



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

November 19, 2020
Online Meeting

ATTENTION:

Protecting the public, our partners, and our staff are of the utmost importance. Due to continued health concerns with COVID-19 this meeting will be held online. The public is encouraged to participate online with opportunities to comment, as noted below.

If you wish to participate online, please click the link below to register and follow the instructions in advance of the meeting. Technical support for the meeting will be provided by RCO's board liaison who can be reached at Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KK_CjeiAQYinbDu43eIDgg

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 961 4542 0863

Location: RCO will also have a public meeting location for members of the public to listen via phone as required by OPMA, **unless this requirement is waived by gubernatorial executive order**. In order to enter the building, the public must not exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and will be required to comply with current state law around Personal Protective Equipment. RCO staff will meet the public in front of the main entrance to the natural resources building and escort them in.

**Additionally, RCO will record this meeting and would be happy to assist you after the meeting to gain access to the information.*

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

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov. You may also use the messenger in the Webinar to message Wyatt before the start of the item you wish to testify on. Comment for these items will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; accommodation requests should be received by November 5, 2020 to ensure availability.

Thursday, November 19

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision)• Approval of August Meeting Minutes (Decision)• Approval of September Meeting Minutes (Decision)• Remarks by the chair	Chair Breckel
9:15 a.m.	1. <u>Director's Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's ReportB. Legislative and Policy UpdateC. Performance Update <i>(Written only)</i>D. Fiscal Report <i>(Written only)</i>	Kaleen Cottingham Wendy Brown
9:30 a.m.	2. <u>Salmon Recovery Management Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office ReportB. Salmon Section Report	Erik Neatherlin Tara Galuska
9:55 a.m.	General Public Comment for items not on the agenda: <i>Please limit comments to 3 minutes.</i>	

BOARD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION

10:00 a.m.	3. Board Strategic Plan Check-in <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. <u>Overview of Current Board Strategic Plan</u>B. <u>Policy Plan Status Report</u>	Chair Breckel, Kaleen Cottingham and Wendy Brown
10:45 a.m.	BREAK	

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

11:00 a.m.	4. <u>Guidance for Discussing Public Safety in Grant Making and Project Selection</u>	Adam Cole
11:45 a.m.	LUNCH	
12:30 p.m.	5. <u>Climate Policy</u>	Ben Donatelle

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

1:00 p.m.	6. <u>Manual 18 Briefing and Board Decision on Evaluation Criteria</u>	Kat Moore
1:20 p.m.	7. <u>Options for Next Phase of SRFB Monitoring Program</u>	Erik Neatherlin, Keith Dublanica and Pete Bisson
2:20 p.m.	BREAK	

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

2:35 p.m.	8. State-Tribal Riparian Workgroup Update and Next Steps for Modifying Board Policy	<i>Kaleen Cottingham and Erik Neatherlin</i>
3:00 p.m.	9. Washington Invasive Species Council: Council Update and Regional Efforts to Address Northern Pike	<i>Justin Bush and Joe Maroney</i>
3:20 p.m.	10. Reports from Partners (Maximum 7 minutes each) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council of Regions• WA Salmon Coalition• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups• Conservation Commission• Department of Ecology• Department of Natural Resources• Department of Fish and Wildlife• Department of Transportation	<i>Alex Conley Dawn Pucci Lance Winecka Brian Cochrane Annette Hoffmann Stephen Bernath Jeff Davis Susan Kanzler</i>
4:15 p.m.	11. Featured Project: Frazer Creek Fish Passage Emergency Response project (14-2260)	<i>Marc Duboiski, Dave Caudill and Jay Kidder</i>

4:45 p.m. ADJOURN

Next meeting: March 3-4, 2021 – Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501 -

Subject to change considering COVID

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda• Approve June 2020 Meeting Minutes• Remarks by the Chair	Decision <u>Approval of August 2020 Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Bugert Decision: Approved Decision <u>Approval of June 2020 Minutes</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Breckel Decision: Approved	
1. Director's Report A. Director's Report		
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
2. Salmon Recovery Conference 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether to cancel, convert, delay in light of COVID-19	Decision <u>Approval of virtual Salmon Recovery Conference in 2021</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott Decision: Approved	

**3. Operating and Capital
Budget Requests for
2021-2023**

- Proposed Operating Budget Requests
- Proposed Capital Budget Requests

Decision

Approval of \$80 million bond
fund request

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member
Endresen Scott

Decision: Approved

Decision

Support budget request
amounts of complementary
salmon grant programs

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member
Endresen Scott

Decision: Approved

ADJOURN

Next Meeting: September 16-17, 2020- Online

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: August 12, 2020

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Phil Rockefeller, Chair	Bainbridge	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Jeff Breckel	Stevenson	Stephen Bernath (Excused Absence)	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochran	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott (Excused Absence)	Conconully	Jeff Davis (Excused Absence)	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Susan Kanzler	Designee, 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

Chair Phil Rockefeller opened the meeting at 9 am, noting that the webinar platform had been moved to Zoom and the webinar would be livestreamed by Television Washington (TVW). **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, covered proper webinar instructions and etiquette. Following, Chair Rockefeller asked for motions to approve the agenda and June's meeting minutes.

Motion: Approval of August 12, 2020 Agenda

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Motion: Approval of June 2020 Minutes

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: Approved

Before approval of the 2021 meeting calendar, RCO Director, **Kaleen Cottingham** displayed the meeting dates: March 3-4, June 2-3, September 22-23, December 1-2. For the remaining approved 2020 meetings, each will be held online. As for the 2021 meeting dates, it is unknown if these meetings will be in-person or hosted online.

Motion: Approval of 2021 Meeting Calendar

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: **Approved**

Chair Rockefeller then congratulated **Member Jeromy Sullivan** for being awarded the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition's recognition of leadership as the Tribal chair of the Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe. This is related to a years-long effort to acquire land along the shores of Port Gamble from Pope Resources and funded by several grants from the RCO. Member Sullivan thanked Chair Rockefeller for his recognition and noted that the award may have his name on it, but it took the work of his colleagues and partners.

Closing, Chair Rockefeller communicated that he would be retiring from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) after the September 2020 meeting.

Item 1: Director's Report

Director Cottingham gave a brief report on the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) activities. She mentioned that RCO staff continue to work from home with a limited number of staff conducting site visits. Field work can only be done within counties in phase 3. RCO salmon staff had also continued to run the 2020 grant cycle and will have a project list for approval at the September SRFB meeting.

Closing, Director Cottingham detailed that RCO had heard from the federal auditors who in 2017 began a review of two fiscal years of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding. In late 2019 RCO had appealed the audit's findings and a request for repayment. RCO expects to receive a detailed response in the following weeks.

General Public Comment: No public comment

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Conference 2021

Jeannie Abbott, Governor Salmon Recovery Office, gave an update concerning the Salmon Recovery Conference. The Conference had been scheduled for April 27-28, 2021

in Vancouver, WA. To assist with the meeting, GSRO hired Western Washington University Conference Services. GSRO also formed a steering committee who came forth with the theme – ‘Building a Movement’.

Because of COVID-19, the steering committee assisted in creating four alternative options concerning the conference:

- Option 1: Host the meeting in person with social distancing and cleaning measures in place
- Option 2: Move the conference date to fall 2021
- Option 3: Host a virtual conference
- Option 4: Cancel the conference.

The Steering Committee recommended the virtual conference option. Ms. Abbott explained that this choice would be the most socially responsible with an unknown date of a nationwide vaccine. This virtual platform would also protect against loss of attendance due to budget travel restrictions for state agency employees, make it more affordable, drive inclusivity, extend outreach, and maintain conference momentum.

Ms. Abbott encouraged questions and discussion from SRFB. Chair Rockefeller inquired whether there was a unanimous support by the steering committee for the virtual option. Ms. Abbott detailed that while some were originally hesitant, they later agreed that a virtual meeting would be the best choice. While the board members favored moving the meeting to a virtual experience, they expressed their regret in doing so, as in-person interaction will be missed.

Motion: Approval of holding a virtual Salmon Recovery Conference as recommended by the Steering Committee

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Item 3: Operating and Capital Budget Requests for 2021-2023

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, gave a briefing on the operating budget and capital budget requests.

Beginning with the operating budget, Ms. Brown explained that the Governor has requested a 15 percent general fund reduction for the 2021-2023 biennium, totaling for RCO at \$338,250. Because most of the agency’s general fund appropriation is for our salmon recovery work, as opposed to the agency’s recreation grants, Jeannie Abbott, RCO’s Governor Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), and the lead entity coordinators

worked together to identify areas that could take reductions. These cuts also will include funding provided to RCO for a position to implement HB 2311, greenhouse gas emissions, and the delayed hire of the GSRO's orca recovery position.

When looking at the capital budget request, Ms. Brown reminded the board that they had decided to use the Planned Project Forecast List (PPFL) as the basis for the 2021-2023 budget request. The project total of the PPFL is \$203 million. In the past meeting, SRFB had establish that they would ask anywhere from \$60-\$80 million in funding.

Following her briefing, Ms. Brown opened discussion to SRFB. Member Bugert noticed that the bond capacity had decreased in the June 2020 state revenue forecast and inquired if this decline could continue. Ms. Brown explained even if a decline continued, it would likely be limited.

Chair Rockefeller asked if the possibility of a stimulus package may arise at the state level. Ms. Brown mentioned that a stimulus package could happen if the legislature comes back for a special session later in the year. Director Cottingham also mentioned that RCO had been asked for project lists for a potential stimulus package when it was looking like the Legislature was going to hold a special session in August 2020.

When examining the funding levels over the past ten years, Member Breckel took note of a consistent decline. As a board member, Member Breckel felt inclined to request a funding amount of \$70 million with the intention of combatting this decline. Originally, the remaining members were divided between a \$70 million request or an \$80 million request, but eventually all members agreed on an \$80 million request.

Public Comment:

Tricia Snyder, Washington Salmon Coalition, addressed the lead entities' capacity to complete each project on the PPFL. She expressed that this list took quite a bit of time to develop, and she was confident that these projects could be implemented within the next biennium.

Motion: Move to approve a bond funded amount of \$80,000,000 for the SRFB funded projects, including funding for RCO administration, Lead Entity pre-design costs, RFEG pre-design costs and request authority to spend up to \$50,000,000 in federal PCSRF funds.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: **Approved**

Motion:

Move to support the funding request of our partners:

- \$75 million in the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program, the first \$30 million will be allocated to lead entities and watershed planning areas, using an allocation formula. Any remaining PSAR funds over \$30 million are allocated to a ranked large capital project list.
- \$70 million in the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Program.
- \$20 million in the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.
- \$15 million in the WA Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Program.
- \$10 million in the Family Forest Fish Passage Program.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Director Cottingham mentioned that RCFB funding meeting would be occurring later that afternoon. For both funding boards, the requested amounts and supporting documentation would require submission to the Office of Financial Management in September of 2020.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 am.

The next meeting of the Salmon Recovery Board will occur September 16, 2020 through Zoom.

Approved by:

Jeff Breckel, Chair

-SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

WEDNESDAY, September 16, 2020

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda• Remarks of the Chair	Decision <u>Approval of September 2020 Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Bugert Decision: Approved	
1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's ReportB. Legislative UpdateC. Performance UpdateD. Fiscal Report		
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office ReportB. Salmon Section Report		
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
3. Targeted Investments Policy	Decision <u>Adoption of Targeted Investment Policy</u> Moved by: Member Breckel Seconded by: Member Sullivan Decision: Approved	

Decision

Approval of amendment to
Emergency Response priority

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Amendment to
Future Threat Abatement
priority

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

4. 2020 Grant Round

- A. Overview
- B. Slideshow of featured projects
- C. Review Panel Comments

Task:

Hold a discussion between SRFB, the Review Panel, and RCO to develop guidelines for approving funding for previously closed projects.

**5. 2020 Grant Round
Overview by Regions**

**6. 2020 Grant Round,
Board Funding
Decisions**

Decision

Approval of Middle Columbia
Salmon Recovery Board Region
funding

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Coastal Region
funding

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Upper Columbia
Region funding

Moved by: Member Endresen-
Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Snake River Region
funding

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Puget Sound
Region

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of PSAR project list
for Puget Sound and Hood
Canal Regions

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of PSAR Large Capital
projects in the Puget Sound
and Hood Canal Regions

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Northeast Region
funding

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Lower Columbia
Region funding

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Decision

Approval of Hood Canal Region
funding

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member
Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS**7. Revisions to Manual18
for 2021****Task:**

Bring back in
November to
review timeline.

**Recognition of the
Service of Chair
Rockefeller****Decision**

Approval of Chair Rockefeller's
Recognition of Service

Moved by: Member Endresen-
Scott

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: Approved

ADJOURN

Next Meeting: Travel Meeting November 19, 2020

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 16, 2020

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Phil Rockefeller, Chair	Bainbridge	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Jeff Breckel	Stevenson	Stephen Bernath	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis (Excused)	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Susan Kanzler	Designee, 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

Chair Phil Rockefeller opened the meeting at 9 AM, welcoming the audience members and noting that Zoom would carry forward as the new webinar platform. Following roll call and determination of quorum, **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison, covered webinar instructions and etiquette.

Motion: Approval of September 16, 2020 Agenda

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: **Approved** with the amended date of the next SRFB meeting, changing the date from November 18, 2020, to the true date, November 19, 2020.

Chair Rockefeller noted that it had been a remarkable year, as we have all faced incredible hardships, including drought, fires, COVID-19, a movement toward social equality and economic decline. Closing, Chair Rockefeller displayed gratitude toward the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (SRFB) ability to pursue salmon recovery efforts in light of these grave times.

Item1: Director's Report

Director's Report

Kaleen Cottingham, RCO director, gave an update on the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) on goings. Director Cottingham explained that Chair Rockefeller would be leaving the SRFB and that **Governor Jay Inslee had appointed Member Jeff Breckel to become the new SRFB chair**. Currently, a new member has not been appointed to fill Chair Rockefeller's position.

Concerning RCO, Ms. Cottingham mentioned that RCO staff continue operating under the Safe Start Initiative, with most staff working from home and a few continuing work from the office. She also noted that field work had expanded due to more counties moving toward Phase 3 of reopening.

As previously discussed, RCO had to prepare for a 15 percent budget cut in the current biennium. In addition to the budget cut, Director Cottingham reminded SRFB that RCO staff had been furloughed eight days and that a hiring and contracting freeze had been placed on the agency to reduce spending.

Continuing, Ms. Cottingham explained that RCO had just concluded a state audit with no findings. This audit had focused on procurement of management services contracts, two dedicated accounts in the recreation grant programs, and internal controls over electronic fund transfers in the 2017 biennium. As for the federal audit that RCO was facing, it is nearing conclusion. RCO is going to propose repaying the approximately \$900,000 through the completion of three salmon recovery projects.

Ms. Cottingham then mentioned that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has passed \$11 million through RCO for orca recovery, which would be applied toward salmon recovery projects.

Closing, Ms. Cottingham addressed the new riparian habitat guidance that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) had been updating and will need to implement within the next six months. These guideline updates are now part of a collaborative process with a State/Tribal workgroup established by the governor last year. After recommendations are presented to the governor, RCO will present a path forward to the SRFB for implementing our part.

Legislative Update

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, gave a briefing on RCO's Operating and Capital Budget. When addressing budget cuts, Ms. Brown expressed appreciation toward the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), who had worked with RCO to identify the \$71,000 in reductions to the lead entities.

Addressing further spending cuts, Ms. Brown reminded the SRFB of the delayed hiring of the orca recovery position, the returned funds received for the carbon sequestration implementation work, and the agency administration cuts. These cuts were all associated with the 15 percent general fund reduction.

Concerning the capital budget request, Ms. Brown described RCO's complete budget submittal. The RCO has made an overall capital budget request of \$555,130,000 in all grant programs, with \$80,000,000 being requested for the SRFB program. For two other salmon related grant programs, Ms. Brown noted that the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program and the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB) had adjusted their requests to align with specific project lists.

Before closing the item, Director Cottingham took note that these requests had been submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and that the final appropriations would not be known until the end of the legislative session in May or June 2021.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Erik Neatherlin, Governor Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Executive Coordinator, gave a brief report on the GSRO's activities.

Concerning legislative and partner activities, Mr. Neatherlin explained that in the months of June and July, meetings had occurred virtually with Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) states, including Oregon, California, Alaska, Idaho, and Washington. During these meetings, the group discussed the status of federal funding, future stimulus funding, and the outlook for the individual state's funding.

Next, Mr. Neatherlin informed the SRFB of the virtual Puget Sound Day on the Hill meetings, which had occurred every Friday through June and July. These meetings were held by the Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indians Fisheries to give congressional members the opportunity to present information and take questions from the attendees.

The final legislative update Mr. Neatherlin included was the conclusion of the OFM's virtual project tours, which gave OFM the opportunity to view how their allocated funding has affected salmon recovery efforts.

Moving forward, Mr. Neatherlin spoke on the Statewide Salmon Strategy update and the State of the Salmon Report. The Statewide Salmon Strategy update will be ready to present to the Governor's Office by the end of 2020, as the initial review by the Academy of Sciences and a meeting with the Natural Resources Subcabinet had occurred. The State of the Salmon report will also be completed by the end of 2020, with a presentation to SRFB occurring in the beginning of 2021.

In closing, Mr. Neatherlin reminded SRFB that they had directed GSRO to work with the monitoring panel, regions, and watersheds to come back with option for a monitoring pivot away from project scale effectiveness, which is underway with a subcommittee. The results of the subcommittee meetings will be presented to SRFB on the November 19, 2020 meeting.

General Public Comment:

Ed Bowen, citizen, explained that he had been a part of the Ozette Sockeye ESU, which had ultimately been dissolved due to lack of funding. Because of this, Mr. Bowen requested the SRFB direct GSRO to find assistance for the Ozette Sockeye ESU. He also informed SRFB that after meeting with NOAA, Scott Heck would be reaching out to GSRO to discuss the Ozette Sockeye ESU in order to find a solution.

To give SRFB background information, Director Cottingham explained that SRFB had provided funding for a facilitation effort and during a downturn in the budget, funding was not available to continue this effort. Mr. Neatherlin also stated that he would be happy to work and NOAA, but he had previously participated in conversation with the region and lead entities concerning the Ozette sockeye.

Item 3: Targeted Investments Policy

Katie Pruitt, RCO Policy and Planning Specialist, presented the Targeted Investment Policy. She reminded the SRFB that this policy had been requested after funding targeted investments in 2019 to three regions nearing recovery goals. The intent of the policy is to formalize how the SRFB will fund targeted investments moving forward using additional funding, after \$18,000,00 of projects had been funded.

Ms. Pruitt highlighted the importance of the input and assistance provided by stakeholders, lead entity coordinators, regional recovery directors, GSRO and RCO salmon staff, which had helped shape the policy. SRFB had last reviewed the policy in

June and following direction from SRFB, RCO had sought public comment. One public comment was received, and it addressed priority number four- future threat abatement. The commenter had requested that the priority be amended to include habitat, harvest, hydropower, and hatchery. Staff does not recommend the adoption of this amendment.

Giving a brief overview, Ms. Pruitt explained the policy enables the board to fund targeted investments that address one of more of the board priorities and must be proposed by the regions and supported by the lead entities.

Closing, Ms. Pruitt communicated that RCO staff recommended SRFB move to adopt the targeted investment policy and opened the briefing up for discussion.

Chair Rockefeller, Member Endresen-Scott, Member Breckel, and Member Bugert expressed appreciation for the policy work and gave their support.

Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Council of Regions (COR), thanked Ms. Pruitt for her collaborative work on the policy. Mr. Conley also explained that the policy would create great salmon recovery opportunities to SRFB. Closing, he expressed COR's dedication to working with SRFB and RCO as the process moves forward.

Motion: Move to amend priority number five- emergency response- to include not only natural disasters and/or anthropogenic disasters as well.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen -Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to amend priority number four- Future Threat Abatement- removing the language "dramatically" and replacing it with "contribute to".

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen -Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to adopt the targeted investments policy as amended in Item 3, attachment A of the board's September 16, 2020 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Break: 10:10-10:20

Item 4: 2020 Grant Round

Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, introduced herself and gave a grant round overview. Highlighting the LEAN implementation, Ms. Galuska explained that it had condensed the grant timeline, leading to early application completion dates and the removal of one of the three review cycles.

Ms. Galuska then informed SRFB that with today's approval, they would be approving and funding \$18 million worth of SRFB projects and approving the list of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) regular and Large Capital projects. She noted that SRFB projects would be funded immediately, but PSAR projects still await funding by legislature next session.

From the grant round, Ms. Galuska explained that there were 202 projects reviewed during the pre-application period and 186 projects of those projects were submitted by June 29th. Five of the projects were "projects of concern" that did not move forward. Of the projects that did move forward, 39 percent were acquisition and restoration projects, 36 percent were planning projects, 15 percent were acquisition only projects, 4 percent were monitoring projects, and 2 percent were planning and restoration projects.

If all SRFB projects were funded, this would total to \$182.2 million, with \$111 million in RCO grants and \$71.2 coming from match funding. Because only \$18 million worth of projects can be moved forward, 91 projects will be funded, with 44 alternates.

Member Bernath asked for clarification on the meaning of "alternative projects". Ms. Galuska explained that the lead entities receive an allocation put forward by the region's allocation formula. This allows lead entities to create a list of ranked projects, knowing that some will be completely funded, and others will have to remain alternates. Ms. Galuska also clarified that by providing alternates that have already been vetted and approved by SRFB, these entities can then search for funding through other means more successfully. The alternates also have the benefit of helping an entity roll funding down if one of their funded projects does not move forward in one year after receiving funding.

In closing, Ms. Galuska discussed the Salmon Funding Report, which gives a detailed description of the 2020 grant round. It includes information on the implementation of the LEAN study, changes that occurred in association with COVID-19, information on withdrawn projects, PRISM adaptations, the review panel's observations, and regional

summaries. Ms. Galuska did notes that the review panel's observations would assist in Manual 18's forward movement.

Slideshow of Featured Projects

RCO Salmon Grant Managers presented several salmon projects, each from different regions.

- **Elizabeth Butler**, Salmon Recovery Grant Manager, presented the Sunnyside Dam Smolt Passage Improvement project (20-1515) located in the Mid-Columbia Recovery Region.
- **Alice Rubin**, Salmon Recovery Grant Manager, presented the Touchet River Smolt Trap Monitoring project (20-1093), located in the Snake River Region.
- **Josh Lambert**, Salmon Recovery Grant Manager, presented the Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Protection project (20-1194), located in the Puget Sound region.
- Mr. Lambert also presented the Snow Creek Uncas Preserve Restoration project (20-1119), located in the Hood Canal Region.
- **Alissa Ferrell**, Salmon Recovery Grant Manager, presented the Salmonid Screening Habitat Enhancement and Restoration (SSHEAR) Legacy Fishway Resolution (20-1034), located in the Coast Region
- **Marc Duboiski**, Salmon Recovery Grant Manager, presented the Merritt Oxbow Reconnection Restoration project (20-1447), located in the Upper Columbia Region.
- **Amea Bahr**, Salmon Recovery Grant Manager, presented the Camp Coweeman Restoration project (20-1081) located in the Lower Columbia Region.

Following the projects presentations, **Member Hoffman** addressed Mr. Duboiski's presented project, asking if the landowner was included in the project and understood the rechanneling of the oxbow, to which Mr. Duboiski explained that the landowner was involved.

Review Panel Comments

The Review Panel provided commentary on the 2020 grant round. Out of the eight members, **Tom Slocum, Jeanette Smith, Marnie Tyler, Jenn O'Neil, and Michelle Kramer** were available to provide comment.

Mr. Slocum introduced himself and noted that he would highlight grant round observations and highlight noteworthy projects.

From the LEAN study and COVID-19, the top three problems that arose included the compressed timeline, virtual site visits, and review panel members having to orient

themselves to the new PRISM evaluation modules. On a positive note, he explained that a hybrid between virtual and in-person site visits would be helpful and that the new PRISM evaluation modules will ease the application process in the years to come, although there was preference that PRISM be updated to include a better form of tracking conditioned projects.

Member Breckel asked for clarification on the meaning of tracking conditioned projects, to which Mr. Slocum explained that many of these projects take two years of time to hit the ground, leaving the sponsors enough time to forget or neglect the conditions that the review panel placed on the projects when approved. If PRISM included an update for efficiently tracking conditioned projects, then sponsors and grant managers could ensure that the conditions had been met.

Concerning technical observations, Mr. Slocum addressed barrier tracking, targeted investments, permitting delays, and the funding of closed projects. Currently, multiple tracking inventories exist for barriers, and Mr. Slocum expressed that more consistency is needed. In reference to targeted investments, Mr. Slocum and the review panel saw this policy as a fantastic tool for salmon recovery. As for permitting delays and costs, he noted that COR and the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) are attempting to fix this issue, as there have been problems associated with section 401 certification through the Department of Ecology.

Finally, addressing the funding of closed projects, Mr. Slocum explained that a few previously funded closed projects are now seeking more funding for areas that need improvement. The review panel has taken on these projects on a case by case basis, but they welcomed guidance from the SRFB on the matter.

During discussion, **Member Bernath** asked Mr. Slocum for more information concerning the problems surrounding barrier inventory. Mr. Slocum detailed that he was concerned with accumulating information on completed barriers across the state versus revisiting barriers every ten years.

Addressing the 401 permit costs and delays, **Member Hoffman** asked for more details, to which Mr. Slocum explained that some sponsors are unaware of the Clean Water Act section 404 permitting requirements that trigger the Department of Ecology's 401 certification.

Moving forward, **Member Breckel** and **Member Endresen-Scott** requested that the board speak with the review panel members concerning guidance on the revisit of closed projects. **Director Cottingham** said that this could become a policy project which would be included in the next iteration of Manual 18.

Returning to issues surrounding multiple barriers inventories, Director Cottingham mentioned that it would be helpful to have WDFW explain their vision for the inventories and give ways for RCO to assist. In relation, Ms. Galuska said that the BAFBRB put out a call out for information on inventories recently.

In closing, Mr. Slocum highlighted several noteworthy projects. This included the Florence Island Tidal Wetland Acquisition, the West Oakland Bay Restoration, and the Kwoneesum Dam Removal.

Public Comment:

Richard Brocksmith, Skagit Watershed Council, shared that one previously closed project in need of adaptation is the Wiley Slough project in the Skagit estuary. He explained that this project was completed in 2009 and it successfully increased the chinook population. However, the project needs adaptation for flooding and draining. Unfortunately, when an application for these adaptations was submitted, it was listed as a project of concern and did not move forward. Mr. Brocksmith requested an outline of how to move forward with this project and thanked RCO for putting this into motion.

Alex Conley, COR, expressed thanks to RCO staff and the review panel. He explained that while the condensed timeline was challenging, he considered the grant round a success. He also mentioned work with other organizations have been slower, due to remote meetings, but is still moving forward. Alex continued to speak about his region and work with partners. Closing, Mr. Conley addressed the fish barrier inventory, detailing that the WDFW inventory is currently much more transparent, but through the help of regional managers and lead entities the inventory process could be improved.

Lunch: 12:20-1:00

Item 5: 2020 Grant Round Overview by Regions

Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership

Mara Zimmerman gave an overview of 13 habitat projects submitted by the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership. These projects are intended to restore fish access to stream and estuary habitat, restore riparian habitat, and protect habitat through acquisitions. In total, there was a funding request of \$1.7 million with \$3.4 million in provided in match.

Highlighting an issue, Ms. Zimmerman explained that there is a continued need for investment in the Washington coast region through the ongoing collaborative work with lead entities, regional managers and RCO. Ms. Zimmerman continued, noting that of the

133 fish populations in the rivers, there are only two species that are federally listed as endangered- bull trout and Lake Ozette's single sockeye population. Among the endangered populations, non-listed species are decreasing, leading to hatchery closures.

Closing, Ms. Zimmerman mention that the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership lead entities are currently collaborating on culvert prioritization, stream temperature monitoring, and several other topics.

Puget Sound Partnership

Carrie Byron briefed the board on the 2020 grant round. After expressing thanks to SRFB for their work in this process, Ms. Byron explained that the 15 lead entities in the Puget Sound Region had put together 101 projects in this grant round even in the face of the LEAN implementation and challenges surround COVID-19.

Moving forward, she explained that Puget Sound Partnership had been working with several of its lead entities to update their local chapter strategies as part of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Update. She relayed that there had been challenges due to furloughs, funding, and hiring freezes. She also mentioned that there is an update to the regional recovery chapter with their salmon recovery council.

Concluding, she expressed support for the lead entities' and review panels' request for more guidance on how to address adaptive management of closed projects.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Alicia Olivas gave a briefing about the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. Opening, Ms. Olivas expressed thanks to Chair Rockefeller for his service to the SRFB.

Ms. Olivas then highlighted the update to the Hood Canal-Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum recovery plan that the Hood Canal Coordinating Council is currently working on. To carry this work out, they are convening a summer chum recovery forum to bring guidance through collaboration. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council invited leadership from the Skokomish Tribe, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, WDFW, NOAA fisheries, NW Indian Fisheries Commission, Point No Point Treaty Council, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha S'Klallam Tribe and GSRO. Through this collaborative update, the council plans to understand climate change in the planning, define the recovery goal, and how to understand how fish harvest effects salmon recovery.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Steve Manlow gave a briefing concerning the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. He opened by thanking Chair Rockefeller for his service and then noted that despite COVID-19, all salmon lead entities were able to quickly adapt to the situation.

Mr. Manlow then highlighted the importance of monitoring funding to accommodate the regional projects submitted. In the 2020 grant round, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board had two monitoring projects on their list this year: One will help kick start a regional habitat status and trends monitoring program and the second project will track hatchery reform.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Trisha Snyder briefed SRFB on the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's 2020 grant round experience. Ms. Snyder expressed that there were many challenges faced in the 2020 grant round, such as the new condensed schedule and virtual tours due to COVID-19.

Ms. Snyder mentioned that there was a total of 13 project on their ranked list, with only six of these projects being funded. Following, Ms. Snyder highlighted the decline in fish populations. This decline is due to several variables, but Ms. Snyder noted that warming ocean temperatures and bottlenecking issues in the Yakima basin are two of the causes.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

John Foltz gave a briefing on the 2020 grant round. From the 2020 grant round, there were challenges with the new LEAN timeline, flooding in February, the pandemic in March and the September wildfires. Despite these challenges, Mr. Foltz remarked that the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board was able to move forward due to partnering efforts.

From the 2020 project list, there were 12 ranked projects. For a typical project, Mr. Foltz explained that 15 percent match is required, but many of the sponsors were able to provide approximately 60 percent match.

Closing, Mr. Foltz highlighted the importance of monitoring, which was included in the update to Manual 18. He expressed that with the recent NOAA restriction on Use of Assessment project funds, monitoring funds have become even more important. To further his point, Mr. Foltz presented the "Low-tech process-based restoration of Riverscape" design manual that outlines monitoring efforts.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Pete Teigen briefed SRFB on the 2020 grant round experience. Based on the LEAN study, Mr. Teigen explained that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region had made several changes to how they carried out the grant round. Alongside these internal changes, COVID-19 had forced project site visitations to move to a virtual platform, leading to a discussion on holding hybrid site visits in the future.

Unrelated to the 2020 grant round, Mr. Teigen mention that the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region was currently working with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the Ruckelshaus Center to have a regional overview of their restoration processes in order to approve it.

Public Comment:

Ed Bowen, citizen, commented on a project proposal coming out of the Puget Sound Partnership- project #20-1145 Hoko River Conservation Phase 1. He labeled the project as a project of concern from a citizen's point of view and asked that the project be conditioned by SRFB. He explained that there are three sites; the first site being adjacent to the John Cowen Heritage Ranch that contains a county road. To ensure that the project sponsor keeps public access to the road, Mr. Bowen requested that the county road be deeded to the county itself. For sites two and three, Mr. Bowen requested that the surrounding landowners be informed of the salmon projects that are going on and that if any further phases occur that landowner communication continues.

Chair Rockefeller requested advice from RCO staff. Ms. Galuska explained that the board can put conditions on a project, but this has only ever occurred once. Ms. Galuska also explained that this was an acquisition only project and not a restoration project, therefore the surrounding landowners do not need any notification. To provide greater detail, **Kat Moore**, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, and **Cheryl Bowman**, Review Panel Member, explained that Mr. Bowen had been involved in several meetings between RCO, the county, and the project sponsors and partners, where each entity explained that the roadway would remain open to the public, with the hopes of it being deeded to the county in the future versus the easement that it currently holds.

Member Bernath asked if the county road deed could be dealt with within the grant timeline, to which Ms. Moore communicated that it may be possible, but it would not be guaranteed.

While **Member Bugert** suggested giving Director Cottingham the authority to authorize this project after follow-up of due diligence, the SRFB ultimately decided that the project would move forward, as Mr. Bowen's problems had already been addressed in previous conversations.

Item 6: 2020 Grant Round, Board Funding Decisions

Tara Galuska reported that the funding motions were available in the presentation. The board then moved into funding deliberations.

Motion: Move to approve \$1,688,400 for projects and project alternates in the Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Region, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020. This amount includes \$501,125 of funding for the projects in Klickitat County Lead Entity.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve \$1,722,600 for projects and project alternates in the Coastal Region, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert

Decision: **Approved**

Motion Move to approve \$1,855,800 for projects and project alternates in the Upper Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved** – Member Bugert recused.

Motion Move to approve \$1,519,200 for projects and project alternates in the Snake River Region, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve \$6,142,039 in SRFB fund for projects and project alternates in the Puget Sound Region, as listed in Attachment 8 of the 2018 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Breckel

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve the list of PSAR project in the Puget Sound and Hood Canal Regions, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020 and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approve by the Legislature.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Bugert.

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve the 2021-2023 list of PSAR Large Capital projects in the Puget Sound and Hood Canal Regions, as listed in Attachment 6 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020 and authorize the RCO Director to enter into the project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve \$342,000 for projects in the Northeast Region, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve \$3,600,000 for projects and project alternates in the Lower Columbia Region, as listed in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020. This amount includes \$105,862 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity.

Moved by: Member Breckel

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve \$1,129,961 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates in the Hood Canal Region, as listed in the citizen's approve projects list in Attachment 7 of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2, 2020.

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

Item 7: Revisions to Manual 18 for 2021

Tara Galuska explained the revisions to Manual 18 for 2021. She explained that the timeline draft had not yet been completed, but a draft timeline would be sent out to the Lead Entities soon. A final draft would be presented to SRFB in the November 2020 SRFB meeting.

Ms. Galuska then mentioned that the Review Panel did not recommend any major changes to manual 18 in their section of the funding report. Every two years, a survey concerning the grant round is sent out, with 2020 being one of those years. Mr. Galuska explained that in the survey there will be the usual grant round questions, but here will also be questions that address the implementation of the LEAN study, and COVID-19. This survey will help inform RCO for the 2021 grant round.

Recognition of Service of Chair Rockefeller

Director Cottingham presented a recognition of service to Chair Rockefeller and personally thanked him for his time serving SRFB. **Wyatt Lundquist** then read the resolution out loud. To commemorate the resolution, SRFB made a motion.

Motion: Move to approve Chair Rockefeller's Recognition of Service.
Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott
Seconded by: Member Bugert
Decision: **Approved**

Following, SRFB and RCO staff discussed memories and expressed thanks towards Chair Rockefeller.

ADJOURN—Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 19, 2020 online using Zoom.

Approved by:

Jeff Breckel, Chair

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 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

RCO Submits Biennial Budget with Cuts Due to COVID-19

In September, RCO submitted its budget request, which included the requested 15 percent reduction for activities funded by the General Fund in the next biennium. Driven by economic woes from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's Office asked all agencies to reduce general spending by 15 percent in the 2021-23 biennium. To meet that directive, RCO proposed delaying hiring two recently approved positions—an employee to coordinate orca recovery actions and an employee to develop a program for carbon sequestration. In addition, RCO's proposed budget reduced funding for lead entities by removing money slated for training and \$63,000 in operating costs to be taken across 25 lead entities. Finally, RCO's proposed budget reduces small amounts of funding from the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and other agency administration costs. These proposed budget reductions are in addition to the 15 percent reduction RCO took in the current fiscal year, along with the loss of salary increases for some staff, furloughs for all



staff, and freezes on all hiring, large equipment purchasing, and some new personal services contracts. In light of the economic forecast that predicts a \$4.4 billion reduction in the upcoming biennium, RCO expects the hiring freeze and furloughs to be extended.

On a positive note, in its budget request, RCO asked for funding for two new grant programs-\$22 million for the Community Forests Program, which was created this year, and \$5 million for a grant program to be called the Outdoor Recreation Equity Program, which will target underserved communities.

RCO requested funding for all of its grant programs, including \$80 million for salmon recovery.

RCO also is preparing a request to introduce legislation to extend the Washington Invasive Species Council for an additional 10 years to 2032.

Budget and Program	Agency Request
OPERATING	
General Fund-State	\$2,255,000
General Fund-Federal	\$3,806,000
General Fund-Private Local	\$24,000
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$338,000
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	\$37,000
Boating	\$4,182,000
Nonhighway and Off-roads Vehicle Account	\$1,118,000
Youth Athletic Facilities	\$6,000
Operating Total	\$11,766,000
CAPITAL	
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION	
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	\$140,000,000
Youth Athletics Facilities	\$11,300,000
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	\$9,100,000
Outdoor Recreation Equity	\$5,000,000
Community Forests Program	\$22,000,000
Boating Facilities Program	\$16,200,000
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities	\$13,200,000
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	\$630 ,000
SALMON RECOVERY	
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	\$80,000,000
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	\$69,900,000
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	\$20,000,000
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	\$10,000,000
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	\$65,600,000
Washington Coastal Restoration and Resilience Initiative	\$15,000,000
FEDERAL SPENDING AUTHORITY	
Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$20,000,000
Recreational Trails Program	\$5,000,000
Boating Infrastructure Grants	\$2,200,000
Pacific Coastal Salmon Restoration Fund	\$50,000,000
Capital Total	\$555,130,000

Strong Showing in New Community Forests Program

RCO's newest grant program, the Community Forests Program, received 15 applications, a strong showing for a new program with only a 1-month application window. Earlier this year, the Legislature directed RCO to develop criteria and a ranked project list by December 31. Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, worked at lightning speed to develop criteria and establish the program. This program is designed to protect working forests from development and provide economic, environmental, and recreational benefits to communities. Grant applications this year requested \$33 million and would conserve 10,809 acres. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board will review the ranked list of projects in November and



send recommendations to the Legislature in December. RCO submitted a budget request for \$22 million for the program.

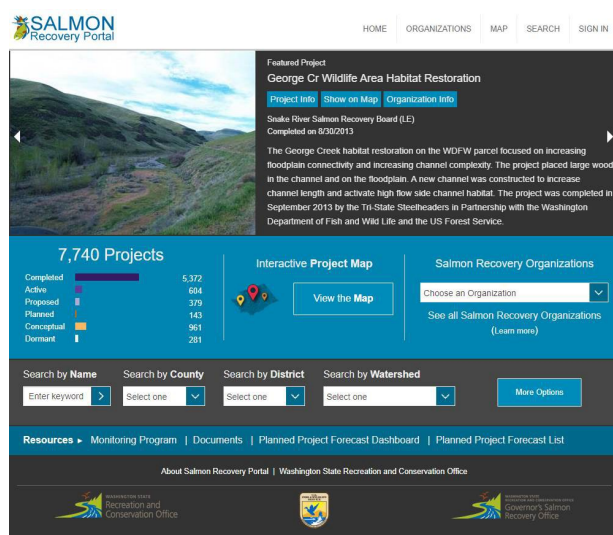
Orca Recovery Efforts Continue Despite Budget Cuts

Although the pandemic and resulting budget cuts have left the orca recovery position at RCO vacant, state agencies are moving forward on work critical to improve conditions for orcas. State agencies continue to meet to review and act on recommendations set forth by the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force in its 2019 final report. This work has taken on additional importance after two new orca calves were born earlier this fall.



Salmon Recovery Portal is Rebranded and Evaluated for Future Changes

We are pleased to announce that the [Salmon Recovery Portal](#) has been transferred successfully from Dude Solutions to RCO. The portal is a comprehensive, online database for tracking salmon recovery efforts throughout Washington regardless of the funding source. The portal tracks more than 12,000 on-the-ground projects across the state, making it easy to see how projects relate to each other and what needs to be done next to recover salmon. RCO has rebranded the site and made several improvements. RCO will work closely with the lead entities on future improvements and has contracted with Rudeen and Associates, a highly experienced database development team, to support improvements to the system.



RCO Embraces Remote Working

Staff continue to work remotely during these challenging times. All our equipment and software continue to meet our business needs. On average about five employees come into the office in the Natural Resources Building each day to work. Staff rotate in and out depending on their needs. RCO has committed to being as flexible as possible with work schedules and have worked with staff to allow flex schedules and hours and alternate work locations in order to meet today's challenges. We anticipate remote working to continue well into the foreseeable future.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Formed

After the George Floyd tragedy, I sent out a statement unifying staff around some common core principles. In addition, I established an employee-run committee to advise and educate executive management on important diversity, equity, and inclusion issues. Scott Robinson, RCO's deputy director, is meeting with this motivated group. We believe that this group will play an important role in shaping the future of RCO's culture.



News from the Other Boards

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met in August to decide its requests to the Governor for grant program funding. The board will meet on November 5 to approve the ranked lists of projects for half its grant programs for the 2021-2023 biennium.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met online September 24 and said goodbye to its chair, Ray Willard, who will lead his last meeting in December. Joe Maroney, who is the council's vice chair, will take over in January. At its meeting, the council discussed its 2021 meeting dates, online enforcement of plant health quarantines, a Pollinator Health Task Force briefing, an overview of invasive species recommendations, Asian giant hornet citizen science trapping and response actions, and an interagency feral swine response briefing.

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** met virtually on October 21, the first time the board had met since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak. The group shared information on budget requests and agency-request legislation proposed for the 2021-23 Legislative Session that were related to land acquisition and management. The group also reviewed the final electronic habitat and recreation lands forecast report and discussed lessons learned and improvements for the next report due in 2022.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of October 14, 2020

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021, actuals through October 14, 2020 (FM 15). 62.5% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET New and Re- appropriation 2019-2021	COMMITTED Dollars	% of Budget	TO BE COMMITTED Dollars	% of Budget	EXPENDITURES Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2013-15	\$1,936,999	\$1,936,999	100%	\$0	0%	\$401,052	21%
2015-17	\$2,973,000	\$2,842,938	97%	\$130,062	4%	\$2,823,294	95%
2017-19	\$11,332,731	\$11,280,305	99%	\$52,426	1%	\$5,461,556	37%
2019-21	\$21,570,000	\$21,384,571	69%	\$185,429	1%	\$1,783,691	11%
Total	37,812,730	37,444,813	82%	367,917	1%	10,469,593	28%
Federal Funded							
2015	\$3,324,250	\$3,324,250	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,324,250	100%
2016	\$7,782,478	\$5,774,765	74%	\$2,007,713	26%	\$3,460,760	41%
2017	\$11,149,935	\$10,073,112	90%	\$1,076,823	10%	\$5,732,182	56%
2018	\$16,258,379	\$16,062,712	99%	\$195,667	1%	\$6,305,377	36%
2019	\$18,085,650	\$18,085,650	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,777,545	14%
2020	\$17,945,000	\$12,865,395	72%	\$5,079,605	28%	\$0	0%
Total	74,545,692	66,185,883	89%	8,359,809	11%	22,600,115	37%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$7,660,354	\$7,090,612	93%	\$569,742	7%	\$2,635,774	36%
PSAR	\$98,866,446	\$96,999,213	98%	\$1,867,233	2%	\$19,907,408	20%
Subtotal	218,885,222	207,720,521	95%	11,164,701	5%	55,612,890	27%

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2019-2021	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	3,672,080	49%
Subtotal	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	3,672,080	49%
GRAND TOTAL	\$226,419,465	\$215,254,764	95%	\$11,164,701	5%	\$59,284,970	28%

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 2021. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of October 22, 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 2021. 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.

Seven salmon blockages were removed so far, this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to October 22, 2020), with five passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 17.08 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2021 Performance
Blockages Removed	7
Bridges Installed	3
Culverts Installed	2
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible by SRFB-Funded Projects in FY 2021

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
16-1533	IMW Sarah Cr. Habitat & Passage Enhancement	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	1.72
17-1117	Camp 7 Road – Fish Barrier Removal (Site 4)	Quinalt Indian Nation	0.72
17-1418	Johnson Cr Fish Passage Site ID R261020014604	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	6.2
18-1494	Bush Creek 3 Fish Barrier Correction Construction	Chehalis Basin FTF	8.44
Total Miles			17.08

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2021 operational performance measures as of October 22, 2020.

Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2021 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	80%	●	5 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mailed agreements on average 9 days after a project was approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	89%	●	237 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 210 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded within 7 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	100%	●	During this fiscal year to date, 536 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	70%	●	23 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far, this fiscal year. 16 closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	4	●	Four SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. This is less than at the time of the last board meeting.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	4	●	Staff have inspected 4 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2021 to reach the target. Target impacted by travel restrictions.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 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)

Legislative and Partner Activities

Legislative, federal affairs, and partner activities continued to be modified due to COVID-19. All meetings were virtual web-based events.

GSRO and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife coordinated a virtual meeting with representatives from the Pacific Salmon Commission, Governor's Washington DC Office, and federal agency leadership in DC to discuss federal funding priorities for salmon recovery and sustainable fisheries in Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Individual meetings occurred with the Office of Management and Budget, US Army Corps of Engineers, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in September.

GSRO also coordinated a virtual meeting among Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award recipient states (WA, OR, ID, AK, CA) in October. This was part of a quarterly coordination meeting to share information on cross-state salmon activities and

priorities, to coordinate around the timing and likelihood of an annual salmon day visit to DC in 2021, and to calibrate on individual state biennial budgets and salmon recovery priorities. Due to the state legislative calendars, continuing budget challenges, and the pandemic, states are considering shifting salmon days in DC to the fall 2021. In person travel will be considered as the date draws closer.

Early preparations for Puget Sound Day on the Hill (PSDOTH) have begun, again being led by Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. At this early stage, the steering committee is considering options for an all virtual PSDOTH event with a similar format to last year. In 2020, PSDOTH involved a series of weekly 2-hour web-based virtual meetings with two members of congress attending each meeting. The virtual meetings occurred through the months of June and July.

GSRO submitted a comment letter to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission in response to their proposed hatchery policy updates (Attachment D). In the letter, GSRO requested that the Fish and Wildlife Commission ensure there is alignment with the Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon and the federally adopted regional recovery plans. The letter also encouraged the Fish and Wildlife Commission to strengthen its partnership with each of the statutorily recognized regional recovery organizations so we can work together towards the shared and mutually beneficial goal of salmon recovery in Washington.

GSRO was an invited speaker as part of the annual meeting for the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference that was held virtually in October. The panel topic was collaborative public processes in the natural resource sector. GSRO provided a brief overview of the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force with other panel members representing the Columbia Basin Partnership, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

RCO continued to meet with the regional salmon recovery boards, Washington Salmon Coalition, and Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups to continue collaboration and coordination with key salmon recovery partners.

Statewide Salmon Strategy Update

The natural resource agencies were briefed on the update and agency engagement was discussed on September 3, 2020. RCO staff provided a template for the agencies to report past, present, and future salmon recovery efforts that will be incorporated into the update. RCO's contractor, Triangle Associates have been busy writing the bulk of the text for the update.

State of Salmon Report

The *State of Salmon in Watersheds* Report is on track to be completed by the end of 2020. RCO and GSRO are required by statute ([RCW 77.85.020](#)) to produce this biennial report for the Legislature summarizing salmon recovery progress in Washington. The project team is building a web site, executive summary and overall content for the 2020 edition of the [State of Salmon in Watersheds](#). The 2020 version will have improved usability of the site and content that is easier to understand. Salmon abundance numbers and status will continue to be reported but with a new look, a more quantitative method for determining status, and easier access. The draft executive summary is being circulated for review. If there is interest, GSRO can prepare a briefing for the board on the new 2020 SOS report at the next board meeting.

Salmon Recovery Network

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) met virtually in September and October. At the October 7, 2020 meeting Casey Katims, Director of Federal & Inter-State Affairs for Governor Inslee briefed SRNet on federal activities. In October SRNet completed its work with state agencies and salmon recovery partners on the salmon recovery budget buddy document and priorities and submitted a letter to Governor Inslee outlining the 2021-23 Biennium priorities (Attachment C).

Salmon Recovery Conference

The conference will be held on the virtual platform, *Accelevent*. The Call for Abstracts is now open and will close November 30, 2020. Staff are working to recruit abstract reviewers. The Steering Committee is working on selecting keynote speakers. Staff are also working on determining registration fee amounts and sponsorship ranges and categories.

Orca Recovery

The orca recovery position continues to be subject to the Governor's hiring freeze due to the economic downturn. However, RCO and GSRO continued to meet with other state natural resource agencies to coordinate implementation of the state led activities for orca recovery. In October, ahead of Orca Recovery Day, the state agencies worked with the Governor's Office to prepare a status update memo for Governor Inslee outlining state agency progress on orca recovery over the last year.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

2020 Grant Round

RCO staff and grant recipients are working on contracts for the recently funded salmon projects. The approved Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program projects have been submitted with RCO's budget requests for the 2021-2023 biennium to the Office of Financial Management for Governor and legislative consideration.

Manual 18 Updates

Staff will present Manual 18 updates to the SRFB in Item 6, including the timeline for the 2021 grant round. The PCSRF application dollar amount for regional monitoring projects will be added to the manual along with additional clarifications on regional monitoring and a timeline that aligns better with the SRFB grant round timeline. New monitoring evaluation criteria is proposed.

Other Salmon Programs

Investment plans for project lists have been submitted with RCO's budget requests to the Office of Financial Management for Governor and legislative consideration. RCO worked with WDFW on the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB) project list, with WDFW and the Puget Sound Partnership on the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) list and with the Washington Coast Sustainable Partnership on the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRI) project list. Following are links to the project lists proposed for the 2021-2023 biennium.

ESRP: [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program proposed project list](#)

WCRI: [Washington Restoration and Resiliency Program proposed project list](#)

BAFBRB: [Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board proposed project list](#)

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 October 16, 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	93	412	2,644	3,149
Percentage of Total	3.0%	13.1%	84.0%	

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 August 18, 2020 and October 16, 2020. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g. designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out 18 projects or contracts during this time.

Approved Amendments

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between August 13, 2020 and October 20, 2020. Staff processed 39 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Attachment C - SRNet Letter to the Governor

Attachment D - Letter from GSRO to Fish and Wildlife Commission

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from August 18, 2020 – October 16, 2020

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1517</u>	Wahkiakum Conservation Dist.	Baldwin Site Restoration Phase 2	Salmon Federal Projects	9/9/2020
<u>17-1117</u>	Quinault Indian Nation	Camp 7 Road - Fish Barrier Removal (Site 4)	Salmon Federal Projects	9/10/2020
<u>16-1492</u>	Hood Canal SEG	Duckabush Estuary Restoration Support Acquisition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	9/28/2020
<u>15-1289</u>	Friends of the San Juans	Forage Fish Spawn Habitat Rehabilitation	Salmon State Projects	10/12/2020
<u>17-1074</u>	Mountains to Sound Greenway	Issaquah Creek In-Stream Restoration (Prelim-Des)	Salmon Federal Projects	10/2/2020
<u>18-1389</u>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Lower East Fork Grays Design	Salmon Federal Projects	9/29/2020
<u>16-1534</u>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Lower South Fork Grays River Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	9/21/2020
<u>15-1231</u>	South Puget Sound SEG	Mashel Eatonville Restoration Phase III	Salmon State Projects	9/21/2020
<u>16-2116</u>	Lummi Nation	MF Porter Creek Reach In-Stream Restoration Ph 4	Salmon Federal Projects	9/18/2020

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>17-1243</u>	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Nason Creek - Kahler Reach Preliminary Design	Salmon State Projects	9/29/2020
<u>18-1579</u>	Quinault Indian Nation	Red Creek Tributary Fish Passage Design	Salmon Federal Projects	9/15/2020
<u>14-1334</u>	Mason Conservation Dist.	S. Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment	Salmon State Projects	8/27/2020
<u>17-1241</u>	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Thermal Refuge Assessment in Wenatchee & Entiat	Salmon State Projects	8/25/2020
<u>18-1857</u>	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Twisp Floodplain Left Bank Alcove Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	9/22/2020
<u>16-1796</u>	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Twisp River Floodplain Lower Acquisition Phase II	Salmon State Projects	9/8/2020
<u>18-1865</u>	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Upper Beaver Creek Preliminary Design	Salmon Federal Projects	8/25/2020
<u>15-1197</u>	Mason Conservation Dist.	Weaver Creek Reconnection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/14/2020
<u>17-1203</u>	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Wenatchee LIDAR Watershed Assessment	Salmon State Projects	9/2/2020

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>18-1258</u>	Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Construction	King County Water & Land Res	Salmon - State	Cost Change	9/24/2020	Cost reduction of \$816,866. Flooding advanced the restoration project naturally, resulting in significant construction cost savings.
<u>16-1591</u>	Curley Creek Acquisition	Great Peninsula Conservancy	PSAR	Cost Change	10/14/2020	Increased project funding by \$5,000 and increased match by \$61,548 and increased size of property by 1.12 acres.
<u>18-1301</u>	Upper Dungeness Large Wood Restoration – Phase II	Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe	PSAR	Cost Change	10/15/2020	Added \$151,549 in 17-19 PSAR funds from the North Olympic Peninsula LE to continue with large wood installations.
<u>17-1070</u>	Ridgefield Pits Design	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	8/17/2020	Added \$12,101 of Salmon Federal funding and \$1800 in match to allow for project management/administration to incorporate Mill Creek as requested by the LCFRB Technical Advisory Committee.

October 22, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Re: Salmon Recovery Funding in the Governor's 2021-2023 Budget

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet), we are writing to highlight statewide salmon recovery priorities for the 2021-23 Biennial Budget. The collective salmon recovery network feels strongly that it is imperative that we maintain progress and continue critical investments to protect and restore habitat, provide for clean, cold water, and take action to ameliorate the impacts of climate change. We know that a healthy environment is good for salmon, benefits people, and buoys our economy. Every \$1 million invested in watershed restoration results in an average of 16.7 new or sustained jobs, and \$2.2-2.5 million in total economic activity¹. Importantly, salmon recovery helps in the fight for racial and environmental justice, particularly for indigenous people and subsistence fishers, and supports orca recovery.

We recognize that we are highlighting these salmon priorities in the face of extremely challenging times with the convergence of a global pandemic and related economic downturn, social unrest and long standing social justice and equity issues, and devastating wildfires and environmental impacts that are sweeping the western US related to and exacerbated by climate change. Nonetheless, the collective voice from the network of salmon recovery partners is clear. We must hold the ground on the progress we've made, and we must propel efforts forward where strategic opportunities exist.

SRNet is an affiliation of organizations dedicated to helping the salmon recovery community speak with a unified voice on statewide salmon recovery priorities. The network does not speak for any single organization but is comprised of tribes, non-profits, local governments, regional recovery organizations, and state and federal agency partners who have spent the last two decades working locally in watersheds across the state to build a resilient and robust statewide salmon recovery community.

SRNet has assembled the following budget priorities deemed mission critical for salmon recovery in the 2021-23 Biennial Budget.

Foundational and Priority Budget Requests for Salmon Recovery:

An effective recovery effort is a complex undertaking that depends on a number of agency and partner programs as recognized in the Statewide Salmon Strategy. Highlighted below are long standing priority programs that are foundational to salmon recovery statewide. The "Budget Buddy" spreadsheet (pages 4-5) summarizes more comprehensively agency and partner budget requests and provides additional information on agency programs that more broadly support salmon recovery.

¹ Nielsen-Pincus and Moseley, 2010. Economic and Employment Impacts of Forest and Watershed Restoration in Oregon. University of Oregon: Ecosystem Workforce Program, [Working Paper Number 24](#).

CAPITAL BUDGET

Habitat Restoration and Environmental Protection Programs

The following programs support on-the-ground efforts that will improve habitat, support local economies, and leverage federal funding for salmon recovery:

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (\$80M), Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (\$69.9M), Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (\$20M), Brian Abbott Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board (\$65M), and Washington Coast Restoration and Resilience Initiative (\$15M), Yakima River System Water Supply (\$42M), Columbia River Water Supply Development Program (\$42M), Floodplains by Design (\$70M), Stormwater Financial Assistance Program (\$52.7M), Chehalis Basin Strategy (\$70M), Streamflow Restoration Program (\$40M), Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Program (\$9M), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (\$7.7M), Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (\$640k), Puget Sound Corps (\$8M), Snohomish Watershed Restoration (\$2.3M), and the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (\$60M).

OPERATING BUDGET

Salmon Recovery Infrastructure

The following programs provide foundational infrastructure support critical to sustain salmon recovery:

- Maintenance and restorative level funding for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, Puget Sound Partnership, State Conservation Commission, Recreation and Conservation Office for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and Lead Entity program (see attached budget buddy for funding levels).
- Funding for North of Falcon Commitments (\$4.3M), Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Assistance for Landowners (\$2.5M), Aquatic Invasive Species (\$2.8M), and Conservation Technical Assistance (\$5M).

In addition to the budget priorities, we ask to support the Department of Revenue legislation that clarifies when a non-profit organization receives grant funding from a government entity for habitat or salmon restoration work (RCW 82.04.4339), including indirect grants often referred to as "contract agreements" that they are exempt from business and occupation and retail sales tax. This will help to maximize the value of public funds for salmon recovery.

On behalf of the salmon recovery network, we respectfully request that you consider these statewide salmon recovery agency highlights as you develop your 2021-23 Biennial Budget. Your support will ensure that we continue to make progress with salmon recovery even in the face of our collective challenges and will anchor our efforts to build communities that are resilient to the impacts from climate change.

Sincerely,



Erik Neatherlin
SRNet Chair
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

cc: David Schumacher
Nona Snell
Jennifer Masterson
Jim Cahill
JT Austin
Kaleen Cottingham
Jeff Breckel

SRNet Participants & Partners

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)
Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Department of Ecology (ECY)
State Conservation Commission (SCC)
Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)
Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)
Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC)
Council of Regions (COR)
Regional Salmon Recovery Boards
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Long Live the Kings (LLTK)
Washington Environmental Council (WEC)
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs)

SRNet Budget Buddy 2021-23 Biennium

Agency & Programs (Salmon Recovery & Orca Related)	Budget	Agency 2021-23 Budget Requests
State Conservation Commission		
Conservation Technical Assistance	Operating	\$5,000,000
CREP Riparian Planning	Capital	\$7,725,000
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	Capital	\$7,962,000
Irrigation Efficiencies	Capital	\$3,000,000
Natural Resource Investments (NRI)	Capital	\$11,905,000
Puget Sound Partnership		
Puget Sound Info	Operating	\$436,000
Puget Sound DEI and EJ	Operating	\$576,000
Recreation & Conservation Office		
Lead Entities Carryover	Operating	\$828,000
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	Capital	\$80,000,000
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)	Capital	\$69,900,000
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	Capital	\$20,000,000
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	Capital	\$10,000,000
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	Capital	\$65,600,000
Washington Coastal Restoration and Resilience Initiative (WCRRI)	Capital	\$15,000,000
Washington Department of Ecology		
Antifouling Paint Technical Review	Operating	\$377,000
Safer Products for Washington	Operating	\$1,554,000
Shift to Voluntary Cleanup Account	Operating	\$344,000
Aquaculture Section 401 Permitting	Operating	\$1,432,000
Federal Waters of the US Rollback	Operating	\$1,482,000
Increase Water Cleanup Plans	Operating	\$3,897,000
Water Rights Adjudication	Operating	\$1,000,000
Floodplain Management Grants	Operating	\$3,200,000
Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Grant Program	Capital	\$9,000,000
Centennial Clean Water Program	Capital	\$80,000,000
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program	Capital	\$52,700,000
Water Pollution Control Revolving Program	Capital	\$300,000,000
Coastal Wetlands Federal Funds	Capital	\$8,000,000
State Match - Water Pollution Control Revolving Program	Capital	\$15,000,000
Streamflow Restoration Program	Capital	\$40,000,000
Yakima River Basin Water Supply	Capital	\$42,000,000
Columbia River Water Supply Development Program	Capital	\$40,000,000
Clean Up Toxics Sites- Puget Sound	Capital	\$5,808,000
Chehalis Basin Strategy	Capital	\$70,000,000
Floodplains by Design	Capital	\$70,000,000
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife		
HPA Landowner Assistance	Operating	\$2,500,000

Attachment C

Aquatic Invasive Species	Operating	\$2,800,000
North of Falcon Habitat Commitments	Operating	\$4,300,000
Marine Mammal Management	Operating	\$2,700,000
Monitoring Fisheries	Operating	\$2,500,000
Evergreen Jobs	Operating	\$700,000
Columbia River License Reduction Program	Operating	\$1,100,000
Wildlife Rehabilitation	Operating	\$300,000
PSNERP	Capital	\$60,000,000
Washington Department of Natural Resources		
Urban Forestry (connected to Evergreen Communities Act update)	Operating	\$2,072,000
Derelict Vessel Prevention & Recycling Program Improvements	Capital	\$5,600,000
Roads & Bridges	Capital	\$3,755,000
Forest Riparian Easement Program (FREP)	Capital	\$10,419,000
Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)	Capital	\$10,000,000
Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program	Capital	\$6,100,000
Snohomish Watershed Restoration	Capital	\$2,300,000
Puget Sound Corps	Capital	\$8,000,000
Scalable Forestry Resiliency	Capital	\$25,000,000
Grouse Ridge Culvert Removal	Capital	\$1,730,000
Washington State Department of Transportation		
Fish Passage Barrier Removal		\$726,000,000
Stormwater Cleanup		\$7,500,000

Complementary Budget Buddy Agency Highlights:

This is a complementary attachment with the Budget Buddy. The Budget Buddy is a comprehensive document that includes important state salmon recovery budget requests. This attachment provides brief descriptions for select state agency budget items.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Recreation and Conservation Office:

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Habitat Restoration and Protection projects - \$80 Million (Federal Match) - Funding for salmon restoration, design, and protection projects across the state to be undertaken by local governments, tribes, conservation districts, WDFW, and a number of nonprofit organizations through the competitive Lead Entities/SRFB process. Funding this item allows Washington State to submit a competitive Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) application to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and leverages the amount of federal dollars supporting salmon recovery in Washington.
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (PSAR) - \$69.9 Million: PSAR supports projects that recovery salmon and protect and recover salmon habitat in Puget Sound.
- Brian Abbott Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board - \$65 Million: The Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board identifies and removes impediments to salmon and steelhead migration.

State Conservation Commission:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – 7.725 Million (Federal Match): CREP is a key priority for the State Conservation Commission (SCC) to fund program management and project implementation with private landowners. CREP addresses degraded habitat for ESA-listed salmon through partnerships with conservation districts and farmers to plant native trees and shrubs while removing livestock and agriculture activities from the riparian area of streams on privately owned agricultural lands. CREP is administered with funds from the Farm Service Agency (80%) and the state (20%).
- Natural Resource Investments (NRI) - \$11.905 Million: A SCC priority includes supporting the NRI which ensures key funding for conservation districts to support on-the-ground projects with landowners, which supports healthy and protective salmon habitat.

Department of Ecology:

- Floodplains by Design (FbD) - \$70 Million: Floodplains by Design is a floodplain management program that uses an integrated approach to managing our state's flood-prone areas. Floodplains by Design combines flood-hazard reduction actions with salmon recovery, habitat restoration, and other community benefits. The program is a public-private partnership between Ecology, The Nature Conservancy, and the Puget Sound Partnership.
- Stormwater Financial Assistance Program - \$52.7 Million: Ecology's Stormwater Financial Assistance Program provides grants to public entities to finance stormwater retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater in priority areas throughout the state. This request will fund work accomplished by local governments to help reduce toxics and other pollution from entering our waterways and protect our marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources.
- Streamflow Restoration Program - \$40 Million: Ecology is requesting new appropriation authority to continue implementing Chapter 90.94 RCW Streamflow Restoration Program that was passed in the 2018 legislative session. This request will fund projects that implement the Chapter 90.94 RCW local watershed planning process that improves instream flows statewide. With this request, Ecology will deliver additional water supplies to improve stream flow conditions for fish and wildlife.

Department of Natural Resources:

- Forest Resiliency - \$25 Million: A scalable priority that crosses State, small landowner private, and federal lands for rapid job development in multiple sectors statewide, linking the Forest Action Plan, Forest Health Strategic Plan, and Wildfire Strategic Plan, and benefitting salmon habitat.
- Derelict Vessel Removal and Recycling - \$5.6 Million: Creates 30 jobs and leads to improved water quality and salmon habitat recovery in Snohomish County, Pacific County, and Port Townsend.
- Snohomish Watershed Restoration - \$2.3 Million: Creates six Puget Sound Corps crew team positions and two FTEs to work on improved water quality and salmon habitat recovery within the priority watershed area for the Commissioner.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:

- Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) - \$60 Million (Federal Match): PSNERP is a comprehensive assessment of the Puget Sound's 2,5000 miles of shoreline to understand how humans have impacts the nearshore zone and identify opportunities to improve nearshore health and to support key features and species such as salmon and orcas. All PSNERP state funds are matched with Army Corps of Engineer federal funds by a 35/65 ratio.

OPERATING BUDGET*Recreation and Conservation Office:*

- Programs that sustain our core salmon recovery infrastructure
 - o Lead Entity Organizations - \$828,000: A request for Lead Entities salmon recovery infrastructure. The Lead Entities manage and develop and rank salmon habitat projects in their competitive grant process. RCO request \$828,000 from Operating and \$2,400,000 from Capital for the Lead Entity program. Lead Entities stress the need to return to previous biennium funding levels, historically at \$974,000.
 - o Fisheries Enhancement Groups – \$640,000: to support RFEGs in development and implementation of salmon recovery projects and related community outreach.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:

- Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Assistance for Landowners - \$2.5 Million: WDFW's priorities include supporting landowners with technical assistance biologists to ensure compliance will lead to greater fish protection and stronger fish populations.
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - \$2.8 Million: Ensuring an effective AIS management program is another WDFW priority for the upcoming biennium. This project would include prevention, early detection, and rapid response capacity to eradicate AIS threat before they become established in key salmon habitats.
- North of Falcon Habitat Commitments - \$4.3 Million: WDFW is working to improve and increase efforts to fulfill treaty rights and to protect and recover the iconic wild salmon populations. This request focuses on three main components; to establish a current environmental baseline to better measure salmon recovery in key watersheds, implement more precise monitoring of freshwater productivity over time, and to improve fish protection and fish passage compliance.

State Conservation Commission:

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) - \$5 Million: Another SCC priority package provides all 45 conservation districts with flexible funding that maximizes their ability to tackle emergent, local issues and support Washington's agricultural economy. This includes funding for engineering services that support salmon restoration projects for districts and many watershed and recovery entities.

Puget Sound Partnership:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Environmental Justice (EJ) - \$576k: PSP is requesting budget for staffing and contracts to provide staff training relating to DEI; conduct an organizational assessment of the Partnership; support environmental justice community assessment; and develop a DEI & EJ strategic plan.
- Puget Sound Info - \$436k: Budget requests for annual operations and maintenance, as well as on-going quality assurance and change management to ensure the timeliness and accuracy of information the agency provides to the Legislature, to regional and local recovery partners and funding programs, and to the public.
- Supporting Salmon Recovery-Related Budget Requests by State Agencies: PSP is supporting the Recreation and Conservation Office, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, and the State Conservation Commission regarding their salmon recovery-related budget requests.

Department of Ecology:

- Floodplain Management Grants - \$3.2 Million: The state statute requires that \$4 million be transferred from the state general fund to the Flood Control Assistance Account each biennium to pay for flood-risk reduction activities, including grants to local government to prepare comprehensive flood control management plans. The FCAA appropriation was reduced by half at carry-forward level for the 2019-21 Biennium. This effort will support multi-benefit projects and support salmon recovery efforts across the state.

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

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



(360) 902-3000
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Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

October 8, 2020

Mr. Larry Carpenter, Chair
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
PO Box 43200
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Subject: Comments on Proposed August 1, 2020 Update to Hatchery Policy C-3619

I am writing on behalf of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO). The role of the GSRO is to work with state agencies, regional salmon recovery organizations, and other partners to ensure a coordinated and consistent statewide approach to salmon recovery. Given the statewide importance of hatchery reform to salmon recovery and the intersection of our agency authorities and interests, we offer the following comments on the proposed Hatchery Policy C-3619 update.

The GSRO requests that WDFW ensure the policy is in alignment with the Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy: Extinction is not an Option and the federally adopted Salmon Recovery Plans and regional sustainability plans. Salmon and Southern Resident Orcas require that Washington State continues to make progress on recovery. Washington's regional salmon recovery organizations have worked diligently with a multitude of partners, including WDFW and other state agencies, federal agencies, Tribes, local governments, and a variety of stakeholders, to develop adopted Salmon Recovery Plans and related regional sustainability plans that take all of these factors into consideration. These plans form the foundation for salmon recovery efforts across the state and represent a commitment from a multitude of partners to work together to recover salmon and steelhead to healthy and harvestable levels. The WDFW Hatchery Policy needs to be consistent with the statewide strategy and regional recovery plans.

GSRO requests that the following language be reinserted back into the new policy. This language was included in the original policy but has been removed from the new draft policy update. *"The intent of hatchery reform is to improve hatchery effectiveness, ensure compatibility between hatchery production and salmon recovery plans and rebuilding programs, and support sustainable fisheries."*

In addition, the GSRO requests that Section 3 of the HGMP Table of Contents (Relationship of Program to Other Management Objectives) be revised to include: *"3.6, Relationship to existing state and federally adopted recovery plans and regional sustainability plans, and associated*



goals, objectives, targets, measures and actions. Explain any proposed deviations from the plan(s).” The GSRO appreciates the emphasis in the new policy on recovery and conservation of salmon and steelhead, and the use of general references to conservation such as “regionally accepted policies,” “habitat protection and recovery strategies,” and “other management plans.” However, these general references lack a direct policy commitment to aligning hatchery production with state and federally adopted recovery plans and rebuilding programs that were the cornerstone of the previous policy.

Finally, the GSRO encourages the Fish and Wildlife Commission to engage directly with the statutorily recognized Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations. There are seven of these organizations located across the state, each working closely with agencies, tribes, and other partners to implement salmon recovery. Increasing direct communication with the recovery organizations will strengthen individual partnerships with WDFW and will also help to achieve our shared and mutually beneficial goal of salmon recovery in Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If you have any questions or would like to discuss them in more detail, please feel free to contact me at (360) 628-2548, or via email at erik.neatherlin@gsro.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Erik Neatherlin
Executive Coordinator, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office

cc: Kelly Susewind, Director, WDFW
Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
JT Austin, Governor’s Policy Office
Council of Regions

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: Strategic Plan Update

Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Summary

This memo provides an overview of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (Board) Strategic Plan and Authorities.

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

Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board provides funding for elements necessary to achieve overall salmon recovery, including habitat projects and other activities that result in sustainable and measurable benefits for salmon and other fish species. The board is governed by Chapter [77.85 RCW](#) and [Title 420 WAC](#).

The Board's strategic plan was last updated for the 2017-19 biennium and re-visited at the 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) retreat. In 2019 it was decided that there were no major updates necessary to the board's strategic plan. The attached Organizational Matrix was put together as part of the 2017-19 work plan as a high-level overview of the functions, authorities, and duties of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the Regional Organizations, and the Lead Entities.

This information is provided to help the board decide whether any changes are needed to its strategic plan. Be prepared to discuss the scope of the strategic plan and our work over the past several years. A decision on what, if anything, to change for the future will occur at the 2021 Board Retreat, which is scheduled for September 2021.

Attached you will find the board's current plan and an organizational matrix for your review. Also, item 3B describes the current policy workplan that implements the strategic plan.

Links and Attachments

[Current Strategic Plan](#)

Attachment A – 2017 Organizational Matrix

Attachment A: Salmon Recovery Organizational Matrix; February 21, 2017

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint SRFB members, including one cabinet level appointment • Statewide salmon recovery strategy • Coordinate with forestry • Negotiate federal assurances 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help promote state of the salmon in watersheds report • Provide letter of support for salmon recovery network
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate overall state response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantify the loss of salmon habitat • Establish habitat goals to measure progress • Align metrics, goals, indicators, definitions, and data systems • Coordinate and share data systems • Coordinate biennial salmon recovery conference • Produce videos, brochures, web communications • Obtain PCSRF funds • Implement the Coordinated Communications Framework and develop communications plan (with SRFB) (see next column) • Support Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) (with SRFB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire communication coordinator • Assemble communication advisory committee • Secure communications funding for regions, lead entities, and RFEs • Build strategies to build relationships • Provide messaging training • Promote salmon recovery

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
			conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct media editorial outreach • Develop storytelling and materials for outreach • Participate in 2019 Internal Year of the Salmon
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as liaison to local, state, federal, tribes and elected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate congressional delegation • Coordinate outreach activities at state and federal levels that coordinate with local efforts • Coordinate an annual meeting of salmon recovery leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build relationship at all levels of government and other partners • Coordinate 2018 Salmon Summit to Accelerate Recovery
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain statewide salmon recovery strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update 2002 Salmon Recovery Reference Guide • Update the statewide salmon recovery strategy 	
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop statewide implementation plan, timeline, and budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritize funding needs. Diversify funding courses • Identify and prioritize capital funding needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create fundraising team • Secure new public and private funding
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature that would further the success of salmon recovery 	No specific work plan items identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form legislative panel of experts
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with federal agencies and assist others to obtain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure collaboration with 5-year NOAA status reviews • Meet with tribal co-managers and state to review 	

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
	federal assurances and accomplish federal commitments	commitments and collaboration opportunities	
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with regional organizations to ensure a coordinated and consistent statewide approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support regional recovery organizations Support Council of Regions 	
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate regional recovery planning and implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with regions on updates to GMA and SMP Participate in regional recovery plan updates Identify process to tie indicators together to adaptively manage recovery plan implementation Account for hatchery and harvest reform in implementation of recovery plans Coordinate across regions and manage regional organization contracts Request information from agencies on progress in recovery plan implementation 	
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue biennial State of Salmon in Watersheds report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce State of the Salmon in Watersheds report (overlaps with RCO producing the report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote State of Salmon on Watersheds report
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce periodic reports pursuant to state of salmon report 	No specific work plan items identified.	
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to science panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate SRFB monitoring program (status and trends, IMW, effectiveness) Support Monitoring Panel and committees Advocate for additional resources to fund monitoring gaps Communicate monitoring panel outputs through habitat work schedule Member of Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership 	

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
		steering committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program steering committee 	
GSRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Fish Barrier Removal Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with DFW to upgrade fish passage barrier data, find additional funding, and to expand their technical services 	
GSRO	Additional work not specifically identified in statute but in a work plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SRFB policy work Manage monitoring projects Manage habitat work schedule Support lead entities including data entry into habitat work schedule and assure data quality Support lead entities and Washington Salmon Coalition 	
SRFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide grants for salmon recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address policy issues through biennial policy plan and adopt grant round policies Approve grants and other funding requests 	
SRFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve region and lead entity capacity funding 	
SRFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Manual 18 	
SRFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a list proposed project and list of projects funded to Legislature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare report to legislature (included with State of Salmon in Watersheds reports) 	
SRFB	Additional work not specifically identified in statute but in a work plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve capital and operating budget requests Establish funding allocation committee to conduct an allocation review and update formula Communications Plan with GSRO Support Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) (with GSRO) Conduct board retreat Allocate federal funds to monitoring and Support Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring sub-committee Evaluate effectiveness of Monitoring Panel 	

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update monitoring adaptive management policies for projects and overall program Hold board retreat 	
RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer SRFB grants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct grant round including preparing and soliciting for applications, conducting projects review involving the SRFB technical review panel, and prepare recommendations for funding Manage state and PCSRF funds including metrics and annual reporting, fiscal accountability and auditing, project inspection and compliance, and maintain PRISM database Survey applicants for ways to improve RCO application process 	
RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support SRFB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board administration Manage SRFB technical review panel SRFB policy work 	
RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce biennial report (state of salmon and watersheds) 	Majority of work done by GSRO.	
RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track all state and federal funds for salmon recovery and water quality 	Develop state and federal tracking documents that show all state investments in salmon recovery (all agencies). (Work mostly done by GSRO.)	
RCO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support lead entities 	Majority of work done by GSRO.	
RCO	Additional work not specifically identified in statute but in a work plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer NOAA critical stock funds Administer NOAA coastal resiliency funds Administer ESRP funds Administer FFFPP funds Administer WCRI funds Administer Chehalis Basin funds Administer Ecology funds 	

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support salmon recovery conference Results WA project to coordinate salmon and waterquality grant programs (GSRO work plan item) Potential to manage Fish Barrier Removal Board funds in 2017-2019 	
Regional Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, coordinate, and monitor regional recovery plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational Development and Maintenance Recovery Plans and Implementation Schedules Recovery Plan Implementation and Reporting – including review of lead entity projects lists to ensure fit with recovery plan Monitoring and Adaptive Management Communication and Outreach Finance Strategies for Operations and Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support state agency requests Get to know your local, state and congressional representatives Work with local elected officials Leverage relationships with Tribes Work a list of potential funders
Lead Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish citizen committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain citizens committee and technical advisory committee, if applicable Maintain criteria and guidelines consistent with local recovery chapter, if applicable 	
Lead Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile habitat project list, priorities, and sequence of implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Puget Sound LEs: maintain 4-year work plan and capital project list, Identify all potential funding sources 	
Lead Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit habitat project lists to SRFB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per Manual 18 	
Lead Entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit monitoring data to WDFW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit data in habitat work schedule 	

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
Lead Entities	Additional work not specifically identified in statute but in a work plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop annual work plan • Maintain lead entity organization • Conduct community outreach • Provide regular progress reports • Puget Sound LEs: update Miradi database, develop quantitative habitat goals, engage in steelhead recovery planning • Other tasks as defined: coordination, web pages 	
Council of Regions	Not identified in statute.	Purpose statement: Develop solutions to common issues and to coordinate implementation of shared priorities.	
Washington Salmon Coalition	Not identified in statute.	<p>Mission Statement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop strategies to improve long-term stability of LE/WSC/Salmon Recovery funding. 2. Periodically review and reaffirm WSC's identity and strategies. 3. Encourage Lead Entity consensus on priority recommendations and communicate in a unified manner. 4. Facilitate the interchange of information, relationship building, and mentoring amongst LEs. 5. Support professional development and training opportunities. 6. Utilize habitat work schedule (HWS) as an effective reporting and communication tool. 7. Actively advise the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on local salmon recovery and Lead Entity issues. 8. Promote the Lead Entity Program as the local, scientifically-based program for developing salmon habitat projects that fit within local community values. 9. Increase Lead Entity efficacy and profile by engaging at 	

Entity	State Law Tasks (RCW 77.85)	Current Work Plan Items (SRFB, GSRO, Regional and Lead Entity Work Plans)	Work Proposed in New Communication and Funding Plan
		regional, state, and national levels.	
Salmon Recovery Network	Not identified in state.	Mission statement: SRNet work group members strive to speak with a unified voice to build public, political, and financial support for protecting and recovering salmon in Washington State. SRNet work group members also work together with a wide range of other local and state-wide organizations to maintain an effective, broad coalition and implement salmon and steelhead recovery on the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merge with new communication s advisory committee? • Help with fundraising ?

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 5, 2020

Title: Update on SRFB Policy Work Plan for 2019-21

Prepared By: Wendy Brown, Policy and Legislative Director

Summary

This memo summarizes the work to date on the 2019-2021 SRFB policy workplan items.

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

The table below provides an update to the 2019-21 RCO policy work plan. Every two years the full plan is created with priorities identified by our two funding boards – the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) – as well as the policy priorities of the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC). We also include assignments given to us by the Legislature either from bills passed or as directed in budget provisos.

The policy topics shown below relate only to the work related to salmon recovery. The priorities identified by the **board** are highlighted in blue, those from the **Legislature** are in orange, and those identified as important tasks by RCO staff are shown in black. As a reminder, the tiers identified in the work plan are defined as follows:

- Tier 1. Required by law, the Governor, or previous board direction and/or necessary for RCO operations.
- Tier 2. Priorities identified by staff and/or SRFB-approved plans.
- Tier 3. Assignments to be completed as time allows.

2019-21 Policy Work Plan, SRFB-Related Topics Only

Tier	Assignment	Description	Status
1	SRFB Funding List	Develop options for preparing a biennial project list in advance of the submittal of our biennial budget request to the Governor.	complete
1	WAC Updates	Finalize WAC updates as recommended from the Lean Study.	complete
1	Targeted Investment for Delisting	Develop policies and criteria for prioritizing targeted investment in areas nearing delisting.	complete
2	Capacity Funding	As identified in the Lean Study (recommendation 3.4), evaluate differences in funding among lead entities in relation to project funding and other metrics. Evaluate whether there are alternative approaches for distributing capacity funding.	complete
1	Public Safety and Risk	Develop guidance for board, review panel and staff discussions of public safety and risk in the funding of salmon recovery projects.	draft complete, to be discussed at Nov 2020 meeting
2	Climate Considerations in SRFB Projects	Investigate opportunities for applying climate change considerations developed by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board SRFB projects.	draft complete, to be discussed at Nov 2020 meeting
1	Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy	Provide input to the Governor's office during process to update the statewide strategy for salmon recovery.	on track for completion by December 2020
2	Investments in Climate Change Mitigation Projects (process led by OFM)	Participate in the OFM-led process to prioritize actions and investments that mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen the resiliency of communities and the natural environment. The process will result in a funding list for the 2021-23 biennium.	on track for completion by December 2020

Tier	Assignment	Description	Status
2	Riparian Buffer Guidance in Salmon Programs	Consider if and how to incorporate new WDFW guidance on riparian buffers into salmon recovery grant programs.	on track, will follow completion of Governor's riparian discussions and to be discussed at November board meeting
2	Implementation of HB 2311	Implementation of HB 2311 – identify opportunities to include carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation strategies in RCO granting activities.	anticipate starting before June 2021
2	Water Rights	As follow up to water rights appraisal policy, develop long-term policy and guidance for water rights acquired with grant funds. Modify current board policy on appraisals to be relevant for water rights acquisitions.	not yet initiated
2	Water Storage Projects	Begin to understand the SRFB's role in funding projects that improve water quantity for salmon. Provide clarity on current projects funded and eligibility. Include a discussion of existing efforts by the Washington Water Trust, Trout Unlimited, and Department of Ecology.	not yet initiated
2	Landowner Willingness	Investigate what is impacting landowner willingness to allow a project on their property and what tools or incentives might help. See if potential new landowner requirements such as bonds and insurance to address liability or future repair work are allowable expenses and how to address requirements that extend beyond the contract term.	not yet initiated
3	Permit Streamlining Subcommittee	Support SRFB subcommittee looking at permit streamlining and permit cost issues.	not yet initiated

Tier	Assignment	Description	Status
2	Recommendations from Orca Task Force, Year 2	Placeholder: Potentially develop policies to address recommendations from the Orca Task Force related to salmon recovery.	On hold until the Orca position is filled

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: Guidance for Discussing Public Safety in Grant Making and Project Selection

Prepared By: Adam Cole, RCO Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the need for, and substance of, guidance the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will issue to its staff, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the board's Technical Review Panel. The guidance provides direction for how these individuals should manage their discussions and actions regarding public safety in proposed and active salmon recovery projects. Staff seek the board's feedback on the draft guidance which RCO will finalize with our Assistant Attorney General and implement later this year or early next year.

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

Introduction

RCO staff seeks board feedback on the attached Draft Guidance.

This guidance intends to create a clear understanding for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), the [Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel \(Review Panel\)](#), and RCO staff of how to discuss issues of public safety in salmon recovery grant-making. It is informed by recent projects reviewed and funded by the board, similar guidance that exist in the public domain, comments from RCO staff and the Review Panel, and advice from our Assistant Attorney General(s).

Background

Over the last several years, the board and RCO have reviewed and managed salmon recovery projects where issues of public safety have emerged as significant concerns.

These issues become elevated through many means including project review by the Review Panel, in public meetings of the board, or through RCO staff via project sponsors and stakeholders. These concerns typically center around project impacts to slope stability, river/stream dynamics, and water levels in fresh and marine environments. Public safety issues may be identified at the project site as well as on neighboring lands and downstream areas. The board, Review Panel, and the RCO currently lack written guidance on how to discuss these issues in the context of grant-making. Therefore, RCO staff drafted the guidance to ensure the board, the Review Panel, and RCO staff act responsibly within their respective roles, the law, and eliminate unnecessary liability to the state.

Summary of the Draft Guidance

The Draft Guidance is provided in full in Attachment A.

In summary, the Draft Guidance identifies the following ways issues of public safety come to the RCO and the board:

- 1) Review Panel project evaluation.
- 2) The public, either through direct contact with RCO or through official correspondence and public testimony to the board.
- 3) Project sponsors and landowners.

The Draft Guidance identifies the following entities responsible for the management of public safety issues:

- 1) The project sponsor, through its contractual obligations with RCO as well as its own authorities, policies, and procedures.
- 2) Permitting authorities, and other applicable regulatory authorities.
- 3) Project site landowner.

The Draft Guidance provides the following direction to the board, Review Panel, and RCO staff on how to discuss issues of public safety that arise in the grant-making and project management processes:

- 1) Issues of public safety shall not be ignored.
- 2) The board, Review Panel, or RCO staff should not evaluate the substance of any public safety issue or offer up solutions or recommendations for mitigation.
- 3) The board, Review Panel, and RCO staff must inform the project sponsor, landowner, and others (as may be prudent) of public safety issues made aware to them and document all correspondence and other information in the project file.

- 4) RCO staff shall track the actions of the sponsor, landowner, and responsible permitting/authorizing entity to see that the issue(s) has been considered in each entity's decision-making.

Next Steps

After receiving and processing the board's feedback, RCO staff will complete the guidance for final review and approval by our Assistant Attorney General. We will then implement the guidance with the board, the Review Panel, and RCO staff through proper channels and provide support and training as may be requested or needed.

Strategic Plan Connection

Developing this guidance addresses the following goals of the board's strategic plan:

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

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

Attachments

Attachment A - Draft Guidance

DRAFT GUIDANCE

Discussing Public Safety Issues in Salmon Recovery Projects

Date	October 21, 2020
Scope	Salmon Recovery Funding Board members, Recreation and Conservation Office staff, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel members shall follow this guidance when discussing public safety issues related to salmon recovery projects managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office.
Status	<i>Draft</i>

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director issues this guidance to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), its contracted Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel (Review Panel), and RCO staff to use when faced with public safety issues arising in the grant-making and project administration processes.

Roles of the Board, Review Panel, and RCO Staff

As a funding agency, the board's and RCO staff's roles are more aligned with a bank than a land use or permitting agency. Like a bank, the board and staff do not assume responsibility for the safety of a project that it finances, as their founding authorities do not authorize or create a duty to do so.¹ The role of the board is to review proposals and award grants to projects based on their costs and ability to achieve salmon recovery goals.

The role of the Review Panel is to evaluate the feasibility of a project to achieve the identified salmon recovery goals and assess the project's cost-benefit ratio, meaning the Review Panel reviews proposed projects developed in each lead entity area and ensures that SRFB-funded projects create actual benefits to salmon, have costs that do not outweigh the anticipated benefits, and have a high likelihood of being successful. The role of the Review Panel centers on suggestions and recommendations to improve the

¹Washington Administrative Code 420.04.020(4) and (5), Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.110 through 170

quality and technical effectiveness of the designs and proposed projects, which may include recommendations to elevate a design to the current technical standard for restoration projects.

RCO staff monitors the process to ensure that all permits and other authorizing documents are in place before reimbursing project work. Through an RCO Grant Agreement (agreement), RCO requires sponsors to comply with all applicable laws and rules when implementing a project; however, RCO staff and the Review Panel (as well as the board) do not review or evaluate whether a project design, construction, or operation complies with state or federal standards, the sponsors own policies, or other safety guidelines.

The project applicant/sponsor is solely responsible for the design and operation of projects, applying for permits, and obtaining approvals from permitting entities that have the authority, duty, and expertise to review project plans and specifications for public safety issues. Applicable laws, rules, the grant agreement, and an applicant's/sponsor's own policies and procedures place full responsibility on the applicant/sponsor to ensure it manages issues related public safety.

The role of RCO staff is to assist the board and the Review Panel in their tasks, assess project compliance with grant requirements, and administer the grant via an agreement. The board, Review Panel, and RCO staff do not have a duty to review projects for public safety issues, and RCO does not provide training that would enable them to evaluate issues of risk or public safety. If the board, Review Panel, or RCO staff operate outside of their statutory authority and expertise, those actions may cause confusion and could expose RCO to liability. Because the RCO staff and the board do not have a statutory responsibility to protect the public, specific persons, or a special or protected class thereof, the board and RCO staff and their actions should be covered under the "public duty doctrine."²

The public duty doctrine states that statutes, regulations, and public administration behavior intended in general to protect the welfare of the public from harm, do not create duties to protect individual citizens, private organizations, or a special class thereof, from such harm unless a special relationship exists between the government and such entities. The authority of the RCO and the board, Review Panel members'

²2019, Knowing the Territory, Basic Legal Guidelines for Washington City, County and Special Purpose District Officials, Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington, p.5

contracts, and project documents do not create such a special relationship with respect to public safety and therefore the doctrine applies to these bodies.

Guidance

While performing their duties, board members, Review Panel, and RCO staff may become aware of possible public safety issues. Below is guidance for board members, Review Panel, and RCO staff for how to view and address possible issues of risk and/or public safety. The term “possible” is appropriate because the board and RCO staff do not have the authority, and most lack the expertise, to investigate, identify, evaluate, and/or make recommendations on possible public safety issues. This does not mean that public safety issues should be ignored. The guidance set forth below provides a process for the board, Review Panel, and RCO staff to route any public safety concerns to the project sponsor as a part of standard grant evaluation and grant administrative protocols. The applicant/sponsor has the duty, authority, and expertise (including that which they may hire out) to investigate such issues and, if necessary, address them. Once aware of a possible public safety issue that poses a threat of serious injury or significant property destruction, the board, Review Panel, RCO staff, or others affiliated with the RCO immediately should notify RCO staff and may directly notify the project sponsor of the issue.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

Public safety is the responsibility of the project sponsor and is addressed by the applicant/sponsor through the design, permitting, and construction/restoration process with appropriate regulatory entities. Review of public safety issues is outside the scope of board member duties. If a board member becomes aware of a possible public safety issue or is informed through testimony or correspondence of a possible public safety issue, the board member should notify RCO staff and RCO staff must notify the applicant/sponsor. The board may not evaluate the substance of the issue but may discuss it to gain a better understanding and be better able to describe it to the applicant/sponsor through RCO staff for the applicant's/sponsor's evaluation. When notifying an applicant/sponsor of a possible public safety issue, RCO staff and the board also should remind the applicant/sponsor that public safety is entirely the applicant/sponsor's responsibility. If, after RCO staff provides the applicant/sponsor with notice of a possible public safety issue and the board is concerned that the applicant/sponsor, or the authorities responsible for allowing/permitting a project, lacks a process to evaluate and respond to possible public safety issues, the board may decide to not fund the project. The board always retains the authority to not fund a project for any rational reason if it follows its established processes.

In the case of an already funded project, the board may determine that the sponsor is not fulfilling its duties under the agreement and may take action, including refusal to continue funding the project, declaration of conversion, and/or termination of the project.

At no time shall the board investigate, evaluate, or suggest any remedial measures about the substance of a possible public safety issue.

Board member position descriptions shall align with this guidance.

TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL MEMBERS

Public safety is the responsibility of the project sponsor and is addressed by the sponsor through its relationship with the property owner and the local, state, or federal governments' (and others as may exist) project review and permitting/authorizing process. As part of the review of a project, Review Panel members may identify safety issues, if qualified by their training or credentials, in the course of performing their review but only as part of their duty and obligation to their profession, employer (other than RCO), or self-employment interests. However, safety evaluation is not part of their RCO-contracted scope of work (this extends to Review Panel members acting in their capacity as government employees). If a Review Panel member becomes aware of a possible public safety issue in the course of performing duties related to a project, including in any documents provided by the project sponsor or landowner, the Review Panel member shall notify RCO staff so that staff may notify the project sponsor for its evaluation and response. Where a public safety issue led to a particular design or alternatives the Review Panel will evaluate, the substance or relevance of the safety issue itself should not be evaluated, but rather the design or alternatives as they relate to project efficacy and benefit to salmon restoration.

When serving on the Review Panel as an RCO contractor or an employee of another public agency, the member's role is not to evaluate the possible public safety issue or suggest remedial measures on behalf of the RCO or related to the contracted work for RCO, and the Review Panel member is not authorized to take such actions on behalf of the RCO. However, when notifying an applicant/sponsor of a possible public safety issue, RCO staff and Review Panel members should remind the applicant/sponsor that public safety is entirely the applicant/sponsor's responsibility.

If a possible safety issue has been identified during the processes described above, after consultation with a Review Panel member, RCO staff will follow up with the project applicant/sponsor to see that:

1. the landowner has been made aware of the issue(s) and,

2. a process of consideration and action in the project evaluation and permitting/authorization has been completed or is ongoing (as needed) during project implementation. In most cases, this takes the form of confirming all required permits for the project are in place and the sponsor has informed the landowner (if different from the grant applicant/sponsor) of the safety issues and all required consultation and reporting processes of the applicant/sponsor are occurring.

At no time shall the Review Panel investigate, evaluate, or suggest any remedial measures about the substance of a possible public safety issue in the documents the RCO requires of them.

RCO shall issue contracts to Review Panel members that align with this guidance.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE STAFF

Public safety is the responsibility of the project sponsor and is addressed by the sponsor through the permitting process with regulatory entities and the consent of the landowner (if different from applicant/sponsor). Evaluation of the substance of any safety issue and the sufficiency of any response of a responsible party in the project authorization and implementation process are outside of RCO staff duties and responsibilities.

In all cases, it is the sponsor's duty to investigate any safety issue, and, if necessary, take corrective action. It is not RCO staff's role to evaluate the possible public safety issue or provide suggested remedial measures, and RCO staff are not authorized to take such actions. When notifying an applicant/sponsor of a possible public safety issue, RCO staff also must remind the applicant/sponsor that public safety is entirely the applicant's/sponsor's responsibility.

If RCO staff becomes aware of a possible public safety issue, he/she should follow protocols listed below to provide notice to the project applicant/sponsor and monitor the issue. RCO staff must do the following:

1. Record the possible public safety issue(s) in the project file.
2. Provide written notice (which can be an e-mail) to the project applicant/sponsor of the issue and track and save such the notice and all correspondence in the project file.
3. Elevate the issue for review to the Salmon Section manager, who may notify and coordinate a response through the RCO Executive Team.

4. Monitor all actions and processes by the applicant/sponsor to ensure all required project authorization processes are complete and the sponsor has notified the landowner of the issue (if landowner is different from the applicant/sponsor).
5. Review the agreement and ensure the sponsor complies with all its responsibilities therein,
6. Save all related correspondence and documents to the project file.

At no time shall RCO staff investigate, evaluate, or suggest any remedial measures about the substance of a possible public safety issue.

RCO shall issue contracts to Review Panel members that align with this guidance. Similarly, board member position descriptions shall reflect this guidance.

SUMMARY AND LIABILITY

The statutory authority of the board and RCO is to make grants available for salmon recovery. Grant recipients ultimately are responsible for implementing projects under all applicable laws and regulations and their own policies, and in compliance with its obligations to the project's landowner. The RCO grant agreement ensures project review and permitting through the appropriate regulatory and authorizing context. Board members and RCO officers, employees, and volunteers have broad protection against personal liability as long as each limits their actions to those directly described in statute, and as directed by supervisors or other responsible party (within the limits of the law). However, if a project sponsor cannot or does not implement a project responsibly according to the project agreement, the board may decide to end an approved grant or take other actions that ensure proper execution of the grant agreement. RCO has sought and received an opinion from its Assistant Attorney General supporting this guidance.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: Climate Consideration for Board Funded Projects

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the Recreation and Conservation Office's work developing a climate change policy statement, identifies key climate related challenges to salmon recovery, discusses how regional organizations and lead entities are integrating climate change in recovery planning and project solicitation, and finally outlines potential future options for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to consider in taking action on climate change.

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) has become increasingly concerned about the projected impacts of climate change on salmon recovery investments. To begin addressing that concern, in 2016, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) developed a non-scored climate change question in the PRISM application for all project proposals. The question states, "Does your project address or accommodate the anticipated effects of climate change?"

A dropdown menu allows an applicant to answer *Yes* or *No*. For 2020, the Salmon team added two additional open-ended questions:

- How will your project be climate resilient given future conditions?
- How will your project increase habitat and species adaptability?

The 2019-2021 policy work plan directs RCO staff to work with the board to, "Investigate opportunities for applying climate change considerations developed for the Recreation

and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) in SRFB projects.” This initial investigation was scheduled between spring and January 2020, but due to the impacts of COVID-19 was postponed until autumn 2020.

As a first step in the investigation, this memo summarizes the work the RCFB accomplished on climate change in 2019. Next this memo focuses on the key implications of climate change on salmon recovery. This summary is intended to set the stage for later discussion by providing a baseline assessment of the major climate related challenges confronting salmon recovery. Third, this memo shifts to a discussion on how regional organizations and lead entities are integrating climate change in recovery planning and project solicitation across Washington State. Finally, a list of potential options and questions is presented for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to consider as discussion points.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

In 2019, the RCFB initiated a discussion about how best to consider the impacts of climate change on habitat lands proposed for acquisition through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s (WWRP) Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection categories. The RCFB convened a sub-committee to aid in developing a climate change policy strategy. The RCFB’s sub-committee explored two primary questions.

1. How is a changing climate likely to impact the projects the board funds?
2. Can the board better direct funding to future projects to increase landscape or community resiliency and mitigate climate stressors?

Initially, the RCFB direction was to develop a scored evaluation question, which would have directed funds to projects that proposed to increase climate resiliency or mitigate climate stressors. After meeting, the sub-committee concluded that a scored climate change question was not an equitable approach to evaluating the potential impacts or benefits of a proposed project. Essentially, project proponents who could afford to develop a climate adaptation plan would be rewarded, while those who did not have the resources or technical capacity would be at a disadvantage.

Ultimately, the RCFB developed a policy statement (see Attachment A) encouraging project sponsors to consider climate change impacts in their project location and design. Additionally, the RCFB adopted new project evaluation criteria for the WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection categories that include references to climate change and climate impacts embedded within the already existing criteria questions. The RCFB felt this represented an integrated approach to the consideration of

climate impacts without a bias towards entities who can conduct a climate change assessment.

Climate Change and Salmon Recovery

Climate change is expected to impact Washington state in myriad ways. The climate challenges facing salmon recovery are primarily due to the projected impacts to water resources. The summary below is a brief overview of some of the key climate impacts to salmon recovery highlighted in recent scientific literature. As the board weighs potential options for considering climate change, careful attention must also be paid to the different ways the projected changes are likely to impact salmon at their various life stages and how each life stage is uniquely vulnerable to projected impacts.¹ The most serious threats to salmon recovery are resulting from:

- Changes in watershed type and timing (e.g. snow-dominant to rain-dominant)
- Increases in extreme flow events (both high and low)
- Elevated stream temperatures
- Changing ocean conditions

Watershed type and timing

Many of the watersheds in Washington are expected to experience a shift in hydrologic regime, or streamflow timing. In fact, most watersheds in Washington will receive their dominate form of precipitation as rainfall by the end of the century. This shift is due to projected atmospheric warming, which is likely to result in decreased snowpack, more winter precipitation falling as rain, and decreasing water availability in summer.² For many basins, especially those east of the Cascade crest, this is a significant departure from historical trends.

As the hydrology of watersheds shift, streamflow will likely increase in winter and decrease in spring/summer.³ For example, spring peak streamflow is projected to occur

¹ Crozier LG, McClure MM, Beechie T, Bograd SJ, Boughton DA, Carr M, et al. (2019) Climate vulnerability assessment for Pacific salmon and steelhead in the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem. PLoS ONE 14(7): e0217711. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0217711> (p. 7)

² Snover, A.K, G.S. Mauger, L.C. Whitely Binder, M. Krosby, and I. Tohver. 2013. *Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Washington State: Technical Summaries for Decision Makers*. State of Knowledge Report prepared for the Washington State Department of Ecology. Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington, Seattle. Full report available at: <http://cses.washington.edu/db/pdf/snoveretalsok816.pdf>

³ Mauger, G.S., J.H. Casola, H.A. Morgan, R.L. Strauch, B. Jones, B. Curry, T.M. Busch Isaksen, L. Whitely Binder, M.B. Krosby, and A.K. Snover, 2015. *State of Knowledge: Climate Change in Puget Sound*. Report prepared for the Puget Sound Partnership and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

between 4 and 9 weeks earlier and winter streamflow is projected to increase by 25-34 percent by the 2080s.⁴ As hydrologic regime shifts intensify, risks to salmon recovery will be exacerbated by those shifts but will depend on which salmon are present, at what life stage, in each place and point in time. For example, during out-migration, some salmon may benefit from higher flows, whereas the same higher flows could scour fry from nests or flush juvenile salmon out of preferred rearing habitat. ⁵ Figure 1 below shows the shifting hydrologic regimes at the watershed scale through the 2080s. Figure 2, also below, shows how the regime shift will impact streamflow timing. As salmon have evolved to take advantage of specific hydrologic regimes within their watersheds, it is important to understand how these shifts will manifest themselves at the local level.

Figure 1: Changes to Hydrologic regime, Historic – 2080s.

Citation: Snover, et al., (p.6-2)

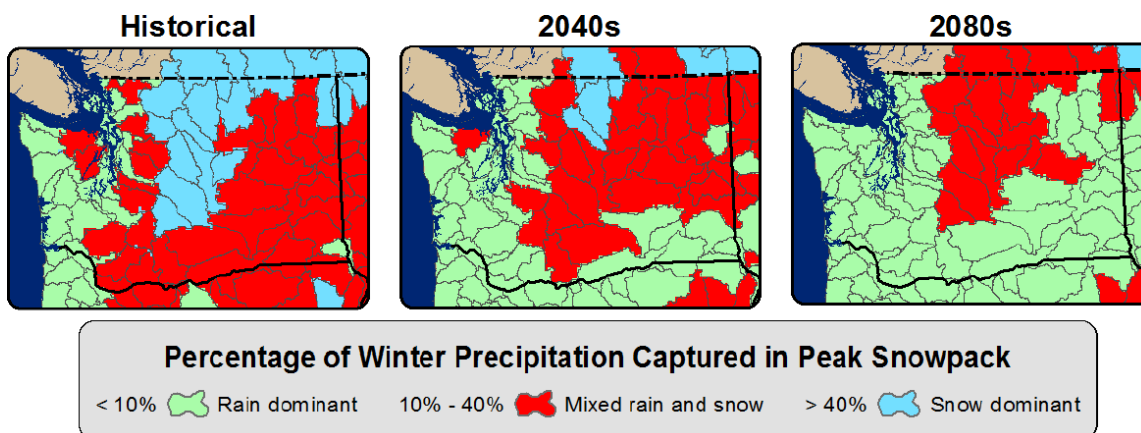


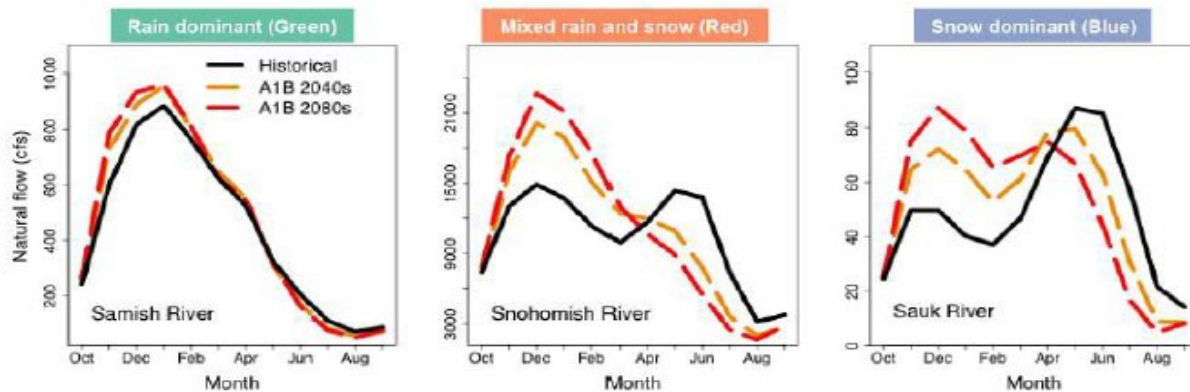
Figure 2: Shifting hydrology of rain, mixed, and snow dominant basins.

Citation: Mauger, et al. (p. 3-4)

Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington, Seattle. doi:10.7915/CIG93777D. Full report available at: <https://cig.uw.edu/resources/special-reports/ps-sok/>

⁴ Snover et al. (p. 6-3)

⁵ Crozier, et al. (p. 10)



Extreme flow events

Flooding is expected to increase in rain-dominant and mixed rain and snow watersheds. The average frequency of 100 year flood events by the 2080s is projected to increase in rain dominant watersheds by 18 percent, and in mixed rain-snow watersheds by 32 percent.⁶ This is due to a combination of factors including higher winter precipitation, declining snowpack, greater frequency of rain-on-snow events and higher sea levels.⁷ Frequency of 100 year flood events is projected to increase throughout much of the North Cascades ecoregion which will likely cause rivers to become more dynamic, enlarge or create new channels, and increase scouring.⁸

In contrast, minimum flows are projected to decrease by 16-51 percent in all Puget Sound watersheds by the 2080s due to declining snowpack and warmer, drier summers.⁹ Basins west of the Cascades are likely to experience more drastic declines than those in the east mainly due to the fact that historical conditions in the east are already very dry.¹⁰ This decrease in minimum summer flows will likely impact salmon by elevating heat stress, limiting rearing habitat for juveniles, severing connections between habitat areas, and increasing the potential for mortality of summer-run adults.¹¹

Stream temperature

Salmon rely on cold water for reproductive success, yet stream temperatures are projected to rise across much of Washington. Due to the effects of warmer air

⁶ Snover, et al. (p. 6-11)

⁷ Mauger, et al. (p. 3-7)

⁸ Raymond, Crystal L.; Peterson, David L.; Rochefort, Regina M., eds. 2014. Climate change vulnerability and adaptation in the North Cascades region, Washington. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-892. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 279 p.

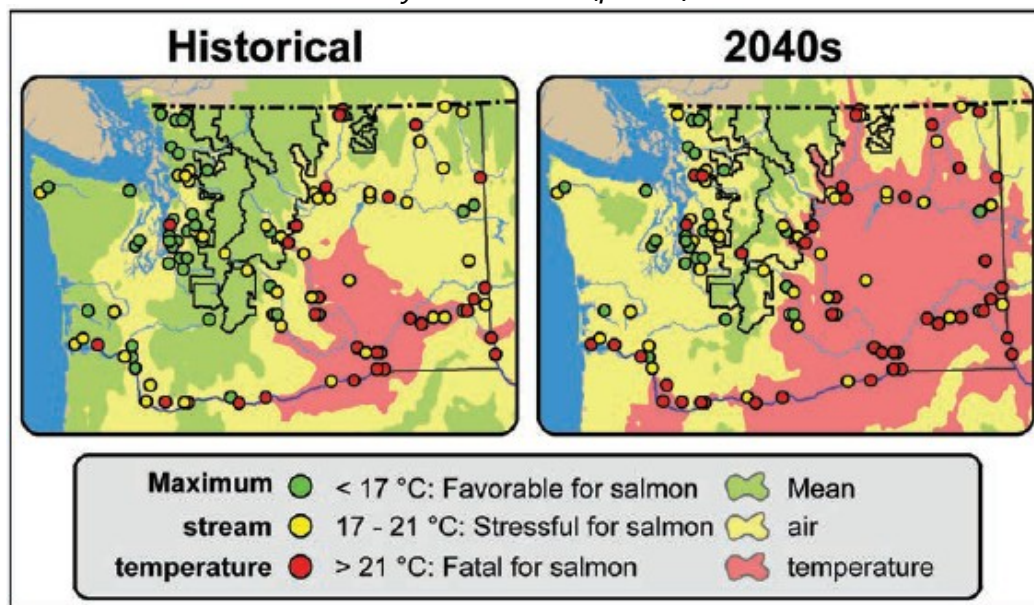
⁹ Mauger, et al. (p. 3-8); Raymond, et al. (p. 58)

¹⁰ Raymond, et al. (p.58); Snover, et al. (p. 6-4)

¹¹ Raymond, et al. (p.247); Crozier, et al. (p. 10)

temperature and declining summer flows in the Puget Sound region, it is likely that 1,016 more river miles will exceed the thermal tolerance for adult salmon (64°F) by the 2080s.¹² In the Lower Columbia and much of Eastern Washington, thermal stress and migration barriers caused by raising temperatures are projected to double by the 2080s.¹³ Suitable habitat will likely shift upstream but how far varies depending on many factors including the gradient, water volume, and elevation of the stream.

Figure 3: Mean annual maximum water temperatures and mean August air temperatures
Raymond, et al. (p. 240)



Ocean Conditions

Washington's marine waters are projected to experience changes to sea level, increasing surface temperature, acidity, and salinity.

Relative sea level projections are complex and vary from location to location due to factors such as the range of absolute sea level rise projections, seasonal wind patterns, and estimates of vertical land motion.¹⁴ The impacts rising seas will have on salmon recovery will primarily result from habitat loss due coastal and nearshore flooding, inundation of tidal estuaries, and disruption of natural erosion processes.¹⁵

¹² Mauger, et al. (p. 3-8)

¹³ Snover, et al. (p. 8-3)

¹⁴ Mauger, et al. (p. 4-3); Snover, et al. (p.9-1)

¹⁵ Snover, et al. (9-3, 9-4)

Salmon species show little sensitivity to ocean acidification, however direct impacts could occur by slowing growth rates in some species and altering olfactory preferences which correlates with return instincts. Indirect impacts on salmon could occur due to the altered marine ecosystem and food web.¹⁶

Surface temperatures in the northeast Pacific are projected to increase by 1.8°F by the 2040's which could result in a 1-4 percent decline in salmon survival. For example, "Chinook return rates to the Skagit River are lower when sea surface temperatures are above normal in the 3rd year of ocean residency." Warmer temperatures associated with phases of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) show lower salmon productivity, yet sensitivity to changing ocean conditions depends on life stage and time spent in the ocean.¹⁷

Salmon Vulnerability

A climate vulnerability assessment recently published by scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service examined the climate risk to all 28 listed distinct population segments of pacific salmon and 5 additional units that have been identified as species of concern in the Pacific Ocean. The study strongly recommends, "to be successful, conservation strategies now need to account for geographical patterns in traits sensitive to climate change, as well as climate threats to species-level diversity."¹⁸

The study corroborated many of the key points discussed above and highlighted, "nearly all populations face high exposure to changes in sea surface temperature and ocean acidification, and most will confront considerable increases in summer stream temperatures."¹⁹ It pointed to specific species-level or regional vulnerabilities, including:

- Chinook and Coho had the greatest proportion of highly vulnerable population segments across the study area;
- Salmon and steelhead in interior regions and the Puget sound are highly vulnerable to changes in hydrology resulting from loss of snowpack;
- Chinook and Coho are particularly vulnerable to stream temperature changes due to their prolonged freshwater rearing life stage;
- Interior Columbia species face the greatest changes to snow-dominated habitat

¹⁶ Crozier, et al. (p. 9); Mauger, et al. (p. 11-5)

¹⁷ Mauger, et al. (p. 11-4)

¹⁸ Crozier, et al. (p. 1)

¹⁹ Crozier, et al. (p. 28)

The distinct populations analyzed by the study that are found in Washington State are listed in the table in Attachment B. The relative vulnerability ranking shown in the table is based on a function of a distinct population's biological sensitivity to projected changes at each life stage (an aggregated score) and the magnitude of the changes projected at midcentury (exposure attributes). For distinct populations that exhibited a *highly vulnerable* life stage, the associated exposure attribute is also listed.²⁰

The study suggests priorities for salmon recovery should focus on three things: 1) reconnecting habitat blocked by artificial barriers; 2) ameliorating temperature or flow constraints; and 3) improving access to food rich environments. The authors also suggest normalizing strategies developed by Beechie, et al.²¹ to identify and focus habitat restoration activities that will also have a positive climate benefit.

Regional Organizations and Lead Entities

RCO staff surveyed all Regional Organizations and Lead Entities to better understand the extent to which climate change impacts are considered in recovery planning and the project solicitation process. Staff asked, "Has your lead entity developed or adopted any climate change related guidance or evaluation questions for your project proponents in your proposal solicitation process?"

Staff received responses from 14 Regional Organizations and Lead Entities.

- 5 have incorporated climate change in their recovery plan/protection strategy
- 3 have not considered climate change at all
- 3 have adopted climate change guidance for project proponents
- 2 ask a climate change related evaluation question of project proponents
- 3 ask their technical advisory committee to consider climate impacts in their project review and evaluation

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board has not adopted specific guidance for project proponents but uses the decision support framework developed by Beachie, et al. (highlighted above) to identify actions to prioritize climate in restoration actions.²²

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council, in their 2018 strategy update, incorporated a combined chapter on shifts in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) and climate variability. Their findings showed that climate change may increase variability in

²⁰ Crozier, et al. (p. 24-26)

²¹ Beechie T, Imaki H, Greene J, Wade A, Wu H, Pess G, et al. Restoring salmon habitat for a changing climate. *River Res Appl.* 2013; 29(8):939–60. <https://doi.org/10.1002/rra.2590>

²² Personal communication with Regional Organization, February 12, 2020

population performance. However, their findings indicate the PDO may have a greater influence on long-term recovery viability and that recovery can only be truly evaluated once a warm phase PDO is in place for a number of years.²³ The strategy update recommends continuing to, “improve and protect characteristics of habitat quality within freshwater, river mouth estuarine, and nearshore habitats...” and to continue adaptive management, monitoring and restoration work once delisting occurs ²⁴

The Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board formed a committee in 2017 to conduct a preliminary assessment based on climate change impacts and fish life histories. The committee developed guidance for incorporating climate change into project evaluations and the recommendations resulted in adding specific climate change language to the Technical Advisory Committee evaluation questions.²⁵

These few examples simply illustrate the range of conditions and approaches Lead Entities and Regional Organizations are considering when accounting for climate change in recovery planning and project development.

Opportunities for SRFB to Engage

The board directs significant funds to implement the statewide recovery strategy and meet recovery goals outlined in the regional salmon recovery plans. Climate change is a force multiplier on the limiting factors that face salmon recovery efforts. Every dollar of salmon recovery funding that is put towards on-the-ground projects effectively increases resiliency. The pressing issue may be whether the board can direct salmon recovery investments to be more impactful by considering the implications of climate change.

Some questions for further discussion might include:

- What recovery actions are most vulnerable (at risk) to changing climate conditions?
- Can the board provide some level of support and consistency for integrating climate change resources in salmon recovery planning and local action?
- Are there knowledge gaps that the board could help to fill?

²³ Lestelle, Larry; Sands, N.; Johnson, T.; and Downen, M. Recovery Goal Review and Updated Guidance for the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon ESU. Report submitted to the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. August 31, 2018. 157 p. [Available Online](#).

²⁴ Lestelle, et al. (p. 76)

²⁵ Personal communication with the Regional Organization, December 23, 2019.

- Is there a threshold at which the board would consider either diverting resources away from or towards identified risks or vulnerable populations?

Some initial action items the board could explore include:

- Compiling existing research and guidance on climate change impacts to salmon recovery efforts in Washington State;
- Develop a similar policy statement to the one developed by the RCFB (see attachment A);
- Work with Regional Organizations to develop guidance for considering climate change in recovery plan updates
- Work with lead entities to include consideration of climate impacts in project selection guidance for lead entities (Manual 18)
- Work with the technical panel(s) to compile/develop project design criteria and guidance that considers future impacts
- Use climate vulnerability or impacts assessments to guide funding allocations towards the greatest needs
- Use climate vulnerability or impacts assessments to guide a targeted investment strategy

Certainly, not all the above projects can be completed simultaneously or within the timeline and scope of this initial project. This list is to elicit conversation about addressing climate change and investments in salmon recovery. This also acknowledges that funding or distribution of resources should not be based solely on one assessment of climate risk. Climate change has a myriad of implications on salmon recovery that must be considered carefully before adjusting investment strategies.

Strategic Plan Connection

<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SRFB-StrategicPlan.pdf>

Climate change considerations for board projects supports Goal 1 of the board's strategic plan, which focuses on using science to fund the best possible salmon recovery activities.

Next Steps

Subject to the board's discussion, RCO staff will continue working with stakeholders and the board to develop a strategy for the Board to consider climate change impacts on Salmon Recovery efforts and investments.

Attachments

Attachment A – RCFB Climate Policy Statement

Attachment B – Relative Vulnerability of Salmon Species in Washington State

RCFB Climate Policy Statement – Adopted October 2019

Climate change is expected to profoundly affect Washington's natural and recreation resources in myriad ways. In our region, this will likely include changes to precipitation patterns and the timing of stream flows, reduced snowpack and water supplies, shifts in species ranges and distribution, changes to the timing of events such as flowering and egg laying, sea level rise, increased insect outbreaks, tree mortality and risk of wildfire, and impacts to human health and quality of life. These impacts are expected to accelerate in coming years, and taken together, will fundamentally alter certain ecological processes, challenge the survival of vulnerable species and ecosystems, and pose increasing risks and hazards to human communities.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) invests public funds to acquire the most significant lands in Washington for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses, and to develop public recreational facilities that meet the needs of present and future generations of all Washingtonians.

With this mission and purpose, the board acknowledges the risks a changing climate pose to their investments and the opportunity for their investments to increase community resiliency; mitigate greenhouse gasses, the primary driver of climate change; and continue to provide Washington residents with a high quality of life. The board encourages project sponsors to consider future climatic impacts to the projects they propose for funding through climate-smart planning and design. Sponsors are also encouraged to share lessons, best practices, and their approaches to addressing climate change with the RCFB so that together we can build the collective capacity of the State in addressing this global challenge.

Relative Vulnerability of Salmon Species in Washington State

Species	Status	Relative Vulnerability (sensitivity/exposure)	life stage/exposure attribute
Steelhead			
Puget Sound Steelhead	Threatened	High/High	n/a
Upper Columbia Steelhead	Threatened	High/High	Adult Freshwater/ steam temperature
Snake River Steelhead	Threatened	High/High	Adult Freshwater/ steam temperature
Middle Columbia Steelhead	Threatened	High/High	Adult Freshwater/ steam temperature
Lower Columbia Steelhead	Threatened	Moderate/High	n/a
Chinook Salmon			
Puget Sound Chinook	Threatened	High/High	Early life/ hydrologic regime
Snake River fall Chinook	Threatened	High/High	Not assessed
Snake River spring/summer Chinook	Threatened	High/Very High	Adult Freshwater/steam temperature & Juvenile freshwater/stream temperature
Middle Columbia spring Chinook	Sensitive	High/High	Adult Freshwater/ steam temperature
Upper Columbia spring Chinook	Endangered	High/High	Juvenile freshwater/ stream temperature
Lower Columbia Chinook	Threatened	Moderate/High	n/a
Coho Salmon			
Lower Columbia River Coho	Threatened	High/High	Juvenile freshwater/ stream temperature
Puget Sound Coho	Species of Concern	High/High	Juvenile freshwater/ stream temperature
Chum Salmon			
Hood Canal summer Chum	Threatened	High/High	Adult Marine/ Ocean Acidification
Puget Sound chum	Not Listed	Moderate/Moderate	n/a
Columbia River Chum	Threatened	Moderate/Moderate	n/a
Sockeye			
Lake Ozette Sockeye	Threatened	Moderate/High	n/a
Snake River Sockeye	Endangered	Very High/High	Adult Freshwater/ steam temperature
Pink Salmon			
Puget Sound Pink	Not listed	Low/Moderate	n/a

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: Manual 18

Prepared By: Kat Moore, Salmon Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the proposed administrative revisions and policy changes to *Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection*. These revisions incorporate changes suggested through comments submitted by lead entities in their semi-annual progress reports, suggestions from the Technical Review Panel, and clarifications and updates from Recreation and Conservation Office staff.

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

[*Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18*](#) contains the instructions and policies needed for completing a grant application for submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and for managing a project, once funded. The board approves any large policy proposals contained in Manual 18; the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director has authority to approve administrative changes and minor policy clarifications.

The board is briefed on the manual in order that it can be finalized by the start of the grant round, supporting lead entities and regions as they develop their projects and processes. The revisions incorporate changes suggested in comments submitted by lead entities in their progress reports; suggestions from the SRFB Review Panel; and clarifications and updates from RCO staff. RCO also does a survey every two years of sponsors, lead entities and participants in the annual grant round. Because of the compressed grant round schedule, we will not have the results of the survey until November, so the survey results will be discussed with the Washington Salmon Coalition and the SRFB Review Panel in January, and results will be incorporated into the 2022 grant round.

The one policy addition to Manual 18 is to incorporate regional monitoring project review criteria into Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria. The board will be asked for a decision to approve the updated criteria. No other policies are identified for change at this time.

Staff has sent a draft of Manual 18 to lead entity and regional staff for comment prior to the board meeting. Feedback will be presented to the board at the November meeting. Once approved by the board, RCO will publish the final version on the RCO website. The Manual incorporates the updated Grant Schedule for 2021, Attachment A.

Manual 18 Changes Proposed for 2021 Grant Cycle

Administrative Updates and Policy Clarifications

RCO staff has made the following administrative changes and policy clarifications to Manual 18 and the PRISM application:

- **Grant round calendars.** The regional monitoring projects will follow the same grant timeline as the restoration, acquisition, and planning grants. This will provide more consistency and clarity for sponsors, lead entities, staff, and reviewers.
- **Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan projects.** In 2011, the Forest Practices Board extended the deadline for large forest landowners to complete their road work to October 31, 2021. Since this deadline is shortly after the SRFB's 2021 funding meeting in September, these kinds of projects are still eligible for consideration, but only if they can be completed by the October 31, 2021 deadline. It is highly unlikely that any RMAP projects will be able to meet this short window for construction. This section will be removed from the manual in advance of the 2022 grant round.
- **Regional monitoring projects.** In coordination with the Regions and Monitoring Panel, staff made several clarifications and changes to the regional monitoring projects process for 2021.
 - We have clarified the amount of funding that is available, based on the limited Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund funds RCO receives for monitoring. Monitoring projects are funded out of each region's allocation. The available funding is divided by the number of regions, which can be used for regional monitoring if they choose. If a region does not have any monitoring projects, then they can offer their monitoring share to another region.
 - We have reiterated the need for sponsors and lead entities to coordinate with the region on monitoring applications.
 - Monitoring projects will have a more thorough application in PRISM Online, instead of relying on attachments. The Monitoring Panel will review projects using the new review module in PRISM Online; like the newly implemented online Review Panel process.

- Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria is updated to add criteria specific to regional monitoring projects. This is identified as a board decision below.
- **PRISM Online enhancements.** RCO has moved the entire review and evaluation process online into the PRISM database. This was a recommendation of the LEAN study and has created major efficiencies. We piloted this process last year, and will continue to refine it this year, as funds allow, and utilize it for the monitoring panel and regional monitoring projects.

Policy Changes

The policy change identified is to add the monitoring review criteria to Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria.

Review Panel Recommendations

The Review Panel does not have recommendations for major policy changes to manual 18 this year.

Opportunity for Stakeholder Comment

Staff, sponsors, lead entities, and regions provide feedback throughout the year, which RCO then uses to propose administrative changes. Staff also receives feedback from lead entities through the lead entity progress reports. To prepare for future grant cycles, RCO conducts a sponsor survey every two years. Because of the compressed grant round schedule, we will not have the results until November, so the survey results will be discussed with the Washington Salmon Coalition and the Review Panel in January, and results will be incorporated into the 2022 grant round.

Next Steps

After the SRFB meeting, staff will publish the manual to the RCO Web site and send out an email to inform lead entity and regional staff.

Strategic Plan Connection

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

Briefing the board on administrative changes in Manual 18 supports **Goal 1:** Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts. By sharing information about Manual 18, the board and partners are aware of how projects go through the grant round process for funding.

Actions requested

Motion: Move to accept the policy changes to Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria as shown on Attachment B.

Attachments

- A. Grant Round Timeline
- B. Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria

2021 Grant Schedule

Salmon Grants

Please obtain the lead entity's schedule from the lead entity coordinator.

Date	Action	Description
January–April	Complete project application materials submitted at least 2 weeks before site visit (required)	At least 2 weeks before the site visit , applicants for all projects, including regional monitoring projects, must submit a complete application in PRISM (See Application Checklist). The lead entity provides applicants with a project number before work can begin in PRISM.
Track 1 February 1–March 19 Or Track 2 April 5–May 14	Site visits (required)	RCO screens all applications for completeness and eligibility. The SRFB Review Panel evaluates projects using Manual 18, Appendix F criteria. RCO staff and review panel members attend lead entity-organized site visits. <i>Site visits may be virtual.</i>
March 24	SRFB Review Panel meeting	Track 1: SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in February and March.
April 2	First comment form For February and March site visits	Track 1: Applicants receive SRFB Review Panel comments identifying projects as “Clear,” “Conditioned,” “Needs More Information,” or “Project of Concern.” RCO staff accepts “Clear” applications and returns “Conditioned,” “Needs More Information,” and “Project of Concern” applications so applicants may update and respond to comments. The Monitoring Panel will provide comments for monitoring projects.
April 12	Conference call (Optional)	Track 1: Lead entities may schedule a 1-hour conference call with project applicants, RCO staff, and one SRFB Review Panel member to discuss “Needs More Information,” “Project of Concern,” or “Conditioned” projects in their lead entities.
May 19	SRFB Review Panel meeting	Track 2: SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in April and May.

Date	Action	Description
June 4	First comment form For April and May site visits	Track 2: Applicants receive SRFB Review Panel comments identifying projects as "Clear," "Conditioned," "Needs More Information," or "Project of Concern." RCO staff accepts "Clear" applications and returns "Conditioned," "Needs More Information," and "Project of Concern" applications so applicants may update and respond to comments. The Monitoring Panel will provide comments for monitoring projects.
June 9 & 10	Conference call (Optional)	Track 2: Lead entities may schedule a 1-hour conference call with project applicants, RCO staff, and one SRFB Review Panel member to discuss "Needs More Information," "Project of Concern," or "Conditioned" projects in their lead entities.
June 28, Noon	Due Date: Applications due	Applicants submit final revised application materials via PRISM. See Application Checklist .
July 14	SRFB Review Panel meeting	SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comments.
July 22	Final comment form	Applicants receive the final SRFB Review Panel comments, identifying projects as "Clear," "Conditioned," or "Project of Concern." The Monitoring Panel will provide final comments for monitoring projects.
August 9	Due Date: Accept SRFB Review Panel condition	Applicants with Conditioned projects must indicate whether they accept the conditions or will withdraw their projects.
August 10	Due Date: Lead entity ranked list	Lead entities submit ranked lists via PRISM.
August 16	Due Date: Regional submittal	Regional organizations submit their recommendations for funding, including alternate projects (only those they want the SRFB to consider funding), and their Regional Area Summary and Project Matrix.
September 1	Final grant report available for public review	The final funding recommendation report is available online for SRFB members and public review.
September 22 and 23	Board funding meeting	SRFB awards grants. Public comment period available.

Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria

To help ensure that every project funded by the SRFB is technically sound, the SRFB Review Panel or Monitoring Panel will note for the SRFB any projects it believes have the following:

- Low benefit to salmon
- A low likelihood of being successful
- Costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits of the project

Projects designated as “Projects of Concern” have a low benefit to salmon, a low likelihood of success, or costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits. The SRFB Review Panel will not otherwise rate, score, or rank projects. RCO expects that projects will follow best management practices and will meet local, state, and federal permitting requirements.

The SRFB Review Panel and Monitoring Panel use the review module in PRISM Online to capture their comments on individual projects. Comments, once shared by a panel, are visible on the project application in PRISM on the “Review Comments” screen.

Criteria

For acquisition and restoration projects, the panel will determine that a project is not technically sound and cannot be significantly improved if it meets the following criteria:

1. It is unclear there is a problem to salmonids the project is addressing. For acquisition projects, this criterion relates to the lack of a clear threat if the property is not acquired.
2. Information provided or current understanding of the system is not enough to determine the need for, or the benefit of, the project.
 - Incomplete application or proposal.
 - Project goal or objectives not clearly stated or do not address salmon habitat protection or restoration.
 - Project sponsor has not responded to SRFB Review Panel comments.
 - Acquisition parcel prioritization (for multi-site proposals) is not provided or the prioritization does not meet the project’s goal or objectives.

3. The project is dependent on addressing other key conditions or processes first.
4. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits and the project sponsor failed to justify the costs to the satisfaction of the SRFB Review Panel.
5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.
6. The project may be in the wrong sequence with other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed.
7. The project does not work towards restoring natural watershed processes or prohibits natural processes.
8. It is unclear how the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
9. It is unlikely that the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
10. There is low potential for threat to habitat conditions if the project is not completed.
11. The project design is not adequate, or the project is sited improperly.
12. The stewardship description is insufficient or there is inadequate commitment to stewardship and maintenance and this likely would jeopardize the project's success.
13. The focus is on supplying a secondary need, such as education, streambank stabilization to protect property, or water supply.

Additional Criteria for Riparian Restoration Projects

For riparian restoration projects, the SRFB Review Panel will evaluate the riparian planting width based on the site-specific conditions and determine whether the proposed width will provide a benefit to salmon recovery and achieve goals as articulated in the regional recovery plans.

Additional Criteria for Planning Projects

For planning projects (e.g. assessment, design, inventories, and studies), the SRFB Review Panel will consider the criteria for acquisition and restoration projects (1-13) and the following additional criteria. The SRFB Review Panel will determine that a project is not technically sound and cannot improve significantly if the following conditions are met:

- A. The project does not address an information need important to understanding the watershed, is not directly relevant to project development or sequencing, and will not clearly lead to beneficial projects.
- B. The methodology does not appear to be appropriate to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
- C. There are significant constraints to the implementation of projects following completion of the planning project.
- D. The project does not clearly lead to project design or does not meet the criteria for filling a data gap.
- E. The project does not appear to be coordinated with other efforts in the watershed or does not use appropriate methods and protocols.

Additional Criteria for Monitoring Projects

The SRFB Monitoring Panel reviews project proposals that involve monitoring activities including study design development, data collection, sampling methods, data management and analysis, and reporting. Proposed monitoring projects need to be based on clearly identified and sound scientific principles.

For monitoring projects, the SRFB Monitoring Panel will evaluate proposals based on study design elements. In addition to the above evaluation criteria, the Monitoring Panel will designate proposals as POC if the proposal lacks a technically sound scientific study plan.

- A. The monitoring plan is based on inaccurate assumptions.
- B. The monitoring methods are technically flawed.
- C. Analytical techniques proposed are inadequate to achieve the project goals and / or objectives.

The value of the study for recovery of salmon populations or the application of the study to future recovery efforts is not explicit.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: Options for Next Phase of SRFB Monitoring Program

Prepared By: Keith Dublanica and Erik Neatherlin, GSRO

Summary:

GSRO staff and the Monitoring Panel chair will provide a general update summary of the Intensively Monitored Watersheds ((MW) program and will report out on the work of the monitoring sub-committee to prepare monitoring investment options for board consideration that pivot away from the project effectiveness monitoring program.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☒ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☐ Briefing

Introduction/Background

June 11, 2020 Board Direction

At the June 11, 2020 meeting the board directed GSRO and the Monitoring Panel to establish a monitoring sub-committee that would meet and develop monitoring investment options for the board to consider.

The board direction via motion is summarized below from the June 11, 2020 meeting.

Schedule either at the September or November meeting an in-depth discussion of the priorities for monitoring given this discussion. In particular, what is the end strategy for intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs), and what is the pivot? Is it a pivot to a different kind of effectiveness monitoring or towards the needs of the regions?

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW)

GSRO met twice with the IMW principal investigators and members of the IMW technical advisory committee to discuss the questions posed by the board. A summary of these discussions, the trajectories, and a general timeline for the IMW monitoring program, will be provided in the presentation to the board at the November meeting.

Monitoring Sub-Committee

The monitoring sub-committee included: Salmon Recovery Funding Board members Rockefeller, Breckel, Hoffman, and Bernath; monitoring panel members Pete Bisson, Leska Fore, Jeanette Smith, Tracy Hillman, and Micah Wait; regional recovery organization representatives Scott Brewer, Alex Conley, John Foltz, Greer Maier, Melody Kreimes Steve Manlow, and Mara Zimmerman; and Washington Salmon Coalition member Tricia Snyder. The sub-committee was facilitated by Keith Dublanica and Erik Neatherlin from GSRO. To guide the process, the sub-committee relied on the board's strategic plan, recommendations from the board's monitoring investment strategy ([Stillwater report 2013](#)), and the monitoring panel's collective institutional knowledge and technical expertise.

For reference, here is the pertinent excerpt from the board's [Strategic Plan](#):

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

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

The sub-committee met virtually once per month from July through November and discussed the many shortcomings and challenges of monitoring, including the lack of funding, need for an updated statewide framework and monitoring strategy, and the complexity and multifaceted nature of monitoring for salmon recovery. This led the sub-committee to narrow its focus on defining the role of the board's monitoring program within the scope of the broader statewide monitoring efforts by state agencies, tribes, and federal partners.

Policy Questions

Through these discussions, the sub-committee identified two general questions that they felt were important for the board to consider as it discussed the monitoring options:

- (1) Should the board primarily focus on questions that inform progress towards recovery?
- (2) Should the board primarily focus on questions that inform the efficacy of the board's habitat restoration investments?

These are questions that the board has considered in previous monitoring discussions. In the past, the board has leaned towards monitoring programs that were more closely aligned with their responsibility to evaluate the efficacy of the board's habitat restoration programs, and has focused less on using their monitoring funds to specifically track overall progress towards recovery. The sub-committee agreed this was an appropriate opportunity to raise the questions again, in light of other decisions the board will be deliberating, and in light of the addition of new board members.

These questions may not necessarily lead the board to mutually exclusive monitoring outcomes. However, the sub-committee did feel that these questions might help the board further refine and clarify its own thinking as it considers the specific monitoring options and the monitoring "pivot" decision. These questions also lay the groundwork for continued discussions by the board around its monitoring program and how it relates to and can build on broader regional and statewide monitoring efforts.

Monitoring Options

The monitoring investment options below represent the full discussion and deliberation by the sub-committee. The sub-committee sets forth the four (4) most viable monitoring investment options. The four options are summarized first and discussed in more detail further below. The fourth option, Option D, is a combination of options A, B, and C and represents the sub-committee's preferred option after reviewing options A, B, and C.

Option A: Reach-scale restoration effectiveness monitoring

Establish a Monitoring Program to Evaluate Restoration Scale Effectiveness (5-10-year investment) that evaluates floodplain and riparian restoration effectiveness at a scale (approx. 1 kilometer) that incorporates novel remote sensing technologies.

This program would evaluate the effectiveness of restoration scale habitat at the reach scale (larger than project scale and smaller than watershed scale). This approach would evaluate the cumulative effects of multiple actions typical of contemporary restoration projects in floodplains. Project types representative of east and west sides would be selected for monitoring and evaluation. New remote sensing technology (LiDAR and high-resolution drone photography) would be used to assess floodplain and riparian habitat conditions.

Such methods allow monitoring larger areas at lower cost and economies of scale with partners. This monitoring program would inform the effectiveness of floodplain restoration, could be applicable statewide, and could be used to direct future investments in those project types.

Pros/Cons:

Pros:

- Has statewide applicability but can be down-scaled locally.
- Pre-determined site selection has already been made in the CSF Study Plan and is ready to go.
- Could build on and expand current LiDAR work (DNR/ USGS) and data to date.

Cons:

- Requires regional engagement (i.e., extra work) in site selection and putting projects on the ground (some regions do see the potential).
- Requires medium to long-term investment in a single suite of questions.
- This option is what was envisioned in the Cramer Fish Sciences Study Plan and would require 5 to 10-year investment of \$250-\$350k annually.
- Not all regions consider this the highest priority.
- Direct linkages to salmon recovery board investments has not yet been developed.

Option B: Recovery and restoration critical uncertainties monitoring

Establish a Monitoring Program to Evaluate Critical Uncertainties to Inform Board and Regional Recovery Investments and Progress Towards Recovery (1-3-year rotating investment). Evaluate key uncertainties that address habitat restoration and recovery uncertainties identified through a collaborative process between the Monitoring Panel and Regional Recovery Organizations.

This program would address critical uncertainties that could inform broader monitoring questions or topics, could directly inform recovery strategies or actions, or could inform

Board project investments. This program would provide a high degree of flexibility, which could be visited on a biennial basis. Thus, this program would enhance adaptive management processes and would leverage existing data and information by conducting syntheses and analyses of existing information. This program would be a mix of data compilation, synthesis, and evaluation of existing data, as well as the collection of new data, based on the specific need.

This effort provides some level of flexibility and responsiveness to leverage existing data and information to inform salmon habitat and recovery monitoring questions. Although this monitoring program would not look traditional, the board would strongly align monitoring efforts to inform habitat project investments by linking salmon and steelhead biology, life histories, and survival to habitat actions where data gaps exist.

Project Examples:

1. Update Salmon Status or Population Designations Statewide (for listed and non-listed species) to inform and direct investments in the right place.
2. Riparian habitat evaluation (statewide): How much exists? How much has been protected? How much has been converted?
3. Land use/development (statewide): Where, when, how have lands been converted? What are the best tools to track land use conversion?
4. Additional synthesis analysis of IMW existing data across the region or in a specific watershed.
5. Life cycle modeling efforts to identify recovery bottlenecks. Additional analysis and data collection building upon ongoing fish-in/fish-out monitoring to identify critical survival bottlenecks to inform future project locations, and associated life stage and timing bottlenecks.

Pros / Cons:

Pros:

- Provides flexibility to address key uncertainties or information gaps that can directly inform Salmon Recovery Funding Board investments or regional monitoring priorities.
- Has statewide applicability but can encompass regional monitoring priorities.
- Addresses key elements of the monitoring strategy from SRFB Strategic Plan.
- Targets regional needs and augments an existing state-wide need.
- Leverages and utilizes available data and information.
- Provides a framework for improved coordination between Monitoring Panel, the Recovery Regions, and project sponsors.

Cons:

- Needs a process to identify the research agenda(s), which will require up front work (6 months to 1 year) that will delay implementation.
- Does not establish one-size-fits-all singular program.

Option C: Regional recovery priorities monitoring

Expand the Regional Monitoring Program (annual evaluation process, 1-3 year projects); fund regional recovery monitoring projects prioritized by the regions.

This program would provide funding directly to regions to augment the existing regional funding that is set aside (currently \$300K) in the annual Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. Funding would be used to address regional monitoring priorities.

This would give the regions the maximum amount of flexibility to coordinate and leverage other existing monitoring efforts, synthesize existing data that informs salmon recovery related questions, and be as efficient as possible to direct limited monitoring resources to inform recovery actions in the recovery plans. This allows the regions to coordinate and phase efforts at greater level.

Pros / Cons:

Pros:

- Targets regional needs, augments and supports existing need.
- Leverages existing PCSRF regional monitoring set aside.
- Provides flexibility for the regions and project sponsors.

Cons:

- Monitoring priorities may or may not have statewide significance.
- No explicit linkage to Monitoring Panel or Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Option D (Sub-Committee Preferred Option): Critical uncertainties monitoring with combined elements from options A, B, and C

Establish a Monitoring Program to Evaluate Critical Uncertainties to Inform Board and Regional Recovery Investments and Progress Towards Salmon Recovery (1-3-year rotating investment).

This option is anchored in option B, and combines elements from options A, B, and C.

Key Element from Option B: This program would address critical uncertainties that could inform broader monitoring questions or topics, could directly inform recovery strategies

or actions, or could inform Board project investments. This program provides a high degree of flexibility, which could be visited on a biennial basis. Thus, this program would enhance adaptive management processes and would leverage existing data and information by conducting syntheses and analyses of existing information. This program would be a mix of data compilation, synthesis, and evaluation of existing data, as well as the collection of new data, based on the specific need.

Key Elements from Option A: Include a scaled-down floodplain and riparian restoration monitoring plan that could be piloted beginning immediately. The pilot would take place over the next six months to a year, while the monitoring panel and regions determine the list of critical uncertainty priorities.

Key elements from Option C: Involve the regions in the process and consider the value of local regional recovery priorities in the deliberation and development of the list of statewide critical uncertainty priorities.

Key elements for implementation:

- The program should focus on maximizing and leveraging existing information and data but should not preclude the collection of new data if warranted.
- The program must ensure there is explicit coordination mechanisms between the monitoring panel and recovery regions, with feedback loops to the board.
- The coordination pathways must be transparent and must be scientifically defensible and must lead to a discrete list of monitoring projects that can be completed within a 1 to 3-year timeframe.
- The program must ensure there is sufficient flexibility to address regional and statewide questions or uncertainties.
- The program must ensure that adaptive management principles are in place as feedback mechanisms between the monitoring panel, the recovery boards, and the board. Where feasible coordinate with the technical review panel.
- In the near term, develop and implement a scaled-down version of option A that could involve testing novel monitoring techniques.

Pros / Cons:

Pros:

- Provides flexibility to identify key uncertainties or information gaps that can directly inform Salmon Recovery Funding Board investments or regional monitoring priorities.
- Leverages existing data and information.

- Provides a framework for improved coordination b/w Monitoring Panel and the Regions.
- Has statewide applicability but can also encompass regional monitoring priorities.
- Addresses key elements of the Monitoring Strategy from the SRFB Strategic Plan.
- Targets regional needs and augments an existing need.
- Provides greater opportunity for technical and monitoring panel interaction.
- Implements a pilot program to address reach scale restoration questions that can offset the up-front work to get this program running.

Cons:

- Requires up- front work (6 months to 1 year) that will delay a review of results.
- Does not establish one-size-fits-all singular program.

Budget

[2020 SRFB Monitoring Program Contract Expenditures](#)

Effort	FY 2020	FY 2019 unobligated	Total Available for Pivot	Future Anticipated Funds
Status and Trends	\$208,000			\$208,000
IMW	\$1,456,000			\$1,456,000
Project Effectiveness/ Monitoring Pivot	\$236,000	\$133,622	\$369,622	\$236,000
Monitoring Panel	\$100,000			\$100,000
Total	\$2,000,000	133,622	\$369,622	\$2,000,000

Staff Recommendation

The staff supports the decision of the sub-committee to move forward with the proposed hybrid monitoring option D for board consideration. After careful deliberations over the course of several months of meetings, including detailed discussions of a suite of monitoring options, the sub-committee settled on a hybrid monitoring option that represented key elements from each of the final monitoring

options (A, B, and C). The sub-committee agreed that this hybrid monitoring option D, best represents the interests of the sub-committee, the board, and recovery, and should be moved forward for board consideration and decision.

Decision/Motion Language

Move to approve that the hybrid option D, critical uncertainties for recovery monitoring program, be forwarded for implementation as described in memo item #7. The board directs GSRO to implement this program working with the monitoring panel and the regional recovery organizations, and authorizes RCO Director to approve any Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that may be required to implement the restoration scale pilot program, or the development of the list of critical uncertainty priority projects for future board funding.

Strategic Plan Connection

The monitoring panel work is guided by both the allocation and monitoring strategies identified in Goals 1 and 2 of the board's strategic plan. The monitoring panel offers independent and objective reviews of monitoring efforts, in a transparent and proactive forum, of the scientific merit of the proposals, and how they address the varied salmon recovery plans. Goals 1 and 2 of the board's strategic plan focus on prioritization and accountability for investments and projects that best advance salmon recovery efforts.

<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SRFB-StrategicPlan.pdf>

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: State-Tribal Riparian Workgroup Update and Next Steps for Modifying Board Policy

Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo summarizes the state-tribal riparian workgroup and the next steps for modifying the board policy.

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

Introduction/Background

In December 2013, staff briefed the Salmon Recovery Board (board) about riparian area width requirements for funded projects. This was triggered by a request by NOAA that our funded projects meet minimum riparian width recommendations (See Attachment A: SRFB memo December 2013). At the time, WDFW was beginning to review the scientific literature in advance of updating the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines developed in 1997. The question before the board in December 2013 was whether the board should require minimum riparian widths for its riparian habitat restoration projects.

Following a staff presentation and testimony, the board asked for data on previously funded projects and to return to discuss next steps in March 2014 (see Attachment A: board minutes December 2013).

In March 2014, staff presented the analysis of the riparian widths on projects recently funded by the board. At the time, NOAA was recommending 100' riparian widths on each side of fish bearing streams and 50' on non-fish bearing streams. In the analysis of 2014 board-funded projects, most of the riparian projects met or exceeded the riparian widths recommended by NOAA (see Attachment B: Memo 5, March 2014).

At the March 2014 meeting, staff recommended the board adopt a policy that applies NOAA's recommended riparian widths as a guideline for projects with a riparian habitat objective in Puget Sound, with a sponsor providing justification if a project had a smaller riparian width. Additionally, staff recommended the board adopt a policy to encourage project sponsors to pursue riparian conservation easements to compensate landowners who volunteer to use their property for a riparian habitat project.

Following testimony at the March 2014 meeting, the board asked staff to collect public comment on statewide riparian width guidelines (see Attachment B: minutes of the March 2014 board meeting).

At the June 2014 board meeting, staff presented the public feedback on riparian widths (see Attachment C: memo 13 June 2014 board meeting). Staff recommended maintaining its current process for evaluating riparian restoration projects until new or revised guidelines are available from WDFW and to pursue additional methods to incentivize private landowners to allow salmon recovery projects on their property.

Since then, WDFW has been working to finalize their guidance on riparian areas. This is contained in two volumes on Riparian Ecosystems. Volume 1 summarizes the science and volume 2 provides management recommendations. In 2018, WDFW finalized volume 1, Science Synthesis and Management Implications and they expect to finalize volume 2 in 2020. Volume 2 contains the Management Recommendations.

At the 2019 Centennial Accord meeting, the Governor committed to Tribal leaders to form a state-tribal work group to recommend an approach to riparian protection. That workgroup has been convened and is working to develop recommendations for the Governor and tribal leaders this fall.

One of the likely recommendations to the Governor will relate to ensuring that grant funded projects meet or exceed best available science and that those projects protect riparian ecosystem functions important to salmon. Currently, the science (in volume 1) suggests that riparian ecosystems and associated aquatic systems benefit most when the riparian ecosystem is as wide as site potential tree height at 200 years of age or older. Site potential tree height is a technical term from the scientific literature that defines riparian ecosystem functions that increase as the buffers get wider, eventually reaching a plateau where the riparian habitat is fully functioning (i.e., meets functions such as providing: shade that cools water, woody debris, stream bank protection, inputs of nutrients, and filtering of pollution from upslope sources). The literature suggests that fully functioning riparian conditions are achieved when the area of protection (refer to this as either the riparian management zone (RMZ) or riparian ecosystem) is at least as wide as the site potential tree height. Depending on soil and climate and other local

factors, the site potential tree height at 200 years can range from 50 feet to beyond 300 feet. For reference and perhaps most pertinent for the board, the science document summarizes that fully functioning habitat conditions for large woody debris is reached at a range of 100-240 feet depending on the soil type and tree species.

In anticipation of recommendations from the Governor and tribal leaders, the question for the board to discuss is how best to incorporate the best available science into the requirements or guidance we give to our grant applicants and whether to incentivize wider riparian areas through our match requirements.

Strategic Plan Connection

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

Attachments

Attachment A – December 2013 Memo and Minutes

Attachment B – March 2014 Memo and Minutes

Attachment C – June 2014 Memo and Minutes

Attachment A - Item 5A from December 2013



Item **5A**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: December 2013
Title: Manual 18 Policy Changes for 2014 Grant Cycle: Riparian Buffers
Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

This memo presents draft policy changes regarding riparian buffer requirements for funded projects. Pending further board direction, these proposed changes will be made available for public review and comment in December 2013 and January 2014. Staff will then summarize comments and present final recommendations to the board at its March meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

In August, the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries) contacted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to encourage adoption of minimum riparian buffer requirements for restoration projects funded in lower elevation agricultural landscapes.

NOAA Fisheries provided the sister federal agencies with minimum riparian buffer recommendations (Attachment A) to implement into voluntary financial assistance and grant programs. The recommendations are based mainly on soil types and the potential for vegetation growth at the restoration site. The recommendations are based upon work proposed but not adopted in the Agriculture, Fish and Water process in 2002 during initial phases of salmon recovery planning. NOAA Fisheries supports the 2002 work as a recommendation to use on an interim basis for minimum riparian buffer widths to protect water quality and aquatic conditions important for salmon. The recommendations apply to rivers, streams, and intertidal channels in lower elevation agricultural landscapes.

In response, the NRCS applied the recommendations, with certain revisions, to projects it funds through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program in the Puget Sound region. This voluntary program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers for planning and implementing conservation practices that address natural resource concerns.

The EPA responded by requiring minimum riparian buffers for its programs and projects funded through the National Estuary Program. All lead implementing organizations in the program will be required to meet minimum buffers in their riparian restoration projects. Subsequently, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) revised its minimum riparian buffer requirements, based on set numerical standards for western and eastern Washington for projects that address nonpoint pollution and will apply these new requirements starting in 2014 (Attachment B). Ecology minimum riparian buffers are meant to protect and restore salmon fisheries and achieve water quality standards. The requirements apply to riparian restoration projects in any landscape setting.

In addition to the minimum riparian buffer recommendations from NOAA, the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (SHRG) published by the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program provide recommendations for riparian buffer widths (Attachment C). The SHRG recommendations are based upon work developed in 1997. These recommendations are intended to maintain fully functional riparian habitat ecosystems and represent a best management practice for restoring buffers and are wider than the NOAA Fisheries recommended widths. Last year, members of the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program lead by Ecology and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife launched a review of the scientific literature to update the recommendations from 1997. They expect to have a draft scientific white paper available spring 2014 and final guidelines ready by summer 2015.

Analysis

RCO staff evaluated whether the board should require minimum riparian buffers for its riparian habitat restoration projects. Options considered included when, where and how to apply the guidelines.

After review of current practices, staff recommends the board adopt a policy that strongly encourages riparian restoration projects meet the buffer recommendations in the Stream Restoration Habitat Guidelines, but use the NOAA Fisheries riparian buffer recommendations as a minimum benchmark upon which to evaluate applications. The minimum riparian buffer threshold is not intended to reduce the riparian buffer width encouraged by the Stream Restoration Habitat Guidelines. As the NOAA Fisheries' recommendations are based upon soil type and potential site vegetation, staff also proposes to apply NOAA fisheries riparian buffer recommendations as minimum requirements to any riparian restoration project, regardless of location or landscape setting.

The technical review panel would continue to evaluate the riparian habitat projects. The technical review panel would evaluate riparian restoration projects based upon the Stream

Restoration Habitat Guidelines (preferred) and NOAA Fisheries (minimum). If the technical review panel found the riparian restoration application to be deficient in meeting the minimum riparian buffer recommendations established by NOAA Fisheries, the application would be flagged as a project of concern. The board would retain its discretion to fund the application at its regularly scheduled funding meeting.

Proposed Changes

There are three changes proposed to capture the riparian buffer recommendations. The changes are shown below as underlined text to the current language in Manual 18. These policy statements would be incorporated into Manual 18 and apply to the riparian habitat applications starting in 2014.

Change #1 - Eligible Projects Section (page 16) - *underlined text is the proposed change*

Riparian Habitat – includes freshwater, marine near-shore, and estuarine activities that will improve the riparian habitat outside of the ordinary high water mark or in wetlands. Activities may include planting native vegetation, managing invasive species, or controlling livestock, vehicle, and foot traffic within protected areas.

- Knotweed Control – Applicants proposing knotweed control as an element of their projects should answer the knotweed questions identified in the restoration proposal.
- Buffer Requirements - All riparian habitat projects must include the minimum riparian buffer widths as recommended by NOAA Fisheries (November 2012). Projects that do not include the minimum buffer recommendation may receive a project of concern rating from the technical review panel during evaluation. Exceptions to the minimum buffer requirement will only be allowed in cases where there is a scientific basis for doing so or there are physical constraints on an individual parcel (e.g., transportation corridors, structures, naturally occurring conditions).

Change #2 - Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines Section (page 106) - *underlined text is the proposed change*

The Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines are part of a series of guidance documents produced through the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines program with SRFB funding in early 2000. The Aquatic Habitat Guidelines program is a joint effort among state and federal agencies in Washington, including the Washington Departments of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Transportation; the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (SRFB); Puget Sound Partnership; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The aquatic habitat guidelines do not replace existing regulatory requirements, though they are designed in part as technical guidance supporting regulatory streamlining and grant application review for stream restoration proposals.

RCO highly recommends that project sponsors review the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (2012) online at wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/habitat/planning/ahg/. The purpose of the guidelines is to promote process-based natural stream restoration. Project sponsors are strongly encouraged to design riparian habitat projects to include the riparian habitat buffer recommendations in the Stream Restoration Habitat Guidelines. At a minimum, however, riparian habitat projects must include minimum riparian buffer widths as recommended by NOAA Fisheries (November 2012).

In developing your SRFB application, RCO highly recommends you consult Chapters 4 and 5 of the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines. Chapter 4 provides guidance to sponsors in developing their goals and objectives for their restoration projects as well as their restoration strategies. Chapter 5 provides guidance on designing and implementing restoration techniques.

Change #3 - SRFB Review Panel Evaluation Criteria (page 124) - *underlined text is the proposed change*

For acquisition and restoration projects, the panel will determine that a project is not technically sound and cannot be significantly improved if:

1. It is unclear there is a problem to salmonids the project is addressing. For acquisition projects, this criterion relates to the lack of a clear threat if the property is not acquired.
2. Information provided, or current understanding of the system, is not sufficient to determine the need for, or the benefit of, the project.
 - a. Incomplete application or proposal.
 - b. Project goal or objectives not clearly stated; or do not address salmon habitat protection or restoration.
 - c. Project sponsor has not responded to review panel comments.
 - d. Acquisition parcel prioritization (for multi-site proposals) is not provided or the prioritization does not meet the projects goal or objectives.
3. The project is dependent on other key conditions or processes being addressed first.
4. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits and the project sponsor has failed to justify the costs to the satisfaction of the review panel.
5. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.
6. The project may be in the wrong sequence with other habitat protection, assessments, or restoration actions in the watershed.
7. The project does not work towards restoring natural watershed processes, or prohibits natural processes.
8. It is unclear how the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
9. It is unlikely that the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
10. There is low potential for threat to habitat conditions if the project is not completed.
11. The project design is not adequate or the project is sited improperly.

12. The stewardship description is insufficient or there is inadequate commitment to stewardship and maintenance and this likely would jeopardize the project's success.
13. The main focus is on supplying a secondary need, such as education, stream bank stabilization to protect property, or water supply.
14. The design for a riparian habitat project does not include minimum riparian buffers as recommended by NOAA Fisheries (November 2012).

Next Steps

Pending board direction, RCO staff will post the proposed policy changes on its Web site for public review and comment. Staff will review public comments received, respond to comments, and summarize them for the board's consideration. Staff will prepare a final recommendation and present it at the board's March 2014 meeting. Any changes approved in March would apply to grants starting in 2014.

Attachments

- A. NOAA Fisheries Interim Riparian Buffer Recommendations for Streams in Puget Sound Agricultural Landscapes
- B. Minimum Buffer Requirements for Surface Waters for Grants Awarded through the Washington Department of Ecology for Nonpoint Source Pollution
- C. Recommended Riparian Habitat Area Widths from the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines

Attachment A

NOAA Fisheries Interim Riparian Buffer Recommendations for Streams in Puget Sound Agricultural Landscapes (November 2012)

Channel Type	Habitat Functions	Composition	Buffer Width
Class I Constructed ditches; small non-fish bearing streams	Water quality protection; shade; sediment filtration	Grasses, trees or shrubs; may only need woody vegetation on one side of channel	As wide as necessary to meet water quality standards; can be determined by NRCS Field Office Technical Guide
Class II Fish bearing streams; natural and modified natural watercourses that are incised and cannot move	Water quality; LWD for cover, complexity; litter fall; shade	Site potential vegetation; trees where they will grow	2/3 Site potential tree height; 50 ft. minimum to 180 ft. maximum
Class III Fish bearing; natural unconfined channels	Same as above, but structural LWD essential	Same as above	3/4 Site potential tree height
Class IV fish bearing streams confined by dikes or other hardened man- made feature	Water quality; complex cover; litter fall; shade	Trees and shrubs	Face of levee, from top of dike to ordinary high water mark
Class V Fish bearing intertidal and estuarine streams and channels	Water quality; food inputs; habitat complexity	Site potential vegetation (salt- tolerant sedges, shrubs, trees)	35-75 ft.; varies according to adjacent land use

Attachment B

Minimum Buffer Requirements for surface waters for grants awarded through the Washington State Department of Ecology for Nonpoint Source Pollution (October 2013)

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

Attachment C

Recommended Riparian Habitat Area Widths Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines (2012)

Stream Type	Recommended Riparian Habitat Area Width (feet)
Types 1 and 2 streams (Shorelines of the State and channels with widths greater than 20 feet)	250
Type 3 streams or other perennial or fish bearing streams that are five to 20 feet wide	200
Type 3 streams or other perennial or fish bearing streams that are less than five feet wide	150
Types 4 and 5 streams or intermittent streams with low mass wasting potential	150
Types 4 and 5 streams or intermittent streams with high mass wasting potentials	225

Clip of Meeting Minutes from December 2013

BRIEFINGS

Item 5: Manual 18 Updates Proposed for 2014

Tara Galuska presented the information as described in memo for item 5. She gave an overview of Manual 18, and its purpose in the grant round, and then went on to highlight an overview of proposed changes for 2014:

- Grant Round Schedule
 - Maintain similar schedule as 2013, which eliminates the July feedback loop as an efficiency measure to save time and resources.
- Riparian Projects
 - Allow riparian stewardship projects to be funded under riparian category to protect planting investments.
- Move Salmon Project Proposals out of the body of the Manual into Appendices. Take out any redundancies in questions.
 - Allows sponsors to easily download the proposal applicable to their project.
- Funding Report
 - In the future, we will look at streamlining the report and regional submittals.

Riparian Buffers

Leslie Connelly, RCO policy specialist, provided a background on riparian buffers width guidelines and the National Marine Fisheries Service recommendations for minimum buffer widths. She provided questions to the board to consider regarding adopting a policy on minimum riparian buffer widths:

- Should there be a minimum riparian buffer threshold?
- Where should it apply?
 - Puget Sound agriculture lands only or other geographic areas?
- What types of projects?
 - Projects in which riparian restoration is the main goal or all projects that include some riparian restoration work?
- How should it apply?
 - As an eligibility requirement or part of the review panel's evaluation?
- When should the board act?
 - Now or wait for final recommendations from NOAA?

Connelly also provided pros and cons regarding setting a riparian buffers threshold, staff recommendations and concluded with potential next steps should the board approve the staff recommendation.

General Public Comment:

Todd Bolster, NWIFC- provided comments regarding riparian buffer policy. He states that the NWIFC strongly supports the SRFB moving forward with this decision.

Eli Asher, Cowlitz Indian Tribe – Provided comments that he doesn't support any changes toward a minimum buffer width and asked that the board consider the impact before any decision is made.

Jeff Breckel, LCFRB – Encouraged the board to step back from this and do more research before any decision is made. He believes that this could be a significant issue for his sponsors.

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin- Commented that he is concerned about the effects on the landowners, and that he hasn't heard anyone complain that riparian buffers aren't working on their land. He believes that the SRFB shouldn't fix what is not broken.

Kelley Jorgensen, Review Panel - added some additional information regarding the buffer discussion. Jorgensen explained the variability in cost of buffers, and explained her concerns regarding the riparian buffers.

The board discussed the merits and challenges with setting a minimum riparian buffer for proposed projects. Members expressed concern for how a minimum buffer would be implemented and whether there would be "chilling effect" on applicants submitting riparian restoration projects for funding. Chairman Troutt recommended staff research the impacts on previously funded projects as a case study, meet with external partners to hear more feedback, and come back in March with more information and data as to the impacts of a minimum buffer on SRFB projects. There was no objection with this concept from the board. Staff will look at the impact of riparian buffers on a set of previously funded projects and bring that information to the March board meeting.

Attachment B - Item 5 from March 2014



Item **5**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

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

Approved by the RCO Director:

Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

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

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

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

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

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

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

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

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

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

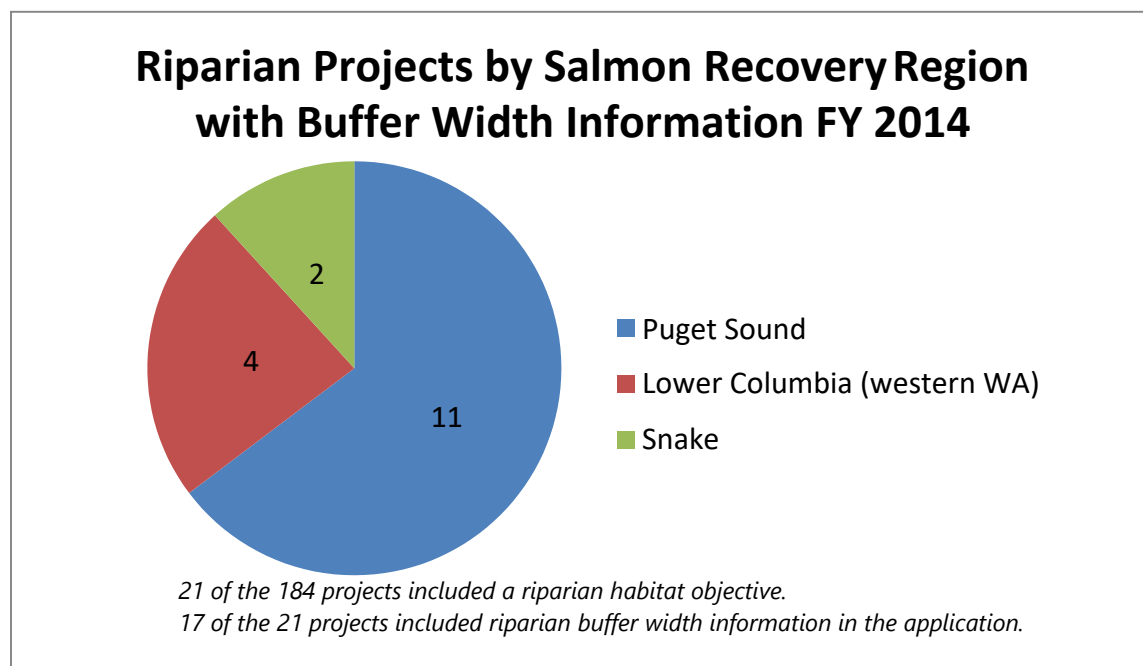
As previously discussed during the December board meeting, the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines Program lead by Ecology and the Department of Fish and Wildlife is conducting a scientific literature review to update riparian buffer best management practices. The funding for this project is an EPA grant. The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

Analysis

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Options for Consideration

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

Step One

The first question is:

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

Potential answers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Step 2

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

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

Potential answers:

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

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

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

Step 3

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

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

Potential answers:

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

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

Staff Recommendation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next Steps

Staff will implement the direction provided by the board.

Attachments

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

² Perpetual conservation easements are currently eligible for grant funding.

Attachment A



RECEIVED

FEB 04 2014

WA STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

January 28, 2014

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

Dear Chairman Trout,

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Mike Leita, Chairman

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

Attachment B

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

NMFS Channel Type	Channel Types	Habitat Functions/Composition	Buffer – Minimum Default Width
Class I Constructed ditches; fishless streams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Constructed ditches, intermittent streams, and ephemeral streams that are not identified as being access by anadromous or Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species Perennial waters that are not identified as being access and were historically not accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species 	Water quality protection; shade; sediment filtration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 35' 50'
Class II Fish bearing, modified natural channel, entrenched, or spring fed watercourses that do not move	Modified or highly entrenched perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality; large wood debris for cover, complexity and shade	100' Supporting site assessment recommended to increase buffer width.
Class III Fish bearing	Unconfined perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species	Water quality; large wood debris for cover, complexity, and shade	100' Supporting site assessment recommended to increase buffer width.
Class IV Diked, permanently fixed	N/A	N/A	N/A
Class V Fish bearing, Intertidal/estuarine	Perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters that are identified as being accessed or were historically accessed by anadromous or ESA listed fish species in intertidal and estuarine streams and channels	Site potential vegetation (salt water) sedges, shrubs, etc.	35' – 75' Supporting site assessment or adjacent land use recommended to increase buffer protections needed to meet all applicable water quality standards.

Attachment C

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

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

Attachment D

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

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

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

Attachment E

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

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

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

Attachment F

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

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

Clip of Meeting Minutes from March 2014

Item 5: Riparian Buffer Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

General Public Comment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Attachment C - Item 13 from June 2014



Item **13**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

Meeting Date: June 2014
Title: Riparian Guidelines
Prepared By: Leslie Connelly, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Summary

As requested by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board during its March meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office staff solicited comments from the public on whether the board should adopt guidelines for riparian restoration projects. This memo describes the analysis of the comments received and presents options for the board's consideration.

Staff recommend the board expand the data collected for riparian restoration projects, maintain its current process for evaluating riparian restoration projects until new or revised guidelines are available, and pursue additional methods to incentivize private landowners to allow salmon recovery projects on their property.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Proposed Motion Language

Move to adopt option numbers one through five and continue to explore option twelve.

Background

Staff provided a briefing at the [December](#) Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting on recommendations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for minimum riparian habitat widths on Puget Sound agricultural lowlands. The briefing also presented how the recommendations were being implemented by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) as eligibility criteria for its projects in western and eastern Washington in all landscape settings.

Also in December, staff recommended the board solicit comments from the public on whether the board should adopt NOAA's recommendations and Ecology's criteria for projects focused on restoring riparian habitat areas. After significant discussion and comments from the public at the meeting, the board directed staff to research the potential implications of applying riparian habitat widths to past grant cycles to see how many projects would have met them and how many would not.

Staff provided results of this retrospective analysis at the [March](#) board meeting. In summary, the majority of the funded projects in fiscal year 2014 did not focus on riparian restoration habitat objectives. For those projects that did have a riparian restoration habitat objective, the majority of projects in western Washington met or exceeded the restoration area widths recommended by NOAA. Of the two projects with a riparian restoration habitat objective in eastern Washington, one met Ecology's criteria.

In March, the board asked staff to collect public comment on whether the board should adopt statewide guidelines for the width of a riparian restoration project. Staff were instructed to ask the public for reasons that would justify a smaller riparian width than those recommended by NOAA, how to improve landowner incentives for participating in riparian restoration projects, and how to incentivize funding projects with larger riparian widths.

Staff prepared four questions, based on the board's direction, for the public's consideration and comment. The complete solicitation announcement is included as Attachment A. The four main questions are listed below.

Question 1 - Should the board adopt guidelines for minimum buffer widths for projects with a specific objective to improve riparian habitat? If yes, should the guidelines apply to Puget Sound only, western Washington only, or statewide?

Question 2 - What constraints would be reasonable justification for smaller riparian habitat buffers that are less than the guidelines?

Question 3 - What types of conservation incentives should be offered to landowners who allow salmon recovery projects on their property? Which types of incentives should be eligible for salmon recovery funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board?

Question 4 - Should the board encourage prioritizing funding for riparian habitat projects that meet the guidelines? If so, how could the board encourage such prioritization at the local, regional or state level?

Staff posted the public comment notice on RCO's Web site and sent an e-mail notification to over 1,800 individuals. Comments were accepted from April 10-30, 2014.

Summary of Comments Received

In response to the request for comments, 57 individuals and organizations provided feedback on the proposal to adopt guidelines for a minimum riparian width for riparian restoration projects. The table below (Table 1) summarizes the main points of each individual's comment and whether they would support guidelines for a minimum riparian width for riparian restoration projects. The complete set of comments received is included as Attachment B.

In general, there was support for the guidelines from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Ecology, and three citizens. The remaining comments expressed a lack of support or had concerns about the guidelines. In general the main reasons for not adopting guidelines were: 1) concerns over landowner participation, 2) the need for flexibility to design and implement riparian restoration projects, and 3) the desire to maintain the current local review process to prioritize applications.

There also appeared to be misperceptions about the proposed guidelines. Some commenters believed the guidelines would make a project ineligible for funding, which was not reflective of the proposals from December or March. Also, there was concern about taking land away from landowners, which is contrary to the voluntary nature of the board's salmon recovery program. Finally, there was confusion with regards to how the guidelines for riparian restoration projects would interact with local and state regulations for critical areas, shoreline master programs, and forest practices. These are requirements that must be met when an entity is conducting site development or forestry. Such site impacts are different than the riparian restoration projects funded in the board's salmon recovery projects.

Finally, there was general support for increasing the types of landowner incentives eligible for board funding, with the concern that doing so would increase project costs and result in funding less projects. There were few comments about how the board could fund projects that provided larger riparian habitat areas than the minimum recommendations.

Table 1: Comments Received on Guidelines for Minimum Riparian Habitat Buffer Widths

Individual or organization	Brief Summary of Comments	Support
State-wide Perspectives and Citizens		
Ben Rau, Water Quality Program, Watershed Planning Unit, WA Department of Ecology	We support the adoption of guidelines for minimum buffer widths.	Yes
Heather Bartlett, Water Quality Program Manager, WA Department of Ecology	We supported the proposed guidelines.	Yes
Curtis D. Tanner, Acting Manager, Environmental Restoration and Assessment Division, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	We support the work of the board to establish minimum buffer widths for riparian habitat restoration projects.	Yes
Michael Grayum, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission	The guidelines provide an essential “bookend” to the recommendations contained in the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines, Stream Habitat Restoration Guidance. Governments at all levels and the public justifiably expect that the board will provide key leadership on what is necessary to recover salmon.	Yes
Thomas Woodruff, Real Estate Acquisition Supervisor, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Yes, adopt guidelines for Western WA.	Yes
Jim Hansen, Citizen	I find the new guidelines to be highly reasonable. I like the emphasis on water quality for smaller tribs and ditches.	Yes
Margo DeVries, Citizen	There should be expectations for a reasonable exchange between project funding and project results. Standards should be established in guidelines. These guidelines should be structured to accommodate and accomplish the intended outcome of habitat projects for targeted species across the state.	Yes
Richard Dyrland, Citizen	Updated buffer-width guidelines are needed.	Yes
Ann Stanton, Citizen	Perhaps in support, but not the NOAA Fisheries Interim Riparian Buffer Recommendations. Each project may differ in what buffer width is feasible.	Maybe
Allen Estep, Assistant Division Manager, Forest Resources Division, WA Department of Natural Resources	A specific description of what constitutes a project area and where a minimum buffer should be applied should be articulated.	Neutral – provided technical guidance

Individual or organization	Brief Summary of Comments	Support
Jim Brennan, WA Sea Grant	The definition of riparian only includes freshwater systems. There has been substantial work on marine riparian areas and standards now include the riparian area.	Neutral – provided technical guidance
Larry Zalaznik, Board President, and Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups Coalition	Given the diversity of projects within each RFEG [Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group] region, our members are responding to the request for comment individually rather than collectively. We appreciate the time and effort you have committed to carefully reviewing the proposal.	Neutral
Phil Anderson, Director, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Establishing minimum buffers shifts attention from processed-based stream restoration as set in the Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines. We would value additional discussion to identity strategies and incentives projects that do more than the minimum.	Concerns
Karen Terwilleger, Senior Director of Forest and Environmental Policy, WA Forest Protection Association (WFPA)	WFPA respectfully requests that if minimum buffer guidelines are established, buffer regimes under Habitat Conservation Plans be incorporated into your minimum guidelines.	Concerns
Mark Indrebo, Citizen	I am concerned that these new guidelines will end up making the perfect become the enemy of the good. I would suggest that the proposed guidelines be revised to allow the review panel to classify smaller-buffer projects as POC's [Projects of Concern] only when there is clear evidence that the project, as a whole, has low habitat value or a low certainty of success.	Concerns
Senator Doug Erickson, 42 nd Legislative District Senator Jim Honeyford, 15 th Legislative District Senator Kirk Pearson, 39 th Legislative District Senator Mark Schoesler, 9 th Legislative District	The guidelines should not be adopted for three reasons: riparian buffers on are ditches take away productive farmland, ditches are a low priority for salmon, and projects hinge on site-specific variables.	No
Casey Baldwin, Citizen	I do not believe that minimum buffer widths need to be adopted by the board because it is not possible to pre-determine an effective width.	No
Douglas M. Stienbarger, Citizen	It seems disingenuous to propose the project sponsor justify not using a required buffer width when the minimum buffer width is not tailored to a site to begin with. More significantly, such a policy would likely drastically decrease the number of "willing landowners" interested in riparian projects.	No

Individual or organization	Brief Summary of Comments	Support
Evan Bauder, Citizen	These guidelines will undoubtedly and substantially reduce landowner participation in regards to riparian planting. The ability to stay flexible while developing a riparian restoration plan is what allows practitioners to begin conversations with landowners.	No
George Brady, Citizen	I want to be on record as opposing any setbacks on temporary streams and irrigation ditches.	No
Jerry Barnes, Citizen	I would like to express my opposition to any proposal to inject mandatory buffer widths as a condition of board funded projects.	No
John Richmond, Citizen	Buffer widths are already built-in on riparian property on forested land through DNR [Department of Natural Resources] forest management regulations and through Critical Area ordinances and shoreline management regulations implemented by Ecology.	No
Tom Slocum, Citizen	The guidelines would not improve the benefit and certainty of the majority of individual riparian projects nor the aggregate effectiveness of the program.	No
Dan Wood, Director of Government Affairs, Washington State Dairy Federation	While the size of the proposed buffers may vary, the rigid approach does not. A flexible, site-specific program that empowers positive changes across a wide landscape will be the best approach to make improvements to the environment and, at the same time, help maintain the viability of our farms.	No
Jack Field, Executive Vice President, WA Cattlemen's Association (WCA)	The WCA respectfully requests that the board not adopt any buffer requirements as a condition of receiving funding.	No
John Small, Anchor QEA	Projects should be evaluated only on the impact to salmon recovery. Buffers are one tool to do this, but the lack of a minimum buffer as defined generally does not indicate if a specific project will or will not benefit salmon recovery.	No
Lower Columbia Region		
Darin Houpt, Forest Hydrologist, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Conservation District	We strongly encourage the board to not adopt the guidelines. The buffer guidelines represent a one-size-fits-all mentality.	No
Eli Asher, Restoration Ecologist, Natural Resources Department, Cowlitz Indian Tribe	I respectfully recommend that the board avoid adopting any policy regarding minimum buffer widths.	No

Individual or organization	Brief Summary of Comments	Support
Jeff Breckel, Executive Director, Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (LCSRB)	The LCFRB recommends that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board table consideration of minimum buffer width guidelines and consider a more thorough and careful evaluation of board-funded riparian buffer restoration efforts to date with the goal of identifying ways to improve the effectiveness of future projects.	No
Pete Ringen, Director, Wahkiakum County Public Works	The proposed policy change is that prescriptive formulas often have unintended consequences, making it more difficult to implement the things we would like to accomplish. Prescriptive formulas can also impact the rightful use of property for those families who gain their livelihood from it.	No
Tony Meyer, Lower Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group (RFEG)	The Lower Columbia RFEG does not support policy changes of any kind that result in limiting a project sponsor's ability to work with landowners.	No
Mid-Columbia Region		
Deborah Burksfield, LSL Properties	While the minimum buffer widths in Table 1 appear to be reasonable for many riparian improvement projects, minimum buffers should be land use zoning site-specific, in my opinion.	Concerns
Alex Conley, Executive Director, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (YBFWRB)	The YBFWRB does not see a pressing need for riparian buffer requirements in our area. We would recommend that any guidelines adopted by the board use a less ambiguous means other than historic fish use to classify water bodies.	No
Scott Revell, Board Chair, Yakima Basin Joint Board	We do not support the proposed minimum buffer width requirements for salmon recovery grants.	No
Northeast Region		
Eric Berntsen, Habitat Restoration Biologist, Natural Resources Department, Kalispel Tribe	The board should adopt guidelines, and the guidelines should apply statewide.	Yes
Puget Sound and Hood Canal Region		
Bill Blake, Stillaguamish Watershed Council Co-chair	Although we agree that wider buffers provide more function and are preferable from a habitat perspective, the proposed policy does not explicitly acknowledge land use constraints.	Concerns
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Watershed Coordinator, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)	While we agree that larger buffers are preferable from a habitat perspective, the proposed policy as written does not explicitly acknowledge land use constraints preventing large buffers in an urban context.	Concerns
Stephanie Martine, Habitat Division Manager, Makah Tribe Fisheries	The guidelines should allow for local regulations as exceptions.	Concerns

Individual or organization	Brief Summary of Comments	Support
Mark A. Palmer, Engineer, City of Puyallup	Project selection criteria still allows too much room for interpretation, allowing projects to be rejected based on personal bias instead of merit.	Concerns about local process
Bill Pierce, Soaring Swallow Farm	I do not feel minimum guidelines should be adopted. Since each project is different and is the result of balancing many competing goals, I feel it should be left to the discretion of the project lead to determine what buffers are most appropriate.	No
David Swindale, Director, Planning and Development Services, City of University Place	We would not support 100' buffers on [fish-bearing] intermittent or ephemeral waterways.	No
Judy Blanco, Cedar River Restoration Project Manager, Forterra	It is unlikely that our programs would be able to recruit landowners if the minimum planting width requirement is increased to 100'.	No
Mark Isaacson, Director, King County Water and Land Resources Division	We support the science behind NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service's guidance for larger buffer sizes. However, we do not support the board adopting minimum riparian buffer guidelines requiring 100 foot buffers on fish bearing streams because it will result in less acres of habitat being protected and restored.	No
Marlla Mhoon, Councilmember, City of Covington and Bill Peloza, Councilmember, City of Auburn, Co-chairs, Watershed Ecosystem Forum Co-chair	WRIA [Water Resources Inventory Area] 9 does not support the new guidelines and we would like to specifically voice our concern about the board's proposed large riparian minimum buffer widths.	No
Mendy Harlow, Executive Director, Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	If a minimum buffer width for planting projects within a riparian habitat were to be required, it would severely jeopardize overall project progression and ultimately harm salmon habitat restoration efforts in these project areas.	No
Monte Marti, Manager, Snohomish Conservation District	The adoption of the new buffer widths as a required minimum for board projects will negatively impact our ability to not only get trees in the ground, but also to implement in-stream salmon habitat projects.	No
Robert Sendrey, Executive Director and Phil Taylor, Board President, Sounds Salmon Solutions	We are very concerned that adoption of the requirements would be an unrealistic policy and will potentially deter voluntary stewardship actions by private landowners.	No
Terry Williams, Tulalip Tribes, Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Chair	The Forum asks that these project-specific decisions be left to the technical experts and board-committee members in the Snohomish Basin.	No

Individual or organization	Brief Summary of Comments	Support
Snake River Region		
Bradley Johnson, Watershed Planning Director, Asotin Public Utility District	How should it be done? There definitely needs to be different standards for the west and eastside of the Cascades for the differing natural conditions.	Concerns
Del Groat, Chairman, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	We believe that existing intensive local and state project reviews have resulted in sufficient buffer widths that meet project goals.	No
Judith Johnson, Kooskooskie Commons	The new increased buffer requirement of a minimum of 75 feet in width makes it impossible to continue improving water quality and fish passage in the urban streams and spring fed creeks.	No
Larry Hooker, Agricultural Projects Coordinator, Walla Walla Conservation District	If funding hinges upon whether or not a landowner has or will install buffers meeting new guidelines, not only will there be far fewer buffers implemented but it will also result in far fewer salmon recovery projects implemented.	No
Upper Columbia Region		
Derek Van Marter, Executive Director, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	We recommend delaying implementation of guidelines for riparian improvement projects in Eastern Washington until the criteria can be refined for the geography and needs of populations in the region.	No
Washington Coast Region		
Janet Strong, Chehalis River Basin Land Trust Board Member	I support the minimum guidelines as they appear in the table and think they should be applied statewide, or at a minimum, throughout western Washington.	Yes

Options for Consideration

Based on the comments received, the following options are offered for the board's consideration. See Attachment C for an analysis of the options listed below.

1. Defer adopting any minimum riparian restoration widths pending the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)'s update to its management recommendations for riparian habitat.
2. Continue to use the 2012 WDFW Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines as the board's preferred guidelines for all of the board's restoration projects.
3. Collect riparian restoration width information in the application to better understand the scope of the riparian restoration project.
4. Remind lead entity organizations of their critical role in evaluating riparian restoration projects to ensure riparian habitat area widths are appropriate for the site and represent a clear benefit to salmon recovery as articulated in the regional recovery plans.
5. Provide generic guidance to the board's technical review panel that they must evaluate riparian restoration projects for salmon benefit and certainty as appropriate for the site and as articulated in the regional recovery plans.
6. Incorporate the guidelines in the local prioritization process conducted by the regional organizations.
7. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects on agricultural land in the Puget Sound region only.
8. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects on any land use type in the Puget Sound region only.
9. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects in western Washington.
10. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects statewide.
11. Apply site-specific riparian restoration widths based on soil type and potential vegetation height.
12. Allow funding for additional types of incentives to encourage landowner participation such as temporary construction easements, short-term conservation easements, and leases.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board adopt options one through five and option twelve, as described in the previous section. This recommendation maintains the practice of using the 2012 WDFW Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines as the preferred guidelines for all of the board's restoration projects until new or revised best management practices are available. In addition to the riparian restoration area length along a stream, RCO would collect riparian restoration area width as part of the application data to more accurately capture the scope of a project. Lead entities would maintain their responsibilities as the local evaluation teams responsible for ensuring riparian restoration projects clearly provide a net benefit to meeting salmon recovery goals as outlined in the regional recovery plans. The board's technical review panel would be

instructed to evaluate each riparian restoration project for benefits to salmon recovery. Finally, to encourage the participation of private landowners in salmon recovery, staff recommend the board pursue option twelve to allow additional types of financial incentives for the use of private land for salmon recovery projects.

Next Steps

Staff will implement the direction provided by the board for new grant applications starting in 2015 and will bring back to the board any additional action items for future discussion and decision.

Attachments

- A. Proposed Changes to Salmon Recovery Grant Program
- B. Public Comments on Riparian Guidelines ([Included as a link](#))
- C. Analysis of Options for Board Consideration

Attachment C

Analysis of Options and Pros and Cons

OPTIONS	PROS	CONS
Option 1: Defer adopting any minimum riparian restoration widths pending the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)'s update to its management recommendations for riparian habitat.	<p>WDFW's research may provide new information on the riparian habitat area needed to support salmon recovery efforts.</p> <p>Doesn't place additional application requirements on landowners, project sponsors, lead entities or regional organizations.</p> <p>Supports current policy that encourages projects to implement the maximum buffer widths in the 2012 Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines.</p>	<p>Doesn't implement advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>WDFW's research may not specifically address salmon recovery needs as it relates to riparian restoration projects.</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers, especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.</p> <p>We could be perceived as behind the curve as other agencies move ahead with some form of implementation of minimum riparian width guidelines or requirements.</p>
Option 2: Continue to use the 2012 WDFW Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines as the board's preferred guidelines for all of the board's restoration projects.	<p>Utilizes the most current statewide best management practices for stream restoration projects. Supports current policy that encourages projects to implement the maximum riparian habitat area widths in the 2012 Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines.</p> <p>Doesn't place additional application requirements on landowners, project sponsors, lead entities or regional organizations.</p>	<p>Doesn't implement advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Guidelines were carried forward from 1997 so they may be outdated and they don't reflect differences in the landscapes across the state (same guidelines apply to eastern and western Washington regardless of site specific conditions).</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers, especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.</p> <p>We could be perceived as behind the curve as other agencies move ahead with some form of implementation of minimum riparian width guidelines</p>

OPTIONS	PROS	CONS
		or requirements.
Option 3: Collect riparian restoration width information in the application to better understand the scope of the riparian restoration project.	<p>Collects valuable information in the application on riparian habitat area widths.</p> <p>Gathers additional information in the grant application to identify any issues that may evolve in the future regarding the riparian habitat areas being restored.</p>	<p>Doesn't implement advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers, especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.</p> <p>We could be perceived as behind the curve as other agencies move ahead with some form of implementation of minimum riparian width guidelines or requirements.</p>
Option 4: Remind lead entity organizations of their critical role in evaluating riparian restoration projects to ensure riparian habitat area widths are appropriate for the site and represent a clear benefit to salmon recovery as articulated in the regional recovery plans.	<p>Lead entities remain responsible to evaluate projects for salmon benefit and certainty and meeting recovery plan objectives.</p> <p>Allows for site specific analysis to determine the appropriate width for riparian restoration projects.</p> <p>Provides for flexibility to work with landowners on the amount of riparian area they are willing to contribute to a riparian restoration project.</p>	<p>Doesn't implement advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Lack of guidance or criteria from the state to lead entities on how to evaluate riparian restoration projects for salmon benefit and certainty.</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers, especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.</p> <p>We could be perceived as behind the curve as other agencies move ahead with some form of implementation of minimum riparian width guidelines or requirements.</p>
Option 5: Provide generic guidance to the board's technical review panel that they must evaluate riparian restoration projects for salmon benefit and certainty as appropriate for the site and as articulated in the regional recovery plans..	<p>Provides direction to the technical review panel on the importance of evaluating the benefit and certainty associated with riparian habitat areas.</p> <p>Allows for site specific analysis to determine the</p>	<p>Doesn't implement advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>We may see more applications with smaller buffers,</p>

OPTIONS	PROS	CONS
	appropriate width for riparian restoration projects.	especially if those projects are ineligible for funding in other state or federal programs.
Option 6: Incorporate the guidelines in the local prioritization process conducted by the regional organizations.	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Maintains the evaluation and prioritization of projects with the regional technical and citizen review process.</p> <p>Provides a screen for meeting minimum riparian habitat area widths, with flexibility to allow for smaller buffer widths based on justification in the application.</p> <p>Riparian restoration projects would be more likely to meet the board's evaluation criteria for the technical review panel.</p> <p>Provides consistency with other state and federal voluntary incentive programs.</p>	<p>We may see fewer projects submitted for riparian restoration efforts.</p> <p>Creates the perception that those projects which provide at less than the minimum riparian habitat area would not get done.</p> <p>Project sponsors would need to provide justification for why a minimum riparian restoration area was not achievable.</p>
Option 7: Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects on agricultural land in the Puget Sound region only.	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Focuses on the specific geography that is the subject of NOAA's recommendations.</p> <p>Implies that smaller riparian areas in other locations are not a problem for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Recognizes that other state and local laws already provide riparian buffer protections on other land use types (e.g., critical areas ordinances, shoreline master programs, and forest practices).</p> <p>Recognizes that some local jurisdictions have not adopted riparian buffer protections for agricultural land uses.</p> <p>Focuses on the specific land use that is the subject of</p>	<p>Creates a disparity on application requirements based on the property's current land use which may or may not be appropriate based upon the land use type.</p> <p>Implies that minimum riparian habitat area widths are not needed for other land use types to support salmon recovery</p> <p>May undercut minimum riparian buffers adopted by local jurisdictions for other land use types if those buffers are larger than the guidelines applied by the board.</p>

OPTIONS	PROS	CONS
	<p>NOAA's recommendations.</p> <p>Implies that smaller riparian habitat areas on other land use types are not a problem for salmon recovery.</p>	
<p>Option 8: Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects on any land use type in the Puget Sound region only.</p>	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Focuses on the specific geography that is the subject of NOAA's recommendations.</p> <p>Implies that smaller riparian areas in other locations are not a problem for salmon recovery.</p>	<p>NOAA's recommendations were developed with other entities for specific purposes which may not be directly applicable to board projects.</p> <p>Implies that minimum riparian areas widths are not needed in other locations to support salmon recovery.</p> <p>Creates a disparity on application requirements based on the project's location.</p> <p>Applies recommendations for the agricultural landscape to all land use types.</p>
<p>Option 9: Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects in western Washington.</p>	<p>Implements advice from NOAA on minimum requirements needed to support aquatic functions for salmon recovery.</p> <p>Creates consistency in western Washington on minimum buffer widths.</p> <p>Implies that smaller riparian habitat area widths in other locations are not a problem for salmon recovery.</p>	<p>NOAA's recommendations are specifically targeted to the Puget Sound region, so they may not be applicable to other regions.</p> <p>NOAA's recommendations were developed with other entities for specific purposes, which may not be directly applicable to board projects.</p> <p>Implies that minimum riparian areas widths are not needed in other locations to support salmon recovery.</p> <p>Creates disparity on application requirements based on the project's location.</p>
<p>Option 10: Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects statewide.</p>	<p>Applies a minimum riparian habitat area widths statewide while recognizing the different landscapes on the west and east sides.</p> <p>Applies Ecology's width criteria to improve water quality which is also important for salmon recovery.</p>	<p>Ecology's width criteria were developed with other entities for specific purposes which may not be directly applicable to board projects.</p>
<p>Option 11: Apply site-specific riparian restoration widths based on soil type and potential vegetation height.</p>	<p>Applies a minimum riparian habitat area width statewide based on site potential which would support favorable conditions for salmon recovery.</p>	<p>May require the applicant to obtain technical assistance to determine what the minimum riparian habitat area width should be at the project site.</p>

OPTIONS	PROS	CONS
<p>Option 12: Allow funding for additional types of incentives to encourage landowner participation such as temporary construction easements, short-term conservation easements, and leases.</p>	<p>Increases the incentives available to landowners for use of the property.</p> <p>Compensates landowners for participating in salmon recovery efforts.</p> <p>Mimics how other public work projects are typically conducted on private property.</p>	<p>Would likely increase project costs and result in funding fewer projects.</p>

Clip of Meeting Minutes from June 2014

Item 13: Riparian Buffer Guidelines

Leslie Connelly, Policy Specialist, RCO, updated the board on the recommendations from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for minimum riparian habitat widths on Puget Sound agricultural lowlands.

At the March meeting, the board asked RCO staff to collect public comment on whether the board should adopt statewide guidelines for the width of a riparian restoration project. To solicit public response staff prepared four questions for the public's consideration and comment:

Question 1 - *Should the board adopt guidelines for minimum buffer widths for projects with a specific objective to improve riparian habitat? If yes, should the guidelines apply to Puget Sound only, western Washington only, or statewide?*

Question 2 - *What constraints would be reasonable justification for smaller riparian habitat buffers that are less than the guidelines?*

Question 3 - *What types of conservation incentives should be offered to landowners who allow salmon recovery projects on their property? Which types of incentives should be eligible for salmon recovery funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board?*

Question 4 - *Should the board encourage prioritizing funding for riparian habitat projects that meet the guidelines? If so, how could the board encourage such prioritization at the local, regional or state level?*

Ms. Connelly reported that RCO staff posted the public comment notice on RCO's Web site and sent an e-mail notification to over 1,800 individuals. Comments were accepted from April 10-30, 2014.

Ms. Connelly reported that 57 individuals and organizations provided feedback on the proposal to adopt guidelines for a minimum riparian width for riparian restoration projects. The Northwest Indian Fisheries

Commission, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Ecology, and three citizens supported the guidelines. The remaining comments expressed a lack of support or had concerns about the guidelines including concerns over landowner participation, the need for flexibility to design and implement riparian restoration projects, and a desire to maintain the current local review process to prioritize applications.

Ms. Connelly stated that based on the comments received, the board should consider the following options:

1. Defer adopting any minimum riparian restoration widths pending the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)'s update to its management recommendations for riparian habitat.
2. Continue to use the 2012 WDFW Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines as the board's preferred guidelines for all of the board's restoration projects.
3. Collect riparian restoration width information in the application to better understand the scope of the riparian restoration project.
4. Remind lead entity organizations of their critical role in evaluating riparian restoration projects to ensure riparian habitat area widths are appropriate for the site and represent a clear benefit to salmon recovery as articulated in the regional recovery plans.
5. Provide generic guidance to the board's technical review panel that they must evaluate riparian restoration projects for salmon benefit and certainty as appropriate for the site and as articulated in the regional recovery plans.
6. Incorporate the guidelines in the local prioritization process conducted by the regional organizations.
7. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects on agricultural land in the Puget Sound region only.
8. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects on any land use type in the Puget Sound region only.
9. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects in western Washington.
10. Adopt riparian restoration width guidelines for projects statewide.
11. Apply site-specific riparian restoration widths based on soil type and potential vegetation height.
12. Allow funding for additional types of incentives to encourage landowner participation such as temporary construction easements, short-term conservation easements, and leases.

Ms. Connelly indicated that after extensive review, staff recommends that the board adopt options one through five and option twelve. Ms. Connelly emphasized that the recommendations maintain the practice of using the 2012 WDFW Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines as the preferred guidelines for all of the board's restoration projects until new or revised best management practices are available. In addition to the riparian restoration area length along a stream, RCO would collect riparian restoration area width as part of the application data to accurately capture the scope of a project. Lead entities would maintain their responsibilities as the local evaluation teams responsible for ensuring riparian restoration projects clearly provide a net benefit to meeting salmon recovery goals as outlined in the regional recovery plans. The board's technical review panel would be instructed to evaluate each riparian restoration project for benefits to salmon recovery.

Finally, to encourage the participation of private landowners in salmon recovery, staff recommends the board explore option twelve to allow additional types of financial incentives for the use of private land for salmon recovery projects. Staff will implement the direction provided by the board for new grant applications starting in 2015 and will bring back to the board any additional action items for future discussion and decision.

Member Cusimano indicated that the Department of Ecology (DOE) supports the minimum buffer. He brought up the issue of sustainability and balancing all interests with limited available funds, asking how one should recover salmon given the scientific information and riparian needs for integrity. He agreed that RCO staff recommendations to adopt one through five and explore twelve are good, but DOE still supports original proposal.

Member Quan agrees with the recommendation to adopt the limited number of options, but stated that she views option five more as general guidance and less a new requirement. Since the original proposal was only riparian projects and the review panel should use the best available science, she questioned whether it was necessary to provide more guidance on the evaluation process. Ms. Connelly explained that applying the best available science is within the existing duties of the review panel, but the option is meant to highlight and focus on the riparian width as part of the criteria to determine long-term ecosystem benefits. Member Quan stated the need to explore the language in option twelve and refocus on "recovery" efforts.

Member Bugert feels comfortable with the presented options and asked about requirements for incentives, acknowledging that the public involvement process has been conducted well. Ms. Connelly responded that a handful of ideas were presented as incentives, however minimal public feedback was received on the subject.

Member Cierebiej stated that she would support the recommendations and added that buffer width, composition, and context within the watershed are all important and should be under protection.

Member Rockefeller agreed with options one through five; however, option twelve was a concern. He asked whether the incentives would be instituted as a formal practice and documented in Manual 18, stating that salmon recovery projects may only occur if participants are paid. He expressed concern that salmon recovery would go from a volunteer process, to one in which RCO pays for participation. Member Rockefeller asked to adopt the first five and explore option 12. Chair Troutt indicated anything adopted by the board would be added to Manual 18. Member Bugert suggested the board look at the exact language in Manual 18.

Member Bugert moved to adopt recommendations one through five on buffer guidelines and to explore option 12. Member Rockefeller seconded; motion approved.

Item 14: Department of Fish and Wildlife's 21st Century Salmon

This item was postponed until a later meeting due to time limitations.

Closing

Meeting adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Minutes approved by:



David Troutt, Chair

M
Date

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: November 19, 2020

Title: Washington Invasive Species Council Update on Efforts to Address Northern Pike

Prepared By: Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator and Joe Maroney, Chair-Elect

Summary

Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) Chair-Elect, Joe Maroney, and WISC Executive Coordinator, Justin Bush, will provide an update on the WISC and regional efforts to address northern pike.

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

Introduction/Background

Northern pike, an especially voracious invasive fish species, are known to be within 80 miles of the anadromous portion of the Columbia basin. This non-native invasive fish species presents an [imminent threat to salmon and steelhead populations](#) in Washington and Oregon.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board was first briefed on northern pike and the threat posed to salmon and steelhead by continued spread at the [March 21, 2018 meeting](#). The Board was subsequently updated on this issue at the [June 2018 joint meeting between the SRFB and its counterpart, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board \(OWEB\)](#). Subsequent briefings were held in 2018 and 2019.

The Chair-elect and Executive Coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council will update the SRFB on recent invasive species developments, which include:

- Leadership changes at the WISC;
- Notable new WISC initiatives; and
- Tribal Northern Pike resolutions.

Strategic Plan Connection

This briefing is associated with SRFB Strategic Plan *Goal 3: Build understanding, acceptance, and support of salmon recovery efforts*. Northern pike are an emerging threat to salmon recovery and SRFB investments. Collaborating to address northern pike supports the board's community-based partner organizations and work if its broad partner base.

Attachments

- 9A. [Upper Columbia United Tribes Resolution 2020-003](#)
- 9B. [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Resolution 2020-37](#)



UCUT RESOLUTION 2020-003
Northern Pike Resolution

WHEREAS: the Upper Columbia United Tribes is a duly constituted intertribal commission of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians, by authority of the Constitution and By-Laws for the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT); and,

WHEREAS: under the Constitution and By-Laws of the UCUT, the UCUT Commission is charged with the duty of protection, preservation, and enhancement of Treaty/Executive Order Rights, sovereignty, culture, fish, water, wildlife, habitat, and other interests and issues of common concern; and,

WHEREAS: the UCUT Member Tribes manage nearly 2-million acres of reservation land and co-manage nearly 14-million acres of aboriginal territory; and,

WHEREAS: UCUT Member Tribes maintain management authority of the waters of their Reservations and off-Reservation areas; and,

WHEREAS: the UCUT Commission classifies Northern Pike, *Esox lucius*, as an aquatic invasive, non-native, prohibited species; and,

WHEREAS: the establishment and expansion of Northern Pike, throughout the Columbia Basin poses a serious threat to fish and wildlife resources important to the UCUT Member Tribes; and,

WHEREAS: the establishment and expansion of Northern Pike is exacerbated due to hydropower development and operations in the Columbia Basin and illegal introductions; and,

WHEREAS: UCUT Member Tribes actively implement measures to control Northern Pike, take action to reduce their spread, and prevent future invasions on the waters of their Reservations and off-Reservation areas; and,

WHEREAS: the UCUT Commission recognizes that consistent Northern Pike management and policies are necessary for the coordination and the success of measures implemented by the Member Tribes and other governments; and,

WHEREAS: the UCUT Commission acknowledges that adequate funding for Northern Pike is a high priority; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that in light of collaborative efforts, the UCUT Commission advocates all appropriate agencies to fully fund the prevention, control, and eradication efforts identified in UCUT management of Northern Pike; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the UCUT Commission will work with UCUT Member Tribes to develop Northern Pike policy that could be adopted by the UCUT Commission and all Member Tribes.

CERTIFICATION

The Upper Columbia United Tribes adopted the foregoing RESOLUTION at a regular meeting held on the 15th day of June, 2020, at Spokane, Washington, with the required quorum present, by a vote of 5 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTAIN, 0 ABSENT.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darnell Sam', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'D' and a long horizontal stroke.

Darnell Sam, C'hpITrnan. Upper Columbia United Tribes

Motion:	Gary Aitken Jr.
Second:	Nick Pierre
Voting Record:	5-0-0-0



2020 Virtual Annual Convention

RESOLUTION #2020 – 37

NORTHERN PIKE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, ATNI classifies Northern Pike, *Esox lucius*, as an aquatic invasive, non-native, prohibited species when not in their historical range; and

WHEREAS, the establishment and expansion of Northern Pike outside of their historic range poses a serious threat to fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the establishment and expansion of Northern Pike outside of their historic range is exacerbated due to hydropower development and operations and, illegal introductions; and

WHEREAS, it is important to actively implement measures to control Northern Pike, take action to reduce their spread, and prevent future invasions on Reservation waters and off-Reservation areas; and

WHEREAS, ATNI recognizes that consistent Northern Pike management and policies are necessary for the coordination and the success of measures implemented by Tribes and other governments; and

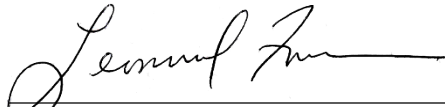
WHEREAS, ATNI acknowledges that adequate funding for Northern Pike is a high priority; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby advocate all appropriate agencies to fully fund research, prevention, control, and eradication efforts for Northern Pike; and

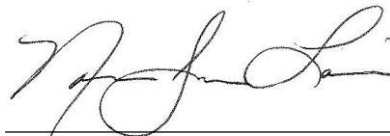
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby commit to developing strategies to further Tribal, regional, state, and federal policy as it relates to the prevention and suppression of Northern Pike.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Virtual Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on October 5 – 8, 2020, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary

COUNCIL OF REGIONS UPDATE for the SRFB's November 19, 2020 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. Worked with RCO and GSRO staff and WSC on final review of the proposed changes to Manual 18. We thank staff and the monitoring panel for their extensive work to review proposed changes with us over the last six months and believe that **the proposed updates to Manual 18 will significantly improve the process for review of regional monitoring proposals.**
2. Continued **coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers and Ecology and other partners to identify and implement ways to address Clean Water Act Permitting challenges** for restoration projects. Steve Manlow will provide a short overview of these efforts during our oral update at the SRFB meeting.
3. Worked with GSRO to **ensure regional input into the Statewide Strategy Update.** We'd like to thank GSRO and Triangle for reaching out to us and look forward to providing feedback on the recommendations being developed.
4. Worked with GSRO to **provide input on WDFW's revisions to its hatchery policy** regarding the need to ensure that hatchery programs are consistent with conservation goals and regional recovery plans. The latest policy updates from WDFW (currently out for comment) address this need.
5. Coordinated **regional engagement with the Fish Barrier Removal Board** as it completes its legislative proviso report and associated barrier prioritization work.
6. Sent a **letter to the Governor in support of full funding for the SRFB capital grants program.**
7. **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!

Specific Council of Regions Input for the November SRFB Meeting:

For Item #5 on Climate Change: The Council of Regions looks forward to working with the Board to identify ways that climate change considerations can be effectively incorporated into recovery plan updates and implementation.

For Item #6 on Manual 18: As noted above, the Council of Regions and its associated regional recovery organizations support the proposed updates to Manual 18 and express thanks to RCO staff and the monitoring panel for their extensive coordination with us during development of the proposed revisions.

Continued on next page...

For Item #7 on SRFB Monitoring Investments: The Council of Regions appreciates the opportunities that were extended to participate in the SRFB Monitor Subcommittee. In reviewing the staff memo before you today, we highlight that:

- a) **The regions support both Option C** (providing additional SRFB monitoring funds for monitoring proposals that address key regional monitoring needs and are proposed as part of the annual regional project lists) **and Option D.**
- b) **We are excited to work with the SRFB and partners to develop and implement a process to identify and adaptively manage a list of key uncertainties** that would be the basis for allocating future monitoring funds to projects that directly address those uncertainties. We highlight the need to solicit input from SRFB members, the State Review Panel, Regions, Lead Entities and project sponsors regarding the specific uncertainties that most constrain their efforts to identify and implement projects that address the highest priority recovery needs.
- c) Regarding next steps for the implementation of Option D, the regions recommend that the Board:
 - a. **Approve use of the remaining unspent monitoring funds for regional monitoring priorities proposed in the 2021 SRFB grant round** and consider additional allocations to the regional monitoring program as funding allows. Approving funding at this time will allow coordination of 2021 proposal development that should occur prior to the next SRFB meeting in March.
 - b. **Consider allocating funding to implement the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's Middle Entiat Floodplain Project Evaluation Study Plan**, which utilizes the methodology proposed in the Cramer Fish Science's study design prepared for the SRFB and has already completed pre-project monitoring and project implementation. One-time funding of ~120k would allow completion of post-project monitoring and analysis, and in coordination with the Monitoring Panel, allow the project to serve as a proof of concept of the proposed floodplain monitoring methods. The project is ready for implementation in the summer of 2021 if funding can be provided in a timely fashion.
 - c. **Give GSRO and the monitoring panel specific guidance** regarding target budget amounts and implementation dates for any additional opportunities to pilot the methods in the Cramer Fish Science Study Design. The council of regions is supportive of additional pilots, provided that the costs are reasonable and do not tie up multi-year funding in ways that preclude opportunities to pivot monitoring funding to future projects that directly address key uncertainties identified by the Board and partners.

For Item #8 on Riparian Policies: The Council of Regions looks forward to engaging in proposed Board discussions of riparian buffer policies and highlights the need to ensure that any proposed policies allow for riparian buffer establishment even in constrained settings when those locations have been identified as high priorities for buffer implementation.

From: [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#)
To: [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Cottingham, Kaleen \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: FW: COR written update for the Thurs SRFB meeting
Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 7:56:35 AM
Attachments: [11-19-20 COR update to SRFB.pdf](#)

FYI – this still needs to go to SRFB.

From: Alex Conley <aconley@ybfwrp.org>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Lundquist, Wyatt (RCO) <wyatt.lundquist@rco.wa.gov>
Cc: Jeff Breckel (jeff.breckel@gmail.com) <jeff.breckel@gmail.com>
Subject: COR written update for the Thurs SRFB meeting

This message has originated from an External Source. Please use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding to this email. Contact your desktop support or IT security staff for assistance and to report suspicious messages.

Dear Wyatt,

Please do circulate the attached written update from the Council of Regions to the SRFB prior to their Thursday meeting. During the corresponding part of Item 10 on the agenda, I will briefly review this update and then turn the mic to Steve Manlow of the Upper Columbia for a brief update on the Clean Water Act permitting dialogue he is leading on behalf of COR. Note that the written update includes recommendations from COR for agenda items that will occur prior to our oral update.

Sincerely,

Alex Conley
Council of Regions Chair

Alex Conley, Executive Director
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
aconley@ybfwrp.org
509 453-4104 x101 office
(509) 654-0394 cell

1200 Chesterly Drive, Suite 280
Yakima, WA 98902
www.ybfwrp.org

McNamara, Julia (RCO)

From: Butler, Elizabeth (RCO)
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 3:21 PM
To: Lundquist, Wyatt (RCO); RCO DL Sal Projects
Cc: McNamara, Julia (RCO); Zemek, Susan (RCO); Jarasitis, Mark (RCO); Brown, Wendy (RCO); Hedden, Brent (RCO); Pruitt, Katie (RCO); Donatelle, Ben (RCO); Guzlas, Kyle (RCO); Cole, Adam (RCO); Bush, Justin (RCO); Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO)
Subject: RE: SRFB November Due Dates

Hi Folks,
Here is a link to a Tulalip Tribes video about the Pilchuck Dam removal
<https://nr.tulaliptribes.com/Topics/Restoration/PilchuckRiverDam>
Return of the River is the 6 min video –

This could be a nice one to include in the SRFB meeting.

With gratitude,
Elizabeth

From: Lundquist, Wyatt (RCO) <wyatt.lundquist@rco.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 11:39 AM
To: RCO DL Sal Projects <RCODLSalProjects@rco.wa.gov>
Cc: McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov>; Zemek, Susan (RCO) <Susan.Zemek@rco.wa.gov>; Jarasitis, Mark (RCO) <Mark.Jarasitis@rco.wa.gov>; Brown, Wendy (RCO) <wendy.brown@rco.wa.gov>; Hedden, Brent (RCO) <brent.hedden@rco.wa.gov>; Pruitt, Katie (RCO) <katie.pruitt@rco.wa.gov>; Donatelle, Ben (RCO) <ben.donatelle@rco.wa.gov>; Guzlas, Kyle (RCO) <kyle.guzlas@rco.wa.gov>; Cole, Adam (RCO) <adam.cole@rco.wa.gov>; Bush, Justin (RCO) <justin.bush@rco.wa.gov>; Cottingham, Kaleen (RCO) <Kaleen.Cottingham@rco.wa.gov>
Subject: SRFB November Due Dates

Hi all,

We have a quick turnaround between meetings this time, but our next meeting after this one is not until March! The draft agenda can now be found on SharePoint, it is draft so please do not share as a final. You will also find memo templates on SharePoint and linked below for your convenience. The deadline for **memos is Thursday, October 22, 2020 by COB**. The deadline for **PowerPoints will be Friday, November 13, 2020 by COB**. As many of you know I will be out on paternity leave starting in early November and Julia McNamara will be filling in for me while I am away. Thank you, Julia!

[Draft November Agenda](#)
[Memo Template](#)
[PowerPoint Template](#)

Don't hesitate if you have any questions! The board team is here to help.

Keep it 100,
THE BOARD TEAM

Wyatt D. Lundquist

Board Liaison

[Recreation and Conservation Office](#)

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Due to recent cyber-threats, it is recommended you download and scan any attachments for threats before opening.

Washington Salmon Coalition Update for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting, November 19, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update from the Washington Salmon Coalition. WSC has been busy since our check-in, including wrapping up a challenging grant round!

- Our grant rounds are now complete and in addition to adapting to the new schedule, Lead Entities also dealt with new, unexpected challenges due to COVID-19. WSC has worked to support Lead Entities through these challenges and identify lessons learned for the 2021 grant round.
- As part of this support, WSC has developed a best practices document for virtual site tours and identified general best practices for facilitating virtual meetings.
- Since our last written update at the June SRFB meeting, the Washington Salmon Coalition has hosted four all-member, virtual meetings. At our July 21st meeting, we heard from Brynn Brady, Ceiba Consulting, on the basics of messaging development; Tristan Weiss, WDFW, Chantell Krider, RCO, and Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Lead Entity, on Streamflow Restoration Grants and how they relate to the Salmon Recovery Portal; and we had a good discussion with Dawn Pucci, Island County Lead Entity, Tara Galuska, RCO, and April Zohn, Ducks Unlimited, on permitting streamlining. We were particularly grateful to have a chance to discuss budgeting challenges with Kaleen Cottingham. At our October 14th meeting, we focused on gearing up for legislative outreach: we had the opportunity to check in with Wendy Brown, RCO, and Chantell Krider, RCO, on the Planned Project Forecast List and its associated dashboard; we started the process to develop WSC-wide messages with Brynn Brady of Ceiba Consulting; and we were able to hear from both Representative Debra Lekanoff, District 40, and Senator Jesse Salomon, District 32, on best practices in reaching legislators. Our October 26th meeting, we focused on planning for 2021 and associated edits to our Mission and Structure and 2021 Action Plan. We were able to provide a training with Wendy Fraser, Wendy Fraser Consulting, on Strengthening and Re-building Trust that was well-received. Our November 9th meeting was focused on 2021 work planning and important policy discussions. We were able discuss WSC and Council of Region's joint work in streamlining permitting related to sections 401/404 of the Clean Water Act, Department of Revenue tax policy related to grants awarded to non-profits, and had a great discussion with John Graves, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch Chief and Erin Cooper, Senior National Floodplain Insurance Program on the rescindment of Region X Policy on Fish Enhancement Structures in the Floodway. We also spent considerable time developing our Action Plan for 2021.
- Our 2021 Action Plan identifies specific goals for WSC both internally and externally. Internally, we will continue to support lead entities across the state through facilitating discussions and providing tools/best practices/other support whenever possible. Externally, we will continue to advocate for salmon recovery across the state and work to collaborate whenever possible with partner agencies and decision-makers.
- Over the past year, Washington Salmon Coalition has worked with the Council of Regions on streamlining permitting related to sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act. Steve Manlow will be providing an oral update during the SRFB on this coordination.

- WSC worked to support Lead Entities in prepping their initial Planned Project Forecast List in 2020 and continues to facilitate discussions on gearing up for the 2021 grant round and prepping the 2021 PPFL.
- We continue to host bi-weekly Learning and Sharing calls for all WSC members as a way to maintain connections and support each other through the challenges related to COVID-19. We have heard from Lead Entities that these opportunities are valuable and will continue these calls as long as they are useful.
- Last but certainly not least, the Washington Salmon Coalition would like to extend its deep gratitude to Kaleen Cottingham for her years of service. Her leadership of RCO and support of Lead Entities has been greatly appreciated and she will be very much missed. We wish her the best on the new adventure of retirement!

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

THURSDAY, November 19, 2020

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda• Approve June 2020 Meeting Minutes• Remarks by the Chair	Decision <u>Approval of November 2020 Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved Decision <u>Approval of September 2020 Meeting Minutes</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved	
1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's ReportB. Legislative and Policy UpdateC. Performance UpdateD. Fiscal Report		
2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office ReportB. Salmon Section Report		
BOARD BUSINESS: DISCUSSIONS		

3. Board Strategic Plan Check-In A. Overview of Current Board Strategic Plan B. Policy Plan Status Report		
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
4. Guidance for Discussing Public Safety in Grant Making and Project Selection		Task: Adam Cole will have a follow up discussion with Member Bernath, then RCO staff will implement this policy internally and with the board. .
5. Climate Policy		Task: Member Bugert, Member Bernath, Member Davis, and Ben Donatelle will meet discuss further and come back July 2021.
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
6. Manual 18 Briefing and Board Decision on Evaluation Criteria	Decision <u>Approval of policy changes to Appendix F of Manual 18: SRFB Evaluation Criteria as shown on Attachment B</u> Moved by: Member Endresen- Scott Seconded by: Member Sullivan Decision: Approved	

7. Options for Next Phase of SRFB Monitoring Program	<p>Decision</p> <p><u>Approval of next phase of SRFB Monitoring Program, Option D</u></p> <p>Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott</p> <p>Seconded by: Member Bugert</p> <p>Decision: Approved</p>	<p>Task: Bring back more specific details on Option D to the March board meeting.</p>
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BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

8. State-Tribal Riparian Workgroup Update and Next Steps for Modifying Board Policy		<p>Task: Form workgroup containing David Troutt, David Herrera, Member Bernath, Member Bugert and Director Cottingham.</p>
9. Washington Invasive Species Council		
10. Reports from Partners		
11. Featured Project: Frazer Creek Fish Passage Emergency Response Project (14-2260)		

ADJOURN

Next Meeting: March 3, 2021 – Natural Resource Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501 – **Subject to change considering COVID**

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: November 19, 2020

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Stephen Bernath	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
		Susan Kanzler	Designee, 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

Chair Jeff Breckel opened the meeting at 9 am, first acknowledging the current COVID-19 restrictions. Chair Breckel noted that the webinar platform would continue to be Zoom and today's webinar would be livestreamed by Television Washington (TVW). **Julia McNamara**, Interim Board Liaison, called roll, determining quorum and explained proper webinar etiquette. Following, Chair Breckel asked for motions to approve the November agenda and September's meeting minutes.

Motion: Approval of November 19, 2020 Agenda

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of September 16, 2020 Minutes.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Chair Breckel felt honored in receiving his position and noted that Former Chair Phil Rockefeller left big footsteps to fill. Chair Breckel also expressed that the leadership of **Kaleen Cottingham**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director, has helped with the growth and success of Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). **Members Chris Endresen-Scott, Bob Bugert, and Jeremy Sullivan** each expressed that Chair Breckel's leadership would be fitting for SRFB.

Item 1: Director's Report

Kaleen Cottingham, RCO Director, provided an update on the RCO activities.

Following the announcement of her retirement, Ms. Cottingham explained that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) would provide three candidates for director to Governor Inslee for consideration.

Regarding the upcoming legislative session, Director Cottingham reminded the board of the submittal of the biennial budget requests and a proposed agency-request bill to extend the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) for 10 more years. The Governor's proposed budgets will be available by December 20th, 2020. Director Cottingham highlighted RCO's \$22 million request for the new Community Forest Program, which will have complimentary benefits for salmon recovery.

Director Cottingham also mentioned that Orca recovery efforts continue despite budget cuts and that the Habitat Work Schedule was rebranded as the Salmon Recovery Portal.

Further addressing legislative work, Director Cottingham mentioned that the 2021 legislative session begins January 11th. She also expects that the Governor will announce the new SRFB member by the next meeting in March 2021.

Director Cottingham concluded the director's report by mentioning that RCO has received the final federal audit. In response, Director Cottingham offered the Snow Creek project as payment in full and is now waiting to see if they will accept that.

General Public Comment: No public comment

Item 2: Salmon Management Report

Governor Salmon Recovery Office Report

Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator of Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (**GSRO**), provided an update on legislative and partner activities.

Mr. Neatherlin addressed several 2021 events. Two events that would be held virtually in 2021 included Puget Sound Day on the Hill and the Salmon Recovery Conference.

Jeannie Abbott, GSRO Program Coordinator, has been working with the conference

steering committee to establish keynote speakers, registration fees, and sponsorship categories. He also noted that the states have decided to shift Salmon Days in DC to the Fall of 2021.

Concerning other housekeeping items, Mr. Neatherlin explained that the Statewide Strategy Update, being facilitated by Triangle Associates, would be pushed back to 2021. He also mentioned that the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report web page is fully updated, and the printed copy of executive summary is on track to be completed by the end of 2020.

Closing, he reported that GSRO submitted a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) in response to the proposed hatchery reform policy updates and that the Salmon Recovery Network had submitted a letter to the governor outlining the 2021-23 biennium budget priorities.

Following Mr. Neatherlin's briefing, **Chair Breckel** expressed concern for the new Salmon Days timeline and the re-appropriation of the 5-state coalition in the spring. Mr. Neatherlin reassured Chair Breckel that coordinated efforts would continue in order to produce a 5-state letter. **Member Bugert** appreciated the letter to FWC and looks forward to the dialogue between regions and the FWC.

Salmon Section Report

Tara Galuska, RCO Salmon Section Manager, provided an update concerning the 2020 and 2021 grant round and policy changes

Concerning grant rounds, Ms. Galuska explained that RCO outdoor grants managers (OGM) and sponsors are getting the 2020 approved projects under contract. Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) projects still await funding until the budget is enacted for the 2021-23 biennium. For 2021, OGMs have already begun preparations by reaching out to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to extend the 2016 Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award.

Ms. Galuska also mentioned that the 2020 grant round survey had been sent out. The results of this survey would include feedback concerning the first year's implementation of the LEAN study and will be presented to the SRFB in March.

Closing, Ms. Galuska addressed the Targeted Investments Policy. She mentioned that the Salmon section would look at the evaluation criteria and bring back options to the board for the 2022 grant round.

Item 3: Board Strategic Plan Check-in

Overview of Current Board Strategic Plan

Director Cottingham provided an overview of the SRFB Strategic Plan and Authorities.

While the plan included three specific goals, Director Cottingham highlighted the first goal: Fund the best projects in a fair process. To do so, Director Cottingham suggested the following questions:

1. Does the allocation of funds best advance salmon recovery?
2. Does the process rely/prioritize based on recovery plans, lead entity strategies, and tribal salmon recovery goals?
3. Have funding gaps been identified with strategies to fill?

Because the SRFB is only allocated 12-15 percent of their funding request, Director Cottingham suggested that SRFB be active in the discussion with the Governor's Office for long term stable funding for salmon recovery.

In closing, Ms. Cottingham noted that the next SRFB retreat would be in September of 2021.

Chair Breckel explained that with the release of the new Statewide Strategic Plan, new insight would be available for discussion at the 2021 SRFB retreat.

Policy Plan Status Report

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy and Legislative Director, updated the SRFB on the implementation of the 2019-21 policy work plan. Ms. Brown reminded the board of the 15 tasks that they had contributed to the policy work plan. From those, four of the tasks had been completed, and she predicted that four more tasks would be completed in early 2021.

Following Ms. Brown's briefing, **Member Bugert** returned to the topic of the LEAN implementation and wondered if anything had not been implemented. Ms. Galuska responded stating that most of the work recommended had been addressed, including the targeted investment policy. Ms. Galuska explained that feedback from the survey of partners will be useful and that the salmon section has decided to keep the process similar for next year with minor adjustments. **Director Cottingham** mentioned that due to the pandemic forcing state agencies toward teleworking, results from the survey will also provide information on which technological improvements proved to be most useful.

Chair Breckel mentioned landowner willingness and asked Ms. Galuska how this was being approached. Ms. Galuska responded by saying that one way RCO is addressing it

is through new programs, such as the Community Forest Program, but ultimately landowner willingness has to do with the inclusion of incentives and weighing risk. Chair Breckel then asked what it is that the landowners are looking for and if the lead entities could provide more information. Ms. Galuska informed Chair Breckel that over 50 percent of SRFB funded projects are located on private lands, providing many success stories. Director Cottingham explained that the problem with landowner willingness came up from developing a ranked list prior to the legislative session as landowners may abandon a project while having to wait through a lengthy review and approval process.

Item 4: Guidance for Discussing Public Safety in Grant Making and Project Selection

Adam Cole, RCO Policy Specialist, provided a briefing on guidance for discussing public safety issues in grant making and project management that would be provided to RCO staff, SRFB, and SRFB's Technical Review Panel.

Mr. Cole explained that feedback from SRFB following the briefing would be welcome, as the guidance would not be finalized until January 2021.

Following the briefing, **Chair Breckel** expressed that the guidance would be useful towards addressing safety issues. **Member Endresen-Scott** expressed concern surrounding language in grant contracts and whether it exempts RCO from being responsible for the safety while work is in progress and after being completed. Mr. Cole offered reassurance that the sponsor must have indemnity language in their provisions. He detailed that RCO occasionally requires specific insurance documents or that the state be insured. **Member Bernath** insisted on a follow up discussion to deal with some of the "donut holes" where public safety may not be covered.

Circling back to the topic of landowner willingness, **Member Cochrane** informed SRFB that social scientists are developing a body of work that can provide insight into what motivates landowners. Member Cochrane offered to participate in further discussion on the topic.

BREAK 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Item 5: Climate Policy

Ben Donatelle, RCO Natural Resources Policy Specialist, provided a briefing concerning the development of a climate change policy statement that would be integrated into SRFB funded projects.

Mr. Donatelle reminded the board that RCO's 2019-2021 policy work plan directs staff to investigate opportunities to consider climate change. In 2019, RCFB conducted a review which resulted in the formation of a subcommittee. There were three ways the RCFB identified:

1. A policy statement that encourages sponsors to consider climate change impacts in their design.
2. Climate change embedded within evaluation criteria
3. Carbon credits policy.

Mr. Donatelle explained that in preparation for the discussion with SRFB, RCO had also surveyed regional organizations and lead entities to better understand the extent to which climate change impacts are considered in recovery planning and the project solicitation process. The results were mixed, but there is interest in higher level coordination for applying climate change in project development.

After Mr. Donatelle's briefing was concluded, **Member Bugert** expressed that the foundational report that Mr. Donatelle brought forward was good. Member Bugert stressed the fact that wildfires have direct and indirect effects on salmon. Chelan county, an area that had recently dealt with catastrophic wildfires, is in the process of adopting a climate resiliency strategy. As discussion continued, members suggested that RCFB and SRFB partner in directing funds toward climate resiliency, that more specificity on climate change should be provided to project sponsors, and that project designers should be basing project designs on the future versus utilizing old hydrographs.

Before moving to public comment, members also suggested considering water temperature, flows, and storage, the use of tools that predict climate change outcomes, project design resiliency in light of different land levels, spending more money on climate resiliency now, and having the SRFB review panel consider climate change during their project reviews.

General Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, stated that many of the key questions surrounding climate change are best answered at the regional level. Mr. Conley reported that there are more tools available now than 10 years ago.

Chair Breckel asked the SRFB for suggestions on moving forward. Member Bugert suggested the creation of board sub-committee that would meet no less than three times before bringing back suggestions to SRFB. Members Bugert and Bernath

volunteered to be on the advisory group. Member Bernath suggested that Member Davis with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) be a representative as well. Director Cottingham directed the group to work with Mr. Donatelle and report back to SRFB at the July 2021 meeting.

Item 6: Manual 18 Briefing and Board Decision on Evaluation Criteria

Kat Moore, RCO Senior Outdoor Grant Manager, gave an overview of the year's unexpected challenges that effected the 2020 grant round as well as an update on Manual 18.

Ms. Moore explained that the move of grant applications online and the updated PRISM module had greatly assisted RCO during remote working. Ms. Moore noted the salmon section's commitment to making limited changes for 2021, but there would be administrative updates and one policy change. The administrative updates would include the road maintenance and abandonment plan projects (RMAP). Most of the project plans have been completed, but some large forest landowners have until October of 2021 to complete their plans. RCO will revisit overall eligibility of RMAP projects next year for 2022 and beyond.

In Manual 18, there were changes to the regional monitoring projects to clarify that monitoring projects are based on limited PCSRF funds.

Ms. Moore also noted that the grant process calendar had been realigned to ensure that the monitoring project timeline matches up with the regular grant round timeline.

Ms. Moore requested the SRFB approval of policy change to Appendix F in the SRFB Evaluation Criteria of Manual 18 shown on Attachment B in the memo. This change adds 4 evaluation criteria specific to monitoring projects.

Motion: Move to accept the policy changes to Appendix F: SRFB Evaluation Criteria as shown on Attachment B

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Item 7: Options for Next Phase of SRFB Monitoring Program

Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator of GSRO, provided an overview of the monitoring meetings that occurred throughout Fall 2020 to address SRFB requests from

the June 11th meeting. **Pete Bisson**, SRFB Monitoring Panel Co-Chair, presented a brief summary of the future of the intensively monitored watersheds (IMW) program. He noted that to show a difference at the population level of salmon, there needs to be more habitat restoration at a faster rate. Mr. Bisson explained that the monitoring program needs 3-5 more years to see the results of the past 15 years and needs 10-20 more years for several IMWs that face environmental variation in returning adults. Mr. Bisson said scientist's promotion of restoring natural processes that support healthy habitat are key to maintaining streams in good conditions. Mr. Bisson learned from studying IMWs that salmon life history variation matters for increasing abundance and buffering against environmental change.

With the motion language from June 11th, 2020 SRFB meeting, **Keith Dublanica**, Science Coordinator for GSRO, presented the proposed new direction. Mr. Dublanica presented these four options:

- A. Reach scale restoration effectiveness monitoring,
- B. Recovery and restoration critical uncertainties monitoring,
- C. Regional recovery priorities monitoring, and
- D. Critical uncertainties monitoring with combined elements (options A, B and C).

Further details on the options can be reviewed in the Item 7 memorandum.

Continuing to the budget summary, Mr. Dublanica stated that for fiscal year 2020, there was a total of \$369,622 for this new direction. For the monitoring program overall, Mr. Dublanica explained that the total will be \$2,000,000, which is the annual amount in the PCSRF award.

Mr. Dublanica reminded SRFB that RCO staff supports the decision of the sub-committee to move forward with option D.

Chair Breckel stated that SRFB previously asked for an end strategy for the IMWs and asked how they should allocate those extra funds. **Member Endresen-Scott** expressed concern for funding option A's LIDAR technology and the decreased effectiveness of addressing options A, B, and C through Option D's combination of the three. She proposed to instead split option D into stages versus the implementation of all three at once.

Erik Neatherlin offered the reminder that Option D is anchored in critical uncertainties to fill knowledge gaps, for example a limiting factor analysis. Mr. Dublanica addressed Member Endresen-Scott's concern with option A's cost and informed her that the cost could be anywhere from \$50-70k per project when using LIDAR, and this technology could be tested through two pilot projects in Eastern and Western Washington.

Member Cochrane felt that the monitoring options were not fully fleshed out. He suggested that more direct questions be asked to determine how to move forward with any type of action.

Member Hoffman asked for clarification surrounding funding of monitoring projects. Director Cottingham explained that the \$2, 000,000 in funding is what is allocated through SRFB, but other funding exists through PCSRF that goes to WDFW and hatchery money that goes to the tribes with monitoring aspects.

Public comment:

Alex Conley, Council of Regions (COR), expressed hope that SRFB had read over COR's written update where questions and comments were provided concerning monitoring. Mr. Conley also explained COR's excitement for the Manual 18 update and COR's support of options C and D for monitoring. He also expressed support for the floodplain pilots that Mr. Dublanica mentioned could be set up in Eastern and Western Washington.

Chair Breckel returned to Member Cochrane's concern and requested the SRFB and RCO determine what the critical priority questions need to be answered through monitoring.

Member Sullivan adds that monitoring is important but always underfunded. He suggested that the pilot projects be carried out, as well as a separate request for more monitoring funding. **Director Cottingham** expressed concern that shifting funding in RCO's PCSRF application from on-the-ground- projects (Tier 1) to monitoring (Tier 2) would weaken Washington's strong application. Director Cottingham summarized how the SRFB has had 15 years of strong monitoring programs and should continue with this strong approach as it pivots its monitoring investments in new areas. Chair Breckel suggested to work with the regions to help with prioritizing the monitoring questions for SRFB consideration.

Mr. Neatherlin stages the discussion by giving summaries of Option A, C and D.

Public Comment

Alex Conley reminded the SRFB that if the regions do not know how much monitoring funding is available in advance, the regions will not know how much effort to put into the development of monitoring proposals.

Member Bernath showed his appreciation for the monitoring Sub-committee preparing proposals. Mr. Neatherlin responded suggesting that a SRFB commitment proceed with fleshing out Option D would provide enough direction for staff to bring back information and direction for board discussion.

Public Comment

Alex Conley stated that there is also \$300,000 within the PCSRF allocation available for the monitoring pilot.

Motion: Move to approve that the hybrid option D, critical uncertainties for recovery monitoring program, be forwarded for implementation as described in memo item #7

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Chris Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment:

Alex Conley interjected and told the board that Entiat is ready as early as one year and COR knows of two other possible future sites.

Member Bugert suggested that SRFB land here on this discussion since they are in general agreement. He also highlighted SRFB's direction to GSRO to implement this program, work with the monitoring panel and the regional recovery organizations, and authorized RCO Director to approve any Requests for Proposals (RFPs) that may be required to implement the restoration scale pilot program, or the development of the list of critical uncertainty priority project for future board funding.

Item 8: State-Tribal Riparian Workgroup Update and Next Steps for Modifying Board Policy

Director Cottingham introduced Item 8 by reminding SRFB that they wanted to wait until WDFW released their update to the riparian habitat guidelines to address RCO's previous requirement to have a 100-foot buffer. Volume one of the guidelines, which summarizes the science, is finished and volume two, management recommendations, is expected to be finished by the end of 2020.

Director Cottingham mentioned that at the 2019 Centennial Accord meeting, the Governor committed to the formation of a state-tribal work group to recommend an approach to riparian protection. That workgroup has been convened and is working to develop recommendations for the Governor and tribal leaders this fall. SRFB should provide guidance for reviewing projects to make sure they are implementing the best available science.

David Troutt, Natural Resource Director of the Nisqually Indian Tribe, relayed that the tribe is focused on riparian habitat and he will report back to SRFB with any recommendation. Mr. Troutt also expressed his willingness to be a part of a work group on the topic.

Public Comment –

Steve Manlow, Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Fisheries Recovery Board (LCFRB), suggested caution when moving forward. SRFB should rely on the adopted recovery plans to identify riparian buffer needs. Mr. Manlow explained that watershed or site scale is not one size fits all. He explained that making headway for some species can mean working in highly constrained environments. Mr. Manlow continued, stating that one cannot secure the gains needed to improve the habitat, if one is only working with willing landowners who can address the 100-foot buffer and tree width requirements. He thought that the most pressing need is to rethink federal use protection programs to mitigate the loss of riparian habitat.

Following, Chair Breckel asked if the creation of a workgroup for further recommendations would be helpful. Director Cottingham suggested that a couple of SRFB members with tribal input be involved. Chair Breckel and Member Sullivan offered to join.

Public Comment:

Dave Herrera, Fisheries and Wildlife Policy Representative for Skokomish Indian Tribal Member, added to David Troutt's comment. He noted that tribes are engaged with state agencies to develop riparian buffer standard across all agencies and considering tree height potential as a standard is good. Mr. Herrera expressed gratitude for the work Director Cottingham and Mr. Neatherlin accomplished with the tribes.

Mr. Troutt explained that he and Director Cottingham understand the SRFB process and will likely have something for SRFB to expedite the discussion. Director Cottingham reported that she will create a proposal to tribal members and SRFB concerning the topic at hand.

Members Bernath and **Cochrane** announced that they would make themselves available to provide ideas on how to deal with challenges surrounding landscape, ownership, and tree height. Director Cottingham closed the conversation with assurance that the group will bring something back for SRFB to consider.

Item 9: Washington Invasive Species Council

Justin Bush, Executive Coordinator of Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC), introduced the new WISC Chair-elect **Joe Maroney**, the first to represent a tribal entity. Moving forward, Mr. Bush addressed the WISC 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which details how to prevent or stop invasive species statewide. Mr. Bush requested feedback on the strategic plan as it intertwines with salmon recovery.

Mr. Maroney briefed SRFB on the imminent threat of Northern Pike on salmon and steelhead. Mr. Maroney highlighted two recent tribal organizations resolutions; the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) resolution that was passed in June of 2020 and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Resolution that was passed in October of 2020. Mr. Maroney advised the SRFB to share the resolution, collaborate with tribes and other states and hold other agencies accountable.

Concerning next steps, Mr. Maroney expressed that in 2021 there will be a Washington State Northern Pike Rapid Response plan, an Okanogan Chinook working group, and the 2021 UCUT regional forum on Northern Pike. Chair Breckel reminded the board of the detrimental effects' salmon will face if the Northern Pike get below the dams.

Item 10: Reports from Partners

Council of Regions

Steve Manlow provided a brief update surrounding the section 404 streamlining effort that was being worked on to keep projects on a reasonable timeline.

He relayed that COR had engaged in a collaborative process with the Washington Salmon Coalition, the Department of Ecology, and the Corps of Engineers to determine the inefficiencies in the permitting process for collective restoration projects.

A survey was released to determine what challenges applicants face. The survey results led to the formation of a workgroup in early 2020, which led to the identification of 23-

25 solutions. The group will get back together in January to establish a workplan after receiving feedback from a follow-up survey containing prioritization efforts.

Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC)

Tricia Snyder opened by reminding SRFB of her written correspondence that would provide greater detail than her spoken update.

Ms. Snyder informed SRFB that the grant round was complete and WSC had worked with the lead entities by providing best practices for virtual site visits and meeting. She noted that there were 4 virtual meetings and details on the discussions held are in her written report. The October 14th meeting focused on legislative outreach, later there was a training on strengthening and rebuilding trust, and the final meeting focused on policy discussions and the 2021 work planning.

She then noted that the 2021 action plan created by WSC provides internal and external goals. There is a goal to support lead entities across the state and externally to support salmon recovery with other agencies.

Closing, WSC extended deep gratitude toward Kaleen Cottingham for her work.

Department of Ecology

Member Hoffman expressed support for the state-tribal riparian workgroup and hoped that the Department of Ecology could assist. Member Hoffman also expressed hope in assisting with the 404 permitting issues.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups

Lance Winecka quickly congratulated Director Cottingham and Chair Breckel and mentioned that the RFEs are having their 30th anniversary event today.

Item 11: Featured Project Frazer Creek Fish Passage Emergency Response Project (14-2260)


Marc Duboiski, RCO Outdoor Grant Manager, **Dave Caudill**, RCO Outdoor Grant Manager, and **Jay Kidder**, Civil Engineer and Fisheries Biologist (RCO Contractor), described the process of working with a local sponsor, landowners and each other, after a record forest wildfire, while facing various weather challenges, to ultimately implement these successful fish passage projects on Frazer Creek. **Director Cottingham** reminded SRFB that this project was possible due to volunteered returned funding from other sponsors in the Upper Columbia region. **Chair Breckel** commended the presenters on this project and declared this project as a testament to the creative tenacity of all the folks involved.

ADJOURN:

The meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

The next meeting of the Salmon Recovery Board will occur March 3rd & 4th, 2021 through Zoom.

Approved by:



Jeff Breckel, Chair