

**Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9
May 1, 2010 – August 31, 2010**

Overview:

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

- Advancing the discussion of a dedicated funding mechanism to implement the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan.
- Organizing and conducting the annual “yellow bus tour” of the Middle Green, Lower Green, and Duwamish restoration sites, integrating agriculture perspectives into the itinerary.
- Increasing the outreach to the agricultural community by meeting with the King County Agriculture Commission.
- Endorsing the streamlined 2010 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Project Review Process, and approving two projects for SRFB funding: Mill Creek Mouth in Kent and Duwamish Gardens in Tukwila.
- Approving the reallocation of SRFB and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds to two projects: Fenster Levee Setback in Auburn and Duwamish Gardens Design.
- Approving 2011 ILA Budget.
- Reaching agreement on the 2011 Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services.
- 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 2010:

- Organized two meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) (May 13 and August 12).
- Finalized Funding Mechanisms policy briefs and refined the outreach strategy.
- Undertook meetings/briefings to explain and build support for the funding mechanism proposals, and drafted an outreach strategy to guide the process. Met with the following individuals:
 - State Representative Sharon Nelson and Burien Mayor Joan McGilton (June 2).
 - King County Executive Dow Constantine and Mayor McGilton (June 9).
 - Aide Emiko Atherton to King County Councilmember Julia Patterson (June 11).
 - Puget Sound Partnership staff Michael Grayum, Director of Public Affairs, and Chris Townsend, Special Assistant to the Executive Director (August 25).
- Gave funding mechanisms presentations to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (July 15), Snoqualmie Watershed Forum (July 21), and Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum (August 5).
- Gave a WRIA 9 presentation at the May 20 Agriculture Commission meeting.
- Secured approval of the 2011 ILA Budget, and the Scope of Work and Staffing Plan for ILA-funded services.
- Coordinated funding for additional technical support for advancing a watershed investment district with four non-profit foundations.
- Secured approval of the ranking and spending plan for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications.
- 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.

- Attended the July and August meetings of the Lower Green Valley Agriculture Commission Subcommittee.

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 three meetings (May 10, July 19, and August 17) of the Puget Sound Partnership South Central Action Area Caucus Group to identify, prioritize, and sequence protection, restoration, and reducing sources of pollution.
- Attended two Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meetings (May 27 and July 22).
- Attended three meetings of a subgroup of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council to develop policy on identifying habitat "projects of regional significance".
- Attended or helped plan five meetings or workshops of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (May 19, June 9 and 16, July 21, August 18).
- Attended the July 29 and 30 workshops on the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.
- Provided technical and policy review of the draft Nearshore Strategies Report.
- Provided technical and policy direction to the 2010 Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program criteria for project selection and spending plan.
- Attended four PSP Watershed Leads meetings to stay abreast of PSP developments and expectations for watersheds (May 13, June 10, July 8 and August 12).
- Participated in two Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) meetings (May 6 and July 9).

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

- Organized two meetings of the Management Committee (June 21 and July 28).
- 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.
- Prepared list of "Regionally Significant Projects" as requested by Puget Sound Partnership. Solicited feedback on prioritization of projects by Forum members.

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 H-Integration, an Adaptive Management Plan, and monitoring (June 16 and August 18).
- In a presentation to the Forum, Implementation Technical Committee members previewed the 2010 Adaptive Management Report (August 12).

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):

- Met twice with Kent Public Works director and staff and King County River and Floodplain Management Unit staff to coordinate City/County/WRIA project implementation (May 10 and August 31).
- Met with Department of Ecology oil spill response staff to encourage them to include North Wind's Weir in the Central Puget Sound Geographic Response Plan (August 26).

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, the 2010 Salmon Funding Recovery Board grant round, Community Salmon Fund, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.
- Completed SRFB grant application for the Duwamish Gardens estuary restoration on behalf of Tukwila. Completed assembly of funding package for project design.
- Updated the Habitat Work Schedule for nearshore projects in order to be considered for inclusion in the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.
- Assisted project sponsors with grants for submission to the King Conservation District Board. The following grants were approved:
 - The Riverview Park Restoration project was awarded \$690,000 to create a new side channel in the Lower Green River, which will provide off-channel access and flood refuge for fish as well as salmon spawning habitat. This grant matches \$500,000 from the SRFB, \$2.89 million through the Army Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration Project, and \$371,000 from the City of Kent.
 - King County received \$109,000 towards final design of the Big Spring Creek Restoration Project in the Newaukum Basin. This project will be ultimately be constructed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and matches \$150,000 in King County funding.
 - A grant was awarded to the City of Auburn for restoration work at the Fenster Levee Setback project. This is the final downstream project in a 2-mile long corridor River that has been restored and improved for fish passage, flood refuge, and floodplain storage along the Middle Green. The KCD grant for \$200,000, combined with \$35,000 in funds from the City of Auburn, provided the local match to a \$304,000 SRFB grant.
 - The City of Normandy Park received \$107,000 in WRIA 9 Forum funding, in addition to \$43,000 of jurisdictional funding, towards the preliminary design of the Beaconsfield on the Sound bulkhead removal project. This is also a Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project.
 - A grant for \$39,980 was awarded to King County for the Neill Point Habitat Restoration Project on Vashon-Maury Island. The project will control invasive land species and revegetate this recently acquired natural area with trees and shrubs. The majority of the plantings will be at the top of a feeder bluff, and will eventually find their way to the beach to create very important large woody debris and shading for juvenile salmon and forage fish.
 - The City of Tukwila received a grant for the design and permitting of an estuary restoration project, Duwamish Gardens, in the high priority transition zone. WRIA 9 Forum funding and Tukwila's jurisdictional funds were combined to provide the local match towards a SRFB grant for \$197,299.
 - King County received \$180,000 for the Piner Point Bulkhead Removal and Restoration project. This project, located along a coastal bluff backed beach on Vashon-Maury Island, will remove a bulkhead constructed of creosote pilings, regrade the slope to a natural angle, control invasive species, and replant with native vegetation. It matches \$63,894 in King County funding.

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

- Prepared the 3-Year Workplan and narrative for 2011-2013 project planning as required by the Puget Sound Partnership.
- Prepared a proposed list of projects for the 2011-2013 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration list as requested by Puget Sound Partnership.

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

- Solicited and reviewed draft Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) project applications for the 2010 grant cycle.
- Organized the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Review Panel field tour of 2010 SRFB projects. This field review provided the opportunity for the TAG members to provide feedback to project sponsors on their project design. It also included a “Lessons Learned” component on past projects, including a presentation on monitoring efforts at Fenster/Pautzke and a field tour of 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 one ERP Project Management Committee meeting (July 8).

Public Outreach (half time)

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

- Organized and conducted July 21 annual “yellow bus tour” of Middle Green, Lower Green, and Duwamish restoration sites that involved 45 persons. Integrated agriculture perspectives into itinerary.
- Gave tour of Kent and Tukwila restoration projects to Senator Cantwell’s staff Nate Caminos and Tommy Bauer and Congressman McDermott’s staff Rebecca Saldana August 26.
- Continued stewarding native plantings of the North Wind’s Weir estuary restoration in the Duwamish transition zone in Tukwila. Organized volunteer weeding projects (June 16, June 30, and July 16).
- Drafted article on North Wind’s Weir estuary restoration for the summer King Conservation District newsletter.
- Gave presentation to audience of 130 persons on North Wind’s Weir project at the workshop on Successful Habitat Restoration in Developed Landscapes: Overcoming Constraints and Maximizing Opportunities in Mt. Vernon (May 13).
- Participated in King County ECO Net meeting (August 11). On behalf of King County ECO Net, drafted letter of intent requesting \$10,000 from Puget Sound Partnership for stand-up display program.
- Responded to seven information request 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.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.