WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

PROPOSED
Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

October 16-17, 2013
Dayton Best Western Conference Center, 507 E Main Street, Dayton, Washington, 99328

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation:
In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment:
If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time.

You also may submit written comments to the Board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison at the address above or at rebecca.connolly@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations:
If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us at 360/902-3086 or TDD 360/902-1996.

OCTOBER 16, 2013

OPENING AND WELCOME

9:00 a.m. **Call to Order** *Chair*

- Determine Quorum
- Introduce New Members Bob Bugert and Rob Duff
- Welcome from Local Officials
- Review and Approve Agenda ***(Decision)***
- Approve August Meeting Minutes ***(Decision)***

MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS (Briefings)

9:05 a.m. **1. Management Report**

A. Director's Report *Kaleen Cottingham*
- Staff changes at RCO
- Overview of Congressional Tour *Nona Snell*
- Legislative and Policy Updates *Rebecca Connolly*
- Performance Update (written only)

B. Financial Report

9:15 a.m. **2. Salmon Recovery Management Report** *Brian Abbott*, *Tara Galuska*

9:30 a.m. **3. Reports from Partners**

A. Council of Regions Report *Jeff Breckel*
B. Lead Entity Advisory Group Report *Darcy Batura*
C. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups *Brian Burns*
D. Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates *SRFB Agency Representatives*

General Public Comment: *Please limit comments to 3 minutes*

10:00 a.m.	**4. Staff Introduction to Monitoring Strategy** • General overview of monitoring related to salmon recovery • Overview of monitoring funded by the board • Background regarding assessment by Stillwater Sciences	*Brian Abbott* *Keith Dublanica*
10:20 a.m.	**BREAK**	
10:30 a.m.	**5. Presentation by Stillwater Sciences of their Assessment and Proposed Recommendations for the Board's New Monitoring Strategy**	*Jody Lando* *Derek Booth*
11:45 a.m.	**LUNCH**	
12:15 p.m.	**Item 5, Continued** • Board questions and discussion re: Proposed Monitoring Strategy • Staff wrap-up and next steps	
1:30 p.m.	**BREAK**	
Decisions		
1:45 p.m.	**6. Proposed Approach to Developing a Strategic Communication Plan**	*Brian Abbott*
2:15 p.m.	**7. Puget Sound Partnership's Proposal to Use $200,000 Previously Reallocated to Lead Entities (from returned funds)**	*Brian Abbott* *Lloyd Moody* *Jeanette Dorner*
Briefings		
2:45 p.m.	**8. Request by Department of Fish and Wildlife to Use Returned Funds for Fish-in/Fish-Out Monitoring**	*Erik Neatherlin*
3:15 p.m.	**BREAK**	
Decisions		
3:30 p.m.	**9. Projects Proposed by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Early Action Funding**	*Tara Galuska*
Briefings		
4:00 p.m.	**10. Overview of Tour and Snake River Region**	*Steve Martin*
5:00 p.m.	**ADJOURN FOR THE DAY**	

OCTOBER 17, 2013

8:15 a.m.	**Meet in Hotel Lobby** • Dayton Best Western Conference Center, 507 E Main Street Dayton, Washington, 99328
8:30 a.m.	**Depart for Board Tour** • Transportation provided for board members and staff • Directions and tour agenda available for members of public and other interested parties
1:45 p.m.	**Return to Hotel and End Tour** Next regular meeting: December 4-5, 2013, Olympia, WA

WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4704

Dear Senator Cantwell,

The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This important federal funding provides direct support for our locally-based work to restore and protect some of Washington State's strongest remaining wild salmon populations. Maintaining this funding at the $65 million level as is proposed in the Senate's 2014 budget is essential to our organization's work.

Our Partnership is unique among Washington's salmon recovery organizations. We are a voluntary coalition of the four locally-based watershed groups. We are organized as a Joint Board and count five tribes, five counties, seven cities, and the Port of Grays Harbor among our partners. Although we have two listed salmonid species, we are the only region with the primary purpose of preventing additional Endangered Species Act listings of pacific salmon rather than recovering those already listed. The two listed species, Lake Ozette sockeye and bull trout, both present recovery challenges that can only be met with continued PCSRF funding.

Pacific Salmon are central to life on the coast. Salmon are so important to our coastal tribes that treaties obligate the state and federal governments to protect and maintain their fishing rights. Some of the finest recreational fishing opportunities in the entire country can be found here and, together with commercial fisheries, generate millions of dollars for our rural economies each year.

Your support for this program has yielded some very impressive results on the Washington Coast. Since 1999, over $12.6 million in PCSRF funds has been invested in the Coast Region which has in turn leveraged an additional $33 million in state and local funding. Since 2009 alone more than 440 fish passage barriers have been removed in the region, opening more than 715 miles of habitat to spawning,

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

rearing, and migration thereby helping to restore salmon and also providing family wage jobs for local contractors, equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, biologists and project managers. Thirty-nine jobs have been created in the Coast Region for every million dollars invested in habitat restoration. In an area with some of the highest unemployment rates in the country this funding has provided a lifeline for the fish and our communities.

Thank you again for your continued support of the critically important program for the economic, recreational, and cultural identity of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Mark Swartout, Chair

cc: David Troutt, Chair, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Phil Miller, Interim Chair, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Foundation

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Denny Heck
US House of Representatives
425 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4709

Dear Congressman Heck,

The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This important federal funding provides direct support for our locally-based work to restore and protect some of Washington State's strongest remaining wild salmon populations. Maintaining this funding at the $65 million level as is proposed in the Senate's 2014 budget is essential to our organization's work.

Our Partnership is unique among Washington's salmon recovery organizations. We are a voluntary coalition of the four locally-based watershed groups. We are organized as a Joint Board and count five tribes, five counties, seven cities, and the Port of Grays Harbor among our partners. Although we have two listed salmonid species, we are the only region with the primary purpose of preventing additional Endangered Species Act listings of pacific salmon rather than recovering those already listed. The two listed species, Lake Ozette sockeye and bull trout, both present recovery challenges that can only be met with continued PCSRF funding.

Pacific Salmon are central to life on the coast. Salmon are so important to our coastal tribes that treaties obligate the state and federal governments to protect and maintain their fishing rights. Some of the finest recreational fishing opportunities in the entire country can be found here and, together with commercial fisheries, generate millions of dollars for our rural economies each year.

Your support for this program has yielded some very impressive results on the Washington Coast. Since 1999, over $12.6 million in PCSRF funds has been invested in the Coast Region which has in turn leveraged an additional $33 million in state and local funding. Since 2009 alone more than 440 fish passage barriers have been removed in the region, opening more than 715 miles of habitat to spawning,

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

rearing, and migration thereby helping to restore salmon and also providing family wage jobs for local contractors, equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, biologists and project managers. Thirty-nine jobs have been created in the Coast Region for every million dollars invested in habitat restoration. In an area with some of the highest unemployment rates in the country this funding has provided a lifeline for the fish and our communities.

Thank you again for your continued support of the critically important program for the economic, recreational, and cultural identity of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Mark Swartout, Chair

cc: David Troutt, Chair, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Phil Miller, Interim Chair, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Foundation

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
US House of Representatives
1130 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4703

Dear Congresswoman Beutler,

The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This important federal funding provides direct support for our locally-based work to restore and protect some of Washington State's strongest remaining wild salmon populations. Maintaining this funding at the $65 million level as is proposed in the Senate's 2014 budget is essential to our organization's work.

Our Partnership is unique among Washington's salmon recovery organizations. We are a voluntary coalition of the four locally-based watershed groups. We are organized as a Joint Board and count five tribes, five counties, seven cities, and the Port of Grays Harbor among our partners. Although we have two listed salmonid species, we are the only region with the primary purpose of preventing additional Endangered Species Act listings of pacific salmon rather than recovering those already listed. The two listed species, Lake Ozette sockeye and bull trout, both present recovery challenges that can only be met with continued PCSRF funding.

Pacific Salmon are central to life on the coast. Salmon are so important to our coastal tribes that treaties obligate the state and federal governments to protect and maintain their fishing rights. Some of the finest recreational fishing opportunities in the entire country can be found here and, together with commercial fisheries, generate millions of dollars for our rural economies each year.

Your support for this program has yielded some very impressive results on the Washington Coast. Since 1999, over $12.6 million in PCSRF funds has been invested in the Coast Region which has in turn leveraged an additional $33 million in state and local funding. Since 2009 alone more than 440 fish passage barriers have been removed in the region, opening more than 715 miles of habitat to spawning,

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

rearing, and migration thereby helping to restore salmon and also providing family wage jobs for local contractors, equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, biologists and project managers. Thirty-nine jobs have been created in the Coast Region for every million dollars invested in habitat restoration. In an area with some of the highest unemployment rates in the country this funding has provided a lifeline for the fish and our communities.

Thank you again for your continued support of the critically important program for the economic, recreational, and cultural identity of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Mark Swartout, Chair

cc: David Troutt, Chair, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Phil Miller, Interim Chair, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Foundation

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
US House of Representatives
1429 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515-4706

Dear Congressman Kilmer,

The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This important federal funding provides direct support for our locally-based work to restore and protect some of Washington State's strongest remaining wild salmon populations. Maintaining this funding at the $65 million level as is proposed in the Senate's 2014 budget is essential to our organization's work.

Our Partnership is unique among Washington's salmon recovery organizations. We are a voluntary coalition of the four locally-based watershed groups. We are organized as a Joint Board and count five tribes, five counties, seven cities, and the Port of Grays Harbor among our partners. Although we have two listed salmonid species, we are the only region with the primary purpose of preventing additional Endangered Species Act listings of pacific salmon rather than recovering those already listed. The two listed species, Lake Ozette sockeye and bull trout, both present recovery challenges that can only be met with continued PCSRF funding.

Pacific Salmon are central to life on the coast. Salmon are so important to our coastal tribes that treaties obligate the state and federal governments to protect and maintain their fishing rights. Some of the finest recreational fishing opportunities in the entire country can be found here and, together with commercial fisheries, generate millions of dollars for our rural economies each year.

Your support for this program has yielded some very impressive results on the Washington Coast. Since 1999, over $12.6 million in PCSRF funds has been invested in the Coast Region which has in turn leveraged an additional $33 million in state and local funding. Since 2009 alone more than 440 fish passage barriers have been removed in the region, opening more than 715 miles of habitat to spawning,

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

rearing, and migration thereby helping to restore salmon and also providing family wage jobs for local contractors, equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, biologists and project managers. Thirty-nine jobs have been created in the Coast Region for every million dollars invested in habitat restoration. In an area with some of the highest unemployment rates in the country this funding has provided a lifeline for the fish and our communities.

Thank you again for your continued support of the critically important program for the economic, recreational, and cultural identity of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Mark Swartout, Chair

cc: David Troutt, Chair, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Phil Miller, Interim Chair, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Foundation

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

WASHINGTON COAST SUSTAINABLE SALMON PARTNERSHIP

September 27, 2013

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4701

Dear Senator Murray,

The Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This important federal funding provides direct support for our locally-based work to restore and protect some of Washington State's strongest remaining wild salmon populations. Maintaining this funding at the $65 million level as is proposed in the Senate's 2014 budget is essential to our organization's work.

Our Partnership is unique among Washington's salmon recovery organizations. We are a voluntary coalition of the four locally-based watershed groups. We are organized as a Joint Board and count five tribes, five counties, seven cities, and the Port of Grays Harbor among our partners. Although we have two listed salmonid species, we are the only region with the primary purpose of preventing additional Endangered Species Act listings of pacific salmon rather than recovering those already listed. The two listed species, Lake Ozette sockeye and bull trout, both present recovery challenges that can only be met with continued PCSRF funding.

Pacific Salmon are central to life on the coast. Salmon are so important to our coastal tribes that treaties obligate the state and federal governments to protect and maintain their fishing rights. Some of the finest recreational fishing opportunities in the entire country can be found here and, together with commercial fisheries, generate millions of dollars for our rural economies each year.

Your support for this program has yielded some very impressive results on the Washington Coast. Since 1999, over $12.6 million in PCSRF funds has been invested in the Coast Region which has in turn leveraged an additional $33 million in state and local funding. Since 2009 alone more than 440 fish passage barriers have been removed in the region, opening more than 715 miles of habitat to spawning,

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

rearing, and migration thereby helping to restore salmon and also providing family wage jobs for local contractors, equipment operators, surveyors, engineers, biologists and project managers. Thirty-nine jobs have been created in the Coast Region for every million dollars invested in habitat restoration. In an area with some of the highest unemployment rates in the country this funding has provided a lifeline for the fish and our communities.

Thank you again for your continued support of the critically important program for the economic, recreational, and cultural identity of Washington State.

Sincerely,

Mark Swartout, Chair

cc: David Troutt, Chair, Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Phil Miller, Interim Chair, Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Foundation

Post Office Box 2392, 114 E Chance A La Mer NE, Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360 289 2499 http://wcssp.org

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1A**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Director's Report

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities, including operations, agency policy issues, legislation, and performance management. Information specific to salmon grant management and the fiscal report are in separate board memos.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

In this Report

- Agency Operations
- Legislative Updates
- Salmon Recovery News
- Updates on Sister Boards
- Performance Measures

Agency Operations

Staffing Changes

As noted in August, Brian Abbott was selected as the new executive coordinator for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. With Brian taking on these new responsibilities, we promoted Tara Galuska to be the new Salmon Section manager. Tara has been with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) since 2002 and has held the positions of outdoor grants manager and senior outdoor grants manager. Prior to coming to RCO, Tara worked in the aquatics division for the Department of Natural Resources and did some work and study in Costa Rica. Tara holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management and a master's degree in Environmental Studies.

Kat Moore was selected to replace Tara as the Salmon Section senior outdoor grants manager. Kat has been an outdoor grants manager with RCO since 2010. Before coming to RCO, Kat worked as the Conservation Projects Manager at the Capitol Land Trust, at the Oregon

Watershed Enhancement Board, and at the Wildlife Conservation Society. She holds a bachelor's degree in Natural Resources, a master's degree in Environmental Studies, and is a licensed attorney. We are currently recruiting to fill Kat's now vacant grant manager position.

Balancing Historic Preservation with Salmon Recovery

RCO has been working to address how we to deal with historic buildings found on property acquired or dedicated for salmon restoration. Using a Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant, the Nisqually Land Trust bought a number of properties in the Ohop Valley as part of their effort to realign the lower Ohop Creek channel and restore the valley. The land is home to a number of farm structures with historic significance. RCO policy, however, requires the demolition of any structures. Landowners are concerned about liability and vandalism if the structures remain. RCO has been working with Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, the Nisqually Land Trust, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, and other interested people to develop a strategy to address these historic structures in a more sensitive manner. We are also working with other grant sponsors, DAHP, and the Army Corps of Engineers on what to do with the historic Oyster Processing Shack near the town of Allyn on Case Inlet.

Strategic Planning

In May, the RCO operations team began updating the agency's strategic plan. The plan was written 5 years ago, and the operations team wants to simplify it and ensure that it reflects today's operational reality. Many changes have occurred since the plan was originally drafted:

- The loss of the Biodiversity Council and Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health
- The loss of several staff positions
- The addition of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
- A downturn in the economy

In addition, the plan needs to align our efforts with the priorities of Governor Inslee and his Results Washington Framework, which will be shared with the board at the October meeting. The operations team drafted minor changes to the agency's vision and mission statements. Work continued over the summer to rewrite our goals so that they reflect the RCO's work in clear language. We hope to finalize the new strategic plan this fall.

IT Priorities for Coming Year

After much discussion and some good work by staff we have approved a list of information technology (IT) priorities for the coming two years. The list includes:

- Finishing the already-started compliance workbench that will help address grant compliance efforts and inspections.
- Building an online billing feature in PRISM that will speed up and automate the billing process for sponsors.
- Fixing several small PRISM issues.

- Scoping and building a new mapping tool to be used for cultural resources review.
- Scoping and building a mechanism by which grants managers may enter application review comments on each page of the project application.
- Beginning to take a long-term strategic look at our IT systems.

We also were given two other IT tasks with funding in budget provisos that we will be working on over the next two years: Updating the public lands inventory and working on a mitigation matching project in consultation with the Department of Transportation.

Legislative Update

Landowner Liability (HB 1194)

RCO staff is drafting a fact sheet about implementing HB 1194, the bill that limits the liability of landowners who allow a salmon restoration project to be built on their land.

Mitigation Matching

The 2013-15 capital budget included $100,000 from the state salmon appropriation for RCO, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, to develop a system that helps identify transportation mitigation projects that minimize permit delays and optimize salmon habitat restoration. The work must be done using only existing state licensed technologies (e.g., Habitat Work Schedule). RCO staff drafted a work plan and is meeting with the departments of Transportation and Ecology.

Public Land Inventory

The public land inventory update required in the current capital budget is underway. The University of Washington will provide local, state, federal and tribal land ownership data. The state land information will be updated and verified by the various state landowning agencies. The RCO will select a contractor to build a web-accessible system to geographically view this information. A status report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2014, and the project must be complete by July 1, 2014.

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee will use the inventory information to complete an analysis of the budget impacts and the economic benefits and costs of public land acquisitions. Their analysis will also look at the differences in public land ownership among Washington's thirty-nine counties.

Coordination with Other Agencies

RCO has been asked by its sister agencies to help manage funding for some large capital projects. Once the Legislature approved the capital budget, RCO began working with other agencies to identify projects currently under RCO contract (or on our project lists) that also were funded in the other agencies' capital budgets. RCO worked out an agreement with the Department of Ecology to manage $1.6 million for five projects in the Yakima River basin. RCO is also discussing managing a portion of Ecology's $33 million dedicated to floodplain projects in

the Puget Sound region. A significant portion of these projects have been developed, designed, or are underway through funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Finally, RCO has reached out to the Office of Financial Management and offered assistance to manage some projects eligible under the habitat component of the Chehalis basin flood funding.

Budget Update

Supplemental Budget Requests

The guidance from the Office of Financial Management on acceptable supplemental budget requests is very narrow. The RCO will be submitting one request for a technical correction related to the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. We will also be requesting one addition to one of our recreation grant programs to backfill a sweep of funding several years ago.

Federal Budget

As of this writing, there was no budget for federal fiscal year 2014, and thus, no definite news about the funding level for PCSRF. The Senate Interior Appropriations bill includes $65 million in fiscal year 2014 for PCSRF. This is an increase of $15 million above President Obama's proposed federal fiscal year 2014 budget and a $30 million increase above the corresponding House of Representatives appropriations bill. It is highly unlikely that a budget will be adopted for 2014. Instead, it is predicted that Congress will adopt a continuing resolution at a status quo level ($65 million), minus reductions for the sequestration.

Salmon Recovery News

Congressional Staff Tour in August

RCO worked with the Puget Sound Partnership and the Department of Fish and Wildlife on a congressional staff tour on August 22. The Washington congressional delegation staff had the opportunity to see both conservation projects and salmon recovery projects in the Nisqually Watershed and along the shores of southern Puget Sound and to talk about important federal funding support.

Salmon Conference Wrap-up

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board held its fourth biennial conference May 14-15 in Vancouver. A total of 624 people attended, representing at least 56 businesses, 36 nonprofits, 22 tribes, 19 conservation districts, 17 counties, and 13 state agencies. The two-day conference highlighted what is working in salmon recovery, what hasn't worked, and how to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of projects. The event focused on building better salmon recovery projects and sharing lessons learned from more than 1,600 completed projects, as well as the practical applications of new research and monitoring findings. There were more than 100 presenters. New features at this year's conference included nearly 20 student volunteers from six different colleges who helped in the sessions, an enthusiastically received track on organizational development, and a door prize drawing that encouraged attendees to visit the 40 exhibitors and to stay to the very end. More than 190 people responded to the online conference evaluation. Of these,

- 100 percent reported a positive overall impression of the conference.
- 99.5 percent would attend the conference again.
- 99.5 percent said the conference was a good value for the money.

Update on Sister Boards

Washington Invasive Species Council

Following the council meeting on June 20, staff prepared a letter to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council on recommendations to the Fish and Wildlife Program. The recommendations relate to increased funding for enhanced inspection and decontamination efforts in the region, stronger measures to prevent the inadvertent spread of invasive species resulting from habitat research and restoration activities, maintaining the council's leadership role and the coordination function of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission that have both proven so effective, and careful consideration of invasive species used for biological fuel production. Before submitting the proposed recommendations, the Invasive Species Council requested the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to strengthen invasive species prevention language in its habitat restoration and construction contracts. BPA agreed to do so and will refine its contracting language in three ways – adding invasive species milestones to fish and wildlife mitigation contracts, incorporating invasive species prevention for habitat work that receives Endangered Species Act coverage, and adding a sponsor requirement similar to that done in RCO's Manual 18.

Other council work includes creating a Facebook page to educate a new audience on invasive species, helping the Department of Fish and Wildlife prepare for a series of stakeholder meetings on its proposed 2014 invasive species legislation, attending the Pacific Northwest Economic Region meeting in Alaska on invasive species, working with state agencies to develop a position statement on Japanese eelgrass, and working on gaining federal support for the prevention and eradication of the quagga mussel. Staff also met with the Northwest Waterways Association in Portland. We continue to look for ways to partner with other organizations that have a vested interested in invasive species prevention and control.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The lands group held a meeting in July to discuss the Fifth Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum and the second *State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report*. The group agreed that the forum and the monitoring report should reflect proposed legislation related to land acquisitions and the general environment of the Legislature related to land acquisitions. The forum, scheduled for October 30, and report will include more cost information than has been included in the past.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

At its June meeting, the RCFB approved ranked lists of projects in nearly all of its grant programs. The RCFB also approved the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) update and the staff proposal for the legacy project recognition.

At its September meeting, held in Wenatchee, the RCFB approved changes to the process used to evaluate projects in some categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). In addition, the board reviewed proposed recommendations for the State Trails Plan and the Nonhighway Offroad Vehicle Activities (NOVA) plan. On the second day of the meeting, RCFB members joined project sponsors and other stakeholders to tour four recreation project sites.

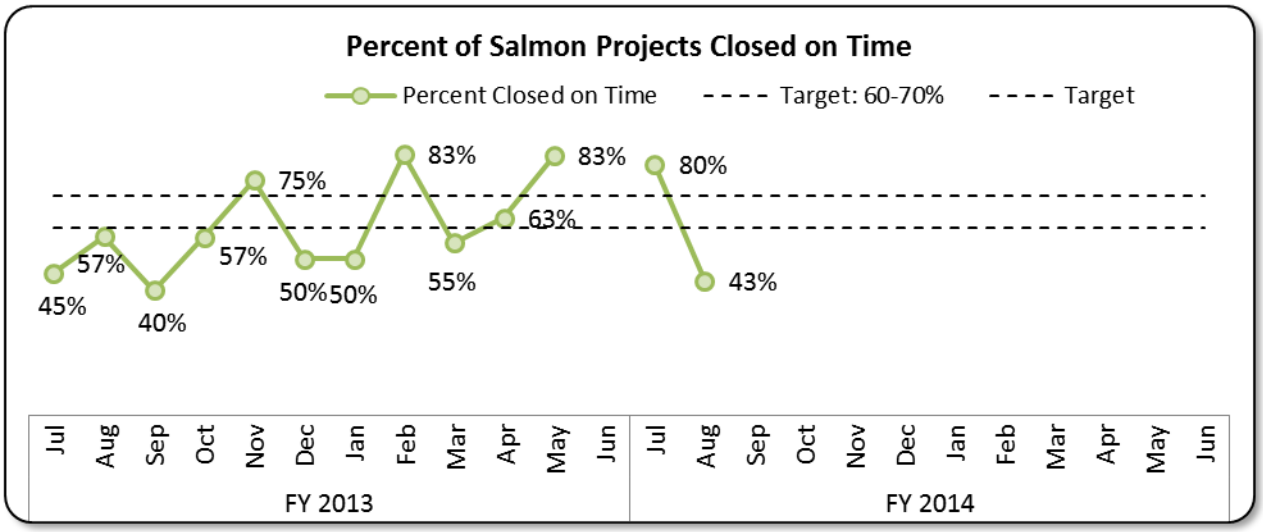
The next meeting for the RCFB is in November.

Performance Measures

All data are for salmon grants only, as of September 1, 2013

Measure	Target	FY 2014 Performance	Indicator
Percent of salmon projects closed on time	60-70%	58%	●
% salmon grant projects issued a project agreement within 120 days after the board funding date	85-95%	To be measured following the December board meeting. Early action projects, which are being placed under agreement at this time, will be included.	
% of salmon grant projects under agreement within 180 days after the board funding date	95%		
Cumulative expenditures, salmon target by fiscal month	See discussion below for data from the 2011-13 biennium. Targets are in development for 2013-15.		
Bills paid within 30 days: salmon projects and activities	100%	91%	●
Percent of anticipated stream miles made accessible to salmon	100%	Quarterly measure. No data for this period.	

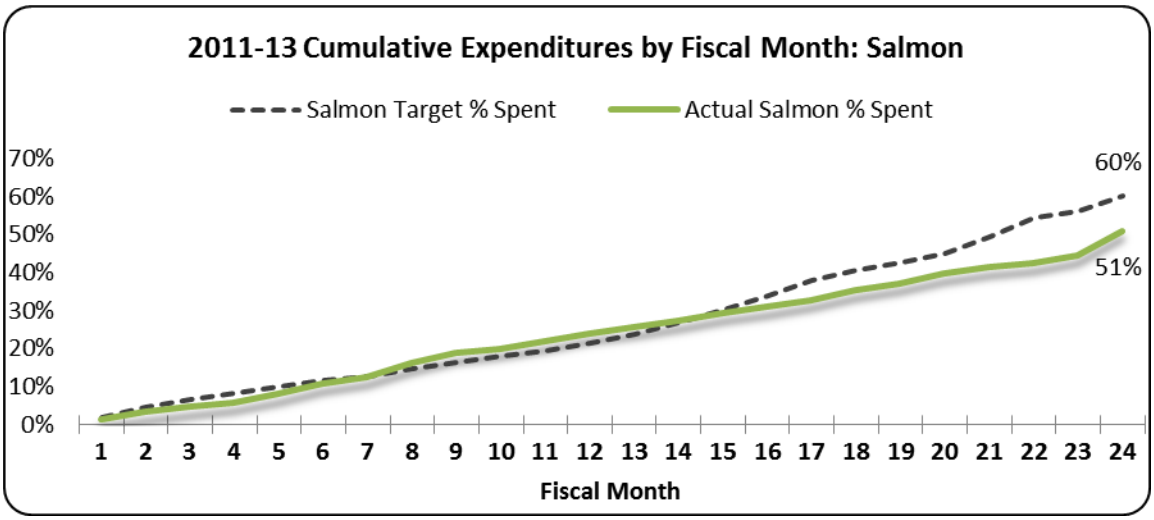
Projects Closed on Time



Seven of the twelve projects due for closure since July 1, 2013 have closed on time. One closed late, while another four remain active.

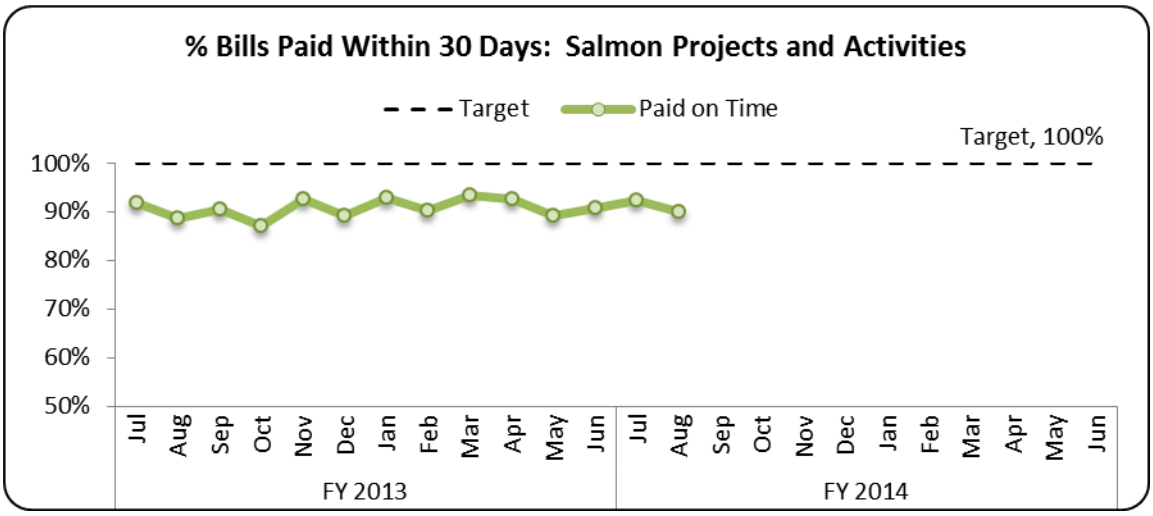
In fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013), 90 out of 153 projects (59%) of projects closed on time. An additional 29 closed late, while 34 remain open.

Cumulative Expenditures by Fiscal Month: 2011-13



This chart shows data for the last biennium (2011-13). Although the expenditures fell short of the target, the reappropriation is still below 50 percent, which is good news. For the entire RCO, the reappropriation rate fell to about 45 percent; the fifth straight biennial decline. This will continue to be an area of emphasis for the RCO, but the focus will shift to include the year of the funding to reflect the legislative focus on having funds spent within four years of appropriation.

Bills Paid on Time



There were 366 bills due in the first two months of the fiscal year. Of these, RCO staff paid 333 (91 percent) on time; another 13 were paid late. Often, late payment is related to the need for additional documentation to support the payment, project issues, or workload.

Staff had similar performance in the 2011-13 biennium, when they paid 86 percent of bills for salmon projects and activities within 30 days.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1B**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Management Status Report: Financial Report

Prepared By: Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This financial report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) activities as of September 24, 2013.

The available balance (funds to be committed) is $109.5 million. The amount for the board to allocate is about $28.0 million, primarily in new state and federal funds as well as returned funds. The amount for other entities to allocate is $81.0 million.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance	$15,718,713
Current Federal Balance – Projects, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	$12,467,340
Current Federal Balance – Activities	$5,878,198
Lead Entities	$1,002,675
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) & Puget Sound Restoration (PSR)	$58,347,670
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	$8,988,049
Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)	$6,580,941
Puget Sound Critical Stock	$137,097

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Budget Summary

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 9/24/2013 (fm02) 9/24/2013
Percentage of biennium reported: 10.4%

	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	new & reapp. 2013-15	Dollars	% of budget	Dollars	% of budget	Dollars	% of comm
GRANT PROGRAMS							
State Funded 03-05	$159,127	$159,127	100%	$0	0%	$8,922	6%
State Funded 05-07	$947,980	$947,980	100%	$0	0%	$0	0%
State Funded 07-09	$1,892,914	$1,892,914	100%	$0	0%	$77,122	4%
State Funded 09-11	$210,888	$210,888	100%	$0	0%	$210,888	100%
State Funded 11-13	$7,238,131	$5,901,418	82%	$1,336,713	18%	$1,730,298	29%
State Funded 13-15	$14,382,000	$0	0%	$14,382,000	100%	$0	0%
State Funded Total	$24,831,040	$9,112,327	37%	$15,718,713	63%	$2,027,230	22%
Federal Funded 2009	$4,221,630	$4,221,630	100%	$0	0%	$197,493	5%
Federal Funded 2010	$12,820,920	$12,654,589	100%	$166,331	0%	$619,584	5%
Federal Funded 2011	$12,544,842	$12,274,640	100%	$270,202	0%	$1,219,847	10%
Federal Funded 2012	$19,224,074	$16,771,222	90%	$2,452,852	10%	$473,069	3%
Federal Funded 2013	$18,284,837	$2,828,684	15%	$15,456,153	85%	$33,093	1%
Federal Funded Total	$67,096,304	$48,750,766	74%	$18,345,538	26%	$2,543,086	5%
Lead Entities	$6,204,166	$5,201,491	84%	$1,002,675	16%	$1,283,920	25%
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	$82,201,096	$23,853,426	29%	$58,347,670	71%	$2,290,261	10%
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	$15,541,509	$6,553,459	42%	$8,988,049	58%	$244,761	4%
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	$11,291,693	$4,710,753	42%	$6,580,941	58%	$1,873,575	40%
Puget Sound Critical Stock	$2,395,012	$2,257,915	94%	$137,097	6%	$350,799	16%
Subtotal Grant Programs	**$209,560,819**	**$100,440,137**	**48%**	**$109,120,682**	**52%**	**$10,613,632**	**10%**
ADMINISTRATION							
SRFB Admin/Staff	$4,265,478	$4,265,478	100%	-	0%	$232,001	5%
Review Panel	$517,509	$126,434	24%	$391,075	76%	$70,401	56%
Subtotal Administration	**$4,782,987**	**$4,391,912**	**92%**	**$391,075**	**8%**	**$302,402**	**7%**
GRANT AND ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	**$214,343,806**	**$104,832,049**	**49%**	**$109,511,757**	**51%**	**$10,916,033**	**10%**

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, GSRO Coordinator
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

The following are some highlights of work being done by the salmon section staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Grant Management

2013 Grant Cycle

The 2013 grant cycle is underway. Eleven PSAR projects were funded using the early action process by the board in August 2013. Those projects are getting under agreement. A total of 181 projects were submitted by the application due date of August 16, 2013. RCO staff have reviewed the applications, and the Review Panel has met to review and provide comments to the project sponsors. The sponsors will be providing updates to their applications and any projects of concern will be presented at the regional area meetings at the end of October.

Viewing Completed and Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that have been completed and closed between April 16 and September 13, 2013. To view information about a project, click on the blue project number[1]. From that link, you can open and view the project attachments (e.g., design, photos, maps, and final report).

[1] Must be connected to the internet; Depending on the computer, you may have to right click and select "open hyperlink."

Amendments Approved by the Director

In December 2011, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) asked that this report include a list of major scope and cost increase amendments approved by the director. The table below shows the major amendments approved between April 16, 2013 and September 15, 2013. Staff processed a total of 89 amendments during this period, but most were minor revisions related to the metrics update project or time extensions.

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Amount/Notes
11-1565	City of Yakima Floodplain Ecosystem Restoration	City of Yakima	Salmon Federal	Cost Increase	$100,000 to cover higher construction costs identified during the design phase.
11-1372	Nason Creek Alcove Acquisition	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Salmon Federal	Cost Increase	$28,000 to help cover higher than anticipated appraisal costs.
09-1623	Lower Wenatchee River Flow Enhancement	Trout Unlimited Ltd	Salmon Federal	Cost Increase	$42,000 to complete the diversion dam removal portion of the project.
07-1676	Historic Skamokawa Creek Restoration	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Salmon State	Cost Increase	$75,000 to cover the increased cost of fuel, concrete, and permits, as well as increased structure size.
10-1764	Herke Screen Screening	North Yakima Conservation District	Salmon Federal	Cost Increase	$47,000 to cover higher than expected construction bid and provide a better screen type and grade control mechanism.
11-1574	Pataha Creek Watershed Assessment	Pomeroy Conservation District	Salmon Federal	Scope Change	Reducing scope of work from a 50 mile reach barrier assessment using a fixed wing aircraft to an approximately 20 mile reach barrier assessment by foot.
10-1784	Deschutes River ELJ Design	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	PSAR	Scope Change	Reduce design from full design to 60 percent design and return funds.

Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. Information is current as of September 17, 2013.

- Staff is working with sponsors to place the "pending" projects under agreement, following approval at the board meeting in December 2012.
- Active projects are under agreement. Sponsors are working on implementation, with RCO staff support for grant administration and compliance.

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	7	71	160	238
Salmon Federal or State Projects	2	269	1,218	1,489
	9	**340**	**1,378**	**1,727**

This table does not include projects funded through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, although RCO staff support those programs through grant administration.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Region and Lead Entity Contracts

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff has been working hard since the August board meeting to complete the lead entity and regional contracts. We have worked with partners to finalize scopes of work, prepare agreements for signature, and provide cash advances as needed. All regional organizations now have a contract for the 2013-15 biennium. Several Puget Sound lead entities are finishing up the PSAR capacity scopes of work, and those contracts should be completed soon. Staff members also are working on contracts for lead entities outside the Puget Sound.

BPA Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Recommendations

Under the Northwest Power Act of 1980, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Council) must develop and maintain a fish and wildlife program for the Columbia River Basin. This program is designed to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities while ensuring that the Pacific Northwest has an adequate, efficient, economical, and reliable power supply.

The Act requires the Council to request recommendations to amend the program at least every five years. That request takes place before the Council reviews its regional electric power and conservation plan. The Council issued a call for program amendment recommendations in April 2013. Recommendations were due by September 17. GSRO provided a series of recommendations based on the *Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Manager's Draft Reference for Developing 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendment Recommendations*. This document was a collaborative effort among the Columbia Basin fish and wildlife managers to find common language for the recommendations. For more information on the Fish and Wildlife Program amendment process please click on this link: www.nwcouncil.org/amend

PRISM/Habitat Work Schedule Interface

GSRO, RCO, Paladin, and lead entities have been working together to align PRISM and Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) data to improve salmon habitat project data quality and consistency. Alignment also will save lead entities and sponsors time because they currently manage data in both systems.

We have created several data display and sharing tools in both systems, and are about to release the latest features. PRISM has published project data via a web service. Beginning on October 11, HWS will import select PRISM data, thus synchronizing the data on a nightly basis. This improvement will allow lead entities to focus on aspects of HWS data management such as entering information about limiting factors, salmon recovery projects not funded through RCO, and various monitoring efforts in their watersheds.

GSRO, RCO, and Paladin have conducted three recorded trainings for system users that present the changes and the new data from PRISM.

Congressional Tour

The GSRO, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Puget Sound Partnership organized a day-long congressional staff tour in South Sound. We toured both conservation and salmon recovery projects in the Nisqually Watershed and along the shores of southern Puget Sound, and discussed the importance of federal funding support.

GSRO Three to Five Year Strategic Work Plan

Last fall, the RCO worked with an independent consultant to assess the roles and structure of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO). One key recommendation from the consultant's report was that the GSRO should develop a strategic work plan.

GSRO staff has held two retreats and done considerable staff work to develop a plan that reflects statutory requirements, financial realities, and the views of staff and stakeholders, as expressed in the consultant report. The draft plan, which they hope to have ready for the December board meeting, provides a three-to-five year framework of work to accomplish.

Salmon Video Update

In September 2012, the board approved funds to create a video component to the State of the Salmon Web site. The GSRO solicited bids and hired North 40 Productions to make the video.

The video, which was shared with the board in May 2013, focuses on salmon recovery in Washington State, the return on our investments, and the need for continued support. It included interviews with salmon advocates such as former Congressman Norm Dicks, Nisqually Tribal Chair Cynthia Iyall, Nisqually Tribal Vice Chair Willie Frank Junior III, and Bill Ruckleshaus.

The key messages remind viewers:

- we have had some success in salmon recovery

- how and why salmon are important to our state
- what salmon recovery does for the economy and the ecosystem
- that there is work to do to achieve harvestable recovery
- we can recover salmon

This and other RCO videos can be found on the agency's YouTube page: http://www.youtube.com/user/WashingtonRCO. A major press release will be distributed in late September announcing the video.

Attachments

A. Salmon projects recently completed and closed

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
06-2311	Gibbs- Chumstick Creek R5	Cascadia Conservation District	FFFPP Grants	7/12/13
07-1701	Cherry Creek Floodplain Restoration	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/14/13
07-1914	Fisher Slough Floodgate, Levee, Marsh Construction	The Nature Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/26/13
08-1753	Skagit River Floodplain Restoration	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	5/7/13
08-1874	White Salmon Fish Passage Inventory	Underwood Conservation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	4/26/13
08-1936	Mooring Buoy Eelgrass Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Federal Projects	8/1/13
08-1984	Twisp River Riparian Protection II	Methow Conservancy	Salmon Federal Projects	7/24/13
08-2016	South Silver Springs Restoration	Pierce Co Water Programs Div	Salmon Federal Projects	8/16/13
08-2060	Lower Icicle Creek Habitat Conservation	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	5/2/13
09-1379	Klein Farm Acquistion and Restoration	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/14/13
09-1527	Lower Yakima River Fish Screening	Benton Co Conservation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	5/13/13
09-1562	Yakima Basin FWRB	Yakima Basin FWRB	Salmon Federal Activities	5/30/13
09-1564	PSP Recovery Plan Implementation	Puget Sound Partnership	Salmon Federal Activities	6/25/13
09-1575	Cedar River Elliot Bridge Reach Acquisitions	King Co Water & Land Res	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/12/13
09-1582	Wolf Fk. N Fk. Touchet River Fairchild CE	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	4/22/13
09-1601	Expansion of WRIA 2 Watershed Inventory (Phase II)	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	7/24/13
09-1671	South Fork Riparian Enhancement Project	Nooksack Salmon Enhance Assn	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	9/5/13
09-1690	West Sound Water Type Assessment	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/24/13

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
09-1781	Small Grant Program 2010	Nat Fish & Wildlife Foundation	Salmon State Activities	5/6/13
10-1015	Washougal River Weir Construction and Operation	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	4/25/13
10-1059	Wright- Elk Cr R8	Pacific Conservation Dist	FFFPP Grants	5/29/13
10-1195	Pfaff- Little Whiskey Cr R8	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	FFFPP Grants	7/3/13
10-1300	South Fork Saxon Reach Project-Construction	Lummi Nation	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/18/13
10-1340	Lower Canyon Creek Phase 2 Design 2010	Whatcom County FCZD	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/16/13
10-1341	Clark- Coville Cr R8	Clallam Conservation Dist	FFFPP Grants	5/8/13
10-1354	Mills Property Acquisition 2010	Heernett Environmental Found	Salmon Federal Projects	7/22/13
10-1504	Middle Branch LeClerc Creek Restoration	Kalispel Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	9/12/13
10-1746	Assess Potential Actions, Columbia River Mainstem	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Salmon Federal Projects	5/23/13
10-1750	Little Bear Creek - 132nd Ave Barrier Removal	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Salmon State Projects	9/12/13
10-1772	Priest Point Park Bulkhead Removal	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon Federal Projects	8/12/13
10-1777	Maple Creek Reach Acquisition and Restoration	Whatcom Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	7/29/13
10-1784	Deschutes River ELJ/LWD Design Project	South Puget Sound SEG	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	7/10/13
10-1803	Methow River Acquisition 2010 RM 39.5	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Salmon Federal Projects	4/26/13
10-1810	NF Nooksack Wildcat Reach Restoration: Phase 1	Nooksack Indian Tribe	Salmon State Projects	5/10/13
10-1828	Pataha Creek Fish Passage Rectification	Umatilla Confederated Tribes	Salmon Federal Projects	4/23/13
10-1831	Tucannon River Geomorphic Assessment and Design	Walla Walla Community College	Salmon Federal Projects	5/20/13
10-1838	Lower Manastash Assessment & Project Development	Kittitas Co Conservation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	7/26/13

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
10-1848	Mill Creek Preliminary Design	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Salmon Federal Projects	6/4/13
10-1852	Howard Miller Steelhead Park Off Channel Enhance	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	7/10/13
10-1857	PRISM Maintenance 2010	Rudeen & Associates, LLC	Salmon Federal Activities	8/6/13
10-1873	Maple Hollow Restoration	Key Peninsula Metro Park Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	5/8/13
10-1876	McCormick Creek Fish Passage Project	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon Federal Projects	5/29/13
10-1882	West Bainbridge Shoreline Protection Feasibility	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/14/13
10-1900	Boat launch off-channel reconnection project	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Salmon Federal Projects	7/24/13
10-1904	Montgomery- Elk Creek R9	Pacific Conservation Dist	FFFPP Grants	5/29/13
10-1920	Data Management Improvement	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	7/8/13
10-1930	Fishery Evaluation for New Select Fisheries	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	7/8/13
11-1239	Eagle Island- North Channel Restoration Design	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	7/23/13
11-1244	Hoh River Trust #3- Trib to Hoh River R9	Hoh River Trust	FFFPP Grants	9/12/13
11-1271	McElhoe Pearson Levee Setback Design	King Co Water & Land Res	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/11/13
11-1298	Grays Harbor Juvenile Fish Use Assessment 2011	Wild Fish Conservancy	Salmon State Projects	6/27/13
11-1321	Teanaway Forks Large Wood Trapping	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Salmon Federal Projects	7/10/13
11-1430	North Fork Reach Acquisition	Whatcom Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	7/29/13
11-1516	Middle Branch LeClerc Creek Restoration Phase II	Kalispel Tribe	Salmon State Projects	9/12/13
11-1517	Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration I	Bothell City of	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/17/13
11-1531	Mashel Shoreline Protection Phase II	Nisqually Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/24/13

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
11-1562	Deschutes River Stewart Preserve Expansion	Capitol Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	6/25/13
12-1935	Lead Entity Directory	Holly Harmon Creative	Salmon Federal Activities	5/6/13
13-1016	PERS SRV Salmon Recovery in WA - Video	North Forty Productions LLC	Salmon Federal Activities	7/15/13

Washington Council of Salmon Recovery Regions
Report to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
October 2013

The directors met in July for an all-day session to discuss key areas of importance including:

COMMUNICATING WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND STATE LEGISLATORS

The directors appreciated SRFB Chair David Troutt sending letters to the delegation thanking them for their interest and encouraging their continued support in funding salmon recovery. Each region will also send similar letters over the next several months.

ECOLOGY'S STREAM GAGE DECOMMISSIONING

As of October 1 Ecology will decommission 23 percent of stream gages throughout the state. Stream gages play an important and necessary role in establishing instream flow rules. The directors place a high priority on stream gages and monitoring. They will continue to express their concern to Ecology and emphasize the need for this type of data.

COR COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH STRATEGY

The directors agree that it's time to revitalize the salmon recovery message and promoting the Washington Way. To this end a well-crafted outreach and communication strategy will benefit all partners to convey the importance of working toward recovery. It will provide a consistent and focused approach that can be applied within salmon recovery regions and statewide to:

- Sustain and improve support and understanding of recovery strategies, needs and priorities;
- Effectively and clearly communicate the salmon recovery story; and
- Continue to build and expand partnerships.

This item will be discussed in more detail at the October SRFB meeting.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FUNDING POLICIES

Over the fall the directors hope to begin working on recommendations by establishing a workgroup including GSRO staff, SRFB members, Regional Organizations and Lead Entities to explore possible capacity funding scenarios for FY2015. Topics include:

1. Establishing a returned fund account from regional organization and lead entity capacity funds that could be reallocated as follows and within established guidelines:
   - As needs arise to complete current scopes of work funding may be requested to GSRO with sufficient reason for the request; and
   - On a competitive basis fund additional work (projects, monitoring) above and beyond the current scope of work.
2. Adding monitoring as an eligible project type with the caveat that they must be conducted in collaboration with the regional organization.
3. In conjunction with the Stillwater assessment of monitoring needs, consider making available a portion of the 10% statewide monitoring funds available to the regions to set their monitoring needs.

2014 STATE OF THE SALMON PREPARATIONS

Preparations and discussions are underway to begin working on the next SOS report. GSRO led a workshop on September 30 to review each regions perspective on recovery plan goals and reporting.

WASHINGTON STATE'S LEAD ENTITY ADVISORY GROUP (LEAG)

September 30, 2013

David Troutt, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Board Members,

We are happy to report that the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) has been busy over the last few months.

LEAG Mission & Structure Document
Our group took a team approach to this task, which helped us to review our organizational structure and clarify our key internal and external goals and objectives.

Internal Goals:

1. Develop strategies to improve long-term stability of LE/LEAG/Salmon Recovery funding
2. Periodically review and reaffirm LEAG's identity and strategies
3. Encourage Lead Entity consensus on priority recommendations and communicate in a unified manner
4. Facilitate the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs
5. Support professional development and training opportunities

External Goals:

1. Actively advise the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on local salmon recovery and Lead Entity issues
2. Promote the Lead Entity Program as the local, scientifically-based program for developing salmon habitat projects that fit within local community values
3. Increase Lead Entity efficacy and profile by engaging at regional, state, and national levels

Our group also developed a LEAG Action Plan, which includes short-term and long-term actions to achieve each goal. These revised documents are attached for your review.

LEAG Communication and Outreach Efforts

- **Landowner Liability Legislation Survey**
  The Landowner Liability Legislation took effect on July 28th, 2013. LEAG created a survey to help build context regarding the various interpretations of project sponsors, landowners,

and others around the state, and also to gain greater understanding on how people are engaging with the legislation.

The results, which are attached, will be utilized to 1) report initial effects and outcomes of the legislation to the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, 2) share information with the Lead Entities, and 3) evaluate whether to initiate tracking mechanisms to tell the story of how this legislation is impacting approaches to restoration over time.

- **Lead Entity Directory**
  Each Lead Entity worked with GSRO to update the Lead Entity Directory. Feedback on the previous version indicated too much emphasis on the amount of money received, and not enough detail about what lead entities do "on the ground." In response, our updates highlighted Washington's community-based approach to salmon recovery with information about each Technical Advisory Group, Citizen's Committee, project photos, and contact information. We appreciate the positive response to the revised Directory and LEAG is excited to utilize the Directory as an effective outreach tool. We invite you to view the Lead Entity Directory at:
  http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/salmon/lead_entities/LeadEntityDirectory.pdf

- **Revised Website Content**
  LEAG believes that the public and other stakeholders have a difficult time understanding what lead entities and LEAG do. We needed a clear and accessible communication tool that describes who we are, what we do, and how it benefits the State and our salmon recovery efforts. In response to this problem, LEAG worked with RCO's Suzan Zemek to revise the Lead Entity webpage to reflect:

  - Why Lead Entitles are Important to Salmon Recovery
    - Making Smart Investments
    - Making Sure Only the Top Priority Projects are Funded
    - Involving the Community in Salmon Recovery
    - Creating Jobs through Salmon Recovery

  We invite you to review the webpage located at:
  http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/lead_entities.shtml

LEAG Fundraising

- **Strategizing Around Fundraising and Partnerships**
  With generous grant support from the Grays Harbor Lead Entity, LEAG had an opportunity to continue the funding discussion that began at the Salmon Recovery Conference and carried forward into other LEAG discussions throughout the year. LEAG gathered with facilitator Susan Howlett in August to brainstorm ideas and to develop a plan for partnering with businesses and developing a mechanism by which we can receive Foundation funding. LEAG is interested in looking beyond traditional funding sources to complete the projects that are outlined within our plans and to craft our appeals on the iconic nature of the salmon of the Pacific Northwest. The idea to partner with Washington-based businesses

that rely upon the natural and human capital that exists throughout the state was proposed. How we work together to turn this idea into a reality is where we are today.

- **WDFW Collaborative Funding Discussion**
  LEAG Chair and Vice Chair participated in WDFW-sponsored dialogue with RFEGs, agencies, and regional organizations on ways to increase/coordinate funding sources and identify new revenues for salmon recovery. The goal would be to develop a coordinated state funding package and messages by June 2014 for legislative consideration. This product could roll up to a Congressional funding strategy as well.

  The collective goal of this effort is to develop a strategy for securing long-term operating funds (distinct from capital funds) that create capacity to monitor, adaptively manage, update plans, advance science, provide technical assistance, enhance protection, and administer actions to achieve salmon recovery.

- **LEAG Meeting – October 1, Issaquah**
  Our membership is gathering on October 1 to discuss our fundraising options and to develop short-term and long-term strategy for moving forward.

Statewide Lead Entity News and Updates:

The following are updates of activities and items of interest as reported by some of our lead entity members:

San Juan Lead Entity

The San Juan Lead Entity recently completed an acquisition that may be of interest. It was the second highest ranked project in Puget Sound for the recent Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding, and it is located in a high priority salmon recovery area in the San Juans. Everyone who has visited this site (i.e. TAG, CAG and Review Panel members) are very excited about this very "fishy" area that has now been permanently protected! Here is some verbiage from the press release…

San Juan Preservation Trust Grant Awarded: $800,000

Conserving Reid Harbor Shoreline

The San Juan Preservation Trust will use this grant to conserve 61 acres, including nearly three-quarters of a mile of natural shoreline on Reid Harbor on Stuart Island for endangered Chinook salmon, and other fish, including chum and pink salmon, surf smelt, Pacific sand lance, and Pacific herring. The trust will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement (conservation easement) that will protect the land permanently and prevent development of an additional 10 homes. The property is on the southern shore of Reid Harbor and has old growth trees, a shoreline with eelgrass beds and pocket beaches where juvenile Chinook like to frequent, and habitat suitable for fish that salmon eat. The San Juan Preservation Trust has designated the area around Reid Harbor as a priority for conservation and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission already has protected more than 355 acres near this property, including much of the watershed surrounding the harbor. With the land already conserved, this project would extend total protection along the shores to more than 2.5 miles, about 60

percent of the entire Reid Harbor. The San Juan Preservation Trust will contribute $250,000 in funding and donated property interest.

WIRA 8 Lead Entity

Annual WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Tour: The annual WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Tour is scheduled for October 11. The tour will offer members of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, Congressional staff, and state legislators and their staff, and other partners an opportunity to see three large-scale and soon-to-be completed salmon restoration projects in WRIA 8. These projects include the levee removal and 40-acre floodplain restoration at the Rainbow Bend Floodplain Restoration Project on the Cedar River, removal of the Issaquah Hatchery Dam to improve access to over 11 miles of high quality spawning habitat on Issaquah Creek, and the channel relocation and floodplain restoration on Lower Bear Creek in Redmond. All three projects are scheduled to have the bulk of earthwork completed during 2013, with additional site restoration continuing into 2014. The projects individually represent the culmination of over a decade of effort and many millions of dollars for acquisition, planning and design, and construction.

In addition to the exciting progress on these three projects, the tour will feature an information session about fish passage and general infrastructure improvements needed at the Hiram H. Chittenden (a.k.a. Ballard) Locks, as well as offer a prospective look at the Issaquah Creek/Confluence Parks Restoration Project in the City of Issaquah, for which construction is scheduled to commence in 2014. All SRFB members have been invited on the tour.

Salmon SEEson Program: The annual WRIA 8 Salmon SEEson program promotes opportunities for the public to view salmon in local streams and rivers in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed between September and January, and learn more about the salmon life cycle and habitat needs. There are a number of locations across the Lake Washington/Cedar/ Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) where salmon returning to spawn can be seen up close, including an abundant return of sockeye, plus majestic chinook, chum, and Lake Sammamish kokanee salmon, too. Salmon can already be spotted at many sites, including parks, along trails and at other locations, and at events sponsored by a variety of partners around the watershed. And many more fish are on their way home between now and Thanksgiving.

Some salmon-viewing opportunities are self-guided, while some dates and locations offer volunteer naturalists who can help visitors spot the fish and learn about the salmon's lifecycle and habitat needs.

For more information visit www.kingcounty.gov/salmon and click on Salmon SEEson, or call 206-296-8016. This year the website features links to video of some of the viewing sites as well as information about how you can protect salmon and their habitats. This program is sponsored by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council as part of its effort to recover salmon in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed. Salmon SEEson is also joining forces this year with the Saving Water Partnership, a collaboration of local water utilities that together promote water conservation, since saving water helps keep water in the rivers for salmon, people and wildlife. Visit www.savingwater.org to learn more.

WRIA 9 Lead Entity

Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Project Phase II Breaks Ground!

On September 16th, the WRIA 9 Lead Entity, the Green/Duwamish River and Central Puget Sound Watershed Forum, along with its many partners broke ground for the second phase of the Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration Project in Burien. Beginning in a few weeks, a concrete seawall will be removed to restore the beach and habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon and many other species of fish and wildlife. 1,800 feet of a 15 foot high concrete seawall, rock riprap, groins, paving and fill will be removed. 18,000 cubic yards of gravel and sand substrates will be added to restore the shoreline's natural slope. 20,200 plants will be added to the beach and shoreline area. A small back shore estuary fed by three perennial streams will be constructed.

100 people attended the ground breaking event. Speakers included Pete Mills of Congressman Jim McDermott's District office, Colonel Bruce Estok, Seattle District Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, State Senator Sharon Nelson, State Representative Dave Upthegrove, and WRIA 9 Management Committee Chair and Burien Councilmember, Joan McGilton.

Together with Phase I construction completed on the southern portion of the shoreline in 2005, in all 2,800 feet of natural shoreline habitat and habitat-forming processes are being restored in a nearshore area important for juvenile salmon rearing for multiple populations of Puget Sound Chinook salmon. A mix of local, state, and federal sources of funding, including $1,102,500 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, were needed to implement Phases I and II of this regionally important habitat restoration project. Construction is expected to be completed in time to open the park to the public by May 2014.

Yakima Basin Lead Entity

We are pleased to report on an innovative new partnership to accomplish project monitoring. Throughout the summer of 2013, one of our project sponsors, Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group) supervised 15 Central Washington University interns who agreed to complete project monitoring and complementary activities as part of a 10 credit class. These Environmental Studies undergraduates:

- Monitored restoration project success
  - Surveyed over 115 vegetation transects- looking at cattle exclusion, cover class, preexisting conditions prior to our planting projects
  - Looked at plant survivability on over 64 planting plots
  - Monitored water quality weekly at Jack and Reecer creeks
  - Surveyed over 5 stream miles for large wood presence and taking pre and post wood placement photos

- Mapped beaver habitat and relocated nuisance beavers
  - Assisted WDFW in the trapping and relocation of over 40 beavers – this is more than twice as many trappings/relocations that occurred the previous year with just two biologists
  - Mapped over 35 streams for beaver presence- never been done!

These interns worked more than 5,000 hours gaining valuable job training, local agency connections, and memorable experiences. Our basin partners are enthusiastic about this approach and are working to find the resources to continue and expand this effort in 2014.

Columbia Basin - Nearly One Million Chinook Return to Columbia River

Northwest tribes are exultant to see nearly a million fall Chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River this year, nearly 400,000 more than have returned since the Bonneville Dam was built 75 years ago.

With a month still left in the run, said the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in a media release, more than 920,000 adult and jack fall Chinook had already come up the river. Among the record numbers cited: On September 9 alone, 63,780 fall Chinook were counted crossing the dam, the Fish Commission said. Chinook also returned to tributaries in the 140 miles of river downstream, adding to the huge run, the commission said.

The abundant, historic run is due to several factors, the commission said, some of which began between two and five years ago. River flows were high in spring, when the juvenile fish migrated to the ocean back then. In addition juvenile fish have spilled over dams, ocean conditions have been good, and numerous ongoing projects have been undertaken to improve the fishes' ability to pass by dams and exist in their spawning habitat. Higher survival of hatchery-produced fish also contributes to the historic numbers, said the commission.

Update: Over 1 million as of Monday, September 30, 2013

Read more at http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2013/09/26/northwest-tribes-exult-nearly-one-million-fall-chinook-return-columbia-river-151454

On behalf of LEAG, I thank you for your continued support,

Darcy Batura
Yakima Basin Lead Entity Coordinator & LEAG Chair

LEAG Mission, Structure, and Action Plan

Lead Entities

Lead Entities are watershed-based salmon recovery groups created by local communities in Washington State via RCW 77.85.050 to work directly with their communities to ensure that we are making smart investments in salmon recovery and that the top priority projects are funded. The outcome of this work to develop locally prioritized salmon recovery habitat project lists for their area that are consistent with a scientifically sound salmon recovery strategy and are supported by the local community. There are currently 25 state recognized Lead Entities contracted through Washington State's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to facilitate the salmon habitat project identification and prioritization process for the watersheds that make up their local lead entity area. In addition to developing salmon habitat project lists, Lead Entities work with their local community to build support for local salmon recovery projects and work with local technical experts to develop and improve their science –based salmon recovery strategy. Lead Entities in a regional salmon recovery plan area also work with their region to ensure that their process and projects are consistent with that plan.

LEAG Mission Statement

The mission of the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) is to support and strengthen the 25 Lead Entities in Washington State in their endeavor to restore, enhance, and protect salmonids and their habitats in a scientifically-sound manner that engages local communities and supports our economy.

LEAG History

The Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) was originally constituted to provide advice to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on current and emerging policy issues associated with salmon recovery. Over time, LEAG has evolved to mainly support the Lead Entity Program by serving as a forum for discussing lead entity issues and improving communication with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), RCO, WDFW, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, other state agencies, the Council of Salmon Recovery Regions, and other interested groups. Education and coordination in general are a central focus and theme for LEAG. The roles of Lead Entities and of LEAG should evolve with the needs of salmon recovery and the changing landscape of Washington State's economy.

LEAG Goals

LEAG seeks to effectively communicate as a unified voice representing the interests of Lead Entities and their communities statewide with our partners, provide a communication forum for discussing emerging Lead Entity issues, and develop strategies for addressing these topics. LEAG seeks to foster relationships and share best practices amongst colleagues and provide educational opportunities for the 25 Lead Entities in Washington State. LEAG communicates as a collective voice that salmon recovery the "Washington Way" is yielding statewide results. LEAG has the following goals; specific objectives can be found in Appendix A: LEAG Action Plan.

Internal Goals:

1. Develop strategies to improve long-term stability of LE/LEAG/Salmon Recovery funding

2. Periodically review and reaffirm LEAG's identity and strategies

3. Encourage Lead Entity consensus on priority recommendations and communicate in a unified manner

4. Facilitate the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs

5. Support professional development and training opportunities

External Goals:

1. Actively advise the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on local salmon recovery and Lead Entity issues

2. Promote the Lead Entity Program as the local, scientifically-based program for developing salmon habitat projects that fit within local community values

3. Increase Lead Entity efficacy and profile by engaging at regional, state, and national levels

LEAG Membership:

LEAG is made up of one representative from each of the Lead Entities across the state. Each lead entity shall appoint a LEAG representative and alternate for their lead entity. Lead entity representatives and alternates can be, but are not limited to, lead entity coordinators, citizen committee members, technical committee members, or watershed stewards. LEAG member positions will be filled as vacancies arise with names provided to the LEAG Chair as requested.

Expectations and Requirements for LEAG members:

- Members are expected to represent their local lead entity committees.
- Members are encouraged but not expected to attend all LEAG meetings.
- Members are expected to review all LEAG agendas and minutes to stay informed on what LEAG is doing and to communicate to LEAG about issues that are important to their lead entity.
- Members are expected to participate in the biennial training event and encouraged to participate in other development opportunities as they occur.

LEAG Leadership:

LEAG Executive Committee: This committee shall be composed of eight (8) of the LEAG members. LEAG Executive Committee members must include one member from each of three areas across the state (the Coast, the Puget Sound and the Columbia Basin), a representative

from the Northeast if that area desires representation and either four (4) or five (5) at-large members to bring the total to eight (8). At no time should the Executive Committee consist of more than four (4) members from any one area. LEAG Executive Committee members serve one year terms.

Executive Committee members are nominated or self-nominated for any open positions by LEAG members at the last LEAG meeting of the state fiscal year. There must be, at minimum, a quorum (more than half) of the LEAG membership voting and successful candidates must have a majority of votes to be elected. LEAG members who cannot attend the election meeting can give their vote by proxy to another LEAG member who will be present.

Expectations for LEAG Executive Committee:

- Executive Committee members are expected to attend all LEAG meetings. If two or more meetings in a year are missed, the LEAG members may choose to nominate a replacement at any time using the same process outlined above.
- Executive Committee members may be called upon to assist the LEAG Chair in developing a LEAG recommendation that is necessary before the next LEAG meeting.
- Executive Committee members are expected to try to represent the views of Lead Entities across the state.
- Just like all LEAG members, Executive Committee members may be reimbursed for travel and per-diem costs out of their own Lead Entity contracts while attending LEAG related functions.

LEAG Officers: LEAG shall have a Chair, Past Chair, Vice Chair, Communications Officer, and Logistical Coordinator. Each of these positions shall serve a one year term, at the discretion of LEAG members. Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair will follow the election of the LEAG Executive Committee on the last LEAG meeting of the state fiscal year. Candidates for these positions should already be members of the LEAG Executive Committee, though exemptions are accepted if the majority of a quorum agrees. To elect officers there must be, at minimum, a quorum of the LEAG membership voting and successful candidates must have a majority of votes to be elected.

LEAG's Chair is responsible for presiding over LEAG meetings, developing LEAG agendas (in consultation with other LEAG members and RCO staff) and overseeing the development and issuance of LEAG recommendations and action items. In public settings the Chair presents viewpoints consistent with policy and direction set by LEAG and reports back to LEAG members about the nature and content of presentations. The Chair has signatory authority for LEAG opinions and other communications and is the default representative of LEAG at SRFB meetings. The Chair is by default a member of any LEAG subcommittee.

LEAG's Vice-Chair is responsible for assuming Chair duties when the Chair is not available. The Vice-Chair will assist in review of summary minutes from LEAG meetings. The Vice-Chair may also assist the Chair in agenda development and in overseeing LEAG action items.

LEAG's Past Chair is available for consultation from the current Chair and Vice-Chair and is responsible for ensuring there is continuity in LEAG leadership and activities. The LEAG Past Chair has the option to serve a one year term if the LEAG Chair remains the same from one year to the next. In this case the LEAG Past Chair has the option to remain as a representative on the Executive Committee, or the position would become another at-large opening for election.

LEAG's Communications Officer is responsible for ensuring summary meeting notes are prepared and disseminated. This responsibility involves coordinating with the Lead Entity Program Manager who creates the first draft summary notes.

LEAG's Logistical Coordinator is responsible for arranging logistics for in-person LEAG meetings and conferences, preferably by seeking volunteers on an as-needed basis.

Lead Entity Program Manager

The Lead Entity Program Manager is a RCO employee whose main responsibility is managing the Lead Entity program and their contracts, not LEAG. However, the Program Manager shall provide input on the development of LEAG agendas (working with the Chair, other LEAG members, RCO staff and SRFB), create the first draft summary meeting notes, and manage the LE website on RCO's home page. The Program Manager may perform other duties as developed by RCO, including, but not limited to drafting reports, coordinating activities, disseminating information, facilitating communication and formulating issues.

LEAG Meeting Guests

SRFB staff, as well as the Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and the Conservation Commission are encouraged to attend and participate in LEAG meetings and activities. SRFB requests for LEAG comments or input have a high priority in the agenda setting process. LEAG functions are open meetings. Guests are welcome to attend and to participate in discussions.

Decision-making

A LEAG recommendation on a topic relevant to lead entity business may be requested by the SRFB, RCO/GSRO, a LEAG member, or other party. Such requests shall be in writing and submitted to the Chair at least two weeks in advance of a LEAG meeting. The Chair, in consultation with other LEAG members, shall decide whether to seek a LEAG recommendation. A consensus based decision making process will be used as outlined below:

Any LEAG member may suggest a recommendation for LEAG to consider. Once a recommendation is suggested LEAG will have a discussion about the recommendation then a call for consensus will be made by the LEAG Chair. The following options will be available for each LEAG member to express their opinion on the recommendation:

1. Endorsement (I like it)
2. Endorsement – with minor contention (I basically like it)

3. Agreement with reservations (I can live with it)
4. Stand aside (I don't like it but I don't want to stop it)
5. Block – I can't live with it.

A LEAG recommendation will go forward with the number of 1's, 2's, 3's, and 4's noted in the meeting record unless a member chooses option 5 to block the recommendation. If a member wishes to block the recommendation the Chair and other LEAG members must try to find a new recommendation that the member will not block. If no consensus can be reached on a LEAG recommendation then Lead Entities may express their opinion but no LEAG recommendation will go forward. LEAG members may give their consensus vote by proxy to another LEAG member that will be attending the meeting. However, LEAG members may only block a recommendation at a LEAG meeting if they are present at that meeting.

When the LEAG Chair is communicating the results of a LEAG recommendation to others they should include the number of LEAG members who participated in making the recommendation and the number of 1's, 2's, 3's and 4's.

If a LEAG recommendation is requested under a very short-time frame the LEAG Chair may call on the Executive Committee to assist the Chair in formulating a recommendation. At least four of the Executive Committee members must be willing to allow the recommendation to go forward for it to become a LEAG recommendation. Any Executive Committee member can choose to block the recommendation if they feel strongly about it. Every reasonable effort should be made by the LEAG Chair and Executive Committee to solicit opinions from other LEAG members before making a LEAG recommendation.

For an official consensus decision to be made, a quorum must be established. A quorum consists of more than half of the Lead Entity Coordinators in Washington State. Preferably, members would be physically present at a meeting where a decision is made, however presence will be counted when a LEAG member has phoned in and votes may be cast via phone. Note that the selection process for the LEAG Executive Committee and officers will be conducted by a LEAG member vote rather than by consensus.

<u>LEAG Agendas</u>

The Chair, in consultation with LEAG members and the LE Program Manager, decides upon the specific agenda items for a given meeting. The LEAG Chair physically creates and distributes the draft agenda to all LEAG members and other interested parties as an information service. Requests for agenda time for a particular LEAG meeting should be at least two weeks in advance of the LEAG meeting. Documents requiring review prior to the LEAG meeting must be submitted to the LEAG Chair at least two weeks before the meeting. LEAG agendas shall designate between action/decision and discussion items. Draft agendas shall be approved by LEAG consensus at the beginning of each meeting.

Appendix A: LEAG Action Plan

LEAG seeks to effectively communicate as a unified voice representing the interests of Lead Entities and their communities statewide with our partners, provide a communication forum for discussing emerging Lead Entity issues, and develop strategies for addressing these topics. LEAG seeks to foster relationships and share best practices amongst colleagues and provide educational opportunities for the 25 Lead Entities in Washington State. LEAG communicates as a collective voice that salmon recovery the "Washington Way" is yielding statewide results.

The following LEAG goals and objectives make up the yearly action plan, which is to be updated annually at the last meeting of the State fiscal year.

Internal Goals and Objectives:

1. Develop strategies to improve long-term stability of LE/LEAG/Salmon Recovery funding
    a. Create and Utilize a LEAG Advocacy Work Group to lead LEAG members in accomplishing the following goals:

        Short-term actions:
        i. Write LEAG letter to Congressional delegation thanking them for their support of PCSRF funding and reminding them of the value of Lead Entities and salmon recovery in terms of economic importance, cultural significance, and ecological gain. The letter should accompany copies of the Lead Entity directory
        ii. LEAG will participate in watershed funding stakeholder process to develop consensus bill language by December 2013
        iii. LEAG Chair and Vice Chair will participate in WDFW-sponsored dialogue with RFEGs and regional organizations on ways to increase/coordinate funding sources and identify new revenues for salmon recovery. The goal would be to develop a coordinated state funding package and messages by June 2014 for legislative consideration
        iv. Send Lead Entity Directory with a cover letter to state legislators

        Long-term actions:
        i. Create state-wide marketing and communication strategy
            a. Consider tracking and/or coordinating with SRFB effort
        ii. Work with other salmon recovery partners to develop common messages and coordinated approach, while keeping in mind LEAG-specific needs
        iii. Create state-wide non-profit to advocate for salmon recovery and secure private funding
        iv. By the July LEAG conference call, Funding Advocacy Committee will work to gather additional information on options, pros/cons, and what would be necessary to establish a non-profit. Goal is to have this in place by the end of 2013

2. Periodically review and reaffirm LEAG's identity and strategies
    a. Create a Mission Statement Work-Group
    b. Review and update LEAG Mission, Structure, and Action Plan as needed
    c. Annually update Appendix A: Action Plan
        i. Develop additional detail for the Action Plan in the future, including responsible parties and budget
    d. Develop LEAG Logo, Tagline, and Letterhead

3. Encourage Lead Entity consensus on priority recommendations and communicate in a unified manner
    a. Have four LEAG quarterly meetings, with at least two in person meetings a year at which a quorum is present
    b. Present consensus findings on important matters (e.g. to SRFB)

4. Facilitate the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs
    a. Have four LEAG quarterly meetings, with at least two in person meetings a year at which a quorum is present
    b. Put on a LEAG training and education conference annually as funding allows, or at least once each biennium at which all coordinators are present
    c. Participate in SRFB sponsored events with all Lead Entities participating, including the Salmon Recovery Conference each biennium
    d. Maintain a Lead Entity Directory
    e. Create and Utilize LEAG Information Exchange Work Group to lead LEAG members in accomplishing the following goals:

        Short-term Strategies
        i. Institute a new position/role on LEAG Executive Committee to foster the internal communications strategy
        ii. Create LE Coordinator Distribution List in Outlook ("LEAG Internal Comms") that is kept current and sent to all LE Coordinators
        iii. Contact new LEC's with a "Welcome" and introduction to existing LEAG via email.
        iv. Facilitate the opportunity for new LEC's to have an individual "seasoned" LE Coordinators who is geographically close to assist them in learning the position
        v. Update the "Lead Entity Guidance" document.
        vi. Work to include the following in LEAG meeting agendas:
            1. Digital tools or tech-related information; each meeting

2. LE job-related methods and ideas (i.e. creative funding ideas, process to implement projects, innovative ideas for distributing technical assistance); distance meetings

vii. Conduct semi-annual interviews with experienced LE's via a questionnaire and distributed through group sharing site

Long Term Strategy Year 2 (2014-15):

viii. Create a web-based document library which includes templates, photos, forms and manuals that can be modified for local use, shared LEAG documents, and GIS files/overlays

ix. Explore video conferencing abilities (WDFW and NWIFC may have resources)

x. Put on a LEAG training and education conference annually as funding allows, or at least once each biennium at which all coordinators are present
    1. Include site visits
    2. Utilize specialized skill sets
    3. Spread organizational duties across more people

5. Support professional development and training opportunities
    a. Put on a LEAG training and education conference annually as funding allows, or at least once each biennium at which all coordinators are present
    b. Participate in SRFB sponsored events with all Lead Entities participating, including the Salmon Recovery Conference
    c. Provide additional training opportunities through at least two LEAG sponsored professional development activities per year

External Goals and Objectives:

1. Actively advise the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on local salmon recovery and Lead Entity issues
    a. Prepare LEAG meeting materials for SRFB meetings and solicit for Lead Entity specific information to share with the SRFB
    b. Invite necessary agencies to LEAG meetings and training/education events
    c. Maintaining a network of salmon recovery professionals that can be called upon for questions and guidance

2. Promote the Lead Entity program as the local, scientifically-based program for developing salmonid and salmonid habitat projects that fit within community values
    a. Utilize the LEAG Communication and Outreach sub-committee to develop education and outreach materials
        i. General public
        ii. Legislature
        iii. Congress

b. Interact annually with legislative policy makers during legislative day opportunities or as opportunities arise

3. Increase Lead Entity efficacy and profile by engaging at regional, state, and national levels
    a. Serve as one of the only statewide groups for discussing and establishing consensus driven policy and funding advocacy for habitat/recovery project implementation.
    b. Tee up specific regional, state, and federal level policy issues that should be addressed at higher scales
    c. Invite necessary agencies to LEAG meetings and training/education events
    d. Foster stronger relationships at regional, state, and national levels

Landowner Liability Legislation

1. Please indicate your perspective for considering the Landowner Liability Legislation

	Response Percent	Response Count
Project Sponsor	**50.0%**	**22**
Landowner	18.2%	8
Project Designer/Engineer	29.5%	13
Agency Representative	25.0%	11
Other	18.2%	8
	Other (please specify)	9
	answered question	**44**
	skipped question	**0**

2. How are project sponsors addressing the new Landowner Liability Legislation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
No change - proceding with business as usual	**57.6%**	**19**
Concerned about the liability legislation & reducing focus on habitat projects as a result	27.3%	9
Developed new organizational policy that addresses the requirements of the legislation	15.2%	5
	Other (please specify)	16
	answered question	**33**
	skipped question	**11**

3. How are sponsors working with landowners to implement the legislation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Uncertain & are avoing the issue	27.3%	6
Providing information on the legistlation and asking landowners to decide	**54.5%**	**12**
Developing thier own organizational policy and asking landowners to agree to that policy	18.2%	4
Other (please specify)		15
answered question		**22**
skipped question		**22**

4. How are landowners responding to the new Landowner Liability Legislation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Requesting sponsors incorporate all 5 conditions	40.0%	6
Not requiring sponsors to address the conditions	**60.0%**	**9**
Other (please specify)		21
answered question		**15**
skipped question		**29**

5. Do you believe that landowners are more likely to participate in habitat restoration as a result of the legislation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**50.0%**	**16**
No	**50.0%**	**16**
	Why (please specify):	19
	answered question	**32**
	skipped question	**12**

6. Have engineers/project designers changed their design approach as a result of this legislation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	46.4%	13
No	**53.6%**	**15**
	How (please specify)	25
	answered question	**28**
	skipped question	**16**

7. In your interpretation, do the designs require a stamp under this legislation?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**87.9%**	**29**
No	12.1%	4
Other (please specify)		9
answered question		**33**
skipped question		**11**

8. How do you define "withstand" in this context?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Entire structure designed to withstand 100 year flood	35.7%	10
Key members of structure designed to withstand 100 year flood	**64.3%**	**18**
Other (please specify)		14
answered question		**28**
skipped question		**16**

9. Are different standards applied to a design that is capable of withstanding a 100 year flood?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**86.2%**	**25**
No	13.8%	4
Other (please specify)		13
answered question		**29**
skipped question		**15**

10. Will designing to 100 yr floods impact the biological success rates of restoration efforts?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**64.3%**	**18**
No	35.7%	10
Other (please specify)		18
answered question		**28**
skipped question		**16**

11. What defines an established boat launch?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Any kind of route to river (gravel, etc.)	28.1%	9
Paved/private	43.8%	14
City//County/State/Governmental	**71.9%**	**23**
Other (please specify)		10
answered question		**32**
skipped question		**12**

12. Do you currently employ a specific risk-assessment methodology?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	39.4%	13
No	**60.6%**	**20**
If so, what methodology are you using?		15
answered question		**33**
skipped question		**11**

13. How is boater (or other recreationalists) response time best determined?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Using the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (SHRG)	**54.5%**	**12**
Using another system to determine response time	45.5%	10
If using another system, please explain:		17
answered question		**22**
skipped question		**22**

14. Will the infrastructure required to withstand 100 year floods create additional hazards for recreationists?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	**50.0%**	**12**
No	**50.0%**	**12**
Other (please specify)		13
answered question		**24**
skipped question		**20**

15. Should there be a consistent tagging system?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	35.5%	11
No	**64.5%**	**20**
Other (please specify)		10
answered question		**31**
skipped question		**13**

16. If you believe there should be a consistent tagging system, what is the best way to accomplish this?

	Response Percent	Response Count
By WIRA	23.1%	3
By County	0.0%	0
By State	**46.2%**	**6**
By Salmon Recovery Region	30.8%	4
By other specific agency/organization:		5
answered question		**13**
skipped question		**31**

17. Have you identified an effective tracking & monitoring method that persists for at least three years?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	6
No	**80.0%**	**24**
	Other (please specify)	3
	answered question	**30**
	skipped question	**14**

18. Who should be the primary entity for tracking how the legislation is being implemented and identifying what's working and what's not working?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office	20.6%	7
Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office	**29.4%**	**10**
Lead Entities	26.5%	9
Salmon Recovery Regions	23.5%	8
	Other (please specify)	6
	answered question	**34**
	skipped question	**10**

Page 1, Q1. Please indicate your perspective for considering the Landowner Liability Legislation		
1	Sovereign tribal government and co-manager of fisheries resources in the Usual and Accustomed Area	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	Regional Organization	Sep 23, 2013 1:23 PM
3	Land trust representative for properties with conservation easements	Sep 23, 2013 10:02 AM
4	Might be a Project partner	Sep 19, 2013 10:20 AM
5	Lead Entity Coordinator	Sep 18, 2013 2:17 PM
6	Easement holder	Sep 18, 2013 9:35 AM
7	Lead Entity	Sep 17, 2013 4:43 PM
8	Lead Entity	Sep 17, 2013 2:23 PM
9	Lead Entity Coordinator	Sep 17, 2013 11:05 AM

Page 1, Q2. How are project sponsors addressing the new Landowner Liability Legislation?		
1	We are concerned about requirements of the legislation that may inhibit restoration of natural salmon habitat forming processes in WRIAs and watersheds of interest within the QIN Usual and Accustomed Area. Our proposed restoration strategies and associated activities would likely occur in multiple watersheds and across multiple types of ownership. Potential impacts of the legislation on our restoration activities would likely vary between watersheds and specific restoration goals and objectives established for each watershed. Does ownership (federal or tribal) and associated regulations result in exemptions from the legislation? Are there mitigation measures established that allow for variation or exeptions to the conditions established by the legislation? In addition to the scientific/habitat restoration context, this legislation has implications to Indian tribes with sovereign and fisheries co-management rights that may be affected. To answer this question fully, tribal policy and legal representatives should be consulted.	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	Proceeding with business as usual unless otherwise requested by landowner.	Sep 23, 2013 9:15 AM
3	. How do they define "boat launch"?	Sep 20, 2013 9:08 PM
4	This is causing considerable new workload and ambiguity with the specific requirements already. And it's barely 3 months old!!	Sep 19, 2013 5:37 PM
5	I don't think there has been enough time passed to know. Mostly we are debating about the holes in the legislation, such as lack of specificity on criteria re labeling labelling logs (what if skinny but 40 feet long? At what point measure?) and , whether all projects need a geologist/engineer or just those in-stream (legislation says anything on Habitat Work List), or what qualifications a geologist has to have to bless something. Does a log jam guy bless culverts? Vice versa?	Sep 19, 2013 10:20 AM
6	It depends on how exposed a project sponsor fells. Most of the smaller organizations are developing new policies or are concerned while the larger organizations have no change.	Sep 18, 2013 2:17 PM
7	This legislation is reducing our ability to to design project that address process. By require project to withstand the 100 flood, projects are over built and lock the river in place. This legislation put restoration back 20 years. Further it reduces our ability to design and implement good restoration projects on private property. It is the habitat, fish and rate payers that are loosing with this legislation. Project cost are soaring and biological benefit is declining.	Sep 18, 2013 11:27 AM
8	I am very concerned that this will result in our NOT doing certain projects. While it has not come up yet I suspect that if we WERE asked by a landowner to abide by all of those conditions that WE might decide not to proceed. As a geomorphologist I am particularly concerned about the blanket requirement that projects be "designed to withstand 100-year floods". Some strutures SHOULD fail at lower flow levels, while for others a 10-25 year flood may be the most critical design flow. As an organization we would also be concerned about labelling the structures, as that implies liability should the structure fail under reasonable condtions.	Sep 18, 2013 11:15 AM
9	Due to the new legislation we need to spend more time and money making projects meet these criteria. These new criteria that were added at the last minute were not properly vetted and have resulted in essentially forced project	Sep 18, 2013 10:02 AM

Page 1, Q2. How are project sponsors addressing the new Landowner Liability Legislation?		
	sponsors to be even more conservative in their "restoration" approach. I believe this legislation now limits our ability to do work that is "process based".	
10	This law changed from a broader habitat restoration focus to one focused on riverine. We do no riverine but rather estuarine and therefore we do not believe this law covers what we do. This is a huge problem as we needed the initial version of the legislation passed to do salmon restoration work.	Sep 17, 2013 6:16 PM
11	so many projects won’t fit the criteria (lost opportunity)	Sep 17, 2013 4:43 PM
12	Requiring project sponsors to comply with the legislation	Sep 17, 2013 4:15 PM
13	Does not appear that the legislation applies in marine/nearshore environments.	Sep 17, 2013 2:23 PM
14	I have not yet dealt with sponsors who have initiated new projects since the legislation went into effect.	Sep 17, 2013 11:17 AM
15	The conditions placed on the legislation make it not very applicable to nearshore projects. Therefore, it isnt being considered at this time, despite the high level of interest and anticipation among local project sponsors in the original intent of the legislation.	Sep 17, 2013 11:05 AM
16	We have not addressed the issue and most likely will be developing our own organizational policy in the future	Sep 17, 2013 9:48 AM

Page 1, Q3. How are sponsors working with landowners to implement the legislation?		
1	No information is available to answer this question at this time.	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	This issue has not been discussed with cooperating landowners	Sep 23, 2013 12:03 PM
3	I honestly don't know yet specifically.	Sep 23, 2013 10:02 AM
4	Not familiar with sponsor response to the legislation	Sep 23, 2013 9:20 AM
5	We have a duty to landowners thus we will be using the rules unless the landowner requests in writing that we do not follow all the provisions which will occasionally happen so that a project assisting the landowners can be accomplished on their land. In this instance we would strongly encourage the landowner to seek legal advice before proceeding. In some cases we might require that they indicate that they have secured independent legal advise in order for us to proceed.	Sep 20, 2013 9:08 PM
6	Modifying the Landowner Agreement language that supports each restoration project to include the LLL language.	Sep 20, 2013 9:27 AM
7	We are not involved in any salmon habitat manipulation or any other physical project other than planting and caring for trees in riparian zones.	Sep 19, 2013 1:39 PM
8	Too soon to say. Legislation just came down. All problems described above apply.	Sep 19, 2013 10:20 AM
9	Have not done anything yet.	Sep 18, 2013 6:20 PM
10	it will be a case by case scenario. now that the legislation has been created I believe all landowners would want it the protections it offers, despite how limited those protections are.	Sep 18, 2013 10:02 AM
11	for those who meet its conditions, it provides protection from liability for property damages, but for those who don’t meet its conditions it doesn’t change the existing state of the law	Sep 17, 2013 4:43 PM
12	Does not appear that the legislation applies in marine/nearshore environments.	Sep 17, 2013 2:23 PM
13	I expect it will take several months at least for new plans to be initiated that utilize this legislation.	Sep 17, 2013 11:17 AM
14	We have not addressed the issue and most likely will be developing our own organizational policy in the future	Sep 17, 2013 9:48 AM
15	It simply will not work. We were already designing to the 100 year level where it was appropriate. Designing to the 100 year level in all cases, will in most situations, create more habitat damage and greater liability that not designing to the 100 year level. You simply cannot put an engineered hard point in a dynamic system and not have channel adjustement upstream, adjacent to and downstream from that hard point. This legislation increases the liability of the state, does not decrease it and conflicts with RCW 4.24.200 and 210. We would rather follow those RCWs.	Sep 17, 2013 8:08 AM

Page 1, Q4. How are landowners responding to the new Landowner Liability Legislation?		
1	Insufficient information is available to answer this question at this time.	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	This issue has not been discussed with cooperating landowners	Sep 23, 2013 12:03 PM
3	I don't know yet.	Sep 23, 2013 10:02 AM
4	Not familiar with landowner response to the legislation	Sep 23, 2013 9:20 AM
5	Responding differently.	Sep 23, 2013 9:15 AM
6	Most landowners never understood that they carried liability previously. They had no idea what they signed and certainly didn't imagine that they had anything to do with in-stream woody debris liability because they allowed a conservation group to use their land for a larger restoration project. Now we will tell them what the conditions are for them to be held harmless and have them sign that we have told them this.. If we don't inform the landowner of these conditions, we put ourselves in a place of increased liability (and ethical breach). We will not encourage or ask landowners to waive conditions . They can request it but that is at their sole discretion	Sep 20, 2013 9:08 PM
7	Uncertain at this time, still in negotiations.	Sep 20, 2013 4:21 PM
8	No landowner agreements have been executed since the LLL has become law.	Sep 20, 2013 9:27 AM
9	Most are not yet aware of the law.	Sep 19, 2013 6:18 PM
10	State agencies are saying the law doesn't apply. Most other landowners are asking for compliance with the new law.	Sep 19, 2013 5:37 PM
11	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:39 PM
12	You simply did not address contractors with sovereign immunity, or government landowners being the site of the project. Do we reimburse USFS? Do we try to sue a tribe?	Sep 19, 2013 10:20 AM
13	No landowner contact to date.	Sep 18, 2013 6:20 PM
14	Some want the conditions met, some don't	Sep 18, 2013 2:04 PM
15	It is landowner dependant	Sep 18, 2013 11:27 AM
16	Varies; not tested fully as of yet	Sep 18, 2013 11:15 AM
17	don't know yet	Sep 18, 2013 10:02 AM
18	We don't believe this legislation covers estuarine. The legislation says: ".... licensed professional engineer (PE) or a licensed geologist (LG, LEG, or LHG) with experience in riverine restoration;". How can we do a design for estuarine with a engineer or geologist experienced in riverine restoration. This is apples and oranges and our attorney believes that if we got sued and tried to use this legislation, the court would find it does not apply to our project because the intent was clearly changed during the legislative process to only riverine projects.	Sep 17, 2013 6:16 PM
19	Does not appear that the legislation applies in marine/nearshore environments.	Sep 17, 2013 2:23 PM

Page 1, Q4. How are landowners responding to the new Landowner Liability Legislation?		
20	To my knowledge thay have not yet been approached.	Sep 17, 2013 11:17 AM
21	We have not conducted any project on KCT lands	Sep 17, 2013 9:48 AM

Page 1, Q5. Do you believe that landowners are more likely to participate in habitat restoration as a result of the legislation?		
1	Insufficient information is available to answer this question at this time.	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	The system was backwards previously as anyone who actually read and understood the landowner agreements told us	Sep 20, 2013 9:08 PM
3	The legislation implies an element of risk that concerns some of the landowners.	Sep 20, 2013 11:08 AM
4	Yes, but I believe that the 5 conditions will result in projects that are biologically/geomorphically inappropriate and/or have considerable unintended consequences to the process and the river.	Sep 19, 2013 5:37 PM
5	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:39 PM
6	I have no idea at this point. This legislation has so many points not considered, it remains to be seen how it operates.	Sep 19, 2013 10:20 AM
7	Liability was the primary landowner concern w/r/t engineered wood project.	Sep 18, 2013 6:20 PM
8	More assurance of not being held liable	Sep 18, 2013 2:31 PM
9	Some will	Sep 18, 2013 2:17 PM
10	This legislation is not a deal maker. Overall this legislation has not changed a landowners position	Sep 18, 2013 11:27 AM
11	the biggest perceived risk with participating in restoration projects is personal injury/loss of life which this legislation does not address.	Sep 18, 2013 10:02 AM
12	In Island County, the salmon restoration need is in nearshore environments and not usually in riverine. As stated above, we do not believe the legislation covers landowners unless they are involved in riverine projects. The legislation was changed from a broader restoration coverage to a specific one. It will not help landowners in Island County whatsoever. And we need this type of legislation.	Sep 17, 2013 6:16 PM
13	many conditions, which in many cases can't be met or would be costly or difficult to meet, were added thus greatly limiting the potential value of the landowner liability protection the original bill was drafted to provide	Sep 17, 2013 4:43 PM
14	The legislation actually places a burden on the landowners to ensure that sponsors are meeting these requirements in order for landowners to have immunity. This is contrary to the intent, which was to relieve landowers of responsibility. It is also peculiar that the statute imposes requirements relative to recreation safety, but only provides immunity from property damage claims. So the landowner is immune from a claim for damage to a canoe, but not injury to the person.	Sep 17, 2013 4:15 PM
15	There was no protection before and now there is some. It helps offer some protection.	Sep 17, 2013 3:43 PM
16	Not sure	Sep 17, 2013 3:18 PM
17	Does not appear that the legislation applies in marine/nearshore environments.	Sep 17, 2013 2:23 PM

Page 1, Q5. Do you believe that landowners are more likely to participate in habitat restoration as a result of the legislation?		
18	The answer would have been yes had the riverine experts and boat launch conditions not been included.	Sep 17, 2013 11:05 AM
19	They will be protected if all 5 conditions are met from liability	Sep 17, 2013 9:48 AM

Page 1, Q6. Have engineers/project designers changed their design approach as a result of this legislation?		
1	I am unaware if engineer/project designers have changed their design approaches or if changes to their design approaches were required as a result of this legislation.	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	They were already implementing the same standards.	Sep 23, 2013 12:33 PM
3	My understanding is that they are having to take out design elements that don't meet the 100 year flood event stipulation. This may cause the projects to be over-engineered and not be able to incorporate important elements that could significantly contribute to the success of the projects.	Sep 23, 2013 10:02 AM
4	Unfortunately	Sep 23, 2013 9:15 AM
5	Not sure yet. I would suspect that if it is a condition of approval to move forward with the project the engineer would adjust their design accordingly.	Sep 20, 2013 4:21 PM
6	Designs will be more detailed and more expensive....detail does not always reduce risk. Common sense reduces risk.	Sep 20, 2013 11:08 AM
7	Registered engineers and geologists that design our projects have already been in compliance.	Sep 20, 2013 9:27 AM
8	Projects will be seriously overbuilt and will avoid sites where river forces may destroy them. This essentially removes 95% of constructed LWD jams from the river restoration tool box. Minor constructions such as floodplain fences, bank barbs, small debris accumulators and simulated natural lwd will no longer be build able. Only Tim Abbe jams- etc will be permittable. Big mistake.	Sep 19, 2013 6:18 PM
9	It has caused an additional $30,000 in increased design costs while providing absolutely no additonal benefit to aquatic resources. It has only complicated the process and further diminished the biological/geomorphic value of the project(s).	Sep 19, 2013 5:37 PM
10	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:39 PM
11	If I were an operator, I sure as heck would not commence work until many of the questions are answered, and not by staff in RCO; by statutory amendment or highly specific WACs. Staff come and go. Very risky to rely on them, however wise they are about the issues. Their learned opinions won't carry forward and be usable in a lawsuit.	Sep 19, 2013 10:20 AM
12	Haven't begun a project so cannot say.	Sep 18, 2013 6:20 PM
13	There are a couple sponsors that had to redesign their more dynamic structures so that they would meet the 100 yr flood condition.	Sep 18, 2013 2:17 PM
14	Already consider most of these issues in design. However, tagging of logs may not be 100% done or effective, and there is the problem of needing a registry to make the tagging feasible if the issue is to track the source of a problem log	Sep 18, 2013 1:07 PM
15	The are over designing and over building project. It is the habitat, fish and rate payers that are loosing with this legislation. Project cost are soaring and biological benefit is declining.	Sep 18, 2013 11:27 AM
16	Too early to tell; I suspect that these requirements will SUBSTANTIALLY	Sep 18, 2013 11:15 AM

Page 1, Q6. Have engineers/project designers changed their design approach as a result of this legislation?		
	increase engineering costs.	
17	Only for those landowners who require/request the conditions be met.	Sep 18, 2013 10:13 AM
18	unknown, but not likely.	Sep 18, 2013 10:02 AM
19	Again, we aren't involved in riverine restoration so the only way we could change our approach is to involve a riverine expert just to try to "slide by" and be covered but in court, this approach will very likely not hold water, so to speak.	Sep 17, 2013 6:16 PM
20	Not that I know of.	Sep 17, 2013 4:43 PM
21	At the request of other Proj Sponsors who fear that the new legislatiion may set a new "standard" in the industry and that if they don't follow it, it could come back to haunt them.	Sep 17, 2013 3:06 PM
22	Does not appear that the legislation applies in marine/nearshore environments.	Sep 17, 2013 2:23 PM
23	Not enough time has passed to evaluate this.	Sep 17, 2013 11:17 AM
24	To my knowledge, we have incorporated the 5 conditions in our most recent project designs	Sep 17, 2013 9:48 AM
25	We need to be more specific as to why we will not design certain aspects to meet the 100 year standard.	Sep 17, 2013 8:08 AM

Page 2, Q7. In your interpretation, do the designs require a stamp under this legislation?		
1	The language is not specific enough to answer this question so my interpretation of the language is: "No. The designs do not require a stamp under this legislation." To my knowledge and understanding however, federal and state permits are intended to ensure minimum design requirements for instream structures and wood placement in streams.	Sep 23, 2013 5:28 PM
2	Don't know. I would take this to legal to find out	Sep 20, 2013 9:09 PM
3	It does not say stamped so therefore no. The implied message is that an engineer would take legal responsibility for the design (as the always have, even prior to the law) and be the lead on a design team, regardless of whether it is actually stamped or not.	Sep 19, 2013 5:39 PM
4	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:39 PM
5	Don't know what a stamp means. Sorry. Not versed in that lingo. However, a geologist deciding about log jams should be an expert (or said engineer) in that field. Ditto if designing a culvert. And why do we need their expertise for all projects on the Habitat Work Schedule or LEG strategy? Only the instream ones that will have potential to affect landowners should have to have this blessing, not macroinvertebrate monitoring, or riparian weed removal or acquisitions to project habitat for fish, etc., etc. This was drafted with overbroad language that did not recognize the full scope of Fish Habitat work under RCO. In fact, I understand it now contemplates genetic work, too, and that could be on a work schedule but would not need a physical sciences person's blessing..	Sep 19, 2013 10:47 AM
6	If the project was designed by a PE, it should be stamped.	Sep 18, 2013 2:05 PM
7	I believe the intent is that a PE stamp is required, but it would be nice to know this for sure.	Sep 18, 2013 10:03 AM
8	And also it only applies to riverine restoration projects.	Sep 17, 2013 6:17 PM
9	N/A - Does not appear that the legislation applies in marine/nearshore environments.	Sep 17, 2013 2:24 PM

Page 3, Q8. How do you define "withstand" in this context?		
1	The engineered structure elements	Sep 23, 2013 5:30 PM
2	Probably more than "key" members of structure - most of it. If a log or 2 slipped away in a large flood that would just be slippage - not failure.	Sep 20, 2013 9:12 PM
3	Uncertain at this point but I hope it is the latter. Even then, it may sometimes be inappropriate to build 100-year elements in areas that are designed to become mobile/deformable on lower magnitude floods. I also believe that racked material should not be subject to this criteria.	Sep 19, 2013 5:46 PM
4	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:40 PM
5	The 100 year flood needs to be defined.	Sep 19, 2013 11:13 AM
6	Not to come down in pieces and place property at risk. Once a piece of project leaves the project site, that is the risk. HOWEVER, the drafters did not contemplate that some log jam projects are designed to lose some logs, just as in the natural scenario, so they move downstream. In nature that occurs and it needs to occur when an anthropomorphic assemblage is created. So that is the dilemma. There are no perfect scenarios. ALSO, WHAT THE HECK IS A 100-YEAR FLOOD THESE DAYS. NEED BETTER DEFINITION, PERHAPS TIED TO THE CHANNEL MORPHOLOGY.	Sep 19, 2013 10:51 AM
7	Disagree with this requirement, which is only asking for trouble. Structures will then be designed to be massive 'bomb-proof' monoliths, which is not representative of natural processes, and doing so can have adverse unintended consequences because the design will be trying to manhandle the river. That rarely works. Better to specify a minimum design life of around 10 years and allow for failure.	Sep 18, 2013 1:11 PM
8	Such that the intent of the structure remains functional, which typically means key members only.	Sep 18, 2013 10:20 AM
9	Who came up with this and why wasn't there thoughtful stakeholder outreach during the development? Do we want our limited salmon recovery investments to work for or against natural process? Natural log jams move! Things that damage the river and salmon habitat tend to be manmade static structures like bridge abutments, levees, etc. This criteria is counter productive to habitat restoration! Plus, by creating a static structure in a dynamic environment, you may actually cause more environmental and property damage.	Sep 18, 2013 10:13 AM
10	to the specifications the structure was designed to, based upon risk.	Sep 17, 2013 4:45 PM
11	Don't know	Sep 17, 2013 4:31 PM
12	Unclear as to what is intended in legislation - can project be defined as an area with multiple elements all designed to function together, is this for stand alone structures? Can withstand mean that the structure deforms or even is inteneded to come apart in severe flooding. Can a single log placement can float away as part of an intended design??	Sep 17, 2013 3:22 PM
13	Not result in a failure of the structure that could have unintended impacts downstream.	Sep 17, 2013 3:07 PM

Page 3, Q8. How do you define "withstand" in this context?		
14	Project in its entirey designed to withstand the 100 year flood.	Sep 17, 2013 8:10 AM

Page 3, Q9. Are different standards applied to a design that is capable of withstanding a 100 year flood?		
1	Insufficient information is available at this time to answer the question.	Sep 23, 2013 5:30 PM
2	Design requirements for our restoration and instream projects include withstanding the 100-year flood.	Sep 20, 2013 9:30 AM
3	Structures that must withstand such large magnitude events are rare in nature--a 100 year flood is MEANT to be an ecosystem reset; this law tries to preempt that. These standards are contrary to many things supported/encouraged by the WDFW 2012 SHRG.	Sep 19, 2013 5:46 PM
4	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:40 PM
5	Yes, but it will increase the cost significantly.	Sep 19, 2013 11:13 AM
6	Don't know enough about this to answer. But you need to better define what is contemplated by one and exactly what you are trying to prevent. Whenever water exceeds the bankfull width? And by how much? Simply not clear.	Sep 19, 2013 10:51 AM
7	see response to 8	Sep 18, 2013 1:11 PM
8	Often these standards would be inappropriate for habitat structures	Sep 18, 2013 11:15 AM
9	Typically greater number of fasteners (cable, rebar, rock balast) and greater embedment depth (based on 100yr scour calculations as opposed to some lesser flow).	Sep 18, 2013 10:20 AM
10	I'm not an engineer but I would guess yes. Factors of safety will be much higher, which will result in higher project costs and possibly create the need for over-excavation and artificial ballast/cable.	Sep 18, 2013 10:13 AM
11	Don't know	Sep 17, 2013 6:17 PM
12	Don't know	Sep 17, 2013 4:31 PM
13	depends on the project objectives	Sep 17, 2013 11:07 AM

Page 3, Q10. Will designing to 100 yr floods impact the biological success rates of restoration efforts?		
1	Insufficient information is available at this time to answer the question.	Sep 23, 2013 5:30 PM
2	Yes yes yes!	Sep 23, 2013 9:17 AM
3	Don't know but seems wise to design this way since a 100 year flood can come at any time	Sep 20, 2013 9:12 PM
4	ABSOLUTELY. Until someone can prove that cable and rock are missing elements in riverine ecosystems, we should not be encouraging the use of such permanent materials.	Sep 19, 2013 5:46 PM
5	Unknown	Sep 19, 2013 1:40 PM
6	Not if you put in some clear parameters.	Sep 19, 2013 10:51 AM
7	Possibly in some cases	Sep 18, 2013 2:06 PM
8	will have no measurable effect on biological success, which is pretty difficult to define and measure in the first place.	Sep 18, 2013 1:11 PM
9	It will reduce the biological benefit of the projects and reduce the form and function of the river.	Sep 18, 2013 11:28 AM
10	In my opinion biological successr ates will be reduced. natural LWD formations form and break up at floods well below the 100-year event threshold. I believe this will result in overdesigned structures that do not function naturally.	Sep 18, 2013 11:15 AM
11	Typically no, although it depends on the design and the designer(s). Many structures naturally withstand 100yr events, including some log jams. Hard points in the floodplain are more often beneficial than not with regards to habitat and channel dynamics. What must be avoided are long, longitudinal (oriented parallel to the river's flow) structures that risk capturing the river and focusing its energy along a singular path. Hard points and long lateral structures (oriented perpendicular to the river's flow) will obstruct flow, improve lateral migration, and generally force dynamic change = good for habitat. As designers and river restoration professionals, we need to think outside the box, and recognize that permanent structures can be used to accomplish many habitat improvement goals.	Sep 18, 2013 10:20 AM
12	see response above. This was not well thought out and not vetted among the organizations who would be impacted. Someone in Olympia behind a desk thought this sounded like a good idea and didn't realize the impacts of a few key strokes on their computer. We need legislation that protects landowners, there is already a tremendous amount of due diligence built into the salmon recovery system through state and local technical review committees, the JARPA, etc... This is just another obstacle that will limit creativity, innovation, and cost efficiency. Too bad!	Sep 18, 2013 10:13 AM
13	Don't know	Sep 17, 2013 4:31 PM
14	This standard should not be the criteria for biological success.	Sep 17, 2013 3:44 PM
15	If by impact you mean "positive" impact, then yes, this legislation will allow for more projects to get on the ground where access to private property is required.	Sep 17, 2013 3:07 PM

Page 3, Q10. Will designing to 100 yr floods impact the biological success rates of restoration efforts?		
16	depends on the habitat restoration goals. Is it to restore natural processes? or protective structures?	Sep 17, 2013 11:07 AM
17	The designs for 100 yr floods may impact biological success because in a natural system, wood and rivers change during high flood events, thus making a complex habitat and ecosystem. Designing for 100 yr floods could essentially make permanent structures in a ever changing and evolving riverine environment.	Sep 17, 2013 10:15 AM
18	Yes, will destabilize other locations, which may be desirable in some situations but is not desireable in others.	Sep 17, 2013 8:10 AM

Page 4, Q11. What defines an established boat launch?		
1	My interpretation of the language means a launch managed, maintained, and/or permitted by federal, state, or tribal agency.	Sep 23, 2013 5:31 PM
2	A boat launch that has been used regularly and successfully for the launching of boats regardless of the construction and owner.	Sep 23, 2013 9:22 AM
3	This is what we would like it to be	Sep 20, 2013 9:13 PM
4	I would hope that we do not have to consider any trail to the river as a potential boat launce site.	Sep 20, 2013 11:10 AM
5	Anything with a permanent structure (i.e., dock, ramp).	Sep 19, 2013 5:47 PM
6	whatever local or state or federal regulations say .If they are silent, you need to fill that in.	Sep 19, 2013 10:51 AM
7	I don't know, ask the genius who wrote it :)	Sep 18, 2013 10:14 AM
8	I have no idea. Developed intentional facility or a user built, non sanctioned access point??	Sep 17, 2013 3:22 PM
9	private beach boat launch is included as "established" as far as shoreline owners are concerned.	Sep 17, 2013 11:08 AM
10	Established boat launches would also be assumed to be identified on WDFW maps for fisherfolks.	Sep 17, 2013 10:17 AM

Page 5, Q12. Do you currently employ a specific risk-assessment methodology?		
1	I disagree with this part of the legislation (not that it matters what I think). All boaters, boat at there own risk.	Sep 23, 2013 12:41 PM
2	Modeling with HEC-RAS or other software to determine effects (in any), of proposed project elements.	Sep 20, 2013 11:16 AM
3	Risk Assessment Report is a project design set deliverable.	Sep 20, 2013 9:32 AM
4	Determination of specific recreational use in the reach (type, timing, skill level) using cameras, surveys, etc. Crosswalk with American Whitewater Instream Wood Guidelines.	Sep 19, 2013 5:51 PM
5	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:41 PM
6	We use whatever the grantor of the funds requires. Or if a federal landowner, what they require. Or if a state landowner, what it requires.	Sep 19, 2013 10:53 AM
7	We always prepare engineered designs	Sep 18, 2013 2:34 PM
8	Our engineers have a long-established process	Sep 18, 2013 2:08 PM
9	integrate possibility for controlled failure and ensuring public safety into designs	Sep 18, 2013 1:13 PM
10	We run a risk assessment on our projects that adress these issues	Sep 18, 2013 11:29 AM
11	We currently work with engineers and landowners to define the appropriate method on a project specific basis	Sep 18, 2013 11:16 AM
12	it depends on the project type, location and design team.	Sep 18, 2013 10:20 AM
13	Because we don't have in-river boaters on our estuarine and nearshore projects. Doesn't make sense for us.	Sep 17, 2013 6:19 PM
14	Internal review of risk	Sep 17, 2013 3:44 PM
15	We utilized a encompassing risk-assessment regarding recreational use, flow modeling, response times of boaters/floaters, identified structures downstream, and potential for key members of logjams being stable at 100 yr flood events.	Sep 17, 2013 10:26 AM

Page 5, Q13. How is boater (or other recreationalists) response time best determined?		
1	Insufficient information is available to answer the question at this time.	Sep 23, 2013 5:34 PM
2	This is assumed that recreational users do not utilize the river for navigation at flows that exceed ten year re-occurance for the river where the project is sited. Basically that boaters that use a river resource during extreme flows are taking an un-reasonable risk, and any structure or project can not function safely to interact with recreational users at this flow exceedance.	Sep 23, 2013 12:08 PM
3	I don't know.	Sep 23, 2013 10:05 AM
4	There are many ways to determine response time and adequate avoidance time, but this may be a loophole in the law the way it is currently written.	Sep 23, 2013 9:30 AM
5	This is a question for groups like American Whitewater	Sep 20, 2013 9:16 PM
6	This is a difficult one.....much of the boater response time is related to the water craft being used, stream/river conditions (flow, weather, visibility), and the experience of the recreationist.	Sep 20, 2013 11:16 AM
7	Boaters are expected to use common sense. River rafting and kayaking is dangerous, that's why they do it. Its not Disneyland and no amount of lawyers will make it so.	Sep 19, 2013 6:21 PM
8	Determining specific velocities during times of use and calculating line-of-sight distance to yield a response time.	Sep 19, 2013 5:51 PM
9	Unknown	Sep 19, 2013 1:41 PM
10	No expertise here.	Sep 19, 2013 10:53 AM
11	avoid expected floating lanes	Sep 18, 2013 1:13 PM
12	Not certain	Sep 18, 2013 11:16 AM
13	Based on calculated in-stream velocity at various flows from hydraulic modeling.	Sep 18, 2013 10:25 AM
14	determine average flows/velocities during known times of recreation, identify line of sight to proposed structures and do the calculations.	Sep 18, 2013 10:20 AM
15	No clue - doesn't apply to our projects for salmon restoration - too narrowly defined to riverine restoration.	Sep 17, 2013 6:19 PM
16	River 2D modeling was used to determine existing and proposed conditions with regards to line of sight and boater response times	Sep 17, 2013 10:26 AM
17	There is no system, it relies on the boater and also an assumption that in-channel conditions will remain fixed over time, the predictive power is not there to ensure that sufficient response time will be maintained into the future.	Sep 17, 2013 8:21 AM

Page 5, Q14. Will the infrastructure required to withstand 100 year floods create additional hazards for recreationists?		
1	Insufficient information is available to answer the question at this time.	Sep 23, 2013 5:34 PM
2	Not necessarily	Sep 23, 2013 10:05 AM
3	There is a possibility that additional infrastructure for the 100 year flood could create additional hazards.	Sep 23, 2013 9:30 AM
4	Definitions are somewhat lacking in descriptions, Structures built to "withstand" 100 year floods may create additional hazards for fish and wildlife, riparian plants, and fluvial systems.	Sep 20, 2013 11:16 AM
5	Rock and cable (to minimize risk, boost factors of safety) use will increase to meet this provision. The American Whitewater Guidelines specifically state that rock and cable are 'among the greatest hazards to recreationists'.	Sep 19, 2013 5:51 PM
6	You need to clarify the concern when the drafter said 100-year flood because that term is now ambiguous, with climate change. You need to specify what water levels you are worried about, how far above the highwater mark, or bankfull width, or whatever. And then instruct what you require, or have a guidance manual for the contractor. This needs to be done with as much care as, for example, forest practices.	Sep 19, 2013 10:53 AM
7	Depends on how it is designed	Sep 18, 2013 2:08 PM
8	Typically no, although this will depend greatly upon the design and the designer(s). No one should be in the river during a 100yr flood, so all structures that are stable during normal recreational flows can effectively be lumped into the same category for risk evaluation. Risk to recreation should be evaluated at recreational flows, not 100yr flood flows. Also, all rivers are dangerous. It should not be expected that river restoration projects should somehow improve safety on the river.	Sep 18, 2013 10:25 AM
9	maybe. again, we are talking in broad generalities and each river and each project is different. I believe these criteria will just reinforce an already risk adverse field (engineering) and essentially push instream projects further into the margins of the channel and floodplain making them less available and beneficial for fish. Further, meeting the 100 year flood standard will create additional margins of safety in the design which will likely lead to more large imported rock, cable, and rebar in the river channel. Plus, in order for the structure not be buoyant or mobile in the 100 flood will influence the sheer size leading to larger holes and areas of impact.	Sep 18, 2013 10:20 AM
10	Don't know - again, not what we do.	Sep 17, 2013 6:19 PM
11	Don't know	Sep 17, 2013 4:31 PM
12	Site specific.	Sep 17, 2013 3:44 PM
13	Depends on placement, sight distance etc. Rivers are inherently risky; structures should not increase level of risk to well informed and well prepared users.	Sep 17, 2013 3:25 PM

Page 6, Q15. Should there be a consistent tagging system?		
1	Undecided. The legislation is unclear whether the tagging system applies only to large wood placement or also wood within an engineered structure.	Sep 23, 2013 5:36 PM
2	Visibility is important...but I do not believe the "Christmas Tree" approach is the correct one. That being said....visibility is key to keep people from inflicting injury on themselves because of curiosity. Warning sign would help.	Sep 20, 2013 11:19 AM
3	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:41 PM
4	Requirements need to be set for what should be tagged and what should not. For example, a size minimum.	Sep 19, 2013 11:15 AM
5	impossible to enforce and preserve (souvenir hunters, vandals, and tweakers not with-standing) and would require establishing a defensible state-wide registry	Sep 18, 2013 1:15 PM
6	What is the purpose of tagging a log? Even if a tagged log ends up on a bridge pier someday, how will it be proven that the log was the cause of any damage and that the damage would not have occurred anyway? This will be nearly impossible to enforce and is all about perception and therefore unnecessary.	Sep 18, 2013 10:27 AM
7	I think there needs to be a thorough discussion about the point of this criteria before we set up standards.	Sep 18, 2013 10:24 AM
8	I would want to say no but that makes no sense (especially when viewed in a court situation).	Sep 17, 2013 6:20 PM
9	Don't know	Sep 17, 2013 4:32 PM
10	Unsure	Sep 17, 2013 3:25 PM

Page 6, Q16. If you believe there should be a consistent tagging system, what is the best way to accomplish this?		
1	Operators would go out of their minds if they had to check through every WRIA and county and hope they are current. Make statewide WACs.	Sep 19, 2013 10:54 AM
2	let's not get ahead of ourselves. let's evaluate the intent of the legislation and the last minute criteria that were added. Then let's, as a group, decide if we're better off with or without the legislation before we memorialize it with a bunch of new policies and procedures.	Sep 18, 2013 10:24 AM
3	Don't know.	Sep 17, 2013 6:20 PM
4	Watershed seems to be the right scale	Sep 17, 2013 4:32 PM
5	By project and entity	Sep 17, 2013 3:25 PM

Page 6, Q17. Have you identified an effective tracking & monitoring method that persists for at least three years?		
1	Insufficient information is available to answer the question at this time.	Sep 23, 2013 5:36 PM
2	N/A	Sep 19, 2013 1:41 PM
3	Define effective.	Sep 19, 2013 10:54 AM

Page 7, Q18. Who should be the primary entity for tracking how the legislation is being implemented and identifying what's working and what's not working?		
1	The regulatory agency (permitting agency and/or lands management agency) tasked with enforcing the legislation.	Sep 23, 2013 5:39 PM
2	Although WA State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office would have more influence, it is the local entities that will have the project and regional knowledge to discuss implementation. Same with the definition of what is working and what is not....time is important in restoration projects. What one person sees as a restoration failure may become the "project of the year" after a few seasons!	Sep 20, 2013 11:25 AM
3	WDFW. All other entities are prejudiced.	Sep 19, 2013 6:23 PM
4	Local differences in experience and interpretation are likely to be significant, therefore, local entities would be best suited to tracking implementation. However, these messages should be conveyed to the RCO and the WASGRO after a period of time to initiate conversations at higher/political levels.	Sep 19, 2013 5:54 PM
5	State should, but the agency responsibilities keep changing. I will let you sort it out.	Sep 19, 2013 10:55 AM
6	Bigger issue though is the legislation only covers riverine restoration. It will not help many salmon restoration projects that really really need this same type of waiver but not narrowly defined as riverine.	Sep 17, 2013 6:21 PM

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Staff Introduction to Monitoring Strategy

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, GSRO Coordinator

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

GSRO staff will provide a short introduction of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) monitoring program and review the purpose of the monitoring strategy assessment. Staff also will provide background on what the board has funded in the monitoring program since 2003.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

General overview of monitoring related to salmon recovery

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) is one of many organizations that support salmon recovery monitoring in the Pacific Northwest. Other federal, state, regional, and tribal entities that provide significant resources include:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Federal Regulatory Energy Commission
- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Salmon recovery regions
- Lead entities
- Project sponsors (including tribes)

These partners, co-managers, and resource organizations engage in a variety of monitoring activities. The activities are performed on a statewide and region-wide basis under different mandates, many of which are closely aligned with what the board has done the last 10 years.

The monitoring activities often may have different procedures, protocols, and methodologies, may be seasonally specific, and may have different monitoring questions that the work is designed to answer. The monitoring also varies with regard to timeline. Some efforts, such as effectiveness monitoring at a single project site, are fairly straightforward and can yield data fairly quickly. Others efforts, such as the Intensively Monitored Watersheds, require multiple years of data collection from returning salmon generations to answer even basic questions.

Monitoring funded by the board

The board's approach to monitoring was developed in 2003 and has been informed by several key efforts: 1) the Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy; 2) the Framework for Monitoring Salmon Population Listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act and Associated Freshwater Habitats; and 3) the board's 2003 Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Projects[1]. The board's monitoring strategy is focused on effectiveness and validation monitoring and provides:

- Prioritized monitoring by type and category;
- Estimated costs over ten years; and
- Metrics agreed upon by the board, NOAA Fisheries, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Bonneville Power Administration.

The board has used its strategy to guide key monitoring funding decisions and to determine monitoring priorities. In 2009, the board asked the Monitoring Forum to review its monitoring priorities. The Monitoring Forum recommended some changes to the programs, but found the mix of monitoring programs represented "core" monitoring elements and was appropriate.

Based on its strategy (and the Forum's review), the board allocates most of its monitoring funding to three larger, longer-term monitoring efforts. These include:

- Project effectiveness monitoring;
- Fish-in/fish-out (as its status and trends monitoring component); and
- Intensively monitored watersheds (IMW).

---

[1] *"The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery* http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/Executive_Report_final.pdf; *"Washington State Framework for Monitoring Salmon Populations Listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act and Associated Freshwater Habitats:* http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/Framework_Document.pdf; *"Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Projects"* http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/SRFB_Monitoring_Strategy.pdf

The different types of monitoring are designed to answer different questions. Some of the fish-in/fish-out monitoring is done in conjunction with the IMW monitoring at two IMW complexes in western Washington. Other-fish in/fish-out monitoring takes place at other sites state-wide. RCO staff also conducts implementation, post-implementation and compliance monitoring of projects (Table 1).

Table 1

Monitoring Type	Done by	Key Questions
Implementation Monitoring	Staff	Was the project or action completed, built, or implemented as designed?
Post-Implementation/ Compliance Monitoring	Staff	Is the project or action that was implemented still in place? For example, are the log-jams installed 5 years ago still there? Is the project in compliance with permit requirements?
Effectiveness Monitoring	Tetra Tech	How effectively do specific categories of habitat restoration projects work?
Status & Trends (Fish-in/Fish Out)	WDFW	Estimate returning adults (fish in) and outmigrating juveniles (fish out) to assess freshwater productivity.
IMW Monitoring	WDFW Ecology	Does habitat restoration actually increase fish production and abundance?

Effectiveness Monitoring

The basic goal of the SRFB effectiveness program is to answer the question "How effective is this project category?" in producing a specific (linked) outcome. Categories are broad – such as fish passage and diversion screening. The approach also compares the results of projects that appear to be headed for success, with projects that appear to be less than successful. Work is done based on statistical sampling due to the costs and inability to monitor all projects

The board's program was designed to continue for a minimum of 12 years. This timeframe was set based on response times of key measures and variables and the implementation timing of projects. Nine years of monitoring are now complete. Tetra Tech has collected data that allow us to compare the relative effectiveness of project categories and the approaches to achieve specific habitat outcomes.

Fish-In/Fish-Out

The board funds fish-in/fish-out monitoring as the status and trends component of its overall monitoring program. This monitoring compares the number of smolts that leave an area to the number of returning adult salmon that return to the spawning grounds in following years. With this monitoring, productivity can be tracked as well as carrying capacity estimated.

The work, which is done in various tributaries throughout the state, is accomplished through a contract with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The board contributes about 7 percent of the total funding for WDFW fish-in/fish-out monitoring. WDFW also conducts fish-in/fish-out monitoring in the Hood Canal and Lower Columbia IMWs through a separate contract with the Department of Ecology which RCO has funded annually since 2004.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds

Intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs) are also called validation monitoring. IMWs are based on an experimental design intended to find "cause and effect" relationships between variables such as fish, habitat, and water quality. It is generally used to evaluate whether the changes in a "treatment" watershed resulted in improved habitat, water quality, and fish abundance (or production) as compared to a "control" watershed that was not subjected to restoration actions or other treatments.

This monitoring approach is more intensive, complex, time-consuming, and costly than other types of monitoring. However, it also provides the most useful information about whether project actions are resulting in fish productivity and overall abundance.

Table 2: Board Investment and Timeline by Monitoring Type

	Project Effectiveness Monitoring	Fish-in/ Fish-out	Intensively Monitored Watersheds
Date Started	State Fiscal Year 2003	State Fiscal Year 2005	State Fiscal Year 2004
Total Investment to date	$4,473,998	$1,698,973	$15,566,898
Responsible organization	TetraTech	WDFW	Department of Ecology/WDFW
Reporting Mechanism	Annual Reports available through Habitat Work Schedule (HWS)	Progress and summary reports expected in PRISM	Progress and summary reports expected in PRISM
Timeline for completion	2020	Ongoing	Varies
Total estimated cost to complete	$1.2 million	Ongoing annual cost	Unknown

Background regarding assessment by Stillwater Sciences

Several factors led to the board's decision to conduct an assessment of its monitoring strategy.

In 2012, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) introduced its own priorities for monitoring. This prioritization is an important factor for the board to consider in its allocation decisions, as the use of PCSRF funding must be consistent with the NOAA guidance and with the specific state application. Specifically, NOAA articulated that one of its top four priorities would be:

> *"Effectiveness monitoring of habitat restoration actions at the watershed or larger scales for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids, status monitoring projects that directly contribute to population viability assessments for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids, or monitoring necessary for the exercise of tribal treaty fish rights or native subsistence fishing on anadromous salmonids."*

The monitoring documents noted in the footnotes on page 2 were developed before the development or adoption of the regional salmon recovery plans. The regional recovery organizations, among others, expressed both interest in and concerns about how monitoring is funded. At the June and August 2012 board meetings, for example, members expressed concern about how the monitoring efforts, in particular the Intensively Monitored Watersheds program, fit with the project selection process and with the implementation of regional recovery plans.

Board members themselves have expressed concern that the monitoring approach may not provide data that informs future decisions about project design, funding, and selection. Some members also expressed concern about the funding balance between the types of monitoring, and whether the board needed to consider other monitoring efforts.

At the August 2012 board meeting, RCO Director Cottingham suggested that a portion of the remaining fiscal year 2012 federal monitoring funds[2] be used for an objective and strategic assessment of how the board's monitoring funds should be used in the future. The board concurred, and directed staff to prepare a proposal of how that assessment could be done.

Staff entered into a contract with Aaland Planning Services to interview key persons involved with salmon recovery and to develop a scope of work that would form the basis for a comprehensive assessment by an independent, competitively selected contractor.

Aaland's work was completed, and in December 2012, the board approved funds (not to exceed $75,000) for an assessment of its monitoring investment strategy. Stillwater Sciences was selected, and began assessing the board's monitoring activities and associated funding allocations. They have worked with a subcommittee of individuals who have familiarity and expertise in monitoring as well as knowledge of the board process. A number of committee members previously served on the Monitoring Forum. Members of the steering committee were actively engaged in the assessment process. The draft assessment was delivered September 17, 2013, and presented to the subcommittee September 25. The Stillwater Sciences report and recommendations of an investment strategy will be discussed in detail at the October board meeting (see Item 5).

[2] Federal monitoring funds are provided through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant, which requires a minimum ten percent allocation to monitoring.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **5**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Presentation by Stillwater Sciences of their Assessment and Proposed Recommendations for the Board's New Monitoring Strategy

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, GSRO Coordinator

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

Stillwater Science is assessing the board's monitoring activities and associated funding allocations. They will present the report at the October 2013 meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

In December 2012, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved funds for an assessment of its monitoring strategy. The strategy was intended to:

- Review the three components of the current board monitoring strategy (effectiveness monitoring, fish in/fish out monitoring, and intensively monitored watersheds) and evaluate their effectiveness in meeting program goals;
- Review/evaluate the monitoring components of the regional salmon recovery plans and determine which elements are appropriate for state funding; and
- Evaluate how information is exchanged on monitoring results and make recommendations on changes.

Stillwater Sciences was selected to do the assessment. They worked with staff and stakeholders between January and September 2013, and delivered a draft report on September 17.

Analysis

The draft report (Attachment A) provides excellent discussion on the board's monitoring programs, along with context and rationale for the following recommendations:

- Evaluate and communicate monitoring results according to specific, scientifically rigorous reporting requirements.
- Project design and management decisions should stem from monitoring results.
- Coordinate with other regional monitoring programs (e.g. BPA, PNAMP, USFWS)
- Establish an Independent Science Review Panel to support SRFB restoration and monitoring needs.
- Identify an effective process and entity to coordinate fish monitoring and habitat actions, and ensure effective integration of their respective program results to inform adaptive management inspired adjustments to future program emphasis.
- Limit IMW funding to watersheds that have restoration projects that are implemented in a timely manner, and explicit ties between fish monitoring and habitat restoration.
- Establish an adaptive management program.

Next Steps

Board members are encouraged to read the report in its entirety before the October meeting.

Stillwater Sciences will review the report with the board in October. There will be an opportunity for board members to ask questions and discuss the report after the presentation. The board will be asked to consider the monitoring recommendations and adopt a monitoring strategy at the December meeting.

Staff expects that the report's recommendations will influence monitoring allocations and activities beginning in 2014.

Attachments

A. Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

DRAFT REPORT ◦ OCTOBER 2013

Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

PREPARED FOR

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501

PREPARED BY

Stillwater Sciences
108 NW Ninth Avenue, #202
Portland, OR 97209

Stillwater Sciences

Lando, J.B., D.B. Booth, and S.C. Ralph. 2013. Monitoring investment strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Prepared by Stillwater Sciences, Portland, Oregon for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia.

Cover photo: Smith River, OR; Chinook Salmon; Nisqually River, WA; Longfellow Creek, WA

Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 1
1.1 Background 1
1.2 Scope of This Evaluation 2
1.3 Primary Components of the Current Monitoring Strategy 4
2 EVALUATION OF THE THREE BOARD-FUNDED MONITORING COMPONENTS 5
2.1 Evaluation Approach 5
2.2 Findings 5
2.2.1 Effectiveness monitoring 5
2.2.2 Intensively monitored watersheds 7
2.2.3 Status and trends monitoring 11
2.2.4 Numerical ratings for the "three-legged stool" 13
2.3 Adaptive Management and SRFB-funded Monitoring 14
2.4 Thematic Issues, Concerns, and Needs 17
2.4.1 Cross-cutting issues 17
2.4.2 Specific questions from the Workplan 18
3 THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF SRFB MONITORING ACTIVITIES TO OTHER REGIONAL MONITORING 21
4 INFORMATION TRANSFER 22
5 CONCLUSIONS 23
5.1 Opportunities and Limitations of the Present Program 23
5.2 Levels of Funding vs. Value Provided 24
5.3 Recommended Improvements 25
5.4 Next Steps 26
6 REFERENCES 27

Tables

Table 1. Description of fish in and fish out monitoring in Washington. 12
Table 2. Numerical rating of the SRFB monitoring. 14
Table 3. Monitoring elements in the regional recovery plans 18

Figures

Figure 1. The adaptive management cycle. 15

Appendices

Appendix A. Documents Reviewed
Appendix B. Steering Committee Participants
Appendix C. Interviews Conducted

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide an independent review of the existing monitoring strategy of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB, or "the Board") and to offer recommendations and alternatives that could improve and update this monitoring strategy. This work has been carried out by scientists from Stillwater Sciences (Drs. Jody Lando and Derek Booth) and Cardno/ENTRIX (Stephen Ralph), under contract to the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), an agency created by the State Legislature in 1999 and presently within Washington State's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). This review was developed in coordination with RCO and GSRO staff and was based on reports and prior reviews of the monitoring of salmon-recovery efforts in Washington State since the late 1990s (Appendix A); conversations with multiple stakeholders and participants in salmon recovery at local, state, and federal levels (Appendices B and C); and our own familiarity with monitoring principles in general and the State's recovery efforts in particular.

1.1 Background

The SRFB Strategic Plan (Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, n.d.) articulates three overarching goals for the work of the Board: funding the best salmon-recovery efforts (Goal 1), maintaining accountability (Goal 2), and promoting public support for salmon recovery (Goal 3). Monitoring activities are primarily embraced within Goal 2:

> *"Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources." (p. 2 of the SRFB Strategic Plan)*

With respect to the Monitoring Strategy, this goal is further expanded:

> *"Monitoring Strategy: Provide accountability for board funding by ensuring the implementation of board-funded projects and assessing their effectiveness, participate with other entities in supporting and coordinating state-wide monitoring efforts, and use monitoring results to adaptively manage board funding policies."*

This goal invokes four themes—that of promoting the *effectiveness* of Board-funded activities (which is also the primary focus of Goal 1), demonstrating *accountability* for the expenditure of public funds in pursuit of salmon recovery, working *collaboratively* with other entities to support monitoring, and embracing the principles of *adaptive management*. These themes are interrelated, because ultimately the most compelling justification for taking action is that it produces the intended outcome and materially improves future actions.

Several challenges, however, complicate the simple execution of any monitoring program that seeks to demonstrate effectiveness and accountability, and that works collaboratively to achieve meaningful changes to resource management as a result of its findings. These challenges are best recognized at the outset of any program evaluation such as this one:

- The SRFB is not the sole supporter of salmon-recovery efforts in Washington State, and it also cannot influence some of the greatest recognized determinants of both local and regional salmon populations (e.g., hydropower, hatcheries, land use).
- Individual entities have distinct missions and information needs, and so satisfying the monitoring needs of one will not necessarily address the needs of all. Even though collaboration amongst regional monitoring programs is essential to make best use of practitioners' expertise and the value of measurements, imposition of uniform metrics and protocols (the most common implementation of "collaborative monitoring") rarely benefits all parties equally.
- "Effectiveness" is multi-scalar; even an "effective project" (i.e., one that meets all of its site-specific objectives) may not result in any demonstrable progress in salmon recovery at basin, regional, or statewide scales.
- Most actions, even if fully successful, take many years to produce a measurable response, commonly exceeding the planning horizon (and patience) of most public agencies.
- "Accountability," although ultimately determined by the effectiveness of actions and expenditures, also depends on clear messages that are widely distributed and easily understood by the public. These are not elements normally articulated as goals or specific objectives of a monitoring program.
- Adaptive management, the realigning of a program's goals and actions as a result of outcomes (particularly those that are "unexpected" or "undesirable") requires a deliberate management structure, including explicit feedback loops and mandatory (re)evaluations of planned trajectories, that is uncommon in most public agencies.

With this context, we now offer the details of the scope, approach, and findings of this review.

1.2 Scope of This Evaluation

The original Request for Proposals issued by the RCO in January 2013 specified eight tasks to be accomplished within the scope of this project:

- Task 1. Review the three primary components of the current monitoring strategy used by the Board and assess their effectiveness in meeting the goals of the program.
- Task 2. Evaluate the monitoring components of the seven regional recovery plans and determine which of these components are appropriate for Board funding.
- Task 3. Evaluate how information on the results of monitoring is presently exchanged.
- Task 4. Evaluate how the current Board monitoring fits into the monitoring in Washington being conducted by federal agencies.
- Task 5. Evaluate the current monitoring funding and allocation methods used by the Board, and assess whether the funding for the three primary components is at the appropriate levels.
- Task 6. Evaluate whether (and how) a portion of the monitoring funding should be reserved for alternative methods for allocating funds.
- Task 7. Evaluate the pros and cons of adding additional effectiveness monitoring project sites.
- Task 8. Work with a Steering Committee to be established by RCO.

These tasks and discussions with the steering committee members on March 18 and May 6, 2013, developed into a workplan (Stillwater Sciences 2013) to structure this assessment. The overarching focus of the review anticipated by this workplan, and the bulk of our subsequent efforts, has centered on Task 1—an evaluation of the three primary components of SRFB-funded monitoring. The three components, as articulated in the SRFB Strategic Plan (p. 4 of the Plan), are as follows:

- Conduct monitoring to determine the ***effectiveness*** of different types of Board-funded restoration and protection projects in achieving stated objectives.
- Participate in supporting ***status and trend*** monitoring.
- Support validation monitoring of selected ***intensively monitored watersheds*** to determine whether watershed health and salmon populations are responding to recovery efforts.

The Strategic Plan also supports "implementation (compliance) monitoring of every board-funded project to ensure the project has been completed consistent with pre-project design objectives and criteria," but this monitoring component was not included in the scope of this review. A separate review of the implementation compliance process is currently being conducted by the RCO/GSRO, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and TetraTech.

The three monitoring types highlighted in the Strategic Plan are commonly defined in various agency reports of the last decade as follows:

- ***Effectiveness monitoring,*** here meaning the evaluation of the local effects (both physical and biological) of a project on its immediate surroundings.
- ***Intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs),*** the term given to an integrated suite of monitoring efforts at multiple scales within the same watershed (or set of watersheds), designed to reveal any cause–effect relationships between restoration actions in those watersheds and fish populations.
- ***Status and trends monitoring,*** which in the context of SRFB-funded efforts is focused on enumerating the passage of fish in and out of the major river systems of Washington State on an annual basis.

In addition, there are several other types of monitoring that are commonly recognized, but which are *not* included in this review:

- ***Implementation (or compliance) monitoring,*** which evaluates whether a project (or other action) was implemented as intended.
- ***Status and trends monitoring*** can be used to evaluate conditions of stream habitat and watershed land cover over time, in addition to evaluating trends in fish populations. The former application is not routinely funded by the SRFB.
- ***Validation monitoring*** is a term used in a variety of contexts: to evaluate more local scales of effectiveness of restoration efforts (i.e., equivalent to status and trends monitoring of regional fish populations) (King County Water and Land Resources Division), or to validate assumptions, models, and methods in a research context (Snohomish Basin Salmonid Recovery Technical Committee; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board). However, this term is also used as a synonym for the SRFB-funded IMW programs (e.g., in documents from PNAMP).

The three components of SRFB-funded monitoring (effectiveness, IMWs, status and trends) have been described as the Board's "three-legged stool" for monitoring, and the majority of articulated tasks for this review relate to this framework. The results of our work are thus organized

primarily by these three monitoring types; however, a number of issues related to SRFB-funded monitoring cross-cut these categories (as do several of the secondary tasks of the Work Plan), and so our presentation and discussion of results does not follow this organization in all respects.

1.3 Primary Components of the Current Monitoring Strategy

The *Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery* (Volume 2 of 3, December 2002; http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/Comprehensive_Strategy_Vol_2.pdf) established the three-fold framework for all natural resource state agencies, one that has persisted to the present day. It was advanced to answer questions raised by the two articulated goals of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy, "Measure changes, in terms of scientific certainty, in wild salmon populations in terms of abundance, diversity, and geographic distribution and their causes due to trends in effects of harvest, hatcheries, ocean conditions, ecological interactions, and large hydropower"; and "Measure changes, in terms of scientific certainty, in water quality, water quantity, watershed health, salmon habitat, and their effects on salmon."

To implement this framework, alternative approaches were originally considered. Given the recognized shortcomings of local, disparate evaluation of projects, a centralized approach to **effectiveness monitoring** (see above definition) of projects at the reach scale was implemented in 2004 based on a contracted report submitted to the Board by Taylor and Associates (2003), through recurring annual contracts with TetraTech EC Inc. Projects were randomly selected for long-term (typically, 10 years) monitoring across the state after being stratified into nine categorical "types", with a variety of physical and biological metrics in the locality of the project itself being collected on an annual, biannual, or less frequent schedule as determined by the project type and age.

The **intensively monitored watersheds** program was first funded in 2003 and included the four watershed complexes presently monitored today with Board funding: selected areas of the Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJF), Hood Canal (HC), Lower Columbia (LC), and the Skagit River estuary. An IMW is defined as a "watershed-scale coordinated restoration effort with an associated effectiveness monitoring program implemented in an experimental fashion to maximize the ability to detect fish responses to changes in their habitat" (Desgroseillier et al. 2011). As stated in the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (Crawford et al. 2002), "The common theme of these studies is to develop an understanding of the linkage between management actions and the resource" (p. 22), accomplished by monitoring a variety of physical and biological parameters at multiple spatial scales, with the intended concurrent implementation of sufficient habitat-restoration projects that measurable effects on salmonid populations could credibly be expected to occur within about a decade. In 2006 the Independent Science Panel (Report 2006-1, August 31, 2006) conducted a review of the IMW program.

The third element of Board-funded monitoring, **status and trends (also called "fish in–fish out") monitoring,** was an original element of the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy (Crawford et al. 2002), with SRFB funding for juvenile monitoring starting in 2001 and the Fish In/Fish Out program starting in 2007. It remains primarily a Department of Fish and Wildlife-funded program, whose "…basic objective is to estimate fish populations, generally at the ESU [evolutionarily significant unit] scale, and to track indicators of habitat, water quality, water quantity, and other factors that impact wild fish." The SRFB has contributed limited (<10%) funding to this program for most of the past decade, but the focus has been almost entirely on the

first dimension of such monitoring (i.e., smolt counts) rather than on the tracking of habitat "…and other factors that impact wild fish."

2 EVALUATION OF THE THREE BOARD-FUNDED MONITORING COMPONENTS

2.1 Evaluation Approach

Our evaluation of the monitoring components emphasized four criteria, based on the underlying goals for monitoring as articulated in the SRFB Strategic Plan:

1. What has been accomplished by SRFB-funded activities?
2. Have the monitoring results been used to inform future management decisions?
3. What is the time frame for generating new information useful for management; can monitoring results actually be used/useful?
4. Does the monitoring support a regional context to enhance the interpretation of other monitoring results?

To accomplish this evaluation, we used a variety of approaches: specifically, reviews of documents (Appendix A), structured interviews with key stakeholders and others with long-standing knowledge of salmon-enhancement monitoring in Washington State (Appendix B), and three face-to-face meetings with the RCO-convened Steering Committee for this project (Appendix C).

2.2 Findings

We have organized the presentation of our findings by the three monitoring components evaluated here (effectiveness monitoring, IMWs, and status and trends monitoring). We consider each component in two ways:

1. A descriptive evaluation, using the four criteria listed above; and
2. A numerical rating, structured around the SRFB themes (see Section 1.1) and informed by the above four criteria.

Although we recognize that each criterion does not equally apply to each monitoring component, the set does provide a systematic, structured framework for highlighting what should be the key issues for any monitoring program. We also recognize that a singular score for each monitoring component and theme cannot capture the wide range of performance that exists within each component. That said, the scoring serves as a tool to demonstrate average performance levels and relative differences between the components and within the themes. As such, we believe it serves a useful role to better focus attention on the components with the greatest opportunities for improvement.

2.2.1 Effectiveness monitoring

NOAA (2011, *Guidance for Monitoring Recovery…*) defines *Project Scale Effectiveness* as determining "[w]hether an implemented project is effective in its stated goals: 'e.g. The installed large wood is working to provide cover and channel alterations.' This is an outcome of the strategy and may have both a habitat and fish outcome at the project scale. Note that this level of monitoring may be appropriate for groups of projects or sites rather than on an individual project

basis…If designed properly, it tests whether project design features were effective; whether habitat was restored at the project site as intended; whether local fish populations at the project site were improved." (p. 63)

Effectiveness monitoring is the most "intuitive" and well-defined of the monitoring components in terms of both its objectives and its scope; it occurs at a scale that is readily grasped by scientists and the lay public alike, and the objects of its attention—habitat-restoration projects—are the explicit mission for the SRFB. Thus, its long-standing inclusion in the monitoring portfolio of the SRFB is fully warranted and widely supported.

2.2.1.1 The four criteria

What has been accomplished by SRFB-funded monitoring activities?

The Effectiveness Monitoring Program receives ~11% of the 2011-2013 total SRFB monitoring budget and has been quite successful in defining and executing a systematic program of project-scale assessments. Working from a matrix of projects grouped into each of several project "types," most of the project monitoring plans follow a schedule of yearly visits to each site at Years 0, 1, 2 (or 3), 5, and 10. With some projects not having been implemented until 2011, the current schedule is not anticipated to be completed until 2020, although the number of remaining projects starts to drop rapidly after 2014. Annual reports for each project visited and an annual summary of the monitoring for all projects from the prior year are regular written products, together with oral presentations before the SRFB and at regional conferences.

Reviews of a subset of these written products show a common, systematic presentation framework that emphasizes the "accountability" element of monitoring—the methods, the results, and a summary of observed changes since the prior visit are summarized in narrative text, maps, and graphs. Confirmation of the project's implementation is easy to accomplish, and any broad trends in local reach-scale metrics (e.g., LWD, channel dimensions, vegetation survival) are readily apparent. Reports are archived and can be accessed through the web-based "Habitat Work Schedule" (http://hws.ekosystem.us/).

Have the monitoring results been used to inform future management decisions?

We have found no evidence of any systematic feedback, or "adaptive management loop," associated with the Effectiveness Monitoring Program, although many participants and other users of the information have reported anecdotes of how the results have been used. There is little doubt that informal contacts are occurring between monitoring crews and project designers in the field, and between presenters and their audience in conferences—but these are overwhelmingly *ad hoc* in character, suggesting that opportunities for more systematic integration of past findings into upcoming decisions are being missed.

Opportunities are also being missed to generalize the findings of the effectiveness monitoring into a form that could be more useful to others. Consider, for example, the entire "Summary" section from the Year-8 evaluation of Project 02-1622 (Issaquah Creek Log Cabin Reach Acquisition) in 2012:

> *"Overall, in-stream conditions in Year 8 (2012) appeared to be relatively similar to what was observed during previous years' monitoring, however, the stream is migrating, as evidenced by the undercutting of the left bank, inputting sand into the system. The vegetation at the Issaquah Creek project in 2012 has not changed substantially since 2007. However, deciduous trees are continuing to fill in the edges of the grassy fields at the southern portion of the site, and conifer plantings on the*

> *eastern slope have been installed. Over time, these will likely help to decrease the abundance of non-native species in this area. Year 12 monitoring of this site is scheduled for 2016."*

Within this project type ("Habitat Protection"), the Summary Report for this same year notes that:

> *"Determining the effectiveness of Habitat Protection Projects is difficult since there is no restoration action implemented at these sites. Change may occur slowly, or may not occur at all if conditions are maintained. Furthermore, a decline in conditions may not be the result of actions taken on that parcel, but rather outside of the protected area." (p. 35)*

In total, such reporting generates clear demonstration of accountability and successful project implementation, somewhat more ambiguous conclusions concerning project effectiveness, and very little to guide future management decisions. This final shortcoming is in part a consequence of the lack of formal structures to require that it occurs, and in part because the synthesis documents appear to lack having "application to future projects" as an explicit objective. At present, reports are largely data repositories with a strong preference for highlighting positive outcomes; they show little effort to generalize findings, positive or (particularly) negative, in a way that could be used by other designers or reviewers, or to evaluate existing hypotheses or to reframe more appropriate ones.

What is the time frame for generating new information useful for management; can monitoring results actually be used/useful?

Of all of the monitoring types, the results of effectiveness monitoring should be the easiest to transform into useful, timely guidance. To some degree this has already occurred within this program, and the value of such applications are widely recognized. Although the some project reports include appropriate acknowledgment of the need for "more time," presumably not every study needs 10 years to return meaningful (even if negative) results. Recognition of this fact has been implemented to some degree (i.e., by the termination of some project monitoring already showing clearly beneficial results) but not as an outcome of a systematic evaluation.

Does the monitoring support a regional context to enhance the interpretation of other monitoring results?

This question is least relevant to project-scale effectiveness monitoring and so was not considered in the course of this evaluation. Effectiveness monitoring, in general, ultimately plays only a "supporting" role in achieving and documenting improvement in salmon populations, as originally recognized and articulated in documents from the last decade. The successful administration and regular reporting of this monitoring component has suggested to some that its role should be expanded, but reach-scale effectiveness monitoring is inherently limited in what it can accomplish—and without more rigorous analysis and reporting, with specific attention to making the results more generally useful to future projects, even this limited utility is not being fully exploited.

2.2.2 Intensively monitored watersheds

As originally articulated in the 2001 Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy document, "Intensive (validation) monitoring ...is tailored to establish "cause and effect" relationships between fish, habitat, water quality, water quantity, and management actions." (p. 22) This effort has been implemented in Washington State through *Intensively Monitored Watersheds*. As of 2013, the

SRFB funds IMW monitoring in four watershed complexes: three adjacent tributaries draining to the Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJF), four adjacent tributaries draining to Hood Canal (HC), three adjacent tributaries to the Lower Columbia (LC), and the Skagit River estuary (Skagit).

> *"This part of the SRFB Monitoring Strategy [i.e., Intensively Managed Watersheds] pertains to monitoring that addresses how management and habitat restoration project activities, and their cumulative effects, specifically affect fish production. As is discussed in greater detail below, validation monitoring (or as termed here, intensive monitoring) is the only way this can be achieved (ISP 2002)…Other types of monitoring are unable to answer questions like 'to what extent did our recovery actions lead to more fish?'*
>
> *"The SRFB intends to support intensive monitoring in watersheds carefully chosen to allow efficient and meaningful results…" (from the 5/23/2003 report, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Projects, p. 6-7)*

And, as more explicitly stated in the 2013 summaries of the IMW program (e.g., Intensively Monitored Watersheds Synthesis Report, Lower Columbia River, 2013), "The goals of the IMW Program are to determine whether freshwater habitat restoration actions, as currently conducted in Washington state, measurably increase salmonid survival and production and to explain why or why not. The basic premise of the IMW Program is that the complex interactions between salmonids and their habitat can best be understood with concentrated monitoring and research efforts at a few locations."

2.2.2.1 The four criteria

What has been accomplished by SRFB-funded monitoring activities?

IMWs have been the largest single component of the SRFB monitoring budget (for example, it was ~56% of the 2011-2013 total SRFB monitoring budget). IMW monitoring is also the most ambitious, insofar as it seeks to establish a robust, scientifically defensible and causal linkage between restoration actions and recovery of salmonids populations (Bilby et al., 2004). The approach has an excellent scientific foundation, with the documents that established this program providing good rationale for their inclusion in the mix of SRFB-funded monitoring, systematic evaluation of quantitative criteria, and statistical justification for a likely decadal timeframe for showing results.

The accomplishments of this monitoring component, however, have been severely hampered by the general lack of "treatments" (i.e., habitat restoration projects) in most of the target watershed complexes. In this respect, two of the IMWs have been most problematic. This is evident from the executive summaries to the watershed-specific Intensively Monitored Watersheds Synthesis Reports, which acknowledge the paucity of on-the-ground treatments to date:

> *"In Little Anderson Creek, completed restoration projects include one culvert replacement and two large woody debris additions. In Seabeck Creek, completed and in-progress restoration projects include three culvert replacements and one undersized bridge replacement. In Big Beef Creek, final plans are being developed to remove bank armoring and reconnect a wetland in the lower watershed." (Hood Canal report, p. 7)*
>
> *"Few physical habitat restoration treatments have been completed. However, in Germany Creek a blocking culvert was replaced and a bank was stabilized with bioengineered armoring by Sierra Pacific Industries on their land. The Columbia*

> *Land Trust also restored some side channel habitat in 2009 and armored a tidal portion of the mainstem using concrete dolos in 2012. Restoration was initiated in Abernathy Creek in 2004 with a road abandonment followed by limited riparian invasive species removal and replanting in 2008." (Lower Columbia report, p. 1)*

Both the analysis of limiting factors, and the subsequent project implementation focus on projects in the Skagit estuary, have been more comprehensive and complete than those of the other three SRFB IMWs. It has some inescapable shortcomings—the schedule for full project implementation is many decades into the future, and it is a before-and-after design with no ability to compare to a control or reference stream or estuary. However, the projects are addressing what is widely judged to be the most important limiting factor, and the monitoring program should be able to determine if Chinook populations are increasing with restoration within a credible length of time.

Given limitations on project implementation throughout most of the other IMWs, and thus the absence of any credible expectation for systemic responses, the IMWs have generally met only those objectives of collecting a diversity of physical and biological data. In time, these data could presumably be integrated into a meaningful understanding of restoration–population linkages, but in general this has not occurred and the prospect for meaningful results is still many years into the future. Some results provided for some of the IMWs (in particular, HC and Skagit) show promising responses, but none are yet able to articulate any defensible conclusions.

Have the monitoring results been used to inform future management decisions?

We find no evidence of IMW results influencing management decisions, likely for two reasons. First, insufficient time has passed since the implementation of restoration projects to expect monitoring to reveal significant effects. This is only partly a consequence of the program's duration (not quite 10 years)—mainly, it reflects the slow pace at which projects have been implemented in most of the target watersheds, even after the program was initiated. We return to this underlying problem below.

The second reason for the general lack of influence being exercised by IMW findings is the lack of any systematic, widespread dissemination of results, and the absence of any formal feedback mechanism to make use of such results even if they were/are available. For example, we have identified three "synthesis reports" as referenced above for HC, LC, and SJF, all published in 2013, but their distribution is uncertain and they have no apparent precedent in the history of any of the IMWs. The Skagit has an extensive list of project-specific reports, accessible on the Skagit System Cooperative web page (http://www.skagitcoop.org/index.php/documents/), but this collection is not IMW-specific and appears to include every document produced by the Skagit Cooperative on any subject for the past 15 years. Although surely convenient for active workers in this region (who likely maintain an active, informal network for sharing information), it is a daunting archive for "outsiders" seeking to learn from the Skagit experience.

We have been introduced to a variety of irregular and/or informal settings wherein information is shared (such as at the recent IMW workshop hosted by the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership [PNAMP]). The focus of these exchanges appears to be most strongly on the methodological advances and the evaluation/documentation of the effectiveness of a set of treatments on a particular group of streams. Even in the Skagit, where we have found the greatest level of documentation, the utility of presented results for future management is limited. For example, a recent PNAMP presentation ("The Skagit IMW: Examining the Effects of Estuary Restoration on Chinook Salmon" by Greene and Beamer) apparently follows historical patterns of detailed oral/PowerPoint presentations but without readily accessible, systematic written

documentation elsewhere. The Skagit is also unique in its scope and size, and there is no indication of direct feedback or cross-pollination between it and other IMWs. The 2007 study plan for the Skagit IMW states "Lessons learned in the Skagit estuary could benefit recovery efforts in other Puget Sound Chinook salmon bearing rivers. This should be true in places that have the same habitat and life history types as the Skagit, although out of system transferability will need to put in a river specific context" (p. 6). However, it also notes that the Skagit is unique amongst the other three SRFB-funded IMWs, and it identifies NMFS as the lead for identifying whether, and to where, the results from this watershed could be extrapolated.

What is the time frame for generating new information useful for management; can monitoring results actually be used/useful?

The IMWs, in both the original defining documents and the individual reports, have always been careful to articulate a roughly decadal time frame in which scientifically defensible results could be generated. For example, the 2007 SJF study plan presumed that "up to 10 years" would be needed to see statistically meaningful results. Monitoring began in 2004, which might suggest that another year or two from the present should now be sufficient. However, the last project is not scheduled for implementation until 2013. This decadal time frame was determined by a power analysis and it appears robust. However, slow pace of implementation, episodic large storms, and expectation that biological response will lag physical changes suggest that yet longer time could be needed to show any fish response.

These are issues not unique to the SJF IMW. The HC study plan anticipates 10 years of monitoring to detect any changes, with an initial analysis in 2010. This plan likely did not anticipate implementation to proceed so slowly (2007–2009 being the main treatment period). Post-project monitoring on Seabeck Creek was not even scheduled to begin until 2013. The 2013 LC summary states, "Within seven to ten years following the completion of restoration treatments the IMW project should reliably determine whether restoration treatments increase salmon survival and production and provide valuable guidance that will improve the efficiency of future habitat restoration that is intended to increase salmon survival and production. To ensure the success of the IMW Program and reduce the cost of long-term monitoring, restoration treatments must be implemented in the IMW treatment watersheds and ongoing monitoring must continue." The anticipated time frame is thus about a decade *following* the last treatment, a restoration trajectory that by some measures has barely begun.

Does the monitoring support a regional context to enhance the interpretation of other monitoring results?

This criterion is of potential relevance to the IMWs, and it was apparently an articulated potential benefit of this program at its initiation. The intent was to have IMWs located in various geographic regions and ecotomes in order to help predict recovery response for a variety of limiting factors for both westside and eastside environments. Although each IWM watershed complexes support only a small fraction of the populations that utilize them (with the exception of the Skagit), they are credible analogs for small- to medium-sized westside watersheds. However, we have found no indication that this potential is being explored in other watersheds, or even that it is a recognized objective for the three "small" IMWs (i.e., HC, LC, SJF) as expressed in their respective 2013 Synthesis Reports. Monitoring of the Skagit could, credibly, contribute to a regional understanding of Chinook populations in Puget Sound, although this application also has not been evident in the reporting to date.

2.2.3 Status and trends monitoring

NOAA (2011, Guidance for Monitoring Recovery...) defines status and trends monitoring as a way to "assesses changes in the condition of a metric important for tracking progress in a population or listing factor. It is the main monitoring necessary to determine the biological condition of the species and the status of specific statutory listing factors and threats." More specifically, status monitoring characterizes the condition of physical, chemical, or biological attributes across a given area at a single point in time (e.g., abundance of fish at time x in a watershed). Trend monitoring determines changes in biota or conditions over time (Roni, 2005). Status and trends data also can provide high-level indicators that can be easily understood by the public and policy makers and are used to plan and inform management and restoration actions.

2.2.3.1 The four criteria

What has been accomplished by SRFB-funded monitoring activities?

WDFW collects status and trend data for juvenile, smolt and adult fish in each ESU for each listed species. The primary use of the fish information is to track abundance, productivity, diversity, and spatial structure of listed populations in major population groups. The regularity of the data collection and the high quality of the data are successful attributes of this program. By quantifying abundance, productivity, distribution and diversity paired with restoration projects, status and trend data can integrate the recovery boards and lead entities habitat actions with monitoring. Within most of the regional salmon recovery plans, status and trend data for fish and habitat are identified and meaningful questions are being discussed.

Starting in 2001, SRFB funding was used to complement WDFW fish sampling (coined "Fish In/Fish Out") for populations that would not otherwise be monitored. The financial allocation for status and trend support by the SRFB varied for many years; however, in the last three years, SRFB funding has been stable and consistently applied (e.g., Hood Canal monitoring for juvenile summer chum). Currently the SRFB provides $208,000 (about 8% of the 2011-2013 total SRFB monitoring budget) of the total $3 million spent annually on status and trend monitoring statewide. In order to manage the ongoing sampling programs within the Fish In/Fish Out framework, WDFW updates and evaluates an annual table of status and trend sampling to identify gaps and priorities. Such a process helps supporting organizations such as the SRFB to know where best to allocate available funds.

An example of the type of data generated from the Status and Trend Monitoring Program is shown in Table 1 (Table 4 of Crawford et al. 2007). This table is updated annually to reflect changes in population structure and plan forthcoming sampling efforts. Gaps in monitoring are given high priority using the following criteria:

- Primary populations that are the only source of juvenile and adult monitoring per major population group (MPG) per evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) are given higher priority than all other populations within the ESU.
- Monitoring locations where previous year's data exist for a specific species and lifestage (data continuity) are given higher priority than initiating a new monitoring project.
- Projects with no alternative source of funding (e.g., Hood Canal summer chum juvenile monitoring) are given higher priority than projects with alternative sources of funding.

Table 1. Description of fish in and fish out monitoring in Washington (from Crawford 2007).

Statewide monitoring of listed species—juveniles & adults													
					Proposed for FY07-09 GF-S Funding								
					Proposed for FY07-09 GF-S and submitted for BPA funding								
2/13/2007 10:34					***Submitted for BPA funding***								
					Juveniles				**Adults**				
Recovery region	**Major population groups**	**WRIAs**	**Target species**	**Primary populations**	**Smolt sites**	**Production**	**Smolt trapping agency**	**Funding**	**Spawners (Stocks)**	**Data quality**	**Monitoring agency**	**Funding**
Puget Sound	North Sound	1 to 2	Chinook	NF Nooksack	Nooksack	Index	Lummi	Tribal	NF/MF Nooksack	Very Good		GFS
				SF Nooksack					SF Nooksack	Very Good		GFS
									Samish/MS Nooksack	Poor		
	Whidbey Basin	3 to 7	Chinook	*Upper Skagit*	Skagit	Yes	WDFW	Federal (Dingall/ Johnson) 50% Seattle PU 50%		Good		
				Lower Skagit					Upper Skagit MS/Tribs	Very Good		
				Upper Sauk (early)					Lower Sauk	Good		
				Lower Sauk					Upper Sauk	Excellent		
				Suiattle (early)					Suiattle	Excellent		
				Cascade (early)					Upper Cascade	Excellent		
				NF Stillaguamish	Stillaguamish	Yes	Stillaguamish	Tribal	NF Stillaguamish	Good		GFS

Have the monitoring results been used to inform future management decisions?
In some cases status and trend monitoring has informed future management. For example, the Skagit River has had a successful history of long-term status and trend monitoring, particularly adult abundance, with integrated fish monitoring and habitat restoration (Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan 2005). This integration subsequently has resulted in a focus on the estuary as the most significant limiting factor. Such success is not as clear for other watersheds that collect similar data but lack integration between fish monitoring and the selection of habitat-restoration actions.

Another challenge with status and trend monitoring lies with the articulated purpose(s) for the monitoring. To date, the focus on status and trend monitoring (as funded by WDFW and SRFB) has been to document net biological results (i.e., numbers of fish). Little progress has been made towards evaluating those results and asking meaningful questions of purpose (e.g., are we monitoring the right lifestages in the right places? What are the limiting factors that might respond to changes in habitat conditions?).

What is the time frame for generating new information useful for management; can monitoring results actually be used/useful?
Status and trend monitoring is explicitly intended to compile long-term adult and juvenile fish population data at a watershed scale. The longer the time series, the more opportunity for analysis. That said, we have found little discussion of the recommended duration of status and trend sampling, or the point at which monitoring results would become statistically robust and useful. Despite the absence of much explicit discussion of time frames for utility, we note that status and trend monitoring results are actively being used to inform management (e.g., steelhead data in the Lower Columbia are informing watershed management planning and process; coho data are used to forecast run sizes throughout Washington State).

Does the monitoring support a regional context to enhance the interpretation of other monitoring results?
Status and trends monitoring provides a unique source of fish population data over large spatial and temporal scales. The information collected is directly in line with the SRFB goals. The challenge is to clearly identify how the data can be linked to other scales of monitoring in order to utilize data and justify its continued support from SRFB. It is not enough to simply collect the data.

2.2.4 Numerical ratings for the "three-legged stool"

In an effort to distill a large volume of information into a tractable summary assessment, each of the three legs of the monitoring stool were evaluated based on their success to date at meeting or supporting the articulated themes for SRFB monitoring (accountability, effectiveness, collaboration, and adaptive management). The scores were assigned by the project team using a 5-point scale, based on our professional judgment using information provided by the steering committee, document review, and interviews conducted with key stakeholders and others with long-standing knowledge of salmon-enhancement monitoring in Washington State (see Appendices A–C).

Table 2. Numerical rating of the SRFB monitoring.

Monitoring component	SRFB monitoring themes (see Section 1.1)*			
	Effectiveness	**Accountability**	**Collaboration and communication**	**Adaptive management**
Effectiveness Monitoring	3	4	4	2
IMWs	2 (4 Skagit)	2	3	2 (4 Skagit)
Status and Trends	3	3	3	2

* Level of performance is scored from low (1) to high (5), using the following generic criteria:
1 = no evidence of support for this theme
2 = minor support for theme but with only limited effectiveness
3 = supportive of theme, but with significant opportunities for improvement
4 = highly supportive of theme; limited improvements warranted
5 = fully supportive of theme, no changes warranted

Although we do not find any of the programs to be completely lacking in support for these themes, several challenges for the overall SRFB monitoring program are highlighted by this summary. We recognize the programs operate under disparate timelines, but believe they can still be held accountable for addressing each of the SRFB monitoring themes. The near uniformity of "2's" for the theme of adaptive management reflects our judgment that meaningful feedback of monitoring results into future actions is critically deficient and requires substantive consideration by the Board. Although the Skagit was independently scored for two themes due to a distinct level of performance, the generally low ratings for IMWs lead us to some key recommendations for decision-making by the Board. The positive scores for effectiveness monitoring emphasize the success of this component in disseminating results, but it has yet to achieve its potential for driving fundamental improvements in the implementation of restoration projects. Status and trends monitoring, as a program only marginally under SRFB direction, could nonetheless benefit from a thoughtful assessment of its potential benefits beyond the mere annual tallying of fish.

We return to these overarching issues in greater detail in the sections that follow.

2.3 Adaptive Management and SRFB-funded Monitoring

Project funding decisions, monitoring, data analysis, decision-making, and accountability are all disconnected activities under the present operating structure of the SRFB. Each of these activities tends to happen in a different place, or not at all. This is a fundamental obstacle to the creation and execution of an effective adaptive management program. Moving the basic decisions for project selection from a centralized, SRFB-run program out to the Regions may have been a well-guided effort to improve the design and implementation of projects; but without the monitoring program following suit (*also* for good reasons), this action has had the unintended consequence of severing any intrinsic connection between the two—it retains the possibility for *ad hoc* feedback but provides no mandate for it.

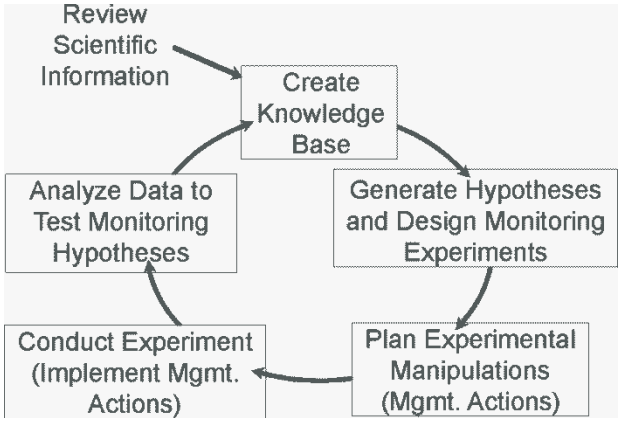


Figure 1. The adaptive management cycle (from Ralph and Poole 2003).

Consider a representation of the adaptive management cycle, reproduced above (Figure 1) from Ralph and Poole (2003, their Figure 3). The links between each step are critical to having a successful program, but many have noted how difficult they are to implement, even under the best of circumstances. However, those links are particularly challenging to implement when they connect activities being conducted by different entities. We believe these disconnections lie at the root of many of the issues that limit the overall value of the present monitoring program.

These challenges are particularly evident in the IMW program. Its most successful aspects are widely recognized to be its scientific rationale, a foundation that was carefully documented in reports from the early 2000's, affirmed by the ISP review in 2006, and no less compelling today. This foundation was executed through the well-coordinated *Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy For Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery*, which continued from initial guidance documents through the generation of hypotheses and monitoring experiment design for the initial SRFB-funded IMWs (SJF, HC, LC). The next step, the planning of experimental manipulations in each watershed, was executed by smaller teams that had only partial overlap with the initial hypothesis-generating team.

Most problematic, however, is that the funding and execution of the management actions was entirely removed from these prior steps. This created what the ISP in 2006 called "Serious weaknesses [in the]…apparent disconnect between how treatments (i.e., the habitat improvement actions) are selected and funded, in relation to experimental design and monitoring needs, and uncertainty about the duration of the commitment to fund the long-term nature of the IMW program." (ISP 2006, p. 1) The responsibility for data analysis returns from the SRFB to the individual IMW study teams, but we find only limited examples across the four IMWs that such analyses have been systematically executed, and even less evidence that they have been formulated and released so as to contribute to the preexisting "knowledge base" (see Figure 1) even were such a repository of such information to be identifiable. A procedure to generate and/or refine hypotheses and monitoring experiments may exist within each IMW working group, but forums for cross-fertilization amongst the multiple IMWs in Washington State (funded by both the SRFB and NOAA-PSMFC) have been slow in development and seemingly informal in past execution.

Thus, IMWs began with a strong scientific mission and have executed varying levels of scientific analysis, but they have no influence of the funding priorities and so they can't actually answer the

questions they were designed to answer (indeed, key questions for salmon recovery that *only* they are able to answer).

The Effectiveness Monitoring Program, in principle, aligns more closely to the adaptive management cycle depicted above, and its widespread support undoubtedly derives in part from its consistency and coherence within that framework. Its foundation was also established by the strategic assessment of monitoring needs in the early 2000's, with hypotheses, plans, and treatments all implemented within a few years under the overarching auspices of the SRFB monitoring program. However, we have seen only modest efforts to analyze the data so collected, and even less of an attempt to add to a "knowledge base" that could inform, except on an *ad hoc* basis, the development of new understanding and (ultimately) better projects.

In the case of the Effectiveness Monitoring program, this disconnection has not been a result of a diffusion of responsibility across multiple entities, as in the case of IMWs, but rather a lack of any credible impetus to "drive" the adaptive management cycle forward. Although monitoring was first (2000) argued as necessary to provide accountability to funding agencies and the public, who were expected to demand some demonstration that the funds were creating a genuine, measurable improvement in salmon habitat and salmon populations, this has not happened in fact. We see few substantive calls today for accountability from either the PCSRF, which distributes money to the SRFB provided by an annual Congressional allocation; or from the public, who sees little reason to complain about a distantly funded program that provides jobs and a sense of nominally beneficial actions—an attitude reinforced by publications such as the State of the Salmon, which combine such broad metrics of "miles of stream treated" and 'dollars spent" with high-level indictors as "number of fish in Puget Sound" that no credible inferences can be drawn about the actual effectiveness of state-funded recovery actions. Making those causal linkages should be the role of the IMWs, but they have not been implemented in a fashion that actually serves this purpose.

Consider, by way of contrast, the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP), in the early phases of implementation under the current round of Phase 1 and Phase 2 NPDES permits. In many ways the RSMP is analogous to the Effectiveness Monitoring Program of the SRFB (although it was built from the bottom up [i.e., by the affected jurisdictions themselves], not the top down [i.e., from the state or federal regulators]): local entities pool resources, centralize the development of a monitoring strategy that results in a few individual, "characteristic" projects being monitoring by a centralized entity, with results being used to inform all. In our view, its fundamental differences from the SRFB Effectiveness Monitoring Program stem from the regulatory context in which they are each embedded: for the RSMP, there is a genuine threat of consequences for inadequate monitoring or failed project effectiveness (through the NPDES permit requirements on the implementing jurisdictions) and a clear mechanism for relatively prompt feedback (DOE has demonstrated a history of upgrading 5-year permit requirements based on the information collected in previous permits). Contrast this with the SRFB Effectiveness Monitoring program, which was developed under a concern for accountability that has never truly materialized, and for which permit requirements (presumably under the ESA) are diffuse and largely unconnected from the agencies conducting the work. We also note, however, that full implementation of the RSMP has not yet occurred, and successful "closure" of the adaptive management cycle is by no means guaranteed here, either.

In summary, local examples are available to demonstrate a successful implementation of the adaptive management feedback: in the case of stormwater monitoring, the work of measurement and analyses are done by the regulated permittees, who are required by their permits to come to management conclusions. In turn, the subsequent permits are changed substantially every cycle

based on what has been learned in past permit cycles, through the implementation by technically knowledgeable Ecology staff. Curiously, we note that this process been more successful for stormwater than for salmon recovery. We speculated that in large measure this likely reflects the more litigious environment of Clean Water Act regulations, and perhaps the greater financial resources (over $1M for the annual implementation of stormwater effectiveness monitoring); despite the distant regulatory threat of the Endangered Species Act, there has been little impetus for concerted action with respect to habitat monitoring. In addition, the chain of accountability is much shorter for stormwater: ongoing support for the NPDES permit program is provided by the permittees themselves, whereas the monitoring programs of the SRFB have seen continued, annual funding by the US Congress.

2.4 Thematic Issues, Concerns, and Needs

2.4.1 Cross-cutting issues

Project implementation in IMW watersheds need to be accelerated, or the IMW(s) need to be abandoned. This recommendation was made by the ISP in 2006, and it is as true today as it was 7 years ago. As presently implemented, the IMWs are unlikely to provide useful management information or compelling accountability for the expenditure of SRFB funds. To prioritize the implementation of these projects, however, would require a change in the SRFB's present approach to the regional allocation of funds, with the selection and sequencing of projects largely determined by the lead entities. This "regional" approach, no matter how supportive of other SRFB priorities, is simply inconsistent with implementing a successful IMW program. Thus, a clear policy-level decision needs to be made about how best to reconcile these competing priorities to avoid the continued inefficiencies and loss of opportunity inherent in the current approach.

Effectiveness monitoring needs to better demonstrate its value to salmon recovery. Because this type of monitoring is so intuitive, and the program's execution has been so competent, it has escaped some of the closer questions that should be raised with any such effort: What do we learn by monitoring the habitat condition of streams? What's the scientific question that drives the data collection? How do we know that the projects being built, and their local "effectiveness," actually matter to the health of salmon populations? How are the results being used to design and select better projects? Until these questions can be answered, the focus of this program should be on how to make it better, not larger.

Every monitoring program should identify specific time frames for delivering meaningful results. All monitoring should be initiated with an explicit statement, ideally based on statistical analysis or prior experience, of the likely duration of monitoring needed to return meaningful results that can be used to demonstrate outcomes or provide guidance to future projects. Although such preliminary estimates should always be subject to revision as new data are collected, establishing clear expectations for monitoring should be a recognized component of any new data-collection initiative.

Monitoring programs should evaluate the quality of the data being collected with respect to specific monitoring objectives. Although important, it is insufficient to consider the geographic location, species and frequency of monitoring efforts. The SRFB should require that monitoring programs evaluate the quality of the data being collected and explicitly tie the evaluation to clearly articulated monitoring objectives. Without such a linkage, it is quite possible that monitoring efforts will not advance the goal of salmon recovery.

SRFB-funded monitoring should demonstrate accountability beyond implementation. "Accountability" includes reporting on monitoring effectiveness, collaboration, and adaptive management. Improvement is needed in each of these areas for all types of monitoring (although some more than others). A systematic process of documenting such information would significantly advance the monitoring benefits.

Communication is essential, and presently inadequate. The majority of monitoring data is accessible to only a minority of people. With limited time and resources, valuable monitoring data are not being appropriately disseminated; as such, any potential for adaptive management cannot function as intended.

SRFB monitoring should substantively engage with the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) to advance collaborative opportunities and benefit from the collective efforts of the region. PNAMP is a forum to facilitate collaboration around aquatic monitoring topics of interest, promote best practices for monitoring, and encourage coordination and integration of monitoring activities as appropriate. The forum's activities are conducted by participant working groups and teams as endorsed by the partner-based steering committee. Participation in PNAMP is voluntary, but widespread. Signatory partners include BPA, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Colville Confederated Tribes , Idaho Department of Fish and Game, NOAA, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Bureau of Land Management, Environmental Protection Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Bureau of Reclamation, United States Forest Service, United States Geological Survey, Washington State Department of Ecology, WA GSRO/RCO, WDFW.

2.4.2 Specific questions from the Workplan

Which of the monitoring programs of the seven regional recovery plans are "appropriate" for SRFB funding, given the Board's mission and mandate (Task 2 of Workplan)?

The seven regional recovery plans have varying levels of ongoing monitoring, as summarized in Table 3. This element of the workplan was not assigned a high priority, and thus our evaluation consisted only of a cursory review of readily available recovery plan documents.

Table 3. Monitoring elements in the regional recovery plans.

Recovery plan	Program element	Level of monitoring (low to high, 0 to 3)
Lake Ozette	Status & Trends	0*
	Implementation & Compliance	0
	Effectiveness	0
	Validation	0
Lower Columbia	Status & Trends	2
	Implementation & Compliance	1
	Effectiveness	2
	Validation	1

Recovery plan	Program element	Level of monitoring (low to high, 0 to 3)
Middle Columbia	Status & Trends for Steelhead	2
	Implementation & Compliance	0
	Effectiveness	0
	Validation	0
Upper Columbia	Status & Trends	3
	Implementation & Compliance	0
	Effectiveness	3
	Validation	0
Puget Sound	Monitoring varies by sub-watershed	
Hood Canal	Status & Trends	1
	Implementation & Compliance	2
	Effectiveness	1
	Validation	0
Snake River	Status & Trends	3
	Implementation & Compliance	1
	Effectiveness	3
	Validation	0

* Ozette sockeye are the only ESA listed species in this region; therefore, PCSRF money is limited.

Any expansion of funding in support of regionally-focused monitoring as suggested by this workplan element, however, should be predicated on the assumption that such monitoring data flowing from the efforts of the regional recovery boards would amplify, support and expand on the existing triad of programmatic monitoring efforts currently supported by the SRFB. Given our assessment that the three existing SRFB-funded monitoring components as currently organized lack a common set of objectives, lack sufficient analysis of results, and have not been well-integrated with each other, it is premature to recommend further funding of regional monitoring efforts. Additional support for regional efforts that focus on understanding how specific restoration actions might vary by geographic context, while laudable, can only be useful when there exists an organized and coherently designed overall monitoring program that addresses a common set of objectives, and that yields complimentary and relevant evidence in support of adaptive management. If monitoring results have yet to become relevant to management decisions, there is little justification to expand efforts to collect data.

In summary, this question highlights a more fundamental issue with the current SRFB-funded monitoring efforts. If the institutional capacity does not exist to use the monitoring results to improve decisions on how to spend scarce restoration dollars on the most effective restoration actions, then the first step must be to address this critical shortcoming in existing monitoring efforts. Expansion is a question for a much later date.

Are relative funding levels appropriate and commensurate with the utility and application of the results (Task 5 of WP)? In particular, should additional effectiveness monitoring project sites be added (Task 7 of WP)?

In recent years, funds for SRFB monitoring have followed a relatively steady pattern ($2.2–2.8 million from 2011-2013). This reflects the NOAA minimum mandatory requirement that at least 10% of PCSRF funds to be allocated to monitoring. In general, IMWs receive half or more of the annual allotment, reflecting the variety of monitoring activities conducted in the IMW watersheds, and the need for detailed annual information if their scientific objectives are ever to be achieved. We have not conducted a detailed audit of monitoring expenditures across the four SRFB-funded IMWs; as noted previously, the disconnection between project implementation and IMW timelines is far more critical an issue than any details of how monitoring funds are allocated.

Of the two other SRFB-funded monitoring components being addressed in this review, effectiveness monitoring is the next largest cost item (~11%). Although the most successful of the components to date, at least as evaluated by our four criteria with respect to the monitoring themes of the SRFB Strategic Plan, its utility within the framework of statewide monitoring is ultimately limited—the statewide uniformity of hypotheses, study questions, methodology, and metrics is defensible from a statistical-power perspective, but the limitations of such an approach are also clear given the diversity of aquatic systems across the state. The current Effective Monitoring program has not demonstrated that the statewide amalgam of projects into presumably homogenous "types" has generated results any more useful than those being executed more regionally and with a more targeted set of questions (e.g., King County, or the estuary program of the Skagit [i.e., the Skagit IMW]). Thus, nothing in the execution to date of this program suggests that its further expansion as a statewide program would produce commensurate benefits.

We note that other, more regionally focused effectiveness monitoring programs are being explored or established. The SRFB could have a relevant interest in providing support for these regional efforts, but without clear indications that the lessons of the present program have been fully incorporated into any new framework—particularly the importance of systematic data analysis, meaningful synthesis of results for future management application, and a clear feedback between monitoring results and future management actions—such an additional investment would not be likely to translate into greater utility or applicability.

Are opportunities for additional program value being missed through insufficient opportunities for funding (either out-of-cycle or competitive funding opportunities) (Task 6 of the WP)?

Although we have neither seen nor heard any direct communications about such alternatives, the existence of a standing funding source will always invite consideration of changes to the *status quo* for allocating resources. There is ample precedent for alternate methods of funding allocation in both state and federal agencies (for example, the National Science Foundation issues both directed solicitations to researchers for targeted, multi-year investigations and open-ended "calls for proposals"): they all reflect an effort to balance the relative benefits of steady, predictable funding vs. new initiatives that can yield benefits well beyond (or, for that matter, well below) their tangible cost. We have seen documentation of only one such process for the SRFB (a December 2011 workgroup convened to allocate about $800,000 of previously uncommitted monitoring funds, as referenced in a Salmon Recovery Funding Board "Briefing Memo" for the

April 2012 Board Meeting, Item 7), but we also recognize that the interest in such possibilities reach well beyond this one-time event.

In general, we recognize the potential for high benefits accruing from even a modest expansion of the funding mechanisms available for monitoring. The greatest difficulty that we see is in providing systematic, technical review at the state level for such requests coming into the SRFB—such a mechanism does not appear to be readily available, but without it such a program would risk becoming another region-based allocation of funds without adequate assessment or oversight. We have seen evidence of poor results from "local" monitoring, because it is commonly subject to shortcomings of no accountability, no meaningful results, and ultimately no outcomes. However, we also see clear indications that some local entities are creating highly functional, useful monitoring programs: for example, the Snake River Region could provide a useful case study for how to "build" a new IMW from the ground up; multiple project examples demonstrate that King County knows how to do (and use) effectiveness monitoring.

These examples suggest the potential benefit of a SRFB-sponsored "initiative fund," subsequently used as examples to move the entire statewide monitoring enterprise forward. Without adequate in-house technical review capacity available to the Board (and subsequent follow-up accountability imposed on the grantees), however, any such program risks repeating the failed examples of the past—which have, in turn, led to the program as currently implemented.

In addition to considering an open-ended competitive allocation of some funds, the most commonly articulated "missing" component of SRFB-funded monitoring is habitat status-and-trend monitoring. Should this be a SRFB concern? Many say "yes," from the perspectives of both tracking ultimate success (because fish numbers may be too variable to draw meaningful conclusions) and because it is likely to achieve a rapid level of public understanding. Such evaluations were already expressed in the State of our Watersheds (2012) report from the Northwest Indians Fisheries Commission (http://nwifc.org/publications/sow/), but the information there is presented more anecdotally than systematically. The SRFB should have an interest (and potentially a significant role) in supporting a systematic, scientifically based effort along these same lines. However, implementing such a program would need to override the current approach of strict Region-based funding, since only a centrally coordinated, pooled approach would be likely to produce useful results with adequate scientific and statistical rigor. This type of effort appears to be growing in certain regions (Puget Sound, Columbia Basin) without SRFB assistance, and as with more regional efforts at effectiveness monitoring this may be the best (and perhaps only) way to move such an initiative forward.

3 THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF SRFB MONITORING ACTIVITIES TO OTHER REGIONAL MONITORING

Based on a review of published material, steering committee discussions and the interviews conducted for this study, SRFB monitoring has an insufficient level of engagement with other regional monitoring activities (e.g. USEPA, BPA, NOAA, WDOE, WDFW). We acknowledge the challenge faced by diverse monitoring programs (e.g. different goals, funding cycles, regulatory requirements and constraints), nevertheless a lack of coordination can result in funding inefficiencies, misguided monitoring efforts and a lack of knowledge transfer (e.g. a disconnect between fish and habitat monitoring). That said, there have been efforts to coordinate the programs such as:

- The "Skamania process", developed for the Columbia River, prioritized monitoring gaps and led to funding from both the SRFB and BPA
- BPA's Fish and Wildlife program in collaboration with the NWPCC, CRITFC and the ISRP
- The Integrated Status and Trends Monitoring Demonstration Project
- In the Puget Sound, NOAA evaluated the quality of monitoring data, identified data gaps and now the SRFB is funding those gaps
- The annual prioritization process for status and trends monitoring (Table 1). Led by WDFW, this process identifies opportunities for SRFB funding. However it is unclear to what extent the WDFW gaps align with SRFB gaps. Addressing this uncertainty would be value added for the SRFB.
- The development of standardized regional monitoring protocols that enables the SRFB monitoring to integrate with other regional monitoring, thereby expanding the sample size without additional effort or funds.
- The Skagit River IMW has done an exemplary job integrating habitat restoration and fish monitoring from the outset
- TetraTech recently reviewed SRFB effectiveness monitoring sites and identified additional sampling needs that are now being funded by BPA. We recommend that the SRFB continually seek for ways to improve the effectiveness of their funding. One such opportunity is to identify monitoring efforts funded by other entities. Such coordination can provided value added support between monitoring programs. In some cases coordinated efforts will expand the sample population; in others, it may identify overlapping efforts or unnecessary sampling.

4 INFORMATION TRANSFER

Successful monitoring requires the effective dissemination and active exchange of monitoring results (Task 3 of the WP). Doing so can highlight (although not ensure) a level of accountability. Depending on the information exchanged, it can also communicate critical information regarding project effectiveness (e.g., IMW findings that may be applicable to other, similar watersheds and listed species).

Information transfer is one of the major shortcomings of the present monitoring framework in the state, and particularly with those programs directly funded by the SRFB. Although a substantial amount of SRFB-funded monitoring is occurring, only a select group has access to the resulting information: those implementing the work, those who know where to find key reports, those who attend monitoring workshops. In our advanced digital age, information transfer should be operating at a much higher level.

Two web-based systems are presently in place that focus on project tracking, implementation and performance: PRISM and the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS). PRISM, a grant management system employed by RCO and used to apply for SRFB grants (http://www.rco.wa.gov/prism_app/about_prism.shtml), provides publically available information to apply for grants, review information on funded grants, and produce reports about projects. The HWS (http://hws.ekosystem.us/), a primary tool of the Effectiveness Monitoring program, is a "*mapping and project tracking tool that allows Lead Entities to share their habitat protection and restoration projects with the public… By mapping projects, linking them to each other and*

recovery goals, and making it all available on the web, the HWS system makes salmon recovery more accessible to partners, potential funders, and the public." PRISM and HWS are both useful frameworks for achieving public project accounting and displaying project-specific performance, but neither provides meaningful guidance for future efforts, which should be generated from analyses of monitoring results. As such, these tracking systems are both potentially useful tools, but neither presently supports critical adaptive management needs.

Without regulatory drivers, statutory or contractual requirements, and/or public/agency accountability for funding, these programs (both the monitoring, and the underlying project implementation itself) will continue whether anyone is paying attention or not. Tangible examples of constructive feedback between monitoring results and future management actions are few and far between, and there is scant appreciation of the inherent inefficiencies and lost opportunities that result from a sole reliance on informal, *ad hoc* interactions.

Information transfer is an essential component of an effective monitoring program, but also a daunting mission. PNAMP has facilitated the transfer of monitoring information for other entities funding similar regional monitoring efforts (e.g., BPA). Although SRFB monitoring has engaged with PNAMP on an informal basis, we encourage the SRFB to formalize this relationship in order to significantly expand the current information transfer.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Opportunities and Limitations of the Present Program

The SRFB faces a laudable, but challenging, set of goals. Thanks to the dedication and groundbreaking work of innumerable scientists and policy makers, there is a wealth of guidance documents, monitoring programs, and monitoring data collected to date. That said, there is also significant need for improvement in SRFB-funded monitoring programs. The most commonly posed question is this: are we sampling the right things, in the right places, using the right methods, at the right time? However, we believe that this question, although important, does not focus on the key challenges facing the SRFB monitoring program, because it addresses the *mechanics* of monitoring but not the underlying purpose for collecting monitoring data and ultimate use of the results.

At the forefront of these potential improvements, the SRFB needs to provide <u>clear and specific leadership</u> to guide the monitoring of salmonid habitat and populations. It is currently not fulfilling that need, nor is anyone else. We respectfully assert that the real issue facing the SRFB is not the need to reallocate monitoring funds, but rather the need to articulate a common set of objectives, a plan to implement those objectives, and a strategy to integrate the results of ongoing monitoring programs, all under the auspices of its centralized leadership. First and foremost, the SRFB needs an explicit framework and process of decision-making with a clear definition of roles and responsibilities to ensure its timely implementation. That framework is the SRFB Strategic Plan, which offers broad goals but currently lacks adequate specificity in the form of clear, measurable objectives, reporting requirements (beyond implementation) and a feedback mechanism based on monitoring results. Such an absence of guidance, evaluation, a timeline (with milestones) and performance metrics creates a void for decision-makers who currently have no clear road map for making decisions.

As an example of the specificity that is currently lacking, consider the fundamental differences between "goals" and "objectives." Both are necessary to mapping out a successful strategy but

they are not synonymous. Goals are "broad, general statements of what the program, course, or activity intends to accomplish" (from http://assessment.uconn.edu/primer/goals1.html, as just one example). Management "questions" are commonly presented in the form or goals. In contrast, objectives are "SMART": **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound (see, for example, Doran, 1981, Management Review, Volume 70, Issue 11, pp. 35–36). They describe the tangible path forward towards the attainment of articulated goals. Contrast this framework, however, with the "Objectives" in the *Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery* (2002): as an example, Objective 1A states "Measure status and track trends of the numbers of spawning salmon by stock in each Salmon Recovery Region. Evaluate whether numbers are improving." This is neither attainable nor time-bound, and as such provides no real guidance about how to structure a monitoring program nor what activities are the most important to pursue first. Thus, despite the voluminous and carefully thought-out literature of the last decade that provides the intellectual foundation for the SRFB monitoring programs, it has provided insufficient concrete direction or clear criteria against which to evaluate success.

The second overarching limitation of the present program is ambiguity in the appropriate and effective role of the SRFB. Tough technical evaluations and decisions are required to move beyond compliance monitoring, but should the SRFB be making these technical decisions, or should they instead focus on programmatic requirements, coordination and collaboration while seeking scientific input from a technical advisory board (e.g., an ISP)? We observe the later has been a successful approach for other regional monitoring programs (e.g., BPA) and is worth careful consideration by the SRFB. This was a concern/recommendation that was raised in virtually all interviews conducted for this assessment.

5.2 Levels of Funding vs. Value Provided

Given the relative levels of funding for the three components being reviewed here, this is fundamentally a question of the relative cost/benefit of the most costly component—Intensively Monitored Watersheds—relative to the Effectiveness Monitoring and Status and Trends programs. We agree with the judgment expressed in multiple documents surrounding the formation of the Monitoring Program in general, and the IMWs in particular, that only such a program can answer the fundamental question of any recovery program: Are our efforts doing any good? If this question cannot be answered, it is difficult to justify *any* long-term expenditure on restoration or monitoring; and for the current implementation of salmon recovery in Washington State, IMWs are the only vehicle with the hope of providing an answer.

The current execution of IMWs, however, is not positioned to answer this question, which raises the policy decision of whether the Board considers this to be an important question to answer. If it is, then a secondary issue is raised: is it worth waiting yet another decade with the existing panel of watersheds to learn these answers, or should the Board funding should be redirected or consolidated to other, ongoing IMWs or to an entirely new set. In either case, the Board would need to support funding of projects in those watersheds, independent of any local priorities. The Adaptive Management cycle (and common sense) argues that without a commitment to project funding within these watersheds, there is no sense in providing monitoring funds and effort. The "policy question," and one that cannot be answered by this review, is thus whether the Board's interest in scientific understanding and long-term accountability trumps the principle of Regional allocations.

5.3 Recommended Improvements

Based on the information compiled, we identify the following primary issues and recommendations to improve the quality of SRFB-funded monitoring:

- The Effectiveness Monitoring Program should be encouraged to produce more scientifically rigorous and broad-view analyses with explicit recommendations to inform future project design and selection. This critical analysis should be mandatory for all project reports at year 5 and beyond; it should also be a highlighted component of all annual summaries. Good examples are available from the Skagit System Cooperative and could be used as a guide, particularly the additional effort to produce peer-reviewed reports for the scientific literature as a way to move beyond site-specific data reporting to a greater, and more formal, focus on identifying and communicating the broader implications of this work. **Recommendation: evaluate and communicate monitoring results that meet broadly recognized, scientifically rigorous reporting requirements.**
- Build a direct linkage that ensures monitoring results are factored into all projects advanced to the SRFB for funding. Project selection and design must show a clear connection back to prior monitoring results. After a decade of monitoring, there is no need to delay such a requirement to adaptively manage how upcoming projects are designed and implemented. This should occur through various mechanisms, including (1) acceleration of current initiatives to update statewide project design manuals with the findings of prior monitoring; (2) mandatory disclosure in every project application of the way(s) in which prior project monitoring has informed the proposed design; and (3) mandatory articulation by the Local Entities of the way(s) in which prior monitoring (of all types) has informed the selection and prioritization of projects being advanced to the SRFB for funding, especially as it purports to address specific limiting factors for target species. Given the current absence of a strong, centralized technical evaluation review of projects, there is little opportunity to substantively evaluate the quality of any adaptive-management feedback being applied by the SRFB itself, and this ultimately limits the degree to which adaptive management can actually occur. Requiring some acknowledgment of this type of feedback, however, would be a small but constructive step forward. **Recommendation: project design and management decisions should stem from monitoring results, and any such linkages (or their absence) should be disclosed.**
- As the SRFB seeks to improve the "effectiveness" of their monitoring funds, coordination with other regional monitoring programs would be an area to focus such attention. This should be one of the great strengths of the SRFB and is part of its original mandate; we recognize no other entity better positioned to advance this principle. Coordination should be specific, focused and requisite for funding. Areas of suggested focus include – public documentation of SRFB monitoring site locations, protocols, and analytical results. **Recommendation: coordinate specific objectives with other regional monitoring programs (e.g. BPA, PNAMP, USFWS, USFS, OWEB, Regional Monitoring Efforts (e.g. UCSRB)).**
- Large-scale recovery efforts for salmon in the Columbia River face the same challenges posed by the SRFB. As such, this presents an opportunity for collaboration and learning. One notable difference between the two programs is that recovery efforts in the Columbia have been consistently supported by an Independent Science Review Panel (ISRP), whose job it was to examine the scientific merits of restoration actions and associated monitoring. Such as panel, or its functional equivalent, could provide much needed technical support to the SRFB and facilitate many of the other recommendations provided in this report (e.g. develop measureable objectives tied to strategic goals). **Recommendation: if the SRFB**

seeks to maintain a technical review/guidance role in statewide centralized salmon recovery, it should (re)establish a strong technical group to support its needs.

- One of the primary challenges in status and trend monitoring is the lack of coordination between fish monitoring and habitat actions. There is no mechanism, nor requirement, for communication or feedback between the entities and organizations (e.g., project sponsors, lead entities, recovery regions, WDFW, WDOE and SRFB). Spearheading such a need at the technical level is beyond SRFB capacity but is needed nonetheless. Suggestions were made that the Regional Recovery Boards and lead entities may be more effective places to lead such coordination. . **Recommendation: recognize the critical need to coordinate fish monitoring and habitat actions, and identify an effective process and entity that can ensure effective integration of their respective program results.**
- A significant percentage of SRFB monitoring funds are allocated to intensively monitored watersheds. Such a disproportionate allocation is justified when the results effectively guide future salmon recovery efforts. However they are not justified in the absence of restoration actions and without direct linkages between a given action and anticipated biological response. **Recommendation: limit IMW funding to watersheds with the ability to implementing restoration projects in a timely manner and with an explicit tie between habitat restoration and fish monitoring.**
- A true, functional adaptive management framework for salmon recovery in the state of Washington is unlikely to occur, given the aforementioned disconnections between the various entities that design, promote, fund, construct, and monitor restoration projects. As with the future implementation of IMWs, the Board is faced with a policy decision with no clear "technical" answer: do the current benefits of regional prioritization and funding allocations supersede the potential benefits of a well-integrated, holistically implemented adaptive-management cycle? Under the status quo, collaboration and regional engagement are prioritized, but it has an inescapable consequence: although measuring and reporting occurs unabated under the various monitoring programs, the best utilization of such information (and, likely the effectiveness of restoration actions as well) is never fully achieved. In order to be effective, adaptive management must operate within the same structure as implementation and monitoring programs. **Recommendation: If statewide recovery goals are to be pursued, establish a true adaptive management program, and align the responsibilities and requirements of the participating agencies with the needs of such a program.**

5.4 Next Steps

The focus of this report was to assess the three primary components of the SRFB monitoring program (effectiveness monitoring, intensively monitored watersheds, and status and trends monitoring). With that assessment and some targeted recommendations now provided in this report, the next step facing the SRFB is to evaluate those recommendations and determine *how* to implement those that best align with the current SRFB mission. Many of the observations and recommendations provided in this report have been raised in earlier forums (such as the 2006 ISP review of the IMW program), but moving beyond recommendations to action has not always occurred. We believe that a major impediment to action is a sense by some partners that the SRFB should play a larger role in overseeing salmon recovery. However, the legislature established the board as a funding board, not a centralized body to oversee statewide salmon recovery. That centralized role of oversight of the state's salmon recovery strategy is the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. The SRFB should work closely with the GSRO to decide the means by which to implement those recommendations judged appropriate.

The SRFB could assist in minimizing the ambiguity by funding or supporting the development of a set of statewide policies, organizations, and scientific decision-making processes, one that would reflect a natural continuation of the statewide Monitoring Strategy advanced over a decade ago. An alternative approach appears to have developed in recent years, with stronger support by the SRFB for region-based salmon recovery—particular for the selection and funding of salmon restoration projects, but with inescapable consequences for monitoring efforts as well. As we have observed throughout this report, certain goals and initiatives of the SRFB—particularly IMWs, systematic analysis and dissemination of effectiveness monitoring results, and adaptive management—require an integrated approach without the distribution of responsibilities, authority, and scientific expertise amongst multiple groups (no matter how well coordinated they may be).

We also recognize the possibility of a hybrid option, wherein the SRFB and the GSRO together transparently and purposefully operate at both scales. In the case of monitoring, for example, two thirds (or more, or less) of the Board's annual monitoring funds could support the centralized statewide programs for guiding an overall monitoring framework, creating and enforcing adaptive management, and conducting critical science (IMWs, status and trend monitoring, and either an ISP or increased technical staff); the remaining funds could be allocated to regional programs, particularly to improve the region-specific value and feedback of project effectiveness monitoring. The first step, however, must be a clear expression of intent. Regardless of the decision made, it would advance the effectiveness of current SRFB funding and clarify the most appropriate use of resources.

Deciding upon the role of the SRFB and its relationship to the GSRO has significant consequences moving forward. We encourage this issue to receive careful consideration.

6 REFERENCES

See Appendix A.

Appendices

Appendix A

Documents Reviewed (partial list)

Beamer, E., R. Henderson, and K. Wolf. 2013. Juvenile salmon, estuarine, and freshwater fish utilization of habitat associated with the fisher slough restoration project in 2012 Skagit River System Cooperative. Prepared for The Nature Conservancy.

Bennett, S., and N. Bouwes. 2008. Southeast Washington Intensively Monitored Watershed Project: selection process and proposed experimental and monitoring design for Asotin Creek. Final draft report. Prepared by Eco Logical Research Inc., Providence, Utah for the State of Washington, Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington.

Bilby, R., W. Ehinger, C. Jordan, K. Krueger, M. McHenry, T. Quinn, G. Pess, D. Poon, D. Seiler, and G. Volkhardt. 2004. Evaluating watershed response to land management and restoration actions: intensively monitoring watersheds (IMW). Progress report. Prepared by The IMW Scientific Oversight Committee.

Bilby, R., W. Ehinger, C. Jordan, K. Krueger, M. McHenry, T. Quinn, G. Pess, D. Poon, D. Seiler, and G. Volkhardt. 2005. Evaluating watershed response to land management and restoration actions: intensively monitoring watersheds (IMW). Progress report. Prepared by The IMW Scientific Oversight Committee.

Bilby, R., W. Ehinger, C. Jordan, K. Krueger, M. McHenry, T. Quinn, G. Pess, D. Poon, D. Seiler, and G. Volkhardt. 2006. Evaluating watershed response to land management and restoration actions: intensively monitoring watersheds (IMW). Progress report. Prepared by The IMW Scientific Oversight Committee.

Cramer, M. L., managing editor. 2012. Stream habitat restoration guidelines. Co-published by Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, Transportation and Ecology, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Puget Sound Partnership, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Olympia, Washington.

Crawford, B. A., editor. 2007. Washington State framework for monitoring salmon populations listed under the federal endangered species act and associated freshwater habitats. Produced by the Governor's Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health.

Crawford, B. A. 2011. Protocol for monitoring effectiveness of in-stream habitat projects (channel reconfiguration, deflectors, log and rock control weirs, roughened channels, and woody debris removal). MC-2. Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington, revised by Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

Crawford, B. A. 2011. Protocol for monitoring effectiveness of floodplain enhancement projects (dike removal/setback, riprap removal, road removal/setback, and landfill removal, off- channel habitat creation, side channel creation). MC-5/6. Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington, revised by Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

Crawford, B. A. 2011. Protocol for monitoring effectiveness of instream diversion projects (irrigation diversion dams, water treatment plants, pipes, ditches, headgates, hydropower penstocks). MC-8. Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington, revised by Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

Crawford, B. A. 2011. Protocol for monitoring effectiveness of instream diversion projects (land parcel biodiversity health). MC-10. Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington, revised by Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

Crawford, B., C. Drivdahl, S. Leider, C. Richmond, and S. Butkus. 2002. The Washington comprehensive monitoring strategy for watershed health and salmon recovery. Volume 2 of 3. Prepared by Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington.

Currens, K. P., H. W. Li, J. D. McIntyre, W. F. Megahan, and D. W. Reiser. 2006. Review of "Study Plan for the Intensively Monitored Watershed Program" (April 26, 2006 review draft). Report 2006-1. Independent Science Panel, Olympia, Washington.

Desgroseillier, T., J. Samagaio, T. Taylor, C. Yonce, H. Potter, R.D. Nelle, and M. Cooper. 2012. Integrated status and effectiveness monitoring program – Entiat River intensively monitored watershed study, 2011. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mid-Columbia River Fishery Resource Office, Leavenworth, Washington.

Greene, C. M., and E. M. Beamer. 2011. Monitoring of population responses by Skagit River Chinook salmon to estuary restoration. In Appendix E: intensively monitored watersheds plan. Intensively Monitored Watershed Project Annual Report.

Habitat Work Schedule database. Various single year effectiveness monitoring reports. State of Washington , Recreation and Conservation Office. http://hws.ekosystem.us/ (accessed 2013).

Hillman, T. 2006. Monitoring strategy for the upper Columbian basin. Prepared for Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, Bonneville Power Administration, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

IMW (Intensively Monitored Watersheds) Scientific Oversight Committee. 2013. Intensively monitored watersheds synthesis report, Hood Canal. Prepared for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

IMW Scientific Oversight Committee. 2013. Intensively monitored watersheds synthesis report, Lower Columbia River. Prepared for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

IMW Scientific Oversight Committee and IMW Partners. 2007. Study plan for the Intensively Monitored Watershed Program: lower Columbia complex. Prepared by Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Skagit River Systems Cooperative, NOAA-Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Weyerhaeuser.

IMW Scientific Oversight Committee and IMW Partners. 2007. Study plan for the Intensively Monitored Watershed Program: Strait of Juan de Fuca complex. Prepared by Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Skagit River Systems Cooperative, NOAA-Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Weyerhaeuser.

Kinsel, C., P. Hanratty, M. Zimmerman, B. Glaser, S. Gray, T. Hillson, D. Rawding, S. VanderPloeg. 2009. Intensively monitored watersheds: 2008 fish population studies in the Hood Canal and Lower Columbia stream complexes. Fish Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Kinsel, C. P. Hanratty, M. Zimmerman, B. Claser, S. Gray, T. Hillson, D. Rawding, and S. VanderPloeg. 2009. Intensively Monitored Watersheds Technical Report: Hood Canal and lower Columbia stream complexes. Fish Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Kinsel, C., and M. Zimmerman. 2011. Intensively monitored watersheds: 2009 fish population studies in the Hood Canal stream complex. Fish Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). 2011. Guidance for Monitoring Recovery of Pacific Northwest Salmon & Steelhead listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act: Bruce A. Crawford and Scott M. Rumsey, National Marine Fisheries Service, NW Region, January 2011, 160 pp. (http://www.pnamp.org/document/3338)

NOAA. 2012. Scientific conclusions of the status review for Oregon coast coho salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch). NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NWFSC-118.

NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). 2006. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund performance goals, measures and reporting framework.

Ralph, S. C. and G. C. Poole. 2003. Putting monitoring first: designing accountable ecosystem restoration and management plans. Chapter in D. R. Montgomery, S. Bolton, and D. B. Booth, editors. Restoration of Puget Sound Rivers. University of Washington Press, Seattle.

Roni, P., M.C. Liermann, C. Jordan, E.A. Steel. 2005 in P. Roni, editor. Monitoring stream and watershed restoration. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.

Roni, P., T. Bennett, R. Holland, G. Pess, K. Hanson, R. Moses, M. McHenry, W. Ehinger, J. Walter. 2012. Factors affecting migration timing, growth and survival of juvenile coho salmon in two coastal Washington watersheds. Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 141: 890–906.

Roni. P., R. Scranton, and J. O'Neal. 2013. Action effectiveness monitoring of tributary habitat improvement: a programmatic approach for the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board. 2013. Manual 18: salmon recovery grants. Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

State of Washington, Recreation and Conservation Office. 2013. Washington State Application, Grant 11-438. Project title: FFY 2013 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for Washington State: implementing integrated habitat, harvest, and hatchery actions for salmon recovery.

Stillwater Sciences. 2013. Developing a monitoring investment strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Work Plan. Prepared by Stillwater Sciences, Portland, Oregon for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

Taylor Associates, Cascadia Consulting Group, and R2 Resource Consultants. 2003. Assessment of monitoring methods and benefits for Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) Board projects and activities. Final report. Prepared by Taylor Associates, Inc., Cascadia Consulting Group, Seattle, Washington and R2 Resource Consultants, Inc., Redmond, Washington for Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Hood Canal region. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Juan de Fuca region. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Lower Columbia region. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Middle Columbia. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Puget Sound region. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Snake River region. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Tetra Tech. 2013. Regional project-scale effectiveness monitoring synthesis report, Upper Columbia Region. Prepared by Tetra Tech, Mt. Vernon, Washington for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Olympia, Washington.

Ward, M.B., P. Nelle and S.M. Walker, editors. 2011. CHaMP: 2011 pilot year lessons learned project synthesis report. Prepared for the Bonneville Power Administration by CHaMP. Published by Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon.

Washington Department of Ecology, Washington State Conservation Commission, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2006. Status and trends monitoring of watershed health and salmon recovery—quality assurance monitoring plan. Ecology Publication No. 06-03-203. Olympia, Washington.

Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. 2003.Monitoring and evaluation strategy for habitat restoration and acquisition projects. Draft report.

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. n.d. Salmon Recovery Funding Board strategic plan. Prepared by Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Olympia, Washington.

Zimmerman, M. K. Krueger, B. Ehinger, P. Roni, B. Bilby, J. Walters, and T. Quinn. 2012. Intensively Monitored Watersheds Program: an updated plan to monitor fish and habitat responses to restoration actions in the lower Columbia watersheds. Fish Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Appendix B

Steering Committee Members

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jen Bayer	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, U.S. Geological Survey
Jeff Breckel	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Bruce Crawford	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Raquel Crosier	Northwest Power & Conservation Council (alternate)
Ken Currens	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Bob Cusimano	Washington Department of Ecology
Ken Dzinbal	Puget Sound Partnership
Stacy Horton	Northwest Power & Conservation Council
Anne Marshall	Washington Department of Fish &Wildlife
Kathy Peters	Lead Entities
Timothy Quinn	Washington Department of Fish &Wildlife
Phil Rockefeller	Northwest Power & Conservation Council
Phil Rogers	Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Russell Scranton	Bonneville Power Administration
Derek Van Marter	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
James White	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Lance Winnecka	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Appendix C

Interviews Conducted

INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

Jennifer Bayer	Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, U.S. Geological Survey
Bruce Crawford	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Ken Dzinbal	Puget Sound Partnership
Bill Ehinger	Washington State Department of Ecology
Steve Leider	Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Steve Martin	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
Jenifer O'Neal	Tetra Tech
Tim Quinn	Washington Department of Fish &Wildlife
Phil Rockefeller	Northwest Power and Conservation Council/Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Bill Ruckelshaus	Salmon Recovery Funding Board (retired)
Russell Scranton	Bonneville Power Administration
Carol Smith	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Trout	Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Mara Zimmerman	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The mission of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead, and other at-risk species through the collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia region.

11 Spokane Street, Ste. 101, Wenatchee, WA 98801 phone: (509) 662-4707 www.ucsrb.com

September 25, 2013

Keith Dublanica
Science Coordinator
Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Submitted via email: keith.dublanica@gsro.wa.gov

Dear Keith:

We developed the following comments in response to the Stillwater Sciences *Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board*. In the Upper Columbia we have a broad monitoring effort implemented by many different organizations and agencies. This effort is mostly funded and driven by Bonneville Power Administration and the local PUDs for the purpose of mitigation compliance tracking. With the exception of a handful of reach-scale effectiveness sites, very little of the monitoring in the Upper Columbia is funded by the SRFB. The UCSRB is currently going through an exercise similar to that conducted by Stillwater Sciences to evaluate the value of our existing monitoring information in the Upper Columbia, and what it tells us about our progress to date. In fact, we have organized a regional science conference for this fall, November 13-14, in Wenatchee. Details are at www.ucscience.org.

General Observations

The fundamental issue at the heart of this dialogue, regionally and statewide, is the marginal cost in monitoring investments versus the mariginal benefit in influencing future habitat treatments. The SRFB monitoring funding is principally in place to provide continual evaluation of federal and state funding on a portfolio of projects, *not to develop new science*. Regionally, we are spending significant effort on long-term monitoring information (e.g. Intensively Monitored Watershed). While promising, these long-term monitoring programs have not resulted in useful, timely information about habitat and fish that can help us evaluate completed actions and plan for future restoration efforts. In principal, the Stillwater report appears to come to a similar conclusion.

Even more important is the observation in the report of the disconnect between regional funding for habitat implementation and statewide direction and funding for monitoring (section on *Adaptive Management*). Recovery Plans were developed regionally for a reason: recovery occurs at an ESU scale. While the state has long been interested in economies of scale for monitoring efforts, the current investments in monitoring have not generated results that can influence habitat restoration. This is why we have long suggested that monitoring funding should, at least in part, be controlled by the regional boards that are in a place to

understand more intimately the types of monitoring most necessary to effectively influence future restoration goals.

Lastly, the Stillwater report falls short on a thorough description of the existing monitoring in the Upper Columbia, for obvious reasons. In a couple of cases, there are important omissions. For instance, most of our monitoring is funded by the Action Agencies to the FCRPS Biological Opinion, rather than SRFB. We have used this funding to increase Tetra Tech monitoring sites under effectiveness monitoring to increase the statistical power of the information generated from that effort. We identified this need in 2009, and have been funding additional sites for the last 3 years. The following sections are a description of our existing monitoring efforts under each of the three categories in the Stillwater report: effectiveness, IMW, and status and trends. We include in each section our knowledge on what more is needed in our region under each of those types of monitoring.

Effectiveness Monitoring

The programmatic approach to effectiveness monitoring seems to be a cost effective way to get at these questions. However, fish monitoring under the current program is insufficient to answer questions related to fish response. The current monitoring is adequate to answer questions about fish presence/absence during one day of the year at the site scale. The fish monitoring component is not frequent enough and does not cover enough area to provide an accurate assessment of fish use of a site.

Sampling should be conducted across at least two seasons (summer and winter) throughout the sampling schedule. To put site-scale results into tributary and watershed contexts, monitoring should also be conducted consistent with other juvenile fish monitoring. Without expanding the fish monitoring component of the current program, the usefulness of the information is significantly reduced and that component should be dropped.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds

The Entiat sub-basin is an Intensively Monitored Watershed in the Upper Columbia. This design was established through a collaborative effort between monitoring personnel (ISEMP) and project implementers in 2008. The design calls for pulses of implementation every 3 years, starting in 2011 and ending in 2020. We will be executing our second pulse of implementation in 2014. Pre-implementation monitoring was an important component of the design, as is intense pulses of implementation in different reaches every 3 years. This monitoring effort is designed to tell us about the fish response at a population scale. We agree that IMWs need to have intensive implementation – in pulses or all at once – in order to make this investment worthwhile.

If the current SRFB funded IMWs cannot achieve that goal, investing that money in other monitoring needs is prudent. Given the current implementation and budget constraints of the IMWs, there are so many confounding factors (e.g. hatchery effects, fire, ocean conditions) that attributing cause of population-scale change to restoration activities appears unlikely.

Status and Trends Monitoring

Fish status and trends measure the ultimate outcome of habitat restoration efforts. This is the most important monitoring activity for implementation and adaptive management. Status and trends information can also inform life-cycle models that are being developed to provide answers to integrated management questions, including habitat effectiveness, to the recovery regions and Lead Entities. These programs in the Upper Columbia are primarily driven by hatchery effectiveness questions and do not necessarily analyse or report on results that could answer questions about habitat effectiveness, or influence habitat restoration activities. In

addition, their efforts often do not coincide with existing restoration activities in terms of where monitoring is conducted (e.g. location of rotary screw traps for juvenile monitoring).

Increasing investment in fish status and trends would be the most cost effective way for the SRFB to improve the quality and usefulness of information generated from its monitoring efforts. The most cost-effective way to do status and trends to get at effectiveness is the large-scale implementation of PIT tagging programs at the site, tributary, and watershed scales. This should include remote PIT tagging in priority restoration areas and reference tributaries. Any remote PIT tagging could provide additional site-scale effectiveness answers if interrogation arrays are placed at restoration sites.

Although the SRFB defines fish status and trends as “fish in/fish out,” there is additional benefit from tracking fish throughout their freshwater life-cycle (e.g. parr and juvenile) to answer questions about individual life stage survival and performance as well as life history and habitat use. This information can be critically important to targeting the most appropriate restoration actions that will provide the greatest fish benefit.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the report, and GSRO’s effort in this exercise. The report appears to have identified appropriate issues with the current funding scheme for monitoring. It is really useful to continually evaluate how we are doing, and to be willing to change course if the findings suggest doing so. We very much look forward to the dialogue and decision from this exercise, which is arguably the most important and most difficult step.

Kind Regards,

Derek Van Marter
Executive Director

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **6**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Proposed Approach to Developing a Strategic Communication Plan

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

At the August 2013 meeting, the Council of Regions proposed that some returned funds be used for a strategic communications plan. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board asked the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to prepare options for its consideration at the October meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Background

At the August 2013 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting, the Council of Regions (COR) presented a request to fund a communications plan for regional organizations. The board discussed the proposal, generating several ideas about how to engage other parties, with the ultimate goal of maintaining or increasing funding for salmon recovery. The board asked the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) to prepare options to consider for the October meeting.

The GSRO worked with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Council of Regions to prepare options for the board to consider. GSRO also met with board Chair David Troutt, board member Nancy Biery, and COR Chair Jeff Breckel.

In researching the options, GSRO considered the concept of "salmon fatigue." Recovery will take years or decades in some watersheds, so it is imperative to show progress and tell the story in order to get stakeholders, decision-makers, and funders invested in the recovery work. Based on the various discussions, GSRO developed three options that it will present for board consideration, including the original COR proposal. As described below, the focus, cost, and timeframe are different for each of the ideas.

Board Strategic Plan

The board's strategic plan includes goals and strategies related to communication and funding, as follows.

Goal 1: Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

- Funding Source Strategy: Identify gaps in current funding related to overall salmon recovery efforts and work with partners to seek and coordinate with other funding sources.

Goal 2: Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources.

- Resource Strategy: Confirm the value of efficiency by funding actions that result in economical and timely use of resources for projects, human capital, and monitoring.

Goal 3: Build understanding, acceptance, and support of salmon recovery efforts.

- Support Strategy: Support the board's community-based partner organizations in their efforts to build local and regional support for salmon recovery.
- Partner Strategy: Build a broad partner base by engaging a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations to address salmon recovery from different perspectives.

Board Decision Requested

First, the board will be asked to choose which option (or combination of options) is the appropriate direction for the board to consider. The board will have to weigh strengths, availability of resources, and the intended outcome. The board may choose to select one, a combination, or none of the options.

Second, the board will be asked to approve funding for RCO to competitively select a contractor to accomplish the work. Alternatively, the board may wish to have a facilitator create a more thoroughly developed scope of work before competitively bidding the larger work (in the same way that the monitoring assessment was developed).

If the board wishes to select and fund an option, the motion language would be to *"Move to approve {funding amount} for {option} as described in the staff memo."*

Staff Recommendation

The GSRO is putting forward three options that might be used in combination or alone. Each is valid, but they vary based on focus, goals, and deliverables. The GSRO staff recommendation is to fund the first option, and consider funding a series of facilitated discussions that would build a foundation for a hybrid that combines key elements of options two and three.

Analysis

The three options are summarized in the table below; additional discussion follows.

	1 Regional Communication Plan Proposed by COR	2 Capacity Assessment and Plan 2014-2019	3 Board Strategic Funding and Communication Plan
Focus	Broad salmon recovery themes, funding and general support	Articulate the capacity/non-project strategies, actions and funding necessary to carry out salmon recovery through 2019	Develop a strategy to build support for increasing public and private salmon recovery funding.
Goal	To tell the salmon recovery story so that local community leaders remain engaged in salmon recovery and to coordinate local and statewide messages about salmon recovery.	Coordinate partners to develop common messages regarding salmon recovery and the level of capacity funding necessary to achieve recovery for non-project activities such as: monitoring, adaptive management, technical assistance, hatchery reform. Partners include state agencies, lead entities, regions, and regional fisheries enhancement groups.	To be able to articulate a clear need for continued and increased funding for salmon recovery. Identify targets and messages.
Deliverable	Region-based communication plan, coordinated statewide	A plan that focuses on coordination of partner organizations, articulates 5-years of non-project strategies and actions and identifies capacity funding gaps.	Phase 1 would be a needs assessment. Phase 2 would be the development of a communication plan.
Timing	Complete early Spring 2014	Complete early Spring 2014	Spring/Summer 2014
Estimated Cost	$40,000	$20,000	Phase 1 $60,000 - $75,000 Phase 2 - unknown

Option 1: Regional Communications Plan Proposed by COR

In March of 2011, Evergreen Funding Consultants issued a report titled *Funding for Salmon Recovery in Washington State*[1]. The assessment reviewed the funding strategy for salmon recovery and identified the funding gaps. The report recommended that the Council of Regions and GSRO should pursue a targeted communications strategy to broaden support and awareness of salmon recovery. This project would implement that recommendation and provide GSRO, regions, and salmon recovery partners an important tool to help speak with one voice. At the time, the focus of the report was on funding to implement the recovery plans, both capital and non-capital costs.

The following are primary themes that the regional communication plan would address:

- Communicating recovery strategies so that they are broadly understood and accepted;
- Encouraging active participation of local communities, landowners, and other stakeholders;
- Communicating with partners to coalesce around central recovery themes and strategies;
- Building ongoing political and financial support at the local, state, and federal levels; and
- Telling the story of restoration and recovery in manner that clearly and consistently communicates progress, celebrates accomplishments, and highlights remaining challenges.

Objective

- Complete a needs and situational analysis of each region and statewide.
- Develop an outreach and communication plan that is fully integrated (regionally and statewide) and flexible in its approach. The strategy should focus on efficient and effective delivery of messages and materials that are within the fiscal and staffing capacity of the partner organizations.

How it would be developed

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office would solicit bids for a contractor to do this work immediately following board approval. A small workgroup consisting of COR, lead entities, WDFW, GSRO, and one or two board members would select the consultant and guide the project. The Council of Regions would play an active role in the development of the framework and strategy by providing direction, information, and feedback to the workgroup and consultant throughout the planning process.

[1] Available on the RCO Web site at http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/gsro/SalmonRecoveryFundingReport2011.pdf

Advantages and disadvantages to this approach

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Work can begin quickly; • Implements a recommendation in a previous assessment; • Supports the bottom-up approach to salmon recovery with coordination and guidance from the state level; • Requires limited funding; • Would coordinate the messaging from the regions; • Sets the stage for additional coordination by effectively communicating the salmon recovery message; and, • Takes into account the needs of salmon recovery partners and sets the stage for additional coordination and collaboration.	May be too narrow to address the funding needs of some partners (for example, the funding needs of Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups or funding needs for hatchery reform or status and trends monitoring).

Option 2: Capacity Assessment and Plan for 2014-2019

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife worked with GSRO to develop the concept of assessing the various capacity needs of our partners and developing a structured plan. The plan for 2014 through 2019 would focus on coordinating salmon recovery partners and setting clear and achievable capacity/non-project strategies and actions needed for salmon recovery during this five-year time frame. The plan would articulate the capacity needs for state agencies, lead entities, regions, and regional fisheries enhancement groups and would include programmatic funding for activities such as: monitoring, adaptive management, advancing science assessment, technical assistance/engineering, enhancement protection, and hatchery reform.

Objective

Direct engagement with selected salmon recovery partners would identify funding gaps and develop organizational needs for effective salmon recovery work in the next five years.

How it would be developed

RCO would partner with WDFW and hire a facilitator to work with our recovery partners and stakeholders to develop a project scope for the capacity assessment and the development of the plan. The RCO and WDFW would then solicit bids for an independent contractor to implement the assessment and develop the plan. RCO and WDFW would work closely with our recovery partners and stakeholders to advise the contractor along the way. This two-step approach was effective in developing the Monitoring Investment Strategy project.

Advantages and disadvantages to this approach

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Focuses on the capacity and programmatic needs of all public or quasi-public salmon recovery partners; • Addresses and immediate need in challenging budget times. Coordination and partnering will benefit salmon recovery; • Strengthens relationships between partners; • Plants the seeds for a larger coalition in the future; and • Positive forward thinking approach and strategy.	• Needs to be carefully crafted so that it isn't an advocacy plan; • Large group of stakeholders to manage through the process.

Option 3: Board Strategic Funding and Communication Plan

The board's current strategic plan articulates three overarching goals: Funding the best salmon-recovery efforts, maintaining accountability, and promoting public support for salmon recovery. Developing a funding and communication plan would build on all three goals by identifying the long-term funding needs to be successful in recovering salmon and articulating the necessity for continued or increased funding. It would pull together the funding needs identified in the report titled *Funding for Salmon Recovery in Washington State*, along with other needs identified in the phase 1 assessment. It also would coordinate salmon recovery messages to decision makers, landowners, business, and salmon recovery partners. Further, it would focus on ways to engage the public, maintain or increase current funding, and identify new sources of funding.

Objective

Develop a multi-faceted framework to communicate the funding needs for salmon recovery. This strategy will articulate "What do we need to communicate about salmon recovery" so current funding can be maintained and increased. This strategic framework will also develop a communication approach to explore private sector funding and market how to best utilize these opportunities.

How it would be developed

First, an independent contractor or facilitator would develop a project scope with input and review from recovery partners. That scope would be the basis for soliciting bids for an independent contractor to conduct the assessment and develop the funding strategy. This two-step approach was effective in developing the Monitoring Investment Strategy project.

Advantages and disadvantages to this approach

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Proactive approach; • Longer term look at the salmon recovery process; • Potential to develop critical relationships that may lead to more support from the private sector for salmon recovery.	• Total cost to develop and implement this plan is unknown; the first phase would cost about $60,000 - $75,000; • May take time to develop project scope and organize partners; • May not help the immediate need to address capacity issue in 2014 or 2015.

Preferred Approach: A combination of all other options

Option 1 is ready to go and focuses on the regions communication needs. More work is needed to define the scope of work to be done under either option 2 or 3. The preferred approach would be to fund Option 1 and then fund a short series of focused, results-oriented discussions among key organizations aimed at developing options 2 and 3.

Objective

The outcomes would be to:

- identify the key elements of Options 2 and 3 necessary for coordinated funding and messaging
- identify key linkages to Option 1
- agree on short-term actions, including legislative strategy
- identify funding needs and options
- Agree on next steps for a long-term cooperative approach.

How it would be developed

Discussions would take place in a limited series of facilitated meetings between now and March of 2014. Participants would include, at minimum, WDFW, COR, Lead Entity Advisory Group, the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Coalition, Conservation Districts, GSRO/RCO, and one or two Salmon Recovery Funding Board members.

Results would be documented and could form a scope of work for future contracts. The product would be a short report to the board on potential opportunities to advance concepts agreed on.

Advantages and disadvantages to this approach

Advantages	Disadvantages
• Start immediately • Work would parallel and help inform a regional communication plan (option 1)Would gather key organizational leaders in one place • Would help inform and advance SRFB ideas and future opportunities • $40,000 for option 1 and up to $10,000 for a facilitator for the focused, results-oriented discussions among key organizations	• Short-term in duration • Would not solve the funding questions but would provide the foundation

Next Steps

If the board decides to fund one of these options, RCO staff will create an appropriate scope of work and begin soliciting contractors able to implement the board's direction.

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Puget Sound Partnership's Proposal and Other Options to Increase Lead Entity Capacity Funds

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

In June, the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) reminded the board that $200,000 of the region's allocation was given to lead entities in 2011-13. There was no decision at the time whether these funds were considered part of the regional allocation or reduction in future regional support. At the August 2013 meeting, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board deferred a decision about the Puget Sound Partnership's request to allocate this $200,000 for additional capacity funding for lead entities. Staff and the Puget Sound Partnership have refined the request, and are presenting it for board decision at the October meeting. To make this allocation would require the board to use returned funds, thus reducing the amount of funds available for the 2014 grant round.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Proposed Motion Language

Move to adopt Option 2 as presented in Table 3 of the staff memo, allocating an additional $133,000 in baseline funding for lead entities from returned funds beginning in fiscal year 2014.

Background

In May 2011, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved funding for regional organizations and lead entities for the 2011-13 biennium. Specifically, the board approved "status quo" funding: a total of up to $8,863,110 for state biennium 2011-13. The funds were distributed in a manner consistent with the 09-11 biennial distribution, except that $200,000 from the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) regional grant was moved to specific Puget Sound lead entities at the request of the Partnership.

The funds were allocated evenly and made available to the fifteen Puget Sound lead entities to enter metrics into the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) for three project work types: Estuary

Restoration and Protection, Shoreline Armor Removal or Modification, and Floodplain Protection or Restoration. This work focused on projects that are active or complete since 2005 and that appear in HWS, including significant projects funded through sources other than the board.

In May 2013, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff presented status quo funding options to the board for 2013-15 grants to lead entities and regional organizations. Because of the special sessions of the Legislature, the board deferred its decision until June[1] and then again until August 2013. In that interim, the Partnership reviewed the status quo options and notified staff and the board that the $200,000 transferred in the previous biennium had not been allocated to it or to the lead entities.

The funding pattern is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1

	2009-11 Allocation	2011-13 Allocation	2013-15 Allocation
Puget Sound Partnership	$1,578,324	$1,378,324	$1,378,324
Puget Sound lead entities	$1,638,000	$1,838,000	$1,638,000

In August 2013, the Partnership asked that the board allocate up to $100,000 to Puget Sound lead entities and make another $100,000 available to other regional organizations and lead entities outside of Puget Sound[2]. The board instructed GSRO staff to work with the PSP and bring back a proposal in October.

In a September letter, the Partnership asked that the board consider providing a total of $30,000 for fiscal year 2014 for the lead entities identified in Table 2. Further, GSRO staff recommend that the shift be permanent, thus establishing a new minimum annual baseline funding level of $60,000 per lead entity. The Puget Sound Partnership has indicated through discussions that a permanent shift in funding is a benefit for salmon recovery in Washington State and would likely result in each lead entity moving closer to having a full FTE rather than one part-time employee. The PSP also asked that $100,000 be made available to support other regional organizations or lead entities.

Table 2

Lead Entity	Current Annual Base Funding	Partnership Request	FY 2014 Additional Cost	Biennial Cost
San Juan County Lead Entity	$50,000	$60,000	$10,000	$20,000
Island County Lead Entity	$50,000	$60,000	$10,000	$20,000
West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	$50,000	$60,000	$10,000	$20,000
Total	**$150,000**	**$180,000**	**$30,000**	**$60,000**

[1] The board passed a motion providing short-term funding in June 2013.

[2] August 2013, Item 2, Attachment D

Board Decision

Staff is presenting three options for board consideration. The board is being asked to decide whether to allocate additional funds to the lead entities, and if so, how much.

In addition, the board is being asked to determine whether their decision affects only fiscal year 2014 funding or if it is a permanent shift in baseline funding.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board adopt Option 2 so that all lead entities benefit from baseline funding that provides additional support for a full-time lead entity coordinator.

Analysis

Options for Board Consideration

Staff is proposing three options for the board consideration.

Option 1

Approve the lead entity increase requested by the Partnership. Doing so will increase the baseline funding to $60,000 per year for the West Sound, San Juan, and Island Lead Entities. The remaining funding would be available for additional capacity, projects, monitoring, or other board priorities.

This would be a permanent shift in allocation to these lead entities and a decrease for the Partnership's regional organization contract.

Option 2

A second option would be to increase the funding for lead entities across the state so that the minimum baseline amount is $60,000 per year. Doing so would require an additional allocation of $133,000 per year ($266,000 per biennium). Attachment B, Table 3, illustrates funding adjustments to lead entities statewide.

Since the inception of the lead entity program, there has been no significant increase in lead entity contract funding. One of the challenges for lead entities is an inability to dedicate a full-time employee solely to their lead entity program. In fact, many organizations that administer a lead entity must split the staff time between different programs. GSRO has observed that these lead entities tend to be less effective in carrying out the lead entity responsibilities.

If this option were approved, GSRO would increase the lead entities' contract accountability to ensure diverse representation on their citizen committees, maintain the Habitat Work Schedule, develop three-year work plans, and maintain a lead entity strategy.

This would be a permanent shift in allocation to these lead entities and a permanent decrease for the Partnership's regional organization contract.

Option 3

The board may choose not to allocate any additional funds. The money would remain available for project, monitoring, or other board priorities. The board would need to determine if this would be a permanent shift in allocation.

Fund Source

The proposal asks the board to allocate returned funds. "Returned funds" refers to money allocated to a project grant or other contract (including lead entity and regional contracts) that is returned when the contract either closes without spending the entire budget or is not completed. Board practice has been to return the money to the overall budget. The board then uses those funds for project cost increases and to ensure that funds are available for contracts and projects in the future years.

Returned Funds Available

As of the end of July 2013, there was $3,164,303 in returned funds. The board used some of those funds to set its $18 million grant target for 2013 and to fund regions and lead entities. The staff also recommended holding some of these returned funds to buffer any reductions in PCSRF so that the grant round in 2014 and capacity funds for 2015 could be funded at status quo levels. This leaves about $587,527 available in returned funds.

Based on typical rates, staff expects about $750,000 to $1.5 million in additional funds will be returned before the board is asked to consider fiscal year 2015 funding for projects, regional organizations, and lead entities. That decision would take place in early June 2014. The projected return funds available in June 2014 are estimated to be between $1.3 million and $2.0 million. Depending on the amount of federal funds available, staff estimates that between $550,000 and $1.9 million in returned funds will be needed.

Currently, there are three requests for spending returned funds (this capacity funding, the communications plan proposals (item 6), and fish-in/fish-out monitoring (item 9). The estimates above are conservative, so funds are available to support any of the options proposed for board consideration in the memos.

Next Steps

If the board approves the funding, RCO staff will amend the contracts for the lead entities accordingly.

Attachments

A. Letter from Puget Sound Partnership

B. Lead Entity Funding Table

STATE OF WASHINGTON

PugetSoundPartnership

LEADING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

September 20, 2013

David Troutt, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

RE: Puget Sound Lead Entity Base Funding Request

Dear Chair Troutt,

Last biennium the Puget Sound Partnership, as the designated regional organization for Puget Sound salmon recovery, willingly gave up $200,000 of capacity funds out of our regional contract so that those funds could be used by Puget Sound lead entities instead. During the 2011-2013 biennium that $200,000 was divided evenly between all Puget Sound lead entities for additional tasks related to Habitat Work Schedule data entry.

This biennium we have agreed to a regional contract budget that continues to be $200,000 less than what Puget Sound originally received as a base contract amount. We are requesting that $60,000 of that $200,000 continue to be used to support Puget Sound lead entity capacity by increasing the base grant amounts for three of our lower funded lead entities: West Sound, Island and San Juan. Each of these lead entities is currently funded at $50,000 each year. We propose to increase their base funding to $60,000 each year. We believe that this will make a substantial difference in their ability to maintain a minimum of one FTE per lead entity working on critical salmon recovery tasks for their watershed and in support of the regional effort.

I will be available to answer questions about this proposal at your October meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Dorner
Director of Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery

326 East D Street | Tacoma, WA 98421-1801 www.pugetsoundpartnership.org
www.psp.wa.gov office: 360.464.1231

Attachment B: Lead Entity Funding Table with $60,000 minimum

Table 3

Lead Entities	Board-Adopted FY 2014 Funding	Funding Required to Reach $60,000 Minimum	Total Proposed Funding
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	$65,000		$65,000
San Juan County Lead Entity	50,000	$10,000	60,000
Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity	80,000		80,000
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Stillaguamish Tribe)	25,000		25,000
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Snohomish County)	37,000		37,000
Island County Lead Entity	50,000	10,000	60,000
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	62,500		62,500
Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Lead Entity	60,000		60,000
Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed Lead Entity	60,000		60,000
Pierce County Lead Entity	55,000	5,000	60,000
Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	62,500		62,500
Thurston Conservation District Lead Entity	40,000	20,000	60,000
Mason Conservation District Lead Entity	42,000	18,000	60,000
West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	50,000	10,000	60,000
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity	80,000		80,000
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	45,000	15,000	60,000
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	45,000	15,000	60,000
Grays Harbor County Lead Entity	55,000	5,000	60,000
Pacific County Lead Entity	50,000	10,000	60,000
Klickitat County Lead Entity	55,000	5,000	60,000
Pend Oreille Lead Entity	50,000	10,000	60,000
Upper Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	135,000		135,000
Yakima Basin Regional Salmon Recovery	65,000		65,000
Snake River Regional Salmon Recovery	65,000		65,000
Lower Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	80,000		80,000
Hood Canal Regional Salmon Recovery	80,000		80,000
Total	**$1,544,000**	**$133,000**	**$1,677,000**

LEAD ENTITY ADVISORY GROUP

Lead Entity Officers

Darcy Batura, Chair
Yakima Basin Lead Entity

Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair
WRIA 13 & 14 Salmon Recovery LE's

Cheryl Baumann, Past Chair
N.Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

John Foltz
Klickitat Lead Entity

Rich Osborne
N. Pacific Coast & Quinault LE's

Nick Bean
Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Dawn Pucci
Island County Lead Entity

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz
WRIA 8 Lead Entity

Members

Jane Atha
Grays Harbor Lead Entity

Jeff Breckel
Lower Columbia Lead Entity

Richard Brocksmith
Skagit Watershed Council

Anne Bylin
Snohomish County LE

Kim Gridley
Nisqually Lead Entity

Joy Juelson
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery

Steve Martin
Walla Walla Lead Entity

Mike Nordin
Pacific County LE

Doug Osterman
WRIA 9 King County LE

Kathy Peters
Westsound Watershed Council

Becky Peterson
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board

Barbara Rosenkotter
San Juan Lead Entity

Lisa Spurrier
Pierce County LE

Pat Stevenson
Stillaguamish Tribe LE

Hood Canal Lead Entity

October 9, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chairman
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

The Washington State Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) understands that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) members will be asked to make a decision about increasing Lead Entity capacity funds during your October meeting. LEAG appreciates the SRFB's ongoing support for Lead Entity capacity grants to implement our statutory obligations for salmon habitat protection and restoration – it is essential to achieving our collective salmon recovery goals. LEAG encourages SRFB members to adopt Option 2 as presented in Table 3 of the staff memo, permanently allocating an additional $133,000 in baseline funding for lead entities from returned funds beginning in fiscal year 2014.

The overall goal of the proposal aligns perfectly with LEAG's top internal goal of developing strategies to improve long-term stability of LE/LEAG/Salmon Recovery funding (see Meeting Materials, Item 3). This increase would help some lead entities get closer to funding a full-time employee to coordinate the lead entity program, and most importantly helps facilitate collaborative restoration among all partners in Washington State. Dedicating additional time and resources is essential to achieving many of the lead entity roles and responsibilities beyond leading the annual process to develop a locally prioritized salmon recovery habitat project list. These tasks include but are not limited to: building and maintaining relationships with a myriad of project partners; being responsive to the changing needs of local and statewide review committees; and developing the appropriate tools to help them review projects relative to our localized work plans. This increase would also help LEAG members make progress on each of our external goals:

1. Actively advise the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on local salmon recovery and Lead Entity issues;
2. Promote the Lead Entity Program and projects as the local, scientifically-based program for developing salmon habitat projects that fit within local community values;
3. Increase Lead Entity efficacy and profile by engaging at regional, state, and national levels;
4. Serve as the local voice for salmon recovery at the state level.

I am continually impressed by the caliber of our Lead Entity Coordinators who are working locally and collaboratively across the State to advance Salmon Recovery the Washington Way. Again, we encourage you to adopt Option 2, which will enhance Lead Entities' ability to do this important work.

On behalf of LEAG, I thank you for your continued support and the productive relationship that our collaboration has already established.

Darcy Batura
Yakima Basin Lead Entity Coordinator & LEAG Chair

KLICKITAT COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
127 W. Court St., MS:CH-26, Goldendale, Washington 98620
VOICE: 509 773-2410
FAX: 509 773-6206

October 8, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Re: Klickitat County Lead Entity Base Funding

Dear Chairman Troutt and Members of the Board,

The Klickitat County Natural Resource Department, the Klickitat Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery, would like to thank the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for considering "raising the floor" on our Lead Entity base grant funding and support Option 2 for Item number 7 at the October 16-17th SRFB Meeting.

Lead Entity grant funding isn't just capacity funding, but a significant and important part of each SRFB funded grant project in project identification, development, vetting public opinion, technical evaluation and flaw analysis, follow up, and reporting. Without a Lead Entity's involvement, implementation of projects would certainly be more costly in the long run and/or never reach implementation.

The funding for the Klickitat Lead Entity not only helps coordinate the SRFB grant round in three large watersheds covering 1.25 million acres with over 1,100 fish bearing stream miles which includes a reach of the Columbia River longer than 150 miles, but also has helped generate community involvement and support for salmon habitat recovery in an area that receives no regional salmon recovery support. This Lead Entity base funding also supports the efforts of the Lead Entity Advisory Group and their mission.

The coordination the Klickitat Lead Entity provides is a valuable asset to the local community as well as to Washington residents statewide. The work performed takes a great deal of effort and time but is provided at a great value whereas Klickitat County provides overhead and capacity support at no cost to the Lead Entity. This is becoming increasingly difficult as County budget cuts have been realized.

We would also like to thank the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for helping maintain the current level of funding during difficult financial times over the last several years, but we also recognize that funding levels have remained the same since 2000 while costs have risen. An even greater value to local residents, the citizens of the State, and listed salmon and steelhead populations could be realized with additional funding support.

We fully support the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office in their request to raise the minimum Lead Entity grant to $60,000 per year. Thank you again for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Dave McClure, Director
Klickitat County Natural Resources Department

Mason Conservation District
450 W. Business Park Road ● Shelton, WA 98584
Phone: (360) 427-9436 ● FAX: (360) 427-4396
www.masoncd.org

David Troutt, Chairman
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

October 8, 2013

Dear Chairman Troutt:

The Mason Conservation District Lead Entity (MCD) encourages the board to adopt a funding option to increase the base funding for Lead Entities to a minimum baseline amount of $60,000 per year.

It is well understood that restoring salmon and steelhead to healthy, harvestable levels is challenging and complex. Recovery plans are in place across the state to guide this effort and we are now working with our federal, state, tribal and local partners to implement the multitude of actions needed to achieve recovery. Attaining the goal will require an increased and sustained effort. Community acceptance, participation, and the continued support of elected officials so critical to success are being challenged. A properly funded program is needed to meet this challenge. Such an effort would provide a consistent and focused approach that can be applied to:

- Gain broad support and understanding of recovery strategies, needs and priorities;
- Effectively and clearly communicate the salmon recovery story to local citizens and stakeholders; and
- Assure interests represent diverse community values and issues.

Since the inception of the lead entity program, there has been no significant increase in program funding. One of the greatest challenges for lead entities is the inability to dedicate a full time employee solely to the lead entity program. This impedes most lead entities from developing an effective ability to assure citizens are properly informed regarding salmon recovery efforts in their watershed while ensuring participation represents diverse community values and issues. The MCD strongly believes such a funding commitment is needed now, more than ever, if we are to sustain a strong and viable salmon recovery effort in WRIA 14.

In fact, organizations like MCD frequently must split staff time between different programs. GSRO has acknowledged this approach tends to be less effective in carrying out the lead entity responsibilities. If this funding option were approved, GSRO would increase the lead entities' contract accountability to ensure diverse representation on citizen committees, maintain the Habitat Work Schedule, develop three-year work plans, and maintain a lead entity strategy.

We strongly recommend that such funding be permanent, thus establishing a new minimum annual baseline funding level of $60,000 per lead entity. The Puget Sound Partnership has indicated through discussions that a permanent shift in funding would benefit salmon recovery in Washington State and would likely result in each lead entity moving closer to having an FTE rather than one part-time employee.

Sincerely,

John A. Bolender

John A. Bolender, District Manager
Mason Conservation District Lead Entity

San Juan County Council

350 Court Street No. 1
Friday Harbor, WA
98250
(360) 378 - 2898

District 1, Bob Jarman
District 2 , Rick Hughes
District 3, Jamie Stephens

October 8, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chair
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Dear Chair David Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members;

The San Juan County Council extends our sincere thanks for your continued leadership and support for salmon recovery. At your October meeting the Salmon Recovery Funding Board will be discussing a proposal to provide additional financial support to some Lead Entity Programs across the state by increasing the base amount of funding. The San Juan County Council is writing in support of the proposal to increase the base amount of funding to $60,000 per Lead Entity Program.

The San Juan County Council is supportive of the local Lead Entity Program and efforts to recover salmon. We recognize that recovery projects take significant local effort to obtain support from landowners and the community to implement the needed protection and restoration actions in the San Juans to support the multiple species of salmon that use our local waters. Due to the key role for regional salmon recovery that the San Juan Islands provide the Lead Entity Program is critical to make progress in salmon recovery. Additional financial support of the local Lead Entity Program will help provide the on the ground local work that makes these local projects happen.

The San Juan County Marine Resources Committee (MRC) which is the Salmon Recovery Citizens Advisory Group for the San Juans also supports the proposal.

As you know, operating funds to ensure effective implementation of salmon recovery projects and programs is extremely difficult to provide at a local level. Since the current level of state funding does not completely cover the salary, benefits, and administrative support required for local Lead Entity Programs and due to local fiscal constraints, our local jurisdiction has already been forced to reduce the Lead Entity Program since local funds no longer support the gap in the amount of state versus local funding for the program. The Lead Entity Program in the San Juans has received status quo funding of $50,000 since the local program was started in 2000. While the functions supported by the Lead Entity Program have increased dramatically since its inception and since state funding has stayed level - and has actually deteriorated in terms of current dollars - since the program's inception, we feel it is appropriate to support the expansion of the financial commitment to the Lead Entity Program.

Sincerely,

COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jamie Stephens, Chair District No. 3	Rick Hughes, Vice Chair District No. 2	Bob Jarman, Member District No. 1

cc: Barbara Rosenkotter
Brian Abbott
Lloyd Moody

ISLAND COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239
www.islandcountyeh.org

October 10, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chairman
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

Our WRIA 6 / Island County Lead Entity respectfully requests that Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) members adopt Option 2 as presented in Table 3 of the staff memo, permanently allocating an additional $133,000 in baseline funding for lead entities from returned funds beginning in fiscal year 2014.

Our lead entity is one of the Lead Entities that does not receive enough capacity funding to support a FTE position at 100%. While our Island County's Lead Entity did receive $54,577 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds (PSAR) for the 2013-2015 biennium in addition to the $50,000 base funding, the Lead Entity position is only funded to an 86% FTE over the next 2 years (assuming we receive the $50,000 allocation in 2014 as expected). By increasing the base rate to $60,000, the FTE would be 97% funded.

Our lead entity does not receive capacity funding from any other sources besides the PCSRF and PSAR funds. We receive a vast amount of in kind support. Because our capacity funds are so limited, our generous citizen members and recovery partners volunteer their time and receive no stipends to participate in, or travel to, our Technical Work Groups or Citizen Advisory Groups, project reviews or site visits. Our watershed is spread across two islands requiring at least an hour drive from one to the other. Because of the level of volunteer time that is already provided when group participation is necessary, the work that can be performed solo is done so by the one FTE Lead Entity staff person, the coordinator. This involves all document creation and editing (workplans, progress reports, scopes of work, meeting notes/agendas, and educational outreach materials), meeting preparation and facilitation, project tracking, grant round solicitation and facilitation, etc. This work supports the functioning of the statute-stipulated grant round process. In addition, coordination with other Lead Entities requires attendance at both regional and state-wide meetings to ensure our nearshore recovery efforts are coordinated with population-wide recovery efforts. Watershed coordination with other agencies and programs, such as our Island Local Integrating Organization, Island County Marine Resources Committee and Island County Planning's Shoreline Master Program and Fish and Wildlife Critical Areas Updates, ensures efficiencies between Island County's Recovery Chapter, Near-Term Action projects and Planning's habitat protection guidance and regulations. These tasks are what the FTE capacity funds support.

We appreciate the SRFB's ongoing support for Lead Entity capacity grants to implement our obligations for salmon habitat protection and restoration – it is essential to achieving our part towards the greater salmon recovery goals.

Sincerely,

Dawn Pucci
Lead Entity Coordinator

North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon
Clallam County Courthouse
223 E. Fourth Street, # 5
Port Angeles,WA 98362
360/417-2326

October, 10, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt & Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

At yesterday's meeting of our North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon Citizen's Committee there was discussion Of the "Raise the Floor" proposal to insure that all lead entities have a base grant amount of no less than $60,000 per year. There was unanimous support from all regarding the proposal by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to support a base funding level of $60,000 for the few lead entities currently receiving less than that amount.

As a program that previously attempted to operate for years solely on $80,000, we know how hard it was to make ends meet. That money had to fund a fulltime coordinator's nominal salary, as well as office space, accounting, copying, supplies, advertising, and travel. In short, the only way the program managed to stay within budget some bienniums was because the coordinator quit, which left the position open for some time in which no one was being paid. Of course, no work was getting done either.

We can attest that there is more to do than hours in the day as a fulltime lead entity coordinator. Trying to manage functioning citizen and technical teams, work with project sponsors, build relationships with agency representatives, update recovery strategies, devise workplans and coordinating a grant round takes a lot of time. Strong coordination looks seamless but belies the heavy lifting which creates that reality. Trying to do this work without an appropriate level of support may cause more problems than it solves.

We realize that the needs are many and the funding is finite, but we think this is a decision which will prove fruitful towards advancing restoration in the long haul. With the additional challenges we have been able to successfully navigate with the help of PSAR funding, we know this to be true. Thank you for your time and your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Baumann

Cheryl Baumann,Coordinator
North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

Thurston
Conservation District
Local solutions to local problems

Conservation Planning • Habitat Restoration • Education & Outreach • Soils Analysis • Native Plants • South Sound GREEN • Clear Choices for Clean Water

October 10, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chairman
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

The Thurston Conservation District (TCD) would like to encourage the enthusiastic support and adoption of Option 2, with a permanent shift in baseline funding, as outlined within the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's (GSRO) proposal, Item 7, attachment B, of the Board packet. Thurston Conservation District serves as the fiscal agent for the WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity. TCD appreciates the SRFB's ongoing support for Lead Entity capacity funds to implement the statutory obligations for salmon habitat protection and restoration, blending science with local community values from the bottom up.

These additional funds will bring the Lead Entity closer to funding a full-time equivalent employee to coordinate the program and facilitate stakeholders in the implementation of the most strategic projects for salmon. The Lead Entity also intends to continue and broaden our attempts to tell the salmon story, a story of locally-driven collaboration, to communities and elected officials at all levels. Thurston Conservation District will continue to support the Lead Entity with all of the in-kind support offered in the past, an amount worth approximately $12,000/year.

Since 1999, the work to blend habitat needs, socio-political desires and the many demands of the recovery plan, has become an increasingly challenging task. This additional investment from the SRFB will not lessen that requirement but will most definitely assist in us in accomplishing the work in a thoughtful and robust manner.

On behalf of the Thurston Conservation District, I am thankful for your continued support and encourage you to adopt Option 2.

Kathleen Whalen
Thurston Conservation District Administrator

2918 Ferguson St. SW, Suite A, Tumwater, WA 98512 • Fax (360) 236-0941 • Phone (360) 754-3588
• website: www.thurstoncd.com • Email tcd@thurstoncd.com

October 10, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chairman
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

The WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity would like to encourage the enthusiastic support and adoption of Option 2, with a permanent shift in baseline funding, as outlined within the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's (GSRO) proposal, Item 7, attachment B, of the Board packet. The WRIA 13 Lead Entity appreciates the SRFB's ongoing support for Lead Entity capacity funds as we implement our statutory obligations for salmon habitat protection and restoration, blending science with local community values from the bottom up.

These additional funds will bring the Lead Entity closer to funding a full-time equivalent employee to coordinate the program and facilitate stakeholders in the implementation of the most strategic projects for salmon. The Lead Entity also intends to leverage these funds to continue to broaden our efforts to tell the salmon story - a story of locally-driven collaboration - to communities and elected officials at all levels.

Since 1999, the work to blend habitat needs, socio-political desires and the many demands of the recovery plan has become an increasingly challenging task. The additional investment from the SRFB, as described in Option 2, will not lessen that requirement but will allow us to ensure there is opportunity for diverse representation on our citizen committee, to continue to develop a robust three-year work plan, and to fully maintain the Habitat Work Schedule.

On behalf of the WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity, I am thankful for your continued support and encourage you to adopt Option 2.

Amy Hatch-Winecka
Environmental Program Manager
WRIA 13 Lead Entity Coordinator

WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL

Beaux Arts Village
Bellevue
Bothell
Clyde Hill
Edmonds
Hunts Point
Issaquah
Kenmore
Kent
King County
Kirkland
Lake Forest Park
Maple Valley
Medina
Mercer Island
Mill Creek
Mountlake Terrace
Mukilteo
Newcastle
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Seattle
Shoreline
Snohomish County
Woodinville
Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council
Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Northwest Marine Trade Association
Sustainable Fisheries Foundation
Trout Unlimited
Water Tenders

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

1303_3171__W8SalmonRecovery Council.ai

October 11, 2013

David Troutt, Chair
Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Support for Lead Entity Capacity Grants

Dear Chair Troutt,

As Chair of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, I am writing in support of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (SRFB) continued commitment to funding Lead Entities to perform important salmon recovery functions through Lead Entity Capacity Grants.

Since the inception of Lead Entity Capacity Grants, WRIA 8 has received $60,000 annually. This funding supports our ability to coordinate our statutorily-required technical and citizens committee, facilitate scientific review of proposed projects, track project implementation, and build long-term community support for salmon recovery. We appreciate this ongoing support from the SRFB—it is essential.

I understand the SRFB will consider a proposal at their October 16 – 17 meeting to raise the floor on capacity grants to $60,000 for all Lead Entities. The use of capacity funding may vary slightly by watershed, but this support allows us to move toward our collective salmon recovery goals. WRIA 8 supports the proposal to permanently increase funding to Lead Entities currently receiving less than $60,000.

While WRIA 8 certainly appreciates the support offered through our Lead Entity Capacity Grant, salmon recovery in our watershed—the most populous watershed in the state—requires ongoing coordination with 27 local jurisdictions and many other stakeholders. Presently, our $60,000 capacity grant funds approximately 40% of the full time Lead Entity Coordinator position. We are fortunate to have local funding support through an interlocal agreement with our 27 partner jurisdictions, which allows us to meet the remainder of our Lead Entity obligations. This local funding is vital to our operations, but it requires annual approval by each of the 27 local governments. While we support raising the floor of Lead Entity Capacity Grants as proposed, we also encourage the SRFB to give future consideration to the true cost of implementing Lead Entity programs in all watersheds, as these are not equal.

Thanks to you and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for your ongoing support to Lead Entities. Lead Entity capacity funding is a critical component of our funding and ensures watersheds statewide can continue to advance salmon recovery. If you have questions, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator, at jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov, or 206-296-8067.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don Davidson, DDS
Councilmember, City of Bellevue
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council

Cc:
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Lloyd Moody, Lead Entity Program Manager, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Jeanette Dorner, Director, Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery Program
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council members

WEST SOUND
WATERSHEDS COUNCIL

October 11, 2013

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chairman
WA Recreation and Conservation Office
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

This letter is on behalf of the West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity, to request the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) members adopt Option 2 as presented in Table 3 of the staff memo, which would permanently allocate an additional $133,000 in baseline funding for lead entities from returned funds beginning in fiscal year 2014.

Our lead entity is graciously hosted by Kitsap County, and does not receive capacity funding from any other sources besides the SRFB and PSAR funds. Besides the in kind support from the County, the lead entity partners all invest considerably in many ways. Our citizens from various watersheds and staff from local governments, tribes, & NGO's volunteer their time and receive no stipends to participate in the salmon recovery work. They attend monthly West Sound Watersheds Council or Technical Advisory Group meetings, and participate in project reviews and site visits. They rely on the Lead Entity coordinator to keep them informed and assist in coordination of their various roles in salmon recovery - including, but not limited to, habitat restoration and protection.

We appreciate the SRFB's ongoing support for Lead Entity capacity grants to implement our obligations for salmon habitat protection and restoration – it is essential to achieving our part towards the greater salmon recovery goals.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Peters

Kathleen Peters
West Sound Watersheds Lead Entity coordinator

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **8**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Request by Department of Fish and Wildlife for Fish-in/Fish-out Monitoring

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This memo provides background on the attached request from the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding monitoring funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

In September 2013, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) sent a letter to Salmon Recovery Funding Board Chair David Troutt and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requesting additional funds for the state's fish-in/fish-out monitoring program, as described below.

WDFW Fish-in / Fish-out Monitoring

Abundance and productivity trends are one of the cornerstones of tracking salmon recovery. The fish-in/fish-out program, established as part of the Statewide Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy, provides a tool for estimating both returning adults (fish in) and outmigrating juveniles (fish out) in order to assess freshwater productivity for at least one population per major population group per listed species (ESU/DPS).

Since 2005, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) has helped fund the fish-in/fish-out monitoring program (Table 1). The board's contribution to the program is considered part of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) monitoring allotment (10 percent of the state's total award). Historically, the board has provided the funding in the year prior to the winter/spring field season so that WDFW can plan accordingly (e.g., funding approved in May 2012 is for work beginning in January 2013).

In federal fiscal year 2013, the state's PCSRF award was $2 million lower than the previous year. Given this shortfall, WDFW, RCO, and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) agreed to revise the PCSRF application and remove language that identified $208,000 for fish-in/fish-out monitoring. This strategy was not an expression of long-term priorities overall. Rather, this approach was viewed by all parties as the most effective means to meet the near-term PCSRF shortfall with minimal impact to PCSRF programs statewide. In light of this decision, WDFW sent a letter in September 2013 asking the board to provide $208,000 in returned funds to support the monitoring effort for 2014.

The WDFW request would maintain statewide implementation of the fish-in/fish-out monitoring program and augment funding for projects in Salmon Creek, Touchet River, Grays River, and the Wind River.

Table 1

WDFW Fish-in/Fish-out Monitoring Contracts	
Funding for work in 2006	$205,019
Funding for work in 2007	$250,470
Funding for work in 2008	$208,000
Funding for work in 2009	$203,485
Funding for work in 2010	$208,000
Funding for work in 2011	$208,000
Funding for work in 2012	$208,000
Funding for work in 2013	$208,000
Funding for work in 2014: Currently unfunded due to decrease in PCSRF	$0
Total	**$1,698,973**

Analysis

The board will receive the Stillwater Science assessment of its monitoring strategy at the October meeting, and will be asked to approve a strategy in December. Funding for this monitoring effort should be considered as part of that revised strategy. The board needs to decide whether to adjust the funding within the monitoring 10 percent or whether to shift funding from one of the other "buckets" to accommodate this reduction in 2013 PCSRF funds.

Next Steps

Staff recommends the board consider this request in December when the board is expected to make decisions about the future direction of their monitoring program. The board may decide to make other shifts in how the monitoring funds are allocated that could negate the need to use returned funds to support this monitoring effort.

Attachments

A. Request from WDFW for additional funding

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501-1091 • (360) 902-2200 • TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

October 2, 2013

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Post Office Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98501-0917

Re: Amendment to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) letter dated September 19, 2013

Dear Ms. Cottingham:

I am writing to amend the letter Director Phil Anderson sent to Chairman David Troutt on September 19, 2013, in which we requested Salmon Recovery Funding Board "return funds." Specifically, we are reducing the scope and amount of the request.

The Department is requesting $208,000 to continue implementation of the status and trend Fish-in/Fish-out monitoring program. The Fish-in/Fish-out program, established as part of the Statewide Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy, provides a tool for estimating both returning adults (fish in) and outmigrating juveniles (fish out) in order to assess freshwater productivity for at least one population per major population group per listed species (ESU/DPS). Fish-in/Fish-out monitoring is the cornerstone of tracking recovery progress and the data directly inform abundance, productivity, and key freshwater habitat or salmon life-stage bottlenecks.

Thank you for your time on the agenda. Please let me know if you have any question or need further clarification.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Quan
Special Assistant to the Director

cc: Jim Scott
Erik Neatherlin
Brain Abbott

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **9**

Meeting Date: October 2013

Title: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Grant Awards-Hood Canal

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

The 2013-15 biennial budget includes funds for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program. In accordance with Manual 18, Appendix P, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved funding for some projects in August 2013, following an accelerated grant round. The Hood Canal project list was not ready in August, so it is being presented for board consideration at the October meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Proposed Motion Language

Move to approve $828,755 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds for the projects shown in Attachment A.

Background

The legislatively-approved state 2013-15 capital budget includes $70 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program; $30 million of this appropriation can be used for the regular (formula driven) PSAR grant round, and the remainder is for large capital projects.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) distributes the funds in coordination with the Puget Sound Partnership. This is typically done in two rounds: an accelerated first round and a second round with projects approved in December. The board awarded funds for some of the projects in the accelerated round at its meeting in August 2013.

Hood Canal Project List

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (Council) forwarded a list of ten projects totaling about $2.6 million for early action in August. However, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff understood that the Council wanted to prioritize the projects in their plan and only fund a

portion of the list. The Council did not make this request in writing, leading to some confusion about what was proposed for funding. As a result, the board did not fund any early action projects in Hood Canal at the August meeting, but invited the Council to submit a list for approval in October.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council has clarified that their local process approved $1 million in early action PSAR funding. This would move three projects forward for funding approval. However, this would provide only partial funding for the third project on the list. The early action process is not designed to partially fund projects. For that reason, only two projects are proposed, and the total amount requested is $828,755 (Attachment A).

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council Board will meet on October 16, 2013 to consider whether any additional projects should be on the accelerated list. The additional projects that may be considered are shown in Attachment B. If they approve a new list, it will be presented the day of the board meeting.

Accelerated Grant Round

In August, the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) asked the board to approve early action funding for Puget Sound lead entities, per Manual 18, Appendix P. The Hood Canal list is part of that request.

The Puget Sound Partnership coordinates with lead entities and the board to submit projects. PSAR projects must meet the same eligibility requirements and go through the same review process as other board-funded projects.

Board Decisions

The board is being asked to make the following funding decision:

- Approve PSAR funding for the projects listed in Attachment A.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve PSAR funding for the projects listed in Attachment A, as shown, if approved by a vote of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council on October 16, 2013.

Analysis

Review of the Proposed Projects

These projects were submitted by the Hood Canal lead entity in the 2013 grant round using the early action process. They have been reviewed by the board's Technical Review Panel and approved by both the Partnership Leadership Council and the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council. The board's approval gives the RCO director the authority to enter into agreements for the projects.

- The Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership has approved the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund process and regional project list through a resolution adopted on October 26, 2012. The Leadership Council and the Salmon Recovery Council have delegated the timing of the distribution of funds to the Lead Entity Citizen's Committees and the regional review of fit to recovery strategy to the Recovery Implementation Technical Team.
- The local watershed technical committees and the Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT) have reviewed these projects and determined they are consistent with the regional and watershed recovery strategies.
- The board's Review Panel reviewed the projects for technical feasibility, including field reviews, and recommended them for funding. The board's Review Panel met on July 17 to finalize comments on the early action projects.
- The projects would advance the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Partnership's Action Agenda.

The attached project summaries and Review Panel evaluation comment forms include more information on these projects.

Next Steps

Once approved, the RCO staff will put these approved projects under agreement. The board will make additional project grant award decisions on PSAR and other board-funded projects in December 2013.

Attachments

A. Summary spreadsheet Hood Canal Early Action PSAR, October 2013 List, Option A

B. Projects that may be proposed for funding by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council

C. Project summaries and Review Panel evaluation forms

Attachment A: Summary Spreadsheet Hood Canal Early Action PSAR, October 2013 List Option A

Rank *	Project Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	PSAR Regular Formula-driven Amount	Large Cap Amount	Match	Total
1	13-1220	Skokomish Confluence Levee Design and Acquisition	Mason Conservation District	$628,755		$110,957	$739,712
4	13-1209	Lower Big Quilcene River Master Plan Design	Hood Canal SEG	$200,000		$54,408	$254,408
			TOTAL	**$828,755**		**$165,365**	**$994,120**

* Projects that are not proposed for early action ranked #2 and 3.

Attachment B: Projects that may be proposed for funding by the Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Rank*	Project Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	PSAR Regular Formula-driven Amount	Large Cap Amount	Match	Total
1	13-1220	Skokomish Confluence Levee Design and Acquisition	Mason Conservation District	$628,755		$110,957	$739,712
4	13-1209	Lower Big Quilcene River Master Plan Design	Hood Canal SEG	$200,000		$54,408	$254,408
5	13-1173	Southern Hood Canal Riparian Enhancement Phase II	Mason Conservation District	$374,695		$287,484	$662,179
6	13-1215	Lower Big Beef Creek Restoration-Construction	Hood Canal SEG	$700,000		$672,133	$1,372,133
7	13-1218	Lower Union River Assessment and Design	Hood Canal SEG	$100,000		$18,204	$118,204
8	13-1204	Lower Skabob Creek Restoration Preliminary Design	Mason Conservation District	$47,060		$0	$47,060
11	13-1198	Snow Creek Watershed Acquisition and Restoration	Jefferson Land Trust	$370,854		$247,236	$618,090
12	13-1199	East Jefferson Summer Chum Riparian Phase II	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	$221,138		$50,000	$271,138
			TOTAL	**$2,642,502**		**$1,440,442**	**$4,082,924**

* Projects that are not potential early action projects ranked #2, 3, 9, and 10.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1220
Project Name:	Skokomish Confluence Levee Design and Acquisition
Project Sponsor:	Hood Canal SEG
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/21/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**
   The application would be improved by providing a map that outlines the conceptual design more clearly and clarifying the suite of restoration actions that will be addressed by the preliminary design (anticipated ELJ types, planting plan, etc.). The overall cost for cultural resources review and stewardship plans seem high and probably don't need to be done on a per parcel basis.

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**

3. **Comments/Questions:**
   This project would acquire parcels and complete the design for removing at least 3,500 feet of dike (i.e., the car-body levee) along with other restoration actions within the confluence area of the North and South Fork Skokomish Rivers. The greatest uncertainty for this project is acquiring a potential "Floodways By Design" grant from the State legislature. Uncertainties also remain about acquiring all of the necessary parcels in the floodplain, but the liimited development potential and floodway status may help to promote landowner willingness for conservation easements, if not fee simple acquisition.

   The project addresses priority actions of maintaining fish passage during late summer spawning and reducing flooding and fish stranding for Puget Sound chinook and Hood Canal summer chum salmon. The USACE Skokomish GI is advancing but not close to ready. This provides an opportunity to advance restoration of natural processes in a key area at the confluence of both forks

of the Skokomish River. The design work will utilize USACE analysis to inform this project design and should be consistent with the Skokomish GI recommendations.

4. Staff Comments:

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 7/16/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**
   No

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   The project sponsor has addressed the previous Review Panel comments.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1209
Project Name:	Lower Biq Quilcene River Master Plan Design
Project Sponsor:	Hood Canal SEG
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		**Clear**
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/24/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**
   Pre-application materials were incomplete, so these comments are based on the information that was available in the pre-application and presented during the site visit. As a result, additional questions may arise after the sponsor completes the final application, which will provide the sponsor little time to address.

   The level of effort allocated for community meetings and input from TNC (32 hours) appears to significantly underestimate the time necessary for community, stakeholder, and tribal input. Please clarify the assumptions applied in developing that portion of the scope of work. The project sponor should also consider having an outside facilitator for community meetings. The amount of time budgeted for preliminary appraisals (192 hours) is excessive. Assumptions based upon assessed values would likely be sufficient for this feasibility stage.

   Please describe how many alternatives are expected to be analyzed and your current thinking on the evaluation criteria that will be used.

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**
   Application is incomplete.

3. **Comments/Questions:**

The proposal is to conduct a master planning development project for the lower 1 mile of the Big Quilcene River to identify a restoration approach for the area. This planning and feasibility stage is clearly the desired next step in promoting landscape and process-based restoration.

Project exceeds the maximum funding amount to be eligible for design only. Given the amount of work proposed and the significant need for community and tribal input, the sponsor may want to consider a typical design grant which will allow the work to extend beyond the 18-month timeframe limitation on design-only grants.

4. Staff Comments:

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   T

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 7/16/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   The applicant has addressed all previous comments.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1173
Project Name:	Southern Hood Canal Riparian Enhancement Phase II
Project Sponsor:	Mason Conservation District
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		**Clear**
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/23/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**
   The application states that the work will expand existing riparian buffers. Please clarify target riparian buffer widths that are anticipated.
   The project work area expands upon the work completed in Phase I and extends approximately 15 miles upstream from the estuary. Please clarify the strategy for addressing invasive species in the basin. Specifically, with the work focused on the lowermost parts of the river, it does not reflect the top-down approach preferred for controlling noxious weeds such as knotweed because it leaves the potential risk of reinfestation from sources upriver. Have upstream areas been surveyed to ensure the uppermost extents of knotweed are known and controlled?

   Additional information is needed for the cost estimate. Please provide information to support the $406,847 budget for labor. How much of this is allocated to the WCC and for how long a period? Please explain the effort needed to support the cultural resources and A&E cost line items.

   Currently, the version of the budget shown in the Restoration Cost Estimate Summary has a duplicate entry for A&E costs. This will need to be addressed before finalizing the application.

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

3. Comments/Questions:

The application is to conduct a second phase of riparian enhancement in the Skokomish River watershed. A WCC crew and potentially private contractors will be used to conduct invasive species control and riparian planting activities. Replantings will entail planting native species with an emphasis on planting conifers in riparian area. Through the first phase of work, the project sponsor has obtained landowner willingness forms that will enable them to work on more than 350 parcels enabling them to control approximately 75 acres of knotweed

4. Staff Comments:

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 7/17/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**
   No

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   Please include the cost justification text in the response to comments document in the proposal. It is the review panel's understanding that the application is for 4 years of knotweed treatment using a WCC crew.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1215
Project Name:	Lower Big Beef Creek Restoration- Construction
Project Sponsor:	Hood Canal SEG
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/23/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**

3. **Comments/Questions:**

This proposed restoration project will abandon a 2,500-foot well access road, remove 3,300 cubic yards of fill, reinforce 13 exisiting wood structures, and install 10 log jams to improve habitat complexity and allow for more natural channel migration and sediment transport in a key reach of Big Beef Creek that will benefit summer chum salmon. The project has a high level of match assuming NOAA Coastal grant is secured. Partnering with the Little Anderson IMW project on the helicopter work should provide for important cost savings that helps to justify its significant expense.

The Review Panel is supportive of the process-based restoration design, but the stakeholders should understand that once the channel avulses into the wetland area, it could be decades before the area aggrades sufficiently to reconnect with the current location of the channel due to the historical accumulation of sediment and the differences in elevation.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **NMI**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 07/16/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**
   No

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1218
Project Name:	Lower Union River Assessment and Design
Project Sponsor:	Hood Canal SEG
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/23/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**
   The application would be improved by including a map showing the boundaries of the proposed assessment area (ideally including aerial photographs and Lidar bare-earth imagery). Does the project area extend above and below the North Shore Road crossing? Will the influence of the road crossing also be evaluated? Please provide more detail in the cost estimate for the $85,000 of professional services. The proposal would be improved by providing more description about the number of wood structures expected to be designed for the project reach.

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**
   Landowner acknowledgement forms from private landowners.

3. **Comments/Questions:**
   The proposed Union River assessment would evaluate the lower mile of the river to identify areas for wood placement and complete preliminary designs to improve short-term channel complexity. The Union River has had a lengthy history of wood removal, and the project reach is heavily used by summer chum.

4. **Staff Comments:**

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 7/16/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**
   No

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   The project sponsor has addressed the previous Review Panel comments.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1204
Project Name:	Lower Skabob Creek Restoration Preliminary Design
Project Sponsor:	Mason Conservation District
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		**Clear**
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/24/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**
   Please provide more information about the problem the proposed project will address. While the alignment is shortened from the historic configuration, the site appears to offer functioning habitat for juvenile salmonids. During the site visit, the project sponsor described changes to conditions in the reach we were able to view, but it was unclear whether the changes were due to beaver activity or other stressors in the area. Please provide additional information on fish use in the lower creek and the entire Skakob Creek system.

   Please provide the referenced Skokomish GI analysis of the site and please clarify the project's inclusion in the 3-year work plan. Does the 3-year work plan include the relocation or the other possible instream enhancements if relocation is not determined to be feasible?

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**
   Question #1 Problem Statement was not completed in the application.

   The fish use information requested in #1 should be added to 3B in the application.

3. **Comments/Questions:**

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

The proposal is to evaluate the feasibility of restoring lower Skabob Creek to its historic location in the Skokomish River estuary. Based on the outcomes of this feasibility analysis, preliminary designs will be prepared for the realignment of the creek or other instream/riparian enhancements.

If the relocation is found to be feasible and advanced to the design stage, it is recommended that a portion of the existing lower creek remain as a blind channel habitat in the estuary.

4. Staff Comments:

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)

2. Why?

3. If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?

4. If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?

5. Other comments:

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery Funding Board

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 7/17/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   The sponsor has satisfactorily addressed earlier comments.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1198
Project Name:	Snow Creek Watershed Acquisition and Restoration
Project Sponsor:	Jefferson Land Trust
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/23/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.

The acquisition of the Irvin parcel includes a large amount of upland or isolated wetlands that would provide little benefit to salmon. The primary value for salmon is located in the northern portion of the parcel, roughly 25% of the proposed acquisition. The project would be improved by increasing the match so that those funds would cover about 75% of the acquisition costs with 25% allocated from SRFB grant funding. Any riparian forest plantings in areas of reed-canary grass will require significant and on-going maintenance efforts- please make sure that the budget is sufficient to complete maintenance work.

While the Jenks parcel is located above summer chum habitat, the majority of the parcel consists of a maturing riparian area and includes a significant length of Snow Creek with generally good habitat conditions. The parcel appears to be a good candidate for a conservation easement.

2. Missing Pre-application information.

3. Comments/Questions:

4. Staff Comments:

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 07/16/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**
   No

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   The project sponsor has addressed the previous Review Panel comments.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity
Project Number:	13-1199
Project Name:	East Jefferson Summer Chum Riparian Phase II
Project Sponsor:	North Olympic Salmon Coalition
Grant Manager:	**Mike Ramsey**

	Date	Status
Early Application Review/Site Visit	5/6/13	**Reviewed**
Post Application		**Clear**
Final	7/16/2013	**Clear**

Early Application Status Option	
REVIEWED	SRFB Review Panel has reviewed and provided comments.
Post-Application & Final Status Options	
NMI	Need More Information
POC	Project of Concern
CONDITIONED	SRFB Review Panel has applied conditions
CLEAR	Project has been reviewed by SRFB Review Panel and is okay to continue in funding process

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 05/24/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Steve Toth And Paul Schlenger

Early Project Status: ☒ Reviewed

Project Site Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

1. **Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria.**
   Please clarify how large an area you plan to conduct invasive vegetation surveys and treatment.

   In preparing planting plans for the site, the sponsor is encouraged to emphasize the re-establishment of conifers.

   Currently, the version of the budget shown in the Restoration Cost Estimate Summary has a duplicate entry for A&E costs. This will need to be addressed before finalizing the application

2. **Missing Pre-application information.**

3. **Comments/Questions:**
   The proposal is for a second phase of riparian vegetation enhancement in several Hood Canal watersheds. The sponsor will inventory and control invasive vegetation on salmon-bearing streams, maintain 200 acres of riparian plantings, and plant 50 acres of riparian vegetation. The work is targeted for 9 watersheds. The sponsor generally targets 100 foot wide buffers on either side of the stream channels.

4. **Staff Comments:**

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

EARLY APPLICATION REVIEW AND SITE VISIT – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: **By the final application due date**, applicants must revise their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM applications and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Early Review Comments" form and attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Early Review Comments."

Special Note: To help speed the local and SRFB Review Panel evaluation process, if for any reason throughout the application review process you update your project proposal based on SRFB Review Panel comments please update your project proposal using WORD "track changes" and re-attach your proposal in PRISM. This step will save time and focus the reviewer on the changes.

POST APPLICATION – REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date:

Review Panel Member(s) Name:

Application Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a Project of Concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**

POST APPLICATION – LEAD ENTITY AND PROJECT SPONSOR RESPONSES

Directions: All projects will be reviewed at the September 23-26 review panel meeting. A status will be assigned to each project by October 4, 2013. **By October 17**, applicants of projects assigned a status of Project of Concern, Conditioned, or Need More Information, must update their project proposals using "track changes" and update their PRISM application and attachments, as needed, to respond to the review panel comments. In addition, please fill out the "Response to Post-Application Review Comments" form, attach the form in PRISM labeled "Response to Post-Application Review Comments," and send your grant manger an e-mail that your response is complete.

Appendix G: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Individual Comment Form

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 7/17/2013

Panel Member(s) Name: Review Panel

Final Project Status: **Clear**

1. **Is this a project of concern (POC) according to the SRFB's criteria? (Yes or No)**
   No

2. **Why?**

3. **If YES, what would make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria?**

4. **If NO, are there ways in which this project could be further improved?**

5. **Other comments:**
   The sponsor has satisfactorily addressed earlier comments.