

Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2017

Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2017 focused on:

- Completing the final draft WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan) update for Salmon Recovery Council review and approval.
- Initiating the process for local government partners to ratify the Plan update.
- Tracking all Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant recommendations through the fall/winter SRFB approval process.
- Updating projects on WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan.
- Developing 2018 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Coordinating 2017 Salmon SEESon campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Hosting a Salmon Recovery Tour of priority projects for WRIA 8 partners, local elected officials, state legislators, and members of the Congressional delegation.
- Coordinating a tour of the Ballard Locks for WRIA 8 partners during the Army Corps of Engineers annual Locks dewatering and maintenance.
- Coordinating a WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee meeting to review and discuss updates to grant evaluation criteria.
- Drafting and sending a letter to Army Corps of Engineers leadership at the Northwest Division in Portland and at Headquarters in Washington, D.C., requesting funding for critical repairs to the Ballard Locks and highlighting the findings in the Ballard Locks economic impact study.
- Presenting salmon recovery progress at the annual “I Love the Cedar River” open house event co-hosted by the Cedar River Council and King County Flood Control District.
- Creating and sending two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters.
- Representing WRIA 8’s interests in Puget Sound Watershed Leads group, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC), South Central Caucus Group, and Washington Salmon Coalition, including participating on subcommittees and work groups to advance recovery efforts.

The following summary of services is organized according to work items outlined in the approved WRIA 8 Memorandum of Understanding.

Salmon Recovery Council Coordination/Puget Sound Partnership

- Scheduled and staffed two meetings of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) (September 21 and November 16).
 - September meeting focus: Decision on capital budget draft letter to legislature; decision on final draft WRIA 8 Plan update and ratification; decision and update on WRIA 8 letter regarding Ballard Locks Economic Impact Study and priority repairs; update on wood management in Cedar River; and success story on Bear Creek in-stream and riparian habitat restoration projects.
 - November meeting focus: Update on WRIA 8 Plan update and ratification; decision on Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding guidance and Four-Year Work Plan updated recommendations; decision on 2018 WRIA 8 legislative priorities; presentation on dock and pier Integrated Restoration and Permitting Program (IRPP) for Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish; discussion of recommended investments in technical and programmatic priorities; and success story presentation on Mountains to Sound Greenway’s Forest and Fins education program.

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- Attended two meetings of the PS SRC (September 28 and November 30).
 - September meeting focus: Decision on subcommittee proposal for bold actions; approval of draft final products of Chinook Implementation Strategy; approval of proposed 2018 PSAR Program Improvement recommendations; and approval of applying 2013-2015 PSAR Large Capital return funds to Puget Sound lead entity capacity funding through June 2018 should a capital budget not be passed by end of December.
 - November meeting focus: Decision to create a new seat for recreational anglers on SRC; discussion of Leadership Council's adoption of Regional Priorities for 2018 Action Agenda Solicitation for Near-Term Actions; discussion of letters of support related to potential legislative action for rulemaking; WRIA 8 presentation on Chinook Conservation Plan Update; update on upcoming Fishackathon; update from the Nature Conservancy on Floodplains by Design; decision on 2019-2021 PSAR grant round; and decision on 2018 SRC work plan.
- Participated in two in-person meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 7 and November 9), and one conference call (October 12).
 - September meeting focus: The Puget Sound Action Agenda update and discussion around Chinook Regional Priorities in the update and the consideration of submitting Chinook restoration projects as Near-Term Actions; discussion of the outcomes of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's meeting and the implications of their decisions on the upcoming grant round and lead entity processes; providing input on proposed changes to the PSAR grant program.
 - October conference call focus: Discussion of the decisions and next steps from the September Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meeting; further exploration PSAR program improvements; discussion of the 2018 grant round and various options to move forward in light of the ongoing lack of a capital budget.
 - November meeting focus: Discussion of preparations for the 2018 grant round absent a capital budget; providing input on PSAR program improvements and specifically changes to the PSAR large-capital project request for proposals; discussion of integration between lead entities and local integrating organizations; discussion of the NTA solicitation and submitting salmon projects as NTAs.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (September 6 and November 1) and one sub-group work session conference call (September 27).
 - Meeting topics included: Presentation of WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan update and status of salmon recovery plan update processes in WRIAs 9 and 10; updates on from 2016 near-term actions that received funding; update on 2018 Action Agenda priorities and the Caucus Group process for soliciting and reviewing near-term actions proposed through the 2018 Action Agenda update process; and update on state and federal funding.
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

Plan Implementation

- Managed Plan update comment process and integrated comments into the final draft of the Plan update.
- Completed the final draft Plan update for review and approval by the SRC.
- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (September 12 and November 7).
 - Meeting topics included: Review of summary of comments on the draft Plan update; review and discussion of draft common resolution for partners to use in ratifying the Plan update; presentation on King County's action to reposition large wood at nine locations on the Cedar River that were identified as public safety hazards and were causing a river closure; discussion

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- of the Salmon Recovery Tour schedule and content; review of potential technical and programmatic priorities to be proposed to the SRC for funding, draft 2018 legislative priorities; and review of the draft September 12 and November 7 SRC meeting topics.
- Tracked all SRFB/PSAR projects through the fall/winter SRFB approval process, including attending the SRFB funding meeting in Olympia (December 7).
- Developed 2017 WRIA 8 Plan project updates to the Four-Year Work Plan. Solicited project updates, reviewed potential updates with WRIA 8 TC and IC, and developed recommendations for SRC review and approval (approved at November 16 meeting).
- Participated in 3 meeting(s) of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) (September 27, November 15, December 5) to discuss: updates on the capital budget; updates from GSRO on lead entity contracts; finalizing the WSC Action Plan; re-evaluating priorities without a capital budget; conveying impacts of no budget to decision-makers; integrating salmon recovery with Orca recovery; and communications and outreach.
- Participated in 3 WebEx meetings of the WSC Executive Committee (September 12, October 10, November 14), which focused on: coordination and communication with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and Recreation and Conservation Office; providing input to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on the implications of the ongoing lack of a capital budget and the effects on lead entities; and discussions around how to support lead entities statewide and provide value when some watersheds are curtailing operations due to the budget situation.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.
- Participated in project planning activities with project sponsors, reviewing project concepts, plans, and visions to ensure future implementation aligns with the WRIA 8 Plan and its priorities.
- Convened the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee on December 19 to discuss the grant round process and to review and update the WRIA 8 grant criteria. Changes were first presented to and vetted by the Technical Committee, and their approved changes were discussed and refined with the Subcommittee. The new criteria will be used during the 2018 grant round.

Technical Coordination

- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (September 13, October 11, and November 8). Meeting topics included: WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan; review of habitat monitoring protocols; ongoing research and assessment needs; review and discussion of juvenile chinook trapping program (with WDFW); review of technical aspects of WRIA 8 grant process/ project selection criteria; TC recommendations for funding critical technical needs; review of Chinook research by USFWS in Lake Washington basin; approval of updates to Four-Year Work Plan.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

Communication

- Coordinated the 2017 Salmon SEEson campaign (eleventh annual) to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation in WRIAs 8 and 9 through flyers, posters, and website. Communicated with partners to share in-season information and updates.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December).
- Coordinated and hosted Salmon Recovery Tour on October 27, highlighting critical repair needs at the Ballard Locks, acquisition of the Wayne Golf Course, recently completed Sammamish River Side Channel project in Bothell, and a recently completed joint King County and City of Redmond instream and riparian restoration project on Bear Creek.

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- Distributed email updates and announcements to WRIA 8 partners and interested parties, including funding opportunities, event notices, and information of interest.
- Regularly maintained the WRIA 8 website at www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/.
- Mailed Green Shorelines information to new lakeshore homeowners.

Program Management and Administration

- Submitted a progress report and billing to RCO for the 2016-2017 Lead Entity contract.
- Conducted general administrative work supporting implementation of the ILA, including work program development and monitoring, budget development and tracking, regular reporting, billing, personnel, and supervision.
- Held verbal and email progress discussions at and between WRIA 8 SRC meetings.
- Coordinated with the SRC on several issues, including regional Puget Sound salmon recovery and habitat restoration.

For additional information on any item in this report, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-4780.