

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
January 1, 2013 – April 30, 2013**

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2013 focused on:

- Sound Cities Association support for forming a watershed investment stakeholder group by the Washington legislature, and coordinating with members of the legislature to include the stakeholder group in the 2013 Interim Plan.
- Securing Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) approval of King Conservation District funding (2011 and prior collections) of over \$1 million for high priority salmon recovery project implementation.
- Presenting Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan development report to the Forum.
- Initiating the policy direction discussion for the 2014 WRIA 9 work and staff plans, budget, and cost shares.
- 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:

- Organized one meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (February 7).
- On February 20, following recommendation of the Watershed Investment District Subcommittee of the Sound Cities Association (SCA) Public Issues Committee on January 9, the SCA unanimously supported the formation of a stakeholder group by the Washington State Legislature, as a means to reach consensus in bill language regarding watershed investment authorities, to be introduced in the 2014 legislative session. A letter was sent on March 12 from SCA stating this position to District #33 Representative and House Environment Committee Chair, Dave Upthegrove.
- Secured approval of King Conservation District funding (2011 and prior collections) for high priority salmon recovery project implementation.
- 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 SRFB, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office on salmon recovery funding and technical issues.
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Partnership South Central Action Area Caucus Group (March 18).
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (January 24 and March 28).
- The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project completed preparation of the Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement; release of the documents is awaiting approval of the Tentatively Selected Plan (the list of 18 restoration sites in Puget Sound). While the next steps are taken by the Army Corps of Engineers to approve the Feasibility Report and the Corps completes the process for adopting the nearshore restoration plan, the role of the Steering Committee is uncertain and meetings will be called "as needed".

- Participated in one meeting of the Puget Sound WRIA Leads (February 14).
- Participated in four meetings of the Puget Sound Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) (January 29, February 12, March 12, April 2). Two members of the Salmon Habitat Team attended the mandatory LEAG training in Walla Walla (April 15-17).

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 16 and April 24).
- Initiated the policy direction discussion for the 2014 WRIA 9 work and staff plans, budget, and cost shares.
- 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.
- Drafted comment letters on significant actions regarding levee repairs and setbacks and hatchery management proposals, with a focus on their effects on implementation of the Salmon Habitat Plan.

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

- Organized four meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) to continue developing a Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan (January 24, February 5, March 5, and April 2).
- In a presentation to the Forum, ITC members continued the discussion of the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan development (February 7).
- Participated in the Puget Sound Partnership and RITT's Monitoring and Adaptive Management planning process; identified the core work team and attended one workshop (April 29).

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 project sponsor of Seahurst Park phase II with required materials for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capacity Projects grant application.
- Presented high priority projects for \$1,035,298 in King Conservation District (KCD) funding (2011 and prior collections) to the Forum for approval. The following projects were recommended for funding:
 - \$911,000 for:
 - Big Spring Creek Phase 2 Acquisition (\$300,000, King County);
 - Beaconsfield on the Sound (\$300,000, Normandy Park); and
 - Duwamish Gardens (\$311,000, Tukwila).
 - Remaining \$124,298 for:
 - Contingency fund of 10% that doesn't require further Forum approval; and
 - All other funds to go to a 2013 Small Grant Round.

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

- Participated in one planning meeting (March 6) and one public workshop (April 25) 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:

- Updated active projects and recently completed projects in the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) database, including coordination with project sponsors for documenting final project costs and accomplishments.

Coordinate regional aspects of the Green River Ecosystem Restoration Project:

- Assisted with planning and participated in one Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP) Project Management Committee meeting (February 5).
- 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).
- Provided WRIA 9 information and watershed tips for healthy salmon at a public education event at Burien City Hall, where a large, hollow, climbable chum salmon was on display for two days (April 17-18).
- Attended one STORM meeting (May 2), a group that regionally coordinates outreach messages about a healthy Puget Sound and cleaning up stormwater.
- Responded to multiple information requests from the public.

[During the first trimester, Elissa Ostergaard, Public Outreach/Stewardship Coordinator, spent almost 40% 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.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.