

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

September 1 to December 31, 2018

### Overview:

#### Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2018 focused on:

- Tracking all Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects through the fall/winter SRFB approval process.
- Promoting the twelfth annual Salmon SEEson campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in King County.
- Developing 2019 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.
- Recruiting new WRIA 9 Habitat Project Coordinator.
- Advised student group at Seattle University on development of restoration design alternatives at Desimone Oxbow site.
- Coordinated with WRIA 9 jurisdictions on Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan.
- Conducted H-integration discussions with regional partners, Puget Sound Partnership, and NOAA Fisheries.

*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 8). Meeting topics included: Presentation on the Southern Resident Orca population; presentation on the Washington State Streamflow Restoration law; discussion on Lower Green River Flood Hazard Reduction Plan and environmental review; and presentation on King County Fish Passage Restoration Program.
- Scheduled and staffed one meeting of the Management Committee (MC) (October 24).
- Developed 2019 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 27 and November 15).
  - September meeting focus: Orca Task Force status update and feedback on initial recommendations; presentation and discussion of the 2019-2021 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration large capital projects list; presentation and discussion of recommendations from the Regulatory and Incentives Subcommittee and the Funding Subcommittee; and further discussion on a strategy and vision for reinvigorating the region's salmon recovery effort.
  - November meeting focus: Overview of Puget Sound Partnership's "Mobilizing Funding" effort; considering recommendations from the Regulatory and Incentives Subcommittee to the Leadership Council; status update on common indicators and focus on estuaries monitoring protocol development; presentation on the 2019-2021 Estuary and Salmon

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- Restoration Program investment plan; and consideration of approval of the 2018 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (September 5 and November 7).
    - Meeting topics included: Review of final near-term action scoring; discussion and approval of a process to identify and direct \$100K in available funds to a regional priority near-term action; next steps in the formation of a WRIA 10 (Puyallup/White River) local integrating organization (LIO); presentation and discussion of Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Open Space Conservation Plan and Vision 2050 planning process; discussion of priorities for the Caucus Group's 2018/2019 work plan; review of the Caucus' comment letter on the draft 2018-2022 Action Agenda for Puget Sound; approval of the recommended near-term action to receive Caucus-direct funding; discussion on draft 2018-2019 work plan; and celebration of accomplishments and discussion transitions and next steps.
  - Participated in two in-person meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 13 and November 8), and two conference calls (October 11 and December 13).
    - September meeting focus: Discussion on Lead Entity roles and responsibilities; and updates on Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) task force and work groups.
    - October conference call focus: Discussion of 2019-2021 PSAR Large Capital Projects; updates on SRKW task force; and update on Lead Entity/LIO integration workshop.
    - November meeting focus: Review of lead entity ranked lists, discussion on Steelhead Recovery Plan content and implementation; presentation on ESRP program; discussion on upcoming legislative session and engagement opportunities; and discussion on Lead Entity roles.
  - Coordinated with Seattle City Light and the Desimone Trust and others on project development at key sites in the Duwamish Transition Zone. Advised student group at Seattle University on development of restoration design alternatives at Desimone Oxbow site.
  - Coordinated with WRIA 9 jurisdictions on Lower Green River Corridor Flood Hazard Management Plan.
  - Submitted a letter of support for King County Executive comments on proposed changes to Endangered Species Act regulations.
  - Conducted H-integration discussions with regional partners, Puget Sound Partnership, and NOAA Fisheries.
  - Participated in one Lower Duwamish Waterway Stakeholders Meeting (November 7).
  - Attended Green-Duwamish Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee (December 11). WRIA 9 likely to serve as a caucus representative for interested cities.
  - 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.
  - 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**

- Scheduled and attended three meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) (September 19, October 17, and December 19).
  - Meeting topics included: Update on Lower Green River Corridor Plan; discussion on Habitat Plan Update – Watershed Wide Policies and Programs; update and demo and Tree Planter Viewer; tour of Teufel Nursery Mitigation Site; presentation on juvenile Chinook use of non-

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natal tributaries in the Lower Green; presentation on Port of Seattle habitat restoration; presentation on Cooperative Watershed Management grants; presentation on King Conservation District alignment with WRIA 9 goals and objectives; presentation on Downey Farmstead construction progress and funding outlook; and update on Porter Levee removal.

- Attended the annual Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) meeting (October 29-31).
- Participated in two WebEx meetings of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Committee, a WSC subcommittee (September 25 and November 28).
- 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.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support.

### **Communications & Outreach**

- Promoted the twelfth annual Salmon SEEson campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in King County, which included a new viewing sites in Normandy Park.
- 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**

- Recruited WRIA 9 Habitat Project 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.