**SVPA ACORN Project Description:**

Problem and background: Increased flooding in the Snoqualmie Valley floodplain and Agricultural Production District has resulted in significant negative economic impacts on the agricultural sector in King County, a critical component to our region’s long-term food access and security. This issue is compounded by drought conditions in summer when there is not enough water for both out of stream uses such as agricultural irrigation as well as in-stream uses such as supporting salmon and other aquatic species. Water storage in the upper Snoqualmie Watershed has the potential to significantly reduce flooding impacts during the flood season and also could augment low river flows during the dry season. The development and implementation of water storage is a multi-benefit effort that would improve the Snoqualmie Valley’s resilience to the impacts of climate change, however, to accomplish water storage and the level necessary for effectiveness, there are many steps in the process to succeed.

A comprehensive water storage feasibility study was conducted for the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District to identify potential sites in the Upper Valley. Several highly ranked sites were identified that are primarily forestland. These forestland sites are, in part, managed and utilized for timber sales that fund the Washington State Pension and Education System. These lands are also maintained for the purpose of carbon sequestration and there is also a King County policy in place for "No Net Loss of Forest Cover."

Project Description: The Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance (SVPA) and the Snoqualmie Valley Watershed Improvement District (SVWID) have partnered on a Watershed Resilience Study to better understand the economic impact of worsening flooding in the lower Snoqualmie Valley. This information will provide a more comprehensive dataset that can be utilized for a cost-benefit analysis that could catalyze the prioritization of water storage implementation and investment by key decision-makers on the local, state, and federal level. **This study intends to comprehensively evaluate economic impacts on virtually all facets of the lower valley ­ - agriculture, residential homes, businesses, real estate values, school systems, roads and transportation, public services, emergency services, and much more**. However, due to limitations in staffing and resources, the first phase of this economic evaluation will focus on economic impacts to agricultural operations as much of the lower valley is within the protected Agricultural Production District. The first step will be to gather data and information from farmers to craft a "high level" summary of these impacts to be shared with partners, King County staff, elected officials, decision makers, and stakeholders in order to prioritize flood mitigation and prevention efforts into the future. This information will provide much needed data for conducting cost-benefit analyses of flood mitigation/prevention strategies. **The SVPA is seeking assistance from a student or group of students from the UW ACORN program to assist in investigating the economic impacts of flooding on the Snoqualmie Valley’s food and farming system, collecting relevant data for cost-benefit analyses, and assisting SVPA staff with developing a high-level report on these impacts to share with key stakeholders and decision-makers**.