

Introducing The Upper Snoqualmie Resilient River Corridor Management Plan



The Upper Snoqualmie Resilient River Corridor Management Plan is an all-purpose living document for multiple audiences, with a goal being to serve as a community knowledge source and discussion tool to support a richer cultural relationship with the Upper Snoqualmie River and promote a collective understanding of a resilient river for all.

To develop this plan, the Snoqualmie Tribe's Environmental & Natural Resources Department engaged with the tribal community, and the community at large, using a survey and small group interviews to gather stories about how people connect to the river, and how they feel and see the changes happening to the Upper Snoqualmie River Valley. A technical team of scientists also assessed the current state of natural river and floodplain processes in the project reach, and how these processes affect water quality, water quantity, floodplain function, and in-stream aquatic habitat.

Another layer detailed in this plan assessed how the conditions and processes of the river are expected to adjust in a changing climate. This plan reports back what

was heard from the community and the results of the scientific assessment, as well as communicates to river and city managers, specifically King County and the City of Snoqualmie, that a more responsible approach is needed to respond to the constantly changing river environment, as they own and manage much of the land along the Upper Snoqualmie River.

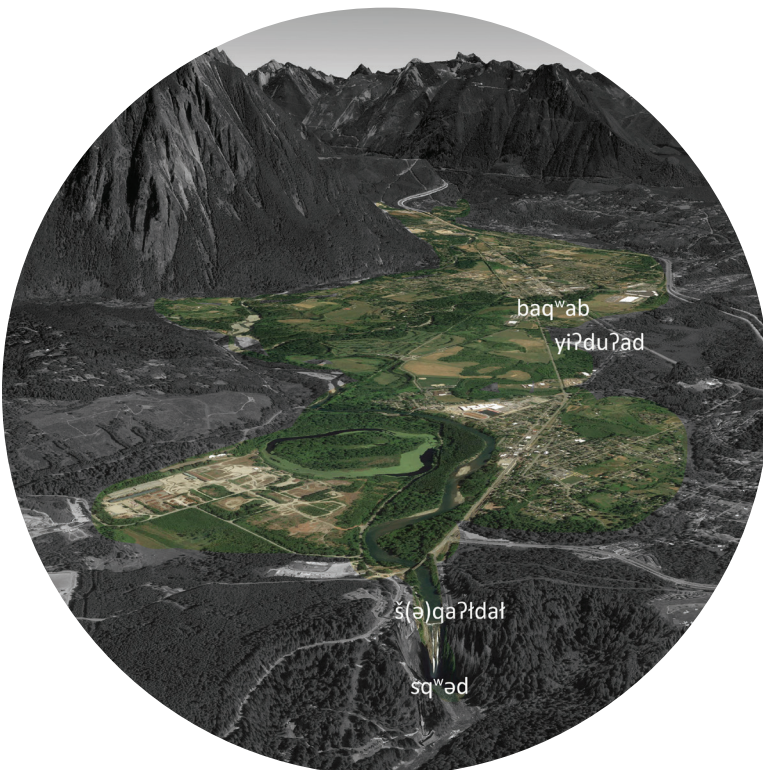
River and city managers make decisions about whether to work with nature by promoting forested islands or other restoration activities. However, river managers have been planning and implementing projects along the river to address short-term needs without a long-term broad vision for the Upper Snoqualmie River valley.

As a result, you see the landscape as it is today, fragmented, with many issues. Now, river management in the valley is such that a problem will arise and be addressed by a localized patch for short-term benefit, resulting in more problems arising elsewhere in the system. As a result of a recent lack of a cohesive, long-term management approach, the Upper Snoqualmie River valley is currently a disorganized, broken landscape.

This plan is to communicate a vision of what could be. It includes suggestions for where to start to take the steps needed to get to a more connected, more resilient river corridor over time.

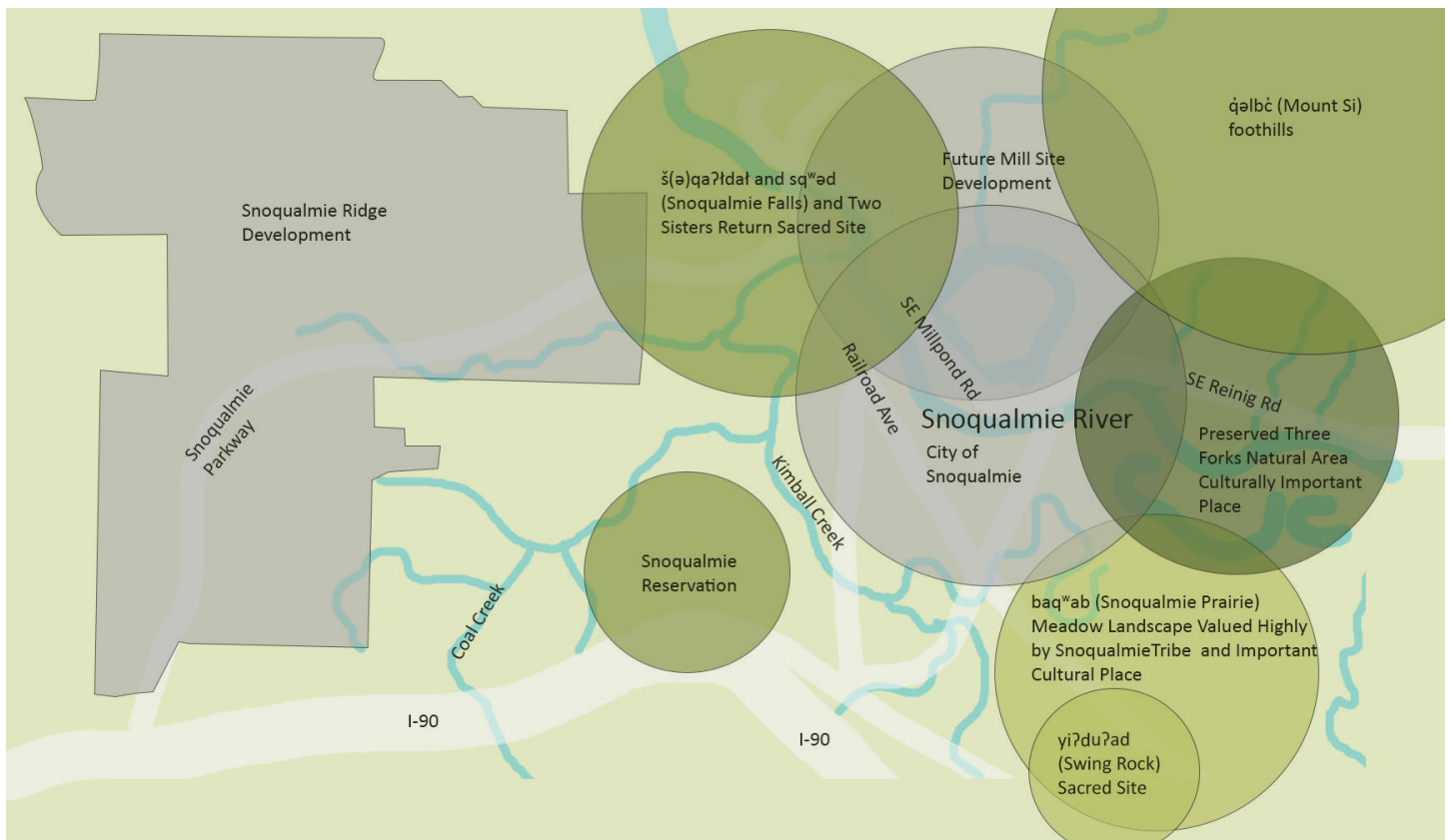
The people of the Snoqualmie Tribe are the original stewards and protectors of this land, and the Tribe knows the landscape needs attention. There is a big challenge here in the Upper Snoqualmie River corridor. There are a lot of people, many roads and highways, along with other infrastructure, and planners in the region have different visions guiding the work.

This plan continues the Tribe's work in the region, shares a resilient river vision, recommendations, and possible next steps. The results of the assessment indicate that floodplain connectivity varies throughout the Planning Area and that flood risk through the City of Snoqualmie is expected to increase under climate change conditions.



The Upper Snoqualmie River Valley

The cultural landscape of the Upper Snoqualmie River Valley



There are clear areas of overlap between sacred places and areas planned for urban growth, where good relationships and respectful land and water use management decisions will sustain the long-term health of the river and all residents of the upper Snoqualmie Valley.

You are invited to collaborate to support a more resilient river for all.

In no particular order, suggested next steps for the Upper Snoqualmie Resilient River Corridor Management Plan are:

1. Follow-up on actions identified during January 2022 County and City meetings.
2. Tribe considers prioritizing actions and figuring out plan for next steps. Priorities may vary by department.
3. Integrate and align existing city and county hazard mitigation plans, comprehensive land use plans and other planning initiatives with Resilient River Corridor Plan.
4. Continue to get the word out and refine the Plan.
5. Build community river stewardship program and begin to restore the riparian and floodplain forest

"We are Snoqualmie. We are the Spiritual Stewards of Sacred Snoqualmie Falls. We have the duty, responsibility and honor of caring for the great gift of the Creator to the People. It is Snoqualmie Pass, Snoqualmie River, Snoqualmie National Forest, it is the greater Snoqualmie Valley and it is sacred Snoqualmie Falls. We are literally the Transformer's People. It is our history and our legacy. We pray that we honor it in our lifetimes. Without our connection remaining strong and healthy, we cannot ensure for the next seven generations, which is our teaching. Our teachers, leaders and people prayed and worked to ensure for us. We need to do the same."

- Snoqualmie Tribal Elder Lois Sweet Dorman

