



Snohomish County

County Council

Megan Dunn, Chair
Sam Low, Vice-Chair
Nate Nehring
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June 2, 2026

Riparian Restoration through Healthy Forests

To the Puget Sound Riparian Systems Lead Grant Review Committee,

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We are writing in strong support of Snohomish County’s application for the Spring 2026 PSRSL solicitation. This proposal reflects a thoughtful, well-grounded approach to improving riparian health, enhancing water quality, and restoring long-term ecological function in priority areas across the County. The County’s integrated strategy—linking the Healthy Forest Project and Parks Forestry program—demonstrates a sincere commitment to repairing and strengthening these landscapes for the communities and species that depend on them.

Snohomish County manages over 12,000 acres of forests, wetlands, and waterways, and has a long record of stewarding these natural resources through volunteer engagement, forest health interventions, and habitat restoration. Yet the scale of need far exceeds current capacity. This grant would meaningfully expand the County’s ability to coordinate volunteers, implement complex forest restoration work, and address degraded riparian systems—including at Paradise Valley, Lake Roesiger, and Lord Hill Regional Park—where invasive species, impaired forest structure, and declining habitat quality have limited ecological function.

What stands out most is the County team’s dedication. Their work is grounded not only in technical expertise but in a genuine care for the long-term health of these places. The proposed projects will improve habitat quality, strengthen floodplain stability, and create healthier forests that support salmon, wildlife, and community enjoyment for years to come.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage the Department of Ecology to support this proposal. It represents a responsible, well-designed, and heartfelt effort to restore riparian systems and build long-term resilience throughout Snohomish County.

Sincerely,

Megan Dunn
Council Chair

Nate Nehring
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

Sam Low
Council Vice-Chair

Jared Mead
Councilmember