FCZD Environmental Technical Committee Notes – November 24, 2008

The group made revisions to the draft criteria for Objective 4, as well as proposed rewording to the Objective itself.

These criteria are targeted for Phase 1 screening of flood projects/measures, primarily for fatal flaw purposes. More detailed evaluation and ranking will be done later as alternative packages are developed and more detailed project design/analysis/development is completed.

The intention is to provide these ETC draft criteria to the Advisory Committee prior to their next meeting, on December 15.

Comments are due by Monday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m., please provide any comments/proposed revisions, using MS Word "track changes". Members are instructed to email your proposed edits using "reply all" so that all ETC members can see any proposed edits.

The **next ETC meeting** will be on **December 22, 9:30 am - 11:30 am at the Skagit Conservation District conference room located at 2021 E. College Way**

Proposed changes and edits:

Environmental Technical Committee
Draft Criteria for Screening of CFHMP Measures
Revised 11/24/2008
Criteria for Evaluation of CFHMP Measures

Preamble – Provided by Terry Stevens

The members of the ETC understand the significant and potentially catastrophic impacts from major flood events on the Skagit River. Development in the lower valley floodplain, the location of critical infrastructure, and current agricultural practices now require floodwaters to be restrained, diffused, and/or managed to reduce potential impacts to the community. We also understand the impact of anthropogenic changes in the valley over the past 100+ years and the loss of habitat, natural and cultural resources associated with these alterations. The ETC believes that Skagit County has an enormous, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to address these two issues in a simultaneous, mutually supporting manner – a potential win-win that advances two of the most pressing and heartfelt concerns to the local community: flood control and natural resource conservation.

Within our assignment to develop criteria upon which to evaluate the forthcoming measures there are several overarching considerations to which we strongly subscribe: 1) control measures must be presented with complete scientific and ecological understanding of real and potential impacts; 2) cost/benefit data presented must contain the full ecological value of both restoration components and resources lost; 3) control measures and related restoration elements must address the sustainability of both the measure and the environmental benefits: 4) control

measures should identify adaptive management scenarios and related costs; 5) land-use policies and regulations must be included in the mix of flood control measures to be considered (including restrictions on floodplain and farmland development); 6) control measures must have a net environmental gain and provide synergy with other programs (shared-strategy goals, etc). Within these considerations, the ETC presents the following criteria for evaluation of CFHMP measures:

Note: Goal statement and objectives are taken from FCZD Advisory Committee draft mission, goals, and objectives. **Numbered items under each objective are the draft ETC criteria associated with each objective.**

Goal statement from AC draft

2. Incorporate ecosystem protection, restoration and natural resource considerations into flood hazard solutions.

- Objective 1: Increase the natural flood water and sediment storage capacity of the floodplain through the protection and restoration of natural river, bank, tidal marsh, off channel, and wetland habitats.

1. Address channel modification that impacts fish
    a. Restores flood plain processes or provides fish access to the flood plain by reducing constraints on channel migration
    b. Reduce the amount of bank armoring
    c. Restore flood plain processes or reconnect river to its floodplain
3. Increase amount (reconnect) of functional floodplain habitat
4. Increase amount of functional tidal marsh
5. Increase amount of estuarine and nearshore habitat
6. Address projected climate change impacts, such as sea level rise and hydrologic / sediment changes, in project selection and design

- Objective 2. Protect and restore natural riverine, riparian and estuarine processes.

7. Restore riparian function
8. Improves and/or preserves existing Connectivity between freshwater and nearshore habitat
9. Improve large woody debris conveyance & recruitment
10. Maintain or restore native flow regime (including velocity)
11. Any project should have a net environmental gain
12. Provides benefits to multiple species of fish and wildlife

Comment [M1]: Point is included in #6

- Objective 3. Increase the natural water filtration through wetland restoration and prevent water quality contamination during flood events.

13. Reduction of pollutants when flood occurs
    d. Sewer Treatment facilities
    e. Chemical Storage
    f. Pollution reduction management plans
14. Reduce water temperatures through riparian forest restoration (shading)
15. Increase the amount of floodplain/tidal wetlands (to filter pollutants)

- Objective 4. Protect the floodplain by minimizing development in the floodplain outside Urban Growth Areas.

Note from Cynthia: I added this proposed revision to Objective 4 to the Mission, Goals, Objectives to be considered by the Advisory Committee on 12/15

16. Reduce scouring of prime soils in overflow events
17. Achieve less than 100 year flood protection outside of UGA's

Note: this criteria reworded and moved to "Other issues" section below.

Other Issues for the AC to consider regarding criteria development. These were discussed, but not agreed upon by the ETC.

- Recreation opportunities should be considered. This will be important in the development of public support for funding.
- Ensure any agricultural land conversion achieves ecosystem restoration.