

# PROPOSED Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

May 6, 2015

Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98504

**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. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

You also may submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, Attn: Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, at the address above or at [wendy.loosle@rco.wa.gov](mailto:wendy.loosle@rco.wa.gov).

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

## Wednesday, May 6

### OPENING AND WELCOME

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	<i>Chair</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Determine Quorum</li><li>Review and Approve Agenda (<i>Decision</i>)</li><li>Approve February 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes (<i>Decision</i>)</li></ul>	

### MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS

<b>9:05 a.m.</b>	<b>1. Management Report</b>	
	A. Director's Report	<i>Kaleen Cottingham</i>
	B. Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates	<i>Wendy Brown</i>
	C. Performance Update ( <i>written only</i> )	
	D. Financial Report	<i>Mark Jarasitis and</i>
	i. Reading and Understanding RCO Financial Statements	<i>Brent Hedden</i>
	ii. E-Billing Update	
	iii. New Federal Financial Requirements	
<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>2. Salmon Recovery Management Report</b>	
	A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report	<i>Brian Abbott</i>
	i. Communications Strategy Update	
	ii. Salmon Recovery Conference Pre-View	
	B. Salmon Section Report	<i>Tara Galuska</i>
	C. Preview of Lunch Tour to Mission Creek	
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>3. Reports from Partners</b>	
	A. Council of Regions Report	<i>Jeff Breckel</i>
	B. Washington Salmon Coalition Report	<i>Darcy Batura</i>
	C. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	<i>Colleen Thompson</i>
	D. Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates	<i>SRFB Agency Representatives</i>

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**10:45 a.m. General Public Comment:** *Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*

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**10:50 a.m. BREAK**

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**BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS**

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**11:05 a.m. 4. Project Decisions**

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|--|----------------------|
| A. Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO #14-1366)   | <i>Mike Ramsey</i>   |
| B. Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering Dungeness Railroad Trail Bridge Replacement (RCO #15-1052) | <i>Kathryn Moore</i> |
| C. Pre-Approval of "Time-Sensitive" PSAR Projects, if any, Contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage  | <i>Tara Galuska</i>  |
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**11:35 a.m. Lunch and Tour of Mission Creek Reconnection at Priest Point Park** *Tara Galuska*  
*Lance Winecka*

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**BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS**

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**1:30 p.m. 5. Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding** *Brian Abbott*  
*Sarah Gage*

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**BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS**

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**2:00 p.m. 6. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes** *Leslie Connelly*

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**2:30p.m. 7. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**

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|--|----------------------|
| A. Habitat Program Briefing            | <i>Jeff Davis</i>    |
| B. Fish Barrier Removal Board Briefing | <i>Julie Henning</i> |
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**3:15 p.m. 8. The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Summary and Status of Puget Sound Activities** *Michael Schmidt, Long Live the Kings*  
*Neala Kendall, WDFW*

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**3:45 p.m. BREAK**

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**4:00 p.m. 9. Monitoring Panel Update** *Keith Dublanica*  
*Brian Abbott*

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**4:30 p.m. ADJOURN**

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## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015

**Title:** Director's Report / Legislative and Policy Updates

#### 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

### E-billing Launches Successfully

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) successfully launched the electronic billing system on March 31. The new system, known as e-billing, is expected to save staff and grant recipients time and money, not to mention a few trees because of the now paperless process. Fiscal staff reached out to grant recipients to make sure they were aware of the transition. By the end of March, staff had trained 244 people and held 18 testing sessions. After the first week, here are a few statistics:

- 51 invoices were created in the system and 30 were submitted.
- Of the 30 invoices submitted, 2 invoices were returned to the sponsor for correction and 9 invoices were paid.

### PRISM 101 Training

RCO's PRISM Database Manager conducted 14 training sessions for about 120 project sponsors who were unfamiliar with PRISM. The trainings cover the basics of using PRISM, the difference between PRISM Online and PRISM 2007, and how to use start a new application, find information about projects, enter progress reports, and find help. Of the 33 participants who answered a post-training survey, the vast majority felt it was a good use of their time.

### RCO Speaks at Yakima County Regional Funders' Forum

More than thirty people participated in the Yakima County Regional Funders' Forum on March 13. The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments hosted the event, held in the Yakima Valley Historical Museum.

Federal, state, and local funding agencies shared information about grant and loan programs that support renovation and development of infrastructure. Participants had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with funders to hold detailed project discussions. RCO Section Manager Marguerite Austin delivered a presentation on Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and met with five communities interested in RCO grants. Attendees thought this was a very productive forum and requested the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments to conduct another one next year.

### **Engineers Meet to Discuss Fish Passage**

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program's (FFPP) Fish Passage Team hosted the annual engineers gathering on March 13 in Olympia. Each year, the fish team gets together with project engineers and agency staff involved in the program to look at the past year's successfully completed projects. It is a great forum for project engineers to exchange information that helps make better projects and the program more efficient and economical. During the morning session, we reviewed the 2014 high priority fish passage projects that were constructed on 41 landowners' properties. The afternoon session was spent discussing issues related to the program, such as working with utility companies, erosion control, contractor issues, and project bidding.

### **Future of Federal Funding for Habitat Work Schedule**

RCO and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 31 to discuss the future and funding for our Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) data system. HWS is the salmon recovery lead entity tool for tracking and displaying how salmon projects relate to each other, what needs to be done next for salmon, and how progress is being made to address the problems harming salmon. USFWS staff let us know that the HWS is in their agency 2015 budget, but they are concerned about continuing to administer the funds in future years. GSRO is preparing an application for 2015 funding for the system. RCO discussed the history and need for the system with USFWS, as well as what's needed for a smooth transition if the money is not available in the future. Subsequently, the RCO Director met with the new director of the Washington State USFWS office and re-emphasized the importance of this funding to maintain HWS.

### **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Visit to Washington D.C.**

Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator of GSRO, and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's executive team (Paul Ward, Yakama Tribe; Steve Jenkins, Douglas County Commissioner; Derek Van Marter, Executive Director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board) visited the congressional delegation and federal agencies in Washington D.C. in April. The team had several busy days with over twenty-two meetings that included members, staffers, and federal agency leadership. The main message shared was to express appreciation to the congressional delegation for their continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), to let them know the funding is being well-spent, and to share that results are already visible.

### **Meetings with Partners**

**Washington Association of Land Trusts:** RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham spoke at the quarterly meeting of WALT regarding the [outdoor recreation economic study](#), the new [outdoor recreation brochure](#), the [2014 State of Salmon in Watersheds](#) report, our [requested budget](#), and [e-billing](#).

### Budget Update

The Washington State House of Representatives released its proposed operating and capital budgets on March 27. In the proposed operating budget, RCO's appropriation closely resembles the Governor's budget, however; it is lower overall. The net drop from the Governor's to the House's operating appropriation is \$253,000. No reductions were taken in lead entity funding.

The House capital budget numbers (see table below) align closely with the Governor's budget, with some exceptions:

- In the House budget, RCO receives two new grant programs – Coastal Restoration Grants and Catastrophic Flood Relief (the latter of which is for flood control in the Chehalis River basin).
- State funding for salmon holds steady at \$40 million in the House budget, but Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding drops \$10 million to \$40 million.
- Funding for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program is reduced from \$10 million in the Governor's budget to \$5 million in the House's budget.

Following the House budgets, the Senate released its proposed budgets a couple of weeks later. There is not much difference in operating budget appropriations between the House and Senate budgets. RCO's portion of general funds is reduced by \$111,000, which is a portion of what we had identified for the Governor's 15% budget reduction exercise. The Senate took the reductions we proposed in executive management and GSRO salary and benefits, but, similar to the House operating budget, left alone any reduction in general funds to lead entities.

In the Senate capital budget, the PSAR appropriation is \$25 million, which is \$25 million and \$15 million less than the Governor's and House budgets respectively. Salmon state funding is also significantly reduced in the Senate budget to \$16.5 million, and ESRP is funded at half the level of the Governor and House budgets. Similar to the House capital budget, we would gain two new grant programs – Coastal Restoration Grants (about \$3 million less in Senate budget) and Catastrophic Flood Relief (both budgets are \$50 million).

Besides the difference in appropriations between the House and Senate capital budgets, the Senate puts additional restrictions on how the money can be used for salmon recovery. These "budget provisos" direct or limit the use of funds in PSAR for restoration purposes only – no land acquisition allowed. The budget proviso for ESRP constrains the \$5 million appropriation such that \$2.5 million goes to the Vashon Island conservation initiative of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust program. This means only \$2.5 million is available for the previously ranked lists of restoration projects.

## 2015-17 Budget Proposal Summaries

Funding Sources	Current Level 2013-15	Agency Request 2015-17	Governor's Proposal	House Proposal	Senate Proposal
<b>Bond Funded – New Appropriations</b>					
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	10,000,000	20,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	5,000,000
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	2,000,000	11,500,000	10,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	70,000,000	140,000,000	50,000,000	40,000,000	25,000,000
Salmon Recovery (SRFB-state)	15,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	40,000,000	16,500,000
Coastal Restoration Grants	-	-	-	8,196,000	5,180,000
Catastrophic Flood Relief	-	-	-	50,000,000	50,000,000
<b>Federal Funds</b>					
Salmon – Federal	60,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	60,000,000	50,000,000

## Update on Sister Boards

### Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)

The RCFB welcomed a new member in March. Peter Herzog is now the official designee from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, replacing Don Hoch, State Parks director. The most recent RCFB meeting on April 8-9 focused on strategic goals and performance measures, the new criteria for the Youth Athletic Facilities program, changes to the Washington Administrative Code, and the new Boating Programs Plan. The RCFB also addressed a conversion request for the light rail system adjacent to Mercer Slough in Bellevue.

### Washington Invasive Species Council

The Invasive Species Council had a meeting March 12 in Olympia. The council discussed state and federal legislation impacting invasive species, focusing on developing a plan for outreach on the council's reauthorization. The council began the process of updating its strategic plan, which hasn't been updated since its creation in 2008, and discussed progress on various invasive species outreach projects. The council also discussed the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual New Zealand Mud Snail Conference, which it is helping coordinate and which will be held in Seattle June 16-17. Council staff returned recently from a trip to Washington D.C. for National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Accompanied by invasive species coordinators from Arizona, California, Oregon, and Nevada, she met with western state congressional offices to provide information on aquatic invasive species management and prevention in the West, with a special focus on boat inspection programs.

### Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Lands group met March 20 in Olympia. At the meeting, agencies shared information on legislation related to land acquisition and management, discussed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee report on public lands, and were briefed on the outdoor recreation economic study recently published by RCO.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Performance Update  
**Prepared by:** Meg O'Leary, Policy Administrator

#### Summary

This memo summarizes fiscal year 2015 grant management and project impact performance measures for projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board). The data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of March 31, 2015.

#### 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

### Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in fiscal year 2015. Grant sponsors submit these performance measure data for blockages removed, fish passages installed, and stream miles made accessible when a project is completed and in the process of closing. The Forest Family Fish Passage Program (FFPP) and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) are not included in these totals.

Twenty-one salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015), with ten passageways installed (Table 1). These projects cumulatively opened 26.21 miles of stream (Table 2).

**Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics**

Measure	FY 2015 Performance
Blockages Removed	21
Bridges Installed	6
Culverts Installed	4
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

**Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible by SRFB-Funded Projects**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Primary Sponsor</b>	<b>Stream Miles</b>
<a href="#"><u>12-1625</u></a>	Mill Creek Fish Passage	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	6.75
<a href="#"><u>11-1393</u></a>	QIN S.F. Salmon River Culvert Replacement Project	Quinault Indian Nation	5.8
<a href="#"><u>12-1325</u></a>	Moses Prairie Reclamation	Quinault Indian Nation	3.54
<a href="#"><u>11-1462</u></a>	Coal Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	2.9
<a href="#"><u>11-1361</u></a>	Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase III	Mason Conservation Dist	2.39
<a href="#"><u>11-1336</u></a>	Lower White Pine Reconnection	Chelan Co Natural Resource	2.24
<a href="#"><u>11-1347</u></a>	Coulter Creek Barrier Replacement	Chelan Co Natural Resource	1.6
<a href="#"><u>11-1394</u></a>	QIN F-17 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project	Quinault Indian Nation	0.8
<a href="#"><u>11-1395</u></a>	QIN F-15 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project	Quinault Indian Nation	0.11
<a href="#"><u>11-1587</u></a>	Mill Creek Passage - Reach Type 6	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	0.08
<b>Total Miles</b>			<b>26.21</b>



## Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2015 operational performance measures as of March 31, 2015.

**Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures**

Measure	FY Target	FY 2015 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	85-95%	<b>84%</b>	●	A total of 154 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mail agreements on average 54 days after a project is approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	65-75%	<b>81%</b>	●	A total of 513 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 415 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded in 9 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	<b>95%</b>	●	During this fiscal year to date, 1,241 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. 1,175 bills were paid on time. Bills may not paid on time because of incomplete sponsor paperwork or lack of proper documentation. Staff expect performance will improve after the initiation of e-billing on March 31.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	60-70%	<b>54%</b>	●	A total of 80 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year. Forty-three of these projects closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	0	<b>6</b>	●	Six SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. The backlog decreased by 9 since the last board meeting.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	56	<b>4</b>	●	Management set a target of 75 SRFB-related inspections for the 2015 calendar year. The target reported here was prorated for the remaining months of the fiscal year.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Financial Report  
**Prepared By:** Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

#### Summary

This financial report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of March 2015.

The available balance (funds to be committed) is \$2.4 million. The remaining amount for the board to allocate is approximately \$0.7 million, which is comprised of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) returned funds. The amount for other entities to allocate is \$1.7 million.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

### Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance	\$0
Current Federal Balance – Projects, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	\$0
Current Federal Balance – Activities	\$807,140
Lead Entities	\$0
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR*) & Puget Sound Restoration (PSR)	\$777,187 <sup>1</sup>
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	\$415,714
Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP)	\$423,596
Puget Sound Critical Stock	\$0

<sup>1</sup> The PSAR balance is primarily returned funds. The Puget Sound Partnership is working to recommend to Recreation and Conservation Office staff, the use of these returned funds for previously approved PSAR project alternates and cost increases.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Budget Summary

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 04/03/2015 (fiscal month 21)  
 Percentage of biennium reported: 83.3%

Grant Programs	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New & Re-appropriation 2013-2015 (\$)	Dollars (\$)	% of Budget	Dollars (\$)	% of Budget	Dollars (\$)	% of Completed
<b>State Funded</b>							
2003-05	\$159,127	\$159,127	100%	\$0	0%	\$159,127	100%
2005-07	\$947,980	\$947,980	100%	\$0	0%	\$565,163	60%
2007-09	\$1,892,914	\$1,892,914	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,462,959	80%
2009-11	\$210,888	\$210,888	100%	\$0	0%	\$200,288	98%
2011-13	\$7,238,131	\$7,238,131	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,248,413	45%
2013-15	\$14,382,000	\$14,382,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,293,540	9%
<b>State Funded Total</b>	<b>\$24,831,040</b>	<b>\$24,831,039</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$6,929,490</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Federal Funded</b>							
2009	\$4,221,631	\$4,221,631	100%	\$0	0%	\$4,221,631	100%
2010	\$12,634,686	\$12,634,685	100%	\$0	0%	\$9,453,312	75%
2011	\$12,613,585	\$12,613,585	100%	\$0	0%	\$7,773,690	62%
2012	\$19,269,120	\$19,207,019	99.7%	\$62,101	.3%	\$11,169,749	58%
2013	\$18,284,837	\$17,809,196	97%	\$475,641	3%	\$8,086,753	45%
2014	\$18,175,890	\$17,906,493	99%	\$269,397	1%	\$1,424,069	8%
<b>Federal Funded Total</b>	<b>\$85,199,748</b>	<b>\$84,392,609</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$807,140</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>\$42,129,205</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Grant Programs</b>							
Lead Entities	\$7,079,977	\$7,067,385	100%	\$0	0%	\$4,041,847	57%
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	\$79,704,108	\$78,926,921	99%	\$777,187	1%	\$28,978,514	37%
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	\$16,578,572	\$16,162,859	97%	\$415,714	3%	\$7,149,163	44%
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	\$11,911,409	\$11,487,813	96%	\$423,596	4%	\$8,916,816	78%
Puget Sound Critical Stock	\$2,506,826	\$2,506,826	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,818,423	73%
<b>Subtotal Grant Programs</b>	<b>\$227,811,680</b>	<b>\$225,388,044</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$2,423,637</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>\$99,963,457</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Administration</b>							
SRFB Admin/Staff	\$4,493,653	\$4,493,653	100%	-	0%	\$3,613,258	80%
Review Panel	\$677,173	\$677,173	100%	-	0%	\$441,513	65%
<b>Subtotal Administration</b>	<b>\$5,170,826</b>	<b>\$5,170,826</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$4,054,771</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>GRANT AND ADMINISTRATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$232,982,506</b>	<b>\$230,558,870</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$2,423,637</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>\$104,018,228</b>	<b>45%</b>

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Salmon Recovery Management Report  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator  
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

#### Summary

The following are some highlights of work recently completed by the staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO).

#### 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

### Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

#### Salmon Recovery Conference – May 27-29, 2015 Vancouver, Washington

The 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference is scheduled for May 27-29 in Vancouver, WA, co-hosted by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Long Live the Kings.

By returning to this conference location on the banks of the Columbia River, conference attendees can learn from the experiences of both Washington and Oregon salmon recovery projects and issues. Presentations will highlight what has worked in salmon recovery, what could have worked better, and how to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of projects, habitat restoration, and hatchery reform within Washington State and the Pacific Northwest region.

The [conference schedule](#) and other regular updates are available on the [conference website](#). The conference dates expanded from two to three days this year, and the final agenda is expected to be out by April 15. Keynote speakers include:

- **Norm Dicks**, U.S. Representative for Washington's 6th congressional district from 1977-2013
- **Bill Bradbury**, Oregon's former Secretary of State
- **John McMillan**, Science Director for Trout Unlimited's Wild Steelhead Initiative

You don't want to miss this stellar mix of plenary sessions, keynote speakers, and break-out sessions.

- [Register now!](#)
- [Exhibitor space](#) is still available, but going fast. Contact us at [salmonconference@rco.wa.gov](mailto:salmonconference@rco.wa.gov) if you would like to exhibit.

## **Communications Strategy**

In late August, the board agreed to continue to invest in a communication strategy and funded a series of recommendations from Pyramid Communications. A Salmon Recovery Network workgroup will provide a forum to bring together salmon recovery partners and create an environment for collaboration, innovation, coordination, trust, and relationship building across the various organizations. Triangle Associates was selected to support the workgroup and facilitate meetings. The first facilitated meeting was held April 13, 2015. A coordinated workgroup provided a forum to bring together salmon recovery partners and create an environment for collaboration, innovation, coordination, trust, and relationship-building across the various organizations. GSRO staff will provide an update at the May board meeting.

Working with the GSRO staff and lead entities, RCO's communication staff created a lead entity directory to educate local communities about the important salmon recovery work carried out across the state. Printed copies should be available by the May board meeting.

## **Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) held an all-day workshop with more than thirty practitioners who implement the board's monitoring program. The meeting offered structured presentations on the three components of the monitoring program: effectiveness monitoring, fish-in/fish-out, and intensively monitored watersheds. The monitoring panel will use this information to evaluate the monitoring program components and provide recommendations to the board in October.

## **Regional and Lead Entity Reviews**

GSRO staff manage the regional organizations' and lead entities' contracts. Part of this work includes meeting with regional organizations to complete their biennial reviews. GSRO staff document the accomplishments and challenges in their current scopes of work, as well as discuss the scopes of work for the next biennium. Sarah Gage, GSRO Lead Entity Program Manager, will meet with the Puget Sound, Coastal Washington, Klickitat, and Northeast Washington lead entities separately to complete their respective reviews by the end of 2015.

## **Habitat Work Schedule**

The Habitat Work Schedule is our salmon recovery lead entity tool for tracking and displaying how salmon projects relate to each other, what needs to be done next for salmon, and how progress is being made to address the problems harming salmon. Lead entities use the Habitat Work Schedule to track, report, and map their actions for planning, accountability, monitoring, and management, both geographically and over time.

GSRO meets regularly with the new Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Action Committee to gather information about what system-users need, how to clarify metrics and streamline the system, and what outside data would be useful to include in HWS. The committee is primarily comprised of lead entity coordinators who work with GSRO staff to improve the quality of salmon project data. They also support alignment of HWS and PRISM's grant management data from historic projects where the data is out-of-sync. GSRO and the lead entities identify priority HWS metrics to report across the state at various scales, including in the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report at the state scale. They also work with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to report Puget Sound Action Agenda targets using specific PSP metrics that are tracked by lead entities in HWS.

RCO and GSRO met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 31 to discuss the future and funding for the HWS data system. GSRO finalized the 2015 funding application from USFWS to support the HWS system. Although the HWS is part of the USFWS 2015 budget, concern exists around the

funding in future years. To support this effort, RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham met with the new Washington State USFWS Director to emphasize maintaining funding for HWS.

### **Fish Barrier Removal Board**

GSRO is serving on the state's Fish Barrier Removal (FBR) Board, created by the Legislature last session. WDFW chairs the FBR board. Representative members include the Department of Natural Resources, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Association of Counties, Yakama Indian Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, Washington Department of Transportation, and GSRO. The FBR board will identify and expedite the removal of human-made or human-caused impediments to anadromous fish passage in the most efficient manner that is practical. The FBR board's tasks include developing a statewide fish passage barrier correction strategy.

Membership, agendas, minutes, and current products are available on the WDFW website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>. The FBR board is very interested in using existing human infrastructure (lead entities, Regions, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, etc.) to prioritize projects.

## **Recreation and Conservation Office - Salmon Section Report**

### **Grant Management**

#### **2013 Grant Cycle Update**

All projects funded by the board in 2013 are under agreement and in "active" status. The active projects are well underway with project implementation.

#### **2014 Grant Cycle Update**

The board funded 118 projects in 2014, including Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW), and board-funded projects. The RCO grant managers actively worked to put all 2014 projects under contract.

The board approved a 2015-17 PSAR Large Capital project list with twenty-two projects at the December 2014 meeting, giving the RCO Director authority to enter into agreements, should the Legislature approve funding for the PSAR account. The Legislature has yet to finalize the budget.

#### **2015 Grant Cycle Update**

RCO submitted the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) application to NOAA and has a budget request pending with the Legislature. The amounts are uncertain at this time, making it difficult to predict the 2015 grant round funding. This grant round will include PCSRF, salmon state, and 2015-17 PSAR state funding. If the Legislature acts before the May board meeting, staff will be able to estimate a likely funding amount for the grant round. If the Legislature is not finished by May 6, the board will see an estimate at their May meeting, with the possibility of a special board meeting after the Legislature adopts a budget.

The 2015 grant round is officially underway.

- The finalized version of [Manual 18](#) is available on the RCO website with all of the application materials.
- The board's review panel held their grant round kick-off meeting to go over the manual, process, and timeline.
- Lead entities scheduled all of their project review site visits with the board's review panel. The first site visits occurred in March in the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity.

- RCO salmon section staff held an application workshop on March 16, 2015 and 50 potential applicants attended via WebEx. The presentation was posted as a PowerPoint and YouTube video to the [RCO website](#).

### Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)

In March 2015, Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) held their annual engineer's conference to review topics related to design and construction of fish passage projects. This year, the focus centered on projects constructed and completed in 2014 and lessons learned.

FFFPP has a project list ready for 2015, pending budget approval. The 2015 list includes fifteen projects with eighteen barrier crossings. A total of 458 eligible landowners with 678 crossings remain on the waiting list. The FFFPP completed a [2014 Implementation Report](#) available on the RCO website.

### Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)

After releasing a request for proposals for projects this year, the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) ranked and recommended a list of twenty-one projects for funding consideration in 2015. ESRP also released an annual [2015 Program Report](#) available on the RCO website.

### Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between January 29, 2015 and March 30, 2015. To view information about a project, click on the blue project number. From that link, you can open and view the project attachments (e.g., designs, photos, maps, and final report).

### Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

The table below shows the major amendments approved between January 26, 2015 and March 30, 2015. Staff processed 38 project related amendments during this period, most were minor revisions related to project scope or time extensions.

**Table 1. Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director**

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Amount/Notes
<a href="#">13-1062</a>	Pysht Floodplain Acquisition Phase 3	North Olympic Land Trust	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Type Change	Include planning as an eligible component to include ELJ design.
<a href="#">10-1782</a>	WRIA 13 Water Type Assessment Phase 3	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Cost Change	Increase costs by \$40,000 in returned PSAR funds to continue water typing in McLane Creek watershed.
<a href="#">13-1094</a>	Lyre Estuary and Nelson Creek Protection	North Olympic Land Trust	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Cost Change	Increase by \$76,870 in returned PSAR funds to replace bridge on property and for structure demolition.
<a href="#">14-1029</a>	Elwha Conservation Protection Assessment	North Olympic Land Trust	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Cost Change	Increase costs by \$6,000 in returned PSAR funds to expand number of parcels included in assessment.

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Amount/Notes
<a href="#">12-1334</a>	Upper Elochoman River Reach 9 Restore	Columbia Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	Project Cost Change	Increase funds by \$55,134 to complete bridge removal in 2015 construction season.

### Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of March 30, 2015.

- Staff works with sponsors to place “pending” projects under agreement, following approval at the December 2014 board meeting.
- Active projects are under agreement. Sponsors are working on implementation with RCO support for grant administration and compliance.

This table does not include projects funded through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program nor 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.

**Table 2. Board-Funded Projects**

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Salmon Projects to Date	46	485	1,840	2,371
Percent of Total	1.9%	20.5%	77.6%	

### Attachments

A. Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from January 29, 2015 – March 30, 2015.



## Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from January 29, 2015 – March 30, 2015

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
<a href="#">09-1604</a>	False Bay Watershed Flow and Habitat Assessment	Washington Water Trust	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/29/2015
<a href="#">09-1668</a>	Corps General Investigation of Skokomish support	Mason Conservation District	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	1/30/2015
<a href="#">11-1674</a>	Lower Columbia VSP Monitoring	Fish & Wildlife Dept. of	Salmon Federal Activities	2/13/2015
<a href="#">14-2049</a>	PERS SRV Monitoring Evaluation Strategy 2014	Fish Friendly Inc.	Salmon Federal Activities	2/13/2015
<a href="#">11-1588</a>	Bridge to Bridge - Levee Removal	Tri-State Steelheaders, Inc.	Salmon Federal Projects	2/17/2015
<a href="#">12-1631</a>	Dual frequency Indentification (DIDSON)	Makah Tribe	Salmon Federal Activities	2/17/2015
<a href="#">11-1534</a>	Robinson Park Orphan Rock Removal Restoration	Skagit County Public Works	Salmon Federal Projects	3/2/2015
<a href="#">12-1490</a>	Pilchuck Creek Woody Debris Design	Snohomish County Public Works	Salmon Federal Projects	3/5/2015
<a href="#">10-1878</a>	West Sound Water Type Assessment Phase II	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/6/2015
<a href="#">11-1642</a>	Five Mile Creek LWD Placement	Mason Conservation District	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/6/2015
<a href="#">12-1928</a>	PS Steelhead Recovery Planning: HC Steelhead	Long Live the Kings	Salmon Federal Activities	3/6/2015
<a href="#">11-1347</a>	Coulter Creek Barrier Replacement	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Salmon Federal Projects	3/10/2015
<a href="#">14-1027</a>	Hoko River Estuary Remeander Assessment	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/11/2015
<a href="#">09-1450</a>	Savage Slough Acquisition and Restoration	Seattle City Light	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/16/2015
<a href="#">11-1410</a>	Jim Creek Restoration	Sound Salmon Solutions	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/16/2015
<a href="#">08-1980</a>	WDFW Engineering Assistance for Puget Sound	Fish & Wildlife Dept. of	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/17/2015
<a href="#">09-1440</a>	Barnaby Reach Feasibility	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/18/2015
<a href="#">11-1313</a>	EF-16, Upper Daybreak	Clark County of	Salmon Federal Projects	3/19/2015

<a href="#"><u>09-1705</u></a>	Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed Implementation	Wahkiakum Conservation Dist	Salmon State Projects	3/24/2015
<a href="#"><u>12-1155</u></a>	Lower Quinault Floodplain Knotweed Control	Quinault Indian Nation	Salmon Federal Projects	3/24/2015
<a href="#"><u>12-1164</u></a>	Ives Island Restoration Design	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	3/24/2015
<a href="#"><u>12-1667</u></a>	Lower White Salmon R Habitat Protection Planning	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Salmon Federal Projects	3/24/2015
<a href="#"><u>12-1703</u></a>	Lower Kalama Reach 1 A Tidal Design	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	3/24/2015
<a href="#"><u>12-1361</u></a>	Rayonier Grays River Mass Wasting Pullback Project	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	3/25/2015
<a href="#"><u>10-1456</u></a>	McDonald Creek Large Wood Recovery	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Salmon State Projects	3/27/2015
<a href="#"><u>11-1539</u></a>	SF Nooksack Downstream of Hutchinson Phase 1 and 2	Nooksack Indian Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	3/27/2015

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Lunch Tour Preview  
**Prepared By:** Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Grants Manager

#### Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board, staff, and interested parties will depart from the Natural Resources Building (NRB) at 11:35 a.m. and convene at 12:00 p.m. for lunch at Shelter #3 in Priest Point Park, Olympia. After lunch, the group will take the beach access trail down to Budd Inlet and head south along the beach to reach the Mission Creek Estuary Restoration project location (RCO #11-1526). Lance Winecka, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, will provide a brief project overview and answer questions. The group will return to the NRB by 1:30 p.m. to resume the regular meeting.

#### 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

### Project Description

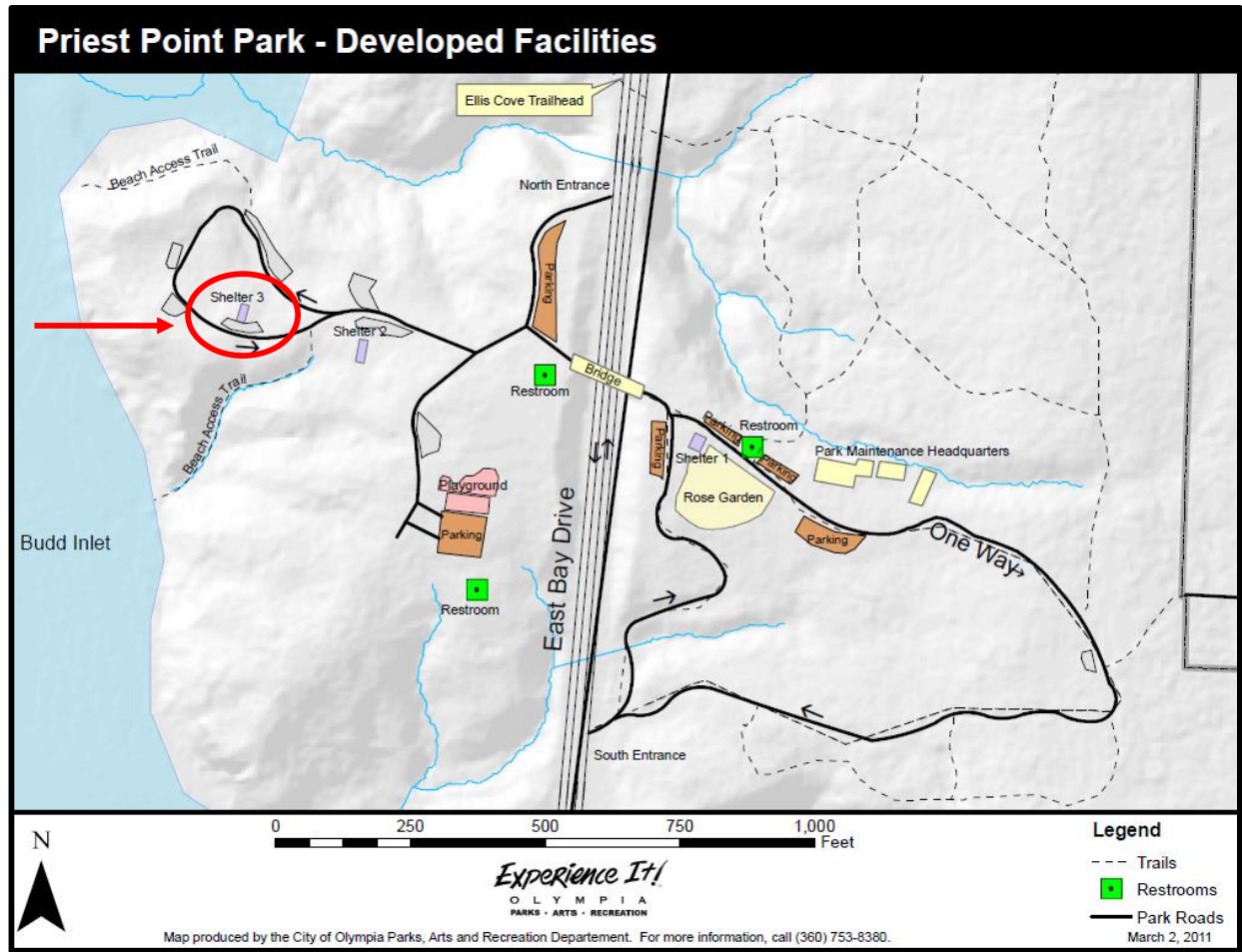
The Mission Creek Estuary Restoration (RCO Project #11-1526) was completed in collaboration with the Port of Olympia, City of Olympia, and South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG). Mission Creek Estuary Restoration received \$80,185 in funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and a sponsor match of \$120,000. The Mission Creek project has been identified in many local and regional watershed planning efforts, including the [Water Resource Inventory Area \(WRIA\) 13 Lead Entity](#) three-year work plan.

Mission Creek flows through Priest Point Park and discharges into Budd Inlet, Puget Sound, near Olympia, WA. Constructed in the early twentieth century, an earthen road embankment provided vehicle access across the mouth of Mission Creek. Installation of an overflow weir box and outlet culvert managed freshwater discharge and limited saltwater inundation into the area upstream of the road embankment. The road embankment and culvert severely affected upstream fish passage and limited estuarine function at the site.

SPSSEG restored fish and tidal access to Mission Creek and the shoreline surrounding the stream's outlet. This restoration project focused on removing human-induced stressors, including the road embankment, culvert, beach armor, and invasive vegetation, and also removed some sediment to help reclaim the small estuary. This project provides estuarine habitat and benefits for Chinook, coho, and chum that utilize embayments in Budd Inlet.

## Map and Driving Directions

RCO will provide a map with driving directions at the meeting. The times shown on the agenda are approximate. All tour participants are encouraged to carpool to Priest Point Park. We will meet at picnic Shelter #3 (shown below).



## WSC Officers

Darcy Batura, Chair  
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife  
Recovery Board Lead Entity

Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair  
WRIA 13 & 14 Salmon Recovery  
Lead Entities

Richard Brocksmith  
Skagit Watershed Council

John Foltz  
Snake River Salmon Recovery  
Board Lead Entity

Rich Osborne  
N. Pacific Coast & Quinault  
Indian Nation Lead Entities

Joy Juelson  
Upper Columbia Salmon  
Recovery Board Lead Entity

Dawn Pucci  
Island County Lead Entity

Jason Wilkinson  
Lake Washington, Cedar,  
Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)  
Lead Entity

## Members

Todd Andersen  
Kalispell-Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Kirsten Harma  
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Cheryl Baumann  
N.Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

Jeff Breckel  
Lower Columbia Lead Entity

Alicia Olivias  
Hood Canal Lead Entity

Ashley Von Essen  
Nisqually Lead Entity

Jacob Anderson  
Klickitat Lead Entity

Mike Nordin  
Pacific County Lead Entity

Doug Osterman  
Green, Duwamish and Central  
Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA  
9) Lead Entity

Marian Berejikian  
Westsound Watershed Council

Becky Peterson  
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board

Vacant  
San Juan Lead Entity

Lisa Spurrier  
Pierce County Lead Entity

Pat Stevenson  
Stillaguamish Tribe Lead Entity

Donald "Kit" Crump  
Co-Lead for Stillaguamish  
Watershed Lead Entity

Denise Di Santo  
Snohomish Lead Entity

# WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION

## Community-Based Salmon Recovery

April 22, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Troutt and Board Members,

The statewide grant review is now in full swing and this is an incredibly busy time for Lead Entity Coordinators! At this point in our process, the Lead Entity coordinators are guiding project sponsors in the completion of their proposals & reviewing documents to make sure that applications are complete. They are preparing information for their Technical and Citizen Committee members, and they are also organizing and facilitating project site visits in a manner that makes the best use of the state review panel's time.

The purpose of a site visit is to allow individuals who will be evaluating the project to get a better sense of the problem and the project sponsor's proposed solution. In addition to the two state review panel members, other participants include the Lead Entity Coordinator and an RCO Outdoor Grants Manager. Other individuals who may also be present are board members, staff and/or members of the Technical Advisory Groups and Citizen's Committees.

This is an excellent opportunity for applicants to gather advice from attendees on ways to improve the proposal before the final review, and applicants are encouraged to revise their applications in response to feedback. After the site visits conducted, the review panel team will complete project comment forms with directions on how the applicant can improve the project before the final application deadline. Grant applicants must address review panel comments in their final applications.

## WSC Web Page

Working with the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Washington Salmon Coalition is happy to present their newly created webpage. The need for a webpage was previously identified during the past year's organizational planning effort and reiterated in working with the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet). The page provides some background information about the WSC and links to key documents including the Mission, Structure, and Action Plan, the Advocacy Handbook, and the Lead Entity Coordinator Welcome Packet. The webpage is housed on the RCO site under the Lead Entity heading and can be found at [http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon\\_recovery/WashingtonSalmonCoalition.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/WashingtonSalmonCoalition.shtml)

## LE Directory

In partnership the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Washington Salmon Coalition is happy to say the 2015 [Lead Entity Directory](#) is complete and online. This is a fantastic outreach document that provides an overview of how Lead Entities provide a local, balanced, coordinated, common-sense approach to salmon habitat project implementation. It describes how we play a key role in efficiently bringing together tribes, federal and state agencies, local governments, citizens, non-profits, business, and technical experts to make local decisions about how best to recover salmon. Finally, the directory provides a two page overview of each Lead Entity, which we can print individually for use during our local outreach efforts. WSC would like to thank RCO's Susan Zemek for the time and effort to develop the directory.



# WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION

Community-Based Salmon Recovery



## Collaborative Approach to Legislative Outreach

Throughout this Legislative session, WSC has collaborated with the Council of Regions on an initiative inspired and spearheaded by the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Coalition's Managing Director Colleen Thompson. Prior to the House budget's release, we partnered on a joint letter to the House Capital Budget Committee members and Senate Ways and Means supporting RCO's \$40 million SRFB Capital Budget request. Now that all of the draft budgets are out for review, we have again sent a joint letter thanking House members for their support and reminding those in the Senate of the importance of salmon recovery in their districts. Each of the letters have been signed by all three of our organization's leadership and represent the first in what promises to be many opportunities to join forces to the benefit of salmon throughout Washington State.

## LLTK/Cascadia Capacity Support Extension

The Washington Salmon Coalition would like to draw your attention to, and seeks your support of, item 5 (Board Decisions for the 2015 Grant Round, item F) in the SRFB's meeting packet. At the Board's February meeting, WSC presented a lengthy summary of progress and successes over the past year. These successes and progress were largely a result of the support that the SRFB provided the WSC when you unanimously approved the Washington Salmon Coalition request in 2014 to use \$50,000 in anticipated unspent lead entity SRFB capacity grant funds to support WSC's statewide efforts as outlined in our Action Plan.

With this progress in mind, we think that our group has been making great headway on our goals and are beginning to embody our broader vision for the Washington Salmon Coalition. We would like to share several letters supporting the approval of item 5. The organizational support has been critical and we hope that we will be able to extend this contract into 2016.

## Salmon Recovery Network

WSC is excited to continue participation in the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) as we further statewide understanding and create connections between and amongst partners as we evolve into a cooperative team. The SRNet grew in April with the first facilitated work group meeting with participation that included representatives from Conservation Districts, the SRFB, and NOAA. The early success to date on Legislative funding requests between several partners is a positive step as we continue to evolve the communication framework, develop a work plan, and approve a charter. The linkage between SRNet and WSC Action Plan is strong and we look forward to continuing this work.

## LE Staff changes

Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity  
Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County Lead Entity

## Lead Entity Vacancies

San Juan County Lead Entity



# WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION

Community-Based Salmon Recovery



## Statewide News & Updates

### Snake River Salmon Recovery Board: Recycling by Helicopter



Helicopters were used to recycle large trees that were blown down in the Umatilla National Forest by placing them in the Tucannon River to rescue salmon. The project was one of 28 identified to help Chinook salmon recover from near extinction. Once placed in the river, the trees begin to restore natural river processes slowing the water, reducing erosion, and creating places for salmon to rest and hide from predators. Previous floods and human activity have washed away most of the trees, straighten the river, and eroded its banks, damaging the types of habitat salmon need to survive. In all, the helicopter placed 60 structures in a 2-mile section of this southeast Washington river, which flows from its headwaters in the Blue Mountains to meet the Snake River upstream from Lyons Ferry State Park near Starbuck. The project construction was completed 2012 with both short term and longer term goals. What we've seen is that it does take time for a project to be seasoned and integrated into the system to restore natural process. While there are certainly lots of short term benefits, some of the larger and longer term benefits are reliant upon a channel forming flow. However, even with that in mind changes and realized benefits seem to be occurring even quicker than expected.

The project was implemented by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife along with project partners and was in part funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board via the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx...>

### Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board – Partnerships to Leverage Project Funding

The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board has created a formal partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to use the SRFB project review and selection process to identify and fund projects that implement riparian and instream enhancement in proximity to BLM managed lands in the Yakima Basin. The principle purpose of this agreement is to provide public benefit for fish and wildlife resources in Cowiche Creek and other riparian systems in Yakima, Kittitas, and Benton Counties, WA. Specifically, this agreement facilitates: a) fish screening and passage; b) reduction of irrigation withdrawals; c) riparian, floodplain and in-stream habitat restoration; d) reduction of fine sediment, and/or; e) reduction of creek temperature. BLM Funds are simply allocated to a project in proximity with their lands, which extend our SRFB allocation further down our project list.

Due to the robust nature of the SRFB grant review process, this partnership is proving to be an efficient method for a partner to allocate funds without the need to implement their own, Independent grant review. We think this represents a win-win scenario for administrative efficiency and for fish and wildlife resources!

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

Darcy Batura  
Yakima Basin Lead Entity Coordinator & WA Salmon Coalition Chair



# Salmon Recovery Funding Board

## Item 3 – Reports from Partners



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015

**Title:** Project Decisions: Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO #14-1366)

**Prepared By:** Mike Ramsey, Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager

#### Summary

This memo summarizes a request from the project sponsor to revise a condition placed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase (RCO Project #[14-1366](#)), originally funded in 2014.

#### 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 Kilisut Harbor Restoration is a multi-phase project initiated in 2012. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) funded the design phase of the Kilisut Harbor Restoration project (RCO #[13-1558](#)) in 2013 through the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund. The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) also funded the project, and is match to PSAR. The final elements which will inform the design, including sediment transport, channel stability, and hydrologic modeling, are nearly complete.

The board conditionally funded the construction phase of the project (RCO #[14-1366](#)) in 2014 through 2013-15 PSAR large capital funding. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) recommended two conditions. The first condition requires a positive finding by the review panel that the newly constructed channel remains open and functioning over time. The second condition requires the sponsor to provide documentation that the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) has negotiated with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to fund its own construction management responsibilities, rather than charging the sponsor for this \$1.27M estimated cost. (The full language of both conditions is provided below).

Additionally, due to the Kilisut barrier on State Route (SR) 116 being identified in the "Culvert Case,"<sup>1</sup> the board placed a third condition on the implementation phase requiring WSDOT to provide a cost-share commensurate with their legal obligation to provide fish passage. The project sponsor, North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), with support from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and PSP, have requested that the third condition be revised to allow the project to move forward.

<sup>1</sup> United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage.

## **Project Description**

This project is located at the saltmarsh connection between Indian and Marrowstone Islands in Jefferson County, Washington. For the current funding request, the project objective is to remove road-fill and twin five-foot-diameter culverts from SR 116 and replace them with a four-span bridge, allowing for full exchange of water and sediment below the structure.

When completed, the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project will increase tidal inundation, improve water quality and restore fish passage and two important salmon habitats (tidal channels and saltmarsh). Re-creation of tidal channels will return lost habitat forming processes. Also, reconnection of the historic tidal channels will allow north/south migratory passage between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay. The latter would benefit multiple salmon species, including Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Hood Canal summer chum, Puget Sound steelhead, and Chinook.

This project is supported by the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, the WRIA 17 Limiting Factors Analysis, the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, and the Hood Canal Lead Entity 3-Year Work Plan.

## **Current Project Funding**

The planning and design phase is underway, funded at \$727,475 (PSAR & ESRP). The construction phase is currently in board-funded status, i.e., funds have been awarded but the project is not yet under agreement, at \$2,108,945.00. The PSAR Large Capital program has approximately \$5.1M in PSAR Return Funds, returned from various projects closing under budget or unable to be completed. These funds will be re-allocated following PSAR return fund policy recently approved by the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council on April 2, 2015.

NOSC re-applied for 2015-17 PSAR Large Capital funds and Kilisut Harbor ranked fourth out of twenty-two projects with a request amount of \$10M. In addition, the project is a Portfolio ESRP project and has requested \$2M in 2015 ESRP funds and would be eligible for funding at the current ESRP proposed budget level of \$10M. In light of the current budget forecast for PSAR in 2015, the Kilisut project may also be eligible for up to \$1M in funding from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Lead Entity regular SRFB/PSAR grant round.

## **Project Conditions**

The board's review panel placed the two following conditions on the construction phase of this project:

1. The board's review panel will review and approve the consultant's report of sediment transport and channel stability hydraulic modeling and the final project design to assure that the channels will have a high likelihood of remaining open to fish passage at the design tidal ranges over a long-term (i.e. several decades) planning horizon. Alternatively, if the modeling predicts that the channels are likely to shoal in over this planning horizon, the final project design must include an operations plan that assures future funding for maintenance dredging.
2. Within six months of funding approval, the sponsor must provide documentation from Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) that PSP has made good faith efforts to work with WSDOT regional and state-wide management to develop an arrangement for WSDOT to fund its own construction management responsibilities, rather than charging this \$1.27M budget item to PSAR funding.

At the September 2014 meeting, the board approved the Kilisut construction phase funding with the following additional condition:

3. The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project up to the amount of the cost estimate in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

The third condition was approved through a board motion on September 18, 2014 relating to Salmon Recovery Funding Board money applied to WSDOT-owned barriers, which WSDOT has a legal obligation to correct (i.e., those barriers which are included on the March 2013 federal court injunction relating to fish passage barriers). The board's intent in approving this motion was that WSDOT would assume responsibility for the expense of correcting the passage barrier to the minimum requirements specified within the injunction. Salmon recovery funds may be used for costs associated with passage solutions that go above and beyond WSDOT's minimum requirements.

NOSC, with support from PSP and the Point No Point Treaty Council, are requesting that the third condition placed by the board be revised. NOSC, tribal, PSP, and WSDOT representatives have discussed the third condition and potential resolutions. They determined that the project will fail unless the condition is revised, based on the following two reasons:

- 1) While identified in the injunction as a barrier, the Kilisut project does not rise to importance within the WSDOT prioritization process to make it on to their 6-year plan; WSDOT has 16 years to complete all the projects.
- 2) Additionally, a WSDOT cost estimate aimed at the minimal passage requirements would provide almost no value to the restoration design the project sponsors hope to accomplish, yet would require a considerable amount time and funding by WSDOT to complete.

WSDOT supports the project and is willing to provide a financial commitment if their 15-17 budget allows; however, additional conversations will be needed to achieve condition #2. Nonetheless, NOSC has developed a close working-relationship with WSDOT, who has already provided \$30,000 in in-kind support for permitting and review of some initial design work.

## Request

### Staff Recommendation

For the reasons stated above, staff recommends that the board revise condition 3 with the changes proposed as follows:

3. The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. ~~Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this~~

~~fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, T~~the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project ~~up to the amount of the cost estimate~~ in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

## Attachments

- A. Letter of Support from the North Olympic Salmon Coalition
- B. Letter of Support from the Point No Point Treaty Council



## **NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION**

*Restoring wild salmon habitat on the North Olympic Peninsula*

[www.nosc.org](http://www.nosc.org)

April 6, 2015

TO: Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
FROM: Rebecca Benjamin, Executive Director, North Olympic Salmon Coalition  
RE: Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, RCO #14-1366 – Request to amend Condition #3

We provide here some background on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project and discuss and address three conditions placed on the project (RCO #14-1366) by the SRFB Board as recommended by the Technical Panel. We will make a case that the Board should consider amending the third condition placed on the project.

The importance of this project to salmon recovery is well documented. It is identified in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, HCCC Integrated Watershed Plan, HCCC Lead Entity 3-Year Workplan, as a high priority issue/action in the HCCC 2015 Prioritization Guidance document, and is a Local Near Term Action (HC6) in the Puget Sound Partnership 2014 Action Agenda.

As described in project documents submitted to the SRFB, the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project will focus on re-establishing the historic tidal exchange connection between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay in northeastern Jefferson County. Two actions are required to achieve the restoration goal: 1) re-creation of 2 tidal channels extending through the barrier beach on the Oak Bay side and 2) replacement of the undersized concrete culverts and SR116 causeway with a tidal channel spanning bridge. These actions will reestablish a northern and southern migratory corridor in an area of superb nearshore habitat between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay for juvenile and adult salmonids, including ESA-listed Hood Canal Summer Chum, Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound Steelhead.

NOSC and our partners have established communication with and gained support from the landowners, shellfish growers, Port Gamble and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes, Skokomish Tribe, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, WSDOT, WDNR, WDFW, US Navy, Jefferson County PUD and Jefferson County Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service Department of Ecology. A support letter has been signed by more than 100 residents of Marrowstone Island and the community response during the kickoff meeting was very positive. This is a compelling project for all of our partners and the local communities have been willing and patient.

During the 2015-2017 PSAR Regional Large Capital request for proposals, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) submitted the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project for consideration. NOSC had also applied for PSAR Large Capital funding during the 2013-2015 round. In 2013-2015 the Kilisut Harbor

project ranked 10<sup>th</sup> overall, which meant that it fell near the funding cut-off line and received only partial funding. NOSC re-applied and re-competed during the 2015-2017 PSAR Large Capital round, and Kilisut Harbor this time ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 projects submitted.

During the 2013-2015 PSAR grant round, no conditions were placed upon the project. However, after the 2015-2017 PSAR grant round, the final project status as a Project of Concern is conditioned with the following:

Construction funding will be released upon the following conditions.

1. The SRFB review panel will review and approve the consultant's report of sediment transport and channel stability hydraulic modeling and the final project design to assure that the channels will have a high likelihood of remaining open to fish passage at the design tidal ranges over a long-term (i.e. several decades) planning horizon. Alternatively, if the modeling predicts that the channels are likely to shoal in over this planning horizon, the final project design must include an operations plan that assures future funding for maintenance dredging.
2. Within six months of funding approval, the sponsor must provide documentation from Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) that PSP has made good faith efforts to work with WSDOT regional and state-wide management to work out an arrangement for WSDOT to fund its own construction management responsibilities, rather than charging this \$1.27M budget item to PSAR funding.
3. \*The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project up to the amount of the cost estimate in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

The current status of each condition is briefly discussed, below.

Condition 1: We are working with the consultants to review work that will lead to the report of sediment transport, channel stability and hydraulic modeling. We hosted a technical meeting in January 2015 where consultants presented their preliminary results. A subsequent work session with funders, landowners, tribes, WDFW, permittees and restoration professionals resulted in meaningful feedback and recommended next steps for modeling. Given the complexity of the project site, and the cost of the project, we have had another highly respected firm complete a review of the modeling work done to date. The combined recommendations of the technical team and engineering review have led to defining the next steps for finalizing the assessment phase of work. We are working diligently to get the final results.

Condition 2: It is our understanding that preliminary discussions have occurred between the Puget Sound Partnership, the Tribes, and WSDOT and that there may be a distinct possibility of WSDOT funding its own construction management rather than charging \$1.27 million to PSAR funding. All parties are awaiting the results of the sediment transport and channel stability hydraulic modeling before resuming or finalizing these discussions.

Condition 3: We generally agree that it is a good idea that project sponsors should take into account the funding responsibilities of WSDOT under the Culvert Case Injunction when planning habitat restoration projects with salmon recovery funding. The Kilisut Harbor Project is a special case, however, and we think that other considerations are in order and that Condition 3 should be amended.

First, the planning, partnership-building, community outreach and other initial efforts for the Kilisut Harbor Project were well underway prior to the court's ruling on the Injunction and proposals had already been submitted and granted funding. Hence, there is currently considerable momentum, collaboration and good will in place towards making this a successful project which may be jeopardized if unnecessary conditions are placed on the project at this time. We suggest that any condition on the use of salmon recovery funding on a culvert to be funded by WSDOT under the Culvert Case Injunction should be in place at the onset of a habitat restoration project and not, as is the case for the Kilisut Harbor Project, put in place once the project is underway.

Second, the Kilisut Harbor culverts are one of the few (perhaps only) situations where the blockage to fish passage through the culverts is located entirely within a tidally-influenced basin. Saltwater culverts do not 'fit the mold' of the deliberations and prioritization of the rest of the freshwater-based culverts under the Injunction. WSDOT prioritized culverts on the Injunction list largely based on the amount of 'habitat gain' achieved, which is largely based on the lineal extent of habitat opened up to fish passage. Freshwater culverts opening up several miles of freshwater habitat are prioritized high on the list. The Kilisut Harbor culverts, without the conventional metric of 'number of stream miles opened up', were not prioritized very high on the list as a stand-alone culvert fix. In fact, it has been stated by the Tribes that, as part of the full restoration project, several miles of marine shoreline and 2,300 acres of highly productive salmonid forage, rearing and migration habitat will be opened to fish passage with the replacement of the two culverts in the causeway. WSDOT has not yet agreed to this measure of 'habitat gain' and until or unless they do, we can expect this site to remain low on the WSDOT list. WSDOT has 16 years to fix culverts under the Injunction and the Kilisut Harbor culverts are not on the current WSDOT 6-year plan; it is not likely that WSDOT will address the Kilisut Harbor Project culverts under the Injunction until many years in the future. And, during that time, the current PSAR funding would lapse in 2017 and the well-documented benefits to salmon recovery of the Kilisut Harbor Project will remain unrealized.

We propose that Condition 3 be amended. The 1<sup>st</sup> sentence simply introduces the Injunction and could be OK as is. The 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, which requires NOSC to receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the Injunction, should be deleted. WSDOT has made it clear (1) that doing a cost estimate in a meaningful way would require a considerable investment by WSDOT of both time and funding that just are not a high enough priority to be made available at this time and (2) that it would provide limited benefit because the design would not be used as part of the full restoration Kilisut Harbor Project. Hence, the



requirement in the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence is a 'deal breaker' and sets up the entire project for failure. The 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence could retain the need to obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project, but could be edited to remove the referral to the amount of the WSDOT cost estimate. In fact, NOSC has a close working relationship with WSDOT and WSDOT has provided \$30,000 in-kind support for permitting and review of some initial design work. In addition, if Condition 2 is met, the funding by WSDOT of its own construction and management responsibilities, rather than charging \$1.27 million to PSAR funding, would be a significant financial contribution. The 4<sup>th</sup> sentence can be retained since no salmon recovery funds would ever be used for construction of a bridge on a State highway without WSDOT's participation.

Hence, we propose that Condition 3 could be amended to read as follows:

3. \*The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. ~~Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, T~~the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project ~~up to the amount of the cost estimate~~ in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the Board on our view of the Conditions placed on the Kilisut Harbor Project. We are all striving to make the very best use of very limited salmon recovery funding. We assert that amending Condition 3 placed on the Kilisut Harbor Project as we propose will achieve our mutual goal.

We look forward to the opportunity for this and other information to be presented to and considered by the Board at their May meeting.

This letter has been prepared in partnership with Michael Blanton, PSAR Manager for Puget Sound Partnership, and Thom Johnson, Environmental Program Manager for Point No Point Treaty Council.

Please let us know if you have any comments, questions, or need more information. I can be reached at 360-379-8051 or [rbenjamin@nosc.org](mailto:rbenjamin@nosc.org).

Sincerely



Rebecca Benjamin  
Executive Director





# POINT NO POINT TREATY COUNCIL

Port Gamble S'Klallam \* Jamestown S'Klallam

April 7, 2015

Tara Galuska  
Recreation and Conservation Office  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, Washington 98504-091

RE: PNPTC support to amend Condition #3: Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, RCO #14-1366

Dear Ms. Galuska,

The Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) is a tribal organization that provides natural resources support services to our member tribes, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. The PNPTC and our member tribes are fully committed and strongly support efforts made by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) and its many partners to implement the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project. NOSC has a proven track record of managing and implementing successful salmon habitat restoration projects throughout the region.

The importance of this project to salmon recovery is well documented. It is identified in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, HCCC Integrated Watershed Plan, HCCC Lead Entity 3-Year Workplan, as a high priority issue/action in the HCCC 2015 Prioritization Guidance document, and is a Local Near Term Action (HC6) in the Puget Sound Partnership 2014 Action Agenda.

The Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project received funding during the 2013-2015 PSAR grant round and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 projects submitted during the 2015-2017 PSAR grant round. No conditions were placed upon the project during the 2013-2015 PSAR grant round, but, after the 2015-2017 PSAR grant round, the final project status as a Project of Concern had three conditions that needed to be met before construction funding would be released.

In a letter dated April 6, 2015, NOSC makes a case that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) should consider amending Condition 3 placed on the project. The PNPTC and our member tribes concur with the assessment by NOSC and request that the Board support the amending of Condition 3 as proposed by NOSC.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the Board on our view of the Conditions placed on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project. We are all striving to make the very best use of very limited salmon recovery funding. We assert that amending Condition 3 placed on the Kilisut Harbor Project as proposed by NOSC will achieve our mutual goal.

We look forward to the opportunity for this and other information to be presented to and considered by the Board at their May meeting. Staff from PNPTC will be in attendance to offer our support and to answer any questions, as needed.

If you have any comments, questions, or need more information, please contact Thom Johnson, PNPTC Environmental Program Manager, at 360-297-6532 (office), 360-731-7980 (cell), or [tjohnson@pnptc.org](mailto:tjohnson@pnptc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Harder  
Executive Director  
Point No Point Treaty Council

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015

**Title:** Project Decisions: Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO #15-1052P)

**Prepared By:** Kathryn Moore, Salmon Section Senior Outdoor Grant Manager

#### Summary

This memo summarizes a request from the Puget Sound Partnership and North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity to use a portion of their 2011-13 returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds for a new 2015 project on the Dungeness River. The request involves advancement of a bridge replacement design in response to a flood event on the river that damaged a bridge in the floodplain.

#### 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 \$172,473 in returned 2011-13 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Puget Sound Region for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design, RCO Project 15-1052P.

## Background

### Project Details

The Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO Project #15-1052P) is located at the Dungeness River Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, Clallam County. The Olympic Discovery Trail crosses the Dungeness River at the park over a railroad bridge and trestle. Flooding in February 2015 swept away one of the trestle's piling bents, allowing the Dungeness River to avulse. Instead of flowing under the 150-foot bridge opening, the main river channel now runs beneath the damaged trestle. The damage to the trestle was so great that the Olympic Discovery Trail is now closed over the river.

The railroad trestle is 585-feet long and is built on 35 creosote "pile bents" (or row of support poles) which are spaced 16-feet apart. These pilings restrict floodplain processes and have constrained the river channel to a single location for more than 60 years. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will design a replacement structure for the damaged railroad trestle that utilizes non-polluting materials and allows for natural river habitat-forming processes. The board toured this site in 2012 and discussed the need for opening up the approaches to the bridge to allow the river to occupy more of the floodplain. This project is now more urgent as a result of the 2015 flood event.

## **Funding for the Project**

The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity has a balance of \$172,473 in returned funds from their 2011-13 PSAR allocation. These returned funds are from the Salt Creek Estuary Reconnection project (RCO #11-1289), which was not completed. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity have approved the use of the returned funds for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design Project.

## **Project Review**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel (review panel) members visited the project site in March 2015. All members of the review panel reviewed the project and cleared it for funding with the following condition:

“The review panel must review and approve the preliminary designs before funds for completing final designs are released by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).”

The sponsor has accepted the condition on the project.

## **Board Decision**

The board is asked to approve \$172,473 in PSAR funds for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO Project #15-1052), using returned funds from NOPL's 2011-13 PSAR allocation.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the board approve #15-1052, Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design, using returned PSAR funding.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015

**Title:** Project Decisions: Pre-Approval of "Time-Sensitive" PSAR Projects, if any, Contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage

**Prepared By:** Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

#### Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office's 2015-17 biennial budget request includes funds for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program. In accordance with the 2015 Manual 18, Appendix P, the Puget Sound Partnership asks the board to pre-approve seven PSAR projects in an accelerated grant round, contingent upon the Legislature approving PSAR funding in the capital budget, project review by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel, and lead entity ranking and submittal.

#### 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

Approve 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects as presented in Attachment A and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once the projects are reviewed and ranked and funding is appropriated by the Legislature.

### Background

The budget request submitted to the Legislature for the 2015-17 capital budget included \$140 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program; \$30 million of this appropriation would be used for the regular (formula driven) PSAR grant round in 2015, and the remainder would be used for large capital projects that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved in December 2014.

The board distributes the funds in coordination with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). To provide flexibility and quickly fund projects ready for construction, the program can approve funds in a summer or fall board meeting. This year, Manual 18 included language that projects submitted and approved earlier than December's board meeting can receive funding contingent upon the following criteria:

- Complete applications are due at the time of the scheduled site visits.
- The sponsor must show a need for project implementation in the summer of 2015 (e.g., purchase and sale agreement for acquisition, permits, and timeline for construction, etc.).

- The lead entity must identify which projects need early approval by communicating with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) by April 1, 2015.
- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) will meet in July to review projects and provide the final status. If the project is not cleared, the sponsor will have to move through the full review process and can go to the October or December board meeting.
- The lead entity will submit their complete ranked project lists by August 14, 2015, including early projects. The project to be approved early must be fundable (i.e., within the lead entity's ranked list and PSAR allocation). The lead entity may submit its list earlier than August 14, thus allowing early-approved projects to go under agreement as soon as funding is available.
- Project agreements could be issued immediately following the August 14 application due date, or earlier if the conditions listed above have been met.

Upon board approval, the RCO Director could enter into project agreements once the Legislature appropriates funds for the PSAR program and the project meets the criteria listed above. The intent in limiting the accelerated approval process is to minimize duplicative staff work to a small list of projects that are ready to go and that expect to be completed or well on their way to completion by December 2015. The board will see the majority of 2015-17 PSAR projects at the December 2015 meeting.

### **Early Project Approval**

PSP coordinates with lead entities and the board to submit projects. All Puget Sound lead entities had the opportunity to submit time-sensitive projects by April 1, 2015. PSAR projects must meet the same eligibility requirements and go through the same review process as other board-funded projects. The review panel will review any early project through the normal grant round, unless reviewed and cleared for funding in a previous funding round. In order to receive funding, the lead entity will approve and submit projects through the ranked list.

PSP asks the board to approve seven projects as part of the 2015-17 PSAR grant program, per Manual 18, Appendix P. The board's approval gives the RCO Director the authority to enter into agreements for the projects once project review is complete. The early process enables time-sensitive projects to use 2015-17 funding and enter into a project agreement as soon as completing the review and submittal process and the Legislature funds the PSAR account.

## **Analysis**

### **Review of the Proposed Projects**

Seven projects were submitted for early approval. Two of the projects were previously reviewed by the review panel and submitted on lead entity ranked lists. The request adds additional 2015-17 PSAR funds to the projects.

Attachment A lists each project, describing the rationale for the early action proposal and the respective funding request.

### **Next Steps**

Five of the seven projects are new projects that will be reviewed and ranked this grant round. These PSAR projects will be submitted through the board's 2015 grant round process. The review panel will attend site

visits for each lead entity and provide comments for all project applications, including early projects. Lead entities will follow their local process of technical and citizen review and submit their project lists to RCO on or before August 14, 2015. The lead entity ranked list must include all of these projects in order to receive funding.

The PSP Leadership Council approved the PSAR funding process and regional project list and worked with the Salmon Recovery Council to delegate the timing of the distribution of funds to the Lead Entity Citizen's Committees. The local watershed technical committees will review all projects and determine whether they are consistent with the regional and watershed recovery strategies.

The board's review panel will review new projects for technical feasibility, including field reviews, and recommend them for funding, meeting on July 13 to finalize comments on the early projects.

The projects advance the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Partnership's Action Agenda.

### **Board Decisions**

The board is asked to approve the project(s) listed in Attachment A.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the board approve PSAR funding for the project(s) listed in Attachment A.

### **Attachments**

A. Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects and Funding Requests

## Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects and Funding Requests

Number	Name	Sponsor	Project Description and Rationale for Proposal	PSAR	
				Request	Funding
<a href="#">14-1001</a>	Mill Creek Side Channel (Leber 2014)	City of Kent	In Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9, the Duwamish Green watershed needs additional dollars to fund the Mill Creek restoration project. Reviewed and approved in the 2014 grant round, the project will start construction in September 2015. Funding from the 2013-15 PSAR account was redirected to another project to cover cultural resource expenses on WRIA 9's number 1 ranked project that is also going to construction this summer.	\$250,000	\$250,000
<a href="#">09-1277</a>	Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration - Construction	Tulalip Tribe	The Snohomish Lead Entity proposed this project which needs additional funding to complete its final phase. The board approved a cost increase to finish construction of the setback dike in September 2014. This funding will enable the Tulalip Tribe to complete utility improvements, breach the dike, and complete the full 400-acre estuary restoration project approved in 2009	\$500,000	\$500,000
<a href="#">15-1053</a>	Dungeness R. RR Trestle Replacement: Construction	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon proposed this project which will construct a channel-spanning structure which will replace the current railroad trestle and associated fill. The Olympic Discovery Trail uses the bridge and trestle to cross the Dungeness River. Flooding in February 2015 swept away one of the trestle's piling bents, allowing the river to avulse, and the main river channel now runs beneath the trestle. The pilings restrict floodplain processes and have constrained the river channel to a single location for more than sixty years. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will construct a replacement structure for the damaged railroad trestle that utilizes non-polluting materials and allows for natural river habitat-forming processes.	\$1,530,000	\$1,530,000



Number	Name	Sponsor	Project Description and Rationale for Proposal	PSAR	
				Request	Funding
<a href="#">15-1173</a>	Skiyou Island Rock Removal & Riparian Restoration	Skagit County Public Works	The project involves a longstanding concept to remove derelict bank armor from the Skagit River. In late March 2015, a positive breakthrough with the landowner allowed the project proposal to proceed. Early action is important as the sponsor, Skagit County Public Works, hopes to remove the rock in summer 2015 before winter bank erosion threatens construction access.	\$251,145	\$251,145
<a href="#">15-1165</a>	Pressentin Park Restoration Phase 2 and 3	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	The board funded the first phase of the project which led to the current final 'design and build' proposal. Early action guarantees the ability for SFEG to construct the project in summer 2017, rather than potentially delaying to summer 2018, given the design and permitting complexity. Early action will also improve cost and time efficiency as it allows the sponsor to seamlessly continue ongoing design efforts.	\$2,208,841	\$2,208,841
<a href="#">15-1166</a>	Skagit Floodplain Side Channel Connectivity Design	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	This project would allow for final designs and permitting of the replacement of up to five substandard culverts in Skagit River side channels. This accelerated design project would enhance accuracy, and allow for thorough consideration for available funding by multiple grant sources in 2016 (including not missing the next grant round beginning February 2016 in the Skagit). The project will likely enable at least one or two culverts to be replaced in 2016, rather than 2017.	\$166,228	\$166,228
<a href="#">15-1174</a>	Goodell Creek Restoration Preliminary Design	Upper Skagit Indian Tribe	Approval will allow the sponsor to conduct site investigations in summer 2015 in this high altitude system, enabling preliminary design to proceed throughout the winter and better prepare them to compete for the large capital programs available in 2016.	\$386,750	\$386,750
				<b>Total Funded:</b>	<b>\$5,292,964</b>

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator  
Sarah Gage, Lead Entity Program Manager

#### Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office annually requests capacity funding as part of the grant from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) to support salmon recovery at the grassroots level. In addition, a portion of the state general funds appropriated to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) go towards supporting the lead entities. These funds together maintain a network of regional organizations and lead entities dedicated to salmon recovery. Staff requests that the board delegate the authority for the RCO Director, contingent on sufficient funds being appropriated in the agency's budget, to enter into contracts in the amounts of \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regions for capacity funding for fiscal year 2016. This totals \$4,568,185 of capacity funding for state fiscal year 2016.

If the final budget or the 2015 PCSRF grant award is less than expected, the director will provide interim funding for lead entities and regions and bring a recommendation for the board to consider at a special board meeting to be called to address any budget shortfall.

#### 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

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

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects, monitoring (required by NOAA), administration, and capacity. Capacity is described as the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level by maintaining a network of regional organizations and lead entities.

## Available Funds

### Current Budgets

As of the writing of this memo, the Legislature has not adopted the budget for the 2015-17 biennium. RCO anticipates approximately \$907,229 in general state funds for lead entities, the same amount provided in the 2013-15 budget. We also expect between \$16.5 and \$40 million in capital funds for projects.

RCO expects to hear from NOAA in late May regarding the federal amount awarded through the 2015 PCSRF application. This year, the entire amount needed to fund regional organizations and lead entities was included in the application. Lead entities also receive state general fund dollars.

In past years, the board made up the difference between the PCSRF award and the amount needed for regions and lead entities with return funds. Currently, due to reduced federal funding and the board's recent commitment to fund Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) projects, utilizing return funds for capacity funding is no longer a sustainable strategy.

### Returned Funds

"Returned funds" refers to money allocated to projects/activities that returns when projects/activities either close under budget or are not completed. These dollars return to the overall budget. The funds have been available for cost increases, capacity needs, and to increase the funding available for projects in the upcoming grant round, if the Legislature re-appropriates the funds as part of either the regular capital budget or a stand-alone re-appropriation bill.

We currently have **\$1.83 million** in returned funds available for the 2015 grant round. Staff expects this balance to grow by December 2015. Again, use of these funds depends on legislative re-appropriation.

### Federal Fiscal Year 2016

The President's budget included \$58 million for PCSRF for federal fiscal year 2016<sup>1</sup>. This would be an 11% reduction from 2015. We will not know what the final budget will include for the program or the Washington State PCSRF grant award for the second year of the biennium (2016 grant round) until Congress takes action on the 2016 budget later this year.

### Available and Potentially Available Funds

The board funds grants with state and federal funding received for salmon recovery. Most of these funds are allocated to capacity, projects, and monitoring. Funding is determined annually in light of Washington's annual PCSRF grant award and the state dollars appropriated by the Washington State Legislature each biennium. A summary table of projected funds for 2015-2017 is included below (Table 1).

At the time of the writing of this memo, state budgets have not been enacted for the 2015-2017 biennium and the 2015 PCSRF grant award is pending.

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<sup>1</sup> Federal fiscal year 2015 runs from October 1, 2015 until September 30, 2016. Any PCSRF funds from federal fiscal year 2015 would likely be available in mid- to late summer 2015.

**Table 1: Projected Funds for the 2015-17 Biennium**

	State 2015-17 Biennium	Projected State Fiscal Year 2016
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<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,130,371</b>	<b>\$4,568,185</b>
<b>Salmon Recovery Funding Board Projects</b>		
<i>*\$18 million grant round</i>		
State capital budget	\$40,000,000 <sup>3</sup>	\$10,440,000
PCSRF 2015	\$12,067,577	Staff estimates \$7.56M - \$12M (of \$20 - \$25 million total annual PCSRF Award)
PCSRF 2016	\$12,067,577 <sup>4</sup>	unknown
IMW Projects	see footnote <sup>5</sup>	\$1,830,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$60,305,154</b>	<b>\$19,830,000</b>
<b>Available Return Funds (as of April 2015)</b>	<b>\$1,830,000</b>	unknown

### General Capacity Funding for Lead Entities and Regional Organizations

The board authorized an \$18 million grant round in 2014, providing the lead entities and regions with similar funding as previous years. The funding totals for fiscal year 2015 are included in Table 2 (in the Staff Recommendation Section) and summarized in funding tables (Attachments A and B).

RCO will know the 2015 PCSRF award amount by the end of June or first week of July. The current budget information is limited. We do know the general fund state for lead entities looks similar to previous years funding amounts. The 2015 PCSRF application includes enough funding to maintain funding similar to the previous year. RCO did not factor in any potential return funds between May 2015 and December 2015. The grant round funding hinges on the state salmon capital budget. At the time of the writing of this memo, the Governor proposed \$40 million, House budget included \$40 million, and the Senate budget included \$16.5 million.

<sup>2</sup> It is unknown what the actual 2016 PCSRF award will be. The President's budget includes \$58 million, with the potential to raise the amount to \$65 million which would hold the status quo.

<sup>3</sup> This is the amount proposed by the Governor and the House; the Senate has proposed \$16.5 m.

<sup>4</sup> Same as footnote 2.

<sup>5</sup> Funds in the amount of \$3,830,000 that the board has already obligated toward IMW projects for the 2015-17 biennium.

## Board Decisions for the 2015 Grant Round

The only scheduled board meeting before the beginning of new biennium begins (July 1, 2015) occurs in May. The following decisions will support salmon recovery capacity and the board's grant program for fiscal year 2015. If the legislative appropriation and the 2015 PCSRF grant are less than projected, the director will work with the chair of the board to call a special meeting to decide how to adjust the grant round target. Because of the timing, the staff recommends delegating authority to the director to enter into contracts based on the above mentioned assumptions.

Here are the specific staff recommendations:

- A. Set a target grant round of \$18 million for calendar year 2015.
- B. Reserve \$1.83 million for IMW projects.
- C. Approve funding for each regional organization for fiscal year 2016.
- D. Approve funding for each lead entity for fiscal year 2016.
- E. Approve funding for lead entity training and a chairperson (\$12,500)
- F. Approve funding (\$50,000) for facilitation of the Washington Salmon Coalition (from 2015 returned capacity funds)
- G. Reserve \$500,000 to be used for project cost increases in state fiscal year 2016, to be used consistent with policies in Manual 18.

GSRO will provide funding details at the May meeting based on any new information concerning the budget. The regular legislative session is scheduled to end on April 26, 2015, although special sessions are expected to follow. Current contracts with lead entities end June 30, 2015.

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board fund capacity at a total of \$4,568,185, which includes \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regional organizations in fiscal year 2016. This is a status quo funding level for both regional organizations and lead entities. Table 2 summarizes the request; Attachment A details the allocations by regional organization and Attachment B summarizes allocations by lead entity.

If the state budget or Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award comes in less than expected, staff recommend providing interim funding and calling a special board meeting to decide how to adjust the capacity funding and the grant round target.

In light of the limited information on the state budget, staff suggests delegating authority to the RCO director to enter into regional and lead entity contracts and setting the grant round at a minimum of \$18 if supported by the state budget and 2015 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award. If complications arise in the final budget, RCO will call a special board meeting to determine options.

**Table 2. Proposed Lead Entity and Regional Organization Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016**

<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Current Funding FY 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)</b>	<b>Proposed Funding FY 2016</b>
Lead Entities	\$1,689,500	\$1,689,500
Regions	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685
Projects	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000 <sup>6</sup>
Projects in IMWs	\$1,937,647	Up to \$1,830,000

### Next Steps

If approved by the board, GSRO staff will complete the scopes of work for the regional organization and lead entity contracts for the 2015-2017 biennium. Agreements will be effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Similar to last biennium the board will approve funding for the second year of the biennium before June 30, of 2016.

### Attachments

- A. Funding Table for Regional Organizations
- B. Funding Table for Lead Entities

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<sup>6</sup> Staff expect the PCSRF grant to come in between \$20 million and \$25 million. Based on this assumption and a state capital biennial budget of over \$22 million, the board would have at least an \$18 million dollar grant round for fiscal year 2016 (December 2015).

## Funding Table for Regional Organizations

Regional Organization	Board Funding Adopted FY 2015	Proposed Funding FY 2016
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	\$456,850	\$456,850
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	375,000	375,000
Puget Sound Partnership	689,162	689,162
Snake River Recovery Board	333,588	333,588
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	435,000	435,000
Washington Coast Sustainable Partnership	304,085	304,085
Yakima Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board	285,000	285,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,878,685</b>	<b>\$2,878,685</b>

## Funding Table for Lead Entities

Lead Entity	Board Funding Adopted FY 2015	Proposed Funding FY 2016
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	\$65,000	\$65,000
San Juan County Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity	80,000	80,000
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Stillaguamish Tribe)	25,000	25,000
Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Snohomish County)	37,000	37,000
Island County Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	62,500	62,500
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Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Pierce County Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	62,500	62,500
Thurston Conservation District Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Mason Conservation District Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity	80,000	80,000
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Quinalt Indian Nation Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
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Pacific County Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Klickitat County Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Pend Oreille Lead Entity	60,000	60,000
Upper Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	135,000	135,000
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Lead Entity Chair	\$4,500	\$4,500
Lead Entity Training	\$8,000	\$8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,689,500</b>	<b>\$1,689,500</b>



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator  
Sarah Gage, Lead Entity Program Manager

#### Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office annually requests capacity funding as part of the grant from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) to support salmon recovery at the grassroots level. In addition, a portion of the state general funds appropriated to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) go towards supporting the lead entities. These funds together maintain a network of regional organizations and lead entities dedicated to salmon recovery. Staff requests that the board delegate the authority for the RCO Director, contingent on sufficient funds being appropriated in the agency's budget, to enter into contracts in the amounts of \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regions for capacity funding for fiscal year 2016. This totals \$4,568,185 of capacity funding for state fiscal year 2016.

If the final budget or the 2015 PCSRF grant award is less than expected, the director will provide interim funding for lead entities and regions and bring a recommendation for the board to consider at a special board meeting to be called to address any budget shortfall.

#### 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

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

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects, monitoring (required by NOAA), administration, and capacity. Capacity is described as the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level by maintaining a network of regional organizations and lead entities.

## Available Funds

### Current Budgets

As of the writing of this memo, the Legislature has not adopted the budget for the 2015-17 biennium. RCO anticipates approximately \$907,229 in general state funds for lead entities, the same amount provided in the 2013-15 budget. We also expect between \$16.5 and \$40 million in capital funds for projects.

RCO expects to hear from NOAA in late May regarding the federal amount awarded through the 2015 PCSRF application. This year, the entire amount needed to fund regional organizations and lead entities was included in the application. Lead entities also receive state general fund dollars.

In past years, the board made up the difference between the PCSRF award and the amount needed for regions and lead entities with return funds. Currently, due to reduced federal funding and the board's recent commitment to fund Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) projects, utilizing return funds for capacity funding is no longer a sustainable strategy.

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We currently have **\$1.83 million** in returned funds available for the 2015 grant round. Staff expects this balance to grow by December 2015. Again, use of these funds depends on legislative re-appropriation.

### Federal Fiscal Year 2016

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## Staff Recommendation

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### Next Steps

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<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,689,500</b>	<b>\$1,689,500</b>

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes  
**Prepared By:** Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

#### Summary

This memo summarizes progress made on drafting amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code. Staff requests board feedback on two sections: *Definitions*, and *Organization and Operations*.

#### 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

At the February meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff provided the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) with an overview of proposed amendments to [Title 420](#) of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). For reference, a list of the proposed amendments is in Table 1 of [Item 10](#) from the February meeting. The board instructed staff to draft amendments and provide an opportunity for board review.

### Draft Amendments for Board Review

Since the last board meeting, staff worked to draft amendments for two sections of Chapter 420-04 WAC.

#### WAC 420-04-010 *Definitions*

The amendments to the definitions bring in the appropriate statutory references, or, if there are no specific references, reflect statutory intent. New definitions define specific types of projects funded by the board. There are revised and new definitions for organizations that implement salmon recovery projects and activities. Finally, there are new definitions added for match, reimbursements, and project area.

Attachment A contains the draft amendments to terms in the *Definitions* section.

#### WAC 420-04-020 *Organization and Operations*

Staff proposes to change the title of the *Organizations and Operations* section to *Duties of the Board*. The amendments focus this section on the board's responsibilities in the Salmon Recovery Funding Act, Chapter 77.85 of the Revised Code of Washington. In that regard, the section is significantly longer in text.



The section collects the board's responsibilities in one location for easy reference. The amendments also change information repeated from the Salmon Recovery Act into a reference.

Attachment B contains the draft amendments in the *Duties of the Board* section.

### More Draft Amendments Planned

Staff will continue to work on draft amendments for Title 420. As staff drafts material, they will share it with the board for review. After the board has reviewed and provided feedback to staff, RCO staff will engage discussions with stakeholders to get feedback on the draft materials.

### Public Involvement and Comment

The Administrative Procedures Act requires the board to conduct at least one public hearing at a scheduled meeting prior to adopting amendments to the rules. The schedule in the next section identifies the board's October board meeting for the formal public hearing. Interested persons may either attend the public hearing or submit formal written comments in advance. RCO staff will notify interested persons about the proposed amendments via e-mail and on RCO's Web site.

### WAC Amendments Schedule 2015

The schedule for changes must fit within the deadlines established by the Office of the Code Reviser for filings with the Washington State Register. The first step is to file the pre-proposal statement of inquiry. Staff completed this step. It was published in the Washington State Register on February 18, 2015. This filing secures the appropriate timeline for the board should they decide to proceed with the staff recommendation. Filing the pre-proposal does not obligate the board to proceed.

Depending on the length of time needed in the drafting process, the next opportunity for the board to conduct a public hearing is at the board's meeting in October. Staff will work towards meeting this goal.

**Table 2. WAC Amendment Schedule 2015**

Date (2015)	Action
September 2	File notice of proposed rule-making (CR-102)
September 16	Notice of proposed rule-making published in Washington State Register
September 16 – October 15	Public comment period
October 15-16	Board meeting, public hearing, final adoption
October 17	File notice of permanent rule-making (CR-103)
November 17	Effective date

## Next Steps

RCO staff will continue to draft amendments to meet the schedule described above. RCO will solicit for formal public comments prior to the October meeting in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, which requires a minimum 20 day public comment period. Before the formal public comment period, RCO will consult with the board and then stakeholders and interested parties on the proposed amendments to get early feedback and comments.

## Attachments

- A. Draft Amendments Section 420-04-010 *Definitions*
- B. Draft Amendments Section 420-04-020 *Organization and Operations* (changed to *Duties of the Board*)

## Attachment A

### Draft Amendments Section 420-04-010 Definitions

#### WAC 420-04-010 Definitions.

For purposes of Title 420 WAC, the definitions in RCW 77.85.010 apply. In addition, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions also apply:

(1) "Acquisition" means the ~~gaining of rights of public ownership by purchase, negotiation, or other means,~~ of fee or less than fee interests in real property, ~~and related interests such as water or mineral claims and use rights.~~ These interests include, but are not limited to, conservation easements, access easements, covenants, water rights, leases, and mineral rights.

(2) "Agreement" means the accord accepted by the office and the sponsor for the project and includes this agreement, any supplemental agreements, any amendments to this agreement and any intergovernmental agreements.

(3) "Applicant" means any agency, person or organization that meets qualifying standards, including deadlines, for submission of an application soliciting a grant of funds from the board. ~~Generally, eligible applicants for board funds include a state, local, tribal or special purpose government, a nonprofit organization, a combination of such governments, or a landowner for projects on its land.~~

(4) "Application" means the ~~form(s) developed and implemented for use by applicants in soliciting project funds administered by the board documents and other materials that an applicant submits to the office to support the applicant's request for grant funds.~~

(5) "Board" means the salmon recovery funding board ~~created by chapter 13, Laws of 1999 1st sp. sess. (2E2SSB 5595), now codified as~~ described in RCW 77.85.110.

(6) "Capacity funding" refers to block grants, as described in RCW 77.85.130(4), to implement habitat project lists developed under RCW 77.85.050 or to assist in carrying out functions to implement chapter 77.85 RCW.

(7) "Chair" means the chair of the board described in RCW 77.85.110.

~~"Development" means the construction or alteration of facilities, the placement or removal of materials, or other physical activity to restore or enhance salmon habitat resources.~~

(8) "Director" means the director of the office or that person's designee, as described in RCW 79A.25.150, ~~responsible for implementation of board activities under chapter 77.85 RCW.~~

(9) "Enhancement project" means a project that supports hatchery reform to improve hatchery effectiveness, ensure compatibility between hatchery production and salmon rebuilding programs, or support sustainable fisheries.

(10) "Lead entity" means ~~the local organization or group a city, county, conservation district, special purposes district, tribal government, regional recovery organization or other entity that is designated under jointly by the counties, cities, and Native American tribes within the lead entity area as described in~~ RCW 77.85.050.

(11) "Lead entity area" means the area covered by a habitat project list based, at a minimum, on a watershed resource inventory area as described in RCW 77.85.010(13), combination of water resource inventory areas, or any other area designated jointly by the counties, cities, and Native American Tribes within the lead entity area as described in RCW 77.85.050.

(12) "Manual(s)" means a compilation of state and federal ~~laws; board rules,~~ policies, ~~and~~ procedures, ~~rules,; and director procedures,~~ forms, and instructions that have been assembled in manual form ~~and which have been approved by the office for dissemination by paper, electronic or other formats to all who may wish to~~ parties that participate in the board's of office's grant program(s).

(13) "Match" or "matching share" means the portion of the total project cost in the project agreement provided by the project sponsor.

(14) "Monitoring or research project" means a project that monitors the effectiveness of salmon recovery restoration actions or provides data on salmon populations.

(15) "Office" means the recreation and conservation office ~~or the office of recreation and conservation~~ as described in RCW 79A.25.010.

(16) "Planning project" means a project that results in a study, assessment, project design, or inventory.

(17) "~~Preliminary expense~~ Pre-agreement cost" means ~~a project costs incurred prior to board approval, other than site preparation/development costs, necessary for the preparation of a development project before the period of performance identified in the project agreement.~~

(18) "Project" means the undertaking which is, or may be, funded in whole or in part with funds administered by the office on behalf of the board.

~~"Project agreement" means a project agreement, supplemental agreement, intergovernmental agreement, or project contract between the office acting on behalf of the board, and a project sponsor.~~

(19) "Project area" means the area consistent with the geographic limits of the scope of work of the project. For restoration projects, the project area must include the physical limits of the project's final site plans or final design plans and the surrounding area controlled by the project sponsor. For acquisition projects, the project area must include the area described by the legal description of the properties acquired in the project.

(20) "Regional recovery organization" or "regional salmon recovery organization" means an organization described in RCW 77.85.010.

(21) "Salmon recovery region" means a geographic area as described in RCW 77.85.010.

(22) "Reimbursement" means the payment of eligible and allowable costs that have already been paid by the sponsor per the terms of an agreement.

(23) "Restoration project" means a project that brings a site back to its original function as part of a natural ecosystem or improving the ecological functionality of a site.

(24) "Project-sponsor" means an eligible applicant under RCW 77.85.010(6) who has been awarded a grant of funds; and ~~has a signed~~ is bound by an executed project agreement; includes its officers, employees, agents, and successors.

## Attachment B

### Draft Amendments Section 420-04-020 *Organization and Operations*

#### WAC 420-04-020 ~~Organization and operations~~ Duties of the Board.

~~The board:~~

(1) ~~Is an unsalaried body of ten members. Five members are citizens appointed by the governor from the public at large, with the consent of the senate, for a term of three years each. The other members are the:~~

- ~~(a) Commissioner of public lands;~~
- ~~(b) Director of the department of fish and wildlife;~~
- ~~(c) Director of the state conservation commission;~~
- ~~(d) Director of the department of ecology; and~~
- ~~(e) Secretary of transportation (or the designees of these individuals).~~

~~The five citizen members, including the chair, are voting members. The chair of the board is appointed by the governor from among the five citizen members.~~ The board was created by the legislature in the Salmon Recovery Funding Act of 1999 (section 3, chapter 13, Laws of 1999 special session) codified in RCW 77.85.110.

(2) Membership of the board is defined in RCW 77.85.110.

(3) ~~Is The board is~~ authorized and obligated to:

(a) Allocate and administer grant programs funds for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery, and related programs and policies activities from amounts appropriated by the legislature (RCW 77.85.120);

(b) Develop procedures and criteria for allocation of funds for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities on a statewide basis to address the highest priorities for salmon habitat protection and restoration (RCW 77.85.130(1));

(c) Adopt an annual allocation of funding (RCW 77.85.130(1));

(d) Establish a maximum amount of funding available for any individual project (RCW 77.85.130(1));

(e) Establish criteria for determining the award of block grants for capacity funding as described in RCW 77.85.130(4);

(f) Give preference and consideration to projects as described in RCW 77.85.130(2);

(g) Require applicants to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications and the statement of environmental benefits in its prioritization and selection process (RCW 77.85.135);

(h) Adopt procedures for lead entities to submit habitat project lists (RCW 77.85.050);

(i) May reject, but not add, projects from a habitat project list submitted by a lead entity for funding (RCW 77.85.130(3));

(j) Develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant program (RCW 77.85.135); and

(k) Provide the legislature with a list of the proposed projects and a list of the projects funded by October 1st of each year for informational purposes (RCW 77.85.140).

(4) The board does not own or operate any salmon recovery properties or facilities.

(5) The board is not a public hearings board and does not decide land use issues. To the extent possible, all project proposals should demonstrate adequate public notification and review and have the support of the public body applying for the grant or the public body where the project is located.

~~(3) Performs and accomplishes work by a staff~~ (6) The office, under the supervision of the director appointed by the governor, performs and accomplishes work on behalf of the board.

(46) The board:

(a) Conducts regular meetings, pursuant to RCW 42.30.075, according to a schedule it adopts in an open public meeting~~;~~

(b) May conduct special meetings at any time, pursuant to RCW 42.30.080, if called by the chair~~;~~

(c) Maintains an official record of its meetings in a recorded audio format, unless written minutes are otherwise indicated for logistical reasons~~;~~

~~(5d)~~ Defines a quorum as three of its voting members, with a preference that at least two of the agency members shall also be present~~;~~ and

~~(6e)~~ Adopts parliamentary meeting procedure generally as described in *Robert's Rules of Order*. Only voting members may make motions or formal amendments, but agency members may request the chair for leave to present a proposal for board consideration.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Monitoring Panel Update  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator  
Keith Dublanica, Science Coordinator

#### Summary

This memo provides an overview of how the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) will be evaluating each component of the board's monitoring program. The monitoring panel will prepare funding recommendations for the October 2015 meeting for the board to consider. This memo provides background on the establishment of the monitoring panel and outlines the next steps in generating the recommendations to the 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

## Background

At the March 2014 meeting, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved the creation of a five-member monitoring panel, supported by \$50,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funds. The decision was made in response to the recommendations published in Stillwater Sciences' report: *Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board* (2013). The purpose of the monitoring panel is to update the board's overarching monitoring strategy, develop an adaptive management framework, and provide guidance and funding recommendation to the board on the monitoring program.

In April of 2014, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) jointly released a Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for monitoring panel members. The responses were evaluated and ranked by a review team comprised of staff from GSRO, the Council of Regions (COR), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), and RCO. A smaller, secondary team made up of representatives from the board, GSRO, and the Snake River Recovery Region interviewed seven applicants on May 21, 2014 and selected five for the panel. After further discussions and negotiations, the five new members entered into contracts to serve as panel members for the duration of June 2014 through September 2015.

The monitoring panel convened June 5, 2014 and was assigned the following tasks:

1. Develop a revised strategic monitoring plan which would update the 2003 Draft Monitoring Strategy for Habitat Acquisition and Restoration Projects.
2. Create a functional adaptive management framework with clearly written expectations and a process for timely implementation.



3. Evaluate by performance, each component of the Board's monitoring program and provide guidance and funding recommendations to the Board.
4. Recommend changes in policy or funding criteria for project effectiveness monitoring and intensively monitored watersheds;
5. Compare and share monitoring results to determine if lessons learned in other monitoring efforts could be applied to Board programs.

The panel developed a collaborative process for completing the above tasks. In the interest of accelerating the completion of the monitoring strategy update, RCO retained Bruce Crawford to prepare a report summarizing the board's current monitoring program and its evolution over the last decade. Mr. Crawford also incorporated comments from the monitoring panel.

Each year henceforth, the monitoring panel will evaluate each monitoring component and provide the board with any recommended changes to the monitoring program. Two subject matter experts have been brought on to assist the monitoring panel with the review of each component of the monitoring program. Before finalizing the document, staff will complete the process of editing and formatting.

## **Work In Progress**

### **Creating a functional adaptive management framework**

The panel will draft an adaptive management framework. It is essential that the adaptive management framework closely link to the monitoring strategy; therefore, these two items should remain on the same schedule and be considered by the board together. The monitoring panel will present their recommendations for an adaptive management framework at the October 2015 board meeting.

### **Monitoring Workshop March 30, 2015**

On March 30, the monitoring panel hosted a workshop as an opportunity for dialogue between the monitoring panel and practitioners receiving board monitoring funds. The monitoring panel had two primary objectives convening the workshop:

1. To personally interact with the principal investigators, discuss specific questions, and gain a deeper understanding of each monitoring component included in the board's monitoring program (i.e., Project Effectiveness, Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW), and Status and Trends).
2. To provide an opportunity for practitioners to receive feedback from the monitoring panel.

### **Intensively Monitored Watersheds – Study Plans**

The monitoring panel received and commented on two of the four updated IMW study plans. The study plan is the foundation for the IMW work. The study plan documents where and when the work takes place, questions to be answered, and serves as a communication tool for the monitoring partners. All four study plans are due in final form by June 30, 2015.

### **Evaluate each component of the Board's monitoring program.**

Each monitoring practitioner received explicit direction on the information the panel requires to evaluate monitoring program implementation. The panel finalized reporting templates last fall and included these in the contract with each practitioner. As presented in the 2013 Stillwater Sciences report and embraced by the monitoring panel, practitioners must have an opportunity to implement any new expectations prior to the monitoring panel evaluating the performance of any changes in each monitoring component.

The monitoring panel developed a series of questions that each practitioner must answer for their annual assessment. These questions are based on:

1. Scientific objectives, monitoring methods, and documentation of quality assurance/quality control
2. Effectiveness of the restoration actions
3. Accountability – what was the progress on each major monitoring task or milestone
4. Collaboration and Communication – examples of how the monitoring program is collaborating with monitoring partners including sponsors, lead entities, regional organizations, and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies
5. Adaptive Management – challenges encountered in implementing the monitoring program.

### **Recommendations for the Board at the October Meeting**

The monitoring panel will provide recommendations specific to each component of the board's monitoring program. The recommendations will arrive in advance of the October 2015 meeting, so that the board may make funding decisions on the monitoring program at that time.

The monitoring panel will receive the information from the practitioners in July and will begin the process of evaluating and drafting recommendations. This is the first year of the monitoring panel developing recommendations for the board and the exact format and scope of the recommendations are currently unknown.

## **Attachments**

- A. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel and Subject Matter Experts

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel Members

- 1) Marnie Tyler, PhD, Chair
- 2) Dennis Dauble, PhD
- 3) Jim Fisher
- 4) Micah Wait
- 5) Jody Lando, PhD

## Monitoring Panel Subject Matter Experts

- 1) Pete Bisson, PhD
- 2) Ken Currens, PhD

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

### May 6, 2015

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Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
February 26, 2015 Meeting Summary	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.
1. Management Report A. Director's Report B. Legislative and Policy Updates C. Performance Update (written only) D. Financial Report	Briefing	When the Legislature adjourns, decide whether to hold a special board meeting focused on the final budget.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office B. Salmon Section Report C. Preview of Lunch Tour to Mission Creek	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
3. Reports from Partners	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
4. Project Decisions A. Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO # 14-1366)  B. Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering Dungeness Railroad Trail Bridge Replacement (RCO #15-1052)  C. Pre-Approval of "Shovel-ready" PSAR Projects, if any, Contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage	Decision: APPROVED  Decision: APPROVED  Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.  No follow-up action requested.  No follow-up action requested.
5. Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding	Briefing	When the Legislature adjourns, decide whether to hold a special board meeting focused on the final budget.
6. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
7. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) A. Habitat Program Briefing B. Fish Barrier Removal Board Briefing	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
8. The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Summary and Status of Puget Sound Activities	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
9. Monitoring Panel Update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** May 6, 2015

**Place:** Olympia, WA

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

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<b>David Troutt, Chair</b>	Olympia	<b>Carol Smith</b>	Department of Ecology
<b>Nancy Biery</b>	Quilcene	<b>Susan Cierebiej</b>	Department of Transportation
<b>Bob Bugert</b>	Wenatchee	<b>Megan Duffy</b>	Department of Natural Resources
<b>Phil Rockefeller</b>	Bainbridge Island	<b>Brian Cochran</b>	Washington State Conservation Commission
		<b>Erik Neatherlin</b>	Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

### Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Chair Troutt commemorated the anniversary of the passing of Billy Frank, noting his contributions to the work of salmon recovery. Roll call determined a quorum. Member Mace was excused. Member Rockefeller joined the meeting in the afternoon.

### Agenda adoption

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### February 2015 Meeting Summary

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

### Management and Partner Reports

#### Item 1: Management Report

**Director's Report (1A):** Director Cottingham shared information regarding the successful launch of RCO's electronic billing system that will save staff and grant recipients time and money. Mark Jarasitis, RCO Chief Financial Officer, shared more about this launch and the new federal financial requirements as part of his fiscal report (Item 1D).

Director Cottingham provided an update on the recently contracted services for the Habitat Work Schedule, including training and technical support for staff. RCO worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to confirm funding for another year.

Director Cottingham provided an update on the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), noting that support and funding are coming in to place for this program as well.

**Legislative and Policy Updates (1B):** Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on the

current legislative session, in which the regular session ended May 4 without a final budget. Ms. Brown shared information about the proposed budgets from the House, Senate, and the Governor, with a focus on salmon recovery grant programs. RCO is likely to receive two new programs: the Coastal Restoration Program and the Catastrophic Flood Relief Program (mainly for projects in the Chehalis River Basin).

Ms. Brown provided a brief update on several budget provisos provided in both the Senate and House proposed budgets. In the House budget, SRFB funding is partially restricted to a project in Bothell. The Senate budget includes additional restrictions on how to use the money for salmon recovery. These provisos direct or limit the use of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding for restoration purposes only, therefore not allowing land acquisitions. The budget proviso for the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program (ESRP) constrains the \$5 million appropriation such that \$2.5 million goes to the Vashon Island conservation initiative of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust program (not currently on the ESRP list).

The board discussed the potential outcomes of the budgets and related provisos, noting that the final budget has not yet been released. Chair Troutt spoke about the importance of maintaining focus on salmon recovery, coordinated efforts and outreach, and urged continued communication and messaging with legislative representatives and budget leaders. Member Bugert concurred.

Director Cottingham noted that JLARC has been conducting an audit of public lands, recently releasing a report on the impacts of public land on local economies in April.

Ms. Brown shared information about several programs funded in other agency budget bills, as well as funding for culvert work. She provided an update on several bills that died during session that may have affected salmon recovery efforts. Finally, she noted that board member confirmations were not completed. Should the Legislature not approve a budget by July 1, 2015, Director Cottingham shared that the agency contingency plan would include the suspension of contracts and potential lay-off of staff.

**Financial Report (1D):** Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation regarding RCO's financial matters. The overview included guidance on reading and understanding the financial memos provided in the board materials, and the financial statements that are part of the grant process.

Member Bugert commented on the ability of the board to provide additional funding for projects through returned funds. Director Cottingham explained the process whereby returned funds become available after projects close. Mr. Jarasitis noted that within the agency budget, a certain amount is reserved for anticipated cost increases. Staff work throughout the year to identify potential cost increases and allocate funding as needed on a priority basis.

Mr. Jarasitis briefly presented information about the new e-billing process, where all grant sponsors submit electronic billing statements in lieu of a paper process. He provided current statistics and general feedback received on the process thus far.

Finally, Mr. Jarasitis provided an overview of the new federal financial requirements as a result of the new rules (Omni-circular). These rules will apply to funding awarded after December 26, 2014, impacting funding for projects beginning in July 2015. Mr. Jarasitis briefly highlighted several changes that will come as a result, including increased fiscal monitoring and new procurement standards. Staff continues to prepare and coordinate internally to avoid confusion and provide education to sponsors.

Member Duffy inquired about the specifics of increased fiscal monitoring. Mr. Jarasitis explained that as the agency enters a grant round, fiscal staff would conduct a risk analysis of the potential sponsors to know which may need to submit additional documentation.

## Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

**Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO):** Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, acknowledged Long Live the Kings, Sarah Gage (Program Manager for Lead Entities, GSRO), and board member Nancy Biery for their contributions, support, and efforts in coordinating the 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference. Mr. Abbott provided an update on the conference scheduled for May 27-29 in Vancouver, WA, noting that registration is full and there is a waiting list. Mr. Abbott highlighted the range of topics and speakers who will present, acknowledged the increased financial sponsor support, and thanked the co-hosts WDFW and Long Live the Kings.

Mr. Abbott provided information on the progress of the communications strategy, which led to the formation of the Salmon Recovery Network. The contractor selected to facilitate the network, Triangle Associates, meets regularly to carry the work forward. Member Biery noted that as part of the charter establishing the Salmon Recovery Network, the board needs an alternate member to attend. In order to gain more support for the network from partners, they will host a table at the upcoming conference. Member Biery anticipates bringing recommendations from the group to future board meetings.

Mr. Abbott briefed the board on the current progress of regional communication plans. Pyramid Communications met with several regional organizations around the state to introduce the idea of investing in a communication strategy. The regional organizations are submitting proposals based on region-specific needs.

Mr. Abbott provided an update on the regional organizations' and lead entities' reviews, meetings which documented accomplishments, challenges, and scopes of work for the next biennium. Ms. Gage will meet individually with the lead entities not covered in these regional reviews, i.e., those in the Puget Sound and Coastal Washington regions, and the Klickitat, and Northeast Washington lead entities. These reviews will be completed by the end of 2015.

Mr. Abbott provided information on the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBR). The FBR is a cooperative effort between state agencies and local tribes working to identify and expedite the development of a statewide fish passage barrier correction strategy. Discussions regarding efficient grant programs and funding remain ongoing. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Association will meet with tribes, GSRO, Puget Sound Partnership, and others partners to determine what "coordinated investment" means to each entity and in each program.

Mr. Abbott provided an update on GSRO's visit to Washington D.C. in April. Staff attended over twenty-two meetings with members, staffers, and federal agency leadership. Staff expressed appreciation to the congressional delegation for their continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) while sharing visible results on funding distribution. The board received a brochure, given to legislative staffers, sharing information on salmon recovery. The Salmon Recovery Conference materials will include the brochure.

**Salmon Grant Management Report:** Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided a brief update on the 2014 and 2015 grant rounds. The board materials include details about funded projects, closed projects, director authority regarding project amendments, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP), and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP).

For the 2015 grant round, the finalized version of Manual 18 and application materials were posted on the RCO website, the technical review panel held their kick-off meeting, lead entities scheduled their project review site visits, and RCO salmon section staff held a successful application workshop on March 16 for new applicants. The application presentation was posted to the [RCO website](#). Chair Troutt acknowledged

the grant management staff and their efforts.

**Lunch Tour Preview:** Ms. Galuska presented information about the Mission Creek Estuary Restoration (RCO [11-1526R](#)), a project funded by the board and the destination for the day's lunch tour near Priest Point Park. The project restored fish and tidal access to Mission Creek and the shoreline surrounding the stream's outlet by removing an embankment, armoring, and a culvert. The Port of Olympia sponsored the project in coordination with the Squaxin Island Tribe.

### **Item 3: Reports from Partners**

**Council of Regions Report (COR):** Jeff Breckel, Chair, highlighted the importance of the communications strategy efforts, sharing that regions reached the funding capacity limit. The enthusiasm and energy drives the work forward, building into the Salmon Recovery Network. Mr. Breckel shared discussions among the regions regarding shared objectives, coordinated efforts, building credibility, and bringing other partners to the table. The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, Washington Salmon Coalition, and the regions are advancing salmon recovery in increasingly coordinated ways. The regions are also focused on the work of the Salmon Recovery Board Monitoring Panel, recommending that the panel meet with users of the monitoring programs to receive additional feedback at the decision-making level. The regions will present a session on monitoring at the Salmon Recovery Conference later this month.

Mr. Breckel shared concerns from the regions regarding the potential budget outcomes this legislative session, including plans to maintain infrastructure and flexible alternatives. Chair Troutt inquired about the regions' efforts to communicate salmon recovery issues in a meaningful way in order to engage managers, legislators, and decision-makers outside of the Columbia River Basin region, in a more statewide approach. Mr. Breckel acknowledged the cross-state efforts carried out by the regions and the sustainable fisheries management plans developing in coordination with WDFW. The upcoming conference may provide an avenue for this work.

Member Bugert encouraged the regions to incorporate issues of global warming/climate change into the broader outreach conducted. He also encouraged that regions become advocates for mitigating potential impacts at the local, state, and federal levels. Member Bugert would like to work with the regions to address these issues.

Director Cottingham proposed a coordinated "Salmon on the Hill" day, in which salmon recovery boards, the Puget Sound Partnership, RCO, GSRO, and other interested parties could advocate on behalf of salmon recovery. Member Biery added the importance of addressing climate change by the regions in letters to legislators; Director Cottingham noted that letters must be addressed to the Office of Financial Management to reach the Legislature, per notice from the Office of the Governor.

The board discussed several options for coordinating these efforts, particularly in the light of climate change issues. A main suggestion included asking regions and lead entities how they adaptively manage their respective recovery plans and five-year status reviews to address climate change, and report to the board at subsequent meetings.

**Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):** Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Vice Chair, provided an update on the current work of the WSC, details of which are included in the board materials (Item 3). Ms. Hatch-Winecka briefly highlighted current site visits, updates to the WSC website in coordination with RCO, an updated Lead Entity Directory, collaborative approaches to legislative outreach, support for continued facilitation funding for WSC (several letters of support are included in the board materials under Item 5), and participation in the Salmon Recovery Network. Ms. Hatch-Winecka also highlighted several staff member changes and provided project updates from across the state.



**Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs):** Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, shared information about recent outreach to legislators, in coordination with Lance Winecka. An executive committee will include Ms. Thompson and Mr. Winecka, scheduled to resume next year. The RFEs and their board of directors intend to convey to legislators the importance of working together to support salmon recovery funding in the budget.

At a past meeting, Chair Troutt requested information about the level of funding in the capital budget that has historically supported the RFEs. Ms. Thompson shared that since 2000, ESRP and FFFPP funding totaled \$67M, including approximately 16% from board funding, which supported 412 projects.

**Board Roundtable and Other Agency Updates:**

*\*Due to time constraints for the scheduled lunch tour, Chair Troutt proposed that the board members provide their respective agency updates upon returning from lunch.*

**General Public Comment**

Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County Lead Entity Coordinator, addressed the board regarding the lead entity's monitoring needs. Klickitat County is not associated with a region and needs guidance from the board on how to proceed in their monitoring efforts. According to the established process, lead entities are asked to coordinate with their respective regions to elevate issues to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel and to the board. Director Cottingham responded, stating that she would meet with Mr. Anderson and Dave Caudill, RCO Outdoor Grant Manager, to discuss options for Klickitat County regarding monitoring eligibility.

**Break 10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.**

**Board Business: Decisions**

**Item 4A: Project Decisions: Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO #14-1366)**

Mike Ramsey, Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager, summarized the sponsor request to revise the condition placed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase (RCO Project [14-1366](#)). Mr. Ramsey provided a brief project description, a summary of the current funding for the project, and a summary of the three conditions placed on the project.

The original intent was to require the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to share in the project costs. The proposed changes in the board's condition (the third condition placed on the project) target the requirement for the sponsor to provide a cost-estimate, allowing the project to move forward without the contributions from WSDOT, considering the court injunction and potential delays. WSDOT did share a letter of support, although funding is not available to provide to the project.

**Motion:**

Move to approve a revised Condition #3 for the Kilisut Harbor Project RCO #14-1366 which removes the requirement that the sponsor must obtain a cost estimate from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project, but retains obtaining a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor, or other expenditures to the project.

**Board Discussion:**

The board discussed potential funding options and reasons for the project's low ranking on WSDOT's funding priorities. Community support indicates that the board should alter the condition language and move the project forward.

**Public Comment:**

Rebecca Benjamin, Executive Director of the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and Thom Johnson, Environmental Program Manager with the Point No Point Treaty Council, thanked the board for funding the project and considering the condition revision to allow implementation of the project on a realistic timeframe for fish. The sponsor is limited by costs, and will select the most effective method for moving forward based on the decisions of the board and regardless of WSDOT funding contributions.

Chair Troutt advocated moving the project forward with the revised condition.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Motion:** APPROVED

**Item 4B: Project Decisions: Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO #15-1052P)**

Kathryn Moore, Salmon Section Senior Outdoor Grant Manager, summarized a request from the Puget Sound Partnership and North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity to use a portion of their 2011-13 returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds for a new 2015 project: the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO Project [15-1052P](#)). The project is located at the Dungeness River Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, Clallam County.

Ms. Moore provided a brief project description, background, and a summary of project funding for the request. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity approved the use of these returned funds for the Dungeness project. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel (review panel), after visiting the site in March 2015, placed a condition that they must review and approve the preliminary designs before RCO releases funds for completing the final designs. The review panel has since reviewed and approved the request.

The board discussed the funding and timelines associated with the project. The board also addressed the issues of sediment deposition, piling removal and wildlife habitat.

**Motion:**

Move to approve \$172,473 in returned 2011-13 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Puget Sound Region for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design, RCO Project 15-1052P.

**Board Discussion:** No further discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Motion:** APPROVED

**Item 4C: Project Decisions: Pre-Approval of "Time-Sensitive" PSAR Projects, if any, contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage**

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, summarized a request from PSP to pre-approve seven PSAR projects in an accelerated grant round, in accordance with Manual 18, Appendix P. Approval is contingent upon the Legislature approving PSAR funding in the capital budget, project review by the Salmon

Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel, and lead entity ranking and submittal.

Ms. Galuska explained that, in order to provide flexibility and quickly fund projects ready for construction, the program can approve funds in a summer or fall board meeting. Since no summer board meeting is scheduled this year, the board approval is being requested in advance. With board approval, the RCO Director could enter into project agreements once the Legislature appropriates funds for the PSAR program. The accelerated approval process will minimize duplicative staff work on a small list of ready projects that can be completed or near completion by December 2015.

**Motion:** Approve 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects as presented in Item 4C, Attachment A of the board materials, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once the projects are reviewed and ranked and funding is appropriated by the Legislature in 2015.

**Board Discussion:** No further discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

***Lunch 11:50 a.m. – 1:35 p.m.***

The board held a lunch tour of the local project, Mission Creek Estuary Restoration (RCO [11-1526R](#)), at 11:50 a.m. and proceeded as indicated on the agenda. Lance Winecka provided an overview of the project onsite. Alex Smith, Port of Olympia Director of Environmental Programs, joined the board for the lunch tour. The lunch and tour concluded at 1:35 p.m. when the board returned to the Natural Resources building and resumed the business portion of the meeting.

**Item 3: Reports from Partners (continued)**

*\*This item presented partially out of order due to time constraints as noted above.*

Chair Troutt resumed the meeting by inviting the board members to provide their respective agency updates.

**Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Member Smith shared information about marine assessments for water quality and circulation patterns, both vertically (via sea plane) and horizontally (via ferry). The “blob”, a massive warm water body in the Pacific Ocean, has entered Puget Sound, contributing to warmer temperatures and negative shifts in the food web. Dissolved oxygen levels are 5% lower than annual averages, and salinity is increasing due to lessened snow pack melts. Current drought conditions are exacerbating the situation, which is not beneficial for salmon.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Member Neatherlin provided an update on the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Project (PSNERP) and the need to more fully engage legislators. The PSNERP project is regaining momentum and funding is anticipated at the federal level. There is \$800K in the current budget to fund steelhead research in Puget Sound for the next biennium.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC):** Member Cochrane provided a brief update on a joint venture with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ecology on riparian easements. The goal is to coordinate fully with partners and determine the most efficient ways to expend funds dedicated to salmon recovery. Funds originate from the Nearshore Estuary Program (NEP), through Ecology and the EPA.

**Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Member Megan Duffy summarized a budget request that may impact project timelines, contingent upon approval by the Legislature. Another bill focused on water structure led to an agency commitment to further research and work.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):** Member Cierebiej shared information about a recent recognition by the Wildlife Society for habitat connectivity work.

Chari Troutt invited Brian Abbott to the presenter's table to report to the board regarding the Klickitat County/RFEG need for guidance on monitoring in response to Jacob Anderson's comment provided this morning. Mr. Abbott explained that Klickitat County may offer monitoring projects; however, they need to confirm that the species listed fit into the recovery regions within their area. Additionally, Klickitat County needs to coordinate with neighboring regions to ensure their projects align with other regional monitoring efforts.

### **Board Business: Briefing**

#### **Item 5: Region and Lead Entity 2016 Capacity Funding**

Mr. Abbott and Ms. Gage provided an update on the annual capacity funding requests from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). These funds maintain a network of regional organizations and lead entities dedicated to salmon recovery.

Mr. Abbott informed the board that RCO will know the amount of the 2015 PCSRF award by the end of June or the first week of July. The request aims to maintain the current funding level for regions and lead entities.

Mr. Abbott summarized the tables found in the board materials and provided a brief update on current budget predictions. RCO anticipates approximately \$907,229 in general state funds for lead entities, and between \$16.5 (Senate proposal) and \$40 million (House proposal) in capital funds for projects. In the past, RCO used returned funds to make up the reward difference; however, due to reduced federal funding and the commitment to fund Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) projects, utilizing return funds for capacity does not represent a sustainable strategy.

If the legislative appropriation and the 2015 PCSRF grant are less than projected, the RCO director will work with the board chair to call a special meeting to decide how to adjust the grant round target. Without a finalized budget, staff cannot provide a clear recommendation.

Mr. Abbott listed specific staff recommendations including:

- Set a target grant round of \$18M for calendar year 2015
- Reserve \$1.83M for IMW projects
- Approve funding for each regional organization and lead entity for fiscal year 2016
- Approve funding for lead entity training and a chairperson (\$12,500)
- Approve \$50,000 in facilitation funding for WSC from 2015 returned capacity funds
- Reserve \$500,000 for project cost increases in state fiscal year 2016, consistent with policies in Manual 18

Mr. Abbott summarized the staff recommendations to the board for decisions today. The board discussed options for postponing some decisions until more budget information is known.

**Motion:** Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director to enter in regional and lead entity contracts for a total amount of \$4,568,185, including \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regional organizations, in fiscal year 2016 as set forth in the staff memo; provided, however, that should the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award and/or the state general fund appropriation be less than expected, interim funding shall be provided and a special meeting of the board called to decide an alternative approach to capacity funding.

**Board Discussion:** No discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:**

Jeff Breckel, Council of Regions (COR), spoke on behalf of the COR in favor of the staff recommendations presented in the board memo (Item 5). The approvals would contribute to the regions' capacity to maintain essential functions and programs.

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** Approved

**Motion:** Move to set the 2015 grant round target at a minimum of \$18M if supported by the state budget and 2015 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award. If either of these funding sources is less than expected, the chair shall call a special meeting of the board to set an alternate funding level for the 2015 grant round.

**Board Discussion:** No discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Motion:** Approved

**Motion:** Move to approve other recommendations set forth in the staff memo, if legislative appropriations are sufficient, including:

- A. Reserve \$1.83 million for Intensively Monitored Watershed projects.
- B. Approve funding for lead entity training and a chairperson (\$12,500).
- C. Approve funding (\$50,000) for facilitation of the Washington Salmon Coalition (from 2015 returned capacity funds).
- D. Reserve \$500,000 to be used for project cost increases in state fiscal year 2016, to be used consistent with policies in Manual 18.

**Board Discussion:** No discussion at this time.

**Public Comment:** No comment provided at this time.

**Moved by:** Member Bob Bugert

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** Approved

## **Item 6: Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes**

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, summarized the progress made on drafting amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Ms. Connelly highlighted the main amendments to the rules, as well as two new definitions for project area and consolidation of the board's duties.

Ms. Connelly presented several scenarios to support a project area definition, explaining alternatives and constraints. The board discussed potential authorities, impacts, and conversion issues, while considering the impact to legal codification. Discussions also centered around landowner perceptions, potential additional costs and needs, and realistic project boundaries and scope. Project definitions may not need a high-level of clarity, but could be defined in respective project agreements to allow for flexibility and adaption to the unique needs of each project/sponsor.

Ms. Connelly presented several scenarios to support an acquisition definition, explaining alternatives and constraints. The board discussed the need for consistent definitions to support applicant definitions, particularly project types and the term “enhancement” when it does not apply to fish hatchery projects.

Ms. Connelly presented the board authorization under WAC 286-04-020(3). The latter definition focuses on the board’s responsibilities in the Salmon Recovery Funding Act, Chapter 77.85 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The board discussed the proposed amendments to the statutory authorities. Ms. Connelly clarified definitions and provided next steps.

Ms. Connelly summarized the finalization process, including a formal public hearing in October and the 2015 WAC amendments schedule. RCO will solicit formal public comment prior to the October meeting in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act. Before the formal public comment period, RCO will consult with the board, stakeholders, and interested parties on the proposed amendments to get early feedback and comments.

## **Board Business: Briefings**

### **Item 7: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**

Jeff Davis, WDFW, provided information about the WDFW Habitat Program. The presentation included an overview of the current program status in light of reduced budget and staff capacity, which now focuses on maintaining the current environmental baselines, staff training, and relationship building with partners. Mr. Davis discussed the main strategic protection priorities, including Priority Habitats and Species, Hydraulic Project Approval, and working lands. Restoration priorities include fish passage, the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program, the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Project, the Columbia River Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), WDFW lands, and support to the recovery regions.

Member Cierebiej inquired about the strategies employed in agricultural and working lands. Mr. Davis responded, highlighting landowner and related partner needs and perspectives through frequent regional coordination and support.

David Price, WDFW Habitat Program Restoration Division Manager, briefed the board on the purpose and activities of the Fish Barrier Removal Board, providing fish passage barrier definitions and examples. Mr. Price highlighted the positive fish passage work, noting the opening of about 6000 miles of stream to fish. There remain several thousand more barriers to be removed in Washington State.

Established by HB 2251, the Fish Barrier Removal Board includes several agency, local, and tribal members. The conceptual approach is a three-fold pathway, including grants, coordination and mitigation opportunities. Mr. Price focused on the statewide strategy’s grant pathway, partners to the FBRB, and local fish barrier efforts in the 2015 legislative session.

Chair Troutt asked about an evaluation system. Mr. Price indicated that work would continue to determine the specific criteria with robust and independent assessment.

**Break 3:45 – 4:00 p.m.**



#### **Item 8: The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Summary and Status of Puget Sound Activities**

Michael Schmidt, Long Live the Kings, provided summary results from the Salish Sea Marine Survival Project and recent activities. The project tracks Coho, Chinook, and Steelhead and the primary factors affecting marine survival while the species migrate through the Salish Sea environment. One of the main objectives of the project is to advance wild salmon recovery and sustainable fisheries. Mr. Schmidt discussed the key drivers affecting marine survival, and whether these drivers can be mitigated or prevented, or whether species/processes must adapt to new conditions. Mr. Schmidt provided an update on the current research status in each of the key driving areas: bottom-up processes, top-down processes, and trends/modeling. The presentation concluded with an update on funding status.

Neala Kendall, WDFW, shared information about wild versus hatchery steelhead smolt survival trends in the Puget Sound. These trends are compared to areas outside of Puget Sound, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Pacific Coast, and the Lower Columbia River. Ms. Kendall shared information regarding juvenile mortality rates from river mouths to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, with an approximate 80% mortality in Puget Sound in 2-3 weeks. Ultimately, the further into Puget Sound that fish go the less likely they are to survive. It remains unclear whether the rates are the result of predator-prey interactions or poor fish conditions. Studies included top predator assessment, environmental indicators impacting survival and mortality, and population genetics modeling. Harbor seals studies were highlighted and compared to survival rates of steelhead smolts. Fish health data is studied to determine the role of fish condition in marine survival rates.

Chair Troutt commented on the information provided, acknowledging the benefit of the research provided. Member Neatherlin expressed gratitude to Long Live the Kings for their data and contributions.

#### **Item 9: Monitoring Panel Update**

Mr. Abbott and Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, provided an overview of how the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) will evaluate components of the board's monitoring program. The monitoring panel held a workshop on March 30, 2015 with investigators and practitioners.


The monitoring panel will prepare funding recommendations and an adaptive management framework for the October 2015 meeting. The monitoring panel will receive the information from the practitioners in July and will begin the process of evaluating and drafting recommendations. This is the first year in which the monitoring panel is developing recommendations for the board, thus the exact format and scope of the recommendations are currently unknown. The monitoring panel will finalize recommendations by September 2015.

#### **Closing**

The next board meeting is scheduled for October 15-16, 2015 in La Conner, WA. Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

#### **Approved by:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Troutt, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
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April 14, 2015

Pat Stevenson  
Environmental Manager  
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians  
P.O. Box 277  
Arlington, WA 98223

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Thank you for your call this morning to request an additional year to award the Stillaguamish Lead Entity's 2015 salmon funding allocation. Since March 22, 2014, the Stillaguamish Tribe and Snohomish County have been significantly impacted by the demands of managing the Steelhead Haven Landslide disaster, which dramatically reduced the staff time available for salmon recovery scoping, planning and restoration construction.

The Recreation and Conservation Office understands the great burden such a national disaster would create on your lead entity and will retain the remainder of Stillaguamish Lead Entity's funding allocation to be awarded by December of 2016. This will give the lead entity and project sponsors an additional year to prepare projects for funding. With several large scale restoration design and acquisition projects currently in progress, it appears that the lead entity will have a competitive funding round in 2016.

Please be aware that this time extension does not change the date by which funding will need to be expended. Regardless of the award date, the 2015 Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery funds and Salmon State funds must be expended by March 15, 2020.

The Lead Entity will need to work with the Puget Sound Partnership to secure an extension for awarding their Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund allocation for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kaleen Cottingham".

Kaleen Cottingham  
Director

cc: Michael Blanton, Puget Sound Partnership  
SRFB Members







Island County  
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

April 28, 2015

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

RE: Support for Reallocation of Lead Entity Funds to Support the Priorities of the Washington Salmon Coalition Proposal

Dear Chair David Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

As Lead Entity Coordinator for WRIA 6 (Island), I am writing in support of the Washington Salmon Coalition's (WSC) proposal to, once again, utilize unspent capacity funds to provide organizational support to the WSC in efforts to implement the WSC workplan. This proposal requests a one-year extension to the contract that was a result from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's decision last May to approve the initial expenditure for capacity support to the WSC.

In the past year, the support the WSC received from the use of the reallocated capacity funds, via a contract with Long Live the Kings, has made a marked impact on WSC's work. For example, with their help, we've completed a significant revision of the document we call "the Lead Entity Guidance Manual". This is the document that we share with new Lead Entity Coordinators (LECs) that is a peer to peer supplement to RCO's Manual 19. It contains history, advice, examples, contacts and lessons learned from experienced LECs to new LECs. This empowers WSC team building and support in our LE community. Another significant impact in the last year due to the capacity support has been the assistance with meetings - agenda development, logistics, note taking and conversation tracking. This has ensured stronger follow through on decisions made and ideas developed during meetings. The facilitation at these meetings has enabled all LECs to be active participants in the discussions rather than losing 2-3 of us to handling logistics or not being able to contribute to the conversation because of note taking and agenda timing tracking. The full participation by all has been a very productive and efficient change and allows us to operate at full capacity at these meetings.

These are just a few specific examples of the benefits of the support received by the WSC. The benefits reach beyond these examples and are articulated in other letters of support that the Board is sure to receive. The WSC community as a whole has been grateful to the Board for the initial approval of reallocation of funds that enabled this support. I respectfully request that the Board approve the extension of this contract for the next year, at a minimum. If you have questions, please contact me at [d.pucci@co.island.wa.us](mailto:d.pucci@co.island.wa.us), or 360-678-7916.

Thank you kindly,

Dawn Pucci  
WRIA 6 (Island) Lead Entity Coordinator

April 29, 2015

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

Dear Chair David Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:


The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity would like to thank the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for considering the approval of facilitation funding for the Washington Salmon Coalition from 2015 returned capacity funds, item 5F at the May 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

The SRSRB Lead Entity supports the WSC effort and urges the SRFB to approve the proposal. This proposal does not seek new funding, instead it identifies a mechanism which would effectively and efficiently utilize the entire amount of Lead Entity funding available to the 25 Lead Entities across the state for the greater good of salmon recovery in Washington State. This same approach worked well over the past year.

Providing a mechanism to aid the communication, logistics, and other top priority efforts outlined in the WSC Action Plan would relieve the time commitment of the WSC Chair & executive committee, while further enabling the WSC and each Lead Entity to effectively serve as the backbone for locally-based restoration efforts done the Washington Way.

Gaining the additional support proposed will significantly help in accomplishing the WSC's, Lead Entities, and the SRFB's broader goals and objectives. Additionally, this proposal could serve as a pilot program to effectively use any unused Lead Entity funds in the future, as long as unused funds are available, therefore maximizing the benefit of locally based salmon recovery to the citizens of the state of Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule change.



Steve Martin  
Executive Director  
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board



**Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed**

201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

April 16, 2015

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

RE: Support for extending Washington Salmon Coalition organizational support contract

Dear Chair Troutt,

At the March 20, 2014, meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board), the Board approved the reallocation of \$50,000 in unspent lead entity capacity funds to provide organizational support to the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC). I am writing to convey the value this support has provided to WSC and to support a one-year extension of the contract to allow this support to continue into 2016.

The WSC functions as an important forum for lead entities statewide, and WSC's Action Plan outlines numerous short-term and long-term objectives to support and strengthen Washington's 25 lead entities. Dedicated staff support (provided over the past year through a contract with Long Live the Kings) has allowed WSC to more efficiently implement its Action Plan. In no small measure due to the added staffing resources provided by this contract, WSC has advanced a number of its goals and objectives, including:

- Strategic planning related to long-term funding for lead entities and salmon recovery
- Working with salmon recovery partners to advocate for our work and develop common messages
- Facilitating the exchange of information and mentoring amongst lead entities
- Supporting effective statewide communication and outreach about lead entity accomplishments

The current Long Live the Kings contract expires on June 30, 2015. The contract carries a provision for a one-year extension, which again requires the reallocation of \$50,000 in unspent lead entity capacity funds. As an active participant in WSC for several years, I can attest to the value this contract has provided and encourage the Board to authorize this use of funds. If you have questions, please contact me at [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov), or 206-477-4780. Thank you for continuing to support lead entities.

Sincerely,

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz

Watershed Coordinator, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Cc:

Darcy Batura, Washington Salmon Coalition Chair and Yakima Lead Entity Coordinator  
Sarah Gage, Lead Entity Program Manager  
Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator  
Jeanette Dörner, Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery Program Director





**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation

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April 29, 2015

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

RE: Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, RCO #14-1366 and proposal to amend  
the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB/Board) grant Condition #3

Dear Chairman Troutt and Board Members:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) supports the proposed Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project. WSDOT will continue to work with the project sponsor to advance design and construction of a modified State Route (SR) 116 between Indian and Marrowstone Islands in Jefferson County.

The project proposes restoring tidal connection between Oak Bay and Kilisut Harbor by replacing the roadway and culverts under State Route (SR) 116 with a full-spanning bridge and creating tidal channels through a barrier beach, which will improve habitat, water quality, and fish passage.

WSDOT has worked closely with the project sponsor, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), and has contributed \$30,000 in-kind support to date for preliminary engineering work.

In September 2014, the Board conditioned the award of construction funding to the project sponsor (RCO #14-1366) contingent upon obtaining a financial commitment from WSDOT in an amount no less than that required to replace the existing culverts in compliance with the "Culvert Case" injunction (Condition #3). WSDOT feels this condition is not reasonable given the current state of transportation funding and our fish passage program.

While the federal court injunction requires the State correct certain barriers to fish passage at the end of their useful life or sooner, it also directs the State to correct barriers with the greatest habitat gain first. While we support the objectives of the Kilisut Harbor Restoration project as proposed, there are hundreds of fish passage barriers inventoried at state highway crossings with significantly greater amounts of habitat. As we work to meet the requirements of the injunction, we feel compelled to direct the very limited resources available to other locations that can restore access to much greater amounts of habitat. WSDOT cannot make a financial commitment to the project as requested by the Board at this time.

Regarding Condition #2, WSDOT has met with the Puget Sound Partnership and discussed WSDOT's construction management role and participation for the project. Unfortunately, WSDOT cannot currently make a financial commitment to funding construction management for this project. Neither our existing budget, nor our budget request for the 2015-2017 biennium provides for this funding.

WSDOT supports the North Olympic Salmon Coalition's suggested revisions to Condition #3 as proposed in their letter of April 6, 2015. We have discussed the proposed revision with the project sponsor and support this approach. The modification would provide flexibility in moving the Kilisut project forward, while taking into consideration fiscal realities in WSDOT's fish passage program and future funding. WSDOT cannot make a financial commitment to the project at this time. If the modeling studies in Condition #1 show the project will be viable, then WSDOT will continue to support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Dayton', with a large loop at the end.

Kevin J. Dayton, P.E.  
Region Administrator

KJD:ip

cc: R. Smith, WSDOT HQ Fish Passage Program  
D. Severson, WSDOT OR Developer Services  
J. Sawyer, WSDOT OR EHS Office





Island County  
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

April 28, 2015

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

RE: Support for Reallocation of Lead Entity Funds to Support the Priorities of the Washington Salmon Coalition Proposal

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Thank you kindly,

Dawn Pucci  
WRIA 6 (Island) Lead Entity Coordinator