

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

September 1 to December 31, 2016

Overview:

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2016 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.
- Finalizing the Riparian Revegetation Strategy and Water Quality Conservation Hypotheses for inclusion in the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan) update, and obtaining Watershed Ecosystem Forum approval.
- Continuing work on other Plan update topics and technical summaries, including climate change, water quality, project prioritization, and fish use of habitat.
- Working with King County GIS to develop the Tree Planting Collector app and coordinating the Tree Planting Viewer Workshop.
- Developing the WRIA 9 2017-2018 State Legislative priorities and 2017 Congressional Priorities.
- Continuing to promote public salmon viewing at five WRIA 9 sites along the Duwamish River as part of the 2016 Salmon SEEson campaign in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound South Central Area 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 10). Meeting topics included: Briefing on the Duwamish River shallow water habitat creation; decision on the WRIA 9 2017-2018 State Legislative priorities and 2017 Congressional Priorities; briefing on restructuring the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (Caucus Group)/Local Integrating Organizations; and decisions on the Riparian Revegetation Strategy and Water Quality Conservation Hypotheses for inclusion in the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Plan) update.
- Organized one meeting of the WRIA 9 Management Committee (MC) (October 26).
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (September 22 and December 1) and a two-day PS SRC workshop (October 18 and 19).
- Participated in two in-person meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 8 and November 10) and two conference calls (September 27 and December 17).
- Participated in two meetings of the Caucus Group (October 5 and November 2) and two sub-group work session workshops to rank Near Term Actions (September 7 and October 28).
- Attended one meeting of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (November 5).
- Attended one meeting of the Green/Duwamish Watershed Advisory Group (WAG) (September 20), one meeting of the WAG Open Space Work Group (October 11), and presented at a workshop with the WAG Stormwater Group (September 15).
- Attended meeting to plan a Business Roundtable in 2017 that will focus on increasing business community involvement in salmon recovery and watershed management (November 1).

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- 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 WRIA 9 Riparian Revegetation Strategy and Water Quality Conservation Hypotheses for inclusion in the Plan update, and presented to the WEF for approval.
- Worked with King County GIS to develop a Tree Planting Viewer and Collector app as part of the Riparian Revegetation Strategy, and held a workshop for users (December 1).
- Continued work on Plan update scheduling, capacity, and technical briefings, including climate change, water quality, project prioritization, and fish productivity and use of habitat.
- Scheduled and facilitated four meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC). Meeting topics included: review and discussion of recent studies and analyses for the Plan update; finalize the Riparian Revegetation Strategy; continue developing technical briefs for the amendment to the Scientific Foundation to the Plan update, including climate change, water quality, and fish productivity and use of habitat; discussion of schedule for Plan update and changes to the 2013 draft WRIA 9 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.
- Drafted comment letters to the Army Corps of Engineers and Seattle City Light (SEPA) regarding the Seattle City Light proposed Technical Training Center and Hamm Creek mitigation along the Duwamish River (September 8 and 20). Met with Seattle City Light regarding mitigation design (November 14).
- Attended one meeting about the Duwamish Superfund and Source Control efforts (November 9).
- Participated in one coordination meeting of Duwamish Alive and the Green River Coalition (December 5).
- Continued work on the Duwamish Riparian Revegetation Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant to remove knotweed and restore native vegetation along the Duwamish in Tukwila.
- Reviewed draft monitoring report on Green River water temperatures in summer 2015 by King County, funded by CWM.
- Provided briefings to the WEF on Habitat Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost sharing partners.

Capital Projects Implementation

- Tracked all Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) projects through the fall/winter SRFB approval process, including attending the SRFB regional area meeting (October 24) and the annual funding meeting in Olympia (December 8).
- Participated in one conference call of the Outreach and Communications Committee for the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) (November 28).
- Participated in two Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) WebEx meeting (November 14, December 12). Worked with project sponsors to obtain updated project information for twelve projects and entered the updated information in HWS on their behalf.
- Reviewed the WRIA 9 Four-Year Work Plan with PSP.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities, participated in the Healthy Watersheds Consortium grant webinar (October 25), and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities included PSAR Program, DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program, Healthy Watersheds Consortium,

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Watershed Planning Implementation and Flow Achievement, and National Fish and Wildlife Five Star and Urban Waters grant programs.

- Attended and spoke at the Leber Homestead Celebration in Kent (October 6)

Communications & Outreach

- Continued to promote public salmon viewing at five WRIA 9 sites along the Duwamish River as part of the 2016 Salmon SEEson campaign in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Participated in the “Environmental Detectives” event at Sylvester Middle School in Burien (December 8).
- Taught class (in which attendees received professional credits) on natural gardening to benefit salmon and native plants for the landscape (October 12).
- Responded to seven information requests from the public, including: water quality information to Normandy Park and Andrea Jeseck at PureBlue; Duwamish information to a student at the University of Puget Sound; interactive maps to a graduate student from Burien; Duwamish Gardens project status to King County Rivers Section; stream name to a resident in Maple Valley; and editing a salmon article for Trout Unlimited and City of Des Moines.

Program Management and Administration

- Conducted other general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Met monthly with King County Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9’s budget.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 9 WEF and MC meetings.
- Coordinated across WEF on several issues, including the PSP, PS SRC, and SRFB.