

**SCOG BOARD RESOLUTION 2025-05**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SKAGIT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AMENDING 1998 RESOLUTION REGARDING LEAD ENTITY  
FOR WRIAS 3 AND 4 PURSUANT TO RCW 77.85.050**

WHEREAS, the Salmon Recovery Act, Chapter 77.85 RCW, envisions that counties, cities and federally-recognized tribes within each watershed will designate an entity to designate and prioritize habitat restoration projects for public salmon recovery funding, the principal purpose of which is to meet watershed-specific Endangered Species Act recovery goals, *see*, RCW 77.85.005; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the SCOG Board of Directors, acting on behalf of Skagit County and Skagit cities, submitted one of many designations of the Skagit Watershed Council, a private nonprofit organization, as RCW 77.85 lead entity for the Water Resource Inventory Area (“WRIA”) 3 and 4, the Upper and Lower Skagit watersheds, with the Skagit Watershed Council charged by SCOG with responsibility for “coordinating habitat restoration activities in the Skagit River watershed”.; and

WHEREAS, the SWC has been governed by a board that has included representatives from tribal nations, local governments, and non-profit conservation organizations over the past 27 years; and

WHEREAS, there are changed circumstances in WRIA 3 and 4 that have prompted revisiting the 1998 designation including, but not limited to, the need for greater recognition of tribal co-management authority and responsibility for treaty-reserved rights in habitat protection and of the obligations of Skagit County under the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the SCOG Board believes that a facilitated process among Skagit County and the relevant Treaty Tribes for discussing concerns with the practices of the Lead Entity program, potential changes to that program that may be allowed under state law, and potentially drafting and adopting agreements regarding that program is an appropriate way to address their concerns and possibly refine oversight of this vital program without interrupting the current salmon recovery funding cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. The SCOG Executive Director shall serve as facilitator to assist Skagit County and the relevant Treaty Tribes in negotiating appropriate agreements to update and modernize governance of SWC, in order to preserve its status as the Lead Entity under RCW 77.85.

2. Agreements should address, at minimum: (i) board structure, (ii) board governance, and (iii) a mechanism for appointment of the Lead Entity Citizens Committee (“LECC”).
  
3. The SCOG Executive Director shall report back to the SCOG board by December 20, 2025 with a status report on the progress of negotiations.

Adopted August 20, 2025

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Matt Miller, City of Anacortes  
SCOG Chair

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Kevin Murphy  
Executive Director