

# WRIA 8 2014 Priorities – Planning for 2015 and Beyond!

January 16, 2014

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## Background:

WRIA 8 has a long history of collaborative planning, decision-making, and implementation of salmon recovery actions, which is a model for other watersheds in Puget Sound and around the state. Since 2000, the watershed's local governments have operated under an interlocal agreement to advance salmon recovery in the watershed.

This coming year will be critical to charting the future direction of salmon recovery in WRIA 8 given two significant milestones at the end of 2015: 1) 10 years of implementing the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan; and 2) the end of the current WRIA 8 Interlocal Agreement (ILA). It is important to begin planning now to prepare for these milestones, reflect on our success and progress to date, identify challenges and gaps moving forward, and determine the future vision for protecting and restoring our watershed for salmon and our local communities.

## Proposed Approach:

In 2014, we will initiate a 10-year update to the WRIA 8 Plan, building on the monitoring and adaptive management work currently underway. Additionally, we will begin to dialogue with local government partners as preparation for an ILA renewal. Direction from the SRC will be needed to guide the approach for these efforts.

- **10-Year Plan Update:** WRIA 8 staff will develop options for updating the Plan for SRC decision at the March meeting. These options will reflect and consider local needs, regional and federal guidance, and existing staff capacity. The SRC may want to consider convening a small subcommittee, including participation from interested SRC members, to provide more regular guidance and input to the Plan update process.
- **ILA Renewal:** An important part of this effort will be telling the WRIA 8 salmon recovery story and working with local governments to reconfirm their support and participation in a renewed ILA. To do this, the following approach is proposed:
  - **Develop updated Plan implementation information materials** – Materials will identify priorities, highlight progress, and outline what is left to accomplish.
  - **Outreach to city/county councils** – Engage SRC members to accompany WRIA 8 staff in presentations to city/county councils and/or other groups (2014 and early 2015).
  - **Watershed summit in 2015** – Organize and host a salmon recovery summit in late 2015 to celebrate the first 10 years of Plan implementation and chart a path forward.

## For Salmon Recovery Council Consideration and Feedback:

- Does the Council have any suggestions for staff to consider as they develop recommendations for the Plan update?
- What is the best way for WRIA 8 staff to communicate with county/city councils and/or other groups about WRIA 8 progress and the ILA renewal?
- What are the key messages to deliver and in what format?
- What information can staff provide Councilmembers to support their communications on these topics?