

July 15, 2021, 2021

Puget Sound Partnership Review Panel
210 11th Ave SW #401
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: Letter of agreement to serve on Fish Passage Policy Advisory Committee

Dear Puget Sound Partnership Proposal Review Panel Members:

I agree to serve on the Fish Passage Policy Advisory Committee (FPPAC) for the proposed Puget Sound Partnership project entitled: "*Maximizing returns on investing in barrier culvert removal in Washington state*".

I am currently a Conservation Scientist for the Tulalip Tribes of Washington. I have nearly 30 years of experience working in the field of Restoration Ecology and have planned and performed numerous fish passage projects and assessments over the course of my career.

Thousands of fish passage barriers, primarily outdated culverts at road crossings, limit access to hundreds of miles of riparian salmon habitat throughout Washington. State agencies, local governments, and private landowners have accelerated the removal of these barriers in order to encourage the recovery of declining wild salmon stocks protected by legislation and tribal treaty rights. This project will provide tools to evaluate alternative barrier correction strategies that account for the diverse priorities of agencies and stakeholder groups. Such a tool will allow stakeholders and funding agencies communicate their priorities and evaluate tradeoffs using a consistent, science-based framework. To be effective this project requires close coordination with envisioned users of the proposed tool: grant managers, state and local policymakers, and tribal stakeholders.

As a member of the FPPAC I will provide practical expertise and knowledge of barrier correction projects and prioritization policy. I will provide advice on the analysis and models that will be developed by the research team to evaluate correction strategies and will help disseminate research findings from this project to facilitate uptake of the resulting decision support tool among policymakers and stakeholders. I understand that the FPPAC is expected to meet for biannual project-update meetings in years 1 and 2, and promote two stakeholder outreach workshops.

I believe having over 20 years of experience working with local Tribal communities in addressing and advancing culvert policy in the region allows me to bring a honed outlook to the discussion. I look forward to engaging in this important project that helps correct fish passage barriers in the most efficient way possible.

Sincerely,



Steve Hinton, Conservation Scientist