

## SNOHOMISH-SKYKOMISH RIVERS

### Monroe Area

This section encompasses the mainstem Snohomish River from R.M. 14.0, near Snohomish, upstream to the Snoqualmie River confluence (R.M. 20.5), and continues as the Skykomish River to about R.M. 30, east of Monroe. It includes about 15 miles of river plus more than 85 total miles in tributary drainage, excluding Snoqualmie River (Snohomish 600) and Woods Creek (Snohomish 1500).

#### Stream Description

From R.M. 30, the Skykomish River winds west four miles to Monroe, then southwest five miles to the Snoqualmie River. It continues as the Snohomish, flowing northwest more than six miles toward the town of Snohomish. In addition to the Snoqualmie and Woods Creek, principal tributaries include Barr and French creeks.

The Skykomish-Snohomish Valley is quite broad and flat, ranging up to two miles wide. It presents mainly cleared farmland with intermittent strips or thickets of deciduous growth. Bordering hillsides are moderately steep, most with relatively dense conifer-deciduous cover. Agriculture is the major land use, with some logging on adjacent slopes. Gravel mining has recently become important. Scattered rural and suburban residences exist in a number of areas across the valley, as well as over some surrounding slopes. Monroe is the major community development. Extensive recreation activity also occurs in this area, principally fishing and hunting.

The lower 9.5 miles of Skykomish River, from R.M. 30.0 down to the Snoqualmie, offer moderate-gentle gradient conditions. The channel is quite broad with early fall flows covering 30 to 45 yards in width. A good pool-riffle balance exists through this stretch, with a number of channel splits that add considerably to spawning and rearing habitat. The bottom is quite stable, with mostly gravel-rubble composition and just a few short stretches with boulder or sand deposits. Extensive, high-quality riffles predominate, and are generally separated by deep pools or long, slow-moving glides. Most banks are naturally stable, consisting of relatively low, natural earth cuts or long, broad, gently sloping gravel-rubble beaches. Stream-side cover consists mainly of strips or small thickets, deciduous trees, and underbrush that offer little shade to the broad river.

Below the Snoqualmie, the Snohomish River presents a moderate-gentle gradient through the remainder of this reach. The channel is broad with fall flows covering 40 to 60 yards, not including side channels and channel splits that exist. The bottom over the lower 2.5 miles is stable gravel and small rubble. A number of long, broad riffles are separated by large, deep pools. Over the remaining four miles, below Lake Beecher outlet, bottom material is mainly gravel and sand, with only a few gravel riffles existing. Snohomish River banks are mostly low natural earth cuts, with numerous broad, gently sloped gravel-sand beaches. Stream-side cover is sparse, consisting of occasional strips or thickets of deciduous growth.

Most tributaries exhibit moderate to gentle gradient over lower reaches, with steeper conditions above the valley floor. Generally they offer fair-to-good pool-riffle conditions, with mainly gravel or small rubble bottoms. Their sur-



PHOTO 07-18. French Creek flood control pumping station.

rounding cover is usually moderate to dense deciduous growth.

#### Salmon Utilization

This reach provides transportation for all salmon species utilizing upper river basins. Also, this section provides some of the most extensive, most heavily utilized spawning area within the entire drainage. Chinook, coho, pink, and chum salmon use this area, spawning in the main river and its numerous side channels. Each species, to some extent, also uses each of the accessible tributaries. Juvenile rearing takes place within all accessible waters in the reach.

#### Limiting Factors

A major factor which could severely limit salmon production involves gravel removal where it affects spawning areas. Another potential limiting factor is water quality degradation through waste discharge or certain water-use developments upstream.

#### Beneficial Developments

Upstream and downstream fish passage facilities at the French Creek flood control station is the only specific project to benefit salmon production. Juvenile salmon plants, plus periodic stream maintenance activities, are undertaken in some tributaries.

#### Habitat Needs

The principal requirement to maintain salmon production potential in this reach is to protect the quantity and quality of existing spawning habitat, principally in the Skykomish and upper two miles of Snohomish River. An additional requirement is maintenance of water quality.



**SNOHOMISH-SYKOMISH RIVERS — MONROE AREA**  
**Snohomish River Basin — WRIA 07**

Stream Number	Stream Name	Location Of Mouth	Length	Drainage Area	Salmon Use
0012	Snohomish River				Chin., Coho, Pink, Chum
0184	French	RB-14.7	8.6	—	Coho
0186	Unnamed	LB-2.2	6.5	—	Coho
0188	Unnamed	LB-1.15	2.0	—	Unknown
0190	Unnamed	LB-2.1	1.6	—	Unknown
0192	Drainage Ditch	LB-2.45	~ 5.0	—	Unknown
0198	Unnamed	RB-3.0	1.95	—	Coho
0202	Drainage Ditch	LB-4.5	~ 2.0	—	Unknown
0203	Unnamed	RB-4.9	2.0	—	Coho
0205	Unnamed	RB-6.51	2.2	—	Coho
0207	Unnamed	LB-17.7	1.4	—	Unknown
	Lake Beecher	Outlet-0.1	—	—	
0209	Unnamed Side Channel	LB-18.35	1.55	—	Coho, Pink, Chum
0210	Evans Creek	LB-0.1	2.7	—	(Coho), (Chum)
0211	Unnamed	RB-1.1	1.1	—	Unknown
0212	Anderson Creek	LB-0.65	3.2	—	(Coho), (Chum)
0213	Unnamed	RB-2.0	1.4	—	Unknown
0214	Elliott Creek	LB-1.45	1.7	—	Unknown
0219	Snoqualmie River	LB-20.5	84.55	—	Chin., Coho, Pink, Chum
	(See Snohomish 603)				
	Snohomish R. cont. as	@ mi. 20.51	—	—	
	Sykomish River				
0814	Unnamed	RB-20.95	2.5	—	Coho, (Chum)
	Unnamed Lake	Outlet-1.9	—	—	
0818	Riley Slough	LB-22.0	6.0	—	Coho, (Chum)
0819	Foye Creek	LB-3.9	1.85	—	Coho, (Chum)
0821	Unnamed	LB-5.4	1.0	—	Unknown
0822	Unnamed	LB-5.6	1.9	—	(Coho)
0823	Unnamed	LB-0.45	1.1	—	Unknown
0825	Haskel Slough	LB-24.3	2.2	—	(Coho), (Chum)
0826	Woods Creek	(RB-25.05)	17.5	—	Chin., Coho, Pink, (Chum)
	(See Snohomish 1503)				
0857	Unnamed	RB-25.9	2.8	—	(Coho), (Chum)
0858	Barr Creek	LB-28.2	3.1	—	Coho, (Pink), (Chum)

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0861	Unnamed	LB-1.5	1.5	—	None
	Lake Fontal	Outlet-2.3	—	—	
	Unnamed Lake	Outlet-3.1	—	—	
0862	Unnamed	RB-28.25	1.5	—	(Coho), (Chum)
	(Cont. Snohomish 1603)				