

## WRIA 8 Update

November 15, 2012

- **Oct. 5 WRIA 8 Salmon Tour** – On October 5, WRIA 8 held its annual Salmon Tour. Participants included several WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members; local elected officials; Derek Stanford, State Representative to the 1st Legislative District; state legislative and federal congressional staff; and staff from multiple state agencies. The tour focused on three exciting project sites in the northern portion of the watershed, including on North Creek, Little Bear Creek, and Lower Bear Creek. A major highlight were over two dozen sockeye salmon traveling through and spawning in the newly restored stream channel at the Little Bear Creek salmon barrier removal project. The celebration event for this project was part of the tour and included comments from Bernie Talmas – Woodinville Mayor, Tom Murdoch – Adopt A Stream Foundation Executive Director, Dr. Don Davidson – WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Chair and Bellevue Councilmember, and Tony Wright – Puget Sound Partnership Director. The project and celebration received good media coverage before and after the tour.

Over lunch along the Sammamish River, City of Redmond staff described the Sammamish River Walk effort to restore habitat on the banks of the Sammamish River, and Army Corps of Engineers staff presented on the equipment, operational, and fish passage improvements needed at the Ballard Locks. The group had a good, constructive discussion of raising awareness and developing a funding strategy for the needed improvements to the Locks.

Tour participants engaged in lots of good networking and made some great connections that will be very beneficial to our salmon recovery efforts moving forward. The tour information materials are available on the WRIA 8 website.

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** held an implementation conference on Oct. 10-12 to set priorities for Council actions to advance implementation of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. They will meet again on Sept. 29 to adopt their 2013 workplan based on their implementation conference findings. Their 2013 workplan is ambitious and is likely to include: addressing the lack of funding for salmon recovery especially during the upcoming legislative session; supporting monitoring and adaptive management of the 14 Puget Sound watershed plans; and future workshops to address permitting issues for restoration projects, regulatory loopholes and balancing growth & salmon in urban areas.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** met on Oct. 15. Agenda topics included: Action Agenda Update highlights; a presentation by Jill Coyle about a survey done of 36 jurisdictions on their Shoreline Master Plan updates; and the Caucus's workplan for 2013.

- **WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management Grants** – On October 29, the King County Flood Control District (FCD) approved (by an 8-1 vote) a resolution for the FCD to fund WRIA activities and projects previously funded by the King Conservation District. The resolution calls for maintaining the 2012 funding level (\$3M) and allocation between the Snoqualmie, WRIA 8 and WRIA 9 (20%, 40% and 40% or \$600K, \$1.2M and \$1.2M, respectively). The resolution provides an additional \$150K for salmon recovery activities in the King County portion of the WRIA 10 watershed. Under the resolution, the FCD indicates its intent to continue WRIA funding and allow for inflation and growth in WRIA funding over time. The grant process for awarding WRIA

grants would remain the same as 2012, in which the WRIA Forums make grant recommendations. On November 5, the FCD Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to include funding for WRIA salmon recovery projects and programs in the FCD's 2013 budget, as described in the approved resolution. WRIA 8 will manage a 2013 Cooperative Watershed Management grant round to allocate \$1.2M to projects and programs that implement WRIA 8 Plan priorities for Chinook recovery.

- **King Conservation District (KCD) Funding** – On August 1, the KCD submitted a proposed system of rates and charges and a proposal for their 2013 budget and work plan to King County Council, which did not include funding reserved directly for WRIAs. Between August and October the County Council and KCD discussed the proposed KCD budget and work plan. On October 29, the King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors approved a resolution to provide funding for WRIA activities through the King County Flood Control District rather than KCD. Subsequently, KCD modified and reduced its original proposed 2013 work plan and budget submitted to the County Council, to reflect the Council's expressed desire that funding for WRIA activities be revenue neutral to the median county tax payer. On November 5, the County Council held a public hearing on the KCD budget and work plan. On November 13, the County Council approved a KCD budget, which reflects a system of rates and charges that is close-to-revenue-neutral and includes \$1.2M for KCD member jurisdiction grants. The approved system of rates and charges is for a two year period, and the District will be required to prepare and adopt a revised work plan and associated budget by December 7, 2012. Additionally, by no later than the end of 2013, KCD and King County shall jointly convene a multi-jurisdictional task force to conduct a needs assessment of conservation and natural resource programs and services in King County, and existing and prospective sources of funding to meet such needs.
- **Fish Returns** – (handout) 2012 redd surveys are winding down, but still have a week or two until the end. So far we have about 396 Chinook redds in the Cedar River system, which is slightly above the 13-year average of 380 redds. Bear Creek and other Sammamish population tributaries also are being surveyed. The Bear/Cottage Lake system so far in 2012 has reported 146 redds, which is slightly above the 11-year average of 125.
- **Green Shorelines** – WRIA 8 has hired Polly Freeman on a very limited term basis to help promote the outreach materials that Annette Frahm developed as the Green Shorelines Outreach Coordinator with shoreline planners. The Green Shorelines Steering Committee is talking about how their meetings might be facilitated in the future without WRIA 8 staffing and future of Green Shorelines outreach. The new NOAA Coastal Fellow with the WA Dept. of Ecology, Kelsey Gianou, agreed to facilitate two meetings of the Committee (see November meeting summary under committee reports).
- **Trees for Streams** – The WRIA 8 Team evaluated the Washington State departments of Ecology and Commerce Watershed Management request for grant proposals as a possible funding source for the Trees for Streams concept, but do not feel it is a good fit. We will continue to look at other potential funding sources that are a closer match for our "trees for streams" proposal to work with public and private landowners to improve riparian area protection and restoration in our watershed.

### **WRIA 8 Committee Reports**

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – Met on October 3 and November 7. Meeting topics included lengthy discussions on New Zealand Mud Snails, the 2011 Three-year work plan update review by PSP and RITT, a review of Committee work plan for 2011 and discussion of upcoming Coordinator projects (Stream Surveys analysis and reporting, preparation for Plan 10-Year update, invasive species outreach, and monitoring/adaptive management coordination with regional efforts).
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – Met on Nov. 6. Agenda topics included an update on WRIA 8 grant funding, the 2013 WRIA 8 meeting schedule and preparation for the Nov. 15 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meeting. Peter Holte (City of Redmond staff and member of the STORM Coalition) shared the very positive results of Phase 1 of the Puget Sound Starts Here Campaign. For Phase 2, there is a call for classic Northwest stories to catch the attention and inspire the willing, but very busy members of the public to take actions to benefit Puget Sound. The stories are more about the Northwest life style then direct Puget Sound messaging. Please submit story ideas by December 1, 2012 using this website:  
<http://pugetsoundstartshere.org/pssh-stories/>.
- **Green Shoreline Steering Committee Meeting** – Met on Nov. 5. Meeting was facilitated by Kelsey Gianou, the new NOAA Coastal Fellow, who will be working on a Green Shorelines related project for the next two years at the Washington Dept. of Ecology. Meeting topics included: a statewide EPA grant being written by Dept. of Ecology for their “Our Living Shorelines” shoreline education project; a presentation on a Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) study done on behalf of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus (36 jurisdictions were interviewed regarding their SMP updates); Kelsey Gianou reported on the topic of her Coastal Fellow project: SMP guidance for shoreline planners related to shoreline armoring and promotion of “green shoreline” tools for marine areas; planned green shorelines workshops for realtors and Master Builders in spring 2013; a proposal by the Master Builders Associate to build a green shorelines demonstration project at Port Susan; and an update on implementation of the Green Shores for Homes EPA grant to develop a certification incentive program for both fresh and marine shorelines. The Committee will meet again in late January to how it might continue in the future without WRIA 8 staffing.