. Plan is still "draft" while Skokomish Tribal Council and Forest Service discuss consultation of tribal treaty resources; they met recently and have agreed to work together over next several weeks to come to decision points. Jennifer Stephens from Wilderness Society was in charge of putting together the 47-slide power-point.

Richard Brocksmith (RB) started with introduction to 3 year plan

Robin Stoddard (RS) went into upper watershed 3 year plan.

Rich Geiger, Jack Turner, and Keith Dublanica presented lower watershed section.

RB finished up with funding strategy.

#### Discussion

Reconvened, starting with comments:

Good information, could use more pictures.

Very powerful, great with multiple folks presenting.

Demonstrates collaborative effort.

We could add more thorough introduction, with upper watershed, lower watershed, funding request.

Where can it be used now? Convert to a DVD for outreach materials. Attach it to grant proposals. Put voice to it.

Interesting incorporation of climate change. Will that be included in the GI analysis?

Rich says we are asking federal government to provide forecast so that we can plan for the future in that analysis. Maybe use information from analysis by Climate Impacts Group in Quinault.

Jayni Kamin asked what it means for valley residents that base flow in north fork is going from 60 to 240cfs. Marc said that the overall magnitude of flow increase is minimal, so

shouldn't affect flooding given South fork flows. BOR also has done analysis which shows the 240 cfs will start moving some gravels out of N. Fork first.

Talked about the value of eco-tourism, and how to incorporate that into floodplain plan from GI.

Jayni also asked about the opportunity to put trails where roads are decommissioned, and she specifically mentioned Bourgalt and River Roads. Jack replied that we've focused on that in Nalley's but that may not be doable on those specific roads given the objective of re-establishing wetland connections and flood mitigation.

Sara wants to applaud us on this great effort. It will be very helpful in general outreach, and should be helpful on federal funding side. For funding, timeline is pushed back and she doesn't have any news. It is problematic given that earmarks went away for FY2007. We asked about field trips, and Sara responded that it is very difficult to plan the Congressman's schedule in advance. The best chance to get him would be summer, and more specifically, August. If one is scheduled earlier, Sarah would be available.

Dean asked about potential reservoir impacts from quadrupling of flows. Marc said that may be an impact, but that they'll have to balance that once license is issued.

Kathy updated on FS budget. Rather than just money for timber, it appears that the budget is many different colors, so they can do more than originally thought. It has been good to have plans in place to know where to spend it best. There may be more money for FY07 than we thought. FS is hopeful Flat fallout roads may be funded that way. They have asked for specific monies for FY2007 budget; \$320K for Rock Creek roads, money for LWD project management, money for finishing Lebar Big Dig, and a few others. Numbers are rough given budgeting process. They don't need a letter from SWAT for this, as we've already been helpful with our presence. It is a regional decision about how those funds are distributed.

A landowner thanked us for everything we are doing and expressed her excitement on the amount of work. She'd like to continue participation. Several landowners agreed that they would love to get a presentation on these subjects, possibly at the Skokomish Grange Hall; it would be so positive to see these things, see everyone getting along, and to provide input on content. They mostly realize that these are huge problems and that it will take years to address, so not knowing all of the answers up front isn't a big issue.

Break for Lunch

#### Information Sharing and Coordination

Wilderness Society and OFCO working on an initiative to increase funding to FS to stabilize and decommission roads throughout the Puget Sound basin and eventually the rest of state. This developed out of an Ecology and USFS agreement from 2001 involving water quality. Ecology roads initiative is a \$300M request for 10 years, with

FY2008 money of \$30M focused on Puget Sound watersheds. Ecology, WDFW, and environmental groups are moving this forward as a federal appropriation request.

MCD is planning to put in grant request to FCAAP for funds to provide local match to GI.

Emmett Dobey: Rich and John briefed Mason BOCC on SWAT. Commissioner Gallagher is going back to DC to meet with Rep. Dicks and will bring SWAT plan. County has copy of avulsion study and is reviewing it. Study done 3 or 4 years ago by Geoengineering, commissioned by BOCC. One goal was to identify developable lands. Rich Geiger says that this study combined with flood mitigation efforts will begin to find places to develop lands. This study was meant to add to Best Available Science for update to Comprehensive Plan. Jack added that the timing was good for the GI as it can build on multiple similar efforts to pull them together in our more comprehensive effort to determine corrective actions and long-term conditions.

County is now prepared to move forward with final plans on wastewater effort in Skokomish to Hoodsport facilities, now that monies are available for the projects.

County received funds to do a trail and park plan.

County is also working on stormwater plans for whole county, including Belfair and Hoodsport areas.

There has also been discussion on locating anaerobic digester at the county transfer site. They are still discussing how to move wastes to the digester from the Valley.

USFWS is partnering on GI, estuary, Bourgalt and River Road removals, and possibly LWD. It may be that Hood Canal is one of their focus areas and they can then provide more support to the SWAT.

Tribes are in global settlement talks with TP. Also, Jack is looking into the ability for the SWAT to perform the advisory tasks required under the 319 EPA grant.

Update on Puget Sound Partnership, PSP funds, SRFB 8<sup>th</sup> Round, our local process for distributing those funds. RB also discussed LWD project, permitting, assessment and design, and wood stockpiling. He broached the options available for obtaining wood, including buying it, getting it donated from FS, and/or through Stewardship sales.

Bob Dick discussed implications for housing implosion.

Dean Yoshina discussed meeting with Skokomish Tribe about Access and Travel Management Plan update and getting “draft” off of the 3-year plan.

Robin says we still have not heard about national Rise to the Future Award, but we should hear soon. Aquatic Restoration Plan will be completed soon. Flat Stewardship is

ongoing. Timber harvest has been on-going through the winter, while LeBar has been buttoned down for the winter. They'll get back to work in June, which would be good timing for field trips. Brown Creek road decommissioning is scheduled to be awarded in July with work to begin shortly afterward and lasting two annual seasons.

Jayni thanked everyone for making time to come to the meeting, and commended folks who put so much work into development of 3 Year Work Plan. She wondered if we could get representatives from the Corps at the next meeting. She thought it would be a good idea to try to give our 3 year plan presentation to the Puget Sound select subcommittee. She thinks we should host a presentation of the plan for landowners.

Neil agreed that coalitions are strong, and that success breeds success. It's also important to have ideas on actions ready to go, and we think we've done that with the 3 Year Work Plan.

#### Funding Opportunities

More than \$1 million received for Skokomish restoration since last SWAT meeting in October:

The Tribe was awarded a USFWS Coastal Wetlands grant for estuary work, for \$680K.

The Tribe was awarded an EPA 319 grant for non-point source work to stabilize roads in the upper watershed, for \$150K.

The Tribe was awarded a SRFB grant of \$190K for LWD placement in South Fork.

The Cascade Land Conservancy was awarded SRFB grant of \$190K for conservation of lands along the confluence of the south and north forks.

Pending: An EPA Targeted Watersheds grant for \$900K, \$4.6M in federal appropriation for upper watershed, \$750K in federal appropriations for lower watershed GI, PSNERP preapp for Nalley Island Phase 2 feasibility study, PSPartnership funds. Ecotrust NOAA grant is now only open to fish passage projects ready to go.

A long discussion followed on fish passage in general, plus the dry area of South Fork.

Big upcoming opportunity/requirement is FCAAP to fund local GI match.

Some discussion about knotweed.

#### Pine Creek Stewardship Project

2 separate stands, we will sale 69 acres. One is near LeBar and one is near Pine Creek.

Bruce has roughly noted edges of focus area, avoiding creeks, etc. Need feedback on silviculture prescription by May 15 so the contract can be designed. Derek, Kevin, Bob, Jeff Heinis volunteered to go on site.

Long discussion on where/when/how we get trees with rootwads for aquatic restoration, and we decided the topic was one that needed significant discussion on criteria and location, and that this discussion needed to proceed but probably separate from the Pine Creek Stewardship project.

We finished with a discussion on best value criteria for stewardship contract. Options include technical ability, price, personnel, year round availability, with the end goal of getting as much money as possible but finishing with a good product/process. Criteria used in Flat Project should be applicable to Pine Creek. Potential for SWAT members to be on the contract selection team.

Adjourned 3:30.