

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2022

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2022 focused on:

- Planned and facilitated May and July Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meetings.
- Secured SRC approval of \$3,866,136 in WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing over \$2.86 million to habitat restoration projects, \$773,227 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$220,459 to outreach and education programs.
- Secured SRC approval of \$435,234 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding and \$1,457,509 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration projects.
- Drafted 2023 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Drafted and distributed June and August WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Prepared and discussed 2023 WRIA 8 budget and work plan options with the SRC.
- Coordinated and planned for the 2022 Salmon SEEson campaign (16th annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Hosted a tour for Congresswoman Kim Schrier of the Riverbend Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration project to thank her for supporting salmon recovery and to discuss the importance of federal investment in habitat restoration.
- Participated in tour of the Lower Issaquah Creek Restoration project in Lake Sammamish State Park hosted by Congresswoman Schrier to thank her for awarding the project funding and to provide the watershed context for the project.
- Represented WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization), and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittees and work groups to advance recovery efforts.
- 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), Floodplains by Design.

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 Salmon Recovery Engagement

- Scheduled and staffed three meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (May 19 and July 21)
 - [May](#) meeting focus: discussion of draft 2023 WRIA 8 work plan; decision on 2022 grant round funding recommendations; a presentation on the status of assessing predation of juvenile salmon and consideration of a staff funding request to allocate funding from available WRIA 8 budget carryforward fund balance to produce a synthesis of research and data on predation on juvenile Chinook salmon by invasive predatory fish; and, updates and announcements.
 - [July](#) meeting focus: decision on recommendation for awarding additional Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant awards; discussion of draft 2023 WRIA 8 budget options; presentation on the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan Update; presentation on

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the Riverbend Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration project; and, updates and announcements.

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings (June 8 and August 17) of the WRIA 8 Management Committee to review draft 2023 WRIA 8 budget options and develop a recommendation for SRC consideration.
- Provided one new SRC member orientation briefing.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on May 26 and July 28 to represent WRIA 8 interests.
- Participated in three virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 12, June 9, and July 14) to represent WRIA 8 interests.
- Participated in one virtual meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local integrating Organization) on June 2 to represent WRIA 8 interests.
- Participated in two virtual meetings of the Washington Salmon Coalition (May 25 and July 12) to represent WRIA 8 interests.
- Attended one virtual meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (September 21-22) to track discussion and approval of 2022 grant round recommendations.
- Updated 2023 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partners.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (May 3 and July 5).
 - May meetings focus: Updates on the 2022 WRIA 8 grant round, WRIA 8 partner survey results, pilot project to address effects of artificial lighting on Lake Sammamish, funding request for predation synthesis report, and updates from Committee members. The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft letter to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board offering comments on the approach for allocating funding appraised by the legislature for salmon habitat restoration. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the draft 2023 WRIA 8 work plan and heard a presentation on the scope, status, and schedule for the update to the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan and reviewed the May 19 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics.
 - July meeting focus: Updates on the status of the pilot project to reduce impacts to salmon from artificial lighting on Lake Sammamish, Salmon Recovery Funding Board decision on process to allocate additional \$75M for salmon habitat restoration projects, 2023 legislative priorities and formation of a legislative subcommittee, discussion of the draft 2023 WRIA 8 budget, presentation from American Rivers on a recent report using a series of case studies to assess the economic outcomes of floodplain restoration for Puget Sound communities, and discussion of potential locations for WRIA 8-coordinated site visits this summer/fall, and review of Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics.
- Completed annual grant round review process, including coordinating proposal site visits and virtual presentations and facilitating the Project Subcommittee to develop funding recommendations.

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- Secured SRC approval of \$435,234 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding and \$1,457,509 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration projects.
- Delivered the SRC-approved CWM funding recommendations to the King County Flood Control District and received approval on July 12.
- Planned and facilitated one meeting (August 29) of the WRIA 8 Legislative Subcommittee to develop a recommendation for 2023 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities for SRC consideration.
- Participated in one virtual meeting of the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Oversight Committee (June 23) focusing on the 20-Year HCP Comprehensive Review.
- Participated in regular Shore Friendly King County program advisory team meetings, to inform implementation of outreach and technical assistance efforts focused on private shoreline property owners to promote remove hard shoreline armoring.
- 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, including bringing projects forward for feedback from the WRIA 8 Technical Committee.
- Participated in project planning activities with project sponsors to review project concepts, plans, and visions to ensure future implementation aligns with the WRIA 8 Plan priorities.
- Scheduled and facilitated two meetings (June 14 and August 9) of the WRIA 8 Diversity Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.
- 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 (May 11, July 13, and August 10).
 - May meeting focus: Reviewing monitoring/assessment proposal presentations for WRIA 8's Cooperative Watershed Management grant round.
 - June meeting focus: Salmon returns update, priority improvements to the Cooperative Watershed Management monitoring and assessment grant round and discuss revisions to WRIA 8's lakeshore habitat goals.
 - August meeting focus: Presentation on studies of artificial light at night (ALAN) in WRIA 8 and impacts on predation of juvenile salmon and feedback on future Technical Committee meetings including the possibility of meeting in-person.
- Co-lead ongoing work of the Lake Washington Ship Canal Roundtable to identify and advance feasible alternatives to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions that affect salmon migration and survival.
- Participated in meetings of the Cedar River Instream Flow Commission and the Cedar River sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group.
- Provided regular technical priorities status reports and updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to the IC.

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Communication

- Coordinated and planned for the 2022 Salmon SEEson campaign (16th annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (June and August).
- Provided letters of support for partner projects.
- 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

- Submitted a progress report and billing to state Recreation and Conservation Office for the Lead Entity contract covering the period through June 30, 2022.
- Negotiated a scope of work with Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and Puget Sound Partnership for the Lead Entity contract covering the period September 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.
- 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 or 206-477-4780.