

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9  
September 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009**

**Overview:**

**Cost-shared services during the second trimester of 2009 focused on:**

- Organizing a special Watershed Ecosystem Forum meeting and panel discussion on the Green River flood planning and response, and long term opportunities.
- Completing the first draft of a \$1 million proposal on integrated floodplain management for an EPA Puget Sound grant.
- Completing the evaluation of the funding mechanism options using adopted criteria, and selecting the top three mechanisms for further discussion.
- Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and King County staff to publicize construction of North Wind's Weir estuary restoration in Tukwila, which resulted in a positive two-minute story on King 5 News.
- Receiving over \$1.5 million in funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for three projects: Fenster Levee in Auburn, Seahurst Park in Burien, and Mill Creek in Kent.
- Convening the Ecosystem Restoration Project Executive Committee which approved \$19.364 million in federal funding for eight ERP projects: Mill Creek Phase I in Kent, Seahurst Park in Burien, Riverview Park in Kent, Upper Russell Road in Kent, Lake Meridian Outlet in Kent, Upper Springbrook Creek in Renton, and Big Spring Creek Phases I and II in King County.

*The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 9 MOU.*

**Watershed Ecosystem Forum Coordination**

*Schedule and staff WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum meetings at key decision points in implementing and monitoring of the Salmon Habitat Plan, and prepare the scope of work and budget for work to be cost-shared after 2009:*

- Organized a special Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) meeting to discuss Green River flood planning and response, including long term opportunities (October 1).
- Organized one regular Forum meeting (November 12).
- Finalized the 2009 Professional Assessment of Services Report and overviewed the results with the Forum at its November meeting. A follow up meeting was held among the watershed coordinator, Seattle staff, Seattle Forum representative Conlin, and Management Committee chair McGilton.
- Completed the evaluation of the funding mechanism options using adopted criteria, and selected the top three mechanisms for further discussion.
- Tracked King Conservation District Assessment reauthorization during this quarter. Attended King County Council public hearings and Suburban Cities Association meetings on assessment and alternative proposals.
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Forum and Forum staff members.

*Selective participation and coordination with State and Puget Sound regional efforts, such as the Lead Entity Advisory Group, the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, and regional or sub-regional efforts:*

- Advised the Salmon Recovery Board, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on salmon recovery funding and technical issues. Met multiple times with the Puget Sound Partnership's liaison to WRIA 9, Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz.
- Attended three South Central Action Area Caucus Group meetings (October 9, November 16, December 8).
- Attended two Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (September 24 and November 19).

- Attended three meetings of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Steering Committee (September 16, October 21, and December 16).
- Attended or participated in three PSP Watershed Leads meetings and conference calls to stay abreast of PSP developments and expectations for watersheds (September 10, October 8, November 13).
- Participated in three Lead Entity Advisory Group meetings (October 1, November 18 and December 3).

*Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2009 ILA-funded work program:*

- Organized one meeting of the Management Committee (October 28).
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Management Committee members.

*Coordinate with city and county staff and elected officials as practicable:*

- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Forum staff.

### **WRIA Plan Implementation**

*Work with the Watershed Ecosystem Forum to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan:*

- Provided briefings to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum on Habitat Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

*Implement adaptive management, and participate in regional or sub-regional planning, implementation, monitoring, and financing efforts as practicable:*

- Coordinated with Seattle to advance in-kind services for 2010, including re-convening of the Implementation Technical Committee.

*Other work to promote implementation of the Habitat Plan recommendations:*

- Participated in weekly internal King County meeting to discuss issues related to emergency flood response on the Green River to ensure salmon habitat priorities were considered.
- Participated in multiple meetings and smaller work sessions of King County groups responding to a King County ordinance that restricts salmon restoration project implementation in and near the Agricultural Production District and responding to a public rule that restricts placement of wood in King County rivers. Provided significant analysis of issues.

### **Capital Projects Implementation**

[This work is primarily funded by a grant from the King Conservation District, which funds Karen Bergeron, Habitat Projects Coordinator.]

*Coordinate cross-jurisdictional implementation of projects identified as WRIA priorities (e.g., projects funded by the watershed allocation of King Conservation District funds, Puget Sound Partnership, State Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and other funds):*

*Help establish partnerships and seek funding for high priority capital projects:*

- Completed the first draft of a \$1 million grant proposal on integrated floodplain management for an EPA Puget Sound grant. Consulted extensively with elected officials and staff in key partner cities of Auburn, Kent, Renton, and Tukwila. Also consulted with Tacoma Public Utilities, ACOE, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and internally with King County staff partners.
- Worked with City of Tukwila and Bluefield Holdings to explore a potential funding partnership to construct the restoration phase at Duwamish Gardens. Worked with acquisition funders to assess potential legal barriers/solutions. Continued to work with ecologist and engineer on conceptual designs for Duwamish Gardens.
- Provided comments to King County Roads on Vashon Dockton Road replacement study scoping.
- Conducted research on fish passage issue on Salmon Creek for City of Burien.

*Develop and manage the long-term WRIA-wide capital facility plan and 3-year capital improvement program:*

- Proposed several projects from the 3-year capital improvement plan for grant funding (see specific projects and results below).

*Support the Watershed Ecosystem Forum in developing, prioritizing, and presenting project recommendations to the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board and King Conservation District Board for funding:*

- Assisted project sponsors with grants for submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), including answering project specific questions at the SRFB Review Panel Meeting (October 14) and Salmon Funding Recovery Board meeting (December 10-11).
- The following grants were approved, for a total of over \$1.5 million:
  - The City of Auburn received \$301,103 to set back the Fenster levee to restore habitat in the Green River and its floodplain.
  - The Burien Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department received \$750,000 to return the northern portion of the park and shoreline to a restored, more accessible, and more natural condition, complementing a previous restoration of the south beach of the park.
  - The City of Kent received \$500,000 to create a channel off the Green River with benches, large woody materials, spawning gravels, and riverbank plantings adjacent to the mouth of lower Mill Creek.

*Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:*

- Convened the Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) Executive Committee, which approved \$19.364 million in 2010 federal funding for eight ERP projects:
  - Mill Creek Phase I in Auburn (\$250,000).
  - Seahurst Park in Burien (\$2.714 million).
  - Riverview Park in Kent (\$2.75 million).
  - Upper Russell Road in Kent (\$8.4 million).
  - Lake Meridian Outlet in Kent (\$2.4 million).
  - Upper Spingbrook Creek in Renton (\$1.1 million).
  - Big Spring Creek Phase I in King County (\$1.65 million).
  - Big Spring Creek Phase II in King County (\$100,000).
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including development of funding strategies and out year project planning.
- Attended one ERP Project Management Committee meeting (October 7).

### **Public Outreach (half time)**

*Coordinate a public outreach and involvement strategy for the WRIA 9 planning and implementation process:*

- Worked with Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and King County staff to publicize construction of North Wind's Weir estuary restoration in Tukwila. Positive two-minute story was carried on KING 5 news on December 17. Organized construction site visit for neighboring Boeing employees at 10 p.m. on December 1. Provided regular web and e-mail updates to WRIA 9 participants and Boeing employees during construction from October to December.
- Conducted interview/tour at Pautzke Levee removal on September 11 to provide video footage for American Rivers video for national audience (video will be released in winter 2010).
- Talked to 100 elementary school students at Salmon Homecoming at the Seattle Aquarium on September 18.
- Conducted tour of Green River habitat restoration project sites for eight staff from Washington State Department of Natural Resources on September 30.
- Participated in ECONet (King County organizations) public outreach coordination meeting October 27.
- Responded to one information request from the public.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at [www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/).

[During the second trimester, Dennis Clark, Public Outreach/Stewardship Coordinator, spent half his time on Miller/Walker Creek basin stewardship. While it contributes to WRIA 9 watershed health, that work was funded by the Miller/Walker basin partners and thus is not summarized in this trimester report.]

### **Program Management and Administration**

*Conduct general administration work in support of ILA implementation:*

- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum and Management Committee meetings.
- Coordinated across Forum on several issues, including the Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, King Conservation District system of assessments, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Worked with Seattle on developing a Letter of Agreement for in-kind services work for 2010.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.