



Skagit County Public Works Department
1800 Continental Place
Mt. Vernon, WA. 98273-5625

8/22/2014

Re: Voluntary Stewardship Program

The Samish Indian Nation supports the Voluntary Stewardship Program resolution that would lead to a better ability to protect and enhance critical areas regarding agricultural activities. The Tribe owns 47 agricultural acres in the Thomas Creek watershed which is a tributary to the Samish River. The property is leased to a local dairy farmer and there has been a very good working relationship with him established. The Tribe is also working with other landowners in the watershed on restoration projects that will help improve habitat and water quality that is much needed in this area. The Tribe has been working with the Clean Samish Initiative since its beginnings and are very much aware of the issues surrounding the agricultural community through this venue. Through these ventures, the Tribe is well aware of the issues in the Skagit and Samish watersheds.

There is great importance to be stressed with the fact in this type of group that ALL Tribes be party to decision making. No one Tribe can make decisions for others so consultation will need to open, fair and honest as it should with all entities.

The Samish look forward to further discussion this program.

Sincerely,

Christine Woodward
Director of Natural Resources
Samish Indian Nation