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Snohomish Basin Protection Plan - innovative approaches to hydrology protection opportunities

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Snohomish Basin Protection Plan

Technical Approach

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Stewart - Snohomish County, Kate Engle - Parametrix
Objectives

- Background of Snohomish Basin Protection Plan
- Technical approach using the Pilchuck Example
- How the technical approach might inform protection strategies
Background

2005 Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan

Treaty Rights at Risk, Treaty Indian Tribes in Western Washington

2011 Implementation Status Assessment Final Report, Millie Judge
Protection:

“Any action that prevents the degradation of hydrologic processes, which support salmon or salmon habitat, regardless of their existing levels of degradation”
The Pilchuck River Basin
Watershed Characterization Overall Flow Importance Model

- Upper headwaters of the Pilchuck
- Middle Pilchuck between Granite Falls and Lake Stevens,
- Mouth of the Pilchuck near Snohomish
Precipitation Regime

- Rain (33.1%)
- Lowland (56.7%)
Primary Land Use Designation

- Rural Residential (51.1%)
- Forestry (37.9%)
Existing Protection Strategies

- Public Lands (35.2%)
- Timberlands (6.7%)
- Agriculture (2.3%)
- Open Space (1.8%)
• Use LID in development, especially near wetland complexes near western portions of watershed.

• Study exempt wells in this part of the basin to determine effects on low flow.

• Ensure local regulations are protective of ground water recharge and water storage.

• Enroll properties in current use taxation programs
Summary

- New focus on protection, not just restoration
- Technical approach uses several lenses to look at hydrology in basin
- Technical approach will help inform protection strategies

Questions?