

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2024

### Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2024 focused on:

- Planned and facilitated January and March Salmon Recovery (SRC) meetings.
- Planned and facilitated January and March Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) meetings.
- Planned and facilitated three Legislative Subcommittee 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 26 grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding and 9 proposals for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR).
- Hosted tours and virtual presentations for grant round project proposals.
- Drafted and distributed February and April WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- 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 18 and March 21)
  - [January](#) meeting focus: Results from the 2023 Partner Satisfaction Survey, an update on legislative priorities and letter to state legislators, a review of the letter to new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District Commander, Lake Sammamish kokanee recovery update, and a success story on the Cedar River Salmon Journey Naturalist Program.
  - [March](#) meeting focus: Update on the King County Flood Control District project planning and implementation, recommendations report on the workshop on pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks, an update on legislative priorities and a success story on the Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Restoration from Seattle Public Utilities.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (January 25 and March 28).
- Participated in three virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 11, February 8, and April 11).
- Attended an in-person meeting of the Washington Salmon Coalition on February 1 and a virtual meeting on March 26.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on January 30 and March 19.
- Convened and facilitated three meetings of the WRIA 8 Legislative Subcommittee (January 4, February 7, and March 6) to coordinate WRIA 8 communications in support of policy and budget priorities during the state legislative session.
- Attended Salmon Day in Olympia, WA, to support state legislative priorities in meetings with state legislators as part of a coalition of salmon recovery Lead Entities and partner organizations.
- Held meetings with WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council ILA partner jurisdiction to discuss WRIA 8 salmon recovery priorities, opportunities to advance projects, and funding opportunities.

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### **Plan Implementation**

- Scheduled and facilitated one WRIA 8 Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) meeting (January 10), focusing on an update and discussion of King County's Seawest Granston project in Bear Creek, update on Seattle Public Utilities' Royal Arch Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River, presentation of 2023 spawning survey results, and watershed updates.
- Coordinated and led site visits and presentations of the SRFB/PSAR and CWM proposals with the WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee, Puget Sound Partnership and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).
- Facilitated the Grant Review Committee'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 one application for the regional PSAR Large Capital program as well as those not directed by WRIA 8. Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years.

### **Technical Coordination**

- Scheduled and facilitated one WRIA 8 Technical Committee meeting (April 16) to review monitoring and assessment grant proposals as part of the CWM grant round.
- Continued work to advance priority projects, including assessing solutions to reduce elevated Lake Washington Ship Canal water temperatures, finalizing and distributing recommendations report from technical workshop on pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks, and drafting a multi-species assessment.

### **Communication**

- 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.**