



Your Northwest renewables utility

June 29, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Jackson Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2157
Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan 2015 Annual Report
License Appendix G A-LA 12**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Enclosed is Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County's Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan 2015 Annual Report pursuant to the Jackson Hydroelectric Project's License Appendix G A-LA12. The draft report was provided to the Aquatic Resource Committee for a 30-day review and comment period; consultation documentation is included in the report's appendix.

If you have any questions on the Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan 2015 Annual Report, please contact Dawn Presler, Sr. Environmental Coordinator, at (425) 783-1709 or DJPresler@snopud.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom DeBoer

Tom DeBoer
Assistant General Manager of Generation, Power, Rates and Transmission Management
TDeBoer@snopud.com
(425) 783-1825

Enclosed: FHEP 2015 Annual Report

cc: ARC

Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2157)



Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan: 2015 Annual Report (A-LA 12)



Everett, WA

June 2016

Final – This document has been prepared for the District. It has been peer-reviewed by the District for accuracy and formatting based on information known at the time of its preparation and with that understanding is considered complete by the District. The document may be cited as:

Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (District). 2016. Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan: 2015 Annual Report (A-LA 12) for the Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2157. June 2016.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (the District) received a license on September 2, 2011 (License), from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project (Project). License Ordering Paragraphs D (Washington Department of Ecology 401 Water Quality Certification conditions) and E (U.S. Forest Service section 4(e) conditions) require the District to implement Aquatic License Article 12: Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan (A-LA 12) as detailed in License Appendix G. The District filed the Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan (FHE Plan) with the FERC on November 19, 2010.

As indicated in the FHE Plan, funded projects will be designed to provide additional Project-related enhancements to aquatic resources and hydrologic processes focused in the Sultan River basin; thereby, providing considerable benefits to aquatic habitat and anadromous and resident fish populations throughout the License term. These additional habitat enhancement projects, working in conjunction with other protection, mitigation and enhancement measures, such as improved side channel connectivity, increased instream flows, and the anticipated fish passage at the Diversion Dam, will likely substantially increase the quantity and quality of aquatic habitat and performance of anadromous and resident fish populations in the lower Sultan River. Establishment of the ongoing FHE Plan and Habitat Enhancement Account (HEA) will also allow for adaptive management as conditions change in the basin. The mitigation provided through the fund will best address habitat enhancement and restoration needs throughout the License term by allowing flexibility to ensure that these other habitat enhancement and restoration projects are developed and implemented during the License term.

Pursuant to Section 6.2 of the FHE Plan, the District is to prepare a report by June 30 of each year detailing activities that occurred the previous year and activities planned for the present year as they relate to implementation of FHE Plan-approved projects. This FHE Plan Annual Report, covering activities conducted in 2015 and planned for 2016, is being provided to the Aquatic Resources Committee (ARC) for a 30-day review and comment period. The ARC consists of the City of Everett, City of Sultan, Snohomish County, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Tulalip Tribes, U.S. Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and American Whitewater.

Appendix 1 is the Lower Sultan River Restoration Project 3-Year Report. Appendix 2 is documentation of consultation with the ARC, and Appendix 3 contains the District's response to the comments. The only comments received were from WDFW.

2.0 ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 2015

2.1 Project Selection

Only one project was proposed for consideration at the fourth quarter 2015 ARC Meeting. The ARC approved a two-year extension on the previously approved "Lower Sultan River Riparian Restoration" project. A report of the initial effort is included as Appendix 1. The two-year extension will allow the District to continue control of seven species of invasive weeds

(Knotweed, Himalayan and Evergreen blackberries, Scotch broom, Butterfly bush, holly, and ivy) along the lower 6 miles of Sultan River, that have not been eliminated from two small but significant patches of land.

In Osprey Park, there has been great success at reducing large, contiguous patches of invasive plants down to just a few remaining shoots. This has made a noticeable difference within the park; however, small but significant patches of invasive plants remain, sporadically mixed with native plants. This makes treatment more difficult and time consuming. If left untreated, it is likely that a re-invasion of the park property will occur. During the two-year extension, sporadic shoots will be removed and previously treated areas will be maintained.

The Hambelton property has a large established patch of knotweed on a very steep and wet slope. This patch was not treated the first year of the contract because it is more than 150 feet from the river, as the original scope dictated. The first treatment of the patch occurred in 2014. Since the slope is potentially unstable, a cautious approach was taken to treatment to minimize potential for erosion. After the second year of spraying, approximately 2/3 of the knotweed has been treated. Two additional years of treatment will allow the District to control this substantial patch while not denuding the entire slope at once, which would increase the risk of a slide. Subsequent planting with deep rooted shrubs will occur after each fall treatment.

2.2 Project Implementation

Two projects were previously approved for funding in 2013 and continued through 2015, with 2015 activities described below.

2.2.1 Lower Skykomish River Restoration Project

Work in 2015 included plantings to establish a riparian edge along over one mile of riverbank within the floodplain flood fencing, and maintenance watering and protection of the installed plantings. County staff also performed invasive plant control, removing primarily blackberry and knotweed, in the areas of instream structures and flood fencing. Extensive monitoring in 2016 included:

- Inventoried habitat data including: wood, pools, riffles, other wet areas, and bank condition
- Collected channel form data using GPS and bathymetry equipment
- Collected photo documentation of project changes
- Collected continuous temperature throughout the project area to identify water quality conditions and provide baseline data for future comparisons
- Installed water level loggers to identify flow level needed to activate side channel
- Monitored vegetation to determine planting success and maintenance needs; recent results show that the survival rate after the dry summer and deer predation is ~66%

2.2.2 Lower Sultan River Riparian Restoration

Work in 2016 consisted of several tasks: inventory, treatment, and plantings.

Inventory - Noxious weed field inventories of the targeted zones of the riverbanks and surrounding properties were completed using two methods – via raft and the on the ground

mapping. The ground survey information (species, area, description, and GPS location) was collected in the same manner as the raft surveys; however, staff were also able to photograph most of the weed locations while on foot.

Treatment – Invasive species treatment began in March 2015. All English holly within the contracted work area at Osprey Park was injected using an herbicide lance. Suckers coming up around the main stock were cut and dabbed with herbicide. In early June, Scotch broom was removed within the lower 3 miles of the Sultan River. Small Scotch broom plants were pulled up and larger stocks were cut at ground level where the warm dry summer would cause them to die. Large Scotch broom plants were not up-rooted to avoid further ground disturbance which would create an ideal habitat for seeds to germinate.

The next priority for treatment was approximately 7 acres of previously treated invasive patches that had re-growth in Reese and Osprey parks. When treating in Osprey Park, extra attention was paid to areas that were replanted with native trees and shrubs. Since glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide, any drift could easily kill the planted natives. Once previously treated patches had been sprayed, the focus was on patches of invasive weeds that were mixed in with native plants. Treatment was done using a combination of careful spot spray treatments and cut and dab treatment. In August 2016, a knotweed patch on the Hambleton property was treated using a mechanized sprayer; this was the second year of treatment on this patch. During each treatment, approximately 1/3 of the patch was sprayed, totaling 2/3 treated to date. Since planting will not happen until after the third herbicide treatment, a cautious approach was taken with the work area to prevent erosion on exposed ground after treatment. Erosion control best management practices (BMPs) was implemented so the slope was not left bare through the wet winter/spring season.

Plantings – In 2015, a supplemental planting at Osprey Park was conducted to replace dead or missing trees and to add more low-growing shrub/groundcover plants to fill in bare areas. Each planted tree was flagged with fluorescent flagging for future surveys. Mulch and grass seed will be applied in the spring once the threat of flooding has passed.

The first planting completed at Reese Park occurred in fall 2015. There were two main areas that were re-vegetated. The first area is at the northern end of the park on the small island that could be accessed by footbridge. The second area is the furthest downstream extent of the park. All planted trees were flagged with fluorescent flagging for future surveys. Mulch and grass seed will be applied in the spring once the threat of flooding has passed.

2.3 Project Monitoring

No additional monitoring of FHE Plan habitat projects was conducted since no FHE-funded habitat projects were completed in 2015 beyond that already described above.

3.0 ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR 2016

3.1 Project Selection

As discussed in Section 2.1 above, the ARC approved a two-year extension on the “Lower Sultan River Riparian Restoration.”

3.2 Project Implementation

3.2.1 Lower Skykomish River Restoration Project

This year is the last year for funding this project. Final activities include:

- Install and repair additional anti-predation measures on the plantings
- Evaluate and replace plantings lost in floods or to predation
- Install willow live stakes along Groeneveld Slough in areas of invasive treatments
- Collect and summarize monitoring data
- Complete final project report

In addition, District staff plan to conduct a site visit in the summer 2016 to review site conditions and quality and completion of FHE Plan-funded work.

3.2.2 Lower Sultan River Riparian Restoration

At the Hambleton property, one more broadcast herbicide treatment of the large patch of knotweed will be completed in August 2016. Then a first round of planting will be conducted, leaving enough space to properly treat any remaining knotweed that comes up. The plan for Osprey Park is to continue treatment within 150 feet of the Sultan River and its side channels. With all of the substantial patches having been treated for 3 years, the main focus will be on treatment of the sporadic invasive plants that are mixed in with native plants.

4.0 FUND BALANCE

As of January 1, 2016, the fund’s account balance was \$2,229,537.33. However, this balance does not reflect amounts not yet spent towards approved projects and reserves for potential slides. The balance of unallocated funds for use on future projects is approximately \$1.4 million, as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fund Start | \$ 2,500,000.00 |
| Interest to-date (12/31/15) | +\$ 14,078.96 |
| Subtotal | \$ 2,514,078.96 |
| Confluence property acquisition | - \$ 4,861.38 (closed) |
| Future slides reserve | - \$ 500,000.00 (allocated) |
| Hochfeld property acquisition | - \$ 173,300.00 (allocated) |
| Lower Skykomish River restoration | - \$ 175,000.00 (allocated) |
| Riparian restoration Sultan River | - \$ 230,000.00 (allocated) |

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Riparian restoration Sultan River (2-yr extension) | -\$ 25,000.00 (allocated) |
| Total | \$1,405,917.58 |

Starting the tenth anniversary after issuance of the License (Year 11) and annually thereafter for the term of the License, the District will deposit \$200,000 (based on 2011 dollars) into the fund account per Section 5.1 of the FHE Plan.

5.0 FHE PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations for changes to the FHE Plan are being made at this time.

Appendix 1

Lower Sultan River Restoration 3-Year Report

February | 2016



Lower Sultan River Environmental Restoration Project

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Introduction

Since 2013, Adopt A Stream Foundation (AASF) in partnership with EarthCorps and Public Utility District No. 1 of Snohomish County (the District) have been working to restore riparian conditions along the lower 6 miles of the Sultan River by eradicating invasive plants. The targeted species include knotweed (*Polygonum spp.*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Evergreen blackberry (*Rubus laciniatus*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and butterfly bush (*Buddleia davidii*). The work is being funded by the Jackson Hydro Project's Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan's Habitat Enhancement Account as approved by the Aquatic Resource Committee. In 2015, AASF continued treatment of large previously treated patches, treated sporadic weeds within Osprey Park, re-vegetated and mulched Reese and Osprey parks, removed Scotch broom from the lower 3 miles, and seeded, spread straw and coir on 1,500 square feet of steep slope on the Hambleton property.

Noxious Weed Field Inventory and Mapping

Year Three noxious weed field inventories were completed using two methods. AASF staff surveyed the riverside conditions of the lower 3 miles by raft. A two-person crew recorded the locations of the invasive species using a Garmin eTrex Legend HCx. During the raft survey, the species, area (square feet) and/or numbers of individual stems for scotch broom, English holly and butterfly bush, and a brief description about each point was recorded to populate the ArcGIS attribute data later in the office (Appendix A). When the length of a weed patch extended beyond approximately 50 feet, a "start" and "end" point for the patch was recorded and patch area was derived in the office using GIS and ortho-imagery.



Figure 1. Preparing to do a float survey for the lower 3 miles of the Sultan River.

AASF survey crews also completed mapping on the ground. Most of this mapping took place in City of Sultan parks (Reese and Osprey). The ground survey information (species, area, description, and GPS location) was collected in the same manner as the raft surveys; however, staff were also able to photograph most of the weed locations while on foot (Appendix B). In addition, staff found it easier to identify individual stems of Scotch broom, English holly, and English ivy while on foot than in raft. Properties that have signed landowner acknowledgements were also surveyed. Results from the raft and ground surveys were compiled into a GIS Shapefile. The Shapefile shows where each invasive species is located along the river and the area of the patch.

Weed treatment (scotch broom, Hambelton, Sultan parks)

Invasive treatment began in March 2015. All English holly within the contracted work area at Osprey Park was injected using and herbicide lance. Suckers coming up around the main stock were cut and dabbed with herbicide. This was the ideal time for treatment, without plants in full leaf out the dark green leaves of the English Holly were easy to spot.



Figure 2: (Left) Large holly located in Osprey Park. (Right) Herbicide capsule injected into the base of an English Holly.

In early June, AASF removed Scotch broom within the lower 3 miles of the Sultan River. Small Scotch broom plants were pulled up and larger stocks were cut at ground level where the warm dry summer would cause them to die. Large Scotch brooms were not up-rooted because AASF did not want to cause ground disturbance, creating an ideal habitat for more scotch broom to sprout. Since most of the Scotch broom was not easily accessible by land, AASF accessed these patches from the Sultan River. Two AASF staff launched a small raft from the Trout Farm Road River Access Site boat launch. While looking for Scotch broom's bright yellow

flowers and using the waypoints previously obtained on the Garmin GPS, AASF staff would float the Sultan River until a patch was reached. AASF would stop and secure the raft, treat the Scotch broom and then continue to the next patch. Scotch broom were composted on site, in shady areas without exposed ground, to prevent the potential propagation of Scotch broom seeds from cut plants. One large patch of Scotch broom across the river from Osprey Park took two days to remove.



Figure 3: (Left) Scotch broom invasion across from Osprey Park. (Right) Same area after the Scotch broom has been removed.

The next priority for treatment was approximately 7 acres of previously treated invasive patches that had re-growth in Reese and Osprey parks. These patches have had 2 years of herbicide treatment beginning in summer 2013. When treating in Osprey Park, AASF paid extra attention to areas that were replanted with native trees. Since glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide, any drift could easily kill the planted native trees. Another thing to note is that even after 2 years of treatment within these parks there are still quite a few invasive plants, most of which are Himalayan blackberry. It is hard to say if these had been missed with herbicide in the past, if these are new infestations, or if there has been some resistance to the herbicide being used. Finding and treating these isolated patches throughout the park increased overall treatment time spent at this site.

Once previously treated patches had been sprayed, AASF focused on patches of invasive weeds that were mixed in with native plants. Treatment was done using a combination of careful spot spray treatments and cut and dab treatment. This was very time consuming and even after multiple sweeps through these areas, some invasive plants remained. AASF was granted a 2-year extension to treat these sporadic weeds. This should help to get close to 100% eradication within the contracted work area.



Figure 4: Invasive English ivy among patches of native shrubs within Osprey Park. These non-native patches will be the main priority for treatment in 2016.

In August 2016, AASF treated a knotweed patch on the Hambleton property using a mechanized sprayer borrowed from the District. This was the second year of treatment on this patch. After each treatment, approximately 1/3 of the patch was sprayed, totaling 2/3 treated after 2015. Since planting will not happen until after the third herbicide treatment, a cautious approach was taken with the work area to prevent erosion on exposed ground after treatment. AASF installed erosion control best management practices (BMPs) so the slope was not left bare through the wet winter/spring season. The first step was to make the areas suitable to install coir fabric on, by stomping down the dead knotweed cane. AASF then spread grass seed to get some temporary roots in the ground to hold the soil, and spread straw out over the site to intercept precipitation, allowing it to gradually make its way down to the exposed ground. The final step was to install coir fabric. The coir was installed like shingles overlapping each other to get complete coverage and secured with wooden stakes. The next step will be to treat the knotweed at the end summer 2016 followed by a fall planting.



Figure 5: (Top left) Initial work area with knotweed can sticking up. (Top Right) Laying down straw after the site had been seeded. (Bottom Left) Starting to lay coir fabric on the slope, shingling each section. (Bottom Right) Complete coverage of the work area.

Planting

Osprey Park - Approximately 3 acres of Osprey Park was planted in the fall 2014. In 2015, AASF did a supplemental planting to replace dead or missing trees and to add more low-growing shrub/groundcover plants to fill in bare areas. Using a Gator utility vehicle borrowed from the District, AASF and EarthCorps transported trees on walking paths as close to the planting areas as possible. Once near the planting areas trees were carried by hand to the location where they would be planted. This was very labor intensive, sometimes having to move 15 gallon trees more than 50 yards by hand. Each tree was flagged with fluorescent flagging for future surveys. In February, the plants will have a ring of mulch installed around them and a cover grass seed will be spread in bare areas to inhibit invasive seeds from sprouting.

Mulch and grass seed was not installed during planting because of a concern that floodwaters may undo this work.



Figure 6: (Top Left) Staging trees to be planted at Reese Park. (Top right) Breaking up the roots of a 15-gallon Western Red Cedar at Osprey Park. (Bottom) Staging area within the Sultan Public works yard at Osprey Park.

Reese Park - The first planting done at Reese Park occurred in fall 2015. There were two main areas that were re-vegetated. The first area is at the northern end of the park on the small island that can be access by footbridge. The second area is the furthest downstream extent of the park. For both of these areas AASF was able to get the trees close to the planting areas with the utility vehicle and wheelbarrows. However, AASF did end up having to do a lot of moving by hand which was very difficult given the terrain. All trees were flagged with fluorescent flagging for future surveys. Mulch rings and grass seed was not laid out because of the concern of flood waters undoing this work.

Next Steps

AASF has been granted a two-year extension on the treatment of Osprey Park and the Hambleton property. At the Hambleton property, AASF will be doing one more broadcast herbicide treatment of this large patch of knotweed in August 2016. AASF will then do a first round of planting, leaving enough space to properly treat any remaining knotweed that comes up. In 2017, AASF will do a final treatment and planting at the Hambleton property. By the end of 2017, the knotweed will have been treated four times and the area will be re-vegetated with native plants, keeping the slope stable.

The plan for the next two years at Osprey Park will be to continue treatment within 150 feet for the Sultan River and its side channels. With all of the substantial patches having been treated for 3 years the main focus will be on treatment of the sporadic invasive plants that are mixed in with native plants. With two additional years of treatment it will be possible to eradicate the majority of the invasive weeds within the park boundaries.



Figure 7: (Left) Using a mechanized sprayer to spray out over the large patch of Knotweed on the Hambleton property. (Right) Staging mulch to be spread around each tree at Osprey Park.

Conclusions

Over the three years of this project, AASF with the help of EarthCorps, the District, and City of Sultan Public Works were able to achieve a significant amount of riparian restoration and invasive weed mapping and eradication. During this project, AASF mapped over 2.5 acres of invasive plants by raft and over 7 acres on foot. This mapping data will be helpful for future restoration and weed management work along the Sultan River. Over 7 acres of invasive plants were treated, and over 1,100 native plants were planted.

Treatment of invasive weeds was successful. Since treatment within a 150-foot buffer for the lower 6 miles of the Sultan River is a very ambitious task, AASF had to be systematic with our weed management, prioritizing treatment areas by the severity of the invasion and weed species. All known knotweed patches upstream of river mile 0.5 have been treated, and after 2017 there should be no knotweed upstream of this point. AASF plans to treat the remaining two small knotweed patches below river miles 0.5 with the two-year extension if the budget allows. All known butterfly bush and Scotch broom patches upstream of Osprey Park have been removed. Approximately 45 large English holly plants were treated, the majority of which were found in Osprey Park. English ivy can still be found along the Sultan River; however, the overall area that English ivy covered has decreased with treatment on private properties. This has reduced the ivy to manageable patches that landowners can control on their own. There is still a substantial amount of Himalayan blackberry that was mapped along the Sultan River; however, this weed has invaded so much area that it would not be feasible to eradicate with current weed management practices.

During the three years of contracted work AASF has canvassed over 80 properties, obtained 23 signed landowner participation agreements, re-vegetated approximately 5 acres of treated areas with 275 15-gallon trees, 460 1-gallon shrubs and 370 live stakes. AASF spread 45 yards of mulch and 200 lbs. of grass seed, installed 600 feet of beaver exclusion fence and surveyed over 9 acres of invasive plants. While AASF has not eradicated all invasive plants within the lower six river miles, AASF have achieved an enormous level of invasive control and native re-vegetation.

Appendix 2

Consultation Documentation Regarding Draft Report

Presler, Dawn

From: Applegate, Brock A (DFW) <Brock.Applegate@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 1:20 PM
To: Presler, Dawn; 'Tim_Romanski@fws.gov' (Tim_Romanski@fws.gov); 'Bryden, Andy -FS'; 'Anne Savery'; Pacheco, James (ECY); 'Jim Miller (JMiller@everettwa.gov)'; 'Mick Matheson'; 'okeefe@americanwhitewater.org'; 'Rustay, Michael'
Cc: Binkley, Keith; Whitney, Jennifer L (DFW)
Subject: Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan 2015 Annual Report Comments -- Jackson Hydro
Attachments: 2015 FHEP DRAFT Annual Report.pdf

Hi Dawn, I have one comment on the Fish Habitat Enhancement Project process. WDFW recommends that SnoPUD contract with a land trust to find land parcels to purchase with good aquatic habitat value. I think we should start to take action on the presentation at the last ARC meeting, which showed some priority habitat that might meet our goals. I would emphasize to the ARC that we should not get too tied up or delayed in the process of making priorities because one of the most important aspect of making land acquisitions is a willing seller. In addition, we only have 1.5 million left until 2021, so we can only purchase so much.

Anyway, I can't think of a more permanent (assuming right of first refusal at any possible end of the project) benefit to aquatic life than land acquisitions, which include future management and restoration projects.

Sincerely, Brock

Brock Applegate
Renewable Energy/Major Projects Mitigation Biologist
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
P.O. Box 1100
111 Sherman St. (physical address)
La Conner, WA 98257-9612

(360) 466-4345 x244 (office)
(360) 789-0578 (cell)
(360) 466-0515 (fax)

From: Presler, Dawn [<mailto:DJPresler@SNOPUD.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2016 2:02 PM
To: 'Tim_Romanski@fws.gov' (Tim_Romanski@fws.gov); 'Bryden, Andy -FS'; 'Anne Savery'; Pacheco, James (ECY); Applegate, Brock A (DFW); 'Jim Miller (JMiller@everettwa.gov)'; 'Mick Matheson'; 'okeefe@americanwhitewater.org'; 'Rustay, Michael'
Cc: Binkley, Keith
Subject: JHP (FERC No. 2157) - draft FHE Plan Annual Report for your 30day review and comment

Dear ARC,
Attached is the draft annual report for the Fish Habitat Enhancement Plan. Please take the next 30 days to review and provide comments back to me by June 26, 2016. Thanks.

Dawn Presler
Sr. Environmental Coordinator
(425) 783-1709

PUD No. 1 of Snohomish County
PO Box 1107
Everett, WA 98206-1107

Appendix 3

Response to Comments Regarding Draft Report

| No. | Comment | District's Response |
|---|---|---|
| B. Applegate, WDFW, email dated 6/24/2016 | | |
| 1 | <p>I have one comment on the Fish Habitat Enhancement Project process. WDFW recommends that SnoPUD contract with a land trust to find land parcels to purchase with good aquatic habitat value. I think we should start to take action on the presentation at the last ARC meeting, which showed some priority habitat that might meet our goals. I would emphasize to the ARC that we should not get too tied up or delayed in the process of making priorities because one of the most important aspect of making land acquisitions is a willing seller . In addition, we only have 1.5 million left until 2021, so we can only purchase so much.</p> <p>Anyway, I can't think of a more permanent (assuming right of first refusal at any possible end of the project) benefit to aquatic life than land acquisitions, which include future management and restoration projects.</p> | <p>The FHE Plan allows for property acquisition. WDFW should put together an FHE proposal and submit to the ARC for review and consideration (see FHE Plan Section 3) if it deems that its recommendation is consistent with the intent of the FHE Plan (see FHE Plan Section 1.2).</p> |