

15-1166 Skagit Side Channel Barrier final designs

COMMUNITY IMPACT & EDUCATION ISSUES

- **Does the surrounding community support this project? Who is that community and how can you substantiate that support?**

The project will support designs for two sites –Cedar Grove-Ovenell Slough and Day Creek Slough east. The Cedar Grove site is adjacent to property owned by the Cedar Grove Maintenance Co. SFEG is in the process of setting-up a community meeting to provide information on the project and gauge support. We will record minutes from that meeting to document support and/or opposition. Landowners we have spoken to date are most concerned about vehicle access by illegal drug users; to date these concerns have addressed by blocking the road into the site with temporary barriers. SFEG is working with WDFW to identify the type and extent of access required, including a consideration of those concerns.

The East Day Creek Slough site is located on private land. Landowners who use the route to access their property on the north side of the slough are supportive because it will improve accessibility. The private landowner whose property the access route crosses is agreeable to the upgrade, but somewhat concerned that improved access will increase access across his property. Given those concerns we anticipate that some sort of protection may need to be included in the final design – either shifting the road configuration slightly, and/or perhaps constructing a fence. Such costs would be expected to be incidental to the construction costs. SFEG plans to work with the landowner to ensure this can be done fairly and cost-effectively.

- **Is there any community opposition to this project? Who is opposed and how will you address that opposition?**

No community opposition has been encountered to date. If opposition is encountered we expect that it will center on discouraging access for illegal activities. SFEG, the County and WDFW will work with community members to ensure that such concerns are considered and addressed as part of the final plan.

- **Does this project have any educational value? Who is being educated, what are they being educated about, and how can you substantiate that? Will this project educate the public and raise their awareness about salmon and habitat protection/restoration issues?**

There is a potential for community involvement/education in the construction Phase of the Cedar Grove-Ovenell Slough site. We plan on involving the community in the restoration process both by having them actively participate in invasive species control and re-planting of the WDFW (and hopefully the Cedar Grove community property). SFEG currently works offers our Junior Stream Stewards program through the Concrete Middle school. We will involve students in planting and trail construction as part of their annual service learning project at the end of that program.

- **Will this project receive any publicity/visibility? How and whose attention will it gain? Will publicity be helpful to salmon recovery efforts?**

One of the project sites is a designated public access point. Our proposal should increase the public's awareness of the area, and is expected to improve access relative to the existing conditions. We will work with WDFW to identify opportunities for publicity/increasing the visibility of this recreation spot.

▪ **Will this project elicit more support in the future? From whom and how?**

The project is supported by both Skagit County Public Works and WDFW. We expect both organizations to provide match for the construction Phase of this project. Public Works will assist with design of the project and may provide in-kind construction support, materials and/or spoils disposal. We have existing ALEA grants from WDFW that will provide plants and support volunteer engagement. We hope to engage local community groups such as the Wildcat Steelheader's to assist with construction and long-term maintenance of trails, installation of signage, etc.