



Floodplains by Design

Reducing risk, restoring rivers



Arlington farms and homes suffered significant damage in a record breaking flood that inundated the community of Silvana and cut off portions of State Route 530. (Photo Credit: Flow Sudo)

FLOODPLAINS BY DESIGN is an ambitious public-private partnership working to reduce flood risk, improve working lands, and restore habitat

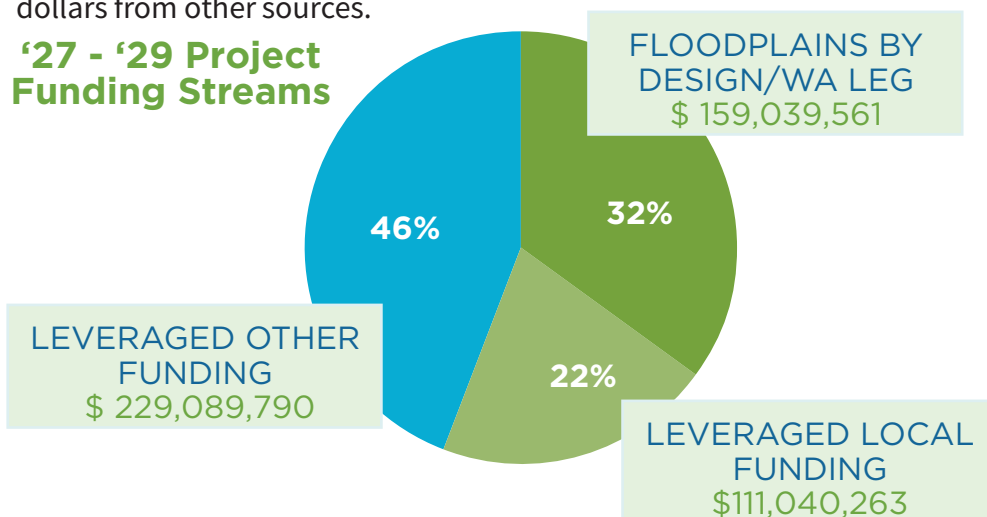
A LOCALLY-DRIVEN, COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

By transforming how floodplains are managed on a **landscape scale**, Floodplains by Design supports thriving communities and a healthy environment. **The heart of this approach is the idea that the most complex problems are solved by helping people work together.** Trust is built through structured conversations that give voice to the values of each interest group, and coordinating investments toward local solutions.

DIVERSE FUNDING STREAMS

FbD projects are the outcome of collaboration among Tribes, local governments, NGOs and communities. Every FbD dollar leverages two additional dollars from other sources.

'27 - '29 Project Funding Streams



MEANINGFUL IMPACT

For each acre of floodplain reconnected, an average of 2.6 homes or structures have reduced flood risk.*

Over 5,000 families in Washington



will live with decreased risk of devastating flooding.

Floodplain projects mitigate costs of disaster response and recovery

\$1 invested in resilience =



\$13 saved in disaster response and recovery costs.

\$1 million invested in resilience =



\$2.2-\$2.5 million in total economic activity, roughly 80% stays in the project county.

*Calculation based on outcomes from previously funded FbD projects.

Looking ahead: 2027-2029 project potential

The State Legislature appropriated nearly \$74 million in the 2025 - 2027 biennium. **If funded near that level again, local communities in Washington would benefit from:**

BENEFITS OF \$70M INVESTMENT



3,535 Acres of working lands
improved or protected



2,511 Acres of floodplain
reconnected or restored



35.4 Miles
of river or stream restored



973 homes
or structures protected

Unmet need for critical projects

Ecology has requested \$90 million in upcoming biennium. If funded at that level, FbD could fund two additional major projects that would save the state and communities \$98 million in response and recovery costs, with significant additional benefits to salmon recovery and farmland viability efforts.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS AT \$90M

Bogachiel River Floodplain and Community Resilience



This project advances an integrated, watershed-scale approach to reducing flood hazard risk, restoring floodplain ecosystems, sustaining working forest lands, and meeting critical transportation,

safety, and community needs in the lower Bogachiel River corridor. The project focuses on a high-risk reach of the Bogachiel River where annual flooding, active channel migration, and a documented avulsion pathway threaten State Route (SR) 110.

Protecting the Broader Skykomish Community: Lower Miller River Floodplain Restoration

The Skagit Conservation District is advancing a coordinated effort to restore floodplain function through the Samish River watershed while maintaining a strong agricultural economy. The project combines voluntary landowner partnerships, floodplain restoration, habitat enhancement, and planning to reconnect the river with its natural floodplain, improve water quality, reduce flood hazards, and support salmon recovery.



MAXIMIZED BENEFITS AT \$162M

At \$162M, all of FbD's 2027-2029 proposals would be funded. In addition to the project benefits listed above, fully funding the remaining project proposals would add:



11,678 Acres
of improved working lands



4,032 Acres of floodplain
reconnected or restored



59 Miles
of river or stream restored



2,081 homes
or structures protected