

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2024

### Overview and Highlights

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

- Planned and facilitated May and July Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meetings.
- Drafted and distributed June and August WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Planned and facilitated May and July Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) meetings.
- Secured SRC approval of \$4,517,716 in WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing \$3,481,689 to habitat restoration projects, \$708,312 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$327,715 to outreach and education programs.
- Secured SRC approval of \$1,088,372 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding and \$1,457,509 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration projects.
- Prepared and discussed 2025 WRIA 8 budget and work plan options with the SRC.
- Coordinated and planned for the 2024 Salmon SEEson campaign (18<sup>th</sup> annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Presentation on salmon recovery update to the Transportation, Economy, and Environment Committee of King County Council.
- 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.
- 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) (May 16, July 18)
  - [May](#) meeting focus: WRIA 8 2024 grant round funding recommendations, a presentation from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on predation monitoring and control, presentation of a draft letter supporting Lake Washington basin invasive predatory fish control program and a success story on the Rainbow Bend mitigation project from King County.
  - [July](#) meeting focus: Approval of letter supporting Lake Washington basin invasive predatory fish control program, draft 2025 WRIA 8 budget and work plan, draft WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (2026-2035), updates from City of Redmond habitat protection and restoration highlights, and a site visit to Tretheway restoration project hosted by Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on May 23 and July 25.
- Participated in virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 9, June 13, and July 11).
- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on May 21.
- Convened and facilitated WRIA 8 Management Committee meeting (August 13) to review draft 2025 WRIA 8 budget options and membership positions and develop recommendations for SRC consideration.
- Held two 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

- Completed annual grant round review process, including facilitating the Grant Review Committee to develop funding recommendations and preparing recommendations for approval.
- Secured SRC approval of \$4,517,716 in WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing \$3,481,689 to habitat restoration projects, \$708,312 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$327,715 to outreach and education programs.
- Secured SRC approval of \$1,088,372 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding and \$1,457,509 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration and riparian projects.
- Delivered the SRC-approved CWM funding recommendations to the King County Flood Control District and which were approved on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Transmitted the SRC-approved SRFB/PSAR funding recommendations (as a ranked list) to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in August. Worked with project sponsors to address comments and modify list as projects were flagged as 'Projects of Concern.'
- 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 (May 10 and July 10).
- Presented management recommendations document to address pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks.
- Presented assessment of how Chinook recovery actions are anticipated to benefit other salmon species (multi-species) in WRIA 8.
- Held Lake Washington Ship Canal technical workshop to address high water temperatures in the Lake Washington Ship Canal for salmon. Held briefings with state and regional partners to update them on project progress.
- Continued work to advance priority projects, including assessing solutions to reduce elevated Lake Washington Ship Canal water temperatures, recommendations report from technical workshop on pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks, and finalizing a multi-species assessment report.

### Communication

- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (June and August).
- 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/).
- Developed communications plan focused on high temperatures in the Lake Washington Ship canal in partnership with Long Live the Kings.
- Represented WRIA 8 and salmon recovery efforts in the watershed at the Salmon Days public event at the Ballard Locks.

### 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.

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- 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.**