

## Summary of Services Provided in WRIA 8

September 1 to December 31, 2018

### Overview and Highlights

Cost-shared services during the third trimester of 2018 focused on:

- Notifying NOAA of ratified 10-year update to the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan).
- 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 2019 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Coordinating and expanding 2018 Salmon SEEson campaign to increase public awareness and support for salmon conservation.
- Coordinating and hosting a project tour at Riverbend on October 29 with Senator Hasegawa, Puget Sound Partnership staff, and Leadership Council member, Toby Murray to emphasize the multiple benefits of the project and critical importance of funding from state capital budget programs like Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Floodplains by Designs.
- Participating as a member of the Ballard Locks advocacy group, working on a strategy to support federal request for funding to implement critical Locks infrastructure repairs, including for fish passage.
- 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 20 and November 17).
  - September meeting focus: Approval of draft letters to Congressional delegation, NOAA, and Governor Inslee; updates and committee reports; decision on recommended investments in technical and programmatic priorities; decision on WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee 2018 SRFB/PSAR grant recommendations; discussion on Willowmoor Floodplain restoration project; and success story on funding for Ballard Locks repairs and status of future priority projects.
  - November meeting focus: Decision on Cooperative Watershed Management grant program funding guidance for 2019; decision on draft letters to state legislators in WRIA 8, leadership of key budget and natural resource committees, and Congressional delegation to share 2019 state and federal legislative priorities; decision on 2019 SRC meeting time; discussion of 2019 SRC meeting topics; discussion and decision on letters to Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife; discussion on Snohomish County Surface Water Management budget; discussion on King County 2019/2020 Surface Water Management rate proposal; discussion on Department of Natural Resources' role in WRIA 8; and success story of the Bird Island Shoreline Restoration Project on Lake Washington.
- Attended two meetings of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) (September 27 and November 15).

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- September meeting focus: Orca Task Force status update and feedback on initial recommendations; presentation and discussion of the 2019-2021 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration large capital projects list; presentation and discussion of recommendations from the Regulatory and Incentives Subcommittee and the Funding Subcommittee; and further discussion on a strategy and vision for reinvigorating the region's salmon recovery effort.
- November meeting focus: Overview of Puget Sound Partnership's "Mobilizing Funding" effort; considering recommendations from the Regulatory and Incentives Subcommittee to the Leadership Council; status update on common indicators and focus on estuaries monitoring protocol development; presentation on the 2019-2021 Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program investment plan; and consideration of approval of the 2018 update to the Action Agenda for Puget Sound.
- Participated in two in-person meetings of Puget Sound Watershed Leads (September 13 and November 8), and one conference call (October 11).
  - September meeting focus: Discussion on Lead Entity roles and responsibilities; and updates on Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) task force and work groups.
  - October conference call focus: Discussion of 2019-2021 PSAR Large Capital Projects; updates on SRKW task force; and update on Lead Entity/LIO integration workshop.
  - November meeting focus: Review of lead entity ranked lists, discussion on Steelhead Recovery Plan content and implementation; presentation on ESRP program; discussion on upcoming legislative session and engagement opportunities; and discussion on Lead Entity roles.
- Participated in two meetings of the Puget Sound South Central Action Area Caucus Group (September 5 and November 7) and one meeting with EPA National Estuary Program representatives (December 14).
  - Meeting topics included: Review of final near-term action scoring; discussion and approval of a process to identify and direct \$100K in available funds to a regional priority near-term action; next steps in the formation of a WRIA 10 (Puyallup/White River) local integrating organization (LIO); presentation and discussion of Puget Sound Regional Council's Regional Open Space Conservation Plan and Vision 2050 planning process; discussion of priorities for the Caucus Group's 2018/2019 work plan; review of the Caucus' comment letter on the draft 2018-2022 Action Agenda for Puget Sound; approval of the recommended near-term action to receive Caucus-direct funding; discussion on draft 2018-2019 work plan; and celebration of accomplishments and discussion transitions and next steps.
- Participated in two meetings of the WRIA 8 Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committee, i.e., the Ecology-led planning process taking place under the Streamflow Restoration Act (October 24 and December 11).
- Attended Snohomish County Council budget public hearing and met with Snohomish County staff to explore options to mitigate the loss of the County's 2019 cost share to the WRIA 8 interlocal agreement due to the County's Surface Water Management budget.
- Developed 2019 state and federal WRIA 8 salmon recovery legislative priorities and associated communication materials.
- Conducted email correspondence and multiple phone and personal conversations with SRC members and WRIA 8 partner staff.
- Provided information to all jurisdictions equally.

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### Plan Implementation

- Scheduled and facilitated two WRIA 8 Implementation Committee (IC) meetings (September 11 and November 6).
  - Meeting topics included: Presentation from Seattle Public Utilities on the status of the Cedar River Habitat Conservation Plan; presentation from King County on the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River; presentation on the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration project on the Sammamish River; review of draft letters to be considered by the Salmon Recovery Council; review of funding recommendation for WRIA 8 to convene a stakeholder process to identify concepts to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal; presentation on the King County Waterworks grant program; presentation on the King County Fish Passage Program; review and discussion of four draft letters in preparation for presenting them to the Salmon Recovery Council for consideration on November 15; and review of the agenda topics for the September 20 and November 17 Salmon Recovery Council meetings.
- Tracked all SRFB/PSAR projects through the fall/winter SRFB approval process, including attending the SRFB funding meeting in Olympia (December 5).
- Presented a successful appeal to a “Project of Concern” designation for the Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project at the December 5 SRFB meeting, resulting in a \$800,000 award to this project.
- Notified NOAA of ratified 10-year update to the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (WRIA 8 Plan).
- Notified Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) of monitoring and research priorities in WRIA 8 for WDFW support and funding consideration.
- Updated the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan for 2018. Solicited project updates, reviewed proposed updates to ensure consistency with WRIA 8 recovery strategies, and briefed the WRIA 8 IC and SRC (November 15 meeting) on changes. Reported updates to the Puget Sound Partnership through updates to Habitat Work Schedule and the Partnership’s Four-Year Work Plan template.
- Participated in one meeting of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) (December 4) and attended the annual meeting (October 29-30) to discuss: tribal engagement; action plan updates and Executive Committee leadership recruitment; implementing Lean study recommendations; how to most effectively ramp up implementation of high priority projects; communications planning and outreach; and other WSC business and updates from partners. The October meeting included a training session on “outcome-based meetings.”
- Participated in one WebEx meeting of the WSC Executive Committee (October 4) which focused on: planning for the annual meeting in late October and revisiting WSC’s role in supporting various external efforts (i.e., Orca Task Force, Salmon Recovery Network, Council of Regions, Habitat Work Schedule Action Committee).
- Attended one meeting (October 15) with informal group of stakeholders to coordinate advocacy for critical Ballard Locks repairs. WRIA 8 participated to maintain the importance of fish passage needs as part of the infrastructure repairs at the Locks.
- Attended Floodplain Leaders Meeting (November 13) hosted by The Nature Conservancy to continue discussions about how to accelerate implementation of multi-benefit floodplain projects through the Floodplains by Design program.
- Responded to citizen and agency inquiries on the WRIA 8 process, priorities, and Plan implementation.
- Participated in project planning activities with project sponsors and reviewing project concepts, plans, and visions to ensure future implementation aligns with the WRIA 8 Plan and its priorities. This included visits to select project sites to discuss alignment with WRIA 8 objectives and future funding strategies.

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### **Technical Coordination**

- Scheduled and facilitated three WRIA 8 Technical Committee (TC) meetings (October 10, November 14, and December 12). Meeting topics included: Presentation on the Bellevue stream assessment program; kokanee status; wood monitoring program status; fish in/out monitoring status; discussion regarding a draft letter on monitoring and research from WRIA 8 to WDFW; ongoing discussions regarding implementing the WRIA 8 monitoring and assessment plan (MAP) and monitoring priorities in WRIA 8; discussion of the WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator work program for 2019; and prioritization of WRIA 8 monitoring and research needs.
- Provided regular TC status reports and salmon updates to the SRC.
- Provided technical support to IC through participation in monthly meetings.

### **Communication**

- Coordinated the 2018 Salmon SEEson campaign (twelfth 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. Expanded the program to include new sites, expanded social media outreach and promotion, and a photo contest.
- Created and sent two WRIA 8 E-Newsletters (October and December).
- Coordinated and hosted a project tour at Riverbend on October 29 with Senator Hasegawa, Puget Sound Partnership staff, and Leadership Council member, Toby Murray to emphasize the multiple benefits of the project and critical importance of funding from state capital budget programs like Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Floodplains by Designs.
- 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/](http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/).

### **Program Management and Administration**

- Submitted a progress update and billing to RCO for the 2018-2019 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](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) or 206-477-4780.**