

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

September 1 to December 31, 2017

### Overview:

#### Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2017 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 technical white papers that will serve as updates to the 2005 Strategic Assessment and provide the science foundation for the forthcoming plan update.
- Promoting the eleventh annual Salmon SEEsOn campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in WRIAs 8 and 9.
- Developing 2018 state and federal WRIA 9 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Supporting project sponsors in developing funding strategies and requests for habitat projects.
- Representing WRIA 9's interests in and information to/coordination with Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition.
- Working with consultant to draft comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for 10 Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Programs in the Duwamish-Green River Basin.
- Recruiting new WRIA 9 Administrative Coordinator.

*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**

- Scheduled and staffed one meeting of the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (November 9). Meeting topics included: Presentation on the Salmon Heroes program at the Environmental Science Center; approval of the Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Partnership as a new member of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum; presentation on findings from the Green River Temperature and Salmon white paper from King County DNR; presentation, discussion, and approval of Fish Habitat Use and Productivity, Climate Change, and Temperature white papers as addendums to Science Foundation informing the Salmon Habitat Plan Update; and three presentations on habitat project accomplishments in 2017, including the Porter Reach levee setback, 10 years of monitoring on the Lower Newaukum Creek restoration project, and the Chinook Wind mitigation project.
- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the Management Committee (MC) (October 25 and December 14).
- Developed 2018 state and federal WRIA 9 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 28 and November 30)
  - September meeting focus: Decision on subcommittee proposal for bold actions; approval of draft final products of Chinook Implementation Strategy; approval of proposed 2018 PSAR Program Improvement recommendations; and approval of applying 2013-2015 PSAR Large Capital return funds to Puget Sound lead entity capacity funding through June 2018 should a capital budget not be passed by end of December.

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- November meeting focus: Decision to create a new seat for recreational anglers on SRC; discussion of Leadership Council's adoption of Regional Priorities for 2018 Action Agenda Solicitation for Near-Term Actions; discussion of letters of support related to potential legislative action for rulemaking; WRIA 8 presentation on Chinook Conservation Plan Update; update on upcoming Fishackathon; update from the Nature Conservancy on Floodplains by Design; decision on 2019-2021 PSAR grant round; and decision on 2018 SRC work plan
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area LIO Caucus Group (September 6 and November 1)
  - Meeting topics included: Presentation of WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan update and status of salmon recovery plan update processes in WRIs 9 and 10; updates on 2016 near-term actions that received funding; update on 2018 Action Agenda priorities and the Caucus Group process for soliciting and reviewing near-term actions proposed through the 2018 Action Agenda update process; and update on state and federal funding.
- Participated in two in-person meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 7 and November 9), and one conference call (October 12).
  - September meeting focus: The Puget Sound Action Agenda update and discussion around Chinook Regional Priorities in the update and the consideration of submitting Chinook restoration projects as Near-Term Actions; discussion of the outcomes of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's meeting and the implications of their decisions on the upcoming grant round and lead entity processes; and providing input on proposed changes to the PSAR grant program.
  - October conference call focus: Discussion of the decisions and next steps from the September Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meeting; further exploration of PSAR program improvements; and discussion of the 2018 grant round and various options to move forward in light of the ongoing lack of a capital budget.
  - November meeting focus: Discussion of preparations for the 2018 grant round absent a capital budget; providing input on PSAR program improvements and specifically changes to the PSAR large-capital project request for proposals; discussion of integration between lead entities and local integrating organizations; and discussion of the NTA solicitation and submitting salmon projects as NTAs.
- Coordinated with Seattle City Light and the Desimone Trust and others on project development at key sites in the Duwamish Transition Zone.
- Coordinated with cities on identification of open space needs that are consistent with the Salmon Habitat Plan as part of the County Land Conservation Initiative.
- Coordinated with King County Rivers and Floodplain Management on the update of the Salmon Habitat Plan and development of the Lower Green River Corridor Plan.
- Worked with consultant to draft comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for 10 Salmon and Steelhead Hatchery Programs in the Duwamish-Green River Basin.
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with WEF/MC and WEF staff members.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

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### WRIA Plan Implementation

- Scheduled and attended three meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) (September 20, October 18, and December 13).
  - Meeting topics included: Summary of Green River Otolith Study; update on habitat goals; presentation on effects of salmon habitat policy on shoreline development in an urbanizing watershed; update on Porter restoration; update on final CWM grant projects; presentation on Chinook productivity and habitat use white paper as an addendum to the strategic assessment; update on changes to the Green-Duwamish Contaminants paper; discussion on funding Duwamish River gauges; update on Four-Year Work Plan; presentation on Lowman Beach Park seawall removal project; and update on Salmon Habitat Plan goals.
- Worked on habitat plan update topics and technical summaries, including climate change, water quality, fish habitat use and productivity, habitat indicators, and implementation targets. Climate change, Temperature, and Fish Habitat Use and Productivity technical papers were adopted as addendums to the 2005 Strategic Assessment at the November Forum meeting.
- Participated in two WebEx meetings of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Committee, a WSC subcommittee (September 11 and November 13), and updated eleven projects in HWS.
- Provided assistance to several cost-sharing city 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, and attended the annual funding meeting in Olympia (December 7).
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support.

### Communications & Outreach

- Promoted the eleventh annual Salmon SEEson campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in WRIAs 8 and 9, which included a new viewing site at Tukwila Gardens for a total of six WRIA 9 locations.
- Worked with several ILA Parties and WEF members on WEF membership and representation.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at [www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/).
- Responded to information request from members of the public.

### Program Management and Administration

- On-boarded WRIA 9 Planning and Technical Coordinator/Miller-Walker Basin Steward position.
- Recruited the shared WRIA 9, 8, and 7 Administrative Coordinator position.
- Met monthly with King County Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9's budget.
- Conducted other general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WEF and MC meetings.
- Coordinated across WEF on several issues, including the PSP, PSSRC, and SRFB.
- Supervised work of ILA-supported staff.