

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2023

### Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2023 focused on:

- Planned and facilitated January and March Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meetings.
- Drafted and distributed February and April WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Launched new combined Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) and planned and facilitated January and March meetings.
- Convened the Legislative Subcommittee and planned and facilitated three meetings.
- Led and coordinated legislative outreach and communications to support WRIA 8 state policy and budget priorities during the state legislative session.
- Worked with project sponsors to develop 32 grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and four proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)
- Hosted tours and virtual presentations for grant round project proposals.
- Attended the Salmon Recovery Conference in Vancouver, WA.
- Met with partners and stakeholders to advocate for funding programs critical to WRIA 8, such as the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Estuary and Salmon Restoration (ESRP), Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), and Floodplains by Design.
- Coordinated a technical workshop focused on pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks.
- Represented WRIA 8 interests at regional and state salmon recovery forums, including Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound Watershed Leads, Washington Salmon Coalition, and South Central Local Integrating Organization.

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

### **Salmon Recovery Council Coordination/Puget Sound Partnership**

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (January 19, March 16)
  - [January](#) meeting focus: Selection of Salmon Recovery Council Chair and Vice Chair positions, updates on legislative priorities and consideration of a draft letter to state legislators, presentations on climate change, and a presentation on the Community Action Training School by Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group.
  - [March](#) meeting focus: Updates on legislative priorities including proposed budget provisions supporting WRIA 8 priorities, an update on revisions and additions to the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan, presentation on Regional Stormwater Strategy by King County, and a presentation on equity in staffing by Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and Whale Scout.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on January 26 and March 23.
- Participated in virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (February 9 and March 9).
- Participated in two meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on January 17 and March 21.
- Convened and facilitated three meetings on the WRIA 8 Legislative Subcommittee (February 10, March 3, and March 24) to coordinate WRIA 8 communications in support of policy and budget priorities during the state legislative session.
- Attended Floodplains by Design Legislative Day in Olympia (January 25).

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2023

### Plan Implementation

- Rolled out online application system for the CWM Program which allows for integrated online grant applications and evaluations. Work involved developing and testing the online application, helping project sponsors and evaluators learn the new system, and troubleshooting the application process.
- Coordinated and led site visits and presentations of the SRFB and CWM proposals with the Project Subcommittee (PSC) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).
- Facilitated the PSC's initial screening of SRFB grant proposals and developed draft funding recommendations. Worked with RCO to provide feedback to applicants about ways to strengthen their proposals. Began development of funding recommendations for the CWM grant program (this work concluded in the next trimester).
- Advised project sponsors on how to develop projects in alignment with WRIA 8's recovery strategies. Supported sponsors applying for various funding sources, including those not directed by WRIA 8. Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.

### Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated 2 WRIA 8 Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) meetings (January 11, March 8).
- Scheduled and facilitated a WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meeting on off months from ITC meetings (April 12).
- Convened Pinniped Workshop and facilitated 3 workshop days.
- Attended monthly Cedar River Instream Flow Commission Meetings.
- Partnering with WDFW and USFWS to progress a synthesis report summarizing predation impacts to Chinook in WRIA 8.
- Partnering with LLTK on efforts to improve thermal and dissolved oxygen barrier to fish health and migration in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.
- Attended the River Restoration Northwest Conference in Skamania, WA.
- Initiated a report with King County to summarize multiple salmon species habitat needs and priority limiting factors in WRIA 8. Reviewed SRFB and CWM project and monitoring and assessment funding proposals.

### Communication

- Shared the results of the 2022 Client Satisfaction Survey.
- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February and April).
- 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/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/).

### Program Management and Administration

- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel management, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 8 SRC meetings.
- Coordinated with partners 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](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4780.**