

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2023

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.
- Planned and facilitated June and August Technical Committee (TC) meetings including field visits to restoration sites on Bear Creek and Issaquah Creek.
- Secured SRC approval of \$5,133,490 in WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing \$3,530,500 to habitat restoration projects, \$440,442 for riparian restoration/stewardship projects, \$904,911 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$257,637 to outreach and education programs.
- Secured SRC approval of \$500,520 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration projects.
- Prepared and discussed 2024 WRIA 8 budget and work plan options with the SRC.
- Planned for and launched WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Project Innovation and Community Grant round.
- Coordinated and planned for the 2023 Salmon SEEson campaign (17th annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Attended Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington D.C. to support salmon and Puget Sound recovery priorities with members of Congress and federal agencies.
- 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 18, July 20)
 - [May](#) meeting focus: Legislative priorities recap, WRIA 8 2023 Grant Round funding recommendations, presentation on assessing predation on salmon and informing potential management actions and a presentation on Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration project.
 - [July](#) meeting focus: Review of the draft WRIA 8 2024 budget and work plan, a panel discussion on how WRIA 8 engages in a regional salmon recovery effort, and a presentation by Unleash the Brilliance on engaging youth in enriching outdoor experiences.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on May 25 and July 27.
- Participated in virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 11 and July 13) and one in-person meeting in the Dungeness watershed on June 8th.
- Participated in two meeting of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on May 16 and July 12.
- Convened and facilitated WRIA 8 Management Committee meeting (August 21) to review draft 2024 WRIA 8 budget options and membership positions and develop recommendations for SRC consideration.

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2023

- Attended Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington D.C. (May 8-11), as part of a coalition of partners, to support salmon and Puget Sound recovery priorities with members of Congress and federal agencies.
- 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.

Plan Implementation

- Launched WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Project Innovation and Community Grant round. Developed and published program guidance and application materials, began outreach and communications to sponsors, and assisted with project development.
- Completed annual grant round review process, including facilitating the Project Subcommittee to develop funding recommendations and preparing recommendations for approval.
- Secured SRC approval of \$5,133,490 in WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding recommendations, providing \$3,530,500 to habitat restoration projects, \$440,442 for riparian restoration/stewardship projects, \$904,911 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$257,637 to outreach and education programs.
- Secured SRC approval of \$500,520 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat restoration projects.
- Delivered the SRC-approved CWM funding recommendations to the King County Flood Control District and which are expected to receive approval on September 13th.
- 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 12).
- Scheduled and facilitated a WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meeting on off months from ITC meetings (June 14 and August 9).
- Progressed management recommendations document to address pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks.
- Progressed synthesis report on predation of Chinook in WRIA 8.
- Progressed feasibility analysis of strategies to address high water temperatures in the Lake Washington Ship Canal for salmon.
- Initiated multi-species assessment of salmon recovery needs in WRIA 8.

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/.
- Developed communications plan focused on high temperatures in the Lake Washington Ship canal in partnership with Long Live the Kings.

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.

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2023

- 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.