



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

March 19, 2020

Online Web Meeting

ATTENTION:

Protecting the public, our partners and our staff are of the utmost importance. Due to recent health concerns with the novel coronavirus the Salmon Recovery Funding Board has decided to revise the agenda and host the meeting online. The public is strongly encouraged to participate online.

If you wish to listen live to this meeting, please click the link below to register and follow the instructions. We ask that you register in advance of the meeting. You will be emailed specific instructions upon registering. Technical support for the meeting will be provided by RCO's board liaison who can be reached at Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Registration Link: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8511346304228914434>

**Additionally, RCO will record this meeting and would be happy to assist you after the meeting to gain access to the information. If you don't have equipment to participate online, staff will make available a room at the Natural Resources Building, Room 172, where you can listen to the online meeting.*

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a short staff presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board only makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda decision item.

Public Comment: **General public comment for this meeting will only be accepted in written form**, please submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, Attn: Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, at the address above or at Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Public comment specific to Item 3 on the agenda will be permitted during this item via phone through the webinar. If you wish to comment, you may email Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov or message Wyatt Lundquist using the messenger in the webinar before the start of Item 3. Comment for this item will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

Special Accommodations: Persons with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact us via the following options: 1) Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or email Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; or 2) 711 relay service. Accommodation requests should be received March 4, 2020 to ensure availability.

Thursday, March 19

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m. Call to Order *Chair Rockefeller*
Director Cottingham

- Remarks Concerning Meeting Logistics
- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda **(Decision)**
- [Approve December 2019 Minutes \(Decision\)](#)

9:10 a.m. 1. [Director's Report](#) *Kaleen Cottingham*

A. Director's Report

- Travel Meeting location

B. Legislative Update *Wendy Brown*

C. Performance Update – *written only*

D. Fiscal Report - *written only*

9:20 a.m. 2. [Salmon Recovery Management Report](#) *Erik Neatherlin*

A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report

- Update to Statewide Salmon Strategy
- PCSRF Application for 2020
- State of Salmon Report
- New Staffing, if Funded by Legislature

B. Salmon Section Report *Tara Galuska*

- Status of 2020 Grant Round

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

9:35 a.m. 3. [Delegation of Authority to Director to Resolve Potential PCSRF Audit Funding](#) *Kaleen Cottingham*

Public Comment: Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:00 a.m. 4. [Criteria for Future Targeted Investments](#) *Katie Pruitt*

10:30 a.m. Adjourn *Chair Rockefeller*

Next meeting: June 10-11, 2020 – Leschi Heritage Foundation Longhouse - 18815 Mounts Road SW, Dupont, WA 98327

[March 2020 Correspondence](#)

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

Thursday, December 12

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Opening and Call to Order A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Review and Approval of Agenda C. Approve Sept. 2019 Meeting Minutes D. Remarks of the Chair	Decision <u>December 2019 Meeting Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Breckel Decision: Approved <u>September 2019 Meeting Minutes</u> Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott Seconded by: Member Sullivan Decision: Approved	No Follow-up
1. Directors Report A. Directors Report B. Legislative Update C. Performance Update D. Fiscal Report	Briefing	No Follow-up
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report B. Salmon Section Report	Briefing	No Follow-up
General Public Comment		
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION		
3. Proposed Rules Changes to Title 420 WAC to Capture Roles and Responsibilities of Local and Regional Salmon Recovery Partners Implementing the Salmon Recovery Act Public Hearing	Decision <u>Resolution: 2019-01</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved	No Follow-up
General Public Comment		
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
4. Data Overview of Lead Entity Capacity Funding (Lean Study Follow-up)		Use this information to inform the 2021-22 budget request

Celebration of Our Accomplishments	Decision <u>Resolution to Recognize 20th Anniversary of Salmon Recovery Act</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Bugert Decision: Approved	No Follow-up
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
5. 2019 Grant Round A. Overview B. Slideshow of Featured Projects C. Review Panel Comments		No Follow-up
General Public Comment on Grant Funding and Projects		
6. 2019 Grant Round: Regional Presentations		No Follow-up
7. 2019 Grant Round: Board Funding Decision	Decision <u>Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved <u>Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Bugert Decision: Approved <u>Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Regions</u> Moved by: Member Sullivan Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved	No Follow-up

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: Approved

Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: Approved

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Endresen-
Scott

Decision: Approved

Future Cost Increase Funding

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Endresen-
Scott

Decision: Approved

Recess

Friday, December 13

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
Opening and Partner Reports		
Call to Order		
8 Reports from Partners	Briefing	
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
9. Update to the Board Strategic Plan and Final Work Plan	Decision Adoption of the Strategic Plan (as amended) Moved by: Breckel Seconded by: Bugert Decision: Approved	No Follow-up
10. Northern Pike Update		
11. Planned Project Forecast List Demonstration (Salmon Recovery Portal)		No Follow-up
BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION		
12. Criteria for Future Targeted Investments	Direction	Bring Back in March
13. Introduction to New RCO Website	Direction	No Follow-up

Next meeting: March 18-19, 2020 Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98501

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Thursday, December 12, 2019 - Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA

Phil Rockefeller	Bainbridge	Annette Hoffman	Dept. Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Jeff Davis	Dept. Fish and Wildlife
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochrane	WA State Conservation
Chris Endresen Scott	Conconully	Susan Kanzler	Dept. Transportation
Jeff Breckel	Stevenson		

Excused: Member Stephen Bernath, Dept. of Natural Resources

Opening and Call to Order

Chair Rockefeller began the meeting promptly at 9 am and requested the roll call to be completed and the quorum to be determined. Quorum was present. Member Stephen Bernath was excused.

Motion: Move to approve the December 12 and 13, 2019, meeting agenda

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve September 2019 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Endresen Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Chair Rockefeller spoke about Bill Ruckelshaus, the first chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), who had recently passed away. He expressed how Mr. Ruckelshaus was the definition of integrity and left behind a resounding lifelong commitment to the environment. The Chair then opened up time for the board to discuss his memory.

Item 1: Director's Report

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director, **Kaleen Cottingham**, updated the board on key agency activities and happenings. This included the Public Land Inventory update, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's (GSRO) work with tribes to increase coordination around salmon recovery, a highlight of the State-Tribal Centennial Accord meeting, the celebration of the first completed fish barrier removal project in Onalaska, the groundbreaking at Kilisut Harbor, RCO's new web site, and update to the Lean Study Implementation and changes to staff at RCO. For more detail, please see item 1 of the December 12, 2019 meeting materials.

Following Ms. Cottingham, **Wendy Brown**, RCO Policy Director, gave a legislative update. In her update she informed the board that the Governor's budget would be released the week of

December 16, 2019 and she reminded the board that RCO had submitted a budget request for funding to enhance the suppression of Northern Pike in Lake Roosevelt. For additional updates on Northern Pike please see item 10 of the December 13, 2019 meeting materials.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Executive Coordinator, discussed the recent work completed by the GSRO. He informed the SRFB that the Orca Task Force had completed its work with a second set of recommendations to the Governor, the Statewide Strategy update was continuing and on track, and the federal registered notice had come out for a five-year status review with NOAA of Pacific salmon. He closed by addressing the Monitoring Request for Proposal (RFP) carried through by GSRO's Science Coordinator, Keith Dublanica. Stating that it was successfully issued to Cramer Fish Sciences and the work began December 2019. The purpose of the RFP is to develop a study plan for monitoring the effectiveness of floodplain and riparian enhancement projects using remote sensing.

The board discussed and asked clarifying questions surrounding the organization of the Statewide Strategy update workshops and the monitoring RFP. Mr. Neatherlin addressed these topics separately and clarified that the Statewide Strategy update would include workshops, meetings, and webinars with the regional recovery organizations, stakeholders, state agencies, and individual meetings with tribes.

Regarding the RFP, Mr. Neatherlin explained that evaluating large floodplains using remote technology was one of the top priorities identified by the monitoring panel through its workshops held in early 2019 in cooperation with the regions. The regional needs assessment was something that was identified in a letter sent from the regions to the board in 2019 following the workshops. While important, the needs assessment is not eligible for federal PCSRF funds. The monitoring panel agreed that a needs assessment would be valuable but determined that the floodplain monitoring RFP should move forward as a top priority, and was valuable on its own independent of a regional needs assessment.

Tara Galuska, Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Grant Section Manager opened her update by informing the board she has begun her work with GSRO on putting together the Salmon Recovery Conference. For this conference, they are seeking a steering committee, including members of the board. She also said they have completed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to select a venue for the conference and she would bring their selection back to the board in March of 2020.

Ms. Galuska gave an update on the grant round for 2019. She thanked the regions, lead entities, sponsors and all other individuals that had been involved in the process. For more detail see item 5.

To close, she informed the board that Kat Moore completed the update of Manual 18.

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

BREAK: 9:45am- 9:50am

Item 3: Proposed Rule Changes to Title 420 WAC to Capture Roles and Responsibilities of Local and Regional Salmon Recovery Partners Implementing the Salmon Recovery Act- Public Hearing

Chair Rockefeller reconvened the meeting and explained the procedure of the public hearing, which was presented by **Katie Pruitt**, RCO Planning and Policy Analyst. Ms. Pruitt presented on this topic at the last SRFB meeting in September 2019. The changes for Title 420-04 include implementing new terms, updating definitions and clarifying roles. The new terms were "initiating governments" and "non-initiating governments." The two updated definitions are "lead entity", to clarify that it does not overlap with another lead entity area for the same salmon species and "lead entity project list", which is the list of projects that comes to the board, not to be confused with the term "working projects".

Following the updated terminology, Ms. Pruitt explained that there would be a new chapter in 420-04-010 that will include the local and regional organization roles. This chapter will include a section on the formation of a lead entity. It will help clarify the roles, responsibilities, and relationships of the lead entity organization, lead entity coordinator, citizen committee, and the technical advisory group.

Before coming to a close, she covered the options for consideration:

1. Adopt as written;
2. Amend the proposal;
3. Postpone adoption; or
4. Withdraw.

Public Comment:

Pete Teigen, lead entity coordinator for the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, thanked RCO for keeping the language on the citizen's committee.

Public comment closed and the board moved to approve resolution 2019-01.

Motion:	Move to Approve Resolution 2019-01 to adopt the amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Endresen Scott
Decision:	Approved

The public hearing was closed.

Item 4: Data Overview of Lead Entity Capacity Funding (Lean Study Follow-up)

Wendy Brown introduced herself and **Brent Hedden**, Policy Specialist for RCO. She informed the board that they will be speaking on a data exercise that was done in response to a recommendation from the lean study. The lean study had identified that capacity funding, as a percentage or project funding, varies widely across lead entities. The recommendation was to identify the reasons behind these differences and evaluate whether there are alternative approaches for distributing capacity funding to potentially improve the alignment with project funding. It further identified the need to explore the relationship between capacity funding and the number of projects in order to identify areas of best practice where capacity funding is translating to high impacts in salmon recovery.

To better illustrate the differences identified in the study, Ms. Brown and Mr. Hedden presented the data of the 25 lead entities capacity funding and project funding that comes through SRFB. They showed the variation in relationship between capacity funding, project funding, and number of projects through several different graphs and ended the presentation by illustrating the distribution of capacity funds based on the formula used to distribute project funds. This scenario was intended to show what an alignment of capacity funds and project funds would look like. To fully align capacity funding in this way, while keeping all lead entities whole, would require an additional one million dollars in capacity funding.

The board discussed and asked clarifying questions concerning capacity funding in alignment to project funding, specifically concerning requesting money from the legislature for an increase in capacity funding.

Public Comment:

Trisha Snider, chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition, highlighted that there has not been an increase in capacity funding since 2013 and that capacity funding helps leverage funding through other entities.

Kathy Hopper Peters, Natural Resource Leader for Kitsap County, updated the board on two culvert projects that had been completed due to money from the capital budget and the Navy. There was also one other fish passage project in the works on Chico Creek associated with the Washington Department of Transportation. She expressed that without the lead entities, these projects would not have been possible.

Dawn Spilsbury-Pucci, the lead entity manager of Island County, displayed a graph concerning percentage match with capacity funding and project funding from 2000 to 2019, looking beyond funding received through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Recovery Fund.

Amber Moore, Puget Sound Partnership and David Troutt, Nisqually Tribe, expressed that the amount of capacity funding given is not enough money in correlation to the amount of work produced by each lead entity.

Alex Conley, Chair of the Council of Regions and Yakima Basin Fish and Recovery Board, expressed that they cannot get anywhere without the role of the lead entity and that by fully funding the lead entities the board is also helping fully fund projects.

Steve Manlow, director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, explained that they do not receive a lot of capacity funding but, they do their best to properly use the funding they do have. He suggested not just looking at it from a lead entity viewpoint but, looking at it from the point of how to continue running an effective statewide recovery program.

Amy Hatch-Winecka, lead entity coordinator for the Thurston Regional Planning Council, underscored the points that her fellow colleagues had made. She felt that having a baseline of \$60,000 is only a fraction of the funding needed to get all aspects of the role completed.

BREAK: Celebration of Our Accomplishments—11:43am-1:00pm

Before dismissing the board for a break, Director Cottingham read the resolution in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Salmon Recovery Act.

Motion:	Move to Approve Resolution to recognize the 20 th anniversary of the Salmon Recovery Act creating the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and a coalition of driven partners.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Bugert
Decision:	Approved

Item 5: 2019 Grant Round

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, provided an overview of the grant round, the funding report, and had the salmon section grant managers follow up with a presentation of several proposed projects. Ms. Galuska expressed that the 2019 grant round was announced in December 2018, with Manual 18 and all the application material was available February 1, 2019. The grant round amount was set at \$18 million. In July 2019, the board allocated \$6.4 million in additional state capital funding for target investment that are intended to take action that will directly contribute to the delisting of the Hood Canal summer chum and the Mid-Columbia steelhead species. The three locations that were closest to delisting, Hood Canal, Snake and Mid-Columbia regions, were asked to bring back a list of specific projects. Finally, in addition to the salmon grant round and targeted investment funding, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board will set aside \$500,000 for the unanticipated cost increases in 2020.

Ms. Galuska noted that in the past entities were able to team up with each other to assist with projects, moving forward, if any lead entities want to team up, they must both have the project on their project list. Ms. Galuska then covered the grant round where the board is being asked to approve 110 total projects. The type of projects include acquisition, restoration, planning

projects, combination projects, and monitoring. She closed her section by returning to the targeted investments once again. Three of the ten projects brought forward are proposed for funding. These projects are the Duckabush Targeted Investment, Yakima Fish Passage Targeted Investment project, and the Mill Creek Fish Passage Project.

Following Ms. Galuska, five of the Salmon Grants Managers from RCO gave a briefing of seven potential projects based off the seven regions.

Featured Projects:

Alice Rubin, Salmon Outdoor Grants Manager, presented the Letsinger Habitat Restoration Design on behalf of the Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region. She also presented the North Touchet Restoration Project on behalf of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region.

Kay Caromile, Salmon Grants Manager, presented the Tjossem Ditch Project on behalf of the Mid-Columbia Salmon Recovery Region.

Josh Lambert, Salmon Grants Manager, presented the Coweeman, Nineteen and Skipper Restoration on behalf of the Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region. He also presented the Hahobas Shoreline Acquisition on behalf of the Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region.

Amea Bahr, Salmon Grants Manager, presented the Lower Eld Nearshore Habitat Acquisition on behalf of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region.

Marc Duboiski, Salmon Grants Manager, presented on the Monitor Side Channel Construction project on behalf of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region.

To close this item, **Tom Slocum**, **Marnie Tyler**, and **Michael Kramer** from the Salmon Technical Review Panel gave an overview of their 2019 observations and noteworthy projects.

The board then asked clarifying questions on the strategy update and the creation of a data base for project planners to use as a reference during project design. This could be created by the Monitoring Panel, Review Panel, and stakeholders.

BREAK: 2:40pm-2:59 pm

Item 6: 2019 Grant Round, Regional Presentations

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, is working on a recovery plan implemented by the project list approved by SRFB. Most of the recovery plans have not been updated for a decade or more. One updated plan will be the Steelhead Recovery Plan. For other plans, the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board has sought to update the action sections, which has been implemented into their two-year work plan.

Mara Zimmerman, Washington Coast Sustainable Partnership, explained that her region is the salmon stronghold of the state where many fish populations are robust. There are 117 populations that are not listed on the endangered species act and the role of this partnership is

to keep species off the list. Currently, there are 13 projects in the 2019 grant round and 6 alternate projects listed as well. The role of this partnership is to coordinate the work to benefit the salmon on the coast. Two ways this coordination is accomplished is through a tool that helps prioritize the use of culverts across multiple jurisdictions and a tool that assists with stream temperature monitoring. Information like this can be brought together to help determine the future climate and how to best find areas for restoration.

Pete Teigen, Upper Columbia Salmon Board, spoke on regional prioritization, barrier prioritization, and the 2019 grant round. Regional prioritization assists in determining places best for restoration, which is step one. Step two helps guide actions and the type of project that can get us to the recovery goals and step three is to gain a better understanding through the lead entities on how feasible these projects are.

He continued by expressing barriers that were completed in Wenatchee, Methow and Entiat. He then covered the 2019 grant round projects that they are hoping to be funded.

He closed by updating the board on the retirement of Steve Jenkins, who was previously the chair of the Upper Columbia Salmon Board, as well as the retirement of Rick Smith of the Chelan County Citizens Advisory Committee.

Allie Fitzgerald, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, gave an overview of what the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board does and the grant round. In Snake River, Ms. Fitzgerald recognized that the success of the Snake River Salmon Recovery comes from building partnerships, one of these partnerships being with the Yakima Fish Recovery Board. With their help, the Snake River Salmon Recovery board was able to hold a conference with the Office of Financial Management and GSRO to have project tours and allow for informal conversation surrounding salmon recovery.

Ms. Fitzgerald closed by thanking GSRO and other partnering entities.

Andrea Moore, Puget Sound Partnership, opened by stating the diversity of the Puget Sound Area, which supports four different listed species, The summer chum, bull trout, chinook, and steelhead. The partnership, made up of 15 lead entities, is responsible for two of these species while WDFW, and the Hood Canal Coordinating Group are responsible for the other two.

Ms. Moore also highlighted the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program, which RCO assists in running. This program has invested \$250 million in salmon programs.

To close, she informed SRFB of successful projects from 2019 that would not have been possible without the assistance of the lead entities. These included the Kilisnoe Harbor Groundbreaking project and the Smith Island Restoration project.

Mike Lithgow, NE Washington Salmon Recovery Region, thanked Dave Caudill for his help and other partners for their help.

Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, thanked the RCO staff, SRFB, Washington partnerships and review panels for all their assistance over the year. In the past year, there were 12 diverse projects, one which were funded by the Lower Klickitat partnerships. He explained his excitement with the new grant process and expressed how closely the Lower Columbia Recovery had followed the lean recommendations.

He closed by speaking on how to tackle delisting and the proper steps to take when integrating climate change into the process of projects.

Alicia Olivas, Hood Canal Courting Council, disclosed that the summer chum in the Strait of Juan de Fuca could be delisted currently. Although, there is a need for further data to ensure that the recovery work has been successful, leading to viable future generations and a large population.

This group will be moving toward rewriting the recovery plan with NOAA, including discussion on climate change and they also plan on looking at their high priority watersheds due to threats they may be facing.

Item 7: 2019 Grant Round, Board Funding Decisions

Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$342,000 for projects on the Northeast Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.
- Moved by:** Member Bugert
- Seconded by:** Member Endresen-Scot
- Decision:** Approved

Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$3,600,000 for projects and project alternates on the Lower Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019. This amount includes \$121,500 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity.
- Moved by:** Member Breckel
- Seconded by:** Member Bugert
- Decision:** Approved

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,129,961 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region, ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7

of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$6,142,039 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Puget Sound Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019. Except alternate project #19-1348 Nisqually River Knotweed Eradication 2019, which the sponsor withdrew.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,855,800 for projects and project alternates on the Upper Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved (*Member Bugert Recused*)

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,519,200 for projects and project alternates on the Snake River Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,688,400 for projects and project alternates on the Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019. This amount includes \$453,596 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity.

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Davis
Decision: Approved

Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,722,600 for projects and project alternates on the Coastal Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2019 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott
Seconded by: Member Sullivan
Decision: Approved

Targeted Investments

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$2,750,000 for the Mill Creek project in the Snake River Salmon Recovery Region, as shown in Attachment 5 of the 2019 Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Breckel
Seconded by: Member Bugert
Decision: Approved

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$883,088 for the Yakima Basin Fish Passage Project in the Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Regions shown in Attachment 5 of the 2019 Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott
Seconded by: Member Breckel
Decision: Approved

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$2,797,458 for the Duckabush Estuary Target Investment project in the Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region as shown in Attachment 5 of the 2019 Funding Report, dated November 27, 2019.

Moved by: Member Sullivan
Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott
Decision: Approved

Future Cost Increase Funding

Motion: Move to approve the use of up to \$500,000 in SRFB funds, as available, for cost increase amendments in calendar year 2020. All cost increases will be approved by the RCO director or referred to the board by the RCO Director.

Moved by: Member Breckel
Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott
Decision: Approved

RECESS - 4:03pm

Chair Rockefeller recessed the meeting until 9am December 13.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, December 13, 2019 - Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA

Phil Rockefeller	Bainbridge	Annette Hoffman	Dept. Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Jeff Davis	Dept. Fish and Wildlife
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochrane	WA State Conservation
Chris Endresen Scott	Conconully	Susan Kanzler	Dept. Transportation
Jeff Breckel	Stevenson		

Excused: Member Stephen Bernath

Call to Order

Chair Rockefeller began the meeting at 9 AM and clarified that the meeting would only last half of the day, as they only had items 8-13 left to discuss. Roll call was carried through and a quorum established.

Item 8: Reports from the Partners

Washington State Conservation Commission:

Brian Cochrane updated the board on the release of a Sustainable Farms and Fields Report that examined the gap between current conservation services and how to link additional conservation to carbon sequestration, the Commission's interest in the progress of riparian buffer implementation, and supplemental budget requests concerning the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), as their funding was cut in the last legislative session.

Chair Rockefeller opened the floor up to more questions and the board had the opportunity to discuss.

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):

Annette Hoffman gave a brief update on the happenings of the Department of Ecology. She explained that there are two rules open to examine salmon habitat, one being spawning ground areas. They are also looking into the health and sustainability of riparian corridors to prevent further degradation and the continuation of monitoring impaired waters. The department hired an ocean acidification scientist to specifically assist with the monitoring of impaired waters. Finally, the department has made a supplemental budget request to help with the modelling capabilities for Puget Sound.

Port Gamble, S'Klallam Tribe:

Jeromy Sullivan updated the board on the happenings in Port Gamble. He explained that there was a contaminated site clean-up that had occurred. There about 3000 tons of sediment removed, 9000 creosote piling, 600 tires, and 4 cars. A significant amount of this work was funded through a grant from the Department of Ecology.

Finally, he reported that there will be an easement signed to protect a historically significant mill site with funding provided by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Recreation and Conservation through the Estuary grant program.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):

Jeff Davis began his briefing by expressing support to the Department of Ecology and their efforts to gain a permit for nutrient removal. He believes that this removal will not only remove nutrients but pharmaceuticals that have negative effects on salmon. He followed with support in investing in the Brain Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, as there is significant data supporting population increase in salmon when barriers are removed. He discussed the WDFW budget shortfalls and need for additional funding from the legislature, as well as the department's update to their strategic plan.

Department of Transportation (DOT):

Susan Kanzler updated the board on the Department of Transportation. In most recent news, Governor Inslee had delayed a few public transportation projects that are not currently underway, as they are working on the implementation of Initiative 976 and the amended DOT budget. In juxtaposition to that news, fish passage projects are not being delayed. There is \$275 million dollars committed to the design and construction of the fish passage projects, and there is a project delivery plan that can be view on the DOT's website.

She further explained that DOT had completed 8 projects statewide in 2019, opening 20 miles of fish habitat and updated the DOT hydraulic design manual in April of 2019.

She concluded by updating the board on an estuary restoration project, completed in October of 2019. This project was done on the SR529 on Steamboat Slough, Maryville where they breached two dikes and restored eleven acres of estuary habitat, which will aid four different salmon species.

Council of Regions (COR):

Alex Conley informed the board that COR is still attempting to schedule a meeting with the COR engineers and Department of Ecology looking at Clean Water Act permitting. He then covered the monitoring RFP that had gone out. In March, there will be a letter on changes to manual 18, which would allow COR to more effectively use the existing 10 percent of their allocations for monitoring purposes.

He closed by speaking on the Statewide Strategy update, the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) Meeting, and concerns with other agenda items.

The Board discussed and asked clarifying questions surrounding SRNet. Mr. Breckel clarified that SRNet comes together to bring salmon recovery priorities forward through different entities and agencies. Through this conversation, the agencies and entities then have a better idea on what to bring forward to the legislature.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):

Tricia Snyder gave a brief update on the happenings of the Washington Salmon Coalition. They had their annual meeting in October in Aberdeen where they were able to discuss multiple project planning and coordinating projects in order to update their plan list. They also discussed the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board RFP and they were able to identify how to best bring in partners to help create a program for budgeting and cost in order to track projects.

In the past year they were able to meet with the Washington Invasive Species Council and get and update, receive training from Pete Teigen on interspace negotiation and they finalized their work plan for 2020.

She closed the briefing thanking the employees of RCO.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG):

Lance Winecka informed the board that a new president has been elected for the Regional Fisheries Coalition and her name is Sherry Penny. There was also an all staff training in Forks, Washington, which helped train the newer employees. The RFEGs are also working on a letter of intent and an annual report, which will be available in January 2020. He closed by giving a briefing on the Oakland Bay Restoration project in Shelton, Washington which will open up 30 acres of wetland.

Item 9: Update to the Board Strategic Plan and Final Work Plan

Scott Robinson, RCO Deputy Director, gave a briefing on the board's Strategic Plan, which was discussed at the September 2019 retreat. During that discussion, the board members reviewed the document and sought out what the board was attempting to accomplish. After discussing what changes needed to be made, Mr. Robinson updated the plan and sent it out for review to the board members. There was commentary given which lead to more modifications within the Strategic Plan. Scott opened up the subject to the board to discuss. Chair Rockefeller encourages the board to make a motion to adopt the strategic plan.

Motion:	Move to adopt the strategic plan as amended.
Moved by:	Member Breckel
Seconded by:	Member Bugert
Decision:	Approved

Mr. Bugert suggested that there be local governments and regional local communities included within this document.

Following the Strategic Plan, Ms. Brown updated the board on the policy work plan. She highlighted the changed areas and displayed it to the board, who then asked clarifying questions and discussed.

Item 10: Northern Pike Update

Joe Maroney, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and **Justin Bush**, Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council, gave an update on Northern Pike in the Columbia River Basin. They told the board that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council economic review and policy outreach tool went live in late December 2019. It helps examine the potential economic impact of northern pike preying on steelhead salmon populations and provides information on the number of pike removed, the cost of removal and number of miles, and the amount of miles between the pike and salmon, which is currently less than 60 miles from the anadromous zone. Mr. Bush also announced that WISC was able to work with the Department of Fish and Wildlife last year to help them build the capacity internally to look at eDNA water samples that include the DNA of Northern Pike. Mr. Maroney followed by informing the board on the recent change of the Northern Pike from a prohibited level three to a prohibited level 1 status, putting them in the same threat category as quagga zebra mussels.

BREAK: 10:45-11:00

Chair Rockefeller brought the meeting back to order and excused Brian Cochrane from the rest of the meeting.

Item 11: Planned Project Forecast List Demonstration

Jeannie Abbott, **Chantell Krider** and **Alicia Olivas** introduced themselves and presented the planned project forecast list demonstration. Ms. Abbott began by reminding the board of their approval to use the project forecast list through the Salmon Recovery Portal (previously known as Habitat Work Schedule) to support the biennial budget request. Ms. Krider followed with a brief explanation of the Salmon Recovery Portal, including the required fields such as the project ID, name, category, status, start and end dates, cost, funding, location, type, grant round, and sponsors. She also explained that there is a Planned Project Forecast List Dashboard that will soon be publicly available online.

Ms. Olivas discussed the meaning of the project lists through the eyes of a lead entity.

Ms. Abbott closed the briefing by examining the potential issues. These issues include sponsor capacity to create a work place or advance projects in the time frame, the fact that project cost estimates can be incorrect, there may be time and capacity issues with the Lead Entities wanting to vet the projects that sponsors provide, and finally, there may be communication challenges with the legislature, as they may provide funding for a project that has not yet been fully vetted.

The Board discussed and asked clarifying questions surrounding the Salmon Recovery Portal. There was concern expressed when using the tool to bring forward projects to the Legislature as it may not end up being funded, especially when it comes to smaller projects. There was also concern surrounding the creation of projects by the lead entities, as it is time consuming.

Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Council of Regions does not agree with this approach. The previous approach gave more time for community involvement and this approach makes it so the entities must be clear as to what is and isn't happening in each project plan.

Steven Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Region, explained that their region is large and has never maintained a static list, but moving through this process will be helpful as it will be more conceptual of the projects versus abstract.

Pete Teigen, Upper Columbia Salmon Board expressed that they must know the capacity of the sponsors, as sometimes they can become overstretched.

Item 12: Criteria for Future Targeted Investments

Katie Pruitt, RCO Policy Specialist, presented four options for establishing policy on current and future targeted investments made by the SRFB. These options were to: 1) take no action; 2) focus on delisting; 3) focus on delisting plus (federal match); and 4) focus on strategic priorities where the policy may change every biennium. After explaining each of the options, she opened the floor for discussion with the board. The board all wanted to move toward an option of delisting, including option 2 or 3.

Public comment:

Patricia Snyder, Washington State Salmon Coalition, expressed that will affect each lead entity differently. She also took this time to review a memo given through the Washington State Salmon Coalition in the March 2019 SRFB meeting.

Dawn Spilsbury-Pucci, Island County explained that they had some projects that came at the end of the ranking process, even though they were important projects that needed continued funding. Island County wants to have high ranking projects for funding with a follow up of targeted investment.

Alicia Olivas, Hood Canal addressed how important the stance of SRFB is on this topic.

Item 13: Introduction to the New RCO Website

Susan Zemek, RCO Communications Manager, went over the new RCO website. She stated that it has been about 10 years since there has been any update to RCO's website. She also expressed that people enjoy seeing pictures more than reading and that the website was updated to be more user friendly for people viewing it on cellphones, iPads, or other tablets, and we made it more accessible to those with sensory disabilities.

Board opened discussion on the new website and thanked Susan for the update

ADJOURN - Meeting adjourned at 12:27pm.

The next meeting will be March 18-19, 2020 in Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building, Olympia.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

Title: Director's Report

Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director and Wendy Brown, Policy Director

Summary

This memo describes key agency activities and happenings.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Agency Update

Happy Anniversary RCO!

RCO celebrated its 55th year as a state agency in November. With its humble beginnings in 1964 through a citizens' initiative, RCO (then called the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation) had three grants programs and two staff. Today, RCO administers 35 grant categories and has 64 employees. To celebrate, staff gathered for lunch and recognition. The event began with a few words from Washington's First Lady, Trudi Inslee. We then held a discussion about individual and agency values led by Amy Leneker of Compass Consulting. We closed out the event with a presentation by long-time team members, Marguerite Austin and Scott Chapman, reminding us about what it was like at RCO in the good ol' days, complete with classic stories and old photos. It was nice to have the agency all together in celebration of all our hard work and dedication to the citizens of Washington State.



RCO Attends Billy Frank Jr. Pacific Salmon Summit

RCO and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office staff attended the second annual Billy Frank Jr. Salmon Summit in November, hosted by Salmon Defense and the Squaxin Indian Tribe. The summit was aimed at inspiring new approaches to long-standing challenges to salmon recovery. Presentation topics included treaty rights, the status of salmon and their habitat, and critical policy issues. At the end of the day, participants signed a call to action in which they pledged to value hatcheries as part of salmon recovery, to support tribes and treaty rights, to bring innovation into recovery, and to commit to a joint communication campaign.



Orca Task Force Wraps Up

The Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force issued its [final year two report](#) in November. The final report contains 49 recommendations, of which 13 were developed during year two of the task force. The new recommendations address human population growth and development, climate change and ocean acidification, nutrients and stormwater, federal regulatory rollbacks, and options for a long-term orca recovery governance structure. The Legislature was briefed in November. Part of the budget negotiations include adding a position at RCO, in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, to coordinate the implementation of these recommendations.



E-Signature Starts at RCO

RCO has begun testing electronic signatures as a way to save resources, time, and money. In December, RCO finalized its policy and signed a contract with Adobe Sign. Throughout 2020, staff will pilot the use of e-signatures on personal service contracts, memorandums of understanding, timesheets, some grant amendments, and other smaller forms. Grant contracts will come later.



Social Media Hits Milestones

With the addition of a staffer in the Communications shop, RCO has been able to grow its social media and hit two milestones in 2019—4,000 people follow RCO on Facebook and 1,000 on Instagram. “Followers” are people who like your information enough to see and share it on their accounts. On a related note, our social media staff person has taken a position at the Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are recruiting and hope to have a new staff on board shortly.



RCO Lauds Partnership with Conservation District

Director Cottingham had the privilege of speaking at the annual conference of conservation districts. The conservation district board members and managers gathered to hear about topics of importance to conservation districts and to discuss the advocacy priorities for the coming year. This year’s theme was “Rising to the Challenge.” The director talked about the wonderful partnership we share with both the State Conservation Commission and 45 districts across the state. Conservation districts have been awarded 646 grants (mostly salmon projects) totaling more than \$94 million!



CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
OF WASHINGTON STATE

your window to healthy lands

2020 Legislative Session

The 2020 legislative session is quickly coming to the end (scheduled for March 12th). As of the writing of this memo, there have been more than 2,000 bills introduced this session, many of which have died in the legislative process now that the ‘house of origin’ cut off date is past. The bills related to salmon recovery of most interest to RCO and the SRFB that are still alive include the following:

- HB 1187: Revising hydraulic project eligibility standards under RCW 77.55.181 for conservation districts-sponsored fish habitat enhancement projects.
- HB 1261: Ensuring compliance with the federal clean water act by prohibiting certain discharges into waters of the state.
- HB 2503: Addressing the removal of fish passage barriers.
- HJM 4012: Recognizing the international year of the salmon.
- SB 6147: Concerning the replacement of shoreline armoring.

Budget proposals have been released, and the only ones related to salmon recovery cover the following:

- The addition of one or possibility two new position in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office – one position to track and implement the recommendations of the Orca Task Force and the other (less certain) to assist in developing statewide policy on riparian habitat protection.
- A project in the Senate operating budget to design solutions to mitigate steelhead mortality at the Hood Canal Bridge project (\$275,000).
- Direction on culvert coordination between the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and WSDOT in the House capital and House transportation budgets.
- A study to determine how to incorporate a net ecological gain standard into state land use, development, and environmental laws and rules in the House operating budget.
- \$375,000 in new funding to the WDFW for enhanced northern pike control in Lake Roosevelt in both operating budget proposals.

News from the Other Boards

The **Recreation Conservation Funding Board** met in January to consider several policy changes for the 2020 grant round. On the list was how to reward projects in two habitat categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) for improving habitat for bees and other pollinators, how to improve the sustainability evaluation criteria, and whether to change the grant cap in WWRP's Forestland Preservation Category.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met in December 19 and discussed invasive species issues in a time of climate change, the recently completed Lake Roosevelt Invasive Mussel Response Exercise, and the year-end summary and the council's 2020-2025 strategic plan.



Staff Changes

- **Rory Calhoun:** After 25 years at RCO, Rory retired in February. Rory served as the agency's American with Disabilities Act coordinator and a grants manager in the Recreation and Conservation Office.
- **Eryn Couch:** After just under 2 years, Eryn left the RCO communications shop to join the Department of Fish and Wildlife communication shop.



Lean Study Implementation Tracking

Color Key

- No major challenges are anticipated that would impact an on-time completion.
- Some challenges were encountered, and additional resources may be necessary for on-time completion.
- This task is unlikely to be completed on time OR this task is overdue.
- Task completed.

Implementation of Lean Study Recommendations				
Grant Round Redesign	Lead Person for Implementation	Due Date	Status	Notes
1.1 – Redesign Grant Round Process	Tara Galuska	12/2019	●	Complete – Included in Manual 18 and on track to approve projects in September.
1.2 – Formalize Biennial Grant Round Option	Tara Galuska	02/2019	●	Complete - Included in Manual 18.
Standardization and Role Clarification				
2.1 – Update Washington Administrative Code	Katie Pruitt, Sarah Gage, Tara Galuska	12/2019	●	Complete – rules adopted by SRFB and filed with the Code Reviser’s Office.
2.2 – Update Manual 19	Sarah Gage/Jeannie Abbott	02/2019	●	Complete – Distributed to Lead Entity Coordinators, Regional Directors, and placed on the website.
2.3 – Document Evaluation Process and Identify Best Practices	WSC	12/2019	●	Kaleen, Jeannie, Brent and Tara met with Lead entities. Lead Entities working on best practices. Lead Entity coordinators will discuss this topic each time that they meet. They are setting up a “box” account for improved document sharing. Box site set up. Best practices discussions. Lead entities working together.
Funding Policy and Project Prioritization				
3.1 – Develop Targeted Investment Program	Kaleen Cottingham, Scott Robinson	12/2019	●	Board approved targeting 6.4 million in targeted investments in regions in December 2019. Staff is working on policy/criteria for a more permanent future approach. Briefing in March 2020, with decisions in September 2020 expected.

Implementation of Lean Study Recommendations

3.2 – Evaluate Whether Regional Priorities are Being Achieved	Tara Galuska/Jeannie Abbott	06/2020	●	Complete -- Added question to regional summaries requirement in Manual 18. Regions will submit to RCO in June every year for review.
3.3 – Improve Efficiency of Capacity Funding	Jeannie Abbott, Brent Hedden	12/2020	●	Complete – Contracts were revised to lump capacity funding into three buckets. Staff will evaluate at the end of the biennium in August 2021.
3.4 – Improve Alignment of Capacity to Project Funding	Wendy Brown	12/2020	●	Complete -- Board discussed data provided by Policy staff and decided not to change the method of distributing capacity funding. December 2019.
3.5 – Initiate Inter-Agency Funding Coordination	Tara Galuska	Ongoing	●	On-going -- Tara continue to serve on the inter-agency workgroup.
System and Metrics				
4.1 – Enhance PRISM to Improve Efficiency of Process	Scott Chapman	12/2019 6/2020	●	Complete – application module and review and evaluation module complete. Will be tested for the first time during the 2020 grant round.
4.2 – Establish Process Metrics (2 or 3)	Tara Galuska, Brent Hedden, Scott Chapman	12/2019	●	Complete – Defined “other funding for project scope not included in the agreement.” Revisit at the end of the biennium in August 2021.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of February 18, 2020

Balance Summary

Fund	Balance
Current State Balance *reflects removal of potential audit questioned cost payment	\$2,870,005
Current Federal Balance – Projects	\$1,998,899
Current Federal Balance – Activities, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring	\$5,794,401
Lead Entities	\$2,595,724
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Puget Sound Restoration	\$1,599,418

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021, actuals through February 18, 2020 (FM 7). 29.2% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET New and Re- appropriation 2019-2021	COMMITTED Dollars	% of Budget	TO BE COMMITTED Dollars	% of Budg et	EXPENDITURES Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2013-15	\$1,936,999	\$1,936,999	100%	\$0	0%	\$301,052	16%
2015-17	\$2,973,000	\$2,973,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,705,965	57%
2017-19	\$11,332,731	\$11,332,731	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,038,217	27%
2019-21	\$21,570,000	\$18,699,995	87%	\$2,870,005	13%	\$0	0%
Total	37,812,730	34,942,725	92%	2,870,005	8%	5,045,234	14%
Federal Funded							
2015	\$3,333,263	\$3,324,250	99%	\$9,013	1%	\$3,061,331	92%
2016	\$7,782,478	\$6,603,108	85%	\$1,179,371	15%	\$1,115,976	17%
2017	\$11,149,935	\$9,716,782	87%	\$1,433,153	13%	\$3,719,383	38%
2018	\$16,258,379	\$13,767,456	85%	\$2,490,922	15%	\$2,566,560	18%
2019	\$18,085,650	\$15,404,809	85%	\$2,680,841	15%	\$ 467,494	3%
Total	56,609,705	48,816,405	86%	7,793,299	14%	10,930,744	22%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$7,660,354	\$5,064,630	66%	\$2,595,724	34%	\$1,058,938	21%

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2019-2021	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
PSAR	\$99,855,000	\$98,255,582	98%	\$1,599,418	2%	\$12,429,499	13%
Subtotal	201,937,789	187,079,342	93%	14,858,447	7%	29,464,415	16%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	2,046,869	27%
Subtotal	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	2,046,869	27%
GRAND TOTAL	\$209,472,032	\$194,613,585	93%	\$14,858,447	7%	\$31,511,284	16%

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

Performance Update

The following data is for grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2020. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of February 18, 2020.

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 2020. Grant sponsors submit these performance measure data for blockages removed, fish passages installed, and stream miles made accessible when a project is completed and in the process of closing. The Forest Family Fish Passage Program, Coastal Restoration Initiative Program, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program are not included in these totals.

Twelve salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to February 18, 2020), with six passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 83.76 miles of stream (Table 2).

Measure	FY 2020 Performance
Blockages Removed	12
Bridges Installed	0
Culverts Installed	6
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
14-1204	Reducing road density in the Naches watershed	Mid-Columbia RFEG	3.00
14-2266	Elochoman Hatchery Barrier Removal	Fish & Wildlife Dept. of	44.00
15-1050	Kristoferson Creek Fish Passage Improvements	Snohomish Conservation Dist.	0.90
15-1198	Moga Back Channel Construction	Snohomish Conservation Dist.	0.71
15-1555	Ellsworth Creek Watershed Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	0.00
15-1582	Lower Forks Creek Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	0.00
16-1753	Restoring Fish Passage on Cowiche Creek	North Yakima Conserv Dist	10.00
16-2013	West Branch LeClerc Crib Dam Cultural Inventory	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	18.00
17-1157	Unnamed Tributary to Stearns Creek Barrier Removal	Lewis County Public Works	2.40

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
18-1493	Prairie Creek Barrier Removal Project	Lewis County Public Works	4.75
Total Miles			83.76

Grant Management Performance Measures

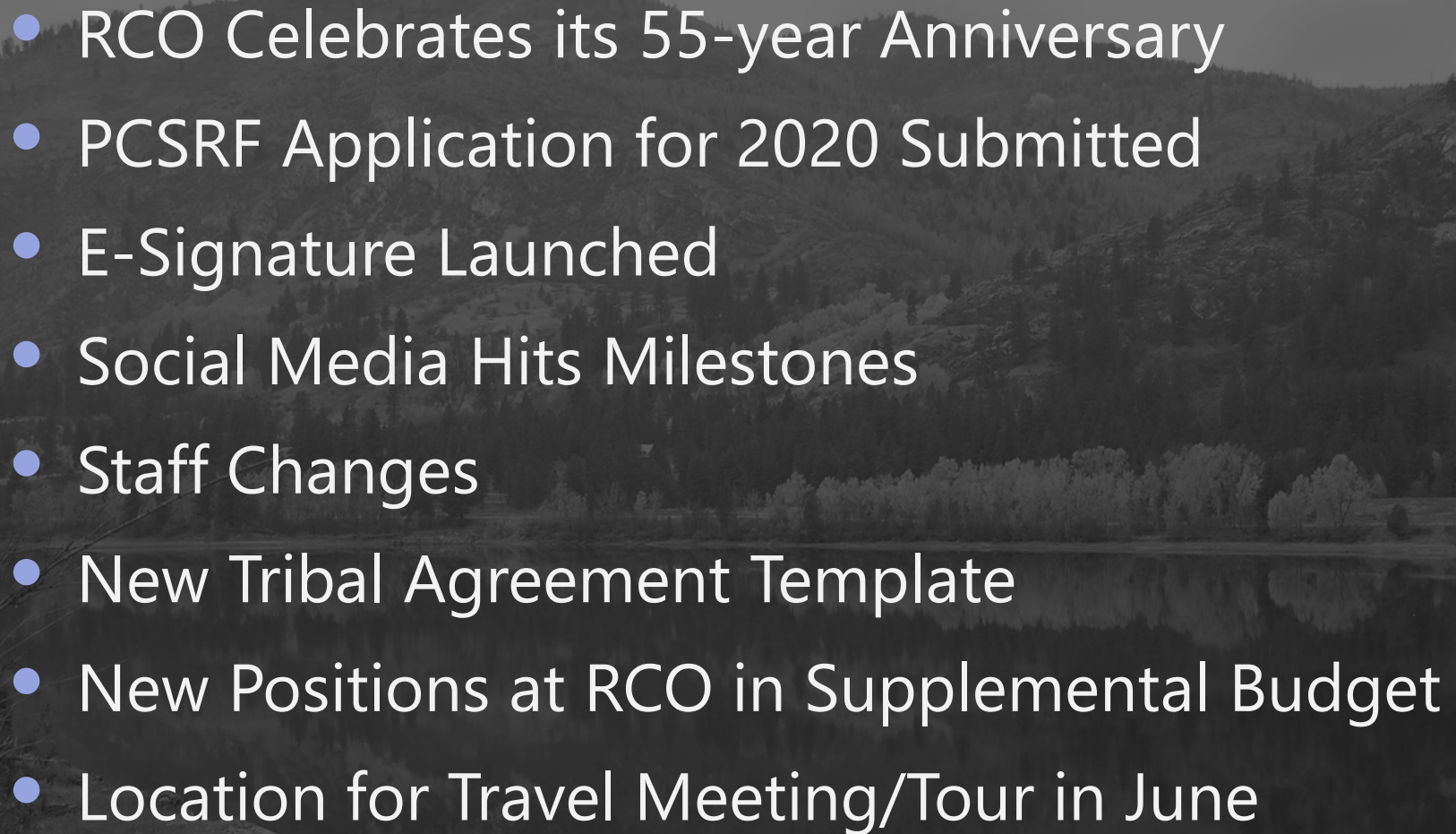
Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2020 operational performance measures as of February 18, 2020.

Measure	FY Target	FY 2020 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	86%	●	93 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mail agreements on average 27 days after a project is approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	93%	●	375 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 348 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded within 6 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	100%	●	During this fiscal year to date, 1,077 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	96%	●	98 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year. 94 closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	2	●	Two SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. This is less than the last board meeting.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	61	●	Staff have inspected 61 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2020 to reach the target.



Director's Report

Director Cottingham

- 
- RCO Celebrates its 55-year Anniversary
 - PCSRF Application for 2020 Submitted
 - E-Signature Launched
 - Social Media Hits Milestones
 - Staff Changes
 - New Tribal Agreement Template
 - New Positions at RCO in Supplemental Budget
 - Location for Travel Meeting/Tour in June

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator & Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the recent work completed by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) Salmon Recovery Section.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

GSRO Activities

Legislative and Partner Activities

GSRO has been involved in several hearings and work sessions this legislative session. The first being the House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Committee Legislative work session regarding fish passage and salmon recovery with WSDOT, WDFW, cities, and counties. GSRO, in coordination with WDFW, has also hosted weekly legislative calls with salmon stakeholders to discuss bills and hearings related to salmon recovery. This has proven to be a good partnership between GSRO and WDFW and feedback has been positive.

GSRO is on pace to meet with all the regional salmon recovery boards on an annual or more frequent basis. Since December, GSRO has attended and given presentations to the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council, and the Washington Salmon Coalition. GSRO will continue to meet with remaining regional recovery boards and other organizations located around the state.

GSRO was invited to speak at the [2020 Public Interest Environmental Law Conference](#) as a panel member discussing the Orca Task Force work.

[NOAA Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Pre-Application](#)

GSRO and RCO successfully submitted the pre-application for the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant. The pre-application is submitted jointly with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Department of Fish and Wildlife and is the first step in securing up to \$25 million in federal funding for salmon recovery in Washington. The final application is due in early March.

[Statewide Salmon Strategy Update](#)

As part of the Governor's update to the statewide salmon strategy, the consultant (Triangle Associates (Triangle)) facilitated a half-day workshop at the Washington Salmon Coalition annual meeting. There were over 30 participants from around the state, including participants from regional recovery boards, GSRO staff, and the salmon recovery funding board. Triangle also held a westside stakeholder workshop in Olympia and an eastside stakeholder workshop in Wenatchee to solicit input from salmon recovery partners and the community. These workshops were well attended and participants were engaged. Additional workshops, webinars, and individual calls with regional recovery board directors are ongoing.

The Governor sent a letter to each of the federally recognized tribes in Washington State in late 2019 inviting government-to-government consultation on the update to the statewide salmon strategy. GSRO and the Governor's office staff began meeting with tribes in December 2019. These meetings continue into 2020. Recent meetings have included the following Tribes: Nisqually Indian Tribe, Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Indian Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Snoqualmie Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Squaxin Island Tribe, and Tulalip Tribes, as well as tribal organizations (NW Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission (CRITFC), and the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT). GSRO and the Governor's office staff have met with or are scheduled to meet with all of the tribes that have accepted the invitation. Additional meetings either confirmed or in process include: Suquamish Tribe, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, and a presentation to the NWIFC Commission.

[Salmon Recovery Network](#)

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) met throughout the 2020 legislative session and the attention of this group will now focus on coordination of summer Congressional, legislative, and partner tours for salmon recovery projects.

State of Salmon Report

GSRO facilitated a meeting with several agencies and tribal organizations to kick off the 2020 State of Salmon in Watersheds reporting project. In attendance were all key state agencies and representatives from tribal organizations -- NWIFC and CRITFC. There was an engaging discussion on key salmon recovery messages and recovery progress that will be included in the report, which is due to be delivered to the legislature at the end of the year (stateofsalmon.wa.gov).

Upper Columbia Science Conference

In January, RCO and GSRO staff attended the annual Upper Columbia Science Conference held in Wenatchee. About 300 participants spent two days listening to presentations and discussing the threats and challenges of salmon recovery. This provided for a somber reality, but also offered opportunity and hope.

Salmon Recovery Conference

The 2021 Salmon Recovery Conference will be on April 27-28, 2021. The venue was selected through a competitive process. Vancouver was the successful venue. The Steering Committee for the conference has been formed and its first meeting was in February 2020. The committee's first task is determining themes and keynote speakers.

GSRO Retreat

GSRO staff held their annual business retreat in January. The meeting included additional staff from RCO, as well as Director Cottingham. The GSRO team discussed work priorities for the year and updated the GSRO work plan, which includes among other things the update to the statewide strategy, state of salmon report, salmon recovery conference, and increased coordination on legislative and Congressional budget and policy priorities.

Monitoring

An outline of the draft monitoring plan has been given to the monitoring panel for review of remote sensing and other innovative techniques. An EPA proposal to the 2020 Exchange Network is in development with partners and stakeholders.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

2020 Grant Round – implementing LEAN recommendations on timeline and process

As a result of the LEAN study recommendations, the salmon section is in the process of implementing a new grant round timeline. Funding decisions will be made in September rather than December. The PCSRF award and state funds are typically available by September and the new timeline will enable sponsors to receive their funding and start projects sooner than in past years.

PRISM enhancements identified in the LEAN study are also being implemented. The application has been streamlined, and all questions are now in the PRISM database, rather than on a separate document that must be attached. Applications are to be complete two weeks prior to the lead entity site visits. The PRISM review and evaluation module has been built and is being used for project review by lead entities, sponsors and the review panel. The new feature allows lead entities to use the module for their technical advisory group comments if they choose. To increase efficiency, all review panel comments, and sponsor responses will go into the PRISM database rather than using separate word documents, SharePoint, and emails to track comments and forms.

The grant round is underway. Fourteen of the twenty-five lead entities will have had their site visits completed or started by early March 2020. This year, RCO is also recruiting Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects as well as statewide salmon projects. Funding for the grant round comes from the state capital budget and the NOAA administered federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. To date there are 180 applications submitted in PRISM. The review panel will meet in March to complete the first round of project comments. If a sponsor has a 'clear' project, then they are done with the grant round and ready for the funding meeting in September. There is one additional review should any technical issues need to be addressed.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of February 18, 2020. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program (BAFBRB), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), the Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative program (WCRI), or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). Although RCO staff support these programs through grant and contract administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

Table 1. Board-Funded Projects

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Salmon Projects to Date	4	290	2,574	2,868
Percentage of Total	0.1%	10.1%	89.7%	

Strategic Plan Connection

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

The Salmon Recovery Management Report supports *Goal 2* of the board's strategic plan, which focuses on the board's accountability for investments. By sharing information on staff activities and the grant round processes, the board can ensure accountability for the efficient use of resources.

Attachments

Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between October 29, 2019 and February 17, 2020. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g. designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out sixty-one projects or contracts during this time.

Approved Amendments

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between October 29, 2019 and February 17, 2020. Staff processed 63 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Attachment A

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from October 29, 2019 – February 17, 2020

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>09-1279</u>	Snohomish County of	Smith Island Estuarine Restoration - Construction	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/18/2019
<u>13-1220</u>	Mason Conservation Dist	Skokomish Confluence Levee Design and Acquisition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/7/2020
<u>14-1226</u>	Sound Salmon Solutions	Cherry Creek Restoration-Ph I	Salmon Federal Projects	1/8/2020
<u>15-1172</u>	Skagit Land Trust	Lake Creek Wetland Complex Protection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	12/2/2019
<u>15-1177</u>	Wild Fish Conservancy	WRIA 14 Water Type Assessment Phase III	Salmon State Projects	12/3/2019
<u>15-1182</u>	South Puget Sound SEG	Anderson Creek Enhancement Project 2	Salmon State Projects	11/26/2019
<u>15-1205</u>	Mason Conservation Dist	Lower Mainstem Skokomish LWD Design – HWY 101	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/1/2019
<u>15-1206</u>	Mason Conservation Dist	SF Skokomish LWD Enhancement Phase 3	Salmon Federal Projects	11/1/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>15-1316</u>	Whitman Conservation District	Penawawa Creek Instream Habitat Rehabilitation	Salmon Federal Projects	1/17/2020
<u>15-1322</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Tucannon salmonid survival and habitat utilization	Salmon Federal Projects	1/6/2020
<u>15-1538</u>	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	NWIFC Hatchery Reform - 2015 Enhancements	Salmon Federal Activities	1/14/2020
<u>15-1539</u>	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	NWIFC Hatchery Reform - 2015 Monitoring	Salmon Federal Activities	1/14/2020
<u>16-1033</u>	Bisson Aquatic Consulting LLC	PERS SRV Monitoring Panel Bisson 2016	Salmon Federal Activities	12/4/2019
<u>16-1034</u>	Wild Fish Conservancy	PERS SRV Monitoring Panel Wild Fish Cons. 2016	Salmon Federal Activities	11/18/2019
<u>16-1356</u>	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	zis a ba Estuary Restoration	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/30/2019
<u>16-1405</u>	South Puget Sound SEG	Little Fishtrap Estuary Restoration	Salmon State Projects	1/29/2020
<u>16-1652</u>	Skagit County Public Works	South Fork Delta Channel Final Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/14/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1783</u>	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Spring Chinook Survival in Lake Wenatchee	Salmon Federal Activities	1/14/2020
<u>16-2013</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	West Branch LeClerc Crib Dam Cultural Inventory	Salmon State Projects	1/24/2020
<u>16-2048</u>	Whatcom County FCZD	Lower Mainstem Nooksack Habitat Assessment	Salmon State Projects	12/18/2019
<u>16-2051</u>	Nooksack Indian Tribe	NF Nooksack (Xwqélém) Maple Reach Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	12/2/2019
<u>16-2094</u>	Columbia Conservation Dist	Tucannon River PA 28 Phase II Habitat Restoration	Salmon State Projects	1/13/2020
<u>16-2183</u>	Rudeen & Associates, LLC	PRISM Maintenance FY 2017 - 2018	Salmon Federal Activities	11/6/2019
<u>16-2525</u>	Cramer Fish Sciences	Cramer Fish Sciences - Project Effectiveness	Salmon Federal Activities	1/6/2020
<u>17-1063</u>	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Nearshore Acquisition Strategy Development	Salmon State Projects	1/28/2020
<u>17-1066</u>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Gobar Creek Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/30/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>17-1067</u>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Grays Pond Reconnection Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/30/2019
<u>17-1069</u>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Kwoneesum Dam Removal Design	Salmon Federal Projects	11/6/2019
<u>17-1096</u>	Lower Columbia FEG	Green River Reach 1 Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/31/2019
<u>17-1104</u>	Trout Unlimited - WA Coast	Ziegler Creek Norwood Road Crossing Abandonment	Salmon Federal Projects	2/5/2020
<u>17-1121</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	2016 Chinook Mark-Selective Fisheries Monitoring	Salmon Federal Activities	1/3/2020
<u>17-1126</u>	Lewis Conservation District	Lucas Creek Tributaries Designs	Salmon Federal Projects	11/18/2019
<u>17-1154</u>	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	IMW - Skagit Forks Final Design and Permitting	Salmon Federal Projects	11/14/2019
<u>17-1155</u>	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Carey Slough - Fish Passage Final Design	Salmon Federal Projects	12/23/2019
<u>17-1157</u>	Lewis County Public Works	Unnamed Tributary to Stearns Creek Barrier Removal	Salmon Federal Projects	11/24/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>17-1253</u>	Lummi Nation	SF Cavanaugh-Fobes Phase 2 Restoration Design	Salmon State Projects	12/3/2019
<u>17-1260</u>	Nooksack Indian Tribe	NF Nooksack (Xwqélém) Farmhouse Ph 4 Design	Salmon State Projects	12/2/2019
<u>17-1287</u>	The Lands Council	West Branch LeClerc Restoration - Diamond City	Salmon State Projects	2/10/2020
<u>17-1313</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Maximizing Natural Origin Recruitment - 2016/17	Salmon Federal Activities	2/4/2020
<u>18-1009</u>	D.J. Warren and Associates Inc	HATCHERY REFORM (HSRG) - DJ Warren	Salmon Federal Activities	12/4/2019
<u>18-1010</u>	Northwest Marine Tech Inc	HATCHERY REFORM (HSRG) - Lee Blankenship	Salmon Federal Activities	1/10/2020
<u>18-1729</u>	Capitol Land Trust	Deschutes Oxbow Acquisition	Salmon Federal Projects	2/11/2020
<u>18-2178</u>	Lower Columbia Fish Recov Bd	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board 2018-19	Salmon Federal Activities	10/29/2019
<u>18-2181</u>	Walla Walla Community College	Snake River Salmon Recovery 2018-19	Salmon Federal Activities	10/29/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>18-2182</u>	Upper Columbia Salmon Rec. BD	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board 2018-19	Salmon Federal Activities	10/30/2019
<u>18-2186</u>	King County of	Green-Duwamish-CentralPS WRIA9 Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2187</u>	Island Co. Dept. Natural Res.	Island County Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2188</u>	Klickitat County of	Klickitat County Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2189</u>	King County of	Lake WA-Cedar-Sammamish WRIA 8 Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2191</u>	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2192</u>	Clallam County of	North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2193</u>	University of Washington	North Pacific Coast Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2194</u>	Pacific County of	Willapa Bay Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>18-2196</u>	Kalispel Tribe	Pend Oreille Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2197</u>	Pierce County of	Pierce County Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2199</u>	San Juan County of	San Juan Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2205</u>	Kitsap County of	West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2206</u>	Lummi Nation	WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2367</u>	Thurston Regional Plng Council	WRIA13 Salmon Recovery Lead Entity 2018-19	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2597</u>	Tulalip Tribes	Snohomish Lead Entity PSAR Capacity Mgmt 2018-2019	PSAR-Lead Entity Contracts	10/29/2019
<u>18-2628</u>	Quinault Indian Nation	Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity 2018-2019	Salmon-LE State Contracts	12/8/2019

Attachment B

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
18-1285	Chehalis Basin Fish Screening – Phase 2	Lewis Conservation District	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	11/26/2019	Reduced sponsor match percentage from 46.97% to 28.93% due to inability to secure full match amount.
18-1758	Mid Nemah Stream Habitat Assessment and Restoration Design	Pacific Conservation District	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	11/6/2019	Cost increase of \$15,000 to cover unanticipated field data collection costs.
16-1408	Spurgeon Creek Remeander	South Puget Sound SEG	PSAR	Cost Change	11/21/2019	Cost decrease of \$200,000. Due to design analysis, the project scope changed to decrease channel work.
16-1644	Kukutali Preserve Tombolo Restoration	Swinomish Tribe	PSAR	Cost Change	12/19/2019	Cost decrease of \$100,000; Scope complete. Project under budget.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>16-1790</u>	Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition	Chelan- Douglas Land Trust	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	12/3/2019	Cost increase of \$60,418 due to increased weed removal, native revegetation, fencing and gravel parking construction.
<u>18-2228</u>	Lower Big Beef Creek Acquisitions	Hood Canal SEG	Salmon - State	Cost Change	12/6/2019	Reduced match from 42% to 38%. Project scope remains the same.
<u>18-1298</u>	Elwha Estuary Conservation and Restoration Phase 1	Coastal Watershed Institute	PSAR	Cost Change	12/16/2019	Cost increase of \$94,981 to complete the acquisition. These funds were from #18-1315 which was closed, not complete.
<u>14-1737</u>	Barkley Irrigation Company: Under Pressure	Trout Unlimited	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	1/22/2020	Added \$302,889 of SRFB funds to the agreement along with \$302,889 in match to aid in the budget shortfall for the final construction, Phase 7 - gravity pipeline.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>18-1771</u>	MacKaye Harbor Beach Rest Design	San Juan County Public Works	Salmon-Federal	Cost Change	1/6/2020	Reduced match to 0% and add \$12,250 in 15-17 PSAR returned funds (the amount which was previously provided as match). Design only, no match required.
<u>17-1052</u>	Big Quilcene Riparian Protection	Jefferson County	Salmon-Federal	Cost Change	1/13/2020	Cost increase of \$91,384, using returned PSAR funds to complete acquisitions.
<u>19-1414</u>	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition III	Skagit Land Trust	PSAR Large Cap	Project Sponsor Change	12/13/2019	Added Seattle City Light to the grant agreement as a secondary sponsor to hold title for match properties only.
<u>15-1182</u>	Anderson Creek Enhancement Project 2	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon - State	Project Type Change	11/5/2019	Changed the project type from restoration to planning and adjusted scope of work to design only.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>16-1367</u>	Dungeness Floodplain Restoration – Kinkade Phase	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	PSAR	Project Type Change	12/5/2019	This is a type, scope, and cost change amendment. Removed restoration and added planning. Cost increase of \$94,981 to finish planning.
<u>18-1443</u>	Stillaguamish Floodplain Acq. & Rest.	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Salmon - State	Project Type Change	12/16/2019	Changed project to acquisition only. Properties will not need restoration as part of the scope.

GSRO Report

Erik Neatherlin

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

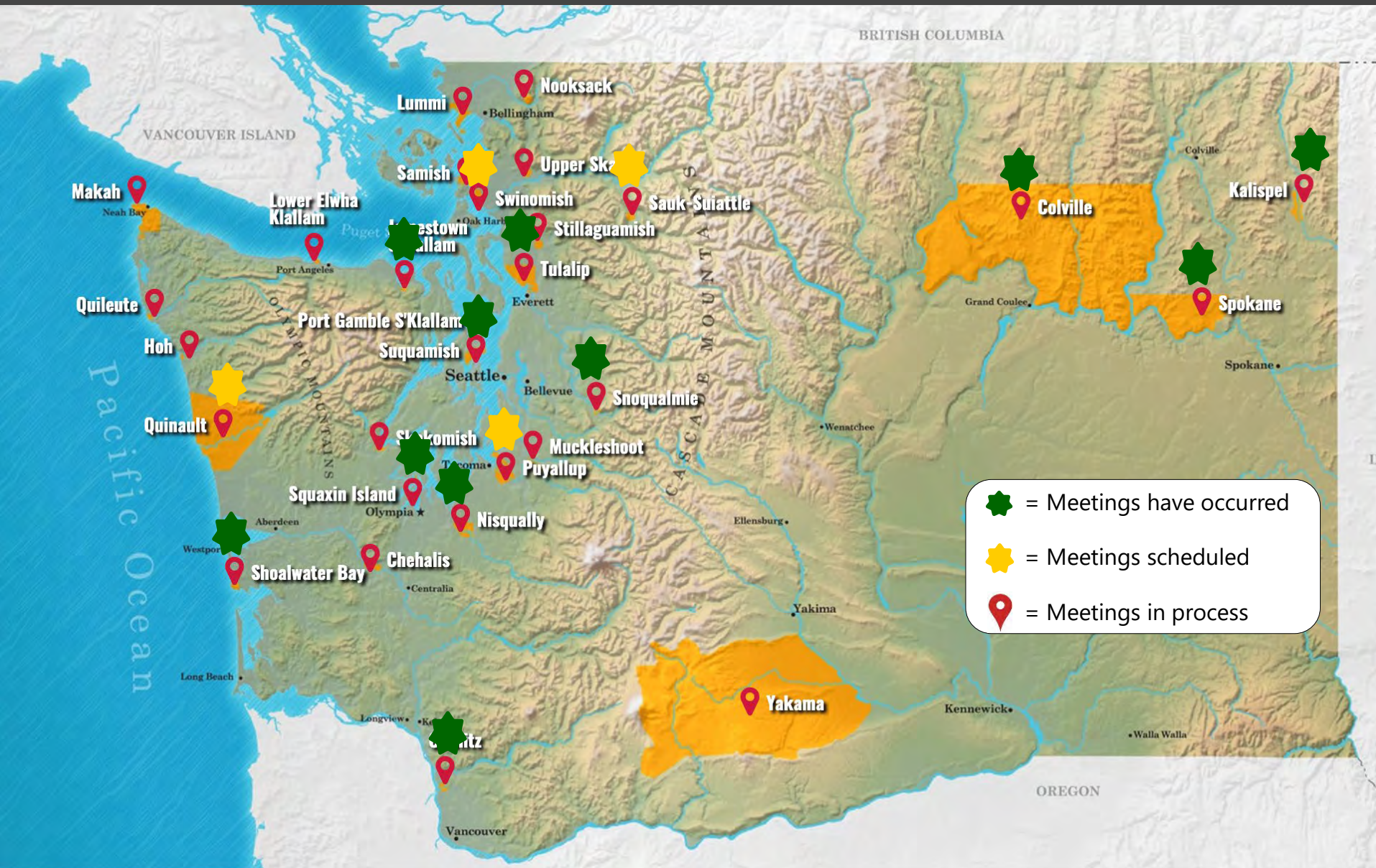
Item 2



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Salmon Recovery
Funding Board

Meetings with Tribes



Statewide Strategy Workshops



2021 Salmon Recovery Conference

Vancouver, WA – April 27-28, 2021



Questions?



Salmon Section Report

A close-up photograph of a salmon swimming in a shallow, clear stream. The fish is positioned horizontally, with its head towards the right and its tail towards the left. Its body is dark, almost black, with a shimmering, iridescent quality. The dorsal fin is visible, showing a mix of brown and orange. The water is clear, revealing a rocky and pebbly stream bed. Sunlight filters through the water, creating bright, shimmering reflections on the surface and within the water column. The background is a soft-focus view of green foliage and trees along the stream bank.

Tara Galuska

2020 Grant Round

- 189 Salmon Applications (State and PSAR)
- 8 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital Grant Program projects



2020 Grant Round Site Visits

- 15 of 25 lead entities site visits by March 25th
- Alternative formats



Questions?



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

Title: Delegation of Authority to Director to Resolve Potential Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Audit Funding

Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham – Director; Scott Robinson – Deputy Director

Summary

This memo summarizes three options to resolve the potential PCSRF audit funding repayment. This memo also sets up a board decision to delegate authority to the RCO Director to utilize one or more of these options to resolve any repayment obligations.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted a federal audit of RCO's 2010 and 2011 PCSRF awards from the Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The auditors examined all elements of the awards, including direct expenditures, related administrative costs, metric reporting, match, grants, and contracts.

The audit began in May of 2017 and finished up in September of 2018. The OIG released a final audit report on December 20, 2018 outlining a total of nine findings, six with associated costs and recommended NOAA seek recovery in the amount of \$1,936,999. RCO responded to each finding, disagreeing with the conclusion requiring repayment. In May 2019 the OIG sent a letter which stated that RCO's response did not provide sufficient evidence to refute the claims. However, RCO could appeal within 30 days.

RCO sent an appeal letter to the OIG on June 14, 2019 and expects to receive a response in the near future.

Potential Audit Final Findings and Options for Repayment

As of the drafting of this memo RCO has not received a response to the appeal sent on June 14, 2019.

RCO anticipates having to pay back a portion or all of the funds originally outlined in the December 2018 final audit. Staff have created 3 options to resolve the potential findings. These options do not include direct repayment of the funds back to Department of Commerce, but rather propose addressing any repayment obligations through funding and implementing projects that have been reviewed by the board and that are defined as acceptable to PCSRF. Below are the proposed staff options:

OPTIONS	PROS	CONS
<p>Option 1: Fund Partially Funded Projects from the 2019 Grant Round, adopted by the board on December 12, 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 projects were identified as partially funded in the 2019 SRFB Funding Report (PRISM Ranked List Report). 22 of those projects have subsequently received full funding or will have full funding by the 2020 grant round. \$385,929 would fully fund the remaining 8 partially funded projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All regions except Lower Columbia and Mid-Columbia would receive funding. 7 lead entities would receive funding Fully funds remaining 8 projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No funding for Lower Columbia or Mid-Columbia regions. 17 lead entities would not receive funding. Is outside of allocation formula. Projects are the lower ranked projects. Perception of lack of fairness in not knowing that alternates could receive funding. Would spread the funding over multiple projects. May be more challenging to get buy-in from NOAA. This alone is not enough to fulfill potential audit repayment.
Total Amount Ready - Option 1: \$385,929		

<p>Option 2: Fund one or both of the following Targeted Investment Delisting projects in Hood Canal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Snow, \$1,354,700.00 • Lower Big Beef (current funding gap is \$480,000). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects were included in RCO's budget request to the Legislature for the 19-21 biennium (but not funded). • Targeted investment ranked list already submitted to the SRFB in September 2019. • A portion of the Snow Creek project has already been Cleared by the Review Panel. • The Big Beef Acquisition is fully cleared by the Review Panel. • There was no public comment against the board funding these projects. • Projects already ranked and submitted by the lead entity and region. • Both are high priority projects that benefit an ESA stock, Hood Canal summer chum. • Was part of a process that already occurred with the SRFB. • Hood Canal closest to delisting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A portion of the Snow Creek project still must be reviewed by the Review Panel. • Appearance of favoring one watershed over the others. • Funding the Lower Big Beef project alone is not enough to fulfill potential audit repayment. Funding both is likely more than will be required as repayment.
<p>Total Amount Ready - Option 2: \$480,000 (or \$1,834,700 if both are chosen).</p>		

<p>Option 3: Fund the following Targeted Investment Delisting project in Mid-Columbia Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Naches Floodplain \$600,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already submitted the targeted investment ranked list to the SRFB in Sept 2019. • Project already ranked and submitted by the lead entity and region. • Was part of a process that already occurred with the SRFB. • Design is underway and almost complete. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Columbia is further from delisting than Hood Canal. • This alone is not enough to fulfill potential audit repayment.
<p>Total Amount Ready - Option 3: \$600,000</p>		

Staff Recommendation

Because the final audit decision has not been received, staff recommends that the board move to approve delegation of authority to the RCO director to respond accordingly using these options.

Motion: Move to approve delegation of authority to the RCO Director to resolve the federal audit finding and repayment using the strategy outlined above, funding projects in the following priority order and acknowledging that the strategy for repayment is dependent upon the final amount owed to NOAA and actual project amounts may change as updated information is received.

1. Fund partially funded projects from 2019 grant round: \$385,929
2. Fund Lower Big Beef in Hood Canal (targeted investment): \$480,000
3. Fund Little Naches Floodplain in Mid-Columbia (targeted investment): \$600,000
4. Fund Lower Snow in Hood Canal (targeted investment): \$1,354,700.00

Attachment

Attachment A – List of Partially Funded Projects

Region	Lead Entity	Rank	Project Number	Type	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Proposed Salmon	Total Proposed	FUNDING GAP
Coastal	Chehalis Basin Lead Entity	5	19-1280	Rest	Lewis Conservation District	Hogue Fish Passage-Phase II	\$120,043	\$99,000	\$53,968	\$152,968	\$66,075
Hood Canal/Pug et Sound	Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity	4	19-1285	Acq	Hood Canal SEG	Big Quilcene Moon Valley Acquisition	\$369,913	\$66,872	\$289,184	\$289,184	\$80,729
Coastal	North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	3	19-1397	Rest	Clallam Conservation Dist	FS Road 29 MP 15.9 Culvert Replacement	\$156,938	\$28,140	\$132,275	\$160,415	\$24,663
Coastal	Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	2	19-1522	Rest	The Nature Conservancy	Lower Clearwater Tributaries Restoration	\$226,701	\$40,008	\$190,329	\$230,337	\$36,372
Snake River	Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	7	19-1463	Plan	Asotin Co Conservation Dist	Asotin Creek PA 06 Design	\$85,000	\$16,000	\$75,531	\$91,531	\$9,469
Upper Columbia	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	12	19-1489	Rest	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Lower Wenatchee Instream Flow Enhance Phase II	\$250,000	\$2,247,985	\$188,306	\$2,436,291	\$61,694
Upper Columbia	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	7	19-1475	Rest	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Wenatchee River-Monitor Side Channel Construction	\$148,265	\$148,265	\$41,406	\$189,671	\$106,859

Puget Sound	West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	1	19-1390	Rest	Kitsap County	Chico Creek Salmon Park Habitat Restoration	\$266,407	\$48,000	\$266,339	\$266,339	\$68
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TOTAL \$385,929.00



Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund Audit

Director Kaleen Cottingham

OPTION	PROS	CONS
<p>Option 1: Fund Partially Funded Projects from the 2019 Grant Round, adopted by the board on December 12, 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 projects were identified as partially funded in the 2019 SRFB Funding Report (PRISM Ranked List Report). 22 of those projects have subsequently received full funding or will have full funding by the 2020 grant round. \$385,929 would fully fund the remaining 8 partially funded projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All regions except Lower Columbia and Mid-Columbia would receive funding. 7 lead entities would receive funding Fully funds remaining 8 projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No funding for Lower Columbia or Mid-Columbia regions. 17 lead entities would not receive funding. Is outside of allocation formula. Projects are the lower ranked projects. Perception of lack of fairness in not knowing that alternates could receive funding. Would spread the funding over multiple projects. May be more challenging to get buy-in from NOAA. This alone is not enough to fulfill potential audit repayment.

Total Amount Ready - Option 1: \$385,929

OPTION	PROS	CONS
<p>Option 2: Fund one or both of the following Targeted Investment Delisting projects in Hood Canal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Snow, \$1,354,700.00 • Lower Big Beef (current funding gap is \$480,000). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects were included in RCO's budget request to the Legislature for the 19-21 biennium (but not funded). • Targeted investment ranked list already submitted to the SRFB in September 2019. • A portion of the Snow Creek project has already been Cleared by the Review Panel. • The Big Beef Acquisition is fully cleared by the Review Panel. • There was no public comment against the board funding these projects. • Projects already ranked and submitted by the lead entity and region. • Both are high priority projects that benefit an ESA stock, Hood Canal summer chum. • Was part of a process that already occurred with the SRFB. • Hood Canal closest to delisting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding for Lower Columbia or Mid-Columbia regions. • 17 lead entities would not receive funding. • Is outside of allocation formula. • Projects are the lower ranked projects. • Perception of lack of fairness in not knowing that alternates could receive funding. • Would spread the funding over multiple projects. May be more challenging to get buy-in from NOAA. • This alone is not enough to fulfill potential audit repayment.

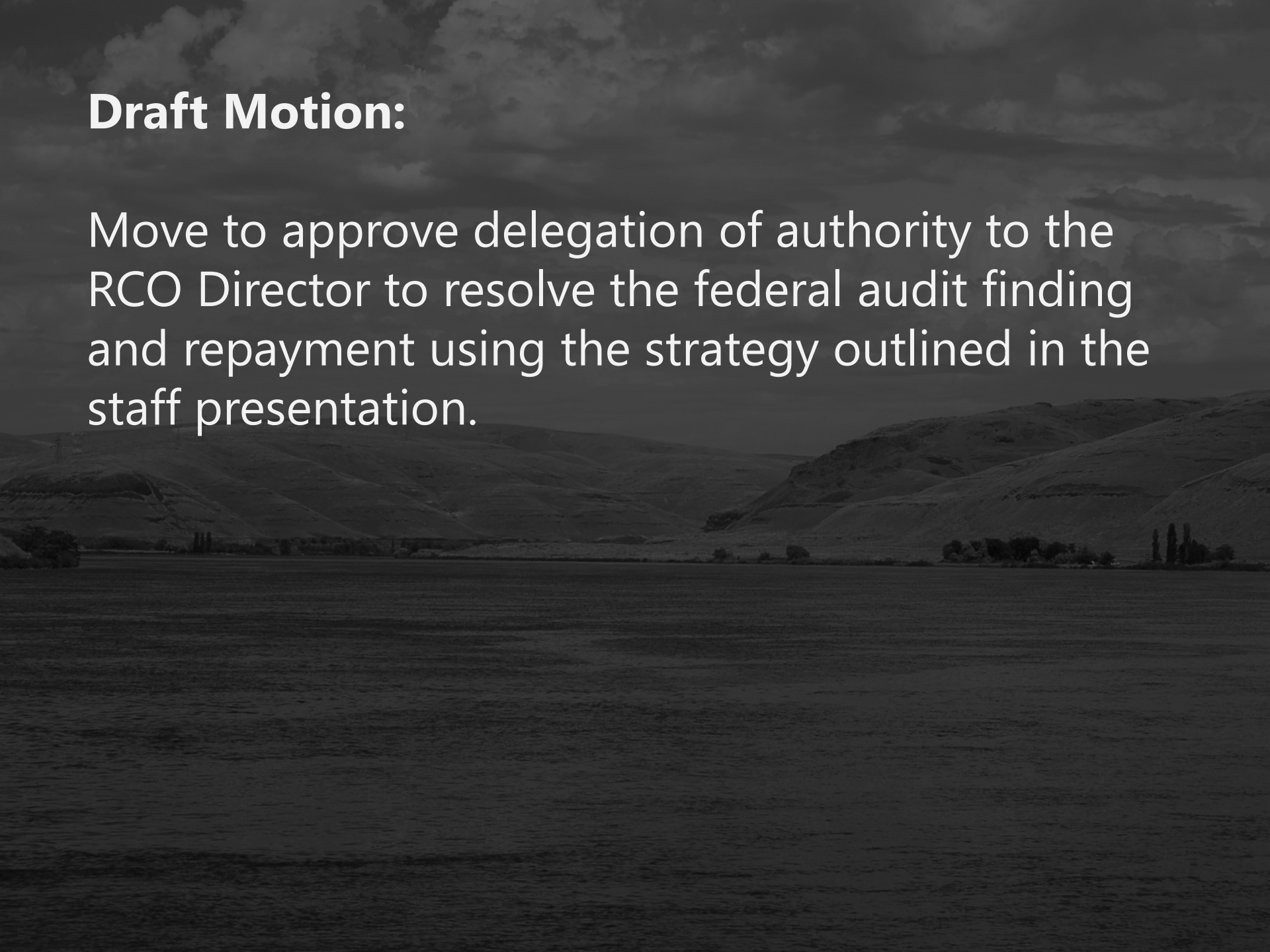
Total Amount Ready - Option 2: \$480,000 or \$1,834,700 (if both are chosen)

OPTION	PROS	CONS
<p data-bbox="19 75 627 278">Option 3: Fund the following Targeted Investment Delisting project in Mid-Columbia Region</p> <ul data-bbox="19 328 627 428" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="19 328 627 428">• Little Naches Floodplain \$600,000	<ul data-bbox="627 75 1304 685" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="627 75 1304 228">• Already submitted the targeted investment ranked list to the SRFB in Sept 2019.<li data-bbox="627 242 1304 395">• Project already ranked and submitted by the lead entity and region.<li data-bbox="627 409 1304 562">• Was part of a process that already occurred with the SRFB.<li data-bbox="627 576 1304 685">• Design is underway and almost complete.	<ul data-bbox="1304 75 1912 399" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1304 75 1912 228">• Mid-Columbia is further from delisting than Hood Canal.<li data-bbox="1304 242 1912 399">• This alone is not enough to fulfill potential audit repayment.

Total Amount Ready - Option 3: \$600,000

Draft Motion:

Move to approve delegation of authority to the RCO Director to resolve the federal audit finding and repayment using the strategy outlined in the staff presentation.



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 19, 2020

Title: Criteria for Future Targeted Investments

Prepared By: Katie Pruitt, RCO Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes progress to create a targeted investments policy focused on board-identified strategic priorities. Staff are considering stakeholder input. A draft policy for board consideration will be presented at the June meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) directed staff to develop a targeted investment policy to guide future funding decisions. The goal of the policy is to direct funds greater than the current grant round allocation to board-identified priorities. The investments could occur when the board receives funding from the state legislature that is more than the regional grant round allocation of \$18 million¹.

Developing a Targeted Investments Program

2019 Targeted Investments

In 2019, the board moved to allocate \$6,430,562 to high priority projects in regions nearing delisting. This funding decision was made after the board set the 2019 grant round allocation at \$18,000,000. The remaining funds were targeted to projects that: 1)

¹ This is a combination of federal and state funds. The grant round allocation has been \$18 million over the past five biennia.

were located in a region nearing its recovery goals², 2) address a critical element (limiting factor) in achieving viability of a population, 3) were selected by the regional organization, 4) were included on the lead entity ranked list, and 5) support a large project not possible through the existing regional allocations and competitive grant process.

Policy Considerations

Based on the September 2019 decision to target investment in areas nearing delisting, the board directed staff to develop a targeted investments policy. In December 2019, the board included strategic priorities in the policy to allow for an adaptive management approach for future investments. For example, the strategic priority to target investments in regions nearing their recovery goals was applied in the 2019/21 biennium. In future biennia, the priority could have a different focus.

Stakeholder Input

On January 29, 2020, staff met with the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), representing lead entity coordinators, and some members of the regional recovery organizations. After considering their input, staff is seeking additional time to consider program mechanics. It is RCO staff's intent to develop a policy that is adaptive to strategic priorities, but provides clarity, certainty, and avoids unnecessary complications when implemented. Staff will present a draft policy to the board in June 2020.

2019/2020 Project Schedule

DATE	ACTION
September 2019	Board funded targeted investments for projects in regions nearing delisting; staff was directed to develop a targeted investments policy.
December 2019	Board direction to focus policy on strategic priorities.
Jan/Feb 2020	Staff met with WSC to discuss targeted investments policy.
March 2020	Staff briefing board on policy development status.
Apr/May 2020	Staff to meet with WSC and COR on draft policy.

² Recovery region has species nearing their recovery goals per NMFS biological status review.

June 2020	Board Direction on public review of policy.
September 2020	Board to consider policy adoption.

Strategic Plan Connection

This project supports **Goal 1** of the board's strategic plan: Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Hafid Tahraoui
Amana Global Company
P.O. Box 88764
Seattle, WA 98138
206-612-7070
hafid1416@yahoo.com

December 26, 2019

URGENT REQUEST

RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham
and SRFB Members

Re: **Urgent Request for Help and Intervention to Stop WLRD's illegal actions of eviction and denying me relocation entitlement**

Dear Ms. Cottingham and Board Members,

I am requesting the help and intervention of your agency to stop King County Water and land resources Division's (WLRD) illegal actions of evicting me from business premises and denying me my relocation entitlement under the Uniform relocation and acquisition Act RCW 8.26 and WAC 468-100. Because of the RCO-SRFB's grant No. 16-1899, and as the funding agency for the project, you have the legal obligation to stop WLRD's illegal actions as required under WAC 468-100-004(3) which provides:

(3) Monitoring and corrective action: The funding agency will monitor compliance with this chapter, and the acquiring agency and/or displacing agency shall take whatever corrective action is necessary to comply with chapter 8.26 RCW and this chapter. The funding agency may also apply sanctions in accordance with applicable program regulations.

WAC 468-100-004(3) and 49 CFR Part 24.4(b) (Federal Laws)

First, on November 12, 2019, WLRD condemned and appropriated my leasehold interest in violation of WAC 420-12-090 which makes it clear that "the board (SRFB) shall not approve any grant for proposals where the title to property is acquired through or as a direct result of condemnation proceedings. All acquisitions must be on a willing-seller basis."

Now, WLRD is evicting me from business premises and requiring me to move out by December 31, 2019, without providing me with the necessary time to vacate in orderly manner and without providing me with the relocation assistance as required under the Uniform Act RCW 8.26 and WAC 468-100.

The WLRD took these illegal actions as a retaliation for my previous complaints about its violations of my rights under the Uniform Act.

WLRD is requiring me to vacate on short notice despite knowing of the move plan for the relocation of my business which estimated that it will take 4 to 6 months to complete the move. The move plan was approved by WLRD in January 2017. WLRD's notice to vacate on short notice is in violation of WAC 468-100-203, 205 and 206, which provide:

WAC 468-100-203(3)

(a) General: No lawful occupant shall be required to move unless the occupant has received at least ninety days advance written notice of the earliest date by which he or she may be required to move.

WAC 468-100-205(1)

(1) Relocation planning: During the early stages of development, state and federal-aid programs or projects shall be planned in such a manner that the problems associated with the displacement of individuals, families, businesses, farms, and nonprofit organizations are recognized and solutions are developed to minimize the adverse impacts of displacement. Such planning, where appropriate, shall precede any action by an agency that will cause displacement, and should include an evaluation of program resources available to carry out timely and orderly relocations.

(d) Planning for displaced businesses which are reasonably expected to involve complex or lengthy moving processes or small businesses with limited financial resources and/or few alternative relocation sites should include an analysis of business moving problems.

WAC 468-100-206

(1) Eviction for cause must conform to applicable state and local law. Any person who occupies the real property and is not in unlawful occupancy on the date of the initiation of negotiations, is presumed to be entitled to

relocation payments and other assistance set forth in this part

I am current in my rent payment and not in violation of the term of my leasehold.

In addition, despite the fact that the determination for my relocation entitlement was made and approved in June 2017, now WLRD is denying me payment for relocation in violation of RCW 8.26.035. Given the complexity and the magnitude of the move of my business, the advance payment for relocation is necessary to start the move because I do not have the financial resources to pay up front for moving expenses and request reimbursement later.

WAC 468-100-207(3)

(3) Advance payments: If a person demonstrates the need for an advance relocation payment in order to avoid or reduce a hardship, the agency shall issue the payment, subject to such safeguards as are appropriate to ensure that the objective of the payment is accomplished.

WLRD has acted and continue to act in bad faith in carrying out its obligation under the Uniform Act in violation of RCW 8.26.010(1) which states that:

(1) The purposes of this chapter are [to] establish a uniform policy for the fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced as a direct result of public works programs of the state and local governments in order that such persons shall not suffer disproportionate injuries as a result of programs designed for the benefit of the public as a whole and to minimize the hardship of displacement on such persons;

After defrauding me out of my leasehold interest (valued between \$450k and \$1.4 million based on WLRD's appraisal or outside estimate), now the WLRD is evicting me on short notice in order to deprive me out my business inventory and not paying for my relocation benefit. The RCO and the SRFB have the legal obligation to stop WLRD's illegal actions as required under WAC 468-100-004(3). Therefore, I am asking for your urgent help and intervention before I lose my business. I hope to hear from you as soon as possible and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely

/S/ Hafid Tahraoui

Hafid Tahraoui



STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

December 27, 2019

Amana Global Company
Hafid Tahraoui
22230 Russell Road
Kent, WA 98032

RE: Urgent Request for Help and Intervention to Stop WLRD's illegal actions of eviction and denying me relocation entitlement

Dear Mr. Tahraoui:

Thank you for your December 26, 2019, email regarding Project #16-1899 (In Progress) Lower Russell Levee Setback & Habitat Restoration Project. As you may recall, we have sent you numerous letters informing you of who you need to work with to secure your relocation assistance benefits.

Please note, RCO funded the river restoration construction project, not the purchase of the land and building where your business is located. King County used local funds to acquire the property, and therefore the statutory prohibitions cited in your letter regarding condemnation proceedings and eviction do not apply.

We understand the county's relocation agent, Mr. Brad Thomas, has contacted you multiple times to complete the relocation process. We understand the county is working to follow the Federal Relocation Act requirements. We have requested a letter from the relocation agent to demonstrate whether the county is meeting the federal requirements.

You need to work with the county and their relocation agent to secure your relocation assistance benefits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kaleen Cottingham".

Kaleen Cottingham
Director

cc: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager
Elizabeth Butler, Salmon Grants Manager
Linda Holocek, King County, DNRP/WLRD/RRS



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

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



(360) 902-3000
TTY: (800) 833-6388

E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

January 7, 2020

Amana Global Company
Hafid Tahraoui
P.O. Box 88764
Seattle, WA 98138

RE: Response to RCO Director's Letter

Dear Mr. Tahraoui:

I understand you have been contacting Salmon Recovery Funding Board members regarding your dissatisfaction with the business relocation process associated with Project #16-1899 (In Progress) Lower Russell Levee Setback & Habitat Restoration Project.

I have sent you numerous letters informing you of who you need to work with to secure your relocation assistance benefits. I reviewed many of the King County letters to you pertaining to the relocation process, the benefits you are eligible for, and the timeframe and options for appeal. It appears that you are not cooperating with King County. I strongly encourage you to work with King County and their relocation agent to secure your relocation benefits.

As I explained in my earlier letter, RCO funded a river restoration construction project, not the purchase of the land and building where your business is located. King County used local funds to acquire the property, and therefore the statutory prohibitions cited in your letter regarding condemnation proceedings and eviction do not apply.

Per one of my earlier letters to you, I have asked King County to work with their relocation agents to compile a summary of notices provided to Amana Global Company demonstrating whether or not they are in compliance with the Uniform Relocation Act.

I will continue to keep the Salmon Recovery Board members apprised of this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kaleen Cottingham".

Kaleen Cottingham
Director

cc: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager
Elizabeth Butler, Salmon Grants Manager
Linda Holocek, King County, DNRP/WLRD/RRS





SKAGIT FISHERIES
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP

2 0 1 9

ANNUAL REPORT

*Engaging our Community
in Restoring Salmon*



SKAGIT VALLEY MATTERS

The Skagit Valley is an incredible place. We are surrounded by sweeping vistas of snow peaked mountains, scenic waterways that wind their way through our communities, easy access to a wealth of amazing recreation opportunities, lush forest lands, and productive family farms. It is a spectacular place. There is no place like it on earth. Our fish, wildlife, and communities know it. Thousands of migrating birds utilize the healthy habitats of the Skagit Valley, the diversity of salmon is like no other in the continental United States, and people come from all over the world to experience the magnificence and beauty of what our landscapes have to offer.



The cornerstone of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group is assisting local landowners with making improvements to their land which in turn ensures the health of the Skagit Valley and all those that benefit from its values. The Skagit

Fisheries Enhancement Group helps landowners with navigating the complex world of designing habitat restoration projects, acquiring permits, securing funding, and ultimately implementing the projects in a cost effective manner. We engage communities

with helping agencies with limited resources to restore public lands. And we provide free education programs to students helping to teach them to be future leaders and stewards of our amazing Skagit Valley.

Ensuring that these scenic landscapes and healthy habitats continue to exist for future generations of people and wildlife is imperative. Whether you enjoy the delicious food grown in the rich Skagit Valley soil, the ability to access world class recreation opportunities out your back door, the prospect of catching an elusive steelhead trout, or the ability to catch a glimpse of a magnificent orca whale breaching in the Sound we must protect, preserve, and restore the Skagit to ensure these opportunities continue to exist.

Each of these projects large or small is ensuring that the Skagit Valley remains a world class place for salmon, birds, orcas, and our human communities. Thank you for all you do to keep our Skagit Valley a remarkable place to live, work, and play. With your help and support, the Skagit will continue to be a magical place for future generations.


ALISON STUDLEY
Executive Director



Our mission is to educate and engage the community in habitat restoration and watershed stewardship to enhance salmon.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
PO Box 2497
1202 South 2nd Street, Suite C
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Phone: 360-336-0172
www.skagitfisheries.org

SFEG is an independent nonprofit
501 c(3) organization. All donations are tax
deductible to the extent that the law allows.
Tax ID# 94-3165939

PHOTO CREDITS: SFEG STAFF,
DREW FLESHMAN, AND AARON LOGUE



SUMMARY OF 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RIPARIAN PLANTINGS

16,659

NATIVE PLANTS

*Planted covering
nearly 14 acres along
local streams*

RIPARIAN MAINTENANCE

203

ACRES

*of native plant care
and invasive plant
removal*

KNOTWEED TREATMENT

2,586

ACRES

*of floodplain
surveyed along
36 miles of river*

HABITAT OPENED

4

MILES

*of stream opened
by removing fish
passage barriers*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

6,254

INDIVIDUALS

*reached through
community engagement
programs*

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

8,757

HOURS

*donated by
community
volunteers*

KIDS EDUCATED

1,880

STUDENTS

*engaged in
environmental science
education programs*

2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME

PUBLIC FUNDS: \$1,578,022

PRIVATE FUNDS: \$113,753

IN-KIND DONATIONS: \$343,572

\$2,035,347

EXPENSES

PROJECTS & PROGRAMS: \$1,508,304

ADMINISTRATION (10%): \$168,212

\$1,676,516



RESTORING SALMON AND ORCAS

ORCA RECOVERY PROJECTS

Increasing the abundance of Chinook salmon for Orcas to eat is key to the recovery of this iconic species. One of the highest priority goals to increase numbers of Chinook salmon in Puget Sound is to reconnect floodplain habitat along the rivers in the Skagit watershed. Currently SFEG has partnerships for three habitat restoration projects funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Killer Whale Research and Conservation Grant Program. These three restoration projects are specifically being implemented to increase Chinook salmon in the Skagit River and provide more prey for Orca whales. In Marblemount, we continue to work with Skagit County Parks to restore and enhance historic side channel habitat in Pressentin Park while also increasing amenities for recreation and other wildlife. A project at Cedar Grove will remove a culvert crossing and restore salmon access to Ovenell Slough to provide valuable habitat for young Chinook salmon. And in the Skagit River Delta we are working to reconnect the lower part of Britt Slough to the Skagit River on WDFW land in order to increase habitat for Chinook salmon. These projects will result in significant habitat gains for Chinook salmon and will ultimately provide more food for Orcas and help ensure their survival.



Volunteers assist SFEG staff to document the number of young salmon using side channels being restored and reconnected along the Skagit River. Increasing access to this type of habitat is critical to increasing the abundance of Chinook in Puget Sound.

JUVENILE SALMON SURVEYS

As SFEG implements more floodplain reconnection projects to restore critical habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon and more food for Orcas, we have also identified the need to document the success of these projects. Community volunteers and student interns are assisting SFEG staff in learning more about juvenile Chinook salmon use where floodplain restoration projects are occurring. Led by SFEG staff, seining nets are used to sample what species of juvenile salmon are using off channel water bodies before and after floodplain restoration projects are implemented. SFEG is also inviting communities to watch seining demonstrations to illustrate to the public how many juvenile salmon are benefiting from these reconnection projects. Showing people what lives beneath the surface of the water can be an eye opening experience even for those that understand rivers and salmon.

NATIVE PLANT RESTORATION

Planting native trees along waterways is vital to ensuring healthy habitat for salmon as well as many other wildlife species including Orca whales. Planting trees improves salmon habitat and water quality by shading streams to keep water temperature cool; limiting bank erosion to keep water clear; and filtering out pollutants to ensure healthy habitat downstream for our vibrant shellfish industries as well as our Orca whales sensitive to toxins. In 2019 SFEG worked with numerous private and public landowners, volunteers, students, and partners to plant 16,659 native trees and shrubs along waterways. Volunteers and interns grew many of these native plants in our own native plant nursery through a partnership with the Samish Indian Nation. And student interns were trained as citizen scientists to collect valuable data related to vegetation survival and growth in order to track the success of newly planted vegetation at habitat restoration sites.



Planting native trees is one of the easiest and best ways to improve habitat along our local waterways. Trees help keep water cool, filter pollutants, and provide valuable habitat for many species of birds and wildlife.

IMPROVING FISH PASSAGE

FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Identifying and removing barriers to fish passage is essential for salmon and steelhead recovery. SFEG continued its successful strategy of working cooperatively with private landowners to identify and remove fish passage barriers. Two projects funded with grants from the Family Forest Fish Passage Program were completed and opened over 4 miles of habitat for salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout.

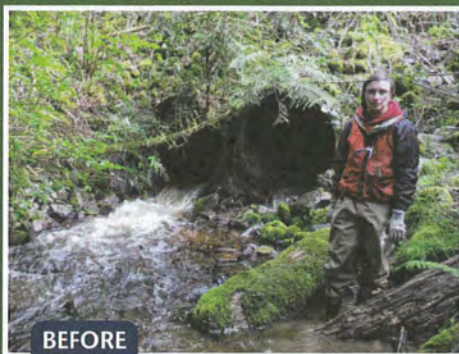
On **Swede Creek**, a tributary to the Samish River, SFEG worked with landowners Pat and Marta Gould, Chinook Engineering, and contractor

PNW-Civil to replace an undersized culvert crossing with a 65-foot bridge. With the barrier removed, access is improved to 2.45 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho and steelhead.

On **Carpenter Creek**, a tributary to the lower Skagit River, SFEG worked with landowner Matt Swayne, Chinook Engineering, and Harkness Contracting to replace an undersized culvert crossing with a 30-foot bridge. Removal of this fish passage barrier improves fish access to 1.61 miles of habitat upstream for coho, steelhead and searun cutthroat trout.



One of the most fun volunteer tasks is being trained to become a spawner survey volunteer. These hearty volunteers walk creeks every week to document salmon returning to restoration sites.



Undersized culverts impede fish passage for coho salmon and steelhead on Swede Creek.



Undersized culverts impede fish passage for coho salmon, steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout on Carpenter Creek.



A new 65-foot bridge replaces the undersized culverts on Swede Creek allowing fish to migrate upstream and access high quality habitat.



A new 30-foot bridge replaces the undersized culverts on Carpenter Creek allowing fish to migrate upstream and access high quality habitat.

SALMON SPAWNING SURVEYS

The Spawner Survey Program trains volunteers to survey creeks where restoration projects have occurred to track the number and species of salmon returning to spawn. SFEG is especially interested in documenting salmon use upstream of where fish passage improvement projects have occurred. Volunteers are trained to identify salmon species and their redds (nests) and then walk their chosen creek each and every week throughout the fall and winter spawning season. Volunteers get a chance to know a stream intimately in all types of weather and are very excited to share news of salmon returning to their sites. Data collected is shared with fisheries co-managers at Washington State and local Tribes. In 2019, 32 volunteers surveyed 18 streams documenting salmon use at each site.

EDUCATING OUR COMMUNITY



Students from Concrete Middle School watch coho salmon returning to the cold, clear water of Clark Creek.

SALMON SIGHTINGS

Salmon Sighting events enable our community to have the awe-inspiring experience of observing wild salmon spawning in local creeks. In the Skagit, it is difficult to identify reliable, safe locations where the public can view salmon. Salmon Sighting events are held at a few locations each year where community members can come observe live salmon spawning in creeks led by docents who can ensure that salmon are not disturbed and can answer questions about salmon biology, life history, and habitat needs. Salmon Sighting events have become a wonderful hands on learning experience for community members.

JUNIOR STREAM STEWARDS

This STEM based education program engages middle school students in a school-year long study of local watersheds. Students are learning through hands-on experiences each month about salmon, how healthy watershed habitat is key to the health of many other wildlife species they know and love, and their own role in being stewards of healthy habitat for the future. Field trips take students out of the classroom applying what they have learned to real world situations. Teachers can then weave these monthly topics into their science units throughout the year for additional inquiry based learning opportunities. In 2019, 500 students from four schools in Skagit County completed this program.



LaConner students remove invasive English ivy from Pioneer Park in order to allow native trees to flourish.



Student from Bayview Elementary School releases young coho salmon into Hansen Creek. Students learn about the amazing life cycle of salmon and the chain of healthy habitats needed for their survival as part of the Salmon in the Classroom program.

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

This program uses STEM based curriculum to teach elementary school students the fascinating life cycle of salmon and their habitat needs by raising coho salmon in their school. Coho salmon eggs are received from Washington State's Marblemount Hatchery and raised in large fish tanks at local schools. Students observe the eggs hatch, feed their young fry, and care for salmon until they grow large enough to be released in a local stream. In 2019, over 400 students from eight schools released nearly 1,200 young coho salmon into Trumpeter and Hansen Creeks. Students have high expectations of seeing adult salmon return to spawn in a future fall as long as their watersheds are cared for.

PEOPLE OF SFEG

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DON BUTTERFIELD

*President, Acupuncture
Business Owner, Sedro
Woolley*

JON VANDERHEYDEN

*Vice President, Retired
US Forest Service
Watershed Scientist,
Mount Vernon*

ERIN LIETZAN

*Secretary, Business
Owner, Anacortes*

JAY KIDDER

*Treasurer, Chinook
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MARY JANDA

*Concrete Middle School
Teacher, Marblemount*

BOB MOTTRAM

*Author and Retired
Journalist, Anacortes*

DAVE PFLUG

*Fisheries Ecologist,
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STEVE RANTEN

*Forest Practices
Coordinator-Dept of
Natural Resources,
Burlington*

SHIRLEY SOLOMON

*Environmental Management
Professional,
Fir Island*

SHEILA TOMAS

Nurse, Anacortes

OUR STAFF

LUCY DEGRACE

Outreach Manager

SUE MADSEN

Restoration Ecologist

MELODY MEYERS

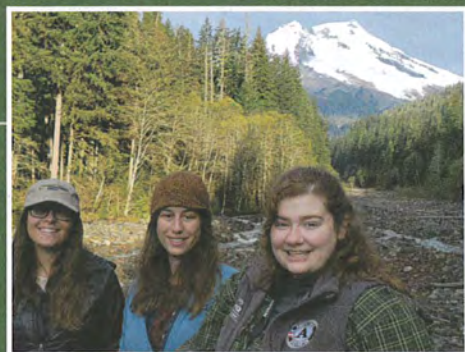
*Finance and
Operations Manager*

BENGT MILLER

Stewardship Coordinator

ALISON STUDLEY

Executive Director



KELSEY TAYLOR

*Riparian Restoration
Coordinator*

JOE GEORGE

*Senior Restoration
Technician*

ERIN MATTHEWS

*Habitat Restoration
Coordinator*



WASHINGTON
SERVICE CORPS
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2019-20

CLAIRE HOWELL

Education Associate

MADDIE REID

*Community Engagement
Associate*

MOLLY VAN DAM

*Riparian Restoration
Associate*

WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION
CORPS AMERICORPS
CREW
2019-20

MITCH BIGGS

Supervisor

NATHAN WHITE

Assistant Supervisor

NATALIE CUMIFORD

LYDIA HOUSTON

MIO MITCHELL

EMILIE SHISTLE

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are very grateful to our community who cares so immensely for our natural environment. Our donors, partners and supporters understand that having healthy waterways for salmon also means having clean water and healthy communities for all of us. We are thankful for your investment of time, energy and funding to support our work. Please show your appreciation for those entities that support our work by patronizing those businesses that contribute to our success. A complete list of this year's generous donors, businesses, schools, grantors, partners, landowners, tribes, and members is available in the online version of our 2019 Annual Report at SkagitFisheries.org.

IMPORTANT SUPPORT FOR SFEG COMES FROM:





**SKAGIT FISHERIES
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP**

PO Box 2497
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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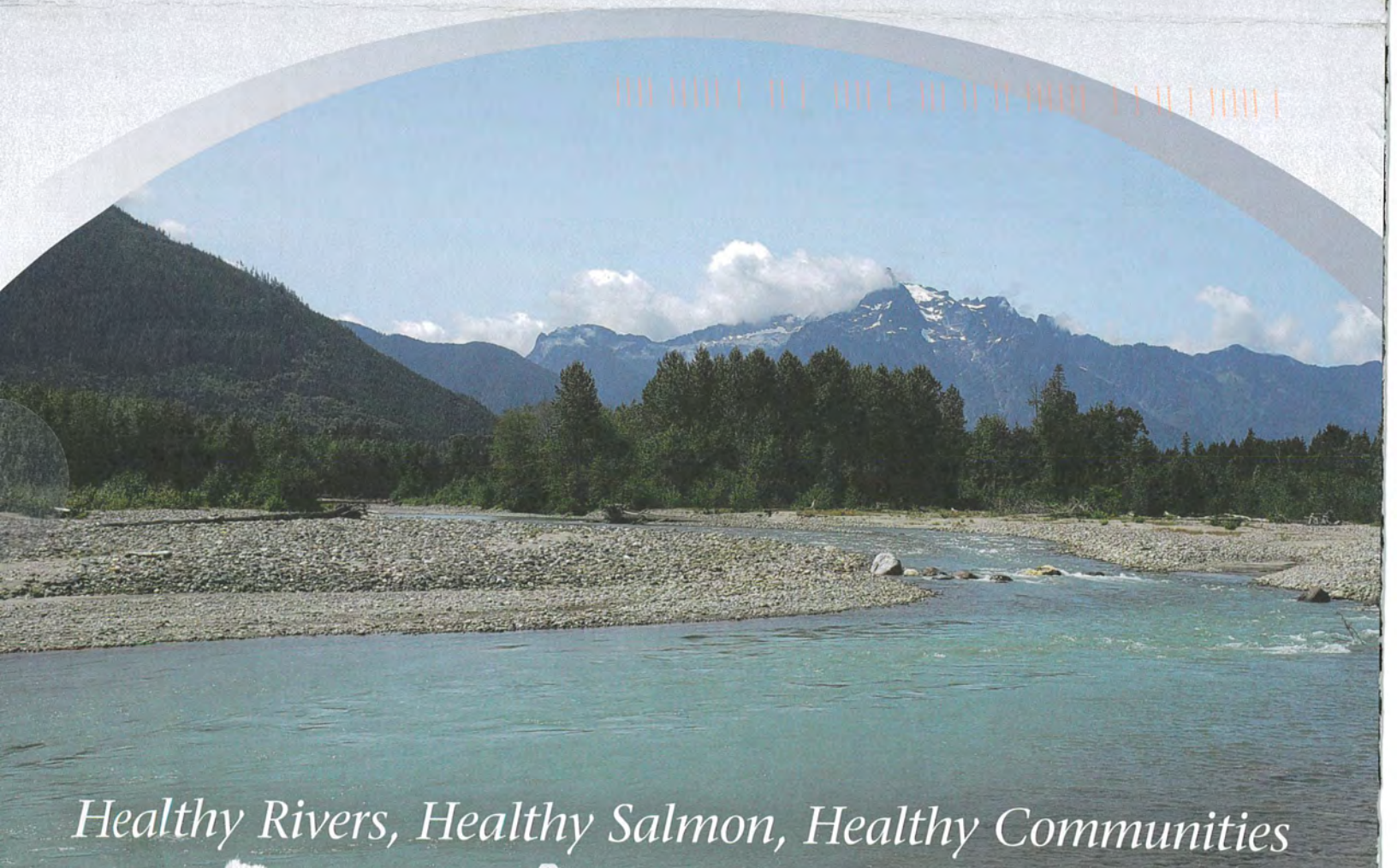
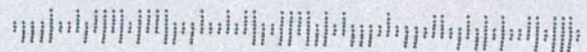
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Olympia, WA 98504-0917

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Healthy Rivers, Healthy Salmon, Healthy Communities



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WSC Update

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback from the Washington Salmon Coalition. WSC has been busy since our last Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, including hosting an in-person meeting, continuing work on identifying challenges and opportunities to project implementation, and working to pull together a webinar for Lead Entities and relevant partners on incorporating climate change data into riparian projects. Lead Entities have also begun their processes for the 2020 SRFB grant round.

In January, 2020 the Washington Salmon Coalition held a two-day meeting in Vancouver, WA, hosted by the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. RCO staff was available to participate and a good discussion was had with Kat Moore on the review panel module and review panel calls. Katie Pruitt led a discussion on the Targeted Investment Program criteria and her efforts to pull together alternatives for board consideration. Tom Slocum, chair of the SRFB Review Panel, was also able to attend and Lead Entities had the opportunity to discuss the 2019 grant round and ask questions relevant to the review panel. We particularly appreciated Tom's availability—Lead Entities see great value in connecting with Review Panel members, whenever possible and appreciate the opportunity to discuss and ask questions. WSC received training: "Speaking of Science" that delved into presentation skills of various kinds, relevant to Lead Entity activities. The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group gave a good example of a digital site tour, followed by a discussion of best practices for putting together a digital tour. We wrapped up our second day with a discussion with Erik Neatherlin on 2020 GSRO priorities and participated in a workshop to inform the statewide salmon strategy update, facilitated by Triangle Associates.

WSC continues its work to develop and refine a document outlining project implementation challenges and opportunities. We continued this discussion at the Vancouver meeting, focusing on some of the challenges/opportunities we prioritized at our October in-person meeting. Tara Galuska, during discussion at WSC's January meeting, noted that it would be helpful to share this internal document with a group of other agencies she is working with to better align work. WSC is currently vetting this document for external partners and intends to provide a final draft for Tara's upcoming April 1 meeting. We are excited to see this move forward and engage other partners.

WSC looks forward to continuing to work with RCO staff and the SRFB on climate change policy discussions. We appreciate Ben Donatelle reaching out late last year to collect information on how Lead Entities are incorporating climate change into our processes and look forward to the summary of those results. We are currently working on putting together a webinar on incorporating climate change data into riparian restoration and feel this topic is both timely and important.

WSC looks forward to continuing to work with RCO staff on developing alternatives and continued discussion on a potential Targeted Investment Program. We greatly appreciate Katie's efforts to engage WSC and COR in this important topic.

WSC continues to engage our partners through the Salmon Recovery Network, Council of Regions, and others, as well as regularly participate in the Habitat Work Schedule Action Committee.

Thank you to the SRFB and RCO staff for all your efforts!

COUNCIL OF REGIONS UPDATE for the SRFB's March 19 Phone Meeting

Prepared by Alex Conley, Chair

The Council of Regions (COR) brings together the state's seven Salmon Recovery Regions to 1) share information among the regions, GSRO and RCO, 2) provide input to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and 3) coordinate activities that address shared needs of the regional organizations. Since the last SRFB meeting, the Council of Regions has:

1. Provided GSRO and RCO staff **with input on how Manual 18 might be edited to allow regions and their partners to make best use of the up to 10% of regional allocations that may be used for monitoring projects**. We are organizing followup meetings to discuss our proposals and work with RCO to incorporate them into administrative procedures and potentially, Manual 18 edits for consideration by the SRFB in the fall. COR is also **planning to reinstate development of the Regional Monitoring Needs Assessment previously discussed with the Board**.
2. Held a **phone meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and Ecology** to review the results of the WSC survey focused on permit challenges sponsors are facing and lay the groundwork for a future in-person meeting (likely pushed back until it can in fact be held in person).
3. Received an update from Ben Donatelle on the **policy memo on how climate change can be incorporated into the SRFB grant program** that he is drafting. We highlight that:
 - a) COR is excited to engage with Ben, other RCO and GSRO staff and the Board on this topic;
 - b) **One of the key questions to address is that of recovery strategy and whether we are putting the right projects in the right places**, given that future habitat conditions will not be the same as current conditions. These questions of strategy are best addressed through regional recovery plans and associated implementation schedules and, where applicable, Lead Entity Watershed Chapters/Strategies. Regional organizations are excited to work with RCO, GSRO and Lead Entities to look hard at how our regional recovery strategies incorporate our growing understanding of future climate and habitat conditions.
 - c) There is a separate **question of design standards and whether individual projects are being designed to adequately withstand projected future conditions**, such as increased flood flows and/or frequencies.
 - d) Finally, there is real **need to develop shared technical capacity** that helps us and our project partners access and understand existing science and climate change projections for our areas and effectively use that to address b and c above.
4. The Council of Regions met in-person with the GSRO and Triangle Associates on March 5 to discuss **regional organizational perspectives on the Statewide Strategy Update**. Triangle is also holding one-hour calls with each region to discuss region-specific perspectives. We'd like to thank GSRO and Triangle for reaching out to us and look forward to providing feedback on the recommendations being developed.
5. **Held monthly COR calls and organized COR participation** in groups such as SRNet, the Fish Barrier Removal Board, and WDFW's Budget & Policy committee. Many thanks to Kaleen for hosting quarterly coordination calls with COR!

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR INPUT ON SRFB March 19 Agenda Items

Council of Regions Input for the March SRFB Meeting:

For Item #3: The Council of Regions appreciates RCO's efforts to address the NOAA audit issues. Individual regions are available to help move forward any projects to be included in associated project funding proposals.

For Item #4: The Council of Regions and its associated regional recovery organizations appreciate the opportunity to work with RCO policy staff as they develop the Targeted Investments Proposal for the Board and look forward to the Board discussion at its June meeting.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Review and Approval of Agenda C. Approve December 2019 Minutes D. Remarks by the Chair 	Decision <u>March 2020 Meeting Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved <u>Approve December 2019 Minutes</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Bugert Decision: Approved with Amendments	Follow-up: Incorporate Member Sullivan's edits
1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report B. Legislative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Meeting Location C. Performance Update D. Fiscal Report 		No Follow-up
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update to Statewide Salmon Strategy • PCSRF Application for 2020 • State of Salmon Report 		No Follow-up

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Staffing, if Funding by Legislature <p>B. Salmon Section Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of 2020 Grant Round 		
General Public Comment (non-agenda items)		
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION		
3. Delegation of Authority to Director to Resolve Potential PCSRF Audit Funding	<p>Decision</p> <p><u>Move to approve delegation of Authority to RCO Director to resolve federal audit finding</u></p> <p>Moved by: Member Breckel</p> <p>Seconded by: Member Sullivan</p> <p>Decision: Approved</p>	<p>Follow-up:</p> <p>Director Cottingham will brief the board on the outcomes</p>
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
4. Criteria for Future Targeted Investments		Staff will work with stakeholders and bring a draft policy to the board in June.
ADJOURN: 10:21am		
<i>Next Meeting: Travel Meeting June 10-11, 2020 – Nisqually, Washington</i>		

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: March 19, 2020

Place: Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members

Phil Rockefeller, Chair	Bainbridge Island	Stephan Bernath	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Brian Cochrane	Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Annette Hoffmann	Washington Department of Ecology
Jeff Breckel	Stevenson	Susan Kanzler	Washington Department of Transportation

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

Call to Order

Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, introduced **Chair Phil Rockefeller** at 9:03AM. Because this marks the first remote Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting, Chair Rockefeller delegated new roles to **Wyatt Lundquist**, RCO Board Liaison, and Director Cottingham, handing them logistical control. Mr. Lundquist explained the webinar program functionality and then called roll, determining that quorum was present. Before Chair Rockefeller requested a motion to approve the agenda, Director Cottingham clarified its shortened length, including only essential items.

Motion: Move to approve March 2020 Agenda

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve December 2019 Minutes

Moved by: Member Jeff Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: **Approved** with amendments by Member Sullivan

Item 1: Director's Report

Director's Report

After a brief update on staff working from home and emergency modifications to the Open Public Meeting Act, **Director Cottingham**, covered agency happenings. Her update included details on RCO's 55th state agency celebration (where Washington's First Lady, Trudi Inslee, spoke), RCO's submission of PCSRF applications for 2020 with a request of \$25 million, the move toward e-signatures using Adobe Sign, and an update on social media where RCO had gained 4,000 followers between its Instagram and Facebook accounts. Director Cottingham also noted staff changes, including the loss of Eryn Couch and Rory Calhoun and the gain of a new Governor's Salmon Recovery Office position for an Orca Recovery Coordinator. Moving forward, Director Cottingham relayed the fine tuning of the new tribal agreement templates created through negotiation with the Northwest Indian Fish Commission and tribes such as the Yakama, Quinault, Port Gamble, and Umatilla, who have requested further edits.

Director Cottingham closed her briefing by informing the board that the June 2020 Travel meeting would be located at the Nisqually Heritage Longhouse in Dupont, WA.

Legislative Update

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, gave an overview of legislative updates that related most to RCO and SRFB. The final legislative budget includes a new position in the GSRO to coordinate orca recovery. The legislature also funded a project to design a solution to mitigate steelhead mortality at the Hood Canal Bridge. Ms. Brown also relayed a budget proviso that direct further planning and coordination on statewide culvert corrections between the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and the Washington State Department of Transportation, and a study relating to the Growth Management Act to determine how to incorporate a net ecological gain standard into state-land use, development and environmental laws and rules. Ms. Brown followed with several bill of interest that passed:

- House Bill 2311 directing RCO to seek out all practicable opportunities to limit our carbon footprint.
- House Bill 1154, relating to financing the Chehalis River Basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects.
- House Bill 1187, pertaining to conservation districts abilities to streamline the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) process relating to fish and habitat enhancement projects.

- House Bill 1261, prohibiting suction dredge mining in waters noted as critical habitat for salmon, steelhead and bull trout restoration.

The Legislature also created a Climate Resiliency Account containing \$50,000,000 and provided direction to RCO and other natural resource agencies to work with Office of Financial Management to identify investments to mitigate the effects of climate change.

In closing, Kaleen Cottingham reminded the Board that next biennium's budget request will be put together over the summer, which will be on SRFB's June meeting agenda with finalizations being made in August. All budget requests may be affected by the economic collapse due to COVID-19.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Report

Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator, began his briefing thanking Wendy Brown, Kaleen Cottingham and Nelson Falkenburg, WDFW Legislative coordinator, for their assistance during the 2020 legislative session. Mr. Falkenburg lead the weekly legislative calls with salmon stakeholders to discuss bills and hearings related to salmon recovery. As a follow-up, the Salmon Recovery Network call will occur April 1, 2020, to provide a legislative session overview from each agency. Due to COVID-19, several meetings in Washington, DC were cancelled, including Salmon Days, which has been moved to September and Puget Sound Day on the Hill, tentatively planned for the end of April.

Mr. Neatherlin gave an update on the Statewide Salmon Strategy. Letters from the Governor were sent to each federally recognized tribe in Washington inviting government to government consultation to update the Statewide Salmon Strategy. Mr. Neatherlin presented a map of the Tribes who they have already met with and are scheduled to meet with, since the letters were sent.

Triangle Associates has also been working with stakeholders to assist with the Statewide Salmon Strategy. There are three workshops to solicit feedback on the strategy from stakeholders. One workshop occurred at the annual Washington Salmon Coalition meeting, attended by regional recovery boards, GSRO staff, and SRFB members. Two other workshops will follow, one in Olympia with westside stakeholders and one in Wenatchee with eastside stakeholders. GSRO has engaged the Washington Academy of Sciences to work on the recommendations from stakeholders and tribes before presenting the updated Statewide Salmon Strategy to the Natural Resources Cabinet. There is hope that this update will be completed in December of 2020.

Closing his briefing, Mr. Neatherlin focused on the upcoming Salmon Recovery Conference (April 27-28, 2021) in Vancouver, WA and the new Orca Recovery Coordinator position, which he is hoping to recruit for soon.

Member Bernath asked for more information on the outreach plan to agencies surrounding the Statewide Salmon Strategy. Mr. Neatherlin clarified that GSRO staff would be setting up meetings with key natural resource agencies and senior policy staff to bring them up to speed.

Salmon Section Report

Tara Galuska, RCO's Salmon Section Manager, presented her report.

Ms. Galuska relayed that site visits had begun on the 189 applications that have been submitted during the 2020 grant round.

For site visits, the RCO Salmon team has created flexible options due to COVID-19. These two options include a live webinar streaming a site visit or a video that can be uploaded to PRISM. Both options still include the Salmon Review Panelists, Outdoor Grant Managers, and each Lead Entity Coordinator. Ms. Galuska reported that there have already been site visits with 15 lead entities. The 10 lead entities that remain will complete their site visits in April and May.

Item 3: Delegation of Authority to Director to Resolve Potential PCSRF Audit Funding

Director **Kaleen Cottingham** gave an update on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding Audit for 2010-2011 grants. This audit was conducted by the Department of Commerce (DOC). DOC had several findings that RCO appealed in 2019, but a final decision has not been made on that appeal. If the DOC rejects the appeal, in order to resolve the audit, RCO staff created several promising options and set aside \$1.9 million in state bond funds. These options include the following:

1. Fund partially funded projects from the 2019 grant round, which were adopted by the board in December of 2019.
2. Fund one or both Targeted Delisting projects in Hood Canal, including the Lower Snow or Lower Big Beef, both previously reviewed by the board.
3. Fund Mid-Columbia Region's Little Naches Floodplain Targeted Investment Delisting project also previously reviewed by the board.

Director Cottingham clarified that the acceptance of this strategy is unknown, but she requested that the board delegate her the authority to resolve the audit, nonetheless.

Closing her briefing, Director Cottingham opened discussion from the board. Member Breckel asked for clarification on whether the options were presented in priority order and Director Cottingham relayed that, that was not the case, as one of the projects is more costly than the others.

General Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife's Executive Director, relayed that the Yakima Little Naches Project requires review from the Salmon Review Panel, but it would be an exciting project to move forward with.

David Trout, Nisqually Tribe's Natural Resource director, gave full support to the options provided by RCO staff.

Motion: Move to approve delegation of authority to the RCO Director to resolve the federal audit finding and repayment using the strategy outlined in the staff presentation.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Item 4: Criteria for Future Targeted Investments

Katie Pruitt, RCO Policy and Planning Specialist, gave an update on the staff draft of the targeted investment policy. Ms. Pruitt reminded the board that in December 2019, they had directed staff to develop criteria for a targeted investment policy that would direct funds greater than that of the current grant round allocation to board-identified priorities.

Ms. Pruitt stated that in January 2020, she had presented a proposal of potential priorities to the Washington Salmon Coalition. During this time, lead entity coordinators expressed concern, explaining that the targeted investments could interfere with the current allocation framework and create additional complexity to the existing process. RCO staff will be taking this commentary into consideration when creating the Targeted Investment Policy.

A draft policy will be created before the end of April in 2020 and a follow up meeting with Washington Salmon Coalition and the Council of Regions will occur in webinar form in May. Following in June, the next draft will be presented to the board with hopes of implementation occurring in September.

Member Bugert expressed concern with project implementation occurring this year due to the late approval. Director Cottingham explained that all funding for the 2020-2021 biennium had been spent so no funding would be available until after July of 2021. Applications for funding would not be taken until September of 2021.

Closing

Chair Rockefeller provided closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

ADJOURN- Meeting adjourned at 10:21 pm.

The next meeting will be on June 10-11, 2020 at Nisqually Heritage Longhouse in Dupont.

Approved by:



Phil Rockefeller, Chair

6-11-2020

Date