

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 29, 2024
To: Chehalis Basin Board
From: Ken Ghalambor, Ross Strategic
Re: Long-Term Strategy Work Element Descriptions

Overview

At the June 10 Board workshop focused on the long-term Strategy development process, we will have time to review the work element descriptions that OCB has drafted and incrementally shared with you since February 2024. In the workshop, we intend to:

- Provide a reminder of the role of these work elements and how they will be used in the comparative analysis of the long-term Strategy
- Briefly share updates made to individual work elements as a result of Board discussion
- Discuss any high-level questions or concerns Board members have about the current suite of work elements proposed as building blocks for the integrated long-term Strategy

At the June 10 workshop, staff will seek the Board’s preliminary concurrence on the overall suite of work elements. Board members will then vote at the July meeting on whether to include each element in the package development exercise. These work elements will be the building blocks that the comparative analysis consultant will evaluate based on evaluation factors and metrics the Board identifies. OCB will revise the work elements as needed according to new information or Board discussion that arises; however, we will not add or remove work elements without Board approval.

Current work elements

AQUATIC SPECIES ¹	FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION	INTEGRATED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASRP • All Hs and Predation² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood Retention Facility (FRE) and Airport Levee Improvements • Levees, Diversion, and Conveyance • Floodproofing, Elevations, and Acquisitions • Floodplain Management, Land Use, and Transportation Planning • Flood Authority Local Projects • Flood Warning System • Flood Event Response Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skookumchuck Dam • Erosion Management Program • Forestland • Multi-Benefit Projects and Programs³

¹These work elements are still being reviewed by the ASRP Steering Committee and may change by the Board workshop on June 10th. There was not sufficient time for Steering Committee review before its regularly scheduled meetings.

² Low Flow Augmentation, previously its own work element, has been integrated into the All Hs and Predation description.

³ This new work element builds on the previous Agricultural Viability work element and references the Multi-Benefit Voluntary Acquisition Program and low flow augmentation projects.

Key work element revisions

CATEGORY	WORK ELEMENT	REVISIONS
Aquatic species	ASRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added acknowledgment of past and future predicted species' decline Noted other limiting factors (e.g., water quality and quantity, predation) as actions the Strategy will take as needed and as approaches are developed Added acknowledgement of the role of landowner participation Added improving streamflows to list of habitat restoration activities
	All Hs and Predation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened language to reflect the importance of All H actions and Board's role to seek guidance from state and tribal comanagers and partners on appropriate actions to recommend, fund, and support Integrated low flow augmentation principles, actions, and budget
Flood Damage Reduction	Flood Retention Facility (FRE) and Airport Levee Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added reference to prior actions considered by the Board Removed principle regarding ASRP's role in mitigation (noted in ASRP work element) Added examples of actions that would need to be paired with the proposal for a comprehensive flood damage approach
	Levees, Diversion, and Conveyance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added reference to prior actions considered by the Board Removed principle regarding ASRP's role in mitigation (noted in ASRP work element) Added examples of actions that would need to be paired with the proposal for a comprehensive flood damage approach Clarified that the long-term flood damage reduction approach will address the potential for any negative downstream impacts
	Floodproofing, Elevations, and Acquisitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified that floodproofing, elevations, and relocations are only intended for existing structures where possible (i.e., not all existing) Moved multi-benefit acquisitions reference to new element (see below) Added reference to the factors considered when determining which flood mitigation measure to pursue at a given property Added reference to the prioritization of certain populations
	Floodplain Management, Land Use, and Transportation Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merged land use and transportation work elements, focusing transportation support on planning/modeling, and adjusted associated budget Added reference to prior actions and studies on floodplain management Clarified OCB's technical support role with local and Tribal governments Clarified that OCB can consider local governments' adoption of floodplain management policies in eligibility or prioritization for OCB funding of local flood projects Added reference to supporting working lands in floodplains
	Flood Authority Local Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified that flood benefits of projects will be local scale, as compared to basin-wide benefits of proposed large-scale projects Revised cost range to be based on last two biennia (lowered estimate)
	Flood Warning System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added descriptions of the key components, hydrometeorological data collection and public access to flood tracking info Updated costs and cost estimate information regarding O&M

CATEGORY	WORK ELEMENT	REVISIONS
	Flood Event Response Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retitled (previously 'Resiliency') • Clarified focus to be flood event response across the basin • Added in reference to agriculture-focused flood prevention measures
Integrated	Skookumchuck Dam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved accuracy of language around the role of the TransAlta water bank and WFDW's fish transport actions • Added reference to restoring a natural barrier between spring and fall Chinook with any future changes in flow regime due to dam removal or modification
	Erosion Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No substantive changes
	Forestland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Updates forthcoming</i>
	Multi-Benefit Projects and Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New work element that describes projects and programs benefitting aquatic species habitat, flood damage reduction, and working lands viability