

**FINAL
LAKE WASHINGTON/CEDAR/SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8)
CHINOOK SALMON CONSERVATION PLAN**

VOLUME I JULY 2005





LAKE WASHINGTON / CEDAR / SAMMAMISH WATERSHED (WRIA 8)

July 2005



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Bellevue
Bothell
Clyde Hill
Issaquah
King County
Kirkland
Maple Valley
Mercer Island
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Seattle
Shoreline
Snohomish County

The Boeing Company
Cedar River Council
Friends of Issaquah
Salmon Hatchery
Greater Maple Valley
Area Council
Greater Seattle
Chamber of Commerce
Mid-Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Northwest Marine
Trade Association
Save Lake Sammamish
Sustainable Fisheries
Foundation
Trout Unlimited

US Army Corps
of Engineers
Washington Department
of Ecology
Washington Department
of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department
of Natural Resources
Washington Association
of Sewer and
Water Districts
King Conservation
District

Dear Salmon Supporters:

In March 1999, the federal government listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon as threatened according to the definitions of the federal Endangered Species Act. How did this come to pass? One could say it is because salmon have become too much a part of the fabric of our lives. They are harvested commercially and for recreation, feasted upon on special occasions and at intimate dinners, and celebrated in sculptures and stories. As people have become more numerous, we have caught more salmon, encroached upon where they live, and taken what they need to survive. Hence, their threat of extinction.

Now it is up to us whether to continue this pattern or to alter our habits and learn how to co-exist with the fish. Some 40 years ago, the previous generation created a legacy for us by cleaning up Lake Washington, before the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the state Department of Ecology even existed. It is our turn to decide what we will leave to future generations – paintings and songs about Chinook salmon or the opportunity to watch them return every summer and fall to spawn in sustainable numbers.

The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed is a rapidly urbanizing area. It is home to more than 20 percent of the entire state population -- more people than in any other water resource inventory area (WRIA) in Washington,. It is also home to three runs of Chinook salmon. Our challenge is to figure out how to accommodate both the economic engine of our state and these creatures that have evolved over millions of years.

That is why, on behalf of the WRIA 8 Steering Committee and Forum, which represents 27 local governments, we are pleased to share with you the *Final WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*. For nearly five years, citizens, scientists, community groups, businesses, environmental groups, public agencies, and elected officials have been working together in our shared watershed to develop this plan. It offers science-based priorities for actions that will protect and restore salmon habitat. But implementation of this plan will also benefit citizens


FORUM

Beaux Arts Village
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Issaquah
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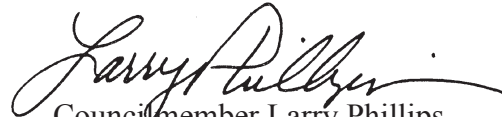
– by improving water quality, reducing flood hazards, protecting open space, enhancing management of stormwater run-off, and maintaining a proud legacy for future generations.

We strongly encourage everyone interested in salmon conservation to help implement this plan and improve the watershed shared by both salmon and citizens.

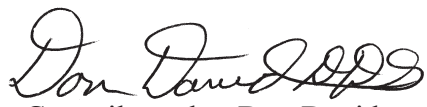
Sincerely,




Councilmember Jim Compton
City of Seattle
Co-Chair, WRIA 8 Steering
Committee



Councilmember Larry Phillips
King County
Co-Chair, WRIA 8 Steering
Committee



Councilmember Don Davidson
City of Bellevue
Chair, WRIA 8 Forum



Councilmember Jean Garber
City of Newcastle
Vice Chair, WRIA 8 Forum

How the *Final Plan* Differs From the Steering Committee *Proposed Plan*

The WRIA 8 Steering Committee *Proposed Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* was published February 25, 2005. The proposed plan was approved by the WRIA 8 Forum on May 26, 2005, and as of July 26, 2005, has been ratified by 24 WRIA 8 jurisdictions* totalling more than 97 percent of the population in the watershed. According to the interlocal agreement among the 27 jurisdictions that cost-shared development of the plan, it is now the *Final Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

The July 2005 *Final Plan* differs from the February 2005 *Proposed Plan* as follows:

- No text in the February 25, 2005 plan has been changed beyond what is listed below. **Readers should note that where the text refers to the *Proposed Plan* (or draft plan), it is now the *Final Plan*.** Where there is discussion of future Forum review and approval of the plan or ratification by local jurisdictions, these actions have already occurred.
- The title on the outside cover and on the inside cover pages of all three volumes has been changed to reflect that this is a final plan, dated July 2005.
- Volume I contains a new cover letter from the Co-Chairs of the WRIA 8 Steering Committee and the Chair and Vice Chair of the WRIA 8 Forum.
- The Quick Road Map has been updated to reflect the addition of this page on how the *Final Plan* differs from the *Proposed Plan* as well as to explain where to find the resolutions from the jurisdictions that have ratified the plan.
- Volume I, Executive Summary, page 11 contains a corrected version of the watershed map that more accurately reflects the extent of Thornton Creek.
- Volume I, Chapter 4, page 6 contains a corrected version of the tier map that more accurately reflects the extent of Thornton Creek.
- In Volume II, Chapter 10 (Comprehensive Action Lists for Cedar), the title of the Initial Habitat Project List for Taylor/Downs Creek on page 55 has been corrected to say Cedar River Tributaries Chinook Population (rather than North Lake Washington Chinook Population). Missing pages 59-64 have also been added back in. These are the Initial Habitat Project Lists for Peterson Creek and Rock Creek, which were inadvertently omitted from the February 25, 2005 printing but had been included in the *Public Review Draft*, November 12, 2004 .

There is a CD available that contains copies of all of the signed resolutions adopted by WRIA 8 jurisdictions that have ratified the Plan. These may also be found on the WRIA 8 website: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8/chinook-conservation-plan.htm>

*The three remaining jurisdictions that signed the interlocal agreement are expected to consider ratification of the plan in the fall of 2005.

***FINAL
LAKE WASHINGTON/CEDAR/SAMMAMISH WATERSHED
(WRIA 8) CHINOOK SALMON CONSERVATION PLAN***

VOLUME I

July 2005

Quick Road Map Through This Plan

If You Want To:	Check Here:	Other Related Information:
See how the plan is organized	This road map and the Table of Contents, located in each plan volume	Volume I contains chapters 1-9 Volume II contains chapters 10 – 13, the comprehensive action lists Volume III contains the appendices of information that support the plan
Note how the <i>Final Plan</i> approved by the WRIA 8 Forum and ratified by the participating jurisdictions differs from the WRIA 8 Steering Committee's <i>Proposed Plan</i>	How the Final Plan Differs from the Proposed Plan, located at the beginning of each volume	Volume I, Chapter 1 explains how the plan was developed
Get a quick summary of the plan	Executive Summary, located at the beginning of Volume I	
Understand the purpose , benefits, and context of the plan and how it has been developed	Volume I, Chapter 1: Purpose and Goal of the Plan	Volume III, Appendix A lists key decisions made by the WRIA 8 Steering Committee that directed development of the draft plan
Review how the plan will be implemented and during what timeframe using an adaptive management approach	Volume I, Chapter 2: Plan Implementation Framework	Volume III, Appendix B summarizes case studies of how similar plans have been implemented elsewhere
Find out how the science foundation was developed and what needs to be done to protect and restore salmon habitat	Volume I, Chapter 3: Science Foundation Volume I, Chapter 4: Chinook Conservation Strategy for WRIA 8	Volume III, Appendix C outlines the technical information and analyses in more detail
Learn about the type of actions needed and how actions were developed	Volume I, Chapter 5: Actions to Achieve Our Goals	Volume I, Chapter 9: Action Start-List for regional priorities Volume II – Comprehensive Lists of the actions
Choose a site-specific project or landscape-level land use or public outreach action to protect or restore salmon habitat	Volume I, Chapter 9: Actions Start List Volume II: Comprehensive Actions List	Volume III, Appendix D explains the methodology for how actions and rough cost estimates were developed
Conduct research and monitoring to measure progress	Volume I, Chapter 6: Measuring and Monitoring for Gauging Progress	
Review recommendations for level of effort needed to implement the plan and funding source options	Volume I, Chapter 7: Funding Strategy for Plan Implementation	Volume III, Appendix B: Case Studies from Other Watersheds.

If You Want To:	Check Here:	Other Related Information:
Consider what type and level of commitments local governments and other entities will be asked to make in exchange for what benefits and assurances to be discussed with regulatory agencies	Volume I, Chapter 8: Commitments and Expectations for Plan Implementation	Volume III, Appendix E discusses what legal assurances are available from the federal government under the Endangered Species Act Resolutions from the jurisdictions ratifying the plan are available on the web at: http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8/c hinook-conservation-plan.htm
Review rough estimates for costs to implement plan actions	Volume I, Chapter 2: Plan Implementation Framework, subsection Part 2 titled Organization, Roles and Responsibilities for Plan Implementation Volume I, Chapter 7: Funding Strategy for Plan Implementation Volume I, Chapter 9: Actions Start-List	Volume III, Appendix D explains the methodology for how rough cost estimates were developed for the Action Start Lists
Learn the meaning of technical terms or acronyms and abbreviations found in the draft plan	Volume I, Glossary Volume I, Acronyms and Abbreviations	
See a summary of the public comments received on the draft plan and how they were addressed	Volume III, Appendix A	
Review who participated in the development of the plan	Volume I, Acknowledgements	Chapter 1 contains a discussion of the planning process
View maps of WRIA 8 streams reaches used for the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment modeling effort	Go to http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8	
Learn about potential biological goals and objectives for the plan	Volume I, Chapter 4: Chinook Conservation Strategy for WRIA 8	
Assumptions about the linkages between habitat conservation hypotheses, proposed actions, and the viable salmonid population guidance developed by NOAA Fisheries.	Volume I, Chapter 5: Actions to Achieve our Goals	
See the resolutions passed by jurisdictions ratifying the plan	Check the web at: http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8/chinook-conservation-plan.htm	A CD can be made available upon request

The website address for the watershed-based salmon conservation planning effort in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed is <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wrias/8>.

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