

TO: Members of the WRIA 7 (Snohomish) Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee

FROM: Perry Falcone, on behalf of the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

DATE: February 7, 2019

SUBJECT: Proposal for *Ex Officio* Membership

Introduction: The Snoqualmie Watershed Forum is a partnership of elected officials, citizens, and representatives from conservation organizations. The Forum supports salmon recovery and ecological health in the Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Watersheds. This area makes up roughly half of the overall Snohomish Basin (WRIA 7) land area. Member governments include: King County, the Snoqualmie Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, the Town of Skykomish, and the cities of Duvall, Carnation, North Bend and Snoqualmie.

Relationship to the Watershed: The Forum was formed in 1999 in response to the Endangered Species Act listings of Chinook salmon and bull trout. The Forum played an integral part in developing the Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan in 2005. Since then the Forum has broadened its focus to include water quality and quantity, protection of all salmonid habitat and integration of fish, farm and flood issues in the watershed. The Forum administers the Snoqualmie Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Program, in cooperation with the King County Flood Control District, allocating nearly \$1 million annually for salmon habitat and water quality projects. Projects funded through the program include restoration, acquisition, monitoring, water quality improvements and education. The Forum regularly leads and participates in policy, technical, and capital project initiatives including: a Snoqualmie/SF Skykomish 10-year Salmon Habitat Project List, Snoqualmie Water Quality Synthesis Report, and a WRIA 7 Climate Change Impacts Report. The Forum also performs a project coordination role for salmon recovery and water quality actions in the King County portion of WRIA 7.

Interest in the Committee and the Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan: The WREC planning process directly integrates with the Forum's salmon recovery and water quality efforts. The Forum would like to participate as an ex-officio member of the WREC to better coordinate our efforts to achieve mutual goals. The Forum is specifically interested in the WREC's Plan and subsequent project recommendations since those have the potential to enhance our salmon resources and improve our watershed's health. The Forum is very interested to see how WREC project recommendations compliment the Forum's 10-year Salmon Habitat Project List and the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum's 4-Year Work Plan.

Benefit to the Committee: The Forum ex-officio membership can benefit the WREC in several ways including project coordination, information sharing and leveraging capital funding to accelerate the rate of restoration implementation. The Forum will share information with the WREC regarding our allocation of nearly \$1 million annually in CWM funding that will assist with project coordination and grant leveraging. The Forum staff can provide periodic WREC updates to the Forum's elected officials and staff from King County, the Snoqualmie Valley cities, the Town of Skykomish, Tulalip Tribes and the Snoqualmie Tribe.

I have worked in the Snoqualmie and SF Skykomish Watersheds for over 15 year and have a broad understanding of watershed issues and salmon recovery efforts. In my role as the Forum's Project Coordinator, I will be able to share information with project partners engaged in restoration throughout the watershed. I am also the Co-Chair of the Snohomish Local Integrating Organization Implementation Committee and would be interested in increasing coordination with that group as well.