

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9  
January 1, 2009 – April 30, 2009**

**Overview:**

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

- Convening the inaugural meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum; Advancing the discussion of a dedicated funding mechanism to implement the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan.
- Submitting restoration proposals for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) federal stimulus funds.
- Drafting and distributing the fourth “News Fit for a King” newsletter.
- Coordinating lobbying effort to get House Bill 2199 passed.
- Providing significant assistance to the Nearshore General Investigation; Puget Sound-wide change analysis completed and Strategic Needs Assessment scoped.
- Providing assistance to King County in developing a public rule in response to an ordinance restricting habitat projects in and near the Agricultural Production District.
- Prioritizing King Conservation District and Army Corps funding strategies to advance several more Ecosystem Restoration Projects.
- Moving habitat projects to construction by consistently addressing and resolving multiple barriers encountered by project sponsors.
- Coordinating flood control and salmon habitat project planning and implementation.

*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 four 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 2010:*

- Organized one meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (February 12).
- Drafted and finalized the Operating Guides for the new Forum.
- Advanced discussions of a dedicated funding mechanism to implement the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan; revised and finalized the Funding Mechanisms Report.
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with Forum and Forum staff members.
- Coordinated local government and Forum communications with the State legislature.

*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 one Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (March 26).
- Attended four meetings of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Steering Committee (January 21, February 18, March 18, and April 15).
- Attended one PSP Watershed Leads meetings to stay abreast of PSP developments and expectations for watersheds (February 18, March 11, April 9).
- Attended one Lead Entity Advisory Group meetings (January 13).
- Attended the Puget Sound Georgia Basin Ecosystem Conference (February 10-12).

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

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (February 4 and April 29).
- 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:*

- Finalized and submitted the 3-Year Work Schedule to Puget Sound Partnership.

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

- Met with SeaTac staff to review which Salmon Habitat Plan recommendations were most relevant for the city.
- Participated in five meetings (February 25, March 11 and 25, April 7 and 28) of a King County group responding to a King County ordinance that restricts salmon restoration project implementation in and near the Agricultural Production District.

### **Capital Projects Implementation**

*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:*

- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included NOAA Economic Stimulus funding, 2009 Salmon Funding Recovery Board grant round, and Estuary and the Salmon Restoration Program.
- Submitted restoration proposals for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) federal stimulus funds.
- Assisted King County staff with project tracking, funding strategies, and coordination for North Wind's Weir.
- Provided project presentation to the Puget Sound Nearshore Science Team to solicit feedback and support for Beaconsfield on the Sound (January 7).
- Continued to refine the Habitat Work Schedule to track WRIA 9 Habitat Plan accomplishments and attended web seminar (February 5).
- Scheduled and coordinated Habitat Work Schedule training session at King Street Center computer training facility for WRIA 9 project sponsors.
- Met three times with staff from the King County Flood Control District to coordinate flood hazard reduction and salmon habitat project scheduling. April 24 meeting was at various sites in Kent and included Kent staff. Also participated in February 26 "Examination of Levee Vegetation Policy" symposium put on by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Provided support to Auburn in applying for Coastal Protection Account funds for Mary Olson Farm ecological restoration. Grant subsequently received by Auburn.
- Met with Seattle staff to discuss opportunities for street end restoration in the Duwamish.

- Provided support to Tukwila staff in negotiations with Amalfi regarding property exchange/sale at Duwamish Gardens. Met with WDFW consulting engineer on site to brief him as first step in development of conceptual design.
- Initiated property owner outreach to private landowners in the Duwamish transition zone in Tukwila (to be completed in second trimester).
- Provided advice and editing assistance on economic stimulus grant requests from King County.

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

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

- Two WRIA staff participated in Salmon Recovery Funding Board “Building Better Projects” conference in Shelton (April 15-16).

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

- Supported local sponsors working on Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) projects, including development of funding strategies.
- Attended two ERP Project Management Committee meetings (January 14 and April 8).

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

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

- Coordinated the lobbying effort to get House Bill 2199 passed. This legislation was recommended in the Salmon Habitat Plan. WRIA staff submitted legislation to legislators for introduction in the House. Testified in both the House and Senate. Arranged for others to contact legislators at key points. Bill passed April 20 (and was signed by the Governor on May 7).
- Participated in Lead Entity lobbying day in Olympia on March 10.
- Worked with Tukwila community volunteer Brooke Alford on stewardship project on April 25 that involved ten Allentown and Duwamish neighborhood volunteers removing English ivy from about 30 trees along the river in the Duwamish Transition Zone.
- Drafted and distributed the fourth newsletter “News Fit for a King” in April.
- Participated in January 28 and April 30 ECO Net workshops to help improve Puget Sound and King County public education and communication efforts.
- Gave presentation to Washington Conservation Corps crew February 10 and to 11 classes of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the Covington Water Festival March 25, reaching 175 persons total.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at [www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/)
- Responded to four information requests from the public.

[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, Puget Sound Partnership, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Prepared draft work and staff plans and budget for 2010 (for April 29 Management Committee meeting; discussion put on hold upon announcement of Seattle hiatus from WRIA 9 cost-sharing partnership).
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.