

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2019

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2019 focused on:

- Obtaining approval from the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) of \$1.24 million in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding for habitat restoration projects.
- Tracking all Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant recommendations through the fall/winter SRFB approval process.
- Coordinating three salmon habitat restoration project-focused tours for decision-makers and WRIA 8 partners.
 - October 8, tour of Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement project with Commissioner of Public Lands, Hillary Frantz and WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member representatives.
 - October 22, dewatered Ballard Locks tour, including replacement of Stoney Gate valve and machinery, with Army Corps of Engineers, Congressional staff from Sen. Cantwell, Rep. Jayapal, and Rep. DelBene's offices, and WRIA 8 partners.
 - November 5, tour of Cedar River floodplain restoration projects with State Sen. David Frockt and Rep. Bill Ramos.
- Updating 2020 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Updating projects on WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan.
- Coordinating and expanding 2019 Salmon SEEson campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Participating in King County-led hiring process for the new WRIA 8 Administrative Coordinator.
- Representing WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC), South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittees and work groups to advance recovery efforts.

The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding.

Salmon Recovery Council Coordination/Regional Coordination

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (September 19 and November 21).
 - September meeting focus: Review and approval of Project Subcommittee 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding recommendations; presentation on a proposed economic study by American Rivers on the community value of river floodplain restoration; Chinook salmon population monitoring update; and a success story presentation on the Citizen Action Training School.
 - November meeting focus: Presentation on Lake Sammamish kokanee status and emergency recovery actions; presentation on the Cedar River sockeye salmon status and biology; and a success story presentation on the Water Watchers Program.
- Attended Snohomish County Council 2020 budget public hearing on October 23 to testify in support of the County Council providing funding in the budget to enable the County to rejoin the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement in 2020.
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 26).
 - Meeting focus: Discussion on Salmon Benefit Index (SBI); presentation on Pacific Salmon Treaty; decision on 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round allocation formula; and update on Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 12 and November 14).

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- September meeting focus: Presentation from WDFW on their Fish Screening Program and a discussion of ways to better partner with WDFW on this program; preparation for the September Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meeting; discussion of the upcoming PSAR large capital RFP and potential projects from around the region.
- November meeting focus: Presentation from Department of Ecology and discussion of Ecology's Streamflow Restoration Grant Program; discussion of and preparation for the December meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board; overview of updates to the Salmon Recovery Portal for submitting Four-Year Work Plans; overview of the process to revise Puget Sound Vital Signs.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (September 25 and November 6).
 - Meeting topics included: Update on Local Integrating Organization (LIO)/EPA engagement; discussion on LIO performance measurement integration and work plan; near-term action selection process for direct funding award; 2020 work plan; and discussion on shoreline armoring.
- Participated in 3 meetings of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (WREC), i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act (September 26, October 24, and December 10).
- Participated in 3 WebEx meetings of the Cedar-Sammamish WREC Technical Workgroup (September 18, October 21, and November 26).
- Updated 2020 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Participated in one meeting of the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan Oversight Committee (December 3).
- Presented a WRIA 8 salmon recovery overview and status update to the Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board (December 5).
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (September 10 and November 5).
 - Meeting topics included: General updates and announcements; review of the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee's 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding recommendations; discussion of the committee's revised purpose and function; discussion of King County Mitigation Reserves Program's proposed enhancements at the Rainbow Bend project site on the Cedar River; presentation on Lake Sammamish Kokanee and the status of emergency recovery actions; review and discussion of the draft WRIA 8 communications and outreach strategy framework; and review of the September 19 and November 21 Salmon Recovery Council agendas.
- Coordinated with project sponsors and RCO on the conclusion of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round. Obtained approval from the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) and SRFB for \$1.24 million in grant funding from the SRFB for priority habitat restoration projects. Attended the December 12 SRFB funding meeting.
- Initiated the WRIA 8 2020 grant round. Solicited and received updates to the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan, issued the Request for Proposals for WRIA 8 salmon recovery grants, and hosted a grant applicant workshop on December 16 to share information about the funding opportunities available in 2020 and to provide an overview of the grant application and evaluation process.

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- Advised project sponsors on how to develop projects in alignment with WRIA 8's recovery strategies. Participated in project planning activities with project sponsors and reviewed project concepts, plans, and visions to ensure future implementation aligns with the WRIA 8 Plan and its priorities. Supported sponsors applying for various funding sources, including those not directed by WRIA 8 (including the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, Floodplains by Design, Streamflow Restoration Grant Program, and others). Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years, including bringing projects forward for feedback from the WRIA 8 Technical Committee at the October, November, and December TC meetings.
- Attended 1 in-person meeting of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) on October 8 – 9. Topics covered various items of relevance for statewide salmon recovery, including major changes to the 2020 grant round timing and process, supporting state agencies in forecasting funding needs for salmon recovery in the state budget, discussing project implementation challenges and opportunities to better integrate with other funding programs, and identifying ways to better coordinate with the Washington Invasive Species Council.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated four WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11).
 - Meeting topics included: Review of Technical Committee purpose, objectives, and work plan; review of WRIA 8 habitat tier designation criteria; discussion of artificial lighting impacts, standards, and recommendations to support salmon recovery; presentation/discussion of a synthesis of 20-year smolt trap and PIT tag monitoring data from the Cedar River and Bear Creek; recap of 2019 salmon recovery highlights; review of Technical Committee monitoring and research priorities to inform WRIA 8 grant solicitation; and technical feedback sessions on Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Project, Lower Issaquah Creek Restoration Project, Lower Laughing Jacobs Creek Restoration Project, and Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration Project.
- Planned and conducted an instream wood survey on Issaquah Creek (September 4-13) in coordination with staff from WDFW and King County. These data serve as a baseline to track progress towards WRIA 8's habitat goal of doubling wood volume on all Tier 1 and Tier 2 streams over current basin conditions by 2025.
- Drafted and submitted WRIA 8 Technical Committee comments (October 15) on House Bill 1579 regarding a proposed rule change to remove harvest limits for bass, walleye, and channel catfish in anadromous waters of the State.
- Participated in two meetings of the Cedar sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group (September 18, October 16).
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.
- Participated in Cedar River Instream Flow Commission meeting (November 6).
- Convened partner meeting on December 17 to review and discuss efforts to address predation on juvenile Chinook in the Lake Washington Ship Canal, and plan a path forward for work in 2020 and beyond.
- Developed workplan for Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen state of knowledge report.
- Worked with partners to develop an approach to using the Lake Washington Ship Canal as a pilot to test acoustic deterrence technology to reduce marine mammal predation on migrating adult Chinook salmon.

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- Participated in stream surveys for spawning Chinook salmon.

Communication

- Completed the 2019 Salmon SEEson campaign (thirteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Drafted and sent letters to the City of Everett, City of Lynnwood, and City of Brier to invite them to join the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement.
- Draft and sent a letter to the King County Flood Control District to invite them to join the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council as a community stakeholder partner.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December).
- Provided letters of support for partner projects and programs.
- Distributed email updates and announcements to WRIA 8 partners and interested parties, including funding opportunities, event notices, and information of interest.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 8 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/.

Program Management and Administration

- Participated in the interview and hiring process for a new WRIA 8 Administrative Coordinator.
- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Had verbal and email discussions with WRIA 8 partners at and between WRIA 8 SRC meetings.
- Coordinated with the SRC on several issues, including regional Puget Sound salmon recovery and habitat restoration.

For additional information on any item in this report, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.