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# Overview of Watershed Investment District Concept and Proposed Legislation

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# Presentation Overview

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- Preview elements of the draft Watershed Investment District (WID) legislation
- Highlight outstanding issues and elements still being refined
- Review next steps and timeline
- Discussion: Questions/feedback to the Cross WRIA Funding Group



# **Elements of Draft Watershed Investment District (WID) Legislation**

# Draft Legislation

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Allows creation of Watershed  
Investment Districts--to raise and  
disburse funds to conserve and restore  
waters, lands and salmon

# WID Boundaries

- Ideally follow the boundaries of Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs)
- Contiguous WRIAs may be combined into one district

## Outstanding items:

- For WRIAs spanning multiple counties - need language allowing portion of WRIA to be part of an adjoining WID (if only 1 county passes WID)



# 1. Process to Create WID

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- All counties in proposed WID must pass substantially similar ordinances
- Ordinance would define WID boundary and Governance Structure

## Possible alternative:

- Majority of cities within proposed WID could petition county to create WID

# 2. Watershed Funding Plan

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Within 3 years of WID's creation:

- WID board submits a Watershed Funding Plan for voter approval
- Plan would outline the projects and activities to be implemented by the WID and authorizing revenue sources

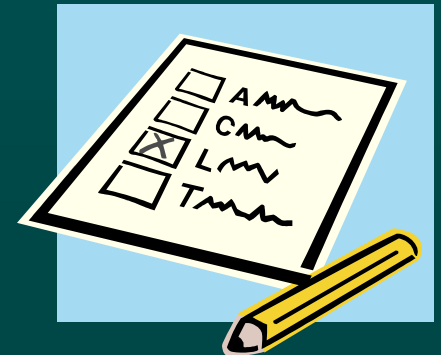
Still being refined:

- Should legislation set a term for the funding plan?

# 3. Voter Approval Process

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- If voters approve the funding plan, WID oversees implementation.
- If subsequent funding plans approved, WIDs may continue in perpetuity.
- If voters reject the funding plan, WID may resubmit plan (or revised plan) for another vote.
- If voters reject WID funding plans twice in 3-year period, WID dissolved





# Governance of WID

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- Board of elected officials from member counties/cities
- Board appoints a stakeholder advisory committee
- Funding decisions made by board only



## Still being refined:

- For WIDs with >15 jurisdictions - provide option of forming smaller board - rotating seats for cities
- Add option of including Tribes, citizens, non-profits

# Types of Activities Funded by WID

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Watershed activities and programs to restore and conserve lands and waters:

- Habitat protection and restoration projects
- Projects/programs to address regional stormwater problems
- Multi-benefit projects such as floodplain management
- Outreach and education



# Possible Revenue Sources

(not yet final)

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- Property tax
- Sales and use tax
- Utility fee
- Conservation Futures Tax
- Per parcel assessment
- Utility Tax

## Still being refined:

- Determine if list of sources should be broad/narrow

# NEXT STEPS

WHEN	WHAT
May-June	- WID work group address outstanding questions
June 20	- <b>Cross-WRIA Meeting to discuss legislation</b> <i>(Renton Council Chambers, 10am-2pm)</i>
July	- Final refinements to legislation
August 1	- Final Draft WID legislation - Begin sharing legislation with other groups
Sep-Dec	- Potentially submit legislation for 2012 session

A photograph of two salmon swimming in a shallow stream. The water is clear, revealing a bed of smooth, dark stones. The salmon are in motion, with some motion blur. The background shows a grassy bank with some fallen leaves. The text "Feedback? Questions?" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Feedback?  
Questions?