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County Releases Plan for Restoring Salmon Habitat in Snohomish River Confluence Area

Snohomish County will hold a community meeting September 22 to unveil revised plans for a salmon habitat restoration project in the Snohomish River Confluence Reach Area and to gather additional community input for future restoration projects.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Snohomish Library, 311 Maple Avenue, Snohomish.

The Snohomish River Confluence Restoration project is funded by a grant received from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board for salmon habitat restoration work in the project area.

The County developed a range of project proposals meeting the terms of the grant and the master plans for the area's county parks, and presented those proposals to the community for discussion at an August 17 public meeting. Community comments were then incorporated into the revised plan for the restoration project.

The County received a number of comments from the community on ecological issues in the reach area that did not fall within the parameters of the grant. "We are keeping a list of those concerns to guide future restoration activities in the reach area. We will also be giving the community another opportunity to add to that list during our September 22 meeting," Project Manager Bob Aldrich stated.

The Confluence Reach project area is a 3.5-mile stretch of the Snohomish River downstream (north) of the convergence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers, south of the city of Snohomish and west of Monroe. The area includes Twin Rivers Channel, Lord Hill Regional Park, Lake Beecher and the Bob Heirman Wildlife Preserve.

The August 17 Meeting Report and Key Findings will be mailed to attendees, and is available online at <http://www.surfacewater.info> (then click on "Snohomish River Confluence Reach Analysis"). The Meeting Report will be also distributed at the September 22 meeting.

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For more information on the meeting, please contact Mary Hurner, Public Involvement Specialist, at 425-388-6430. For more information on the project, please contact Bob Aldrich, Project Manager, at 425-388-6424.

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