

June 17th, 2019 COUNCIL OF REGIONS UPDATE for the SRFB July 10 Meeting

Prepared by Alex Conley, Chair

The Council of Regions (COR) brings together the state's seven Salmon Recovery Regions to share information among the regions, GSRO and RCO, provide input to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and coordinate activities that address shared needs of the regional organizations. Since the last SRFB meeting, priority actions undertaken by the Council of Regions include:

1. Welcoming Erik Neatherlin and Jeannie Abbott as new members of the GSRO team. It's been great to have them jump in on everything from contract management to brainstorming with us about how to engage in the upcoming update of the Statewide Strategy for Salmon Recovery.
2. Holding our May 10th in-person meeting in Portland with NOAA Fisheries leadership. This was a productive meeting of all but one of the regional directors and GSRO staff with Scott Rumsey and Michael Teehan. All of the NOAA Branch Chiefs joined by phone, and we had a great discussion about how the regions, NOAA and GSRO can best work together.
3. Engaging with GSRO and the Monitoring Panel to discuss regional perspectives on monitoring priorities in multiple conference calls and one-on-one discussions. COR has advocated for developing a statewide synthesis of recovery plan implementation monitoring priorities that can be pursued in tandem with the SRFB's current monitoring program.
4. Reaching out to Army Corps of Engineers leadership to organize future meetings focused on reducing the challenges our project sponsors face when securing Clean Water Act permits.
5. Working with GSRO and RCO staff to propose one or more salmon recovery focused tours with OFM and Governor's Office staff.
6. Holding monthly COR calls and organizing COR representation on groups such as SRNet, the Orca Task Force, the Fish Barrier Removal Board, and WDFW's Budget & Policy committee.

Council of Regions Engagement in the July SRFB Meeting:

1. Melody Kreimes, Executive Director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board will present the Council of Regions update during Item 3 of the July 10th SRFB Meeting. We look forward to visiting with you then!
2. At this time, COR has not developed shared input regarding Targeted Investments, but all of our members look forward to engaging in helping define how a targeted investment program might work. We look forward to hearing your discussions during Items 5 & 6 of the agenda.
3. In your packet you will find a letter from the Council of Regions regarding the SRFB's monitoring program and the Region's desires to better coordinate the full range of monitoring needed to inform recovery plan implementation and future status reviews for listed salmon, steelhead and bull trout. We are excited to work together with the SRFB, GSRO and the Monitoring Panel to identify the best way to better coordinate and focus monitoring resources on these needs. We look forward to discussing this letter with you during item #7.



SKAGIT WATERSHED COUNCIL

A Community Partnership for Salmon

Council of Members

American Rivers
Aspect Consulting, LLC
Children's Museum of Skagit County
City of Anacortes
City of Burlington
City of Mount Vernon
City of Sedro-Woolley
Fidalgo Fly Fishers
Geo Engineers, Inc.
Long Live the Kings
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Natural Systems Design
North Cascades Institute
North Cascades National Park
Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
Port of Skagit
Public Utility District #1 of Skagit County
Puget Sound Energy
Puget Sound Partnership
RE Sources for Sustainable Communities
Samish Indian Nation
Seattle City Light
Skagit Audubon Society
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit County
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Skagit Land Trust
Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team
Skagit River System Cooperative
Tetra Tech
The Nature Conservancy
Town of Hamilton
Town of La Conner
Trout Unlimited – Wild Steelheaders United
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WA State Dept. of Ecology
Washington Water Trust
Western WA Agricultural Association
Wildcat Steelhead Club
Wild Steelhead Coalition
WSU Skagit County Extension

May 13, 2019

Chairman Phil Rockefeller and Director Kaleen Cottingham
Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RE: Current effectiveness of funding high priority and complex salmon projects

Thank you for your efforts to streamline and improve project vetting and funding procedures within the Recreation and Conservation Office and watersheds via the recently completed LEAN study and on-going, internal assessments. Many important efficiencies we support were identified and are already underway!

We are aware of the relevant LEAN study recommendations #3.1 (Develop a Large, Complex Project Investment Program) and #3.2 (Evaluate Whether Regional Priorities are Being Achieved), as well as the SRFB's recent conversations at your March 6th meeting with Topic #7. These discussions have now led to surveys being received by sponsors, lead entities, and regions. This letter is being submitted to supplement our brief survey responses.

Our biggest concern is that the SRFB will move to develop yet another large, statewide investment program that will come at the expense of watersheds and regions using an already sophisticated yet underfunded array of programs to achieve our regional priorities.

Puget Sound for example has evolved a very effective method for prioritizing and funding simple and complex projects with multiple funding vehicles geared towards different needs and scales of projects. Other regions have very similar processes in place. Important components of the Puget Sound method include:

- Consistent, base watershed allocations (independently verified to be scientifically valid in Puget Sound) that we bank on to manage a Capital Improvement Program;
- a large grants program competed for regionally in Puget Sound (PSAR) that help us with those uniquely large and expensive projects such as Fir Island Farm;
- the ability to internally reallocate returned PSAR funding;
- the ability to externally loan to adjacent watersheds and then receive back their future funding, which recognizes the natural ebb and flow in project development cycles;
- and a plethora of alternative funding sources of various scales for things like multiple benefit projects, water quality projects, estuary projects, etc.

A concern borne out by experience is that efforts to replace or even augment any one or more of these important salmon funding vehicles with a single, large funding source competed for at the state scale can have unintended consequences of diminishing funding for processes that are already working well. As shown in this critical year of the orca whales, there is a limit to how much funding is available via the state capital budget.

We continue to believe that the most value to be gained for our statewide salmon recovery mission via voluntary projects is to show current funding is working (albeit slowly due to historical underfunding) and to advocate for additional funding for existing, well-known programs for locally and regionally prioritized projects.

Thank you again for your constant efforts to move salmon recovery forward across Washington.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Brocksmith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Brocksmith,
Executive Director

Cc: Laura Blackmore and Amber Moore, Puget Sound Partnership
David Troutt, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council

From: Lisl Schroeder <schroee2@wwu.edu>

Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 2:29 PM

To: Finch, Tammy (RCO); Zemek, Susan (RCO); Galuska, Tara (RCO); Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO); Abbott, Jeanne (GSRO)

Cc: Keith Kelley

Subject: post conference survey

Hello Kaleen, Tara, Tammy, Susan, and Jeannie,

Attached please find the post-conference survey report.

- Overall the conference was very well received. Cecilia Gobin and Governor Locke's opening remarks were highlights for many respondents. Kaleen received praise as "a great facilitator and genuine caring leader."
- The biggest challenge for many participants was the lack of timekeeping during the breakout sessions (many presentations ran late and session chairs frequently changed the lineup of presenters so folks could not find the presentation they were looking for). Feedback to question 17 offers ideas on improving flow and timing as well as programming suggestions.
- We received mostly positive comments about the registration and session selection processes. For next time it will be helpful to publish the complete program well before the close of early-bird registration.
- Respondents mentioned the location of the exhibit hall with posters as not ideal. It was not near the session breakout rooms and didn't receive enough foot traffic. Options for next time include having coffee breaks in the exhibit hall, offering a raffle, or locating the posters and exhibitors in hallways near the breakout rooms. See comments in question 11 for ideas on new topics and potential exhibitors to reach out to.
- Time for networking during meals was mentioned as a big plus, as were the many interesting session topics. Most participants liked Tacoma as a conference location, though the parking and the commute times were challenging for some. Vancouver, WA and the Tri-Cities get mentioned as possible next locations.

Hope you enjoy perusing the report! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Lisl

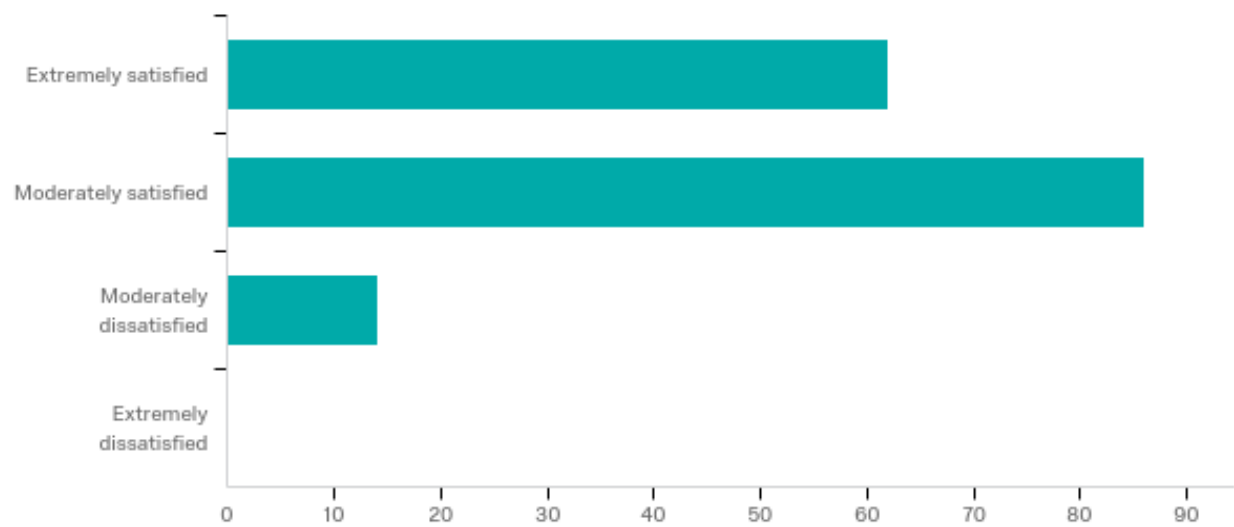


Lisl Schroeder

Event Coordinator | [Conference Services](#)
(360) 650-4451 | Lisl.Schroeder@wwu.edu
College Hall 212 | Bellingham, Washington

2019 Salmon Recovery Conference Survey

Q1 - What was your overall impression of the conference?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	38.27%	62
2	Moderately satisfied	53.09%	86
4	Moderately dissatisfied	8.64%	14
5	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	162

Q2 - What were the highlights of the conference for you?

What were the highlights of the conference for you?

Cecilia Gobin's opening remarks were powerful and brought me to tears-she is a salmon warrior! The conference center was nice and the hotels were conveniently located. I enjoyed the time that was blocked out to network and the schedule and registration process was well-organized. Many of the conference rooms were much larger than past years which was nice for accommodating lots of people.

Gary Locke's keynote address and David Welch's talk on salmon and steelhead productivity

good speakers; happy with the length of conference and split between plenary and breakouts

Breakout sessions.

The presentations were fantastic. I liked how some of the sessions had some theoretical/science information at the beginning, where it was built on throughout the session with specific applications. I also enjoyed picking an example, like the Puyallup to highlight as part of the main theme.

water boundaries for farmers

I liked the sessions on integrating climate change into project design and the How Much Space Does a River Need. They point us to the direction that project design will be heading.

Good diversity of subject matter, good speakers

They keynote speakers (Locke and Gobin) and the Orca Panel. Also the Puyallup watershed story tellers

The Tuesday afternoon session on water storage using wood placement in the watersheds

Plenary sessions, minus Orca Task Force representatives

The number of concurrent sessions seemed just about perfect. The food was nice, coffee delicious, and the sessions seemed well thought-out and populated with good talks.

Gov. Locke, concurrent sessions on riparian buffers and large river corridor restoration

networking, Eli Asher's talks are highly entertaining

Seeing the positive education and project work effort and networking with our partners across the state.

Stormwater science, and learning more about the larger scale restoration projects. We need to think bigger. Eli Asher, in particular, did a good job of envelope pushing.

Net working, learning new restoration practices and theories, celebrating 20 years of salmon recovery and looking forward to the next 20.

Science, and business opportunities

networking

second day speakers

Probably Cecilia Gobin's opening remarks. She was amazing and inspirational. She, I think, said it all.

Learning about various restoration techniques

All the speakers

Keynotes and panels - Gov. Locke, Cecilia Gobin, the Tirbes Panel, the Puyallup stories and Mark Saunders.

Opening keynote, orca plan, complexity of restoration projects, climate change adaptation measures, winning the upstream battle

Gov. Locke's keynote speech

Plenary sessions were very good; location was also very good

Some awesome speakers!!

The portion about variable buffer widths being necessary to approach watershed-scale restoration

The Plenary session by Cecilia Gobin- Remembering where we come from

Gary Locke's speech

Diversity of presentations, plenary speakers

the call to action for salmon recovery in the context of more aggressive habitat restoration with our changing climate

Speaker Gary Locke

Cecilia Gobin and plenary speakers that told stories, Eli Asher singing, great camaraderie

Dr. Edward Kolodziej's research work using High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry on Urban stormwater samples.

Opening speakers, exhibits and workshops

Cecilia Gobin was very inspirational. Kaleen was a great facilitator and such a genuine caring leader. Her energy is very positive and set the right tone.

Gary Locke and others

All the wonderful speakers on opening day

Exceptional Key Note Speakers

The vast amount of talks on a wide variety of topics

Location, opening speakers

Plenary talks

Excellent presentations

Governor Locke, Cecilia Gobin, new science

breakout session 4 (Urban Stormwater Threats and Clean Water Strategies to Conserve and Recover Salmon).
Monday morning speech for Washington State's Approach to Save the Southern Resident Orca

invasives and replanting talks.

Sessions and side interactions

Networking with individuals and presentations

Location

Speaker Gary Locke and open lunches for networking

Cecilia Gobin was very inspiring!

The plenary session and Stories from the Puyallup Watershed

Plenary session overview of the last 20 years was greatly appreciated because I'm new to salmon recovery.

Cecilia Gobin

Talks on restoration projects

Great keynotes from Gov Gary Locke and Cecilia Gobin. The riparian buffer session was particularly good.

Networking

technical sessions

The breakout sessions and poster session.

Governor Locke and Cecilia Gobin

Plenary speakers, great interaction with practitioners

The inspiring speakers and great presentation topics in the breakout sessions.

Cecilia's speech

Edward Kolodziej's presentation and research was the most outstanding along with the others on Urban Mortality Syndrome.

Puyallup Watershed Panel, Gary Locke

Cecilia Gobin, Governor Locke, the good food was a nice surprise, the facility was excellent as was the A/V. The Puyallup storytelling.

Remembering Where We Come From! It was such an inspiring speech!

Opening plenary and focus on tribal treaty rights. Session on channel incision and water storage.

Connecting with community and hearing new ideas about working with farmers to gain fish habitat.

Opening presentations.

Stormwater tract

Some of the sessions, networking.

Gary Locke

The Riparian Buffer session

Plenary speeches from Gary Locke and Cecilia Gobin; Tues lunch closing session talks on stories from the Puyallup Watershed; Tues morning session on urban stormwater threats and Tues afternoon session on How much space does a river need

boundaries set for farmers

stormwater sessions

The marine and whale presentations

Plenary talks on Monday morning were interesting and empowering.

Keynote speaker and the breakout session regarding the Marine Food Web and Habitat Interactions in the Salish Sea.

the breakout sessions

some of the recent research on salmon habitat assessment. talks on human impacts to salmon ecosystems (ie toxics in Puget Sound, legacy of large wood/beaver removal from streams, etc

some of the technical sessions were good

Variety of the talks

Many of the keynote speakers and informational breakout sessions

Break Out sessions that hit on conservation/restoration of habitat as that is where my job focuses.

the food

Poster exhibits and presentations on what is working in salmon restoration. This gave me excellent ideas for projects that I am managing.

Networking, opening remarks by Locke and Gobin, food

Networking with colleagues.

The speakers on Day 1.

Plenary sessions

Keynote speakers Cecilia Gobin and former Governor Locke

riparian plantings and buffer widths

The poster session

Plenary Speakers

Presentations, Lunch, Location

Learning about the obstacles that juvenile salmon face when migrating from the sound, specifically through Hood Canal, to the JDF and on to the open ocean.

Gov. Locke, Orca task force, tribal panel

Excellent plenary and breakout sessions

Integration of southern resident killer whale's path with the plight of the salmon

networking

Plenary sessions. Seeing old friends and colleagues, catching up. Meeting new folks, putting names to faces, networking.

The plenary speakers were great.

Gary Locke; great group of people with lots of network opportunities

The Urban Stormwater Breakout Session

Cecelia Gobin's outstanding plenary talk

Meeting new people.

Plenary speeches

Gary Locke, Cecilia Gobin, and the Urban Stormwater session

I enjoyed being able to talk to people from different organizations during the registration, lunches, and tabling times.

Cecelia Gobins talk!!

Urban Stormwater runoff session

Talks by Governor Locke and Cecilia

Cecelia Bogin's Keynote speech. It was very moving and I think emphasized why we are doing this work.

Cecelia Gobin's talk; talks by practitioners about case studies

beaver dam analog presentations

the breakout sessions were very informative and interesting

Level of enthusiasm

Reconnecting, great presentations

Connecting with people

Catching up with everyone from around the State and 2 excellent sessions: #1)Urban Stormwater Threats and Clean Water Strategies to Conserve and Recover Salmon, and #2)Hatcheries and Hydro:What We're Learning and Where We're Headed

Great speakers & gathering the Salmon Army together.

Gary Locke and Cecilia Gobin

As usual for anyone, a few of the talks really resonated.

The wide variety of topics that were covered.

The opening ceremony speakers, talks that provided technical details, and socializing.

Individual talks

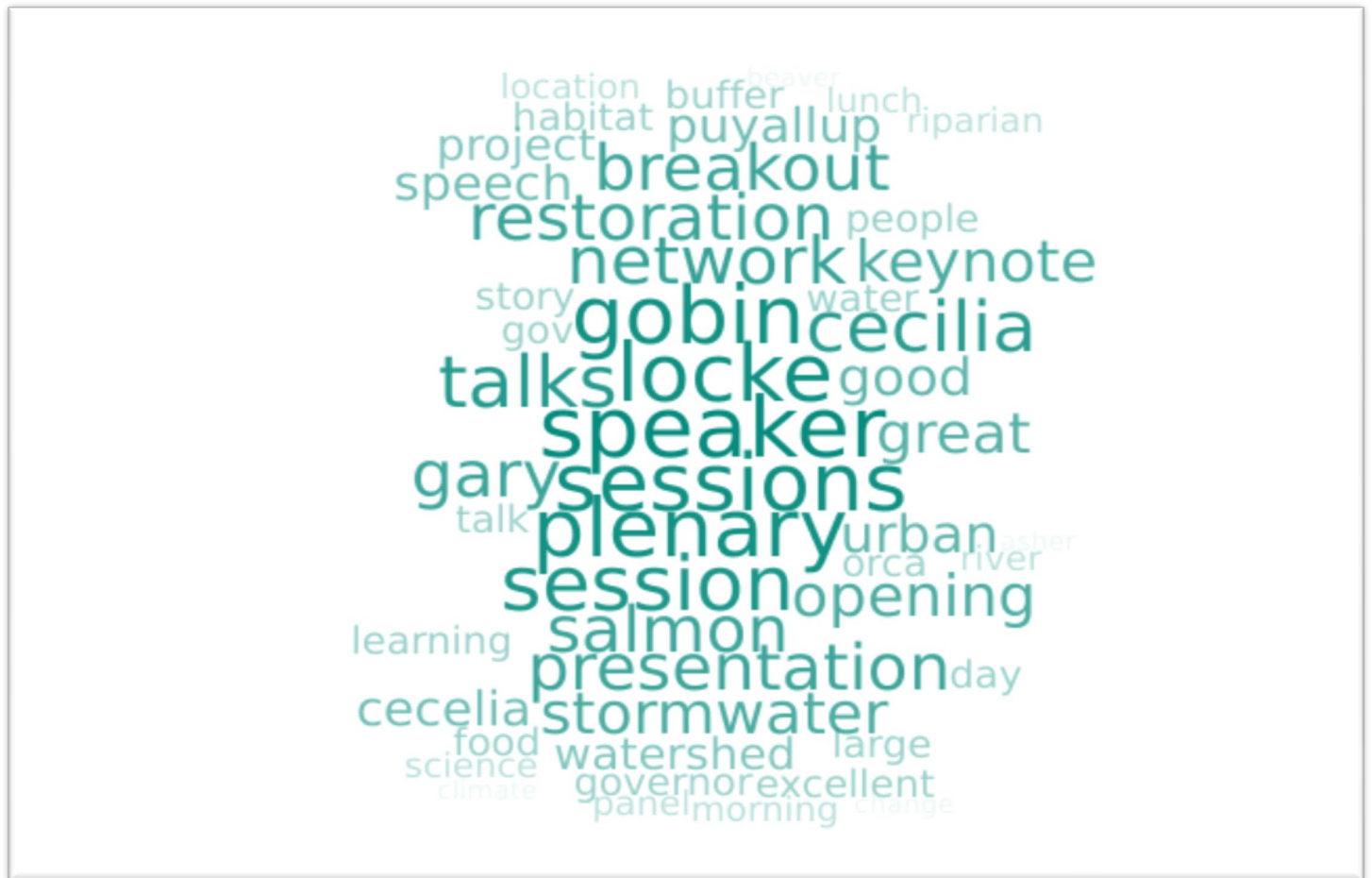
Woody Debris talks

Eli

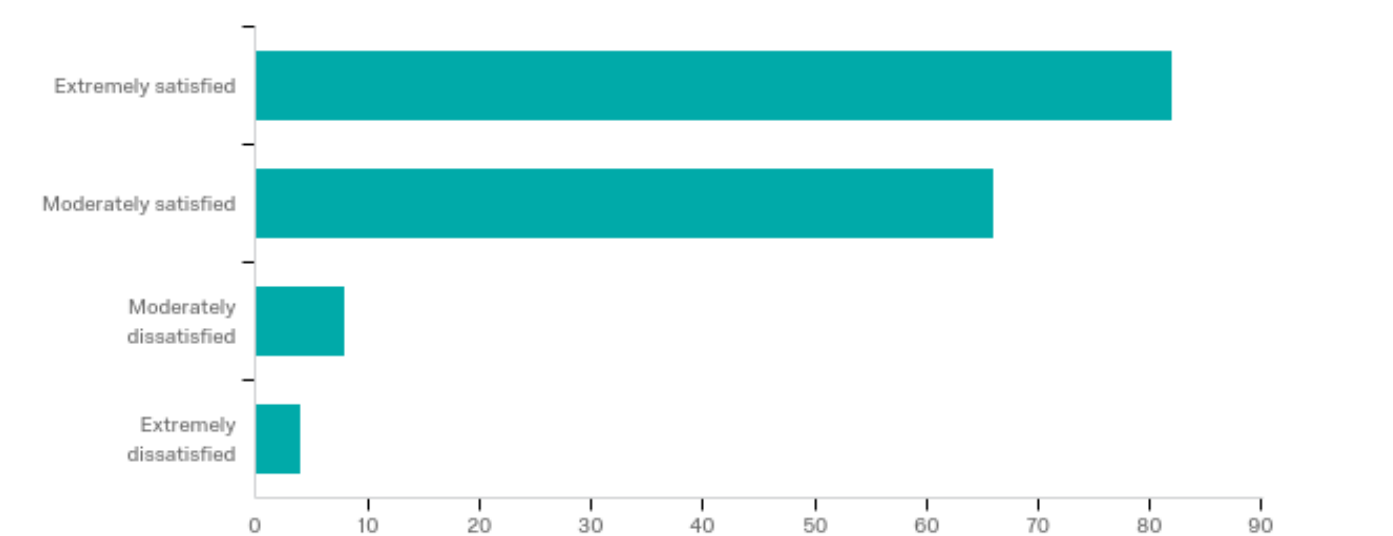
Cecelia's Where You Come From speech and the Process Based Restoration / LWM / Beaver Analog session at the end of the second day

Plenary speaker session on the morning of the first day. Breakout Session 4: "How much space does a river need? Establishing ecological corridors for large scale restoration and monitoring"

Conference Highlights (word cloud):

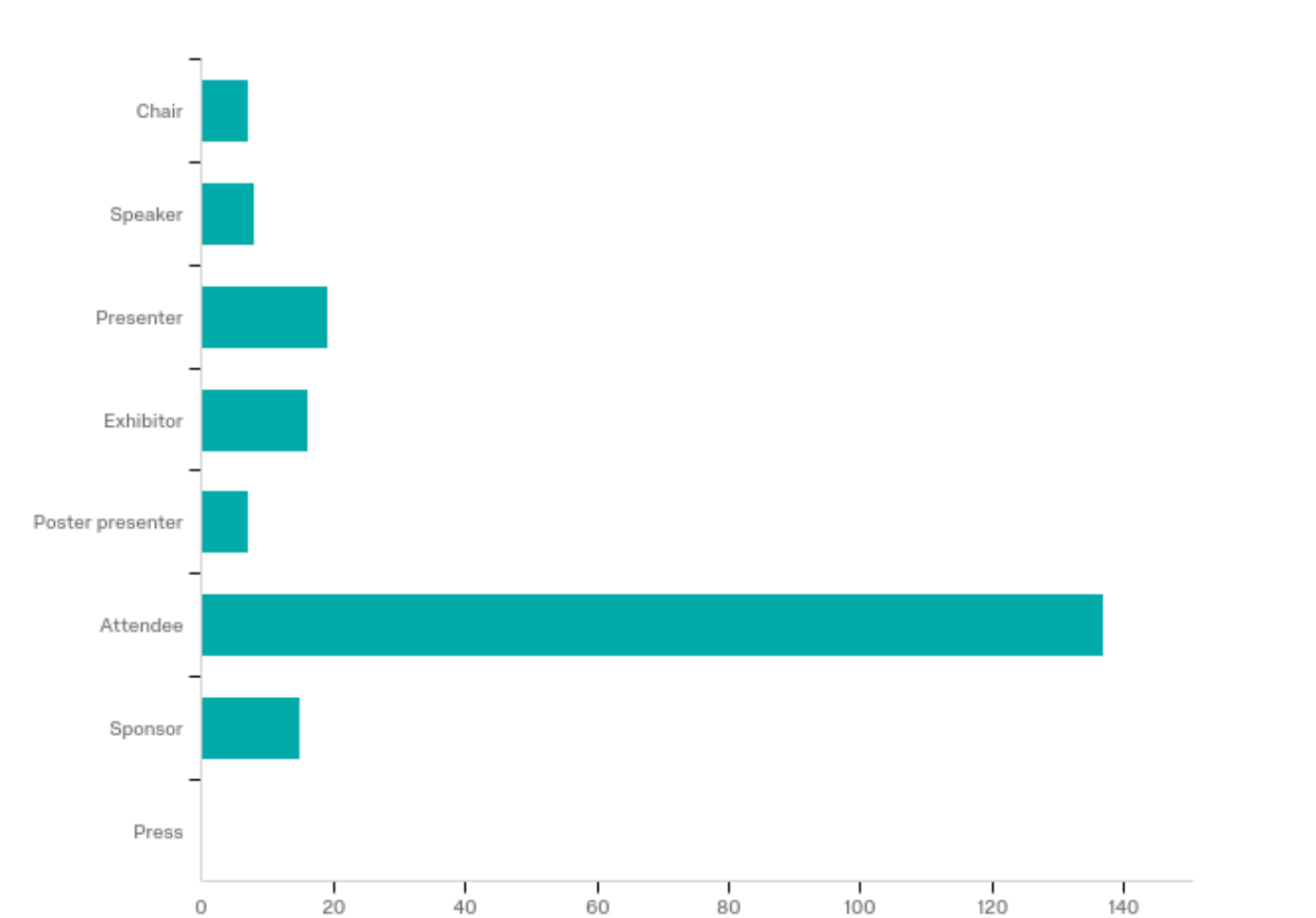


Q3 - What did you think of holding the conference in Tacoma?



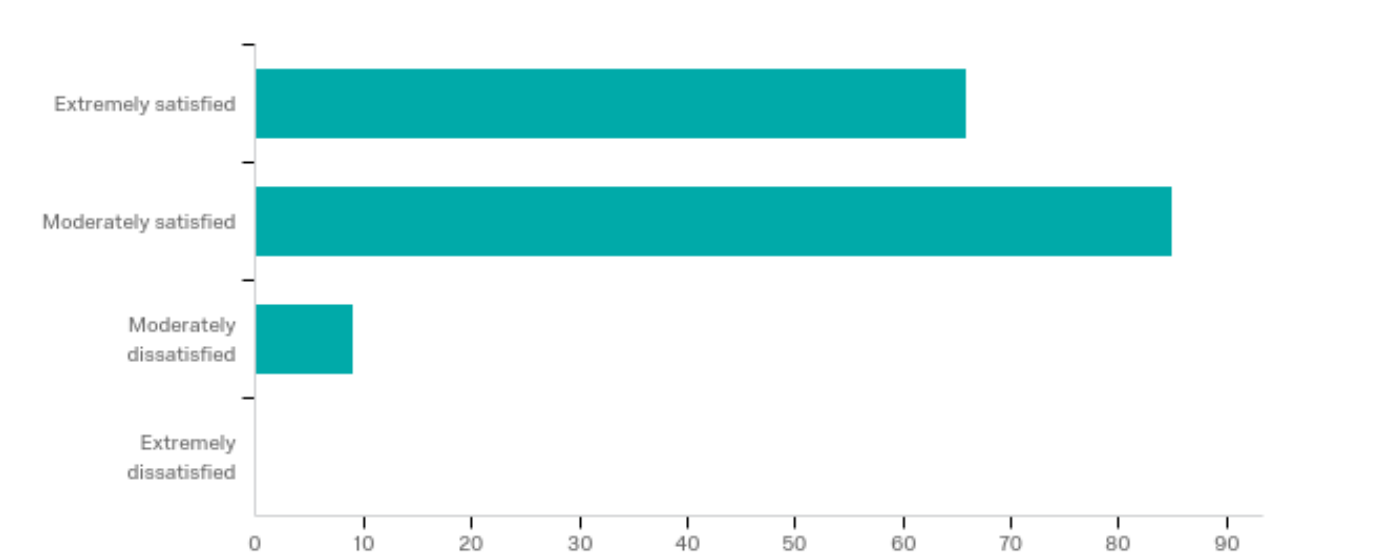
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	51.25%	82
2	Moderately satisfied	41.25%	66
4	Moderately dissatisfied	5.00%	8
5	Extremely dissatisfied	2.50%	4
	Total	100%	160

Q4 - What role(s) did you have at the conference? Check all that apply.



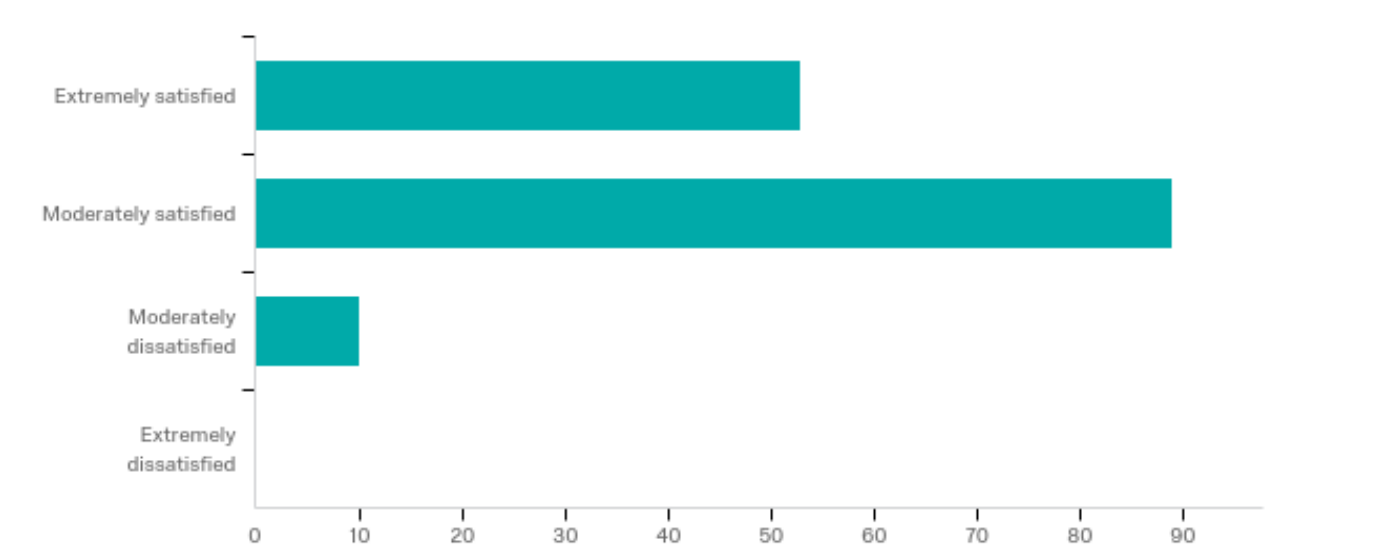
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Chair	3.35%	7
2	Speaker	3.83%	8
3	Presenter	9.09%	19
4	Exhibitor	7.66%	16
5	Poster presenter	3.35%	7
6	Attendee	65.55%	137
7	Sponsor	7.18%	15
8	Press	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	209

Q5 - Please evaluate the content of the conference: What did you think of the topics covered in the breakout sessions?



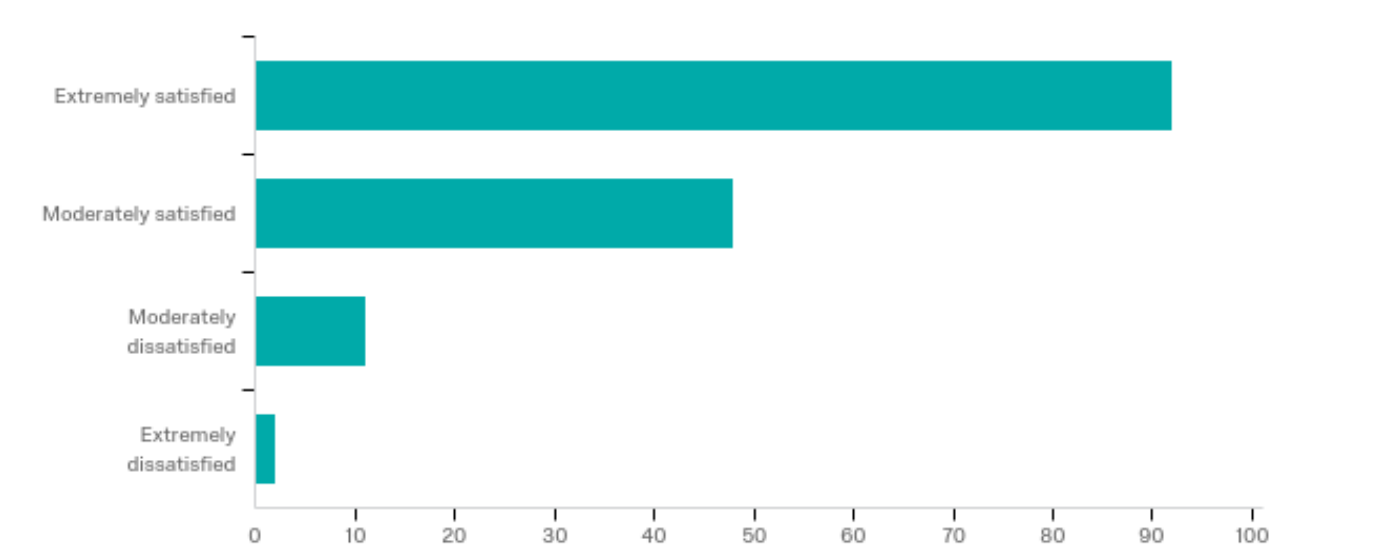
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	41.25%	66
2	Moderately satisfied	53.13%	85
4	Moderately dissatisfied	5.63%	9
5	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	160

Q6 - What did you think of the subjects covered in the presentations?



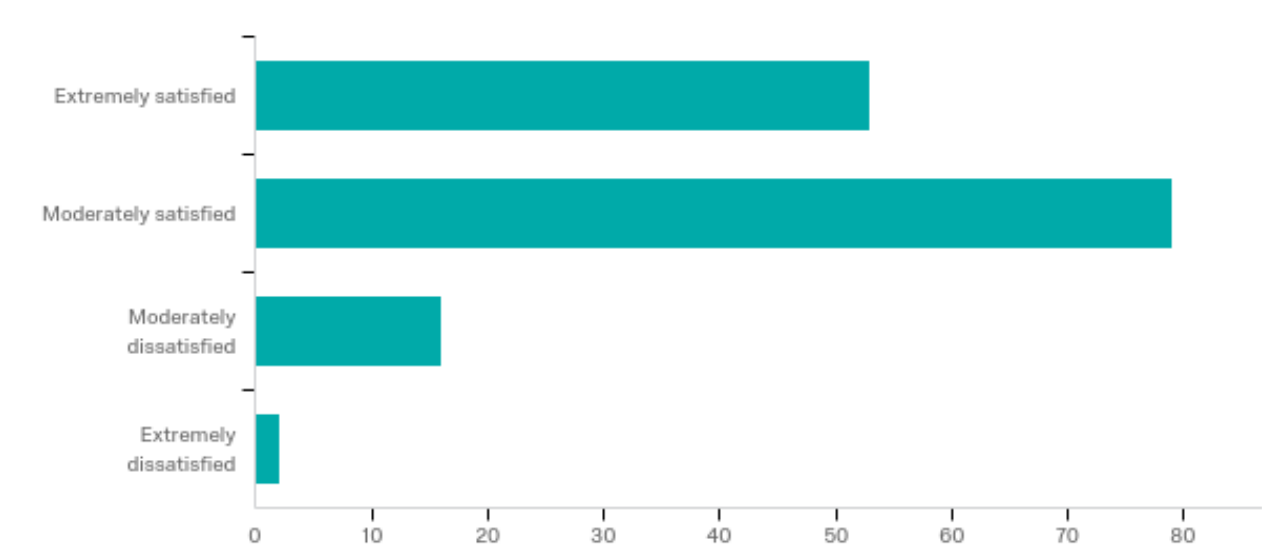
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	34.87%	53
2	Moderately satisfied	58.55%	89
4	Moderately dissatisfied	6.58%	10
5	Extremely dissatisfied	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	152

Q7 - How satisfied were you with the emcees and keynote speakers at the opening plenary on Monday morning?



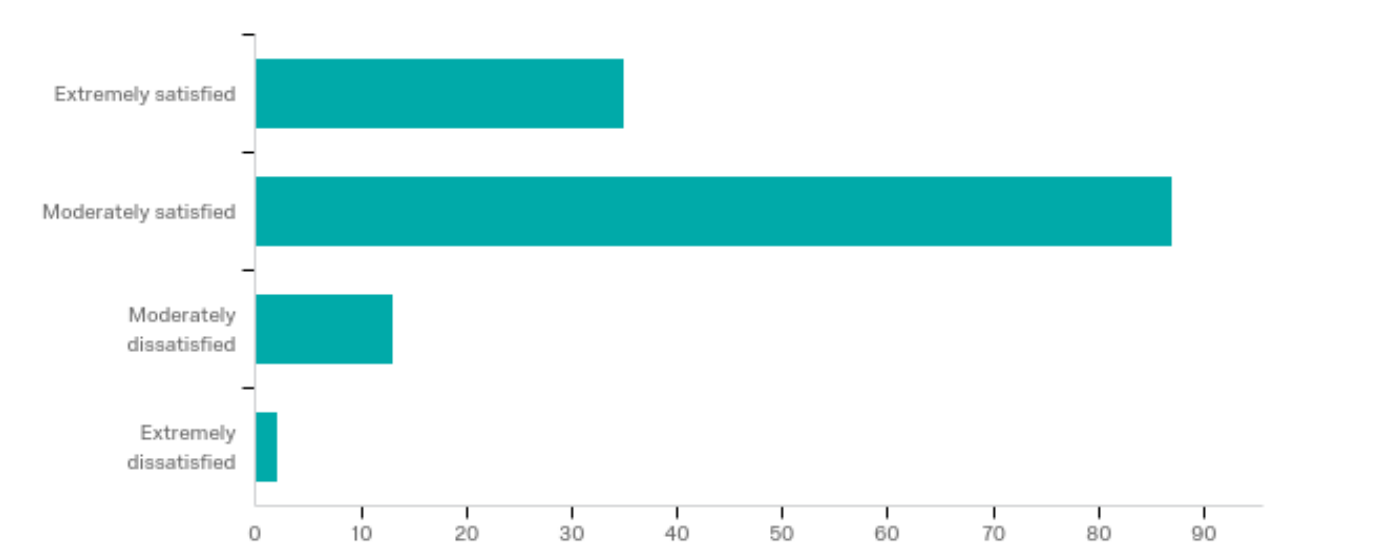
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	60.13%	92
2	Moderately satisfied	31.37%	48
4	Moderately dissatisfied	7.19%	11
5	Extremely dissatisfied	1.31%	2
	Total	100%	153

Q8 - How satisfied were you with the emcees and keynote speakers for the closing plenary on Tuesday afternoon?



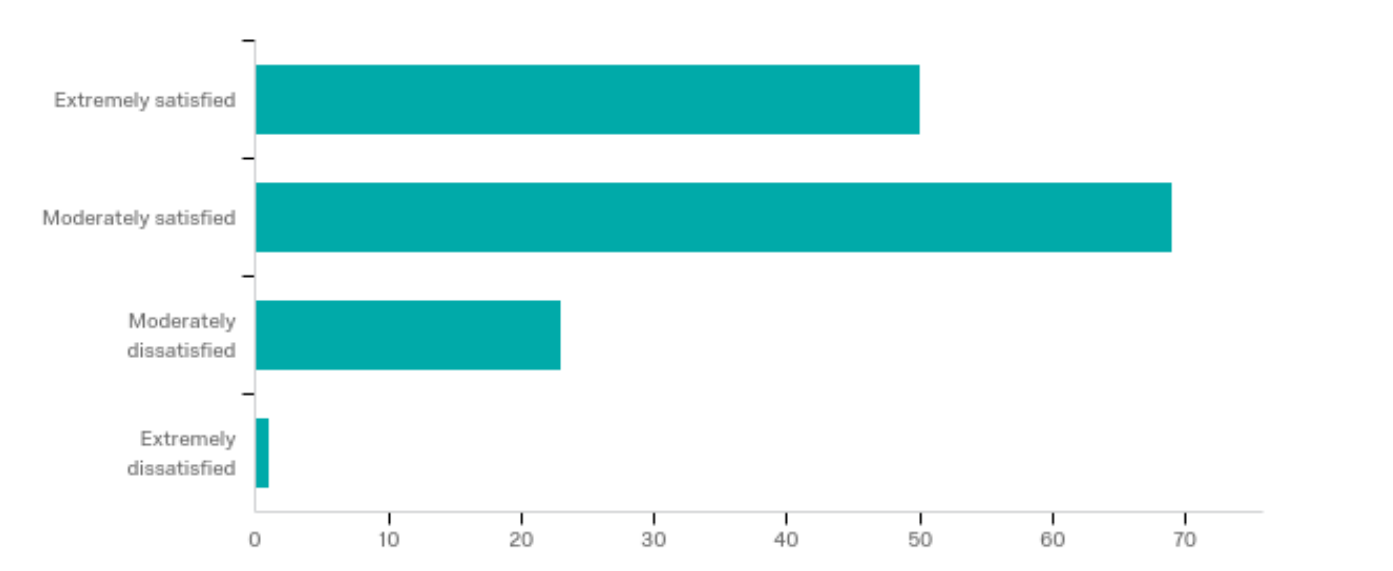
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	35.33%	53
2	Moderately satisfied	52.67%	79
4	Moderately dissatisfied	10.67%	16
5	Extremely dissatisfied	1.33%	2
	Total	100%	150

Q9 - How satisfied were you with the poster session?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	25.55%	35
2	Moderately satisfied	63.50%	87
4	Moderately dissatisfied	9.49%	13
5	Extremely dissatisfied	1.46%	2
	Total	100%	137

Q10 - Exhibit Hall: Were you satisfied with the number and types of exhibitors at the conference?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	34.97%	50
2	Moderately satisfied	48.25%	69
4	Moderately dissatisfied	16.08%	23
5	Extremely dissatisfied	0.70%	1
	Total	100%	143

Q11 - Are there exhibitors you would like to see at future conferences?

Are there exhibitors you would like to see at future conferences?

More exhibitors with in-stream construction-related equipment/materials to showcase.

I was very disappointed in the poster session and exhibitors - that they were on a different floor from the conference, and really a ghost town throughout the whole two days. I thought the snacks were good, but the set-up and space was just terrible, and hardly anybody stuck around for it. Most of the exhibit tables were empty of humans throughout, so I did not even get the opportunity to figure out who was there, and what they had to offer. I was helping at our (WSDOT) exhibit, and spent a lot of time preparing materials and posters and would have loved to have the opportunity to share with folks, but the whole set-up did not really allow for time for anyone to walk through the exhibits.

Not real sure but perhaps exhibitors that would have some experience with urban planning and development and the rivers and creeks that wind thru many urban areas.

More interactive exhibits

I would like to see someone to talk to with the exhibitors. Some were empty

more of them would have been nice

Just seems like there are fewer each year. My first attendance was 6 years ago in Vancouver, it seemed like the exhibition floor was packed. You had the Swoosh demo too that year.

I was surprised to not see any student posters. I think this conference would be an excellent venue for students to show off their research.

Orca Salmon Alliance

Soundmetrics, a sonar fish counting corporation located here in Washington.

More NGO's and foundations who support the NGOs.

no

Serve food or snack breaks in the exhibitor hall so more people circulate through there. Have another hour for poster sessions sometime throughout the day or days. Just not enough time at the social hour to see them all and interact with presenters.

More posters. It might be interesting to solicit students to present work as posters.

More private firms

More agency and group exhibitors

Contech, additional pre-fab bridge manufacturers, dam removal firms

NOAA

I would certainly have liked to have seen exhibitors who are involved in the sonar counting of fish. Soundmetrics is the manufacturer of the DIDSON and ARIS sonar systems that are used in Alaska, Canada, California, and multiple countries worldwide. Their incredibly successful and widely used systems are produced here in Washington.

Surprised that there weren't more engineering firms represented: GeoEngineers, Parametrix; BergerABAM; Shannon & Wilson etc. Missed opportunity for them.

I would like to see a breakout session purely dedicated to education. This would be a great time to come together and talk about all of the different education programs that are happening throughout the state, as well as a chance to share curriculum and resources.

None in particular

much of the conference does not seem to focus on real and critical threats to salmon ecosystems. conference would be more pertinent if more focus on meta threats were addressed. (urbanization, human population growth, climate change. how might we as a species achieve real progress against these big threats?

No

I did not spend much time there. It would be nice to have more break time or networking time to go visit them. Many sessions ran over their allotted time so it did not provide much "free" in between sessions.

Can't think of any at this time.

No

Puyallup Watershed panel and Urban Stormwater Runoff speakers

whale centered exhibitors, urban planners, and policy/government representation

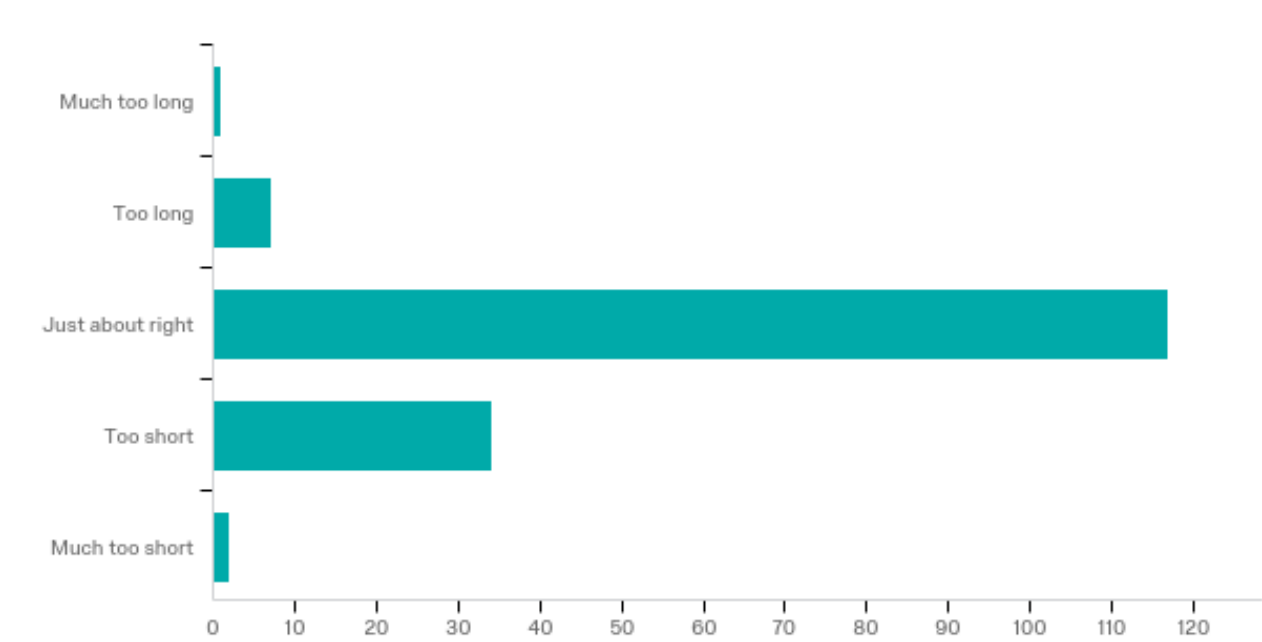
More climate change adaptation

There are a lot more potential vendors related to salmon recovery that were missing.

Is there a way to make the exhibitor space more inviting and interactive?

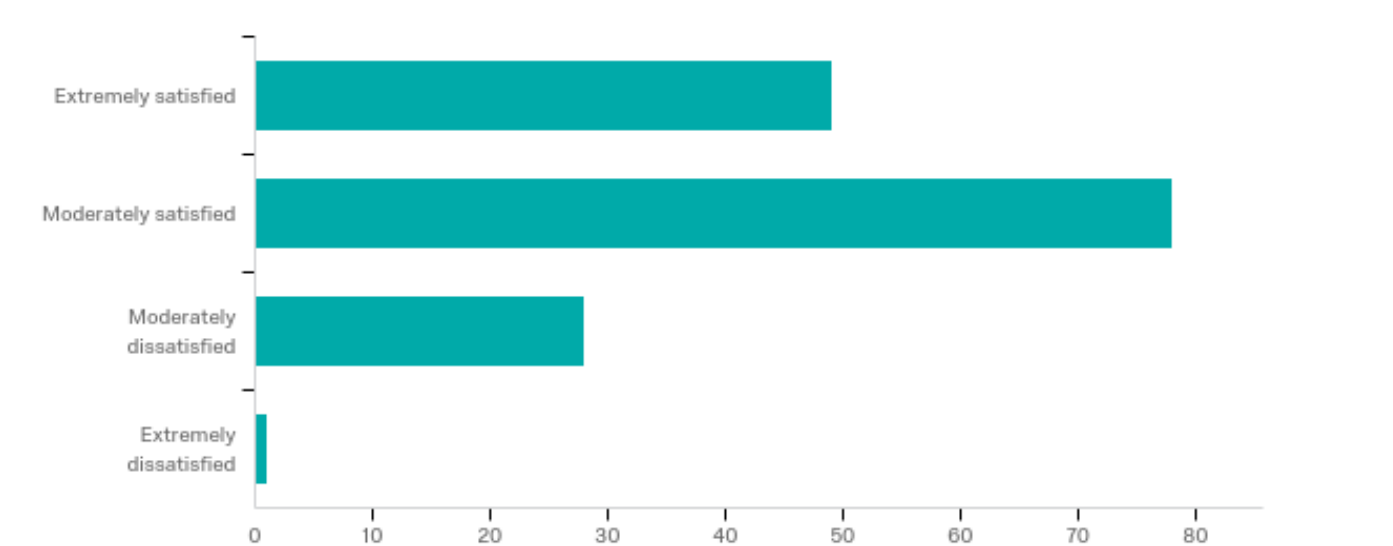
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Q12 - Conference Timing: How was the length of the conference?



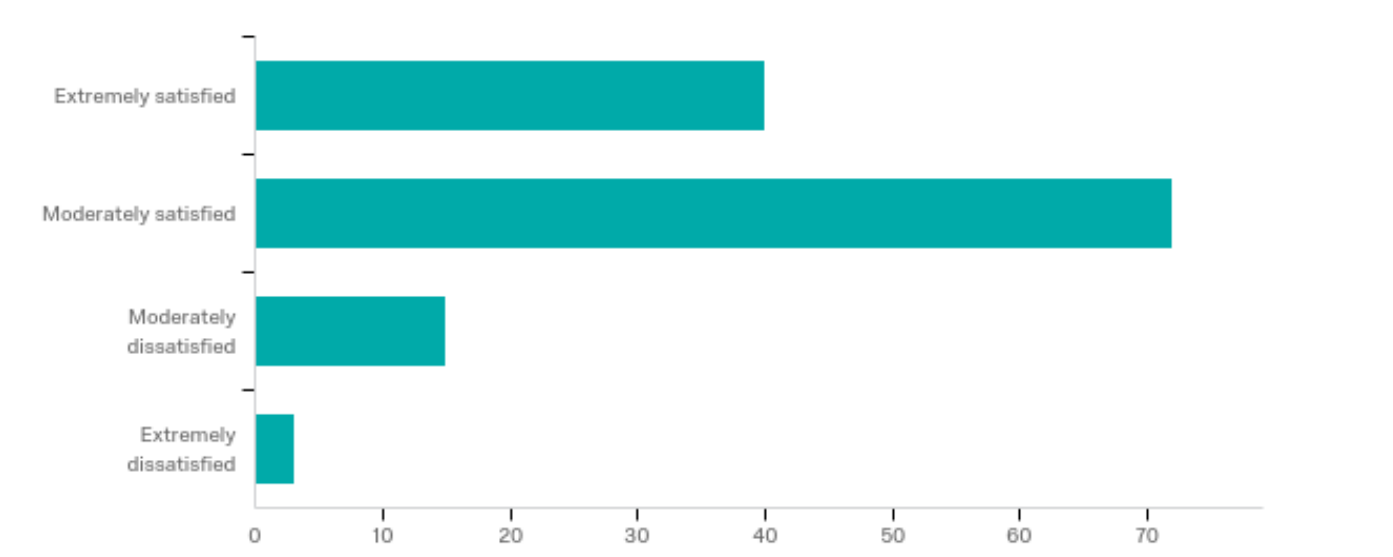
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Much too long	0.62%	1
2	Too long	4.35%	7
3	Just about right	72.67%	117
4	Too short	21.12%	34
5	Much too short	1.24%	2
	Total	100%	161

Q13 - What did you think of the number of breakout sessions?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	31.41%	49
2	Moderately satisfied	50.00%	78
4	Moderately dissatisfied	17.95%	28
5	Extremely dissatisfied	0.64%	1
	Total	100%	156

Q14 - Logistics: How satisfied were you with the call for sessions and call for abstracts process?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely satisfied	30.77%	40
2	Moderately satisfied	55.38%	72
4	Moderately dissatisfied	11.54%	15
5	Extremely dissatisfied	2.31%	3
	Total	100%	130

Q15 - Any comments on the call for sessions and call for abstracts?

Any comments on the call for sessions and call for abstracts?

I think it would be helpful to have a general idea of what the breakout session themes are to better inform us for submitting an abstract. I was disappointed that our abstract, that I believe would have been well-received, was not accepted but there were a few folks who had multiple presentations. You should limit presentations by individuals to just one (unless they are part of a team presenting). Also, this was my 4th SRC and it seems like the same watersheds are always selected to present their projects and monitoring....RCO should encourage and promote other WRIA's to present. We have a lot of exciting projects in our watershed and it seems like we're never recognized for our good work.

N/A

Did not participate in this process

My only thought is throughout the conference, the theme was we all had to work on this together. More emphasis needs to be put on stewardship, education and citizen scientists that give the community ownership. Public private partnerships should be highlighted also.

Seems like the abstracts accepted were hand picked for sessions prior to the general call for abstracts. It doesn't really provide for diversity. It also wastes a lot of people's time in writing and reviewing abstracts. This also means that there is not a general theme for the conference that is being guided by the conference conveners and you are letting those who step up and create sessions drive the content.

Need more time. The process and call for sessions/abstracts should be longer. Also, there needs to be a concerted effort to get topics outside of Puget Sound. Topics need to also not be driven by politics, i.e. Orca and chinook recovery as major drivers instead of chum, coho, and steelhead.

It was confusing to those who did not get selected for a session, then had the chance to submit abstracts for inclusion in a selected session. Maybe look at how the RRNW structures their calls for sessions/abstracts?

While the notices were send out with plenty of notice, I didn't see that they conference was going to be shorter with less opportunity to host sessions.

I did not participate in this process

None

This process needs to commence earlier because we need a draft conference program schedule before the close of early registration. How can you expect us to register if we have no way of knowing what we are registering for?

I think that it would be great to express the desire for presenters to be confident in communicating their points clearly during their sessions.

I did not hear anything about the call before the conference.

very well done, and worth our while -- we met so many new people!

I had a fish passage presentation I wanted to submit but there was no break out session for fish passage. Then at the conference that there was a breakout session for fish passage but I received no notice of this change

Have a tool to rank them. Have distinct groups review similar groups of abstracts.

The session chairs for my session left much of the planning until the last minute sending the speakers information and discussion questions out over the weekend before the conference. More organization and time to prepare would have been helpful.

i heard about the deadlines too late to present. Is there a mailing list?

Very efficient

I would suggest looking for more input from people working in Alaska, Canada, and other Countries.

Time frame too short, especially turn around between call for sessions and call for abstracts. Software confusing and difficult to use, especially for panels.

There seemed to be a lot fewer presentations from project sponsors and those seemed to be focused on the host WRIA. Other presentations seemed to be in the monitoring, research, and design areas from professors and consulting firms. I think this leaves a bit of room for balance in the selection of presenters.

More sessions. Less speakers.

none

I never received information on the calls for sessions or abstracts.

fine

No

no

More time in Sessions less as a whole group, the speakers can be encouraging but the breakout sessions have the most profit for me and the other attendees I spoke with.

N/A

It's confusing as to what constitutes a session verses presentations. Perhaps sessions should be determined and then ask for abstracts to fulfill them.

Was not sure of the process and how it evolved

Had trouble with the site to submit an abstract- mine was accepted, however, so apparently it worked!

Perhaps ask if the speaker has presented the topic/project before and if there's new information to share. It seems there were several talks that had been given at prior Salmon Recovery conferences.

Please use microphones. If you don't, hearing is difficult and sometimes impossible.

I felt like two days is not long enough to cover the information that is out there, and certainly not long enough to allow for talks from other regions of the state outside of the Puget Sound. It would be good to return to a longer format.

I didn't receive a formal response to my submittal but did get a call later. It was a bit confusing what the process was for hearing back on decisions.

The call for sessions pretty much filled the program with speakers that were invited by session organizers. I attended two excellent sessions that are noted above that were very coherent and carefully organized and I appreciated this. But so many people responded to the call for abstracts when there was not openings for very many speakers that it was a waste of time for many who wrote abstracts and reviewed them. And my abstract got lost and was never even reviewed so that is total failure in my opinion. If you are going to have both a session call and an abstract call you need to predetermine how many of each you will allow on the program and communicate that ahead of time to prospective speakers and abstract reviewers. It should be a balance of both. Some of the lesser attended sessions could be done as short workshops on the first or last day to allow for more concurrent sessions with broader appeal. Make sure also you have diversity in geographic representation and a wide range of speakers from around the State in your selected abstracts. It was very unfair for so many speakers to give 2 or even 3 talks when others were not given the chance to give even one talk.

The call for sessions and abstracts was not well advertised. Our group missed the deadline entirely.

Q16 - Any comments on the registration process?

Any comments on the registration process?

Registration went smoothly! It would be helpful to have the schedule sooner though.

Very simple and easy. Did not take much time at all

With my lack of skill and confidence in electronic age I think it was very user friendly, great job.

easy

Why are you charging \$5 for the SRFB?

This was great.

Super easy -- once I got the registration email out of my spam folders and into my inbox. I wish there was a list of attendees to enhance networking.

Super easy but the receipt was long. We have to print those for our auditor, so a 1 page receipt would suffice.

no

Pretty simple, tho for some reason I was not notified as I was in years past about the conference this year.

None

Thanks for asking about food allergies. We need a draft conference program schedule before the close of early registration. How can you expect us to register if we have no way of knowing what we are registering for?

Registration was not very user friendly on line

It was a little hard to navigate the webpage and find the registration page.

It was easy.

very smooth

no , it went very well

excellent

smooth, no issues

My travel department completed this for me. I requested a vegetarian meal and got the card. It was easy to find my name tag.

Fine

None

I would have liked to see clearer instructions on HOW to register as a student volunteer, it seemed unclear.

It was well done.

Registration notice seemed late, and short notice this year

Asking for payment method first thing was very confusing to people, especially those with comp codes.

it was good.

none

fine

Went smoothly

no

It was well organized.

It was fine.

N/A

Registration was fast and easy. Well done!

No.

No

Easy- no problems

Easy

It seemed strange to register without the program being published. I knew it would be good based on comments from past attendees. But I also know people who chose not to attend because they didn't know what the content of the conference would be like.

WWU system was rough and not always intuitive

Registration process was not as easy as it should have been but my Agency is partly at fault.

Simple

Order payment was a pain but not sure there's a better way.

Very smooth.

Very expensive to attend the conference for retired folks and those in restoration practices without agency grants to attend that might profit from attendance

You seemed to have too many volunteers standing around

the decision on abstracts was communicated way too close to the end of the early registration timeline. The review and communication can be done earlier if the call for abstracts happens sooner and folks then have more time for getting registration completed.

The internal purchasing and registration process at my agency is inefficient and confusing. Registering with a third party (WWU) makes the process even more confusing.

Q18 - General: Do you have any suggestions for the next conference? Topics, speakers, location/venue, other?

General: Do you have any suggestions for the next conference? Topics, speakers, location/venue, other?

Yes, a few comments/suggestions: 1) please provide a more substantial breakfast (maybe some granola to go with the yogurt), its hard to catch breakfast before the conference if your hotel doesn't have complementary bfast. 2) The monday morning opening was too long and reduced the time we could have had for breakout sessions. I don't see anything wrong with eating lunch while keynote speakers talk, it would give us more opportunities to learn! 3) While it was great the conference rooms were bigger to accommodate all the people, it was really difficult to see the text and images on screens. I would recommend considering two screens (one towards the back of the room) for the larger rooms and ask presenters to use bolder text colors (not yellow!) so we can actually see the content on the slides (I have 20/20 vision an had a difficult time even), 4) The tuesday breakout session room 315-316 chair and presenters switched the presentation order around for the morning and afternoon sessions. This was pretty irritating as sometimes people like to catch specific presentations and move between the breakout rooms, I had planned doing this for both sessions on tuesday but because they had moved the presentations around I never saw either of the presentations I wanted to see. Please ask them to stick to the schedule. 5) and last but not least, it would be great to not give up a weekend day to travel to the conference (especially after spring break), maybe keep it to the work week next time!

The breakout session rooms got very crowded and many people ended up standing throughout several sessions. It made it difficult to go from session to session if you did find a seat since.

This was my 5th or 6th SRFB conference, and it has always been one of my favorites. The logistics of this one were terrible, mostly because of the location and space, but also the shortened conference (everyone was rushed and there was no time to network), and the fact that because it was within "commuting distance" of both Olympia and Seattle, a majority of attendees ended up having to sit on I5 for 1.5 to 3 hours each day. I missed the first two hours of each day. Here are some specifics: 1. Tacoma is a bad place to have it. My favorite in the past was actually Vancouver - there are places to stay, most people can just come be there, it's not completely in the middle of nowhere, there is a thriving downtown area for networking, and most importantly, there is PARKING. We spent 15-20 minutes a day looking for a place to park, which is just frustrating. It also took about 1.5 hours to drive the 35 miles to get there each morning. Thus, I had to get up ridiculously early and felt foggy and tired through the entire thing, and work a very long day. It was a 12 hour day for me on Monday. 2. That convention center space was awkward. The poster session and exhibitors were not part of the conference and got virtually no traffic. These need to be adjacent to the snacks and networking - a perfect break for introverts who just want to poke around for a bit between sessions. I feel pretty terrible that most exhibitors did not get much traffic. the acoustics were not very good in there either. 3. The plenary sessions were all in the "table" room. It is hard to walk in and out and find a seat. I personally prefer rows of seats in the big main hall. 4. the breakout rooms were too big and awkward. there was no isle down both sides, the rows were too close together, it was very disruptive to go in or out to the restroom as you had to crawl over about 10 people, my neck hurt because of the placement of the screen. there were crowds of people trying to huddle in the back, where the front was so far away you couldn't see. Smaller, more numerous, shorter sessions are much better. 5. breakout sessions were too long. They should be 1:15 tops. 2 hours is way to long to sit in one place, especially if you have back problems. Also, people just need a mental break more often. 6. I missed the 2017 one, but I remember it being 3 days. This one was way too short and way too rushed. It should not start at 8am the first day - even locals can't get there in time. I missed the first two hours of each day, in spite of reporting to work between 7 and 730 (too early). There need to be many short breaks to say "hi", browse the exhibits, and rest your brain and the short schedule with long days did not allow for that. 7. Having all of the plenary sessions on the 1st half of day 1 was too much. I much prefer a couple of hours each morning. It is a nice settling in time. 8. I prefer buffet style meals. The food tasted

good, but I unfortunately got a salad with very little of anything on it at lunch and was starving the rest of the day. I also like the buffet line social time. 9. snacks were great! 10. I really liked the types of topics this year. Again wish the sessions were a bit shorter so I could mix it up a little more.

Not at this time

education in the schools, citizen scientists, Cecilia Gobin, Kitsap Peninsula

The plenary on Monday was great, but took away valuable time for additional breakout sessions. And in comparison to attending in 2015 and 2017, seemed like less variety among sessions in both days. Further, jamming 8 talks into a session is too much. Too much to comprehend, too little time to make a case, and too little time to have questions answered and actually get value out of it.

Please consider selecting emcees/invited speakers based on the experience that they will provide, versus their seniority. For example, while Phil Rockefeller "deserves" to be emcee, his stage presence left much to be desired.

Examine the breakout sessions and try to disperse topics so that there isn't a lot of overlapping sessions with the same topic, making it harder to navigate. Plenary sessions are good.

Too many topics, felt like more was missed than attended. Consider going for quality over quantity. I'd recommend a focus on project outcomes and messages/lessons learned that are broadly applicable -- this could be done in part by limiting presentation on projects that have yet to be completed and requiring projects to have been complete with a take home message front and center. Also, please consider including more on education.

Please try not to have so many sessions that explain a process for research or modeling but are not totally done and prepared to give results. I sat thru multiple sessions and left with nothing but a promise of findings in the future. While i appreciated the focus on SRKWs and Salmon, I would still like to see more sessions on shoreline/nearshore, shoreline restoration projects, and protection through regulations.

Prefer it to be close to Oregon so we can get more cross pollination between states.

I really enjoyed the Wenatchee Conference as a smaller town creates a closer atmosphere. Also, a smaller town probably needs the influx of tourism \$ more than a larger town like Tacoma.

More about the role of the salmon in the bigger ecological health of the whole watershed

Please someone start discussing Oregon spotted frog. The breakouts this year weren't as exciting for me as in years past. My favorite one was the second day and was related to ag. A lot of talk about early education and no real sessions or talks about it. Please keep better time, room moderators were not good at this. All sessions started late because people did not come back in time from the breaks. I know that the networking is important, but when you want to move from room to room, I missed or arrived at the end of several talks that I wanted to hear. Some sessions also went wildly out of order- this could spoil someone's entire plan.

The venue was great but there was no on sight parking and it was a challenge to find parking.

I think it might have been better to have the posters and possibly the exhibitor booths in the hallway with the coffee break to allow more visibility.

Have the coffee and am and pm snack food in the same room with exhibits. Traffic was extremely low for the exhibits until Friday at 5pm

Each day was over scheduled with insufficient time for Q&A and minimal time available for the exhibit hall/posters

i'd prefer holding fewer overlapping or concurrent sessions.

Ocean Shores Convention Center

Provide bios on the speakers, consider adding presentations outside of WA to encourage new ideas

a more positive spin would be pleasant; activities for attendees; music during the evening social, 1 free drink ticket, fewer speakers at the opening/closing plenary, panel sessions that do not have "canned" questions

Yes. 1. The sessions were too long, the talks too short. Having more sessions gives a natural breaking point, allowing a reset of the clock if the session is behind, and allows people to move between sessions easier. The

Chairs rearranged there talks in two of the sessions I attended, not allowing movement to catch talks that I wanted to see. 2, The communication from the Conference Coordinators about the Sessions was not sufficient. There were not enough details for a Chair to know what to. 2. I did not like the Tacoma location, but prefer the Vancouver location or even Wenatchee. 3. There were not enough technical, fisheries sessions. 4. The misprinting of the agenda for the Monday sessions start caused a lot of confusion. 5. In the future, consider partnering with another group, such a LLTK (I think they helped before? this is why I suggest this it seems like it was much better organized than when Western helped) to get a broader perspective and maybe coordination help. 5. Please do not have the conference on a Monday again.

Move the location north of Seattle and provide someone who has research on gill netting.

I thought the venue and hotel was terrific. Perhaps a dinner the first night for more networking would be helpful for team buidling. I'd also like to see more intersectionality of participants. I'd be more than willing to help with that effort.

Many speaker had charts with tiny, illegible legends or words and they did not explain their axes or maps or whatever... More guidance so that people communicate their work more clearly.

During the breakout sessions, I would have a topic in each major field. It seemed as though the "habitat" talks were all on the Tuesday morning session. If you moved some of these to the other sessions people could listen to all the breakout sessions on "habitat" instead of having to pick one. I feel on the Monday afternoon session, I unfortunately missed presentations I would have loved to see.

Have it in a different location around the state every two years.

Maybe Tri-cities?

I would like to listen to more urban stormwater specific topics, and more on Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome. I would suggest having volunteers/conference workers present at the doors of each room during the breakout sessions. The amount of times I heard doors slamming shut was absurd. It was disrespectful for those presenting and listening. I would like to see smaller sessions with more presenters instead. During day 2 many of the sessions rearranged the presenter order. It flowed better but made it difficult to anticipate which presentation was next. give speakers more time. everyone seemed to be rushed to get through their presentations, and there was no time for questions for anyone. It was hard to stay focused for powerpoint after powerpoint with limited time to process any of the information. The sections with 8+ speakers would have been much nicer if there were only 4-6.

Wenatchee

Unique and different opportunities that are outside of the state of WA

Locations not in active construction zones with ample parking are preferred

As I'm new, I'm not sure what the alternatives to Tacoma have been.

Longer breaks between breakout sessions. More time for questions

Tacoma is great! I would like to be able to have access afterwards to presentations/content.

More project-oriented presentations would be appreciated.

I highly recommend shortening the sessions and also making sure the schedule is printed with the order of individual presentations so attendees can move between session rooms. While some session chairs did a great job of tying together the sessions, others did not. Some of the sessions felt disjointed and there was also a lack of context for many of the presentations. Presenters overall need to include fewer detailed graphics, unless they explain or leave them up on screen longer. Presenters also really need to provide some background and context before launching into a presentation, we are definitely not all familiar with the background of these projects or basins.

Olympia

sessions were too long and should be split into shorter topic specific sessions.

Include smaller ecosystem restoration efforts happening in Puget Sound, especially Pocket Estuaries and their unique niche in the recovery process.

3 days with fewer presenters in each break-out so they can get into more detail. The time management of this conference was terrible and there was rarely time to ask questions because everyone was always over their time limit. Small dam removal examples, a session on how people collaborate to extend funding, design lessons learned and how to save money, and reach out to Thurston County to get their input on their fish passage program. I've heard a lot about it and think a presentation about a local government is effectively tackling fish passage corrections would be good. Location on the east side or near Oregon was preferred; seemed like better attendance.

It would be helpful to do a workshop or more engaged learning experience for how to communicate scientific ideas to the public. maybe hosting it in Seattle or Bellingham.

SONAR FISH COUNTING, especially ARIS SYSTEMS

Wenatchee may have been crowded, but it was a wonderful venue to travel to

I heard that people wanted more about education, especially involving schools, teachers, OSPI.

Food was much better at this conference than in Wenatchee.

Please allow for time to travel between rooms between sessions.

Optional field trip day to see projects!

Successes

Some of the sessions were too technical - I think you should gear it to the audience of practitioners, not engineers.

More of a focus on multiple-benefit projects, collaborating with flood, farm, recreational interests.

Shorten session length and number of presentations (2 hours and 8-9 presentations was too much!); the layout of the conference/session rooms at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center did not provide a good flow to the conference (the location of the Exhibit Hall made it an after thought)

no

Work with AFS to makes sure the two conferences don't overlap. Consider hosting them back to back at the same venue so that people can attend both.

I loved the tacoma location, However, I think there is a substantial audio-visual issue with all of the rooms there. The rooms are huge and long, and et the presentation screens are small. Therefore, most of the room cannot actually see anything on the screens. far larger presentation screens are required.

Shorter breakout sessions and less packed with presenters. Every session went long. Could have more concurrent sessions or extend the conference by a day.

During the 'Will Work for Salmon, or Careers Related to Salmon Recovery' it would have been nice to have more time to network with the panelists and folks in the room.

Allowing slightly more time between sessions would be nice. Since people tended to run over, things got a little hectic.

The opening plenary was very poor in my view. Nobody used any visuals and no one spoke with specifics about the actual status of salmon stocks. how are they doing? where are the bright spots? where is there trouble, what actually has been done in the 20 years? it was almost like people were too intimidated by the facts to lay them out. I assume organizers know the facts about salmon status..... Everyone just made the same generic statements; "we've got a long way to go" and " we need to work together" etc... It just seemed like a bunch of platitudes and no specific direction. very disappointing. It was nice to see Locke there, but other than him talking

about how he remembered when...it was not really very informative or inspirational. Sorry but that was a big miss for me. Recommendation: find some dynamic inspirational plenary speakers.

I would like to see a larger variety of talks, and spread across the usual three days. Things seems packed in and the talks were lacking. The conference in Wenatchee two years ago was fabulous!

Arranging breakout sessions so people can more easily come and go as many of us try to hit different sessions during each break out time. Less plenary speaking 4 hours out of the gate was too much in my opinion get 1 or 2 speakers then go to breakout, and I liked not having a speaker during lunch allowing us to network.

Different location/venue. I like the venue in Wenatchee much better. I would have also liked to hear more talks on fish behavior and geomorphology.

Dim/flash lights in the lobby to alert participants that the break is almost over. Use flash cards to alert speakers on how much time remains so they don't go over their allotted time. 2 hours is too long for a session. Keep session no longer than 90 minutes. Allow for more time between sessions-15 minutes is not enough time to sue the restroom, get refreshments and find a seat. It's especially hard since there is so much networking and it's hard to avoid people and rush to your seat. Ask speakers to repeat the questions asked during Q&A. Provide a brief description about the panel discussions. For example, an agenda item was "The Puyallup Watershed: A Case Study in Integrated Floodplain Management (Panel)" Describe in a couple of sentence what this talk will be about....will there be individual speakers or is it a Q &A with the panel? Great food and venue Liked having the closing session right after lunch Great opening session

1. Keep everyone on schedule so the concurrent sessions are truly concurrent, or build in more flex time so people have time to transition. 2. There were two estuary sessions concurrently, try to split these up in the future so you are not splitting the audience in two. 3. Keep door closed during presentations. 4. Have a consistent layout, either keep speakers in the chairs on stage or have them sit in the audience. 5. Have someone responsible for making sure quesitons are voiced into a microphone. Each session felt somewhat disorganized and I would recommend explaining in detail for each session lead on how to run their session so it is all consistent.

I preferred the previous two locations over Tacoma. Just for the fact that there seems to be more rooms for breakout sessions. It was hard to bounce back and forth to speakers you would want to hear in different rooms at the Tacoma venue. Wenatchee has been my favorite venue for the conference. I also liked it better spread out over 3 days. I understand that most likely depends on number of keynote speakers and breakout sessions available.

Go back to three days and build in more break or networking time. RRNW does half hour breaks in between sessions but maybe have one longer break in the day. It is always so jam packed even with less sessions. Prefer to have a venue further from the greater Seattle/Tacoma/Olympia area.

Motivational speakers

It would be nice to have the times for each of the breakout session talks on the pamphlet so you could go to talks in different rooms. I also thought that the closing ceremony should end the conference and there shouldn't be another breakout session afterward.

conduct all coffee breaks in the exhibit hall especially since the exhibit area is not near meeting rooms. Offer hosted beer/wine bar during poster session to attract attendees.

More on the ground examples- field trips, maybe?

More panels on marine issues; more presentations connecting the science to management decisions

Try experimental formats that allow for more interactivity and engagement. Look to Liberating Structures for inspiration, perhaps even using "Open Space Technology" for some of the sessions. Remind Erik Neatherin that he was interested in mixing things up.

How drones are being used for post-project monitoring; wetlands; permitting for habitat restoration projects

Keep sessions to 1.5 hrs, not 2; maybe 6 breakouts (reduce crowd in each room); more transition time; better instructions to session chairs re time mgmt etc; list presentations in actual time slot in program (so folks can catch what they want); stronger criteria for session/presentation selection (quality was mixed and many excellent choices not included)

Use the Tacoma Convention Center again for the next conference. Highly satisfied with the location.

Don't overlap with AFS. Less plenary, more breakout session opportunities in consideration of 1-day attendees.

We were a sponsor of the event and I was very dissatisfied with the venue. The space for the exhibitors/sponsors was in a terrible location in relation to the breakout sessions and conference breaks, meals, etc. The traffic in the exhibitor hall was very low. I was very disappointed that other than the poster session - which was very lightly attended, nothing else was hosted in the exhibitor hall. The traffic for booths and for networking was very low and the space was very uninviting. We will likely sponsor again - but we will review the venue before putting effort into having a booth and staff to be in attendance. I am very thankful that we had a booth that was near the doors, otherwise, no one would have come by. I also felt that having the closing ceremony before the last session lead to more people leaving early. I think it would have been better to have a 2 1/2 day conference and have the RCO give the last session - so there is more attendance in the session after a closing ceremony.

The breakout sessions had too many presentations. From the start, nothing started or ended on time. There should be more leeway for running over time, so that attending one breakout session does not impact one's ability to go to another on time. Something that was incredibly distracting was the constant opening and closing of the doors to the ballrooms. I did not mind people entering and leaving during presentations, but the doors were so loud that it became a distraction.

More snacks. Decaf coffee.

Try to get a better mix of talks from around the state, and not just from the Sound. They were super interesting, but didn't recognize the importance of the work going on anywhere else, or the problems being dealt with in the Columbia basin or the Coast ESU's.

Tacoma was fine. I worked out how to find inexpensive lodging. Would like to see more on realistic expectations from watershed process restoration and salmon abundance, salmon metrics relative to survival rates and fresh water and marine life history strategies, and prioritization strategies to maximize value of scarce resources.

conferences in Seattle/Everett/Tacoma limit attendees ability to fully participate in networking due to 30 mile limit for hotel rooms-folks blasted out to beat traffic instead of staying to network. Ballroom setup was HORRIBLE for trying to catch other talks in other breakouts without disrupting the presentations. Also, sessions orders were not held to the published conference order, so when people did try to go from one session to another they could not catch the speakers they had tried to catch

Please for the love of GOD, stick to a schedule and work with the breakout session organizers to finalize an order and stick to a timing. Being able to bounce between breakouts based on interest is the highlight of having so many breakout sessions and being forced to either stick to one where only half the content was of interest or almost guaranteed miss out on your important speakers as you tried to run around was a frustration for everyone.

Tacoma was a great location for so many people.

Try and pay careful attention to which sessions are concurrent! I was often torn between two that were very similar (e.g. All-H Recovery and Hatchery/Hydropower at the same time). Pair opposite topics as concurrent. Also, put the posters and exhibitors in a more accesible area if possible- I didn't make it upstairs often. Near the coffee is ideal so you can see them during breaks. The social was a very short event and wasn't enough time to see the posters. also, I would like to see a bigger variety of sessions. They seems duplicative and not relevant this year. Maybe think ahead of what you want and then try and find folks to chair them. Always have one on fish and fish use, always have one on novel projects. More focus on novel tools, approaches, and strategies would be helpful for everyone.

This conference was a bit too short whereas others have been a bit too long, so shoot for the happy medium - at least two full days is needed. The Urban Stormwater Threats was the single more important session I have seen at any salmon conference in 20 years. It needs to be a plenary session and should spark a symposium on the topic resulting in a C-change of salmon recovery and orca recovery priorities in Puget Sound. In light of the misguided initiatives coming out of the Orca Taskforce I would say the same of the Hatcheries session. Tacoma was good for folks on the west side. With talk of salmon reintroduction above Chief Joseph perhaps the next conference should be in Spokane.

Communicating salmon recovery in a more general sense, not project specific. I was really looking for insight into the right words to use, how to reach specific audiences in effective ways, etc. Communication sessions were too narrowly focused. Maybe have a mix of specific projects and communications professionals.

As always, 'criticism' is only negative, but intended to be constructive! To be honest, I found the plenary speakers repeating the same things that have been said for years. If 1000 attendees are only representative of the 'salmon people', and only 16% of the needed work is being done, doubling- or even tripling-down is not going to get it done either. It reminded me of 'repeatedly doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome'. If this conference is intended just to get the 'muddy boots brigade' together to compare notes, it was a success (see below for some suggestions, however). But somehow, the leaders implied, I'm sure unintentionally, that the MBB weren't doing enough. What the MBB do is of course necessary, and no one can tell for another 50 years if that will be sufficient. The leaders aren't doing their part: they should be figuring out how society must change, and propagating those changes through incentives, education (k-through-dementia), policy change, enforcement, and litigation. Needed: new, socially-engaged, dynamic leaders who inspire. There was at least one session without even standing room (Time capsules and tarot cards, I believe). Maybe this is inevitable, but experience from 'prior' conferences might improve 'posterior' estimates for future matching of attendance and room size. The Tacoma venue needs to up its game in some respects: screens were too low for those at the back to see over those in front. Auditorium layout in some rooms lacked aisles at the sides. Doh! Parking was a problem on the first day (convention lot was full and I was only a few mins late!). Most important: talks were not assigned specific time slots. Time keeping was shall we say 'overly permissive'. One chair announced at the beginning of the session that the order of talks would be changed! C'mon, man! These made it impossible to attend sequential talks in different rooms. If possible, the program should combine on the same page titles of all talks for all simultaneous breakouts in a given session period. This looks possible, given font size and the amount of unused space on the program (although time slots should be made explicit). Something to aim for anyway, because this makes it much easier to select an optimal sequence of talks.

There were almost too many presentations per session, I would have loved to see fewer presentations per breakout session with multiple breakout sessions. It seemed like a large number of people were jumping from room to room during each session which was kind of distracting.

Re-focus on technical know-how.

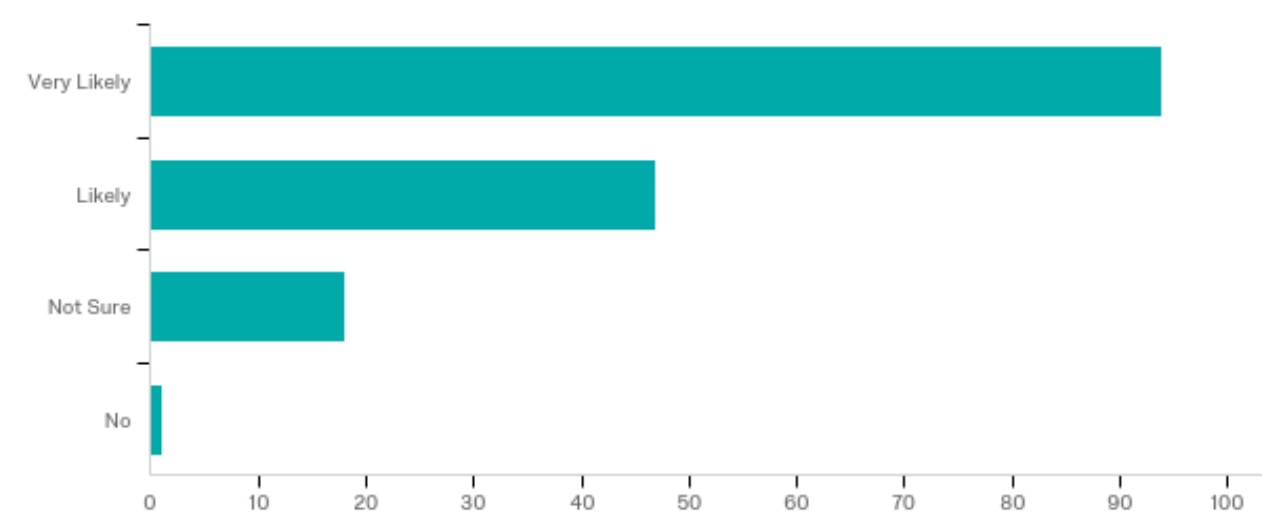
Cut way down on the number of keynote speakers to allow for more breakout sessions. Also, the concurrent sessions were challenging because individual speakers were not on the order listed, which didn't allow for moving between sessions.

Don't pack so many presenters into each breakout - leave some time for questions. And change your approach to networking time. Sitting at the lunch table with no speaker is NOT conducive to networking - it traps you into talking with the people you came with and/or random people at your table that you might not care to talk. Then, when the after-lunch speaker begins, all you want to do is get up, stretch, and go out into the hall to seek out the people you really do want to network with. So instead, please have the lunch speakers speak WHILE we eat, and then give us 20 - 30 minutes after lunch to do the networking before going to the afternoon breakouts.

more focus on landuse - how/why development and degradation outpacing restoration gains.

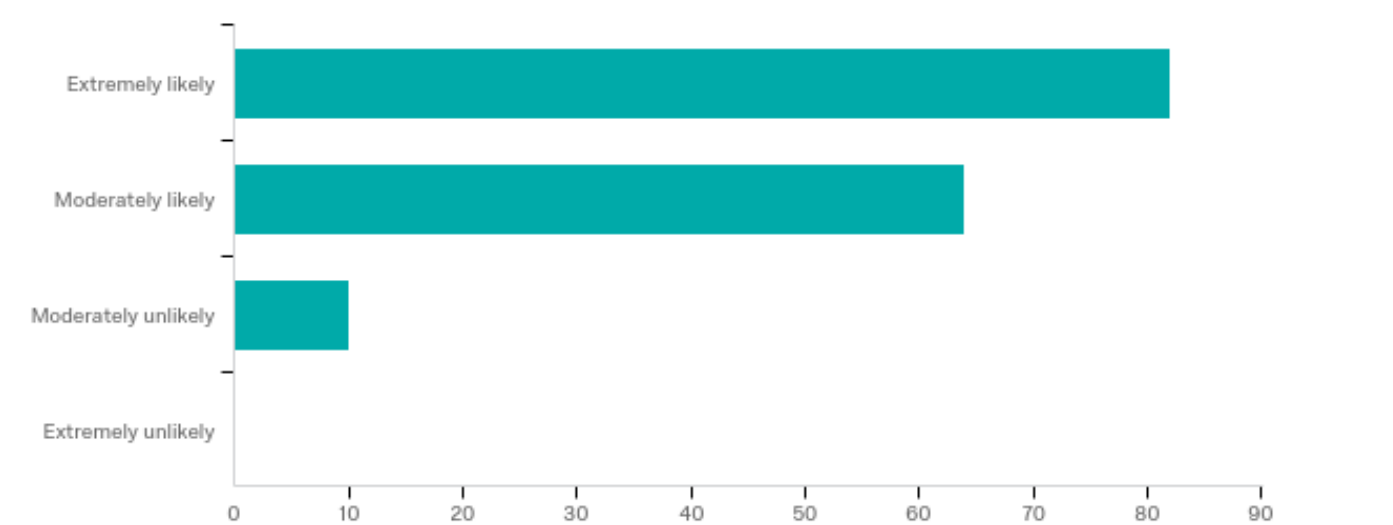
Location: Ellensburg/Yakima/Wenatchee.

Q20 - Would you consider attending a Salmon Recovery Conference in the future?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very Likely	58.75%	94
2	Likely	29.38%	47
4	Not Sure	11.25%	18
5	No	0.63%	1
	Total	100%	160

Q21 - How likely is it that you would recommend this conference to a friend or colleague?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Extremely likely	52.56%	82
2	Moderately likely	41.03%	64
4	Moderately unlikely	6.41%	10
5	Extremely unlikely	0.00%	0
	Total	100%	156

Q19 - Thanks so much for giving feedback. Is there anything else you'd like to say about the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference?

Thanks so much for giving feedback. Is there anything else you'd like to say about the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference?

I understand it's a huge job to organize all this, so nice work! Overall it was well executed and I look forward to the next. The conference always inspires and reminds us why we do the work we do when the day to day stuff can get pretty monotonous. Thank you!!

This is a great conference and I love the content and having the restoration focus. I really hope that it can continue. Because of my dissatisfaction with the Tacoma location, I probably would not attend if it was there again.

wish the Local Tribe said more about themselves and what they are doing. That would be good thought

Most of the break out sessions ran over their scheduled time. Suggest one fewer speaker per session to avoid over-runs. It is not fair to the last speaker in the session when the audience leaves because they have a travel schedule to keep. We had a 4.5 hour drive to the conference, so would suggest to not make it any shorter (might not be worth the drive).

Loved the lunches where networking was encouraged.

1. Do not schedule session to let out in the middle of rush hour. Monday should have ended at 4:00- 4:15. 2. You need to keep on schedule. There was no excuse for running 30-40 minutes late on Monday morning, especially after moving up the start time 15 minutes earlier than the originally published schedule, especially considering that one of the scheduled presenters (Puyallup tribe) did not show. It is unfair to the attendees and to the presenters when the sessions runs so late that the final sessions are half empty because people have to leave. It is the emcee's job to keep people on schedule. The question period for the orca panel could easily have been shortened. 3. speaking of the orca panel, they had a lot of flat out misinformation when it came to technical questions. They should have passed on answering those. 4. Monday morning ran way too long for keeping everyone in the giant exhibition hall. Break out sessions should have started at 10:00. Two hour is plenty for opening presentations. The break out sessions are the places where the real information dissemination happens. 5. The break out session schedules should not be changed after the published schedules come out unless there is an emergency. It makes it impossible to plan your day when you show up at a session and the moderator has change the order all around. This happened to me at least three times. If there are changes to the breakout session presentations schedule, they should be announced in the morning. It would also be helpful if the break-out session presentations list/schedule was displayed on a poster board easel outside the door of each hall. 6. The speaker affiliations should have been printed in the schedule. It also would have been nice to have detailed session descriptions printed in the schedule as they were in the pdf files available on-line.

Thanks for all your hard work. Holding a conference is hard work!

Thank you for including more diversity in the plenary sessions. We need even more diversity in our work. How can we expand opportunities to young people of color to better reflect our communities?

Thanks to the committee for all their hard work in soliciting sessions, determining which should move forward, selecting such great speakers and doing it all on a limited budget with limited time.

I learned a lot, and I wish I walked away with the contact information of the speakers.

This is an addition to my previous reply. Please consider making future conferences as low waste as possible. How much waste did we generate over two days? There were thousands of cups and utensils in the garbage cans. Please consider going cupless (perhaps everyone gets a Salmon Recovery reusable cup when they check in?), and

finding a different way to display name tags. 700+ plastic name tag holders add up - maybe print name tags on Rite in the Rain and affix them to clothing with safety pins? Thank you!

The conference materials keep getting smaller and smaller. The at a glance schedule did not give any info on where the speaker was from. This would have been good info to have because the larger program only gave detailed info on the plenary sessions. Please put the abstracts back into the program. It was late the second day that I found them on the website. It may save money, but it was an inconvenient place to have to look for them when trying to decide on what breakouts to attend. It also made a great place to take notes, right next to the speakers abstract.

I thought it was a good opportunity to learn about restoration projects and to network with old and new friends, though it felt rushed being on a Monday and Tuesday. I understand that timing and length are always challenges. So glad you asked, because the Likert-scale survey questions provide insufficient opportunities for feedback. 2-hour breakouts are too long for standing-room only, and sitting in crummy conference-center chairs.

The rooms weren't overcrowded. What a relief! Cookies or nibbles in the afternoon would have been awesome.

I was an exhibitor so I did not comment on the topics/poster sessions. I feel location of the vendors was not well organized or the food, beverage & coffee breaks could all have been in the vendor room. This was one of the slowest vendor events that I have attended. I have been at this conference before and have had great experience. Just things to think about in the future from a vendor standpoint. Thank you!

Keep at it. Errors are proof positive that you tried to do something.

Thank you to all the organizers. It was a very positive and invigorating experience.

I enjoyed the 2017 Conference in Wenatchee; it drew on folks from central, eastern and south eastern & south eastern part of the state. Hence there was more in attendance and diversified the attendees more.

Overall great conference. I would to a breakout session first thing Monday morning and then do a shorter introduction period. This would allow the conference to end a few hours earlier which would be nice for traveling folks.

Great job to everyone involved! The venue in Tacoma was very nice, I am just not a huge fan of the actual location. The facility was better than Wenatchee, including room space, equipment, and food.

Thank you for putting this survey together and I would be curious to see the results/finding from it

the food was excellent! it would also be nice if there was more outreach to Eastern Washington folks. After all, after fish passage structures are created on the Columbia and the Snake, that's where we will need the most work done!

I thought the open plenary session was to long, you don't need to spend a 1/2 day setting the stage for the conference. Cecilia Gobin should have spoken first, you typically always open with a Tribal invocation. Breakout sessions could have more applied science and case studies, seemed generally 60,000 ft level

These are tough to pull off, great effort by everyone.

More networking time would be ideal, and perhaps a session about bridging the gap between the technical application and policy realm would be insightful.

Parking at the Tacoma Convention center was limited.

The only suggestion was slightly longer breaks between some sessions - a half an hour? As a poster presenter, I was too busy manning my own poster and attending sessions to see all vendors and other organizations set up in the poster room.

I would have liked for the breakout sessions to have a spectrum of options from technical science-based topics to social/political influence topics.

I recommend starting later and/or ending earlier. 8-5:30 is way too long of a day.

It would be helpful if the materials online and printed included contact information and related documents location /source information for presenters.

More opportunities for networking with other efforts that are applicable to smaller ecosystem recovery projects.

Cramming all that information into 2 days didn't seem effective. The topics were all very surface level so I walked away inspired but didn't feel like I learned a lot. Having the "closing remarks" before the last break-out was awkward but skipping the morning break-out was fine and seemed to keep people moving.

Biggest issues for me were on the sessions -- the schedule was not accurate, the moderators changed the order of speakers in all sessions I attended, which made it impossible to target specific talks. Also, there were several repeat speakers/presenters which reduced diversity of topics and viewpoints. Was there a problem in soliciting papers? Seemed to be a narrow perspective from a couple of consulting firms.

The food and catering was great!

I wish that I had been able to attend all of the various presentations. It would have been difficult time wise to do all that in one conference, but a series of conferences or online, courses utilizing the same basic issues and materials would allow for a more comprehensive process.

Food was pretty good, and nice selection. Nice venue. However, because it was so centrally located, it allowed people to leave early, so as not to have to deal with I5 traffic. Monday morning plenary session was too long. SRKW Task Force could have used some (good) science, since they were addressing scientists... if the politicians don't know the science, they should have punted to the afternoon panel. The published schedule didn't match the actual schedule of the Breakout Sessions, which made it difficult to plan which talks we wanted to hear. Also, would have been nice to have the printed schedule show the actual affiliations of the presenters and moderators. Or provide the link in the program to the website that shows the information. This year's conference seemed more habitat-oriented and less fish-oriented. Also, day was so long, it was a disservice to the presenters late in the day, when attendees were tired and needed to leave because of traffic, or had a headache because the morning plenary sessions spent too long sitting in the dark.

Overall it was a great conference! Thank You!

need about boundaries for farmers and logging companies

Bigger screens! I couldn't read a thing on them.

Thank you! This was an amazing conference. I learned a lot and am feeling more inspired about the work I do.

threats to salmon have, and will continue to evolve and amplify. science tells us these trends will continue. looking only at the facts, how likely is it that 'salmon restoration' will be successful? how should the answer to this question be communicated with the public? is there too much optimism in the 'salmon restoration' world?

This was for the most part a joyless, drab experience for me. A lot of general angst about how bad things are for salmon but little specific details about what is working or where to put (or not put) our effort. Not a very clear vision of how to gain success other than "keep pushing that boulder up the hill y'all". A lot of talking in the plenary but not a lot of real insight. PLENARIES NEED TO USE VISUAL AIDS-- IT IS NOT ENOUGH JUST TO SIT THERE AND TALK.. There was no art, no music, no color, no fun. . Little to draw inspiration from which is what I hope for from an event like this. I'm deep into salmon recovery work for the long haul as a big part of my life's work. It is tough work and. it would be nice to gather with colleagues in a celebratory atmosphere and acknowledge successes along with hard truths. This conference did not do that for me, I will adjust my expectations in the future.

Better scheduling. Keep things on time.

The plenary talk given by members of the orca task force: You could tell when the presenters didn't know the answers to the questions and instead of punting the question to the experts they tried to BS their way through it. I went up to the mic to answer the questions being asked and was informed that they weren't taking comments and was asked to sit down. Overall, was incredibly disappointed with the lack of actual science being presented in that talk. The talks that I truly loved in the plenary sessions were Cecilia Gobin and the group from the Puyallup restoration group.

Food was great, we were well fed. The seating for the breakout sessions wasn't very accommodating. The rows of chairs up in front of the rooms were too close together. Many were empty because people mostly sat in every other one due to a lack of elbow room. There wasn't enough chairs at most of the long tables from the middle to the back. I saw a lot of wasted space. Many people stood in the back of the room or the sides for these reasons.

I came to set up the exhibitor booth on Sunday at 8pm the website stated I could till 11pm but it was closed already, It would be good to keep that information current next time.

N/A

It was another job well done by everyone involved.

The nearby parking options were very limited because the underground convention center lot was closed for construction.

Always nice to network with other restoration practitioners.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to put it all together- great conference!

well done!

As an sponsor and exhibitor I was satisfied with the exposure of the sponsors on the website, in the program, during the opening session and around the venue. However, the exhibit hall itself did not get sufficient traffic from conference attendees. Even the poster session/exhibitor social was poorly attended. It was mostly a product of the exhibit hall being in a separate room, far from activity of the conference. This could have been remedied by setting up exhibitor booths in the common spaces outside of the plenary and breakout sessions, or at least setting up the refreshments in the exhibit spaces where attendees would be encouraged to enter and linger. All in all great conference, but I hoped for more exposure of my exhibit. Thank you!

Be more thoughtful about meaningfully engaging with the mix of people there. Keynote speakers shouldn't be highly technical, nor should they just remind the audience of salmon professionals that salmon recovery is important.

Continue trying to keep breakout sessions on time - nearly all of the ones I was in started late/ended late. Consider doing 6-7 15-minute presentations in a two hour period. The extra time for questions or presenters that run long or late starts or whatever will help. Also, the most satisfying presentations are those that tell a story; the least are those that show a bunch of data graphs that no one can read and the presenter doesn't explain.

Re venue details- chairs too tight, so folks avoided them- often empty rows of chairs and standing room only in back Doorsslamming shut were truly annoying and disruptive- leave door open and have conference venue staff or volunteers push noisy chatters away Screens set too low; sitting in crowd bottom 1/3 was not easy to see and I am tall... have chair and venue staff work out mic use, etc before session- our panel mics weren't on and we didn't know it

The orca portion of the plenary was too long for the amount of additional context and information it provided specific to salmon recovery.

I was an exhibitor. The traffic through the exhibit room was poor. You need to put the food and coffee and any snacks in the exhibition room so we get foot traffic. Or some other layout that forces traffic by the exhibitors that paid good money to attend. You need to take a break from the main speakers and tell everyone to go see the exhibitors. I was generally disappointed with the foot traffic when there was 1000 people there.

Thanks

Arrange the tables in the breakout rooms so there are isles on the sides. One isle in the middle does not work-- you end up with everyone at the back.

Couldn't find any disabled entrance from the garage. If there was one, it wasn't well marked nor were instructions given on how to find it. I didn't attend the second day because I wasn't willing to sit in a session that I couldn't hear and my knees were rebelling at the thought of walking up the hill again.

establish a retired rate for registration, avoid conflict with local AFS conferences addressing the same topics, more attention to how to balance competitive ecosystem goods and services demands for salmon habitat and human

population health and welfare (provisioning, regulating, and cultural) and appropriate decision support systems in a time of increasing anthropogenic pressures and changing climates

seemed rather not fully prepped, as if it was more thrown together at the last minute compared to past conferences

As an exhibitor, I was very disappointed with the way the various breaks were managed. The evening reception was the only event that incentivized attendees to visit the exhibit hall. A well-managed conference would direct attendee traffic to the exhibit hall on every possible break. All of the break refreshments, coffee, snacks, etc. were served in the foyer. Every single coffee break or snack item should be served in the exhibit hall, requiring attendees to make a lap for each break. Even the water dispensers that are on the same floor as the exhibit hall should be moved into the hall. The exhibitors are paying not just for space but for a well-managed conference that is designed to send as much foot traffic their way as possible. We exhibit at numerous events each year and considering how much the attendance of this conference has grown, the exhibit hall was a ghost town most of the time. Forgive my rant, I just think that this could be done so much better.

I enjoyed the conference and look forward to attending it again in the future

Thanks for vegetarian and lower carb options

Always a great conference!

The range of session topics was improved, although I would think hydromodification should have been it's own full session since that has huge implications throughout the State for salmon recovery. Tacoma was a pleasant surprise as a conference location. Having Governor Locke come to speak was a stroke of genius. I miss his competence and the confidence and comfort he exudes even when telling us we have hard work to continue and difficult decisions to make. Which we do and I hope that someone will have the political will and courage to do so. I wish Governor Locke would run for President instead. Please keep with no speakers at lunch. Everyone just wants a break from being talked at, and just wants to catch up with each other. You need more quality control on details - multiple attendees had errors on name badges and program had errors. There should have been an attendee list provided. Every session I was in ran over and only two sessions presented in the order printed in the programs and I heard that pre-arranged speaker order was changed in the program and not communicated ahead of time. I am glad to hear you are getting a new vendor for next year. This is an important gathering for the salmon recovery community in our region. It deserves focus and care in planning and execution.

I'd like to see talks about engaging with ethnically and culturally diverse communities. Anytime someone was talking about "diversity" this year, they meant farmers vs everyone else. I think we need to explore how to engage with truly diverse communities and bring everyone into the conversation. The poster presentation time was good, but I think people would have been more likely to engage with the presenters if the posters were in an accessible part of the conference. Day 2 was all on the 3rd floor, so hardly anyone actually went up to the 5th floor to interact with exhibitors. If the posters were located where coffee breaks occur, that could be much more effective.

see above

Great job! It was a fantastic conference!

If we are going to treat salmon recovery like the Apollo Mission (as David Trout suggested), then how do we fund salmon recovery like the Apollo Mission? Would increased investment in salmon recovery increase the political will for salmon recovery by: reinvesting in our communities, improving quality of life, and creating more jobs?

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