

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

October 15-16, 2015

Maple Hall, 104 Commercial, La Conner, WA 98257

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@rcow.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.

Thursday, October 15

OPENING AND WELCOME

9:30 a.m. Call to Order

- Determine Quorum
- Welcome
- Review and Approve Agenda (*Decision*)
- Approve May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes (*Decision*)

Chair

Chair

MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS

9:40 a.m. 1. Director's Report

- Director's Report
 - Final legislative budgets for 2017-2015 and Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Grant for 2015 and implications on future funding decisions
 - 2015-17 Agency Workplan
- Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates
- Performance Update (*written only*)
- Fiscal Report (*written only*)

Kaleen Cottingham

Wendy Brown

10:00 a.m. 2. Salmon Recovery Management Report

- Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report
- Salmon Section Report

Brian Abbott

Tara Galuska

10:20 a.m. 3. Reports from Partners

- Council of Regions Report
- Washington Salmon Coalition Report
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates

Jeff Breckel

Amy Hatch-Winecka

Colleen Thompson

SRFB Agency Representatives

10:40 a.m. General Public Comment: *Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*

10:45 a.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

11:00 a.m. 4. Monitoring Program Update and Decisions

- Project Effectiveness Contract
- Status and Trends / Fish In-Fish Out Contract
- Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Contracts
- Monitoring Panel Contracts
- Overview of Monitoring Proposals and IMW Treatments

*GSRO Staff
Marnie Tyler, Monitoring Panel Chair*

12:30 p.m. WORKING LUNCH (*Lunch will be provided to board members and staff*)

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSIONS

12:45 p.m. 5. Board Strategic Plan Update and New Biennial Work Plan

Brian Abbott

1:15 p.m. 6. Administrative and Policy Impacts from New Federal Omni-Circular Rules

Leslie Connelly

2:00 p.m. 7. Washington Administrative Code Update

Leslie Connelly

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

2:30 p.m. 8. Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Project Approval

Tara Galuska

2:35 p.m. 9. Conversion Request: Holmes Property Boundary Adjustment
(RCO Project #04-1680)

Kay Caromile

3:00 p.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSIONS

3:15 p.m. 10. Follow-Up on Expanding the Grant Program to Include Large Capital Projects for the 2017-19 Biennium

Brian Abbott

3:35 p.m. 11. Overview of New Programs Assigned to the Recreation and Conservation Office

Tara Galuska

4:05 p.m. 12. Overview of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program

*Jay Krienitz, Theresa Mitchell
And Jennifer Quan, WDFW
Jessie Winkler, Army Corps of Engineers*

4:45 p.m. 13. Introduction to Skagit Delta Restoration Projects and North Sound Estuary Restoration Tour Overview

- Wiley Slough Restoration, RCO #[05-1615](#)
- Wiley Slough Restoration Design, RCO #[02-1492](#)
- Skagit WRA Interpretive Center, RCO #[75-620](#)
- Skagit WRA Acquisition, RCO #[73-636](#)

*Elizabeth Butler and Marc Duboiski, RCO
Steve Hinton, Skagit River Systems Cooperative
Belinda Rotton and Jenna Friebe, WDFW
Jenny Baker, The Nature Conservancy*

5:30 p.m. BREAK (Travel to Restaurant)

6:00 p.m. Joint Meeting with Puget Sound Leadership Council

- La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib House, 614 South First St., La Conner, WA 98257
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Friday, October 16

TOUR OF PROJECTS – Joint tour with the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council

7:45 a.m.	Meet in Hotel Lobby of the in Advance of the Tour (Map Point A) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the tour is a one-way route, each board member will need their own transportation• Directions and tour agenda available for members of public and other interested parties	
8:00 a.m.	Depart for Fir Island Farm Snow Goose Reserve	
8:30 a.m.	Fir Island Farm: Project Overview & Construction Update (Map Point B) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fir Island Farm Restoration Construction, RCO #14-1022• Fir Island Farm Restoration Final Design, RCO #12-1205• Fir Island Farm Restoration Feasibility Study, RCO #09-1444• Skagit Delta Wetlands, RCO #92-629	<i>Jenna Friebe and Belinda Schuster, WDFW</i>
9:20 a.m.	Depart for Stillaguamish Tribe's Natural Resources Building <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restrooms available	
9:50 a.m.	Overview of Stillaguamish Estuary and Port Susan Bay (Map Point C) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members of the public will need to submit liability release forms for The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Bay• Coffee and refreshments provided	<i>Kit Crump, Stillaguamish Lead Entity Coordinator Jenny Baker and Kat Morgan, The Nature Conservancy</i>
10:20 a.m.	Carpool to The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Bay Preserve	
10:40 a.m.	Overview of the Port Susan Bay Preserve (Map Point D) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration, RCO #09-1410• Port Susan Estuary Acquisition & Feasibility, RCO #01-1338• Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration – ESRP, RCO #11-1650	<i>Jenny Baker and Kat Morgan, The Nature Conservancy</i>
11:30 a.m.	Return to pick up cars at Stillaguamish Natural Resources Building (Map Point C)	
11:45 a.m.	Depart for Tulalip Tribe's Hibulb Cultural Center	
12:10 p.m.	Tulalip Tribe Hibulb Cultural Center: Working Lunch (Map Point E) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Box lunches provided to board members and staff	
12:30 p.m.	Tulalip Tribe Hibulb Cultural Center: Overview of Snohomish Estuary Restoration Projects and Qwuloolt Marsh (Map Point E)	<i>Morgan Ruff and Kurt Nelson, Tulalip Tribes</i>
1:00 p.m.	Depart for Qwuloolt Site	
1:15 p.m.	Qwuloolt Marsh Restoration (Map Point F) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration, Construction Phase, RCO #09-1277• Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration, RCO #10-1469• Qwuloolt Restoration Design III, RCO #07-1624• Qwuloolt Restoration & Trail, RCO #06-1604• Qwuloolt Restoration Design II, RCO #04-1587• Qwuloolt Acquisition, RCO #01-1290	<i>Kurt Nelson, Tulalip Tribes</i>
2:15 p.m.	END TOUR (Early adjournment to avoid Friday rush hour traffic)	

Next regular meeting: December 9-10, 2015, Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015

Title: Director's Report

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities.

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 update
- Legislative, budget, and policy updates
- Fiscal report
- Performance update

Agency Update

RCO Adjusts to Meet New Federal Grant Rules

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget adopted new fiscal rules, informally called the Omni-Circular, in 2013 about how federal funding can be used. This has resulted in the need to modify some of our policies and legal documents. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff has updated, and created as necessary, three project agreements for grants impacted by the Omni-Circular changes. One agreement is for board programs, the second is for projects funded with U.S. Forest Service money, and the third is for projects funded directly by the Legislature and other RCO projects. Significant changes include limitations on pre-agreement costs, allowable charges for indirect rates, certain ineligible costs, procurement requirements, and reporting requirements. Staff will be asking for direction on some of these issues to address conflicts between the boards' policies and the federal rules (more information is included in Item 6 of the board materials). The rules affect any grants that receive federal funds or use state funds to match federal funds (which does include Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grants).

Employees on the Move

- **Adam Cole** has recently taken on a new role as one of RCO's policy specialists. Adam was an outdoor grants manager in the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section. A new Grants Manager will be hired to fill behind Adam.
- **Karen Edwards** has joined the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section as a grants manager. She comes from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

- **Brent Hedden**, RCO's chief accountant, is leaving RCO to take a job as a senior financial coordinator with the Department of Social and Health Services. Brent has worked very hard and improved RCO during his time here.
- **Josh Lambert** started work as a new salmon grants manager in September. He comes to us from the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District in Oregon, where he managed two natural resource programs. He also worked with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, a counterpart to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.
- **Rachel Le Baron Anderson** left RCO in September to return to school to study anthropology. Rachel has been with RCO since 2007 as administrative assistant for various sections in the agency.
- **Sabrina Subia** joined RCO's Fiscal Section in July after **Kiko Freeman** moved to Louisiana.

Annual Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Meeting

The Washington Salmon Coalition, comprised of seventeen lead entity coordinators from around the state, met in Chelan in June for their annual meeting and training. On the first day of the meeting, the group received reports from RCO staff on the timing of the salmon grant round, the process of updating the Washington Administrative Code, and research on climate change planning with connections to salmon recovery efforts. The coalition also discussed its accomplishments and challenges in 2014-15, revised its action plan for 2015-16, and elected the 2015-16 Executive Committee. On the second day of the meeting, Kat Moore trained attendees on the PRISM Ranked List Module. The coordinators also participated in a discussion of key similarities and differences in their organizations and exchanged best practices and heard from two guest speakers presenting on how risk affects the use of large wood in salmon recovery projects and the use of drones in collecting aerial footage.

Streamlining Salmon Restoration Grants across Agencies

Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator, and Tara Galuska, RCO Salmon Section Manager, have been working with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to build a workgroup to better coordinate several salmon, floodplain and water quality grant programs for better customer service and results on the ground. Ecology and RCO are the largest grantors of state resources to protect water quality, restore salmon and their habitats, protect and enhance floodplains, and support local communities in these efforts. We are supported in this effort by the Governor's Results Washington process and partner agencies who help guide how and where some of these funds should be invested. Partners include the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Conservation Commission, and the Puget Sound Partnership. Coordination among state grant programs is essential to maximize the benefits of public investment. The mission of this effort is to create an interagency forum to increase coordination and collaboration among Washington State grant programs that benefit water quality and salmon recovery while recognizing the unique roles and authorities of each agency. A draft charter is being circulated and members are being identified. This project has been selected as a project for Results Washington and outcomes of the workgroup will be reported regularly to the Results Washington goal council.

Biennial Work Plan Finalized

RCO's biennial work plan will be finalized by mid-September. This work plan outlines activities that are high priority efforts that the agency will undertake during the biennium. It includes board, legislative, technological, and policy priorities and ties them to the agency's organizing principles and goals. Once complete, the plan will be posted on the RCO website as part of the agency's strategic plan.

PRISM Database Changes

Several updates to the PRISM database occurred this summer that should make it easier for RCO customers. A new feature in PRISM Online allows salmon recovery lead entities to create and electronically

submit their list of salmon projects. This process was previously completed in Excel and was prone to errors, taking up significant staff time. Another change included creating the new project agreement to meet the new federal rules. The final major change was to align the grant programs to their funding boards. This change was needed so the agency could ensure the correct project agreement is sent out from the database.

Meetings with Partners

- **Qwuloolt Estuary Levee Breach Dedication** – RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham attended a dedication hosted by the Tulalip Tribes, celebrating the upcoming breach of the Qwuloolt Estuary levee. Five grants cover a series of projects that will ultimately restore the Qwuloolt Estuary and reconnect it to more than 350 acres of isolated floodplain in the lower Snohomish River estuary, next to the City of Marysville.
- **King County's Upper Carlson Dedication** – RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham spoke at the celebration of the upper Carlson floodplain restoration project, hosted by King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks. The County used a \$1.39 million Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant to remove a levee and revetment on the Snoqualmie River. The work restored natural river processes including floodplain inundation and channel migration, and habitat for numerous salmon species, including Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Celebration** – In late September, RCO staff is set to attend the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the listing of the Dungeness River bridge on the National Register of Historic Places. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe used two PSAR grants to plan for and then remove a railroad trestle and its fill from the Dungeness River floodplain near Sequim. The work restored salmon habitat forming processes to 15.5 acres of floodplain, side channels, and nearly half-mile of the Dungeness River. In all, the Tribe and the Department of Fish and Wildlife have used seven grants totaling \$2.7 million for bridge restoration, salmon restoration to repair harm caused by the bridge, and development of a surrounding park that provides educational signs about salmon recovery.
- **Conservation Commission** – RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham met with Mark Clark, Director of the Washington State Conservation Commission, and several of his staff for their quarterly meeting to discuss farmland preservation and salmon recovery issues. The group discussed pending budget and potential budget provisos, legislative concerns about land acquisitions in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, upcoming changes to that program's farmland preservation grants, and changes by the Natural Resources Conservation Services' programs. The group shared perspectives on how to add more tools in the toolbox to protect farms and steward habitat on agricultural land.
- **Washington Association of Land Trusts**: RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham spoke at the quarterly meeting of WALT, updating members on legislative issues, E-billing, the opening of grant rounds, the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee's economic study, and the 2015 Salmon Conference.
- **Capital Land Trust** – The Capital Land Trust invited RCO to participate in a round table discussion about updating its strategic plan for conservation efforts. Representatives from state, local, and federal agencies; conservation districts; private landowners; and nonprofit organizations spent the day discussing trends in conservation and offering suggestion to help the land trust shape its strategic plan and identify conservation priorities. The plan is intended to cover 2015-2020 and will be adopted at the land trust's August board meeting.

Update on Sister Boards

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)

At its June meeting, the RCFB approved the ranked lists of grants and delegated authority to the RCO director to award funding once the Legislature approved a final budget. For its September meeting, the board discussed proposed changes to grant programs, strategic direction and policy planning, and the process for conducting a review of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The board also toured several funded projects in Spokane, Spokane County, and the City of Liberty Lake.

Washington Invasive Species Council

In June, the Washington Invasive Species Council (council) held a 2-day conference on New Zealand mud snails in Seattle, provided an overview of its work to the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee, and deployed the improved version of the WA Invasives app, which can be downloaded at <http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml>. The council is finalizing a draft of its strategic plan for public comment in September, with the goal of adopting a new plan in December. The council also is beginning work on a legislatively mandated, 1-year aquatic invasive species funding task force that will make recommendations by June 1, 2016 to the Legislature on a future funding structure for aquatic invasive species management and ballast water issues. Finally, the council also has been meeting with legislators to develop a council reauthorization bill next year and coordinating a group of state natural resources agencies to pool resources to fund a report on the economic impact of invasive species in Washington. The council's next meeting is September 24 in Wenatchee.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands Group) met July 9 for both the annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum and its regular quarterly meeting. At the forum, the Lands Group discussed projects that were funded in the 2015-2017 capital budget and that agencies would move forward on this biennium. The quarterly meeting included a discussion of outcomes from the legislative session related to land acquisition and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, a presentation from Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee staff on the results of their public lands economic impact analysis, and discussion of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's parkland acquisition report to the Legislature. The next meeting will be October 7. In addition to its regular work, the lands group will seek reauthorization next year. By statute, the group sunsets in 2017, so it will seek legislative approval to continue its work for another 5 years.

Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates

Legislative Summary

The final 2015-2017 biennial budgets – operating, capital, and transportation – were signed by the Governor in June.

Operating Budget

In the final operating budget, RCO did not take any general fund reductions. The agency operating budget request was \$9.944 million, and with ultimately \$10.167 million approved by the end of session. It includes an employee cost of living increase and other changes to our inter-agency charges.

Capital Budget

In the capital budget, there were several "provisos" directing RCO (or a related entity) to conduct a study or implement the funding in some specific way. There are two budget provisos that direct funding to particular projects: \$500,000 of Salmon State funds directed to the City of Bothell to preserve the Wayne

Golf Course for fish habitat and \$300,000 of PSAR to the Illahee Forest Preserve for the purchase of 25 acres of forest next to the preserve.

RCO also received two new programs to manage: the Catastrophic Flood Relief Program and the Coastal Restoration Grant Program. The Catastrophic Flood Relief program is for flood control and floodplain restoration projects in the Chehalis River basin and has been managed by the Office of Financial Management in the past. The Coastal Restoration grant program funds culvert and restoration projects specifically identified in the budget bill. There are 22 projects on the list.

Grant Program*	Current 2013-2015	Governor's Proposal	House Proposal	Senate Proposal	2015-17 Budget
ALEA	\$6,000,000	\$3,660,000	\$9,500,000	\$5,300,000	\$5,269,000
BFP	\$6,363,000	\$9,360,000	\$9,360,000	\$9,360,000	\$9,360,000
BIG	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000
CFR		\$30,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
CR			\$8,196,000	\$5,180,000	\$11,185,000
ESRP	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$8,000,000
FFFP	\$2,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
FARR	\$765,000	\$580,000	\$580,000	\$580,000	\$580,000
LWCF	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
NOVA	\$8,500,000	\$8,670,000	\$8,670,000	\$8,670,000	\$8,670,000
PSAR	\$70,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$25,000,000	\$37,000,000
RTP	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Salmon State	\$14,900,000	\$40,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$16,500,000	\$16,500,000
WWRP	\$65,000,000	\$70,000,000	\$75,000,000	\$54,000,000	\$55,323,000
RCO RG					\$38,396,000
YAF	\$3,630,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Total	\$198,358,000	\$246,470,000	\$270,506,000	\$205,790,000	\$266,483,000

*ALEA=Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account; BFP=Boating Facilities Program; BIG=Boating Infrastructure Grant; CFR=Catastrophic Flood Relief; CR=Coastal Restoration; ESRP=Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program; FFFPP=Family Forest Fish Passage Program; FARR=Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program; LWCF=Land and Water Conservation Fund; NOVA=Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities; PSAR=Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program; RTP=Recreational Trails Program; WWRP=Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program; RCO RG=RCO Recreation Grants; YAF=Youth Athletic Facilities

Preparing for the 2016 Legislative Session – Decision Packages

We are preparing three decision packages for request legislation. A “decision package” is essentially an agency memo to the Governor’s Office and the Office of Financial Management seeking permission to introduce legislation, known as an agency request bill. The first such decision packet is to request reauthorization of the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC), which sunsets June 30, 2017. RCO will also seek legislative reauthorization of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, which also sunsets in 2017. The last decision package will serve as a placeholder for any potential statutory changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (RCW 79A.15) that may result from the facilitated stakeholder review process that was requested by the Legislature in the 2015-2017 capital budget bill (2EHB 1115) and is currently underway.

Fiscal Report

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

Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance	\$16,838,344
Current Federal Balance – Projects, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	\$18,612,030
Current Federal Balance – Activities	\$5,104,356
Lead Entities	\$2,466,584
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR*) and Puget Sound Restoration	\$29,374,548

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2015-June 30, 2017, actuals through August 31, 2015 (Fiscal Month 02). Percentage of biennium reported: 8.3 percent.

Programs	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2015-2017	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Completed
State Funded							
2011-13	\$3,497,000	\$3,028,191	87%	\$468,809	13%	\$338,243	11%
2013-15	\$11,886,000	\$11,335,746	95%	\$550,254	5%	\$778,000	7%
2015-17	\$15,820,200	\$920	0%	\$15,819,280	100%	\$0	0%
Total	\$31,203,200	\$14,364,857	46%	\$16,838,343	54%	\$1,116,243	8%
Federal Funded							
2011	\$5,258,496	\$3,776,435	72%	\$1,482,061	28%	\$126,068	3%
2012	\$9,227,354	\$8,127,209	88.1%	\$1,100,145	12%	\$451,220	6%
2013	\$9,447,410	\$8,598,770	91%	\$848,640	9%	\$499,884	6%
2014	\$18,175,284	\$17,289,744	95%	\$885,541	5%	\$227,483	1%
2015	\$19,400,000	\$0	0%	\$19,400,000	100%	\$0	0%
Total	61,508,545	37,792,158	61%	\$23,716,387	39%	1,304,654	3%
Grant Programs							
Lead							
Entities	\$3,855,965	\$1,389,382	36%	\$2,466,584	64%	\$843,423	61%
PSAR	\$82,874,600	\$53,500,052	65%	\$29,374,548	35%	\$2,433,307	5%
Subtotal	\$179,442,310	\$107,046,449	60%	\$72,395,862	40%	\$5,697,627	5%
Administration							
Admin.,							
Staff	\$5,954,591	\$5,954,591	100%		0%	\$182,759	3%
Subtotal	\$5,954,591	\$5,954,591	100%		0%	\$182,759	3%
GRAND TOTAL	\$185,396,901	\$113,001,040	61%	\$72,395,862	39%	\$5,880,386	5%

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

Performance Update

The following data are for grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2015. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of September 9, 2015.

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 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 (FFPPP) and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) are not included in these totals. Staff will summarize performance data for fiscal year 2016 in the materials for the next board meeting.

Board funded projects removed thirty-six salmon blockages in fiscal year 2015, with twenty-two passageways installed (Table 1). These projects cumulatively opened 45.9 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2015 Performance
Blockages Removed	36
Bridges Installed	12
Culverts Installed	10
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

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

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
12-1625	Mill Creek Fish Passage	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	6.75
11-1393	QIN S.F. Salmon River Culvert Replacement Project	Quinault Indian Nation	5.8
13-1027	Bunker Creek Barrier Removal Project 2013	Lewis County Conservation Dist	5.6
13-1031	Rayonier's Chenois Creek Fish Barrier Corrections	Chehalis Basin FTF	4.5
12-1653	Pataha Culvert USFS	Nez Perce Tribe	3.92
12-1325	Moses Prairie Reclamation	Quinault Indian Nation	3.54
13-1030	Campbell Slough Fish Barrier Project with Rayonier	Chehalis Basin FTF	3
11-1462	Coal Creek Culvert Replacement	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	2.9
11-1361	Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase III	Mason Conservation Dist	2.39
11-1336	Lower White Pine Reconnection	Chelan Co Natural Resource	2.24
10-1834	Yellowhawk Barrier Removal	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	2
11-1347	Coulter Creek Barrier Replacement	Chelan Co Natural Resource	1.6
11-1394	QIN F-17 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project	Quinault Indian Nation	0.8
12-1323	Railroad Grade Bridge	Quinault Indian Nation	0.39
12-1207	Lower Day Creek Slough Habitat Enhancement	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	0.3
11-1395	QIN F-15 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project	Quinault Indian Nation	0.11
11-1587	Mill Creek Passage - Reach Type 6	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	0.08
Total Miles			45.92

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year-end performance measures for 2015. Staff will provide year-to-date data for fiscal year 2016 in the memo for the December board meeting.

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%	89%	●	A total of 158 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year. Staff mailed agreements on average 66 days after a project was approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	65-75%	81%	●	A total of 657 progress reports were due this fiscal year for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 530 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded in 10 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	96%	●	This fiscal year 1,824 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. 1,755 bills were paid on time. Since the initiation of e-billing on March 31, all bills were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	60-70%	60%	●	A total of 139 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close this fiscal year. On average, staff closed projects in 56 days.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	0	6	●	Projects enter the backlog when they remain active 120 days after their funding end date. Six SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	55	16	●	Compliance inspections are conducted for projects five years or more post-completion. Grant managers have recently focused on project final inspections (Inspections to close a grant).

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 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 Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Regional and Lead Entity Contracts for 2015-17

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff manage the contracts with the regional organizations and lead entities. GSRO staff provided a basic template for the 2015-17 scope of work, then negotiated specific details with each lead entity and region. Due to the late adoption of the budget and the new federal fiscal rules, the contracts were slightly delayed. As of the writing of this memo, all the regional contracts have been issued, with the lead entity contracts are in various final review stages. We expect all contracts to be finalized by the end of September.

Coordinated Grant Programs

RCO staff (Director, GSRO coordinator, and Salmon section manager) partnered with the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to establish a work group dedicated to the coordination of state natural resource grant programs. The mission of this effort is to create an interagency forum to increase coordination and collaboration among Washington State grant programs that benefit water quality and salmon recovery while recognizing the unique roles and authorities of each agency.

Goals:

1. To enhance communication and collaboration among state agency water quality and salmon recovery grant program managers.
2. To search for ways that agencies can help grant recipients save time, conserve resources, and improve project management.
3. To simplify the grant processes. For example, refine the grant application process so it is seamless for the applicant.
4. To align grant programs data, metrics, reporting, and timelines when possible.

5. To share grant guidelines, policies and best practices, where possible.

Ecology and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) are the largest grantors of state resources to protect water quality, restore salmon and their habitats, protect and enhance floodplains, and support local communities in these efforts. RCO is supported in this effort by partner agencies who help guide how and where a portion of these funds should be invested. Partners include the Department of Fish Wildlife (WDFW), the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC), and the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). Staff from the Governor's Results Washington Office is also participating. Coordination among state grant programs is essential to maximize the benefits of public investment.

Communication Strategy – Salmon Recovery Network Meetings

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) workgroup is preparing for their third meeting on October 14, facilitated by Triangle Associates. The coordinated workgroup is comprised of local, state, and federal entities that are implementing salmon and steelhead recovery in Washington State, including representatives from the following SRNet partners¹:

- Conservation Districts
- Council of Regions
- Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- State Agencies (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife lead)
- Tribal Representatives
- Washington Salmon Coalition

The workgroup provides a forum to bring together salmon recovery partners and create an environment for collaboration, innovation, coordination, trust, and relationship-building across the various organizations. The workgroup's focus is on statewide salmon recovery funding, policy issues, and the advancement of SRNet goals, which are to:

- Create a forum to work together to build mutual understanding and identify shared priorities for action.
- Speak to others with a unified and mutually-supportive message about the roles, values, and functions of all network partners.
- Collaborate effectively at each organizational level (watershed, area, region, statewide).
- Support a long-term funding strategy for salmon recovery implementation that includes all network partners.
- Secure full funding for the human and organizational capacity needed to effectively implement salmon recovery.

The workgroup will be finalizing the charter and work plan at the October 2015 meeting. They are also assembling information to understand the capacity needs of each of the partners. This will be a main topic at the SRNet October meeting.

¹ This list is the start of building a broader coalition over time, recognizing the critical roles many other partners play in salmon recovery. The SRNet is being constructed to be an inclusive forum.

Fish Barrier Removal Board

The Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBR Board) was created by the Legislature in 2014. GSRO serves on the FBR Board. One of the FBR needs is to communicate about the importance of opening existing habitat for salmon and steelhead currently blocked by man-made structures. Pyramid Communication is under contract from GSRO to support the FBR Board in the development of a communications strategy. A subcommittee of the FBR is currently developing the scope of work for help with crafting these messages.

Monitoring Program

GSRO staff have been working closely with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) in its review of the three monitoring program components. The monitoring contractors provided their information to the monitoring panel for review and evaluation. Then the monitoring panel, with assistance from the GSRO staff, developed a detailed set of recommendations for the October SRFB board meeting (see Item 4).

Habitat Work Schedule

The Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) 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 is conducting interviews with lead entities to inform future improvements and assess the use of HWS. Interview results will be reported during an HWS workshop Washington Salmon Coalition meeting in December. GSRO is also working to streamline the habitat metrics that are tracked in HWS so as to make data entry easier and as alignment of HWS and PRISM's grant management data continues.

Usability on both the public and login sides of the HWS database is the focus this year. Several improvements to HWS were recently completed, including an overall update to the public portal. This improvement makes it easier for the public to find projects in their area, perform other queries, and to navigate through the HWS site. The lead entities and GSRO are discussing our reporting needs from HWS and exploring options for easier reporting and queries. GSRO is developing the next scope of work for our contract with the HWS vendor (Paladin). Upcoming system improvements will continue to focus on making HWS easier to use and improving shared data with PRISM.

Recreation and Conservation Office - Salmon Section Report

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Management

2014 Grant Cycle Update

The board funded 118 projects in 2014, including Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), projects within Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW), and board-funded projects. The RCO grant managers have put all 2014 projects under contract. In fact, two 2014 planning projects have already been completed.

2015-17 Budget Update

The 2015-17 budget enables an \$18 million grant round this year, which is consistent with what the board approved, and with previous grant rounds. The PSAR account was funded at \$37 million. The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council approved directing the first \$30 million for projects submitted through the lead entity process, with the remainder going to the priority projects on the Large Capital Project List. Only one

of twenty-two projects on this prioritized list, which the board approved at the December 2014 meeting, will move forward for implementation: the top-ranked project, Busy Wild Creek Protection (RCO #14-1688) sponsored by the Nisqually Land Trust.

2015 Grant Cycle Update

The 2015 grant round will include Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), salmon state, and 2015-17 PSAR state funding. Eighteen million dollars will be for projects ranked and submitted through the lead entity process, using the regional allocation formula approved by the board.

In addition, \$30 million PSAR funds will be for projects in Puget Sound submitted through the lead entity process, using the Puget Sound region's allocation to lead entities.

The 2015 grant round is underway.

- Lead entities completed all of their project review site visits with the SRFB technical review panel. The first site visits occurred in March in the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity and wrapped up in June in the Snake River Region.
- A total of 194 projects were submitted to RCO by the August 14, 2015 application due date.
- The SRFB technical review panel held their grant round kick-off meeting to go over the manual, process, and timeline. They will meet again at the end of September to complete the project reviews and comment forms.
- The board will meet in December 2015 to approve funding for 2015 projects.

Other Programs

Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP)

FFFP has received \$5 million in the capital budget. The program has a project list ready for approval, and the Steering Committee meets in September to approve the list. The 2015 list includes fifteen projects with eighteen barrier crossings. A total of 458 eligible landowners with 678 crossings remain on the waiting list. Please view the FFFP's [2014 Implementation Report](#) on the RCO website.

Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)

The ESRP Program Manager will present the most recent updates about the program at the October board meeting. Please view the [2015 ESRP Annual Program Report](#) (see Item 12).

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Administration

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between March 30, 2015 and August 31, 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 March 30, 2015 and August 31, 2015. Staff processed 68 project related amendments during this period, most were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Table 1. Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Amount/Notes
13-1099	Duwamish Gardens Restoration	City of Tukwila	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Cost Change	Increase costs by \$249,000 in returned PSAR funds for Section 106 permitting.
10-1360	Hansen Creek Reach 5 Restoration	Skagit County Public Works	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Cost Change	Increase costs by \$133,000 in returned PSAR funds to complete final design
13-1062	Pysht Floodplain Acquisition Phase 3	North Olympic Land Trust	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Type Change	Change Project Type to include Acquisition and Planning to design ELJs on site.
14-1406	Lower McClane LWD	South Puget Sound Puget Sound Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	Project Cost Change	Increase costs by \$43,569 in returned PSAR funds to expand number LWD placements.
13-1109	E Fork Lewis Restoration Design	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	Salmon Federal Projects	Project Scope Change	Increase project area at no additional cost

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of August 31, 2015.

- Staff works with sponsors to place “pending” projects under agreement, following approval at the December 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 ²
Salmon Projects to Date	7	430	1,912	2,349
Percent of Total	0.3%	18.3%	81.4%	

Attachments

A. Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from March 30, 2015 – August 31, 2015.

² The total number of funded projects decreased since the last board meeting due to PRISM improvements which allow staff to select SRFB-managed projects with added precision.

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from March 30, 2015-August 31, 2015

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
<u>11-1566</u>	South Fork Hardscrabble Reach Restoration Phase 1	Nooksack Indian Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	4/3/2015
<u>12-1716</u>	Smalle Creek Fish Passage Design 2012	Pend Oreille County of	Salmon State Projects	4/3/2015
<u>11-1621</u>	Washougal Adult Handling	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	4/9/2015
<u>10-1595</u>	Yakima Beaver Project	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Projects	4/14/2015
<u>10-1786</u>	Jack Creek Channel & Floodplain Rest., RM 0 to 2.	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Salmon Federal Projects	4/15/2015
<u>11-1258</u>	Chehalis Watertype Assessment - Phase II	Wild Fish Conservancy	Salmon State Projects	4/15/2015
<u>13-1397</u>	Rock Creek Conservation Easement Assessment	Eastern Klickitat CD	Salmon Federal Projects	4/15/2015
<u>11-1460</u>	White River Large Wood Atonement	Cascade Col Reg Fish Enhance	Salmon State Projects	4/17/2015
<u>12-1328</u>	CCWUA Barrier Removal and Trust Water	North Yakima Conserv Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	4/20/2015
<u>12-1060</u>	Nooksack Early Chinook Selective Fishery Pilot	Lummi Nation	Salmon Federal Activities	4/21/2015
<u>11-1349</u>	Big Quilcene Delta Acquisition	Hood Canal SEG	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/23/2015
<u>10-1338</u>	Lower Skykomish River Restoration Project	Snohomish County of	Salmon Federal Projects	4/27/2015
<u>11-1466</u>	Hoh River Feasibility Study and Project Design	Jefferson Co Cons Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	4/28/2015
<u>13-1027</u>	Bunker Creek Barrier Removal Project 2013	Lewis County Conservation Dist	Salmon State Projects	4/29/2015
<u>13-1075</u>	Lower Quinault River Knotweed Treatment 2013	Quinault Indian Nation	Salmon Federal Projects	4/29/2015
<u>12-1728</u>	Modrow Weir Modifications & Adult Handling	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	4/30/2015
<u>10-1742</u>	Upper Klickitat R. Enhancement, Phase IV	Yakama Nation	Salmon Federal Projects	5/1/2015
<u>11-1362</u>	Tahuya River LWD placement - Phase 2	Hood Canal SEG	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	5/1/2015
<u>12-1680</u>	Forage Fish Habitat Protection in San Juan County	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Federal Projects	5/1/2015
<u>10-1558</u>	Mapes Creek Mouth Daylighting Feasibility & Design	Seattle Public Utilities	Salmon State Projects	5/6/2015
<u>12-1207</u>	Lower Day Creek Slough Habitat Enhancement	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	5/8/2015
<u>13-1003</u>	WDFW Smolt Monitoring 2013	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	5/8/2015

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
12-1323	Railroad Grade Bridge	Quinault Indian Nation	Salmon State Projects	5/11/2015
10-1840	Lower Day Creek Restoration Phase 2	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	5/12/2015
11-1649	WDFW Smolt Monitoring 2012	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	5/12/2015
13-1589	WDFW Smolt Monitoring 2014	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	5/12/2015
11-1514	Pend Oreille Barrier Assessment & Prioritization	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Projects	5/15/2015
13-1510	YTID Feasibility Study Tieton to Ahtanum Exchange	Ahtanum Irrigation District	Salmon State Projects	5/19/2015
12-1241	Nearshore Beach Nourishment Design and Permitting	Snohomish County of	Salmon Federal Projects	5/20/2015
09-1477	White River Tall Timber Ranch	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	5/22/2015
10-1834	Yellowhawk Barrier Removal	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	Salmon Federal Projects	5/26/2015
12-1166	SFK Toutle Restoration Phase III	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	6/4/2015
13-1030	Campbell Slough Fish Barrier Project with Rayonier	Chehalis Basin FTF	Salmon State Projects	6/4/2015
13-1031	Rayonier's Chenois Creek Fish Barrier Corrections	Chehalis Basin FTF	Salmon Federal Projects	6/4/2015
12-1307	Yakima Floodplain Ecosystem ph2	Yakima City of	Salmon Federal Projects	6/11/2015
12-1653	Pataha Culvert USFS	Nez Perce Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	6/11/2015
11-1266	West Daybreak Restoration Project	Fish First	Salmon Federal Projects	6/15/2015
10-1028	Lower Hamilton Restoration Phase II	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	6/18/2015
12-1671	Woodard Creek Reach I Restoration	Lower Columbia River FEG	Salmon Federal Projects	6/18/2015
12-1666	PERS SRV Coordinated Monitoring Program Development	Tetra Tech, Inc	Salmon Federal Activities	6/22/2015
10-1741	Klickitat Trail - Inventory and Assessment	Yakama Nation	Salmon Federal Projects	6/23/2015
09-1630	Mid Hood Canal Dosewallips & Duckabush Acquisition	Jefferson Land Trust	Salmon State Projects	6/30/2015
10-1567	Corps General Investigation of Skokomish River	Mason Conservation Dist	Salmon State Projects	7/1/2015
13-1400	East End Irrigation Diversion Improvement	Columbia Conservation Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	7/1/2015
11-1428	Klickitat Floodplain Restoration Phase 3	Columbia Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	7/9/2015

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
<u>13-1435</u>	PRISM Maintenance 2013-2015	Rudeen & Associates, LLC	Salmon Federal Activities	7/14/2015
<u>11-1676</u>	2011 Tribal Mass Marking PS & Coast	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon Federal Activities	7/15/2015
<u>13-1055</u>	Pressentin Park Side Channel Feasibility	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	7/15/2015
<u>14-1585</u>	Salmon activity film	Wahoo Films, LLC	Salmon Federal Activities	7/20/2015
<u>14-2197</u>	PERS SRV Data coordination & web design SOSiW 2014 SBGH-Partners, LLC		Salmon Federal Activities	7/20/2015
<u>12-1648</u>	Ninemile Creek Riparian Restoration	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Salmon Federal Projects	7/22/2015
<u>13-1376</u>	Chehalis Basin Lead Entity	Grays Harbor County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	7/27/2015
<u>13-1365</u>	Snohomish Basin LE	Snohomish County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	7/29/2015
<u>13-1362</u>	Stillaguamish Co-LE (Snohomish County)	Snohomish County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	7/31/2015
<u>13-1384</u>	Kalispel Tribe-Pend Oreille LE	Kalispel Tribe	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/3/2015
<u>09-1529</u>	Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW Restoration Treatments	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/4/2015
<u>10-1782</u>	WRIA 13 Water Type Assessment Phase III	Wild Fish Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/4/2015
<u>12-1103</u>	Pysht River Estuary Restoration Final Design	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Salmon State Projects	8/4/2015
<u>13-1378</u>	Klickitat County LE	Klickitat County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/4/2015
<u>13-1367</u>	Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed LE	King County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/6/2015
<u>13-1366</u>	Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed LE	King County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/7/2015
<u>13-1375</u>	Quinault Indian Nation LE	Quinault Indian Nation	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/7/2015
<u>13-1518</u>	Snohomish LE PSAR Capacity Management	Tulalip Tribe	PSAR-Lead Entity Contracts	8/7/2015
<u>10-1779</u>	Case Inlet Shoreline Enhancement Project	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon Federal Projects	8/10/2015
<u>13-1368</u>	Pierce County LE	Pierce County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/10/2015
<u>13-1066</u>	Dungeness Riparian Habitat Protection	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/11/2015
<u>12-1306</u>	Gold Creek Habitat Assessment + Conceptual Design	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Salmon State Projects	8/14/2015
<u>10-1753</u>	La Salle High School Riparian Enhancement Project	North Yakima Conserv Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	8/17/2015

Number	Name	Sponsor	Program	Closed On
<u>11-1563</u>	Suiattle Rip-Rap Removal	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/17/2015
<u>13-1262</u>	Frank's Tidelands Design Only Grant	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon Federal Projects	8/17/2015
<u>12-1668</u>	White Salmon Basin Beaver Assessment	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Salmon Federal Projects	8/18/2015
<u>14-1015</u>	2014 Culvert Prioritization Assessment	Island County of	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/18/2015
<u>12-1205</u>	Fir Island Farm Restoration Final Design	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/20/2015
<u>13-1364</u>	Island County LE	Island Co. Dept. Natural Res.	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/21/2015
<u>13-1371</u>	Mason Conservation District LE	Mason Conservation Dist	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/21/2015
<u>13-1372</u>	West Sound Watersheds Council LE	Kitsap County Comm Development	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/21/2015
<u>13-1377</u>	Pacific County LE	Pacific County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/21/2015
<u>13-1359</u>	San Juan County LE	San Juan County of	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/24/2015
<u>13-1360</u>	Skagit Watershed Council LE	Skagit Watershed Council	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/24/2015
<u>13-1361</u>	Stillaguamish Co-LE(Stillaguamish Tribe)	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/24/2015
<u>13-1369</u>	Nisqually River Salmon Recovery LE	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/24/2015
<u>13-1370</u>	Thurston Conservation District LE	Thurston Conservation District	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/24/2015
<u>13-1374</u>	North Pacific Coast LE	University of Washington	Salmon-LE Fed Contracts	8/24/2015
<u>14-2169</u>	PERS SRV Salmon Recovery Conference 2015 Support	Long Live the Kings	Salmon Federal Activities	8/25/2015
<u>12-1669</u>	Neck Point Lagoon and Pocket Beach Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Federal Projects	8/27/2015
<u>13-1057</u>	DD#3 Delta Channel Design	Skagit County Public Works	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	8/28/2015

WSC Officers

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

John Foltz, Vice Chair
Snake River Salmon Recovery
Board Lead Entity

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

Richard Brocksmith
Skagit Watershed Council

Jacob Anderson
Klickitat Lead Entity

Dawn Pucci
Island County Lead Entity

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

Bill Armstrong
Quinault Indian Nation Lead
Entity

Members

Todd Andersen
KalisPELL-Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Kirsten Harma
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Joy Juelson
Upper Columbia Salmon
Recovery Board 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

Tom Kollasch
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

Frank Hanson
N. Pacific Coast & Quinault
Indian Nation Lead Entities

Byron Rot
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

Vacant
Snohomish Lead Entity

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



Community-Based Salmon Recovery

September 23, 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,

Lead Entity Process

The 25 Lead Entities around Washington State have been hard at work all year to ready community supported projects for funding consideration. This includes partnering with their Project Sponsors, Technical Advisory Groups, and Citizen Committees to develop their locally prioritized salmon recovery habitat project lists. This process is now complete and the State Technical Review Panel is reviewing the projects. They will determine which projects are "Clear," "Conditioned," "Need More Information" (NMI), or "Project of Concern" (POC). Once we know the status of each project, Lead Entities can work with our sponsors to develop a response to review panel comments through revisions to the project proposal attached in PRISM and prepare for the Regional Area Meetings taking place later in October in Olympia.

Mission/Structure Action Plan Update

In June, WSC met in Chelan with several goals in mind. One of which was our annual update of the WSC Mission, Structure, and Action Plan which provides the group an agreed upon set of marching orders and common ground to work from over the next year. The group was successful in updating and reaffirming our goals which are broken down internally and externally:

Internal Goals:

1. Provide an official forum to:
 - a. Facilitate the interchange of information, build relationships, and support mentoring amongst Lead Entity Coordinators;
 - b. Encourage Lead Entity consensus on priority recommendations and communicate in a unified manner;
 - c. Support professional development and training opportunities.
2. Periodically review and reaffirm WSC's identity and strategies.
3. Accomplish the objectives set forth by the communications and outreach committee.
4. Develop strategies to improve long-term stability of capacity and capital funding for Lead Entities/WSC/Salmon Recovery.
5. Track, participate in, and lead where appropriate, the development of funding mechanisms that align with salmon recovery.
6. Support efforts to ensure effective use of reporting and communication tools.

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



Community-Based Salmon Recovery

External Goals:

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

The rest of the two day meeting which focused on information sharing and training was also successful based upon feedback from the group. A few of the meeting highlights included a case study and training on how risk affects the use of large wood in projects presented by Josh Latteral from King County; a discussion around the SRFB grant timeline with RCO's own Kat Moore; a WAC update as it pertains to Lead Entities from RCO's Leslie Connelly, and sharing of information amongst Lead Entities – specifically identifying key similarities and differences amongst the 25 Lead Entities across the state.

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. Over the last several months, WSC members have provided a robust and coordinated response to the SRNet capacity request. As the SRNet group collaborates to craft a legislative request for the 2017-2019 biennium, the first step is to gauge various levels of capacity need throughout each SRNet partner. WSC is working to have a coordinated request representing Lead Entities submitted by the October 2 deadline. Lead Entities throughout the state have responded to their needs around several scenarios: the current level of funding support; the unmet need to implement the existing scope; and the additional capacity needs to implement salmon recovery.

For several years now, the autumn WSC meeting has focused on funding and this year, our meeting focused primarily on responding in unison to the SRNet request. WSC is excited to participate in the discussions as the SRNet group examines the details of each partner request, looking for how they fit together and ensuring there is no overlap between partners. We appreciate our seat at the table as the group evolves to answer the numerous questions that this exercise will undoubtedly bring to the fore.

In-Person meetings:

As in the past, WSC plans to take advantage of the broad attendance of Lead Entity Coordinators for the December SRFB funding meeting by hosting an in-person meeting the day before. The December WSC meeting will again focus on communications and outreach with the proposed theme of “using data to tell and sell the salmon story” which will focus on the use of habitat work schedule as an outreach too. We also anticipate a portion of the meeting will be dedication to preparing for the next legislative session focusing on engaging local elected officials to tell our salmon story.

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



Community-Based Salmon Recovery

LE Staff Changes

We bid farewell and thank you to Denise Di Santo, who has left the Snohomish Lead Entity.

We welcome two new folks to our membership:

Byron Rot is the new Coordinator in the San Juans Lead Entity and Frank Hanson now coordinates the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity. Frank takes over for Rich Osborne, who has moved on to regional work with the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership.

LE Vacancies

Snohomish County Lead Entity

Statewide News and Updates

Island County Lead Entity: : Ala Spit Restoration, Phase 4 (14-1108)

Dawn Pucci is excited to report on this restoration project that concluded only days ago. The project removed 1400' bulkhead and replaced a rock groin with softshore protection. 6000 tons of material was imported to rebuild the neck of the spit.

The nearshore drift (south to north) had been blocked/diverted by the groin and the bulkhead was likely impacting transportation and accretion zone function. The neck of the spit had been eroding and was overwashing at high tides, preventing use of the park, which aggravated local citizens. The 6000 tons of material were brought in to nourish and reset the neck of the spit.

We have had a lot of positive feedback from local residents there, including some of our biggest critics who have said that they are "very impressed" with the outcome.



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Waterman Nearshore Acquisition (14-1917)



completed when they closed on the property a couple of weeks ago. The property, now called the Waterman Shoreline Preserve will protect a mosaic of upland forest and freshwater wetlands stretching along 2,000 feet of steep, eroding “feeder” bluffs bordering 26 acres of beach and tidelands. There is a relic creosote piling bulkhead that is slated to be removed next year in partnership with DNR. [Read the story online here.](#)

[Lead Entity Response to Climate Change Request](#)

At the May Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, Bob Bugert, voting member from Wenatchee, directed the Lead Entities and Regions to respond to several questions on climate change and how we integrate the issues into our local salmon recovery plans, annual project selection and community engagement. He asked for a response at the October SRFB meeting. WSC compiled all the responses we received (representing 22 Lead Entities) via Survey Monkey to generate a report for the Board. The summary is below, with the full survey and responses available upon request.

For background, the question from SRFB is threefold:

- 1. Implementing actions:* There are many projects that we do for salmon recovery that simultaneously increase the resiliency of these ecosystems and populations to adapt to climate change. Can we point out the types of projects receiving SRFB funds that are multi-benefit for salmon and climate change? What progress have we made in implementing those?
- 2. Addressing climate change in local strategies/priorities:* Is planning for climate change incorporated within our strategy documents? Have we included climate change into our criteria for project selection and evaluation?
- 3. Communications and Outreach:* Are the LE staff, project sponsors, and committee members engaging the local population and elected officials to support climate change resiliency actions? Are there activities currently ongoing within the LE that engage the public locally such that they begin to feel less overwhelmed by the enormity of climate change and instead realize there is much each person can do to help overcome the effects? The Lead Entity process and salmon recovery in general can help to broaden public understanding that actions can be taken – and are being taken to lessen the effects of climate change. Are we using our projects as demonstration of that? The idea of this engagement is to enable political will at the federal level to make the difficult choices that make a huge difference globally.

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WSC Climate Change Survey Summary: Responses

1. Implementing actions: *There are many projects that we do for salmon recovery that simultaneously increase the resiliency of these ecosystems and populations to adapt to climate change. Can we point out the types of projects receiving SRFB funds that are multi-benefit for salmon and climate change? What progress have we made in implementing those?*

Most Relevant Project Types across the State:

- Riparian plantings to limit solar inputs/decrease water temperatures and assist with connectivity of habitat.
- Protection of refugia habitat includes actions that keep food web intact and protect high quality habitat that doesn't need restoration in the future.
- Floodplain reconnection projects help to abate floods, buffer hydrograph during high flow storm events and provide high flow refuge.
- Fish passage projects allow for access to higher elevation habitat and connectivity between habitats.
- Instream flow protection projects provide temperature control, passage and access to high quality habitat.
- Instream projects provide for cold water refugia and moderate peak flows while preventing or slowing sedimentation.
- Shoreline protection and restoration projects assist with resiliency to sea level rise, continue habitat connectivity, provide forage fish habitat, sediment recruitment and eelgrass habitat.
- Estuary and tidal restoration projects absorb tidal energy and provide feeding and rearing habitat.
- Upland acquisition and forest health projects provide an opportunity for carbon sequestration, slow sedimentation of the lowland rivers and deltas, slows run off during peak flows and keeps water temperatures low.

Members felt that any project that restores natural stream processes inherently addresses the impacts that climate change amplifies. Additionally, project location might become even more scrutinized when specifically considering climate change as well whereby a shift in priority may be occurring to focus a little more on stronghold populations rather than struggling populations and their respective habitat locations.

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Overall, there was a collective message that projects that are being identified, funded, and implemented do address climate change but not as a primary driver of funding or evaluation. Given the funding source, this is likely the correct approach.

2. Addressing climate change in local strategies/priorities: *Is planning for climate change incorporated within our strategy documents? Have we included climate change into our criteria for project selection and evaluation?*

Based on the survey responses, some Lead Entity strategies identify priority areas based at least in part on climate change resiliency, while others intend to do so through a strategy update. In large measure, Lead Entities fund projects that are responsive to climate change, but climate change is generally not the primary driver. The areas on the landscape targeted by recovery efforts for protection and restoration and the types of treatments in those locations are driven by the needs of fish species and limiting factors. At the same time, the priority areas for protection and restoration and the types of actions being implemented tend to support the idea of resiliency to climate change insofar as restoring or protecting habitat forming processes supports and promotes resiliency. This is especially true as the cumulative benefits of multiple projects on a corridor or sub-basin scale are realized. In terms of evaluating projects using criteria related to climate change adaptation and resiliency, most Lead Entities do not currently do this. However, climate change is addressed indirectly through the prioritization of habitat forming, ecosystem processes.

As we adaptively manage our recovery plans and chapters, we incorporate climate change criteria to increase habitat resiliency and achieve salmon recovery.

3. Communications and Outreach: *Are the LE staff, project sponsors, and committee members engaging the local population and elected officials to support climate change resiliency actions? Are there activities currently ongoing within the LE that engage the public locally such that they begin to feel less overwhelmed by the enormity of climate change and instead realize there is much each person can do to help overcome the effects? The Lead Entity process and salmon recovery in general can help to broaden public understanding that actions can be taken – and are being taken to lessen the effects of climate change. Are we using our projects as demonstration of that? The idea of this engagement is to enable political will at the federal level to make the difficult choices that make a huge difference globally.*

Many Lead Entities communicate the multiple benefit nature of salmon recovery, including flood risk reduction, reduced erosion, improved sediment transport, and community benefits such as job creation. On the other hand, not all Lead Entities directly reference climate change when discussing the multiple benefit nature of salmon recovery, and the majority of Lead Entities responding to the survey do not currently discuss the relationship between salmon recovery implementation and climate change with their local elected

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officials. This is in large measure due to the specifics of the local political climate in certain areas where climate change remains controversial, which forces those Lead Entities to maintain a focus on the more direct benefits of their projects.

Moving forward, Lead Entities identified numerous needs that could support a more direct integration of climate change into local activities. These include:

- Technical information/guidance about which strategies are most effective for dealing with climate change impacts, especially from a regional perspective;
- Better technical information about the potential effects of climate change on a local scale, i.e., areas of greatest potential impact within a watershed;
- Support from the Board and regions to encourage local decision-makers to support climate change as part of the larger salmon recovery picture.

Climate change is nebulous and very broad and care should be taken stating what we mean exactly. We can take some of the political stigma or unknown out of climate change by being specific and getting specific examples for the public and elected officials when we talk about climate change. We already do this, as we have summarized above, when we implement projects that have objectives relating to buffering stream ecosystems, which is what we are essentially doing when we work to restore natural stream processes. We need to learn to communicate the multiple benefits of our restoration and conservation projects in the context of this additional paradigm.

A few quotes from the survey:

“Thank you for asking this from the Board level. It helps to justify the discussion in local areas that may need help where political will may not be as supportive of the climate change theory.”

“This is an exciting discussion and an opportunity to continue to refine our message while providing additional benefits to our communities and the surrounding ecosystems.”



MONITORING PROGRAM ANNUAL REVIEW

2015 Recommendations

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel

2015 MONITORING PANEL

Marnie Tyler, Chair

Ecolution

Pete Bisson

Bisson Aquatic Consulting, LLC

Ken Currens

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Dennis Dauble

Environmental Assessment Services

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Stillwater Sciences

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the request of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), the SRFB Monitoring Panel conducted a comprehensive review of the SRFB monitoring program in 2015. This performance evaluation was completed for three of the four components of the monitoring program: Project effectiveness monitoring, intensively monitored watersheds (IMW), and status and trends fish monitoring (also referred to as fish in/fish out). The fourth component of the SRFB monitoring program, implementation monitoring, is conducted by RCO grants managers and was not evaluated by the monitoring panel.

At the outset of the evaluation period, the monitoring panel met with the principal investigators of each monitoring component and developed an annual assessment questionnaire to provide a clear understanding of the criteria on which each component would be evaluated. Completion of the annual assessment was included as a contract deliverable. The monitoring panel convened workshops with principal investigators of each monitoring component to gain a deeper understanding of the entire SRFB monitoring program and to understand the technical underpinning of each component. The monitoring practitioners subsequently provided study plans, annual reports, and responded to the annual assessment.

Monitoring panel members individually evaluated each component and deliberated potential modifications to the program. The panel members bring a diversity of background and experience; we did not have unanimous perspectives on the monitoring projects. Divergent opinions are noted within the program discussions; however, the panel collectively agreed to the recommendations included in this report.

The status of each project is listed in Table 1. The monitoring panel has incorporated the same terminology for assigning status as that used by the SRFB Technical Review Panel, i.e., clear, conditioned, or project of concern. Clear projects are those that are technically sound and the monitoring panel does not recommend any changes in how the program is being implemented in the coming year. Conditioned projects are clear to proceed if the principal investigators for the monitoring effort agree with specific conditions to be included within the 2016 contract. Projects of concern have technical weaknesses or concerns specifically identified by the monitoring panel that the panel believes cannot be rectified without extensively re-designing the project.

In this initial 2015 review conducted by the monitoring panel, three monitoring projects were identified as clear, four were conditioned, and no projects were identified as projects of concern. However, in identifying time-bound conditions to several projects, it is the panel's expectation that the conditions will be met in 2016 or these projects may be identified as projects of concern in subsequent reviews.

Table 1. Summary of Project Status and Conditions

PROJECT NAME	STATUS
INTENSIVELY MONITORED WATERSHEDS	
Asotin IMW	Clear
<p>Monitoring Panel Recommendation: The panel unanimously recommends support of the project to complete the final year of restoration treatment in 2016 and initiate post-treatment monitoring in 2017.</p>	
Hood Canal IMW	Conditioned
<p>Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Principal investigators shall provide additional details regarding the quality assurance/quality control protocols, data archiving, and data availability across participating agencies in the 2016 annual report. For each type of restoration activity included in the study plan, IMW scientists shall provide a clear schedule of implementation, pre-treatment monitoring, and post-treatment monitoring for each treated watershed. This should include a statistical basis (power analysis) for determining how long post-treatment monitoring should take place in order to judge whether the particular restoration action achieved or did not achieve desired results. This should be included in the annual report submitted in June 2016. In the annual report, IMW scientists will describe and prioritize limiting factors to be addressed in restoration treatments on a site-by-site basis. The IMW practitioners shall conduct a power analysis showing the time required to detect a change in coho salmon productivity due to inter-annual variation in juvenile abundance caused by high adult harvest rates. The analysis should include the difference (a range is acceptable) in years to detect a restoration-related change under a little or no harvest regime and under the current harvest regime. The panel also would like to encourage the Hood Canal IMW practitioners to engage harvest co-managers in finding a solution to the difficulties to the monitoring design caused by high harvest (likely contributing to too few naturally spawning adults), such as exploring the opportunity for a limited time-bound restriction of the terminal fishery targeting these 	

PROJECT NAME**STATUS**

streams. The requested power analysis should help by indicating the duration of harvest restriction needed for the IMW to yield information.

Lower Columbia IMW**Conditioned**

Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement:

- a. The IMW team will provide data to the monitoring panel on thalweg depth and wetted width in the reach downstream of the Abernathy Fish Technology Center, between the fish intake structure and the point in the stream where hatchery effluent reenters the stream, for the months of June through October for the period of record that is available. If no data of this nature are currently available from the Fish Technology Center or other sources, the IMW team will ensure that thalweg depth and wetted width are collected in 2016 and also will record any observation that the stream has become intermittent in the reach downstream of the Fish Technology Center. These data should be summarized and included with photo points in the 2016 annual report.
- b. IMW scientists shall explicitly identify how they will address confounding effects of Abernathy Fish Technology Center operations, such as water use and hatchery influence on monitored species, specifically steelhead, in their data analysis. This will be included in the 2016 annual report.
- c. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife shall evaluate and characterize the degree of passability at the fish ladder at Abernathy Falls and will summarize findings in a barrier evaluation form in the 2016 annual report
(http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual18Appendices/Appendix_E_BarrierEvaluationForm.doc).
- d. In the 2016 annual report, principal investigators shall revisit and prioritize limiting factors that will be addressed. IMW scientists will also assess whether current population metrics, such as parr length as a correlate for growth, are appropriate for measuring response.
- e. The 2016 annual report shall describe where and how most project data can be accessed by the public. If this is not possible in 2016, the 2016 annual report shall include an explanation of why this has not yet been possible and shall include a plan and schedule for making most project data available publicly.
- f. To enhance coordination now and in the future, IMW principal investigators shall participate in regular meetings with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (or its technical advisory committee) and potential restoration treatment project sponsors, as requested by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board or the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. The purpose of these meetings shall be to collaboratively identify treatment project objectives and assist in project design development in the IMW treatment streams, and to ensure proper alignment with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's IMW goals, objectives, and priorities. The IMW team will serve as advisors in this process and will not be expected to design the

PROJECT NAME	STATUS
restoration treatment projects. The panel recommends a minimum of two meetings per year. Furthermore, to assist in developing treatment strategies and project designs, IMW scientists will make Lower Columbia IMW data and information available to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board upon request. This will include data on fish distribution and usage at a minimum and other data as available. Finally, the IMW scientists should consult with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board to ensure that annual reports accurately describe restoration activities.	
Skagit IMW	Clear
Monitoring Panel Recommendation: Continue support as currently scoped.	
Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW	Conditioned
	1.
Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Data collected in previous surveys should be analyzed and reported by June 2016. b. Data collected in 2016 and future years will undergo quality assurance/quality control procedures, analysis, and reporting within 18 months from the time data are collected. c. Thorough documentation of the location and availability of all data related to this study will be included in the 2016 annual report, including data collected by partners and other collaborators. d. A schedule will be established for evaluating the response of target fish species to existing habitat improvement actions. This evaluation should be completed before additional types of restoration are implemented. Post-treatment evaluations should not be open ended; they should be based on a statistical power analysis of the time needed to detect a significant response to treatments. If no statistically demonstrable responses are detected during the post-treatment evaluation period, additional treatment types can be considered. The evaluation schedule should be included in the 2016 annual report. 	
Project Effectiveness	Conditioned
Monitoring Panel Recommendations: The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the project agreement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All monitoring at sites that include a component of riparian canopy cover as a success criteria (riparian restoration, livestock exclusion, and habitat protection) will be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will provide the panel with a proposed schedule for these sites with a revised monitoring return interval that will allow sufficient time for these sites to feasibly meet riparian forest canopy success criteria. b. Fish use monitoring shall be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will work with the panel to discuss the merits and feasibility of 	

PROJECT NAME	STATUS
	<p>developing a more robust sampling plan that includes repeated measures throughout the season when target species are known to be present.</p> <p>c. Early in 2016, TetraTech will meet with the monitoring panel to develop a feasible alternative to interpreting and reporting on the project effectiveness monitoring data in order to strengthen this component of the study.</p>
Status and Trends Fish Monitoring	Clear
Monitoring Panel Recommendation: Continue support of the status and trends fish monitoring conducted by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife at the current or higher level.	

INTRODUCTION

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel was created in 2014 to advise the SRFB on key elements of its monitoring program. This report addresses one of the core tasks assigned to the panel: To evaluate the performance of each component of the monitoring program and to provide guidance and funding recommendations to the SRFB. The following sections describe the annual review process and summarize the recommendations arising from the evaluation. The evaluation process is a central element of the SRFB's adaptive management framework.

The SRFB Monitoring Program consists of four components: Implementation (compliance) monitoring, project effectiveness monitoring, intensively monitored watersheds, and status and trends fish monitoring (also referred to as fish in/fish out). The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office commissioned a report in 2014 that summarizes the current SRFB Monitoring Program (Crawford 2014). The 2014 report describes the evolution of each component of the monitoring program and provides greater detail on the operation of each component. Implementation monitoring is conducted by RCO grants managers and was not evaluated by the monitoring panel.

The focus of the monitoring panel's work and thus the recommendations within this report relate to project effectiveness monitoring, intensively monitored watersheds, and status and trends fish monitoring.

Project effectiveness monitoring has statewide geographic representation. Five IMWs were included in the review: four are in western Washington (Hood Canal, Lower Columbia, Skagit, and Strait of Juan de Fuca complexes) and one in eastern Washington, the Asotin IMW in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region.

The status and trends fish monitoring is a statewide program conducted by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, of which SRFB funds support 7 percent of the overall program. The SRFB funds are used directly to support the following specific elements of the overall fish in/fish out monitoring effort: Touchet River juvenile summer steelhead; Grays River juvenile coho salmon and steelhead; Wind River adult coho salmon; Salmon Creek adult and juvenile summer chum salmon; Snow Creek adult summer chum salmon, and Snow Creek adult and juvenile steelhead; and Duckabush River juvenile summer chum salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead.

EVALUATION PROCESS

GSRO asked the monitoring panel to evaluate the technical soundness of each of the monitoring components and to provide a set of recommendations to the SRFB that can be used to help inform monitoring program direction and funding. Specifically, GSRO asked the panel to provide recommendations to the board on the following:

- Is the SRFB's monitoring program asking the right questions?
- Are there other monitoring approaches the SRFB should consider?
- How well are the contractors performing the work – are there recommended improvements needed?
- Should the SRFB continue to fund the current monitoring components or modify how they are funded or implemented?

In initiating the evaluation, the following questions framed the review:

- Is the monitoring component functioning at a satisfactory level overall?
- Does the composition and administrative structure of the project team facilitate the project's success?
- Are study objectives clearly identified?
- Will the experimental design meet the study objectives?
- Are adequate quality control measures in place?
- Will the data and results be useful for salmon recovery?
- Is there a plan and vehicle for sharing the results of the findings?

In crafting the evaluation strategy, the panel also looked to the SRFB-commissioned Stillwater Sciences report (2013), which was the impetus for the creation of the monitoring panel and monitoring program review. Based on the technical expertise of the group, the recommendations within the Stillwater report, and guidance from GSRO, the monitoring panel developed a four-step process for evaluating the SRFB monitoring program: 1) Develop a suite of criteria by which to evaluate each monitoring component; 2) Clearly articulate these criteria and performance requirements to monitoring practitioners; 3) Evaluate each monitoring component based on the review

criteria; and 4) Make recommendations as appropriate for modifying the monitoring component and the review process in the coming year.

The monitoring panel developed the suite of criteria for evaluating each monitoring component in September of 2014, such that the panel's expectations could be clearly articulated to monitoring practitioners in advance of new contracts being initiated with them in October. The evaluation criteria included an annual assessment, the completion of which was a required deliverable in the contract for each monitoring project. The series of questions in the annual assessment were framed within the context of four themes identified in the SRFB Strategic Plan and articulated in the Stillwater report: Effectiveness, accountability, collaboration, and adaptive management. The annual assessment for each monitoring component is included in Attachment A.

The assessments share the same framework and are very similar, but are tailored for each monitoring component. The principal investigators of each monitoring component had an opportunity to review the assessments in draft form and to comment on the content and clarity of the questions before they were finalized and incorporated as a deliverable in their contract with GSRO. In addition to completing the annual assessment, the requirement of an annual report was included in the project effectiveness contract, and an updated study plan was required of each IMW.

To ensure that all panel members had a clear understanding of each element in the monitoring program, the panel met with practitioners for in-depth discussions in the fall of 2014 and spring 2015. Scientists from each monitoring component were asked to provide an overview of their research, respond to panel questions about their approach, and ask clarifying questions of the panel in regard to their reporting requirements. IMW scientists were asked to provide a draft of their updated study plan and to meet with the panel to discuss their approach before finalizing the plan.

Practitioners submitted their responses to the annual assessments and annual reports (project effectiveness) or study plans (IMW) in June, 2015. Each monitoring panel member completed an independent review of each project. The panel met to collectively identify a status rating for each monitoring project and identify recommendations for the SRFB. The panel was not unanimous in all recommendations. In those cases where panel perspectives diverged, a democratic process followed and a majority vote was taken to assign project status.

Project status was documented in a comment form for each monitoring project (i.e. each IMW has its own comment form; there is a single form for the status and trends fish monitoring and one form for project effectiveness monitoring). The comment forms include any condition language recommended for inclusion in the project agreement. Condition language for each project has been included in full in the body of this report, along with general observations and context about the research study. The full comment forms (Attachment B) also include technical suggestions aimed at the principal investigators for enhancing the project in future years. The comment forms follow the same terminology for assigning status as that used by the SRFB Technical Review Panel i.e., clear, conditioned, or project of concern.

- **Clear projects** are those that are technically sound and the monitoring panel does not recommend any changes in how the program is being implemented in the coming year.
- **Conditioned projects** are those projects which are cleared to proceed with specific conditions to be included within the 2016 contract.
- **Projects of concern** have technical weaknesses or concerns specifically identified by the monitoring panel which the panel believes cannot be rectified without substantially re-designing the project.

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this initial 2015 review, three monitoring projects were identified as clear and four were conditioned; no projects were identified as projects of concern. However, in identifying time-bound conditions to several projects, it is the panel's expectation that the conditions will be met in 2016 or these projects may be identified as projects of concern in subsequent reviews.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds

The monitoring panel believes that the SRFB's Intensively Monitored Watershed monitoring component is a critical element in understanding the causal relationships and mechanisms affecting salmonid population trends and that IMWs will inform pathways to recovery for populations listed under the Endangered Species Act. There are five IMWs in the SRFB IMW program that were reviewed this year by the panel: Asotin, Hood Canal, Lower Columbia, Skagit, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

Asotin IMW

The Asotin IMW project provides an interesting contrast and alternative approach to the four IMWs in western Washington. The Asotin IMW is the only IMW in the SRFB monitoring portfolio that is in the eastern part of the state. The setting for this study in terms of geomorphology, ecology, riparian plant communities, and patterns of land and water use are all distinct from the western Washington studies. Furthermore, the Asotin IMW differs from other SRFB IMWs in the scale, analytical approach, and administrative structure. The Asotin IMW study design is fundamentally different from western Washington IMWs in that treatment and control reaches are included within the same stream.

Also unique to the SRFB IMW monitoring component is the administrative structure of this IMW that relies on a single contractor for planning the monitoring effort and implementing restoration treatments. These differences provide an important element of diversity to the SRFB Monitoring Program.

The monitoring panel was unanimously impressed with the overall study and pleased with its progress. The Asotin IMW design is well-conceived. The survey of the habitat conditions in the watershed is comprehensive and builds on collaboration with other monitoring approaches, such as the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP) protocols. The planned restoration treatments for the IMW have been completed in an extremely timely manner—the study was initiated in 2008, restoration treatments began

in 2012 and will conclude in 2016; post-treatment monitoring will commence in 2017. The hierarchical staircase design, which staggers treatments around a more general basic before-after-control-impact (BACI) design, could provide a solution to the general problem of identifying watersheds where there is adequate replication of before/control streams and treatment streams.

The underlying habitat issues are well understood and the restoration treatment approach using post-assisted log structures (PALS) is both a reasonable approach to treating the habitat issues in the basin and complements a similar restoration effort in Bridge Creek (John Day River) using log post techniques. The characterization of habitat attributes using CHaMP protocols has yielded detailed channel maps that can be used to track post-treatment changes over time.

The Asotin IMW benefits from having a single entity in charge of planning the monitoring effort and implementing restoration treatments. This combined with the strong support of the lead entity/region has led to efficient and successful implementation of restoration treatments. The contractor has been extremely responsive to information requests from the panel. The revised study plan contained a remarkable amount of detail about habitat conditions in the three experimental watersheds within the Asotin Creek drainage system.

The results of the study appear transferable to other watersheds having similar geomorphology and environmental disturbance factors. In general the initial results align with hypotheses developed in the study plan including positive responses to treatments in both fish and habitat metrics. Successful results from the Asotin IMW could greatly improve what we learn about large woody debris restoration treatments and how regions can proceed with making monitoring more cost-effective and informative. Future results from this project may help support findings in other past studies on the response of steelhead abundance and productivity from placement of large woody debris as treatments to restore or increase instream habitat quantity. Future planned tasks and potential outcomes appear well-linked to the project objectives and hypotheses.

Recommendation: CLEAR. The panel unanimously recommends support of the project to complete the final year of restoration treatment in 2015 and initiate post-treatment monitoring in 2016.

Hood Canal IMW

The Hood Canal IMW encompasses coordinated efforts from multiple entities, including state government agencies, a private company, and the local lead entity the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. There appears to be excellent coordination among the IMW scientists and the lead entity and project sponsors. The IMW focuses primarily on coho salmon, though summer and fall chum salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout are also present. The background biological information on the life history and physical habitat processes in the watershed are an asset for this project.

The panel believes that the Hood Canal IMW team is doing the best it can with a difficult situation but the study faces some daunting hurdles in the form of very drawn-out treatments and poor adult Coho escapement, both of which make a before-after-control-impact (BACI) design very hard to apply. The BACI approach seems to be the default experimental design for IMWs, but it is hard to use BACI in IMWs such as Hood Canal when (1) treatments are spread out over a long time period (multiple years) making it difficult to identify and statistically distinguish “before” and “after,” and (2) the low and highly variable adult Coho escapement results in so much annual variability in juvenile abundance that power analysis points to very long pre- and post-treatment monitoring periods.

Although the study has been impeded by a paucity of restoration treatment implementation, with the infusion of dedicated money from the SRFB for restoration treatment, implementation of restoration actions should accelerate. Prolonged implementation of restoration actions will serve only to extend the post-treatment monitoring period and potentially make evaluations impractical.

While the panel concurs with the concept stated in Annual Assessment Response 2a (“Our restoration approach aims to restore the processes needed to re-establish and maintain dynamic habitat mosaics at the large spatial extents required to promote resilient fish populations”), the absence of clearly identified limiting factors (and the corresponding evidence for those factors being deemed limiting), and clearly defined IMW objectives (i.e., quantifiable targets), is problematic and needs correction. Without such specificity, monitoring cannot be focused and progress cannot be tracked. This is a primary point of concern. Without this in place, addressing other IMW challenges is compromised.

Recommendation: CONDITIONED. The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the Hood Canal IMW project agreement:

- a. Principal investigators shall provide additional details regarding the quality assurance/quality control protocols, data archiving, and data availability across participating agencies in the 2016 annual report.
- b. For each type of restoration activity included in the study plan, IMW scientists shall provide a clear schedule of implementation, pre-treatment monitoring, and post-treatment monitoring for each treated watershed. This should include a statistical basis (power analysis) for determining how long post-treatment monitoring should take place in order to judge whether the particular restoration action achieved or did not achieve desired results. This should be included in the annual report submitted in June 2016.
- c. In the annual report, IMW scientists will describe and prioritize limiting factors to be addressed in restoration treatments.
- d. The IMW practitioners shall conduct a power analysis showing the time required to detect a change in Coho productivity due to inter-annual variation in juvenile abundance caused by high adult harvest rates. The analysis should include the difference (a range is acceptable) in years to detect a restoration-related change under a restricted harvest regime and under the current harvest regime.
- e. The panel also would like to encourage the Hood Canal IMW practitioners to engage harvest co-managers in finding a solution to the difficulties to the monitoring design caused by high harvest, such as exploring the opportunity for a limited time-bound restriction of the terminal fishery targeting these streams. The requested power analysis should help by indicating the duration of harvest restriction needed for the IMW to yield information.

Lower Columbia IMW

The Lower Columbia IMW watershed is unique among the current suite of IMWs in that it includes multiple anadromous species and benefits from more than 10 years of pre-treatment smolt data from adjacent watersheds. Because the time series of pre-treatment smolt data spans several fish generations, this study is well positioned to predict how much post-treatment monitoring will be required to assess the efficacy of restoration actions. Power analyses from this long-term data base have been used to provide reasonable estimates of the time needed to detect restoration effects. The

Lower Columbia IMW intends to not only test whether restoration treatments lead to a response but to understand the mechanisms for the response. The addition of a life-cycle framework to the approach for Coho adds a useful dimension to the project. The study's principal investigators have done an excellent job in developing the study plan and providing requested material.

The study is challenged however by protracted implementation of restoration treatments; a history of poor collaboration between the project scientists and local organizations (i.e. the lead entity/region, its affiliated technical advisory committee, and potential project sponsors); and confounding effects from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service research hatchery on Abernathy Creek.

The slow implementation of restoration treatment projects appears in large part to be an artifact of the SRFB funding process as implemented at the local level that is exacerbated by the poor collaboration among scientists and the lead entity/region. The protracted implementation of restoration treatment projects has complicated the IMW team's ability to measure fish population response in a complex watershed with multiple salmonid species, low numbers of adults, and hatchery influence for both steelhead and Chinook salmon.

The infusion of SRFB funds earmarked for restoration treatment projects over the past 2 years has alleviated many of the collaboration challenges that previously delayed development and implementation of restoration treatments. IMW scientists, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, and potential project sponsors should continue to build relationships that have been fostered over the past 2 years to ensure that continued cooperation can be expected after SRFB dedicated restoration treatment funds are no longer available.

One of the monitoring panel's greatest concerns with this IMW is the potential impacts to the study from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Abernathy Fish Technology Center. The panel is in particular concerned about reports of annual dewatering of Abernathy Creek at the facility; however there is conflicting information on this point and the panel would like to understand the extent of dewatering that occurs and the typical duration. Also unclear to the panel is the passability of the fish ladder adjacent to Abernathy Falls and the potential for hatchery influence on monitored species. These problems have the potential to skew or prevent accurate interpretation of study results accrued by the Lower Columbia IMW from Abernathy Creek, especially from restoration projects in the upper watershed where most restoration to date has occurred.

Although several limiting factors were identified for fish production in the treatment plan submitted to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board in 2009, it is not clear if the list is still relevant following a decade of study. Why additional work on physical habitat projects was tabled and efforts switched to nutrient enhancement was not adequately addressed in the 2015 study plan nor supported by initial results. Recent restoration activities have focused on nutrient enhancement via the use of salmon carcass analogs. Nutrient deficiency, however, was not identified as a limiting factor nor identified as a targeted restoration need in the original study plan and there has apparently been little additional analysis (quantitative prediction) of the benefits of nutrient supplementation on the rearing capacity of salmonids in the treated streams.

The panel also would like to see improvements in data availability. According to the 2015 study plan, about half of the data are available publicly. It is essential that this percentage be increased substantially as the study progresses.

Recommendation: CONDITIONED. The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the Lower Columbia IMW project agreement:

- a. The IMW team will provide data to the monitoring panel on thalweg depth and wetted width in the reach downstream of the Abernathy Fish Technology Center, between the fish intake structure and the point in the stream where hatchery effluent reenters the stream, for the months of June through October for the period of record that is available. If no data of this nature are currently available from the Fish Technology Center or other sources, the IMW team will ensure that thalweg depth and wetted width are collected in 2016 and also will record any observation that the stream has become intermittent in the reach downstream of the Fish Technology Center. These data should be summarized and included with photo points in the 2016 annual report.
- b. IMW scientists shall explicitly identify how they will address confounding effects of Abernathy Fish Technology Center operations, such as water use and hatchery influence on monitored species, specifically steelhead, in their data analysis. This will be included in the 2016 annual report.
- c. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife shall evaluate and characterize the degree of passability at the fish ladder at Abernathy Falls and will summarize findings in a barrier evaluation form in the 2016 annual report

<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual18Appendices/Appendix E BarrierEvaluationForm.doc>).

- d. In the 2016 annual report, principal investigators shall revisit and prioritize limiting factors that will be addressed. IMW scientists also will assess whether current population metrics such as fish length are appropriate for measuring response.
- e. The 2016 annual report shall describe where and how most project data can be accessed by the public. If this is not possible in 2016, the 2016 annual report shall include an explanation of why this has not yet been possible and shall include a plan and schedule for making most project data available publicly.
- f. To enhance coordination now and in the future, IMW principal investigators shall participate in regular meetings with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (or its Technical Advisory Committee) and potential restoration treatment project sponsors, as requested by Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board or the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. The purpose of these meetings shall be to collaboratively identify treatment project objectives, assist in project design development in the IMW treatment streams, and ensure proper alignment with the Lower Columbia IMW goals, objectives, and priorities. The IMW team will serve as advisors in this process and will not be expected to design the restoration treatment projects.

The panel recommends a minimum of two meetings per year. Furthermore, to assist in developing treatment strategies and project designs, IMW scientists will make Lower Columbia IMW data and information available to the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board upon request. This will include data on fish distribution and usage at a minimum and other data as available. Finally, the IMW scientists should consult with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board to ensure that annual reports accurately describe restoration activities.

Skagit IMW

The Skagit IMW is the only estuarine IMW included in the SRFB monitoring portfolio. It also has the most extensive set of pre-restoration data and analyses of habitat and salmonid life histories. The Skagit IMW Project focuses on two key recovery questions that are not being addressed by other watershed-scale monitoring projects. (1) Are capacity and connectivity in estuaries limiting Chinook salmon? (2) Will the estuarine system and Chinook populations respond to estuary restoration?

The project has broad applicability to other large river estuaries. Like all other large river estuaries in the Puget Sound, the Skagit has lost extensive salmon habitat to human development. As in other estuaries, recovery practitioners are implementing restoration projects to recover some of what has been lost. Unlike other estuaries, however, the Skagit estuary still has large areas of extant shoreline and tidal habitat.

In addition, biologists working on the estuary have captured habitat and fish conditions with a long time-series of monitoring prior to implementation of big restoration projects. These conditions provide an invaluable opportunity to compare areas that are being restored before and after restoration projects and relative to areas that are not restored. Likewise, fish monitoring is not limited to simple metrics of abundance or population growth rate to test success.

By analyzing existing monitoring data, biologists developed data-driven hypotheses about what is driving the relationship between fish density, outmigration abundance, body size, and residence time in the estuary and how that might change with restoration. These hypotheses can be tested by the long-term monitoring design for the project and will help explain why fish are responding as they do.

The Skagit IMW has successfully faced some significant challenges in implementation that are different from other, more typical, IMWs. This adds useful diversity to the portfolio of IMW approaches and expands what we can learn about how to monitor salmon. For example, unlike smaller IMW watersheds, restoration efforts at the geographical scale of the Skagit watershed have no appropriate reference watersheds for controls or replication. The design addresses this by focusing treatments and reference sites at a smaller scale within the watershed. Likewise, the geographical complexity of the estuary and the abundance of juvenile Chinook salmon migrating through it mean that more typical mark-recapture methods of estimating abundance cannot be used. The investigators addressed this by sampling multiple stages of outmigration with different gear types and systematically using gear efficiency tests to standardize data. These have different strengths and weaknesses compared to more typical approaches.

The Skagit IMW is one of the few IMW projects to demonstrate statistically positive system-level response to restoration by juvenile Chinook salmon so far. Just as important, the monitoring results are suggesting other questions and how to answer them that will likely also be important in other watersheds. Why, for example, are adult return rates not improving even though juvenile life-histories benefit from restoration

activities? How variable is the habitat selection of outmigrating fry relative to the typical targets for habitat restoration? How do you continue to monitor and make statistically valid inferences as restoration actions move into areas that had historically been reference sites for the “no restoration” conditions, such as North Fork sites?

A major strength of the Skagit IMW is that it is built on a strong, collaborative effort. Federal agencies, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Indian tribes are actively engaged in the design, monitoring, and analysis. They bring additional resources to the effort beyond the funding provided by the SRFB. The administrative structure of the IMW provides excellent coordination among cooperating scientists, the lead entity, and project sponsors. The greatest challenge facing this group is identifying landowners willing to sell their property, sell the development rights to their property (as in a conservation easement), or allow substantial estuarine restoration treatments that may affect their property.

Recommendation: CLEAR. The Skagit IMW should be continued as currently scoped by the study’s principal investigators.

Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW

This IMW is an important part of the suite of IMWs in western Washington, along with the Lower Columbia IMW, because it addresses restoration of streams that have been altered by past forestry activities and therefore represents a category of land management that is quite common to the region. This watershed cluster provides an excellent opportunity to use a BACI experimental design where treatments can be carefully controlled, although early implementation of restoration actions in treatment watersheds (e.g., some road decommissioning) was not under the strict control of study planners.

The habitat sampling design follows the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program protocols developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This rotating panel design helps insure that bias in sample site selection is avoided. As one of the first IMWs to be implemented, the Straits IMW not only provided a model for other IMWs but it also has been a testing ground for the success of implementing key restoration treatments such as placement of large wood in stream channels. Two key strengths of this project are 1) the strong team of collaborators working on the IMW and 2) the ability to adapt to challenges while maintaining the core focus of the study. A broad array of monitoring elements is present in the study plan.

The monitoring panel is impressed with the work the Straits IMW team is doing on Coho salmon life histories, especially the documentation of the importance of fall migrants. Overall, the population and habitat surveys are scientifically sound. We do note that: (1) monitoring data of various types are scattered among a rather large group of federal, state, tribal, and private organizations without a central data clearinghouse. Without some attempt to maintain a centralized database and location for archived reports, publications, and presentations there is a risk that an important component of the monitoring program could be lost if support for maintaining the data at a cooperating entity vanishes, and (2) so far, the fish monitoring results are not showing a response to experimental treatments, and lead entities are considering adding new treatments – food supplementation and winter habitat augmentation – after 2 years.

Adding new restoration methods could confound the original study design and it would be very worthwhile to conclude the evaluation of large wood addition and road decommissioning effectiveness before undertaking new treatments (the panel is concerned that 2 more years may not be sufficient to complete this task). Lack of a statistically measurable response to treatments, if that is the conclusion, is an important finding; it does not necessarily mean that the restoration actions were ineffective but rather that environmental issues affecting target fish populations, Coho and steelhead, in the Straits IMW streams are complex and cannot be effectively remedied solely by adding large wood and decommissioning logging roads in this setting. That would be an important message for other restoration practitioners to hear.

The backlog of habitat data yet to be analyzed for this project is worrying. Lack of analytical capacity needs to be addressed, and if current project staff schedules cannot keep pace with data analysis a redirection of effort is appropriate. The types of analyses currently being conducted should be revisited to ascertain whether new techniques could result in improved efficiencies and fewer delays.

The panel also feels that the status and trends of habitat and fish populations in the reference watershed, West Twin Creek, should be examined to verify that assumptions about its suitability as a control site remain supported, and that the curious discrepancy between trends in Coho smolt abundance in Deep Creek relative to East and West Twin Creeks (Fig. 4 in the 2015 study plan) be explored.

The monitoring panel appreciates the contribution of federal organizations to this IMW, which have brought additional resources to bear from these agencies.

Recommendation: CONDITIONED. The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be included in the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW project agreement:

- a. Data collected in previous surveys should be analyzed and reported by June 2016.
- b. Data collected in 2016 and future years will undergo quality assurance/quality control procedures, analysis, and reporting within 18 months from the time data are collected.
- c. Thorough documentation of the location and availability of all data related to this study will be included in the 2016 annual report, including data collected by partners and other collaborators.
- d. A schedule will be established for evaluating the response of target fish species to existing habitat improvement actions. This evaluation should be completed before additional types of restoration are implemented. Post-treatment evaluations should not be open ended; they should be based on a statistical power analysis of the time needed to detect a significant response to treatments. If no statistically demonstrable responses are detected during the post-treatment evaluation period, additional treatment types can be considered. The evaluation schedule should be included in the 2016 annual report.

Project Effectiveness

Project effectiveness monitoring has been conducted for over 10 years, and was originally focused on determining the effectiveness of restoration treatment types to improve or create salmonid habitat at the project scale. Paired with IMW monitoring at the watershed scale, the project effectiveness monitoring was a foundational component of the SRFB monitoring program.

Eight restoration treatment project categories were initially included. Since the study's inception, monitoring of some project categories has ceased due to either a determination that sufficient data had been collected or a lack of projects in that category being implemented. Bonneville Power Administration chose to pursue a similar effectiveness monitoring effort and retained TetraTech to participate in its study. Effort was made by Bonneville Power Administration and TetraTech to select similar protocols (TetraTech switched to CHaMP protocols for the SRFB-funded monitoring) such that data across the two parallel monitoring efforts could be shared. New tasks were added to the shared monitoring effort, including 1) hydraulic modeling intended to inform

identification of the most effective design considerations of restoration projects, and 2) geomorphic change detection based on remote sensing, which is used to evaluate success of floodplain reconnection studies. The tools for both efforts were developed with Bonneville Power Administration funds and the site processing for SRFB sites was funded under the SRFB budget.

While leveraging of multiple funding sources is an asset to regional salmon recovery, it presumes the collaboration generates results and analyses that improve salmon recovery. Given limited time and resources, this is a critical question to consider and reconsider in the future.

The principal investigators have done an exemplary job of implementing the prescribed monitoring study and communicating the implementation in reports and presentations. Annual reports are well organized, clearly written, and regularly submitted. Much of the program is built on solid design of questions and indicators with careful attention to consistent and replicable methods. In some cases, the program has made good use of the data to provide useful information on the localized (reach-scale) effects of different kinds of restoration treatments. In other cases, the data have been used to improve monitoring, such as the change in monitoring frequency of habitat protection and riparian planting, riparian growth targets, and the reexamination of thalweg variance as an indicator of habitat complexity.

One shortcoming of the monitoring effort is that the principal investigators have not always sufficiently interpreted the resulting data to advance understanding of project effectiveness (e.g. in-stream structures, habitat enhancement and habitat protection). This is a concerning shortcoming of a primary goal of the intended monitoring. Without such critical inquiry and interpretation, an opportunity is lost to refine and improve restoration actions and monitoring efforts. In some cases, shortcomings in the project effectiveness monitoring stem from a lack of sites, in other cases from a lack of analysis and interpretation.

The monitoring panel believes that project effectiveness monitoring has contributed valuable knowledge about the ability of SRFB-funded projects to positively affect salmon habitat; however, the panel believes that this component of the SRFB Monitoring Program should be reshaped to address the concerns and shortcomings noted above. The panel is divided on the appropriate level and approach for future project effectiveness monitoring. The panel would like to make restructuring the project effectiveness monitoring project a focal point for its work in 2016. The challenge is to

identify the valuable elements of the original study design that should continue and how to reduce or eliminate elements that should not continue in their current form, and to identify any new elements that should be incorporated into the study.

In 2015 discussions, the panel generally agreed that in-stream habitat and floodplain enhancement present the greatest potential to provide meaningful and needed project-scale results with adequate site representation. The panel is divided on the appropriateness of continuing the current level of effort on riparian enhancement, livestock exclusion, habitat protection, and diversion screening monitoring. In the short term, the panel recommends that monitoring of riparian planting projects, livestock exclusion, and habitat protection categories should be deferred.

The project effectiveness annual report identified that the initial monitoring time frame is inappropriate for projects involving the development of riparian forest canopy cover. A 10-year monitoring period does not provide sufficient time for these projects to meet success criteria. Therefore we recommend deferring measurement in these project categories until sufficient time has passed for these projects to meet success criteria and the future direction of the monitoring study can be reconsidered.

It is essential to identify a meaningful and feasible alternative to interpreting, reporting, and disseminating the project effectiveness monitoring data in order to critically strengthen the ability to adaptively manage restoration actions. The panel concurs with a statement in the 2014 annual report: “The original directive to compare shared metrics within and across project categories is useful for basic management and funding decisions; however, it does not provide adequate detail for adaptive management of restoration.” Metrics are valuable, but ecological interpretation is needed.

While project effectiveness monitoring is well implemented (e.g. standardized methods, routine reporting), the results are insufficiently interpreted and presented for meaning and future management decisions. This was highlighted in 2014 in hopes Tetra Tech would enhance this element of the monitoring component, but improvements were not adequately achieved. The SRFB, recovery regions, lead entities, and project sponsors looking at these results need to more readily be able to understand the implications of the findings for modifying the type and design parameters of salmon restoration projects. Put more simply, what does it all mean and how should we change how we are approaching restoration?

Lastly, the current level of fish monitoring is inadequate for some objectives. The data collected by the contractor are only suitable for determining presence/absence for a species, and are not sufficient to determine actual fish productivity at a project site. The contractor has confirmed that some of the sampling occurred at times of the year when the target species is not present in the watershed. However, these data are presented throughout the document to support lines of inquiry and conclusions in potentially misleading ways (Figure 20, pgs. 32-37, etc.). In order to accurately describe fish use at floodplain enhancement and instream structure sites, repeated measures throughout the season when target species are known to be present would be required. Given these concerns, the current fish monitoring efforts require a more robust and comprehensive approach.

Recommendation: CONDITIONED. The monitoring panel recommends that the following language be include in the project agreement for project effectiveness monitoring.

- a. All monitoring at sites which include a component of riparian canopy cover as a success criteria (riparian restoration, livestock exclusion, and habitat protection) will be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will provide the panel with a proposed schedule for these sites with a revised monitoring return interval that will allow sufficient time for these sites to feasibly meet riparian forest canopy success criteria.
- b. Fish use monitoring shall be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will work with the panel to discuss the merits and feasibility of developing a more robust sampling plan that includes repeated measures throughout the season when target species are known to be present.
- c. Early in 2016, TetraTech will meet with the monitoring panel to develop a feasible alternative to interpreting and reporting on the project effectiveness monitoring data in order to strengthen this component of the study.

Status and Trends Fish Monitoring (Fish In/Fish Out)

The status and trends fish monitoring also often is referred to as fish in/fish out because it measures adults as they move in to freshwater and juveniles as they migrate out to the ocean. The status and trends fish monitoring effort provides fundamental pieces of information vital for evaluating salmonid adult and juvenile populations in watersheds throughout the state. These data are important elements in NOAA's 5-year status

review for Endangered Species Act-listed species and provide basic data needed to assess the four viable salmonid population parameters which are used to determine listing status under the Endangered Species Act. These data are also a critical component supporting the other SRFB Monitoring Programs (i.e., Intensively Monitored Watersheds and project effectiveness). Additionally, these data are used to manage commercial and sport fisheries, hatchery operations, and other fish resource management activities.

The SRFB funding used for these activities currently supports only 7 percent of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's total monitoring cost for its status and trends data program, and thus the SRFB funds are substantially leveraged to provide these data on a much larger scale than otherwise possible.

The status and trends fish monitoring provides the most direct measure of salmon population status and trends, and it forms the backbone of tracking habitat restoration success. Datasets generated by repeated annual fish monitoring are used to inform a number of policy-related issues, including habitat improvement actions and harvest allocations, among others. This is an essential and important project. The examples in the Annual Assessment of how the findings inform salmon recovery clearly illustrate the importance. The Department of Fish and Wildlife clearly understands the challenges of comprehensive status and trends monitoring for fish and based on the description of current progress is working to build a strong program.

Overall, the status and trends fish monitoring conducted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife continues to provide valuable results and data on abundance of various salmon stocks throughout the state, and relied upon heavily as an integral part of the SRFB's monitoring program entities.

This monitoring effort provides the most direct measure of salmon population status and trends, and it forms the backbone of tracking long-term restoration success. Datasets generated by repeated annual fish monitoring are also an essential element of all other monitoring component of the SRFB Monitoring Program (i.e., intensively monitored watersheds and project effectiveness) and are used to inform a number of policy-related issues.

Recommendation: CLEAR. The status and trends fish monitoring conducted by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife should be supported at the current or a higher level.

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ATTACHMENT A: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Annual Assessment for Intensively Monitored Watersheds October 25, 2014

The following categories represent key elements of a monitoring program. Please provide summaries of your work in each of these categories and respond based on the work conducted in the past year (May – April). The SRFB Monitoring Panel will use this assessment, in conjunction with other project reports, to evaluate the performance of each SRFB monitoring component. Based on this evaluation, the panel will make recommendations to the SRFB on the future direction and funding of the monitoring program.

Please respond to each question individually; do not summarize your answers collectively in essay format. Your responses should be submitted in the same order as the questions are presented. For clarity, include the questions as headings for your responses. Feel free to duplicate information provided in other documents. Where a meaningful response would be quite lengthy, it is appropriate to cite another document (be sure to provide a Web link or load the electronic report in PRISM and identify the specific pages on which this information can be found). The response for some of these questions will not change on an annual basis, but your reporting of it here will streamline the evaluation process.

1. Overarching Questions

- a. What were the scientific questions and objectives driving the monitoring data collection?
- b. How were the monitoring methods tied to the questions and objectives?
- c. Please direct us to documentation of your quality assurance/quality control plan for your monitoring program.

2. Effectiveness

- a. How were specific restoration actions tied to limiting factors and if not, please specify?

- b. What new information was learned over the reporting period about the changes in stream habitat, and fish abundance, productivity, and spatial distribution resulting from restoration actions? Please provide preliminary analytical evidence.
- c. Are the findings of this IMW applicable to other watersheds? Be specific about what findings are transferable and where? Specify criteria by which the findings translate to other watersheds (e.g. geomorphic conditions, climate regimes, land cover, ESUs, etc.).

3. Accountability

- a. What were the major monitoring tasks or milestones planned and/or implemented with SRFB funds during this reporting period (please itemize)?
- b. What was the actual progress against each major monitoring task or milestone (please summarize)?

4. Collaboration and Communication

- a. Cite examples of how your program has collaborated with monitoring partners (including project sponsors, lead entities, and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies). The purpose of this is to demonstrate the depth and breadth of collaboration that is occurring; a comprehensive list of every communication with your partners is not necessary.
- b. List reports and other technical products (e.g. presentations, maps, graphics, videos, etc.) that have been produced and where they can be obtained by the public. The purpose of this is to document public access to the results of your work; a comprehensive list of all materials is not necessary.
- c. Provide examples of conferences/meetings in which your program presented or participated; a comprehensive list of every presentation is not necessary.

5. Adaptive Management

- a. Please identify any specific changes made in your methodology over the reporting period.
- b. What challenges have you encountered in implementing your monitoring program?

- c. How will the findings of this IMW inform future salmon recovery (broad answers are appropriate)?

Annual Assessment for Project Effectiveness Monitoring

October 25, 2014

The following categories represent key elements of a monitoring program. Please provide summaries of your work in each of these categories and respond based on the work conducted in the past year (May – April). The SRFB Monitoring Panel will use this assessment, in conjunction with other project reports, to evaluate the performance of each SRFB monitoring component. Based on this evaluation, the panel will make recommendations to the SRFB on the future direction and funding of the monitoring program.

Please respond to each question individually; do not summarize your answers collectively in essay format. Your responses should be submitted in the same order as the questions are presented. For clarity, include the questions as headings for your responses. Feel free to duplicate information provided in other reports. Where a meaningful response would be quite lengthy, it is appropriate to cite another document (be sure to provide a Web link or load the electronic report in PRISM and identify the specific pages on which this information can be found). The response for some of these questions will not change on an annual basis, but your reporting of it here will streamline the evaluation process.

1. Overarching Questions

- a. What were the scientific questions and objectives driving the monitoring data collection?
- b. How were the monitoring methods tied to the questions and objectives?
- c. Please direct us to documentation of your quality assurance/quality control plan for your monitoring program.

2. Effectiveness

- a. What new information was learned about changes in stream habitat, and fish abundance and spatial distribution resulting from restoration actions? Please provide analytical evidence and generalize key findings.

3. Accountability

- a. What were the major monitoring tasks or milestones planned and/or implemented with SRFB funds during this reporting period (please itemize)?
- b. What was the actual progress against each major monitoring task or milestone (please summarize)?

4. Collaboration and Communication

- a. Cite examples of how your program has collaborated with monitoring partners (including project sponsors, lead entities, and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies). The purpose of this is to demonstrate the depth and breadth of collaboration that is occurring; a comprehensive list of every communication with your partners is not necessary.
- b. List reports and other technical products (e.g. presentations, maps, graphics, videos, etc.) that have been produced and where they can be obtained by the public. The purpose of this is to document public access to the results of your work; a comprehensive list of all materials is not necessary.
- c. Provide examples of conferences/meetings in which your program presented or participated. A comprehensive list of every presentation is not necessary.

5. Adaptive Management

- a. Please identify any specific changes made in your methodology over the reporting period.
- b. What challenges have you encountered in implementing your monitoring program?
- c. How do your findings inform future salmon recovery actions (a broad answer is appropriate)?

**Annual Assessment for Status and Trends (Fish-in/Fish-Out) Monitoring
Funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
October 25, 2014**

The following categories represent key elements of a monitoring program. Please provide summaries of your work in each of these categories and respond based on the work conducted in the past year (May – April) for SRFB-funded status and trend projects only. The SRFB Monitoring Panel will use this assessment, in conjunction with other project reports, to evaluate the performance of each SRFB monitoring component. Based on this evaluation, the panel will make recommendations to the SRFB on the future direction and funding of the monitoring program.

Please respond to each question individually; do not summarize your answers collectively in essay format. Your responses should be submitted in the same order as the questions are presented. For clarity, include the questions as headings for your responses. Feel free to duplicate information provided in other reports. Where a meaningful response would be quite lengthy, it is appropriate to provide a web link or load an electronic report in PRISM and to **identify the specific pages** on which this information can be found. The response for some of these questions will not change on an annual basis, but your reporting of it here will streamline the evaluation process. Your document should include page numbers.

1. Overarching

- a. What were the scientific questions and objectives driving the monitoring data collection?
- b. How were the monitoring methods tied to the questions and objectives?
- c. Please direct us to documentation of a quality assurance/quality control plan for the monitoring program.

2. Accountability

- a. What were the major monitoring tasks or milestones planned and/or implemented during this reporting period (please provide the comprehensive annual table for documentation)?
- b. What was the actual progress against each major monitoring task or milestone for SRFB funded projects?

3. Collaboration and Communication

- a. Provide examples of how your program has collaborated with monitoring partners, in particular, but not limited to, SRFB-funded IMWs and Project effectiveness monitoring. The purpose of this is to demonstrate the depth and breadth of collaboration that is occurring. A comprehensive list of every communication with your partners is not necessary.
- b. List reports and other technical products (e.g. presentations, maps, graphics, videos, etc.) that have been produced and where they can be obtained by the public. The purpose of this is to document public access to the results of your work; a comprehensive list of all materials is not necessary.
- c. Provide examples of conferences/meetings in which your program presented or participated. A comprehensive list of every presentation is not necessary.

4. Adaptive Management

- a. Please identify any specific changes made in your methodology over the reporting period for SRFB-funded projects.
- b. How will these findings inform salmon recovery? Broad answers for this are sufficient, but we appreciate specificity for SRFB-funded projects to the extent practicable.
- c. What challenges have you encountered in implementing your monitoring program (a high level response is appropriate)?

ATTACHMENT B: COMMENT FORMS

Comment Forms Provided to Monitoring Practitioners

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Snake River Salmon Recovery Region
Project Name:	Asotin Intensively Monitored Watershed
Reviewer:	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status
Post-Application		
Final	9/5/15	Clear

General Comments

The Asotin Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) project provides an interesting contrast and alternative approach to the four IMWs in western Washington. The Asotin IMW is the only IMW in the SRFB monitoring portfolio that is in the eastern part of the state. The setting for this study in terms of geomorphology, ecology, riparian plant communities, and patterns of land and water use are all distinct from the western Washington studies. Furthermore, the Asotin IMW differs from other SRFB IMWs in the scale, analytical approach, and administrative structure. The Asotin IMW study design is fundamentally different from western Washington IMWs in that treatment and control reaches are included within the same stream. Also unique to the SRFB IMW monitoring component is the administrative structure of this IMW which relies on a single contractor for planning the monitoring effort and implementing restoration treatments. These differences provide an important element of diversity to the SRFB Monitoring Program.

The monitoring panel was unanimously impressed with the overall study and pleased with its progress. The Asotin IMW design is well-conceived. The survey of the habitat conditions in the watershed is comprehensive and builds on collaboration with other monitoring approaches, such as the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP) protocols. The planned restoration treatments for the IMW have been completed in an extremely timely manner– the study was initiated in 2008, restoration treatments began in 2012 and will conclude in 2016; post-treatment monitoring will commence in 2017. The hierarchical staircase design, which staggers treatments around a more general basic before-after-control-impact (BACI) design, could provide a solution to the general

problem of identifying watersheds where there is adequate replication of before/control streams and treatment streams.

The underlying habitat issues are well understood and the restoration treatment approach using post-assisted log structures (PALS) is both a reasonable approach to treating the habitat issues in the basin and complements a similar restoration effort in Bridge Creek (John Day River). The characterization of habitat attributes using CHaMP protocols has yielded detailed channel maps that can be used to track post-treatment changes over time. While it is not an essential component of this study, this IMW would be an ideal location to compare the results of limiting factor analysis using the EDT model with those of the CHaMP habitat monitoring protocols. The finding that the lack of fine sediment in the Asotin watersheds may actually be a limiting factor for species such as Pacific Lamprey contradicts the EDT analysis (which was based on salmonid habitat needs), and highlights the need for field verification of model assumptions.

The Asotin IMW benefits from having a single entity in charge of planning the monitoring effort and implementing restoration treatments. This combined with the strong support of the lead entity/region has led to efficient and successful implementation of restoration treatments. The contractor has been extremely responsive to information requests from the panel. The revised study plan contained a remarkable amount of detail about habitat conditions in the three experimental watersheds within the Asotin Creek drainage system.

The results of the study appear transferable to other watersheds having similar geomorphology and environmental disturbance factors. In general the initial results align with hypotheses developed in the study plan including positive responses to treatments in both fish and habitat metrics. Successful results from the Asotin IMW could greatly improve what we learn about large woody debris (LWD) restoration treatments and how regions can proceed with making monitoring more cost-effective and informative. Future results from this project may help support findings in other past studies on the response of steelhead abundance and productivity from placement of LWD as treatments to restore/increase instream habitat quantity. Future planned tasks and potential outcomes appear well-linked to the project objectives and hypotheses. The monitoring panel whole-heartedly endorses the study for continued SRFB support.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date: 8-24-15

Final Project Status: Clear

Monitoring Panel Member(s): Full Panel

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:
 - a. Continue to explore the benefits, challenges, and assumptions of the hierarchical staircase design, especially where there may be episodic violations of assumptions. For example, because a fundamental assumption of repeated measures analyses is that the sample units must be independent, the staggered design provides a potentially powerful way of teasing out the random effects of interannual variation that would not be independent in the basic before-after-control-impact (BACI) design. However, since abundance of juvenile fish is an important metric for the success of LWD restoration, the presence of fish in different sampling units also needs to be independent, i.e. there can be no significant movement of fish between units. Preliminary data from PIT tags during a non-flood year suggests there is little movement even between treatment and control units that are in the same stream. This may not hold true overtime, such as during major flood events, which have been a major cause of habitat degradation in the absence of adequate LWD, pools, etc. Thus it is critical that monitoring of fish movement is continued. Your findings on this point should be reported in the 2016 annual report.
 - b. Empirical data on spawning and rearing habitat should be integrated with results of net rate of energy intake (NREI) modeling in order to validate model assumptions. Additionally, the relationship between carrying capacity and point-in-time measurements of fish densities should be examined.

- c. Asotin Creek is identified as an unsupplemented reference watershed within the Snake River salmon network of supplementation sites. It is important that this status is continued and that the streams in the study not receive hatchery fish while the monitoring study is ongoing.
- d. While we think the study design and implementation are exceptionally good, we suggest that investigators consider the possibility of additional metrics in future years' analysis. For example, in addition to fish population-level response, future measures of productivity might include ecosystem-level functions such as allochthonous nutrient input and secondary production. In theory, there will be food web benefits from creating structures that retain organic matter. Adding a metric of food availability to steelhead to the suite of habitat variables would be illuminating. Growth rates of juvenile and parr steelhead could also be compared before and after post additions. Examining the use of habitat structures in winter could provide additional evidence about changes in survival during the critical winter period.

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Puget Sound
Project Name:	Hood Canal Intensively Monitored Watershed
Reviewer	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status¹
Post-Application		
Final	9/6/15	Conditioned

General Comments

The Hood Canal IMW encompasses coordinated efforts from multiple entities, including state government agencies, a private company, and the local lead entity, and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG). There appears to be excellent coordination among the IMW scientists and the lead entity and project sponsors. The IMW focuses primarily on coho salmon, though summer and fall chum, steelhead and cutthroat trout are also present. The background biological information on the life history and physical habitat processes in the watershed are an asset for this project.

The panel believes that the Hood Canal IMW team is doing the best it can with a difficult situation but the study faces some daunting hurdles in the form of very drawn-out treatments and poor adult coho escapement, both of which make a before-after-control-impact (BACI) design very hard to apply. The BACI approach seems to be the default experimental design for IMWs, but it is hard to use BACI in IMWs such as Hood Canal when (1) treatments are spread out over a long time period (multiple years) making it difficult to identify and statistically distinguish “before” and “after”, and (2) the low and highly variable adult coho escapement results in so much annual variability in juvenile abundance that power analysis points to very long pre- and post-treatment monitoring periods.

Although the study has been impeded by a paucity of restoration treatment implementation, with the infusion of dedicated money from the SRFB for restoration treatment, implementation of restoration actions should accelerate. Prolonged implementation of restoration actions will only serve to extend the post-treatment monitoring period so far as to potentially make evaluations impractical.

¹CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; POC: Project of Concern

While the panel concurs with the concept stated in Annual Assessment response 2a (Our restoration approach aims to restore the processes needed to re-establish and maintain dynamic habitat mosaics at the large spatial extents required to promote resilient fish populations), the absence of clearly identified limiting factors (and the corresponding evidence for those factors being deemed limiting), and clearly defined IMW objectives (i.e., quantifiable targets), is problematic and needs correction. Without such specificity, monitoring cannot be focused and progress cannot be tracked. This is a primary point of concern. Without this in place, addressing other IMW challenges is compromised.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date: 8-27-15

Final Project Status: Conditioned

Monitoring Panel Member(s): Full Panel

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
 - a. Principal investigators shall provide additional details regarding the QA/QC protocols, data archiving, and data availability across participating agencies in the 2016 annual report.
 - b. For each type of restoration activity included in the study plan, IMW scientists shall provide a clear schedule of implementation, pre-treatment monitoring, and post-treatment monitoring for each treated watershed. This should include a statistical basis (power analysis) for determining how long post-treatment monitoring should take place in order to judge whether the particular restoration action achieved or did not achieve desired results. This should be included in the annual report submitted in June, 2016.
 - c. In the annual report, IMW scientists will describe and prioritize limiting factors to be addressed in restoration treatments.

- d. The IMW practitioners shall conduct a power analysis showing the time required to detect a change in coho productivity due to interannual variation in juvenile abundance caused by high adult harvest rates. The analysis should include the difference (a range is OK) in years to detect a restoration-related change under a little or no harvest regime and under the current harvest regime.
 - e. The panel would also like to encourage the Hood Canal IMW practitioners to engage harvest co-managers in finding a solution to the difficulties to the monitoring design caused by high harvest, such as exploring the opportunity for a limited time-bound restriction of the terminal fishery targeting these streams. The requested power analysis should help by indicating the duration of harvest restriction needed for the IMW to yield information.
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:
- a. In future reports, the objectives for the Hood Canal IMW need to be more clearly stated. The list provided in the response to Annual Assessment Question 1a is a mix of goals and methods, not objectives. Objectives should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time bounded (SMART). Look to the study plan hypotheses as a starting point.
 - b. In future reports, please provide a more thorough description of the benefits and transferability of the IMW's work. For example, we concur with the generalities stated in response to the Annual Assessment Question 2c, however the response was insufficiently specific and did not demonstrate the broader benefit of the Hood Canal IMW. In order for the Hood Canal IMW to fulfill its intended benefit and receive corresponding support, benefits of the IMW's work need further development. For instance, the Hood Canal IMW is the only IMW that is in a forested Puget Lowland basin experiencing suburbanization. As such it represents conditions that can be expected to be present in a number of other small forested streams in the Puget Lowland experiencing similar land use conversions.
 - c. An ecological-process-based, population dynamics model would be highly beneficial in an effort to understand the population dynamics and response to changes in habitat conditions.

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Lower Columbia
Project Name:	Lower Columbia IMW
Reviewer:	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status²
Post-Application		
Final	9/19/15	Conditioned

General Comments

The Lower Columbia IMW watershed is unique among the current suite of IMW's in that it includes multiple anadromous species and benefits from more than ten years of pre-treatment smolt data from adjacent watersheds. Because the time series of pre-treatment smolt data spans several fish generations, this study is well positioned to predict how much post-treatment monitoring will be required to assess the efficacy of restoration actions. Power analyses from this long-term data base have been used to provide reasonable estimates of the time needed to detect restoration effects. The Lower Columbia IMW intends to not only test whether restoration treatments lead to a response but to understand the mechanisms for the response. The addition of a life-cycle framework to the approach for coho adds a useful dimension to the project. The study's principal investigators have done an excellent job in developing the study plan and providing requested material.

The study is challenged however by protracted implementation of restoration treatments; a history of poor collaboration between the project scientists and local organizations (i.e. the lead entity/region, its affiliated technical advisory committee, and potential project sponsors); and confounding effects from a USFWS research hatchery on Abernathy Creek. The slow implementation of restoration treatment projects appears in part to be an artifact of the SRFB funding process, as implemented at the local level, and exacerbated by the ineffective collaboration among scientists and the lead entity/region. The protracted implementation of restoration treatment projects has complicated the IMW team's ability to measure fish population response in a complex watershed with multiple salmonid species, low numbers of adult fish and hatchery operations. As a consequence of delayed implementation of funded projects, some habitat treatments extended into the post-treatment monitoring period, thus

²CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; POC: Project of Concern

complicating the before-after-control –impact (BACI) experimental design. A variety of instream restoration projects have been implemented in Abernathy and Germany Creeks over the past several years on an independent basis by several project sponsors (e.g., Cowlitz Tribe, Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Conservation District, Columbia Land Trust, etc.). However coordination between sponsors and the IMW team was inadequate in the project selection, siting, and project development. The IMW study plan does not articulate how these projects apply to IMW study objectives, cause-effect relationships specific to habitat restoration, and/or fish use or production. The infusion of SRFB funds earmarked for restoration treatment projects over the last two years has alleviated many of the collaboration challenges that previously delayed development and implementation of restoration treatments. IMW scientists, the LCFRB, and potential project sponsors should continue to build relationships to ensure that continued cooperation can be expected after SRFB dedicated restoration treatment funds are no longer available.

One of the monitoring panel's greatest concerns with this IMW is the potential impacts to the study from the USFWS Abernathy Fish Technology Center. The panel is in particular concerned about reports of annual dewatering of Abernathy Creek at the facility, however there is conflicting information on this point and the panel would like to understand if dewatering regularly occurs and, if so, the typical extent and duration. Also unclear is the passability of the fish ladder adjacent to Abernathy Falls and the potential for hatchery influence on monitored species. These problems have the potential to skew or prevent accurate interpretation of study results accrued by the Lower Columbia IMW from Abernathy Creek, especially from restoration projects in the upper watershed.

Although several limiting factors were identified for fish production in the Treatment Plan submitted to the LCFRB in 2009, it is not clear if the list is still relevant following a decade of study. Why additional work on physical habitat projects was tabled and efforts switched to nutrient enhancement was not adequately addressed in the 2015 Study Plan nor supported by initial results. Recent restoration activities have focused on nutrient enhancement via the use of salmon carcass analogs. Nutrient deficiency, however, was not identified as a limiting factor nor identified as a targeted restoration need in the original study plan and there has apparently been little additional analysis (quantitative prediction) of the benefits of nutrient supplementation on the rearing capacity of salmonids in the treated streams.

The panel would also like to see improvements in data availability. According to the 2015 study plan, about half of the data are available publicly. It is essential that this percentage be increased substantially as the study progresses. Preliminary results and reports have not adequately described the relevance of this IMW's work to other salmon restoration efforts in the state.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date: 9/19/15

Final Project Status: CONDITIONED

Monitoring Panel Member(s): Full Monitoring Panel

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
 - a. The IMW team will provide data to the monitoring panel on thalweg depth and wetted width in the reach downstream of the Abernathy Fish Technology Center, between the fish intake structure and the point in the stream where hatchery effluent reenters the stream, for the months of June through October for the period of record that is available. If no data of this nature are currently available from the Fish Technology Center or other sources, the IMW team will ensure that thalweg depth and wetted width are collected in 2016 and will also record any observation that the stream has become intermittent in the reach downstream of the Fish Technology Center. These data should be summarized and included with photo points in the 2016 annual report.
 - b. IMW scientists shall explicitly identify how they will address confounding effects of Abernathy Fish Technology Center operations, such as water use and hatchery influence on monitored species, specifically steelhead, in their data analysis. This will be included in the 2016 annual report.
 - c. WDFW shall evaluate and characterize the degree of passability at the fish ladder at Abernathy Falls and will summarize findings in a barrier evaluation form in the 2016 annual report

(http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual18Appendices/Appendix_E_BarrierEvaluationForm.doc).

- d. In the 2016 annual report, principal investigators shall revisit and prioritize limiting factors that will be addressed. IMW scientists will also assess whether current population metrics, such as parr length as a correlate for growth, are appropriate for measuring response.
 - e. The 2016 annual report shall describe where and how most project data can be accessed by the public. If this is not possible in 2016, the 2016 annual report shall include an explanation of why this has not yet been possible and shall include a plan and schedule for making most project data available publicly.
 - f. To enhance coordination now and in the future, IMW principal investigators shall participate in regular meetings with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (or the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee) and potential restoration treatment project sponsors, as requested by LCFRB or GSRO. The purpose of these meetings shall be to collaboratively identify treatment project objectives and assist in project design development in the IMW treatment streams, and to ensure proper alignment with the Lower Columbia IMW goals, objectives, and priorities. The IMW team will serve as advisors in this process and will not be expected to design the restoration treatment projects. The panel recommends a minimum of two meetings per year. Furthermore, to assist in developing treatment strategies and project designs, IMW scientists will make LC IMW data and information available to the LCFRB upon request. This will include data on fish distribution and usage at a minimum and other data as available. Finally, the IMW scientists should consult with the LCFRB to ensure that annual reports accurately describe restoration activities.
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Puget Sound
Project Name:	Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed Project
Reviewer:	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status³
Post-Application		
Final	9/5/15	Clear

General Comments

The Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed Project (IMW) focuses on two key recovery questions that are not being addressed by other watershed-scale monitoring projects. (1) Are capacity and connectivity in estuaries limiting Chinook salmon? (2) Will the estuarine system and Chinook populations respond to estuary restoration?

The project has broad applicability to other large river estuaries. Like all other large river estuaries in the Puget Sound, the Skagit has lost extensive salmon habitat to human development. As in other estuaries, recovery practitioners are implementing restoration projects to recover some of what has been lost. Unlike other estuaries, however, the Skagit estuary still has large areas of extant shoreline and tidal habitat. In addition, biologists working on the estuary have captured habitat and fish conditions with a long time-series of monitoring prior to implementation of big restoration projects. These conditions provide an invaluable opportunity to compare areas that are being restored before and after restoration projects and relative to areas that are not restored. Likewise, fish monitoring is not limited to simple metrics of abundance or population growth rate to test success. By analyzing existing monitoring data, biologists developed data-driven hypotheses about what is driving the relationship between fish density, outmigration abundance, body size, and residence time in the estuary and how that might change with restoration. These hypotheses can be tested by the long-term monitoring design for the project and will help explain why fish are responding as they do.

The Skagit IMW has successfully faced some significant challenges in implementation that are different from other more “typical” IMWs. This adds useful diversity to the portfolio of IMW approaches and expands what we can learn about how to monitor

³CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; POC: Project of Concern

salmon. For example, unlike smaller IMW watersheds, restoration efforts at the geographical scale of the Skagit watershed have no appropriate reference watersheds for controls or replication. The design addresses this by focusing treatments and reference sites at a smaller scale within the watershed. Likewise, the geographical complexity of the estuary and the abundance of juvenile Chinook salmon migrating through it means that more typical mark-recapture methods of estimating abundance cannot be used. The investigators addressed this by sampling multiple stages of outmigration with different gear types and systematically using gear efficiency tests to standardize data. These have different strengths and weaknesses compared to more typical approaches.

The Skagit IMW is one of the few intensively monitored watershed projects to demonstrate statistically positive system-level response to restoration by juvenile Chinook salmon so far. Just as important, the monitoring results are suggesting other questions and how to answer them that will likely also be important in other watersheds. Why, for example, are adult return rates not improving even though juvenile life-histories benefit from restoration activities? How variable is the habitat selection of outmigrating fry relative to the typical targets for habitat restoration? How do you continue to monitor and make statistically valid inferences as restoration actions move into areas that had historically been reference sites for the “no restoration” conditions, such as North Fork sites?

A major strength of the Skagit IMW is that it is built on a strong, collaborative effort. Federal agencies, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Indian Tribes are actively engaged in the design, monitoring, and analysis. They bring additional resources to the effort beyond the funding provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The administrative structure of the IMW provides excellent coordination among cooperating scientists, the lead entity, and project sponsors. The greatest challenge facing this group is identifying landowners willing to sell their property or allow substantial estuarine restoration treatments that may affect their property.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date: September 1, 2015

Final Project Status: Clear

Monitoring Panel Member(s): Full Monitoring Panel

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

As restoration moves into the North Fork, which currently has many reference sites, monitoring practitioners might want to look at adapting alternative designs, such as the hierarchical staircase design that allows some reference sites to become treatment sites.

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Puget Sound
Project Name:	Straits of Juan de Fuca Intensively Monitored Watershed
Reviewer:	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status ⁴
Post-Application		
Final	9/5/15	Conditioned

General Comments

This IMW is an important part of the suite of IMWs in western Washington, along with the Lower Columbia IMW, because it addresses restoration of streams that have been altered by past forestry activities and therefore represents a category of land management that is quite common to the region. This watershed cluster provides an excellent opportunity to use a before-after-control-impact (BACI) experimental design where treatments can be carefully controlled, with EMAP (rotating panel) habitat sampling, although early implementation of restoration actions in treatment watersheds (e.g., some road decommissioning) was not under the strict control of study planners. As one of the first IMWs to be implemented, the Straits IMW not only provided a model for other IMWs but it also been a testing ground for the success of implementing key restoration treatments such as placement of large wood in stream channels. Two key strengths of the this project are 1) the strong team of collaborators working on the IMW and 2) the ability to adapt to challenges while maintaining the core focus of the study. A broad array of monitoring elements are present in the study plan.

The Monitoring Panel likes the work the Straits IMW team is doing on coho salmon life histories, especially the documentation of the importance of fall migrants. Overall, the population and habitat surveys are scientifically sound. We do note that: (1) monitoring data of various types are scattered among a rather large group of federal, state, tribal, and private organizations without a central data clearinghouse. Without some attempt to maintain a centralized database and location for archived reports, publications, and presentations there is a risk that an important component of the monitoring program could be lost if support for maintaining the data at a cooperating entity vanishes, and (2) so far, the fish monitoring results are not showing a response to experimental treatments, and lead entities are considering adding new treatments – food

⁴CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; POC: Project of Concern

supplementation and winter habitat augmentation – after two years. Adding new restoration methods could confound the original study design and it would be very worthwhile to conclude the evaluation of large wood addition and road decommissioning effectiveness before undertaking new treatments (is two more years enough to complete this task?). Lack of a statistically measurable response to treatments, if that is the conclusion, is an important finding; it does not necessarily mean that the restoration actions were ineffective but rather that environmental issues affecting target fish populations, coho and steelhead, in the Straits IMW streams are complex and cannot be effectively remedied solely by adding large wood and decommissioning logging roads in this setting. That would be an important message for other restoration practitioners to hear.

The backlog of habitat data yet to be analyzed for this project is of concern. The lack of analytical capacity needs to be addressed, and if current project staff schedules cannot keep pace with data analysis a redirection of effort is appropriate. The types of analyses currently being conducted should be revisited to ascertain whether new techniques could result in improved efficiencies and fewer delays.

We also feel that the status and trends of habitat and fish populations in the reference watershed, West Twin Creek, should be examined to verify that assumptions about its suitability as a control site remain supported, and that the curious apparent discrepancy between trends in coho smolt abundance in Deep Creek relative to East and West Twin Creeks (Fig. 4 in the 2015 study plan) be explored.

The Monitoring Panel appreciates the contribution of federal organizations to this IMW, which has brought additional resources to bear in the form of PIT-tagging and data analyses that are conducted by federal agencies without additional SRFB expenditures.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date: 8-26-15

Final Project Status: Conditioned

Monitoring Panel Member(s): Full Monitoring panel

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration

and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.

2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
 - a. Data collected in previous surveys should be analyzed and reported by June 2016.
 - b. Data collected in 2016 and future years will undergo quality assurance/quality control procedures, analysis, and reporting within 18 months from the time data are collected.
 - c. Thorough documentation of the location and availability of all data related to this study will be included in the 2016 annual report, including data collected by partners and other collaborators.
 - d. A schedule will be established for evaluating the response of target fish species to existing habitat improvement actions. This evaluation should be completed before additional types of restoration are implemented. Post-treatment evaluations should not be open ended; they should be based on a statistical power analysis of the time needed to detect a significant response to treatments. If no statistically demonstrable responses are detected during the post-treatment evaluation period, additional treatment types can be considered. The evaluation schedule should be included in the 2016 annual report.
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:
 - a. The project would benefit from a better description of how factors limiting coho and steelhead production were identified and chosen. Although the early Olympic National Forest watershed assessment suggested that implementation of large woody debris addition might be an effective restoration technique, it was not clear from the ONF watershed assessment how other impaired watershed conditions and potential restoration actions in the Straits IMW were given lower priority than large wood additions or road decommissioning.
 - b. Project staff should consider incorporating additional descriptive metrics at the reach and watershed scale that include geomorphological features such as gradient, sinuosity, and channel type to the study plan and analysis.

- c. It would be helpful to expand habitat monitoring to include identification of actual spawning and rearing habitats in addition to the present EMAP protocols that measure general habitat conditions at pre-determined intervals. For example, the extent of rearing below the fish trap under different flow regimes would be useful information. As stated above, new treatment categories (food web supplementation and increased winter habitat) should only be implemented after the initial suite of restoration actions has been properly evaluated. In addition, there should be adequate justification presented that the new actions are likely to work, as demonstrated by other studies, and are appropriate to the Straits IMW setting (i.e., do they address a probable limiting factor in the two treatment watersheds?).

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Statewide
Project Name:	Project Effectiveness Monitoring
Reviewer:	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status⁵
Post-Application		
Final	9/19/15	Conditioned

General Comments

Project effectiveness monitoring has been conducted for over ten years, and was originally focused on determining the effectiveness of restoration treatment types to improve or create salmonid habitat at the project scale. Paired with IMW monitoring at the watershed scale, the project effectiveness monitoring was a foundational component of the SRFB monitoring program. Eight restoration treatment project categories were initially included. Since the study's inception, monitoring of some project categories has ceased due to either a determination that sufficient data had been collected, or a lack of projects in that category being implemented. Bonneville Power Administration chose to pursue a similar effectiveness monitoring effort and retained TetraTech to participate in their study. Effort was made by BPA and TetraTech to select similar protocols (TetraTech switched to CHaMP protocols for the SRFB-funded monitoring) such that data across the two parallel monitoring efforts could be shared. New tasks were added to the shared monitoring effort, including 1) hydraulic modeling intended to inform identification of the most effective design considerations of restoration projects, and 2) geomorphic change detection based on remote sensing, which is used to evaluate success of floodplain reconnection studies. The tools for both efforts were developed with BPA funds and the site processing for SRFB sites was funded under the SRFB budget. While leveraging of multiple funding sources is an asset to regional salmon recovery, it presumes the collaboration generates results and analyses that improve salmon recovery. Given limited time and resources, this is a critical question to consider and reconsider in the future.

The principal investigators have done an exemplary job of implementing the prescribed monitoring study and communicating the implementation in reports and presentations. Annual reports are well organized, clearly written and regularly submitted. Much of the program is built on solid design of questions and indicators with careful attention to

⁵CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; POC: Project of Concern

consistent and replicable methods. In some cases, the program has made good use of the data to provide useful information on the localized (reach-scale) effects of different kinds of restoration treatments. In other cases, the data have been used to improve monitoring, such as the change in monitoring frequency of habitat protection and riparian planting, riparian growth targets, and the reexamination of thalweg variance as an indicator of habitat complexity.

One shortcoming of the monitoring effort is that the principal investigators have not always sufficiently interpreted the resulting data to advance understanding of project effectiveness (e.g. instream structures, habitat enhancement and habitat protection). This is a concerning shortcoming of a primary goal of the intended monitoring. Without such critical inquiry and interpretation, an opportunity is lost to refine and improve restoration actions and monitoring efforts. In some cases shortcomings in the project effectiveness monitoring stem from a lack of sites, in other cases from a lack of analysis and interpretation.

The monitoring panel believes that project effectiveness monitoring has contributed valuable knowledge about the ability of SRFB-funded projects to positively affect salmon habitat however, the panel believes that this component of the SRFB Monitoring Program should be reshaped to address the concerns and shortcomings noted above. The panel is divided on the appropriate level and approach for future project effectiveness monitoring. The panel would like to make restructuring the project effectiveness monitoring project a focal point for its work in 2016. The challenge is to identify the valuable elements of the original study design that should continue, how to reduce or eliminate elements that should not continue in their current form, and to identify any new elements that should be incorporated into the study. In 2015 discussions, the panel generally agreed that instream habitat and floodplain enhancement present the greatest potential to provide meaningful and needed project-scale results with adequate site representation. The panel is divided on the appropriateness of continuing the current level of effort on riparian enhancement, livestock exclusion, habitat protection, and diversion screening monitoring. In the short term, the panel recommends that monitoring of riparian planting projects, livestock exclusion, and habitat protection categories should be deferred. The project effectiveness annual report identified that the initial monitoring time frame is inappropriate for projects involving the development of riparian forest canopy cover. A ten-year monitoring period does not provide sufficient time for these projects to meet success criteria. Therefore we recommend deferring measurement in these project

categories until sufficient time has passed for these projects to meet success criteria and the future direction of the monitoring study can be reconsidered.

It is essential to identify a meaningful and feasible alternative to interpreting, reporting, and disseminating the project effectiveness monitoring data in order to critically strengthen our ability to adaptively manage restoration actions. The panel concurs with a statement in the 2014 annual report: “The original directive to compare shared metrics within and across project categories is useful for basic management and funding decisions; however, it does not provide adequate detail for adaptive management of restoration.” Metrics are valuable, but ecological interpretation is needed. While project effectiveness monitoring is well implemented (e.g. - standardized methods, routine reporting), the results are insufficiently interpreted and presented for meaning and future management decisions. This was highlighted in 2014 in hopes Tetra Tech would enhance this component of the program, but improvements were not adequately achieved. The SRFB, recovery regions, lead entities, and project sponsors looking at these results need to more readily be able to understand the implications of the findings for modifying the type and design parameters of salmon restoration projects. Put more simply, what does it all mean and how should we change how we are approaching restoration?

Lastly, the current level of fish monitoring is inadequate for some objectives. The data collected by the contractor are only suitable for determining presence/absence for a species, and are not sufficient to determine actual fish productivity at a project site. The contractor has confirmed that some of the sampling occurred at times of the year when the target species is not present in the watershed. However, these data are presented throughout the document to support lines of inquiry and conclusions in potentially misleading ways (Figure 20, pgs. 32-37, etc.). In order to accurately describe fish use at floodplain enhancement and instream structure sites, repeated measures throughout the season when target species are known to be present would be required. Given these concerns, the current fish monitoring efforts require a more robust and comprehensive approach.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date: 9-2-15

Final Project Status: Conditioned

Monitoring Panel Member(s): Full Panel

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
 - a. All monitoring at sites which include a component of riparian canopy cover as a success criteria (riparian restoration, livestock exclusion, and habitat protection) will be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will provide the panel with a proposed schedule for these sites with a revised monitoring return interval that will allow sufficient time for these sites to feasibly meet riparian forest canopy success criteria.
 - b. Fish use monitoring shall be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will work with the panel to discuss the merits and feasibility of developing a more robust sampling plan that includes repeated measures throughout the season when target species are known to be present.
 - c. Early in 2016, TetraTech will meet with the monitoring panel to develop a feasible alternative to interpreting and reporting on the project effectiveness monitoring data in order to strengthen this component of the study.
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:

The 2014 annual report was the focus of the panel's evaluation as responses to the requested annual assessment pointed to that report. The 2014 annual report did an excellent job of articulating the goals, general methods and opportunities for adaptive management. However, the level of detail in results and discussion made it potentially misleading for reviewers. For example, some major findings

were touched upon with one sentence, followed by whole paragraphs devoted to speculative exploration. Some components of monitoring have been successful and have provided useful information, such as fish passage, livestock exclusion, riparian plantings, and geomorphic change detection. The cost-effectiveness analyses provided in the report comparing different restoration actions, as well as the advanced technologies being used to monitor habitat change were also valuable. However, some aspects of the 2014 annual report were exploratory and could lead to potentially misleading conclusions (i.e. fish use data are presented and discussed that did not have sufficient sampling effort). And in other cases, suggestions are proposed, but not explained or justified with supporting data (i.e. pg. 37 video monitoring to further evaluate wood placement in high velocity areas). For the future, we encourage the authors to provide additional data and a more detailed annual report.

Additional remarks:

1. Winter habitat - It appears that the vast majority of monitoring activities take place during the warm season. This is understandable from a field logistics perspective, but what happens throughout the year, including during the cold season may place significant constraints on the effectiveness of habitat restoration. Almost all other state-wide monitoring programs (e.g., CHaMP and AREMP) focus nearly exclusively on warm season habitats. It would be helpful if the effectiveness monitoring project staff would select a subset of existing monitoring sites where winter sampling can be conducted, and track winter habitat changes over time.
2. Data archiving - The 2014 annual report includes a section on QA/QC but it does not go into much detail about data archiving. We were not able to determine whether metadata from the monitoring sites had been uploaded into the BPA Taurus website (<http://www.cbfish.org/>) or any other widely accessible clearinghouse for locating and describing habitat restoration projects, other than through annual reports available at the RCO website (http://www.rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/other_pubs.shtml#monitoring). It would be helpful for future annual reports to add a section about how effectiveness monitoring data are being archived and how they can be accessed publicly.
3. Hydraulic modeling – It is unclear what the future plan is for the hydraulic modeling effort and how it ties in to ongoing project monitoring. The work is interesting and technically sound, however the linkage to ongoing monitoring of projects is not well made. The annual report identifies that future development of habitat modeling efforts will be focused on improving design criteria. It is unclear how this will be accomplished in a generic sense, given the highly site-specific nature of design efforts.

4. In the 2016 annual report, include a table that concisely identifies the indicators of effectiveness and success criteria for each project category. In this table, or in a second table, summarize the number of projects by project category, monitoring frequency and planned duration, and the year in which monitoring was initiated for the category.
5. As the program matures and monitoring results become more conclusive, the program will need to focus and expand efforts for how to share the information with restoration practitioners. Planning for this should begin soon, if it has not already. Principal investigators suggest that the best way would be by direct outreach and they have made some efforts in the Tucannon River. This approach would certainly be effective for a target group. It is worth considering less direct efforts as well, including conference presentations, social media and websites, and publications that might be less expensive and allow broader, simultaneous outreach to many groups. GSRO also should play a role in a more formalized process to share results from this study with project sponsors and the SRFB Technical Review Panel. The more formalized process should occur annually.
6. A rotating panel design is described for monitoring with frequency based on duration of expected response. However, it appears as if some sites were sampled too infrequently to assess whether treatments had intended effect. We suggest the sampling schedule/design for habitat measurements be reevaluated based on data collected since project implementation.
7. Several terms require additional justification before they can be linked to fish population response and ultimately used to inform future restoration actions. For example, use of “edge habitat” as a descriptive variable was not adequately explained. Similarly, total fish cover is a general term whose relationship to LWD is unclear.

Monitoring Panel Comment Form: Annual Evaluation



Region:	Statewide
Project Name:	Status and Trends Fish Monitoring
Reviewer	Full Monitoring Panel

	Date	Status⁶
Post-Application		
Final	9/5/15	Clear

General Comments

The status and trends fish monitoring effort (aka Fish In/Fish Out) provides fundamental pieces of information vital for evaluating salmonid adult and juvenile populations in watersheds throughout the state. These data are important elements in NOAA's 5-year status review for ESA-listed species and provide basic data needed to assess the four viable salmonid population parameters which are used to determine listing status under the Endangered Species Act. These data are also a critical component supporting the other SRFB Monitoring Programs (i.e., Intensively Monitored Watersheds and Project Effectiveness). Additionally, these data are used to manage commercial and sport fisheries, hatchery operations, and other fish resource management activities. The SRFB funding used for these activities currently supports only 7% of WDFW's total monitoring cost for their status and trends data program, and thus the SRFB funds are substantially leveraged to provide these data on a much larger scale than otherwise possible.

The status and trends fish monitoring provides the most direct measure of salmon population status and trends, and it forms the backbone of tracking habitat restoration success. Datasets generated by repeated annual fish monitoring are used to inform a number of policy-related issues, including habitat improvement actions and harvest allocations, among others. This is an essential and important project. The examples in the Annual Assessment of how the findings inform salmon recovery clearly illustrate the importance. WDFW clearly understands the challenges of comprehensive status and trends monitoring for fish and based on the description of current progress is working to build a strong program.

⁶CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; POC: Project of Concern

Overall, the status and trends fish monitoring conducted by WDFW continues to provide valuable results and data on abundance of various salmon stocks throughout the state, and relied upon heavily as an integral part of the SRFB's monitoring program entities.

Detailed Comments and Status

Date:

Final Project Status: Clear

Monitoring Panel Member(s):

This evaluation is based on the Annual Assessment and the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or Study Plan (IMW).

1. If the project is a POC, identify the project elements used to determine the status of the project. Reference either specific sections of the Annual Assessment (Overarching Questions, Effectiveness, Accountability, Collaboration and Communication, Adaptive Management), or specific sections of the Annual Progress Report (PE, FIFO) or IMW Study Plan.
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
3. Other comments or suggestions for enhancing the approach of this monitoring component:
 - a. **Annual Report.** The principal investigators of the status and trends fish monitoring (Fish in/Fish Out) have provided a detailed response to the annual assessment, which is appreciated. In subsequent years, the requirement of an annual report should be included in their contract. The annual report should be a synthesis and interpretation of data collected the previous year and relate how the findings inform individual salmon recovery plan goals and targets.
 - b. **Data Backlogs.** WDFW should address the cause/effect of data backlog occurrence and unnecessary delays in data analyses. The monitoring panel suggests WDFW make adjustments in staff allocation, field data collection schedules, or other necessary means to effectively manage and reduce existing data backlogs. A proper balance of field work, data analysis, interpretation, and reporting must be struck on a continuous basis in order to extract the optimum benefit from the status and trends monitoring going forward.
 - c. **QA/QC.** Quality Assurance/Quality Control protocols appear variable across regions, and a centralized approach to QA/QC does not exist for these data programs. The reason for this is understandable, given **that**

each species and data collection effort requires some unique methods. However, the monitoring panel agrees that a more cohesive, standardized approach to QA/QC across the regions and data programs would be more effective in assuring a consistent data deliverable from status and trends monitoring. Specifically, a more formally standardized statewide QA/QC protocol for staffing/training, capture efficiency estimates, data base formats, and data entry schedules would help to better ensure data integrity. Providing a description of activities designed to move the status and trends program towards that goal should be provided in the next annual report.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015
Title: Monitoring Program Update and Decisions
Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator
Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel recommendations and proposed funding ranges for the SRFB monitoring program components, as well as a recommendation to continue support for the SRFB Monitoring Panel in federal fiscal year 2016.

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

Establishment of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) monitoring program has been in place for more than a decade. The board's monitoring program was developed in consultation with the Governor's Forum on Monitoring. The 2003-2014 monitoring strategy serves as a guide to highlighting the methodology, criteria, and categories within the board's three broad monitoring areas: reach-scale effectiveness monitoring, status and trends (also referred to as Fish-in/Fish-out), and Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) agreement with Washington State specifies that no less than 10% of the annual Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award must be used for these primary monitoring efforts.

The board contracts with state and federal entities, a private contractor, and tribal co-managers to carry out the three primary monitoring efforts:

- 1) TetraTech, LLC performs the reach-scale effectiveness monitoring within ten designated categories and randomly selected stream reaches to monitor;
- 2) The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) performs the status and trends monitoring (fish in/fish out) on selected index streams in Washington. The board provides funding for a small fraction (about 7%) of the state-wide fish in/fish out monitoring; and
- 3) The Department of Ecology (Ecology) coordinates IMW monitoring with tribal partners, private landowners, WDFW, and the NOAA Northwest Science Center.

In 2013, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) contracted with Stillwater Sciences to develop an updated Monitoring Investment Strategy for the board. At the March 2014 board meeting, Stillwater

Sciences presented recommendations to improve the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Program (SRFB Monitoring Program). One important recommendation was the creation of a monitoring panel. Therefore, at the meeting the board also approved the creation of a five-member monitoring panel supported by PCSRF funds.

In April of 2014, a Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) was issued for competitively recruiting monitoring panel member candidates. The responses were evaluated and ranked by a review team comprised of staff from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), the Council of Regions (COR), NOAA, the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), and the Recreation and Conservation Office (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 qualified individuals 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. Contracts were subsequently extended through October 2015 to coincide with the salmon recovery funding board's meeting. Two additional subject matter experts were added to the panel in winter of 2014-15 to help with additional analysis. A photo of the monitoring panel and membership information is included in Attachment A.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel's Purpose

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 recommendations to the board regarding the monitoring program.

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 SRFB 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; and
5. Compare and share monitoring results to determine if lessons learned in other regional monitoring efforts could be applied to board programs.

At the October 2015 board meeting, the monitoring panel chair will present the panel's recommendations on the SRFB Monitoring Program to the board. GSRO staff will ask the board to discuss and, if acceptable, adopt the panel recommendations. Based on their recommendations, the board will also be asked to take steps to integrate certain aspects into the future monitoring contracts and to approve funding for the next iterations of contracts for the IMW monitoring, Project Effectiveness monitoring, and the status and trends (Fish-in/Fish-out) monitoring. The GSRO staff will also provide a recommendation to the board on continuing support from the PCSRF 2015 award for the Monitoring Panel for the 2016 federal fiscal year (FFY).

Monitoring Program Funding

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

RCO applies annually through a competitive process for PCSRF funding. When funding is awarded, a minimum of 10% of the award must be used for monitoring. The award for 2015 dedicates \$2.2 million for the SRFB Monitoring Program and the board's Monitoring Panel. Currently federal funds are the only source for the SRFB Monitoring Program. The board's capital project funding cannot be used for monitoring because it comes from construction account bond funds.

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

RCO and GSRO received funding over the last few years to support the Lower Columbia IMW (Lower Columbia Region) and the Asotin IMW in the Snake River Recovery Region. The Asotin IMW was not part of the original IWM's established by the board. Due to the close association to regional recovery efforts, and the link with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding coming through the RCO/GSRO, this IMW has been added to the SRFB Monitoring Panel's evaluation work and the board's IMW program. This makes five IMWs that are now part of the board's monitoring program.

Project Funding Within IMW's

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs), also called validation monitoring, are intended to find "cause and effect" relationships between variables such as fish, habitat, and water quality between a treated reach and a control reach. This type of data is generally used to evaluate whether the changes in a "treatment" watershed resulted in improved habitat, water quality, and fish abundance (or production) as compared to a "control" watershed that was not subjected to restoration actions or other treatments.

Restoration projects are needed in the treatment watershed in order to compare watersheds and monitor results. The monitoring efforts, specific to IMWs, cannot be fully developed if the proposed restoration treatments have not been implemented in a timely fashion. Each of the IMW study plans has addressed this need when providing testimony at numerous board meetings. Following the Stillwater Sciences recommendations in 2014, the board dedicated up to \$2 million per year for three years in project funds to implement projects within these IMWs, allowing restoration treatments to be implemented in a more timely fashion. This dedication of funds is currently in its second of three years. These are habitat restoration treatments that may not necessarily receive a high enough ranking through the normal competitive SRFB grant round to provide funding to the restoration projects in an IMW. The "signal" of the fish response to IMW treatments can be from 7-11 years, depending upon a variety of issues, including the localized limiting factors of the habitat, the treatment(s) proposed, the fish species of interest and their life histories, the geographic location, and other unique characteristics of the sub-basin in question. This year, 2015, the board has made available \$1.83 million for restoration treatments within the IMW. The difference of \$130K was due to an issue with PCSRF funds supporting NOAA activities, which has been resolved. These restoration treatment projects specific to the IMWs are being vetted at this time and will be considered for funding by the board in December of 2015.

Monitoring Panel Recommendations

The monitoring panel has developed a comprehensive report summarizing their recommendations to the board. In the SRFB Monitoring Panel's report (Appendix A), there is a detailed analysis of each of the board's monitoring components. Three monitoring projects are identified as clear (no issues), and four have been conditioned to address issues identified by the monitoring panel. No projects were identified as a "project of concern" (POC). However, if conditioned projects are not resolved by the assessment and/or evaluation period taking place in 2016, the contractors will know that projects can be modified to POC status.

The SRFB Monitoring Panel works collaboratively and independent of RCO/GSRO staff to develop the varied recommendations for the board to consider. While consensus was a goal on all panel recommendations, in some cases a voting process was employed with the recommendation coming from a majority of the panel members.

Program Budget Range

Funding Range

Staff attempted to outline a funding range for the different components of the SRFB Monitoring Program. Once the board approves the final recommendations, staff will request some flexibility in negotiating the contracts within the overall available budget. Several projects have conditions, which may cost more or less depending on what the recommendations and the ability of the contractor to address the condition. Staff envisions working with the SRFB Monitoring Panel to review the final scopes of work for budget appropriateness. Staff wanted to set-up a framework for board decision-making, by providing a funding range for each monitoring component. Staff will work with all of the contractors as well as the SRFB Monitoring Panel to address the conditions in the scopes and the budgets of each effort.

October 2015 – October 2016 Monitoring Program Funding Levels

Status and Trends Monitoring	WDFW	\$208,000
Effectiveness Monitoring	Tetra Tech	\$186,000 – \$336,000
Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs) <i>Straits, Hood Canal, Lower Columbia, Skagit</i>	Ecology	
IMW Ecology Subtotal Range \$153,000,- 443,000 per IMW		\$ 1,470,000
SRFB Monitoring Panel	Individual contracts	\$80,000
TOTAL		\$2,094,000

1) Status and Trends Monitoring (fish in/fish out), WDFW\$208,000

The board funds a portion of WDFW's fish-in/fish-out monitoring as the status and trends component of its statewide monitoring program. This effort is coordinated through annual contracts with WDFW. This type of monitoring compares the number of smolts leaving an area to the number of returning adult salmon that return to spawning grounds in following years. With this type of monitoring, productivity can be tracked and carrying capacity estimated. The work is performed in tributaries across the state. The allocation by the board contributes approximately 7% of the overall fish in/fish out monitoring conducted state-wide by the WDFW. The panel believes this effort should be supported at the current level or higher.

Tributary		Type of monitoring	Cost
1	Salmon and Snow Creek	adult salmon population monitoring	
	Salmon and Snow Creek	salmonid smolt (or fry) monitoring	
2	Duckabush and Hamma Hamma Rivers	adult salmon population monitoring	
3	Wind River	adult salmon population monitoring	
4	Grays River	salmonid smolt (or fry) monitoring	
5	Touchet River	salmonid smolt (or fry) monitoring	
range \$5,000 - \$80,000 per effort			TOTAL \$208,000

Note that additional status and trends (fish-in/fish-out) monitoring is performed as part of the Hood Canal and Lower Columbia IMWs. Ecology subcontracts with WDFW to perform this IMW-specific monitoring in the Anderson, Stavis, and Big Beef IMW complex in the Hood Canal region, and the Abernathy, Germany, and Mill Creek IMW complex in the Lower Columbia salmon recovery region.

2) Effectiveness Monitoring, Tetra Tech range of \$186,000 to \$336,000

The board's reach-scale effectiveness monitoring program is an ongoing program to monitor the effectiveness of salmon restoration projects funded by the board. This monitoring has been contracted to Tetra Tech. The basic goal of the board's effectiveness monitoring program is to answer the question, "How effective is this [particular] project category?" in producing a particular outcome. For example, does an increase in pool habitat through restoration efforts provide for an increase in localized fish abundance? The broad categories include fish passage, diversion screening, and riparian planting. Two project categories, in-stream habitat and floodplain enhancement, were identified in 2009 as needing a larger sample size. Additional funding was provided in order to gather data on 12 additional projects in these two categories, and subsequently to analyze and integrate the data into the overall board effectiveness monitoring. This program has also employed sites (livestock exclusion category) from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to increase the overall sample size. (Please note the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has an Action Effectiveness Monitoring (AEM) Program that utilizes SRFB methodologies and protocols developed by TetraTech).

This approach also compares the results of projects that *appear* to be headed for success, with projects that *appear* to be less than successful. The work performed is based on statistical sampling, because it would be extremely costly to monitor all projects. Experimental sampling designs and study plans have been established for this program, with sampling performed on sites within a rotating schedule. The board's effectiveness monitoring program is designed to continue for a minimum of 10 years to account for response times of key measures and variables and the implementation timing of projects. Following the 2016 season, ten years of monitoring in this program will be completed. Although Tetra Tech provided annual reports and recommendations, one of the new roles of the monitoring panel will be a more in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness monitoring data and recommendations for changes to future projects to be more effective.

The panel recommends conditioning the project by adding the following language to the contract:

- 1) All monitoring at sites, which include a component of riparian canopy cover as a success criteria (riparian restoration, livestock exclusion, and habitat protection) will be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will provide the panel with a proposed

schedule for these sites with a revised monitoring return interval that will allow sufficient time for these sites to feasibly meet riparian forest canopy success criteria.

- 2) Fish use monitoring shall be deferred and should not be conducted in the 2016 field season. The contractor will work with the panel to develop a more robust sampling plan that includes repeated measures throughout the season when target species are known to be present.
- 3) Early in 2016, TetraTech will meet with the monitoring panel to develop a feasible alternative to evaluating and reporting on the project effectiveness monitoring data in order to strengthen this component of the study.

3) Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs), WA Department of Ecology \$1,466,989

IMWs are based on an experimental design intended to find cause and effect relationships between variables such as fish, habitat, and water quality. This monitoring allows for evaluations of whether the changes in a “treated or restored” watershed have resulted in improved habitat, higher levels of water quality, and fish abundance (or production), as compared to a “control” or reference watershed where restoration actions or other treatments have not occurred.

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

The board recommitted to funding IMWs as part of its monitoring review in 2014. The IMW Technical Oversight Committee made recommendations in 2004 to establish four (4) IMW complexes in western Washington. The Straits, Hood Canal and Lower Columbia IMWs are “paired watersheds” with a sub-basin as a control or reference, and adjacent treated sub-basins. The Skagit IMW is a stand-alone basin and the only IMW addressing marine survivability and estuarine dynamics. Mentioned earlier the Asotin IMW in the Snake Region has been receiving funds through GSRO/RCO the last three years through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Since the close association to regional recovery efforts this IMW has been added to the Monitoring Panels evaluation work and in the Board’s IMW program.

The Monitoring Panel made a set of recommendations for each IMW complex including Asotin. These are detailed in their report. The panel is recommended CLEAR status for the Asotin and Skagit IMWs, and CONDITIONING the three remaining IMW’s.

A summary of the conditions follows. Additional details of the evaluation process and the subsequent conditions are listed in Appendix A.

Hood Canal / Kitsap Intensively Monitored Watershed

- a. Principal investigators shall provide additional details regarding the QA/QC protocols, data archiving, and data availability across participating agencies in the 2016 annual report.
- b. For each type of restoration activity included in the study plan, IMW scientists shall provide a clear schedule of implementation, pre-treatment monitoring, and post-treatment monitoring for each treated watershed. This should include a statistical basis (power analysis) for determining how long post-treatment monitoring should take place in order to judge whether the particular restoration action achieved or did not achieve desired results. This should be included in the annual report submitted in June 2016.
- c. In the annual report, IMW scientists will describe and prioritize limiting factors to be addressed in restoration treatments on a site-by-site basis.

- d. The IMW practitioners shall conduct a power analysis showing the time required to detect a change in coho productivity due to inter-annual variation in juvenile abundance caused by high adult harvest rates. The analysis should include the difference (a range is OK) in years to detect a restoration-related change under a little or no harvest regime and under the current harvest regime.
- e. The panel would also like to encourage the Hood Canal IMW practitioners to engage harvest co-managers in finding a solution to the difficulties to in the monitoring design caused by high harvest (likely contributing to too few naturally spawning adults), such as exploring the opportunity for a limited time-bound restriction of the terminal fishery targeting these streams. The requested power analysis should help by indicating the duration of harvest restriction needed for the IMW to yield information.

Strait of Juan de Fuca Intensively Monitored Watershed

- a. Data collected in previous surveys should be analyzed and reported by June 2016.
- b. Data collected in 2016 and future years will undergo quality assurance/quality control procedures, analysis, and reporting within 18 months from the time data are collected.
- c. Thorough documentation of the location and availability of all data related to this study will be included in the 2016 annual report, including data collected by partners and other collaborators.
- d. A schedule will be established for evaluating the response of target fish species to existing habitat improvement actions. This evaluation should be completed before additional types of restoration are implemented. Post-treatment evaluations should not be open ended; they should be based on a statistical power analysis of the time needed to detect a significant response to treatments. If no statistically demonstrable responses are detected during the post-treatment evaluation period, additional treatment types can be considered. The evaluation schedule should be included in the 2016 annual report.

Lower Columbia Intensively Monitored Watershed

- a. The IMW team will provide data to the monitoring panel on water surface elevation (stage height) and flow in the vicinity of the at the Abernathy Fish Technology Center fish intake structure for the months of June through October for the period of record that is available. If no data of this nature are currently available from the Fish Technology Center or other sources, the IMW team will ensure that stage height data are collected in 2016 and will make these data available to the monitoring panel upon request.
- b. IMW scientists shall explicitly identify how they will address confounding effects of Abernathy Fish Technology Center operations in their data analysis. This will be included in the 2016 annual report.
- c. WDFW shall evaluate and characterize the degree of passability at the fish ladder at Abernathy Falls and will summarize findings in a barrier evaluation form in the 2016 annual report (<http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual18Appendices/Appendix E BarrierEvaluationForm.doc>)
- d. In the 2016 annual report, principal investigators shall revisit and prioritize limiting factors that will be addressed. IMW scientists will also assess whether current population metrics such as fish length are appropriate for measuring response.
- e. The 2016 annual report shall describe where and how most project data can be accessed by the public. If this is not possible in 2016, the 2016 annual report shall include an explanation of why

this has not yet been possible and shall include a plan and schedule for making most project data available publicly.

- f. To enhance coordination now and in the future, IMW principal investigators shall participate in regular meetings with the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (or the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee or project sponsors) and potential restoration treatment project sponsors, as requested by LCFRB or GSRO. The purpose of these meetings shall be to collaboratively identify treatment project objectives and assist in project design development in the IMW treatment streams, and to ensure proper alignment with the Lower Columbia IMW goals and objectives. The IMW team will serve as advisors in this process and will not be expected to design the restoration treatment projects. The panel recommends a minimum of two per year, to be scheduled by mutual agreed by project partners, in order to maintain project momentum. These meetings as well as summary findings will be listed as "milestones" in the IMW contract for the Lower Columbia, as well as in the RCO contract with Lower Columbia funded with PSMFC support. The agenda and summaries are deliverables to be ATTACHED to the PRISM file as CORRESPONDENCE. Furthermore, IMW scientists will make data collected by the IMW project available to the LCFRB upon request. This will include data on fish distribution at a minimum and other data as available.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board adopt the SRFB Monitoring Panel recommendations. The Monitoring Panel Chair, Marnie Tyler will be presenting the panel findings and recommendations at the October 2015 board meeting.

In addition to the above referenced monitoring efforts to be described in detail by Chair Tyler, staff further recommends the continuation of support for the SRFB Monitoring Panel in federal fiscal year 2016 for \$80,000. These funds would originate from the 2015 PCSRF award where they were identified as a viable and appropriate task to be included within the 10% monitoring allocation of the overall award. The panel member composition and support may be revised following internal discussions. However, there is a need for a continued coordinated assessment and evaluation process for the board monitoring efforts.

As noted, certain conditions are being suggested to be added to project agreements. The evaluation process scheduled for next year will necessitate the continued interaction between the SRFB Monitoring Panel and the principle investigators. This interaction is also an aspect of the Adaptive Management structure and will continue to provide a "feedback mechanism" for information sharing between the SRFB Technical Review Panel, the SRFB Monitoring Panel, and project sponsors.

Board Decision Guide

The table below outlines the four decisions areas the board is being asked to approve. If the board approves the Monitoring Panel recommendations, staff request some flexibility in negotiating the contract within the overall available budget. Draft motion language will be provided at the board meeting.

October 2015 – October 2016 Monitoring Program Funding Levels

Status and Trends Monitoring	WDFW	\$208,000
Effectiveness Monitoring	Tetra Tech	\$186,000 – \$336,000

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs) <i>Straits, Hood Canal, Lower Columbia, Skagit</i>	Ecology	
IMW Ecology Subtotal Range \$153,000,- 443,000 per IMW		\$ 1,470,000
SRFB Monitoring Panel	Individual contracts	\$80,000
Available to allocate to meet conditions in panel recommendations, fund panel work, or Asotin IMW.		\$106,000
TOTAL		\$2,200,000

Monitoring Components

1. Status and Trends - \$208,000 – Panel should be supported at current or higher level.
2. Effectiveness Monitoring – Panel recommended three conditions. Staff will have to work with the contractor and Monitoring Panel to negotiate the scope of work and budget for 2016.
3. Intensively Monitored Watersheds – The panel has recommended a clear status for Asotin and Skagit IMW's and conditions for the three remaining. Staff will have to work with the Washington Department of Ecology and Monitoring Panel to negotiate the scope of work and budget for the west side IMW's 2016. Staff encourage the board to consider providing funds to the Asotin IMW. Their PSMFC contract came up short for the monitoring funding for the planned work in 2016. They have requested up to \$150,000.
4. Monitoring Panel – Staff requests the board continue to provide \$80,000 to support the monitoring panel.

Next Steps

If final recommendations and funding range(s) are approved, staff will immediately begin working with each of the contractors to address the conditions identified in the recommendations by the SRFB Monitoring Panel. Staff will work with the SRFB Monitoring Panel as appropriate to finalize scope and budget and milestones for both the monitoring efforts as well as the SRFB Monitoring Panel.

SRFB Monitoring Panel Members



The Salmon Recovery Funding Board's 2015 Monitoring Panel (left-right)

Ken Currens	NW Indian Fisheries Commission
Jody Lando	Stillwater Sciences
Jim Fisher	Fisher and Associates, LLC
Dennis Dauble	Environmental Assessment Services
Marnie Tyler, Chair	Ecolution
Pete Bisson	Bisson Aquatic Consulting, LLC
Micah Wait (<i>not pictured</i>)	Wild Fish Conservancy

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015
Title: Board Strategic Plan Update and New Biennial Work Plan
Prepared By: Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes the effort to review and update the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Strategic Plan and develop a new biennial work plan.

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

In March 2014 the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) made revisions to their strategic plan by adding new monitoring program language developed by the board's Monitoring Subcommittee. In early 2015, the board created a subcommittee to further review and update the board's strategic plan and to develop a biennial work plan to support the board's strategic plan. Chairman David Troutt, Board Member Nancy Biery, RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham, and Brian Abbott of GSRO met and reviewed proposed drafts of a revised strategic plan and work plan. Within this document, a weakness was identified: there are no concrete actions specifically stated. As a result, the sub-committee drafted new language for the board to consider. At the October 2015 meeting these ideas will be discussed. At the December 2015 meeting there will be a work session to finalize the work plan for the current biennium.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Review

The board's Strategic Plan (Attachment A) was reviewed by the subcommittee and only minor updates suggested. The plan is high-level and addresses the board's mission, values, goals, strategies, and key actions. It is recommended that the board keep this overarching strategic plan because it covers the broad range of issues in which the board is involved.

New Biennial Work Plan

For the biennial work plan, it is recommended that the board develop specific actions as part of the strategic plan. This work plan would be updated every biennium with new actions. An example has been developed for the board to consider, also included in Attachment A. The board subcommittee recommends there be a work session at the December meeting to fully engage the board in the development and approval of the work plan.

Elements of the Biennial Work Plan

The purpose of a work plan is to help with guiding the board in decision-making, deciding where to allocate resources, and relating board-funded activities to the strategic plan. While developing the example, several themes became obvious:

- 1) **Communication:** The board needs to find ways to tell the story of salmon recovery through better communication with funders and partners, and speak with one voice. The board can be a key leader in achieving this goal.
- 2) **Strengthen salmon recovery funding:** The main mission of the board is to fund projects that benefit salmon recovery (restore salmon populations to healthy and harvestable levels – while the goal under Endangered Species Act is successful recovery to the point where they no longer need protection under the act). The board should strive to maintain current funding while always trying to diversify the funding sources.
- 3) **Monitoring:** The board should continue to invest in monitoring to understand how investments made are benefitting salmon. The ultimate goal is to understand what is being learned and to adjust funding programs accordingly in order to maximize investments.
- 4) **Annual funding round:** The board should continue to refine the application, review, and award process to get the maximum value out of making good projects even better.
- 5) **Funding Allocation:** A board sub-committee should be established to review funding allocations for both projects and capacity.
- 6) **Collaboration:** The board can use their role as a leader in salmon recovery to re-emphasize collaboration opportunities with other entities and processes involved in salmon recovery work.
- 7) **Reflection & Self-Evaluation:** The board should plan to annually assess their work and plan for future efforts.

Next Steps

Attachment A includes the draft updates to the Strategic Plan and an example of the work plan. Discussion at the October 2015 board meeting will direct staff on how to lay out the work session in December.

Attachments

- A. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Strategic Plan

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Strategic Plan

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

Mission

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

Values

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

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

- **Accountability:** The board provides citizen oversight and accountability for the expenditure of public funds, and conducts its work with openness and integrity.
- **Communications:** The board continues to support the telling of the salmon recovery story, including how thousands of people across the state are working together to restore salmon and their habitat and why this is so important for our culture, our economy, our communities, and our future.

Goals and Strategies

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

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

- **Allocation Strategy:** Within the limits of the board's budget and priorities, fund projects, monitoring, and human capital in a way that best advances the salmon recovery effort.
- **Process Strategy:** Ensure that the processes to identify, prioritize, and fund projects are based on (1) regional salmon recovery plans, lead entity strategies, and tribal governments' salmon recovery goals,
- (2) sound science and technically appropriate design, and (3) community values and priorities.
- **Funding Source Strategy:** Identify gaps in current funding related to overall salmon recovery efforts and work with partners to seek and coordinate with other funding sources. Work with Salmon Recovery Network Partners to coordinate funding requests at the legislative and congressional levels to achieve funding levels necessary to implement approved recovery plans.

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

- **Accountability Strategy:** Conduct all board activities clearly and openly, and ensure that the public can readily access information about use of public funds for salmon recovery efforts.
- **Resource Strategy:** Confirm the value of efficiency by funding actions that result in economical and timely use of resources for projects, human capital, and monitoring.
- **Monitoring Strategy:** Provide accountability for board funding by ensuring the implementation of board- funded projects and assessing their effectiveness, participate

with other entities in supporting and coordinating state-wide monitoring efforts, and use monitoring results to adaptively manage board funding policies.

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

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

Key Actions

Funding Allocation Strategy: Key Actions

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

Provide funding for the following:

- Projects that produce measureable and sustainable benefits for salmon.
- Monitoring to measure project implementation, effectiveness, and the long-term results of all recovery efforts.
- Human Capital that identifies, supports, and implements recovery actions.
- Ensure funding practices reflect that a critical part of the board's mission is to fund the habitat restoration and protection projects that constitute the foundation of salmon recovery.
- Support projects that meet regional salmon recovery goals and the goals of other related planning efforts.
- Inform budget decisions by establishing the minimum and maximum funding needed for each focus area (projects, monitoring and human capacity) necessary to support salmon recovery.
- Encourage projects and activities that find innovative ways to achieve goals and realize efficiencies.

Process Strategy: Key Actions

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

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

Funding Coordination Strategy: Key Actions

Identify gaps in current funding related to overall salmon recovery efforts and work with [Salmon Recovery Network](#) partners to seek and coordinate with other funding sources.

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

Accountability Strategy: Key Actions

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

- Ensure that the public is aware of and has access to board meetings and materials and other elements of the funding process.
- Provide clear, comprehensive, and easily accessible information to the public about restoration and protection projects via electronic databases, the agency web site, and other communication tools. Meet all reporting requirements with consistent and consolidated information, including data and project examples that explain both salmon recovery efforts and results.

Resource Strategy: Key Actions

Confirm the value of efficiency by funding actions that result in economical and timely use of

resources for projects, human capital, and monitoring.

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

Monitoring Strategy: Key Actions

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

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

The SRFB Monitoring Panel will fill a key role in the implementation of a functional adaptive management program. The panel will verify accountability by each monitoring component and integrate their findings into future decisions and recommendations to the SRFB.

Support Strategy: Key Actions

Support the board's community-based partner organizations in their efforts to build local and regional support for salmon recovery through the Salmon Recovery Network.

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

Partner Strategy: Key Actions

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

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

Partners

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

- 1) **Lead Entities:** Voluntary watershed-based organizations established by RCW 77.85 that select and submit projects to the board for funding consideration. Lead entities have technical experts and citizen committees whose work ensures that their projects have both scientific and community support, and contribute to the lead entity's effectiveness.
- 2) **Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations:** Organizations that (1) develop and coordinate implementation of salmon recovery plans, which are required under the Endangered Species Act, or (2) coordinate salmon restoration projects across a region in areas where there are no ESA-required recovery plans. Regional organizations bring the public, tribes, and private interests together to collaborate on improving their

watershed for fish. Regional organizations and lead entities together identify and prioritize habitat protection and restoration strategies and other salmon recovery activities.

- 3) Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs): The fourteen RFEs implement salmon recovery projects, including habitat protection and restoration, and participate with lead entities and regional salmon recovery organizations.
- 4) State Agencies and Programs
 - a. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office: Coordinates and produces a statewide salmon strategy; assists in the implementation of regional recovery plans; helps secure funding for local, regional, and state recovery effort; and provides the Biennial State of Salmon report to the Legislature.
 - b. Puget Sound Partnership: Addresses the health of Puget Sound by developing and implementing an action agenda for restoration.
 - c. Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership: Addresses priorities in the Puget Sound marine nearshore ecosystem (co-managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers).
 - d. Conservation Commission: Oversees conservation districts in the state, which are often SRFB grant recipients and habitat project implementers. The commission also administers conservation programs targeted at agricultural land, such as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
 - e. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: Provides technical assistance to project sponsors and lead entities, manages fish hatcheries and hatchery reform activities, regulates harvest, and takes the lead on working with the tribes on salmon recovery issues.
 - f. Washington Department of Natural Resources: Manages timber land and aquatic land, jointly manages the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and addresses salmon recovery through its habitat conservation plans and the Forest and Fish Agreement.
 - g. Washington Department of Ecology: Manages monitoring efforts, including status and trends, and addresses water issues such as watershed planning, water rights, and water quality.
 - h. Washington State Department of Transportation: Addresses fish passage issues, including removing barriers to fish, such as highway culverts; manages stormwater runoff associated with WSDOT paved surfaces; mitigates for project impacts on wetlands and prevents erosion control associated with construction.
- 5) Tribes: Individual tribes, along with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, are involved in regional recovery organizations, lead entities, the Puget Sound and Nearshore Partnership, sponsor salmon recovery projects, and co-manage the state's fisheries.

- 6) Federal Agencies: Federal partners include the Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-Fisheries), the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service.
- 7) Other Entities:
 - a. Northwest Power and Conservation Council: Maintains a regional power plan and a fish and wildlife program aimed at protecting and rebuilding fish and wildlife populations affected by hydropower development in the Columbia River Basin.
 - b. Nonprofit and non-governmental organizations: Play a variety of roles in salmon recovery, such as sponsoring habitat protection and restoration projects and promoting local activities and citizen involvement.

EXAMPLE

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

2015-2017 Work Plan Items

1. Tell the Story of Salmon Recovery – Communications

- a. Build off of the Communications Framework and develop a communications plan specific to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) for the next five years. Reframe how the board and GSRO message salmon recovery. Reach out to non-traditional partners in order to gain support for community-based salmon recovery. Develop communication materials which may include handouts, fact sheets, website development, or video shorts.

Who: Pyramid Communications

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- b. Continue to support the development of the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet). Coordinate SRNet messaging to align with board communications. Promote collaborative communications in order send consistent messaging on salmon recovery to decision makers.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- c. Support the efforts of GSRO to bring regional salmon recovery leaders and state agency executives together to examine progress in salmon recovery annually.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- d. Sponsor a biennial Salmon Recovery Conference to bring implementers, tribal, government, and regional salmon recovery leaders together to share successes and challenges on salmon recovery in Washington. (ADD MORE DETAIL) Salmon Recovery Conference 2017 kickoff (December 2015)

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

2. Strengthen Salmon Recovery Funding

- a. 2016 Supplemental Capital Budget Request: Evaluate the current funding scenario and explore the pros and cons of a supplemental capital budget request in 2016, if allowed. RCO staff would support the board in the development and submittal of a supplemental budget request for 2016. The goal is to support a minimum of an \$18 million grant round in 2016. The capital request would be in the range of \$6-\$12 million. Development of the request would be in close coordination with the SRNet partners.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- b. 2017-2019 Capital Budget Request: In addition to the standard request for state matching funds to the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, the board would explore the pros and cons of developing a large capital project list to be submitted in the summer of 2016. The board would also look at options on how to package the request and collaborate with partners through SRNet.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- c. 2017-2019 Operating Budget Request: Evaluate the potential of submitting a capacity request on behalf of the board to maintain and enhance capacity funding for SRNet

partners. This may be one request or several requests in different agency budgets. The commitment would be to support the entire package.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- d. Through the board member organizations and the GSRO, continue to work with the congressional delegation on the importance of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund in Washington's salmon recovery efforts.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- e. Establish a Funding Sub-Committee of the board to explore program funding options. The vision is to hire a consultant to explore the various funding paths both public and private for projects and capacity. The other objective is to provide expertise and resources to help local recovery partners diversify their capacity funding by requesting support from their county, city, utility, etc.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

3. Monitoring

- a. Continue to implement the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Sub-committee recommendations approved by the board. Review the recommendations provided by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (SRFB Monitoring Panel) on the board's monitoring program. Take action on the recommendations.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

- b. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the SRFB Monitoring Panel and give direction to staff on any improvements.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

4. Annual Grant Round

- a. Efficiently conduct a grant round in 2015 and 2016.
- b. Conduct a survey of applicants to get feedback on grant round processes.
- c. Adopt changes to Manual 18, if needed, on an annual basis.
- d. Maintain the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (SRFB Technical Review Panel) and consider their recommendations for grant program improvement.

5. Activity Funding

- a. Review and approve Regional and Lead Entity allocations on an annual basis
- b. Hear from Regional Organizations—examples of progress
- c. Approve monitoring program projects. Utilize the Monitoring Panel's adaptive management process to review and update SRFB policies on project funding and overall grant program.
- d. Establish a Funding Allocation Sub-Committee of the board to review the current funding allocations. The role of the allocation sub-committee will be to review the regional area allocation (project) and review the allocation for the capacity funding (lead entity & Regional Organization). The committee would make recommendations to the SRFB for consideration.

Who:

Timeline:

Cost:

Board Action:

6. Collaboration Priorities for 2015-2017 (Examples)

- a. Salmon Recovery Network
- b. Fish Barrier Removal Board
- c. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) – Salmon Recovery Goals
- d. Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Water Quality Program

7. Reflection and Self-evaluation: Board Retreat to Assess the Work of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Future Efforts

- a. Role of the board (Strategy and Biennial Work Plan); expectations of board members (especially about communications/outreach; external funding; collaborations)
- b. Plan out Board Agendas plan out, i.e., sequencing agenda items based on policy needs
- c. Communications Strategy
- d. Performance measures

NOTES:

Performance Measures

The board should develop three or four metrics to track board outcomes. RCO performance management staff will help with the development and tracking of these measures.

Board Work Session/Retreat

The board's work plan would be developed the board's sub-committee (which would be appointed in October). The sub-committee would draft a work plan for discussion and approval at the December 2015 board work session.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015
Title: Administrative and Policy Impacts from New Federal Omni-Circular Rules
Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes administrative and fiscal requirements for federal grant programs as of December 26, 2014. The requirements affect all of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (board) grants. This memo identifies how the federal requirements affect administration of the board's grants and five policy issues for which Recreation and Conservation Office staff seek direction from the board.

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

State and Federal Programs Administered by the Board

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) is authorized to administer funds for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities from amounts appropriated by the Legislature.¹ The board currently administers the following funds from the state capital budget²:

Grant Funds	Federal Grant Program, Federal Awarding Agency
Salmon Recovery Funding Board Programs (state and federal funds)	Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (state matching share only)	National Estuary Program, Environmental Protection Agency

Note that another state agency, the Puget Sound Partnership, uses the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds to match funds they receive from the Environmental Protection Agency. The board does not administer the federal funds from Environmental Protection Agency, but administers the state match to these federal funds.

As the administrator of these funds, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is considered the pass-through entity and is responsible for ensuring all federal funding requirements are met. The state may

¹ RCW 77.85.120

² Second Engrossed House Bill 1115

adopt additional policies and procedures as the program administrator, if so delegated by the federal funding agency. Absent such authority, the state must apply the federal requirements as prescribed.

Federal Program Requirements

Each federal grant program has its own program requirements described in federal law, rules, and program guidance. In addition, all federal agencies follow the administrative requirements prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

The OMB adopted new rules for all federal grant program administration that became effective December 26, 2014.³ These rules, informally called the Omni-Circular, apply to grants the board or director-approved for funding since the effective date and all future grant awards.

Each federal agency also adopted agency specific rules that adhere to or deviate from the OMB rules. For the two programs the board administers, the following rules apply:

Federal Grant Program	Federal Law	Federal Rules
Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds	16 U.S. Code 3631	2 C.F.R. Part 1327
National Estuary Program	33 U.S. Code 1330	40 C.F.R. 31, 33, & 35 2 C.F.R. Part 1500

Changes to Grant Administration

The new Omni-Circular rules, and the specific federal agency rules, will require RCO to administer projects differently in a number of ways. Below is a summary of the changes that RCO is making to how it administers federal programs on behalf of the board.

Topic	What's Different
Pre-award costs/project start date	Costs incurred before the federal agency awards grant funds to the state are ineligible unless specifically approved by the federal agency.
Indirect costs/indirect rate	Sponsors may include an indirect cost at a set indirect rate as an eligible cost in the grant.
Administration costs	Certain administration costs are covered under indirect costs. Project administration is considered a direct project cost.
Unallowable costs	Specific costs are unallowable such as advisory councils, social events, and organizational expenses.
Eligible match/donations	Specific rules governing match requirements and donations from third-parties.
Insurance requirements	Requires insurance for real property and equipment.
Procurement requirements	Specific rules set regarding procurement standards.
Conflict of interest policy	Each federal agency establishes conflict of interest policies.
Equipment tracking	The asset value of equipment purchased with grant funds is \$5,000 and over.
Real property and disposition	Specific requirements set for disposal of real property (land and equipment).

³ 2 C.F.R. Part 200

Topic	What's Different
Reporting requirements	Non-construction projects require annual performance reports 90 days after each reporting period.
Project closeout	Final reporting due 90 days after the project end date.
Compliance reporting	Requires annual reports on the status of real property (land and equipment).

Issues

Conflicts with Board Policies

The new Omni-Circular rules create a situation where RCO will administer the board's grant programs compliance with federal rules based on the rules of each federally funded grant programs. The federal rules may in some instances conflict with current board policies, in which case, the federal program rules must prevail. In some instances, it may be possible and reasonable to align the board's policies with the federal requirements to streamline grant project administration overall.

Following is a brief description of specific federal requirements that conflict with current board policy. Staff will work on vetting these issues over the next year to determine the best opportunities for streamlining the board's policies with the federal requirements.

Pre-award Costs/Project Start Date

Board policy currently allows two types of costs before a grant project agreement is executed: land acquisitions and certain incidental costs approved by a waiver of retroactivity and architectural and engineering costs up to three years before the grant agreement. The federal requirements do not allow costs before the federal award date unless specifically approved by the federal awarding agency.

Depending on the federal award date and the specific grant program rules, the board's policy on eligible pre-agreement costs may conflict the federal rule on pre-award costs. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration approved pre-award costs for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds. RCO will work with the Puget Sound Partnership to determine whether the Environmental Protection Agency will approve pre-award costs.

Because of the conflict between federal pre-award costs rule and the board's pre-agreement costs policy the following actions are needed immediately:

- Suspend all waivers of retroactivity for acquisitions of land for federal programs until specific grant program terms can be clarified with the federal awarding agency; and
- Limit all pre-agreement costs for all projects to the federal award date when issuing new project agreements for federal programs (including those state programs used as match to the federal program).

In addition, the board may consider expanding eligible pre-agreement costs for development projects to include construction costs as of the federal award date. Under current board policy, construction costs are not eligible pre-agreement costs.

Matching Grants and Indirect Rates

The federal rules require RCO to honor any federally approved indirect rate on the federal project, which includes the matching share. When a state funded project matches a federally funded project, there is a conflict with the board's policy prohibiting indirect costs.

The board could address this conflict in two ways:

- Not allow the state funds to be match to federal funds. This would effectively disqualify the state funds as match and the state would need to find federal matching shares from other sources.
- Allow the indirect rate on the state funds only when used as match to federal funds administered by the board.

Project Administration and Indirect Costs

Currently, sponsors may charge administration costs directly attributable to the cost of implementing a project. Project administration costs may include the costs of salaries and benefits, office space, telephone, computers, copiers, and other office-related charges, as long as they are directly attributable to the project. Current policy does not allow sponsors to charge indirect costs because there is a long-standing interest on behalf of the board to have grant funds go directly to the costs of implementing a project.

With the addition of indirect costs in federal programs, the board may want to revisit its policy on eligible administration costs and the maximum allowed amount. Currently, the maximum administration amount, including architectural and engineering costs, on a construction project is 30 percent. The maximum administration amount on an acquisition project is five percent.

For the federally funded programs, the board may wish to:

- Provide a distinction between project administration and indirect costs to ensure costs are not double billed to the project; and
- Reduce the amount of allowable project administration costs when indirect costs are eligible in the program.

Eligible Costs and Ineligible Costs

The federal Omni-Circular rule identifies allowable and disallowed costs (the board policies use the terms "eligible" and "ineligible" costs). In addition, each federal agency has further guidance on which costs are allowed in the specific grant program. At a minimum, the board may not allow costs in a specific grant program that would otherwise be disallowed by the federal government. However, the board may wish to revisit the eligible and ineligible costs in each federal program to assess whether to broaden or constrict the scope of eligible costs allowed by board policy.

Recommendation for Next Steps

Staff recommends the board direct staff to review the policies identified above to address any potential conflicts with the Omni-Circular rules and identify opportunities to align the board's policies with the federal rules where appropriate. If so directed, staff will identify an internal team to work on the issues identified and report back to the board at the November meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Acting quickly to implement the federal Omni-Circular rules, and address any board policies that might conflict with the federal rules, supports the implementation of Goal 2 of the board's strategic plan, which states: "Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources."

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015
Title: Washington Administrative Code Update
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 (WAC). Staff requests feedback from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) on the revisions to the two WAC sections previously reviewed by the board and on additional draft amendments for other sections in Title 420.

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 May 2015 meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff provided the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) with an overview of proposed amendments to two sections of [Title 420](#) of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC): *Definitions* and *Organization and Operations*. The board provided feedback to staff on the draft amendments, requested staff to make certain changes, and directed staff to proceed with informal review of the changes with interested stakeholders.

Subsequently in June, staff discussed the proposed changes with the Washington Salmon Coalition. There was considerable discussion among the group about the changes, and individual lead entities provided verbal and written comments to staff. Staff reviewed the feedback from the lead entities and proceeded with revising the draft.

Due to the breadth of comments received from stakeholders, staff did not proceed with the formal rule-making process as proposed at the May 2015 meeting.

Revised Draft Amendments for Board Review

The following includes a summary of the changes made since the May board meeting. Attachment A contains the revised draft amendments of the two sections previously reviewed in May. Staff requests feedback on the revised draft amendments.

WAC 420-04-010 Definitions

Based on feedback from the board and stakeholders, staff made changes to the draft amendments for definitions. Table 1 describes the definitions that have changed and new definitions added. Staff requests feedback on the changes made since the May meeting.

Table 1: Draft Definitions in WAC 420-04-010 Changed or Added Since May 2015

Definition in WAC 420-04-010	Description of Revised Text
Acquisition project	Reference added that an acquisition project may also be through the donation of real property. Text approved by Assistant Attorney General.
Agreement	Reworded based on changes made by the Assistant Attorney General.
Applicant	Definition linked to the eligible applicants in state law.
Capacity funding	Reference to "block" grant removed.
Citizens committee	New definition added.
Enhancement project	Added phrase "hatchery and harvest enhancement project" as another term for enhancement project.
Habitat project list	New definition added.
Habitat work schedule	New definition added.
Restoration project	"Original function" changed to "historic function". Text approved by Assistant Attorney General.

WAC 420-04-020 Organization and Operations

This section remains the same as presented at the May meeting.

Additional Draft Amendments for Board Review

Staff also worked to draft amendments for the remaining sections of Chapter 420-04 WAC and the first eight sections of Chapter 420-12 WAC. Table 2 is a list of the sections with draft amendments. Attachment B contains the draft amendments ready for the board to review.

No other sections are proposed for amendment at this time. There is interest in adding new sections about lead entities, regional organizations, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Staff will work on drafting these new sections later this fall or winter.

Table 2: List of WAC Sections with Additional Draft Amendments for Review

Section in WAC	Title of Section
Chapter 420-04 WAC General	
420-04-015	Address
420-04-030	Manuals and waivers—Guidance
420-04-040	Project selection
420-04-050	Final decision
420-04-060	Delegated authority
420-04-070	Compliance with Environmental Policy Act guidelines

Section in WAC	Title of Section
420-04-080	Declaratory order—Petition requisites—Consideration—Disposition
420-04-085	Petitions for rule making, amendment or repeal—Form—Consideration—Disposition
420-04-100	Public records access
Chapter 420-12 WAC Grant Assistance Rules	
420-12-010	Scope of chapter
420-12-020	Application form
420-12-030	Deadlines—Applications and agreements
420-12-040	Eligible matching resources
420-12-050	Project agreement
420-12-060	Disbursement of funds
420-12-070	Retroactive expenses and increased costs
420-12-075	Nonconformance and repayment

Public Involvement and Comment

Staff will continue to involve lead entities in an informal review process after the board reviews initial drafts. Staff would also like an opportunity to discuss amendments with regional organizations. Informal review will provide staff with an opportunity to construct final draft amendments for the formal public review process.

The next step in the amendment process is to file a Notice of Proposed Rule-making (called a CR-102) with the Office of the Code Reviser. Staff does not anticipate submitting the notice until the board is ready to initiate the formal public review process and conduct a public hearing. Staff proposes the board initiate the formal process in early 2016 after interested stakeholders provide informal feedback on all the draft amendments.

Next Steps

RCO staff will continue to draft amendments as directed by the board. After the board provides their initial review, staff will consult with lead entities and regional organizations and other interested stakeholders to get informal feedback. Staff will present an update at the December board meeting. Depending on stakeholder feedback, the board could hold a public hearing in early 2016.

Strategic Plan Link

Revising the board administrative rules supports the implementation of Goal 2 of the board's strategic plan, which states: "Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources."

Attachments

- A. Revised Draft Amendments for Sections 420-04-010 and 420-04-020 WAC
- B. Additional Draft Amendments Ready for Review

Revised Draft Amendments for Sections 420-04-010 and 420-04-020 WAC

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 project" means ~~the gaining of rights of public ownership by a project that purchases or receives a donation, 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/trail easements, covenants, water rights, leases, and mineral rights.~~

(2) "Agreement" or "project agreement" means the accord accepted by the office and the sponsor for the project and includes; ~~this agreement, any attachments, addendums, and amendments, any supplemental agreements, any amendments to this agreement and any intergovernmental agreements or other documents that are incorporated into the project agreement subject to any limitations on their effect.~~

(3) "Applicant" means any ~~agency, person or organization~~ party that meets qualifying standards as described in RCW 77.85.010(6), 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" is a ~~block grant~~ to lead entities and regional organizations as described in RCW 77.85.130(4) 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.

(8) "Citizens committee" means a committee established by a lead entity that consists of representative interests of counties, cities, conservation districts, tribes, environmental groups, business interests, landowners, citizens, volunteer groups, regional fish enhancement groups, and other habitat interests as described in RCW 77.85.050.

~~"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.~~

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

(10) "Enhancement project" or "hatchery and harvest 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.

(11) "Habitat project list" means the list of projects as described in RCW 77.85.010(3) compiled by a citizens committee and submitted by a lead entity to the board as described in RCW 77.85.050(3). The habitat project list shall establish priorities for individual projects and define the sequence for project

implementation as described in RCW 77.85.050. The list of projects in the habitat project list must be within the lead entity area as described in RCW 77.85.050(2).

(12) "Habitat work schedule", also known as the "lead entity ranked list", means those projects on the habitat project list that will be implemented in the current funding cycle per RCW 77.85.010(4) and as described in RCW 77.85.060. For purposes of Title 420 WAC, habitat work schedule does not refer to the habitat work schedule database administered by the governor's salmon recovery office.

(13) "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 jointly by the counties, cities, and Native American tribes within the lead entity area as described in ~~that comprises the lead entity grant sponsor, lead entity coordinator, technical advisory group and citizens committee~~ under (RCW 77.85.050).

(14) "Lead entity area" means the area designated jointly by the counties, cities, and Native American Tribes in resolutions or in letters of support which is 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 as described in RCW 77.85.050(2).

(15) "Manual(s)" means a compilation of ~~board, director,~~ 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 or office's grant program(s).

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

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

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

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

(20) "~~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.~~

(21) "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 and all subsequent amendments and attachments between the office acting on behalf of the board, and a project sponsor.~~

(22) "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. For acquisition projects, the project area must include the area described by the legal description of the properties acquired in the project.

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

(24) "Reimbursement" means the payment of funds from the office to the sponsor for eligible and allowable project costs that have already been paid by the sponsor per the terms of an agreement.

(25) "Restoration project" means to bring a site back to its -historic function as part of a natural ecosystem or improving or enhancing the ecological functionality of a site.

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

(27) "Project-sSponsor" 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.

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 77.85.110.

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

(a) Allocate and administer ~~grant programs funds~~ for salmon ~~habitat projects and salmon~~ recovery activities, ~~and related programs and policies from amounts appropriated or authorized 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 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 utilize 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 as described in 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 where the project is located.

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

(7)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~~;~~
—

(d) 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

(e) 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.

Additional Draft Amendments Ready for Review

WAC 420-04-015 Address. All communications with the board, office, director and staff shall be directed to the recreation and conservation office at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street S.E., P.O. Box 40917, Olympia, Washington 98504-0917. Telephone 360-902-3000, fax 360-902-3026, Web www.rco.wa.gov.

WAC 420-04-030 ~~Manuals and waivers~~—Guidance Policies and Procedures. ~~(1) The board shall adopt one or more manuals that describe its general administrative policies, for use by grant applicants, potential applicants, project sponsors, and others. The board shall inform all applicants in any given grant cycle of the specific project application process and methods of review, including current evaluation tests and instruments, by explaining these items in the manuals or other publicly available formats. Manuals may be adopted for each grant cycle, or for a topical issue, and shall contain a clear statement of the applicability of the policies outlined. The board also instructs the director to use applicable office administrative manuals for general guidance in the implementation of board grant contracts. These include manuals regarding land acquisition, conservation easements, funded projects, and reimbursement procedures.~~

~~(2) Board policies, including those referenced in the manuals, shall be considered and approved by the board in an open public meeting. Notice of such considerations will be given by distribution of the agenda for the meeting, press releases, meeting notice in the Washington State Register, or other means.~~

(1) The board shall adopt plans, policies, and procedures per the duties of the board as described in WAC 420-04-020. Board policies shall be considered and approved by the board in an open public

meeting. Notice of such considerations will be given by distribution of the agenda for the meeting, press releases, formal meeting notice in the Washington State Register, or other such means as appropriate.

(2) The director shall approve administrative procedures to implement the board's policies and general grant administration per the duties of the director in WAC 420-04-060.

(3) The office shall publish the policies and the administrative procedures and make them available to applicants, sponsors, and other interested parties.

(34) Project aApplicants, ~~project~~ sponsors, or other interested parties may petition the director for a waiver or waivers of those items ~~within the manuals~~ dealing with ~~general~~ administrative ~~matters and~~ procedures. The director may refer any petition on an administrative procedure to the board for determination. Determinations on petitions for such waivers made by the director are subject to review by the board at the request of the petitioner.

(45) Applicants, sponsors, or other interested parties may petition the board for a waiver or waivers of those items dealing with policy and procedures. Petitions for waivers of subjects regarding board policy ~~and procedures, and~~ those petitions ~~that in the judgment of referred by~~ the director ~~require to the~~ board ~~review, and determinations made in subsection (4) at the request of a petitioner,~~ shall be ~~referred to~~ considered by the board ~~for deliberation. Policy waivers may be granted after consideration by the board~~ at an open public meeting.

WAC 420-04-040 Project selection. – *This section is combined in WAC 420-12-020.*

WAC 420-04-050 Final decision. (1) The board shall review ~~options or~~ recommendations from the ~~director~~ for grant awards at regularly scheduled board open public meetings ~~announced as funding sessions. It~~

(2) The board retains the ~~final~~ authority and responsibility to ~~award grant or loan funds, and to~~ accept or ~~depart deviate~~ from ~~any the director's~~ recommendations and make the final decision concerning the funding of an application or change to a funded project. Unless otherwise required by law, the board's decision is the final decision ~~concerning the funding of a project.~~

WAC 420-04-060 Delegated Director's authority. (1) Consistent with RCW 79A.25.240 and other applicable laws, the director is delegated the authority and responsibility to carry out policies and administrative functions of the board. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to:

~~(1) Administer board programs;~~

(a) Provide staff support to the board (RCW 77.85.110);

(b) Provide all necessary grants and loans administration assistance to the board, and distribute funds as provided by the board in RCW 77.85.130 (RCW 77.85.120);

(c) Enter into contracts and agreements with applicants upon approval of the board;

~~(2d)~~ Administer all applicable rules, regulations and requirements established by the board or reflected in the laws of the state;

~~(3e)~~ Implement board decisions; ~~and~~

(4f) Approve certain ~~cost increases or~~ waiver requests as described in WAC 420-04-030 and certain amendments to project agreements as determined by board policy or other administrative matters;

(g) Appoint such technical and other committees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter; and

(h) Approve the contents, requirements and format for receiving grant applications.

(2) Consistent with RCW 77.85 and other applicable laws, the director has authority and responsibility to carry out actions to support salmon recovery. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to:

(a) Administer funding to support the functions of lead entities (RCW 77.85.050);

(b) Provide administrative support to the governor's salmon recovery office (RCW 77.85.030);

(c) Track all funds allocated for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities on behalf of the board, including both funds allocated by the board and funds allocated by other state or federal agencies for salmon recovery or water quality improvement (RCW 77.85.140);

(d) Produce a biennial report on the statewide status of salmon recovery and watershed health, summarize projects and programs funded by the salmon recovery funding board, and summarize progress as measured by high-level indicators and state agency compliance with applicable protocols established by the forum for monitoring salmon recovery and watershed health (RCW 77.85.020); and

(e) Administer other programs related to salmon recovery as delegated by the legislature, governor, or through interagency agreements with other state agencies.

(3) The director does not have the authority to waive these administrative rules, except as expressly allowed in these administrative rules, or waive policies adopted by the board unless the board has delegated such authority in an open public meeting.

WAC 420-04-070 Compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act-guidelines and other laws. (1) The board's and office's finds that, pursuant to RCW 43.21C.0382, all of its activities and programs

are exempt from threshold determinations and environmental impact statement requirements under the provisions of WAC 197-11-875.

(2) To the extent applicable, it is the responsibility of ~~applicants and project~~ sponsors to comply with the provisions of chapter ~~43.21C RCW~~ 197-11 WAC, the State Environmental Policy Act rules, ~~the National Environmental Protection Act, and to obtain associated land-use and regulatory permits and reviews. It is also the responsibility of sponsors to~~ and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regardless of whether the sponsor is a public or private organization.

WAC 420-04-080 ~~Declaratory order—Petition requisites—Consideration—Disposition~~

Petitions for declaratory order of a rule, order, or statute. (1) Any person may submit a petition for a declaratory order pursuant to RCW 34.05.240 in any written form so long as it:

- (a) Clearly states the question the declaratory order is to answer; and
 - (b) Provides a statement of the facts which raise the question.
- (2) The director may conduct an independent investigation in order to fully develop the relevant facts.

(3) The director ~~shall~~ will present the petition to the board at the first meeting when it is practical to do so and will provide the petitioner with at least five days notice of the time and place of such meeting. Such notice may be waived by the petitioner.

(4) The petitioner may present additional material and/or argument at any time prior to the issuance of the declaratory order.

~~(5) The board may issue either a binding or a nonbinding order or decline to issue any order.~~

(65) The board may decide that a public hearing would assist its deliberations and decisions. If such a hearing is ordered, it will be placed on the agenda of a meeting and at least five days notice of such meeting shall be provided to the petitioner.

~~(7) If an order is to be issued, the petitioner shall be provided a copy of the proposed order and invited to comment.~~

~~(8) The declaratory order cannot be a substitute for a compliance action and is intended to be prospective in effect.~~

~~(9) The board will decline to consider a petition for a declaratory or to issue an order when:~~

~~(a) The petition requests advice regarding a factual situation which has actually taken place; or~~

~~(b) When a pending investigation or compliance action involves a similar factual situation.~~

**WAC 420-04-085 Petitions for ~~rule-making~~adoption, amendment or repeal—~~Form—~~
~~Consideration—Disposition of a rule.~~** Any person may submit a petition requesting the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule by the board, pursuant to RCW 34.05.330 and the uniform rules adopted by the office of financial management that are set forth in chapter 82-05 WAC.

WAC 420-04-100 Public records ~~access~~. (1) The board is committed to public access to its public records. All public records of the board, as defined in RCW 42.56.070 as now or hereafter amended, are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to this regulation, except as otherwise provided by law, including, but not limited to, RCW 42.56.050 and 42.56.210.

(2) The board's public records shall be available through the public records officer designated by the director. All access to the board's records ~~access for board records~~ shall be conducted in the same manner as ~~records access for office records, including office location, hours, copy fee and request forms.~~ The board ~~adopts by reference the records access procedures of the office and charges the director to administer for access purposes the board's records in the same manner as records of the office are administered, pursuant to~~ chapter 286-06 WAC.

~~(3) Any person who objects to the denial of a request for a public record of the board may petition the director for review by submitting a written request. The request shall specifically refer to the written statement which constituted or accompanied the denial.~~

~~(4) After receiving a written request for review of a decision denying inspection of a public record, the director, or designee, will either affirm or reverse the denial by the end of the second business day following receipt according to RCW 42.56.520. This shall constitute final board action. Whenever possible in such matters, the director or designee shall consult with the board's chair and members.~~

(3) The office will include language in the project agreement that requires sponsors that are not subject to public disclosure requirements under chapter 42.56 RCW to disclose any information in regards to funding as if the sponsor were subject to chapter 42.56 RCW (RCW 77.85.130(8)).

WAC 420-12-020 Application form Requirements and the Evaluation Process. (1) The board shall adopt an evaluation process to guide it in allocating funds to and among applicants. The board's evaluating process for applications and habitat project lists shall:

(a) Be developed, to a reasonable extent, through the participation of interested parties and specialists, and include best available science;

(b) Consider regional recovery plans goals, objectives, and strategies;

(c) Be adopted by the board in open public meetings;

(d) Be made available in published form to interested parties;

(e) Be designed for use by an independent state technical review panel or team of evaluators with relevant expertise when selected for this purpose on behalf of the board; and

(f) Be in accord with RCW 77.85.130, 77.85.135, and 77.85.240 and other applicable statutes.

(2) The office shall administer the evaluation process adopted by the board and prepare funding options or recommendations for the director to present for the board's consideration.

(3) The office shall inform all applicants of the application requirements and evaluation process. All grant requests must be completed and submitted to the office in the format ~~and manner~~ prescribed by the ~~board~~ director.

~~(2)~~ If the director determines that the applicant is eligible to apply for federal funds administered by the board, the applicant must execute any additional forms necessary for that purpose.

(4) All applications for funding submitted to the office that meet the application requirements will be referred to the director. In reaching a recommendation, the director shall seek the advice and counsel of the office's staff and other recognized experts, including an independent state technical review panel or team of evaluators or from other parties with relevant experience.

WAC 420-12-030 Grant Program Deadlines.~~—Applications and agreements. (1) Applications. To~~~~allow time for review, a~~Applications must be submitted by the ~~announced~~ due date approved by the board.

Unless otherwise authorized by the board, the director and staff have no authority to extend the application filing deadlines. Excepted are applications for programs where the director specifically establishes another deadline to accomplish new or revised statutory direction, board direction, or to meet a federal grant application deadline.

(2) ~~Project agreement. To prepare a project agreement, certain documents or materials in addition to the application may be required by the office. These documents or materials must be provided by the applicant to the office at least two calendar months after the date the board or director approves funding for the project or earlier to meet a federal grant program requirement. After this period, the board or director may rescind the offer of grant funds and reallocate the grant funds to another project(s).~~

(3) ~~An applicant has three calendar months from the date of the board's mailing of office sends the project agreement document to executesign and return the agreement to the board's office. After this period, the board or director may reject any agreement not completed, signed and returned, and may reallocate the grant funds to another project(s). The director may waive compliance with this deadline for good cause.~~

(4) Compliance with the deadlines is required unless a waiver is granted by the board or director. Such waivers are considered based on several factors which may vary with the type of waiver requested, including any one or more of the following:

(a) Current status and progress made to meet the deadline;

(b) The reason the established deadline could not be met;

- (c) When the deadline will be met;
- (d) Impact on the board's evaluation process;
- (e) Equity to other applicants; and
- (f) Such other information as may be relevant.

WAC 420-12-040 Eligible matching resources. (1) Applicant resources used to match board funds ~~may~~ must be eligible in the grant programs. Sources of matching resources include, but are not limited to, any one or more of the following:

~~Cash, certain federal funds, the value of privately owned donated real estate, equipment, equipment use, materials, labor, or any combination thereof. The specific eligible matches for any given grant cycle shall be detailed in the published manual. The director shall require documentation of values.~~

- (a) Appropriations and cash;
- (b) Value of the applicant's expenses for labor, materials, and equipment;
- (c) Value of donated real property, labor, services, materials, and equipment use; and
- (d) Grant funds.

(2) Agencies and organizations may match board funds with other state funds, including recreation and conservation funding board funds, so long as the other state funds are not administered by the board and if otherwise allowed by state law. For the purposes of this subsection, grants issued by other agencies under the Jobs for Environment program and the Forests & Fish program are not considered to be administered by the board.

(3) ~~Private donated real property, or the value of that property, must consist of real property (land and facilities) that would otherwise qualify for board grant funding.~~

~~(4)~~ The eligibility of federal funds to be used as a match is governed by federal requirements and thus may vary with individual proposals and grant cycles.

WAC 420-12-050 Project agreement. (1) For every funded project, an agreement shall be executed within the deadlines in WAC 420-12-030 and as provided in this section.

~~(12)~~ The project agreement shall be prepared by the ~~director office~~ after approval of the project by the board at a public meeting. ~~The director shall execute the agreement on behalf of the board and submit the document to the applicant. After the applicant signs the agreement, the applicant becomes and is referred to as the project sponsor. The~~ The project agreement is executed upon the signature of the office and the applicant and the parties are then bound by the agreement's terms. The applicant shall not proceed ~~with~~ until the project ~~until the~~ agreement has been ~~signed and the project start date listed in the agreement has arrived~~ executed, unless ~~the applicant has received~~ specific authorization pursuant to WAC 420-12-070 has been given by the director.

~~(23)~~ If the project is approved by the board to receive a grant from federal funds, the director shall not execute an agreement or amendment with the applicant until federal funding has been authorized through execution of ~~a concurrent project~~ an agreement with the applicable federal agency, ~~if and as necessary.~~

WAC 420-12-060 Disbursement of funds. ~~(1)~~ Except as otherwise provided in this ~~rule~~ chapter, the ~~director office~~ will authorize disbursement of project funds only on a reimbursable basis at the percentage identified in the project agreement, after the ~~project~~ sponsor has ~~spent its own funds and has~~ presented ~~a billing showing satisfactory evidence of property rights acquired and/or an invoice documenting costs incurred and~~ compliance with ~~partial or all the~~ provisions of the project agreement.

~~(1.2) Reimbursement method. Reimbursement shall be requested on voucher forms authorized by the director. Requests must include all documentation as detailed in the manual in effect at the time reimbursement is requested.~~

~~(2) Reimbursement level. The amount of reimbursement may never exceed the cash spent on the project by the sponsor.~~

(3) Reimbursement shall not be approved for any donations, including donated real property.

~~(3) Partial payment. Partial reimbursements may be made during the course of a project on presentation of billings showing satisfactory evidence of partial acquisition or development by the project sponsor. The director may require written assurance that full project completion is scheduled by a specific date. In the event of appropriation reductions or terminations, the project agreement shall allow the board to suspend or terminate future obligations and payments.~~

(4) ~~Direct payment.~~ Direct payment to an escrow account of the board office's share of the approved cost of real property and related costs may be made following board office approval ~~of an acquisition project~~ when the ~~project~~ sponsor indicates a temporary lack of funds to purchase the property on a reimbursement basis. Prior to release of the board office's share ~~of into~~ escrow ~~funds~~, the ~~project~~ sponsor must provide the director office with a copy of a binding sale agreement between the ~~project~~ sponsor and

the seller, all required documentation, and evidence of deposit of the ~~project~~ sponsor's share ~~(if any)~~, identified in the project agreement, into an escrow account.

(5) Advance payments may be made in limited circumstances only, pursuant to the policy outlined in the adopted reimbursement manual.

(6) ~~Payment deadline~~. As required by RCW 77.85.140, sponsors who complete salmon habitat projects approved for funding from habitat project lists will be paid by the board within thirty days of project completion. This means the board will issue a reimbursement within thirty days of the sponsor's completion of the billing requirements described in the board's reimbursement policy manual.

WAC 420-12-070 Retroactive ~~expenses, pre-agreement, and increased costs~~. ~~The definitions in WAC 420-04-010 apply to this section.~~

(1) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, the office shall not approve the disbursement of funds for costs incurred before execution of a project agreement.

(2) The ~~board shall not~~office will only reimburse ~~expenses for activities undertaken, work performed or funds expended before the date on which the agreement was signed~~ costs that occur within the period of performance in the project agreement.

~~This policy is referred to as the board's prohibition on retroactivity. The only exceptions are as outlined in the adopted reimbursement manual, for certain preliminary expenses.~~

~~(2) If such exceptions do not apply, a waiver may be issued to avoid the prohibition on retroactivity only under the following circumstances, for retroactive land acquisition cost reimbursements:~~

(3) The director may grant a waiver of retroactivity ~~when for acquiring real property whenever~~ an applicant ~~documents asserts~~, in writing, ~~that a condition exists which may jeopardize the project the~~ justification for the critical need to purchase the property in advance of the project agreement along with any documentation required by the director. When evidence warrants, the director may grant the applicant permission to proceed prior ~~to the signing of an agreement~~ by issuing ~~the a~~ written waiver. This waiver of retroactivity ~~shall will~~ not be construed as an approval of the proposed project. If the project is subsequently approved ~~for board funding, however, the expenditures described in the waiver costs~~ incurred ~~shall will~~ be eligible for ~~assistance if they otherwise satisfy the reimbursement requirements under WAC 420-12-060 grant funding. If the project is to remain eligible for funding from federal funds, the director shall not authorize a waiver of retroactivity to the applicant until the federal agency administering the federal funds has issued its own waiver of retroactivity as provided under its rules and regulations. A waiver may be issued for more than one grant program.~~

(34) The only retroactive acquisition, development, and restoration costs eligible for grant funding are pre-agreement costs as defined by the board.

(45) Cost increases. The board shall reimburse only for allowable expenses under WAC 420-12-070. If costs increase after the agreement is signed, a project sponsor is solely responsible, unless the adopted manual for the relevant grant cycle specifically establishes a cost-increase method for that cycle. Cost increases for approved projects may be granted by the board or director if financial resources are available.

(a) Each cost increase request will be considered on its merits.

(b) The director may approve a cost increase request as delegated by the board. The director's approval of an acquisition project cost increase is limited to a parcel-by-parcel appraised and reviewed value.

WAC 420-12-075 Nonconformance and repayment. ~~In the event any project sponsor's expenditure of board grant moneys is determined~~ Any project cost deemed by the board or director to conflict with applicable statutes, rules and/or related manuals, or the project agreement, ~~the board reserves the right to demand repayment~~ must be repaid, upon written request by the director, to the appropriate state account, ~~by written notice from the director to the project sponsor per the terms of the project agreement.~~ Such repayment requests may be made following in consideration of an applicable report from the state auditor's office.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015
Title: Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Project Approval
Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office's 2015-17 biennial budget 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 Salmon Recovery Funding Board to pre-approve one time-sensitive PSAR project. The remainder of the PSAR projects will be presented to the board in December.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Proposed Motion Language

Approve Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funding for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) project #15-1055 Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration-Robinson Phase, described in Attachment A, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into a project agreement.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office's 2015-17 biennial capital budget includes \$37 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program; \$30 million of this appropriation will be used for the regular (formula-driven) PSAR grant round in 2015, and the remainder will 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. The SRFB approved seven time-sensitive projects at the May 2015 board meeting. This request is to approve one additional time-sensitive project.

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:

- The sponsor must show a need for project implementation prior to the December board meeting.
- The project must be cleared by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel.
- The project must be ranked at a fundable level by the lead entity.
- Project agreements could be issued immediately following the board meeting, provided that PSAR funding is available.

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 RCO staff to submit projects. The board is being asked to approve one project 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 Project

The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon requests that the board approve funding early for one project, #15-1055 Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration-Robinson Phase, sponsored by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. This project is an acquisition and restoration project which will purchase more than twenty-nine acres, move four residences from harm's way, remove infrastructure from the floodplain, and permanently conserve floodplain habitat and salmon habitat forming processes. The sponsor is working to acquire the properties, and to remove infrastructure and tenants out of the floodplain prior to this year's winter rains and potential flooding.

The project was the top-ranked project from the lead entity and is ranked in the fundable range. The project has been reviewed and cleared by the SRFB technical review panel. The project advances the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.

Board Decisions

The board is asked to approve PSAR funding for the project #15-1055 Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration-Robinson Phase, described in Attachment A.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve PSAR funding for the project #15-1055 Dungeness R. Floodplain Restoration-Robinson Phase, described 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
15-1055	Dungeness R. Floodplain Restoration- Robinson Phase	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon proposed this project which will purchase more than 29 acres, move 4 residences from harm's way, remove infrastructure from the floodplain, and permanently conserve floodplain habitat and salmon habitat forming processes. The sponsor is working to acquire the properties and to remove infrastructure and tenants out of the floodplain prior to this year's winter rains and potential flooding.	\$1,157,700	\$1,157,700
				Total Funded:	\$1,157,700

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015

Title: Conversion Request: Holmes Property Boundary Adjustment for RCO Project #04-1680

Prepared By: Kay Caromile, Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes an action that would provide a policy waiver for sponsor-owned land to be eligible as replacement property in the proposed Holmes Property Conversion.

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 the policy waiver to allow Yakama Nation-owned property to be eligible as replacement property in the proposed conversion for RCO Project #04-1680.

Background

In 2006, the Yakama Nation purchased the 50.14 acre Holmes property which encompasses floodplain habitat and a side channel of the mainstem Yakima River near Ellensburg, Washington. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funded the original application to acquire the property; however, only a 37.63 acre portion of the property was acquired through board funding (RCO Project 04-1680 Holmes Floodplain Property Protection). The remaining 12.51 acres were purposefully excluded from the SRFB-funded acquisition to allow development of a Coho Salmon hatchery. The portion of the property reserved for the hatchery was selected because it contains the most heavily disturbed land and is situated next to the road, making it easy to access and provide power.

Since removing cattle twelve years ago, the land has been in a state of recovery. The species composition of the establishing vegetation indicates that a wetland might exist on the developable land originally set aside for the hatchery. Wetland delineation confirmed that a six-acre emergent wetland was present and that it would impact the location of the hatchery, as the Yakama Nation does not want to build on or otherwise impact the emergent wetland.

The Yakama Nation propose exchanging three acres of the identified wetland habitat with three acres of the 37.63 acre SRFB-funded acquisition to develop a salmon hatchery. The three acres of SRFB-funded property would expand the buildable zone for the hatchery and are considered essential for its success. Constructing a hatchery on SRFB-funded land is inconsistent with the salmon recovery and conservation purposes for which this property was purchased per the original application; therefore, such use requires that other land be substituted through a conversion process.

A Salmon Deed of Right has been recorded for the 37.63 acre SRFB-funded property. The Deed of Right conveys to the people of the State of Washington the rights to preserve, protect, and/or use the property for public purposes consistent with the grant program and the project agreement in perpetuity. According to the Salmon Deed of Right:

"The conditions are that the substituted salmon recovery and conservation land must be: (1) of at least equal fair market value at the time of change of use and of as nearly as feasible equivalent (2) qualities, (3) characteristics and (4) location for salmon recovery and conservation purposes for which state assistance was originally granted."

The three-acre wetland habitat proposed as replacement property is contiguous to the property already covered by the Salmon Deed of Right. It is a low area in the landscape and has standing water at various times of the year. The three acres of SRFB-funded property proposed for conversion contain no wetland indicators in the vegetation or the soils. The area is very dry and has little habitat benefit other than two large Ponderosa Pine trees (every effort will be made to save the trees).

Conflict with Existing Policy

Substituted land (i.e., replacement property) in a land conversion must meet eligibility per Manual 3 requirements as if it were a new grant application. The proposed replacement property for the Holmes property is not eligible per Manual 3, which states that:

"Grants may not be used to acquire...Land already owned by the sponsor, unless the property meets the eligibility requirements described in the "Acquisition of Existing Public Property" section or the "Buying Land Without a Signed RCO Project Agreement" section in this manual."

The proposed replacement property does not meet either of the listed exceptions. Under this policy, the proposed replacement property is not eligible for grant funding.

Request for Board Decision

The Yakama Nation is asking the board to waive its policy so that land currently owned by the Yakama Nation may be considered eligible as replacement property for the proposed conversion. A policy waiver would not guarantee approval of the replacement property. Approval of the replacement property will be sought later, either from the board or from the Recreation and Conservation Office Director, depending on the appraised value of the land proposed for conversion.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the policy waiver to allow Yakama Nation-owned property to be eligible as replacement property in the proposed conversion. The original SRFB application was to acquire the entire 50.14 acre property and was considered eligible for SRFB funding. The proposed hatchery use of the property was known at the time of acquisition such that the land proposed for hatchery use was "carved" out of the Salmon Deed of Right. If the proposed replacement property is approved, the proposed conversion would essentially be a boundary adjustment to the existing Salmon Deed of Right.

Next Steps

If the SRFB approves the policy waiver, RCO staff will work with the Yakama Nation to move the conversion request forward for approval. If the SRFB denies the policy waiver, the Yakama Nation will consider their options, including filling the wetland and conducting necessary mitigation in order to proceed with hatchery design and construction.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015

Title: Follow-Up on Expanding the Grant Program to Include Large Capital Projects for the 2017-19 Biennium

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

Summary

This memo summarizes the concept of developing a capital budget request for the 2017-19 biennium. The vision is to create a state capital funding source for large-scale, high-benefit fish projects needed to implement regional recovery plans outside of the Puget Sound region. Staff would like direction from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) on whether to pursue a more detailed proposal for board discussion and public comment at the December 2015 meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The Need for Program Expansion

Salmon Recovery Plans are in the midst of various implementation stages across the state. Many large-scale, high-benefit projects have not been implemented due to insufficient resources necessary to complete the work.

For the last several years, the Puget Sound has been the focus of several large-scale state capital grant programs. These include Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), and Floodplain by Design (FbD). There are significant challenges and complexities in the Puget Sound recovery effort that warrant a focused capital program from the state.

Similarly, there has been an enormous need in the other regions of the state involved in salmon recovery. In addition to the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan there are six other federally approved recovery plans, plus Coastal Washington, that need full implementation to reach recovery. The Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region recently developed their salmon recovery plan for non-listed species. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) was able to provide both state and federal funds to support their efforts.

More resources are needed to implement large-scale, high-benefit salmon recovery projects than can be funded in a normal grant cycle.

At the February 2015 board meeting, staff provided a briefing on the concept. The follow-up plan included having a draft proposal ready for the October meeting. Due to the budget delay and schedule,

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff did not have the opportunity to meet with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) or the Governor's Office until recently. Both OFM and the Governor's Office suggested that RCO put together the decision package for both offices to review prior to going to presenting the package to the board. The final list and decision package would have to be finalized prior to September 2016. In the meantime, they recommended that staff refine the details and suggested a tight package of projects in the approximate range of \$10 million.

Concept

RCO and GSRO staff would seek input from regional organizations, lead entities, recovery partners, OFM, and others to draft a proposal that outlines what a large capital project grant program might encompass. Next, staff would provide a full proposal to the board at the December 2015 meeting for consideration. From a timing perspective, the goal would be to have a fully developed process resulting in a ranked list to present to the Governor and Legislature in September 2016 for inclusion in the 2017-19 capital budget. It is envisioned that this would be a list of no more than twenty large capital projects that currently cannot be addressed within existing funding sources because of the project size.

The basic construct of the program would rest on three important principles:

- 1) The program would be additive to the Salmon Recovery effort in Washington and not realign or take resources away from existing capital programs.
- 2) The process for selecting and prioritizing projects would be open and transparent.
- 3) The current standing Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel would be utilized for the statewide review process.

The vision involves developing a prioritized list of large-scale projects that are ready to be implemented. The projects would be submitted with the budget request. Criteria, project review, and eligibility details will be developed by staff for the proposal.

There is some risk in putting forward such a proposal. First, legislators have voiced confusion on the various funding sources for salmon recovery (SRFB funds, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Projects, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group funding). Second, they may elect to fund the known list of projects over a fund to be allocated by the board. And third, it is highly likely that the Fish Barrier Removal Board will be putting forth a proposal to fund a prioritized list of barriers to be removed. If a proposal is put forward, care will need to be taken to clearly identify the need and how it differs from the other funding programs.

To fully develop the proposal, staff will coordinate with salmon recovery network partners, including the Fish Barrier Removal Board.

Next Steps

Staff will provide a brief presentation at the October 2015, allowing time afterwards for board discussion and direction. Staff recommends that work begin immediately with stakeholders to develop program guidelines for a December 2015 decision.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015

Title: Overview of New Programs Assigned to the Recreation and Conservation Office

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) received three new programs to manage in the Legislature's 2015-2017 capital budget. Two of the programs, the Coastal Restoration Initiative program and the Catastrophic Flood Relief program, will be managed in the salmon section of the RCO.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The salmon section of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will manage two new programs recently appropriated in the 2015-2017 capital budget: the Coastal Restoration Initiative Program and the Catastrophic Flood Relief Program.

The Coastal Restoration Initiative grant program funds acquisition and restoration projects for salmon and other species specifically identified in the budget bill. There are twenty-two projects on the list (Attachment A). The Catastrophic Flood Relief Program funds feasibility studies, data collection and analysis, and flood control and floodplain restoration projects in the Chehalis River basin. Previously, this program was managed by the Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Program Summaries

Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative

A coalition of partners from across the Washington coast developed a comprehensive database of restoration and sustainable job needs. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) spearheaded this effort with a committee consisting of representatives from organizations spanning the entire Washington coast. This initiative aims to conduct critical restoration work and provide good-paying sustainable natural resource jobs. The goal is to protect and restore fish and wildlife, healthy forests, and water quality in coastal communities and to build a lasting foundation for healthy coastal habitats and economies that will benefit the entire state. The partners have worked on these issues for years, but without sufficient funding. This funding will enable some of the prioritized restoration projects to move forward. These projects have support from local governments, the conservation community, the fishing industry, tribes, watershed groups, and state and federal agencies. The Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative submitted a project

list to the Legislature, requesting \$15 million. Twenty-two projects were funded at \$11.1 million. Of these funded projects, seven were previously submitted and reviewed through the board's grant process.

Catastrophic Flood Relief Program

The Chehalis basin suffered major flooding in 2007 and 2009, severely impacting the region. Prior to this year, the Legislature provides funding in the capital budget through OFM for basin planning and projects to reduce and mitigate flood impacts and provide funding for habitat restoration projects. This biennium, the capital budget included \$50 million for this effort with one percent allocated to RCO to act as the fiscal agent for the contracts.

Next Steps

Coastal Restoration Initiative

The Coastal Restoration Initiative Program projects are now set up in PRISM. RCO is working with project sponsors to get full proposals submitted into the database. Those projects that have not already been reviewed will be submitted to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Technical Review Panel, and comment forms will be completed for each project. Once the review is complete, project agreements will be issued and managed by RCO.

Catastrophic Flood Relief Program

The Catastrophic Flood Relief Program is now set up in PRISM and existing contracts are in the process of being added. RCO is working with the Flood Authority to finalize the scopes of work to begin new contracts for funded feasibility studies, data collection, and analysis to be primarily completed by Anchor QEA and specific state agencies. There are also new flood protection and restoration projects that are currently being evaluated by the Chehalis Work Group and Flood Authority. Once the project list is finalized, the projects will be populated in PRISM, agreements executed, and work will begin.

Attachments

A. Coastal Restoration Initiative Projects Approved in the 2015-2017 Capital Budget

Coastal Restoration Initiative Projects Approved in the 2015-2017 Capital Budget

Project Number	Name	Sponsor	Funded Amount
15-1504	Sullivan Ponds	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	\$42,140.00
15-	Coal Creek Culvert to Bridge	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	\$158,760.00
15-	Makah Salmon Restoration Project	Makah Nation	\$342,600.00
15-	Pulling Together Initiative-Jobs in Restoration	10,000 Years Institute	\$265,000.00
15-	Moses Prairie Restoration	Quinault Indian Nation	\$13,680.00
15-	Upper Quinault Restoration	Quinault Indian Nation	\$20,000.00
15-	Quinault Nearshore Habitat Restoration	Quinault Indian Nation	\$50,000.00
15-	Satsop River Watershed Restoration	Center for Natural Lands Management	\$50,000.00
15-	Restoration of Prairies and Wetlands	Center for Natural Lands Management	\$102,000.00
15-	Scammon Creek Barrier Removal	Lewis County Public Works	\$46,945.00
15-1161	Middle Fork Satsop Culvert Correction	Grays Harbor Conservation District	\$97,248.00
15-1162	West Fork Satsop Culvert Correction	Grays Harbor Conservation District	\$95,649.00
15-1069	Rayonier-Middle Fork Hoquiam Culvert Correction	Chehalis Basin Fisheries Taskforce	\$41,013.00
15-1021	Black River Watershed Conservation and Restoration	Capitol Land Trust	\$214,000.00
15-1512	Darlin Creek Conservation and Restoration	Capitol Land Trust	\$500,000.00
15-	Lower Forks Creek Restoration	WDFW	\$1,430,000.00
15-	Rue Creek Salmon Restoration	Pacific Conservation District	\$150,000.00
14-1158	Greenhead Slough Barrier Removal	Sustainable Fisheries Foundation	\$520,000.00
15-	Ellsworth Creek Watershed Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	\$425,000.00
15-1505	Improved Gears for the Lower Columbia Fishery	Wild Fish Conservancy	\$162,700.00
15-	Restoration of the Elochoman and Grays River Basins	Wahkiakum County MRC	\$720,000.00
15-1503	Cathlamet Selective Fisheries	Wahkiakum County Port District 2	\$100,000.00

Note: Project numbers may be incomplete until they are uploaded and assigned a number in RCO's PRISM database.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 15, 2015
Title: Introduction to Skagit Restoration Projects and Tour Overview
Prepared By: Elizabeth Butler and Marc Duboiski, Outdoor Grants Managers

Summary

This memo notes the projects that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) will tour on October 16, 2015. More information about each site will be presented at the board's October 15, 2015 regular business meeting and by the individual project sponsors at each site.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Tour Overview

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board and the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council, along with staff and interested parties, will convene in the La Conner Country Inn lobby at 7:45 a.m. on Friday October 16 for our tour of funded projects. The tour is a one-way route; carpooling is encouraged, but participants may need individual cars since we are starting in La Conner and ending in Marysville. The tour consists of three board-funded estuary restoration sites which received twelve salmon recovery grants for multiple phases including land acquisition, restoration design, and construction elements. We will conclude the tour at around 2:15 p.m. to try to minimize the traffic on the road home.

Project Site Descriptions

Under each corresponding map point, projects are listed with the grant funding source(s) and a description of each project. A map is included in Attachment A. Driving directions will be provided at the meeting. The times shown on the tour agenda are approximate.

Fir Island Farm Snow Goose Reserve (Map Point B)

Fir Island Farm Restoration Construction

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (\$13,600,000), Match Funds (\$1,310,000)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is constructing a 5,800 linear-foot coastal setback dike to restore Skagit Bay's natural tidal prism to approximately 131 of the 250-acre Fir Island Farm. The project is expected to restore approximately 125.5 acres of tidal marsh habitat and 5 acres of new tidal channel habitat on site. The project goal is to create additional carrying capacity for an estimated 65,000 juvenile Chinook annually. The project is also designed to continue snow goose management, public access, and agriculture at the farm. Drainage and flood protection for the neighboring farmland will also be maintained. (RCO Project #[14-1022](#))

Fir Island Farm Restoration Final Design

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Community Based Restoration (\$140,436), Estuary & Salmon Restoration Program (\$525,239), Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (\$377,223), Salmon Federal Funds (\$489,618), Match Funds (\$68,334)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife used this grant to complete the surveys, data collections, analysis, modeling and engineering necessary to develop 60%, 90% and final design plans, and secure the permits required to restore tidal flooding to approximately 131 acres of farmland. (RCO Project #[12-1205](#))

Fir Island Farm Restoration Feasibility Study

Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (\$276,900), Match Funds (\$49,000)

The purpose of this feasibility study was to evaluate different alternatives to restore tidal processes, tidal marsh habitat and tidal channel habitat at the Fir Island Farm site. The primary objective of the feasibility and design project was to maximize the juvenile Chinook salmon rearing habitat area. A 30% design was completed for the preferred restoration alternative. All of the restoration alternatives evaluated by the feasibility study ensured drainage capacity, flood protection and saltwater intrusion protection for the surrounding farms will be maintained. (RCO Project #[09-1444](#))

Skagit Delta Wetlands

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Critical Habitat Category (\$1,787,595)

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife used funding to secure approximately 4,427 acres of critical wetlands near the Skagit River delta, including both fresh and saltwater estuaries and tidelands. This wetland habitat, located in Snohomish and Skagit counties, supports a wide variety of wildlife from waterfowl and bald eagle to coyote and black-tailed deer. The area is popular for hunting as well as bird watching. The 250 acre Fir Island Farm property was purchased within this grant. (RCO Project #[92-629](#))

Port Susan Bay Preserve (Map Point D)

Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration – ESRP

Estuary Salmon Restoration Program (\$478,249), Estuary Salmon Restoration Program/EPA (\$162,450), Match Funds (\$130,350)

This project funded final construction (levee setback) at The Nature Conservancy's Port Susan Bay Preserve. The scope of the restoration included removal of 7,350 feet of existing dike and construction and/or augmentation of 5,000 feet of new dike to protect neighboring farmland. This project fully restored riverine and tidal processes to 150 acres of diked former tidal marsh. By doing so, we enhanced the flow of water, wood and sediment to areas outside the project area whose functions have been impaired. This project is an integral component of a larger programmatic effort to restore ecological functions to the Stillaguamish estuary, which has been modified by historical large-scale physical alterations that have reduced the capacity of the system to support estuary-dependent species. The scope of the project also includes an initial phase of post restoration monitoring with ESRP funding. By restoring full tidal prism to 150 acres, this project increased the quantity and quality of estuarine habitats for utilization by juvenile salmon, shorebirds, and other estuarine-dependent species. (RCO Project # [11-1650](#))

Port Susan Bay Estuary Restoration

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (\$1,044,503), Salmon State (\$249,211), Match Funds (\$971,281)

The Nature Conservancy used funds to complete final design and permitting, and to restore 150 acres of tidal marsh through the removal of 7,350 feet of existing dike and construction and/or augmentation of 5,000 feet of a new setback dike to protect neighboring farmland. The project fully restored riverine and tidal processes to this former salt marsh, enhancing the flow of water, wood and sediment to habitat

outside the project area whose functions had been impaired. By restoring full tidal prism to 150 acres, this project increased the quantity and quality of estuarine habitats for utilization by juvenile salmon, shorebirds, and other estuarine-dependent species. (RCO Project #[09-1410](#))

Port Susan Bay Estuary Acquisition & Feasibility

Salmon State Funds (\$482,675), Match Funds (\$1,701,605)

The Nature Conservancy used funds to permanently protected 3,962 acres of estuarine wetlands and 160 acres of diked uplands in Port Susan Bay, Snohomish County. The estuary provides spawning and rearing habitat for multiple salmonids including the federal and state threatened Chinook salmon and candidate coho salmon. A restoration technical feasibility assessment was also completed. (RCO Project #[01-1338](#))

Qwuloolt Estuary (Map Point F)

Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration, Construction Phase

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (\$456,780), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (\$1,550,000), Match Funds (\$488,500)

The Tulalip Tribes, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, completed the Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project. The broad-based interagency and community effort restored historic tidal processes to 350 acres of isolated floodplain within the lower Snohomish River estuary, in Marysville. The project also restored natural hydrologic connection and functions to two stream systems and provided unrestricted fish access to 16 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat. The long-term goal of this process-based estuary restoration is to re-establish a functioning intertidal marsh system. (RCO Project #[09-1277](#))

Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration

Puget Sound Critical Stock: \$620,462

Identical to the restoration project above, this grant funded a portion of the following activities: construction of berms, the channel between Allen and Jones Creek, setback levee, storm water detention pond, and necessary utility structure protections; riparian planting; and general restoration activities. Additional funding includes federal, state, tribal, and local funds already secured. (RCO Project #[10-1469](#))

Qwuloolt Restoration Design III

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (\$158,913), Match Funds (\$65,000)

Tulalip used funding to implement a portion of Phase III; specifically, geotechnical surveys for setback levee construction, design of flood and storm water conveyance features, and project management activities. Work resulted in final project design drawings and technical specifications necessary for construction to begin in 2008. (RCO Project #[07-1624](#))

Qwuloolt Restoration & Trail

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (\$42,220), Match Funds (\$45,350)

The Tulalip Tribe began to restore more than 360 acres of floodplain within the Snohomish River basin. Initial restoration work completed included excavating 6122 linear feet of channel and filling 4725 linear feet of ditch. In order to streamline administrative activities for the project sponsor, this agreement was closed, and funding transferred to RCO Project 09-1277. (RCO Project #[06-1604](#))

Qwuloolt Restoration Design II

Salmon Federal Funds (\$210,594), Match Funds (\$80,000)

Tulalip used funds to implement Phase 2 of this project, developing alternatives, conducting environmental and public review, and completing studies necessary to estimate construction costs. (RCO Project #[04-1587](#))

Qwuloolt Acquisition

Salmon State Funds (\$850,000), Match Funds (\$1,350,000)

The Tulalip Tribes acquired a critical and strategically located 34-acre parcel central to initiation of a 350-plus acre intertidal wetland restoration project in the lower Snohomish River, in the City of Marysville. The target property, bisected by Allen Creek, includes the creek's historic oxbow and is over 30% wetland.

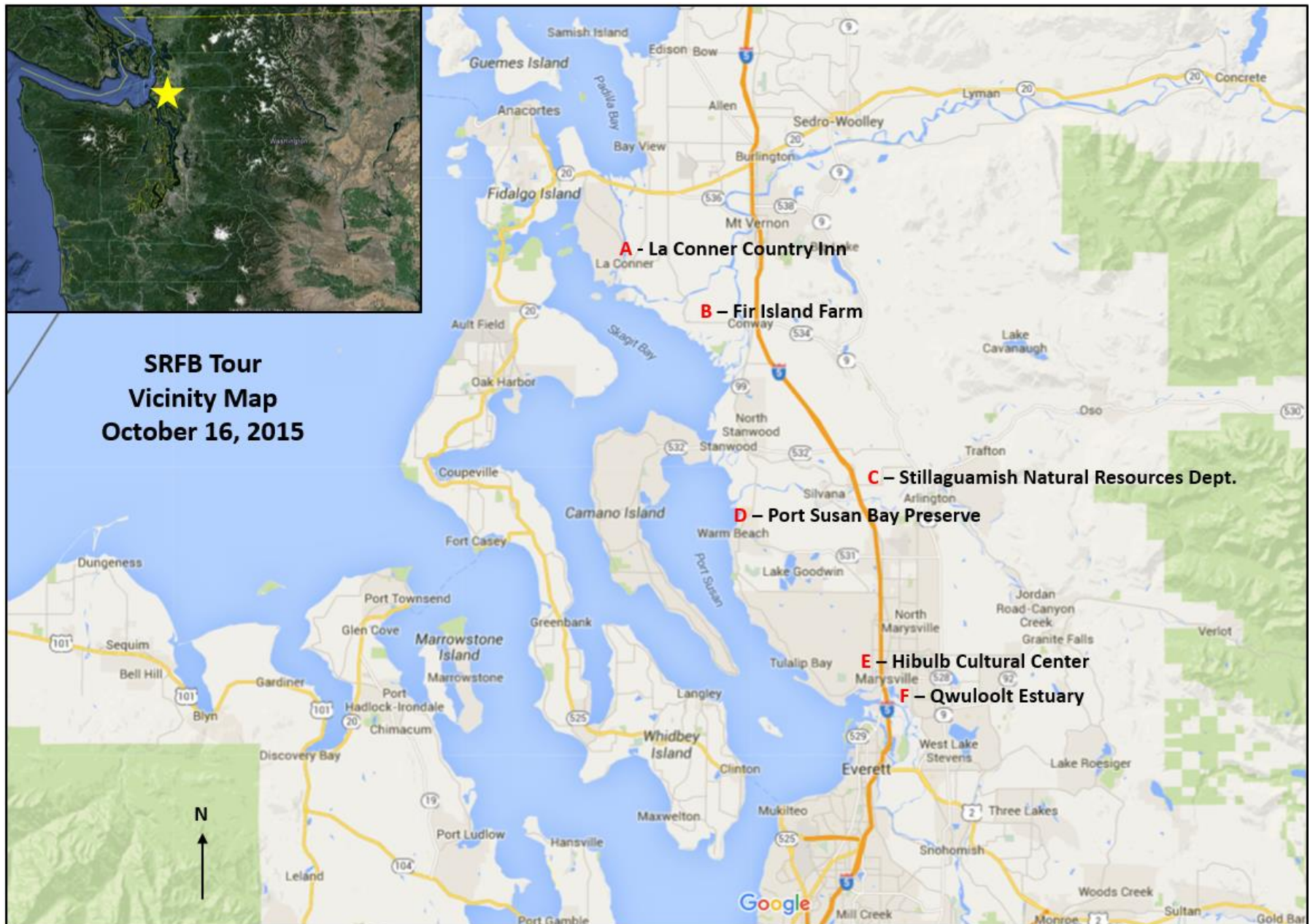
Without this key parcel, a full drainage restoration is severely hindered and potential options for habitat recovery in the Allen Creek drainage are limited. (RCO Project #[01-1290](#))

Attachments

- A. Project Tour Map

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Project Tour Map
October 15-16, 2015
La Conner, WA

Attachment A



SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS
October 15-16, 2015

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
May 6, 2015 Meeting Summary	Decision: APPROVED	No follow-up action requested.
1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director's Report Legislative and Policy Updates 	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Salmon Section Report 	Briefing	GSRO will send invitations to tribal representatives to participate in the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) and offer presentations about the SRNet as requested.
3. Reports from Partners	Briefing	The board requested ongoing briefings regarding the updates to regional recovery plans, as described by the Council of Regions.
4. Monitoring Program Update and Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Effectiveness Contract Status and Trends / Fish In-Fish Out Contract Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Contracts Monitoring Panel Contracts Overview of Monitoring Proposals and IMW Treatments 	Decision: APPROVED	Chair Troutt requested further details be provided to the board to inform a full discussion regarding the scope of IMW monitoring work. Chair Troutt designated a subcommittee that will work with GSRO to finalize the monitoring contracts.
5. Board Strategic Plan Update and New Biennial Workplan	Briefing	Bob Bugert replaces David Troutt on the subcommittee working with GSRO to finalize the Strategic Plan and Workplan for discussion at the December meeting.
6. Administrative and Policy Impacts from New Federal Omni-Circular Rules	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
7. Washington Administrative Code Update	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
8. Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Project Approval	Decision: APPROVED	

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
9. Conversion Request: Holmes Property Boundary Adjustment (RCO Project #04-1680)	Decision: APPROVED	
10. Follow-Up on Expanding the Grant Program to Include Large Capital Projects for 2017-19 Biennium	Briefing	Staff will provide a follow up presentation to the board at the December 2015 meeting.
11. Overview of New Grant Programs Assigned to the Recreation and Conservation Office	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
12. Overview of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
13. Introduction to Skagit Delta Restoration Projects and North Sound Estuary Restoration Tour Overview	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: October 15, 2015

Place: La Conner, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

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

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting.

NOTE: The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) normally retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting; due to technical difficulties during the October meeting, a recording is not available.

Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. Staff called roll and a quorum was determined. Member Duffy was excused; Member Biery was excused from the meeting early.

Chair Troutt discussed the effects of the summer drought and ocean conditions on the salmon runs in numbers, health, and size of the species, emphasizing how everyday actions affect overall efforts to restore salmon.

Agenda adoption

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

May 2015 Meeting Summary

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Nancy Biery

Motion: APPROVED

Management and Partner Reports

Item 1: Director's Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham shared information about the new Omni-Circular rules and the updates to project agreements made to reflect these changes. The rules affect grants that receive federal funds or use state funds to match federal funds.

Director Cottingham briefly updated the board on RCO staff changes and welcomed Josh Lambert, a new Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager, who will manage the Lower Columbia region and Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 8.

Director Cottingham provided an update on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) review that is currently underway. In the recent legislative session, the Legislature included a proviso for a review of the WWRP via a stakeholder process. The purpose is to examine potential statutory revisions. Facilitators Jim Waldo and Jane North were contracted to support the review process.

Director Cottingham shared that her annual review as director of the RCO by the Recreation Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) will occur next month. Each year in preparation of the review she conducts a self-assessment of her performance in the agency, which she will share with the board.

Legislative and Policy Updates: Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an overview of the recent legislative session, as well as a summary of the operating and capital budgets as they affect salmon-related activity. RCO will manage two new grant programs: the Chehalis Catastrophic Flood Relief Program and the Washington Coastal Restoration Program.

The capital budget included two provisos for RCO funds: 1) \$500,000 of salmon state funds were allocated to the City of Bothell to preserve a portion of the [Wayne Golf Course](#) along the Sammamish riverfront for fish habitat; and 2) \$300,000 in Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds will go to purchase 25 acres of forestland at the [Illahee Forest Preserve](#).

Ms. Brown provided an update on the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee (JLARC), which has been directed to conduct a review of recreation and conservation programs in place since 1990. The goal of the review is to examine land acquisitions across the state in all programs as well as regulations for land protection in various programs (e.g., hydraulic permits, forest practice permits, shoreline management, etc.). Programs they examine may include the salmon state funding program, PSAR, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). RCO anticipates providing information to support this effort beginning December 1, 2016.

Ms. Brown reported that during the 2016 supplemental budget session, or short session, RCO intends to submit three decision packages: reauthorization of the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC), reauthorization of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands Group), and potential statutory changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) that may result from the facilitated stakeholder review process currently underway.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO): Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, provided an update on the regional and lead entity contracts for 2015-17. RCO and Ecology collaborated in establishing a work group that will coordinate natural resource grant programs and maximize the benefits of public investments.

Mr. Abbott provided a brief update on the communication strategy and the progress of the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet). Working with Triangle Associates, the SRNet forum held their third meeting on October 14, 2015. During this meeting, they intend to finalize their charter and workplan. Mr. Abbott shared information about the progress of each region's specific communications work and provided a handout to the board.

Chair Troutt asked about the inclusion of tribal representatives in the SRNet process. Mr. Abbott stated that GSRO would send a letter to the tribes and invite them to participate in the network. Chair Troutt also asked if SRNet would offer presentations to the tribes.

Member Biery acknowledged the tremendous progress made in setting a clear direction and moving forward prior to the start of the next legislative session.

Mr. Abbott shared that each region used board-funding to complete a communications strategy, which emphasizes telling the story of salmon in a targeted way. Mr. Abbott provided examples, highlighting a video from the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board. The Puget Sound region will develop a training workshop to determine next steps for the communication plan.

Member Bugert asked about the regions' funding sources. Mr. Abbott explained that funds mainly include Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) and a mix of other funding sources.

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).

Ms. Galuska provided further updates on the collaboration between herself, Mr. Abbott, and Director Cottingham and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) to establish a work group dedicated to the coordination of state natural resource grant programs. Other partners include Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Conservation Commission, and Puget Sound Partnership. The committee will develop a workplan to share resources, streamline processes, and help grant recipients strengthen communication, grant timelines, and acquisitions to increase efficiency.

Chair Troutt asked about project partner involvement to help the process. Ms. Galuska emphasized bringing the agencies together initially, and then bringing partners into the conversation. Director Cottingham explained that the intent was not to create one system.

Member Bugert asked about a timeline and potential changes to board programs. Ms. Galuska agreed to provide progress reports and updates on potential major changes.

Item 3: Reports from Partners

Council of Regions Report (COR): Jeff Breckel, Chair of COR, provided information about two key areas that the regions have worked on in recent years. First, he discussed the importance of the

communications strategy to inform all people within the region about salmon recovery. With everyone working together across regions and the state to restore salmon populations, the Coalition continues to build momentum.

He discussed monitoring as the second area of focus, which includes the work of the Monitoring Panel. All regions agree on the important issues of: measuring progress towards salmon recovery; abundance and productivity; understanding how programs work; and knowing where to find both achievements and gaps. In order to advance recovery plans, regions need to adapt analytical techniques, strengthen underlying strategies, develop lifecycle monitoring, and utilize data to create robust, technically sound recovery plans.

Chair Troutt asked about adaptive management and whether the regions' actions plans are consistent or different from the original recovery plans. Mr. Breckel explained that there is some uncertainty due to data gaps; more information is needed to assess and develop adequate recovery plans.

Member Neatherlin asked about five-year status review and communication plan information that may be used in adaptive management practices. Mr. Breckel indicated that the communications and outreach plan would incorporate the five-year adaptive management plan. Member Neatherlin requested further updates on what worked, what did not work, and perspectives from the communication strategy process.

Mr. Breckel stated that after the last five-year strategy discussion with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the regions did not feel adequate recognition for their work. The most current strategy focuses on engagement and active participation, which may lead to comprehensive data regarding status.

Mr. Alex Conley stated that NOAA did a good job with input, but did not discuss or bring the COR into the picture to determine the realities of the salmon recovery. Mr. Conley emphasized the need for partnership, good analysis of results, and representation of the actual work. Member Biery asked if any communication could help with the NOAA review process. Mr. Conley explained that there was significant communication about Washington's current standing with recovery goals leading up to the report, but little communication shared after receiving the data. Chair Troutt emphasized that communication to the regions is key and that NOAA should understand this concern.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC): Amy Hatch-Winecka, WSC Chair, Darcy Batura exiting chair, and John Foltz, Vice Chair of WSC, provided an update on the current work of the WSC, details of which are included in the board materials (Item 3).

Mr. Foltz provided an update on several lead entities' current projects and the regional areas meeting in October. Mr. Foltz reviewed WSC's internal and external goals developed at their June meeting. WSC will continue to participate in SRNet to create connections, develop the 2017-19 biennium legislative request, and implement unmet scopes of work and capacity needs. WSC scheduled an in-person meeting in December in Olympia, which will focus on communications, outreach, and the legislative session.

Ms. Winecka provided a summary of the WSC response to climate change as requested by the board in May. These include implementing actions, addressing climate change in local strategies and priorities, and further communications and outreach regarding climate change. Ms. Winecka reviewed the responses and relevant topics related to climate change on a statewide level. WSC will provide a more in-depth presentation of their climate change-related proposals at the December meeting.

Chair Troutt thanked Ms. Batura for her role as the WSC Chair and for all of her hard work. Member Bugert thanked the WSC for their report, the response from the lead entities, and taking steps to communicate, increase support, and reduce the effects of climate change. Member Bugert encouraged

the COR to communicate with the congressional delegation regarding climate change priorities.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs): Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, provided an update on the RFE's September strategic planning meeting. Topics included developing a new name, logo, and annual reporting needs for communicating a sense of place. Ms. Thompson emphasized working with SRNet to identify robust, sustainable capacity funding.

Alison Studley, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, thanked the board and welcomed them to the Skagit. Ms. Studley emphasized the collaboration of local groups to move projects forward, explaining that education and outreach play a key roles in the Skagit's efforts to apply real-world examples to school-age kids, increase community knowledge-base, and encourage leaders for the next generation. The recent Skagit River Salmon Festival had 6,000 in attendance along with conservation groups. Ms. Studley updated the board on the change in projects over the last 25 years with complexity, phasing, prioritization, and construction. Ms. Studley thanked the combined funding efforts to move complex projects forward to completion.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT): Member Cierebiej shared information on behalf of WSDOT. The Connecting Washington funding package provides WSDOT \$300M for fish barrier correction projects through 2031. The current funding plan also provides \$136M of current law (existing) transportation funding through the 2029-2031 biennium for barrier corrections, bringing their total fish passage funding to \$436 million through 2031. WSDOT plans to construct 44 fish passage projects statewide with dedicated funding during the 15-17 biennium, including correcting 34 injunction barriers. Additionally, WSDOT expects to correct other barriers this biennium through larger, transportation projects funded through Connecting Washington, although they are still working to identify those projects.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Neatherlin provided an update on the new director of the fish program, Ron Warren. Mr. Neatherlin stated that WDFW secured funding for early marine survival and steelhead license plates will be implemented to support this work.

NW Power and Conservation Council: Phil Rockefeller, member, provided an update regarding a letter of solicitation from the Council. The letter's intent was to determine the habitat feasibility of working above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams to reintroduce salmon. Mr. Rockefeller thanked the board for encouraging federal agencies to take the request seriously. He emphasized that the combination of public and board support and commitments to clean energy and the environment will encourage salmon recovery efforts beyond major obstacles. Mr. Rockefeller noted that the detrimental summer weather led to massive mortality of salmon species within the Columbia River, emphasizing the need for climate change strategies.

Chair Troutt thank Mr. Rockefeller for his continued work and acknowledged the great magnitude of work involved in moving salmon above the dams. Mr. Rockefeller expressed appreciation to Billy Frank Jr. for his work in emphasizing the importance of future generations and the need to protect them.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology): Member Smith described how the stream gauging works: stream flows are used to develop a drought index and review historical flows. Storms do not majorly influence the overall index. She shared that Ecology continues to monitor "the blob" (a warm water anomaly in the Pacific Ocean) and record high water temperatures within the Puget Sound. Member Smith indicated that high salinity levels allow oxygen to mix, however, high salinity could cause stress to species found within the Puget Sound. Member Smith shared that the Floodplain by Design budget received \$30 million for projects. Draft guidelines have been published for the next grant cycle; proposals are due 1/29/16.

Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC): Member Cochrane provided a brief update on the WSCC budget, which did not receive funding for burned areas resulting from summer fires. He emphasized that funding for wildfires continues to be important. Member Cochrane stated that \$7.5 million went to preservation of farmlands and \$5 million went to conservation improvements at dairies. Member Cochrane provided a handout to the board which discussed addressing critical areas and farmland while bringing money directly to counties.

Break 11:40 a.m. – 11:46 a.m.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 4: Monitoring Program Update and Decisions

Brian Abbott, Executive Director, Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator, and Dr. Marnie Tyler, Monitoring Panel Chair, provided an update on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (Monitoring Panel). Mr. Abbott thanked everyone involved who provided evaluation materials, participated in discussions, and dedicated efforts to get the Monitoring Panel running effectively. The Monitoring Panel will continue to update the monitoring strategy, develop an adaptive management framework, and provide funding recommendations.

The Monitoring Panel asked the board to adopt their recommendations (outlined in the board materials, Item 4), to continue to provide support from the 2015 PSCRF award, and to work with the Monitoring Panel to adopt the adaptive management plan. Mr. Abbott and Mr. Dublanica outlined the monitoring program funding range and components.

Dr. Tyler thanked the board for their interest in monitoring and provided an updated report on Monitoring Panel actions. She reviewed the Monitoring Panel scope of work components, provided information on each IMW project and on project effectiveness, extending monitoring, deferring riparian habitat protection projects, and fish-use monitoring to determine more robust sampling.

Member Bugert asked about the availability of statistical analysis data regarding Hood Canal conditions. Dr. Tyler stated that the principal investigator assumptions and broad ranges of information could affect the overall numbers of salmon. The Monitoring Panel will know more in June 2016 if the analysis comes in line with funding requirement.

Member Rockefeller asked about the location of the target streams in the Hood Canal. Dr. Tyler explained that the streams affected include Big Beef, Stavis, and Anderson Creeks.

Chair Troutt asked about tribal harvest numbers over time. Dr. Tyler responded that the numbers have increased, especially in the Skokomish and Suquamish; however, further information is needed to interpret study results.

Member Smith commented on the potential for IMW scope expansion without the support of increased funding, adding that the Monitoring Panel will need to address budgets. She stated the importance of knowing which program pays for certain components of project as well as understanding contract time constraints, in order to avoid continued strain on partners. Mr. Abbott and Dr. Tyler agreed, and shared that there is flexibility in the contract scheduling.

Chair Trout encouraged the panel to refocus resources and determine number of possible monitoring projects. Member Smith shared that an Ecology template exists, should issues arise regarding new monitoring and data management.

Lunch 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Comment:

Bruce Crawford, the main architect for effectiveness design and monitoring, provided comment on the monitoring program. Mr. Crawford thanked the board for their continued efforts towards monitoring. Mr. Crawford suggested that the RCO website include his report on effectiveness monitoring. Regarding a focus on encouraging greater fish populations, Mr. Crawford stated that an ideal IMW would allow reasonable change within a given period. Mr. Crawford approved of the information provided by the Monitoring Panel, including the strengths and weaknesses, and encouraged the continuation of monitoring for fish abundance related to Tetra Tech projects. Mr. Crawford requested that the board increase funding within the Lower Columbia River.

Member Rockefeller asked for clarification on the request for extended project funding. Mr. Crawford referred to the deferment of Tetra Tech monitoring, which will reach the extent of the established 10-year monitoring period in 2016. Statistically significant information exists, but there is need to complete the study and continue the sampling and monitoring work.

Member Bugert asked about the coordination between Bonneville Power Administration and the board. Mr. Crawford described the issues involved include the biological opinion regarding Snake River dam removal and existing habitat. Mr. Crawford stated that it is difficult to prove that one population per river in an evolutionary significant unit and limited habitat data can answer these questions.

Joy Juelson, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, highlighted comments from the region's letter submitted to the board. Ms. Juelson agreed with the need for a robust sampling plan, but stated that suspending monitoring in 2016 raises concerns. Current, available data helps bring projects forward. Other programs, including 31 sites within the Upper Columbia, directly relate to the effective use of models; Ms. Juelson would like to continue current modeling while looking at alternatives. Ms. Juelson encouraged more communication between Monitoring Panel and the regions.

Mr. Rockefeller asked how long it would take to complete a robust sampling plan. Jennifer O'Neal, Principal Investigator, stated that completion is anticipated by 2017.

Jennifer O'Neal, Principle Investigator, thanked the board and the opportunity to communicate useful information regarding salmon recovery. Ms. O'Neal expressed appreciation for the Monitoring Panel's efforts. Some recommendations brought to the Monitoring Panel by the Principal Investigators emphasize the need to continue sampling in 2016. Ms. O'Neal stated the importance of capturing current hydrologic data to plan for future climate scenarios. To reduce sampling this year would put sampling behind schedule and would result in an inaccurate picture of fish use.

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, commented on the improvement of effectiveness monitoring over the last 10 years and the continued need to hold existing programs accountable. He asked the board to consider future implications, including what effectiveness monitoring may look like five years from now. Mr. Conley emphasized the need to know whether strategies and implementation work, whether the projects improve salmon, and what threats may exist. He also stated the importance of comparing and aligning monitoring effectiveness and the recovery plans in order to accomplish long-term goals.

Jeff Breckel, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board and Chair of the Council of Regions, thanked the board for their efforts regarding monitoring and effectiveness. Monitoring remains a key regional issue, requiring coordination and collaboration to find the most accurate data. Mr. Breckel stated that the

Monitoring Panel needs to ask the right questions in order to make decisions. He added that it is necessary to have a technically sound program that gives the right information regarding decisions in order to accomplish tasks. There is strong agreement among the regions around the potential of effectiveness monitoring; however, there needs to be a full analysis of the current data collected first. He stated the importance of talking to the regions regarding needs before making decisions, and of Fish in /Fish out monitoring and funding. He concluded by discussing the need to identify high priority areas, key biological indicators, and finding gaps within the NOAA guidelines for recovery.

Director Cottingham asked about the scale of increasing monitoring. Ms. O'Neal described some available options, including costs.

Chair Trout asked if the data answers questions surrounding monitoring. Dr. Tyler explained that funding does not allow for fully answering the data questions. Ms. O'Neal emphasized the need for more integration between watersheds and current projects.

Member Rockefeller asked about the most effective and useful way to reach the end goal. Dr. Tyler stated the need for effective fish monitoring within the IMW. Member Rockefeller asked about identifying benefits if long-term effectiveness monitoring is not added from the IMW's currently under analysis. Dr. Tyler stated the IMW goal includes project effectiveness as well as status and trends monitoring. Ms. O'Neal indicated that analysis continues to improve but the need exists to examine current work in order to establish a baseline.

Chair Troutt suggested a discussion be held between now and December's meeting that allows for continued development of a better plan in 2016. Dr. Tyler indicated that not all the answers would be available in December. Ms. O'Neal stated information on parameters with costs could be brought to the board by December.

Member Neatherlin asked for clarification regarding the value of continued snapshot monitoring. Dr. Tyler stated that the Monitoring Panel has not reached consensus on the issue. Member Neatherlin encouraged more discussion regarding continued monitoring and potential improvements.

Steve Martin, Snake River Salmon Recovery Region, indicated that regional allocation funds went to monitoring the Asotin. The motion of the \$2.2 million provides \$180,000 to the Asotin for the completion of IMW monitoring, however, \$28,000 will continue the work.

Motion: Move to delegate authority to the RCO Director and GSRO to allocate up to \$2.2 million to monitoring elements, while tabling a decision on effectiveness monitoring until the December meeting. The Monitoring Panel will resubmit a request with new information to the board should the target range vary too greatly from the current request.

Moved by: Member Phil Rockefeller

Seconded by: Member Sam Mace

Motion: Approved

Member Bugert encouraged the inclusion of the Monitoring Panel recommendations and addressed the issue of potential scope expansion; he stated the need to include other partners regarding the allocation of the \$2.2 million.

Chair Troutt requested further details be provided to the board to inform a full discussion regarding the scope of IMW monitoring work.

Chair Troutt designated a subcommittee that will work with GSRO to finalize the monitoring contracts.

Board Business: Briefing

Item 5: Board Strategic Plan Update and New Biennial Work Plan

Mr. Abbott presented an update to the board's Strategic Plan. Mr. Abbott reviewed the board's goals and strategies, key actions around funding, process, coordination, accountability, resources, monitoring, support, and partners. Mr. Abbott provided details on the 2015-17 Work Plan items, which include telling the story of salmon recovery, strengthening funding, continued monitoring support, improving the efficiency of annual grant rounds, activity funding, collaboration priorities, and reflection/self-evaluation of performance measures.

Chair Troutt will review the work plan and provide comments to Mr. Abbott. Member Bugert will assume Chair Trout's place on the subcommittee. A revised strategic plan and work plan will be presented to the board at the December meeting.

Item 6: Administrative and Policy Impacts from New Federal Omni-Circular Rules

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, summarized the administrative and fiscal requirements for federal grant programs as of December 6, 2014. The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) adopted new rules for all federal grant program administration, called the Omni-Circular, which RCO must apply to board grants or director-approved funding. The board currently administers PCSRF, NOAA, Department of Commerce, National Estuary Program (NEP), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds through the state capital budget via board programs and PSAR program. As a pass-through entity, RCO must meet all federal funding requirements.

Ms. Connelly reviewed the federal law and rules that apply to PCSRF and the NEP program, and provided information on areas where the Omni-Circular conflicts with board policies and in which federal program rules prevail. Ms. Connelly outlined ways to address the conflicts and indicated that staff will work on vetting the conflicts over the next year to streamline board policies with federal requirements. Conflicts between policies include pre-award costs/project start date, matching grants and indirect rates, project administration and indirect costs, and eligible/ineligible costs.

Ms. Connelly requested board direction to review and identify conflicting policies. If directed, an internal team of RCO staff will identify issues and report to the board at the December meeting. Member Bugert asked if a program-by-program search would ensure federal funds do not match other federal funds. Ms. Connelly affirmed that this process is currently underway.

Item 7: Washington Administrative Code Update

Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist, provided an update on the draft amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative code (WAC). She requested feedback from the board on the revisions to two WAC sections and additional draft amendments. She reviewed feedback received from lead entities and revised the draft, but did not proceed with the formal rule-making. Definitions that will change include citizens committee, habitat project list, and habitat work schedule. Ms. Connelly shared that she will continue to draft the remaining sections through fall and winter.

Ms. Connelly will continue to involve lead entities and regional organizations in an informal process to discuss and review amendments before moving to final public comment and review. Depending on stakeholder feedback, the board could hold a public hearing in early 2016.

The board indicated that RCO should proceed with the formal public process. Director Cottingham emphasized the need to have the WAC and agreements align as soon as possible, with a public hearing held in March 2016. Ms. Connelly stated that the administrative rules must work for all Lead Entities.

Board Business: Decision

Item 8: Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Project Approval

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided a summary of the early action PSAR request from the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). For time sensitive projects, PSP sought early funding approval from the 2015-17 biennial budget in accordance with 2015 Manual 18, Appendix J. Ms. Galuska reviewed the criteria language in Manual 18 which allows for early funding of projects ready for construction or near completion. The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity requested that the board fund the Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration-Robinson Phase (#15-1055) sponsored by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Ms. Galuska summarized the project proposal and the clearance from the board's review panel.

Motion: Move to approve \$1,157,700 PSAR funding for the RCO project 15-1055 Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration-Robinson Phase, described in Item 8, Attachment A of the meeting materials, and authorize the RCO director to enter into a project agreement.

Board Discussion: No further discussion at this time.

Public Comment: No comment provided at this time.

Moved by: Member Phil Rockefeller

Seconded by: Member Sam Mace

Motion: Approved

Item 9: Conversion Request: Holmes Property Boundary Adjustment (RCO Project #04-1680)

Kay Caromile, Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager, summarized a request from the Yakama Nation to develop a salmon hatchery on a SRFB-funded acquisition, which is inconsistent with salmon recovery and conservation purposes. Ms. Caromile described a requested action that would allow a policy waiver for sponsor-owned land to replace property, and provided information on the Salmon Deed of Right conditions and how the proposed substitution of land conflicts with existing policy. The Yakama Nation requested that the board waive the policy so the replacement land would be considered eligible property for the proposed conversion. Staff recommended that the board approve the request.

Motion: Move to waive RCO policy to allow Yakama Nation owned property to be eligible as replacement property in the proposed conversion for RCO project #04-1680.

Board Discussion:

Chair Troutt asked about potential wetland improvements. Ms. Caromile replied that the tribe will work to improve wetland habitat, including breaching a concrete irrigation dyke and connect the wetland and the river oxbow. Member Bugert mentioned that the cost of mitigating the wetland impact would be greater than impacting the upland section of the conversion.

Member Rockefeller asked if the Attorney General's office agrees that the board holds the authority to waive this policy. Ms. Connelly indicated that, as an internal policy, the Attorney General confirmed that the board does have authority to waive the policy.

Public Comment:

Darcy Batura shared that the Lead Entity discussed with the request with the Yakama Nation and received overall positive response in support of the conversion.

Moved by: Member Bob Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sam Mace

Motion: Approved

Board Business: Briefing

Item 10: Follow-Up on Expanding the Grant Program to Include Large Capital Projects for the 2017-19 Biennium

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, summarized the proposal to establish a grant category for large-scale, high-benefit fish projects outside of the Puget Sound region. Mr. Abbott requested board direction regarding pursuing a detailed proposal for discussion and public comment at the December 2015 meeting.

Member Bugert asked whether the proposal aligns with the work of the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board. Mr. Abbott explained that the funding range varies depending on the funding agency.

Director Cottingham requested that priorities be established by August of 2016, in order to submit a timely budget request. Chair Troutt acknowledged the increasing difficulty for lead entities to accomplish large-scale projects based on current allocations, and agreed with moving forward to meet the August 2016 deadline. Director Cottingham emphasized that projects should clearly show the funding necessary to complete large-scale projects outside of the Puget Sound.

Mr. Alex Conley emphasized the importance of minimizing transaction and process related to funding, either by creating a new process or using the current allocation structure. Mr. Conley encouraged looking at the efficiencies and streamlining the process to allow money to get to projects and not just to the "framework." Ms. Galuska emphasized the importance of using the existing framework.

Item 11: Overview of New Grant Programs Assigned to the Recreation and Conservation Office

Ms. Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, summarized the Coastal Restoration Initiative and the Catastrophic Flood Relief programs received and managed by the RCO salmon section in the Legislature's 2015-17 capital budget. RCO established both programs in PRISM for proposal and scope of work review as well as issuing project agreements.

The Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative (WCRI) aims to conduct critical restoration work providing good-paying, sustainable natural resource jobs while protecting and restoring fish and wildlife, healthy forests, and water quality in coastal communities. The Catastrophic Flood Relief Program provides funding through OFM for basin planning and project to reduce and mitigate flood impacts and habitat restoration projects.

Break 3:49 - 4:05 p.m.

Item 12: Overview of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program

Jennifer Quan and Theresa Mitchell, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), provided a summary of the Puget Sound Nearshore Estuary Restoration Program (PSNERP). Beginning in 2001, PSNERP sought to identify and restore the nearshore ecosystems in an efficient manner. Actions affecting the nearshore include diking, dredging, filling, and armoring. Strategic objectives include restoring connectivity of large river delta estuaries, number of coastal embayments, and the size and quality of beaches and bluffs.

The partnership between Washington State and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) culminated in several projects moving forward. The Corps evaluated 500 sites, determined the ecosystem benefits, and came to a list of 36 projects, which will help implement salmon recovery plans within the Puget Sound.

Member Smith asked about measuring public approval of the specified projects and the funding request. Ms. Mitchell indicated that outreach to the public currently shares project location and implementation

details. Ms. Quan emphasized the challenge of working with the Corps and indicated that the current request is in the range of billions of dollars.

Member Bugert asked about monitoring and evaluation. Ms. Mitchell shared that a current monitoring plan exists, but not for individual projects. Member Bugert encouraged collaboration to ensure monitoring works for both agencies.

Jay Krienitz, DNR, and Mike Ramsey, RCO ESRP grant manager, provided a summary of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), this program implements nearshore ecosystem restoration by developing local and regional partnerships and strategies while supporting PSNERP. The program emphasizes natural processes to create nearshore structure, which provides important ecosystem functions.

Mr. Krienitz described the partnership between ESRP and RCO to accomplish projects through rigorous scientific process, streamlining funding, and projects. The ESRP program works to align projects at a reach scale, science program capacity, outreach and communication, investigate policy, and program solutions. Mr. Krienitz reviewed program policy, action agendas, the geographic focus of estuary areas, and how these aspects draw from PSNERP. Mr. Ramsey reviewed the funding received by ESRP projects.

Chair Troutt asked whether all the current nearshore projects would be implemented, and how that would change the current nearshore mapping. Ms. Mitchell explained that the result would be more natural shoreline. Member Neatherlin mentioned the large-scale marine survival project and how to use processes, function, and interact with the data to show what nearshore restoration accomplishes.

Item 13: Introduction to Skagit Delta Restoration Projects and North Sound Estuary Restoration Tour Overview

Elizabeth Butler, Salmon Outdoor Grant Manager, provided an overview of the projects scheduled for the board tour. Steve Hinton, Skagit River System Cooperative, presented information on the Skagit Recovery Plan. Belinda Rotten, WDFW, presented information on the current projects within the Skagit. Jenna Friebe, WDFW and project manager for Fir Island Farm, presented information for future estuary restoration, including public outreach.

Chair Troutt asked about tribal involvement. Mr. Hinton indicated that the local region prioritizes efforts with allotted funding and tribal involvement. Local concerns include farmland and climate change, while connecting communities to move salmon recovery forward. Member Mace asked where the region finds farmland for conversion to conservation areas. Mr. Hinton indicated that the region focuses on lands that came into agriculture production relatively late compared to other lands in the industry.

Closing

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: October 16, 2015

Place: La Conner, WA

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

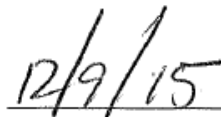
David Troutt, Chair	Olympia	Carol Smith	Department of Ecology
Nancy Biery	Quilcene	Susan Cierebiej	Department of Transportation
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochrane	Washington State Conservation Commission
Phil Rockefeller	Bainbridge Island	Erik Neatherlin	Department of Fish and Wildlife

The board began the tour of projects at 7:45 a.m. and proceeded as indicated on the agenda. The tour concluded at 2:15 p.m.

Approved by:



David Troutt, Chair



Date

From: Mike Kaputa [mailto:Mike.Kaputa@CO.CHELAN.WA.US]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 2:47 PM
To: Dublanica, Keith (RCO); Abbott, Brian (GSRO)
Cc: Duboiski, Marc (RCO); Mike T. Kane; Jennifer Hadersberger; Loosle, Wendy (RCO)
Subject: RE: SRFB Effectiveness Monitoring

Messrs. Dublanica and Abbott:

Chelan County would like to propose an alternative to the RCO staff recommendation re: Effectiveness Monitoring Program (Tetra-Tech). RCO recommends that Tetra-Tech suspend its 2016 monitoring activities pending development of a new monitoring return interval and more robust sampling plan. While we agree, in general, with the SRFB Monitoring Panel recommendation to evaluate Tetra-Tech's monitoring plan and improve it, we were quite surprised to see their field activities suspended entirely for 2016. We rely heavily on the data Tetra-Tech collects, and it is critical for our project development activities and the review processes associated with SRFB and other funding. **We propose that the SRFB consider supporting the Wenatchee components of the monitoring effort by Tetra-Tech in 2016 with possible county cost-share or matching resources.** We have not had adequate time to understand the budget implications of a Wenatchee basin effort but feel confident that we can provide matching resources to SRFB funds to get it done. Beyond 2016, we would recommend that SRFB maintain at least once/year sampling and seriously consider increasing the frequency.

As a project sponsor, the Tetra Tech Project Effectiveness Monitoring Program provides the most useful post construction monitoring data. The fish data collected documents that fish are utilizing the project area. While this fish data may not document fish population status and trends, it has been incredibly useful for us in communicating project results to the public and to our Regional Technical Review Panel. We are consistently asked, "Are fish using the site"? Without these fish surveys, we lack data to answer this basic question. Other monitoring programs, such as our local IMW, do not sample at project sites and the data is not compiled into tables or reports that answer questions about project effectiveness. Therefore, we cannot use our IMW data collected to answer questions to the public and funding reviewers about project effectiveness. The Tetra Tech monitoring reports are concise, data loaded, and easily available to project sponsors on an annual basis. We especially appreciate that Tetra Tech has worked closely with us to time sampling when we anticipate fish use so that their once per year sampling provides us with the best information that we have to report to the public and technical reviewers about project effectiveness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mike

Mike Kaputa, Director
Chelan County Natural Resource Department
411 Washington Street, Suite 201
Wenatchee, WA 98801
Phone: (509) 670-6935

Please note our new address

WASHINGTON STATE REGIONAL SALMON RECOVERY ORGANIZATIONS

October 12, 2015

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

Dear Chairman Troutt:

The Council of Regions is pleased to provide comments on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Monitoring Panel's 2015 Annual Review of SRFB Monitoring Programs. Coordinating monitoring programs is a primary function of the regional recovery organizations. Effective monitoring programs enable us to work with our partners to plan, implement, assess and adaptively manage recovery efforts. Since salmon recovery or enhancement efforts are conducted on an ESU and not a statewide basis, each region has developed a research, monitoring and evaluation plan, which identifies the region's key management questions and associated monitoring needs, approaches and priorities. We understand that the SRFB also has its own monitoring needs but we believe that coordinating SRFB and regional monitoring initiatives will maximize the benefit to both the SRFB and the regions.

We strongly support the efforts of the SRFB to review and improve the efficacy, accountability and effectiveness of its monitoring programs. We commend the work of the Monitoring Panel. In particular, we appreciate the Monitoring Panel's emphasis on:

- Improved data management and access;
- More effective interpretation and reporting of monitoring results; and
- Better coordination (particularly with regional organizations).

As important as these attributes are, we believe that more needs to be done to ensure that the SRFB monitoring investments achieve their full potential. The first priority for any monitoring program must be the clear articulation of the program's goals and objectives. Specifically, what questions do we need to answer and what information do we need to answer them? Answering these questions requires the cooperation of both monitoring practitioners and those who need the information to plan, implement and assess the effectiveness of recovery efforts. We urge both the SRFB and the Monitoring Panel to place a greater focus on examining the goals and objectives of the SRFB monitoring programs, and ask the SRFB to actively engage the regions in doing so.



To: Chairman Troutt
Re: 2015 SRFB Monitoring Panel Report
10/12/2015, Page 2

Effectiveness Monitoring Program

The regions agree that project effectiveness monitoring has, to varying degrees, improved our knowledge about the ability of projects to affect salmon habitat. However, we also strongly agree with the Monitoring Panel's finding that the results of project effectiveness monitoring are often insufficiently interpreted resulting in a lost opportunity to refine and improve restoration actions and monitoring efforts. The panel recommends that restructuring the program should be a focal point for the panel's work in 2016 and proposes that the panel work with Tetra Tech, the project effectiveness monitoring contractor, to develop a feasible alternative for interpreting and reporting project effectiveness data. We support this recommendation but ask that the Monitoring Panel consult with the regional organizations from the outset to determine how this program could best meet the needs of the SRFB and the regions.

The regions have differing views on the panel's recommendations regarding the monitoring of riparian canopy cover and fish use. In light of the lack of consensus, COR offers no comments on these recommendations. Regardless of the decisions the SRFB chooses to make on these recommendations, we believe that the balance of the project effectiveness monitoring program should continue uninterrupted while the program is being evaluated and restructuring recommendations developed.

Intensively Monitored Watershed Program

The Monitoring Panel recommendations regarding the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs) should help to ensure these monitoring initiatives are technically sound and the efforts of the monitoring practitioners, regional organizations, lead entities, and project sponsors are better coordinated. However, the report says relatively little about the specific goals and objectives of each IMW or whether they are answering the right questions. Further, the extent to which regional organizations and lead entities were involved in the development of the study plans is unclear. Again, to help ensure that the IMWs provide the greatest possible value in informing recovery efforts, we stress the need to engage the regions in reviewing the IMW goals and objectives.

Status and Trends Monitoring

Status and trends fish monitoring (fish in/fish out) is a high priority in all regional plans and, in general, the regions strongly support this type of monitoring. As noted in the panel's report, the SRFB funding supports only 7 percent of WDFW's total status and trends fish monitoring costs. Moreover, the current WDFW program still falls far short of meeting NMFS guidelines for salmon recovery monitoring and does not support a robust future evaluation of whether or not we can delist an ESU or DPS. The regions support the Monitoring Panel recommendation that the SRFB continue to support this program, but we are reluctant to endorse any increase in SRFB funding for this initiative without further

To: Chairman Troutt
Re: 2015 SRFB Monitoring Panel Report
10/12/2015, Page 3

consideration of monitoring needs, priorities and alternative funding options. We recommend that SRFB work with WDFW, the regions, and others to develop a sound monitoring approach and priorities and a long-term funding strategy.

We look forward to working with the SRFB and Monitoring Panel to further strengthen the SRFB's monitoring program. The panel's recommendations are a good step forward in creating a well-supported monitoring program. We urge the SRFB to continue to review the value of its monitoring initiatives relative to their cost and other unfunded or underfunded monitoring needs and ask that SRFB actively involve the regions in these reviews and in the Monitoring Panel's work to develop an adaptive management framework.

Sincerely,



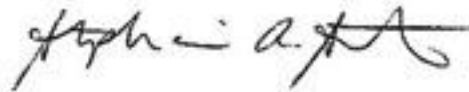
Miles Batchelder
WA Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership



Alex Conley
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board



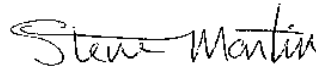
Jeff Breckel
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board
Chair, Council of Regions



Stephanie Suter for Jeanette Dorner
Puget Sound Partnership



Scott Brewer
Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Board
Council of Regions



Steve Martin
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board



Derek Van Mater
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Cc: Brian Abbott
Kaleen Cottingham

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1010 NW 4th. Ave.
Camas, WA 98607

10-7-15

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OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Glenn Lamb, Executive Director
Ian Sinks, Stewardship Director
Lindsay Cornelius, Stewardship Lead
Columbia Land Trust
1351 Officers' Row, Vancouver, WA 98661

Glenn, Ian and Lindsay,

For the past 7 years, at a cost of over 5 million dollars, you have vigorously rearranged several miles of the Klickitat River and its banks within your 15 miles of shoreline ownership. This has been done under the banner of floodplain restoration and fish habitat improvement. Next year you plan to continue those efforts in the Stinson Flat vicinity. Comments regarding that work and previous project activity follow:

Only two sections of an old railroad bed (later a truck road), each roughly a quarter mile in length, are close to the river in the Stinson Flat area where you intend to continue work next year. One section lies across from the Stinson Flat boat ramp, and the other is located about another half mile upstream. Old railroad riprap parallels much of the river's west bank along both sections. Nevertheless, native alders have managed to grow quite well there due to river sediments deposited among the riprap over an 80 year period.

Large rock is a valued component of favorable freshwater habitat for salmonids. Riprap is thus not automatically deleterious. Much Klickitat River riprap has long provided quality refugia for salmonid juveniles during higher flows and resting habitat for adult summer run steelhead during their slow, summer-fall prespawning immigration.

But through bank and in-river "pullbacks" you have already removed most sparsely vegetated riprap throughout the canyon downstream of Stinson Flat. In claiming to increase habitat complexity by removing that rock structure, you have commonly accomplished the opposite.

Upon request, you recently provided me with your 2016 basic goal to: "reshape 3.27 miles of road embankment to restore connectivity of riverine, floodplain and hillside processes along 3.8 miles" of the river. That's rather grand sounding, but "reshaping" the two river sections mentioned above (and described below) in your usual manner is unneeded and would threaten quality fish habitat.

The Stinson Flat quarter mile river section is essentially a long, rocky run/glide, with a pool near each end and a small island at the boat ramp. Because of good public access and well documented resting use by adult salmon and steelhead, this is by far the most popular upper river angling area. The riparian alders here are mostly old and large, with an occasional conifer intermixed.

The other quarter mile river section, located upstream from Stinson Flat, is a prime river run from which flyfishing buddies and I have caught (shssh!) numerous summer steelhead along its riprapped toe slope over the past 20 years. Dense, 30 foot tall alders have reestablished themselves naturally along both banks here since a devastating 1996 flood.

Although a couple of short gaps, each about 200 feet in length, occur in this section's roadside alders, planting more vegetation in the gaps is not a high priority. And efforts to do so by employing your normal riprap-removal pullback method would only threaten integrity (by scouring high flows) of the existing alders. Note that in a 12-13-13 letter (copy attached) I suggested an alternate approach for establishing riparian vegetation among such riprap. You have apparently not attempted to do so. Addition of several large boulders into deeper portions of this run to enhance fish habitat and angling opportunity would also be appropriate to consider.

Within the entire upper canyon area targeted for project work next year, your past objectives of side channel and pool restoration, plus large woody debris and water temperature gains, scarcely apply due to the existing terrain and plentiful riparian vegetation. Nor does your contention that pullbacks "relieve the river from its restrictive straight jacket so it can do its own thing". The river here, like most areas where you have conducted pullbacks downstream, is tucked up against a steep hillside - it ain't gonna move roadward significantly even with help.

Regarding the overall Klickitat project to date, results appear at times positive, though all-too-often discouragingly negative. Your claims of fish habitat benefits are laden with exaggeration and wishful thinking. While upland vegetation plantings have improved some wildlife habitats, unnecessary bank and in-river pullbacks have damaged fish habitat. Your follow-up vegetation plantings on the bared pullback slopes next to the river are surviving poorly, volunteer Red alders being almost the sole species taking a foothold there.

Past floods have breached the haul road at different locations, reopening some historical side channels. You claim to be reopening others, but I've found no such sites. Instead, at considerable effort and expense, you have "reshaped" large portions of the old road, converting one portion into an isolated, dead end slough. These activities provide scant benefits to salmonids. Moreover, the only new pools formed to date are a few areas within the river dug deeper (This was permitted?!) by project heavy equipment.

Another negative aspect of the soil-baring pullbacks has been resultant water turbidity extreme enough to degrade fish habitat and curtail angling. Though in violation of water quality standards, this periodic situation has somehow been allowed by State agencies (primarily Ecology and WDFW) to continue. Last autumn the federal EPA investigated complaints made by local residents about muddy flows far downstream caused by your ongoing pullback work. Long term soil erosion at the several collective miles (5 or more) of those sites will also persist despite follow-up revegetation efforts.

Considerable landscaping above the old rail bed, and much road asphalt removal also distant from the river, are activities (in addition to unnecessary pullbacks and various digging) that have added substantially to the project's highly questionable use of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) funds earmarked for fish habitat restoration. Other than purchase of the land, removal of only asphalt which could fall into the river, and some careful augmentation of riparian vegetation, millions of those designated fish fund dollars could have been properly directed elsewhere.

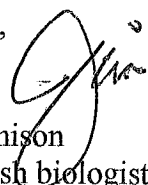
A couple of years ago, noted fisheries consultant Jim Lichatowich recommended that your Klickitat work undergo a hiatus to allow review of whether objectives were being met. However, this was not done; project rocks and dirt have been flying continually ever since.

Columbia Land Trust and Yakima Nation Fisheries are typically and justifiably respected by many, including myself. That is certainly a major reason for Klickitat project support you've received from others. Too, supporters may assume that all goals initially thought credible must therefore still be worth pursuing year after year. But without year after year appropriate evaluation and adjustments of field work, that is not a wise approach. No project is immune from shortcomings, and overzealousness can be a shortcoming.

In the past you've countered my concerns by mentioning authorities who provided project advice. I believe you'd be surprised at how many of those authorities, if revisiting the work sites, would now agree with major points raised here and in my 12-13-13 letter.

Your response to individual concerns outlined herein would be appreciated. Even more welcome would be news that no additional bank or in-river pullbacks are planned.

Sincerely,


Jim Hutchison
Retired fish biologist
wilandhutch@gmail.com

cc:

Brian Abbott, Governor's Exec. Coordinator
Clark/Skamania Flyfishers
Klickitat TAG group
Klickitat Trader
Red's Fly Shop
SRFB ✓
WDFW
Yakima Nation Fisheries

5 photos enclosed

NOTE: THE KLICKITAT R. TAG GROUP CONTAINS 2 OR 3 YAKIMA NATION MEMBERS INVOLVED WITH THIS PROJECT.

SRFB COPY

1010 NW 4th. Ave.
Camas, WA, 98607

12 - 13 - 13

Glenn Lamb, Executive Director
Lindsay Cornelius, Stewardship Lead
Columbia River Trust
1351 Officers' Row
Vancouver, WA 98661

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Re: Klickitat River Restoration Project

Glenn and Lindsay,

As you know, I've been keenly interested in your Trust's Klickitat River restoration project since its inception. That ongoing project, which extends approximately 15 miles, is located mainly along the river's west shoreline in a semi-isolated canyon section above the mouth of the Little Klickitat River. Within that stretch of your ownership is an old, abandoned rail bed, later used as a logging truck road.

While a member of the Klickitat area fisheries Technical Advisory Group a few years ago, I strongly supported your eventually successful acquisition of that river frontage land because its natural resources would be protected and public access maintained. I still do. There was little discussion at that time of forthcoming multi-year restoration work.

You also know that, as a retired fish biologist and Klickitat River angler, I've since voiced concern over fish habitat impacts resulting from the project's extensive "pullbacks", pullbacks being the dredging of road-related large rocks, plus some associated soil and vegetation, from both the river and its banks. These pullbacks collectively now extend two to three miles, and more are planned.

Your reasons provided for conducting the pullbacks, as they affect fish habitat, have been: to allow river access into historic channels, increase large woody debris (LWD) availability, improve river water temperature, and increase the number of pools. Those objectives and how they are influenced by your present work are discussed below.

Past floods, particularly a giant one in 1996, have breached the old haul road to the extent that almost no previously existing floodplain is now "landlocked on the other side of the road". Remaining roadbed sections which directly front the river are tucked tight against the adjacent, steep west hillside; they therefore constrict the floodplain minimally. Consequently, the floodplain throughout the canyon remains predominately unrestrained and wide. These features can be confirmed by on-site inspection and/or referral to excellent recent Google Earth photos.

Those photos, by zooming-in, also clearly reveal the large amount of LWD now distributed throughout the canyon's river channels and floodplain. At times this material causes boating accidents, but as a rule is best left undisturbed due its fish habitat value. Grass, willows and shrubs have routinely been planted where the pullbacks are completed. Although creation of additional LWD sources is not a demonstrated high need, increased emphasis on planting larger vegetation, especially red alder and bigleaf maple, would better provide LWD and river shading.

Regarding shade, review of available temperature records shows that some Klickitat River tributaries have excessive summer water temperatures, while the main river seldom does. *Warmest summer water temperatures in the project's canyon area remain mostly in the 60 to 70 degree F. range.* And a BPA funded fish hatchery using river water is currently proposed downstream near Wahkiacus.

Though the river's temperature remains generally favorable for salmonids, establishing additional shade trees in the riparian zone is sound practice if associated activities (eg: excessive pullbacks) are not counterproductive.

Referral again to the Google Earth photos shows that larger canyon vegetation, mainly red alders, line almost all of the river's west shore where the road closely parallels it. Those trees provide good shade and have become established naturally, often in the toe of road rip-rap, in river carried fines deposited over decades. The ongoing project dredges rip-rap from around the trees, and reaches both to and into the river. This appears to serve little justifiable purpose, plus it encourages erosion of the newly bared slopes and survival of the existing trees. What criteria are applied when planning and conducting pullbacks?

Rather than continue this arbitrary practice, but still address your LWD and shade objectives, the following procedure is suggested in rocky riverside areas where trees are lacking: without any pullbacks, introduce and compact topsoil into rip-rap interstices, predominately near the river's mean high water level, then plant healthy alder and maple starts there. Monitor this effort over several years, comparing its success to the previously replanted pullback areas.

Pools are a vital component of good stream habitat for both juvenile and adult salmonids. Eventual pool creation by the river itself, aided by pullbacks, is another of your stated objectives. But the jury will remain out for some time regarding results of these efforts.

Some project workers reportedly became excited this past fall to see an adult salmon in a "pool created the day before". Pools don't form that quickly, certainly not at low flows when heavy equipment work is underway. That pool was dug or expanded purposely by the equipment - possibly without following specifics of the project's state and federal permits. And the salmon observed there was likely a fall chinook, not showing a preference for the new pool, but one of many migrating upstream and beginning to spawn at the time.

Unfortunately for salmonids, deep pools are few and far between in the Klickitat canyon. Due to this scarcity, the river's adult salmon and steelhead during upstream migration rely heavily on runs that provide moderate water depths and varied velocities among rocky substrate. Adult spring chinook salmon and summer steelhead, in particular, depend on this type of resting habitat for several weeks or months prior to spawning. Project pullbacks in such runs are degrading this resting habitat by removing large rock, both from the river and from its banks below high water level.

In previous correspondence I have pointed-out existence of an important long run adjacent to the haul road midway between the Stinson Flat and Lietel boat ramps, a run which should not become altered by pullbacks. Additional examples are the popular runs immediately above and below the Stinson Flat boat ramp. These runs, though close to the haul road, provide favorable angling sites as well as ideal adult fish resting habitat. Existing alders and the river's large rock substrate there contribute to those attributes.

In the 1980s the Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation purchased most private land along the lower 17 miles of Oregon's nearby Deschutes River. Since then, that Foundation has sponsored riparian vegetation planting, exclusion of cattle, and installation of several modern pit toilets there. Although two railroad beds, one long abandoned, parallel the lower Deschutes, no attempts have been made to remove railroad rip-rap from the river or its banks. Like the Klickitat River, the Deschutes is short of pools, so its adult summer steelhead also heavily utilize rocky runs abutting the rip-rapped railroad slopes.

As each recent year passes, it's become apparent that a major goal of the ongoing Klickitat work is merely cosmetic - to render the haul road less visible and have the canyon look "natural" again. That's the message contained in various project descriptions, including the Trust's Facebook entries and flyers provided last summer at the haul road gates. Some Klickitat canyon visitors have been informed that, once the replanted vegetation in the pullback areas matures, the sites will be "healed and look natural". These folks usually don't understand that important fish habitat at some sites was permanently and unnecessarily compromised. This visual enhancement via landscaping activity, located above as well as below the road, is being done with funds earmarked primarily for fish habitat improvement.

Columbia Land Trust purchased the canyon lands in 2007 for \$478,000. Since then, over two and a half million dollars have been employed for the canyon restoration work, much of this amount directed at the continuing questionable removal of rip-rap. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board has provided the bulk of these funds. This autumn marked the end of the project's "Phase 4", with additional ones scheduled in forthcoming years.

But during future phases, it appears well past time to phase-out additional pullbacks, and concentrate instead on project aspects that won't threaten Klickitat River fish habitat. Much of the restoration work accomplished to date is quite worthwhile, such as asphalt removal, enhancement of side channels, and conversion of the former roadbed to desirable wildlife habitats. Still, much of the funding used for pullbacks to make the canyon "look natural" could have been, and could yet be, utilized elsewhere for positive

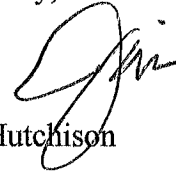
actions that your Trust typically undertakes - like marshland recovery, invasive plant control, or purchase of additional Pine Creek (Lewis River tributary) bull trout habitat.

I fully support your Trust in its numerous worthy endeavors. And you have remained courteous and professional in responding to my Klickitat project concerns, Lindsay. Yet I have received little indication that my comments are being shared or acted upon by others involved in the project's planning process. That is why I've attempted to summarize my thoughts for you and others here. I'll be sharing them with interested parties, as hopefully your Trust will.

I realize that some natural resource specialists will differ with me regarding some of this letter's contents. That is expected, especially in an undertaking as diverse as yours on the Klickitat. And yes, a fish biologist 80 years ago would then have opposed how railroad construction impacted the river. But given the facts herein, he or she would now certainly have questions concerning the wisdom of conducting miles of problematic pullbacks meant to be corrective.

Despite some opinion differences, we all undoubtedly agree that by sharing and applying everyone's best thoughts the canyon will receive its best future stewardship. I'll remain available should you wish to discuss this subject further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Hutchison

wilandhutch@gmail.com

cc: SRFB ✓

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Despite some opinion differences, we all undoubtedly agree that by sharing and applying everyone's best thoughts the canyon will receive its best future stewardship. I'll remain available should you wish to discuss this subject further.



SAME KLICKITAT RIVER HAUL ROAD SITE
ONE YEAR (2015) LATER

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

SITE A

KLICKITAT RIVER HAUL ROAD SITE
BEFORE CONVERSION TO A SLOUGH
2014

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

SITE A

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Despite some opinion differences, we all undoubtedly agree that by sharing and applying everyone's best thoughts the canyon will receive its best future stewardship. I'll remain available should you wish to discuss this subject further.

Sincerely,



2015 PHOTO OF HOLE DUG IN
KLICKITAT RIVER IN 2014

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

KLICKITAT RIVER "PULLBACK"
2014

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE



KLICKITAT RIVER "PULLBACK"
2013

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

KLICKITAT RIVER "PULLBACK"
2012

RECEIVED

OCT 12 2015

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE



October 13, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Troutt:

I would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to provide public comment regarding the Monitoring Panel recommendations. Through the years, I have enjoyed personal exchanges with Board Members, as well as with the RCO and GSRO staff, and have always appreciated the open communication.

My role as the principal investigator of the Project Effectiveness Monitoring Program has been to collect data about project performance and provide information and results to the Board, project sponsors, lead entities and regions about those projects in terms of effectiveness. Along with my team, we have endeavored to bring information that was useful and pertinent to both funding decisions and to improving the practice of restoration. Continuing that goal of providing information, I would like to provide a few comments on the recommendations from the Monitoring Panel about Project Effectiveness Monitoring.

Our group has worked with the Monitoring Panel to exchange information about the Project Effectiveness Program. We have presented to the panel twice and have had several conversations with members in response to their specific questions. We appreciate the perspective that the panel brings to the review process and support further engagement about specific information needs they might have.

The recommendations from the panel are, in part a reflection of some of the recommendations that have been made by our own staff about potential ways to improve Project Effectiveness Monitoring. Since 2009, we have recommended expanding the fish sampling at instream structure and floodplain projects to include seasonal sampling, such that species like Chinook salmon could be more appropriately sampled. We look forward to working on this effort with the Monitoring Panel in the near-term and would propose addressing the issue this fall (2015) in time for sampling in the 2016 season, rather than deferring the sampling in 2016. We feel that the extreme hydrology we have experienced this year in Washington State is a very important data point to capture with respect to fish response in order to inform how we should be approaching restoration in the future. Collecting data on the response of fish to restoration projects during extremely low flows (summer) can help us plan for future climate scenarios. In addition, preserving the continuity of the data set for a category as a whole is a critical part of the study design. During the 2016 sampling season, five instream projects and six floodplain enhancement projects are scheduled for fish sampling. This effort would involve half of the projects in each category, but not the other half. Deferring the fish sampling in 2016 would reduce the ability to analyze the data across a category in a consistent manner (on schedule with the other projects in that category) and would put at risk the investments in project effectiveness monitoring to date.

Deferring monitoring of riparian planting projects and habitat protection projects was also a recommendation we made in our reports due to the slow rate of change for some of the indicators at these sites. From the perspective of the data prior to the 2015 water year, I would stand by that recommendation. However, due to the extremely low flows we have experienced over the past year, I encourage the Board to consider the implications of not sampling following a year of very low flows. By sampling in 2016, we can document what occurred in 2015 and we will be able to compare that to what happens in a more regular water year. Information gained in 2016 about the performance of projects may help guide how we implement restoration efforts in the face of changing climates (e.g. how to address higher levels of mortality in plantings).

Finally, I would like to restate that the goal of this program has been to address the original management questions identified by the Board and the RCO. The Monitoring Panel could improve the monitoring process by helping to identify any new management questions that need to be addressed. To be effective, these questions should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. The identification of specific, actionable questions that can be addressed by the monitoring practitioners would be useful for a strategic approach to improving statewide monitoring programs. The practitioners, who are most familiar with the data and with the details of the sampling, can then work collaboratively to propose the most effective ways to address those questions. This approach could help to reshape and refocus the efforts of the statewide monitoring programs in a productive and efficient manner.

We look forward to working with GSRO and RCO staff, the Board, and the Monitoring Panel to continue the important effort of Project Effectiveness Monitoring in Washington. Thank you for considering the above comments. Please feel free to contact me directly at 425-785-0510 or jen@naturaldes.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer O'Neal". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Jennifer O'Neal
Project Manager

October 14, 2015

Mr. Chairman and members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Thank you for including an assessment of the Asotin Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) in your suite of IMW's that the monitoring panel reviewed for you. I want to bring to your attention the monitoring panel's report regarding the Asotin IMW and specifically the unanimous support this study received from your commissioned panel. To quote the report "*the monitoring panel was unanimously impressed with the overall study and pleased with its progress - the Asotin IMW design is well conceived and implementation treatments will conclude in 2016*". Their recommendation is that you support this project as they have concluded that "*the study design and implementation are exceptionally good*".

The Asotin IMW started in 2008 with funds for monitoring from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and has relied exclusively on those funds for the monitoring component every year until last year when budget was limited. As noted in the staff report, this year (FY16) funds from PSMFC are even more limited at only \$72,000 yet the study plan requires \$258,000. The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board-Lead Entity(SRSRB-LE) is prepared to allocate up to 10% of its regional allocation (which is \$159,000) to augment the \$72,000 from PSMFC, but this means one habitat restoration project is not going to get funded and still leaves the IMW program \$27,000 short.

Noteworthy is that the SRSRB-LE has funded 100% of the restoration actions and has not received any of the SRFB IMW-dedicated treatment funds to date.

At a minimum, I request that the SRFB provide \$27,000 to get this project wholly funded for FY 16, but ideally I ask you to consider partnering with the SRSRB on a 50-50 shared approach to filling the \$186,000 shortfall by allocating \$93,000 of your funds in partnership with the SRSRB allocating \$93,000 of its regional/Lead Entity project allocation.

In closing, I know the Asotin IMW is not a SRFB IMW and you have commitments to your existing programs but this represents a wonderful opportunity to partner on a very successful program that has, thus-far been funded by "others" and after FY16, only has three years until completion. If not this year, then I implore you to include \$186,000 for it in your budget for fiscal years 17, 18 and 19. Please join the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board in supporting this successful IMW and help ensure it does not die on the vine just before harvest.

Steve Martin
Director, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board
410 E Main
Dayton, WA 99328
509-382-4115

Working to restore viable and sustainable populations of salmon, steelhead and other at-risk species through collaborative, economically sensitive efforts, combined resources, and wise resource management of the Upper Columbia Region.



October 12, 2015

David Troutt
Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Submitted via email:

Dear Mr. Troutt,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the 2015 Annual Review of the SRFB Monitoring Program produced by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Monitoring Panel. This is a topic of interest for us and we have been following and participating in the shaping of value-added monitoring programs for many years.

General Comments

Monitoring coordination is a function best executed within regional recovery organizations, such as the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, since those organizations are most familiar with the monitoring needs required to answer recovery plan management questions. In the Upper Columbia, the SRFB's monitoring is just one part of a broad effort that is primarily funded and driven by Bonneville Power Administration and the local PUDs for the purpose of tracking mitigation compliance. Although the participation of the principal investigators was noted, the involvement of the salmon recovery regions in evaluation of the SRFB monitoring programs was not clear.

Status and Trends Monitoring

The SRFB's support of status and trends monitoring has filled important, basic information gaps where other programs do not exist. We support the Monitoring Panel's recommendation to maintain or increase its investment in status and trends monitoring.

In addition, although the SRFB defines fish status and trends as "fish in/fish out," there is additional benefit from tracking fish throughout their entire freshwater life-cycle to answer questions about individual life state survival and performance as well as life history and habitat use. This information is often a missing piece in our collective efforts to target the most appropriate restoration actions that will provide the greatest fish benefit.

Effectiveness Monitoring

We agree with the Monitoring Panel's recommendation for a more robust sampling plan that is more specifically targeted to the times during the season when target species are present. We do not agree with the recommendation that fish use monitoring should therefore be deferred and not conducted in the 2016 field season. Opportunity to improve

the usefulness of the fish use monitoring does not mean that there is no value in the monitoring as it exists. Fish use data collected by Tetra Tech using the current protocol are used frequently by project sponsors in the Upper Columbia.

As noted above, the SRFB monitoring is just one part of a coordinated effort in the Upper Columbia. The effectiveness monitoring program is tied to protocols and programs that now extend well beyond the SRFB funded effort, so any changes in the SRFB program could have dramatic effects on similar effectiveness monitoring programs funded elsewhere.

We encourage a broader conversation with the regional organizations, lead entities, and other effectiveness monitoring programs to ensure that any changes to the SRFB's programs best address local needs without affecting carefully coordinated regional efforts.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds

The Monitoring Panel recommendations for the Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs) appeared to be related to specific technical details of each program. We notice that the recommendations do not say much about broader issues such as the ability of the IMWs to answer the questions they were set up to fill, or the appropriateness of those questions to guide future restoration activities. Making sure that the IMWs are sufficient to answer the most appropriate management questions seems to be of particular importance considering not just the cost and effort involved in the monitoring, but also the increased investment the SRFB has made in implementation of habitat projects to support the monitoring work.

The Monitoring Panel report and recommendations are an important incremental step forward in strengthening the SRFB's monitoring efforts. We look forward to ongoing discussion with the SRFB and Monitoring Panel. In particular we would like to see more discussion with the regions about the following issues:

- Floodplain project effectiveness monitoring methodology
- Fish use monitoring methodology and analysis
- The role of regional organizations in monitoring coordination

We encourage the SRFB to continue its efforts to improve its monitoring programs and hope that the needs and interests of the regions are incorporated into those reviews. The best forum for doing so is through the Council of Regions. Thank you for considering the above comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-670-1462 or derek.vanmarter@ucsr.org if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,



Derek Van Marter, Executive Director