

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

May 1 to August 31, 2020

Overview and Highlights of cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2020 focused on:

- Drafted and adopted 2021 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Produced two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Worked with Interlocal Agreement (ILA) partners to approve and execute ILA Amendment for Snohomish County to formally rejoin the ILA as a cost share partner.
- Partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and King County to initiate a study of yellow perch movement and behavior in the Lake Washington Ship Canal as a recently documented primary predator of juvenile Chinook.
- Completed draft synthesis report of best available science on temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal and impacts on salmon.
- Submitted comment letters to the US Army Corps of Engineers to support Ballard Locks salmon conservation measures during an urgent interim repair and update to the Master Plan.
- Adopted WRIA 8 2021 budget, work plan and cost share.
- Established diversity, equity and inclusion subcommittee.
- Obtained Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) approval of \$3,607,629 in WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program funding from the King County Flood Control District (KCFCD), to provide over \$2.9 million to habitat restoration projects, \$353,466 for monitoring and assessment activities, and \$138,270 to outreach and education programs.
- Obtained SRC approval of \$1,208,577 in state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding and \$1,457,579 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant funding to priority WRIA 8 habitat acquisition and restoration projects.
- Coordinated and planned for the 2020 Salmon SEEson campaign (fourteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Represented WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC), South Central Caucus Group, 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) (May 21 & July 16).
 - May meeting focus: discussion on draft 2021 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; decision on 2020 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round recommendations; presentation on King County Flood Control District recommitment to multi-benefit floodplain management and new grant programs by Chair, Dave Upthegrove ; and success story on post-flood redesign of Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project.
 - July meeting focus: decision on 2021 WRIA 8 budget and work plan; approval of 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant recommendations; review and approval of WRIA 8 2021 legislative priorities; presentation on King County Conservation Futures Tax and Parks Levy grant recommendations; and success story on Community Action Training School project protecting wetland in City of Kenmore.
- Scheduled and staffed one WRIA 8 Management Committee meeting (June 30) to develop a 2021 budget and work plan recommendation for SRC approval in July.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (May 28 & July 30).

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- May meeting focus: discussion on providing input on the development of the update to the regional chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, deciding whether to adopt a policy for when and under what conditions the SRC will support projects designated as “projects of concern” in the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round process, providing input on the Puget Sound Vital Signs revision project, providing input on the proposed vision for the 2022 Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery, adopt the allocation formula for the 2020 SRFB grant round and 2021-2023 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant round, hearing a legislative update, and an update on the Funding Subcommittee’s recommended approach to assess how well county-based Conservation Futures Tax programs integrate salmon recovery priorities.
- July meeting focus: status of the update to the regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; reviewing and approving the 2021-2023 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) ranked list of large capital projects for the upcoming legislative session; discussion of 2021 legislative priorities and a policy framework to identify budget and policy priorities; presentation on the Skokomish Watershed salmon reintroduction efforts; and, updates on proposed federal approval of Washington state’s Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program, status of 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board ‘projects of concern’ and request for PS SRC support, update on the concept for developing the 2022-2026 Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery, discussion of Puget Sound Alternative Futures Scenario Analysis to help consider uncertainty in Puget Sound recovery planning, presentation of white paper advocating for shift to a ‘net-gain’ rather than a ‘no-net-loss’ of ecosystem function approach for mitigating project impacts, and discussion of primary barriers to recovery identified by watersheds.
- Participated in three meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 14, June 16, and July 9).
 - May meeting focus: updates; discussion on SRFB survey on large, complex salmon habitat projects; presentation on Vital Signs revision; and presentation on mobilizing funding.
 - June meeting focus: Updates; discussion on RCO’s new 2021 grant round timeline and implications for the PSAR Large Capital RFP; and discussion on the approach for watershed salmon recovery chapter updates.
 - July meeting focus: discussion on regional monitoring needs and smolt traps; discussion on proposed timeline for 2021-2023 PSAR Large Capital grant round; and discussion on development of a new PSAR capacity return funds policy.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Local Integrating Organization [LIO]) (June 3 and August 11).
 - June meeting topics included: recap near-term action recommendations for habitat, shellfish and stormwater; LIO two-year work plan; presentation of the Clean Water Healthy Habitat initiative; bylaws and membership.
 - August meeting topics included: finalize LIO operating principles and work plan and select work plan focus areas.
- Participated in four meetings of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (WREC), i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act (May 28, June 25, July 23, and August 20).
 - May meeting topics included: adaptive management, policy recommendations, and water offset project development.
 - June meeting topics included: water rights assessment; water offset project development, and policy recommendations.

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- July meeting topics included: workgroup recommendations for water rights acquisitions, water offset projects and habitat projects; adaptive management discussion; consumptive use and offset target to include safety factor.
- August meeting topics included: review of projects, discussion of safety factor or offset target to consumptive use estimate, adaptive management and policy recommendations, and next steps for developing the draft plan.
- Attended one WREC Technical Workgroup meeting (June 18).
- Updated 2021 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Organized and led a virtual tour for state legislators (August 20) of the Riverbend and Rainbow Bend floodplain restoration projects on the Cedar River, intended to re-engage state legislators and stakeholders to provide a status update on these floodplain restoration projects after the large flood event on the Cedar River in early February.
- 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 (July 7 & August 4).
 - Meeting topics included: updates on WRIA 8's engagement on the Cedar-Sammamish Water Resource Enhancement Committee; discussion on service provider survey results; information on King Conservation District rate renewal proposal; update on King County Flood Control District's priority project implementation in WRIA 8; discussion of WRIA 8 2021 draft budget and work plan; discussion of 2021 legislative agenda; updates on Lake Sammamish kokanee recovery and Lake Washington sockeye status; presentation on King County habitat/open space acquisition and restoration strategy; review of communication and outreach strategy; and review of May 16 and July 18 Salmon Recovery Council agendas.
- Obtained approval from the Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) of \$3,607,629 in grant funding from the WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) program, to provide over \$2.9 million to habitat restoration projects, \$353,466 for ongoing monitoring activities, and approximately \$138,270 to outreach and education programs (May 21).
- Delivered the SRC-approved funding recommendations to the KCFCD and received their approval on August 21.
- Coordinated with project sponsors and RCO on the 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant round. Conducted a site visits and facilitated development of funding recommendations for Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant funding (June 22). Prepared grant recommendations for SRC approval in July.
- Obtained SRC approval of the 2020 SRFB and PSAR grant funding recommendations (July 16).
- Participated in one meeting of the Cedar River Watershed Habitat Conservation Plan Oversight Committee (May 14).
- 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.
- Attended two WebEx meetings (July 21 and August 4) of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC). Topics covered various items of relevance for statewide salmon recovery, including Lead Entity funding and advising on RCO budget reductions and implementation of new RCO policies that

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carry implications for local grant round evaluations and grant funding program requests in the 2021-2023 biennium budget.

- 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 two WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (June 10, July 8).
 - June meeting topics included: Bear Creek Little Bit project review on King County recommended design alternative for a stream restoration; North Creek restoration and effectiveness monitoring project discussion and results from 5-years of effectiveness monitoring.
 - July meeting topics included: Holder Creek project review; Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Ship Canal and the impacts to salmon.
- Participated in three meetings of the Cedar Instream Flow Commission and attended two meetings of the sockeye Adaptive Management Work Group.
- Partnered with King County and the USFWS to plan and implement the first acoustic tracking of yellow perch in the Lake Washington – a newly confirmed primary predator of Chinook.
- Completed draft synthesis report of best available science on temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions in the Lake Washington Ship Canal and impacts on salmon.
- Submitted comment letters to the US Army Corps of Engineers to support Ballard Locks salmon conservation measures during an urgent interim repair and update to the Master Plan.
- Represented WRIA 8 in King County conservation initiatives including Clean Water Healthy Habitats and the Water Quality Benefits Evaluation.
- Updated habitat and salmon population metrics for the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Coordinated and planned the 2020 Salmon SEEson campaign (fourteenth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Drafted and sent ILA Amendment to local governments to approve Snohomish County to rejoin the ILA as a cost share partner.
- 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 RCO for the Lead Entity contract covering the period through June 30, 2020.
- Negotiated a scope of work with GSRO and PSP for the Lead Entity contract covering the period September 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.
- Developed the draft WRIA 8 2021 budget and work plan for Management Committee review and Salmon Recovery Council approval.
- Draft WRIA 8 comment letter on Army Corps of Engineers update to Lake Washington Ship Canal Master Plan.

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- Draft 2021 state and federal legislative priorities.
- 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 the SRC 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.