

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
January 1, 2012 – April 30, 2012**

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2012 focused on:

- Securing approval of the strategy for 2012 Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding.
- Presenting Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan Development Report to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum.
- Developing draft 2013 staff plan, work plan, and budget for Management Committee review.
- Finalizing and submitting the 3-Year Work Plan and narrative to Puget Sound Partnership.
- Giving presentations and briefings on draft legislation for watershed funding mechanisms and governance structures to state and regional agencies and other entities.
- Moving habitat projects to construction by consistently addressing and resolving multiple barriers encountered by project sponsors.
- Coordinating with the Puget Sound Partnership, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project on salmon recovery implementation and policy development.

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 2011:

- Organized one meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (February 9).
- Undertook meetings/briefings/research/drafting to develop funding mechanisms including:
 - Ecosystem Coordination Board Funding Subcommittee (January 24, March 12 and March 29)
 - Washington State Lead Entities and Watershed Coordinators (March 21)
 - Washington House of Representatives (January 20)
 - National Wildlife Federation (March 6)
 - Ecosystems Technical Advisory Committee (March 23)
- Secured approval of the staff strategy for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funding in 2012.
- 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. Provided a presentation on watershed funding and governance to the House Environment Committee (January 20).
- Met with Black Diamond Mayor and staff (April 23) and Des Moines Basin Committee (February 2).

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 SRFB, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on salmon recovery funding and technical issues.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Partnership South Central Action Area Caucus Group (January 9 and February 13).
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (January 26).

- Attended three meetings of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project Steering Committee (January 18, February 29 and April 18),
- Attended one LEAG Meeting (January 10). Attended four PSP Watershed Leads meetings (January 12, February 9, March 8 and April 12).
- Member of conference steering committee and participated in the grant-required annual training conference for Lead Entities sponsored by the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meetings (March 20-22).

Schedule and staff four WRIA 9 Management Committee meetings to oversee the 2012 ILA-funded work program:

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (January 31 and April 25).
- Developed draft 2013 staff plan, work plan, and budget for Management Committee review.
- 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.
- Attended Puget Sound Partnership's workshop on levee vegetation management with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and wrote a letter from the Watershed Ecosystem Forum commenting on ACOE's draft policy.

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

- The Implementation Technical Committee met two times to work on an Adaptive Management Plan and monitoring (February 23 and April 26).
- In a presentation to the Forum, Implementation Technical Committee members continued the discussion of the Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan Development Report (February 9).

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):

- Assisted a project sponsor with preparation and review of an application for an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant.
- Assisted project sponsors with King Conservation District grant applications. The following grants, which were recommended by the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum, were approved by the King Conservation District for funding:
 - Newaukum Creek/Bass Lake Revegetation Project (\$75,000, King County);
 - Lower Soos Creek Revegetation Project (\$24,988, King County);
 - Beach Naturalist Program (\$18,000, Seattle Aquarium); and
 - Urban Forest Restoration Project (\$25,000, Nature Consortium).

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

- Participated in one planning meeting (March 22) and one public workshop (January 26) on WRIA 9 stormwater retrofit grant with King County.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support.

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

- Finalized and submitted the 3-Year Work Plan and narrative to PSP (May 13).

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

- Prepared the timeline and solicited grant applications for the 2012 SRFB grant cycle.

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Assisted with planning and participated in two Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) Project Management Committee meeting (January 11 and April 4).
- Assisted with ERP implementation update presentation to the Forum (February 9).
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including development of funding strategies.

Public Outreach (half time)

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

- Provided watershed education to over 180 4th and 5th graders from WRIA 9 at Kent's Water Festival (March 27).
- Conducted an education activity with over 250 grade school students about watersheds and preventing water pollution at an Earth Day event at Saltwater State Park (April 20).
- Solicited articles for the Spring 2012 newsletter, News Fit for a King (published in May).
- Began coordinating the 2012 Yellow Bus Tour with the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Attended free training about social marketing offered by ECONet (March 14 and 28).
- Participated in an Earth Day event at North Wind's Weir, planting marsh plants and mulching with over 50 volunteers.
- Responded to multiple information requests from the public.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.

[During the first trimester, Elissa Ostergaard, Public Outreach/Stewardship Coordinator, spent some of her 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 PSP, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, and SRFB.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.