

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

FIR ISLAND FARM RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH PLAN

Objective: To provide timely information on the conduct and progress of the study.
To clearly lay out the pathways of communication and decision-making internal to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); between WDFW and the public; and between WDFW and tribal co-managers.

Communication with the public

- A project site will be created on the WDFW website where timely information can be accessed. This site will include a fact sheet, site map, draft restoration alternatives, study timeline, Steering Committee membership, communication strategy and monthly progress reports.
- A number of opportunities will be provided for two-way communication between WDFW's Steering Committee, stakeholder groups and the public. These opportunities will include two informational Open House venues, site tours, tailored meetings and courtesy outreach.
- The Open Houses will take place in December 2010 and March 2011.
- A site tour will take place in August of 2010.
- Details of all public events will be posted on the project website and publicized throughout the community.
- WDFW will solicit public review and comments on the Steering Committee's recommended plan in the winter of 2010 and spring of 2011 following the Open Houses. Public comments will be considered by the Steering Committee and incorporated into a preferred restoration alternative as appropriate before a recommendation is made to WDFW's Region 4 Director.
- The public will also have a number of opportunities to review and comment on the preferred restoration design during SEPA, Shoreline and Hearing Examiner Special Use permit processes in 2012.
- WDFW and members of the Steering Committee will periodically attend the monthly meeting of CDD#22 to discuss the progress of the project with all district commissioners.
- Farms neighboring WDFW's Fir Island Farm will be interviewed and consulted as necessary to fully understand the drainage dynamics of the site.

Timeline

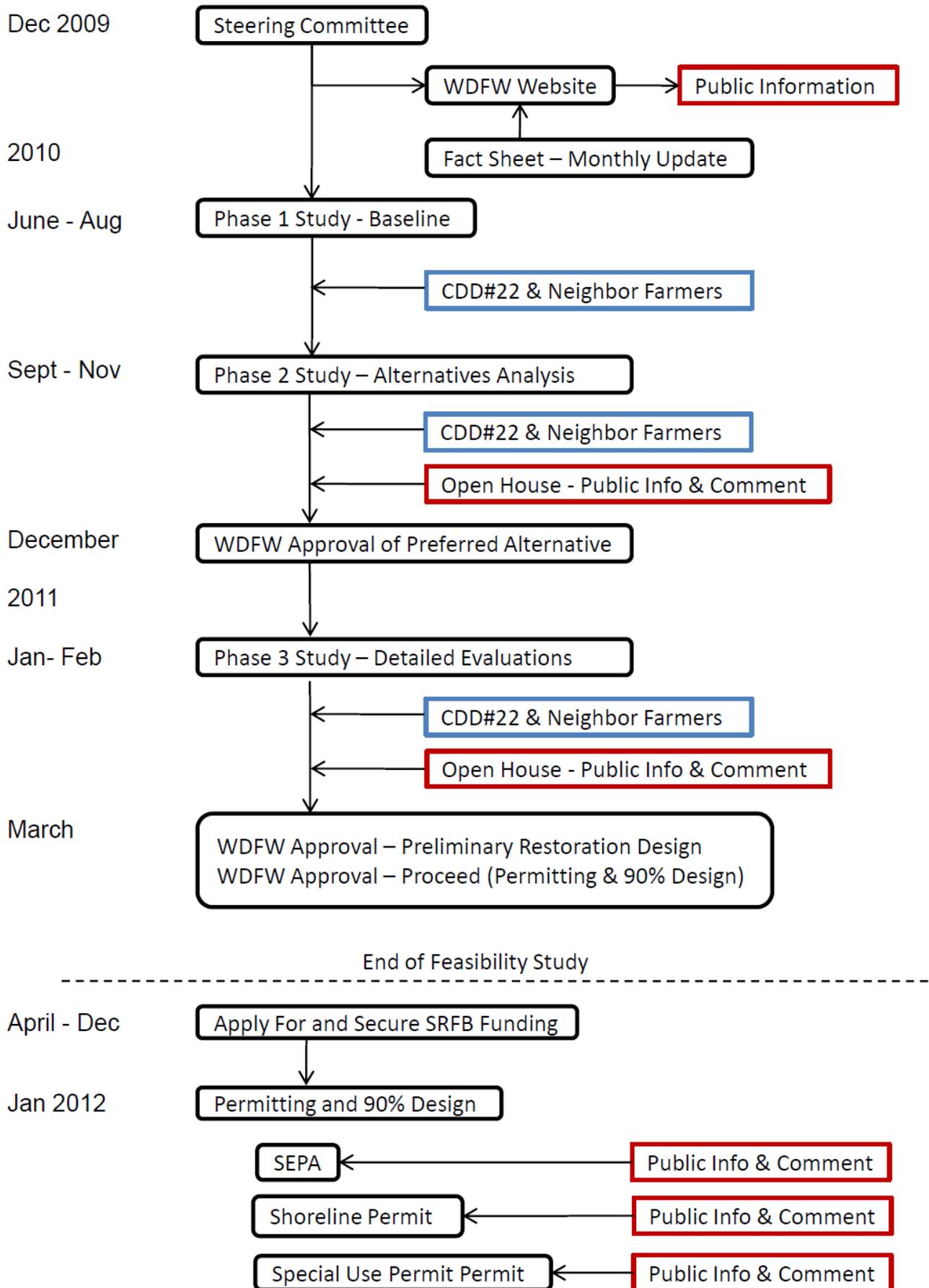


Figure 1: Public Communications

Communications internal to the Department of Fish and Wildlife

- WDFW's study Manager will keep WDFW Region 4 Director updated regarding Steering Committee and consultant team activities and timelines.
- The Regional Director will communicate study objectives and progress to key WDFW Executive Management Team members and WDFW's legislative liaison.
- The Steering Committee will submit the preferred restoration alternative to WDFW Region 4 Director with a request for approval to proceed to preliminary design. This request will follow completion of the baseline evaluation and alternative analysis phases of the study and consideration of public comments.
- In coming to this decision the WDFW Region 4 Director will consult with other Executive Management Team members including the Director as necessary.
- The Steering Committee will submit the preliminary design of the preferred alternative to WDFW Region 4 Director with a request for approval to proceed with seeking grant funds to complete the design, secure permits and undertake construction.
- The WDFW Region 4 Director will secure the approval of the WDFW Executive Management Team to pursue the funding for design completion, permitting and construction.

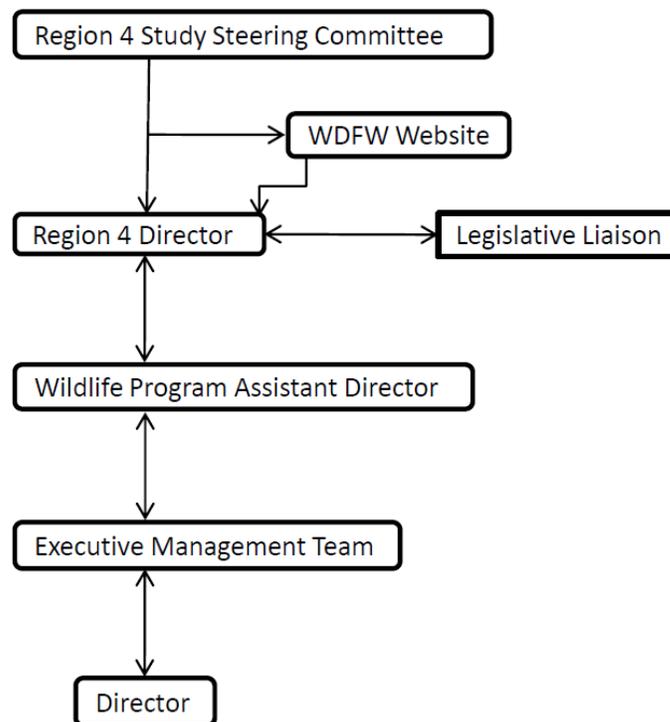


Figure 2: WDFW internal communications

Department of Fish and Wildlife communications with Tribal Co-Managers

As a result of a federal lawsuit, the Swinomish Tribe entered into a Consent Decree with CDD#22 that requires an aggressive estuary restoration project at WDFW's Fir Island Farm. Because WDFW was not a party to the federal lawsuit, WDFW is not bound or otherwise encumbered by the Consent Decree. The Swinomish Tribe and Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) support the estuary restoration proposal required by the Consent Decree and were therefore not invited to participate on the Steering Committee which is charged to investigate a number of restoration alternatives that consider not only natural resource benefits but also agriculture, snow geese management and public access interests.

Given the legal complexity created by the Consent Decree, direct communications with the Swinomish Tribe and SRSC relating to the Fir Island Farm Restoration Study will be coordinated by WDFW's Region 4 Director, in consultation with WDFW's Attorney General as necessary. Study information will be available to the Swinomish Tribe and SRSC via WDFW's website which will be updated monthly. WDFW will provide the Swinomish Tribe and SRSC the opportunity to review and comment on the study at two junctures: immediately prior to completing both the alternative analysis (Phase 2) and the preliminary design (Phase 3). WDFW will also be available to discuss the study with the tribes at their invitation.

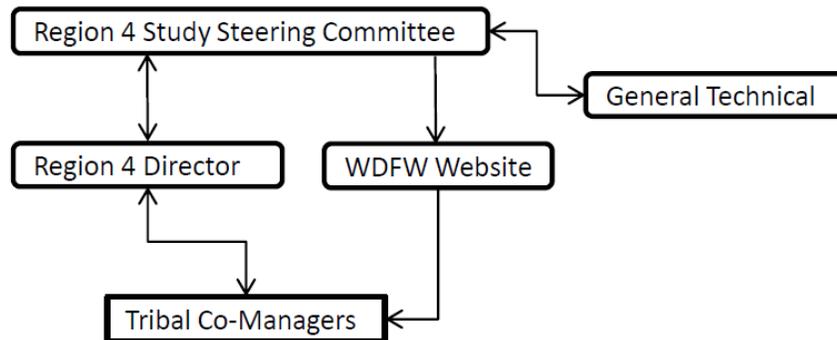


Figure 3: WDFW communications with Tribal Co-Managers.

Website

To navigate to the website from the WDFW homepage go to:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/> (WDFW Homepage) click on [WDFW Lands](#) click on [Wildlife Areas](#) (select) [Skagit](#) and click on [Fir Island Farms](#). There is a link on the Fir Island Farms page to the project site.

WDFW Fir Island Farm Feasibility Study Contact

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