

Snoqualmie Watershed Forum 2025-2026 Accomplishments

Since 1998, with funding from the King Conservation District and King County Flood Control District, the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum (Forum) has allocated **\$28.5 M** to **390 projects**, leveraging more than **\$50.2 M** from other funding sources.



2026 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Allocation

The Forum's Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funded by the King County Flood Control District (FCD) allocated **\$2,399,991 to 16 conservation projects**. This funding was leveraged and ultimately helped to raise an additional \$1.3M for conservation projects. Projects went through technical review including site visits by a review committee of ten.

Project Type		# of Projects	% of Allocation
Restoration and Protection	Floodplain Reconnection	3	37%
	Riparian Restoration	4	30%
Education, Coordination, and Outreach	Young Adult	1	1%
	High School Career Prep	1	3%
	K-12 Learning	1	4%
	Adult Volunteer and Stewardship	1	2%
	Resident Outreach	1	2%
	Project Assistance	1	6%
Monitoring and Assessments	Monitoring	2	9%
	Assessment	1	8%



Project Assistance and Coordination

- Staff served on the review subcommittee for **WRIA 7's 2026 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round**, provided **grant writing and fundraising services** to watershed partners on four project proposals and letters of support, including Lower Miller Floodplain Reconnection, Fish Hatchery Road, and others.
- Staff facilitated the **WRIA 7 Knotweed Working Group**, and participated in the **Raging River Working Group** and **Cherry Creek Working Group**.

Technical and Policy Initiatives

- Updated basin-wide riparian restoration targets:** Staff facilitated a working group of subject matter experts to review and finalize basin-wide habitat restoration targets for riparian planting. This included working with a GIS analyst to produce an assessment of current riparian forest cover and gap analysis of restoration needs within 200' of all river and stream channels. The targets are accompanied by a narrative describing our approach to implementation, which was endorsed by the WRIA 7 Technical Committee this year.
- New white paper – nearly complete:** With contracted support from Long Live the King, Forum staff worked on the second in a series of papers that will examine water quality parameters in WRIA 7 and how they impact salmon in the Snohomish watershed (the first was about water temperature). This new white paper is focused on aquatic contaminants and is currently in final review (endorsement by Technical Committee expected by end of 2026)
- Monitoring: (1) Temperature monitoring:** The Forum continued to fund a portion of the water temperature monitoring network in the Snoqualmie basin. Given the [impact of climate change on salmon](#), this monitoring network is a critical tool in salmon recovery work. **(2) Habitat conditions monitoring:** Staff joined field surveys to support efforts led by King County to update data on salmon habitat conditions in the Raging and Lower Tolt Rivers, last done in 2017. The survey team was also joined by Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and Washington Department of Natural Resources staff. This project will provide

essential status and trends monitoring data (such as bank conditions, large wood jams, and other features) to inform future restoration projects and was ranked highly by the 2025 CWM Project Ranking Committee.

- **FFF 2.0:** Staff supported the Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF) 2.0 effort by staffing the King County coordination meeting and supporting the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum representative (Duvall CM Rick Schafer through May 2026) to the Implementation Oversight Committee (IOC)
- **Local & Regional Collaborations:** Staff represented the Forum by: (1) co-chairing the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Technical Committee; (2) supporting the Snohomish Basin Lead Entity in updating the 2005 Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan; (3) participating in the Puget Sound Partnership's Salmonids Work Group (part of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program); and (4) participating in the South Fork Tolt River FERC relicensing process, as part of the Licensing Participants group.

Information Sharing and Outreach Efforts

- **Salmon SEEson:** The Forum sponsored two salmon viewing sites in the Snoqualmie Valley as part of the annual [Salmon SEEson program](#).
- **E-news:** Three Snoqualmie Watershed Forum [e-newsletters](#) were emailed to over 8,100 recipients in December, April, and September.
- **Legislative outreach:** Staff developed legislative priorities to support state and federal funding for watershed health with regional partners. Forum priorities were shared directly with Washington Governor Ferguson and Washington's federal delegation.
- **Riparian program pilot,** led and supported by Snoqualmie Watershed Forum staff and partners, launched out of King Conservation District as the Snohomish Basin Collaborative.
- **Forum watershed tour:** held on July 15th, 38 participants toured the Cherry Creek Floodplain project. Construction of the project is anticipated for Summer of 2027.
- **Three other staff led tours** organized to orient new staff and decision makers from various organizations to Snoqualmie Watershed Forum priorities and current projects.



Forum Operations

- New Chair Mayor Mary Miller, and Vice-Chair, Andrew Gobin.
- Forum seat filled with City of Carnation with CM Sam Harrison, Welcome!
- New Resident, King County Council District 3 Forum Member, Alison Uno. Welcome!
- This last May 2026 we saw the retirement of Elissa Ostergaard, who served as Salmon Recovery Manager for the last nine years.
- New Salmon Recovery Manager hired and onboarded, Erin Ryan-Penuela.
- Recruitment for Project Coordinator successful with incoming Project Coordinator expected mid-September 2026.
- Karen Reagen served as interim project coordinator while Erin Ryan-Penuela was on leave. Thank you, Karen!