

## **South Central Action Area – Action Agenda Implementation**

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South Central Action Area representative to the Ecosystem  
Coordination Board

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South Central Action Area Coordinator

### **Achieving Priority Objectives Together**

The goal and charge of the Puget Sound Partnership is to recover the health and function of Puget Sound ecosystems. Integrating and implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Action Agenda are the basis for achieving Puget Sound recovery, and provide direction for the Partnership's work with local communities.

The Partnership will support local communities in their central role in implementing the Action Agenda within Action Areas by working with local groups to focus activities and resources on top Puget Sound recovery priorities. Tribes, local governments, watershed groups, and other organizations are already doing important work that contributes to implementation of the Action Agenda. Partnership staff will work with communities to advance local priorities in the Action Agenda and will assist communities in developing, coordinating, and integrating capacity to increase efficient and effective implementation of the Action Agenda.

As the South Central Action Area representative on the Ecosystem Coordination Board, it is Theresa Jennings' goal to establish a strong, effective communication network among stakeholders and represent the interests of the Action Area at the Puget Sound scale.

### **Action Agenda Implementation with Local Communities**

**Local community coordination and integration:** Local communities and organizations worked over the past 18 months to help the Partnership develop and complete the Action Agenda for recovering Puget Sound by 2020. Using the Action Agenda as a guide, Partnership staff will work with local communities to identify opportunities to implement the Action Agenda at the local level. Partnership staff will seek local input on Action Agenda priorities, integration and coordination functions, and roles and responsibilities of existing organizations.

The South Central Action Area contains well-functioning, coordinated efforts to restore habitat, protect habitat, and reduce water pollution. To build on and support the work of existing groups and to improve Action Area communication, coordination, and integration among these different efforts, a small, broadly representative caucus group will be identified to help refine and confirm Action Area priorities using input from constituents. The caucus group will also help

identify opportunities to improve local coordination and integration of Puget Sound recovery efforts and update and inform the Action Area representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

**Caucus group representatives:** The caucus group will likely consist of a mixture of elected officials and staff from key stakeholder groups, including local jurisdictions, tribes, and non-governmental organizations. Stakeholder groups will be invited to identify representatives to participate on the caucus group. Theresa Jennings will lead this group with support from Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the Partnership's Ecosystem Recovery Coordinator for the South Central Action Area.

**Roles, responsibilities, and scope of work for caucus group:** The purpose of the group is to implement and foster implementation of the Action Agenda locally. The group will operate transparently and represent the broad interests of the South Central Action Area. The main proposed functions and scope of the caucus group are as follows:

- Build strong community support and represent interests of constituents.
- Reinvigorate Action Area coordination, communication, and integration. Share information with and seek input and feedback from constituents.
- Advise the Partnership on local priorities in the Action Agenda.
- Provide assistance to enhance implementation work by local groups.
- Work cooperatively to implement strategic actions in the Action Agenda.
- Base work on the best scientific information available, including from tribal, local, state, federal and Partnership scientific staff, and the Science Panel.
- Evaluate progress implementing the Action Agenda at the local scale. Report on implementing the Action Agenda at the local scale.
- Update and advise the South Central Action Area representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board.
- Meet at least quarterly, a week prior to Ecosystem Coordination Board meetings.