



WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

November 18, 2021

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** last met on September 23. The meeting focused on:
 - Remembrance for Lorraine Loomis, Chair, Northwest Indian Fish Commission
 - Presentation comparing Chinook salmon use of tidal delta habitats in four Puget Sound estuaries
 - Legislative priorities and strategy
 - Presentation on tribal treaty rights
 - 2023-2025 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant program large capital project RFP
 - 2022-2026 Action Agenda for Puget Sound update
 - Regional Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan update

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on November 18. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) recently co-sponsored two “Community Co-Design Trainings” in response to the Stormwater Summit hosted by King County Stormwater Services in May:

1. “Building Towards Community Ownership” to explore the value of co-designing projects with the community and identify ways to build collective capacity to lead authentic and accessible participatory processes.
2. “Building Relationships: Tribal Treaty Rights and Local and State Government” to broaden the understanding of treaty rights and share the value of protecting and integrating tribal cultural legacy, traditional knowledge, and cultural resources, like salmon, into contemporary project decision-making

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **Legislative priorities** – The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council approved WRIA 8’s 2022 state and federal legislative priorities at the September meeting, and approved sending a letter to Governor Inslee to share the watershed’s state priorities to inform the Governor’s development of a “Salmon Package” and draft state budget for the upcoming legislative session.

Updates:

- We expect the Governor’s Office to announce the “Governor’s Salmon Package” sometime in December.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (WDFW) operating budget request for the upcoming supplemental legislative session includes funding for freshwater juvenile salmon productivity monitoring, specifically calling out funding for monitoring Lake Washington juvenile salmon at the Cedar River and Bear Creek

smolt traps. WDFW's proposal directly references the letter from the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council in 2018 supporting WDFW working to seek funding beyond local watershed grants to support this work.

- Congress passed the federal infrastructure package, which includes important funding increases to key salmon and Puget Sound recovery programs over five years, as well as funding for some new programs:
 - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) - \$172 million
 - Puget Sound Geographic Program - \$89 million
 - National Estuary Program - \$132 million
 - NOAA Habitat Restoration and Community Resilience - \$491 million
 - National culvert removal (new program) - \$1 billion
 - Fish passage barrier removal grants - \$400 million

- **2022 Meeting schedule** – The Salmon Recovery Council will continue to meet bi-monthly in 2022. The proposed meeting schedule is included in the meeting packet. Calendar invitations will be sent shortly to secure these times on Council members calendars.

- **WRIA 8 staffing** – The hiring process to fill the WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator position is nearly complete. We had a highly competitive pool of candidates, and we are excited to announce the successful candidate with WRIA 8 partners soon.

- **Lake Washington Ship Canal temperature and dissolved oxygen roundtable process** – WRIA 8 and Long Live the Kings continue to convene partners in the Lake Washington Ship Canal Salmon Roundtable process to establish common goals and objectives and identify alternatives to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen conditions that are impacting the migration and survival of salmon. A Technical Work Group and a Steering and Strategy Work group have met to establish a project goal and develop criteria to evaluate alternatives. Two workshops are being planned for December and January to brainstorm conceptual alternatives, share information, and apply criteria to evaluate alternatives. Phase 1 of the process is expected to be complete by January/February of 2022 and will produce a small number of the highest priority alternatives to advance for additional feasibility study.

- **WRIA 8 E-News** – The October edition of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: How "bug-seeding" could help urban creek restoration efforts, Crosscut article focusing on nitrogen levels in Puget Sound, RainWise program panel discussion on green stormwater infrastructure and Salmon SEEson, Seattle Times feature on Salmon SEEson's Piper's Creek salmon viewing site, Edmonds community volunteers complete marsh restoration project, South Prairie Creek Preserve project, Larry Reymann's comments and insights on spawning activity in May Creek, and link to watch the Issaquah Hatchery's newly installed SalmonCam. The next edition is scheduled for release in December. Please submit topics to Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

WRIA 8 SRC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meeting –The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee continues to focus on implementation of actions outlined in the Strategic Plan Action Framework. Strategies include revising grant round materials based on our strengthened DEI emphasis last year, incorporating DEI principals into WRIA 8 communications and outreach, and strengthening connections with community-based organizations with a focus on environmental equity. To gather those connections and gain feedback on how best to apply DEI in WRIA 8 communities, we have created **THIS** survey. Please take a moment to provide your thoughts and possible contacts within your jurisdiction, or organization. Anyone interested in joining the WRIA 8 DEI Subcommittee should contact Carla Nelson (carnelson@kingcounty.gov).

WRIA 8 Technical Committee – The WRIA 8 Technical Committee met in October and November to focus on technical topics important for salmon recovery in the basin. The October meeting included review of 30% design for the Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection Project on the Cedar River with Brent Lackey, Seattle Public Utilities. The meeting also included a presentation by Jim Bower, King County, on findings from a meta-analysis he recently completed on fish responses to river restoration projects between 2013-2019. The November meeting included review of Review design concepts for the Bear Creek Tretheway Restoration Project with Jasmin Ka, Mid Sound Fisheries Restoration Project Manager. The Tc also finalized the WRIA 8 monitoring and assessment priorities document to guide the 2022 Cooperative Watershed Management RFP.

WRIA 8 Implementation Committee – The Implementation Committee met on November 2. Meeting topics included general WRIA 8 updates, review of proposed Cooperative Watershed Management funding guidance, discussion of process for WRIA 8 ILA cost share partners to sign the addendum to add City of Everett as an ILA cost share partner, presentation on the recently completed Holder Creek Restoration project, and review of the November 18 Salmon Recovery Council meeting topics.