

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2016

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the first trimester of 2016 focused on:

- Coordinating and hosting the WRIA 8 Salmon Summit to celebrate ten years of WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan (Plan) implementation progress, and identify priorities and motivate partners for future implementation.
- Completing and distributing the WRIA 8 Implementation Progress Report, print and online versions, to document ten years of implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan.
- Working with project sponsors to develop eighteen grant applications for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM), Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding.
- Coordinating WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee site visits, review, and ranking of fourteen grant proposals to develop recommendations for \$1,950,000 in CWM funds.
- Coordinating WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee site visits, review, and ranking of four grant proposals to develop recommendations for \$315,000 in SRFB funds and \$1,457,542 in PSAR funds.
- Beginning Puget Sound Partnership grant-supported work to complete the monitoring and adaptive management (M&AM) process and the ten-year update to the Plan
- Developing draft WRIA 8 2017 budget and work plan for Management Committee review and Salmon Recovery Council approval.
- Developing additional WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Plan project updates to the Four-Year Work Plan and Ten-Year Start List.
- Updating the 2016 state and federal legislative priorities.
- Communicating legislative priorities to state legislators conveying the importance of salmon recovery funding.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Representing WRIA 8's interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittees and work groups to advance regional and statewide salmon recovery efforts.

The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding.

Salmon Recovery Council Coordination/Puget Sound Partnership

- Coordinated and hosted the all-day WRIA 8 Salmon Summit (February 4) to celebrate ten years of WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan (Plan) implementation progress, discuss and get feedback on WRIA 8 priorities and implementation approach, and motivate partners for future implementation. 110 participants attended the Summit.
- Scheduled and staffed one meeting of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (March 17). Meeting topics included: Decision on sending a letter to the Congressional delegation encouraging support for federal salmon recovery funding; decision on WRIA 8 sponsorship of "Our Urban Watershed" signage; King County (KC) WRIA 8 Service Provider Client Satisfaction Survey results for 2015; decision on proposed additions to the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan update; presentation on KC Land Conservation Initiative; presentation on Ballard Locks infrastructure improvements and recent fish passage improvement related activities; and success story presentation on the acquisition of Wayne Golf Course on the Sammamish River in Bothell.

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2016

- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC) (January 28 and March 24).
 - January meeting focus: Presentation on integrating management goals for habitat restoration, hatchery management, and harvest management (aka, “H-Integration”) and the need to align goals to support salmon population recovery; spending plan for supporting watersheds with recovery plan updates and development of monitoring plans; legislative priorities, 2017-2019 recovery planning priorities, and funding policy decisions on the regional funding allocation for capital grant funding; development of a proposed funding level for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program in the 2017 legislative session, a policy for allocating unobligated PSAR funds from previous biennium budgets, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board’s (SRFB) policy to allow salmon recovery regions to allocate up to 10% of their capital grant funding for priority monitoring activities.
 - March meeting focus: Overview and update on the process for developing a Chinook Implementation Strategy as part of strategies being developed to implement Puget Sound recovery; presentation on steelhead lifecycle analysis modeling for recovery planning; update on early results of the Marine Survival Project by Long Live the Kings; review of the approach to scoring the viable salmonid population criteria for the PSAR Large Capital project list; and a discussion of draft regional salmon recovery implementation priorities for the 2017-2019 legislative session.
- Participated in three meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (January 14, March 10, and April 5) and one conference call (February 12).
 - January meeting focus: Discussion of the 2016 grant round, including procedures for unobligated PSAR funds, PSAR large capital return funds policies, and SRFB monitoring projects; discussion of monitoring and adaptive management and updating the common indicators; and an overview of the regional Chinook implementation strategy and the process to engage watersheds in developing the strategy.
 - February conference call focus: Reviewed decisions from the January meeting of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council and the implications of the decisions on the 2016 grant round; prepped for the grant round through a conversation with RCO staff on policy and procedure changes for 2016; continued conversations about updating the Four-Year Work Plan and using HWS for work plan updates; and discussed potential regional support for a data steward to assist watersheds with HWS data entry.
 - March meeting focus: Continued the conversation on project list development for the 2016 grant round; discussed the PSAR large capital project solicitation and Puget Sound Partnership’s (PSP) expectations; received an update on regional technical support for watersheds and how regional technical contractors will engage in the Four-Year Work Plan review process; discussed updating the nearshore chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan; and discussed watershed needs for regional support.
 - April meeting focus: This meeting involved two parts—a normal Watershed Leads meeting in the morning and an afternoon workshop on the Chinook Implementation Strategy. The Watershed Leads meeting focused on: The Viable Salmonid Population criteria and scoring for PSAR large capital projects, and the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) needs for watershed use of HWS, and the opportunities and challenges experienced by watersheds in using HWS to the degree desired by GSRO. The Chinook Implementation Strategy workshop involved: An overview of the purpose and the relationship to other Puget Sound Vital Signs and the regional salmon recovery chapter and discussion about regional results chains; the challenges in advancing protection and restoration; and gaps where regional support for local strategies may be needed to effectively advance recovery.

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2016

- Participated in three meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (February 3, March 2, and April 6). Meeting topics included: PSP's request for proposals for near-term actions (NTAs) for the 2016 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery; the process for a similar Caucus Group solicitation for local area near-term actions; reviewing proposal NTAs submitted by local project sponsors; and initial discussions about how to prioritize among local NTAs for future funding that may be allocated to local integrating organizations like the Caucus Group.
- Participated in one workshop of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (April 21) to develop goal statements for a group of select vital signs for Puget Sound recovery, including floodplains, land cover/development, Chinook salmon, shoreline armoring, and freshwater quality.
- Attended Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife "North of Falcon" public meeting to hear status of state-tribal "co-manager" negotiations and analyses of preliminary fishery proposals for Puget Sound sport and commercial fisheries (March 30).
- Participated in an interview with King 5 News, "Chinook Recovery Hits 10-Year Mark". The interview was filmed at the Rainbow Bend site on the Cedar River, and broadcast March 16.
- Briefed new SRC member representatives from Kirkland (February 17), King County (March 7 and April 7), Newcastle (March 9), Mercer Island (March 11), and Renton (March 30).
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Completed the WRIA 8 Implementation Progress Report, both online and print versions, to document ten years of implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan, including accomplishments, lessons learned, and future challenges and priorities. Distributed online and print versions to funders, local, state and federal electeds, partners and others.
- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (January 12, March 3, and April 7). Meeting topics included: Results from the survey of local government and non-profit partners; implementation of WRIA 8 Plan programmatic priorities; 2016 grant round schedule; status of the ten-year Implementation Progress Report; planning, preparation, and debrief of the WRIA 8 Salmon Summit; WRIA 8 Plan update timeline and schedule for IC engagement; proposed additions to the Four-Year Work Plan; review of the draft March 17 SRC meeting topics; WRIA 8 Service Provider Survey results; discussion of the draft 2017 budget and work plan; and discussion of draft framework for a communications and outreach strategy as part of the WRIA 8 Plan update.
- Worked with project sponsors to develop fourteen grant applications for WRIA 8 King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding.
- Conducted Project Subcommittee (PSC) site visits and facilitated the PSC's development of funding recommendations for fourteen CWM grant proposals (April 4 and 7).
- Worked with project sponsors to develop four grant applications for SRFB and PSAR funding.
- Conducted PSC site visits and facilitated the PSC's development of funding recommendations for four SRFB/PSAR grant proposals (April 12-13).
- Developed additional WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Plan project updates to the Four-Year Work Plan and Ten-Year Start List, vetted the updates with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC), and presented recommendations to the SRC and PSP.
- Participated in the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) retreat (February 9-11), which focused on: Aligning with the Salmon Recovery Network on legislative issues for the 2017 session; finalizing the development of a WSC logo for outreach materials and correspondence; engaging

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

January 1 to April 30, 2016

partners and considering ways to enhance existing outreach efforts; reviewing local examples of ways climate change is incorporated into updated recovery strategies; and engaging with the SRFB Review Panel Chair and Co-Chair on issues they observed in the 2015 grant round and ways Lead Entities can address those in 2016.

- Participated in three WebEx meetings of the WSC Executive Committee (January 25, March 21, and April 18), which focused on: Coordination with GSRO and RCO; revisions to the Washington Administrative Code related to the SRFB and Lead Entity process; legislative outreach; grant round process and policy updates; updates on the Salmon Recovery Network; updates on the Fish Barrier Removal Board and direction the Board is taking for 2016; and planning for the February WSC winter meeting.
- Participated in three WebEx meetings of the WSC Outreach and Communications Committee (February 5, March 28, and April 25).
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated four WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (January 13, February 10, March 9, and April 6). Meeting topics included: Debriefing from the November Technical Forum and preparations for the WRIA 8 Implementation Progress Report, Summit, and Plan update; presentations on juvenile Chinook use of small non-natal streams, juvenile salmonid use of the Rainbow Bend restoration project, and large-scale restoration plans for the Cedar River Riverbend restoration project; discussion and approval of Four-Year Work Plan additions; WRIA 8 Chinook conceptual model development; literature review of recent studies relevant to Chinook conservation.
- Began work on PSP-funded support for WRIA 8's monitoring and adaptive management (M&AM) process and the ten-year update to the Plan.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the Salmon Recovery Council.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Completed summary of the 2015 Salmon SEEson campaign (ninth annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (February 22 and April 18).
- Distributed email updates and announcements to WRIA 8 partners and interested parties, including funding opportunities, event notices, and information of interest.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 8 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/.
- Mailed Green Shorelines information to new lakeshore homeowners.

Program Management and Administration

- Provided a progress report and billings to RCO for the 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 8 SRC meetings.
- Coordinated with the SRC on several issues, including regional Puget Sound salmon recovery and habitat restoration.

For additional information on any item in this report, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.