

WRIA 9 Implementation Technical Committee Charter

1. Introduction:

Monitoring and adaptive management is a key component of the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan. Inherent in ESA 4(f) coverage of the Plan is the requirement that Plan goals and actions can be achieved and that “objective, measurable criteria” which, when met, would result in delisting. An Implementation Plan addressing monitoring and adaptive management guidance for WRIA 9 was developed by the WRIA 9 Adaptive Management Work Group and adopted by the WRIA 9 Forum in January 2007. The WRIA 9 Forum also authorized the creation of an Implementation Technical Committee (ITC).

2. Purpose/Objectives:

The initial purpose of the WRIA 9 ITC is to oversee the collection and interpretation of physical and biological data for salmon habitat restoration projects completed in WRIA 9 and to provide recommendations to the WRIA 9 Watershed Forum and WRIA 9 Steering Committee regarding improvements to the existing projects and/or modifications to incorporate into future projects. The oversight role is envisioned to be distanced from the actual data collection and will not entail shepherding the completion of monitoring efforts. The goal of the ITC will be to reach consensus in recommendations and decisions. When this is not possible, provisions for the expression of minority opinions will be made so that decision makers and the public are informed of the diversity of views.

Objectives include:

1. Assembly and distribution of relevant technical information and recommendations to the WRIA 9 Watershed Forum and WRIA 9 Steering Committee
2. Drafting monitoring and research objectives, protocols, and plans, particularly for biological monitoring
3. Coordination with Shared Strategy and other watershed monitoring efforts to advance efforts to monitor VSP and environmental indicators, as well as to gain information from project monitoring in other watersheds
4. Overseeing data management and analysis
5. Reviewing monitoring and research reports
6. Developing and review budgets and requests for proposals (RFPs) for monitoring work
7. Evaluating the effects of management actions
8. Recommending changes if certain thresholds are (or are not) reached
9. Recommending changes to the Implementation Guidance and the Habitat Plan.

3. Products:

Annual report to the WRIA 9 Forum on the progress of project implementation, results of effectiveness monitoring, and update on status and trends monitoring.

4. Time Commitment:

A minimum of one two hour meeting quarterly. Additional meetings may be scheduled if agreed to by a simple majority of the ITC. Email and phone conferences will be used where practicable.

5. Chair:

The ITC will be chaired by WRIA 9 Watershed Coordination Services Plan Implementation Manager. The ITC Chair may also appoint a technical co-chair from within the ITC. The chair and technical co-chair will be responsible for setting agendas, scheduling meetings, facilitating meetings, inviting guest speakers, maintaining meeting notes, briefing the WRIA 9 Forum and Steering Committee, and disseminating information to ITC members.

6. Membership:

Technical Committee membership will, at a minimum, include representatives from WRIA 9 Watershed Coordination Services, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, King County Department of Natural Resources, Seattle Public Utilities, Port of Seattle, U.S Army Corp of Engineers, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Tacoma Public Utilities, a small cities representative, and a non-governmental organization representative. Membership shall be approved by the WRIA 9 Forum. The term of membership shall be two years.