

PROPOSED Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

March 20, 2014

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA

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

Order of Presentation:

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

Public Comment:

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

You also may submit written comments to the Board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Jen Masterson at the address above or at jennifer.masterson@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations:

If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us at 360/725-3943 or TDD 360/902-1996.

MARCH 20, 2014

OPENING AND WELCOME

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	<i>Chair</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Determine QuorumIntroduce New Board MemberReview and Approve Agenda (<i>Decision</i>)Approve December Meeting Minutes (<i>Decision</i>)	

MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS (Briefings)

9:10 a.m.	1. Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">Legislative and Policy UpdatesPerformance Update (written only)B. Financial Report	<i>Kaleen Cottingham Nona Snell</i>
9:25 a.m.	2. Salmon Recovery Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Salmon Section ReportB. GSRO ReportC. Exchange Network Overview	<i>Tara Galuska Brian Abbott Keith Dublanica</i>
9:50 a.m.	3. Reports from Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Council of Regions ReportB. Lead Entity Advisory Group ReportC. Regional Fisheries Enhancement GroupsD. Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates	<i>Jeff Breckel Darcy Batura Lance Winecka SRFB Agency Representatives</i>

10:15 **General Public Comment:** *Please limit comments to 3 minutes*

Briefing

10:20 a.m.	4. Overview of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Program	<i>WDFW Staff</i>
11:20 a.m.	BREAK	
11:35	5. Riparian Buffer Update	<i>Leslie Connelly Steve Landino, NOAA</i>
12:10 p.m.	LUNCH	

Decision

1:10 p.m.	6. Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Revised Monitoring Recommendations from the Stillwater Report and Subcommittee DiscussionsB. Tetrtech Effectiveness Monitoring Contract 2014 Scope of WorkC. Funding for Monitoring Video	<i>Brian Abbott Keith Dublanica</i>
3:10 p.m.	BREAK	
3:25 p.m.	7. Salmon Recovery Conference 2015 Briefing and Funding Request	<i>Tara Galuska Brian Abbott</i>

Briefings

3:40 p.m.	8. Tentative – Puget Sound Steelhead Plan Status	<i>Puget Sound Partnership Staff</i>
4:10 p.m.	9. Tentative – Status of Bull Trout Recovery	<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
4:40 p.m.	ADJOURN	

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Director's Report

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

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

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

In this Report

- Agency operations
- Legislative, budget, and policy updates
- Update on sister boards

Agency Operations

Surprise Visitor

The Governor made a surprise visit on January 21st to help us launch our year of celebrating the agency's 50th Anniversary. He spoke about his connections with our great outdoors and then talked to staff individually and in small groups. He fielded questions from staff and asked questions about the allocation of funding in Puget Sound and whether our system worked for the smaller jurisdictions that need park funds.

Agency Strategic Planning

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) finalized the update to its [strategic plan](#), which can be viewed on the RCO Web site. The agency's vision, mission, and values changed slightly and the goals now focus around three new organizing principles: fair and accountable grant management, leadership, and innovative support services. Under the fair and accountable grant

management principle, RCO will focus on efforts to provide competitive grants efficiently and fairly so that partners can make strategic investments and to ensure that grants are implemented and maintained efficiently and effectively. Under the leadership principle, RCO will increase the public's understanding of the importance of RCO's investments in conservation, recreation, and salmon recovery; and actively address emerging or critical issues in natural resources and outdoor recreation and salmon recovery. For the third organizing principle of fostering innovative support services, RCO will focus on meeting business needs with strategic communication, policy, fiscal, business, and technology services; and ensuring the boards and councils can make informed and transparent decisions.

IT Strategic Planning

RCO and the Puget Sound Partnership contracted with Insignia Consulting LLC to review our Information Technology operations and systems and develop a scope of work for an IT strategic plan. Our two agencies are increasingly reliant on our IT systems, many of which are shared. As a result, we are looking for a long-range plan for future maintenance and expansion of these systems and a blueprint on how to achieve our goals, given staffing and fiscal constraints. During the past three months, Insignia has met with staff from both agencies and researched and reviewed various agency plans and our IT budgets. In January, executives from both agencies met with Insignia and prioritized many issues that were identified during the initial information gathering. The final report outlines how to move forward in the development of a long-range plan that will help both agencies be more strategic with IT management and investment.

Governor's Results Washington

I continue to serve on the Governor's Results Washington goal council for sustainable energy and a clean environment. RCO is partnering with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and Puget Sound Partnership to track leading indicators related to salmon recovery and estuary restoration, respectively. Initial performance data will be posted to the Results Washington Web site (www.results.wa.gov) in April.

Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates

Public Lands Inventory Update

As reported on previously, the public lands inventory status report was completed and submitted to the legislature by January 1st. The report is also on the RCO Web site (<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/plip/PublicLandsInventoryStatusReport2013.pdf>). In mid-January, I presented progress on the inventory to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The University of Washington, Department of Natural Resources, State Parks, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife are working closely together to integrate public lands information and verify its quality. We are all working closely with the Joint Legislative Audit and

Review Committee to provide information as quickly as possible for their economic review of public lands.

Mitigation Matching Project Update

In 2013, The Washington State Legislature provided RCO \$100,000 to identify opportunities to optimize salmon habitat restoration and minimize permit delays for transportation mitigation projects. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) met with the Department of Transportation to explore a partnership between the agencies using our existing data systems to identify mitigation and salmon projects. GSRO is now coordinating a competitive request for proposals, which were due February 24, 2014. This is further discussed in the Salmon Recovery Report (Item 2).

2014 Legislative Session Update

The 2014 legislative session started on January 13th, and is scheduled to adjourn on March 13th. So far, we have testified on bills related to salmon barrier removal, invasive species, and land acquisitions. Several board members on both the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board were present for their Senate confirmation hearings. So far the Senate has not voted on any of these appointments; however, members can continue to serve on the board without confirmation. We have also met with several legislators to talk to them about recreation, salmon recovery, and land acquisitions.

At the time of writing this memo, the Legislature has not passed final operating and capital budgets but each chamber has passed its own version of each budget.

Operating Budget

- Both the House and Senate leave RCO's operating budget the same as the 2013-14 biennial budget, except for technical adjustments.
- Both budgets include funding to staff the Governor's Blue Ribbon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Task Force. The Governor issued an Executive Order to form an outdoor recreation task force to develop a strategic plan for how the state's outdoor assets can be better leveraged. Funding is provided for meetings across the state, travel reimbursement of task force members, contract costs for a facilitator, and staff to conduct research and write a plan with recommendations. The Senate includes \$144,000 and the House \$200,000 (the same as the Governor's budget) to support the task force.
- The Senate budget added \$100,000 for an economic study of outdoor recreation. The funding is provided for RCO to contract with a consultant to conduct a study that will quantify the economic contribution to the state economy from the state's public lands and to quantify the economic contribution from statewide recreation to the state's economy. The House did not add this item to its budget.

Capital Budget

- The Senate's capital budget does not make changes to RCO's 2013-15 biennial capital budget.

- Our one capital budget request, to replace funds removed two years ago from the Recreation Resources Account for the Boating Facilities Program, was not included in the Senate budget. The House capital budget included the \$3.3 million additional for the Boating Facilities Program. The Governor's budget proposal backfills \$2 million for the program.
- The House capital budget also includes \$9.05 million in RCO's budget for coastal restoration grants to projects that restore forests, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat on the Washington Pacific Coast and are on a list of 21 projects.

Legislation

We are closely tracking three bills: HB 2251, SB 6040, and SB 6052.

- HB 2251 improves coordination of culvert removal. It passed out of the full House and the Senate natural resources committee. To pass, it must be "pulled" from the Rules Committee and be passed by the full Senate.
- SB 6040, which improves invasive species monitoring and elimination, passed the full Senate and the House Appropriations Committee. The next step for the bill is to move from the Rules Committee and to be voted on by the Full House.
- SB 6052 requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks to report to RCO, through the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, on anticipated and actual costs and intended and actual uses of lands acquired for habitat and recreation. The bill also makes the Lands Group permanent. The bill is technically dead, but the Senate budget assumes the bill will pass or that it will be incorporated into the budget, and provides funds to the affected agencies for the additional reporting requirements.

We will update you on the budget and other legislation at the board meeting.

Update on Sister Boards

Washington Invasive Species Council

Following the December council meeting, staff completed the 2013 annual report to the Legislature. The plans for 2014 include updating the council's statewide strategy on invasive species, planning for a workshop on prevention protocols and decontamination practices, submitting a grant proposal to complete the Puget Sound baseline assessment for the remaining priority species, rolling out the new invasive species reporting app for smartphones, and continuing work with the Pacific Education Institute and school science programs. Council staff have testified in strong support on a comprehensive invasive species bill that would add new authorities to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and enhance prevention and response capabilities for aquatic invasive animal species. The council will continue tracking and supporting this bill through the Legislative session.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group completed the 2013 monitoring report that shows the progress of habitat and recreation acquisitions that were funded in the 2009-11 budgets. We are just about to complete the annual report and 2014 work plan. The next quarterly meeting and the acquisition forum is scheduled for March 14th. At the forum, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks will present their coordination efforts on anticipated land acquisitions.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) had a productive January meeting. The board welcomed a new chair (Harriet Spanel) and a new governor-appointed member (Mike Deller). A number of measures were approved by the board, including two trails plans (the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities plan and the Recreational Trails Program plan) and 2014 criteria changes for several grant programs. RCO staff updated the board on proposed 2014 policy priorities, summarized a phased process to update state administrative rules, and presented successes including recently closed projects and the boating app.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Management Status Report: Financial Report
Prepared By: Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

This financial report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of February 18, 2014.

The available balance (funds to be committed) is \$56.2 million. The amount for the board to allocate is approximately \$10.8 million, primarily in new state and federal funds as well as returned funds. The amount for other entities to allocate is \$45.4 million.

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

Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance	\$11,519,442
Current Federal Balance – Projects, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	\$1,540,240
Current Federal Balance – Activities	\$969,483
Lead Entities	\$63,132
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) & Puget Sound Restoration (PSR)	\$34,018,218
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	\$4,415,882
Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)	\$3,426,602
Puget Sound Critical Stock	\$221,090

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Budget Summary

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 2/18/2014 (fiscal month 07).

Percentage of biennium reported: 29.2%

	BUDGET new & reapp. 2013-15	COMMITTED Dollars	% of budget	TO BE COMMITTED Dollars	% of budget	EXPENDITURES Dollars	% of completed
GRANT PROGRAMS							
State Funded 03-05	159,127	141,243	89	17,884	11	141,243	100
State Funded 05-07	947,980	920,094	97	27,886	3	143,143	16
State Funded 07-09	1,892,914	1,845,179	97	47,735	2.5	389,816	21
State Funded 09-11	210,888	205,363	97	5,525	3	174,541	85
State Funded 11-13	7,238,131	6,099,142	84	1,138,989	16	2,089,207	34
State Funded 13-15	14,382,000	4,100,575	29	10,281,425	71	0	0
State Funded Total	\$24,831,040	\$13,311,598	54%	\$11,519,442	46%	\$2,937,950	22%
Federal Funded 2009	4,221,630	3,906,570	93	315,061	7	1,394,213	36
Federal Funded 2010	12,820,920	12,789,452	100	31,469	0	4,018,858	31
Federal Funded 2011	12,544,842	12,464,575	99	80,267	1	3,967,887	32
Federal Funded 2012	19,224,074	17,242,249	90	1,981,825	10	3,344,765	19
Federal Funded 2013	18,284,837	18,183,735	99	101,102	1	680,247	4
Federal Funded Total	\$67,096,304	\$64,586,581	96%	\$2,509,723	4%	\$13,405,971	21%
Lead Entities	6,204,166	6,141,035	99	63,132	1	1,670,591	27
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	82,201,096	48,182,878	59	34,018,218	41	9,794,454	20
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	16,749,076	12,333,194	74	4,415,882	26	1,900,712	15
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	11,291,693	7,865,091	70	3,426,602	30	3,374,183	43
Puget Sound Critical Stock	2,395,012	2,173,921	91	221,090	9	1,007,690	46
Subtotal Grant Programs	\$210,768,386	\$154,594,297	73%	\$56,174,090	27%	\$34,091,552	22%
ADMINISTRATION							
Salmon Recovery Funding Board Admin/Staff	4,265,478	4,265,478	100	-	0	948,742	22
Review Panel	684,516	684,516	100	-	-	156,777	23
Subtotal Administration	\$4,949,994	\$4,949,994	100%	-	0%	\$1,105,519	22%
GRANT AND ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	\$215,718,380	\$159,544,291	74%	\$56,174,090	26%	\$35,197,071	22%

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Performance Report
Prepared by: Jennifer Masterson, Performance Analyst

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

This memo summarizes fiscal year-to-date grant management and project impact performance measures for projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

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

In this Report

- Project Impact Performance Measures
- Grant Management Performance Measures

The data included in this memo are specific to projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Data are current as of February 19, 2014.

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of fish passage accomplishments funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in fiscal year 2014. 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.

Twenty-one salmon blockages have been removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014), with a total of 11 passageways installed (Table 1C-1). These projects have cumulatively opened over 38 miles of streams (Table 1C-2).

Table 1C-1 SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2014 Performance
Total Blockages Removed	21
Bridges Installed	6
Culverts Installed	2
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	3

Table 1C-2 Stream Miles Made Accessible

Project #	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
09-1232	Wickett Flood Plain Connection/Barrier Removal	Chehalis Confederated Tribes	14.15
10-1504	Middle Branch LeClerc Creek Restoration	Kalispel Tribe	0.25
10-1750	Little Bear Creek - 132nd Ave Barrier Removal	Adopt A Stream Foundation	8
10-1776	Midway Creek Fish Barrier Removal Project	South Puget Sound SEG	0.6
10-1847	Teaway River - Red Bridge Road Project	Kittitas Co Conservation Dist	2.8
10-1916	Green Creek Weir Removal	Pacific County Anglers	5.89
11-1340	Christmas Creek Drainage Restoration	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	1.04
11-1441	Upper Chumstick Barrier Removal	Chelan Co Natural Resource	3
11-1516	Middle Branch LeClerc Creek Restoration Phase II	Kalispel Tribe	3
Total Miles			38.73

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 1C-3 summarizes fiscal year 2014 operational performance measures. Recreation and Conservation Office grant managers and fiscal staff continue to meet or exceed performance targets related to timely issuance of project agreements, response to progress reports, and project closure.

Table 1C-3 SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2014 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	85-95%	100%	●	Staff have mailed a total of 11 agreements so far this fiscal year for SRFB-funded projects. All SRFB agreements were mailed on time.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time	65-75%	87%	●	A total of 304 progress reports have been due so far this fiscal year for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 265 in 15 days or less.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	92%	●	This fiscal year-to-date, 616 bills have come due for SRFB-funded projects. Bills may not be paid on time because of incomplete sponsor paperwork or lack of proper documentation.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	60-70%	65%	●	A total of 74 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year. Forty-eight of these projects closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	0	13	●	Thirteen SRFB-funded projects are currently in the backlog.
Number of Post-Completion Inspections Done	No target set	24	NA	

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Coordinator
Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

The following are some highlights of work being done by the Salmon Section staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

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

Grant Management

Wrapping up the 2013 Grant Cycle and Starting the 2014 Grant Cycle

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved funding for over 140 projects at the August, October, and December board meetings in 2013. Since then, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff have been busy developing project agreements with sponsors and routing them electronically for signature.

At the same time, staff members have been gearing up for the 2014 grant round. At the December 2013 meeting, the board approved administrative changes and minor policy clarifications for inclusion in Manual 18. Staff completed a draft of the manual and made it available for the review of lead entities and regional organizations through the first week of February 2014. Staff posted the finalized manual to the RCO Web site the second week of February. It is available at: http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual_18.pdf.

RCO staff are in the process of scheduling review panel site visits for the 2014 grant round. We will have the calendar completed by early March. Staff have also scheduled an application workshop for March 26, 2014. Like last year, we will record the workshop and make it available online.

Family Forest Fish Passage Program Projects Underway

RCO staff are working closely with partner agencies to get the 2014 Family Forest Fish Passage projects underway, with the addition of \$10 million in funding in 2012 and \$2 million in 2013. Staff are closing out 42 projects that were constructed in summer 2013 and getting under contract 52 projects in preparation for construction in summer 2014. These projects remove fish passage barriers on small, private forestlands.

Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

Staff are currently placing \$12 million in funding under contract for 20 Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program projects funded in 2013. Six additional projects received \$2.3 million through the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program for beach restoration projects. Staff are preparing for the next grant round in fall of 2014.

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that have closed between November 7, 2013 and February 10, 2014. To view information about a project, click on the blue project number¹. From that link, you can open and view the project attachments (e.g., design, photos, maps, and final report).

Amendments Approved by the Director

The table below shows the major amendments approved between November 1, 2012 and February 15, 2013. Staff processed a total of 45 project related amendments during this period, but most were minor revisions related to project scope or time extensions.

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Amount/Notes
11-1469	Wenatchee Nutrient Assessment & Design	Cascade Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal	Cost Change	Project grant funds increased by \$12,000 to cover additional data analysis and collection.
11-1372	Nason Creek LWP Alcove	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Salmon Federal	Cost Change	Project grant funds increased by \$3,000 for unexpected stewardship and landowner agreement costs.
07-1676	Historic Skamokawa Creek Channel	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Salmon State	Cost Change	Project grant funds increased by \$34,972 to complete the engineered scope of the project.

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

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Amount/Notes
10-1779	Case Inlet	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)	Cost Change	Used returned PSAR funds to increase project grant funds by \$12,000 due to cultural resources expenses.
13-1354	Reid Harbor Conservation Easement	San Juan Preservation Trust	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital	Cost Change	Project grant funds reduced by \$795,000 due to lower land value.
09-1449	Sauk River Riparian Restoration	Skagit System Coop	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	Cost Change	Used returned PSAR funds to increase project grant funds by \$22,000 for riparian restoration.

Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. Data are current as of February 5, 2014.

- Staff are working with sponsors to place "pending" projects under agreement, following approval at the December 2013 board meeting.
- Active projects are under agreement. Sponsors are working on implementation with RCO support for grant administration and compliance.

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Salmon Projects to Date	104	328	1,524	1,956
Percent of Total	5.3%	16.8%	77.9%	

This table does not include projects funded through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Although RCO staff support these programs through grant administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Communications Plan

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) completed a competitive procurement for a consulting firm to develop a communications plan on behalf of regional organizations and recovery partners. Pyramid Communications was selected from a pool of twelve applicants. The

first meeting of the communications workgroup is scheduled for February 21, 2014. The timeline for final products is the end of April.

The workgroup is made up of the following individuals:

Name	Organization
Nancy Biery	Salmon Recovery Funding Board Member
Susan Zemek	RCO Communication Director
Darcy Batura	Washington Salmon Coalition Chair and Yakima Lead Entity Coordinator
Jeff Breckel	Council of Regions Chair and Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Executive Director
Derek Van Marter	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Executive Director
Alicia Lawver	Puget Sound Partnership Public Information Officer
Jennifer Quan	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Special Assistant to the Director-Salmon Recovery
Brian Abbott	GSRO Executive Coordinator
Alex Conley*	Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Executive Director
Jeanette Dorner*	Puget Sound Partnership, Salmon Program Manager
Miles Batchelder*	Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership, Executive Director
Scott Brewer*	Hood Canal Coordinating Council, Executive Director
Steve Martin*	Snake River Recovery Board, Executive Director

*Regional Organization Executive Director; will participate as needed.

Mitigation Matching Demonstration Project

The GSRO solicited contractor proposals in early February for a mitigation matching project that matches transportation projects with habitat restoration and protection projects. Funding for this project was included in the state capital budget in the amount of \$100,000. Proposals are due February 24, 2014 with contractor selection planned by early March.

This project is to develop a system that enables a landscape mitigation approach and evaluates compensatory mitigation in an ecosystem context.

Mitigation matching can both minimize permit delays and optimize salmon habitat restoration for compensatory mitigation. This project will show how state-of-the-art technology can streamline permitting by providing easy access to habitat project lists and mapped locations, which can help permitting agencies and permit applicants implement projects more efficiently. Mitigation matching can assist the State of Washington and RCO optimize the benefits of their salmon recovery and habitat protection and restoration planning by identifying proposed projects and actions that align with transportation mitigation obligations.

RCO's project tracking and reporting system, Habitat Work Schedule (HWS), has helped make mitigation matching in Washington State possible. HWS tracks nearly 10,000 habitat restoration and protection projects, of which 2,000 are proposed or conceptual projects that are either partially or not yet funded. Paired with the sophistication of the State Department of Transportation's planning products and technologies, HWS creates an excellent opportunity to test the benefits of mitigation matching.

Lead Entity Program Manager Position

Lloyd Moody of the GSRO announced his retirement effective April 30, 2014. Lloyd has spent the last five years guiding the lead entity program. His knowledge of salmon recovery and the history of the "Washington Way" will be greatly missed by all. A recruitment announcement has been posted. It is hoped that we will have the opportunity to fill the position by mid-April so Lloyd can provide training before he leaves.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Application

The 2014 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund application announcement was sent out January 16; two months earlier than previous years. The pre-application was submitted before the February 24 deadline, with the final submittal due March 24. RCO submits the application on behalf of the State of Washington. State partners in crafting the application include the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northwest Indian Fish Commission. The application is asking for the maximum amount of \$25 million. In 2013 RCO was awarded \$20 million. We expect to hear the award amount by August.

Regional Organization Monitoring Budget Request

Regional organizations have consistently expressed a need for additional funding to meet delisting requirements. Monitoring activities can be funded only through federal funds or state operating funds; state capital (bond) funds cannot be used for monitoring. The GSRO has committed to work with regional organizations to develop a state general fund budget request to submit to the Office of Financial Management for potential inclusion in the Governor's proposed budget for the 2015-2017 biennium. Such budget requests are submitted by a state agency in early September of even-numbered years. To be successful, regional organizations will need to work with RCO staff to:

1. Identify specific monitoring activities that will be necessary to achieve delisting under the Endangered Species Act, by region and the time period;
2. Describe who will implement the monitoring work within each region;
3. Identify gaps between current state and local monitoring and the monitoring necessary to achieve de-listing;
4. Detail overall monitoring needs for the next 10 years in 2 year (biennial) increments.

RCO staff need this information from the regions by June 2014 in order to fully develop the budget request and submit it, along with RCO entire budget, to the Office of Financial Management by the September deadline.

EPA Data and Information Exchange Network Grants

GSRO is assisting the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Northwest Indian Fish Commission in the management of several EPA grants related to data and information sharing. These grants support the migration of data on fish distributions into the high-resolution National Hydrography Dataset and reconcile and integrate these distributions into a single, unified dataset. Keith Dublanica of GSRO will provide a short briefing for the board at the March meeting.

Conference Sponsorship

The Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission has requested help to support their Future of Our Salmon Conference scheduled for April 23-24 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. GSRO/RCO staff will ask the board to consider sponsoring the conference at the \$1,000 level. The Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission's request letter is included in the board correspondence.

State of Salmon

GSRO is working with our salmon recovery partners on the biennial update of the State of Salmon in Watersheds Web site and executive summary. In addition to reporting our regional and statewide progress in salmon recovery and bringing transparency of our state data to the public through state of the art technology, we are also boosting our efforts to coordinate better with tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to align our data and messages.

Habitat Work Schedule

GSRO recently hired a part-time data management intern to assist with Habitat Work Schedule data quality and an assessment of future system needs. As we move forward in sharing data with other systems including RCO's PRISM database, we are uncovering needs for clarity in data definitions, sustained data stewardship for data quality, and standardized guidance for more consistent reporting. The internship has proved to be of great value in identifying and prioritizing these needs as well as improving data quality and communication with system users.

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from November 7, 2013-February 10, 2014

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
11-1617	Stillaguamish Fall (S. Fork) Chinook Natural Stock	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Puget Sound Critical Stock	11/8/2013
08-2033	Walla Walla Basin Fish Screen Projects	Walla Walla Co Cons Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	11/12/2013
11-1256	Cherry Creek Feasibility	Sound Salmon Solutions	Salmon Federal Projects	11/14/2013
11-1523	Blakely Island Forage Fish Habitat Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Federal Projects	11/18/2013
07-1592	Skagit Bay Nearshore Protection	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/21/2013
10-1804	White River Van Dusen Conservation Easement	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	11/21/2013
10-1571	Granite Subbasin Large Wood Replenishment	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon State Projects	12/2/2013
11-1573	S. Fork Asotin Stream Channel Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Projects	12/11/2013
09-1448	Skagit Floodplain Habitat Acquisition Phase II	Skagit Land Trust	Salmon State Projects	12/16/2013
09-1519	Morse Creek Floodplain Reconnection and Phase II	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	12/19/2013
07-1725	Upper Klickitat River - Phase 3	Yakama Nation	Salmon Federal Projects	12/19/2013
10-1847	Teaway River - Red Bridge Road Project	Kittitas Co Conservation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	12/19/2013
10-1022	Upper Washougal Restoration III	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	12/24/2013
10-1611	Snow Creek Delta Cone & Estuary Design	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Salmon Federal Projects	12/24/2013
11-1373	Rattlesnake Creek Side Channel Restoration	Inouye, Robert	Salmon Federal Projects	12/24/2013
12-1350	YTID Tieton to Cowiche Delivery Assessment	Yakima-Tieton Irrigation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	12/27/2013
11-1552	Puget Sound Regional Salmon Recovery	Puget Sound Partnership	Salmon Federal Activities	12/30/2013
07-2021	Union River and Bear Creek Headwaters	Forterra	Salmon State Projects	12/30/2013
10-1927	Middle Skagit Tier 1 & 2 Floodplain Protection	Skagit Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	12/31/2013
10-1769	Upper Skagit Tier 1 & 2 Floodplain Protection	Seattle City Light	Salmon Federal Projects	12/31/2013
11-1546	Upper Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	Upper Columbia Salmon Rec. BD	Salmon Federal Activities	1/2/2014
11-1341	Twins Nearshore Planning	Coastal Watershed Institute	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/3/2014
11-1666	Skokomish Estuary Island Adaptive Mgt Elements	Skokomish Tribe	Salmon State Projects	1/3/2014
10-1716	Cornet Bay Shoreline Areas 4, 6, and 7 Restoration	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Salmon State Projects	1/7/2014
09-1788	Donovan Creek Acquisition	Jefferson Land Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/8/2014
13-1085	PERS SRV 2013 Review Panel - Ecolution	Ecolution	Salmon Federal Activities	1/8/2014

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
08-1725	Brim Bar: Lower Cowlitz RM42.7 Side Channel Restor	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	1/8/2014
11-1340	Christmas Creek Drainage Restoration	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Salmon Federal Projects	1/8/2014
10-1054	Eagle Island Site A	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	1/9/2014
11-1316	Lilliwaup Creek-Restoration Design Plan Completion	Long Live the Kings	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/14/2014
08-1953	Quinault LiDAR Assessment	Quinault Indian Nation	Salmon State Projects	1/14/2014
12-1005	PERS SRV 2012 Review Panel - Kelley Jorgensen	Kelley Jorgensen	Salmon Federal Activities	1/15/2014
12-1006	PERS SRV 2012 Review Panel - Steve Toth	Steven Toth Consulting Hydro	Salmon Federal Activities	1/15/2014
10-1014	Washougal Hatchery Intake Fishway & Trap 2009	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	1/17/2014
11-1511	Indian Creek Fish Passage Design 2011	Pend Oreille Co Public Works	Salmon Federal Projects	1/17/2014
11-1365	Hardy Creek Design	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	1/23/2014
07-1678	Trout Creek Restoration/Hemlock Dam	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Salmon Federal Projects	1/27/2014
10-1916	Green Creek Weir Removal	Pacific County Anglers	Salmon Federal Projects	1/27/2014
11-1346	Columbia Estuary - Knappton Conservation Project	Columbia Land Trust	Salmon State Projects	1/28/2014
11-1542	Illabot Creek Alluvial Fan Restoration Phase 1	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/30/2014
09-1449	Sauk River Riparian Restoration	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/4/2014
11-1323	McDonald Creek Barrier Removal	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/5/2014
09-1752	PERS SRV Hatchery Reform NWMT	Northwest Marine Tech In	Salmon Federal Activities	2/5/2014
11-1632	PERS SRV HSRG Member participation	D.J. Warren and Associates Inc	Salmon Federal Activities	2/5/2014
11-1528	Cedar River: Mouth of Taylor Ck Reach Acquisitions	King Co Water & Land Res	Salmon Federal Projects	2/5/2014
10-1479	Dosewallips Engineered Log Jams	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Critical Stock	2/6/2014
10-1606	Dosewallips Engineered Log Jams SRFB	Wild Fish Conservancy	Salmon Federal Projects	2/7/2014

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Proposal to Adopt Minimum Riparian Buffers Guidelines
Prepared By: Leslie Connolly, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Approved by the RCO Director: 

Summary

As requested by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board during its December meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office staff completed an analysis of the riparian buffer widths used in projects recently approved by the board. Riparian buffers were compared with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's buffer width recommendations for western Washington and the Washington Department of Ecology's buffer width criteria for eastern Washington.

This memo describes the analysis and presents a broader array of options for the board's consideration on whether to apply buffer widths to riparian projects funded by the board. This memo also includes a recommendation for staff to solicit public comment and bring a final recommendation to the board at a future meeting.

At the March board meeting, representatives from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission will take part in a panel discussion on riparian buffers widths. The board also received a letter on this topic from the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (Attachment A).

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

Staff provided a briefing at the December Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting on recommendations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for minimum riparian buffer widths on Puget Sound agricultural lowlands. NOAA worked with the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Ecology (Ecology) to develop the recommendations and encouraged EPA, Ecology and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to incorporate the minimum buffer widths through their voluntary financial assistance and grant programs. NOAA is emphasizing the use of minimum buffer width recommendations on an interim basis, with the hope of refining them based on best available science. NOAA's recommendations are intended to shape salmon recovery efforts and provide advice on what aquatic functions fish need.

NOAA's suggested minimum riparian buffer widths are recommendations (not requirements) for Puget Sound agricultural lowlands. Different widths are applied based on stream type. NOAA recommends that fish bearing streams should have a 100 foot buffer width on each side of the stream, non-fish bearing streams should have a 50 foot buffer, and non-fish bearing, constructed ditches should have a 35 foot buffer. See Attachment B for a table of NOAA's recommendations.

Federal and state agencies are implementing NOAA's recommendations in different ways:

- EPA applies the NOAA recommendations as criteria to its Puget Sound National Estuary Program grants.
- NRCS was instructed in the recently passed federal Farm Bill to rely on its own technical guidance for riparian buffer widths instead of those developed by other federal agencies.
- Ecology applies the NOAA recommendations as eligibility criteria to nonpoint pollution grants. Ecology also expanded the application of minimum buffer width requirements to western Washington locations beyond Puget Sound and developed separate requirements for eastern Washington (Attachment C).

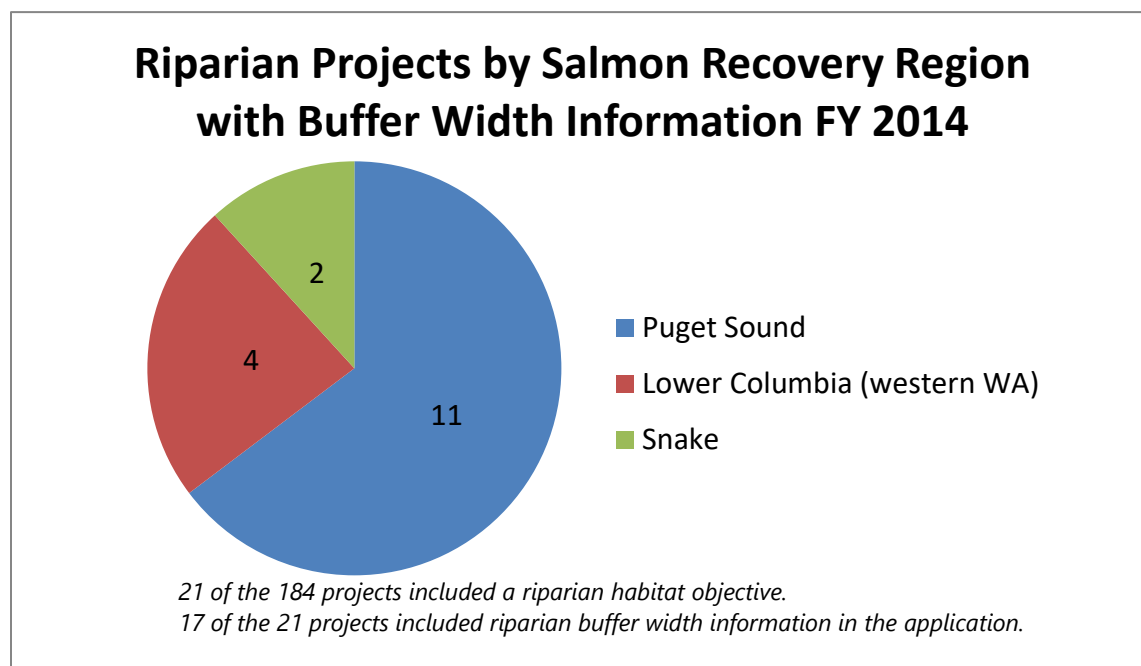
As previously discussed during the December board meeting, the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program lead by Ecology and the Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting a scientific literature review to update riparian buffer best management practices. The funding for this project is an EPA grant. The Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program expects to have a draft scientific white paper available by spring 2014 and final guidelines ready by summer 2015.

Analysis

After significant discussion and comments from the public in December, the board directed staff to research the potential implications of applying riparian buffer width recommendations to past grant cycles to see how many projects would have met them and how many would not.

This research task was challenging for two reasons. First, grant applications do not require applicants to define the width of a project's riparian buffer. The applications include data on stream length and the number of acres restored, but not the buffer width. Second, the grant applications do not define the type of landscape where the project is located (e.g., agricultural land, forest land, park land, urban setting). For these two reasons, staff relied on the written scopes of work and draft design plans submitted with the applications to determine riparian buffer width. Staff were unable to determine the landscape type of the reviewed projects.

In fiscal year 2014, the board funded 184 projects in total. The majority of projects (163 projects; 89%) did not include a riparian habitat objective. These projects were for planning and feasibility studies, land acquisitions, fish passage and screening, instream flows and habitat, upland habitat, wetlands, and marine shoreline restoration. There were 21 funded projects that included a riparian habitat objective (i.e., riparian restoration or riparian exclusion projects). Of these 21 projects, four did not include riparian buffer width information in the application materials (three projects in Puget Sound and the only project in the Coast region).



RCO staff reviewed board funded projects throughout Washington from fiscal year 2014 and retrospectively applied buffer widths as follows:

- NOAA riparian buffer width recommendations for Puget Sound to projects in Puget Sound;
- NOAA riparian buffer width recommendations for Puget Sound to projects in the rest of western Washington; and
- Ecology riparian buffer width criteria¹ for eastern Washington to projects in eastern Washington.

All 11 of the riparian projects funded in Puget Sound in fiscal year 2014 met or exceeded NOAA's riparian buffer width recommendations. Two of the four Lower Columbia western Washington projects met or exceeded NOAA's recommendations. The two Lower Columbia projects that did not meet NOAA's recommendations were Conservation Reserve Enhancement

¹ Ecology's riparian buffer widths are referred to as criteria in this memo, as they are used as eligibility criteria and not as recommendations.

Projects funded through the NRCS and leveraged as match for other restoration work funded in the grant.

For eastern Washington, one project funded in the Snake region met or exceeded Ecology's buffer width criteria and one project did not. For the project that did not meet Ecology's buffer width criteria, the riparian buffer was constrained by the soil types on site.

In summary, the majority of the funded projects in fiscal year 2014 did not focus on riparian habitat objectives. For those projects that did have a riparian habitat objective, the majority of projects in western Washington met or exceeded the buffer widths recommended by NOAA. Of the two projects with riparian habitat in eastern Washington, one met Ecology's criteria. Table 5-1 summarizes the results of staff research.

Table 5-1: Riparian Habitat Projects in Fiscal Year 2014

Western Washington Riparian Habitat Projects			
Region	Projects that met or exceeded NOAA's recommendations	Projects that did not meet NOAA's recommendations	Unable to determine
Puget Sound/Hood Canal	11	0	3
Lower Columbia (western WA portion)	2	2	0
Coast	0	0	1
Eastern Washington Riparian Habitat Projects			
Region	Projects that met or exceeded Ecology's criteria	Projects that did not meet Ecology's criteria	Unable to determine
Mid-Columbia	0	0	0
Upper Columbia	0	0	0
Snake	1	1	0

Options for Consideration

Applying a minimum riparian buffer width is potentially a three-part consideration.

Step One

The first question is:

Question 1 - Should the board adopt a minimum riparian buffer width for projects that are focused on riparian habitat objectives?

Potential answers:

- 1A No, a minimum riparian buffer width should not be required for projects that are focused on riparian habitat objectives.

1B Possibly, but additional research would help inform the board's decision. This might include direction to:

- Collect application information on buffer widths and landscape type
- Conduct additional research into projects funded in previous years
- Request a briefing later this year on the scientific literature review of riparian buffer management best practices
- Request a briefing from EPA, NRCS, Ecology, and/or the conservation districts on how they are addressing NOAA's recommendations

1C Yes, a minimum riparian buffer width should be a guideline for projects with a riparian habitat objective.

If a proposed riparian project in Puget Sound is not designed to the adopted guidelines, the project sponsor would include a written justification as to why the proposal is for a smaller buffer. The written justification would document that the smaller buffer will support salmon recovery and describe the constraints that prohibit achieving adopted guideline. Constraints may include transportation corridors, structures, or naturally occurring conditions such as geology or soil types. If there is a lack of justification provided about the reasons for a smaller buffer, the technical review panel may deem the application a project of concern. The board would then consider whether to fund the application at its funding meeting.

1D Yes, a minimum riparian buffer width should be an eligibility criterion for projects with a riparian habitat objective.

See Attachment D for a list of these options with pros and cons for the board to consider in question one.

Step 2

If the board decides to implement a minimum riparian buffer width guideline or criteria (options 1C or 1D), then the next question is:

Question 2 – What buffer width should apply to projects with riparian habitat objectives?

Potential answers:

- 2A Apply NOAA's recommended buffer widths for the Puget Sound region only.
- 2B Apply NOAA's recommended buffer widths for the Puget Sound, Lower Columbia, and Coast regions.
- 2C Apply Ecology's buffer widths for eastern Washington to the mid-Columbia, upper Columbia, and Snake River regions.
- 2D Apply site-specific buffer widths based on soil type and potential vegetation height.

- 2E Ask the regional organizations to develop minimum buffer widths by region in consultation with NOAA and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

See Attachment E for a list of these options with pros and cons for the board to consider in question two.

Step 3

If the board determines which minimum riparian buffer widths to apply, then the next question is:

Question 3 – For which type(s) of landscape should the minimum riparian buffer widths apply?

Potential answers:

- 3A Apply minimum riparian buffer widths to agricultural land only.
- 3B Apply minimum riparian buffers widths to any project, regardless of the type of land use.

See Attachment F for a list of these options with some pros and cons for the board to consider in question 3.

Staff Recommendation

The board may choose to combine any of the above options to develop a policy on minimum riparian buffer widths. RCO staff recommend the board select a preferred approach and solicit public comment for additional input from stakeholders and the public.

Staff recommend the board adopt a policy that applies NOAA's recommended minimum riparian buffer widths as a guideline for projects with a riparian habitat objective in the Puget Sound region for all landscapes (Options 1C, 2A, and 3B). If a proposed riparian project in Puget Sound is not designed to NOAA's minimum buffer width recommendations, the project sponsor must include a written justification as to why the proposal is for a smaller buffer. The written justification must document that the smaller buffer will support salmon recovery and describe the constraints that prohibit achieving NOAA's minimum riparian buffer recommendations. Constraints may include transportation corridors, structures, or naturally occurring conditions such as geology or soil types. If there is a lack of justification provided about the reasons for a smaller buffer, the technical review panel may deem the application a project of concern. The board would then consider whether to fund the application at its funding meeting.

Staff also recommend the board encourage the other regions to work with NOAA and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to develop minimum buffer width guidelines, as needed by region, in order to address regional landscapes and riparian buffer needs (Option 2E).

Finally, to encourage the participation of private landowners in restoring riparian buffers, staff recommend the board adopt a policy to encourage project sponsors to pursue riparian conservation easements² to compensate landowners who volunteer to use their property for a riparian habitat project. An example policy statement is:

The board encourages project sponsors to acquire riparian conservation easements to provide compensation to landowners who voluntarily allow their property to be used for riparian habitat projects. Securing interest in the property will also support efforts to maintain and steward riparian habitat project areas.

The board may also wish to consider allowing other types of financial incentives to landowners, such as term easements or leases, to compensate them for use of their property.

Next Steps

Staff will implement the direction provided by the board.

Attachments

- A. Letter from Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board
- B. NOAA Fisheries Interim Riparian Buffer Recommendations for Streams in Puget Sound Agricultural Landscapes
- C. Minimum Buffer Requirements for Surface Waters for Grants Awarded through the Washington Department of Ecology for Nonpoint Source Pollution
- D. Options and Pros and Cons for Question 1: *Should the board adopt a minimum riparian buffer width for projects that are focused on riparian habitat objectives?*
- E. Options and Pros and Cons for Question 2: *What buffer width should apply to projects focused on riparian habitat objectives?*
- F. Options and Pros and Cons for Question 3: *For which type(s) of landscape should the minimum riparian buffer widths apply?*

² Perpetual conservation easements are currently eligible for grant funding.

Attachment A



January 28, 2014

David Trout, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

RECEIVED
FEB 04 2014
WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Dear Chairman Trout,

At the December meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), the Board discussed a proposal to adopt the new wider riparian buffer standards recently released by the Department of Ecology as required standards for SRFB grants. We would like to encourage the SRFB not to adopt this proposal.

Buffers are an important part of restoration projects, and we applaud the SRFB's desire to ensure that they are as effective as possible. However setting specific requirements for their width pose problems.

For some settings and objectives, narrower buffers may meet project goals effectively. In others settings, new buffer standards may still not achieve full benefits (e.g. when an active channel migration zone extends beyond the designated buffer width). Setting appropriate buffer widths is a case-by-case process that requires careful attention to site-specific conditions and project goals and objectives.

Restoration projects- especially those on private lands- typically require some compromise between landowner goals and restoration goals. Requiring wider buffers will inevitably create situations where a landowner chooses not installing a buffer over having to implement a wider buffer that reduces their ability to use their land for agricultural production. In cases where much of the benefit of the larger buffer would be gained with a smaller buffer more workable for a landowner, this results in a good project not happening. Often, buffers are but a small part of a larger project; many of our projects improve fish passage and screening on small irrigation dams and include small buffers around re-vegetated areas near the diversions. In these cases, more stringent requirements may lead landowners either to not include a buffer component in a larger project, or to drop the project all together.

We share the SRFB's desire to insure that SRFB funding is not awarded to projects that propose buffer widths that are insufficient to meet project goals. However, we believe that the existing intensive local and state reviews of SRFB projects will weed out proposals that use buffer widths that are insufficient to meet their goals. Setting new standards accomplishes little not already addressed in the existing project review, yet risk alienating key partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Leita".

Mike Leita, Chairman

1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280, Yakima, WA 98902
Phone (509) 453-4104 Email: info@ybfwrp.org Web: www.ybfwrp.org

Attachment B

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Interim Riparian Buffer Recommendations for Streams in Puget Sound Agricultural Landscapes (December 2013)

NMFS Channel Type	Channel Types	Habitat Functions/Composition	Buffer – Minimum Default Width
Class I Constructed ditches; fishless streams	1. Constructed ditches, intermittent streams, and ephemeral streams that are not identified as being access by anadromous or Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species	Water quality protection; shade; sediment filtration	1. 35'
	2. Perennial waters that are not identified as being access and were historically not accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species		2. 50'
Class II Fish bearing, modified natural channel, entrenched, or spring fed watercourses that do not move	Modified or highly entrenched perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality; large wood debris for cover, complexity and shade	100' Supporting site assessment recommended to increase buffer width.
Class III Fish bearing	Unconfined perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality; large wood debris for cover, complexity, and shade	100' Supporting site assessment recommended to increase buffer width.
Class IV Diked, permanently fixed	N/A	N/A	N/A
Class V Fish bearing, Intertidal/estuarine	Perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species in intertidal and estuarine streams and channels	Site potential vegetation (salt water) sedges, shrubs, etc.	35' – 75' Supporting site assessment or adjacent land use recommended to increase buffer protections needed to meet all applicable water quality standards.

Attachment C

Minimum Buffer Requirements for Surface Waters for Grants Awarded through the Washington State Department of Ecology for Nonpoint Source Pollution (October 2013)

Category	Functions	Minimum Buffer Width West of Cascades	Minimum Buffer Width East of Cascades
A. Constructed ditches, intermittent streams, and ephemeral streams that are not identified as being accessed and were historically not accessed by anadromous or Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish species	Water quality, shade, source control and delivery reduction	35' minimum	35' minimum
B. Perennial waters that are not identified as being accessed and were historically not accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality, shade, source control, and delivery reduction	50' minimum	50' minimum
C. Perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality, large wood debris for cover, complexity and shade, and microclimate cooling, source control and delivery reduction	100' minimum	75' minimum
D. Intertidal and estuarine streams and channels that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality, habitat complexity	35'-75' minimum, or more as necessary to meet water quality standards	N/A

Attachment D

Options and Pros and Cons for Question 1: *Should the board adopt a minimum riparian buffer width for projects that are focused on riparian habitat objectives?*

	PROS	CONS
Option 1A: No, a minimum riparian buffer width should not be required for projects that are focused on riparian habitat objectives.	<p>Doesn't place additional restrictions on our applications.</p> <p>Doesn't detract from current policy that encourages projects to implement the maximum buffer widths in the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines.</p>	<p>Doesn't implement advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers, especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.</p>
<p>Option 1B: Possibly, but additional research would help inform the board's decision. This might include direction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect application information on buffer widths and landscape type • Conduct additional research into projects funded in previous years • Request a briefing later this year on the scientific literature review of riparian buffer management best practices • Request a briefing from EPA, NRCS, Ecology, and/or the conservation districts on how they are addressing NOAA's recommendations 	<p>Collects valuable information in the application on riparian buffers.</p> <p>Expands RCO's case study to have a larger data set.</p> <p>We can learn from other funding agencies what they are doing and how minimum buffer widths might affect their projects.</p> <p>Gathers additional information to further define any issues.</p>	<p>Delays implementation, which may affect this year's grant applications.</p> <p>We could be perceived as behind the curve as other agencies move ahead with implementation.</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers, especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.</p> <p>Doesn't implement the advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p>
Option 1C: Yes, a minimum riparian buffer width should be a guideline for projects with a riparian habitat objective.	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>Provides a screen for meeting minimum buffer widths, with flexibility to allow for smaller buffer widths based on justification in the application.</p>	<p>We may see less projects submitted for riparian restoration and riparian exclusion.</p> <p>Creates the perception that those projects which provide at least some salmon recovery benefit would not get done.</p>

	PROS	CONS
	<p>Riparian restoration projects would be more likely to meet the board's evaluation criteria for the technical review panel.</p> <p>Provides consistency with other state and federal voluntary incentive programs.</p> <p>Allows for flexibility, should the board choose to fund a project that does not meet the guideline.</p> <p>14 of 17 projects funded in fiscal year 2014 met or exceeded buffer widths recommended by NOAA and used by Ecology.</p>	<p>Project sponsors would need to provide justification for why a minimum riparian buffer was not achievable.</p> <p>3 of 17 projects funded in fiscal year 2014 did not meet buffer widths recommended by NOAA and used by Ecology.</p>
Option 1D: Yes, a minimum riparian buffer width should be an eligibility criterion for projects with a riparian habitat objective.	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>Ensures any riparian project meets minimum buffer widths.</p> <p>Riparian restoration projects would be more likely to meet the board's evaluation criteria for the technical review panel.</p> <p>Provides consistency with other state and federal voluntary incentive programs.</p> <p>14 of 17 riparian projects funded in fiscal year 2014 met or exceeded buffer widths recommended by NOAA and used by Ecology</p>	<p>We may see less projects submitted for riparian restoration and riparian exclusion.</p> <p>Creates the perception that those projects which provide at least some salmon recovery benefit would not get done.</p> <p>3 of 17 riparian projects funded in fiscal year 2014 would not have met buffer widths recommended by NOAA and used by Ecology.</p>

Attachment E

Options and Pros and Cons for Question 2: *What buffer width should apply to projects focused on riparian habitat objectives?*

	PROS	CONS
Option 2A: Apply NOAA's recommended buffer widths for the Puget Sound region only	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>Focuses on the specific geography that is the subject of NOAA's recommendations.</p> <p>Implies that smaller buffers in other locations are not a problem for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Impact to projects may be minimal, since all of the projects from fiscal year 2014 would have met NOAA's recommendations anyway.</p>	<p>NOAA's recommendations were developed with other entities for specific purposes which may not be directly applicable to board projects.</p> <p>Implies that minimum buffer widths are not needed in other locations to support salmon recovery.</p> <p>Creates a disparity on application requirements based on the project's location.</p>
Option 2B: Apply NOAA's recommended buffer widths for the Puget Sound, Lower Columbia, and Coast regions	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>Creates consistency in western Washington on minimum buffer widths.</p> <p>Implies that smaller buffers in other locations is not a problem for salmon recovery.</p> <p>2 of 4 projects from fiscal year 2014 would have met NOAA's recommendations.</p>	<p>NOAA's recommendations are specifically targeted to the Puget Sound region, so they may not be applicable to other regions.</p> <p>NOAA's recommendations were developed with other entities for specific purposes, which may not be directly applicable to board projects.</p> <p>Implies that minimum buffer widths are not needed in other locations to support salmon recovery.</p> <p>Creates disparity on application requirements based on the project's location.</p> <p>2 of 4 projects from fiscal year 2014 would not have met NOAA's recommendations.</p>

	PROS	CONS
Option 2C: Apply Ecology's buffer width criteria for eastern Washington to the mid-Columbia, upper Columbia, and Snake River regions	<p>Applies a minimum buffer width statewide while recognizing the different landscapes on the west and east sides.</p> <p>Applies Ecology's buffer width criteria to improve water quality which is also important for salmon recovery.</p> <p>1 of 2 projects from fiscal year 2014 would have met the Ecology criteria for eastern Washington.</p>	<p>Ecology's buffer width criteria were developed with other entities for specific purposes which may not be directly applicable to board projects.</p> <p>1 of 2 projects from fiscal year 2014 would not have met the Ecology criteria for eastern Washington.</p>
Option 2D: Apply site specific buffer widths based on soil type and potential vegetation height	<p>Applies a minimum buffer width statewide based on site potential which would support favorable conditions for salmon recovery.</p>	<p>May require the applicant to obtain technical assistance to determine what the minimum buffer width should be at the project site.</p>
Option 2E: Ask the regional organizations to develop minimum buffer widths by region in consultation with NOAA and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office	<p>Develops a minimum buffer width by region.</p> <p>Could rely on WDFW's and Ecology's forthcoming scientific literature review to update riparian buffer best management practices to determine riparian buffer width minimums.</p> <p>Addresses minimum riparian buffer widths at the recovery planning unit level.</p>	<p>Adds to the responsibilities of regional organizations to work with NOAA.</p> <p>Regional organizations may be burdened with conducting scientific literature reviews.</p> <p>Delays implementation of any minimum buffer width in projects.</p>

Attachment F

Options and Pros and Cons for Question 3: *For which type(s) of landscape should the minimum riparian buffer widths apply?*

	PROS	CONS
Option 3A: Apply minimum riparian buffer widths to agricultural land only	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>Recognizes that other state and local laws already provide riparian buffer protections on other land use types (e.g., critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, and forest practices).</p> <p>Recognizes that some local jurisdictions have not adopted riparian buffer protections for agricultural land uses.</p> <p>Focuses on the specific land use that is the subject of NOAA's recommendations.</p> <p>Implies that smaller buffers on other land use types is not a problem for salmon recovery.</p>	<p>Creates a disparity on application requirements based on the property's current land use which may or may not be appropriate based upon the land use type.</p> <p>Implies that minimum buffer widths are not needed for other land use types to support salmon recovery</p> <p>May undercut minimum riparian buffers adopted by local jurisdictions for other land use types if those buffers are larger than the agricultural buffers applied by the board.</p>
Option 3B: Apply minimum riparian buffer widths to any project, regardless of the type of land use	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on what aquatic functions fish need for recovery.</p> <p>Includes the specific land use that is the subject of NOAA's recommendations.</p> <p>Recognizes there should be a minimum requirement for all land use types.</p>	<p>Implies that the same minimum buffer width is appropriate, regardless of the landscape or adjacent land use.</p> <p>May undercut minimum riparian buffers adopted by local jurisdictions for other land use types if those buffers are larger than those buffers applied by the board.</p>

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)
Project Approval
Prepared By: Marc Duboiski, Salmon Recovery Grants Manager

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

To approve an early action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration feasibility and preliminary design grant request to reconnect a salt marsh to Similk Bay in the Skagit River watershed.

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

As outlined in Manual 18, projects requesting Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds can go to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) for funding outside of the regular project approval schedule, dependent on the project's readiness and the needs of the watershed.

The Skagit River System Cooperative has applied for a feasibility and preliminary design grant through their lead entity, the Skagit Watershed Council. The Similk Beach Estuary Restoration Feasibility project (#14-1058), requests \$284,750 in PSAR funds. With a match of \$50,250, the total project cost equals \$335,000. The project proposes to analyze and design an approach to reconnect a salt marsh measuring approximately 17 acres to Similk Bay in north Puget Sound (see maps included as Attachments A and B). This project would create pocket estuary habitat critical to the rearing of juvenile Chinook salmon as they out-migrate from the Skagit River. The project site is currently disconnected from the bay by a county road.

Last fall the Swinomish Tribe purchased the project site property and an additional 180 acres which include an adjacent golf course. During the spring and summer of 2014, the new golf course board of directors plans to implement an ambitious management plan which includes

recommendations for facilities upgrades, course reconfiguration, and new management practices. The board of directors of the golf course has acquiesced to this restoration feasibility project.

The Skagit River System Cooperative is requesting project funding now because they desire these two parallel planning efforts to remain on a similar timeline.

The Skagit Watershed Council lead entity and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board review panel will review the project before the March 2014 board meeting.

The Puget Sound Partnership Recovery Implementation Technical Team has reviewed and approved the project for consistency with the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan and the Skagit Watershed Council Strategic Approach.

Staff Recommendation

The project proposal has met the funding criteria outlined in Manual 18¹. Staff recommend funding the project as described in grant application #14-1058 and its attachments.

The \$284,750 request would be funded from the \$1,909,898 balance of 2013-1015 PSAR funds currently retained by the Skagit Watershed Council. The remaining PSAR fund balance of \$1,625,148 would be allocated during the early action process at the September 2014 board meeting.

Next Steps

Staff will implement the direction provided by the board.

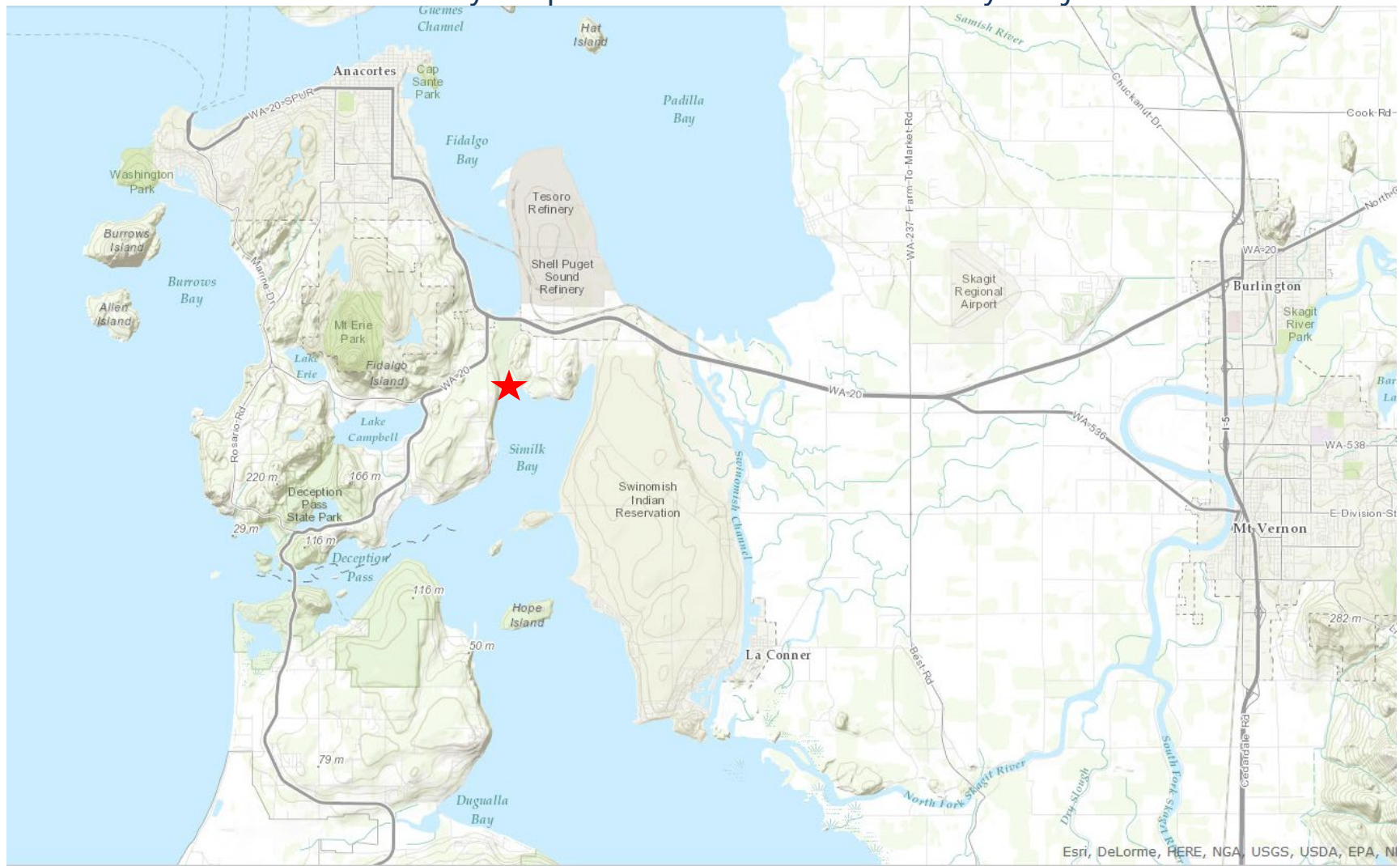
Attachments

A: Vicinity Map of the Similk Beach Estuary Project Location

B: Aerial View of the Similk Beach Estuary Project Location

¹ Appendix B, #4, page 76

Attachment A: Vicinity Map of the Similk Beach Estuary Project Location



Attachment B: Aerial View of the Similk Beach Estuary Project Location



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee Recommendations
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator
Keith Dublanica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board will hear a series of recommendations generated by the board's subcommittee on monitoring. This is a follow-up to the Stillwater Science's monitoring assessment report and board direction given last December.

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

In October of 2013 the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) was presented a report, titled "Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board," by Stillwater Sciences (Attachment A), who was contracted to complete an independent review of the board's monitoring program.

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

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

"Effectiveness monitoring of habitat restoration actions at the watershed or larger scales for ESA-listed anadromous salmonids, status monitoring projects that directly contribute to population viability assessments for ESA-listed anadromous

salmonids, or monitoring necessary for the exercise of tribal treaty fish rights or native subsistence fishing on anadromous salmonids."

The monitoring documents noted below were created before the development or adoption of the regional salmon recovery plans. The regional recovery organizations, among others, expressed both interest in and concerns about how monitoring is funded. At the June and August 2012 board meetings, for example, regional organizations expressed concern about how the monitoring efforts, in particular the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) Program, fit with the project selection process and with the implementation of regional recovery plans.

Monitoring Documents
<p><i>"The Washington Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and Action Plan for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery</i> http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/Executive_Report_final.pdf; <i>"Washington State</i></p> <p><i>Framework for Monitoring Salmon Populations Listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act and Associated Freshwater Habitats:</i> http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/monitoring/SRFB_Monitoring_Strategy.pdf</p>

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

At the August 2012 board meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director Cottingham suggested that a portion of the remaining fiscal year 2012 federal monitoring funds¹ be used for an objective and strategic assessment of how the board's monitoring funds should be used in the future. The board concurred, and directed staff to prepare a proposal of how that assessment could be done.

Stillwater Sciences was selected through a competitive process to assess the board's monitoring activities and associated funding allocations. They worked with a work group of individuals who have familiarity and expertise in monitoring as well as knowledge of the board funding process. A number of work group members previously served on the Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health, which was created by the legislature in 2007 and disbanded in 2011. Members of the work group were actively engaged in the assessment process. The Stillwater Sciences monitoring assessment report was discussed in detail at the October 2013 board meeting.

¹ Federal monitoring funds are provided through the PCSRF grant, which requires a minimum ten percent allocation to monitoring.

The discussion at the October board meeting highlighted the need to determine the board's role in monitoring. Once determined, the board's role would drive its objectives for and allocation of monitoring funds. The board created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee (subcommittee) made up of RCO and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff, Stillwater Sciences staff, and board members David Troutt, Phil Rockefeller, Jennifer Quan, and Rob Duff.² The purpose of the subcommittee was to propose revisions to the board's monitoring strategy and recommend an approach to review and, if appropriate, implement the recommendations in the Stillwater Sciences report.

GSRO/RCO extended the Stillwater Sciences contract and added funds to further develop the recommendations in the report. Stillwater Sciences provided the board a set of six recommendations based on the direction of the subcommittee.

At the December 2013 board meeting, the subcommittee's recommendations were discussed. Although the Stillwater Sciences contract had ended, the board decided that the remaining members of the subcommittee should continue to refine and operationalize their recommendations. The subcommittee met on January 27 and again on February 28, 2014 to finalize recommendations for board action at the March 2014 meeting. The recommendations are summarized below. Attachment B includes the six recommendations of Stillwater Sciences, along with the subcommittee proposed actions for board approval.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee Recommendations

1. Update of Salmon Recovery Funding Board Strategic Plan

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee drafted language to amend the board's strategic plan to clarify the board's role in monitoring. The revised strategic plan language includes new statements on the three components of monitoring, the establishment of a monitoring panel (detailed below under Recommendation 2), and the inclusion of an adaptive management program (Recommendation 4). See Attachment C for the track changes version of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Strategic Plan.

2. Create a Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel

- A. The subcommittee recommends that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (panel) be created. The panel will fill four important roles:
 - i. Create a functional adaptive management framework with clearly written expectations and a process for timely implementation;
 - ii. Evaluate, by component, the performance of the board's monitoring program and provide guidance and funding recommendations to the board;
 - iii. Review project effectiveness monitoring and IMW monitoring results to recommend changes in policy or funding criteria;

² Rob Duff left Ecology during the middle of the subcommittee process and was replaced by Bob Cusimano.

- iv. Compare and share monitoring results to see if lessons learned in other monitoring efforts could be applied to board programs.

The Monitoring Panel would be independent in nature and provide recommendations to the board, much like the Board's Technical Review Panel.

The Stillwater Sciences report emphasized that, to be effective, the Monitoring Panel must have credentials and experience in salmon recovery monitoring. The panel needs a mix of good communication abilities, people skills, and the ability to present comprehensible and actionable recommendations to the board. The subcommittee emphasized the panel should be the crosswalk between the technical science of monitoring and practical policy implications that consider funding and resources.

- B. The subcommittee recommends RCO/GSRO staff prepare a competitive and public recruitment announcement for panel members. The recruitment will look to state, federal, and tribal governments; Bonneville Power Administration staff, and the private sector for the scientific and policy expertise necessary in this independent and objective role. The recruitment announcement will be reviewed by the subcommittee before posting. An evaluation team made up of RCO staff and subcommittee members will select 3-5 qualified panelists from the interested applicants.

Members will be compensated for time and travel in a similar process to the Board's Technical Review Panel. The panel members should be under contract by the middle of June.

- C. The subcommittee agrees that an annual budget for the panel should start at \$50,000.
- D. The GSRO Science Coordinator would staff the panel.

3. Update and Finalize the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Strategy

The subcommittee suggests the board update and finalize its draft monitoring strategy from 2003 (Attachment D). The Monitoring Panel will perform this task, with guidance and direction from the GSRO and the board. Monitoring strategy updates will clarify the board's role in monitoring, funding activities, reporting requirements, information exchange, and adaptive management. As this is a high-priority recommendation, it is suggested this be completed from August to October 2014, if not sooner.

4. Create a functional Adaptive Management Program

The subcommittee recommends that the Monitoring Panel be charged with establishing expectations and a process for timely implementation of an adaptive management program during its first year. In years to follow, the panel will verify accountability in each monitoring component and integrate its findings into future decisions. The subcommittee did not agree with the Stillwater Sciences report, which suggested the creation of a subpanel to complete this task. The subcommittee did agree that the adaptive management program should be a

separate and explicit task for the panel. The adaptive management approach is described in the Stillwater Sciences recommendations. The Monitoring Panel will use this information to assist in the development of an adaptive management program. Given limited resources, the subcommittee concluded it is not practical to have a separate subpanel dedicated to adaptive management.

5. Implement Projects within Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs)

The subcommittee recommends that the board implement its decision to move forward on implementing projects within IMWs by funding up to \$2 million a year over the next three years. This will require the board to revisit its principle that has historically maintained an annual grant round of at least \$18 million from the PCSRF and State salmon capital funds. Funding projects in the IMW at \$2 million per year over three years may cause the annual grant round to fall below \$18 million. The subcommittee recommends:

- A. The board allocate return funds for projects within IMWs for the immediate future. These are older year funds available for redistribution. The use of these return funds will result in less available funding for future grant rounds.
- B. In order to minimize the impact on available funds for the upcoming board grant round, the RCO will request additional funds in the State salmon capital budget for the 2015-17 biennium. The subcommittee recommends a budget request be developed by June 2014.
- C. The board ask the Puget Sound Partnership to consider utilizing unobligated Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds to complete projects within the Skagit, Straits, and Hood Canal IMWs. The Skagit IMW is limited by landowner participation in restoration projects.
- D. The board spend \$6 million over the next three years with a maximum investment of \$2 million per year for the Lower Columbia, Straits, and Hood Canal IMWs. The subcommittee recommends that the Skagit IMW continue to garner landowner support and use available funds through their annual allocation to fund projects that are ready to proceed.
- E. The board waive its match requirement for project sponsors implementing the new projects in a board-funded IMW. The no-match requirement will only apply to these new projects implemented within board funded IMWs. The purpose of this recommendation is to provide an incentive to project sponsors to complete project implementation quickly. However, projects that have matching funds may be considered ahead of those that don't.
- F. GSRO/RCO utilize the existing board grant round process to review projects proposed within each IMW. Projects proposed in IMWs must be consistent with the IMW study plans (included as hyperlinks in Attachment E), clear the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel, and be recommended by the IMW Scientific Oversight Committee. Up to \$2 million a year will be dedicated to projects within three IMWs. A complete RCO grant application would be submitted to RCO by August 2014. Projects would be reviewed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel and considered for board approval at the September 2014 meeting.

6. Coordination with other Statewide Monitoring

The subcommittee made the following recommendations to advance the overall recovery monitoring needs for the board and the regional recovery delisting requirements. GSRO will strive to be an advocate for salmon recovery in the various monitoring circles. The subcommittee recommends:

- A. Annual reports for all monitoring components be posted on the RCO Web site and in the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Web site. The HWS site should be expanded to include the status and trends of IMW monitoring. Annual monitoring program evaluations and funding recommendations should also be posted on these sites.
- B. GSRO staff and the Monitoring Panel should consult with Northwest Power and Conservation Council regarding their fish and wildlife monitoring program. The goal of this effort is to share results and learn from collective monitoring efforts.
- C. The Monitoring Panel, through the GSRO, should engage the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) on the following outcomes:
 - i. Collaborate with PNAMP web tools to identify and post the location of all board funded restoration and monitoring projects.
 - ii. Provide incentives for board-funded monitoring programs to participate in PNAMP sponsored workshops and to contribute to workshop products and documentation.
 - iii. Provide resources for either a GSRO staff member or panel representative to attend quarterly PNAMP meetings to coordinate activities and share monitoring results.
- D. GSRO staff should collaborate with PNAMP, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Energy, and other monitoring partners to develop an educational video on salmon recovery monitoring programs. GSRO will request funding at the March 2014 board meeting for this effort.
- E. GSRO should collaborate with PNAMP to support an annual or bi-annual IMW workshop. The workshop should highlight progress in each IMW complex, lessons learned from project implementation within the complex, and fish response to the habitat elements being implemented.
- F. GSRO staff, regional organizations, and the Monitoring Panel should continually look for opportunities to coordinate and share monitoring information.

Other Monitoring Related Issues Recommended by the Subcommittee:

- The subcommittee recommends that the board adjust their monitoring projects approval and make all funding decisions or program changes related to monitoring at the fall (September) board meeting. Aligning contract start dates (October 1 as per federal fiscal year) with funding availability will eliminate confusion and streamline the overall board monitoring program. This adjustment would be made in 2014.
- The subcommittee recommends the board consider making monitoring an eligible grant round project type. The board would need to narrowly define this activity. The regions

have suggested it would be the monitoring necessary for delisting. The Monitoring Panel could potentially review proposals.

Next Steps

Based on board direction at the March 2014 meeting, staff will create a work plan of how and when the board's decisions will be implemented.

Attachments

- A. Stillwater Sciences Final Monitoring Report
- B. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee Recommendations
- C. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Strategic Plan (track changes)
- D. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Strategy Draft 2003
- E. Intensively Monitored Watershed Study Plans (hyperlinks only)
 - a. [Hood Canal Intensively Monitored Watershed](#)
 - b. [Lower Columbia Intensively Monitored Watershed](#)
 - c. [Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed](#)
 - d. [Strait of Juan de Fuca Intensively Monitored Watershed](#)

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Strategic Plan

In 1999, the Washington State Legislature created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to provide grants for salmon habitat restoration and protection projects and other salmon recovery activities. The board is governed by Chapter 77.85 RCW and Title 420 WAC.

Mission

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board provides funding for elements necessary to achieve overall salmon recovery, including habitat projects and other activities that result in sustainable and measurable benefits for salmon and other fish species.

Values

The board supports a comprehensive approach to salmon recovery that reflects the priorities and actions of its local, regional, state, tribal, and federal partners.

- **Recovery Goals:** The board supports the goals in the regional salmon recovery plans approved by NOAA and recognizes the importance of integrating habitat restoration, hydropower operations, and hatchery and harvest management.
- **Coordinated, Bottom-up Approach:** Coordination across all levels of governmental and non-governmental organizations and geographic scales is necessary to balance diverse interests, build community support, and provide for the efficient use of resources to maximize the public investment.
- **Science-based Decisions:** The board believes that successful salmon recovery requires decisions and actions guided by science, and advocates for coordinated scientific support at all levels of salmon recovery.
- **Community Priorities:** The board considers community values and priorities in its decisions, and integrates public participation and outreach into its actions and those of its partners.
- **Assessing Results:** The board recognizes the importance of monitoring project implementation, project effectiveness, and the long-term results of all recovery efforts.
- **Adaptive Management:** The board supports adaptive management through reviewing the results of SRFB monitoring programs and factoring what has been learned into future decisions thereby completing the adaptive management loop.
- **Accountability:** The board provides citizen oversight and accountability for the expenditure of public funds, and conducts its work with openness and integrity.

Goals and Strategies

The board values all aspects of salmon recovery, and provides funding and support based on its priorities, available resources, and emergent opportunities.

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

Allocation Strategy: Within the limits of the board's budget and priorities, fund projects, monitoring, and human capital in a way that best advances the salmon recovery effort.

Process Strategy: Ensure that the processes to identify, prioritize, and fund projects are based on (1) regional salmon recovery plans, lead entity strategies, and tribal governments' salmon recovery goals, (2) sound science and technically appropriate design, and (3) community values and priorities.

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

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

Accountability Strategy: Conduct all board activities clearly and openly, and ensure that the public can readily access information about use of public funds for salmon recovery efforts.

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

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

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

Support Strategy: Support the board's community-based partner organizations in their efforts to build local and regional support for salmon recovery.

Partner Strategy: Build a broad partner base by engaging a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations to address salmon recovery from different perspectives.

Key Actions

Funding Allocation Strategy: Key Actions

Within the limits of the board's budget and priorities, fund projects, monitoring, and human capital in a way that best advances the salmon recovery effort.

- Provide funding for the following:
 - Projects that produce measureable and sustainable benefits for salmon
 - Monitoring to measure project implementation, effectiveness, and the long-term results of all recovery efforts
 - Human Capital that identifies, supports, and implements recovery actions
- Ensure funding practices reflect that a critical part of the board's mission is to fund the habitat

restoration and protection projects that constitute the foundation of salmon recovery.

- Support projects that meet regional salmon recovery goals and the goals of other related planning efforts.
- Inform budget decisions by establishing the minimum and maximum funding needed for each focus area (projects, monitoring and human capacity) necessary to support salmon recovery.
- Encourage projects and activities that find innovative ways to achieve goals and realize efficiencies.

Process Strategy: Key Actions

Ensure that the processes to identify, prioritize, and fund projects are based on (1) regional salmon recovery plans, lead entity strategies, and tribal governments' salmon recovery goals, (2) sound science and technically appropriate design, and (3) community values and priorities.

- Ensure that funded projects reflect the current federal, state, and tribal governments' salmon recovery goals.
- Ensure that the knowledge of habitat conditions, ecosystem processes, and trends in long-term factors (e.g., human population growth, climate change, and working land priorities) guide the type, complexity, location, and priority of proposed habitat protection and restoration.
- Fund projects that reflect community support and priorities, sound science, and that benefit salmon.
- Encourage actions and policies that optimize board investments by integrating with other restoration and protection tools and efforts (e.g., transfer of development rights, purchase of development rights, mitigation banking, and ecosystem services markets).
- Work with partners to evaluate and improve the board's funding process.

Funding Coordination Strategy: Key Actions

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

- Help to ensure that funding sources are coordinated to make the most effective and efficient use of board dollars.
- Recognize the importance of a full understanding of the roles of hatcheries, harvest, and hydropower, and communicate and coordinate with involved parties to ensure that funding decisions are in concert.

Accountability Strategy: Key Actions

Conduct all board activities clearly and openly, and ensure that the public can readily access information about use of public funds for salmon recovery efforts.

- Ensure that the public is aware of and has access to board meetings and materials and other elements of the funding process.
- Provide clear, comprehensive, and easily accessible information to the public about restoration and protection projects via electronic databases, the agency web site, and other communication tools.

- Meet all reporting requirements with consistent and consolidated information, including data and project examples that explain both salmon recovery efforts and results.

Resource Strategy: Key Actions

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

- Facilitate information sharing among project sponsors and experts in the restoration/preservation community.
- Continue to sponsor workshops and policy forums for project sponsors, lead entities, regional organizations and other interested parties.
- Develop funding approaches that reward innovation and efficiency in areas such as project development and implementation, administration, technical review, and community outreach.

Monitoring Strategy: Key Actions

Provide accountability for board funding by ensuring the implementation of board-funded projects and assessing their effectiveness, participate with other entities in supporting and coordinating state-wide monitoring efforts, and use monitoring results to adaptively manage board funding policies. The board has two main monitoring objectives: 1) to answer the question-- does implementing on the ground projects lead to greater fish abundance and diversity; 2) to demonstrate the effectiveness of different types of board funded projects.

- Support regional organizations by funding basic administrative functions so they can develop a customized approach to meet NOAA delisting monitoring requirements.
- Conduct **implementation (compliance) monitoring** of every board-funded project to ensure the project has been completed consistent with pre-project design objectives and criteria.
- Conduct monitoring to determine the **effectiveness** of different types of Board-funded restoration and protection projects in achieving stated objectives.
- Support validation monitoring of selected **intensively monitored watersheds** to determine whether watershed health and salmon populations are responding to recovery efforts.
- Participate in **supporting status and trend monitoring**.
- Coordinate with the ~~Monitoring Forum~~ Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) to ensure consistency with statewide- region wide monitoring goals while meeting SRFB monitoring goals and objectives.
- Ensure that projects identify objectives and use adaptive management principles to improve success by utilizing scientific experts to provide annual program evaluation and recommendations to the board.
- The SRFB Monitoring Panel will fill a key role in the implementation of a functional adaptive management program. The panel will verify accountability by each monitoring component and integrate their findings into future decisions and recommendations to the SRFB.

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Support Strategy: Key Actions

Support the board's community-based partner organizations in their efforts to build local and regional support

for salmon recovery.

- Encourage public involvement in planning and implementation activities so that projects reflect a community's social, cultural, and economic values.
- Help ensure that lead entity and regional strategies include community values and priorities.

Partner Strategy: Key Actions

Build a broad partner base by engaging a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations to address salmon recovery from different perspectives.

- Seek input from partners on key program and policy decisions such as fund allocation, monitoring, data sharing and special projects.
- Seek regular updates from partners to ensure that their actions and board actions are mutually supportive.
- Work with the Puget Sound Partnership to implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- Engage more organizations in discussions of the effects of salmon recovery in Washington State.

Partners

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board recognizes that success in achieving its mission and meeting its goals requires important partnerships with the Legislature, Governor, state and federal agencies, tribes, and regional and local communities throughout the state. The board seeks to continually build new partnerships so that salmon recovery is addressed from multiple perspectives. Partners include, but are not limited to:

- 1) **Lead Entities:** Voluntary watershed-based organizations established by RCW 77.85 that select and submit projects to the Board for funding consideration. Lead entities have technical experts and citizen committees whose work ensures that their projects have both scientific and community support, and contribute to the lead entity's effectiveness.
- 2) **Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations:** Organizations that (1) develop and coordinate implementation of salmon recovery plans, which are required under the Endangered Species Act, or (2) coordinate salmon restoration projects across a region in areas where there are no ESA-required recovery plans. Regional organizations bring the public, tribes, and private interests together to collaborate on improving their watershed for fish. Regional organizations and lead entities together identify and prioritize habitat protection and restoration strategies and other salmon recovery activities.
- 3) **Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs):** The fourteen RFEs implement salmon recovery projects, including habitat protection and restoration, and participate with lead entities and regional salmon recovery organizations.
- 4) **State Agencies and Programs**
 - a) **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office:** Coordinates and produces a statewide salmon strategy; assists in the implementation of regional recovery plans; helps secure funding for local, regional, and state recovery effort; and provides the Biennial State of Salmon report to the Legislature.

~~b) Washington's Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health: Provides a multi-agency venue for coordinating technical and policy issues related to monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health. The forum makes recommendations to the Office of Financial Management, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, the Puget Sound Partnership, and other state and federal agencies about monitoring issues.~~

- c) Puget Sound Partnership: Addresses the health of Puget Sound by developing and implementing an action agenda for restoration.
- d) Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership: Addresses priorities in the Puget Sound marine nearshore ecosystem (co-managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers).
- e) Conservation Commission: Oversees conservation districts in the state, which are often SRFB grant recipients and habitat project implementers. The commission also administers conservation programs targeted at agricultural land, such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- f) Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Provides technical assistance to project sponsors and lead entities, manages fish hatcheries and hatchery reform activities, regulates harvest, and takes the lead on working with the tribes on salmon recovery issues.
- g) Washington Department of Natural Resources: Manages timber land and aquatic land, jointly manages the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and addresses salmon recovery through its habitat conservation plans and the Forest and Fish Agreement.
- h) Washington Department of Ecology: Manages monitoring efforts, including status and trends, and addresses water issues such as watershed planning, water rights, and water quality.
- i) Washington State Department of Transportation: Addresses fish passage issues, including removing barriers to fish, such as highway culverts; manages stormwater runoff associated with DOT paved surfaces; mitigates for project impacts on wetlands and prevents erosion control associated with construction.

5) Tribes: Individual tribes, along with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, are involved in regional recovery organizations, lead entities, the Puget Sound and Nearshore Partnership, sponsor salmon recovery projects, and co-manage the state's fisheries.

6) Federal Agencies: Federal partners include the Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-Fisheries), the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service.

7) Other Entities:

- a) Northwest Power and Conservation Council: Maintains a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program aimed at protecting and rebuilding fish and wildlife populations affected by hydropower development in the Columbia River Basin.
- b) Nonprofit and non-governmental organizations: Play a variety of roles in salmon recovery, such as sponsoring habitat protection and restoration projects and promoting local activities and citizen involvement.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Project Effectiveness Monitoring Contract – Tetra Tech
Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator
Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

This memo presents background on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board project effectiveness monitoring program and requests the board fund project effectiveness monitoring efforts through September 30, 2014. This would continue project effectiveness monitoring efforts performed by contractor Tetra Tech while transitioning to the new timeline for funding monitoring projects in October of each year.

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

Proposed Motion Language

Move to approve \$225,463 to continue the existing project effectiveness program with Tetra Tech through September 30, 2014.

Background

The state of Washington applies for a federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant each year to fund salmon recovery projects throughout the state. The PCSRF grant program requires that 10 percent of the overall state award be dedicated to monitoring efforts. One component of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) monitoring project is project effectiveness monitoring conducted by Tetra Tech.

Stillwater Sciences provided the board a comprehensive evaluation of its monitoring program and a series of recommendations on how to improve. Based on these Stillwater Sciences

recommendations, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee developed recommendations for the board to implement in 2014, as described in Memo 7A. One of the recommendations is to align the timing of monitoring funding decisions in the autumn of each year. To accomplish this, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommend transitioning in 2014 to a new timeline for project effectiveness monitoring.

Board Approach to Monitoring Allocations

The board allocates PCSRF dollars for salmon recovery projects and monitoring efforts. Monitoring funding is aligned with the priorities established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as the state's strategies and priorities. Historically, the board has funded three large, long-term monitoring efforts (project effectiveness, fish-in/fish-out, and intensively monitored watersheds) and smaller, related efforts as funds are available. These efforts have historically been funded at different times throughout the year for a variety of program-specific reasons.

Effectiveness Monitoring

Staff from Tetra Tech will present information at the March 2014 board meeting about the scope and budget of the 2014 effectiveness monitoring program. The annual contract's funding request for project effectiveness monitoring varies depending on the year. The timing for this contract has historically been May 1 through April 30. Due to the timing of the board meeting, and the desire of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee to align all monitoring contracts with the federal fiscal year commencing October 1, RCO staff are requesting the board extend the effectiveness monitoring contract through September 30, 2014.

Decision Requested

RCO staff are asking the board to allocate at its March board meeting \$225,463 in return funds for project effectiveness monitoring, and to delegate authority to the director to amend the contract with Tetra Tech to extend their project effectiveness monitoring functions through September 30, 2014.

A proposed Tetra Tech Statement of Work is included as Attachment A.

Staff Recommendation for Monitoring Allocations

"Bridge funding" through September 30, 2014 would avoid a break in project effectiveness monitoring. Then, at the September 2014 board meeting, the board will be asked to fund all three long-term monitoring components (project effectiveness, fish-in/fish-out, and intensively monitored watersheds). The 2014 transition period will allow monitoring program components to align with annual funding decisions anticipated at the September meeting.

Staff recommend that the board approve \$225,463 in return funds to fund project effectiveness monitoring conducted by Tetra Tech through September 30, 2014.

Next Steps

If approved, RCO staff will work with Tetra Tech to extend project effectiveness monitoring. Director Cottingham will amend the contract with Tetra Tech to add \$225,463 and extend effectiveness monitoring through September 30, 2014.

Attachments

Attachment A: Tetra Tech Proposed Statement of Work, May-September 2014

Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board Reach-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Program

Statement of Work *May 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014*

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Reach-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Program and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Coordinated Monitoring Program are ongoing programs to monitor the effectiveness of salmon restoration projects funded by the SRFB across Washington State, and a small number of additional projects funded outside the SRFB for the GSRO Monitoring Program. Tetra Tech provides ongoing environmental consulting services in support of the program. During the timeframe of May 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014, the projects will involve several tasks that are described below.

Task Descriptions

SRFB

Task 1: Project Management, Meetings, and Presentations

Tetra Tech will continue to provide project management and support services during the specified timeframe. This includes management of the contract and billing, oversight of the project team through field work and data analysis tasks, attendance of required meetings in person and via conference call, and presentation of program status and results as needed.

Task 2: Administration

This task includes administrative time spent on contract setup, invoicing, billing, and related administrative tasks.

Task 3: Permitting

Staff time spent on permitting required by federal and state agencies is included in this task.

Task 4: Equipment

Time included under this task will cover staff time to procure equipment used during the field season, and to coordinate repair of non-disposal equipment (e.g., drysuit repairs).

Task 5: Training

Tetra Tech provides staff training prior to each field season to review field protocols, equipment use, safety procedures, data quality control measures, and other applicable topics. This time is critical in ensuring the safety and efficiency of all personnel during the field season.

Task 6: Data Setup and Management

Data collected in the field will be maintained in a MS Access database and managed under this task to ensure completeness and high quality of the data.

Task 7: Field Work

During the summer of 2014, ten (10) field sites will be monitored, including the following:

Instream Habitat:

- 02-1463 Salmon Creek
- 02-1561 Edgewater Park Off-Channel Restoration
- 07-1803 Skookum Reach Restoration

Riparian Planting:

- 02-1446 Centralia Riparian Restoration project
- 02-1561 Edgewater Park Off-Channel Restoration

Livestock Exclusion:

- 02-1498 Abernathy Creek Riparian Restoration

Floodplain Enhancement:

- 02-1625 SF Skagit Levee Setback Acq & Rest.
- 06-2239 Fender Mill Floodplain Restoration - Phase I
- 06-2190 Riverview Park

Acquisition:

- 04-1335 Piner Point on Maury Island

Monitoring of field sites will generally require 1-2 days of field time (10 hours per day) and a team of 2-4 field staff to evaluate both the control and impact reaches. For project categories that require juvenile fish monitoring, a team of two will conduct the snorkel or electrofishing survey, while the other team of two collects habitat data. For project categories that do not require juvenile fish monitoring, 2-3 field staff will generally conduct the entire survey. If the size or complexity of the site is extensive, however, additional staff and/or days may be needed to complete the survey.

Basic field equipment and personal safety gear required to carry out the SRFB protocols will be provided by Tetra Tech. Any specific equipment or consumable supplies needed to complete monitoring at one or more of the sites will be procured as necessary.

Task 8: Per Diem & Vehicles

This task includes all per diem and rental vehicles that will be required for field work.

Task 9: Data Analysis & Lab Costs

Data collected during the 2014 field season will be analyzed to develop summary metrics for each of the ten (10) field sites visited. These metrics provide insight to the status of the project and allow comparison of conditions among monitoring years to evaluate whether project goals and objectives are being met. This data is also analyzed at the project category level to gain understanding of trends across monitoring categories and over time. No lab costs will be incurred during this contract period.

Task 10: Report Writing and Production

A brief site report for each of the monitoring sites in 2014 will be developed under this task, as well as a summary report. Most of the reporting tasks will not occur within the timeframe described for this statement of work; however, some minimal level of effort may be spent in preparation for reporting during this time.

GSRO

Task 1: Project Management, Meetings, and Presentations

Tetra Tech will continue to provide project management and support services during the specified timeframe. This includes management of the contract and billing, oversight of the project team through field work and data analysis tasks, attendance of required meetings in person and via conference call, and presentation of program status and results as needed.

Task 2: Field Preparation

Field preparation includes efforts needed to ensure logistics and details of field sampling are figured out prior to arriving at the field sites and conducting monitoring. Time spent during field preparation includes contacting and coordinating with project sponsors to ensure proper sampling time and effort, preparing equipment and procuring field supplies, updating site information sheets including driving directions to sampling sites and site maps.

This task also includes data setup and management before field sampling. Data collected in the field will be maintained in a MS Access database and managed under this task to ensure completeness and high quality of the data.

Task 3: Field Monitoring

During the summer of 2014, three field sites will be monitored by Tetra Tech:

Instream Habitat:

- 11-1315 Eagle Island Site C

Floodplain Enhancement:

- 12-1307 Billy's Pond – City of Yakima
- 10-1765 Eschbach Park

Additionally, Tetra Tech will contract with EcoLogical Research for field monitoring of four additional sites in Southeast Washington

Instream Habitat:

- Tucannon River Project Area 3
- Tucannon River Project Area 14

Floodplain Enhancement:

- Tucannon River Project Area 26
- 12-1657 George Cr Wildlife Area

Monitoring of field sites will require between 1 and 4 days of field time (10 hours per day) and a team of 3-4 field staff to evaluate both the control and impact reaches. All sites will have a topographic survey, juvenile fish snorkel survey, and habitat survey conducted. 1-2 staff will complete the snorkel survey, depending on stream size. 2-3 staff will complete the topographic survey. 1 staff member typically completes the habitat survey. If the size or complexity of the site is extensive, however, additional staff and/or days may be needed to complete the survey.

Basic field equipment and personal safety gear required to carry out the SRFB protocols will be provided by Tetra Tech. Any specific equipment or consumable supplies needed to complete monitoring at one or more of the sites will be procured as necessary.

Per diem and rental vehicle costs required for field work will also be included in this task.

Task 4: Report Development

A brief site report for each of the monitoring sites in 2014 will be developed under this task, as well as a summary report. Some topographic data from field sites will be processed during the timeframe. Most of the reporting tasks will not occur within the timeframe described for this statement of work; however, some minimal level of effort may be spent in preparation for reporting during this time.

Deliverables

SRFB

The following are deliverables that will be completed by Tetra Tech between May 1, 2014 and October 30, 2014.

- Field work for ten (10) sites in 2014:

Instream Habitat:

- 02-1463 Salmon Creek
- 02-1561 Edgewater Park Off-Channel Restoration
- 07-1803 Skookum Reach Restoration

Riparian Planting:

- 02-1446 Centralia Riparian Restoration project
- 02-1561 Edgewater Park Off-Channel Restoration

Livestock Exclusion:

- 02-1498 Abernathy Creek Riparian Restoration

Floodplain Enhancement:

- 02-1625 SF Skagit Levee Setback Acq & Rest.
- 06-2239 Fender Mill Floodplain Restoration - Phase I
- 06-2190 Riverview Park

Acquisition:

- 04-1335 Piner Point on Maury Island

GSRO

The following are deliverables that will be completed by Tetra Tech and/or subcontractors between May 1, 2014 and October 30, 2014.

- Field work for seven sites in 2014:

Instream Habitat:

- 11-1315 Eagle Island Site C
- Tucannon River Project Area 3
- Tucannon River Project Area 14

Floodplain Enhancement:

- 12-1307 Billy's Pond – City of Yakima
- 10-1765 Eschbach Park
- 12-1657 George Cr Wildlife Area
- Tucannon River Project Area 26

Schedule

The tasks described in this statement of work will occur between May 1, 2014 and September 30, 2014.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Funding for Phase 2 of Monitoring Video
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator
Keith Dublinica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office staff are requesting that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board approve \$32,000 for the development of a video to highlight board monitoring program goals and the role of monitoring in getting to a delisting decision.

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

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff were successful in developing a nine minute video promoting salmon recovery in the State of Washington in 2013. The video complements the State of Salmon Report and explains Washington's response to Endangered Species Act (ESA) salmon listings in Washington.

The process of developing a video to explain monitoring began in 2013. Funds were used to take field footage of the different board-funded monitoring efforts. Staff are now requesting funds to develop a video that will educate stakeholders, decision-makers, project sponsors, and others tasked with the implementation of federally approved recovery plans about salmon recovery monitoring. Due to the restructuring of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) monitoring program, resetting expectations is important. This can be accomplished by communicating the purpose and goals of the board monitoring program and the monitoring requirements for delisting endangered species. The intent of this educational video is also to increase support and understanding of the progress being made in salmon recovery and the complexity and difficulty of measuring that progress.

GSRO staff will develop a small team to further develop key messages with input from the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology. Staff will also work with the new Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel for guidance.

The monitoring video will be up to five minutes in length. Staff also intend to prepare four or five associated video clips, each 1-2 minutes long, to highlight elements of monitoring.

Project Message

The message of the video will reinforce the themes the board endorsed from the Stillwater Sciences Report. The video will highlight the basic premise for the intensively monitored watershed complexes funded by the board. Staff will also highlight the board's project effectiveness work, stating the goals and objectives and why the board made a commitment to monitoring project types. Status and trends monitoring will be explained and illustrated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish-in/fish-out program. This video will also explore the delisting requirements of recovery plans, a frequent gap in understanding for policy makers.

Project Goal

The goal of the video is to illustrate and educate the viewing audience on salmon recovery monitoring through field examples, expert insights, and a basic summary of monitoring components. The most important question the video will answer is why monitoring is important for salmon recovery.

Decision Requested

GSRO staff are requesting the board approve \$32,000 for the development of a salmon recovery monitoring video.

Next Steps

If the board approves this request, GSRO staff will select a qualified contractor from the qualification list developed for the salmon recovery video. The contractor will be expected to complete the videos by December 31, 2014; the shorter video clips may be completed sooner.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Salmon Recovery Conference 2015 Funding Request
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) hosted project conferences in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013. Recreation and Conservation Office staff are asking the board whether it wants to continue sponsoring a salmon recovery conference (scheduled for 2015), and if so, to approve its location and budget. For the 2015 conference, staff have discussed a joint management approach to the conference with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Long Live the Kings.

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

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) has funded and hosted four successful salmon recovery conferences since 2007. With over 1,968 projects funded at a public cost of \$432 million,¹ these conferences are an important forum to collect and share lessons learned as we continue salmon recovery efforts. Lead entities, regional organizations, and project sponsors support continuing this event every two years.

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff would like to start the planning process for the fifth salmon recovery conference to be held in May or June 2015. Staff need sufficient time to

¹ Projects funded by state capital funds, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds, and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

secure a facility and plan logistics, so we are asking the board to approve the conference and location at the March 2014 board meeting. We are also exploring a slightly revised approach to managing the conference, which may involve contracting with a non-profit to carry out major components of the conference.

Conference Planning Proposal

RCO staff will use the 2013 conference evaluations and lessons learned to plan the 2015 event. Staff propose that the 2015 conference be up to a three-day event that highlights what has worked in salmon recovery, what has not, and how to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of projects.

New to the proposal this year is the idea of bringing in a different management approach to the conference and additional organizers, such as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the intent of more fully exploring hatchery and harvest reform elements of salmon in the context of other recovery actions. We will also invite tribal entities to sponsor the conference. Additional sponsors of the conference may emerge during the conference planning process. We plan to use an organizing subcommittee to guide conference planning and agenda development. The subcommittee will potentially include the following members:

- RCO staff
- Representative from the Washington Salmon Coalition
- Representative from the Council of Regions
- Representative from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
- Representative from Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
- Representative from Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Representative from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- Representative from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Representative from Long Live the Kings

In general, speakers will likely be asked to present in one of seven categories: habitat restoration, nearshore, acquisition, assessments, monitoring, hatchery reform, and recovery plan progress.

Conference Costs

RCO staff recommend the board fund a portion of the salmon recovery conference. The funding requested is detailed in the following table. The cost of conference planning and registration services would be paid with registration fee revenue.

Board Funding Requested for 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference

RCO conference planning staff	\$8,000
Facility rental and meals	\$82,000
Materials and advertising	\$4,800
Video recording of conference sessions	\$5,000
Estimated SRFB Contribution ¹	\$99,800

¹ Does not include additional sponsorships which would lower the overall board contribution.

Conference Date and Location

Staff propose that the conference be held at the Vancouver Conference Center in Vancouver, Washington. The Vancouver Conference Center hosted the 2013 salmon recovery conference and is considered a publically owned facility operated by Hilton Hotels. The facility has sufficient breakout rooms and can accommodate up to 750 people. Previous conferences have been held in the Olympia area, the Shelton area, and Tacoma.

Staff recommend that the 2015 conference be held in late May (May 27-29) or early June (June 8-11).

Staff Recommendation

RCO staff recommend that the board fund a portion of the salmon recovery conference from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. RCO staff suggest approval of up to \$99,800 for a three-day event. The board contribution will cover the cost of RCO conference planning staff, the facility rental and meals, materials and advertising, and a video recording of conference sessions.

The staff also recommend that the conference be held in May or June 2015.

Staff are discussing a joint management approach to the conference with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Long Live the Kings. Staff will provide additional details at the March 20th board meeting.

Next Steps

If approved, staff will start conference planning with the formation of the conference organizing subcommittee.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014
Title: Funding for Future of Our Salmon Conference
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

The Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission has requested Salmon Recovery Funding Board sponsorship of the Future of Our Salmon Conference scheduled for April 23-24 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and Recreation and Conservation Office staff request the board consider sponsoring the conference at the \$1,000 level.

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

The Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission has requested Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) sponsorship of the Future of Our Salmon Conference scheduled for April 23-24 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission has hosted two successful conferences, in 2011 and 2012. Both conferences attracted nearly 300 participants. The conference will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon April 23-24, 2014. The conference will address the restoration of fish passage at all historical locations in the Columbia River Basin. The target audience will include tribes, First Nations, federal, state, provincial, and local government representatives; public utility districts; Indian, sport, and commercial fishers; environmental organizations, engineers, consulting firms, and the public.

Decision Requested

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and Recreation and Conservation Office staff are requesting the board approve \$1,000 of returned Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funds for sponsoring this conference. The \$1,000 sponsorship level includes two complimentary registrations, logo and link on the conference website, logo in press releases and media outreach, and logo in the agenda booklet.

Next Steps

If the board approves this request, staff will submit a letter of sponsorship and payment to the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: March 2014

Title: Reallocation of Lead Entity Funds to Support the Priorities of the Washington Salmon Coalition

Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator
Lloyd Moody, Lead Entity Program Manager

Approved by the RCO Director:



Summary

The Washington Salmon Coalition Executive Committee has done extensive work to develop an action plan to build the strength and effectiveness of lead entities statewide. The Washington Salmon Coalition is proposing to reprogram underutilized lead entity funding to support action plan implementation.

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

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) provides capacity grants for the state's twenty-five lead entities on an annual basis. Primarily because of lead entity coordinator vacancies and capacity related issues, RCO anticipates that not all lead entities will be able to fully utilize all of these capacity funds within their grant periods. Between 2009 and 2013, the annual unspent lead entity capacity fund balance was approximately \$40,000, which is approximately 3 percent of total lead entity capacity grants.

Each lead entity is expected to participate as a productive member of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), the statewide lead entity organization. The WSC provides a statewide forum to collectively discuss and address emerging issues in salmon recovery. A summary of its mission, structure, and Action Plan are included in Attachment A. WSC has developed an aggressive action plan to share best practices, improve communications and outreach, provide educational opportunities, and to create a mentoring environment for newer lead entity coordinators.

However, because lead entity coordinators already have full workloads in their own watersheds, finding time to actively participate in WSC is a significant and continuing challenge.

To better support WSC efforts and to make effective and efficient use of the anticipated unspent lead entity capacity funds, the state's lead entities propose to reprogram these anticipated unspent funds to implement the WSC Action Agenda and address other statewide lead entity needs.

WSC Proposal for Unspent Lead Entity Capacity Funds

The Washington Salmon Coalition requests that the board approve the use of up to \$50,000 in anticipated unspent lead entity capacity funds between May 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 to support its statewide efforts. The WSC recommends that the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)/Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) contract with a consultant to accomplish this in an expeditious manner. WSC Executive Committee members will work with GSRO/RCO to develop a scope of work for the contracted work. In general, these funds would be used to assist in the implementation of WSC's mission and Action Plan. The specific duties of the contract would include assisting with communication, logistics, and other top priority efforts outlined in the WSC Action Plan.

Staff Recommendation

GSRO staff recommend that the board utilize unspent lead entity capacity funds to fund this effort. It is anticipated that lead entities will under spend in their current contracts due to end June 30, 2014. It is expected that funds returned to the SRFB from the lead entity contracts for FY 2014 will be greater than \$50,000.

Next Steps

If approved, the GSRO will select a contractor from the existing communications Request for Qualifications and Quotations list and negotiate a scope of work based on input from the WSC Executive Committee.

Attachment

Attachment A: Washington Salmon Coalition Mission, Structure, and Action Plan

Approved 7-12-13 (Updated with WSC name 3/4/14)

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) Mission, Structure, and Action Plan

Lead Entities

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

WSC Mission Statement

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

WSC History

This group was originally constituted to provide advice to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on current and emerging policy issues associated with salmon recovery. It was called the Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG). Over time, LEAG evolved to mainly support the Lead Entity Program by serving as a forum for discussing lead entity issues and improving communication with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), RCO, WDFW, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, other state agencies, the Council of Salmon Recovery Regions, and other interested groups. Education and coordination in general are a central focus and theme. In December of 2013, the group changed their name to the Washington Salmon Coalition. The roles of Lead Entities and of WSC should evolve with the needs of salmon recovery and the changing landscape of Washington State's economy.

WSC Goals

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

[“Washington Way”](#) is yielding statewide results. WSC has the following goals; specific objectives can be found in Appendix A: WSC Action Plan.

Internal Goals:

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

External Goals:

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

WSC Membership:

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

Expectations and Requirements for WSC members:

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

WSC Leadership:

WSC Executive Committee: This committee shall be composed of eight (8) of the WSC members. WSC Executive Committee members must include one member from each of three areas across the state (the

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

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

Expectations for WSC Executive Committee:

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

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

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

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

WSC's Past Chair is available for consultation from the current Chair and Vice-Chair and is responsible for ensuring there is continuity in WSC leadership and activities. The WSC Past Chair has the option to serve a one year term if the WSC Chair remains the same from one year to the next. In this case the

WSC Past Chair has the option to remain as a representative on the Executive Committee, or the position would become another at-large opening for election.

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

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

Lead Entity Program Manager

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

WSC Meeting Guests

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

Decision-making

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WSC Agendas

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

Appendix A: WSC Action Plan

Approved by Consensus on July 12, 2013 (updated with WSC name 3-4-14)

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

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

Internal Goals and Objectives:

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

Short-term approach:

- i. Write WSC letter to Congressional delegation thanking them for their support of PCSRF funding and reminding them of the value of Lead Entities and salmon recovery in terms of economic importance, cultural significance, and ecological gain. The letter should accompany copies of the Lead Entity directory
 1. Cheryl will draft letter
- ii. WSC will participate in watershed funding stakeholder process to develop consensus bill language by December 2013
 1. Amy Hatch-Winecka and John Foltz will participate in and track this process for WSC
- iii. WSC Chair and Vice Chair will participate in WDFW-sponsored dialogue with RFEGs and regional organizations on ways to increase/coordinate funding sources and identify new revenues for salmon recovery. The goal would be to develop a coordinated state funding package and messages by June 2014 for legislative consideration
- iv. Send Lead Entity Directory with a cover letter to state legislators
 1. Cheryl will draft letter
 2. Jason will develop list of recipients
 3. Nick Bean and Lloyd Moody will work on identifying resources to pay printing costs for additional copies of directory – printing needs to be done by June 30

Long-term approach:

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

2. Periodically review and reaffirm WSC's identity and strategies
 - a. Create a Mission Statement Work-Group
 - b. Review and update WSC Mission, Structure, and Action Plan as needed
 - c. Annually update Appendix A: Action Plan

- i. Develop additional detail for the Action Plan in the future, including responsible parties and budget
 - d. Develop WSC Logo, Tagline, and Letterhead
- 3. Encourage Lead Entity consensus on priority recommendations and communicate in a unified manner
 - a. Have four WSC quarterly meetings, with at least two in person meetings a year at which a quorum is present
 - b. Present consensus findings on important matters (e.g. to SRFB)
- 4. Facilitate the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs
 - a. Have four WSC quarterly meetings, with at least two in person meetings a year at which a quorum is present
 - b. Put on a WSC training and education Conference at least each biennium at which nearly all coordinators are present
 - c. Participate in SRFB sponsored events with all Lead Entities participating, including the Salmon Recovery Conference each biennium
 - d. Maintain a Lead Entity Directory
 - e. Create and Utilize WSC Information Exchange Work Group to lead WSC members in accomplishing the following goals:

Short-term Approach

- i. Institute a new position/role on WSC Committee to foster the internal communications strategy
- ii. Create LE Coordinator Distribution List in Outlook ("WSC Internal Comms") that is kept current and sent to all LE Coordinators
- iii. Contact new LEC's with a "Welcome" and introduction to existing WSC via email.
- iv. Facilitate the opportunity for new LEC's to have an individual "seasoned" LE Coordinators who is geographically close to assist them in learning the position
- v. Update the "Lead Entity Guidance" document. Provide guidance on the LE position and how to reach out to others and what questions might be useful to. Include information on Habitat Work Schedule
- vi. Include the following in WSC meeting agendas:
 - 1. New digital tool or tech-related information; each meeting
 - 2. Hard-copy materials examples; in person meetings
 - 3. LE job-related methods and ideas (i.e. creative funding ideas, process to implement projects, innovative ideas for distributing technical assistance); distance meetings
- vii. Conduct semi-annual interviews with experienced LE's via a questionnaire and distributed through group sharing site (what would new LE Coordinators ask if sitting down for a coffee with those that have gone before us...); sent via email

Long Term Approach Year 2 (2014-15):

- viii. Create a document library (housed on line)

1. Templates, forms and manuals and the like that could be modified for local use
 2. Manuals that we all use (ie. HWS manual, WSC documents)
 3. GIS files/overlays
 - ix. Create a photo library (housed on line)
 1. A few at a time via email or a link on vimeo/google web albums/other
 2. Create a facebook or LinkedIn page for WSC to share photos
 - x. Explore video conferencing abilities (WDFW and NWIFC may have resources)
 - xi. Determine feasibility and potentially develop a plan that will enable a WSC retreat and/or training every year
 1. Continue to include site visits
 2. Utilize specialized skill sets
 3. Spread organizational duties across more people
5. Support professional development and training opportunities
- a. Put on a WSC training and education Conference at least each biennium at which nearly all coordinators are present
 - b. Participate in SRFB sponsored events with all Lead Entities participating, including the Salmon Recovery Conference each biennium
 - c. Provide additional training opportunities through at least two WSC sponsored professional development activities per year

External Goals and Objectives:

1. Actively advise the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on local salmon recovery and Lead Entity issues
 - a. Prepare WSC meeting materials for SRFB meetings and solicit for Lead Entity specific information to share with the SRFB
 - b. Invite necessary agencies to WSC meetings and training/education events
 - c. Maintaining a network of salmon recovery professionals that can be called upon for questions and guidance
2. Promote the Lead Entity Program as the local, scientifically-based program for developing salmonid and salmonid habitat projects that fit within community values
 - a. Utilize the WSC Outreach and Education Sub-Committee to develop education and outreach materials
 - i. General public
 - ii. Legislature
 - iii. Congress
 - b. Interact annually with legislative policy makers during legislative day opportunities or as opportunities arise
3. Increase Lead Entity efficacy and profile by engaging at regional, state, and national levels
 - a. Serve as one of the only statewide groups for discussing and establishing consensus driven policy and funding advocacy for habitat/recovery project implementation.

- b. Tee up specific regional, state, and federal level policy issues that should be addressed at higher scales
- c. Invite necessary agencies to WSC meetings and training/education events
- d. Foster stronger relationships at regional, state, and national levels

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS
March 20, 2014

Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Follow-up Actions
Item 1: Management Report	An annual presentation by fiscal and performance management staff was requested.
Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report	A presentation on the Habitat Work Schedule was requested for a future board meeting.
Item 3: Reports from Partners	No follow-up action requested.
Item 4: Puget Sound Steelhead Plan Status	No follow-up action requested.
Item 5: Riparian Buffer Update	Staff will initiate public comment on a proposed riparian buffer guideline.
Item 9: Overview of WDFW's Habitat Program	No follow-up action requested.

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Actions
Minutes	Approved December meeting minutes	No follow-up action requested.
Item 6: Early Action PSAR Project Approval	Approved Skagit River System Cooperative Project (#14-1058)	No follow-up action requested.
Item 7: Monitoring	Approved revised strategic plan language. Approved an initial annual budget of \$50,000 for the creation and recruitment of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel. Approved the role/assignments for the Monitoring Panel. Approved up to \$2 million of returned funds per year over three years to implement projects within three Intensively Monitored Watersheds (Lower Columbia, Straits, and Hood Canal).	No follow-up action requested.

	<p>Approved recommendations to advance the overall recovery monitoring needs for the board and the regional recovery delisting requirements.</p> <p>Approved Tetra Tech effectiveness monitoring contract.</p> <p>Approved funding for monitoring video.</p>	
Item 8: Conference and Lead Entity Support	<p>Approved \$99,800 for the Salmon Recovery Conference.</p> <p>Approved \$1,000 for the Future of Our Salmon Conference.</p> <p>Approved up to \$50,000 for reallocation of Lead Entity funds to support the priorities of the Washington Salmon Coalition.</p>	No follow-up action requested.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: March 20, 2014

Place: Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Participating:

David Troutt, Chair	Olympia	Megan Duffy	Department of Natural Resources
Phil Rockefeller	NWPCC	Bob Cusimano	Department of Ecology
Nancy Biery	Quilcene	Jennifer Quan	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Susan Cierebiej	Department of Transportation
Sam Mace	Spokane		

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.

Board member Carol Smith was excused.

Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and a quorum was determined.

Sam Mace, new citizen member, introduced herself. Member Mace is from Spokane and has 20 years of salmon recovery experience.

Bob Cusimano, new representative of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology), introduced himself. Member Cusimano is Ecology's Environmental Assessment acting Program Manager.

The remaining members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) introduced themselves, followed by staff and other members of the audience.

Bob Bugert moved to adopt the agenda.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Bob Bugert moved to approve the minutes from December 2013.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Briefings

Item 1: Management Report

Director Cottingham introduced Cindy Gower, who is filling in as the administrative support for the meeting. Amee Bahr will join RCO in early April and will provide board meeting support in the future.

Director Cottingham is looking forward to a meeting next week with Governor Inslee. Chair Troutt, RCO staff member Dave Caudill, and small forest landowner Sam Madsen will present information related to culvert removal, salmon recovery, and inter-agency efforts to provide excellent customer service.

Governor Inslee surprised RCO staff by dropping by for a visit to celebrate the agency's fiftieth anniversary in January.

Director Cottingham updated the board on the Public Lands Inventory. RCO has contracted a consultant to design the Public Lands Inventory Web site, which will be completed by June 2014.

RCO staff will support the newly created Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Outdoor Recreation. The Task Force will complete a report by September 2014.

Director Cottingham summarized that this will be a busy summer for RCO.

Budget, Legislative, and Policy Update

Nona Snell, Policy Director, shared that the Legislature adjourned on March 13th. Legislators passed a supplemental operating budget that made changes to the biennial budget. The changes to RCO's budget were mainly technical, although it included additional funding for the Outdoor Recreation Task Force and for an economic study of outdoor recreation. This was the first time since 1996 that a capital budget was not passed.

A culvert removal bill passed, which Brian Abbott will address during his presentation. An Invasive Species bill also passed. This bill helps the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) respond to aquatic invasive species in coordination with the Invasive Species Council.

Two bills were passed that may impact the board and board members. Meeting agendas must now be posted online 24 hours in advance. RCO generally posts agendas two weeks in advance of meetings, so this bill should not have an impact on the board. Another bill will require board members to participate in public records and open public meeting training. No explicit guidance was provided for existing board members, although new members are expected to complete training within 90 days of assuming the duties of office. The Attorney General's office has already launched initial training videos on their website and RCO staff will communicate more information as it becomes available.

Additionally, changes to the administrative code are currently in the queue. Leslie Connelly, Policy Specialist, will work with the board to make changes that include an update to the name of RCO (formally changing it from the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation to the Recreation and Conservation Office). There is a minimum 45-day public comment period for changes to the administrative code. If there are no objections from the public, the board can adopt changes and staff will post them in the public register. A formal public hearing will address any objections from the public; this process will take approximately 5 months.

Director Cottingham pointed out that the management report includes written financial and performance

reports. Member Bugert suggested that staff make an annual fiscal and performance management presentation to the board after the end of each fiscal year.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, shared that last year the board funded approximately 140 projects. Some early action projects will be presented throughout the year, with the majority of funding decisions scheduled in December.

Manual 18 is updated and has gone out to stakeholders for review. It is now posted to the RCO website. Staff and the review panel recently met and will schedule site visits. The upcoming grant round has an application webinar scheduled. The Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), run by RCO staff member Dave Caudill, received \$10 million in 2012 and \$2 million in 2013 for project funding. Mr. Caudill is placing 52 projects under agreement, with construction scheduled in the coming year.

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), staffed by RCO's Mike Ramsey, includes \$10 million in state funding. Mr. Ramsey is placing 14 estuary projects under contract. An additional eight projects under that program received over \$2.3 million in funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program for beach restoration projects.

Included in the board materials was a list of recently closed projects with links to the RCO website. Forty-seven projects closed since the last board meeting. Included is a list of amendments, which include project cost changes.

Member Bugert asked if the number of amendments listed was typical. Ms. Galuska responded in the affirmative, and clarified that minor amendments such as time extensions are not included in the board materials because they are director-approved. Director Cottingham clarified that a subcommittee previously approved all amendments, but the board decided that the Director should have discretion to approve minor amendments.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), shared that the competitive procurement process for the GSRO communications plan was completed. Pyramid Communications was the chosen consultant and a work group was established. The work group includes two board members (Biery and Quan), RCO and Puget Sound Partnership communication staff, Darcy Batura of the Washington Salmon Coalition, and two members of the Council of Regions. The work group asked the Executive Directors from the regional organizations to review materials. Some initial work products are expected by May.

Member Biery confirmed that she felt the work group is making good progress. Mr. Abbott confirmed, in response to a question from Chair Troutt, that Barbara Cairns is the project lead for Pyramid. Member Bugert inquired whether the monitoring video (Item 7C of the board materials) would be coordinated with the communication plan work group. Mr. Abbott responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Abbott updated the board on the Mitigation Matching Project, initially funded with \$100,000 earmarked in the salmon capital budget passed last July. The pilot project will attempt to match transportation mitigation obligations with local salmon habitat restoration projects, using existing state technologies. The consultant

selected for this project is Eldred and Associates of Everett. Previous attempts at this work have not been successful, but there are now additional tools available. A product is expected by the end of the year.

Chair Troutt asked if the pilot project will improve the habitat baseline, instead of just holding steady with mitigation. Mr. Abbott responded that, although he couldn't answer yet, that concept had been discussed.

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) application was submitted March 19; RCO requested the maximum of \$25 million. Last year RCO received \$20 million. RCO should know the funding level in June or later.

Mr. Abbott related that GSRO asked each regional organization to identify, for budget request purposes: A) specific monitoring activities, B) who will implement the monitoring work, C) the gaps between state and local monitoring, and D) the monitoring needs for 10 years.

Member Cusimano asked what the final budget request document would look like. Mr. Abbott and Director Cottingham confirmed that there is a template, provided by the Office of Financial Management.

Member Quan stated that the need for monitoring is greater than what is reasonable given the current budget situation. She suggested that all members coordinate closely. Director Cottingham said she hopes we will have final, coordinated budget requests complete for the August board meeting so the board can review and prioritize them before they are due to the Office of Financial Management in September.

Mr. Abbott informed the board that a fish passage bill (HB 2251) passed this session. The bill is currently a policy bill that lays out a statewide fish passage program. This aligns with the "extinction is not an option" statewide strategy. WDFW will occupy a leadership position on a board that will replace the fish passage task force. The goal of the legislation is to coordinate and combine resources. The GSRO will participate in this effort and commit to its success.

State of Salmon and Habitat Work Schedule

Jennifer Johnson, Implementation Coordinator for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, gave a summary of the status of the State of Salmon Report and the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) data system. In 2012, the hard-copy State of Salmon report transitioned over to a Web site. For the 2014 update, the goal is to work with WDFW and Washington tribes to better align data and messages. HWS is currently integrating data from the existing PRISM data management system. New staff member Kiri Kremer will work with Ms. Johnson to increase data quality and consistency.

Chair Troutt asked if staff are working with HWS system users. Ms. Johnson responded in the affirmative.

Member Bugert asked if legislators use the State of Salmon report. Ms. Johnson responded that, although it is hard to quantify its use, the executive summary (16 pages) is widely distributed. Regional organizations and others take the report to Washington, D.C. In addition, the salmon recovery videos posted on the Web site communicate a similar message.

Member Cierebiej asked if HWS only captures data related to board grants. Ms. Johnson responded that one of the main differences between HWS and PRISM is that HWS intends to include all salmon recovery-related projects in the state of Washington. GSRO staff are working with Ecology staff to get additional data on regulatory programs. Member Biery asked if the State of Salmon report executive summary is on RCO's Web

site. Ms. Johnson responded in the affirmative and agreed to distribute the report URL and hard copies to board members before their departure from the meeting.

Director Cottingham related that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pays for HWS. As federal funding is vulnerable, RCO is hoping to get funding from the state to support the system into the future. Funding totals approximate \$620,000 annually.

Chair Troutt asked for a presentation on HWS at a future board meeting.

Data Exchange Network

Keith Dublanica, Science Coordinator for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, presented information on juvenile and adult salmon data networks. GSRO participated in the administration of the Juvenile Migrant Exchange (JMX) contract, funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This data exchange between agencies allows for better co-management of Washington state fisheries. While the JMX is not a public data portal, the public are able to access information gleaned from the JMX through the WDFW's Salmonscape. The Adult Migrant Exchange (AMX) is currently a proposal under consideration by the EPA. GSRO joined the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and (NWIFC) the WDFW to submit a proposal to EPA to assess spawning ground and hatchery returns of adult salmon. A decision from EPA is expected in late spring. If this nearly \$500,000 request is awarded it will go into effect October 1, 2014. The award will be for three years. This project, like others in the data exchange, builds on previous successful projects.

Chair Troutt asked if real-time harvest data would be included in the data exchange, to which Mr. Dublanica responded that was a possibility.

Member Bugert commented that this presentation on data networks brought to mind the amount of coordination necessary for salmon recovery.

Item 3: Reports from Partners

Jeff Breckel, Council of Regions, noted that the fish passage bill mentioned during the Salmon Recovery Report is of interest to the Council of Regions because the council has been working to better coordinate priorities related to barrier removal on private vs. public roads. Mr. Breckel is involved in the communications plan (outlined during the Salmon Recovery Report) and agrees that much progress has been made. He stated that the Council of Regions wants more than just a public relations effort for the communications plan and that he believes the work group will create some useful tools. In the future, the board may need to consider how best to implement those tools. Additionally, Mr. Breckel said he anticipates working with GSRO on monitoring efforts to make both projects and programs more effective. For the State of the Salmon report, Council of Regions is working with GSRO to consider how to better report progress and translate data outputs into outcomes, despite data gaps and other reporting challenges.

Darcy Batura, Washington Salmon Coalition, invited Amy Hatch-Winecka to join her for the Washington Salmon Coalition report. Ms. Batura reminded the board that Lead Entities are currently completing pre-work to ensure that proposed projects are well thought out and will be implemented as proposed. In addition, legislative outreach was successfully completed January 22-23. Lead Entities were highlighted as the backbone of salmon recovery efforts during outreach activities. Ms. Hatch-Winecka updated the board on the lead entity retreat, which focused on training, fostering communication, and building partnerships. The training was held

February 25-27 at Lake Quinault Lodge. In closing, Ms. Batura recognized new Lead Entity coordinators. She shared with the board that there has recently been 44 percent turnover in Lead Entity coordinator positions, which emphasizes the need for training.

Lance Winecka, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, introduced Colleen Thompson, the new managing director for the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFE) Coalition, who will attend future meetings on Mr. Winecka's behalf. Based on direction from the legislature, RFEs and WDFW have met to address their budgeting challenges. It appears RFEs will receive some federal funding for fiscal year 2014 to support local restoration and communities. RFEs continue to work with Sen. Murray and others to highlight achievements, since there is no guarantee for funding. RFEs have completed 411 board-funded projects since 1999, totaling over \$70 million. RFEs would like to provide comments on any potential decision on the implementation of riparian buffer guidelines.

Chair Troutt thanked RFEs for implementing 20 percent of the board's total projects; Member Bugert additionally thanked RFEs for their efforts, specifically in volunteer coordination.

Phil Rockefeller shared some background on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPC), created in 1980. NWPPC hopes to have a draft fish and wildlife program released in April or May 2014. So far, the NWPPC has gathered public responses on their fish and wildlife program from over 400 individuals. In the latest draft program, the NWPPC plans to address adaptive management, water quality and toxics issues, and mitigation for river blockages. Member Rockefeller also introduced the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission Future of Our Salmon Conference (discussed under Item 8B). He shared that NWPPC recently released a report on the state of the Columbia River Basin.

Megan Duffy, Department of Natural Resources, shared information about the Teanaway Community Forest Trust, which purchased over 50,000 acres as first state-owned community forest in Washington. The Department of Natural Resources and WDFW will jointly manage the community forest. An advisory committee is working on a management plan, with a first meeting scheduled for March 31. During the legislative session there were several bills of interest to the Department of Natural Resources. These included funding for ocean acidification efforts and direction related to derelict vessels. The Department of Natural Resources is working to meet the 2016 deadline for the removal of fish barriers. A small percentage of barriers were suggested for a time extension.

Jennifer Quan, Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared additional information about the stakeholders involved in the Teanaway Community Forest and how it fits in with the Governor's environmental priorities. Member Quan suggested that the Teanaway is unique in that it is working to balance habitat and fish needs with human water needs. The Teanaway was the state's first step in implementation of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. Member Quan also shared that a treaty is being worked out with Canada to address cross-border fish takes. WDFW recently re-launched the spatial database called Salmonscape, which is on a GIS server platform. Salmonscape and WDFW's Salmon Conservation Reporting Engine (SCoRE) provide data to the public and are inputs to the State of Salmon Report.

Chair Troutt commented that the Columbia Basin seems to be the best current example of a salmon recovery success story.

Bob Cusimano, Department of Ecology, shared that the new water quality program manager, Heather Bartlett, has an interest in highlighting the linkages between fish recovery and water quality. Ecology is interested in ocean acidification and working with EPA and others to look at modeling techniques to understand the sources that contribute to ocean acidification.

Member Rockefeller commented that ocean acidification might have an impact on the food web, particularly in areas such as the Columbia River plume. Members Cusimano and Rockefeller agreed that both adaptation and mitigation strategies need to be considered.

Susan Cierebiej, Washington Department of Transportation, highlighted an engineered logjam that is under construction on the Skagit River. Construction is going well and the project is on-track to finish in April. Observation shows that juvenile fish use the site. There has been notable media coverage of the project on KING5 news and KPLU.

General Public Comment:
There was no public comment.

Break from 10:55-11:00am.

BRIEFINGS

Item 4: Puget Sound Steelhead Status

Elizabeth Babcock, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries; Jeanette Dorner and Tristan Peter-Contesse, Puget Sound Partnership; jointly presented information on the current status of steelhead in Puget Sound. The official fish of the State of Washington is the steelhead, which was listed as threatened in 2007. We continue to see troubling declines in most steelhead populations in Washington. Primary factors identified as contributing to steelhead decline include habitat loss and degradation, followed by hatchery management. The presenters updated the board on the formation of the Steelhead Recovery Team, implementation of watershed pilot projects, and the timeline and process to create a steelhead recovery plan.

Member Bugert asked a question on funding. The presenters responded that the board approved \$250,000 of funding, with \$50,000 for the recovery work plan.

Member Rockefeller commented that in Columbia Basin steelhead are a particular concern and one factor contributing to their decline appears to be avian predation.

Member Cierebiej asked whether part of this effort included the study of Columbia River steelhead survival. The presenters responded in the affirmative and added that there is an emphasis on open dialogue and sharing lessons learned.

Member Quan commented that freshwater factors influencing the steelhead population are being examined. Steelhead represent a major WDFW priority and the agency is excited to take an active role in recovery efforts.

Chair Troutt shared that the Nisqually freshwater habitat is currently in a better place than it has been in 100 years, but some of its at-risk populations are not bouncing back as expected. He agrees that avian predation is

potentially an issue. He shared that an increase in harbor porpoise populations may also have an impact.

Member Cusimano commented that, from a water quality perspective, it seems that algal blooms and plankton communities may also have an impact on steelhead populations.

Item 5: Riparian Buffer Update

Leslie Connelly, RCO; Jim Weber, NW Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC); and Steve Landino, NOAA; presented options related to riparian buffer guidelines. Ms. Connelly presented a case study that compared riparian buffers for recently funded projects with NOAA's buffer width recommendations for Puget Sound agricultural lands and Ecology's buffer width criteria for western and eastern Washington. This case study showed that a riparian buffer guideline would not have significantly impacted riparian restoration projects approved during the last grant cycle.

Member Bugert asked whether Ms. Connelly noted the reasons why the three projects in the case study did not meet the riparian buffer recommendations. Ms. Connelly responded that one project had recent fires and degraded soil conditions. The other two had Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) elements leveraged as match.

Member Rockefeller commented that public feedback at a previous meeting suggested that projects might not get off the ground if there were buffer requirements. He asked if this was considered in the case study, as owners might be scared away from participating in programs. Ms. Connelly responded that the retrospective nature of this study could not address this issue as there was no requirement at the time and staff could not determine whether landowners would have been discouraged.

Chair Troutt thanked Ms. Connelly for her hard work on this challenging project. He commented that we have created a "risk-reward" process for project approval, where projects with issues do not clear early hurdles towards approval.

Ms. Connelly summarized for the board a variety of options related to the implementation of riparian buffers widths. The suggested questions for consideration included: *Does the board want to implement a minimum buffer width, and if so should they be a guideline or criteria? What buffer widths should be implemented? For what type of land use should they be applied?*

After a question from Member Cusimano, Ms. Connelly clarified that project applications do not currently collect riparian buffer width data.

Member Quan asked a question about how projects are currently evaluated for riparian buffer widths. Ms. Galuska clarified that each lead entity has its own evaluation point system. If we provided a guideline, lead entities could potentially incorporate that into their point systems for the evaluation of project applications.

Ms. Connelly's recommendation was for the board to adopt a policy that applies NOAA's recommended minimum riparian buffer widths as a guideline for projects with a riparian habitat objective in the Puget Sound region for all landscapes. Project sponsors in Puget Sound would include a written justification as to why the proposal is for a smaller buffer if the proposed riparian project does not meet NOAA's minimum buffer width recommendations. Ms. Connelly also recommend the board encourage the other regions to work with NOAA and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to develop minimum buffer width guidelines, as needed by region,

in order to address regional landscapes and riparian buffer needs. Ms. Connelly suggested that the board's next step be to solicit public comment on their adopted path forward.

Jim Weber, NWIFC, commented that tribes would like to work with state and federal partners to make sure diverse government programs align with overall salmon recovery goals. Mr. Weber stated that voluntary and regulatory standards should be consistent when it comes to land use, water quality, and salmon recovery efforts. As there are a number of landowners who do not believe they are legally bound to be good stewards, Mr. Weber pointed out that salmon recovery programs should focus on voluntary participation. He reminded the board not make the perfect the enemy of the good.

As Chinook continue to decline, Mr. Weber stated that tribes are asking agencies to send clear signals. Mr. Weber urged the board to take the lead and communicate the minimum acceptable buffer. NWIFC thinks there is a market for grants that call for good stewardship. In closing, Mr. Weber stated that although the staff recommendation wouldn't have been his first choice, he believes it makes a lot of sense for Puget Sound and would send a clear signal but still leaves some flexibility.

Member Cusimano commented that Ecology has not had any difficulty finding projects that meet the riparian buffer requirements adopted by Ecology. Additionally, he believes that CREP projects will often exceed Ecology's requirements.

Steve Landino, NOAA Fisheries, commented that in the early 2000's several federal agencies and other stakeholders participated and drafted a science-based buffer proposal document. That proposal led to the creation of the table included in the board materials called the "NOAA Buffer Table." Stakeholders negotiated the buffer widths in the table and, although based on science, widths are lower than originally suggested due to compromise with stakeholders. When created, these buffer widths were not intended to only apply to Puget Sound. Mr. Landino also stated that NOAA is discussing how to incentivize states incorporating NOAA recommendations when it distribute its Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds. In closing, Mr. Landino said that he supports the staff recommendation.

Member Cusimano asked a question about NOAA's buffer table and why the staff recommendation includes only Puget Sound. Ms. Connelly clarified that staff took a conservative approach and NOAA's recommendations are explicitly for only Puget Sound. Mr. Landino agreed that NOAA's official recommendations are for only Puget Sound, but those recommendations were designed with the entire state in mind.

Chair Troutt asked if NOAA would support statewide implementation. Mr. Landino responded he believed so, but could not definitively respond at this time.

General Public Comment:

Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, is generally supportive of this recommendation but believes there are other factors for consideration. He recommended guidelines as a pilot approach, paired with deliberative monitoring. Depending on the project sponsor, this riparian buffer guideline might or might not have an impact. Mr. Breckel shared that the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board collects riparian buffer width metrics on applications and then looks at soils, invasives, diversity of plant types, and other factors to understand the big picture at a proposed project site. Mr. Breckel agreed there are benefits to riparian buffers, but his board is struggling with how to implement them in the context of a voluntary program.

Darcy Batura, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board, commented that it seems that around the state riparian buffer benefits are sometimes included in other project types. Ms. Batura asked about the interaction between riparian buffers and areas with fruit trees and perennials. In summary, Ms. Batura shares the board's desire to approve projects with sufficient riparian buffers. However, she is concerned that setting new standards may alienate partners and accomplish little that is not already included in project reviews. Ms. Batura stated that landowners make decisions based on their perception of the program and their role in it. She urged the board to communicate that riparian buffer widths are an issue in salmon recovery instead of adding requirements.

Ms. Connelly clarified that the staff recommendation would only apply to projects with a riparian habitat objective.

Todd Bolster, NWIFC, provided comment related to landowner desire to implement projects. Mr. Bolster quoted the Washington State Constitution, which states that use of public funds are for public benefit, not private benefit. NWIFC supports the current staff recommendation.

Member Rockefeller would like RCO staff to include some questions for the public to consider when it releases the recommendation to the public, particularly related to the flexible review process of projects that will not meet the minimum guideline and reasons why a buffer might be smaller than the guideline.

Member Quan asked whether board guidelines should be consistent with Ecology's. Chair Troutt added that, if NOAA is looking to add riparian buffer criteria for their funds in the next couple of years, we might want to expand the recommendations across the state. Member Mace agreed that we might want to strive for a statewide approach.

Member Quan asked, for purposes of board discussion, if we are being too prescriptive.

Member Bugert agreed that he would like to hear from the public on what types of landowner incentives might be effective to encourage their participation in salmon recovery.

Member Duffy pointed out that it would be helpful to know what the range of requirements are for each region. Chair Troutt agreed.

The board asked staff to collect public comment on statewide riparian buffer guidelines. Staff were instructed to ask the public what would be a good reason for a smaller buffer and how to improve landowner incentives. Feedback was also requested on how to incentivize funding projects with larger buffers (such as lowering the match requirement or scoring things differently at the lead entity level).

Lunch 1:10-1:45 p.m.

Item 6: Early Action PSAR Project Approval Request

RCO staff member Marc Duboiski informed the board that Skagit River System Cooperative has applied for a feasibility and preliminary design grant through their lead entity, the Skagit Watershed Council. The Similk Beach Estuary Restoration Feasibility project (#14-1058), requests \$284,750 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR funds). With a match of \$50,250, the total project cost equals \$335,000. The project proposes to analyze and design an approach to reconnect a salt marsh measuring approximately 17 acres to Similk Bay in north Puget Sound. This project would create pocket estuary habitat critical to the rearing of

juvenile Chinook salmon as they out-migrate from the Skagit River. A county road currently disconnects the project site from the bay.

Mr. Duboiski responded to a board member question that the county road (Satterlee Rd), built approximately 8 feet above sea level, currently keeps water out of the estuary. He clarified that the project could move forward without completely removing the road.

Member Cierebiej asked a question about whether natural processes would keep the estuary open. Mr. Duboiski acknowledged her concern and said that analysis would include review of that issue.

Member Cusimano asked about limiting factors on the Skagit River.

Bob Bugert moved to approve up to \$284,750 to fund the early action Skagit River System Cooperative Project (#14-1058).

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Item 7A: Revised Monitoring Recommendations from the Stillwater Report and Subcommittee Discussions

GSRO staff members Brian Abbott and Keith Dublanica presented revised monitoring recommendations from the Stillwater Report and subcommittee discussions. They suggested the board update the board strategic plan, create a monitoring panel, update and finalize the board monitoring strategy, create a functional adaptive management system, implement projects within intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs), and coordinate with other statewide monitoring efforts such as the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP). Staff also recommended that the board align all monitoring funding or program decisions with the federal fiscal year and explore monitoring as an eligible grant round project type.

On the suggestion that the board allocate up to \$2 million of returned funds per year over three years to projects within three Intensively Monitored Watersheds (Lower Columbia, Straits, and Hood Canal), Member Quan commented that she felt that funding stability for Lead Entities would be helpful, as it is difficult to plan from year to year.

Mr. Abbott clarified that current expected restoration projects presented to the board do not yet total \$2 million, but he anticipates additional projects may emerge for future consideration.

Member Bugert asked about the likelihood that the budget request for additional funds in the state salmon capital budget for the 2015-17 biennium would be successful. Director Cottingham responded that is unknown at this time, and that the board will discuss budgets in August.

General Public Comment:

Jeff Breckel, Council of Regions, supports the creation of a Monitoring Panel. He related that the regions do not agree on the IMW funding. Additionally, Mr. Breckel requested that the board focus on project effectiveness to get more value out of projects. He is concerned about the use of returned funds for Fish In/Fish Out efforts. Mr. Breckel related that the COR would like to see monitoring as a grant-eligible project type.

Phil Rockefeller moved to approve the revised strategic plan language included in Attachment C of the board materials.

Seconded by: Bob Bugert

Motion: APPROVED

Phil Rockefeller moved to approve an initial annual budget of \$50,000 for the creation and recruitment of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel, to be made up of people with relevant monitoring credentials and practical policy experience.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Phil Rockefeller moved that the Monitoring Panel update and finalize the board's draft monitoring strategy, with staffing from GSRO.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Phil Rockefeller moved that the Monitoring Panel develop an adaptive management program per the recommendations of the board subcommittee, including guidance from GSRO.

Seconded by: Bob Bugert

Motion: APPROVED

Bob Bugert moved that the board adopt the recommendations outlined in Memo 7A (#5) to implement projects within three Intensively Monitored Watersheds (Lower Columbia, Straits, and Hood Canal) by allocating up to \$2 million of returned funds per year over three years.

Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller

Motion: APPROVED

Phil Rockefeller moved that the board adopt the recommendations outlined in Memo 7A (#6) to advance the overall recovery monitoring needs for the board and the regional recovery delisting requirements.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

The board decided by consensus that they will align all monitoring funding or program decisions with the federal fiscal year. They will explore making monitoring an eligible grant round project type.

Item 7B: Tetra Tech Effectiveness Monitoring Contract 2014 Scope of Work

GSRO staff member Keith Dublanica and Jennifer O'Neal of Tetra Tech provided details of the requested time extension and budget increase for Tetra Tech's effectiveness monitoring contract. Tetra Tech proposed to complete monitoring at 19 total sites in 2014 and 21 sites in 2015.

Phil Rockefeller moved to approve \$225,463 of PCSRF funds to continue the existing project effectiveness program with Tetra Tech through September 30, 2014.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Item 7C: Funding for Monitoring Video

GSRO staff members Brian Abbott and Keith Dublanica presented a request for funding of a monitoring video. The message of the video will reinforce the themes the board endorsed from the Stillwater Sciences Report and tell the story of inter-agency monitoring collaboration.

Mr. Abbott responded to a question that the previous video on salmon recovery cost approximately \$42,000.

Bob Bugert moved to approve \$32,000 of PCSRF return funds for the development of a video to highlight board monitoring program goals and the role of monitoring in getting to a delisting decision.

Seconded by: Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Break from 10:55-11:00 am.

Item 8C: Reallocation of Lead Entity Funds to Support the Priorities of the Washington Salmon Coalition

(This item was presented out of order to accommodate participant schedules.)

GSRO staff members Brian Abbott and Lloyd Moody presented a request to approve the use of up to \$50,000 in anticipated unspent lead entity capacity funds between May 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 to support the statewide efforts of the Washington Salmon Coalition.

Director Cottingham clarified that she created this proposal based on feedback at the Lead Entity retreat.

Bob Bugert moved to approve up to \$50,000 in anticipated unspent lead entity capacity funds to support WSC's mission and Action Plan.

Seconded by: Sam Mace

Motion: APPROVED

Recognition of Lloyd Moody

GSRO Executive Coordinator Brian Abbott recognized Lloyd Moody for the five years he dedicated to the GSRO, particularly for his work with Lead Entities. Chair Troutt added his praise of Mr. Moody for his commitment and passion for salmon recovery. Member Bugert thanked Mr. Moody for his friendship and mentorship. Member Duffy additionally praised Mr. Moody for his dedication and hard work. Mr. Moody was presented with a plaque.

Item 8A: Salmon Recovery Conference 2015 Funding Request

GSRO Executive Coordinator Brian Abbott and RCO Salmon Section Manager Tara Galuska recommend that the board fund a portion of the salmon recovery conference for up to \$99,800 for a three-day event, held in May or June 2015. Some of this funding was written into the 2014 PCSRF application. The board contribution will cover the cost of RCO conference planning staff, the facility rental and meals, materials and advertising, and a video recording of conference sessions.

Staff are discussing a joint management approach to the conference with WDFW and Long Live the Kings.

Mr. Abbott responded to a question from Chair Troutt that RCO will host the event, but will contract help from other organizations. Member Quan commented that a co-management approach is an important process to better align our salmon recovery efforts with other organizations.

Member Biery asked whether the conference is consistent with the communications plan highlighted in the Salmon Recovery Management Report. Mr. Abbott confirmed. Member Biery also urged tribal participation.

Director Cottingham clarified that the costs of the conference covered the registration and participation of lead entity representatives.

Member Bugert asked how the cost of this proposed conference compared to the last conference. Mr. Abbott responded that there has been an increase from a cost of \$84,000 last year.

Nancy Biery moved to approve \$99,800 of PCSRF funds for the 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference, to be held in May or June 2015.

Seconded by: Phil Rockefeller

Motion: APPROVED

Item 8B: Funding for Future of Our Salmon Conference

GSRO Executive Coordinator Brian Abbott and RCO Salmon Section Manager Tara Galuska recommended the board sponsor the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission Future of Our Salmon Conference scheduled for April 23-24 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Abbott and Ms. Galuska requested the board consider sponsoring the conference at the \$1,000 level.

Bob Bugert moved to approve \$1,000 of returned PCSRF funds for sponsorship of the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission's Future of Our Salmon Conference.

Seconded by: Sam Mace

Motion: APPROVED

Chair Troutt was excused from the meeting at 4:13 pm.

Item 9: Overview of WDFW's Habitat Program

Lisa Veneroso, Margen Carlson, Tim Quinn, and Dave Price of WDFW presented highlights of their agency's habitat program. The program's three strategic priorities include fish passage, priority habitat and species work, and hydraulic permit authority.

Two policy priorities were summarized by Ms. Veneroso, including the fish passage federal culvert injunction and the recently passed fish passage legislation (2SHB 2251).

Mr. Price summarized WDFW's restoration efforts. Ms. Carlson discussed the WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) section, particularly their work assisting local governments. The Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act cite the use of the PHS. Although the use of PHS is not required, it receives heavy consideration by the courts.

Mr. Quinn discussed the science behind monitoring and highlighted Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) compliance and effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management.

Member Rockefeller asked about the Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program (SSHAP). The presenters responded that they have developed tools associated with SSHAP and data collection, but they are still working on the management of SSHAP components. Watershed characterization is an example from the presentation that is consistent with the "next generation" of SSHAP.

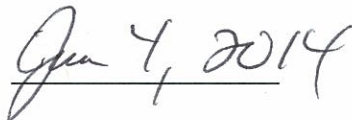
Member Bugert summarized the riparian buffer conversation earlier in the meeting and asked for WDFW feedback on public incentives to increase riparian buffer widths.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



David Troutt, Chair



Date



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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F (503) 235-4228
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December 20, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Troutt:

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) held two successful Future of Our Salmon Conferences in 2011 and 2012. The first conference addressed many critical aspects associated with the salmon life cycle and the second one concentrated on how hatchery policies shape salmon recovery efforts and how they can best serve the needs of the salmon and the region. Both conferences attracted nearly 300 participants who have an investment in Columbia Basin salmon recovery.

The third Future of Our Salmon conference will address the restoration of fish passage at all historical locations in the Columbia River Basin. It is scheduled for April 23-24, 2014 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. This conference is being hosted by a coalition of Columbia River Basin Tribes and First Nations, which include the Canadian Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Upper Columbia United Tribes, the Upper Snake River Tribes, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Our targeted audience will be tribes, First Nations, federal, state, provincial and local government representatives; public utility districts; Indian, sport, and commercial fishers; environmental organizations, engineers, consulting firms, and the public.

The goal of the 2014 conference will focus on developing a unified strategy to restore fish in the Columbia River Basin so that they can return to their entire historical range. Prior to the conference, a four-day workshop will be held in Spokane, Washington to review recent advances in fish passage technology, identify obstacles, and develop viable solutions. The findings from this workshop will be reported at the conference. Focus areas will include salmon, lamprey, sturgeon, and resident fish.

The Columbia Basin tribes believe that the region needs a common vision to restore naturally spawning fish populations based on practical management, habitat protection, restoration, innovative recovery, and rebuilding programs. Fish are the shared bounty as well as the responsibility of all the people of the Pacific Northwest.

Any contributions from your organization will go towards making the 2014 conference even more effective and will be greatly appreciated. By sponsoring the conference, your organization will benefit from extended exposure through media campaigns, promotional efforts, inclusion in the promotional materials, and an opportunity to be a key player in future salmon recovery decisions.

Multiple levels of commitment will be available and those details can be found in the attached sponsorship flyer. If you have any questions, please contact Aja DeCoteau, CRITFC Watershed Department Manager, at 503-238-0667.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to support the efforts of the CRITFC and other partners as we seek to put fish back in the rivers and protect the watersheds where they live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Babbist Paul Lumley". The signature is stylized with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke.

Babbist Paul Lumley
Executive Director

Attachment

From: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO)
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 12:42 PM
To: Fudurich, Stephanie (RCO)
Cc: Duboiski, Marc (RCO); Galuska, Tara (RCO)
Subject: FW: Nason Creek Lower White Pine
Attachments: Letter from Parkers to CDLT re property.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Stephanie: As you start pulling together the materials for the March SRFB meeting, can you include this letter and email in the correspondence section. Thanks

Kaleen Cottingham
Director
Recreation and Conservation Office
kaleen.cottingham@rco.wa.gov
360-902-3003



From: Duboiski, Marc (RCO)
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 11:42 AM
To: Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO); Robinson, Scott (RCO); Galuska, Tara (RCO)
Cc: Butler, Elizabeth (RCO); Caromile, Kay (RCO); Caudill, Dave (RCO); Fudurich, Stephanie (RCO); Moore, Kathryn (RCO); Ramsey, Michael (RCO); Rubin, Alice (RCO)
Subject: FW: Nason Creek Lower White Pine

Here you go. Read this letter from a landowner along Nason Creek. This project (11-1372) is the one that the Yakama Nation built log jams on the downstream landowner's property (Click). Parker is the upstream landowner.

The first time I visited this site we ran into Stone Parker hunting for mushrooms...he is a silversmith, lives off the grid with his family on the north side of Highway 2. Classic.

Meeting people like Stone and working land deals is just one of my favorite things about working at the RCO!

Happy New Year!

Marc Duboiski
(360) 902-3137



From: Mickey Fleming [<mailto:mickey@cdlandtrust.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2013 10:59 AM

To: Duboiski, Marc (RCO)

Subject: FW: Nason Creek Lower White Pine

Please share this with the managers so they can feel good about your work!

Mickey Fleming
Lands Project Manager
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust
18 N. Wenatchee Avenue
P.O. Box 4461
Wenatchee, WA 98807
Tel: 509-667-9708
Fax: 509-667-0719
mickey@cdlandtrust.org



December 19, 2013

Stone and Sharlynn Parker

PO Box 448

Leavenworth, Wa 98826

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

c/o Mickey Flemming

PO Box 4461

Wenatchee, Wa 98807-4461

Dear CDLT,

We would like to thank you for the work you have done in Merritt this summer. We are delighted to have such a significant open space project in our neighborhood and to have been a part of creating it. Please put us on your list of volunteers for maintenance and advising for the stewardship of this area. We love the land and want to help take good care of it. We would also be happy to attend any meetings where our input could be helpful, so please feel free to pass on our contact info/email along so that we could be involved.

This chunk of land is significant to wildlife and to public contact with nature. As the growth of population increases the public contact decreases. As more people move into an area, the less that area is accessible to the public. We wanted to see this wildlife corridor remain as is, and full of things to enjoy. If you look to the east and west of this land the trees have been clear cut, houses built and public access cut off. The views from this "park" are extraordinary: wild mountain goats on the cliffs of Nason Ridge, waterfalls coming off both valley walls, the salmon swimming up stream, beavers sliding in and out of the water, deer, bear, grouse walking through, high snow capped mountains views, and nice big cedar and doug fir trees. Without "open space" lands, all of this winds up with ugly, mean, territorial, unfriendly, with no trespassing signs. We are all stewards to this land and to the earth, if we can't walk where we want, we won't love it, and we won't treat it well. I've seen too many fences, loss of river access, and this is exactly why we need these open spaces mixed in close to private land.

What this does for the area- Anyone driving by can enjoy a few minute walk to the river. If you live in the area this is a nice river access park, and a great asset to our community. There are times in the summer that my family and I walk to this area as

much as 7 days a week, to play in the sand, cool off in the river, or look for morels. I love that nobody is going to shoot me for walking to the river.

You asked me, "What did this land purchase, from the CDLT, do to or for your family?"

The CD Land Trust, Mickey Flemming and I have been on the phone and emailing for about 5 years to make this happen. Now it is a much bigger project than anticipated when I first made the phone call. Our only hesitation in giving more money to this project is the lack of money. We have been asked to donate an additional \$500 to this project, which I see as a good thing, but money is tight. It is always the people who have little, that give a lot. I might not be able to pay my taxes on the sale of this land, or fix our car, or buy a working fridge, but I have a lot that many don't. Also what this sale did financially for our family is this; I was like so many Americans (but on a small scale) "upside down," "Land rich money poor." We got caught up in the real estate bubble and I was dishing out \$1600 per month in interest payments of which about \$700 was going to this land. We had the idea to buy land and build a house for my mom, but came up short on funds, time, ambition and health. Once that bubble got burst that became a \$700 a month bill, to walk to the river. Which has been too much for our family. With the sale of this land I directly paid off three major loans, and credit cards. **And we can still walk to the river.** In the seven years that we have owned this land we have been good stewards, and have shared our access with neighbors and friends, and that has set the mood of such a cool place.

We wish you well in your endeavors in Chelan and Douglas counties and hope that further work develops in the upper valley (i.e. Merritt). In a side note, there is much local history here that may not be documented anywhere. We know people who know some of it, and feel it is pretty extraordinary.

Wishing you the best in the holiday season and the New Year.

Sincerely,

Stone and Sharlynn Parker