

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

March 6, 2019

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98501

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: To comment at the 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. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

You also may submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, Attn: Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, at the address above or at Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov

Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact us via the following options: 1) Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or email leslie.frank@rco.wa.gov; or 2) 711 relay service. Accommodation requests should be received by February 22, 2019 to ensure availability.

Wednesday, March 6

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	<i>Chair</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call and Determination of Quorum • Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision) • Approve December, 2018 Meeting Minutes (Decision) • <i>Introduction of new Chair</i> • <i>Introduction of new SRFB Member</i> • <i>Introduction of WDFW Director Kelly Susewind</i> • <i>Recognition for retiring GSRO staff</i> • Remarks by the chair 	
9:15 a.m.	1. Director's Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board Management Feedback (Survey) B. Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orca Legislation Update C. Performance Update (<i>Written only</i>) D. Fiscal Report (<i>Written only</i>) 	<i>Kaleen Cottingham</i> <i>Wyatt Lundquist</i> <i>Wendy Brown</i>
10:00 a.m.	2. Salmon Recovery Management Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSRO Staffing Update • Salmon Section Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Little Tucannon (#15-1317) - Illabot Creek (#14-1426) - Upper White Pine - Video (#15-1210) B. Delegation of authority to RCO Director to extend current 	<i>Kaleen Cottingham</i> <i>Tara Galuska</i> <i>Alice Rubin</i> <i>Marc Duboiski</i> <i>Marc Duboiski</i> <i>Kaleen Cottingham</i>

capacity contracts to August 1, 2019 and to provide funding from return funds for Lead Entities & Regions (DECISION).		Sarah Gage
10:30 a.m.	BREAK	
10:45 a.m.	3. Reports from Partners (3 minutes maximum per presentation) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governor’s OfficeConservation CommissionDepartment of EcologyDepartment of Natural ResourcesDepartment of Fish and WildlifeDepartment of TransportationCouncil of RegionsWA Salmon CoalitionRegional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	J.T. Austin Brian Cochrane Carol Smith Stephen Bernath Erik Neatherlin Susan Kanzler Steve Manlow Alicia Olivas Aaron Peterson
General Public Comment: Please limit comments to 3 minutes.		
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
11:15 a.m.	4. Salmon Recovery Conference Update	Sarah Gage Tammy Finch
11:30 a.m.	5. Communications Update	Susan Zemek Eryn Couch
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION		
12:00	6. Gold Basin Project of Concern Follow-Up	Tara Galuska Pat Stevenson
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH	
BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION		
1:00 p.m.	7. Lean Study Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Options for targeted investmentManual 192020 Draft grant round timelineInteragency Funding CoordinationPRISM Updates	Kaleen Cottingham Tara Galuska Sarah Gage Scott Chapman
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
2:00 p.m.	8. State of Salmon	Jennifer Johnson
2:30 p.m.	9. Monitoring Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce new membersWorkshop Update	Keith Dublanica Leska Fore Pete Bisson
3:15 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m.	10. Invasive Species Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern PikeWashington State Noxious Weed Control Board	Justin Bush Mary Fee, Agriculture
4:15 p.m.	11. Streamflow Restoration Program (Hirst) Implementation	Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Ecology Bennett Weinstein, Ecology
4:45 p.m.	12. Overview of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) and the 2019-2021 investment plan	Jay Krienitz, WDFW
5:15 p.m.	ADJOURN	Chair

Next SRFB meeting: July 10-11, 2019 - Travel Meeting - Yakima, WA - TBD

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Director's Report

Summary

This memo describes key agency activities and happenings

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Agency Update

Council of Regions Meeting

RCO met with the Council of Regions to discuss communications, priorities, and opportunities between the regions and RCO. These meetings with salmon recovery regional directors will happen quarterly with the goal of increasing coordination as we work together to implement salmon recovery strategies. Upcoming items may include the Monitoring Panel's recommendation for the next phase of work, a possible large project grant round, priorities for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, updating the statewide salmon recovery strategy, and the future work of the orca task force.



Governor's Budget Includes Orca Task Force Recommendations

The Governor addressed many of the recommendations of the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force when he rolled out his budget proposal in early December. The task force had submitted its final list of 36 recommendations to the Governor in November. The Governor's budget invests \$1.1 billion in salmon recovery and includes a mix of policy, management, and financial recommendations. Many of the budget-related recommendations pertain specifically to RCO's salmon funding and directly support the decision package RCO submitted to the Governor's budget office for consideration.



State of Salmon Report Crosses Finish Line

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office published the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report and Web site in January. Feedback so far has been very complimentary. RCO promoted the new report with a news release and a series of social media posts. The [news release](#) was picked up by 14 different news organizations across the state.



PRISM Gets Update

Staff celebrated the New Year by giving PRISM, our workhorse computer system, a fresh new look. The PRISM Team launched updates to PRISM that included a new home page for our grant sponsors. The new home screen organizes the information into five main actions: Applications, billings, reports, attachments, and properties. It also gives them a chance to see their recent activity and a list of their projects. The PRISM Team also made dozens of other changes that help all of us do our work better. Way to go team!



RCO Begins Web Site Redesign

RCO has begun to redesign its four Web sites to make them more compatible with mobile technology, more accessible to people with disabilities, and more modern. It has been about 10 years since RCO last redesigned its Web sites. Since then, more people are visiting the sites on smartphones (about 20 percent of visits). To begin, RCO hired a Web-design firm, which has completed interviews with customers and staff. The feedback has ranged from do not change it to do a complete overhaul. The consultants found that most people are visiting RCO's Web sites for technical information about grants and have recommended the main RCO Web site better reflect that. The Web team has picked a new design, which is green in color and has an environmental feel. Now staff begin the hard work of rewriting the content for four of RCO's Web sites: 1) the main RCO Web site; 2) the Washington Invasive Species Council Web site; 3) the Invasive Species Council's education Web site; and 4) the Boating Web site (boating.wa.gov). Launch of the new sites is expected this summer.



News from our Sister Boards

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** had its final meeting for the year on December 13, with a packed agenda. The meeting highlighted work to address northern pike, a new transboundary action plan to address European green crab, a new council-led project to increase preparedness to new forest pests, and approval of a 2019-2020 work plan. The next council meeting is set for March 28 in Bellingham. Topics include a municipal approach to invasive species, consulting on proposed Department of Fish and Wildlife classification changes, and updates on northern pike emergency preparation.



The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** held its first meeting of the year on January 22. The board authorized a supplemental grant round for the Farmland and Forestland Preservation Categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to solicit additional grant proposals, made changes to a trails grant program necessitated by changes to federal rules, and addressed changes to the project compliance policy.

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** closed out the year by publishing its [annual report](#). They also held their first meeting of the new year in mid-February, focused on legislation, budget, and several land related studies being conducted by RCO.

Legislative Update

The 2019 Legislation Session is well underway and, for RCO and the SRFB, it will be about budget, orcas, and how to fund fish barrier removal. The Governor has six request bills on orca recovery (three distinct bills, each with a version in the House and Senate), relating specifically to: improving the safety of oil transportation (HB 1578, SB 5578), increasing chinook abundance (HB 1579, SB 5580), and protecting SRKWs from vessel noise (HB 1580, SB 5577). All of these bills have had hearings and are moving through the process, each will likely be substantially amended.

On fish barrier removal funding, several bills have been introduced, each with a slightly different twist on how to fund the large backlog of state (WSDOT) and local fish barrier projects. These bills include the following:

- HB 1228/SB 5130, increasing transportation revenues to help fund state fish barrier removal
- HB 1691, concerning funding and administering local government infrastructure by the public works board
- HB 1889/SB 5136, establishing the water infrastructure program
- HB 2022, providing funding options to local governments for addressing fish passage barrier removals
- SB 5788, concerning local government infrastructure funding

The Legislature is holding public work sessions and having numerous conversations about how to fund these important projects and how to better ensure that they are well coordinated. The first cut-off for bills needing to be out of committee occurs on Friday February 22, with the fiscal committee cutoffs coming on March 1. The list of bills we are tracking will be much reduced after March 1. The “scheduled” last day of the legislative session is April 28.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of February 7, 2019

Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance	\$840,586
Current Federal Balance – Projects	\$1,796,617
Current Federal Balance – Activities, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	\$3,494,724
Lead Entities	\$0
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Puget Sound Restoration	\$2,066,534

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2019, actuals through February 6, 2019 (FM 19). 79.1% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET New and Re- appropriation 2017-2019	COMMITTED Dollars	% of Budget	TO BE COMMITTED Dollars	% of Budget	EXPENDITURES Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2011-13	\$1,041,597	\$1,041,597	100%	\$0	0%	\$507,786	49%
2013-15	\$6,733,668	\$6,733,668	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,458,597	51%
2015-17	\$11,226,506	\$10,768,238	97%	\$458,268	4%	\$5,799,158	54%
2017-19	\$15,694,911	\$15,312,593	98%	\$382,318	2%	\$2,180,573	14%
Total	34,696,682	33,856,096	98%	840,586	2%	11,946,114	35%
Federal Funded							
2013	\$3,525,731	\$3,525,731	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,525,731	100%
2014	\$5,676,646	\$4,141,582	73%	\$1,535,065	27%	\$3,514,542	85%
2015	\$8,046,906	\$7,960,755	99%	\$86,151	1%	\$4,610,766	58%
2016	\$15,544,946	\$14,340,616	92%	\$1,204,330	8%	\$7,907,286	55%
2017	\$18,236,000	\$18,090,500	99%	\$145,500	1%	\$5,271,026	29%
2018	\$18,236,000	\$15,918,704	87%	2,317,296	13%	\$946,610	6%
Total	69,266,229	63,977,887	92%	5,288,341	8%	25,775,961	40%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$7,689,199	\$7,689,199	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,787,444	49%
PSAR	\$75,653,126	\$73,586,592	97%	\$2,066,534	3%	\$19,902,106	27%
Subtotal	187,305,235	179,109,774	96%	8,195,460	4%	61,411,625	34%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	6,327,796	6,327,796	100%	0	0%	4,328,788	68%
Subtotal	6,327,796	6,327,796	100%	0	0%	4,328,788	68%
GRAND TOTAL	\$193,633,031	\$185,437,570	96%	\$8,195,460	4%	\$65,740,413	35%

Note: Activities such as smolt monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, and regional funding are combined with projects in the state and federal funding lines above.

Performance Update

The following data is for grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2019. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of February 5, 2019.

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in fiscal year 2019. Grant sponsors submit these performance measure data for blockages removed, fish passages installed, and stream miles made accessible when a project is completed and in the process of closing. The Forest Family Fish Passage Program and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program are not included in these totals.

Twelve salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2018 to February 5, 2019), with ten passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 23.4 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2019 Performance
Blockages Removed	12
Bridges Installed	5
Culverts Installed	5
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible by SRFB-Funded Projects in FY 2019

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
<u>13-1337</u>	Roaring Crk. Flow Restoration & Diversion Removal	Trout Unlimited-WA Water Proj.	10.0
<u>14-1506</u>	Miller Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	1.1
<u>14-1660</u>	Haehule Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	1.2
<u>14-1661</u>	Squaw Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	3.5
<u>15-1247</u>	Williams Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration	Kittitas Conservation Trust	1.8
<u>15-1533</u>	Rue Creek Salmon Restoration Project	Pacific Conservation Dist.	4.2
<u>16-1231</u>	Thunder Road Fish Passage Project	Quileute Tribe of the Quileute	1.6
Total Miles			23.4

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2019 operational performance measures as of February 5, 2019.

Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2018 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	96%	●	46 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mail agreements on average 17 days after a project is approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	91%	●	371 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 336 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded within 6 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	100%	●	During this fiscal year to date, 875 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	84%	●	90 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year, 76 closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	4	●	Four SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. This is less than the last board meeting.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	72	●	Staff have inspected 72 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2019 to reach the target.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office
Sarah Gage, Program Manager, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Summary

The following memo highlights the good work recently completed by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and the Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Section.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☒ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☐ Briefing

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Staffing

In the first 9 days of 2019, RCO learned that two members of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) team would be moving on. Sarah Gage will be retiring in April, and Steve Martin resigned effective January 18.

GSRO's work has expanded and changed over the past 2 years. While the office configuration and budget show that there are four positions in GSRO, in reality there are many RCO employees that make up the GSRO. Several staff members contribute to the GSRO effort are housed in other sections within RCO. These include Eryn Couch in Communications, Chantell Krider on the Data Team, Tara Galuska provides advice and assistance in her role supporting the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Wendy Brown is key to policy and legislative issues and Director Cottingham provides strategic direction and oversight.

Since the GSRO statute doesn't identify a structure for the office, RCO is now viewing the GSRO as a group of individuals much broader than the 4 FTEs. Going forward, GSRO will be a consortium of staff who support salmon recovery more broadly.

RCO opened the recruitment for the GSRO Executive Coordinator on February 4. The new hire will have the same statewide responsibilities for salmon recovery previously, however, the new person may or may not supervise staff depending on this person's location and skills. This person will report to the RCO Director.

We plan recruit for the GSRO Program Manager position in time to allow the new person to overlap with Sarah for as long as possible. The new person in this role will continue to be our main point of contact for lead entities and regions (Manual 19, contracts, and relationships) and will be responsible for developing our annual application to the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. This person may supervise other GSRO staff and may report to the RCO Director or to the new GSRO Executive Coordinator.

The other GSRO staff will continue their current roles. When the new hires are on board RCO plans to look at job descriptions to make sure that positions and staff are aligned for the work needed. In addition, the agency hopes to find more administrative and logistics help for the GSRO.

Salmon Recovery Network Update

The Salmon Recovery Network SRNet is a caucus-based group that provides space for dialogue and information sharing through which representatives of diverse interests in salmon recovery can form cohesive messages to the legislature and the public. SRNet fosters relationships between local and regional organizations, state agencies, conservation districts, and others to strengthen the advancement of recovery goals across the state. RCO holds a contract with Triangle Associates for organizational and facilitation services to the group.

At its February phone call, members of SRNet reported on their activities associated with "Salmon Day on the Hill" and other engagement with the legislative session. The group discussed outreach materials and planned modifications to them. SRNet is organizing a short presentation for a plenary session at the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference. It continues to meet monthly, alternating conference calls and in-person meetings.

State of Salmon in Watersheds Report

See item 8.

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB)

The focus of recent Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) discussions has been the 2019-2021 budget request. The FBRB asked RCO to submit a budget request of \$50.7 million on its behalf. This amount would allow for funding of 66 restoration projects from a list of fish passage projects vetted and compiled by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The Governor's budget released in December identified \$25 million for FBRB for projects, which would fund 54 of the 66 projects on the current FBRB list. Twenty-nine of those would be on-the-ground barrier removal and restoration projects and 25 would provide final designs.

At the FBRB's January meeting WDFW staff presented research that will eventually lead to technical guidance for tidally influenced crossings, which are particularly challenging. WDFW staff also provided updates on the progress of 2017–19 funded projects, many of which are slated to be constructed this year. Staff from the Mid-Columbia Salmon Recovery Region explained to the FBRB how the Watershed Pathway project type helps meet the goals of their regional recovery plan.

There have been two recent changes to the FBRB membership. With the resignation of Steve Martin as the Executive Director of the GSRO, RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham temporarily designated Dave Caudill as the GSRO's representative on the FBRB, with Wendy Brown serving as the alternate. Dave has served as the GSRO alternate on the FBRB since its inception. Steve Manlow, executive director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board who represented the Council of Regions (COR) on the Board has stepped down, and John Foltz, executive director of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, will be the new COR representative.

Status of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Application

Each year, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) submits a single Washington State application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant funding. The application is prepared on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC).

NOAA released the PCSRF Funding Opportunity on February 1, 2019. Pre-applications are due on March 2, 2019 and final applications are due on April 2, 2019. RCO met with NWIFC and WDFW staff to coordinate our budget request and work on our respective sections of the Washington State application.

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects (NOAA's Priority 1), monitoring (Priority 2), and administration and capacity (Priority 3). Capacity has historically been the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level.

Starting in 2018, RCO removed lead entity capacity from the PCSRF application, and moved that amount of money into Priority 1 habitat projects, enabling RCO to submit the strongest possible application. This year RCO included lead entity capacity funding in its state operating budget request, and the Governor's budget did so as well.

As in previous years, Washington State's PCSRF application will request the maximum amount allowable for state requests, \$25 million. The amount received in 2018 was \$18.8 million. At the time of the writing of this memo, the federal government was operating under a continuing resolution; the amount of funds available will depend on the final federal fiscal year 2019 appropriation. Total PCSRF funding available is anticipated to be between \$25 and \$70 million.

Lead Entity and Regional Organization Capacity Contracts

At the July 2019 board meeting, both the state budget and the amount of the PCSRF award should be known. Staff will make recommendations at that time about both capacity funding levels and the grant round target.

Extending Lead Entity Contracts

The board usually makes decisions at its June meeting concerning the capacity contracts for the lead entities and regional organizations. In 2019, however, this meeting will be held in July, after the end of the state fiscal year. Regional organization grants are scheduled to end on August 31, 2019, so this shift in the board meeting schedule does not affect them. However, the existing lead entity capacity grants are scheduled to end when the fiscal year does, on June 30, 2019.

Staff recommends that the board delegate authority to the RCO Director to extend the existing lead entity grants until August 31, 2019 and to add two months of capacity funding from project returned funds to each lead entity contract (\$279,500 in total, see attachment C). These contract amendments would maintain the contractual relationships between RCO and the lead entities into the new fiscal year, would allow lead entities to continue to function normally until the board meets in July, and would allow staff and the lead entity organizations time to put new contracts in place.

Next Steps:

If approved by the board, RCO staff will initiate time extension and cost change amendments on existing lead entity contracts. At the July board meeting, staff will make recommendations about both capacity funding levels and the grant round target the next fiscal year.

Suggested Motion:

Delegate authority to the RCO Director to extend the existing lead entity grants until August 31, 2019 and to add two months of capacity funding from project returned funds to each lead entity contract.

Request from Regional Recovery Organizations

During last year's 7-month capital budget delay, regional organizations significantly reduced spending and delayed filling vacant positions, thus conserving resources while funding was uncertain. After the capital budget was passed and full funding restored, regional organizations required time to rebuild. As a result, some of the seven regional organizations may have unspent fund balances when the current contract period ends August 31, 2019.

Rather than significantly increasing spending rates to assure that all funds are spent by the time the contract ends, the regional organizations approached staff and the RCO Director to explore options for retaining use of their unspent funds into the next contracting period. Usually, unspent funds are swept at the end of the biennium.

The regional organizations estimate that the total amount that they request to carry forward is between \$615,000 and \$735,000. (This is the amount for all the regions together, not for each region.) The current regional organization grants are funded with the 2018 PCSRF award. The 2018 PCSRF award is valid for five years, until 2023.

The regional organizations propose to use the funds, if they are allowed to carry them forward, for specific regional needs. These include:

1. Updating critical elements of recovery plans
2. Improving monitoring and adaptive management plans and coordination
3. Assessing land use trends and impacts on salmon recovery
4. Focused assessment of recovery needs in priority watersheds
5. Completing statewide technical work identified by the Council of Regions as a shared need.

The regional organizations note that clarifying this issue now, with 5 months left in their current contracts, will help them plan and budget with more assurance than if the board opts to consider this issue at their July meeting.

Staff recommends that the board delegate authority to the RCO Director to consider, on a case-by-case basis, each regional organization's request to carry forward unspent capacity funding from its current grant into the next biennium. If a request is granted, the funding would be amended into the regional grant for the next biennium (i.e., the current grant would be closed, and a new contract and scope of work would be initiated).

Next Steps:

If approved by the board, each regional organization wishing to carry funds forward will work with RCO staff to prepare its request for consideration by the RCO Director.

Suggested Motion:

Delegate authority to the RCO Director to consider, on a case-by-case basis, each regional organization's request to carry forward unspent capacity funding from its current grant into the next biennium's grant contract.

Recreation and Conservation Office - Salmon Recovery Section Report

2018 Grant Round

The SRFB approved 210 projects at its December 2018 board meeting. These SRFB projects are funded with state 2017-2019 funds and the 2017 NOAA Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award. Staff are busy putting those projects under agreement. Of the 210 projects, 80 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects were approved and may receive funding from the 19-21 state capital budget in June, 2019. All of the project lists and more information about the grant round can be found in [Item 6](#) from December 2018 and the [2018 Funding Report](#).

2019 Grant Round

RCO staff, lead entities and sponsors are preparing for the 2019 grant round. The timeline was approved by the SRFB in December, and staff are making updates to Manual 18. A announcement of the grant round was recently sent out to lead entities and regions and RCO will host an application workshop webinar on March 14, 2019. Project site visits have been scheduled and the Review Panel will meet February 26, 2019 to prepare for its work.

2020 Grant Round – implementing LEAN recommendations on timeline and process

The salmon section is developing a revised timeline for the 2020 grant round to share with the Washington Salmon Coalition. Staff will meet with the coalition in February and March.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of February 1, 2019. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program (FBRB), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), the Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative program (WCRI), or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). Although RCO staff support these programs through grant administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

Table 1. Board-Funded Projects

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Salmon Projects to Date	88	397	2,407	2,892
Percentage of Total	3.0%	13.7%	83.2%	

Attachments

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between November 6, 2018 and January 31, 2019. Each project includes a link to information about the project (e.g. designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out twenty-six projects or contracts during this time period.

Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between November 5, 2018 and February 5, 2019. Staff processed 61 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Lead Entity Funding

Attachment C shows how much capacity funding each lead entity gets per year, and what the cost of amending in 2 months would be.

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from November 6, 2018-January 31, 2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date	Project Snapshot
13-1209	Hood Canal SEG	Lower Big Quilcene River Master Plan Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	12/21/2018	Project Snapshot
14-1203	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Yakima Basin Riparian & Instream Stewardship	Salmon State Projects	12/11/2018	Project Snapshot
14-1268	Capitol Land Trust	Black River Conservation	Salmon Federal Projects	1/2/2019	Project Snapshot
14-1506	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Miller Creek Culvert Replacement	Salmon Federal Projects	11/15/2018	Project Snapshot
14-1517	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Springbrook Creek Evaluation and Feasibility	Salmon Federal Projects	1/2/2019	Project Snapshot
14-1735	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Silver Side Channel Revival - Implementation	Salmon Federal Projects	1/31/2019	Project Snapshot
14-1933	San Juan Preservation Trust	Fishery Pt Neighborhood Shoreline CE Acquisition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/2/2019	Project Snapshot
14-1935	South Puget Sound SEG	Wilcox Farm Floodplain Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	1/15/2019	Project Snapshot
15-1049	Island Co. Dept. Natural Res.	Iverson Preserve Stakeholder Integration	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/19/2018	Project Snapshot
15-1051	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Sequim Bay Shoreline Rest. - Dawley Phase	Salmon Federal Projects	12/27/2018	Project Snapshot
15-1114	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	Upper Hamilton Creek Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	12/5/2018	Project Snapshot
15-1131	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Woods Creek In-Stream Restoration Partnership	Salmon Federal Projects	1/10/2019	Project Snapshot
15-1215	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Wenatchee Basin Barrier & Diversion Assessment	Salmon Federal Projects	1/23/2019	Project Snapshot
15-1247	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Williams Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	12/5/2018	Project Snapshot
15-1317	Columbia Conservation Dist	Little Tucannon Post Assisted Log Structures	Salmon Federal Projects	11/19/2018	Project Snapshot

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date	Project Snapshot
15-1364	Kalispel Tribe	Kalispel Tribe-Pend Oreille Lead Entity 2015-2017	Salmon-LE State Contracts	11/6/2018	Project Snapshot
15-1395	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Lead Entity 2015-2017	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	11/13/2018	Project Snapshot
15-1409	Lummi Nation	WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity 2015-2017	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	1/7/2019	Project Snapshot
15-1477	Tulalip Tribe	Snohomish Lead Entity PSAR Capacity Mgmt 2015-2017	PSAR-Lead Entity Contracts	11/16/2018	Project Snapshot
16-1035	Environmental Assessment Srvcs	PERS SRV Monitoring Panel EAS 2016	Salmon Federal Activities	11/9/2018	Project Snapshot
16-1037	Stillwater Sciences	PERS SRV Monitoring Stillwater Sci 2016	Salmon Federal Activities	12/11/2018	Project Snapshot
16-1472	Hood Canal SEG	Duckabush Oxbow Side Channel Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	12/12/2018	Project Snapshot
16-1648	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Lower Cascade Floodplain Restoration Feasibility	Salmon Federal Projects	12/10/2018	Project Snapshot
16-1719	Wild Fish Conservancy	Beckler Confluence LWD Design	Salmon Federal Projects	1/31/2019	Project Snapshot
17-1040	Seattle Public Utilities	Royal Arch Reach Protection	Salmon Federal Projects	12/3/2018	Project Snapshot
18-1011	Stephen Smith Fisheries Cons	HATCHERY REFORM (HSRG) - Stephen Smith	Salmon Federal Activities	1/2/2019	Project Snapshot

Attachment B, Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
17-1055	Snow Creek Riparian Recovery Project	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Salmon Federal Projects	Add worksite or property	1/2/2019	Add three properties for restoration.
17-1032	PNP Restoration Reconnection Feasibility Study	Mid-Puget Sound Fish Enh Grp	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	1/24/2019	Increase PSAR funds by \$14,570 to complete project.
16-1450	Wilcox Reach - North Shoreline Protection	Nisqually Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	11/27/2018	Reduce PSAR funds by \$370,000 as scope was complete.
16-1719	Beckler Confluence LWD Design	Wild Fish Conservancy	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	1/11/2019	Decrease match funds by \$1,900.
16-1457	South Prairie Creek Acq & Design - Decker	Forterra	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	1/29/2019	Increase funds by \$82,556 to make up for appraisal adjustment and decrease match percentage from 21.8% to 15.3%.
15-1215	Wenatchee Basin Barrier & Diversion Assessment	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	11/20/2018	Reduce sponsor match from 18.4% to 16.3%.
14-2260	Frazer Creek Fish Passage Emergency Response	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	11/12/2018	Increase funds by \$110,954 to adjust for increased size of bridge.
17-1180	M2 Mid-Sugar Acquisition	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	12/28/2018	Reduce SRFB funds by \$20,000 as property purchased was less than expected.
15-1165	Pressentin Park Restoration Phase 2 and 3	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	11/27/2018	Decrease PSAR funding needed to complete project.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>15-1048</u>	Camano Is State Park Tidal Marsh Feasibility	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	1/8/2019	Reduce PSAR amount by \$100,000 to adjust for cost of work.
<u>15-1219</u>	Icicle Creek-Boulder Field-Wild Fish to Wilderness	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	1/22/2019	Increase total project cost by \$703,811, with \$108,000 from SRFB and \$595,811 from USFWS match.
<u>17-1221</u>	Newaukum Trio	Lewis Conservation District	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	12/19/2018	Increase cost by \$3,000 to adjust for unanticipated work needs.
<u>15-1119</u>	McCormick Creek Restoration	Clark Public Utilities	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	11/27/2018	Reduce sponsor match from \$266,000 to \$160,000.
<u>17-1070</u>	Ridgefield Pits Design	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	1/30/2019	Increase SRFB funds by \$26,781 for additional scope of work.
<u>15-1202</u>	HC Summer Chum Nearshore Habitat Use Assessment	Wild Fish Conservancy	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	12/27/2018	Increase SRFB funds by \$38,600 to complete project.
<u>04-1680</u>	Holmes Floodplain Property Protection	Yakama Nation	Salmon State Projects	Scope Change	12/27/2018	Amend project agreement to allow for a 3 acre partial conversion and approved replacement property.
<u>16-1459</u>	North Fork Touchet River Reach 2 Design	Umatilla Confederated Tribes	Salmon Federal Projects	Scope Change	1/23/2019	Amend scope of work to include final designs and more accurately reflect project deliverables.

Attachment C, Lead Entity Capacity Funding

	Lead Entity	LE amt per month	LE amt per 2 months
Lead Entity in Regional Organization	Fiscal Year		
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	\$80,000	\$6,667	\$13,333.33
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	\$80,000	\$6,667	\$13,333.33
Puget Sound Partnership	\$0	\$0	\$0
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	\$65,000	\$5,417	\$10,833.33
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	\$135,000	\$11,250	\$22,500.00
Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	\$0	\$0	\$0
Yakima Valley Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board	\$65,000	\$5,417	\$10,833.33
Lead Entity			
Grays Harbor County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Island County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Klickitat County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Mason Conservation District Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	\$62,500	\$5,208	\$10,416.67
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity	\$80,000	\$6,667	\$13,333.33
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Pacific County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Pend Oreille Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Pierce County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
San Juan County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity	\$80,000	\$6,667	\$13,333.33
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	\$62,500	\$5,208	\$10,416.67
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Snohomish County)	\$62,000	\$5,167	\$10,333.33

	Lead Entity	LE amt per month	LE amt per 2 months
Thurston Conservation District Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$10,000.00
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	\$65,000	\$5,417	\$10,833.33
TOTAL	\$1,677,000	\$139,750	\$279,500.00

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference—Update

Prepared By: Sarah Gage, Program Manager, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office

Summary

This memo summarizes the planning for the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference, to be held April 8-9 at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Overview

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) has hosted six biennial conferences since 2007, and the conference has grown in scope, size, subject matter, and administrative complexity over that period. Following board discussion at previous meetings, staff have worked to professionalize aspects of the conference management.

As reported in December 2018, preparations for the [2019 Salmon Recovery Conference: Facing the Future Together](#) are underway. The conference management and registration services contractor, Western Washington University-Conference Services (WWU-CS), selected after a competitive process, worked with RCO to obtain the Greater Tacoma Convention Center for April 7–9, 2019. Exhibitors will be able to set up on Sunday, April 7. The conference itself will run on Monday–Tuesday, April 8–9.

Conference Content

The Steering Committee provided guidance on overall themes of the conference: the 20th anniversary of Washington’s Salmon Recovery Act, lessons learned in the past 20 years, the need to work together, and overall, the urgency and importance of recovering salmon.

Using that guidance, the Steering Committee and the Program Committee reviewed 73 session proposals and made difficult decisions to select 17 sessions—12 standard format sessions and 5 panel discussions. The conference schedule accommodates 20 sessions total.

The call for abstracts (i.e., the talks that will be included in the sessions or posters) closed on January 31, with 178 completed abstracts submitted. Seventeen of these are posters; 161 are abstracts for talks. Of the 161 talks, 77 indicated that a session chair had invited them. Session chairs are evaluating abstracts during the first half of February and making recommendations to the Program Committee. The Program Committee plans to finalize the content of the conference by March 1.

The conference schedule includes two plenary sessions. The opening plenary, on the entire first morning of the conference, will encompass the past, present, and future of salmon recovery in Washington. The line-up for the opening plenary at the time of the writing of this memo, includes welcomes from the co-hosts of the conference,¹ remarks by Governor Gary Locke (who led the development of "Extinction is not an option"), a panel titled "Honoring Tribal Treaty Rights through Bold Salmon Recovery Actions," a conversation between Orca Task Force chairs Les Purce and Stephanie Solien, and a final keynote speaker.

The plenary session on the second day, which will take place just prior to the final breakout sessions of the conference, is designed to emphasize collaboration and looking ahead. Topics will be the International Year of the Salmon (an initiative of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission) and Washington State's Salmon Recovery Network.

Staff will provide an update on the conference content at the board meeting.

Conference Administration

On the administrative side, WWU-CS has been using a list of more than 2,100 contacts provided from RCO's PRISM database to send e-mail blasts about the call for sessions, the call for abstracts, and early registration. Due to reports that the e-mails from WWU-CS have been routed to spam folders for some recipients, RCO staff are also sending out periodic reminders. In addition, RCO Communications staff are keeping the conference Web site up-to-date and providing a steady presence on RCO's social media channels.

Registration

Early registration runs through March 7. This offers the lowest price registration to the conference for exhibit space and for most people—a 22% savings. Staff will provide an update on attendee and exhibitor registration numbers at the board meeting. RCO staff have already registered all members of the board.

¹Co-hosts of the conference are RCO/SRFB, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Ecology with its Office of Chehalis Basin and Office of the Columbia River.

On March 8, registration prices will go up. Also on that date, additional types of registration will become available (i.e., one-day registration and student/Corps member registration)².

Student/Corps Member Participation

As at previous conferences, students and Corps member registration has been kept as low as possible (\$180). The conference has twenty volunteer positions available for student/Corps members. By assisting with a session at the conference, these volunteers become eligible for a refund of their registration fee. These opportunities will become available March 8.

Donations in any amount can be designated to support student participation in the conference, either online at the registration site or by mail. The information is on the sponsorship sheet (Attachment A).

Staff are working with an intern from the University of Washington's Program on the Environment capstone program to increase outreach to students across the state.

Sponsorships

RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham, working with staff, has reached out successfully to previous conference sponsors and to additional organizations and colleagues. Several new sponsors are generously supporting the 2019 conference.

Staff will provide an update of sponsorships at the board meeting.

² Corps members participate in AmeriCorps, Washington Conservation Corps, or Veteran Conservation Corps.

SPONSORSHIP SHEET



SALMON RECOVERY
CONFERENCE

APRIL 8-9, 2019

SUPPORTER APPLICATION

Organization Name

Organization URL

Contact Name

Address

City / State or Province / Zip or Postal

Telephone (Day)

Fax

Email (used for receipt)

Sponsorship Levels:

☐ \$15,000+ – Co-Host

☐ \$10,000 – Platinum

☐ \$5,000 – Gold

☐ \$2,500 – Silver

☐ \$1,500 – Bronze

☐ \$1,000 – Promoter

☐ **Poster Session Refreshment Sponsor - \$10,000**

Exclusive sponsor, signage / acknowledgment at sponsored event.

Tier Name	Co-Host	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Promoter
Amount	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,000
Fair Market Value*	\$2,109	\$1,309	\$509	\$509	\$509	\$509
Conference Program Listing	Top Level	2nd Level	3rd Level	Medium Logo	Small Logo	Listing
Organization, Name, Logo, & Link on Conference Materials	Top Level, Largest	2nd Level, Larger	3rd Level, Large	4th Level, Medium	5th Level, Small	6th Level, Listing
Recognition at Opening Plenary Session	Yes - last mentioned	Yes - 2nd to last mentioned	Yes - 3rd to last mentioned	Yes	No	No
Exhibit Space	Prime Location	Prime Location	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Complimentary Conference Registrations	5	3	2	1	1	1

**Per U.S. IRS regulations, the deductible amount of your charitable contribution is limited to the amount that exceeds the fair market value of the goods or services received in exchange for your sponsorship.*

SALMON RECOVERY
CONFERENCE

APRIL 8-9, 2019

SPONSOR FEES (Payments must be made in U.S. funds)

When your payment has been received, you will be sent a receipt as well as additional information regarding your sponsorship.

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- A check in U.S. funds for \$_____ is enclosed. Make check payable to WWU Foundation.*
- Or include your credit card information below.
- Or contact clara.kapustka@wwu.edu to arrange other forms of payment.

We would like to pay by:

☐ Visa • ☐ MasterCard • ☐ Discover • ☐ American Express

Card number: _____

Name on card: _____

Expiration: _____ 3 digit CSC: _____

Signature: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Western Washington
University Foundation
MS 9034
516 High Street Bellingham,
WA 98225 USA

**For additional information
please visit:** www.rco.wa.gov

Questions? Please contact:
salmonconference@rco.wa.gov

STUDENT SUPPORT:

The organizers of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference invite you to help us make the conference accessible to students! Your generous support will help qualified students attend the conference.

☐ YES! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support student participation at the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference.

In U.S. Funds: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other _____

☐ I would like to underwrite the cost of _____ student registration(s) at \$180 for a total gift of \$_____.

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Please charge the credit card listed above

*Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Recreation and Conservation Office have contracted with WWU-Conference Services for conference management support for the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference. The Western Washington University Foundation is serving as the fiscal agent for tax-deductible sponsorships and contributions.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Communications Update

Prepared By: Susan Zemek, Communications Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the progress of the implementation of the communications plan and outlines the work for 2019.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Overview

RCO communications staff developed a 6-year, agency-wide, multi-board communications plan, which began in 2013. The plan has three main goals:

- **Goal 1:** Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.

To accomplish this goal, communications staff focused on creating a compelling story about the benefit of investing in RCO's programs and then worked with the media and partners to help spread those messages.

- **Goal 2:** Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary, ethical, and open grant agency.

For this goal, communications staff focused on keeping partners informed of RCO activities and involved in its issues.

- **Goal 3:** Strengthen RCO's internal communications.

For this goal, communications staff worked to ensure RCO staff had the tools they needed to be good communicators and ambassadors of RCO.

Appendix A contains a complete list of the salmon-related strategies, activities, and tasks used to implement the goals above. The plan also contained several measures to gauge effectiveness of the actions, which are below.

Measurement 1: Development of key messages for all three boards

Key messages have been developed for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. They are as follows:

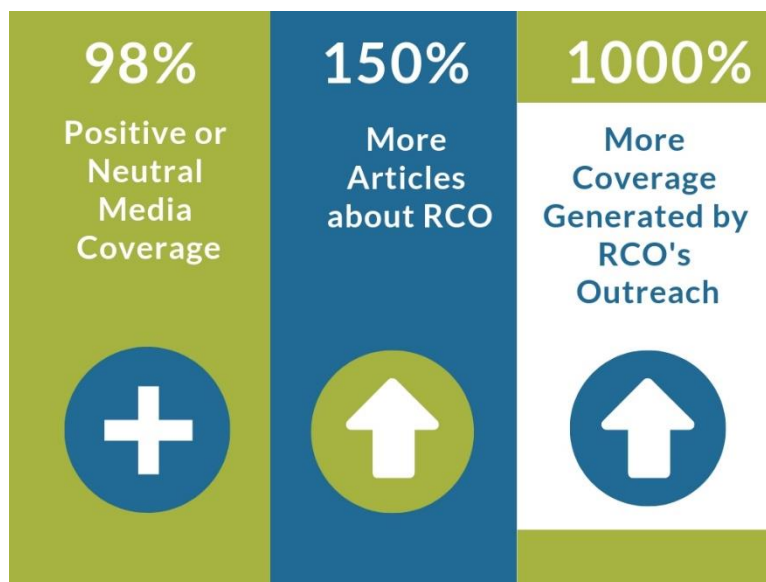
- Salmon are ours to save.
- Salmon recovery brings multiple benefits.
- Salmon are in trouble.
- Our statewide locally led road to recovery approach works.
- The challenges are outpacing progress.
- Time to step up and make good on our investments.

Measurement 2: Increased media coverage generated by RCO outreach efforts

Media coverage of RCO has improved significantly since the start of the communications program in 2003. In fact, the number of news articles written about the agency has increased 150 percent from 131 articles in 2003 to 330 in 2018. More than 4,500 articles have been written about RCO since the start of its communications program.

Not only are people seeing more about RCO, but what they are seeing is positive the majority of time.

In addition, RCO, through its media releases and social media, is generating more coverage. The number of news articles resulting from RCO outreach has improved 1,000 percent since 2003.

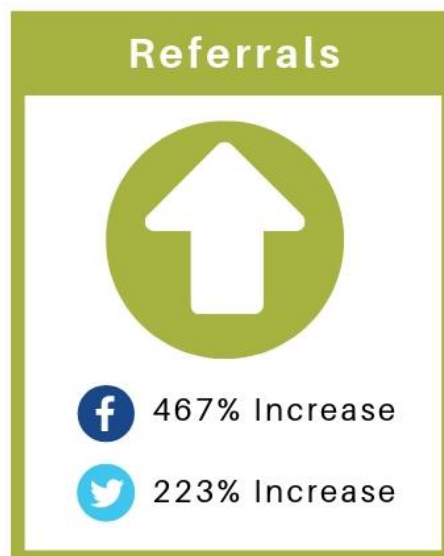


Measurement 3: Increased visits to places on the RCO Web sites targeted by social media tools

To increase the visits to RCO's Web sites from social media, we first needed to grow our social media audiences. In 2018, RCO hired a communications specialist who splits her time between work for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and social media. The dedicated staff to social media is paying off.

RCO has seen referrals from social media to our Web site increase by more than 467 percent from Facebook and more than 223 percent from Twitter since 2013.

People really like our salmon content. In 2018, RCO's Facebook posts that contained the word "salmon" got on average more than two times the likes, comments, shares, and Web site link clicks than posts that didn't. Posts that contained the word salmon on Twitter saw 20 percent more engagement on average than posts that didn't in 2018. Salmon-related videos on Facebook had more than 11,000 views in the past year.



Measurement 4: Appearance by RCO at partner annual meetings and community events to share RCO's missions

RCO leadership makes appearances throughout the year at partner quarterly and annual meetings and at community events. Below is a list of such salmon-related appearances since 2013.

Community Appearances	
Event	City
San Juan Islands National Monument Celebration with Secretary Salazar	Anacortes
Seahurst Shoreline Restoration Project Groundbreaking	Burien
Seahurst Park Ecosystem Restoration Ribbon Cutting	Burien
Chehalis River Basin Land Trust Gala	Centralia
Smith Island Estuary Restoration	Everett
Upper Carlson Floodplain Restoration Project Celebration	Fall City
Stemilt Partnership Celebration	Malaga
Qwuloolt Estuary Levee Breach Celebration	Marysville
Mission Creek Ribbon Cutting	Olympia
Office of the Chief Information Officer Presentation on State of Salmon in Watersheds	Olympia
Northwest Power and Conservation Council Panel Presentation	Olympia
Salmon Day on the Hill	Olympia
Darlin Creek Preserve	Olympia
Lyre Conservation Area Grand Opening	Port Angeles

Community Appearances

Dungeness River Bridge Ribbon Cutting	Sequim
Three Crabs Estuary Restoration	Sequim
Skokomish Estuary Restoration Ribbon Cutting	Shelton
Oakland Bayshore Celebration	Shelton
Salmon Stories Film Series	Tacoma

Measurement 5: Development of products contained in the communications plan

The majority of products have been produced. A full list is in Attachment A.

2019 and Beyond

Although the communications plan has expired, staff continues to work on ongoing communications and items that were delayed. In 2019, staff will focus on the following three elements:

1. Successful promotion of the Salmon Recovery Conference

Efforts will be three-pronged: media, social media, and on site. Staff will be sending out a news release about the conference and making contact with reporters and editors. Because media coverage cannot be guaranteed, staff also has been and will continue to promote the conference on social media. For example, below is a list of some of the things staff has done to engage salmon recovery partners:

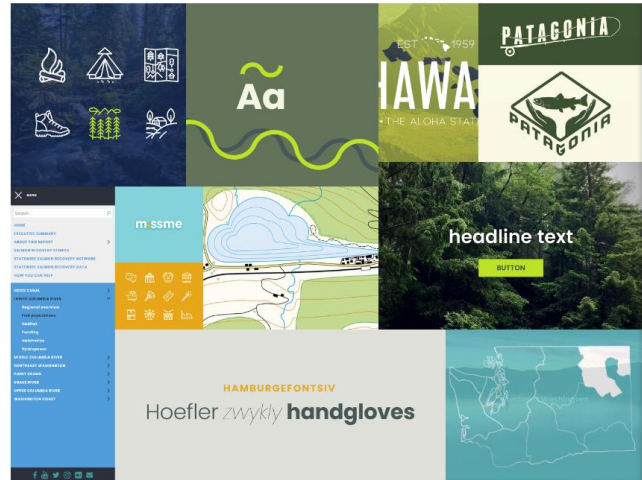
- Created a list of salmon-focused accounts on Twitter to generate salmon-related content that we then could share to our account.
- Curated salmon-related Twitter and Instagram posts using the hashtag #SalmonRecovery to unify messaging and partners.
- Featured salmon recovery videos and story maps to expand reach beyond YouTube.
- Incorporated LIVE video to leverage Facebook's algorithm and reach more viewers. Topics included Family Forest Fish Passage Program and a previous SRFB meeting.

At the conference, staff will be creating a new display booth and handout materials to share the new salmon recovery messages.

2. Redesign of the agency's Web Site

RCO has begun to redesign its four Web sites to make them more compatible with mobile technology, more accessible to people with disabilities, and more modern. It's been about 10 years since RCO last redesigned its Web sites. Since then, more people are visiting the sites on telephones (about 20 percent of visits).

RCO has hired a consultant to redesign its family of four Web sites. The consultants have completed interviews with staff and customers, analyzed computer data about customers' use of the sites, and held user testing. The top conclusion was that RCO's main site needed to be clearer about what the agency does, namely give out grants. The consultants found that most people visit RCO's main site for technical information in the grants. The new site will be designed with that in mind and will be focused on helping grant applicants.



Mood board for redesigned Web site depicting colors, fonts, and overall feel.

3. Development of a new communications plan

Staff has compiled all the previous communications plans written for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Salmon Recovery Network as well as those created by regional organizations and now will begin mapping out the work to be done during the next 5 years.

Attachment A: Communications Plan Status Report

Activity	Tasks	Status
Goal 1: Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.		
Strategy 1: Create compelling information about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions.		
Activity 1: Develop Key Messages	Tasks 1: Develop key messages	Complete
Strategy 2: Engage the media in telling the story of RCO's missions.		
Activity 1: Promote RCO's missions to the media through a combination of news releases, editorial boards, guest editorials, letters to the editor, reporters' tours, and interviews.	Task 2: Create SRFB news releases that focus on the salmon grant awards and release of the <i>State of Salmon in Watersheds</i> report.	Complete
	Task 4: For significant topics only, pitch stories to the media.	Complete. Will pitch the salmon recovery conference in April.
Activity 2: Update the media distribution list. Try to add blogs and other social media outlets.		Complete. Media list is updated with each news release. Larger update is underway.
Strategy 3: Engage partners in educating their constituents about RCO's missions.		
Activity 1: Ask partners to share information with their constituents about RCO's missions.	Task 1: Share media releases, key messages, and specially written stories with key partners, asking them to use the information on their Web sites and in their constituent newsletters and social media.	Complete. Regularly ask them to share grant round key dates, board policy public comment opportunities, and grant award news.
Activity 2: Recognize top ranking projects through RCO awards.	Task 1: Create a recognition award for top ranked projects completed each year.	Complete. 10 Bravo Awards have been given out to date.
	Task 2: Promote the noteworthy project designated by the SRFB through news releases, Web postings, and social media.	Completed. New releases, web and social media postings done with each Bravo Award.
Activity 3: Attend annual meetings and conferences of key partners to share RCO's missions.	Task 1: Attend annual conferences and trade shows of key partners.	Complete
Strategy 4: Educate the Public		
Activity 1: Make our Web sites and publications sources of information about	Task 1: Develop interactive features that engage the public.	Held for Web site redesign in 2019. State of Salmon in Watersheds is only interactive feature to date.

Activity	Tasks	Status
the benefits of RCO's missions.		
	Task 2: Incorporate more videos on our Web sites.	Complete
Activity 2: Develop social media tools to draw people to RCO's Web sites.	Task 1: Develop a Facebook site or blog to highlight projects, the benefits of RCO's mission, and the work of our partners.	Complete. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and LinkedIn sites developed.
Activity 3: Schedule agency leaders to speak at community events.	Task 1: Schedule agency representatives to share RCO's missions at special community events and large gatherings of stakeholders.	Complete
Goal 2: Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary, ethical, and open grant agency.		
Strategy 1: Increase partners' understanding of RCO grant processes and programs.		
Activity 1: Keep partners informed of RCO activities and involved in its issues.	Task 1: Create a director's electronic newsletter that informs partners of RCO activities and ways to participate.	Partially complete. Director's internal newsletter turned into blog but is delivered to only a few external partners. This will be a feature when the Web site is redesigned in 2019.
	Task 2: Convert <i>Grant News You Can Use</i> into an electronic newsletter.	Complete.
	Task 3: Schedule regular meetings between the director and key stakeholder groups and elected officials to discuss issues and hear the latest RCO activities.	Complete
	Task 4: Participate in the annual meetings and conferences of key stakeholders.	Complete
	Task 5: When seeking comment from partners on policy issues, ensure adequate response time and wide distribution of information.	Complete. Special outreach efforts are made for all board policy decisions.
	Task 6: Educate legislators, the congressional delegation, and other elected officials about RCO's grant processes and programs by sending periodic updates and scheduled meetings.	Complete. Agency leadership schedules the meetings. Communications staff provide educational publications.
	Task 7: Continue support of agency's online grant workshops as a means of delivering	Complete

Activity	Tasks	Status
	information about RCO processes to partners.	
Strategy 2: Ensure RCO's grant processes and programs are accessible to the public.		
Activity 1: Make our publications and online efforts sources of information about RCO's grant programs and processes.	Task 1: Regularly review materials to ensure they are up-to-date, easily understood by the public, and clearly explain our grant processes.	Complete
	Task 2: Develop information graphics that explain the relationship between RCO and its partners (SRFB, lead entities, etc.)	Delayed
	Task 3: Develop generic PowerPoint presentations and talking points about the agency and its grant processes for use by staff and board members.	Underway
Activity 3: Look for ways to share RCO information on the publications and Web sites of our partners.	Task 1: Investigate getting grant information in the grant portals of other organizations.	Delayed, although the Salmon Section has created a multi-agency portal for salmon and water quality grant information.
Strategy 3: Strengthen agency identity.		
Activity 1: Develop a unified look for agency publications, presentations and e-mail.	Task 1: Develop graphic standards and templates for agency publications, presentations, and Internet presence.	Underway. There are unified standards for board PowerPoints, fact sheets, manuals, and most Web sites but not for all publications.
Strategy 4: Provide tools for staff to be RCO brand ambassadors		
Activity 1: Ensure staff has the communications tools they need to do their jobs successfully and understand their role as RCO brand ambassadors.	Task 1: Regularly visit section meetings to discuss communications issues and query staff on needs for communications products.	Partially complete. Regular communication happens but not a section meetings.
	Task 2: Develop template talking points for when they are at speaking engagements.	Complete
	Task 3: Collect and distribute links of all news coverage of RCO programs to help staff stay informed.	Complete. Weekly distribution to staff and board members.

Activity	Tasks	Status
Goal 3: Strengthen RCO's internal communications.		
Strategy 1: Ensure there are tools to keep staff involved in and informed of agency activities.		
Activity 1: Survey staff about use of internal communications tools.	Task 1: Survey staff to see if the current communication tools are useful. Gauge how well agency leadership is keeping them informed of major decisions and recognizing their valuable contributions.	Delayed
Activity 2: Develop routine ways for staff to stay informed and engaged in agency activities.	Task 1: Develop a plan for improving internal communications.	Delayed

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Gold Basin Project of Concern Follow-Up

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the status of the Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project (#18-1532). The project was submitted on the Stillaguamish Lead Entity ranked project list in the 2018 grant round. The Review Panel tagged this project as a "project of concern (POC)." The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) delayed its decision on this project and formed a subcommittee to further discuss the project before bringing it back to the SRFB at its March 6, 2019 meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

Gold Basin Project

The [Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project](#) (#18-1532) was submitted to the SRFB on the Stillaguamish Lead Entity Ranked list in the Puget Sound Region during the 2018 grant round. The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians requested \$395,005 of 2019-2021 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds for a restoration project on the Stillaguamish River.

The Gold Basin Landslide Restoration project was given a Project of Concern (POC) status by the SRFB Review Panel, which means they did not recommend the SRFB fund this project.

SRFB Process

The SRFB Review Panel visited the project in the field, reviewed all application materials, met with the project sponsor in Olympia, and made a final determination of POC for this PSAR project using the following criteria:

#3. The project is dependent on addressing other key conditions or processes first.

#5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.

Review Panel evaluation criteria can be found in Attachment A.

Prior to any SRFB funding meeting, a lead entity has the option to remove a POC from their list¹ or keep a POC on their list. If they keep the POC on their list and the board does not approve the project, the requested funding amount goes back to the PSAR account for use elsewhere in Puget Sound. If they remove the project from their list, the lead entity can use the funds for alternate projects lower on their list. The Stillaguamish Lead Entity decided to keep the Gold Basin Landslide Restoration project on their list, knowing that it carried the POC designation.

The SRFB did not make a funding decision on the project. They asked for a subcommittee of the board to meet with the sponsor to further discuss the merits of the project, with the project coming back to the SRFB at their March 2019 meeting for decision. The subcommittee plans to meet with the sponsor prior to the March SRFB meeting.

Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project Information

Project application information, including attachments and materials submitted to date, is in PRISM, and can be found here, [Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project](#).

Project Description

This project will create a live crib wall structure to prevent the continuous supply of fine sediment from entering the South Fork at Gold Basin, which reduces the available habitat for spawning and rearing and causes flood issues as the channel widens and shallows downstream. The 3,000-foot crib wall will be placed on the right bank of the South Fork adjacent to a large alluvial deposit from the three lobes of the landslide. In addition, a sediment detention facility will be placed downstream of the alluvium preventing much of the fine sediment coming out of the lobes from reaching the river. Work will be completed in the 2019 field season. The project is directly across the river from the Gold Basin Campground. NEPA and an environmental assessment have been completed for the project. Permits are being developed currently. This project is primarily designed to address the needs of Chinook salmon but will also improve habitat for Coho, pinks, steelhead, and bull trout as well as numerous other aquatic invertebrates.

Next Steps

Decision

¹ The board's policy about "projects of concern" is to provide a disincentive to bringing problematic projects to the board.

The RCO staff and subcommittee (Erik Neatherlin, David Troutt, and Stephen Bernath) will report on their discussion with the project sponsor and will make a recommendation to the full board.

The sponsor will have a second opportunity to brief the SRFB on the project. Then the board will be asked to make a decision on whether or not to approve the project for 2019-2021 PSAR funding.

Motion:

Option 1: Move to approve project #18-1532, the Gold Basin Landslide Restoration PSAR project, in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the [2018 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report](#), dated December 5, 2018, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

Option 2: Move to not approve project #18-1532, the Gold Basin Landslide Restoration PSAR project, and allow the funds to remain in the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Account, to be used across the region.

Attachment A: Manual 18, Appendix K

Review Panel Evaluation Criteria

To help ensure that every project funded by the SRFB is technically sound, the SRFB Review Panel will note for the SRFB any projects it believes have the following:

- Low benefit to salmon
- A low likelihood of being successful
- Costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits of the project

Projects designated as “Projects of Concern” have a low benefit to salmon, a low likelihood of success, or costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits. The review panel will not otherwise rate, score, or rank projects. RCO expects that projects will follow best management practices and will meet local, state, and federal permitting requirements.

The SRFB Review Panel uses the SRFB Individual Comment Form to capture its comments on individual projects. To download a template of the [comment form](#), visit the RCO Web site.

When the review panel identifies a “Project of Concern,” the applicant will receive a comment form identifying the evaluation criteria that determined the status. Before the regional area meetings, the regional recovery organization that represents the area in which the project is located can contact the review panel chair if there are further questions. The regional area meetings represent an opportunity for the review panel to discuss project issues and work with the regional recovery organizations, the applicant, the lead entity, and representatives from regional technical teams to resolve issues before the SRFB reviews the list of “Projects of Concern.”

Criteria

For acquisition and restoration projects, the panel will determine that a project is not technically sound and cannot be significantly improved if it meets the following criteria:

1. It is unclear there is a problem to salmonids the project is addressing. For acquisition projects, this criterion relates to the lack of a clear threat if the property is not acquired.
2. Information provided or current understanding of the system is not sufficient to determine the need for, or the benefit of, the project.
 - Incomplete application or proposal.
 - Project goal or objectives not clearly stated or do not address salmon habitat protection or restoration.
 - Project sponsor has not responded to review panel comments.

- Acquisition parcel prioritization (for multi-site proposals) is not provided or the prioritization does not meet the project's goal or objectives.
- 3. The project is dependent on addressing other key conditions or processes first.
- 4. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits and the project sponsor failed to justify the costs to the satisfaction of the review panel.
- 5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.
- 6. The project may be in the wrong sequence with other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed.
- 7. The project does not work towards restoring natural watershed processes or prohibits natural processes.
- 8. It is unclear how the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
- 9. It is unlikely that the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
- 10. There is low potential for threat to habitat conditions if the project is not completed.
- 11. The project design is not adequate or the project is sited improperly.
- 12. The stewardship description is insufficient or there is inadequate commitment to stewardship and maintenance and this likely would jeopardize the project's success.
- 13. The focus is on supplying a secondary need, such as education, streambank stabilization to protect property, or water supply.

Additional Criteria for Riparian Restoration Projects

- A. For riparian restoration projects, the review panel will evaluate the riparian planting width based on the site specific conditions and determine whether the proposed width will provide a benefit to salmon recovery and achieve goals as articulated in the regional recovery plans.

Additional Criteria for Planning Projects

For planning projects (e.g. assessment, design, inventories, and studies), the review panel will consider the criteria for acquisition and restoration projects (1-13) and the following additional criteria. The review panel will determine that a project is not technically sound and cannot improve significantly if:

- A. The project does not address an information need important to understanding the watershed, is not directly relevant to project development or sequencing, and will not clearly lead to beneficial projects.

- B. The methodology does not appear to be appropriate to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
- C. There are significant constraints to the implementation of projects following completion of the planning project.
- D. The project does not clearly lead to project design or does not meet the criteria for filling a data gap.
- E. The project does not appear to be coordinated with other efforts in the watershed or does not use appropriate methods and protocols.

Attachment B: Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project Review Panel Comment Form

Lead Entity:	Stillaguamish River LE
Project Number:	18-1532
Project Name:	Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project
Project Sponsor:	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
Grant Manager:	Bahr, Amee

	Date	Status⁸
Post-Application	9/26/18	POC
Final	10/23/18	POC

This is a proposed restoration project for \$600,000 (with 15% match). The overall project cost is \$3.4 Million in 2016 Dollars. The wood has already been secured and is stored in Granite Falls. Final designs are complete. The project benefit will be to reduce fine sediment inputs to the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River by constructing a large crib wall and sediment retention structure. SRFB funded a Landslide Feasibility and Design project completed in 2012 (Project #09-1391).

FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS
Date: 10/23/18
Final Project Status: POC
Review Panel Member(s): Review Panel
1. If the project is a POC, please identify the SRFB criteria used to determine the status of the project:

- #3. The project is dependent on addressing other key conditions or processes first.
- #5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.

2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:

3. Other comments:

The Review Panel appreciates the additional information provided by the sponsor about the geologic setting and evolution of the Gold Basin landslide over time. Unfortunately, the Review Panel continues to have concerns related to the impact to natural floodplain processes posed by the presence of the USFS campground and the potential for increasing the volume and mobility of future landslides because of saturated sediments captured behind the proposed crib-wall.

POST-APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: September 26, 2018

Project Status: POC

Full Panel Review

1. If the project is a POC, identify the SRFB criteria used to determine the status of the project:

#3. The project is dependent on addressing other key conditions or processes first.

The project site is located directly across the SF Stillaguamish River from the U.S. Forest Service Gold Basin Campground. The campground is currently closed, but the location remains a popular location for year-round day-use recreation and the USFS may reopen it in the future. A recent USGS report evaluating the Gold Basin landslide area suggests a 37.5% probability of co-seismic landslide failures in the next 50 years. Given the substantial probability of future landslide failures, the optimal scenario for salmon recovery would include permanently removing the public recreation amenities to allow for full restoration of floodplain processes.

#5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.

The liquefaction of water-saturated sediments at the base of a landslide has important implications for the mobility of that landslide. The capture and retention of a large quantity of fine sediment behind the crib wall that is proposed in the current project design has the potential to exacerbate the volume of sediment delivery to the river in the event of a future landslide, with resulting severe impacts to salmonid habitat conditions.

#7. The project does not work towards restoring natural watershed processes or prohibits natural processes.

Sediment delivery into the SF Stillaguamish is a natural watershed process that is important for maintaining salmon habitat. While the WRIA 5 salmon recovery plan identifies fine sediment as a limiting factor, its main impact on habitat conditions is in the flatter, lower-energy reach of the river below Granite Falls and not in the steeper, boulder streambed that characterizes the reach of the river for several miles downstream of Gold Basin project site. Further, SRFB-funded sediment reduction projects in the Stillaguamish and other watersheds have focused primarily on reducing human-caused sources of sediment delivery, such as by treating forest roads, rather than on constructing artificial barriers to natural sediment transport.

2. **If the project is a POC, identify the changes that would make this a technically sound project:**
3. **If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:**
4. **General comments:**

The Review Panel appreciates the additional material that the sponsor provided regarding the Gold Basin landslide.



SPONSOR RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS:

If your project is not cleared (i.e. has a status of NMI, Conditioned, or POC) you must update your proposal, PRISM questions, or attachments as necessary to address the review panel's comments. Use track changes when updating your proposal. Fill out the section at the end of your project proposal to document how you responded to comments.

⁸CLEAR=Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED=Cleared to proceed with a condition; NMI=Needs More Information;
POC=Project of Concern; NOTEWORTHY=Exemplary Project

DRAFT APPLICATION / SITE VISIT REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: 4/9/18	Project Site Visit?	X	Yes	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Review Panel Member(s): Powers, Cramer

1. Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria:

Provide background geologic information on current assessments of the slide, risks of future potential slides and if WA DNR Geological Survey has been consulted on this project. In addition, provide information about the anticipated project longevity, particularly of the sedimentation detention basins as they fill with sediment. If the cribwall and dams were to fail, what are the risks of stored sediment travelling a significant distance downstream and contributing to a large episodic deposition of fine sediment?

During the site visit, there was a discussion about turbidity monitoring upstream and downstream from the project site. Please submit the results in Prism and summarize the findings in the final application.

Does the USFS plan to close the Gold Basin Campground and if not, provide additional information about public safety risks and concerns should the cribwall and dams fail?

2. Missing Pre-application information.

Background geologic assessment (current).

The application is not complete. As such, the Review Panel may have additional comments once the application is complete and submitted as a final application. Please provide the most recent alternatives analysis and project design with supporting documentation in Prism.

3. General Comments:

The project team provided a very good design discussion on site, and presented a long history of expertise in assessing the

problem and how the site compares/differs to the project at the Oso slide.

It would be helpful to understand the funding sources and timelines, which will result in a successful project relative to the SRFB request.

4. Staff Comments:

Thank you for submitting this project. Please refer to the Review Panel comments listed above. Please update your proposal to reflect clear goals and objectives, not referencing the report. Please attach documentation regarding the background geologic information. Please review the budget spreadsheet attached to PRISM to confirm the costs. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.



SPONSOR RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS:

Revise your project proposals using “track changes” and update any relevant PRISM questions and attachments. Fill out the section at the end of your project proposal to document how you responded to comments.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Lean Study Update and Options for Developing a Large, Complex Project Investment Program

Prepared By: Director Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo summarizes a portion of Item 7. It describes options for the SRFB to consider in designing a statewide competitive grant program for large complex projects not currently funded by SRFB, unless the projects are phased into smaller components.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

The 2017-19 Capital Budget included a proviso for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) to execute a Lean study to bring efficiencies to the salmon recovery project development and prioritization process. This Lean study focused on the point in the process from identification of a project through final approval for funding by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The intent was to review and analyze the efficiency, effectiveness and content of the process flow and implement recommendations from the study.

At the December 2018 board meeting, the SRFB approved the recommendations from the Lean Study and the timeline for development and implementation. See the attached tracker for the status of development and implementation.

The Lean Study aimed to identify and plan for impactful changes to the SRFB salmon recovery project development and prioritization process. During the various related stakeholder workshops, meetings and surveys, many participants pointed out that the current process of allocating funds by region and, in some cases, sub-allocating funds

by watershed (lead entity) prevents the large, complex projects from successfully competing for funding through the SRFB. It was felt that the allocations and insufficient appropriations tended to result in only the smaller and less complex projects being funded by the SRFB.

In response to these concerns, the study recommended that the SRFB develop a large, complex project investment program. Below is the complete explanation of Recommendation 3.1.

Recommendation 3.1: Develop a Large, Complex Project Investment Program	
Purpose	A key finding from the Lean Study is that it is difficult to fund the larger and more complex projects through the current funding allocation process. These projects often could have significant benefits to salmon recovery if implemented. The purpose of this recommendation is to establish a program to set aside funds for these larger projects to be awarded at a State level.
Description	Create a grant program for larger, more complex projects to be awarded at the State level on a biennial basis that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is designated to receive funding above the status quo grant round amount (set by board based on PCSRF award and state capital budget; benchmark 2018)• Considers sequencing of projects• Includes planning and design of these larger, more complex projects• Incentivizes other parties to come to the table• Allows all Lead Entities to submit projects
Approach	RCO Policy group drafts options for the targeted investment program including eligibility requirements and evaluation approach. Options are reviewed with WSC, Regions and SRFB. A proposal is then developed including detailed evaluation process for adoption by the SRFB.
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop options – 3/19 – 5/19• Review options with WSC and COR – 5/19 – 6/19• Review options with SRFB – 7/19• Develop proposal – 8/19-9/19• SRFB final review – 9/19• Adopt – 12/19

Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCO policy group drafts options and proposal for program • Lead Entities and Regions review options
Benefits	<p>The following benefits are expected to be achieved through implementation of this recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger, more complex projects can be funded • Potentially greater salmon recovery results are achieved
Risks	<p>The following risks were identified for this recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes allocation for funding when appropriation is above status quo. • Large projects less likely to be funded if there is no additional funding.

Prior to developing an approach to a statewide, competitive grant program, staff suggest the SRFB discuss all of the possible options and narrow the field, so that staff can work with the interested stakeholders to develop an acceptable approach.

Here are the preliminary options for board discussion. Some of these exceed some of the parameters identified in the lean study, but are included to give the board a full range of options.

Options for Creating a new Statewide, Competitive Grant Program

Option 1

No Action. Continue to allocate all SRFB funding by the current allocation formula. Hope that a larger appropriation will result in the larger projects getting some funding through the lead entity process.

Option 2

Targeted Investment for de-listing – include projects in budget request. Targeted investment in specific projects in a region close to de-listing. Continue to allocate all funding by the allocation formula, but request the Governor to include selected projects in the budget submittal necessary for getting NOAA to begin discussions about de-listing. (This is the option that the Board chose in 2018, but the Hood Canal projects were not specifically funded in the Governor’s proposed budget for 2019-21). Each proposal to be included with the budget request will be submitted through the regular grant round process in even-numbered years, will be reviewed by the SRFB review panel,

and will be selected by the board based on criteria to be developed. These projects will be submitted/reviewed on the new schedule, with decisions made by the SRFB in September. Criteria would include when to consider a region “nearing delisting”, habitat benefit, contributions by other relevant parties, and factors to determine connection between project and de-listing. The list will be submitted to OFM along with the RCO budget submittal, generally with a deadline of late September of each even-numbered year.

Option 3

Targeted Investment to reach de-listing by allocating a set percentage (10%, 20% or 30%) of state salmon appropriation to Targeted Investment category. Allocate a set percentage of the final SRFB appropriation and use it to fund projects from one or more geographic areas nearing de-listing. Projects would be submitted by a regional organization in cooperation with the relevant lead entity or lead entities, with clear articulation on how the project or projects would address the remaining limiting factors and significantly move the population towards a de-listing review by NOAA. Each project will be submitted through the regular grant round process, will be reviewed by the SRFB review panel, and will be selected by the board based on criteria to be developed. Criteria would include when to consider a region “nearing delisting”, habitat benefit, contributions by other relevant parties, and factors to determine connection between project and de-listing.

Option 4

Statewide competitive grant program for large, more complex projects using funding above a status quo appropriation of state bond funds (based on 2018 benchmark). Allocate status quo appropriation of bond funds (\$16.5 million -- based on 2018 baseline) and federal PCSRF funds by the board-adopted allocation formula; allocate the remainder of state bond funds to fund a statewide competitive grant program. Each lead entity may submit one large complex project to be considered for this funding. Each project must be endorsed by the relevant regional organization and will be evaluated on all of these criteria to be eligible for funding.

- The total cost of the project must be greater than the lead entity’s total annual allocation;
- The project must already have some preliminary design complete;
- The project must be a high priority in the recovery plan;
- The project must not be reliant on other pending SRFB (state or PCSRF) funding requests;
- The sponsor must provide 15% match from funds not administered by the RCO and describe the level of participation by other parties.
- The project must be a restoration or barrier project, not acquisition.

- Sponsor must articulate why this project is (or has been) difficult to fund through the regular SRFB grant round or through one or more of the other grant funding programs (PSAR, ESRP, WRCI, BAFBRB, FPbD, YIP, or Chehalis Basin).

Each project will be submitted through the regular grant round process. The SRFB technical review panel will review, score and rank the projects for consideration by the SRFB. See the potential evaluation criteria (below) to be used to score and rank the projects. The SRFB review panel would use the lead entity site visits and/or oral presentations and regional organization endorsements as part of the evaluation. SRFB would approve ranked lists annually at the same time it approves the regular lead entity ranked lists.

Option 5

Statewide Competition using a set percentage each year (20%, 30% or 50%) of the SRFB state bond appropriation. Use set percentage of the SRFB state appropriation to fund a statewide competitive grant program. Allocate the remainder of the final SRFB appropriation by the allocation formula. Process and criteria for ranking projects similar to Option 4.

Option 6

Statewide Competition, using a lesser percentage than option 5. Allocate set percentage of the final SRFB appropriation to fund a state wide competitive grant program. The same requirements would pertain, although each region would prioritize the lead entity submittals and only submit one (or two) project per region to be considered. The SRFB technical review panel would review and rank the projects for consideration by the SRFB. Process and criteria for ranking projects similar to Option 4.

Option 7

Statewide competitive grant program for large projects to be included in the biennial SRFB budget request. Continue to allocate all funding by the allocation formula, but request the Governor to include selected large-scale projects in the budget submittal. Each proposal to be included with the budget request will be submitted through the regular grant round process in even-numbered years, will be reviewed by the SRFB review panel, and will be selected by the board based on criteria identified below. Again, with the new proposed timeline, these projects will be prioritized by the SRFB in September of each even-numbered year. Each region would be able to submit one (or two) project per biennium for consideration. The list will be submitted to OFM along with the RCO budget submittal, generally with a deadline of late September of each even-numbered year.

Here are Some Potential Criteria, without point values, for Review Panel and RCO staff to use in ranking Statewide Competitive projects

Project is specifically called out in Recovery Plan or meets key limiting factors. Project meets a high priority/high value regional/ESU habitat need specifically called out in a Recovery Plan	Scored by Review Panel
Project is on the current work plan	Scored by Review Panel
Project has been partially designed	Scored by Review Panel
Permits applied for	Scored by staff
Matching share in hand	Scored by staff
Landownership	Determined by staff
Benefit of the project, given other completed work in the watershed and the magnitude of the change to salmon habitat that will occur as a result of this project.	Scored by review panel
Likelihood of success	Scored by review panel
Site suitability and project design	Scored by review panel
Threats to recovery if project not completed	Scored by review panel
Support for the project, including contributions or supporting actions by other parties.	Scored by review panel

Next Steps

Following the board discussion, staff will be working with regions, lead entities, and others to more thoroughly evaluate a narrowed list of options. If the board desires, a subcommittee of board members and key stakeholders could be formed to help develop a consensus approach. In either case, staff will bring refined options to the board at the July board meeting. Once the board selects its draft proposal, staff will solicit public comment and bring back to the board for decision in either September 2019 or December 2019.

Lean Study Implementation Tracking

February 2019

Attachment A

Color Key

● No major challenges are anticipated that would impact an on-time completion. ● Some challenges were encountered and additional resources may be necessary for on-time completion.

● This task is unlikely to be completed on time OR this task is overdue. ● Task completed.

Implementation of Lean Study Recommendations				
Grant Round Redesign	Lead Person for Implementation	Due Date	Status	Notes
1.1 – Redesign Grant Round Process	Tara Galuska	12/2019	●	Draft timeline developed. Upcoming meetings with internal staff, bring to review panel on Feb 27 and WSC in March.
1.2 – Formalize Biennial Grant Round Option	Tara Galuska	02/2019	●	Done; included in Manual 18.
Standardization and Role Clarification				
2.1 – Update Washington Administrative Code	Ben Donatelle (with Sarah Gage and Tara Galuska)	12/2019	●	Ben working with Leslie’s past work and Tara; meeting with Sarah G upcoming; Bring to WSC in March; bring to COR meeting; bring to SRFB in July for briefing
2.2 – Update Manual 19	Sarah Gage	02/2019	●	Nearly complete – final edits to incorporate comments. Then create publication.
2.3 – Document Evaluation Process and Identify Best Practices	WSC/Alicia Olivas	12/2019	●	Kaleen and Sarah to meet with WSC in March to discuss.
Funding Policy and Project Prioritization				
3.1 – Develop Targeted Investment Program	Kaleen Cottingham and Scott Robinson	12/2019	●	Take concepts/options to March 2019 SRFB meeting. Memo drafted; distributed to Lead Entities and Regions; going to SRFB with board materials in February.
3.2 – Evaluate Whether Regional Priorities are Being Achieved	Tara Galuska	06/2020	●	Added question to regional summaries requirement in manual 18 – Regions will submit to RCO in September
3.3 – Improve Efficiency of Capacity Funding	Sarah Gage (with Brent Hedden and Gerald Seed)	12/2020	●	Time tracking exercise. Sarah spoke with MC2 about methods to accomplish this. Judy sent some options – Brent reviewed. Needs to be in place by July 1. More discussion needed.
3.4 – Improve Alignment of Capacity to Project Funding	Wendy Brown	12/2020	●	Will work with new GSRO program manager (for lead entities) later in 2019.
3.5 – Initiate Inter-Agency Funding Coordination	Tara Galuska	Ongoing	●	On-going -progressing well.
System and Metrics				
4.1 – Enhance PRISM to Improve Efficiency of Process	PRISM—Scott Chapman HWS—Scott Robinson	12/2019	●	Process started; high level design of PRISM changes will be complete in June. Date may change once we have a design and know costs in mid-2019. To move forward will need to allocate funding.
4.2 – Establish Process Metrics (2 or 3)	Scott Robinson (with Brent Hedden and Scott Chapman)	12/2019	●	Re-thinking the early metrics suggested by MC2. Not sure these help with measuring lean improvements. Are considering several new metrics: # of new sponsors; leveraged and required match. Discussions taking place. Will need clear definitions before rolling out any new metrics.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: 2018 State of Salmon Report

Prepared By: Jennifer Johnson, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Information Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes the 2018 State of Salmon in Watersheds biennial report and Web site.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

The 2018 edition of the [State of Salmon in Watersheds](#) report and Web site was released on January 17, 2019. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) are required by statute (RCW 77.85.020) to produce this biennial report for the Legislature describing progress on salmon recovery efforts. GSRO will present the Web site content during the March 2019 board meeting.

The *State of Salmon* report describes for the legislature and the public what is being done with salmon dollars, and how the fish and habitat are faring. As in past reports, the 2018 version of *State of Salmon* displays data, story maps, and key messages from our partners in salmon recovery. In 2016, the site was made more focused, easier to navigate, and better for viewing on mobile devices. In 2018, GSRO and consultants combined various technologies to improve the messaging, data charts, and usability of the site.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and RCO produced data for several *State of Salmon* indicators. The data is published to <https://data.wa.gov/> and [ArcGIS online](#). These are the state's web-based tools for mapping, charting, and tracking live data that feeds into the *State of Salmon* website. GSRO also worked closely with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) to better align our messages in our respective reports.

The 2018 *State of Salmon* Web site includes a data portal for housing authoritative salmon and habitat data sets to help make data gathering more efficient and messaging more consistent among salmon-related reports. The portal and data.wa.gov are important tools that make our data transparent and accessible to the public.

This 2018 Web site has a similar look and feel with a few improvements that make it easier to use and understand. The fish population charts in the Web site are more responsive and have improved pathways

to the raw data behind them. New data about habitat quality has been provided by the Department of Ecology, and the data portal contains raw data that is more current and curated by source.

In addition to the Web site, GSRO produced a printed (and printable) *State of Salmon* executive summary. GSRO encourages the board and recovery partners to review this document; copies will be provided to board members. The online version of the report includes interactive multi-media salmon stories that present a range of accomplishments and challenges in salmon recovery from around the state.

RCO and GSRO are continuing outreach efforts for the *State of Salmon* as defined in the Communications Plan, including posts on social media from RCO and our partners. Much work remains with data sources and other recovery partners to continually update, verify, and improve the content in the Web site. GSRO will initiate and facilitate collaborative work groups with partners in 2019, and update the site as content changes.

Development of this report was not possible without the cooperation, review, data, and content from many individuals and organizations across the state. Especially significant to this report were the contributions from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the regional salmon recovery organizations, and the Department of Ecology.

Attachment A

State of Salmon in Watersheds Executive Summary (available now in PDF) will be distributed at the board meeting if back from the state printer in time. Otherwise, copies will be mailed.

A. [State of Salmon in Watersheds Executive Summary Link](#)

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Monitoring Panel

Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, Science Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office,
Pete Bisson, Monitoring Panel co-chair

Summary

This memo summarizes the activities of the Monitoring Panel, including member recruitment, as well as the planning and outcomes from the February project monitoring workshop.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) applies for an annual award from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). This federal funding is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NOAA requires a minimum of ten percent of this award support salmon monitoring efforts.

For more than a decade, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has invested these monitoring funds into three major statewide monitoring efforts:

- 1. Status and Trends Monitoring:** Also referred to as fish-in/fish-out monitoring, this program tracks salmon populations in selected index streams across the state. Carried out by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the SRFB's funding supports approximately 7% of WDFW's total status and trends monitoring program. The yearly allocation of PCSRF funds has been mostly consistent at \$208,000 per year, with infrequent increases for additional reporting.
- 2. Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW):** The IMW program supports five IMW studies in Washington.¹ SRFB's PCSRF funding supports a contract with the Washington

¹ Intensively Monitored Watersheds in the Puget Sound salmon recovery region are Hood Canal, Straits, and Skagit IMWs; in the Lower Columbia region, the Abernathy IMW; and in the Snake region, the Asotin IMW.

Department of Ecology to provide support and sub-contracts for certain IMWs at approximately \$700,000 per year. PCSRF funding also supports WDFW to monitor fish and habitat in the western Washington IMWs. Both the Lower Columbia and the Snake regions receive funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to support the IMWs in their regions. The PSMFC funding equates to an additional yearly allocation of \$291,000.

- 3. Reach-scale Project Effectiveness Monitoring:** This program, active since 2004, monitors several categories of habitat restoration and enhancement. The categories have been tracked by multiple contractors and sub-contractors who provided annual reports. Over time, the program has been modified, based on discussions with the board and staff. This program has received \$250,000–\$325,000 annually. The randomly-established schedule of statewide reach-scale monitoring ended in 2018.

In addition to these three major statewide monitoring efforts, the PCSRF annual award also supports the SRFB Monitoring Panel.

SRFB Monitoring Panel: This panel of independent scientific experts is tasked with objectively reviewing the SRFB monitoring efforts annually. The SRFB initiated the Panel in 2013, following the acceptance of the *Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board*.² The panel assists the SRFB by reviewing monitoring program annual reports, evaluating proposals for regional monitoring, making site visits as necessary, and meeting with the principal investigators of monitoring efforts. At present, the panel has five members. RCO staff are preparing to fill two vacancies and establish a pool of qualified people to fill any additional vacancies on the monitoring panel over the next three years.

Retrospective on Project Effectiveness Monitoring

Project effectiveness monitoring ended in 2018 after more than 12 years tracking multiple categories of habitat restoration in randomly selected sites statewide. The SRFB initiated a discussion in mid-2018 among salmon recovery regions, monitoring practitioners, project sponsors, lead entities, and the users of the reach-scale project effectiveness data.

As a result of this discussion, an advisory group was established in late 2018. It distributed questions to people involved with project effectiveness monitoring to assess the utility and transferability of reach-scale data in project effectiveness categories and to elicit other monitoring needs and concerns.

A workshop on project effectiveness monitoring, scheduled for February 12–13, was designed to synthesize the information from a decade-plus of reach-scale project effectiveness monitoring and to be an interactive forum that can address scenarios and opportunities for the SRFB to

² https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/SRFB_MonitoringStrategyFinal.pdf

consider. These scenarios include a possible course correction or “pivot” in the monitoring needs of the SRFB and others related to salmon recovery and could result in a change in how the 10% of the federal funds are allocated.

The snowstorm of February 9-12th resulted in a modified workshop. Staff and the Monitoring Panel will discuss the workshop and any outcomes at the March 6th SRFB meeting.

Summary of the Workshop

Susan Gulick, of Sound Resolutions, was contracted to provide facilitation for the more than 40 participants at the workshop. The facilitator conducted phone interviews with a number of advisory members prior to the scheduled workshop, in order to glean what could be opportunities and challenges pertaining to future monitoring efforts.

At the workshop (which was conducted remotely due to extreme weather conditions) most of the salmon recovery regional directors participated and all regions were represented. Other participants included members of the board, Lead Entities, project sponsors, state agencies, tribes, Bonneville Power Administration, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and others. Participants represented an excellent cross-section of stakeholders and parties interested in possible modified approach and opportunities in monitoring salmon recovery.

Phil Roni, with Cramer Fish Sciences, provided a synthesis and summary of the board’s effectiveness monitoring program. Dr. Roni methodically went through the program categories, constraints, summary findings, and recommendations. A robust question and answer session followed.

The Council of Regions (Steve Manlow of the Lower Columbia region, and John Foltz of the Snake Region) offered a summary of their findings from a survey of regions and lead entities in late 2018. Regional representatives took turns in emphasizing their monitoring needs and concerns.

What seemed to be a central theme of many participants was a caution in “stepping back” to address what changes, modifications, or programmatic pivots are necessary. There was additional support for developing a regional monitoring program, more status and trends tracking, as well as fully funding the viable salmonid parameters (VSP).

There were also comments supporting re-visiting or updating 1) the statewide salmon strategy, 2) elements raised by the previous Monitoring Forum, and 3) limiting factors as detailed by the Conservation Commission. There was a common thought that the very limited resources associated with board funded monitoring could be utilized as leverage and match for other program support, from either the state or other federal sources. Representatives from NOAA were invited to this event, but did not participate. Participants felt NOAA should participate because of their role in PCSRF funding decisions, metrics reporting, 5-year status reviews, and possible de-listing criteria modifications.

Recap / Next Steps

Efforts are underway to convene a more comprehensive discussion by the entire monitoring panel, now scheduled for February 22. The goal of that discussion will be to solidify the presentation to the SRFB on March 6, as well as to discuss next steps. Due to the weather issues the second day of the workshop was postponed until after March 6.

Pete Bisson, co-Chair of the SRFB Monitoring Panel, will summarize the discussions at the workshop and follow-up, including the three overarching themes that would benefit from more discussion and direction:

- **Viable Salmonid Populations (VSP) parameters** – Regions give a high priority to monitoring activities that address the possibility of de-listing species. VSP = abundance, population, growth, populations spatial structure and diversity
- **Habitat status/trends** – There is a need to expand the scope of habitat status and trends monitoring to provide an improved picture of overall habitat conditions at the scale of entire drainage basins.
- **Limiting factors** – Improved methods of modeling and field-verifying factors that limit the abundance of salmon populations are needed.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Invasive Species Update | Northern Pike

Prepared By: Justin Bush

Summary

Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC), will provide an update on Northern Pike in the Columbia River Basin.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Overview

In Northeast Washington, [Northern Pike](#) are of growing concern. This non-native invasive fish species presents an imminent threat to salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia basin.

The Salmon Funding Recovery Board was first briefed on Northern Pike and the threat posed by continued spread at the [March 21, 2018 meeting](#).

In response to the briefing the Salmon Recovery Funding Board drafted letters calling for increased collaboration and action to Governor Inslee, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Chelan County Public Utility District, Grant County Public Utility District, and Douglas County Public Utility District.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) recognized that the State of Oregon also faces significant risk from the continued spread of Northern Pike, prompting the Board to invite Justin Bush to brief the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) on this topic at the [June 2018 joint-OWEB and SRFB meeting](#).

Following the significant development of Northern Pike less than 12 miles from Grand Coulee Dam, in addition to the largest Northern Pike being caught during suppression operations by the Spokane Tribe of Indians and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Justin Bush provided an update to the SRFB at the [December 2018 meeting](#).

In response to the imminent emergency situation, the SRFB requested that Governor Inslee form an interagency task force to prepare for a rapid response to continued spread.

Justin Bush will provide an update on Northern Pike developments occurring since December 2018.

Attachments

- A. [May 21, 2018 letter to Governor Jay Inslee](#)
- B. [May 21, 2018 letter to Northwest Power and Conservation Council](#)
- C. [May 21, 2018 letter to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
- D. [May 21, 2018 letter to Chelan Public Utility District](#)
- E. [May 21, 2018 letter to Grant County Public Utility District](#)
- F. [May 21, 2018 letter to Douglas County Public Utility District](#)
- G. [December 12, 2018 letter to Governor Jay Inslee](#)



STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) is seeking your help to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery: the invasive northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Northern pike is an apex predatory fish and when introduced to freshwater quickly takes its place at the top of the food chain. Pike eat any finfish that will fit in their mouths, including salmon and even other northern pike. Large adults also are known to eat voles, shrews, squirrels, waterfowl, and bats. The Western Governors' Association identified northern pike as a top invasive species threat to our state, as has the Washington Invasive Species Council.

Since the early 2000s, northern pike have been spreading from Montana and Idaho rivers downstream through the Columbia River system. Alarming, they are now in Washington though still upstream from Grand Coulee Dam. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, and others have spent many years working hard to suppress the population upstream. Despite these efforts, northern pike have reached Lake Roosevelt and now could expand easily downstream below Grand Coulee Dam.

To prevent catastrophic impacts to our endangered salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, as well as other economically important fisheries, there are several actions you can take:

- Working together with Governor Kate Brown of Oregon, put pressure on the Governors of Montana and Idaho to address this issue. There is a lack of policy harmony between states on the classification of northern pike as a prohibited invasive species, and the species is not suppressed in all jurisdictions.
- Call for a cooperative effort to develop a readiness and rapid response plan for the Columbia River below Grand Coulee Dam. If northern pike reach anadromous waters, it will constitute an environmental emergency. It is essential that we be prepared for this potential emergency so that we can respond as quickly and effectively as possible.
- As a lesson learned from the recent release of Atlantic salmon in Puget Sound, we should be prepared to declare an environmental emergency and convene an incident command team if northern pike are detected below Grand Coulee Dam.



Thank you for your consideration of these requests, in addition to your long support for salmon recovery in Washington State. If we may provide more information about this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office executive coordinator, at 360-628-2548 or steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Troutt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Natural Resources Building
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

1111 Washington St. S.E.
Olympia, WA 98501



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

May 21, 2018

Mr. Tony Grover
Northwest Power and Conservation Council
315 W Mill Plain Blvd, Suite 202
Vancouver, WA 98660

Re: Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Northern Pike

Dear. Mr. Grover:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) is seeking your help to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery: the invasive northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Northern pike is an apex predatory fish and when introduced to freshwater quickly takes its place at the top of the food chain. Pike eat any finfish that will fit in their mouths, including salmon and even other northern pike. Large adults also are known to eat voles, shrews, squirrels, waterfowl, and bats. The Western Governors' Association identified northern pike as a top invasive species threat to our state, as has the Washington Invasive Species Council.

The continued expansion of Northern Pike downstream poses a significant threat to not only the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead, but would also threaten harvest of salmon which is valued at more than one billion dollars annually. The investments of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are also at risk, which totals over \$731 million since 1999.

We sincerely appreciate the Council's support to the Co-Managers of Lake Roosevelt for Northern Pike suppression and hope funding will continue. Stopping Northern Pike at Grand Coulee Dam is critical to protecting anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin.

The Board is aware more resources are needed both within Washington and throughout the region to adequately address the Northern Pike issue. We are asking all entities involved in Northern Pike suppression to inventory existing resources and prioritize additional support to Northern Pike suppression operations. In that spirit, we respectfully request Northern Pike suppression project proposals made above Grand Coulee Dam be fully funded and the Council actively seek to initiate other suppression projects in areas where Northern Pike are not yet being suppressed—such as Lake Spokane.



In closing, we thank you for your attention to this issue. Northern Pike are the greatest invasive species threat to Washington State that is currently found within our borders. If we may provide more information regarding this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator directly for more information by phoning 360-628-2548 or emailing steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Troutt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

cc: Washington Councilmember Tom Karier
Washington Councilmember Guy Norman

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Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

May 21, 2018

Joe Stohr
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Northern Pike

Dear Director Stohr:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) is seeking your help to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery: the invasive northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Northern pike is an apex predatory fish and when introduced to freshwater quickly takes its place at the top of the food chain. Pike eat any finfish that will fit in their mouths, including salmon and even other northern pike. Large adults also are known to eat voles, shrews, squirrels, waterfowl, and bats. The Western Governors' Association identified northern pike as a top invasive species threat to our state, as has the Washington Invasive Species Council.

Since the early 2000s, Northern Pike have been spreading downstream through the Columbia River system. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has been making efforts along with co-managers and cooperators to suppress Northern Pike populations and slow the spread. We thank you for this work to date, but request this issue be elevated for additional funding at this most critical juncture.

The continued expansion of Northern Pike downstream poses a significant threat to not only the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead, but would also threaten harvest of salmon which is valued at more than one billion dollars annually. The investments of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are also at risk, which totals over \$731 million since 1999.

To prevent these catastrophic impacts, the Board is requesting the department immediately make all efforts to ensure that suppression operations in Lake Roosevelt are fully funded and effective. We understand resources are limited, but there is much at stake and there are immediate short-term resource, supply and workforce needs for 2018 suppression operations.

The Board understands there are competing priorities and limited resources. Wherever possible, please prioritize this issue within the Department and Warmwater Fish Program as a high priority. Also note, the Board and Washington Invasive Species Council are committed to investigating additional resources and developing a funding strategy for the future.

If we may provide more information regarding this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator, at 360-628-2548 or steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Troutt".

David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

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May 21, 2018

Ms. Alene Underwood
Chelan County Public Utility District
327 N Wenatchee Ave,
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Re: Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Northern Pike

Dear Ms. Underwood:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) is seeking your help to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery: the invasive northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Northern pike is an apex predatory fish and when introduced to freshwater quickly takes its place at the top of the food chain. Pike eat any finfish that will fit in their mouths, including salmon and even other northern pike. Large adults also are known to eat voles, shrews, squirrels, waterfowl, and bats. The Western Governors' Association identified northern pike as a top invasive species threat to our state, as has the Washington Invasive Species Council.

The continued expansion of Northern Pike downstream poses a significant threat to not only the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead, but would also threaten harvest of salmon which is valued at more than one billion dollars annually. The investments of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are also at risk, which totals over \$731 million since 1999.

We sincerely appreciate the Chelan Public Utility District's support to the Co-Managers of Lake Roosevelt for Northern Pike suppression and hope this partnership will continue. Stopping Northern Pike at Grand Coulee Dam is critically important to protecting anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin.

The Board is aware more resources are necessary both within Washington and throughout the region to adequately address the Northern Pike issue. We are asking all entities involved in Northern Pike suppression to inventory existing resources and prioritize any additional support they can provide to Northern Pike suppression operations.

In closing, we thank you for your attention to this issue. Northern Pike are currently the greatest invasive species threat to Washington State found within our borders.

If we may provide more information regarding this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator, directly for more information by phoning 360-628-2548 or emailing steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

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David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

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May 21, 2018

Mr. Jeff Grizzel
Grant County Public Utility District
30 C Street SW
Ephrata, WA 98823

Re: Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Northern Pike

Dear Mr. Grizzel:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) is seeking your help to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery: the invasive northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Northern pike is an apex predatory fish and when introduced to freshwater quickly takes its place at the top of the food chain. Pike eat any finfish that will fit in their mouths, including salmon and even other northern pike. Large adults also are known to eat voles, shrews, squirrels, waterfowl, and bats. The Western Governors' Association identified northern pike as a top invasive species threat to our state, as has the Washington Invasive Species Council.

The continued expansion of Northern Pike downstream poses a significant threat to not only the recovery of endangered salmon and steelhead, but would also threaten harvest of salmon which is valued at more than one billion dollars annually. The investments of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are also at risk, which totals over \$731 million since 1999.

Stopping Northern Pike at Grand Coulee Dam is critically important to protecting anadromous fish in the Columbia River Basin. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board is aware more resources are necessary both within Washington and throughout the region to adequately address downstream spread.

We are asking all entities involved in Northern Pike suppression to inventory existing resources and prioritize any additional support they can provide to Northern Pike suppression operations. Wherever possible, please prioritize this issue as a high priority and consider supporting upstream efforts.

In closing, we thank you for your attention to this issue. Northern Pike are currently the greatest invasive species threat to Washington State found within our borders.

If we may provide more information regarding this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator, directly for more information by phoning 360-628-2548 or emailing steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

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David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board



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May 21, 2018

Mr. Shane Bickford
Douglas County Public Utility District
1151 Valley Mall Pkwy
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Re: Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Northern Pike

Dear Mr. Bickford:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) is seeking your help to combat an increasing and alarming problem that threatens twenty years of state investment in salmon recovery: the invasive northern pike (*Esox lucius*). Northern pike is an apex predatory fish and when introduced to freshwater quickly takes its place at the top of the food chain. Pike eat any finfish that will fit in their mouths, including salmon and even other northern pike. Large adults also are known to eat voles, shrews, squirrels, waterfowl, and bats. The Western Governors' Association identified northern pike as a top invasive species threat to our state, as has the Washington Invasive Species Council.

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If we may provide more information regarding this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator, directly for more information by phoning 360-628-2548 or emailing steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Troutt".

David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board



STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

December 12, 2018

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-002

Re: Invasive Northern Pike Emergency Response

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), I am writing to express extreme concern about the continued spread of northern pike (*Esox lucius*) in the Columbia River. At the time of our June correspondence (attached), northern pike were approximately 50 miles from Grand Coulee Dam. On December 5, 2019, the SRFB learned that northern pike were found less than 10 miles from Grand Coulee Dam. Given this rapid spread towards the anadromous portion of the Columbia River, the time is now to proclaim a 'State of Imminent Danger' and take swift action to avoid an emergency. As a state, we must do everything possible to prevent potentially irreversible impacts to salmon and steelhead populations in the Columbia River.

For years, a long list of entities¹ in the Upper Columbia have been doing as much as possible individually to address this issue and to stop the downstream spread of northern pike, and we are grateful for their collective efforts. However, recent detections signal that northern pike are continuing to move towards the dam and towards the anadromous portion of the river. Should northern pike make it into the anadromous portion of the river, it will have devastating effects on salmon and steelhead. Some of the recent detections include: capture of the largest northern pike ever in Lake Roosevelt; colonization of the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt; and capture of a northern pike less than ten miles from Grand Coulee dam.

Coordinated action across jurisdictions is necessary to successfully implement planning and response that would prevent further spread of northern pike and the irreversible damages to salmon, steelhead, and other critical species like the Southern Resident Killer Whales that feed on Columbia River Chinook salmon.

We request the Governor's Office to articulate the imminent state of threat and direct the state natural resource agencies to form a northern pike interagency task force in partnership with Columbia River Tribes, public utility districts, and federal departments (such as the Departments of Energy, Interior,

¹ Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and Washington Invasive Species Council), Columbia River Public Utility Districts, and regional organizations such as the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and Pacific NorthWest Economic Region.



and Commerce, among others). We suggest that the task force should plan and mobilize all reasonable resources in order to prevent a northern pike State of Emergency from occurring. We also suggest that the task force develop a framework for a unified incident command organization and a rapid response plan for immediate response by the unified command.

In the event that northern pike are found below Grand Coulee Dam, we ask that you elevate the situation to a State of Emergency and ask the Directors of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Recreation and Conservation Office to work together to request an emergency proclamation.

Thank you for considering this request, in addition to your long support for salmon recovery and stopping invasive species in Washington State. If we may provide further information about this important issue, please do not hesitate to contact Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation and Conservation Office director at 360-999-9838 or kaleen.cottingham@rco.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board

cc: JT Austin, Office of the Governor
Kelly Susewind, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation & Conservation Office
Rodney Cawston, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Cody Desautel, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Glen Nenema, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Deane Osterman, Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Carol Evans, Spokane Tribe of Indians
B.J. Kieffer, Spokane Tribe of Indians
Joe Stohr, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Martin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Guy Norman, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Tom Karier, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Tony Grover, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
Matt Morrison, Pacific Northwest Economic Region
Ron Warren, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Bear, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2019

Title: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Prepared By: Mary Fee, Executive Secretary Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Summary

This memo summarizes the roles, responsibilities, and resources of the WA State and County noxious weed boards, and the importance of noxious weed control for Salmon habitat. It is the hope of the State's Noxious Weed Board that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and project sponsors better understand steps they can take to control or eradicate noxious weeds on board-funded projects.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Membership

Twelve volunteer members:

- **Five** are elected by members of County and District Weed Boards from various regions in the state
- **Six** are appointed by the Director of the state Department of Agriculture
- **One** is appointed by the Washington State Association of Counties
- **Three** of the six appointed by the Director of the state Department Agriculture are non-voting scientific advisors who provide expertise in weed identification, control methods, and aquatic invasive weed species

Coordinate Noxious Weed Control

Through its actions and policy decisions, the State Control Board helps coordinate and supports the activities of the 38 county Noxious Weed Control Boards and weed districts of Washington who enforce the control of noxious weeds on private and public lands. The State

Board also works with neighboring states and British Columbia, and provides leadership on regional and statewide noxious weed projects.

Objective

The Board maintains the state's official list of noxious weeds that landowners may be required to control. This list is established in the Washington Administrative Code, or WAC 16-750. The listing process, the schedule for adding a plant to the Noxious Weed list, is in WAC 16-750-022.

Educate the Public

The Board also publishes educational materials about noxious weeds that are used by local weed boards and districts and distributed free to the public. Education is also provided to other agencies and organizations. Through education, noxious weed control becomes more effective and efficient.

Washington Counties Noxious Weed Control Boards

County Weed Boards and local Weed Districts survey their jurisdictions for noxious weeds and work with landowners to ensure that they are controlled. They also work to educate the public about noxious weeds. County Weed Boards can impose enforcements and file civil infractions fining landowners for failure to control weeds.

Noxious Weeds and Salmon

Importance of Noxious Weed Control in Salmon Habitat Preservation and Restoration

Noxious weeds can be devastating to salmon habitat. They compete with native plant species that benefit salmon. Noxious weeds and invasive plants contribute immensely to a very poor vegetative community for the production of Salmon and Steelhead. Aquatic invasive plant species provide habitat for predatory fish which feed on juvenile salmon. Water quality, turbidity, nutrient levels, and habitat quality are all affected by plant species populations and invasive species infestations. Early detection and rapid response are key when it comes to controlling and removing noxious weeds from habitats.

Some noxious weeds that may affect salmon habitat:

- [Flowering Rush](#) – Grows densely providing cover and nesting habitat for predatory fish.
- [Eurasian Milfoil](#) – Creates dense root mass providing cover for predatory fish.
- [Invasive Knotweeds](#) – Causes bank sluffing and erosion diminishing salmon habitat, and contributing to poor water quality.
- [Spartina](#) – Causes loss of mudflat habitat impacting juvenile salmon.
- [Common Reed/Phragmites](#) – Do to its rapid growth and slow decomposition sediment deposition can increase affecting drainage, water quality, and salmon habitat.

Information gathered from: <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/>

- [Yellow Flag Iris](#) – Produces a root mat narrowing waterways and adding sediment to the system, in turn contributing to poor water quality and diminishing salmon habitat.

From: [Cottingham, Kaleen \(RCO\)](#)
To: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Re: State Noxious Weed report request for SRFB March Meeting
Date: Wednesday, January 2, 2019 6:56:31 AM

Put this as the attachment to the ultimate memo we do for this item on the agenda.
For the March meeting.

From: Fee, Mary (AGR)
Sent: Monday, December 31, 2018 10:06 AM
To: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO) <Kaleen.Cottingham@rco.wa.gov>
Cc: Martin, Steve (GSRO) <steve.martin@gsro.wa.gov>; Galuska, Tara (RCO) <Tara.Galuska@rco.wa.gov>; Lundquist, Wyatt (RCO) <wyatt.lundquist@rco.wa.gov>; Bush, Justin (RCO) <justin.bush@rco.wa.gov>
Subject: State Noxious Weed report request for SRFB March Meeting

Dear Director Cottingham:

The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WNWCB) exists to take actions and make policy decisions, and help coordinate and support the activities of 38 county noxious weed control boards and districts to address noxious weeds on private and public lands.

Noxious weeds pose a significant threat to the elements necessary to achieve salmon recovery and degrade investments made by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

For the purpose of increasing collaboration between the respective boards, I would like time to give a report from the WNWCB regarding state and county weed board roles and resources, and an overview of priority noxious weed species that impact salmon habitat, during the March 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting.

I will brief the SRFB on the bottom-up structure of county and state weed programs, as well as county level accountability and adaptive noxious weed management pertaining to salmon habitat restoration and preservation. Through increased collaboration the missions of both organizations will benefit.

If you have any questions, or need additional information please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Mary Fee
Executive Secretary
WA State Noxious Weed Control Board
360-902-2053 (office)
360-561-4428 (cell)
www.nwcb.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 6, 2018

Title: Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program Briefing

Prepared By: Jay Krienitz, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary

This memo summarizes the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). The Department of Fish and Wildlife will explain the program, linkages to the work of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and a new effort to incentivize the removal of shoreline armoring.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

Advancing Nearshore Restoration and Protection

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) was created by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) and funded by the legislature in the capital budget in 2006. ESRP is a partnership program between Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Puget Sound Partnership and the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office.

ESRP restores Puget Sound salmon estuary habitat and marine shorelines by providing funding and technical support to local organizations. ESRP administers a Sound-wide competitive review of grant proposals resulting in a prioritized project list every biennium. Funding for the program is requested by RCO in its capital budget request.

ESRP's innovative approach is designed to restore nearshore ecosystems, benefiting salmon, forage fish, and Southern Resident Orcas. ESRP, as well as the other salmon recovery grant programs, are included in the recommendations from the Orca Task Force. ESRP is focused on strategic ecosystem restoration with a strong link to science. This ecosystem-scale approach guides funding for the design and construction of high priority restoration projects throughout Puget Sound. ESRP is designated as an "ongoing program" within the Action Agenda and strongly aligns with local and regional salmon recovery efforts.

2019 Prioritized Project List

All 49 proposed projects on the 2019-2021 ESRP investment plan (Attachment A) are aligned with Chinook recovery. These projects will restore and protect ~800 acres of nearshore and estuarine habitat and advance planning and design for almost 2500 acres of restoration and protection. The Governor's budget requests \$12.5 million for ESRP to:

- Restore 259 acres of estuary habitat and 30 acres of shoreline habitat
- Remove 0.4 miles of shoreline armor
- Protect 64 acres of estuary habitat and 93 acres of shoreline habitat

ESRP PROGRAM: Removing Shoreline Armoring with Landowner Incentives

Almost 30% of Puget Sound shoreline is armored, limiting forage fish spawning. In 2019, ESRP adopted the federally-funded Shore Friendly program. The Shore Friendly program funds local entities and landowners to help improve and restore shorelines by funding projects such as armor removal. Shore Friendly has directly engaged more than 1,300 shoreline landowners through in-person workshops and events, offering tools and resources that incentivize shoreline improvements, resulting in 0.6 miles of armor removed. Federal EPA National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for Shore Friendly is lapsing because those funds are intended to establish programs, not to fund them long-term.

The Governor's budget would fund the first year of Shore Friendly actions through ESRP. Federal EPA funding is currently recommended to support non-capital activities in the upcoming biennium as ESRP seeks a sustainable source of funding needed for Shore Friendly activities.

More information can be found by visiting: <http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/esrp/>

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Natural Resource Building, RM 175, Olympia, WA 98501
March 6, 2019

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">Approve December 2018 Meeting MinutesReview and approval of agenda	Decision: Moved: Member Endresen Scott Seconded: Member Breckel Approved as presented Moved: Member Breckel Seconded: Member Sullivan Approved as presented	No follow-up action requested.
1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Director's Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">Board Management Feedback SurveyLegislative, Budget, and Policy Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">Orca Legislation UpdatePerformance Update (<i>written only</i>)Financial Report (<i>written only</i>)	Briefing	TASK: Include strategic link in future memos
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governors Salmon Recovery Office Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">GSRO staffing updateSalmon Section Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">Outdoor grants manager project presentationsDelegation of authority discussion	Briefing and decision. Moved: Member Breckel Seconded: Member Endresen Scott Approved as presented Moved: Member Breckel Seconded: Member Endresen Scott Approved as presented	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">Governor's OfficeConservation CommissionDepartment of EcologyDepartment of Natural ResourcesDepartment of Fish and WildlifeDepartment of TransportationWA Salmon CoalitionCouncil of RegionsRegional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	Briefing	TASK: Partners to submit any written materials at least two weeks before board meetings
4. Salmon Recovery Conference Update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested

5. Communications Update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested
6. Gold Basin Project of Concern Follow-Up	Decision Moved: Member Endresen Scott Seconded: Member Breckel Approved as amended	No follow-up action requested.
7. LEAN Study Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Options for targeted investmentManual 192020 Draft grant round timelineInteragency Funding CoordinationPRISM Updates	Request for direction	TASK: Create and send Survey related to the targeted investment memo
8. State of the Salmon	Briefing	ITEM REMOVED
9. Monitoring Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">Introduce new membersWorkshop update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
10. Invasive Species Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern PikeWashington State Noxious Weed Control Board	Briefing	TASK: Send link to the Western Governors Association meeting recording
11. Streamflow Restoration Program (Hirst) Implementation	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
12. Overview of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) and the 2019-2021 Investment Plan	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: March 6, 2019

Place: Natural Resources Building, Room 175, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

Phil Rockefeller,	Bainbridge Island	Carol Smith	Department of Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Erik Neatherlin	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Stephen Bernath	Department of Natural Resources
Chris Endresen Scott	Conconully	Brian Cochran	Washington State Conservation Commission
Jeff Breckel	Longview	Susan Kanzler	Department of Transportation

Member Bob Bugert was excused

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Opening and Welcome

Chair Rockefeller called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m., welcomed the board, staff, and audience. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined. Chair Rockefeller introduced new board member Chris Endresen Scott, and Member Bugert was excused.

Motion: Move to approve the March 6, 2019, Meeting Agenda
Moved by: Member Endresen Scott
Seconded by: Member Breckel
Decision: Approved

Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the consent agenda, which included approval of the December 2018 meeting minutes.

Motion: Move to approve the December 5-6, 2018, Meeting Minutes
Moved by: Member Breckel
Seconded by: Member Sullivan
Decision: Approved

Chair Rockefeller introduced Kelly Susewind, the new Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director.

Director Cottingham read resolution recognizing and thanking Sarah Gage for all of her work on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution for Sarah Gage
Moved by: Member Breckel
Seconded by: Member Sullivan
Decision: Approved

Management and Partner Reports

Item 1: Director's Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham updated the board on several of the major events happening at the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Including staff updates, budget review, board and legislative meeting debriefs, and upcoming events.

Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, reviewed results of the Board Management Feedback Survey.

Legislative, Budget, and Policy Update: Wendy Brown, Policy Director, briefed the board on the house and senate bills that are of particular interest to the SRFB, including legislation about orcas and fish barrier removal. She ended her presentation with a high-level overview of the 2019 Legislative Session thus far.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Salmon Section Report: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided updates on the 2019 grant round, upcoming events, closed projects, and a glimpse into what the grant round may look like in the future with the new lean updates. She noted that more information would follow later in the day during the LEAN update.

Director Cottingham continued the Salmon Recovery Management Report by reviewing the delegation of authority to extend the current capacity contracts to August of this year and to provide funding from return funds for Lead Entities and Regions.

Motion: Move to approve Delegation of authority to the RCO Director to extend the existing lead entity capacity contracts until August 31, 2019 and to add two months of capacity funding from project returned funds to each lead entity contract.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: Approved

Motion: Delegate authority to the RCO Director to consider, on a case-by-case basis, each regional organization's request to carry forward unspent capacity funding from its current contract into the next biennium's contract.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: Approved

Alice Rubin, Outdoor Salmon Grant Manager, presented the Little Tucannon Post Assisted Log Structure (PALS) project.

Marc Duboiski, Outdoor Salmon Grant Manager, presented the Illabot Creek Alluvial Fan Restoration project, as well as the Upper White Pine Floodplain Reconnection project.

Break – 10:30am – 10:45am

Item 3: Reports from Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC): Member Cochrane provided an update on staff changes noting they are in the middle of an executive director search. He closed by reviewing the 2019 legislative session and highlighting several of the initiatives that they are watching.

Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Member Bernath provided an update on staff changes, including a recent departure by former board member Megan Duffy. He went on to discuss the bills of interest to DNR in the legislature right now, including Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) and climate bills.

Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT): Member Kanzler provided updates on the fish passage program, and deliverables that aligns with the governor's proposed fish passage funding. Member Kanzler called attention to a video on YouTube that WSDOT produced in order to spread word about fish passage.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology): Member Smith provided a quick update on some of the legislation that is of interest to Ecology. Additionally, Member Smith called attention to new policies that the EPA has put forth, which may be problematic for Ecology moving forward. She noted that Ecology, along with several other agencies, would be drafting a letter of concern to send to the EPA based on their new science policies.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Neatherlin provided a reminder that the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission is having a meeting in the United States this year. He noted that following the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission meeting, there would be an international year of the salmon workshop in Portland, OR. Member Neatherlin continued his update with information on the salmon surveys completed in the North Pacific. The goal is to look for climate change impacts on North Pacific salmon species.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC): Alicia Olivas, provided an update on the Washington Salmon Coalition survey that was given to WSC members on impacts of options put forth in the lean study.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG): Aaron Peterson gave updates on funding and fiscal opportunities for RFEG's in the legislature.

Council of Regions (COR): Alex Conley and John Foltz briefed the board on COR leadership updates, as well as monitoring comments that they will have later. John Foltz gave a brief example of recovery efforts for a pilot local water management program completed in the Walla Walla district.

Public Comment

No public comment was received at this time.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 4: 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference Update

Sarah Gage, GSRO, gave a brief update to the board on the status of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Conference to be held April 8-9, 2019 at the Tacoma Convention Center. Ms. Gage also reviewed some of the sessions and tracks that will be featured, and overall itinerary for the conference.

Item 5: Communication Update

Susan Zemek, RCO Communications Manager, summarized for the board the goals that the communications team is working on; including the implementation and phases of the communication plan timeline.

Ms. Zemek asked board for direction in which path the communications plan should put their energy towards moving forward. Board voiced support in focusing on enhancing and increasing communications with elected officials in order to get the word out about some of the work being done.

Board Business: Decision

Item 6: Gold Basin Project of Concern Follow-Up

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, summarized the status of the Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project that was submitted by the Stillaguamish Lead Entity for the 2018 grant round. The review panel flagged this project as a 'Project of Concern' and the SRFB delayed their decision in December, electing to decide whether to fund the project at the March meeting. Ms. Galuska is asking the board for a decision today in regards to the project.

Pat Stevenson, Stillaguamish Tribe, reviewed the project for the new board members and explained the Stillaguamish Tribe's interest in this project and its importance for the fishery.

Board members discussed the nuances of the various options that have been brought forth, and asked the subcommittee if they had a specific recommendation they wanted to highlight. Board members continued discussion acknowledging how important this fishery is, ultimately reaching a conclusion to revise *Option 1* in their motions and move to approve.

Motion (*Option 1* amendments are in red):

Move to approve the Gold Basin Landslide Restoration Project (#18-1532) **with special conditions and initiate consultation with USFS to discuss campground issues**. The special conditions to the Project Agreement that the project sponsor must provide **are** the following geotechnical documentation to the Recreation and Conservation Office for review by the SRFB Review Panel **and subcommittee** prior to starting construction: (*as amended*)

- A. Executive summary outlining the project and slope stability issues contained in the report.
- B. A discussion comparing the SR530 landslide and the Gold Basin Landslide (GBL), outline the similarities and differences between the two landslides and the potential impact that the crib wall may have played in the SR530 landslide.

- C. A detailed map that identifies the geomorphic landforms of the GBL (toe, body, main scarp, etc.) and associated geomorphic landforms (alluvial apron, alluvial fan, etc.). Include landforms that are described in the June 2012 and February 2016 Anchor QEA project reports, which includes “toes” and the landslide “foot”. Address the discrepancies in the 2012 and 2016 reports that inaccurately describe these landforms.
- D. Address current public safety in the campground from the GBL, including:
 - a. Whether the crib wall and sediment ponds change the landslide hazard to the public?
 - b. If the GBL reactivates, how might the crib wall and (or) sediment retention ponds change landslide runoff?
 - c. How will the construction on or near the landslide (grading, pile driving, brush and tree removal, etc.) affect slope stability. Will it cause or contribute to movement on the GBL? Will the construction change the landslide hazard to the public?
 - d. Address the impact to the landslide from the existing campground dike/revetment/hardened channel
- E. Discuss the likely magnitude of a landslide event, if one were to occur.
- F. Estimate the annual sediment output using Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and Digital Elevation Monitoring (DEM).
- G. Written and stamped by a licensed engineering geologist.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: Approved (unanimous)

Lunch: 1:00p.m.—1:30p.m.

Board Business: Request for Direction

Item 7: Lean Study Update

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Sarah Gage, GSRO, Scott Chapman, PRISM Manager, and Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director, gave an update on the Lean Study. The Lean Study memo describes options for the SRFB to consider in designing a statewide competitive grant program for the large complex projects not currently funded by SRFB—unless the projects are phased into smaller components. Ms. Gage provided a review on the revisions and new updates to Manual 19. Mr. Chapman provided a review of the PRISM updates that are soon to be implemented as a result of the Lean Study. Director Cottingham reviewed the options for targeted investments. Lastly, Ms. Galuska asked for direction from the board on some of the options for creating a new statewide, competitive grant program.

Public Comment:

Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership

Pete Teigen, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Alicia Olivas, Washington Salmon Coalition

Dawn Pucci, Island Lead Entity

Alex Conley, Council of Regions

Scott Brewer, Hood Canal Coordinating Council

John Foltz, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Board discussed the targeted investment options and how to define a large project. Additionally, board requested that if they are to read a letter submitted by an entity that wants to voice an opinion, they try to submit their letter 48 hours in advance to give the board members time to read the information *before* the meeting. Board later clarified that materials, aside from personal letters, should be turned into RCO staff according to their due dates. Board discussed the challenges of working with mostly anecdotal evidence, and suggested perhaps getting hard data before next meeting to come back and review.

Director Cottingham suggested putting out a survey to gain some more insight from project sponsors since they were not represented in the public comment that was received. Would like to narrow down the survey, and how might be best to move forward on the delisting question. A subcommittee of members Neatherlin, Breckel, Rockefeller will work with Director Cottingham and Tara Galuska to continue this conversation and bring recommendations back to the board in July.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 8: State of Salmon

Item removed from agenda during the meeting due to time constraints.

Item 9: Monitoring Panel Update

Keith Dublanica, GSRO, briefed the board on the activities of the monitoring panel, including member recruitment and the monitoring workshop.

Pete Bisson, Monitoring Panel Chair, reviewed some of the work and results completed in IMW's over the last 10 years.

Leska Fore, Monitoring Panel, summarized and reviewed the results of the monitoring panel workshop held in February. Next steps are to reconvene the 2nd day of the workshop, cancelled due to weather, to develop options for presentation in July to the SRFB meeting, and look for monitoring approaches that benefit the SRFB and others.

Public Comment:

Mara Zimmerman, Coast Salmon Partnership, gave comment on the monitoring panel update.

Alex Conley, COR/YBFWRB, gave comment on the monitoring panel update.

John Foltz, Council of Regions/Snake River Recovery Board, provided comments on the monitoring panel update.

Break 3:35pm—3:50pm

Item 10: Invasive Species Update

Northern Pike: Justin Bush, Washington Invasive Species Council Executive Coordinator, provided an update on the Northern Pike found in the Columbia River Basin, most notably that they have not gotten any closer to the Grand Coulee Dam since the last meeting.

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board: Mary Fee, Executive Secretary Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board, summarized the roles, responsibilities and resources of the WA State and County noxious weed boards, and the importance of noxious weed control for Salmon habitat. It is the hope of the State's noxious weed board that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and project sponsors, better understand steps they can take to control or eradicate noxious weeds on board funded projects.

Item 11: Streamflow Restoration Program (Hirst) Implementation

Stacy Vynne McKinstry and Bennett Weinstein, Department of Ecology, briefed the board on the legislative changes that followed the Supreme Court's Hirst decision and what that is going to mean for salmon recovery moving forward. Mr. Weinstein started with a background of the new legislation, and how this is going to give the opportunity for the Department of Ecology and the SRFB to work together. He noted the new plan must evaluate ecological benefit, and continued his presentation by reviewing the committees plan for adoption pathways and how it could potentially influence the SRFB in the future.

Board asked clarifying questions about the law and what some of the discussion could look like moving forward.

Item 12: Overview of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) and the 2019-2021 investment plan


Jay Krienitz and Tish Conway, WDFW, Kay Caromile, Salmon Grants Manager, summarized the ESRP program for the board; including linkages to the work of the SRFB and a new effort to incentivize the removal of shoreline armoring.

Closing:

Chair Rockefeller adjourned the meeting for the day at 5:07 p.m. The next meeting is a travel meeting scheduled for July 10-11 in Yakima, Washington.

Approved by:


Phil Rockefeller, Chair


Date

