

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

January 1 to April 30, 2018

Overview:

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

- Finalizing technical white papers that will serve as updates to the 2005 Strategic Assessment and provide the science foundation for the forthcoming WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan update.
- Updating 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 and scheduling a meeting with NOAA staff members to discuss a WRIA 9 H-integration pilot program proposal.
- Planning and hosting a public workshop for input on the Salmon Habitat Plan Update for over 70 attendees.
- Submitting Near Term Actions (NTAs) to Puget Sound Partnership.
- Presenting and staffing educational booths at regional symposiums, conferences, and meetings.
- Drafting letters of support for partner projects and programs.
- Conducting Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Review Panel site visits and coordinating Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant applications.
- Developing draft WRIA 9 budget options and work plan for Management Committee review and Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) approval.

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) (February 8). Meeting topics included: Presentations on and approval of Contaminants and Salmon white paper and Necessary Future Conditions & Implementation Targets as priority habitat indicators; celebration of departing WEF member Jay Covington; and discussion on NOAA Fisheries' Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 10 salmon and steelhead hatchery programs in the Green/Duwamish.
- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the Management Committee (MC) (January 24 and April 25).
- Updated 2018 state and federal WRIA 9 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (January 25 and March 22).
 - January meeting focus: Discussion of proposed 2018 boards system shared goals and connection to PS SRC work plan; update on legislative activities; approval of 2019-2021 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Large Capital Projects Request for

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- Proposals (RFP); and discussion of the PS SRC's role in reviewing Chinook Near-Term Actions.
- March meeting focus: Refresh of Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts; update on federal funding in the omnibus spending bill; approval of allocation formula for 2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funds and 2019-2021 PSAR funds; approval of regional monitoring projects policy for 2018 grant round; and 2018 legislative session summary.
 - Participated in two meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 11 and March 8) and one conference call (April 12).
 - January meeting focus: Discussion of budget and Lead Entity (LE) scope of work; steelhead recovery planning; and timeline, scoring criteria, and review process for PSAR RFPs.
 - March webex meeting focus: Legislative updates; review of 2018 Puget Sound SRFB Monitoring Project Policy; discussion of Local Integrating Organization (LIO) establishment, operating principles, and coordination between LIOs and LEs; and review of NTA submittal process.
 - April conference call focus: Updates on PSAR rapid response program concept and assessments policy; debrief and discussion of next steps on March SRC "refresh" workshop and North of Falcon meeting; and review of Lead Entity capacity scope of work.
 - Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (January 3 and March 7).
 - January meeting focus: 2018 Action Agenda NTA solicitation and review process and the role of LIOs; Caucus Group 2018 work plan; and process for addressing requests for letters of support.
 - March meeting focus: Discussion of LIO Operating Principles document produced by Puget Sound Partnership to help define roles and responsibilities of LIOs and ensure alignment with Chinook salmon recovery Lead Entities; discussion of 2018 Action Agenda near-term action (NTA) proposals and the LIO review process; and informational presentations on stormwater planning from Department of Ecology and Pierce County.
 - Participated in a South Central Action Area Caucus Group workshop on April 26 to score near-term action proposals as part of the 2018 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery.
 - 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 and the County 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 and scheduled a meeting with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) staff members to discuss a WRIA 9 H-integration pilot program proposal.
 - 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 two meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) (February 21 and March 21).
 - Meeting topics included: Input on habitat goals for Plan Update; presentation on Floodplain Vital Sign Spatial Data Refinement Project; planning for Habitat Plan Update Workshop; presentation on project updates for the Habitat Plan Update; update on Forterra's revegetation and outreach efforts throughout WRIA 9; update from Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group's work in WRIA 9; and presentation and decision on CWM funding recommendations.
- Planned and hosted a public workshop for input on the Salmon Habitat Plan Update for over 70 attendees (March 27).
- Worked on habitat plan update topics and technical summaries, including water quality, habitat indicators, and implementation targets. The Contaminants technical paper was adopted as an addendum to the Science Foundation informing the Salmon Habitat Plan Update. The Necessary Future Conditions and Implementation Targets were adopted as priority habitat indicators as part of the Salmon Habitat Plan Update.
- Participated in one WebEx meeting of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Committee, a WSC subcommittee (January 19), and updated thirteen projects in HWS.
- Submitted the following Near Term Actions (NTAs) to Puget Sound Partnership: Risk of recontamination for restored salmon habitat in the Duwamish Estuary; Effects of PCB exposure on juvenile Chinook salmon survival; Puget Sound Teacher Fellows Program; Howard Hanson Dam Downstream Fish Passage Facility facilitation and coordination; Duwamish Estuary acquisitions; and Duwamish Basin Steward.
- Provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

Capital Projects Implementation

- Conducted SRFB Review Panel site visits of Lowman Beach, Downey Farmstead, Lower and Middle Green River Revegetation, Flaming Geyer, and Porter Levee Setback projects, with additional presentations on McSorley Creek Shoreline & Pocket Estuary Restoration and Vashon-Maury Island #3 projects (April 25).
- Developed timeline for application materials and coordinated preparation of 12 grant applications for the 2018 King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding.
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support.

Communications & Outreach

- Attended 2018 GoGreen Conference on sustainability for business and public sector decision-makers (April 4), and staffed an educational table about WRIA 9 salmon recovery.
- Attended the Salish Sea Ecosystem conference (April 4-6) in Seattle, WA with scientists, First Nations and tribal government representatives, resource managers, community and business leaders, policy makers, educators, and students. Conference presenters spoke on the latest science on the state of the ecosystem and future actions for protecting and restoring the Salish Sea ecosystem. The conference featured a welcome from tribal representatives, a keynote address by former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, and plenary comments from Governor Jay Inslee and King County Executive Dow Constantine.

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- Led a tour of restoration sites on the Duwamish River for the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (March 23).
- Coordinated and participated in a panel to present on stormwater and contaminant impacts on Chinook salmon at a Green Infrastructure Partnership meeting (April 19).
- Drafted letters of support for partner groups' projects and programs aligning with WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan (Lones Levee Setback Project, King County; Riparian restoration at Fenster Nature Park, City of Auburn; Green Duwamish Project Design Lab, Sustainability Ambassadors; Downey Farmstead Restoration Project Phase 2; and Thom Wetland Mitigation Bank).
- Presented on Green-Duwamish salmon adaptive management at the Green Duwamish Symposium and staffed an educational table about WRIA 9 salmon recovery (February 26).
- 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/.
- Responded to information request from members of the public.

Program Management and Administration

- On-boarded WRIA 9 Administrative Coordinator position.
- Met monthly with King County Water and Land Resources Finance staff to monitor WRIA 9's budget.
- Developed draft WRIA 9 budget options and work plan for Management Committee review and WEF approval.
- Conducted the WRIA 9 Team work planning retreat (January 23).
- 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.