

Project Name **WRIA 8 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Project**

Project Website <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/default.aspx>

Planning Context The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8), located in western Washington, comprises 692 square miles and includes two major river systems (Cedar and Sammamish) and three large lakes (Union, Washington, and Sammamish). It also includes the marine nearshore and numerous smaller subbasins that drain directly to Puget Sound, from West Point in the City of Seattle northward to Elliott Point in the City of Mukilteo. WRIA 8 is located predominantly in western King County, but about 15 percent of the land area extends northward into Snohomish County. Over 53 percent of the marine shoreline in WRIA 8 is located within Snohomish County.

Conservation planning began prior to 2000. The WRIA 8 Steering Committee developed the Lake Washington/ Cedar/ Sammamish Chinook Conservation Plan through a multiple stakeholder planning process. The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council is composed of city and county elected leaders, concerned citizens, scientists, and representatives from business and community groups, water and sewer districts, and state and federal agencies. The WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan is a science-based plan containing recommendations for actions to restore and protect salmon habitat, and an approach for implementing these actions over ten years. The Plan was developed using the mission and goal statements adopted by the Steering Committee in 1999.

The WRIA 8 Plan was ratified by 27 local jurisdictions in 2005, and accepted by NOAA in 2007.

Project Status Implementation of the WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan is currently (2013) in the 8th year of the initial 10-year planning window. Monitoring and Adaptive Management are performed regularly, although the overall framework has not been documented.

Next Steps Creation of a Monitoring and Adaptive Management framework is underway, with a goal of translating components, stresses, key ecological attributes (KEAs), and other components from the WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation plan into the Common Framework.

Scope/Site Description *Functional scope* includes two Chinook salmon populations: Cedar Population (Cedar River and tributaries) and Sammamish Population (Sammamish River, North Lake WA tributaries, Little Bear Creek, Bear/Cottage Lake Creek, Issaquah Creek, Kelsey Creek). This scope has changed since 2005 adoption -- from three populations to two. (Technical justification recorded in WRIA 8 TechMemo 2006-01 and approved by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council.)

The *geographic scope* is the Lake Washington/ Cedar/ Sammamish Watershed, Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8. The watershed is divided into functional "tiers," which denote priority habitat areas for Chinook salmon in WRIA 8 (see website for details). Tier 1 areas are highest priority and include primary spawning areas as well as migratory and rearing corridors. Tier 2 areas are second priority and include areas less frequently used by Chinook salmon for spawning. Tier 3 areas are

infrequently used by Chinook salmon, but are still important areas for water quality and flow management.

H-Integration Context The WRIA 8 plan does not address all Hs: only Habitat. "This Plan focuses on conservation of Chinook salmon habitat because local governments have responsibility for the habitat-based aspects of Chinook survival. Local governments and other WRIA 8 partners can make the most impact on habitat where salmon spawn and rear, particularly through implementation of land use and stormwater management policies and programs, local protection and restoration projects, and public involvement opportunities. The state and the tribes, who are the legal co-managers of the fishery resource, are responsible for addressing harvest and hatchery management in WRIA 8" (Executive Summary, p. 1). In 2006-2009, the WRIA 8 Technical Committee worked with technical staff from the co-managers to reach a consensus understanding of habitat, hatchery and harvest conditions and goals leading towards recovery of WRIA 8 Chinook salmon. The process resulted in clarification of some of the VSP goals contained in the WRIA 8 Conservation Plan, and reiterated that recovery of WRIA 8 Chinook salmon requires implementation of the NOAA-approved habitat, hatchery and harvest plans.

Vision Statement Text The WRIA 8 vision is to "Preserve, protect and restore habitat with the intent to recover listed species, including sustainable, genetically diverse, harvestable populations of naturally spawning Chinook salmon" (WRIA 8 Plan, Chapter 1, p. 9).

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Tiers

