

# Developing a Tribal Coordination Element

*PSRC Growth Management Policy Board*

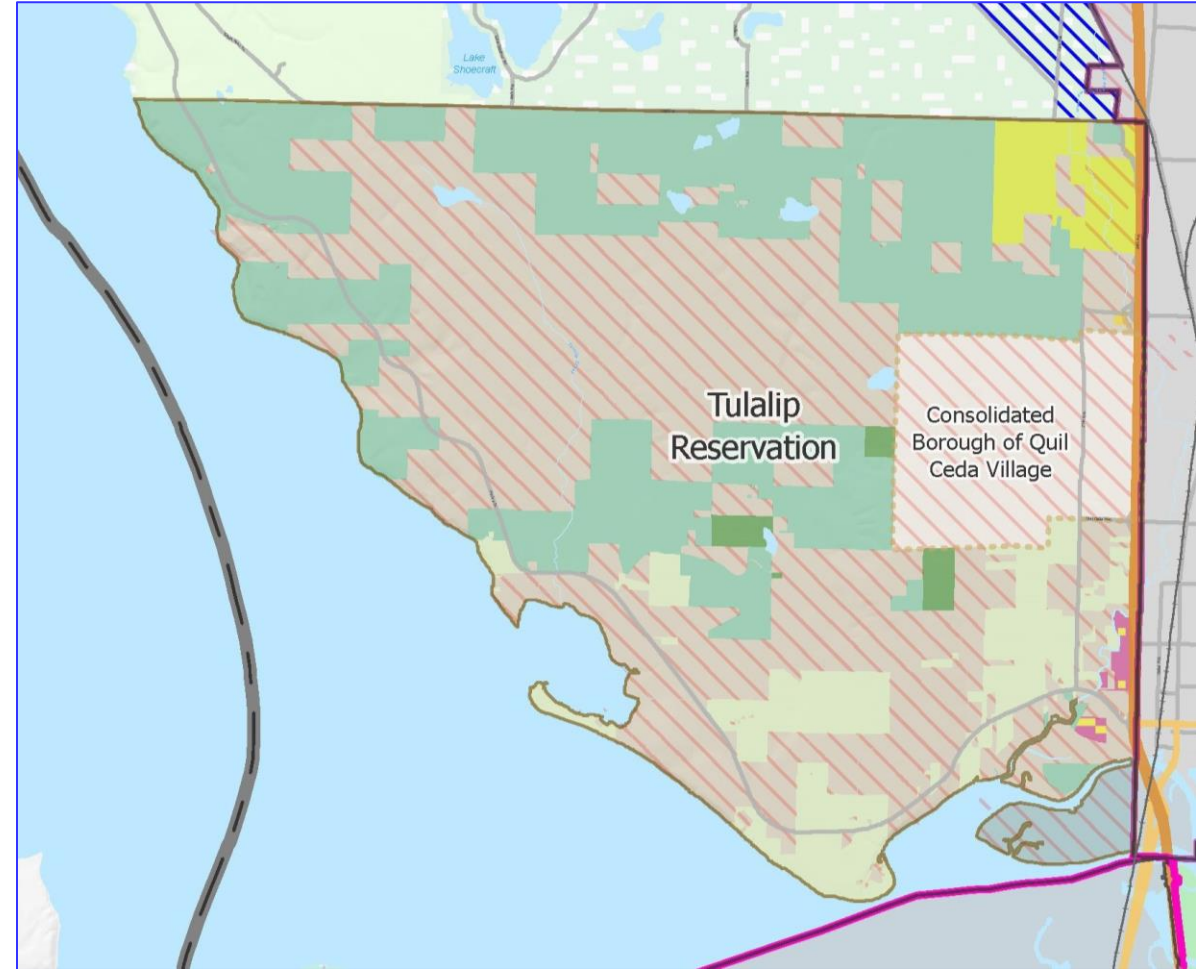
*David Killingstad, Manager, Long Range Planning Division*

*September 5, 2024*



# Purpose of Presentation

- Summarize the recent history of Snohomish County's coordination with tribal planning partners
- Describe the Tribal Coordination Element (TCE) and provide an overview of the proposed goals, policies, and objectives



# Memoranda of Understanding/Joint Resolution

1998

- MOU “Intended to promote intergovernmental coordination”

2004

- MOU “Regarding Creation of a Governmental Alliance between Snohomish County and the Tulalip Tribes”

2010

- Resolution “relating to Joint Land Use Planning...”

2013

- MOU “Establishing Process for Coordinated Long-Range Planning & Information Sharing”



# 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Memorandum Established a Process for Coordinated Long Range Planning & Information Sharing.
- Established data sharing practices and a Tribal-County Coordinated Planning Workgroup.
- Acknowledged the lack of consensus on governmental jurisdiction over fee simple lands within the external boundaries of the Tulalip Reservation.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TULALIP TRIBES AND SNOHOMISH COUNTY ESTABLISHING PROCESS FOR COORDINATED LONG-RANGE PLANNING & INFORMATION SHARING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made by and between the Tulalip Tribes, a federally recognized Indian tribe, and Snohomish County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington. The Tulalip Tribes and Snohomish County (collectively referred to as "Parties" or "governments") hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

### RECITALS

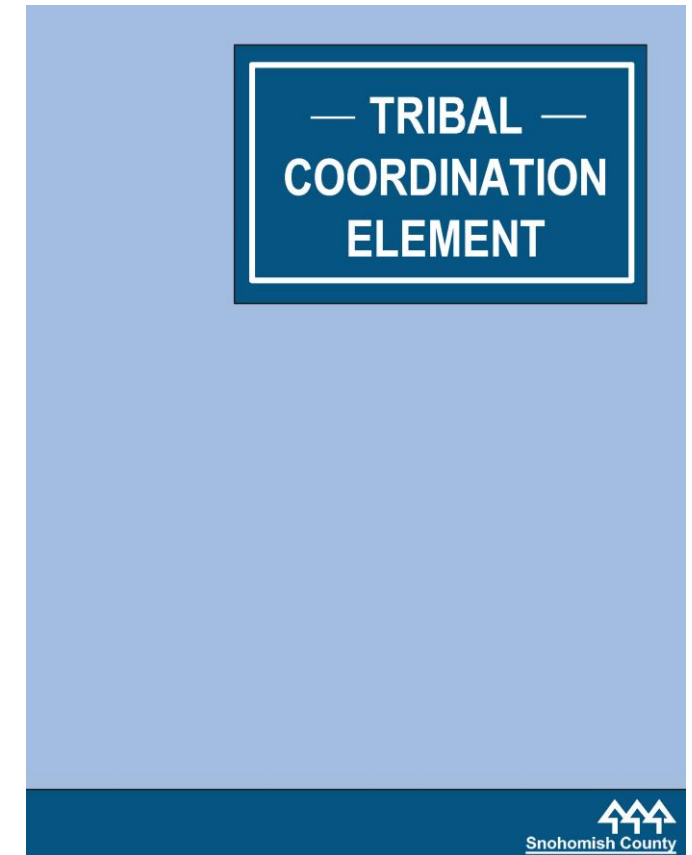
1. The Tulalip Tribes are the successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish and other tribes and bands, who were signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. In the Treaty, the Tulalip Tribes reserved the Tulalip Indian Reservation ("Tulalip Reservation") as a permanent homeland in exchange for ceding millions of acres of land to the United States.
2. The State of Washington was established and admitted into the United States in 1889. Snohomish County is a political subdivision of the State of Washington.
3. The long history of conflicting federal policies regarding reserved Indian lands has resulted in a checkerboarding of land ownership within the Tulalip Reservation, which includes Tribal (trust and restricted fee), tribal member (trust and fee), and non-Tribal (fee) owned lands. However, the original boundaries of the Tulalip Reservation established under the Executive Order of 1873, have never been changed or diminished.
4. The Tulalip Tribes exercise governmental authority over its Reservation lands, people and reserved treaty resources in accordance with the Tulalip Constitution and the Tulalip Tribal codes.

# 2013 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Served as reference document for reworking policy language.
- Iterative process of working with Tulalip to develop policy language in general and Tribe-specific sections.
- Specific policy issues required bringing in other County departments – septic systems in shoreline.

# What is the Tribal Coordination Element?

- Not required under GMA (RCW 36.70A.070).
- Creates policies to clarify Snohomish County's responsibilities for coordinating with Tribes.
- Does not place any requirements on Tribes, only on County.
- Contains policies specific to coordination with the three tribes with trust lands in Snohomish county.



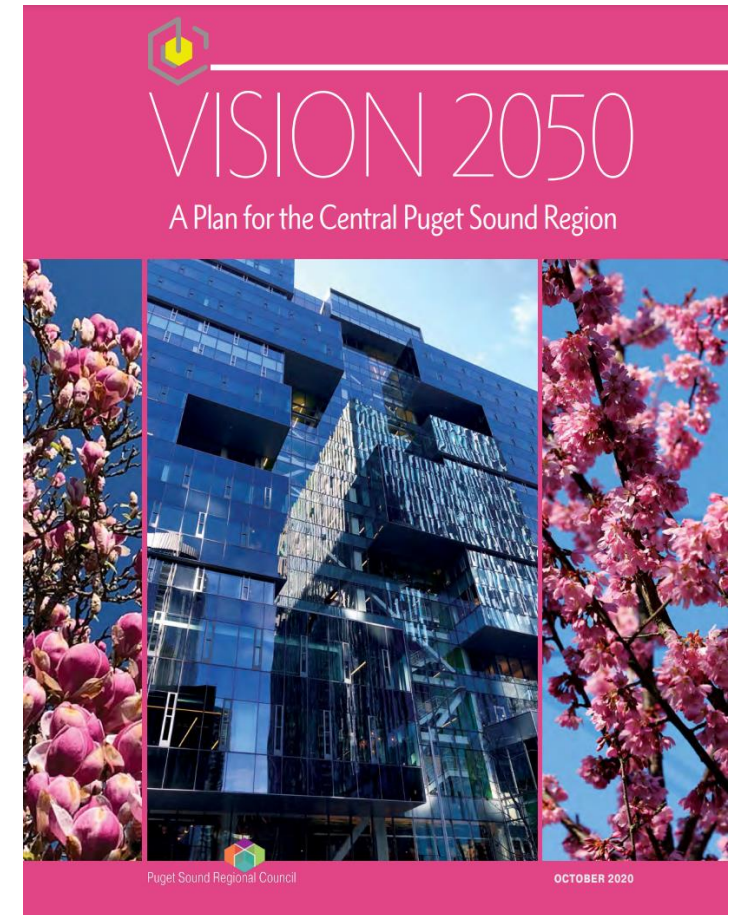
# Background for Element

- A Tribal Coordination Element was proposed as part of the 2015 Comprehensive Plan Update:
  - That version of the element was not adopted.
  - Current version substantially reworked 2015 proposed element.
- Development began with early outreach to Stillaguamish, Tulalip, and Sauk-Suiattle Tribes:
  - Meetings with Stillaguamish and Tulalip Tribes.
  - Standing offer for the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe to participate in the future.
- Recognizes historic context for tribal coordination in the region.
- Element started prior to the enactment of HB 1717.



# Sources for Policy Proposals

- VISION 2050
- Revised Countywide Planning Policies
- Consultation with Stillaguamish and Tulalip Tribes
- Public input
- Comprehensive Plan's Vision Statement





# Overview of Tribal Coordination Element

- 8 total goals with objectives and policies.
- 5 general goals:
  - Not specific to coordination with any one tribe.
- 3 specific goals:
  - One each for coordination with the Stillaguamish, Tulalip, and Sauk-Suiattle Tribes.

## TRIBAL COORDINATION ELEMENT TABLE OF CONTENTS

Vision Statement.....	TC-1
Consistency with State and Local Requirements.....	TC-2
Relationship to Other Comprehensive Plan Elements.....	TC-2
General tribal coordination.....	TC-2
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians .....	TC-7
INTRODUCTION .....	TC-7
Tulalip Tribes.....	TC-8
Sauk-Suiattle Indian tribe.....	TC-12

## Tribal Coordination Element

### VISION STATEMENT

The Snohomish County Comprehensive Plan ("Plan") includes a Vision Statement that is presented in its entirety within the Introduction of the Plan. The Vision Statement is an aspirational goal that the Plan aims to help bring to fruition through the goals, objectives, and policies of each element. The Plan's Vision for Snohomish County in 2044 is:

We're all in this together: In 2044 Snohomish County is a resilient, vibrant, and inclusive place to live with a high-quality of life where all residents can thrive.

The Tribal Coordination Element and the policies within were created and reviewed through the lens of the Vision Statement for the 2024 update to the Plan. Part of the rationale for this new element is to ensure that tribal partners have a voice in moving the county toward the shared vision for the future. The Tribal Coordination Element supports the Vision Statement through policies focused on recognizing and supporting tribal cultures (Goal 1) and working collaboratively with Tribes in Snohomish County to protect cultural resources (Goal 2). By incorporating regular and meaningful consultation into policy decisions (Goal 3) and working towards the creation of a framework for cooperative discussion (Goal 4), the Tribal Coordination Element helps promote open lines of communication, information sharing, and collaborative decision making. The Tribe-specific policies within Goals 6, 7, and 8 aim to recognize the individual contexts of the Tulalip, Stillaguamish, and Sauk-Suiattle Tribes. The Tribal Coordination Element also values the natural environment with policies aimed at recognizing the importance of working cooperatively to develop strategies to manage the

# General Coordination Goals

1. Recognize and support Tribal cultures.
2. Collaborate with tribes to avoid or minimize adverse impacts tribal archaeological and cultural resources.
3. Conduct regular and meaningful consultation with tribal officials on coordinated planning efforts that may affect tribal interests.
4. Coordinate with Tribes to establish a framework for cooperative discussion and consultation on issues of mutual concern.
5. Build resiliency to the effects of climate change in a way that employs innovative, coordinated efforts and recognizes the importance of protecting tribal sovereign and treaty rights and cultural practices from extreme weather, increasing temperature, and rising sea levels.



# Takeaways/Lessons Learned

- Iterative work – progress takes time.
- Work collaboratively and be transparent.
- Be flexible.
- Understand the history of the region.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# Questions?

For more information:

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) search 2024 Update

[david.Killingstad@snoco.org](mailto:david.Killingstad@snoco.org)

