



FLOODPLAINS FOR THE FUTURE

PUYALLUP, WHITE & CARBON RIVERS

Floodplains for the Future (FFTF) Shared Monitoring Program

December 2018 Results Summit – Summary

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

DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2018

The first annual Results Summit helped Floodplains for the Future partners begin to understand how the Monitoring Program will work and how it can inform FFTF efforts over time.

OVERVIEW

The inaugural Results Summit was a forum for FFTF partners to learn about the monitoring effort, increase understanding of its purpose and relationship to their work of integrated floodplain management, and review the results of some metrics. The Monitoring Team (Pierce Conservation District and ESA) presented results for 13 of the 21 metrics. FFTF partners discussed the initial results, suggested refinements, and brainstormed ways to improve the overall monitoring program. The first Results Summit allowed FFTF partners to explore and discuss the connections, meaning, and communication potential of the metrics and the Index of Floodplain Health.



HIGHLIGHTS

NEW GOALS

We (FFTF partners) discussed and agreed to three new shared goals:

- Increase integration and collaboration across FFTF members and interests (fish, farm, and flood)
- Increase the resilience of flood management infrastructure, the ecosystem, and agriculture as climate changes
- Protect existing functional salmon habitat

DEEP DIVE – RECONNECTED FLOODPLAIN

We picked a single metric, Reconnected Floodplain, to have an in-depth discussion and test what we can learn from results. This conversation raised several important questions for the Monitoring Program and for FFTF as a whole:

- What does it really mean for a portion of the floodplain to be reconnected?
- How does reconnected floodplain balance against new development in the floodplain?
- How can we acknowledge the progress made to reconnect floodplain that occurred before our baseline year (2013)?
- How do we collect data for our own needs but that is also meaningful to other agencies (such as Ecology and Puget Sound Partnership)?

RESULTS

For the first time we were able to share results, some of which show encouraging progress. For example, between 2013 and 2017, FFTF partners were able to:

- Invest \$43.4 million in the floodplain
- Remove 53 at-risk structures from the floodplain
- Conserve 393 acres of farmland

HIGHLIGHTS, continued

NEED FOR BENCHMARKS

Conversations at the Results Summit highlighted the need for benchmarks to contextualize the results. For example, how many at-risk structures still need to be removed from the floodplain? How do we quantify the total financial need to accomplish the shared goals of the FFTF collaboration?

IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

Seeing the first set of results stimulated a discussion about communication needs and audiences. The first audience for the results is FFTF partners themselves, but we also want to be able to communicate to elected officials, the public, and funders.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

FFTF partners worked through each theme of the Index of Floodplain Health, connected metrics to goals and identified gaps and potential improvements to the Monitoring Program. Insights gleaned through this discussion included:

- A metric is needed to track investments in agricultural viability
- We should track removal of, or improvements to, fish passage barriers (i.e., culverts)
- Publicly-Accessible Floodplain is not a priority to track at this time

METRICS PRESENTED AT DECEMBER 2018 RESULTS SUMMIT



Land

Functional Floodplain

Reconnected Floodplain

Publicly-accessible Floodplain

Agricultural Land Use Changes

Floodplain Development

Flood-compatible Uses



Investments

Combined Investments

Floodplain Restoration Projects

At-risk Structures

Conserved Farmland

SCP Properties

WRIA 10/12 Actions



Outcomes

Overall Floodplain Status

Farm Revenue

Farm Businesses

Farm Drainage

Water Temperature

\$\$ of Flood Damages

Restored Riparian Habitat

Restored Estuary Habitat

Salmonid Abundance

(Metrics not presented at this Summit)

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