

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2021

Overview and Highlights of cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2021 focused on:

- Facilitated [September](#) and [November](#) Salmon Recovery Council meetings.
- Hired Carrie Byron, WRIA 8 Projects Funding Coordinator to backfill Jason Wilkinson while on Special Duty Assignment through to 2024.
- Drafted and adopted 2022 state and federal WRIA 8 [salmon recovery legislative priorities](#) and associated communication materials.
- Drafted and distributed [October](#) and [December](#) WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Approved a motion to include [City of Everett as a WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement \(ILA\) cost share partner](#) and distributed the formal ILA Addendum for partner signature approval.
- Submitted a letter to Governor Inslee sharing WRIA 8's state legislative priorities, including support for developing a salmon recovery package.
- Scheduled and facilitated three Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meetings, presented on WRIA 8 DEI Subcommittee for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks and Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council.
- Launched the 2021 [Salmon SEEson](#) campaign (fifteenth annual) to increase public support and awareness for salmon conservation.
- 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.

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) (September 16 & November 18).
 - [September meeting](#) focus: update on the state and federal legislative priorities that support WRIA 8 interest; a presentation on a sustainable stormwater runoff treatment for urban areas; a presentation on King County's Fish Passage Program.
 - [November meeting](#) focus: discussion on 2022 Vice Chair position; a discussion to include City of Everett as a cost share partner in 2022; move to approve sending a letter to Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission to encourage approval of a non-native game fish policy to protect native salmon populations.
- Attend Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 23 & November 18).

September meeting focus:

 - Remembrance for Lorraine Loomis, Chair, Northwest Indian Fish Commission
 - Presentation comparing Chinook salmon use of tidal delta habitats in four Puget Sound estuaries
 - Legislative priorities and strategy
 - Presentation on tribal treaty rights
 - 2023-2025 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant program large capital project RFP
 - 2022-2026 Action Agenda for Puget Sound update
 - Regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan

November meeting focus:

 - RCO Update
 - Presentation on WRIA 8 DEI/EJ Action Plan

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- Review/discuss 2021 Work Plan and 2022 Boards Shared Priorities
- Review/discuss legislative priorities and SRC engagement
- Review 2023-2025 PSAR Large Capital project RFP
- Participated in one meeting of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (November 4).
 - November meeting focus: Discussion of 2023-2025 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital grant program request for proposals, draft Targeted Investment process initiated by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and regional updates.
- Drafted Addendum to the WRIA 8 ILA to add the City of Everett as a cost share partner, and coordinated ILA partner signature approval process.
- Updated 2022 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials, including a letter to Governor Inslee to share WRIA 8's state priorities.
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Scheduled, facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (September 7 and November 2).
 - September meeting topics included: 2022 legislative priorities discussion; presentation on stormwater runoff treatment options; kokanee recovery update and review September 16 Salmon Recovery Council agenda items.
 - November meeting topics included: 2022 bi-monthly meeting schedule; Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding guidance; review/discuss City of Everett joining WRIA 8 as cost share partner; presentation on the Holder Creek restoration project; and November 18 Salmon Recovery Council agenda items.
- *Obtained Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) approval of 2022 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding guidance.*
- Provided ongoing support to projects funded by WRIA 8 in past years, including bringing projects forward for feedback from the WRIA 8 Technical Committee.
- Attended one virtual meeting (October 11-13) of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC). Topics covered various items of relevance for statewide salmon recovery, including WSC priorities, updates from Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, orca recovery update, federal infrastructure bill and budget implications for salmon recovery, permit streamlining, landowner engagement with salmon habitat projects, juvenile productivity monitoring in large Puget Sound rivers, video editing and storytelling.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.
- Participated in project planning activities with project sponsors and reviewing project concepts, plans, and visions to ensure future implementation aligns with the WRIA 8 Plan and its priorities.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (September 8, October 13, November 10).
 - September TC meeting focus: WRIA 8 priority monitoring and assessment needs survey responses and prioritization exercise.
 - October TC meeting topics: Royal Arch Restoration Project 30% design review with Brent Lackey (SPU); meta-analysis results and discussion of fish responses to river restoration projects in King County with Jim Bower (King County).

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- November TC meeting topics: Review Bear Creek Tretheway Restoration Project design; review and finalize WRIA 8's 2022 monitoring and assessment RFP.
- Participated in monthly meetings of the Cedar Instream Flow Commission; attended meetings of the sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group, the Cedar River Sockeye Adaptive Management Working Group, and PSEMP Salmonid Workgroup.
- Co-authored the 20-year review of the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Provided technical content for WRIA 8 comments on WDFW's Puget Sound Chinook Conservation and Rebuilding scoping document and Non-native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy.
- Worked with Technical Committee to update WRIA 8's 2022 monitoring and assessment priorities, RFP and CWM grant materials.
- Presented WRIA 8 salmon recovery work to the Cedar River Council, Bothell City Council, Introduction to Restoration students at the University of Washington.
- Co-led the Lake Washington Ship Canal Roundtable Technical Workgroup.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to the IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Launched the 2021 Salmon SEEson campaign (15th annual) to increase public support and awareness for salmon conservation.
- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December).
- 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 RCO for the Lead Entity contract covering the period through December 31, 2021.
- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel, 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.