

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
January 1, 2010 – April 30, 2010**

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2010 focused on:

- Finalizing Funding Mechanisms Analysis, preparing funding recommendations for Forum consideration, and scoping five policy briefs on the funding mechanisms.
- Providing written comments on levee vegetation management proposals, constraints on implementing habitat projects in the Agricultural Production District, and new boater safety review procedures for installing large wood in rivers.
- Influencing priorities for protecting habitat within the South Central Puget Sound Action Area.
- Working with the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete major portions of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.
- Influencing funding and other regional and state policies for salmon recovery.
- Completing and submitting a \$1 million grant proposal on integrated floodplain management for an EPA Puget Sound grant.
- Coordinating flood control and salmon habitat project planning and implementation.
- Moving habitat projects to construction by consistently addressing and resolving multiple barriers encountered by project sponsors.
- Organizing native planting events at the North Wind's Weir estuary restoration in the Duwamish transition zone. Over 500 volunteers worked at four events.

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 11).
- Finalized Funding Mechanisms Analysis and began preparing policy briefs on the funding mechanisms.
- Briefed new Watershed Ecosystem Forum member and SeaTac City Councilmember Rick Forschler on WRIA 9 activities.
- 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.
- Prepared comment letters on levee vegetation management proposals, constraints on implementing habitat projects in the Agricultural Production District, and new boater safety review procedures for installing large wood in rivers.

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 two Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (January 28 and March 25).
- Attended two meetings or workshops of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (March 17 and April 16).

- Attended one PSP Watershed Leads meetings to stay abreast of PSP developments and expectations for watersheds (March 11). Participated on a task force to develop criteria for identifying habitat projects of regional significance.
- Attended the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meeting (February 4), participated in a conference call (February 17) and attended the LEAG Retreat and Training, a grant requirement (April 26-28).

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2010 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (January 27 and April 28).
- Organized a joint meeting of the King County Agricultural Commission chair Nancy Hutto and Commissioner Judy Taylor and Management Committee and Forum chairs (March 9).
- 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 and narrative to Puget Sound Partnership (May 15).
- The Implementation Technical Committee, lead by Kathy Minsch and Katherine Lynch as part of City of Seattle's in-kind services, met on three times to work on H-Integration, an Adaptive Management Plan, and monitoring (February 24, March 17, and April 21).

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, 2010 Salmon Funding Recovery Board grant round, and Estuary and the Salmon Restoration Program.
- Completed and submitted 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, USACE, and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and internally with King County staff partners. Application did not result in grant award but did lead to: 1) greater clarity about needed floodplain/habitat analysis and 2) King County Executive Constantine directing the WLRD River and Floodplain Management Unit to develop Lower Green River "corridor" concept that addresses some proposed tasks that would have been funded by the grant.
- Wrote SRFB grant application for Duwamish Gardens estuary restoration on behalf of the City of Tukwila. Facilitated review of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife February 16, 2010 conceptual design report and decision on preferred project/property layout.
- Tracked and provided comments on USACE levee vegetation management policies.

- Met with King County Roads Division staff to make case for strong nearshore restoration alternative in Dockton Road environmental analysis.
- Provided staff comments on South Park Bridge Final Environmental Impact Statement to address shortfalls in fish protection.
- Continued to refine the Habitat Work Schedule to track WRIA 9 Habitat Plan accomplishments.
- Provided assistance to project sponsors for the Riverview Park Construction (Kent), Big Spring Creek Design (King County) and Beaconsfield Bulkhead Removal Design (Normandy Park) grants applications to the King Conservation District.

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

- Updated high priority nearshore projects in the Habitat Work Schedule database in order for projects to be eligible to compete for the Estuary and Salmon restoration Program grant round and inclusion in the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration project.

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

- Prepared the WRIA 9 SRFB grant timeline, scheduled field tours, and assisted project sponsors with completing grant applications in PRISM.
- Attended field tour with Recreation and Conservation Office staff for grant close-out at North Wind's Weir.

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.
- Prepared ERP lobbying packets (green folders) for distribution to local jurisdictions
- Assisted with planning and participated in two ERP Project Management Committee meetings (January 13 and April 14).

Public Outreach (half time)

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

- Worked in partnership with People For Puget Sound to recruit volunteers and plan for all native plantings of the North Wind's Weir estuary restoration in the Duwamish transition zone in Tukwila. Partnership led to nearly 500 volunteers working at events (February 6, February 27, April 3, and April 17). Also was lead in designing and constructing of goose exclusion fences to protect emergent marsh plants (April 3). Interviewed for KIRO television news story broadcast (April 17). Worked with Boeing employees to place two donated boulder benches on site (April 13). Gave presentation to 25 Boeing employees on project (January 25).
- Worked with nine volunteers from United Parcel Service to create and plant planting pockets along the Elliott Bay shoreline at Jack Block Park with Port of Seattle (April 22).
- Met with local residents and Burien staff to help develop stewardship program for Salmon Creek in January and February. Drafted four-page Salmon Creek Ravine Stewardship program for community partners to serve as starting point.
- Gave presentation to 14 Washington Conservation Corps crew (April 1) and to 180 students in six classes of 4th and 5th graders at South County Water Festival sponsored by Kent (March 24).
- Participated in King County ECO Net meeting at Seattle Aquarium and helped ECO Net facilitator/Puget Sound Partnership staff plan April meeting (February 24).
- Responded to four information requests from the public.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at 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, Puget Sound Partnership, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Prepared draft work and staff plans and budget for 2011 (for April 28 Management Committee meeting).
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.