

DRAFT Approach to Prioritizing Pressures

REVISED DRAFT May 5, 2015

Background

The Puget Sound Partnership requires each LIO to review its existing set of pressures using available new information, and make revisions as needed by July 31, 2015. This work is a key first step in developing local actions for the 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda.

There are four primary sources of information on pressures in the South Central LIO:

1. The prioritized list of pressures developed by the South Central LIO for the 2014/2015 Action Agenda.
2. The lists of pressures identified during Phase 1 of the Chinook Monitoring & Adaptive Management (M&AM) project in our three watersheds: WRIA 8, WRIA 9, and WRIA 10/12. These pressures were not prioritized, although WRIA 8 selected a subset of pressures on which to focus.
3. The pressures ranked through the Puget Sound Pressures Assessment (PSPA) project.
4. New information about pressures from scientific research and monitoring.

Proposed Approach

Principles:

1. Be as efficient as possible and do not reinvent the wheel.
2. Integrate pressures across the three watersheds and South Central Marine Basin to the extent practicable, to focus the LIO's efforts on those pressures operating in all basins.
3. Design the approach so that it addresses all Puget Sound Vital Signs, rather than focusing on one or two, so that our LIO contributes to all aspects of Puget Sound recovery.

Steps:

1. Bruce Wulkan has prepared a memo that applies the Puget Sound Pressures Assessment to the three watersheds and adjacent marine basin in our LIO, and compares results of that model with pressures identified by the Caucus Group for the 2014/15 Action Agenda, and pressures identified by local teams during Phase I of the Chinook Monitoring & Adaptive Management Project.
2. Check the results.
 - a. Compare the PSPA pressures to the list the Caucus Group selected for the 2014/2015 Action Agenda. Are pressures missing from the PSPA list that the Caucus Group believes are important? Are pressures included in the PSPA list that are new?
 - b. Ask each Caucus Group member to check with their technical folks to determine whether new information suggests that we should add or subtract any pressures from the lists.
3. If step 2 generates new potential pressures, consider adding pressures to the PSPA list. Try to keep the lists short, to focus our efforts. Potential criteria:
 - a. Known existing major pressure in one or more watersheds (ideally documented in scientific reports)

- b. Known potential pressure in one or more watersheds (ideally documented in the scientific literature)
 - c. Major efforts are underway to combat the pressure
 - d. Other?
4. Evaluate the results and create final list.
 - a. Initial rankings: Determine areas of overlap across basins to create initial rankings. If a pressure is in all 4 basins or in 3 basins, initially rank it as high priority. If it is in 2, then medium priority.
 - b. Second screen: Reality check.
 - i. Does this make sense for what we know about our geography?
 - ii. Which pressures are ones the LIO can affect? Which require more regional action?
 - iii. How significant an impediment is this pressure to something the LIO cares about (Chinook, water quality, shellfish)?
 - c. Discuss and agree upon final list.

Timeline:

- Coordinating Group discussion of approach and draft results on April 8.
- Full Caucus Group discussion and adoption of approach on May 13. Draft results also will be available for review.
- Laura to distribute call for new information/technical review on May 14. Ask for submissions by June 1. Add to the list of pressures as DRAFT for review at June 10 workshop.
- Conduct prioritization according to approved approach. Review results with Coordinating Group on June 10.
- Full Caucus Group discusses and adopts final list on July 2.