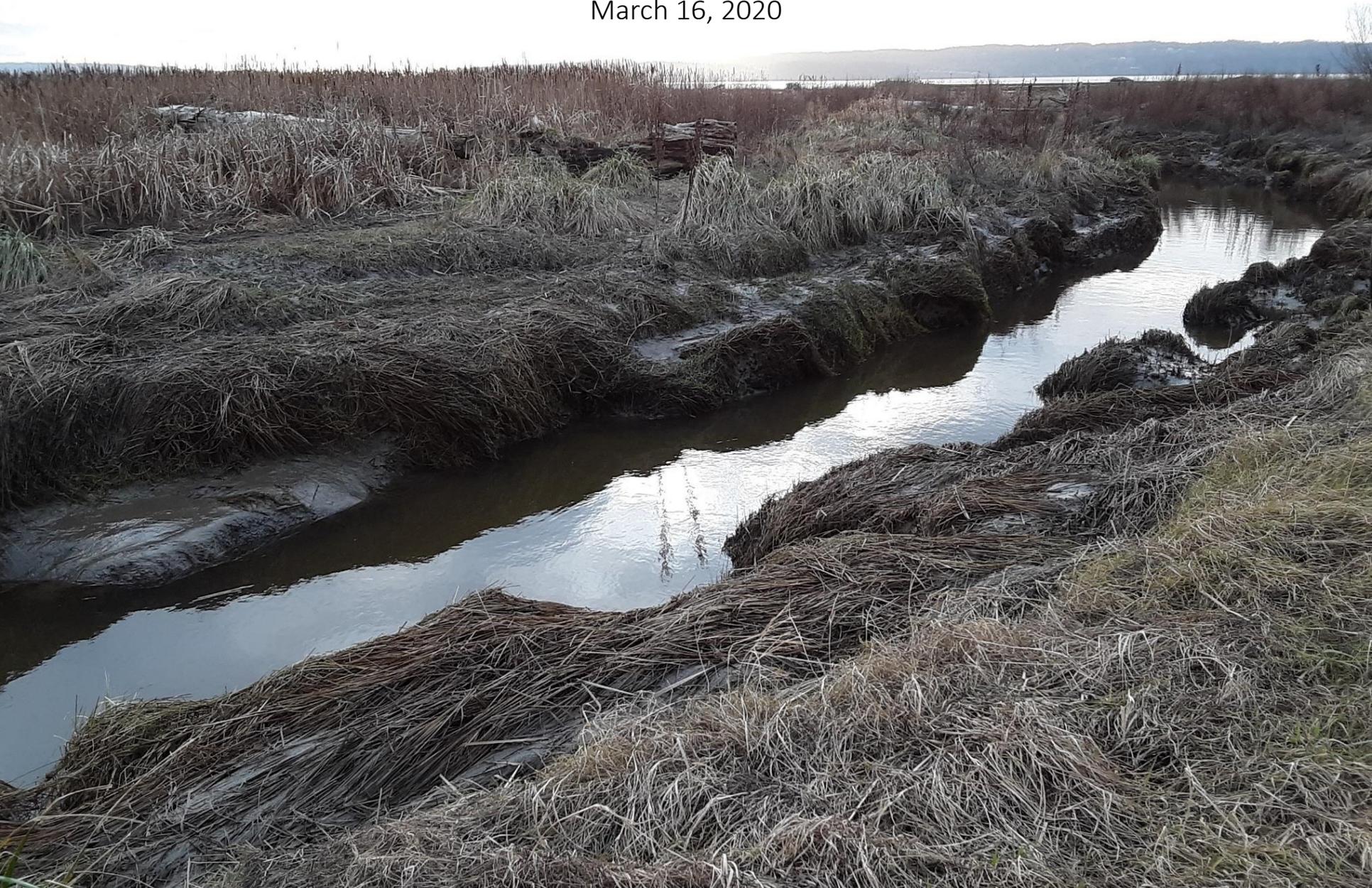


# Island Unit Advisory Group Meeting #3

March 16, 2020





# Feedback on Criteria



Last meeting:

- Presented criteria
- Provided detailed background on selected topics

Since then:

- Advisory group reviewed links and criteria details on your own

Today's meeting:

- Your input on criteria



# Criteria

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Alternatives will be compared using common “criteria”

Criteria include:

- issues that affect the Island Unit
- key topics WDFW needs to consider in how to manage WDFW-owned lands
- topics specific to the Skagit landscape



# Criteria

Management, regulatory  
& policy considerations:

- WDFW policies, agreements and obligations
- Future cost and funding





## Criteria

### Fish and wildlife needs

- ESA-listed salmon/orca recovery
- Waterfowl and avian conservation



# Criteria

## Community interests:

- Agriculture
- Waterfowl hunting
- Birdwatching/photography
- Recreational fishing

# Draft Criteria – purpose and policies

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
	Declaration of purpose— Department lands: WAC 232-13-020	<i>“The primary purpose of department lands is the preservation, protection, perpetuation and management of fish and wildlife and their habitats. Public use of department lands may include fishing, hunting, fish and wildlife appreciation, and other outdoor recreational opportunities when compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations.”</i> WAC: <a href="https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=220-500-010">https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=220-500-010</a>
WDFW purpose and policies	Policy 5003: Managing the 21st Century Salmon and Steelhead Initiative	relevant sections: <i>“WDFW lands provide opportunities for salmon recovery; WDFW lands have historically been purchased and managed for big game, waterfowl, fish and upland birds. Management of these lands has not always addressed the needs of salmon and steelhead. WDFW must develop and implement management plans for WDFW lands with additional emphasis on habitat needs for salmon and steelhead.”</i> Initiative: <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/hcicag/documents/implementation_guidance/pol-5003.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/hcicag/documents/implementation_guidance/pol-5003.pdf</a> <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00036">https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00036</a>

# Draft Criteria – purpose and policies

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
WDFW purpose and policies	Policy 5004: Department’s Conservation Initiative and Guiding Principles	relevant sections: <i>“We practice conservation by managing, protecting, and restoring ecosystems for the long term benefit of people, and for fish wildlife, and their habitat; We work across disciplines to solve problems; We integrate ecological, social, economic, and institutional perspectives; We embrace new knowledge and apply best science; and we collaborate with our co-managers and conservation and community partners.”</i> <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/hcicag/documents/implementation_guidance/pol-5004.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/hcicag/documents/implementation_guidance/pol-5004.pdf</a>
	Policy 5211: Protecting and Restoring Wetlands	relevant sections: <i>“WDFW Will Accomplish Long-Term Gain of Properly Functioning Wetlands Where Both Ecologically and Financially Feasible on WDFW-Owned or WDFW-Controlled Properties; WDFW Will Promote the Restoration of Original Hydrology, Elevations and Native Plant Communities”</i>

# Draft Criteria – purpose and policies

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
WDFW purpose and policies	Washington State Wildlife Area Goal 1	<i>“restore and protect the integrity of priority ecological systems and sites”</i>
	Washington State Wildlife Area Goal 2	<i>“sustain individual species through habitat and population management actions where consistent with site purpose and funding”</i>
	Washington State Wildlife Area Goal 3	<i>“provide fishing, hunting and wildlife related recreational opportunities where consistent with goals 1 and 2”</i>

# Draft Criteria – agreements & obligations

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
obligations and agreements	Priority to restore public lands in the estuary first (HB 1418)	<p>Consider framework and priorities outlined in the 1418 report. Clear priority to focus restoration on public lands first; IU called out as a Tier 1 project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill: <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/1418-s2hbr.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/1418-s2hbr .pdf</a></li> <li>• report: <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/smith_et_al_2005_tide_gate_salmon_recovery_analysis_skagit.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/smith et al 2005 tide gate salmon recovery analysis skagit.pdf</a></li> </ul>
	Skagit Tidegate Fish Initiative Implementation Agreement (a multi-party agreement signed by WDFW)	<p>Consider framework and benefits outlined in TFI implementation agreement; IU generates up to 268 credits depending on final project configuration. WDFW signed an agreement saying we would work collaboratively toward salmon recovery goals with other signatories. “assure that mutually supportive actions will occur in a timely and cooperative manner throughout the 25-year duration of this agreement”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/tfi_ia_final_4_21_10.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/tfi_ia final 4 21 10.pdf</a></li> </ul>

# Draft Criteria – obligations & costs

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
compatible with in-hand and past funding	compatible with Pittman-Robertson and other acquisition funds	Consider whether project supports waterfowl forage and hunting access
	Consistent with SRFB grant for alts analysis	Consistent with grant scope; e.g. consider a range of options from no restoration to full restoration; 3-4 alternatives
future cost and funding	funding availability for implementation; relative cost of construction	Consider cost and likelihood of funding, include all design, permitting, mitigation and construction costs.
	funding availability for O&M; relative cost of O&M	Consider cost and likelihood of funding; include total length of dike and other infrastructure to be maintained; farming/moist soils management; control of weeds/undesirable species; design life of infrastructure considering climate change

# Draft Criteria – fish & wildlife needs

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
salmon recovery/ ESA listings	ESA-listed Southern Resident Killer Whale (Orca)	Consider outcomes for SRKW - link to Chinook salmon production and long-term recovery.
	ESA-listed Chinook/Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan (co-authored by WDFW and SRSC)	<p>Consider outcomes for Chinook salmon; general habitat needs in the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan; estuary habitat need in Appendix D with specific mention of IU; site holds mid-point of 160,300 smolts with full restoration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan: <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/skagit-chinook-recovery-plan.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/skagit-chinook-recovery-plan.pdf</a></li> <li>Estuary appendix: <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/skagitchinookrecoveryplanappendix-d-estuary.pdf">https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/about/advisory/iuag/skagitchinookrecoveryplanappendix-d-estuary.pdf</a></li> <li>Revised smolt numbers: see Appendix D (pgs. 633-787) of the HDM report – link on next slide</li> </ul>
waterfowl and avian conservation	waterfowl and avian conservation	consider importance of this site and how its managed to overall waterfowl population at a landscape scale; consider diversity of avian species supported

# Draft Criteria – community values

category	description	how will this category be considered in the alternatives analysis?
agriculture	HDM project (a multi-interest alternatives analysis co-lead by WDFW and others)	consider how this project affects issues related to agriculture; HDM followed TFI and identified IU as a priority project <a href="https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02123">https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/02123</a>
waterfowl hunting	hunnable waterfowl habitats	consider changes to huntable habitats and acreages
birding/ photography	Birding and photography - passive recreation	consider potential to support species of interest to bird watchers and photographers
fishing/ angling	recreational fishing/angling	consider potential to support species and runs available for recreational fisheries

# Category: Waterfowl Hunting

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Considerations to include in this category:

- Changes to huntable habitats and acreages (site and landscape scale)
- Number of blinds per alternative
- Ease of access
  - Number of boat landings
  - Ease of walking around site?
- Other?



# Category: Passive recreation (birding, photography, etc.)

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Considerations to include in this category:

- Supports a diversity of species
- Offers diverse habitats?
- Ease of access?
  - Number of boat landings (trailer boats and kayaks)?
  - Ease of walking around site?



# Category: Recreational fishing

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Considerations to include in this category:

- Supports recovery and health of fishable species
- Ease of access?



# How will the criteria be applied?

- WDFW will “score” each alternative relative to each criteria category using the following system:

Substantial Positive Change	++
Positive Change	+
Some positive effects, some negative effects, overall minimal or no net change in value	+/-
Comparable to Existing Conditions	√
Negative Change	-
Substantial Negative Change	--

An aerial photograph of a river delta system, likely the Columbia River, showing a complex network of channels and distributaries flowing into a large body of water. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields, forests, and distant mountains under a blue sky with light clouds. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

## Your feedback on criteria?

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- Are there any categories missing?
- Are there details within categories that are missing?
- Is there anything else WDFW should consider related to criteria?