CHEHALIS BASIN STRATEGY

TALKING POINTS

Date: July 7, 2022
Re: Gov. Inslee site tour of the Wynoochee Early Action Reach River Restoration project

About the Project

- A large-scale river restoration project restoring river, floodplain and riparian areas, and protecting landowners and habitat on the Wynoochee River

Why it Matters

- The project is **restoring valuable habitat for salmon and steelhead** and **maintaining working lands** while moving a landowner's home out of the migrating path of the Wynoochee River.

- **Multi-benefit**
  - Protecting working lands and residential infrastructure
  - Restoring floodplain and riparian habitat
  - Demonstrating the value of partnerships to advance complex restoration in the Chehalis Basin

Impact

- **2021** – Restored valuable habitat for salmon and steelhead through the installation of large wood structures to mimic natural wood in the river, and significantly reduced bank erosion on a working ranch allowing the landowner to continue their operations.

- **2022** – Protecting a landowner's home by relocating it to higher ground and completing habitat restoration activities including large wood placement, floodplain reconnection, and riparian plantings.

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Grays Harbor Conservation District, Forterra and private landowners partnered to successfully address community member's needs and improve river and riparian areas for fish and wildlife.

Continued Success

- WDFW and project partners were able to design and execute a project that factors in future conditions and long-term landowner needs by…
  - Using a process-based restoration design that incorporates climate change
  - Acquiring and protecting land within the floodplain
  - Working closely with landowners to understand the land and impacts related to flooding

- The project is intended to work with nature, taking into consideration future weather and flood conditions while improving habitat for aquatic species and stabilizing areas to protect property.