



- Beaux Arts Village
- Belleveue
- Bothell
- Clyde Hill
- Edmonds
- Hunts Point
- Issaquah
- Kenmore
- Kent
- King County
- Kirkland
- Lake Forest Park
- Maple Valley
- Medina
- Mercer Island
- Mill Creek
- Mountlake Terrace
- Mukilteo
- Newcastle
- Redmond
- Renton
- Sammamish
- Seattle
- Shoreline
- Snohomish County
- Woodinville
- Woodway
- Yarrow Point

- Cedar River Council
- Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
- Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
- Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- Long Live the Kings
- Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Northwest Marine Trade Association
- Sno-King Watershed Council
- Trout Unlimited
- Water Tenders

- Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Washington Departments:
 - Ecology
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Natural Resources
- Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
- King Conservation District

June 20, 2014

Will Stelle
 Regional Administrator for the West Coast Region,
 NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service
 7600 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115-0070



Dennis McLerran
 Regional Administrator for Region 10, Environmental Protection Agency
 1200 Sixth Avenue
 Mail Code: RA-140
 Seattle, WA 98101

Phil Anderson
 Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
 600 Capitol Way N.
 Olympia, WA 98501

Sheida Sahandy
 Director, Puget Sound Partnership
 Center for Urban Waters
 326 East D Street
 Tacoma, WA 98421

Kaleen Cottingham
 Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
 P.O. Box 40917
 Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear Federal and State agency partners in Puget Sound salmon recovery,

As Chair of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, which is comprised of 28 local governments, businesses, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies who have been working since 2000 to recover Puget Sound Chinook salmon in our watershed, we encourage you to fund Phase II of the WRIA 8's monitoring and adaptive management (M&AM) project. Continued federal and state funding and support is necessary to see this project through and fully realize the value of the investment in the work to date.

Monitoring and adaptive management is critical to the long-term success of salmon recovery. When the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) adopted the chapters of the Puget Sound Salmon

Recovery Plan in 2007, the agency did so expecting that each watershed and the region would develop monitoring and adaptive management plans to guide and track the recovery effort. Initiating this work has been hindered by a lack of funding and regional guidance from all levels of government, including local, state and federal governments.

In 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided funds to Puget Sound watersheds through the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) for Phase I of a monitoring and adaptive management (M&AM) project. The project provided the support needed for watersheds to translate their recovery plans into a common framework for monitoring and adaptive management. We would like to thank EPA and PSP for this funding support, which enabled us to complete Phase I of this effort in early June. However, significant work remains to fully develop an M&AM plan that integrates knowledge acquired since our recovery plan was adopted in 2006 and establishes goals and metrics to guide future implementation of our plan. WRIA 8 encourages EPA, NOAA, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), and PSP to continue to support this important work by funding Phase II. Only with continued regional support will watersheds be able to complete local monitoring and adaptive management plans that improve our implementation tracking, refine our strategies for salmon recovery, and enhance our local efforts to recover salmon at the regional scale.

As we approach the first decade of implementing the Chinook recovery plan, we more fully understand that monitoring and adaptive management are critically important to honing watersheds' strategic, science-based, and cost effective recovery strategies. Phase I support of this work provided the following:

1. A common regional framework for adaptive management that previously did not exist, enabling and enhancing reporting on recovery progress both locally and regionally;
2. A draft list of prioritized habitat indicators in order to track the most important habitat elements;
3. A refined and much more explicit chain of logic explaining how our strategies will lead to results (and improved Chinook viability), which will help us further prioritize implementation activities and monitoring; and
4. A tool to help us more effectively and simply communicate our progress, our logic, and our needs.

All 16 watersheds around Puget Sound completed this work and identified gaps in their strategies, monitoring plans, and adaptive management processes that they would like to fill as part of a 10-year plan update. Phase I of this project set the stage for us to vertically integrate our tracking of progress at the watershed and regional scales. Phase II will allow us to realize the potential of this performance management system for guiding future implementation, tracking, and reporting of salmon recovery in Puget Sound. This is an investment that needs to be seen through to the end.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making federal and state funding decisions and applauds your continued support and leadership in salmon recovery. Thank you for considering support for Phase II of this critical work to continue to ensure that the effort to recover salmon and restore the health of Puget Sound is strategic and science-based.

Please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov for further information.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Larry Phillips
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council

cc: Elizabeth Babcock, NOAA, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Coordinator
Rick Parkin, Environmental Protection Agency
Jennifer Quan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeanette Dorner, Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery Program Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Martha Kongsgaard, Chair, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council
David Troutt, Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council members