

Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead

HSIAT Briefing Memo

Habitat Strategic Initiative Advisory Team

August 2024 Meeting Brief

Topic: Engaging the Agricultural Community

Purpose

- Introduce HSIL ties and interest in the agricultural community to protect, restore, and steward habitat.
- Identify opportunities to connect agriculture topics to ongoing HSIL work: SLR forum, MV update, EJ/cross-cutting topics.
- Solicit ideas on agricultural community engagement, avenues for engagement (pod, engage through existing forums, etc.), topics, and how to engage the HSIAT.

Background

All three SILs (Habitat, Stormwater, and Shellfish) are interested in engaging the agricultural community to inform our work, such as updating Implementation Strategies and the Action Agenda, and identifying investment priorities and policy barriers to achieving shared goals. Agriculture is economically and culturally important to the Puget Sound. The agricultural community has a vital role in Puget Sound recovery as land stewards, economic engines, and important partners in floodplain management.

The HSIL IS Leads (Land Development and Cover, Floodplains and Estuaries) are weighing different options on how to engage with the agricultural community to build strong relationships, advance the strategies, and accelerate Puget Sound recovery. We want to draw on the expertise of the HSIAT in community engagement and agriculture to inform our approach for engaging with the agricultural community and better incorporating their interests into our work to achieve habitat protection and restoration.

Homework

- [Read LDC 3.5 Working Lands Strategy: Pages 28-31.](#)
- [Read FPE River Basin Strategy: Pages 25 - 31](#)
- Read Action Agenda Strategy 2 Working lands: [AA Explorer | Working Lands \(wa.gov\)](#)
- Select HSIL investments in Ag (current and previous) factsheets:
 - [Thurston County](#), “Thurston County Working Lands Conservation Strategy”
 - [Snohomish Conservation District](#), “Integrating climate resilience into farm-fish-flood project packages in the Snohomish and Stillaguamish River floodplains”
 - [WDFW](#), “Sustainable Lands Strategy Communication and Outreach”
- Draft Discussion questions:
 - Icebreaker: What do you think of when you think Agriculture in the Puget Sound?
 - How do you engage with the agriculture community in the Puget Sound?



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- What aspects of agricultural connection to habitat interests you the most?
- Are there issues that you think are especially relevant?
- Are we missing connections between our ISs and the ag topic?
- What would it mean for HSIL participating and leading out in the agricultural community? What are the risks to leading/participating or not leading/participating?
 - How should we engage the agricultural community (pods, existing efforts, existing info).
- What connections or opportunities do you see to the Sea Level Rise and or MV?
- Climate change? EJ?
- Is there ongoing or existing work in the agricultural community that we have not already discussed that we should be aware of? How can we leverage existing efforts?

