



# FLOODPLAINS FOR THE FUTURE

PUYALLUP, WHITE & CARBON RIVERS

## Floodplains for the Future (FFTF) Shared Monitoring Program

# May 2019 Results Summit – Summary

LOCATION: PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OFFICE  
308 W. STEWART AVE., PUYALLUP, WA

DATE: MAY 6, 2019

*Confronting the first substantive set of results showed FFTF partners how important context is and how powerful data can be, and led to major improvements to the Monitoring Program process.*

## OVERVIEW

At the second Results Summit for the FFTF Shared Monitoring Program, more than 20 partners were presented with the results from the annual call for metric data. The monitoring team presented results for 14 metrics and partners posed a variety of questions about data sources, definitions, and what the results were attempting to highlight. The questions and conversation highlighted the importance of how the results are presented and what context is provided with them. FFTF partners agreed that the results were not ready to be shared with a broader audience until each interest group (flood, farm, and fish) had an opportunity to discuss the data and how it is presented. This will now be part of the annual cycle of gathering and analyzing data, allowing partners to discuss the results of relevant metrics and seek specific feedback about how to improve those metrics and their presentation. This revised process will also provide opportunities for FFTF partners to share additional context about each metric with the Monitoring Team.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### RESULTS

The Monitoring Team presented results for 14 metrics. Results included:

- 59.8 acres of restored habitat in 2018
- 362 acres of new built environment in the floodplain from 2013-2015
- 381 acres of reconnected floodplain from 2013-2017

### DEVELOPMENT AND RESTORATION

As shown above, even as floodplain is being reconnected, new development in the floodplain continues. While the 362 acres of new built environment did not convert natural floodplain that is equivalent to the reconnected and restored floodplain acres, it does raise the question of whether our gains are outpacing our losses.

### QUESTIONS RAISED

The results raised some big questions for FFTF partners, including:

- Are we achieving enough to improve floodplain health?
- What do we need to do differently?
- Who else should be at the table?

### CONNECTION BETWEEN LOSS OF AGRICULTURE AND DEVELOPMENT

The results show that agriculture is at risk in the Puyallup watershed. In the absence of agriculture, buildings and development will move into the floodplain and exacerbate flood risk and habitat issues. Development pressure can make it feel like there is competition between agriculture and salmon recovery, but FFTF partners know there are opportunities to pursue solutions that benefit both.

## HIGHLIGHTS, continued

### POLICY

The results pointed to a gap in the FFTF's ability to articulate what policies need to be changed to prevent floodplain degradation. FFTF partners have a sense of urgency in developing integrated floodplain management projects, but there needs to be the same sense of urgency at a policy level. Partners believe that people who work on policy should be at the table at FFTF meetings, as should advocacy organizations.

### NEW PROCESS

FFTF partners agreed that the metrics need more vetting in smaller groups to help determine how the results should be presented and what context should be provided alongside

them. Moving forward, the Monitoring Team will meet with fish, flood, and farm interests separately to present and discuss the results relevant to those interests.

### STORIES, GOALS, AND CONNECTIONS

The discussion at the Results Summit pointed to the importance of distilling the message from the results and being able to share the story with others. FFTF partners also brought up the importance of tying the results to the FFTF shared goals and showing the connections between metrics.

## METRICS PRESENTED AT MAY 2019 RESULTS SUMMIT



### Land

**Built Environment in the Floodplain**  
**Floodplain Development**  
**Actively Farmed Land**  
**Connected/Natural Floodplain**  
*Climate*  
**Connected Floodplain**  
*Accessible Stream Miles*



### Investments

**Combined Investments**  
**Floodplain Restoration Projects**  
**At-risk Structures**  
**Conserved Farmland**  
**WRIA 10 Actions**  
*Agricultural Viability*  
*Use of Climate Projections*  
**Restored Habitat**



### Outcomes

*Overall Floodplain Status*  
**Farm Businesses**  
**Farm Revenue**  
*Farm Drainage*  
**\$\$ of Flood Damages**  
*Salmonid Abundance*

*(Metrics not presented at this Summit)*

## PARTICIPANTS

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(FFTF Coordinator)

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Crystal Raymond, *University of*  
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*Conservation Science*

Martin Fox, *Muckleshoot Tribe*

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Lisa Spurrier, *Pierce County (Lead Entity)*

Kristen Williamson, *South Puget Sound*  
*Salmon Enhancement Group*

Robby Wright, *City of Sumner*