

## WRIA 8 Update

Feb. 16, 2012

- **King County River Management Survey** - In the fall of 2011, a telephone survey of more than 700 King County residents was conducted to better understand their views about, and awareness of, river management priorities and how rivers are valued. The telephone survey found that more than 80 percent of those surveyed believe rivers are extremely important and residents highly value habitat and flood protection and river recreation. A report on the survey findings is available at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wlr/sections-programs/river-floodplain-section/river-survey-2011.aspx>
- **Independent Review of King County's River and Floodplain Management Practices** – In response to criticism of its river and floodplain management practices, King County commissioned an independent, expert review of its practices related to the following four objectives: protecting public safety, preventing property damage from flooding, recovering salmon, and providing recreation.

The Department of Natural Resources and Parks is seeking feedback on the report findings and recommendations. This feedback should be sent to Department Director Christie True at [christie.true@kingcounty.gov](mailto:christie.true@kingcounty.gov) by March 2, 2012. The report can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/dnrp/publications/wlr-expert-review-report.aspx>

- **Refining WRIA 8 Grant Criteria** - The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee annually reviews and scores projects to make funding recommendations for the WRIA 8 King Conservation District and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant processes. To support this review and scoring process, WRIA 8 uses criteria to help ensure projects are evaluated according to the WRIA 8 Plan's recovery priorities. In past grant rounds, the Project Subcommittee has found the project scoring criteria challenging to apply and not particularly helpful in developing their funding recommendations. Refining these criteria to more clearly reflect the Plan's recovery priorities and strategy was identified as an important improvement to the grant round process.

Over the past month, the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee, Technical Committee, and Implementation Committee have been working to refine the grant scoring criteria to better and more clearly reflect the WRIA 8 Plan priorities. The updated criteria will be used as a tool to provide a transparent, quantitative and reproducible framework to assist the Project Subcommittee in evaluating project proposals and discussing funding recommendations. The updated criteria will be finalized by the beginning of March, for the Project Subcommittee to use in the 2012 grant rounds. The updated criteria will be distributed to project sponsors who indicate their intention to apply, so they can see and understand the criteria that will be used to review their proposals. Some or all of the criteria may also be used by the Technical Committee to respond to the regional Recovery Implementation Technical Team's (RITT) request for more prioritization of projects on the WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan.

- **Puget Sound Regional Update:**

**WRIA 8 Comments on Draft Puget Sound Action Agenda** (PS AA Update) – Comments on the updating of the PS AA, the plan for recovering Puget Sound, were due on Feb. 3. Since the Jan. 19 WRIA 8 SRC meeting was canceled due to weather, Jean White worked with the WRIA 8 Management Committee to review and finalize the comment letter. See letter in meeting packet.

The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council** (PS SRC) met on Jan. 19. Meeting topics included: a proposal to create an executive committee for the Council (Dr. Davidson will serve on the committee); the roles and purpose of the PS SRC and its workplan for 2012; the monitoring and adaptive management framework being developed by NOAA’s Recovery Implementation Technical Team; next steps on Steelhead recovery planning; updates on Habitat Action Plan Progress (federal & state agency response to the Tribal White Paper). The PS SRC also sent a letter commenting on the Puget Sound Action Agenda update and called for implementation of the salmon recovery plans to be one of the strategic priorities (3-4 top priorities) for near term action. The federal and state agencies seem to be taking the call to increase habitat protection seriously and are focusing their efforts on enforcement and existing authorizes related to shoreline management, floodplain connectivity and stormwater.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus Group** met on Feb. 13. They discussed their comments on the PS AA Update and heard from Puget Sound Partnership staff about how the near term priorities in the Update will be prioritized by the Ecosystem Coordination Board. To advance their priority of increasing shoreline protection and regulatory effectiveness, the Caucus approved a proposal for its staff to inventory and review Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) programs in the South Central Action Area, and identify barriers to implementation and model approaches and tools that would be of assistance to jurisdictions still updating their SMPs.

### **WRIA 8 Committee Reports**

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – Met on Feb. 1. Approved 2012 Technical Committee work program and had a workshop on updates to WRIA 8 project prioritization and scoring criteria for grant funding.
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – Met on Feb. 7. Committee discussed the RITT’s feedback to WRIA 8 for the 2011 Three-Year Workplan Update; WRIA 8 project prioritization and scoring criteria for grant funding; and what it would mean to partner with the Watershed Report.
- **Green Shorelines** – Posted seven stories to the new Green Shorelines blog on topics such as the Madrona Woods restoration project, the innovative decision tree that’s part of Kirkland’s new SMP and frequently asked questions about green shorelines. Promoted the blog to WRIA 8, shoreline planners, local governments and through the Ecology blog. So far, the blog has received 1,152 views, and has 135 followers.