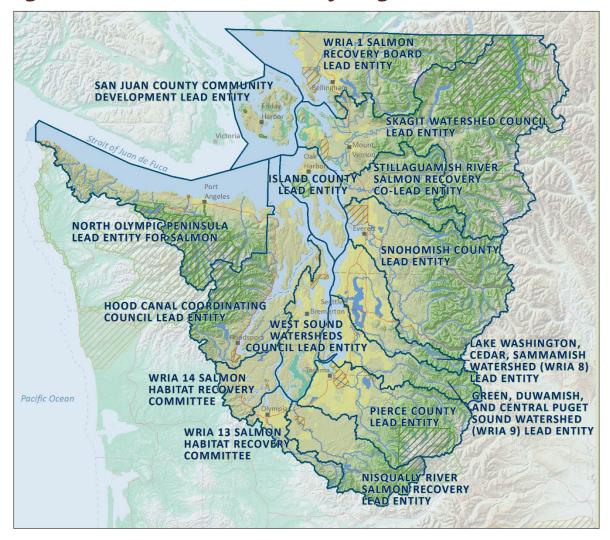
Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

# **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region**





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#### Appendix H– Regional Summaries

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

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#### **Region Overview**

## Geography

The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region is comprised of all or part of Clallam, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Snohomish, Thurston, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties. It also is comprised of all or parts of 19 WRIAs. The size of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region is dictated by the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Unit, identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA)

All or parts of Nooksack (1), San Juan (2), Lower Skagit (3), Upper Skagit (4), Stillaguamish (5), Island (6), Snohomish (7), Cedar/Sammamish (8), Green/Duwamish (9), Puyallup/White (10), Nisqually (11), Chambers/Clover (12), Deschutes (13), Kennedy/Goldsborough (14), Kitsap (15), Skokomish/Dosewallips (16), Quilcene/Snow (17), Elwha/Dungeness (18), Lyre/Hoko (19).

## **Federally Recognized Tribes**

Elwha Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lummi Nation, Makah Tribe, Muckleshoot Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Skokomish Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Tribes, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Suquamish Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribe, Tulalip Tribes, and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

## **Endangered Species Act Listings**

Species Listed	Listed As	Date Listed	
Puget Sound Chinook Salmon	Threatened	March 24, 1999	
Puget Sound Steelhead	Threatened	May 11, 2007	

#### Table 1: Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region Listed Species

## Salmon Recovery Plan

#### Table 2. Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region Recovery Plan

Recovery Plan	
Regional Organization	Puget Sound Partnership
Plan Timeframe	50 years
Actions Identified to	More than 1,000
Implement Plan	
Estimated Cost	\$1.42 billion for first 10 years

#### Appendix H– Regional Summaries

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Recovery Plan	
Status	The Recovery plan for Puget Sound Chinook salmon was adopted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in January 2007. Many of the Puget Sound watershed chapters were written as 10 year plans and several are undergoing updates. The region has completed a translation of watershed recovery chapters into a common framework and created a regional monitoring and adaptive management system to document chapter updates. The region received funding in the 2022 supplemental legislative session to bring all watershed chapters into an updated status. Over half of watersheds have completed a partial for full update of their plans. WRIA 5, WSPER, and Dungeness watersheds expect to complete their comprehensive updates by the end of FY26.
	Recovery planning for Puget Sound steelhead is ongoing. Recovery plan chapters were completed in three watersheds (Nisqually, Skagit, and West Sound) and chapter development is underway in Hood Canal. NOAA completed a full <u>recovery plan</u> for Puget Sound steelhead in December 2019. Individual chapters for most watersheds will not be drafted in the first phase of work due to lack of resources. However, the Steelhead Recovery Team has developed resources supporting the development of watershed chapters that can aid in the identification of site specific actions at the watershed scale in a consistent format. Resources will need to be secured to support each watershed group to use the template and complete a chapter for the steelhead recovery plan or add steelhead-specific strategies to their Chinook salmon recovery chapters (thus creating multi-species plans).
	The Puget Sound region works in partnership with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, which serves as the regional organization for the recovery of Hood Canal Summer Chum. A portion of both Puget Sound SRFB funding and PSAR funding goes toward Hood Canal recovery planning efforts. In June 2018, the SRC granted the HCCC's request that all PSAR project development funding provided to implement Chinook salmon recovery in the Hood Canal area be redirected fully to support Summer Chum recovery efforts. This amount is in addition to the 5.25% PSAR funding received for Summer Chum capital projects (including 6% of that 5.25% specifically for project development). Detailed allocation tables for PSAR can be viewed here and SRFB here.

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#### Appendix M– Regional Summaries

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Recovery Plan		
Web Information	Puget Sound Partnership Web site <u>www.psp.wa.gov.</u>	
	Updated pages to Puget Sound Salmon Recovery:	
	http://www.psp.wa.gov/salmon-recovery-overview.php	
	Updated page to the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR):	
	http://www.psp.wa.gov/PSAR.php	
	Additionally, Puget Sound projects can be viewed using the Salmon Recovery	
	Portal.	

### **Region and Lead Entities**

On January 1, 2008, the Puget Sound Partnership Act, Section 49(3), Revised Code of Washington 77.85.090(3) designated the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council to serve as the regional salmon recovery organization for Puget Sound salmon species, except Hood Canal summer chum. The Puget Sound Partnership serves as the staffing agency for the Puget Sound Leadership Council. There are 15 lead entity organizations in the Puget Sound Region.

## **Regional Area Summary Questions and Responses**

#### Internal funding allocations

Describe the process and criteria used to develop allocations across lead entities or watersheds within the region.

Puget Sound currently receives 38% of the statewide allocation of PCSRF/SRFB funding.

The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) affirmed at its May 2021 meeting the use of the same allocation methodology used in previous SRFB grant cycles going forward. This decision was recommended by the Puget Sound Salmon Science Advisory Group (SSAG), which serves as an advisory body to the SRC. For SRFB funds, Hood Canal summer chum funds are allocated directly to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. Hood Canal receives a portion of the Puget Sound allocation to support this work. This is described in more detail above, under "status."

The allocation formula is based on recovery criteria set by NOAA in its Federal ESA Recovery Plan for Puget Sound Chinook salmon:

- All 22 Chinook salmon populations must improve.
- Some populations must get to "low risk" status faster than others.

Thus, based on a policy goal of delisting Puget Sound Chinook salmon:

• All watersheds start with an equal base amount of funding because all populations must improve and delisting will not occur if some populations don't improve (30%)

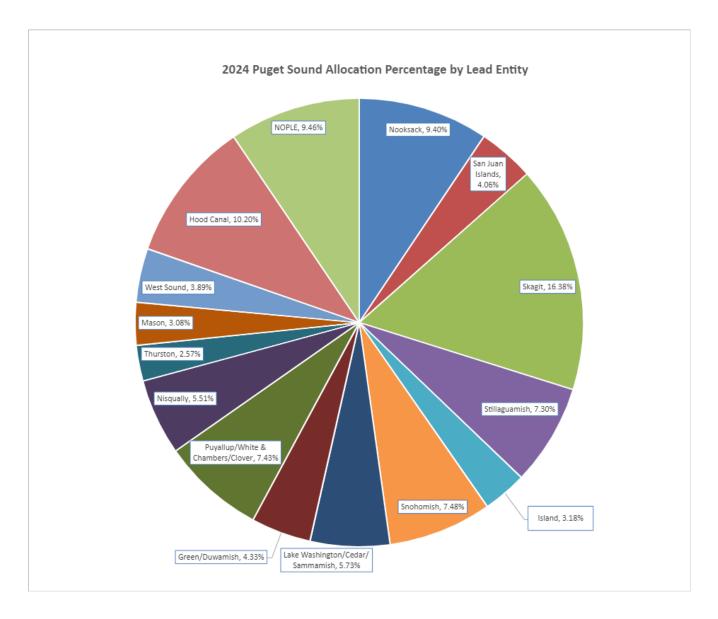
- Watersheds that have a larger geographic area to coveruget & cov
- Those watersheds that have a population that needs to get to low-risk faster get an additional percentage (35%)
- Watersheds that have more than one of the listed populations get more funding (15%)
- Remaining funds (10% of the total amount) are distributed by allocation percent to all watersheds, excluding summer chum.
- A separate, specially appropriated amount is dedicated to capacity (6%)
- The remainder (5%) is applied to Hood Canal summer chum.<sup>1</sup>

A detailed spreadsheet of the 2024 Puget Sound allocation formula can be viewed here.

The table below provides the 2024 Puget Sound SRFB allocation (\$10,911,744) by lead entity/WRIA (WRIA or watershed). Note that the allocation percentages have not changed since 2018. The PSSRC determined that endorsement of the allocation methodology would foster a collaborative spirit across lead entities in Puget Sound as well as support the ongoing implementation of the recovery plan and next steps in developing the best investments for salmon recovery across the region. The allocation formula is based on NOAA delisting criteria, including amount of available critical habitat and number of at-risk and total populations present. In 2018, the Salmon Science Advisory Group (SSAG) evaluated the allocation formula and recommended no change based on current status of recovery.

The allocation percentages provide each lead entity with a target funding amount for development of their project lists.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Hood Canal Coordinating Council was granted use of Chinook salmon PSAR funding toward the recovery of Summer Chum for 2018. This includes the 5.25% capital funding and a 6% portion of that for project development.



#### Table 3. 2024 Puget Sound Region SRFB Allocations\*

		2024 Allocation	
WRIA	Recovery Units	Percentage	Total 2024 Amount
1	Nooksack	9.40%	\$1,025,932
2	San Juan Island	4.06%	\$443,078
3/4	Skagit	16.38%	\$1,787,797
5	Stillaguamish	7.30%	\$796,158
6	Island	3.18%	\$347,205
7	Snohomish	7.48%	\$815,824
8	Lake	5.73%	\$624,890
	Washington/Cedar/Sammamish		
9	Green/Duwamish	4.33%	\$472,035
10/12	Puyallup/White and	7.43%	\$810,416.03
	Chambers/Clover		
11	Nisqually	5.51%	\$601,021

13	Thurston	2.57%	\$280,832	
14	Mason	3.08%	\$335,897	
15	West Sound	3.89%	\$424,886	
	Watersheds			
15/16/17	Hood Canal	10.20%	\$1,113,446	
17/18/19	Elwha/Dungeness/	9.46%	\$1,032,323	
	Straights			

\*This table does not reflect any allocation transfers that may occur between watersheds.

#### The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program (PSAR)

PSAR was created in 2007 to help implement the most important habitat protection and restoration priorities in Puget Sound, alongside SRFB funding. It is co-managed by the Puget Sound Partnership as the regional organization for Puget Sound, and by RCO as the grant administrator for SRFB funded projects. The PSSRC made a policy decision starting with funds for the 2013-15 biennium to apply the same allocation formula as is used for the SRFB funds for the first \$30 million of the PSAR award for watersheds. This funding is available biennially and, alongside SRFB funding, supports the implementation of 4YWP project lists as well as adaptive management of the recovery chapters.

Beginning in 2013, the PSSRC agreed to apply any funding above \$30 million towards funding large capital projects that were reviewed and submitted as high priorities by lead entities, tribes and project sponsors. These projects are reviewed, scored and regionally ranked by a team of subject matter experts and Partnership staff with expertise in particular review criteria. This ranked list is considered by the SRC Executive Committee, which has the opportunity to develop a modified ranked list based on criteria outlined in the PSAR large capital RFP. The original ranked list and any alternative ranked lists are recommended by the full PSSRC for approval by the Puget Sound Leadership Council, and for final approval and recommendation for funding by the SRFB. This process will be completed in September 2024, resulting in a regionally ranked list of 9 high priority large capital projects.

*Explain if the project list(s) submitted in your region funds the highest priority projects.* In 2024, Puget Sound lead entities submitted projects for SRFB and PSAR funding. All projects submitted by Puget Sound lead entities for SRFB and PSAR funding must align with the strategies listed in their local salmon recovery chapters, as well as be included on their 4YWP project list. Lead entities update their 4YWPs every year in order to reflect the most up-to-date strategies for implementing recovery plans, to ensure accuracy for project attributes, to remove or modify projects with changed circumstances (funded, inactive, etc.), and to ensure that the highest priority projects are being put forward for funding every year.

Lead entities are responsible for ensuring 4YWPs meet the following criteria: 1. Projects and activities are appropriately linked to strategies within the 2005 recovery plan and/or a tribal treaty rights population (projects benefiting species of tribal importance are permitted to apply for SRFB and PSAR funding even if they are not ESA listed).

2. The watershed shows a clear sense of priorities among salmon populations, including listed populations and populations important for treaty rights. Strategies and actions chosen reflect those priorities.

3. Strong scientific foundation for the strategies and actions in this chapter.

4. Clear and specific goals for the populations and habitat in this chapter.

If the highest priority projects were not funded, explain the barriers to implementing the highest priority projects in your region.

In the Puget Sound region, the lead entities identify the highest priority projects in their watersheds for SRFB and PSAR funding, and those projects are implemented to the extent that funding is available. Oftentimes there is insufficient funding to fund and implement all of the high priority projects in Puget Sound. In addition, prioritization of PSAR Large Capital projects has been successful and the process widely accepted but the region only has received enough funding to fund the entire list one time – in the 23-25 biennium.

Do suballocations to lead entities limit your region from getting to the highest priority projects? No. The PSSRC determined that endorsement of the allocation methodology would foster a collaborative spirit across lead entities in Puget Sound as well as support the ongoing implementation of the recovery plan and next steps in developing the best investments for salmon recovery across the region. The allocation formula is based on NOAA delisting criteria, including amount of available critical habitat and number of at-risk and total populations present. In 2018, the Salmon Science Advisory Group (SSAG) evaluated the allocation formula and recommended no change based on current status of recovery.

#### **Regional technical review process**

The SRFB envisions regional technical review processes that address, at a minimum, the fit of lead entity projects to regional recovery plans, if available. Explain how the regional technical review was conducted.

All projects eligible for SRFB and PSAR funding through Puget Sound must be reviewed and approved through the SRFB review panel. Additionally, each lead entity technical and citizens' review processes consider whether proponent projects fit with the local plan strategy and priorities and evaluates the certainty that the project will deliver desired results. Puget Sound Partnership staff and their partners understand that the SRFB Review Panel provides an independent review to ensure that individual projects submitted by the lead entities are technically feasible and have a high likelihood of achieving the stated objectives. Lead Entities ensure that projects proposed align with their watershed strategies to recover salmon across Puget Sound.

#### What criteria were used for the regional technical review?

#### **Project Consistency Review Questions**

All projects eligible for SRFB funding through Puget Sound must be reviewed and approved through the SRFB review panel. Additionally, project lists were reviewed by Partnership staff to ensure they are consistent with local recovery plans. The criteria outlined in Manual 18, Appendix H, number 3 were used to evaluate SRFB and PSAR project lists submitted by lead entities:

- 1. Is each project on the 2024 SRFB and PSAR project lists properly and clearly aligned with a strategy in the area's recovery chapter?
- 2. Do projects provide benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability? In addition to limiting factors analysis, Salmonid Stock Inventory, and Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program, provide stock assessment work completed to date to characterize the status of salmonid species in the region.
- 3. Are projects cost-effective?
- 4. Do projects preserve high quality habitat?

#### **Regional Monitoring Projects**

Lead entities can apply to use a portion of the regional SRFB funding (up to 10% total for the region) to support regionally significant monitoring projects. There are no projects being recommended for funding in 2024.

Lead entities update their 4YWPs every year in order to reflect the most up-to-date strategies for implementing recovery plans, to ensure accuracy for project attributes, and to remove or modify projects with changed circumstances (funded, inactive, etc.).

Lead entities are responsible for ensuring 4YWPs meet the following criteria:

- 1. Projects and activities are appropriately linked to strategies within the 2005 recovery plan, a tribal treaty rights population and/or 4YWP narrative (projects benefiting species of tribal importance are permitted to apply for SRFB funding even if they are not ESA listed).
- 2. The watershed shows a clear sense of priorities among salmon populations, including listed populations and populations important for treaty rights. Strategies and actions chosen reflect those priorities.
- 3. Strong scientific foundation for the strategies and actions in this chapter.
- 4. Identified gaps in strategies or actions that the watershed will consider filling in future revisions (part of narrative summary), including areas of opportunity for regional assistance.
- 5. Clear and specific goals for the populations and habitat in this chapter.
- 6. Identified major technical gaps and challenges the watershed is/expects to

experience in adaptive management of their recovery chapter.

# Who completed the review (name, affiliation, and expertise) and are they part of the regional organization or independent?

Name	Affiliation	Position	Review conducted
Melissa Speeg	PSP	Salmon Recovery Manager	Program oversight
Hannah Liss	PSP	Salmon Recovery Coordinator	25-27 PSAR Large Cap site visits and virtual presentations
April Gassman	PSP	Salmon Projects Coordinator	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Ashley Bagley	PSP	Salmon Policy Advisor	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Marlies Wierenga	PSP	PSAR Program Manager	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Annelise Del Rio	PSP	Salmon Science Lead	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Bebhinn Gilbert	PSP	Restoration & Transportation Funding Strategist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Nick Tealer	PSP	Environmental Planner	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Dan Auerbach	WDFW	Watershed Scientist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Michaela Lowe	WDFW	Ecologist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Katharine Shelledy	NWIFC	Salmon Habitat Recovery Coordinator	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Gino Lucchetti	Salmon Science Advisory Group	Scientist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Bob Bilby	Salmon Science Advisory Group	Scientist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Sherrie Duncan	Sky Environmental	Fish biologist/restoration ecologist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Greg Blair	ICF	Fisheries and aquatics scientist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Jason Hall	Cramer	Program manager – fisheries research	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Naomi Gebo	Ecology	Coastal Resilience Project Coordinator	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Lisa Nelson	Ecology	Floodplains Restoration Planner	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Ted Parker	Stillaguamish Watershed Council	Senior Environmental Coordinator	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects
Doug Hennick	Stillaguamish Watershed Council	Fisheries, stream ecologist	25-27 PSAR Large Cap projects

Were there any projects submitted to the SRFB that the regional implementation or Salmon Recovery Portal (formerly Habitat Work Schedule) did not specifically identify? If so, please provide justification for including these projects in the list of projects recommended to the SRFB for funding. If the projects were identified in the regional implementation plan or strategy but considered a low priority or in a low-priority area please provide justification.

No projects were submitted that are not part of the regional implementation plan and that are not in the Salmon Recovery Portal.

#### Criteria for regional technical review

How did the regional review consider whether a project met the following criteria:

A. Provides benefit to high priority stocks for the purpose of salmon recovery or sustainability. In addition to limiting factors analysis, Salmonid Stock Inventory, and Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program, provide stock assessment work completed to date to characterize the status of salmonid species in the region.

As noted above, the regional review process focused on reviewing the 2024 SRFB and PSAR project lists for consistency with the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan (regional and local chapters) in addition to strategies for listed Puget Sound steelhead and non-listed species important to the exercise of Tribal treaty rights, the area's Phase I Monitoring and Adaptive Management frameworks, and the watershed 2024 4YWP narratives. The focus on the recovery plan at both the regional and local scale emphasized the importance of high priority stocks per the recovery plan and local recovery strategies. Project consistency reviews for each salmon recovery lead entity's project lists were conducted in August 2024.

#### B. Addresses cost-effectiveness.

As noted above, the region decided on an allocation per lead entity for SRFB and PSAR funds to ensure the most effective use of SRFB and PSAR funds for ecosystem restoration and species delisting. In many cases, local review criteria incorporate cost/benefit as part of the local scoring and ranking process (descriptions of each lead entities' criteria and process can be seen below). Each lead entity/watershed runs a process to identify projects that meet their allocation. In cases where the full allocation was not met, strategic transfers were arranged to allow for areas with project lists greater than their allocation to coordinate a transfer of funds with another area. These transfers are arranged outside the authority of the Partnership and RCO but are supported because they capitalize on the flexibility of the funding sources and the year to year needs of each area. These transfers are documented as memos between lead entities and reflected in PRISM. The region relies on the local project solicitation, review, and ranking process to produce projects that are ready to go and will provide the highest benefit to salmon within the limits of each watersheds' specified allocation.

# C. Preserves high quality habitat. Describe projects on the list that will preserve high quality habitat.

Projects on the regional lists show the preservation of high quality habitat in the 4YWP. 4YWPs can be seen in the Salmon Recovery Portal.

Puget Sound Lead Entity project lists for the 2024 SRFB and PSAR grant rounds can be seen in PRISM and in the Salmon Recovery Portal.

# D. Sponsored by an organization with a successful record of project implementation.

As noted above, the region relies on the local project solicitation, review, and ranking process to develop and produce projects that will provide the highest benefit to salmon within the watershed. This includes building relationships with project sponsors and working with organizations with successful records of project implementation to develop high priority projects for Puget Sound salmon recovery.

#### E. Provides benefit to listed and non-listed fish species.

As noted above, the regional review process focused on reviewing the 2024 SRFB and PSAR project lists for consistency with the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan (regional and local chapters) in addition to strategies for listed Puget Sound steelhead and non-listed species important to the exercise of Tribal treaty rights, the area's Phase I Monitoring and Adaptive Management frameworks, and the watershed 2024 4YWP narratives. The focus on the recovery plan at both the regional and local scale emphasized the importance of high priority stocks per the recovery plan and local recovery strategies.

# F. Implements a high-priority project or action in a region or watershed salmon recovery plan.

All projects advance high priority actions, occur in high priority areas, address priority species, and/or advance efforts identified in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

#### G. Provides for match above the minimum requirement percentage.

All projects provide at least 15% match, with the exception of PSAR Large Capital projects, planning/design projects and those associated with IMW areas.

# H. Involves members of the Veterans Conservation Corps established in Revised Code of Washington 43.60A.150.

Several projects specifically employ VCC crews and others involve the participation of other employees who are veterans.

 Sponsored by an entity that is a Puget Sound partner, as defined in Revised Code of Washington 90.71.010. Referenced in the "Action Agenda" developed by the Puget Sound Partnership under Revised Code of Washington 90.71.310.

All salmon recovery projects that are on a lead entity's 4YWP are referenced within the 2018-2022 Action Agenda and are linked to strategies and actions in the 2022-2026 Action Agenda. All projects on a lead entity's SRFB and PSAR project lists must be included on the lead entity's 4YWP.

# **Targeted Investment**

The Recreation and Conservation office received \$25M in supplemental funding from the Climate Commitment Act for Targeted Investment which allowed for an additional opportunity for project sponsors. The Puget Sound region solicited projects from lead entities, tribes and project sponsors for the 2024 SRFB Targeted Investment program with the opportunity to submit up to 6 projects for consideration for Targeted Investment funding. Proposed projects were submitted to the region and first evaluated through the PSAR Large Capital review process by the PSAR review team (see previous table).

Five projects were submitted from the PSAR Large Capital ranked list to RCO for possible Targeted Investment funding, however one was ultimately identified as ineligible. The four Puget Sound Targeted Investment projects included:

- Double Bluff Acquisition (#24-1119)
- IMW Smokehouse Dike Setback Construction (#24-1740)
- Auburn Narrows Construction (#24-1156)
- Schoolhouse Creek at Tidewater Construction (#24-1199)

The Recreation and Conservation office has ranked all projects submitted statewide to create a Targeted Investment ranked list. The top ranked projects up to the \$25M line will be funded with this supplemental funding, if the Climate Commitment Act remains. The remaining projects will be put on a large capital list that RCO will advocate for in the 2025 legislative session.

## **Local Review Processes**

All materials submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership by Puget Sound lead entities for Appendix H are available <u>here</u>. This satisfies questions 4 and 5 as part of the regional report.

## **4-Year Work Plan Narratives**

#### WRIA 1 Nooksack

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Becky Peterson, WRIA 1 Lead Entity Coordinator Review by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

The strategies that guide restoration and acquisition priorities for SRFB and PSAR funding are unchanged for the 2024 SRFB Grant Round. Restoration priorities remain focused in the geographic areas of the Nooksack River Forks (North Fork, Middle Fork, and South Fork), which have the highest magnitude of benefit for early Chinook. The restoration strategies are incorporated in local tables by geographic reach and tiered for use in project development. These tables are used by both sponsors and local reviewers to develop and fund projects that have the greatest magnitude of benefit for Chinook in the priority areas.

A change this year occurred with the riparian fund allocation. Since riparian proposals were not typically submitted through the Lead Entity for SRFB or PSAR project funding, review criteria were established for evaluating riparian proposals. The criteria from Manual 18 was the primary evaluation criteria along with evaluation criteria associated with riparian strategies in the draft 10-year implementation plan for WRIA 1.

As the WRIA 1 SRP Update is finalized and the Chinook Life Cycle model is further refined, updates will continue to be made to the WRIA 1 4YWP for capital and non-capital projects in geographic areas to address key limiting factors affecting critical populations.

The six projects submitted for the 2024 SRFB grant round – one design, one acquisition/restoration, two instream restoration and two riparian - are all elements of the WRIA 1 4YWP and have been reviewed by local reviewers using the project development table and draft 10-year implementation plan previously described.

In addition to the uses described above, WRIA 1 incorporates other categories of projects and other geographic areas in its 4YWP that do not go through the Lead Entity process for salmon recovery funding. In this context, the 4YWP serves as a repository for other organizations that seek funding in the geographic areas that are not currently identified as priorities for early Chinook recovery. A crosswalk of the 4YWP projects, the 10-Year Implementation Plan restoration actions, and the requested habitat targets and indicators for Puget Sound Partnership's progress reporting was completed but stalled when technical issues were encountered and there was not follow-up from PSP. An effort to complete the work will be made in late August.

#### WRIA 2 San Juan Island

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Sam Whitmore, San Juan Island Lead Entity Coordinator Review by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

The San Juan County Salmon Recovery Chapter Update was completed in February 2022 and was officially approved by both the San Juan County Lead Entity (February 2022) and San Juan County Council (April 2022). The 2022 Chapter updated the 2005 Chapter by drawing on the scientific studies completed since 2005 to establish habitat goals, implementation targets, and key strategies

in both the nearshore and freshwater environments to achieve multispecies recovery, with a focus on Chinook, Coho, forage fish, and Coastal Cutthroat Trout. The Chapter Update reaffirms the "protection of intact nearshore habitat and food web function for Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery" as the top salmon recovery approach in WRIA 2. This Chapter Update also acknowledges the current societal and environmental backdrop for recovery efforts in WRIA 2, including the Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) crisis, human population growth resulting in accelerating development pressure, and climate change. The Chapter Update has been in place for the past three grant rounds and has helped establish clear goal and strategies to guide our annual ranking process. We anticipate that the Chapter will be revisited through regular adaptive management cycles and updated as new data and information is gathered. In 2024, the grant round included the new Riparian Funding through the Climate Commitment Act. Our 2022 Chapter Update already including Riparian Restoration as one of our top freshwater strategies in San Juan County, and it identified priority watersheds for this work to occur. The inclusion of this strategy in the Chapter Update allowed us to seamlessly adapt our grant round to incorporate this new funding source into the review process.

#### WRIAs 3/4 Skagit

Narrative and attachments can be found <u>here</u> Aundrea McBride, Skagit Lead Entity Coordinator Review by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

#### Changes and Updates to Strategies

We made no changes to our strategies. We updated our Program Guide to include a more detailed process for approving projects to go on the 4 Year Work Plan/Planned Forecast List. The Program Guide is attached. The significance of the changes is that the list was expanded to include projects that would not qualify for funding by our Lead Entity under our usual Request For Proposals. The RFP only allows Chinook-focused projects. We added the broader scope to support projects that implement our mission of recovering all salmonids and to support sponsors in applying for other funding or qualifying for liability coverage through the state.

Updates to the 4Year Work Plan

Our Lead Entity Citizens' Committee (LECC) is tasked with final approval of the 4 Year Work Plan. The 2023 list was approved on August 3rd, 2023 (see attached). The LECC was not ready to approve 2024 additions this year at their August 8th, 2024 meeting. Our Technical Working Group approved 12 projects for addition to the 2024 list. The LECC decided to wait on further evaluation before approving.

#### WRIA 5 Stillaguamish

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Danielle Driscoll, Stillaguamish Lead Entity Coordinator Review by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

#### • Chapter Updates

 The Stillaguamish Watershed has opted to participate in the PSP Chapter Update. The Technical Funds PSP provides will be used to complete a channel migration zone delineation of the South Fork Stillaguamish and Mainstem Stillaguamish. Northwest Hydraulic Consultants will complete this task and it will help inform the Floodplain Target Update and may also contribute towards the Sediment Target Update and Riparian Target Update. o

- Floodplains
  - Currently starting the technical work to help inform this aspect of the Chapter update.
- o Riparian
  - A disappearing task group (DTG) was formed to start discussing the next steps in the update and what analysis to run.
- Sediment
  - A disappearing task group (DTG) was formed to start discussing the potential changes needed for the sediment target update.

#### • MIRADI Files

• No updates in the past year

#### • SRP Tagging of SRFB Projects

- o All projects tagged with Four-Year Work Plan (Grant Rounds 2024 and PPFL projects).
- Will continue to cleanup SRP database.

#### WRIA 6 Island

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Clea Barenburg, Island County Lead Entity Coordinator Review by: April Gassman, Salmon Permitting Projects Coordinator

As described in the updated WRIA 6 Multi-Species Salmon Recovery Plan (2019), the Salmon Recovery Plan will be adapted based on the lessons learned from project implementation. The WRIA 6 Lead Entity has completed a Lessons Learned narrative to document the challenges that project sponsors have experienced over the last decades, during project implementation. The intent of this document is to pass on this information to other sponsors and committee members for future project development and to avoid these issues going forward.

The SRTCC will review the lessons learned after the completion of each project and will adjust actions based on these outcomes, as appropriate. Sometimes the lessons learned come from projects that fail or don't get to the first stage. The Salmon Recovery Plan will also continue to be adapted with emerging science and to address data gaps when needed. Island County is currently holding monthly adaptive management meetings to identify and address mainly water quality but also local recovery goals.

No changes have been made to the salmon recovery strategies over the last year. The Island County Lead Entity has continued to strengthen partnerships with sponsors, county departments, and other organizations to further the salmon recovery program goals and aid in future project development. As our local partners update their priorities and strategies we work to incorporate this input into our future project goals. We also communicate our priorities to Island County with their work on Comprehensive plan updates, Shoreline master program periodic update, and target investment projects.

#### WRIA 7 Snohomish

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator Lead entity and partner capacity continues to present a challenge to moving the Snohomish Basin Plan Update forward. Additional capacity and coaching support will be needed to pick up the workload in earnest again. However, there has been some progress on small pieces:

• **Riparian Data** - For the Snohomish Plan Update, setting new habitat restoration implementation targets is one of the primary components to be accomplished. One of the targets under revision is riparian forest. At present, no up-to-date information exists about current conditions in the riparian zone WRIA-wide. Existing information is often inaccurate or out of date. SnoCo GIS staff have been reviewing existing streambank lines and digitizing data across WRIA 7 (both sides of the county line) for accuracy and making corrections where necessary. Work has been slow going. At the start of 2024, Snohomish County and King County developed a scope of work for the WWU Spatial Institute to complete digitization of the remainder of the watershed area and provide future trainings to County and partner staff on the methods used. This work and the trainings will be completed before the end of 2024.

The resulting product will be used not only to develop accurate riparian targets for the updated Salmon Plan, but is intended for use every 5 years to develop status and trends updates for the WRIA, enabling adaptive management and more effective salmon recovery. Prior to this product, WRIA 7 did not have any way to accurately assess status and trends across the whole basin. The product can also be shared with partner agencies and be used in other salmon recovery efforts, such as the NOAA/Tulalip Life Cycle Model.

• Capacity –

• **Positions filled** - The Technical Committee Co-Chair positions have been filled (King Co/Snoqualmie Forum – Norah Kates and Snohomish County – Stuart Baker) and new staff are working on getting up-to-speed.

• **Additional resources sought** – LE staff have worked to include a funding request to support the Plan Update in federal (NOAA) gran t proposal

• **Connections made** – LE staff have met with PSP staff and NWIFC staff to strategize about outside resources and perspectives that could support the Snohomish Basin in picking up the Plan Update later in 2024 or 2025.

#### • Strategy update –

 Tulalip Tribes continue to lead the development of 1) an acquisition decision tool and accompanying strategy and 2) a Fish Passage Prioritization and Coordination Tool

#### • Accelerating implementation

• Basin partners and LE staff remain intently focused on developing and moving projects to implementation. A significant focus of LE staff has been supporting proposal applications on behalf of partners in the basin.

• **Life Cycle Model** – The Tulalip Tribes completed Phase 1 of the Life Cycle Model work (supported by NEP funding) in Dec. 2022. After the completion of Phase 1, it became clear that many data layers are inaccurate and and will provide a good baseline. However, with the undertaking of Phase 1, it has become apparent that many data layers are inaccurate. Further refining of data layers for more accurate outputs has been identified as the next step. Tulalip has NV5 under contract to update hydrography for the Skykomish sub-basin and are coordinating with the USFS and Ecology to get the rest of the basin updated ASAP. Estimated completion is fall of 2025.

• **Relation to project selection and prioritization:** The Plan Update work in progress has not influenced the Basin's salmon recovery grant round project selection and prioritization process. It is not expected that the grant round project selection and prioritization criteria will be altered until a full Plan Update is complete.

#### WRIA 8 Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Carrie Byron, WRIA 8 Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

Over the past year, WRIA 8 instituted several changes that qualify as adaptive management of the watershed's recovery strategy. These include:

• The WRIA 8 Technical Committee developed and approved an updated monitoring and assessment funding prioritization, which was used to identify the highest priority monitoring needs in the watershed for the 2024 grant round. WRIA 8 does not use SRFB funding for monitoring activities, but local grants provide some resources for directing watershed funds to monitoring and assessment. The funding prioritization was used to guide the allocation of those funds to the highest priority work, and it can be found here:

https://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/pdf/2024MonitoringandAssessmentPrioritiesFIN AL\_11.28.23.pdf

• WRIA 8 has continued our ongoing efforts to better understand survival bottlenecks, especially those faced by juvenile salmon migrating through the lakes and the Lake Washington Ship Canal. While no changes have been implemented as of yet, the WRIA directed resources to several efforts that will help us better understand the degree to which invasive predatory fish are causing mortality of juveniles and the factors influencing suspected high predation rates before they reach Puget Sound. WRIA 8 also convened a technical workshop of subject matter experts on pinniped predation on salmon, which developed a recommendations report to support potential management actions to reduce pinniped predation at the Ballard Locks. The findings from these efforts to address predation impacts will inform future management actions. We are also supporting and working with partners to assess other priority limiting factors like elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal, the effects of aquatic weeds on predation, and the impact of artificial light at night on salmon behavior and survival.

• WRIA 8 also ran a second "Project Innovation and Community Funding" small grant round to support early project development and integrate equity and greater community engagement into salmon recovery. This program is supported in part with PSAR project development funding in addition to local funding.

#### WRIA 9 Green/Duwamish

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Suzanna Smith, WRIA 9 Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum adopted the updated 2021 Salmon Habitat Plan in February

2021. A comprehensive list of projects was solicited and developed during the Plan development process. Submitted projects were reviewed against a scoring matrix focused primarily on habitat quantity and quality and provided a tier indicating the priority of the project in the context of recovery goals. There have been no substantive changes to our recovery strategies since the 2021 update. The funding package presented every year is iterative and is the product of months of outreach and collaboration with project sponsors and recovery partners ensuring that priority projects receive the support they need. The 4YWP is a drafted list of projects projected out 2 biennium of funding and represents our intent to support projects throughout their life cycle. A 10-Year Status and Trends Report is currently under development which inform future adaptive management recommendations.

#### WRIA 10/12 Puyallup/White and Chambers/Clover

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Lisa Spurrier, WRIA 10/12 Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

The Lead Entity has not completed any Strategy updates over the last year.

In April 2023, the Lead Entity completed the final revisions to the <u>Monitoring-and-Adaptive-</u> <u>Management-Plan- (piercecountywa.gov)</u> that saw it's first draft completed in 2022.

Our scoring criteria for Monitoring and Assessment projects provides 10 points for projects that fill data gaps. Project No. 24-1399-WRIA 10-12 Nearshore Habitat Assessment was evaluated based on this criterion by our local technical review team and has also been cleared by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board technical review team.

#### WRIA 11 Nisqually

Narrative and attachments can be found <u>here</u> Ashley Von Essen, Nisqually Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

#### 4 Year Work Plan:

The Nisqually 4 Year Work Plan has all been entered in its entirety in the Salmon Recovery Portal and is tagged appropriately. This work plan continues to be updated and approved annually by the Nisqually Salmon Habitat Work Group (NSHWG), with all new projects being presented to and approved by the Nisqually River Council (NRC).

#### Salmon Recovery Narrative:

Though no changes were made to either the Nisqually Chinook or Steelhead Recovery Plans, updates were made to the Nisqually Habitat Project Ranking Guidance. This guidance is reviewed and approved annually to be sure the Nisqually Lead Entity is using the most up to date science, accounting for any changes to the watershed that might alter outputs EDT (Ecosystem Diagnostics and Treatment software). The Nisqually LE also works with the Nisqually Indian Tribe's GIS program to run a desktop analysis of restoration and acquisition metrics that are used for tracking initiative metrics. For example, any acquisitions for the previous year would be incorporated into the "protected" category, allowing the LE to compare individual projects and see how much it

might "push the needle" toward recovery. These metrics are calculated for each project and given a score based on its percent change. Other scoring criteria include tier, project readiness, match, and timing/sequencing.

The 2024 Nisqually Habitat Project Ranking Guidance has been included as an attachment in the email/submission of this report.

#### WRIA 13 Deschutes (South Sound)

Narrative and attachments can be found <u>here</u> Amy Hatch-Winecka, WRIA 13 Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

This email is to let you know that WRIA 13 did only minor modifications to the recovery strategic plan in 2024. These updates focused on revising with applicable 2024 dates and slight wording clarifications. The group did discuss continuing to create implementation targets using funds offered by PSP but the technical team declined, citing a lack of capacity for that effort.

#### WRIA 14 Kennedy-Goldsborough (South Sound)

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Jacob Murray, WRIA 14 Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

Significant time continued to be invested into updating the WRIA 14 Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Plan. During the previous period, the WRIA 14 LEC finalized an outline for the plan and contracted with Environmental Science Associates in Partnership with PSP to provide support. In addition to regularly scheduled meetings where the Committee at large provides input, a Workgroup was also established comprised of Technical Advisory Group members. The focus thus far has been on establishing habitat goals and implementation targets. These have largely been established for riparian, marine nearshore, fish passage, instream complexity, and floodplain connectivity. Sections not in the existing recovery strategy to be included are an adaptive management and monitoring plan and climate change addendum. Although significant progress has been made, these updates have yet to influence project selection. That said, the LE Committee did utilize a newly produced fish barrier prioritization model to rank competing barrier correction projects seeking BAFBRB letters of support.

#### WRIA 15 West Sound

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Renee Johnson, WSPER Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

- 1. This is a multi-part question: have you completed any adaptive management or updates to your recovery chapter? If no, skip to next question. If yes, what and how have you completed the updates?
- a. Please describe the aspects of the chapter that were updated (e.g. habitat goals, strategies, pressures, actions, etc.)

West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery serves as Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery in East WRIA 15 and the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for ecosystem recovery in the North Central Action Area. The purpose of WSPER is to achieve ecosystem and salmon recovery through implementation of restoration and preservation actions identified in ecosystem and salmon recovery plans.

WSPER is in the process of updating the East Kitsap Chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan with technical and facilitation support from the Puget Sound Partnership and a consulting team. The WSPER coordination team is working with an Ad Hoc committee of the TAG to advise the update. This is a significant effort, as the chapter has not been updated since 2005.

WSPER is currently updating its Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP) and has uploaded the draft report and GIS Online Ecosystem Tool to the WSPER website, so partners can review and comment on it. Adoption is planned in December 2024. Five WSPER Technical Advisory Group Members, consultants from Triangle Associates, and the WSPER Coordination Team have collaborated on this plan. The team has reviewed and processed available local and regional data to define *functional*, *at-risk*, *or unacceptable* categories for identified indicators. This will aid WSPER in identifying priority areas and projects.

Several salmon habitat indicators were examined by the ERP team including: extent of armor in the nearshore, percent feeder bluffs without armor by drift cell, percent vegetated cover (~8 ft or greater height) in riparian zones, proportion of shoreline that is vegetated (~8 ft or greater height) by shoretype, extent of connected tidal wetlands, extent of functional tidal channels, count of accessible pocket estuaries and embayments, area of pocket estuaries and embayments accessible to salmon. A *rating of functional, at risk, or unacceptable* for each indicator will display in a GIS web map tool, as will data gaps.

#### b. How have these updates led to changes on the 4YWP project list?

WSPER committees adaptively manage their priority lists, including the 4-Year Workplan and the Planned Project Forecast List using the recovery plans and strategies listed below. These are informed by best available data and include:

- <u>The West Sound Nearshore Integration and Synthesis Tool of Chinook and Salmon</u> <u>Recovery Priorities.</u>
- The East Kitsap DIP Steelhead Recovery Plan, Suquamish Tribe, 2020 is used to identify priority freshwater projects.
- Individual watershed strategies, which can be found at <u>Recovery Plans and Strategies West</u> <u>Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery</u>.

When the update to the East Kitsap Chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan is complete, we expect this update will inform changes to the 4 Year Workplan.

# c. Have these updates been made in the Miradi file? If no, when do you plan to update the Miradi file or do you need support to do so?

WSPER did not update Miradi in 2024 due to staff turnover and the Partnership lacking capacity to train new coordinators in this task.

#### d. Have you published these updates in another format besides Miradi? If so, provide link.

No.

# e. Please describe how you worked with your technical and policy bodies to complete this work. E.g., did you go through a formal development and review process or was work done mostly by staff?

WSPER administers a local process to identify salmon habitat restoration and acquisition projects and activities that support salmon recovery efforts critical to implementing salmon recovery plans. WSPER regularly convenes a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to meet every other month, where the 4-Year Workplan is addressed at meetings and through action items assigned to members between meetings. An Ad Hoc TAG group can be convened as needed. TAG members reviewed the existing 4-Year Workplan and identified priority projects, sponsors, estimated cost, and timeline for implementation based on available salmon recovery strategies and plans. This year, the WSPER coordination team is removing completed and dormant projects from the 4-Year Workplan with advisement of the TAG.

# 2. Have you made changes to or advanced your monitoring work? If so, where is the information located and how are you reporting on it? No, we have not made changes to our monitoring work.

No, see reference above to the Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

- 3. Are there any issues that have emerged since 2023 that are impacting how you do salmon recovery in your watershed?
- Substantial cost increases reduce the number of projects that partners can implement with available funds.
- Even with more funds coming through BIL and IIJA funding, capacity to do the work is limited. The Strategic Funding Team has been slow to come online.
- 4. What support can the region provide to advance salmon recovery in your watershed (technical support, policy work the PSSRC can advance, support needed by your ERC or other PSP staff, etc.)?
- Regional leadership can coordinate with the co-managers to lead H-integration and provide guidance on an all-H approach to watershed leads.
- The benefits of beavers for salmon and ecosystem recovery are a high priority for our watershed and are a priority of our executive committee. Regional leadership can support this priority by supporting state-wide efforts to improve protections for beaver habitat, including preserving larger riparian buffers to allow beaver re-colonization, and can support development of beaver management recommendations by WDFW.
- Continued assistance and funding for Salmon Recovery Strategy Chapter update.
- Increase direct funding for lead entities to implement local priority projects.
- A prioritized list of fish passage barriers to restore full watersheds.

#### WRIA 15/16/17 Skokomish/Hood Canal

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Alicia Olivas, Hood Canal Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

# The HCCC Lead Entity and Regional Recovery Organization focuses recovery efforts on Hood Canal summer chum and Puget Sound chinook populations within Hood Canal and the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca region.

HCCC updated the <u>HCCC's Guidance for Prioritizing Salmonid Stocks, Issues and Actions</u> and distributed the document to partners in 2023. This document along with on-going discussions stemming from the 2018 <u>Recovery Goal Review and Updated Guidance for the Hood Canal Summer</u> <u>Chum Salmon ESU</u> informs the <u>HCCC Salmon Recovery Program 2024 Priorities and Immediate</u> <u>Needs and Call for Salmon Habitat Projects.</u> Eligibility of proposals for the 2024 grant round are based on the alignment with the 2024 Call for Salmon Habitat Projects.

#### For Hood Canal summer chum:

HCCC recently updated the viability analysis for summer chum salmon. HCCC is working with the Co-Managers on assessing the viability analysis and status of summer chum salmon ESU. **For Skokomish Chinook:** The Skokomish chapter went through an extensive update in 2017 which is still very relevant. Emphasis is on implementing the Skokomish River Watershed Plan.

**For Mid-Hood Canal Chinook:** Habitat assessments were conducted on the Mid-Hood Canal streams by Co-Managers. The Lead Entity has project reviewers that are knowledgeable on the outcomes of the habitat assessments and were able to incorporate that knowledge in the project list evaluation discussions. Additionally, planning projects on the Dosewallips River that is active and on-going has had modeling results that informed reviewers in this year's lead entity's project selection and prioritization process.

#### WRIA 18 North Olympic

Narrative can also be found <u>here</u> Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity Coordinator Reviewed by: April Gassman, Salmon Projects Coordinator

All proposed project concepts are on our 4 Year Work Plan are included in the Salmon Recovery Portal and are tagged as part of our Work Plan Project List. We accept new project concepts and edits to existing projects on our work plan almost annually. We did a call for new work plan projects and updates this past fall. New projects and significant updates are scored by our technical team and then inserted into our ranked workplan.

Every four years or so we ask our technical team to score all projects on our four year work plan and this was the year they did so. This was a heavy lift for them, but it's good for reviewers to look at all project concepts and for project sponsors see how their projects are scored and the resulting rank. That helps them when selecting which projects to forward for funding consideration.

We have two recovery chapters for ESA-listed Chinook here on the North Olympic Peninsula. They include the Elwha Chinook Recovery Chapter and the Dungeness Chinook Recovery Chapter. We have spent time during the past year working on updating the Elwha Chinook Recovery Plan and that update is almost finalized.

The past six months we have worked on updating the Dungeness Chinook Recovery Plan and that work continues.

The work on the Elwha Chapter highlighted a shortfall in funding for monitoring the Elwha post dam removal. We supported the Elwha Klallam Tribe in their effort to obtain funding from the Puget Sound Partnership for needed monitoring.

We also worked to obtain funding from the Puget Sound Partnership for monitoring of the Lower Dungeness following two major floodplain reclamation projects there.

Both chapter updates include ways to bring together partners on a regular basis to look at data and monitoring information, along with reviewing fish reports and restoration and protection actions to better adaptively manage recovery efforts.