

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2022

### Overview and Highlights

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

- Planned and facilitated September and November Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meetings.
- Secured SRC approval of the 2023 WRIA 8 budget, including an 8.8% increase to the ILA cost share.
- Secured SRC approval of funding request of \$25,000-\$50,000, not to exceed \$50,000 to support a technical pinniped predation workshop.
- Secured SRC approval of the updated 2023 federal and state legislative priorities.
- Secured SRC approval of Small Grant Program funding recommendations of awarding \$49,870 to launch a pilot program to promote stewardship with private lakeshore property owners and improve lakeshore habitat in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish. Additionally awarding \$25,000 to the City of Sammamish.
- Secured SRC approval of Grant Program funding guidance.
- Distributed 2023 state WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials, including a letter to the Governor and letters to the state Congressional delegation.
- Drafted and distributed October and December WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Implemented the 2022 Salmon SEEson campaign (16<sup>th</sup> annual) to increase public awareness of salmon viewing opportunities and increase support for salmon recovery.
- Hosted two tours of Ballard Locks September and November.
- Organized a tour of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.
- Hosted WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council gathering at Lake Sammamish State Park.
- Hosted a tour of the Riverbend project site for Senator Mark Mullet (5<sup>th</sup> District) and funding program partners.
- 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/Puget Sound Partnership**

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (September 15 and November 17)
  - [September](#) meeting focus: Decision on 2023 Budget and Work Plan, decision on funding request to support workshop focused on pinniped predation and management at Ballard Locks, decision on legislative priorities and draft letters to the Governor and Congressional Delegation, presentation on King County Flood Control District Cedar River and Sammamish River Basin flood risk reduction priority projects and actions
  - [November](#) meeting focus: Decision on WRIA 8 Small Grant Program funding recommendations, decision on WRIA 8 CWM funding guidance, presentation on salmon returns and monitoring update, presentation on Little Bit Stream restoration project
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) on September 29 to represent WRIA 8 interests.
- Participated in virtual meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 8, October 13, November 10) to represent WRIA 8 interests.

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- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization) on September 20 and December 1 to represent WRIA 8 interests and work on 2022-2025 workplan launch.
- Participated in one in-person meeting of the Washington Salmon Coalition to represent WRIA 8 interests. Topics covered various items of relevance for statewide salmon recovery, including WSC priorities, updates from Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, changes to RCO Manual 18 Guidance, and using drone footage.
- Attended one virtual meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (September 21-22) to track discussion and approval of 2022 grant round recommendations.
- 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 one WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meeting (September 6)
  - Meeting focus: general watershed updates, review of Management Committee 2023 budget and work plan recommendation, discuss new WRIA 8 Small Grants Program, and hear an update on the Legislative Subcommittee's 2023 WRIA 8 legislative priorities recommendation.
- Developed and executed first WRIA 8 Small Grant awards program to allocate up to \$150,000 to provide small grants to support innovative or conceptual projects that might not compete well in WRIA 8's traditional grant rounds and focus on early stages of future capital project development and/or incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles.
- Consulted with project sponsors to assist in project implementation and to help best align projects objectives and outcomes with WRIA 8 recovery strategies.
- Planned and hosted tours and site visits for WRIA 8 partners, including Ballard Locks, Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, Lake Sammamish State Park, and Riverbend Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River.
- Tracked available funding opportunities and supported project sponsors in seeking funding.
- Implemented the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Salmon SEEson program, coordinating partners to promote opportunities for the public to see salmon returning to local streams and rivers during the fall.
- Planning integration of Implementation and Technical committees to form the Implementation Technical Committee to foster more holistic discussions with partners about priority issues and to develop more robust recommendations and decisions.

### **Technical Coordination**

- Scheduled and facilitated four WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (September 14, October 12, November 9, and December 14).
- Initiated synthesis report on predation impacts to Chinook in WRIA 8 working with USFWS, WDFW, and King County.
- Initiated planning work for technical workshop focused on management of pinniped predation on adult and juvenile salmon at the Ballard Locks.
- Continued to partner with Long Live the Kings and others to identify and assess feasible and effective alternatives to address high temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal and impacts to salmon.

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- Initiated multi-species summary of salmon recovery needs in WRIA 8 working with King County.
- Finalized annual monitoring and assessment priorities for the watershed and adapted Cooperative Watershed Management monitoring and assessment funding materials.

### **Communication**

- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December)
- 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.**