

# WRIA 8 Update and Committee Reports

May 15, 2014

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- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** last met on March 27. Agenda topics included updates on the process and schedule for developing the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration capital program request to the legislature for the 2015-2017 biennial budget, integration of salmon recovery into Growth Management, monitoring and adaptive management and salmon recovery plan updates, and steelhead recovery planning. The PS SRC meets next on May 22.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** last met on April 21. The meeting agenda included an update on the Building Cities in the Rain project and review of the Caucus Group submittal of local Puget Sound recovery near-term actions for the 2014 Puget Sound Action Agenda update.

- **WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council membership letters sent** – At the March Salmon Recovery Council meeting, the SRC provided guidance to WRIA 8 staff to draft and send letters to the organizations that were approved to be added to the Council (Long Live the Kings and Alderwood Water and Wastewater District), to the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts to thank them for filling their existing seat on the Council, to the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Army Corps of Engineers to request they identify representatives to fill their current seats on the Council, and to NOAA to request they consider membership on the Council and appoint a representative.
- **WRIA 8 comments on proposed Salmon Recovery Funding Board riparian buffer guidance** – The state Recreation and Conservation Office is proposing guidance for minimum riparian buffers along streams, lakes, and rivers for restoration projects seeking state Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants. While larger riparian buffer widths generally support better habitat function, there are constraints in urban areas – such as utilities, commercial and industrial land uses, and recreational facilities (e.g., park amenities, regional trail systems, etc.) – that should be taken into consideration when implementing salmon recovery, which should not preclude sponsors from seeking these important grant funds to implement projects. On April 30, WRIA 8 submitted comments on the proposed minimum buffer guidance to share this perspective. Comments received will be reviewed and included with a staff report to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at its public meeting on June 4 in Olympia.
- **2014 grant rounds** – The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee met over two days in late April – early May to visit project sites and evaluate submittals to the Cooperative Watershed Management grant program. The results of this evaluation will be presented for Salmon Recovery Council decision at the May 15 council meeting and are detailed in the Project Subcommittee report contained in the May 15 meeting packet. The Project Subcommittee will also visit sites for projects submitted for 2014 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grants on May 21. The Subcommittee

will evaluate five proposals. Of these, four proposals requesting \$944,546 will compete for \$783,356. The fifth proposal is seeking approval as a WRIA 8 submittal for the PSAR large-capital project legislative request for the 2015 – 2017 biennium and is seeking \$2.5 million. The Subcommittee’s funding recommendations for these funds will be presented to the Salmon Recovery Council at the July 17 meeting.

- **Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference highlights related to WRIA 8** – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator Scott Stolnack presented initial highlights from the EPA-funded, 5-year Wadeable Streams Status and Trends monitoring project to a packed conference-room. Other notable sessions included a regional study of juvenile Chinook outmigrant abundance and survival, a new research project investigating ways to protect and restore small watersheds using stream bugs as an indicator of habitat quality, and research demonstrating the importance of small, non-natal streams for juvenile Chinook salmon rearing.

### **WRIA 8 Committee Reports**

- **WRIA 8 Technical Committee** – Met April 2. Continued discussing products for the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Adaptive Management framework: Results Chains, indicators, and reporting. Made significant progress in documenting project elements and incorporating into the Miradi program.
- **WRIA 8 Implementation Committee** – The Committee met on April 8 and May 13. Agenda topics at the April meeting included review and discussion of the WRIA 8 monitoring and adaptive management project, discussion of the WRIA 8 2015 budget projections and draft work plan, and review of the topics for the May 15 Salmon Recovery Council meeting. Agenda topics at the May meeting included review of the WRIA 8 Management Committee 2015 budget and work plan recommendation, WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Cooperative Watershed Management grant round recommendations, discussion of the proposed schedule for the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement renewal, and preparation for the May 15 Salmon Recovery Council meeting. The Committee next meets on July 8.
- **Green Shoreline Steering Committee Meeting** – The Steering Committee did not meet since the last SRC meeting. The Steering Committee will continue to coordinate meetings in conjunction with Salish Sea Shoreline Forums.