

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
May 1, 2009 – August 31, 2009**

Overview:

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

- Organizing the July 28 groundbreaking for the North Wind's Weir project in the Duwamish.
- Planning and conducting the annual "yellow bus tour" of the watershed and key habitat projects.
- Approving the ranking and spending plan for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications.
- Approving 2010 ILA Budget.
- Reaching agreement on the 2010 Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services, and in-kind services from Seattle.
- 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.
- Advancing the discussion of a dedicated funding mechanism to implement the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan.
- Development and approval of the process for assessing ILA services.
- Coordinating with King Conservation District on the development of the 2010-2014 proposed system of assessments.

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 two meetings of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (May 14 and August 13).
- Drafted and finalized amendments to the Watershed Ecosystem Forum Operating Guides.
- Approved 2010 ILA Budget, Scope of Work, and Staffing Plan.
- Approved the ranking and spending plan for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications.
- Advanced discussions of a dedicated funding mechanism to implement the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan; confirmed criteria in the Funding Mechanisms Report and began applying them to the mechanisms, and supported additional funding for consultant.
- 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 two Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (June 4 and July 23)
- Attended 5 meetings of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Steering Committee (May 20, June 16 & 17, July 15, August 19).
- Attended or participated in 5 PSP Watershed Leads meetings and conference calls to stay abreast of PSP developments and expectations for watersheds (May 13, June 11, July 9, July 22, August 12).
- Participated in two Lead Entity Advisory Group meetings (May 28 and August 27).

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

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (May 5 and July 29).
- Approved scope and timing of Professional Assessment of Service Provider.
- 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:

Other work to promote implementation of the Habitat Plan recommendations:

- Participated in multiple meetings and smaller work sessions of a King County group responding to a King County ordinance that restricts salmon restoration project implementation in and near the Agricultural Production District. 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):

- Worked with project sponsors to develop funding strategies for high priority restoration projects in order to provide local match to Army Corps of Engineers economic stimulus funding.

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

- Worked with ecologist and engineer on conceptual designs for the Duwamish Gardens estuarine restoration project in Tukwila.
- Completed property owner outreach to private landowners in the Duwamish transition zone in Tukwila (work begun in first trimester).
- Worked with City of Kent and River and Floodplain Management staff on conceptual design ideas for Briscoe Park in Kent.
- Drafted comment letters from Watershed Ecosystem Forum on the Draft Lower Duwamish Feasibility Study for cleanup and the Draft Lower Duwamish River NRDA Programmatic Restoration Plan & Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (RP/PEIS).
- Reviewed and provided pre-submission edits to City of Auburn-White River Valley Museum grant application to Waterworks program.
- Secured approval of the reallocation of 2009 WRIA 9/King Conservation District (KCD) funds from Duwamish Gardens to North Wind's Weir.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included the 2009 SRFB/PSAR grant round, and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.
- Continued to refine the Habitat Work Schedule to track WRIA 9 Habitat Plan accomplishments.
- Attended the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Board meeting on July 9 to respond to questions by the board regarding the Point Heyer Acquisition grant application.

- Assisted project sponsors with grants for submission to the King Conservation District Board. The following grants were approved:
 - The Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance Duwamish Restoration and Education Project was awarded \$9,000 to improve shoreline and riverbank with native vegetation.
 - Cascade Land Conservancy received \$15,792 towards the Marine View Park Community Restoration Program for removal of invasive weeds and revegetation using native species.
 - Design work at the Downey Farmstead restoration project will proceed with a \$100,000 grant to the City of Kent.
 - A grant was awarded to the City of Auburn for design of restoration work at Mill Creek. This restoration project is in partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers through the Ecosystem Restoration Project and this funding will be used towards the local project sponsor match.
 - The City of Kent received \$250,000 towards the final design of the Riverview Park Restoration project. This is also an Ecosystem Restoration project with the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - Restoration at three sites in the Green River watershed were funded: Whitney Bridge Park, Kanaskat Natural Area, and Gary Grant Soos Creek Park. King County Water and Land Resources received \$57,000 in grant funds towards site preparation, native vegetation planting, and ensuring the survival of the plantings through the clearing and spraying of invasive vegetation, and watering of newly planted vegetation.
 - A grant amendment for an additional \$50,000 was awarded to Earth Economics to prepare a detailed analysis of potential funding mechanisms, educational materials on the funding mechanisms, and four policy briefs with further detail on funding mechanism proposals and strategies.

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

- Prepared 3-Year Workplan and narrative for 2009-2011 project planning as required by the Puget Sound Partnership.

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:

- Solicited and reviewed draft Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications for the 2009 grant cycle.
- Organized the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) field tour of 2009 SRFB and PSAR projects. This field review provided the opportunity for the TAG members to provide feedback to project sponsors on their project design.
- Organized the SRFB Review Panel field tour for this year's projects. The projects included Fenster Levee Setback and Floodplain Restoration, Mill Creek Confluence, Piner Point Bulkhead Removal, Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Phase II, Riverview Park, and Beaconsfield on the Sound.

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 and outyear project planning.
- Attended an ERP Project Management Committee meetings (July 1).

Public Outreach (half time)

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

- In cooperation with King County and the Army Corps, organized the July 28 groundbreaking for the North Wind's Weir project in the Duwamish that involved 60 elected officials, staff, and interested citizens. Arranged for speakers and drafted talking points for Rep. Zack Hudgins, Mayor Jim Haggerton, Councilmember Dow Constantine, Joanna Richey, and KCD Executive Director Jeffrey Possinger. Positive article published in July 30 Daily Journal of Commerce.
- Planned and conducted the annual "yellow bus tour" of Upper and Middle Green Rivers for 43 persons on July 14. Participants included staff from Congressional delegation in addition to regular

WRIA 9 participants. Tour resulted in positive article “Feds, local governments working to bring back salmon, steelhead runs to Green River” in Kent Reporter July 21; another article on Howard Hanson Dam was published in The News Tribune July 16.

- Provided on-camera expertise for national film on major levee removal efforts.
- Responded to three 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, King Conservation District system of assessments, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- Prepared and achieved approval of work and staff plans and budget for 2010.
- Worked with Seattle on developing in-kind services work and staff plans for 2010; obtained Forum approval of the in-kind services.
- Received Management Committee approval of and launched an Assessment of Services (requirement of the WRIA 9 ILA).
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.