

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 9

May 1 to August 31, 2015

Overview:

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

- Obtaining Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) approval of five high-priority project applications for \$1,482,243 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant funds.
- Obtaining WEF approval of one revegetation grant round, three high-priority project applications, and six education/stewardship applications for \$1,585, 227 in Cooperative Watershed Management grant funds.
- Convening the WRIA 9 Yellow Bus Tour to bring Congressional staff, state legislators, local elected officials, and WRIA 9 partners to visit three high-priority large-scale restoration projects on the Duwamish, and learn about the people and the river.
- Writing a multi-WRIA Op-ed piece about the effects of drought conditions on threatened salmon that ran in the *Seattle Times* on September 14.
- Developing the “Green the Green” grants program for stewardship and native plantings in the Green/Duwamish Watershed.
- Finalizing the 2015 Program Implementation Survey and sending out to WRIA 9 partner jurisdictions and key nonprofits.
- Obtaining approval of the 2016 WRIA 9 budget, scope of work, and cost shares.
- Obtaining approval of the 2016-2025 Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.
- Presenting to six city councils and the King County Council TrEE Committee on the renewal of the WRIA 9 Interlocal Agreement.
- Promoting salmon viewing at three new WRIA 9 sites as part of the 2015 Salmon SEEson campaign (ninth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation, 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.

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 two meetings of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum (WEF) (May 14 and August 13).
- Organized one meeting of the WRIA 9 Management Committee (MC) (July 29).
- Finalized and obtained WEF approval of the 2016 WRIA 9 budget, scope of work, and cost shares.
- Obtained WEF approval of the 2016-2025 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) and Memorandum of Understanding
- Provided six city councils and King County Council with an ILA renewal presentation: the Cities of Maple Valley (May 11), SeaTac (May 12), Burien (May 18), Normandy Park (May 19), Des Moines (May 21), and Algona (May 26), and King County Council TrEE Committee (May 19).
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (June 4 and July 16).

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- Participated in three meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (May 16, July 2 and August 9) and five workshops (June 10, July 8, July 28, August 4, and August 12).
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound Watershed Leads (May 14 and July 9) and two conference calls (June 18 and August 20).
- Presented an overview of WRIA 9 work at a Pollution Loading Assessment Interested Parties meeting, hosted by Department of Ecology (May 28).
- Conducted e-mail correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with WEF/MC and WEF staff members.

WRIA Plan Implementation

- Coordinated the successful WRIA 9 Yellow Bus Tour to bring Congressional staff, state legislators, local elected officials, and WRIA 9 partners (56 total attendees) to visit three high-priority large-scale restoration projects on the Duwamish, and learn about the people and the river (July 14).
- Sent out the 2015 Program Implementation Survey to WRIA 9 partner jurisdictions and key nonprofits.
- Scheduled and facilitated four meetings of the Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) to learn the current status of Chinook productivity based on escapement and smolt trap counts, understand the impacts of rearing habitat quantity and flows on juvenile productivity in the Middle Green, learn about an interactive GIS map of carcass and redd distribution in the Green, decide what type of analysis could best be done using otolith markings to answer questions about fry vs. parr productivity and the focus of rearing habitat restoration, learn about current research on contaminant loading in juvenile Chinook in the Green/Duwamish relative to other river systems and discuss implications for water quality conservation hypotheses, and discuss future work items and roles for ITC members, including regional Monitoring & Adaptive Management (M&AM) and the Salmon Habitat Plan update (May 21, June 18, July 16, and August 20).
- Continued to work on the regional M&AM framework, participating in meetings to develop Common Indicators (June 18, June 24, and July 7).
- Developed a draft strategy for updating the Salmon Habitat Plan.
- Participated in one two-day meeting (June 9 and 10) of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) and other WSC meetings:
 - One WebEx (May 5) and one conference call (May 20) of the Funding Committee for WSC; and
 - One conference call of the Outreach and Communications Committee for WSC (July 13).
- Attended the biannual Washington State Salmon Recovery Conference (May 27-29) in Vancouver, WA with over 750 scientists, fisheries managers, policy makers, education and outreach professionals, and interested citizens to share information and celebrate salmon recovery efforts in Washington and the greater Pacific Coast. Presented a talk about the Duwamish Blueprint.
- Participated in coordination meetings of Duwamish Alive and the Green River Coalition (June 24, July 22 and August 26).
- Continued work on the Duwamish Riparian Revegetation Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant to remove knotweed and restore native vegetation along the Duwamish in Tukwila.

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- Provided briefings to the WEF on Habitat Plan implementation issues, and provided assistance to several cost-sharing city partners.

Capital Projects Implementation

- Assisted project sponsors with Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant applications. The following list of projects/programs for \$1,585,846 in CWM funds was approved at the May 14 WEF meeting:
 - Revegetation Grant Round (\$250,000);
 - Mill Creek Leber Restoration (construction) – City of Kent (\$558,000);
 - Downey Farmstead Restoration Phase I (construction) – City of Kent (\$106,227);
 - McSorley Pocket Estuary Restoration (final design) – WA State Parks/WRIA 9 (\$250,000);
 - Environmental Science Center – City of Burien (\$30,000);
 - WRIA 9 Capital Implementation/Outreach & Communication Products – WRIA 9 (\$250,000);
 - Improving Watershed Health Environmental Education – Environmental Science Center (\$30,000);
 - Green River Smolt Trap – WA Department of Fish and Wildlife (\$40,000);
 - 2015 Green River Temperature Data Compilation and Report – King County Water and Land Resources Division (\$15,000);
 - Juvenile Salmon Use in the Duwamish – University of Washington (\$65,000); and
 - Beach Naturalist Program – Seattle Aquarium (\$21,000).
- Attended meetings of the Flood Control District (FCD) Executive Committee (June 4 and 15). The Executive Committee unanimously approved a recommendation that the FCD Board of Supervisors approve the full package of CWM grants.
- Assisted project sponsors with SRFB/PSAR grant applications. The following prioritized list of projects for \$1,428,243 was approved at the May 14 WEF meeting:
 - Mill Creek Leber Restoration (construction) – City of Kent (\$292,000);
 - Downey Farmstead Restoration Phase I (construction) – City of Kent (\$700,00);
 - Duwamish Garden (construction) – City of Tukwila (\$36,423);
 - Lones/Turley Levee Setback (construction) – King County (\$200,000); and
 - Maury Island Aquatic Reserve (acquisition) – King County (\$200,000).
- Also approved at the May 14 WEF meeting was a request from Tukwila for up to \$200,000 in returned King Conservation District funds, or other funding that may become available, to cover unanticipated costs for the Duwamish Gardens project.
- Developed the \$250,000 “Green the Green” grants program for stewardship and native plantings in the Green/Duwamish Watershed, with a \$50,000 minimum and \$100,000 maximum grant award.
- Continued to work with King County’s Mitigation Reserve Program to acquire the Chinook Wind project site on the Duwamish and relocate the current residents to better housing.
- Attended Habitat Work Schedule training (August 4) and updated eleven projects in Habitat Work Schedule.
- Scheduled site visit to Myrtle Edwards Park and Smith Cove to explore restoration opportunities with City of Seattle.
- Supported local sponsors working on ERP projects, including Porter Levee Setback and Lones/Turley Levee Setback. Assisted with planning and attended one ERP Project Management Committee meeting (June 24).
- Distributed information to local governments about grant opportunities and assisted project sponsors with grant applications, including letters of support. These grant opportunities

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included the American Forests ReLeaf, King County Waterworks, and Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Funds.

Communications & Outreach

- Wrote a cross WRIA Op-ed piece about the effects of drought conditions on threatened salmon that ran in the *Seattle Times* on September 14.
- Promoted salmon viewing at three new WRIA 9 sites (Whitney Bridge [Green River], Soos Creek Hatchery, and Longfellow Creek) as part of the 2015 Salmon SEEson campaign (ninth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation, in cooperation with WRIA 8.
- Prepared 2015 Implementation Survey to distribute to 17 jurisdictions and three NGOs.
- Continued to develop the Communications Plan to better tell the story of WRIA 9:
 - Sent out nine twice-monthly editions of The WRIA 9 WIRE.
 - Continued work on branding for all marketing and outreach materials including support and participation in “SwimDuwamish.”
 - Updated six WRIA 9 project fact sheets.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 9 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/9/.
- Responded to three information requests from the public, including a request for information about Salmon Creek in Burien.

Program Management and Administration

Conduct general administration work in support of ILA implementation:

- Submitted a progress report and final billing to RCO for the second fiscal year of funding through the 2013-2015 Lead Entity contract.
- 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.