



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

October 2008

**Item #9: Strategic Planning, Programmatic Funding, and Infrastructure Capacity for Salmon Recovery**

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**Presented By:** Representatives from the Recreation and Conservation Office, Regions, Lead Entities, and Project Sponsors

**Approved by the Director:**

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**Proposed Action: Board Discussion and Direction**

**Summary**

This memo explains the framework for a presentation that staff and others will give to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in October to address questions about strategic planning and investments.

**Background**

Since the Legislature established lead entities and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office in 1998 and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in 1999, the salmon recovery effort has gone through several major changes. Initially, there was a focus on "early action" habitat restoration and protection projects and the development of a statewide salmon recovery strategy. Since that time, lead entities have developed watershed-based habitat restoration and protection strategies, planning units have prepared watershed plans, and regional recovery organizations have developed ESU-based recovery plans for listed salmon.



These organizations are now beginning to implement these plans, which provide a more strategic approach to siting habitat projects. In addition, the plans address other recovery activities such as hatchery reform, changes in harvest management, need for local regulatory changes, and education and outreach.

## **Analysis**

The traditional role of the Board has been to fund projects that protect and/or restore salmon habitat. While vital, these activities are only one part of current salmon recovery. Over time, the Board has funded additional parts of the recovery effort – either as mandated by Congress through budget earmarks, by the Legislature through budget provisos, or at its own discretion. The Board's investments now extend beyond habitat projects, but this change has been the result of a gradual addition of responsibilities rather than a strategic approach.

The Board is revisiting its roles and priorities through a strategic planning discussion. Key questions before the Board include:

- What are the Board's core functions in salmon recovery?
- What is required by statute or expected by recovery partners?
- Have those functions, or should those functions, change with the evolving recovery effort?
- How can/should the Board most effectively implement its core functions and priorities?
- What are the implications for the Board's investment strategy – projects, human capital/infrastructure, monitoring?

RCO staff and representatives from the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG), Council of Regions (COR), and project sponsors will use the attached PowerPoint presentation to provide some background for the board's strategic planning discussion. Staff will present the information within the overall context of the adaptive management cycle.

The following is a brief summary of each section of the presentation.

### Programmatic Funding Practices

At the July 2008 meeting, staff provided the Board with information about historical funding of programmatic activities (activities funded outside the competitive lead entity process). The Board asked staff to provide further details about monitoring activities, discretionary programs, and the LEAG and COR perspectives on programmatic funding. Some parts of the original presentation have been revised to include these updates.

At the request of the Board, staff also has prepared an alternative view of funding practices. This alternative view categorizes total obligations into the following categories: projects, monitoring, infrastructure, and other. The purpose of this breakdown is to assist the Board as it assesses its funding priorities.

### Infrastructure Capacity for Salmon Recovery

As part of its strategic planning, the Board will consider its role in funding various aspects of salmon recovery (projects, planning, infrastructure, etc.). To support this discussion, staff worked with regions, lead entities and sponsors to consider two key elements of the existing human infrastructure: core functions and capacity to perform those core functions. This segment of the presentation summarizes the results of that effort, including identifying core functions, the resources that support those functions and associated capacity issues.

### **Next Steps**

Based on Board discussion and direction, RCO staff will prepare the next draft of the strategic plan, including proposed policies regarding funding programmatic activities, for consideration at a future Board meeting.

### **Attachments**

- A. Presentation to the Board
- B. RCW 77.85.120 – Board Responsibilities
- C. RCW 77.85.050 – Lead Entity Responsibilities
- D. RCW 77.85.090 – Regional Recovery Organization Responsibilities

## **Attachment B: RCW 77.85.120 (Board responsibilities)**

### **Board responsibilities — Grants and loans administration assistance.**

- (1) The salmon recovery funding board is responsible for making grants and loans for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities from the amounts appropriated to the board for this purpose. To accomplish this purpose the board may:
  - (a) Provide assistance to grant applicants regarding the procedures and criteria for grant and loan awards;
  - (b) Make and execute all manner of contracts and agreements with public and private parties as the board deems necessary, consistent with the purposes of this chapter;
  - (c) Accept any gifts, grants, or loans of funds, property, or financial or other aid in any form from any other source on any terms that are not in conflict with this chapter;
  - (d) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW as necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and
  - (e) Do all acts and things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers expressly granted or implied under this chapter.
- (2) The recreation and conservation office shall provide all necessary grants and loans administration assistance to the board, and shall distribute funds as provided by the board in RCW 77.85.130.

## **Attachment C: RCW 77.85.050 (Lead entity responsibilities)**

### **Habitat project lists.**

- (1) (a) Counties, cities, and tribal governments must jointly designate, by resolution or by letters of support, the area for which a habitat project list is to be developed and the lead entity that is to be responsible for submitting the habitat project list. No project included on a habitat project list shall be considered mandatory in nature and no private landowner may be forced or coerced into participation in any respect. The lead entity may be a county, city, conservation district, special district, tribal government, regional recovery organization, or other entity.
  - (b) The lead entity shall establish a committee that consists of representative interests of counties, cities, conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups, business interests, landowners, citizens, volunteer groups, regional fish enhancement groups, and other habitat interests. The purpose of the committee is to provide a citizen-based evaluation of the projects proposed to promote salmon habitat.
  - (c) The committee shall compile a list of habitat projects, establish priorities for individual projects, define the sequence for project implementation, and submit these activities as the habitat project list. The committee shall also identify potential federal, state, local, and private funding sources.
- (2) The area covered by the habitat project list must be based, at a minimum, on a WRIA, combination of WRIsAs, or any other area as agreed to by the counties, cities, and tribes in resolutions or in letters of support meeting the requirements of this subsection. Preference will be given to projects in an area that contain a salmon species that is listed or proposed for listing under the federal endangered species act.
- (3) The lead entity shall submit the habitat project list to the [salmon recovery funding] board in accordance with procedures adopted by the board.

[2005 c 309 § 6; 1999 sp.s. c 13 § 11; 1998 c 246 § 7. Formerly RCW [75.46.060](#).]

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### **Additional Note:**

Habitat project list is defined in RCW 77.85.010 as follows:

- (3) "Habitat project list" is the list of projects resulting from the critical pathways methodology under RCW 77.85.060(2). Each project on the list must have a written agreement from the landowner on whose land the project will be implemented. Projects include habitat restoration projects, habitat protection projects, habitat projects that improve water quality, habitat projects that protect water quality, habitat-related mitigation projects, and habitat project maintenance and monitoring activities.

## **Attachment D: RCW 77.85.090 (Regional recovery organization responsibilities)**

### **Southwest Washington salmon recovery region — Created — Recognition as a regional recovery organization — Puget Sound salmon recovery organizations.**

- (1) The southwest Washington salmon recovery region, whose boundaries are provided in chapter 60, Laws of 1998, is created.
- (2) Lead entities within a salmon recovery region that agree to form a regional salmon recovery organization may be recognized by the governor's salmon recovery office created in RCW [77.85.030](#), during the time it is constituted, as a regional recovery organization. The regional recovery organization may plan, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of a regional recovery plan in accordance with RCW [77.85.150](#). Regional recovery organizations existing as of July 24, 2005, that have developed draft recovery plans approved by the governor's salmon recovery office by July 1, 2005, may continue to plan, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of regional recovery plans.
- (3) Beginning January 1, 2008, the leadership council, created under chapter [90.71](#) RCW, shall serve as the regional salmon recovery organization for Puget Sound salmon species, except for the program known as the Hood Canal summer chum evolutionarily significant unit area, which the Hood Canal coordinating council shall continue to administer under chapter [90.88](#) RCW.

[2007 c 444 § 5; 2007 c 341 § 49; 2005 c 309 § 7; 2000 c 107 § 99; 1998 c 246 § 12. Formerly RCW [75.46.110](#).]

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#### Additional Note:

“Regional recovery organization” is defined in RCW 77.85.010 as follows:

- (7) "Regional recovery organization" or "regional salmon recovery organization" means an entity formed under RCW 77.85.090 for the purpose of recovering salmon, which is recognized in statute or by the governor's salmon recovery office created in RCW 77.85.030.

## Strategic Planning Overview

- What is the Board's role in funding the elements of salmon recovery?
- What are the Board's goals? How do these drive its funding priorities?

## Programmatic Funding Practices

- What are the programs and activities that the Board is supporting?
- Does the current funding pattern reflect the desired balance between projects, activities, and infrastructure?

## Infrastructure Capacity for Salmon Recovery

- What are infrastructure functions that the Board is supporting?
- Does the use of funds reflect the Board's priorities?
- What effect should capacity needs have on the Board's funding priorities?

## Public Comment

- What else should the Board consider?

## Wrap-up and Board Discussion

- What is the Board's role in funding the elements of salmon recovery?
- What are the Board's goals? How should they drive its funding priorities?
- Next steps?

# Item #9

## **Programmatic Funding and Infrastructure Capacity Considerations for Strategic Planning and Adaptive Management**

# Order of Presentation

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- **Strategic Planning Overview**
- **Programmatic Funding Practices**
- **Infrastructure Capacity for Salmon Recovery**
  - Overview and general findings: Core functions supported by SRFB
  - Regions' capacity and needs
  - Lead entities' capacity and needs
  - Sponsors' capacity and needs
- **Public Comment and Testimony**
- **Wrap-up and Board Discussion**

# Background

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## ■ Historical Overview

## ■ July SRFB Meeting

- Historic and current uses of programmatic funding
- Human capital and infrastructure
- Budget constraints and priorities
- Strategic planning
  - SRFB core functions
  - SRFB role in funding the full spectrum of salmon recovery activities

## ■ 2008 Work Plan – for October

- Do lead entities have the capacity to carry out their core functions? To respond to other demands made on them?
- Is there sufficient project sponsor capacity to carry out the priority projects in each lead entity area?

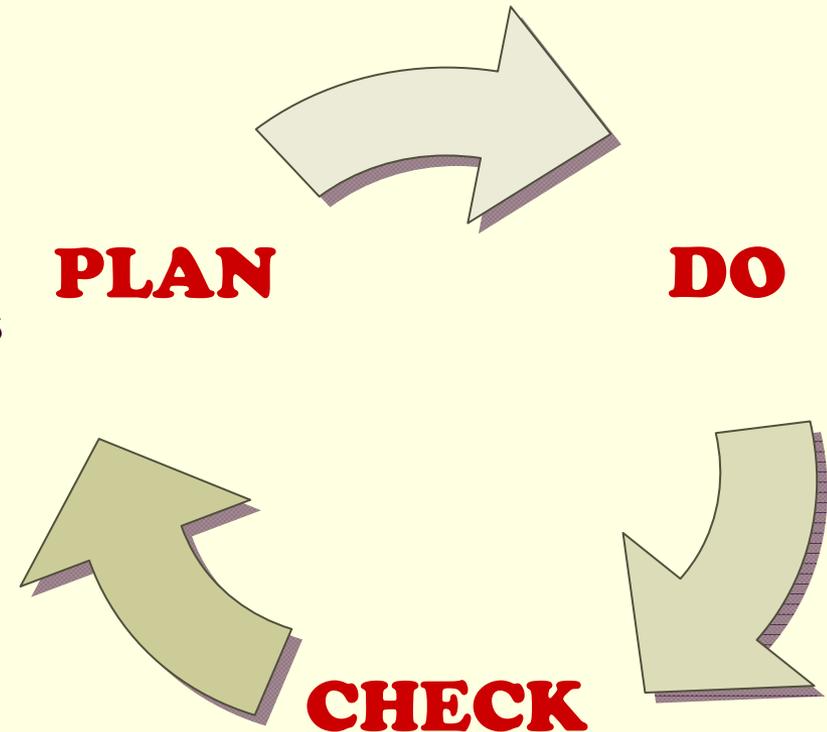
# Core Functions of the SRFB

## ■ What are SRFB's Core Functions in Salmon Recovery?

- Statutory charge
- Evolving recovery effort
- Adaptive management
- Funding: projects, infrastructure, planning, monitoring, etc

## ■ How should the SRFB fulfill its core functions?

- Setting Board priorities



# Adaptive Management Model: *Habitat Protection and Restoration*

