



FLOODPLAINS FOR THE FUTURE

PUYALLUP, WHITE & CARBON RIVERS

Floodplains for the Future (FFTF) Shared Monitoring Program

May 2021 Results Summit – Summary

LOCATION: ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

DATE: MAY 19 AND MAY 21, 2021

During the fourth results summit of the FFTF program, partners led highly collaborative discussions about the metric results and what they mean for the future of the program. Conversations were focused around the pace and direction of FFTF actions and input collected from partners will guide adaptive management efforts during the remainder of the year.

OVERVIEW

Nearly 30 partners met to discuss the 2020 results compiled for the Shared Monitoring Program during the 2021 Results Summit for the FFTF Shared Monitoring Plan. For the second time, FFTF partners met virtually for the Results Summit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of the large number of metrics included in the call for data, the Results Summit was held over two days. In spite of the physical distance, FFTF partners were highly engaged and used a new virtual meeting tool, Mural, to promote collaboration and guide conversations about the metric results and what they mean for the FFTF program. On the first day of the Results Summit, the monitoring team presented the results from 12 metrics and partners shared their initial reactions in breakout discussions. The second day of the Results Summit was used to further discuss the metric results and assess progress with the strategies identified for the FFTF program. Partners made note of impressive collaboration and investments but also stated that a lot of work still needs to be accomplished. Additionally, partners used the results as a springboard for a conversation about the trajectory and pace of work under the six FFTF strategies. For example, participants in the Results Summit noted that floodplain reconnections and removal of at-risk structures were both on the right trajectory but are not happening at the pace necessary to meet FFTF goals. Conversely, farmland conservation is not on the right trajectory as more farmland is converted each year than is conserved.

HIGHLIGHTS

RESULTS

The Monitoring Team presented results for 12 metrics. Results included:

- Combined Contributions by FFTF Partners: \$10,090,703 in combined contributions in 2020.
- Floodplain Reconnection Projects: 65 acres of completed floodplain reconnection in 2020 with 15 more projects in progress and 5 proposed projects.
- Agricultural Viability: \$1,833,740 contributed towards agricultural viability in 2020.

NATURAL PROCESSES

After reviewing the 2020 metric results, several partners noted the importance of protecting and restoring natural processes to improve resilience for fish, farm, and flood interests. For example, restoring fish passage is more resilient than trapping and hauling fish over barriers, relying on gravity for farm drainage is more resilient than pumps, and reconnecting areas of natural floodplain is more resilient than flood infrastructure. By focusing on natural processes, FFTF partners can make their actions in the watershed more resilient.

HIGHLIGHTS, continued

TRACKING ACREAGE

The largest proportion of money spent under the FFTF program goes towards the acquisition of property to reduce flood risk, protect agricultural lands, and enhance salmon habitat. However, the monitoring plan does not capture the total acreage of land acquired through the program. By collecting and reporting this information, partners will be able to better understand progress made towards the FFTF vision and goals.

POLICIES AND ACTIONS

Partners noted that policies and actions in the watershed remain at odds with the strategies, goals, and vision of the FFTF program. Policies under the Growth Management Act and Comprehensive Plans can sometimes be at odds with the vision of the FFTF program, and limit partners' capacity in achieving the goals of the program. Work is needed to address policy shortfalls in order to advance the FFTF vision of integrated floodplain management.

LEARNING CYCLE IN 2021

The Results Summit is the culmination of the Results Cycle – an annual effort to gather, interpret, and present data. Following the Results Summit, FFTF partners will lead and participate in the Learning Cycle, which focuses on adaptive management of FFTF based on the results and the conversations at the Results Summit. The Learning Cycle will also include adaptive management of the Monitoring Program itself.

METRICS PRESENTED AT MAY 2021 RESULTS SUMMIT

Investments

- Combined Contributions
- Floodplain Reconnection Projects
- At-risk Structures
- Conserved Farmland
- Agricultural Viability
- Use of Climate Projections
- Restored Habitat

Land

- Built Environment in Floodplain*
- Actively Farmed Land
- Connected/Natural Floodplain
- Weather and Climate Conditions
- Accessible Stream Miles*

Outcomes

- Overall Floodplain Status*
- Farm Businesses*
- Farm Revenue*
- Farm Drainage
- \$\$ of FEMA Claims
- Salmonids

(Metrics not presented at this Summit)

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