

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

September 1 to December 31, 2015

### Overview:

#### Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2015 focused on:

- Tracking all Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects through the fall/winter SRFB approval process, and attending the SRFB funding meeting in Olympia.
- Developing the strategy for updating the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, and obtaining Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) approval.
- Obtaining approval of the 2016-2025 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement among 16 of 17 ILA Parties.
- Securing approval of the 2016-2025 WRIA 9 Memorandum of Understanding between the WEF and King County for provisions of watershed planning-related services.
- Analyzing the results of the 2015 Program Implementation Survey, which were returned by 17 of WRIA 9 partner jurisdictions and three key non-profit organizations.
- Coordinating the \$250,000 "Green the Green" grants program for stewardship and native plantings along the Green/Duwamish River, Soos, and Newaukum Creeks.
- Converting The WRIA 9 WIRE to a web-based format and sending out eight twice-monthly editions.
- Convening a work group to develop a WRIA 9 riparian revegetation strategy and plan.
- Continuing to promote public salmon viewing at five WRIA 9 sites along the Duwamish River as part of the 2015 Salmon SEEson campaign in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- Supporting project sponsors in developing funding strategies and requests for habitat projects.
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittee and work groups to advance recovery efforts.

*The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 9 Memorandum of Understanding.*

#### **Watershed Ecosystem Forum & Regional/State Coordination**

- Organized one meeting of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (November 12). Meeting topics included: Decision and presentation on the strategy for updating the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan; update on WRIA 9 interlocal agreement (ILA) approvals; and presentation on Contamination and Early Marine Survival of Chinook Salmon from the Green River.
- Organized one meeting of the WRIA 9 Management Committee (MC) (October 28).
- Secured approval of the 2016-2025 WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement among 16 of the 17 ILA Parties.
- Secured a Memorandum of Understanding between the WEF and the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks for provisions of watershed planning-related services.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 24 and November 19).
- Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 10, October 8) and one conference call (December 17).

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- Participated in four meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (September 9, October 14, November 6, and December 9) and one workshop (October 30). Coordinated with jurisdictions and other project sponsors on developing Near-Term Actions to include for funding consideration in WRIAs 9, 8, and 10.
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (September 15).
- Attended the Green/Duwamish Watershed Advisory Group meeting (September 16).
- Briefed the King County Council on the WRIA 9 ILA (October 20).
- Attended workshop of the Regional Open Space Strategy (December 22).
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with WEF/MC and WEF staff members.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

### **WRIA Plan Implementation**

- Finalized the strategy for updating the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan, and obtained WEF approval.
- Analyzed the results of the 2015 Program Implementation Survey, which were returned by 17 WRIA 9 partner jurisdictions and three key nonprofits.
- Helped organize and attended NOAA's Duwamish Lessons Learned Symposium (November 19).
- Scheduled and facilitated three meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC). Meeting topics included: Review of the WRIA 9 scheduling proposal and brainstorm of topics for updating the Salmon Habitat Plan; agreement on revisions to the ITC charter from 2007; discussion of the Middle Green River flow and Chinook productivity analysis to seek common understanding of the findings; recap of the Upper Green tour and subwatershed conditions; presentations on contaminants in the air quality of the Green/Duwamish Basin and in Green River sediments and surface waters; recap of the Duwamish Lessons Learned Symposium; and discussion of the Riparian Revegetation update. (September 17, October 15, and December 17). Invited new members from ILA partner cities, University of Washington, and other participating groups.
- Submitted a capacity needs analysis to Puget Sound Partnership regarding the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan update. After reviewing their request for proposals for funding to update the Salmon Habitat Plan and continue work on the regional M&AM framework in one year, decided on an alternative strategy.
- Participated in one meeting of the Habitat Work Schedule committee (September 30) and one conference call of the Outreach and Communications Committee for the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) (October 19).
- Participated in two coordination meetings of Duwamish Alive and the Green River Coalition (September 23 and October 28).
- Convened a WRIA 9 Riparian Revegetation Working Group, and held three meetings to develop working group objectives, and goals, priorities, and implementation tools for a riparian revegetation strategy and plan (September 23, October 21, and December 16).
- Continued work on the Duwamish Riparian Revegetation Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant to remove knotweed and restore native vegetation along the Duwamish in Tukwila.
- Provided briefings to the WEF on Habitat Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

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### **Capital Projects Implementation**

- Tracked all Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects through the fall/winter SRFB approval process, and attended the SRFB funding meeting in Olympia (December 9).
- Coordinated the \$250,000 “Green the Green” grants program for stewardship and native plantings in the Green/Duwamish Watershed.
- Solicited information on potential fish barrier removal projects from WRIA partners, and forwarded the compiled list to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Fish Barrier Removal Board.
- Participated in one Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) half-day meeting (December 8) and updated fifteen projects in HWS.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities, attended funding workshop (December 11) and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included the National Estuary Program Watershed Restoration and Protection, Waterworks, Urban Waters Small Grants, DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program, Floodplains by Design and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Environmental Solutions for Communities.

### **Communications & Outreach**

- Continued to develop the Communications Plan to better tell the story of WRIA 9:
  - Converted The WRIA 9 WIRE to a web-based format and sent out eight twice-monthly editions.
  - Continued work on branding for all marketing and outreach materials including the final update to the Implementation Progress Report.
- Continued to promote public salmon viewing at five WRIA 9 sites along the Duwamish River as part of the 2015 Salmon SEEson campaign in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at [www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/).
- Responded to three information requests from the public, including a request for information about salmon spawning areas in Kent, the status of a Habitat Plan project in the Lower Green River, response to debris in the Duwamish.

### **Program Management and Administration**

- Conducted other general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 WEF and MC meetings.
- Coordinated across WEF on several issues, including the PSP, PSSRC, and SRFB.