

WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council: Four-Year Work Plan Update

November 19, 2015

Background

Each year, Puget Sound watersheds are asked by the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to submit a work plan of high priority projects and programs needed to implement local salmon recovery plans, which are chapters of the *Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan*. The work plans are used to aid regional policy and technical decision-making, to inform and support funding requests, and to demonstrate the link between projects put forward for grant funding and local recovery strategies.

The work plans submitted by watersheds to PSP formerly covered three-year periods (the *Three-Year Work Plan*), but beginning in 2016, the region will shift to a **Four-Year Work Plan**. This change is intended to better align the work plans to the biennial timing of legislative funding requests, updates to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and State of the Sound reporting.

As with the Three-Year Work Plan, the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan will comprise a subset of the projects and programs contained in the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* and will represent the near-term activities needed to advance salmon recovery in the watershed. As a reminder, projects submitted for WRIA 8 grant funds must be reflected in the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan.

Four-Year Work Plan Update

While Three-Year Work Plans were submitted to PSP annually, the Four-Year Work Plan will be submitted every other year (beginning in March 2016). WRIA 8 will continue to review the work plan each year and will provide project/program sponsors with an annual opportunity to submit projects for consideration by the Technical Committee and Implementation Committee as possible additions to the work plan. The annual review will also identify other appropriate updates to ensure the list reflects current implementation priorities. The Salmon Recovery Council will subsequently consider all Committee recommendations for updating the Four-Year Work Plan.

Technical Committee's Four-Year Work Plan Recommendations

The WRIA 8 Technical Committee evaluates changes to the list of restoration and protection projects in the context of WRIA 8's recovery strategies and recommends adding projects to the work plan where supported by a sound technical basis. During their meeting on October 14th, the WRIA 8 Technical Committee developed the following recommendations for updates to the Four-Year Work Plan:

Additions to the Four-Year Work Plan:

- Four projects identified by the City of Renton's Lower Cedar River Habitat Assessment
- Elevate a Ballard Locks/Ship Canal project from the Start List to reflect recent work by the Corps of Engineers and demonstrate the priority of the activity.

Updates to the Four-Year Work Plan:

- Update the description for an existing work plan project relating to the Ballard Locks to reflect current information.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Technical Committee Recommendations for Updating the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan

Four-Year Work Plan Additions

Project Name	Project Sponsor	Location in Watershed	Technical Committee Recommendation
Cedar River Reach 2 Left Bank Vegetation Improvement Project	City of Renton	Cedar River Reach 2 (Tier 1)	Add project C203 to Four-Year Work Plan
Renton Senior Center Habitat Improvement	City of Renton	Cedar River Reach 2 (Tier 1)	Create new sub-project C203A and add to Comprehensive List, Start List, and Four-Year Work Plan
Cedar River Trail Relocation Habitat Restoration Project	City of Renton	Cedar River Reach 2 (Tier 1)	Create new sub-project C204A and add to Comprehensive List, Start List, and Four-Year Work Plan
Cedar River Reach 3 Side Channel Habitat Restoration	City of Renton	Cedar River Reach 3 (Tier 1)	Create new sub-project C209A and add to Comprehensive List, Start List, and Three-Year Work Plan
Improve Estuary Conditions Upstream of Locks	Corps of Engineers	Locks/Ship Canal (Tier 1)	Add project M206 to Four-Year Work Plan

Four-Year Work Plan Update

Operational Improvements to Locks	Corps of Engineers	Locks/Ship Canal (Tier 1)	Update description for project M204 to align with the Corps' prioritized list of facility repairs benefitting Chinook
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