

South Fork Snoqualmie River Corridor Plan Public Meeting Summary

December 1, 2016

Sponsored by the King County Flood Control District

Attendees

28+ Community members

King County Flood Control District (District): Supervisor Kathy Lambert

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP) staff: John Taylor, Steve Bleifuhs, Mark Ruebel, Richelle Rose, Todd Hurley, Lorin Reinelt, Jo Wilhelm, Jay Smith

Kellogg Consulting: Tamie Kellogg, Facilitator; Linda Glasier, Notetaker

Goals

1. Provide an update on the draft South Fork Snoqualmie Corridor Plan.
2. Share information and engage the community in dialogue about the key flood and erosion risk problem areas identified for the South Fork and the proposed prioritized lists of projects to address flood risk problems.
3. Document feedback from the community on the proposed capital investment strategies (see Public Meeting Minutes).

Process

The 2½ hour public meeting included:

- Open house for the public to ask questions and discuss issues one on one with DNRP staff.
- Slideshow presentation and two question and answer sessions with the community.
- Documentation of community feedback to be shared with the King County Flood Control District.

The agenda and process for the evening were briefly reviewed. Community members were informed that the meeting summary would be shared with the District and posted on the website.

Introductions

King County Flood Control District Supervisor Kathy Lambert began the meeting by thanking the community members for attending.

Mark Ruebel, Supervising Engineer, DNRP, presented and discussed the Draft South Fork Snoqualmie River Corridor Plan and Capital Investment Strategy with two breaks for questions and answers.

Common themes from the community

Levels of Flooding:

- Clarification on what flood level designs are being proposed and what criteria are being considered in project selection and prioritization.
- An acknowledgement that the community will sustain certain levels of flooding and to what extent there is an acceptable level of flooding.

Bendigo Bridge:

- Move the proposed Bendigo Bridge replacement project to the top of the Capital Investment Strategy priority list.
- Request for WSDOT to help cost share in the expense.

Risk to I-90 Closure:

- Snoqualmie Pass closes frequently for snow and avalanche removal already and the likelihood that I-90 will flood does not appear to be significant enough to warrant making the investments in the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project. [Several comments were offered regarding how the funding for the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project could be used for other high priority projects.]

Dredging/No Dredge Option:

- Prioritize gravel removal/dredging now as an early action to get immediate flood risk reduction benefits.

Levee Setbacks:

- An appearance that the levee setback alternative has already been selected to move forward and that other options are no longer being considered.

Level of stress/impacts:

- Uncertainty on the project status for the last 1½ years has resulted delayed decisions on home repairs, maintenance and remodeling, creating frustration, stress and constant worry, particularly related to the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction project.

Culverts:

- Appreciation for the Flood Control District's cleaning and maintenance of the culverts along the South Fork Snoqualmie River, which has helped with flooding issues.
- Request to continue to invest in low-cost fixes and maintenance activities that are important to the long-range goals of flood protection.

Vegetation:

- Consideration should be given to the impacts of removing trees in order to implement the I-90 Flood Risk Reduction Project, which could decrease property values. Suggested a cost-benefit analysis to determine who will bear the property value impacts.

Meeting Conclusion

Everyone was thanked for coming out this evening and encouraged to fill out the comment sheet tonight or to share their input directly with the project team. The project team will roll up all the feedback and share it with the District.