

South Central LIO Accomplishments

Revised Draft June 2, 2015

New Instructions from PSP:

*We would be grateful if each LIO could supply its ‘accomplishments’ content by **June 12**, for inclusion in the June 30 first draft of the report. Accomplishments should relate directly to Action Agenda LIO NTAs, preferably focusing on one or more of the NTAs in the three Action Agenda strategic initiatives of habitat, stormwater and shellfish. Approximately 500 words is what we are aiming for. Rather than a long list it would be preferable for each LIO to concentrate the 500 words on a focused set of examples. Numeric details will also make for a compelling story (e.g. acres protected/restored, # land owners or volunteers involved, amount of water treated, dollars leveraged, etc.). Here are some things to consider when writing the accomplishments:*

- *What was the action?*
- *Why was it important?*
- *What were some of the challenges?*
- *What was accomplished?*
- *What is next?*

Proposed South Central Approach:

The South Central LIO has accomplished much in the last few years – so much that it is difficult to choose what to write about in 500 words! The selections below are intended to provide a flavor of the breadth and depth of what occurs in our LIO – there is much more that we could say if given all the space we needed. The primary challenge for the South Central LIO is a lack of sufficient funding. The LIO has identified numerous actions that have not been completed due to insufficient funding.

Focus on three primary accomplishments:

1. Building Cities in the Rain
2. Implementation of salmon habitat plans
3. Collection of data to inform future action development

A next cut at draft text is below. It includes 497 words.

Building Cities in the Rain

A South Central LIO NTA started this innovative project, which addresses challenges of ensuring compact growth in urban areas while still managing stormwater needs. The Department of Commerce leads a broad-based committee developing recommendations for a stormwater control transfer program designed to help restore priority basins while addressing stormwater. New draft guidance is planned for release in summer 2015.

Implementation of Salmon Habitat Plans

The South Central LIO is home to three salmon recovery watersheds: WRIA 8, WRIA 9, and WRIA 10/12. All three have been working hard with numerous stakeholders to implement their recovery plans.

WRIA 8:

Since 2005, we have completed 49 projects from the plan and initiated an additional 51, resulting in:

- 2,625 acres protected through acquisition or easement
- Over 200 acres of riparian area planted
- Nearly one mile of levees removed or set back
- Over 73 acres of floodplain reconnected
- Over 8,000 linear feet of lakeshore restored

WRIA 9:

Since 1998 over 80 projects and 14 programs have been completed or are in progress, resulting in:

- 918 acres protected through acquisition or easement
- Over 61 acres of riparian area planted
- 6,200 feet of levees removed or set back
- Over 57 acres of floodplain reconnected
- 3,000 linear feet of marine shoreline restored

WRIA 10/12:

Since 1999, over 56 projects have been completed with 21 projects either underway or proposed for 2015, resulting in the following in the Puyallup Watershed:

- Over 150 acres of riparian area planted
- Over 584 acres of floodplain reconnected
- Over 21,820 linear feet of levee setback or removed
- over 1,257 acres of floodplain property acquired

Information for Improved Decision-Making

South Central LIO partners have collected data and tested strategies to help improve recovery actions, including completion of several large NEP-funded research grants:

- Estimating the costs of stormwater infrastructure needed to restore water quality and flow in WRIA 9;
- Enhancing and standardizing benthic macro-invertebrate monitoring (BIBI), a PSP vital sign;

- Gauging effectiveness of land use regulations in environmental protection;
- Identifying methods and metrics to monitor aquatic habitat in small wadeable streams, fostering adaptive management;
- Modeling toxic contamination reduction and source control needs to eliminate fish consumption advisories, and understanding how human activities affect dissolved oxygen levels in Quartermaster Harbor (a shallow marine estuary) so water quality can be improved;
- Implementing a new approach to encouraging riparian stewardship among landowners along 16 miles of the lower Cedar River;
- Creating a Green Shores for Homes rating system to encourage shore-friendly development; and
- Developing and evaluating strategies for model flow control measures for creeks.
- Advancing the Don't Drip and Drive social marketing program – which addresses an important source of pollution – so that it is now ready to be launched as a major regional effort to improve vehicle owners' awareness of leaks and motivate them to fix their leaks.
- Demonstrating significant improvements in water quality outfalls in Tacoma, including 89-98% reduction in three PAHs at all seven outfalls. Tacoma attributes this success to its aggressive source control and enhanced maintenance programs.