



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

March 3, 2021
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 wyatt.lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J16gHnmkTsm83-aKjlr_4w

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 999 8213 5962

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 wyatt.lundquist@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.

Wednesday, March 3

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	1. Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Introduction of New Board Member• Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision)• Approval of November Meeting Minutes (Decision)• Remarks by the chair	Chair Breckel
9:30 a.m.	2. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's ReportB. Update on Riparian Policy Proposal and ProcessC. Update of RCO Director Hiring ProcessD. Legislative and Policy Update	Kaleen Cottingham Scott Robinson Wendy Brown
10:00 a.m.	3. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCSRF Application Status• Salmon Recovery Conference UpdateB. Salmon Section ReportC. Funded Projects Overview	Erik Neatherlin Jeannie Abbott Tara Galuska Outdoor Grant Managers
10:45 a.m.	General Public Comment for items not on the agenda: Please limit comments to 3 minutes.	

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:50 a.m.	4. State of Salmon Report and Demonstration of Website	Jennifer Johnson
------------	---	------------------

11:20 a.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

11:30 a.m.	5. Overview of Salmon Strategy Update	Erik Neatherlin
------------	--	-----------------

12:20 a.m. LUNCH

1:20 p.m.	6. Survey Results from 2020 Grant Round	Brent Hedden
-----------	--	--------------

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

1:50 p.m.	7. Follow-up on Monitoring Option D <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Uncertainties: Define the term and outline the process and monitoring investments that will address critical uncertainties• Initial pilot projects: Identify the criteria for selecting reach scale effectiveness proposals• IMWs: Next steps and how to wind down the IMW monitoring program	Erik Neatherlin Keith Dublanica, Pete Bisson
-----------	---	--

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

2:50 p.m. BREAK

3:00 p.m. 8. Report from Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board *Margen Carlson and Tom Jameson*

3:30 p.m. 9. Overview of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program *Jay Krienitz*

4:00 p.m. 10. Partner Reports

- Council of Regions *Alex Conley*
- WA Salmon Coalition *TBD*
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups *Lance Winecka*
- Conservation Commission *Brian Cochrane*
- Department of Ecology *Annette Hoffmann*
- Department of Natural Resources *Stephen Bernath*
- Department of Fish and Wildlife *Jeff Davis*
- Department of Transportation *Susan Kanzler*

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN *Chair Breckel*

Next meeting: June 2-3, 2021 – Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501 -

Subject to change considering COVID

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>
---	--	--

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 Cochran** informed SRFB that social scientists are developing a body of work that can provide insight into what motivates landowners. Member Cochran 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.

Public 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.

Public comment and board discussion:

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.

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.

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.

Alex Conley stated that there is also \$300,000 within the PCSRF allocation available for the monitoring pilot.

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.

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**

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.

Public Comment:

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.

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.

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

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2021

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

And the Winners Are....

As 2020 came to a close, RCO celebrated the year's work at its December all-staff meeting and handed out Director Awards for both achievement and excellence. Two teams received the Director's Award for Achievement.

PRISM Team: Marguerite Austin, Tessa Cencula, Kyle Guzlas, Brent Hedden, Karl

**Jacobs,
Chantell
Krider, Kat
Moore, and
Alice Rubin**

These team members went above and beyond their normal duties by meeting weekly for



more than a year as they helped transform PRISM. This team helped with a total redesign of the application wizard, changed applications to include the Salmon Project Proposal and a new cultural resources page, incorporated the salmon review process into the review and evaluation module, implemented 20 new automatic PRISM notifications and 10 new meeting reports, added a comment page for salmon evaluations, created an Application Resubmitted status along with new edits and requirements, and made technical changes including supplemental questions and an auto-calculating of staff scores. These new features allow sponsors to schedule their review and evaluation meetings along with other meeting improvements. The team members stayed committed and helped champion the project to a successful completion.

Information Technology Team: Russ Cunningham, Bob Euliss, Eric Green, Dwight Moody, Justine Sharp, and Greg Tudor

RCO had two significant information technology (IT) issues during the past year. The complete failure of RCO's main and back-up servers and cyberattacks that impacted RCO and activated the statewide emergency management system. Both did or had the potential to cause severe slowdowns in



RCO business. The IT Team pulled together to work with many different state partners and vendors to solve these issues. Each team member led a different part of the problem-solving by holding meetings, gathering information, and conducting physical repair in Olympia and Quincy. IT also set a structure in place to ensure consistent communications with staff, partners, vendors, and WaTech. In addition, IT staff ensured all staff had the tools they needed to be able to work from home after the pandemic began.

Director's Award for Excellence: Scott Chapman

Scott has worked for RCO for 30 years. In that time, he has been a dedicated grant manager and innovative database manager.



Scott has transformed RCO using his extensive background in grant management and brought life to PRISM, a database and Web application that has become the backbone of RCO. Scott's dedication to customer service, attention to detail, and pioneering spirit make PRISM responsive to the needs of both staff and sponsors. Scott regularly checks e-mail on weekends and even from the backcountry to offer support to wayward sponsors. Staff seeking his expertise about complex policy, grant, and data management issues receive his thoughtful consult and humor. Most recently, Scott led the successful implementation of the Evaluation Module in PRISM, a project that saves valuable time and resources for staff and volunteer reviewers. Because of Scott's dedicated work, PRISM provides critical infrastructure for managing and improving RCO's portfolio of grant programs, which continues to grow. This growth in turn supports RCO's mission to improve natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities for current and future Washingtonians. In January Scott announced his retirement. Well deserved! We wish him the best as he hits the open road and visits all the outstanding sites he has helped protect over the years.

December Drive-Thru Recognition a Hit

Each year, RCO recognizes staff for their dedication and hard work in carrying out the agency's mission. Normally these awards are given at a potluck lunch in mid-December. This year, with no gatherings allowed due to the pandemic, RCO staged a drive-thru celebration for staff. Socially distanced and masked up, RCO managers handed out recognition awards, hot apple cider, and donuts to staff as they drove through the office parking lot. We even had a visit from a Christmas elf, a reindeer, and Mrs. Claus.



Director Recruitment Underway

The recruitment for a new RCO director is underway. Seven candidates met with a staff interview panel Feb. 4-5 and stakeholders and board members on Feb. 10-11. All interviews were virtual. Interviews were completed and a list of the top three candidates sent to the Governor for his consideration by Feb 15 with hopes of having a new director hired in April. Staff also are building a transition notebook to help the new director learn the agency and our issues.

RCO Does Well In Governor's Budget

With a revenue shortfall expected, the Governor asked agencies to submit a plan for a 15 percent cut in state general funds for the 2021-23 biennium operating budget. RCO submitted the requested reductions but all were not taken.

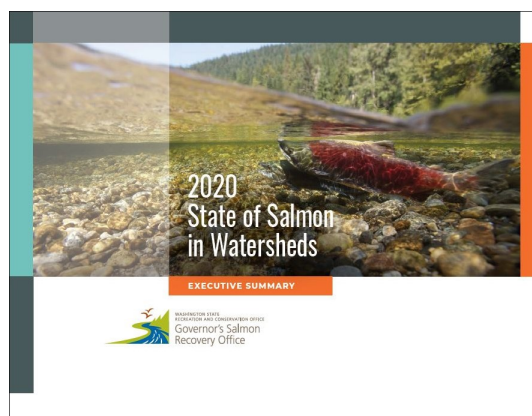
While the Governor's budget did include the agency-proposed shifts from state to federal funds and a \$68,000 cut to implement a study (we will do the work with existing funds), the Governor's budget maintains full funding for the orca recovery position, provides \$3.6 million in new funding for Long Live the Kings to retrofit the Hood Canal Bridge for improved salmon migration, and provides \$250,000 to the Spokane Tribe to reintroduce and monitor salmon above Chief Joseph Dam. We had proposed a cut to Long Live the Kings' current contract for Hood Canal salmon recovery, but that contract will remain fully funded.

In the capital budget, RCO requested \$310 million in funding for salmon recovery and the Governor's budget allots \$221 million, with reductions from the amount requested spread across most grant programs.



State of Salmon Report and Web Site Launched

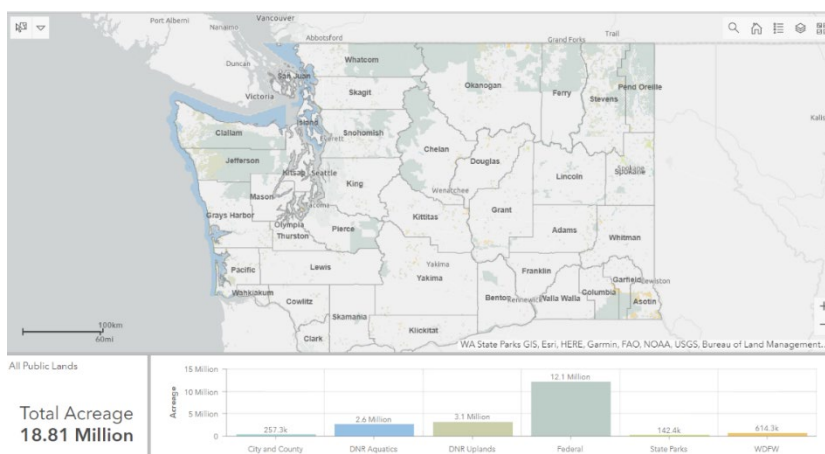
The 2020 *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report and accompanying [Web site](#) were launched in early January. The report shows that many salmon populations still are teetering on the brink of extinction and without drastic changes to how Washington addresses climate change and population growth, may not survive. The report noted that 10 of the 14 species of salmon and steelhead in Washington listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act are not making



progress. Of those, five are in crisis. The report attributes the decline to a plethora of problems salmon face, such as degraded habitat, pollution, barriers to migration, and climate change. The report also makes 18 recommendations for actions to help recover salmon. Watch a [short video by Erik Neatherlin](#), the executive coordinator of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office as he summarizes the report. RCO and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office are required by statute to produce this biennial report for the Legislature summarizing salmon recovery progress in Washington. The 2020 version improves the Web site's usability and provides content that is easier to understand. Salmon abundance numbers and status continue to be reported but with a new look, a more quantitative method for determining status, and easier access.

RCO Wins Good Government and Transparency Award

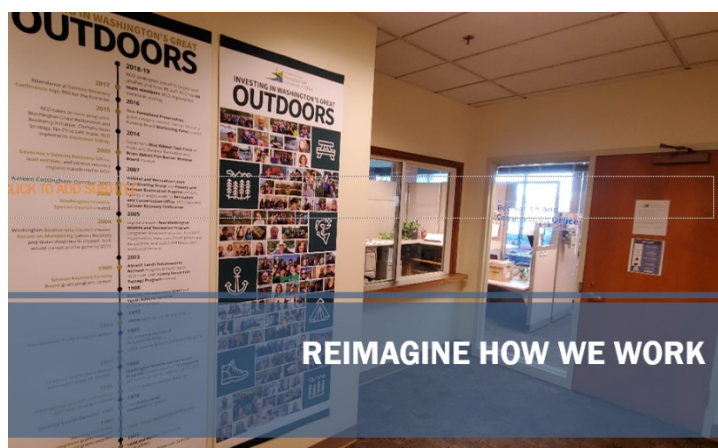
The Washington Coalition for Open Government presented a Key Award to RCO for its Public Lands Inventory, a new Web application that maps all publicly owned (federal, state, local) recreation and conservation lands in Washington. The interactive map allows the user to filter by ownership and primary land use. The coalition



commented that it believes the inventory is noteworthy for helping the public find and use information on public lands in Washington. Key Awards are given to organizations that have done something notable for the cause of open government within the past year. Thanks to **Wendy Brown**, **Brent Hedden**, and **Greg Tudor** for such stellar work! [View the app.](#)

Rethinking How RCO Works

What will the “new normal” look like and how will we work in it? Grant Services staff initiated a project to “Reimagine How We Work” that will engage agency staff in discussion of the future RCO work environment. This project will examine best practices and risks related to a remote and a hybrid



workforce (working partly in the office and partly remotely). Staff will strive to maintain high employee satisfaction and productivity, a positive workplace, and an adaptable workplace culture. All RCO staff will take part in several surveys and discussions in February and March.

And the Survey Says...

RCO sent out three customer satisfaction surveys during the past several months to get feedback on our grant processes. We sent surveys to Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant applicants and to Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant applicants and advisory committee members. The salmon survey results are finalized and have been shared with lead entities and the Washington



Salmon Coalition. The results will be shared with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at this meeting. The two recreation surveys will be completed this spring after the second grant round wraps up.

News from the Other Boards

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** had its first meeting of 2021 on January 26. At this meeting the board adopted its new carbon credits policy and held an executive session to discuss candidates to replace RCO's retiring director. The board will meet next April 27-28.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met online December 10. Topics included the following: Pacific Northwest Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network, Asian giant hornet research update, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's aquatic invasive species funding, and approval of the 2020-2025 statewide invasive species strategy. The council also passed the gavel to chair Joe Maroney representing the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. The council will meet next on March 18 with topics including a Bureau of Indian Affairs invasive species program update, invasive plant assessment funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, northern pike regional forum outcomes, and more.

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** submitted its 2020 annual report to the Office of Financial Management in late December. The annual report highlights the work of the lands group during the past year. Of significance, the lands group published the first-ever electronic [2021-23 Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report](#) with both a dashboard and downloadable format. Proposed land acquisitions may be searched by project name, managing agency, county, and legislative district, and the forecast provides detailed information about each of the proposed state

land purchases. This early reporting gives advance notification to people about planned purchases in their areas, meaningful opportunity to engage in the planning process, and complete and accessible information about proposed projects. This electronic version also enables comparisons to be made among different biennia, as each forecast report will be maintained in the database as its own unique data layer. The lands group will meet next on February 24.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of January 15, 2021

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021, actuals through January 15, 2021 (FM 18). 75.0% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2019-2021	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2013-15	\$1,936,999	\$1,936,999	100%	\$0	0%	\$709,329	37%
2015-17	\$2,973,000	\$2,973,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,793,000	94%
2017-19	\$11,332,731	\$11,332,731	100%	\$0	0%	\$5,046,818	44%
2019-21	\$21,570,000	\$21,570,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,789,999	13%
Total	37,812,730	37,812,730	100%	0	0%	11,339,146	30%
Federal Funded							
2015	\$3,324,250	\$3,324,250	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,324,250	100%
2016	\$7,782,478	\$7,782,478	100%	\$0	0%	\$5,021,011	65%
2017	\$11,149,935	\$10,039,591	90%	\$1,110,344	10%	\$5,976,878	54%
2018	\$16,258,379	\$15,720,611	97%	\$534,768	3%	\$7,630,253	49%
2019	\$18,085,650	\$18,085,650	100%	\$0	0%	\$5,191,582	29%
2020	\$17,945,000	\$15,022,077	84%	\$2,922,923	16%	\$157,931	1%
Total	74,545,692	69,974,657	93%	4,568,035	6%	27,301,905	39%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$7,660,354	\$7,130,612	93%	\$529,742	7%	\$2,943,154	41%
PSAR	\$98,866,446	96,999,213	99%	\$1,867,233	2%	\$36,406,073	38%
Subtotal	218,885,222	211,917,212	97%	6,965,010	3%	77,990,278	36%

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%	4,800,280	64%
Subtotal	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	4,800,280	64%
GRAND TOTAL	\$226,419,465	\$219,451,455	97%	\$6,965,010	3%	\$82,790,558	38%

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 January 29, 2021.

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.

Fourteen salmon blockages were removed so far, this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to January 29, 2021), with eleven passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 27.34 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2021 Performance
Blockages Removed	14
Bridges Installed	5
Culverts Installed	6
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
17-1158	Richards' Lost Creek Barrier Removal	Trout Unlimited - WA Coast	2.5
17-1160	Martin Ranch Road Culvert Fish Passage	Skagit County Public Works	0.62
17-1418	Johnson Cr Fish Passage_SiteID R261020014604	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	6.2
17-1420	MF Newaukum Fish Passage_SiteID 021(45011)(07070)	Lewis County of	2.5
18-1492	Frase Creek Fish Barrier Removal	Lewis County Public Works	2.74

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
18-1494	Bush Creek 3 Fish Barrier Correction Construction	Chehalis Basin FTF	8.44
18-2146	Harlow's Creek Habitat Restoration	CREST	1.9
Total Miles			27.34

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2021 operational performance measures as of January 29, 2021.

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%	68%		95 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mailed agreements on average 64 days after a project was approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	86%		432 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 370 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, 979 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	78%		50 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far, this fiscal year. 39 closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	5		Five SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	10		Staff have inspected 10 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: March 3, 2021

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 continued to engage on the steering committee with early preparations for Puget Sound Day on the Hill (PSDOTH) with Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission in the lead. PSDOTH will be held as virtual event with a similar format to last year. There will be a series of weekly 2-hour web-based virtual meetings with two members of congress attending each meeting. The virtual meetings are anticipated to begin Friday, April 23 pending Congressional schedules.

GSRO submitted an addendum on January 21, 2021 to its original comment letter sent to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission in response to their proposed hatchery policy updates (See Attachment C). In the addendum, GSRO clarified

its own role relative to tribes and outlined the importance of meeting tribal trust and treaty tribe obligations.

GSRO continued meeting with regional salmon recovery organizations and salmon recovery partners from around the state including a presentation at the Office of the Chehalis Basin Chehalis Basin Board meeting, regional salmon recovery boards, Washington Salmon Coalition, and Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups.

Erik Neatherlin was officially appointed to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board representing GSRO. Jeannie Abbott will remain as the alternate, and Dave Caudill will continue in the role of technical advisor.

State of Salmon Report

The [*State of Salmon in Watersheds*](#) Report was released on [January 16th](#) and received widespread regional and national attention. The key findings in the report suggest we have much to do and time is not on our side. The report was picked up by several news outlets including [National Public Radio](#) and the [New York Times](#). Special acknowledgement and kudos are due to Jennifer Johnson and Susan Zemek for their tireless work over the last several months to complete the report. Susan Zemek and Eryn Couch also deserve special kudos for their public relations and social media prowess in getting such widespread interest and distribution of the report and its key findings.

Salmon Recovery Network

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) continued to meet virtually in January and spent much of their meeting reviewing the Governor's budget and the current legislative activity. SRNet will next meet on March 10, 2021.

Salmon Recovery Conference

The salmon recovery conference will be held on the virtual platform, *Events Air* April 28-30, 2021. Abstracts were submitted in December, approved in January, and notification regarding submittal was sent in February. The schedule is being organized into 25 sessions with 3-4 presentations per session planned. Topics include fish passage, emerging science, monitoring, water quality/quantity, climate change, and more! All sessions will be recorded and available for viewing to participants.

Keynote panel speakers are being finalized. We will have one keynote panel each day of the conference. The opening panel will talk about what "Building a Movement" means to them. Confirmed speakers include David Troutt, Denny Heck, Representative Deborah Lekanoff, representative from Spokane Tribe, and a representative from the Columbia

River Intertribal Fisheries Commission. The second keynote will be about the Elwha Dam removal. Lynda Mapes from the Seattle Times will facilitate and confirmed speakers include Wendy McDermott from American Rivers and Jeff Duda from USGS. The closing keynote will begin with inspiring words from Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna, followed by speakers representing geographic areas of the state to talk about salmon recovery in those areas. Confirmed speakers include Dow Constantine from King County, Glenn Lamb from Columbia Land Trust, a representative from Spokane Tribe, a representative from Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission, and a Chehalis Basin representative.

Registration will open in late February. Registration fees are \$20 to cover the cost of the software needed to run the conference.

[Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund](#)

The draft PCSRF application will be submitted on February 18, 2021. RCO is coordinating with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife on the application. We will be requesting \$25 million to support salmon recovery in Washington State. The application is due March 19, 2021. NOAA will respond to our initial application and provide us with comments which we will incorporate into our final application in June.

[Southern Resident Orca Recovery](#)

GSRO is gearing up to reinitiate the recruitment process for the Orca Recovery Coordinator position and plans to hire for the position at the end of the legislative session once our budget is known. The recruitment was halted in 2020 due to the hiring freeze put in place by the Governor associated with the pandemic. On the policy front, RCO and GSRO joined onto a multi-agency letter (See Attachment D) expressing continued concern over the increased Navy training activities on the coast.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

[2020 Grant Round](#)

The Board approved projects in September 2021. The salmon projects are under agreement and have started work. 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.

2021 Grant Round

RCO staff kicked off the grant round with a Grant Round announcement and an application workshop held on January 20, 2021. We had over 70 participants in the live online workshop. RCO staff also did a live PRISM demonstration. On February 3rd, the Review Panel met to start off the grant round. Site visits dates will be finalized with the panel and the Lead Entities. The plan is to do the site visits remotely again due to covid considerations. We will also review the survey with the panel as well as discuss important policy updates and considerations, including targeted investments, monitoring and riparian buffers.

Policy and Process work

RCO and GSRO staff will be engaging with the Washington Salmon Coalition, the Council of Regions, and the Review Panel on important policy considerations. Staff will have a targeted investment process and evaluation criteria proposal to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) later in 2021. We will also be sharing the survey results with the Washington Salmon Coalition in January 2021. Other important process and policy work the salmon section is engaging in are the riparian buffer width discussion and monitoring projects.

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. The Governor's budget has been proposed and the legislative budget will come out next. 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 January 26, 2021. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program (BAFBRB), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP), 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	42	443	2,669	3,154
Percentage of Total	1.3%	14.0%	84.6%	

Strategic Plan Connection

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

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

Attachments

Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between October 17, 2020 and January 26, 2021. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g. designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out 25 projects or contracts during this time.

Approved Amendments

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between October 20, 2020 and January 28, 2021. Staff processed 64 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Letters

Attachment C – Multi-Agency Letter and addendum to the Fish and Wildlife Commission on the Hatchery Policy.

Attachment D – Multi Agency Letter with concerns regarding coastal Navy training.

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from October 16, 2020-January 26, 2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1307</u>	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Maylor Pt Armoring Removal	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/19/2020
<u>18-1885</u>	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	Morganroth Springs Fish Passage Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/20/2020
<u>15-1240</u>	Kent City of	Downey Farmstead - Frager Rd Relocation	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/21/2020
<u>18-2093</u>	Pomeroy Conservation Dist.	Tumalum Creek Restoration Using Beaver Relocation	Salmon Federal Projects	10/28/2020
<u>18-1385</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	McKenna Area Small Lot Acquisition 2018	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/29/2020
<u>18-1409</u>	Lower Columbia FEG	SF Toutle at Brownell Creek Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/29/2020
<u>15-1191</u>	Long Live the Kings	Hood Canal Bridge Impact Assessment	Salmon Federal Projects	11/3/2020
<u>17-1230</u>	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Methow Basin Barrier & Diversion Assessment	Salmon State Projects	11/5/2020

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1790</u>	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Wenatchee Sleepy Hollow Floodplain Acquisition	Salmon Federal Projects	11/5/2020
<u>16-1893</u>	King Co Water & Land Res	Lones Restoration - Final Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/10/2020
<u>16-1703</u>	San Juan Preservation Trust	SJC Salmon Conservation Easement Protections	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/19/2020
<u>18-1487</u>	Skagit County Public Works	Skiyou Rock Removal Preliminary Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	11/24/2020
<u>17-1299</u>	Pomeroy Conservation Dist.	Alpowa Creek Instream PALS – Phase II	Salmon State Projects	12/3/2020
<u>18-1801</u>	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Hancock Springs Restoration Phase 4	Salmon State Projects	12/4/2020
<u>17-1301</u>	Columbia Conservation Dist.	Touchet R Conceptual Restoration Plan	Salmon State Projects	12/13/2020
<u>19-1310</u>	Meridian Environmental Inc	Hatchery Reform (HSRG) - DJ Warren (2018)	Salmon Federal Activities	12/21/2020
<u>15-1224</u>	South Puget Sound SEG	South Prairie Creek (RM 4.0-4.6) Ph 1	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	12/29/2020

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1522</u>	Cowlitz Conservation Dist.	Kalama Stream Restoration Project Gaddis	Salmon Federal Projects	1/5/2021
<u>16-2285</u>	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	NWIFC Hatchery Reform 2016 Enhancements	Salmon Federal Activities	1/6/2021
<u>17-1078</u>	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Beaver Reach Stream Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	1/7/2021
<u>17-1160</u>	Skagit County Public Works	Martin Ranch Road Culvert Fish Passage	Salmon Federal Projects	1/7/2021
<u>18-1762</u>	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Middle Entiat Restoration - Area F (RM 16.2-16.7)	Salmon Federal Projects	1/12/2021
<u>18-1492</u>	Lewis County Public Works	Frase Creek Fish Barrier Removal	Salmon Federal Projects	1/15/2021
<u>19-1496</u>	Umatilla Confederated Tribes	North Touchet Restoration RM 1.3-2.0	Salmon Federal Projects	1/19/2021
<u>18-1369</u>	Seattle Parks & Rec Dept	Lowman Beach Nearshore Restoration Final Design	Salmon Federal Projects	1/21/2021

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>16-1306</u>	Seahorse Siesta Barge Removal	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	PSAR	Cost Change	1/5/2021	Cost increase of \$128,000 of PSAR and PCSRF funds to address construction costs.
<u>17-1064</u>	Sunlight Shores Shoreline Bulkhead Removal	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	1/5/2021	Cost increase of \$6,000 PSAR to address construction costs associated with additional sediment removal.
<u>19-1427</u>	The Ranch on Swauk Creek	Kittitas Co Conservation District	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	12/29/2020	Cost increase of \$100,000 PCSRF for unanticipated construction and design costs.
<u>17-1148</u>	Berwick Creek Barrier Removal and Realignment	Lewis County Public Works	Salmon - State	Cost Change	12/21/2020	Cost increase of \$9,170.35 SRFB for additional construction costs.
<u>17-1228</u>	Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Salmon - State	Cost Change	1/4/2021	Cost increase of \$15,000 PCSRF for construction costs.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>16-1450</u>	Wilcox Reach - North Shoreline Protection	Nisqually Land Trust	PSAR	Cost Change	11/18/2020	Cost increase of \$83,239 in 2019 PCSRF and \$56,236.39 PSAR for acquisition costs.
<u>17-1138</u>	Fish Passage Inventory WRIA 14	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon - State	Cost Change	1/13/2021	Cost increase of \$20,000 PCSRF to pay for unanticipated staff time to carry out planning and field work tasks associated with the development of the prioritization model.

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

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



(360) 902-3000
E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

January 20, 2021

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

Dear Chair Carpenter:

I am writing to provide an addendum to my letter to the Fish and Wildlife Commission dated October 8, 2020 and attached below for reference, commenting on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife hatchery policy C-3619 update. Due to continued inquiries and recent news articles such as the one posted on November 10, 2020 by the Puget Sound Institute, I am compelled to provide additional clarification and broader context for my original comment letter.

In my October 8th letter, I specifically requested that the Fish and Wildlife Commission ensure that their policy was in alignment with the statewide salmon recovery strategy and federally adopted salmon recovery plans. I also encouraged the Fish and Wildlife Commission to engage directly with the regional salmon recovery organizations from around the state to help to achieve our shared and mutually beneficial goal of salmon recovery. I request that these efforts continue in earnest. However, because neither the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office nor the regional recovery organizations have any legal standing in state-tribal co-management processes, these efforts must occur with deference to legally mandated state-tribal co-management and treaty tribe obligations per U.S. v Washington and U.S. v Oregon. This point was assumed and implicit in my original letter, but I am stating here to further clarify.

In addition, these efforts must continue within the broader historical context which recognizes that hatcheries have a significant role to play in meeting treaty tribe obligations. I raise this issue now because the urgency of meeting treaty tribe obligations has reached a tipping point, even though it has always been embedded in salmon recovery. Indian tribes are recognized as Sovereign Nations by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, twenty-four tribes in Washington and the Columbia River signed treaties with the U.S. government in the mid-1850's ceding their ancestral lands and territories in exchange for access in perpetuity to their usual and accustomed hunting and fishing areas. As a result of hard-fought legal battles reaching back decades, treaty tribes have affirmed their legal status as Co-Managers of the salmon resources within Washington State, and have access to half of the salmon in their usual and accustomed fishing areas. However, in the face of continued salmon declines, tribal access to salmon has dwindled and is a remnant of what it once was. All fisheries in Washington including tribal treaty fisheries now heavily depend on hatchery fish, and even then, treaty tribes have access to just a fraction of what they had in the past and are entitled to by federal law.



To meet treaty obligations, we must acknowledge that hatcheries are a necessary component of recovery and must be effectively integrated with salmon recovery. Hatcheries were first introduced by the U.S. federal government, and were already in wide use by the early 1900's in an attempt to compensate for salmon runs that had precipitously declined by as early as the late 1800's. These salmon declines were due in large part to destruction of habitat from natural resource extraction such as logging and mining, exacerbated by overharvest from fisheries associated with the salmon canning industry. Hatcheries were later broadly expanded to mitigate for the building and operation of hydropower systems. This historical context is important because it reminds us of who introduced hatcheries to the region, the initial intended purpose of hatcheries, and the legacy of habitat loss that has accompanied hatcheries since their inception. Given the legacy of habitat loss and the current role of hatcheries to compensate for this loss, it is unrealistic to expect that hatcheries will not be part of the fabric of salmon recovery long into the future.

However, it is also paramount for the long term recovery of salmon that we shift the legacy of hatcheries from one that has accompanied and facilitated habitat loss, to one that is aligned with actions that result in long term improvements in habitat. This underlying shift from habitat loss to a net ecological gain for salmon and for habitat is vital to achieving recovery. This is not a new concept, and one that has long been promoted by tribes and was highlighted as a policy priority in the Governor's Southern Resident Orca Task Force recommendations. I am calling on the Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Department to act as leaders in this endeavor.

Looking forward, as we consider this historical context, there is also an opportunity to continue to elevate the conversations around the long-standing social injustices that have accompanied the loss of salmon for Indian tribes. I do not speak for tribes collectively or individually, but it is well documented that the loss of salmon and the habitat upon which they rely represents a significant impact to tribal cultures, economies, spiritual ceremonies, and way of life. The Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Department as a whole as stewards of the fish and wildlife resources for the state, need to keep the long-term progress of salmon recovery and watershed health in mind as you review and update your hatchery policy. Salmon recovery must proceed on a path that is holistic and comprehensive if we are to successfully build back our salmon runs, not only for tribes but for all Washingtonians.

In closing, I urge the Fish and Wildlife Commission to work directly with the tribes, as legal co-managers of the state's salmon resources, to ensure that the revised hatchery policy leverages the full knowledge, experience, and expertise of the tribes, and aligns with treaty tribe obligations for healthy and harvestable salmon.

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

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

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



(360) 902-3000
E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov
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



STATE OF WASHINGTON

February 2, 2021

Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
Office of the Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as the nation's Secretary of Defense. We in Washington State support your work and the vital mission of the people of the United States armed forces who serve in the Pacific Northwest. We want to share information about an issue of deep importance to the 7 million people of Washington State: the future of the endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

The 74 remaining Southern Residents comprise a population that makes its home in Washington's Puget Sound, the greater Salish Sea, and the Pacific Coast for much of the year. They are a unique population, feeding primarily on endangered Chinook salmon, under tremendous pressure due to a lack of food, contaminants, and vessel noise and disturbance. Every birth in the Southern Resident population is widely celebrated and highlights just how important it is that we all continue to do our part to give these iconic animals the best chance at survival.

In 2018, Washington Governor Jay Inslee convened a Southern Resident Orca Task Force, which met for nearly two years and culminated in 49 recommended actions. Washington State, along with stakeholders, partners, and tribal governments, is making substantial progress toward those recovery actions. But recovery will take time. For now, we must be especially conservative with activities that have the potential to further stress this fragile population.

This issue has a direct connection to the U.S. military: along with being home to these majestic animals, Puget Sound is an important resource to the U.S. Navy with multiple bases and facilities and a total civilian and military employment of more than 80,000 people. The Navy recently updated its training plan for Northwest Testing and Training (NWTT) activities between 2020-2027, and it is those activities to which we direct your attention.

Southern Resident orcas are social hunters, and underwater noise – particularly mid-frequency active sonar – interferes with their ability to communicate and find food. Research that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published in January suggests that Southern Resident orcas, especially females, abandon foraging activities when exposed to

Lloyd J. Austin III

February 2, 2021

Page 2

underwater noise and disturbance. There are perilously few breeding females left in the population, and many calves do not survive. Thus, giving the population a chance to recover will take substantial measures to reduce sources of noise and disturbance, including those from NWTT activities.

We have appreciated opportunities to offer comment during the development of the NWTT plan and recognize the Navy's responsiveness to some of our suggestions. However, we urge the Navy to make additional adjustments to activities with the potential to disrupt critically endangered Southern Residents, as the cumulative impact of repeated disruptions could have population-level consequences. While the Navy might not have been ready to immediately commit to some of the conservation measures suggested by the Washington Southern Resident Orca Task Force, we urge you to explore opportunities beyond the minimum requirements required by your permit in favor of pursuing additional protections and mitigation measures. At this phase of operations, we recommend specifically two approaches: 1) use of available real-time information on the locations of Southern Residents, and 2) increased mitigation zones.

- 1) Expedite the Navy's use of available resources for tracking the location of Southern Residents in the Salish Sea, including utilizing a communications alert system (the Whale Report Alert System, or WRAS) designed to help large ships avoid marine mammals. Locally, the Navy has indicated willingness to work with the developers of the WRAS system. We encourage rapid incorporation of the WRAS technology into the mitigation measures.
- 2) Expand the mitigation zones at which activities are reduced or suspended to protect Southern Resident orcas. The current plan includes reductions of mid-frequency sonar when orcas are within 1,000 and 500 yards of the sonar source, but we recommend halting, not just reducing, mid-frequency sonar activities when the Southern Resident orcas are within 1,000 yards. This greater caution is merited, as each disruption to a Southern Resident orca's daily activities adds to the overall burden on this fragile population.

Preserving this iconic Northwest species is a generational task for the people of Washington. The people of Washington are making tremendous financial investments and taking sometimes difficult steps to limit our impacts on this population. We know that saving the Southern Residents will require commitment and partnership from everyone who lives, works, or recreates on Puget Sound, the greater Salish Sea, and the Pacific Coast. We maintain that the most recent NWTT plan could be more precautionary and offer our assistance in generating adaptive solutions to protecting these shared natural resources. We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting Southern Resident killer whale recovery and look forward to working with the Navy as it continues to further reduce its incidental and cumulative impacts on our iconic Southern Resident orcas.

Please know that we offer a warm invitation for you to visit this region to familiarize yourself with this issue or any of the many collaborative efforts being undertaken between national defense, state, and local agencies.

Lloyd J. Austin III

February 2, 2021

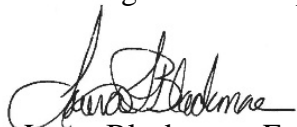
Page 3

Sincerely,



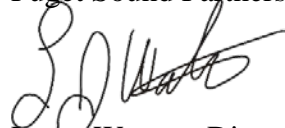
Kelly Susewind, Director

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife



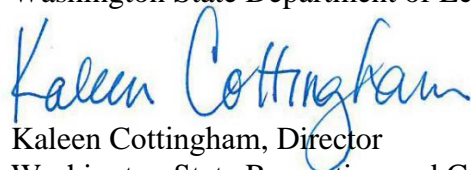
Laura Blackmore, Executive Director

Puget Sound Partnership



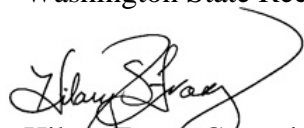
Laura Watson, Director

Washington State Department of Ecology



Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office



Hilary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands

Washington State Department of Natural Resources



Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator

Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office



Bob Ferguson

Washington State Attorney General

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2020

Title: 2020 State of Salmon Report

Prepared By: Jennifer Johnson, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Information Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes the 2020 State of Salmon in Watersheds biennial report and Web site.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The 2020 edition of the State of Salmon in Watersheds report and [Web site](#) was released in January. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) are required by statute (RCW 77.85.020) to produce this biennial report for the Legislature describing progress on salmon recovery efforts. GSRO will present the Web site content during the March 2021 board meeting.

The State of Salmon report provides an overview of the status of salmon and habitat statewide for the legislature and the public and summarizes how funds are being spent for salmon recovery. . As in past reports, the 2020 version of State of Salmon displays data, story maps, and key messages from our partners in salmon recovery. In 2020, GSRO and consultants combined technologies to improve the messaging, data charts, and usability of the site.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), RCO, and others produced data for several State of Salmon indicators. Much of the data is published to <https://data.wa.gov/> and ArcGIS online. These are the state's web-based tools for mapping, charting, and tracking live data that feeds into the State

of Salmon Web site. GSRO also worked closely with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) to align our messages in our respective reports.

The 2020 State of Salmon web site includes a data hub and new salmon stewardship tool. The stewardship mapping tool helps connect citizens and landowners with opportunities to take individual actions to help salmon. Their actions, such as planting a tree or creating a rain garden are displayed on a map. The data hub is for housing authoritative salmon and habitat data sets to help make data gathering more efficient and messaging more consistent among salmon-related reports. The hub and data.wa.gov are important tools that make our data transparent and accessible to the public.

This 2020 web site has a similar look and feel with a few improvements that make it easier to use and understand. The fish population charts in the web site are more responsive and have improved pathways to the raw data behind them. A major step was also taken in 2020 to inform the main fish status chart with a robust quantitative analysis by WDFW. GSRO collaborated with our partners at NOAA Fisheries and Fish and Wildlife, as well as our tribal partners and the salmon recovery regions to build a coordinated approach to reporting aligned and verified salmon abundance data in the State of Salmon report and Web site.

In addition to the web site, GSRO produced a printed (and printable) State of Salmon executive summary. GSRO encourages the board and recovery partners to review this document; copies have been mailed and emailed to board members. The online version of the report includes interactive multi-media salmon stories that present a range of accomplishments and challenges in salmon recovery from around the state.

RCO and GSRO are continuing outreach efforts for the State of Salmon including posts on social media from RCO and our partners. Many media outlets have picked up the press release and covered the report including the [New York Times](#) and [National Public Radio](#). Much work remains with data sources and other recovery partners to continually update, verify, and improve the content in the web site. GSRO will initiate and facilitate collaborative work groups with partners in 2021, and update the site as content changes.

Development of this report was not possible without the cooperation, review, data, and content from many individuals and organizations across the state. Especially significant to this report were the contributions from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Office of the Washington State Climatologist, the regional salmon recovery organizations, the Washington Stormwater Center, and the Department of Ecology.

Attachment A

State of Salmon in Watersheds Executive Summary (available now in PDF) was mailed to Board members.

A. [State of Salmon in Watersheds Executive Summary Link](#)

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2020

Title: Salmon Strategy Update

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin

Summary

This memo summarizes the on-going work to update the Statewide Salmon Strategy.

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

Twenty years ago, Governor Locke adopted the "Statewide Salmon Strategy - Extinction is not an Option," and Governor Gregoire added to it in 2006. This Strategy was put in place to address a growing crisis: the listing of salmon under the federal Endangered Species Act. The development of this strategy was unique and the first of its kind in the nation, a collaborative initiative to restore and protect salmon runs across Washington State anchored in local expertise, experience, partnerships, and on-the-ground leadership.

Over the last 20 years, there have been significant advances in salmon recovery through regionally specific, scientifically rigorous, and locally produced recovery strategies. Partnerships have matured and Washington has made great strides, with some species showing signs of recovery. Yet some salmon runs are continuing to decline. And while many factors have changed across the social, political, and physical landscape, the sense of urgency has remained. In 2018, Governor Inslee launched the Southern Resident Orca Task Force, and in 2019, the Governor committed to updating the Statewide Salmon Strategy. Salmon are Washington's legacy, and a rededication of energy and an updated strategy is needed to protect and restore this legacy and to put all salmon runs on the road to recovery.

A Steering Committee was convened in the fall of 2019 consisting of JT Austin, Governor's Office; Leslie Connelly, Office of Financial Management; Jeff Davis, Department of Fish & Wildlife; Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation and Conservation Office; Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office; and Jeannie Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. Triangle Associates was selected as the facilitator of the process.

In the winter of 2019 and 2020, stakeholder workshops and surveys were held to gather comments. Over 2,000 comments were received. Triangle crafted a document that was shared with the Washington Academy of Sciences (WSAS) and the state agencies that are members of the Natural Resources sub-cabinet that created Extinction is Not an Option. The draft updated strategy went through a few iterations in the summer and fall of 2020.

The statewide salmon recovery strategy update project marked an important milestone with the distribution of the initial draft strategy update to state agencies and tribes for internal review. This review is occurring through the end of February. The draft strategy update is currently in process of being revised and prepared for distribution to the Washington Academy of Sciences in mid-March. Following those reviews, it will be checked again internally before going out for public comment.

Strategic Plan Connection

The update to the statewide salmon strategy supports all aspects of the SRFB strategy plan. https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2020

Title: Survey Results from 2020 Grant Round

Prepared By: Brent Hedden, Policy and Performance Analyst

Summary

This item will provide the board with snapshot of the 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Round survey results. Please See *Attachment A* for additional details and information.

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

Staff will provide an overview of the survey results to the board and answer any questions.

Attachments

Attachment A – 2020 Grant Round Survey Results

2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Process, All Applicant Survey Results

Brent Hedden
Performance and Data Analyst
January 2021

Executive Summary

The following analysis is based on survey responses from 45 applicants who participated in the 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round.

Summary of Comments and Survey Responses

Overall applicant satisfaction with the 2020 SRFB grant round was high.

When asked about the application process, most respondents understood the RCO/SRFB application process and what they needed to complete. Most respondents also did not participate in the application workshop/webinar.

Most respondents agreed that the application checklist in Manual 18 was a useful tool and the eligibility criteria were clear. Respondent comments suggested there are still some steps we could take to make it clearer.

Most respondents felt that completing the application in PRISM Online worked well. Respondents also identified several suggested improvements to the application process.

Most respondents agreed that the Technical Review Panel's comments from the site visit (both virtual and in-person) were helpful. Most respondents also agreed that they understood the Technical Review Panel process and its purpose and found the Panel's members to be knowledgeable.

Most respondents identified either their RCO/SRFB grant manager or their Lead Entity as the resource they use most often when they have questions about their project or the grant round process.

2021 Grant Round - Key Action Items

RCO has implemented the following action items to address some of comments made in this survey. RCO may plan additional changes for the 2022 grant round. The intent is to implement the LEAN recommendations for at least two rounds prior to making any major adjustments, outside of policy changes approved by the SRFB.

Implement new Monitoring project timeline

- Align timeline with the regular grant round process
- Increase efficiency for sponsors with multiple project types

Add evaluation criteria for monitoring projects

- Improve communication to project sponsors
- Increase transparency

Implement PRISM changes for monitoring projects, including applications question in PRISM and Review and Evaluation in PRISM

- Increase efficiencies to have one process for multiple project types

- Direct communication with sponsors via PRISM
- Increase transparency and tracking

Add a second phone call with the Review Panel to better align with site visit dates

- There are two sets of lead entity site visits, early and later spring. Early lead entities will not have to wait until late spring to resolve their questions about review panel comments.
- Sponsors have more time to work on applications with additional feedback.

Increase character limits in PRISM

- Increased opportunity to describe project
- Additional information for technical review

Review applicant survey results with SRFB Review Panel members

Review applicant survey results with the Washington Salmon Coalition

- Discuss further action items with lead entities

Table of Contents

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Summary of Comments and Survey Responses.....	2
2021 Grant Round - Key Action Items.....	2
Survey Approach.....	6
Survey Response	6
About the Respondents.....	6
Survey Results: The Application Process.....	7
Notes.....	7
Customer Comments.....	8
Survey Results: The Application Workshop/Webinar.....	9
Notes.....	9
Customer Comments.....	10
Survey Results: Manual 18	11
Notes.....	11
Customer Comments.....	12
Survey Results: Additional Online Tools Requested	13
Survey Results: PRISM Online	14
Notes.....	14
Customer Comments.....	15
Survey Results: PRISM Online Application	17
Notes.....	17
Customer Comments.....	18
Survey Results: Technical Review Site Visit Comments	19
Notes.....	19
Customer Comments.....	20
Survey Results: Technical Review Phone Call	22
Notes.....	22

Customer Comments.....	22
Survey Results: General Technical Review Panel Feedback.....	24
Notes.....	24
Customer Comments.....	25
Survey Results: Lead Entity Experience	27
Notes.....	27
Customer Comments.....	28
Survey Results: How Applicants get Questions Answered	29
Notes.....	29
Survey Results: Grant Manger Feedback	30
Notes.....	30
Customer Comments.....	31
Survey Results: Process Efficiency	32
Notes.....	32
Customer Comments.....	32
Survey Results: Overall Satisfaction	34
Notes.....	34
Customer Comments.....	34
Survey Results: Other Program Suggestions	36
Survey Results: What is the most challenging part of the RCO/SRFB grant process?	38
Survey Results: What is the best part of the RCO/SRFB grant process?	40
Survey Results: Additional Feedback	42

Survey Approach

The selected recipients were listed in PRISM as the primary, secondary, or lead entity contact for a 2020 SRFB project with a status of “application complete.” RCO staff distributed the survey to 226 applicants on October 2, 2020. The survey closed October 30, 2020.

Survey Response

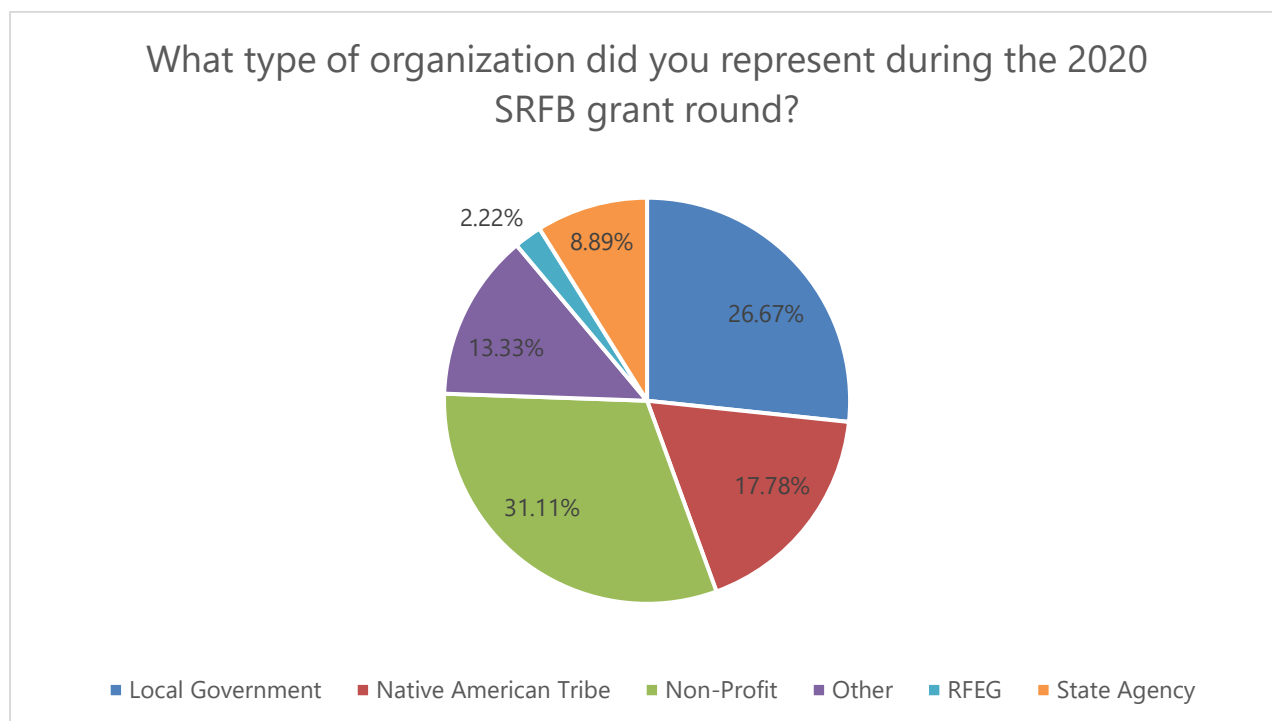
Forty-five people responded – a 20 percent response rate based on the people contacted.¹ This is slightly lower than the response rate RCO achieves in its survey of Recreation and Conservation Funding Board applicants.

About the Respondents

Survey respondents represented both Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects and Salmon State Projects.

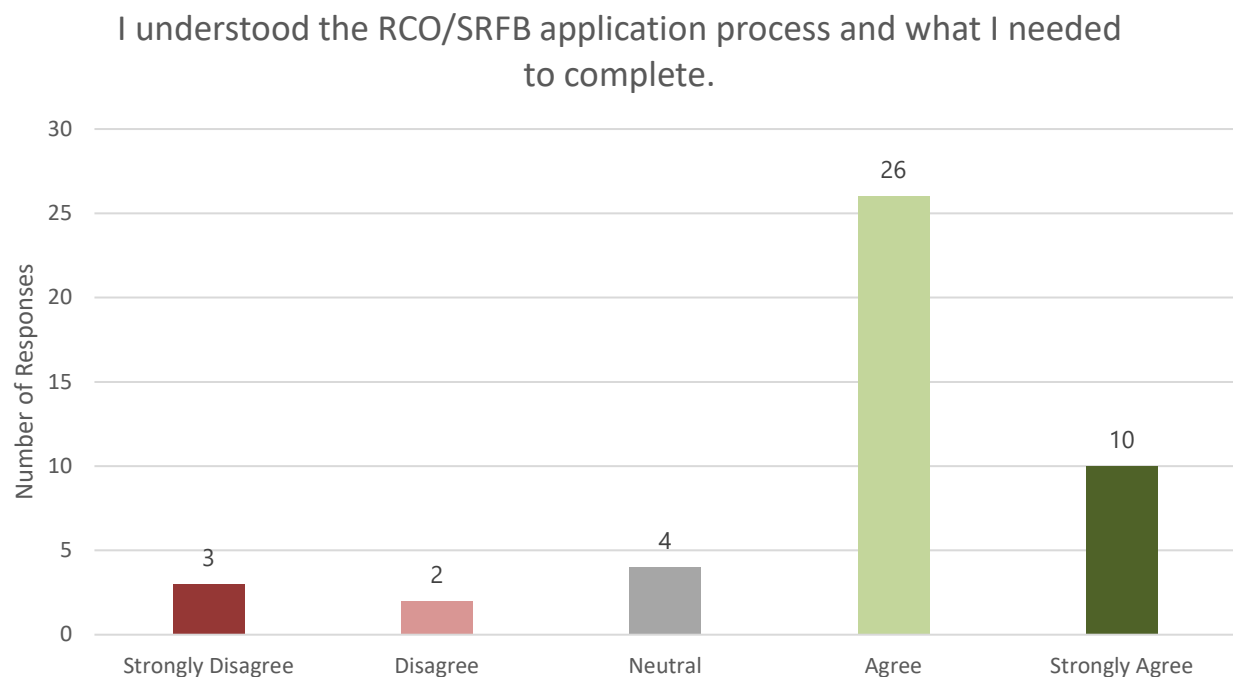
Approximately 27 percent of respondents reported that this was their first time applying for a SRFB grant, but only one of the first-time applicants reported that their co-workers had not applied in the past. These experienced colleagues presumably assisted the first-time applicants.

Representatives of many organization types responded to the survey. Nonprofits made up the largest group of respondents, with over 31 percent of the total.



¹ The number of responses to each question in the survey varies from this total because some participants skipped questions and/or did not complete the survey.

Survey Results: The Application Process



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
I understood the RCO/SRFB application process and what I needed to complete.	11%	9%	80%

Notes

- Respondent comments suggest that there are too many application requirements and those requirements could be clearer.

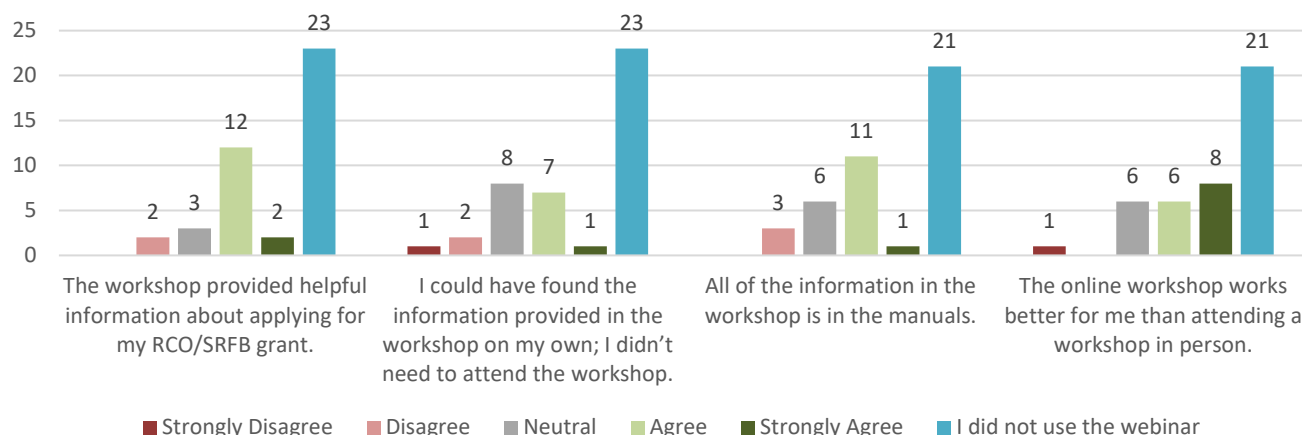
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

What can RCO/SRFB do to improve the application process?
Although I understood the process and what I needed to complete; the various stages of applications at times seemed repetitive; there was some lack of clarity about at what stage the RTT vs the state review panel would be reviewing application materials, when we would have the opportunity to incorporate that feedback, and whether or not the reviewing entity would again see the adapted application- particularly for the SRP.
There seems like there could be a whole lot of simplification that could happen. It seems that a lot of people have had a lot of input, and that's created a wide expanse of required information. A smaller decision-making body might be helpful.
remove bureaucratic barriers to signing project agreements such as redundant resolutions and changing the process midway through and suddenly requiring additional information after the project has been funded.
confusing with changing timelines, changes yearly on requirements, and, WRIA vary on process and documentation required. Would be great to uniform the process and standardize.
The timeline for the full application, sponsor presentations and site tours felt too crunched. It demanded a lot of my time, pulling me away from other tasks for my job. My coworkers have done SRFB grants in the past and the previous timeline for the SRFB grants seemed more reasonable.
It was unclear what was required from Tribes for the Applicant Authorization Resolution. Clearer directions, timeline, and example would be useful.
Don't change it each year, or if you do, do it to simplify, not to add more requirements.
Consistency across lead entity areas. There is
The grant manager and lead entity folks were very helpful in this. Some of the changes made to timeline and process due to COVID became unclear, but could be cleared up by the grant manager or lead entity staff.
The more simple, the better
Make it more clear the local requirements compared to the RCO requirements.

Survey Results: The Application Workshop/Webinar

The following questions are about your experience with the application workshop/webinar. Please respond N/A if you did not use the application workshop.



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The workshop provided helpful information about applying for my RCO/SRFB grant.	7%	7%	34%
I could have found the information provided in the workshop on my own; I didn't need to attend the workshop.	7%	19%	19%
All of the information in the workshop is in the manuals.	7%	14%	28%
The online workshop works better for me than attending a workshop in person.	2%	14%	33%

Notes

- Most respondents (55 percent) indicated they did not participate in the application workshop/webinar.
- Of those who did attend the application workshop/webinar, most preferred a webinar to attending in person.

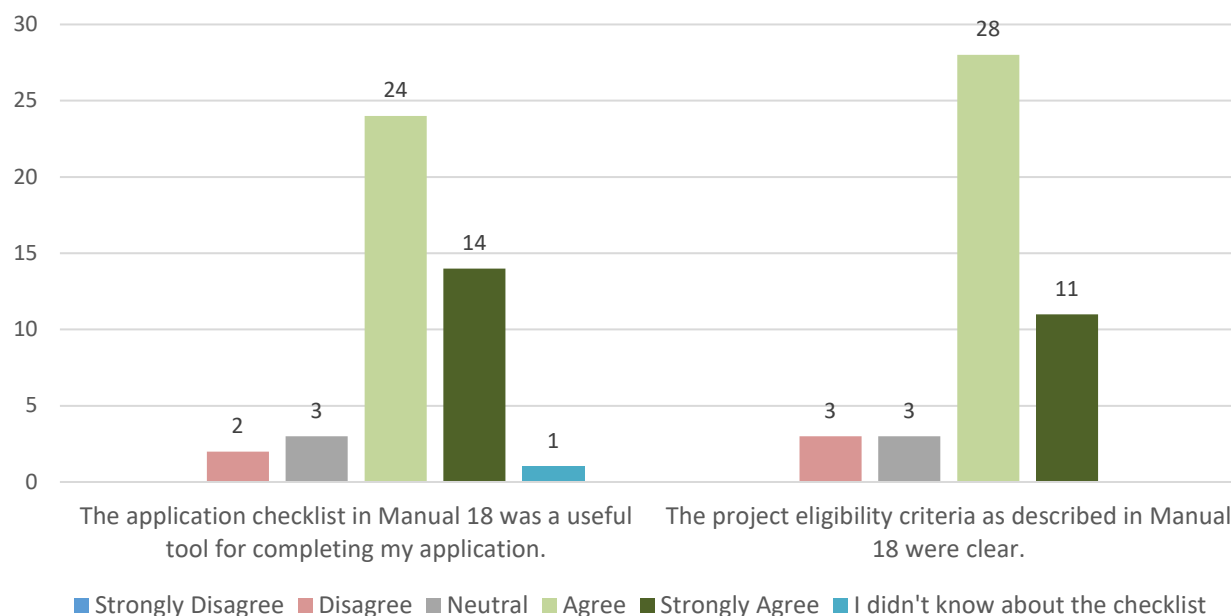
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Please use this space to provide any feedback you have about the application workshop.	
There still some nuances that aren't available in Manual 18.	
I do think a workshop is helpful for first-time applicants and for any major changes in process.	
I don't recall attending any webinar or application workshop, however, I think that it sounds like a great idea for those who are new to the process.	
na	
Having an online workshop (in the future) I think is both convenient and preferable	
N?A	
Instruction in the online application in PRISM could have been more thorough	

Survey Results: Manual 18

Manual 18--Application Checklist and Eligibility Criteria



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The application checklist in Manual 18 was a useful tool for completing my application. ²	5%	7%	86%
The project eligibility criteria as described in Manual 18 were clear.	7%	7%	86%

Notes

- Eighty-six percent of respondents reported that the application checklist in Manual 18 was a useful tool.
- Only one survey respondent indicated they did not know about the application checklist included in Manual 18.
- Eighty-six percent of respondents reported that the project eligibility criteria as described in Manual 18 were clear.
- Respondent comments suggested that the checklist could be more comprehensive.

² One respondent replied that they did not know about the checklist. As a result, this table row does not add up to 100 percent.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Comments on the Application Checklist
Did not include all the steps we were required to go through
I have applied for many years and do not look at the checklist
I ran into a problem with not knowing about the Design Report that was required for the type of project I was submitting. It is listed in the manual, however, it was not (at least to me) very apparent that it was required.
This is a great document.

Comments on the Eligibility Criteria
I think clarification is needed between the SRFB Monitoring panel and the UCRTT with regard to the differences between Assessment and Monitoring projects.
I have applied for many years and did not check Manual 18
Interpretations made around the criteria, esp around the cost criteria, are not applied appropriately given the area. Please adjust expectations around cost based on the area. You wouldn't expect to pay in Skagit or North Olympic what you pay in Olympia or Seattle.

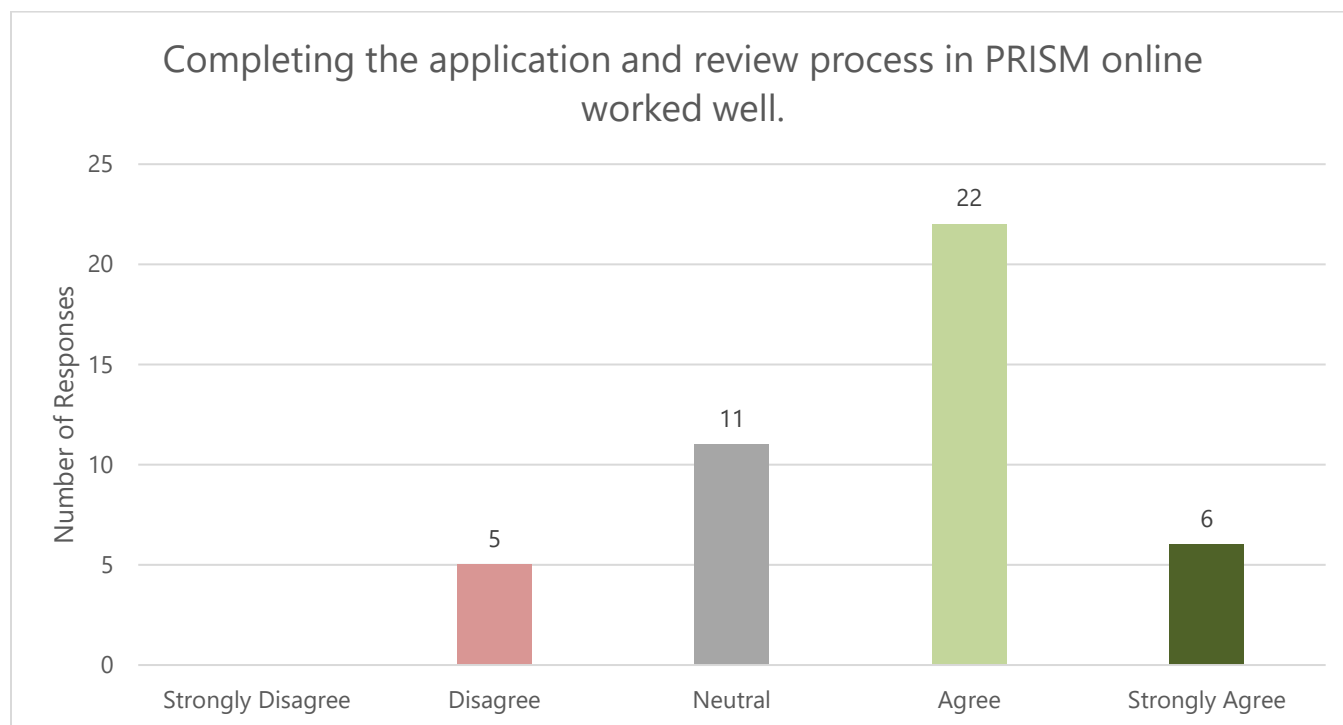
Survey Results: Additional Online Tools Requested

Survey respondents were asked if there were any additional tools RCO could provide.

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

In addition to the manual and application workshop/webinar, are there additional online tools RCO could provide?
Clear guidelines on what is likely to be funded. Grant applications take a long time.
I think it would be helpful if either the manual or online application resources provided links to where one could determined status trends for salmon and steelhead populations
Clear annual schedules of application timelines.
I think providing strong examples of the "perfect" design docs/basis of design reports/ modeling types at various stages of project development (concept/prelim/final) would be helpful for sponsors. Every project is different but some of my sponsors have struggled as they feel design requirements have gotten more involved/elaborate in recent years.
I think the RCO website is a great resource packed with helpful tools and info. The hardest part for me sometimes is just finding what I'm looking for because there is so much info on your site, but I don't know how that can be helped.
More guidance on the type of information for metrics section. Also, understanding how to frame when RCO dollars represent only a small portion.
I think these work well for the majority of questions that arise.
Checklist for the local Lead Entity integrated in to a larger timeline checklist.

Survey Results: PRISM Online



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
Completing the application and review process in PRISM online worked well for me.	11%	25%	64%

Notes

- Sixty-four percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that PRISM Online worked well for them.
- Respondents identified several suggested improvements to PRISM Online in their comments.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

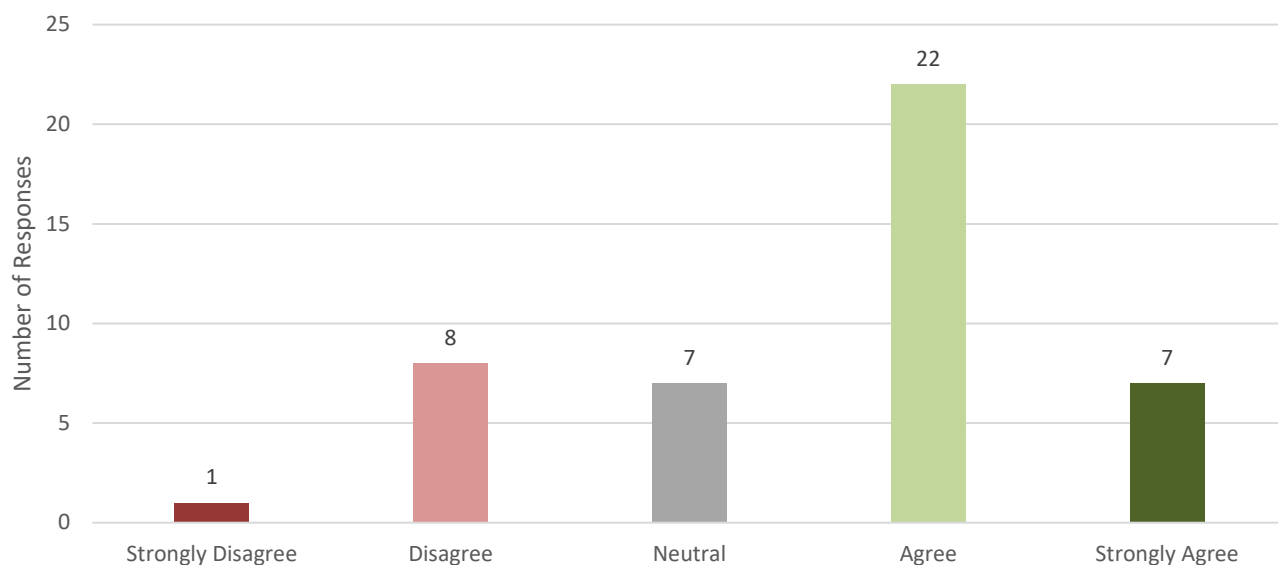
What are the top three fixes to PRISM Online we should consider if there is available funding next biennium?
The technical review team often brings up questions not even related to the project or are just about their own personal area of focus. I don't really see the technical review team adding much to any of the projects.
1. allow sponsor to be able to delete documents submitted (e.g. duplicate, updated) 2. more comprehensive list of titles to more accurately choose from (e.g., title commitment, title insurance, management plan, stewardship plan,)
The system seemed quite buggy at times.
Much like the character limits in PRISM, limiting us to merely three problems is woefully inadequate. More flexibility in character limits would be helpful because every project is unique and the package of questions applies very differently to different types of projects. We had comments from reviewers that were literally not enough characters available in some sections. We had to address these in different sections in a truly Frankenstein fashion. The module that handles comments from RCO, lead entity, etc is quirky and difficult to use. Inability to share draft or final project proposals with partners, other funding sources, reviewers is awful, and having drafts linger in PRISM during editing for all to see should be a crime. Inability to track changes in project proposals (with red-line) makes review especially difficult. Strongly prefer the previous approach of having a separate project application that was uploaded as an attachment. Deciding to alter the project review schedule AND switch to online grant reporting in the same year was an awful, awful decision, even if we had not also suffered from a global pandemic.
Increase character limits and include the character limits in the Word Document template. I reapplied for an application I had submitted in FY19, and I had to cut down most of my responses by half. This led to a lot more questions about the project from Technical Reviewers and CRT Reviewers, and required a lot more clarification during the review process.
1. The Word version of the questions should clearly state the word/character count limit (and if characters whether spaces and paragraph breaks count).
Worksite and property info is redundant. Have the cost/planning metrics align with the cost estimate spreadsheet. Too much lumping and splitting results in errors in PRISM.
The character limit on 'limiting factors' was insufficient. I understand that the idea of online app and limits was to make the proposals less wordy and quicker/easier to digest, however the topic of limiting factors is very important and may need a bit more room for scientific references explanation etc.
I think that many of the PRISM online application and review module issues were worked out during the grant round. It was a bumpy first year for applicants using the updated system.
There isn't a great 'user-ability' with the PRISM system, it was my first time applying through this system and I experienced a number of technical difficulties and issues understanding how the system worked. I would recommend either a tutorial or an example application (reflective of that year's application) in the system and allow applicants to use that as an example.
I like the new feature where comments are all within PRISM as a screen, not an attachment.
The process worked well. Training in the new online application system could have been more thorough.

Still getting used to the project proposal in the PRISM application and the review and evaluation module. You guys should keep having multiple technology changes each year, it makes it super exciting!

I much prefer the narrative approach to the application. It is easier to track changes of applications being reviewed and to follow project progress through the application process. The word limit was too small if we're sticking to the current version.

Survey Results: PRISM Online Application

The questions in the PRISM online application allowed me to fully describe my project's goals and objectives as well as the benefit to salmon.



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The questions in the PRISM online application allowed me to fully describe my project's goals and objectives as well as my project's benefit to salmon.	20%	16%	64%

Notes

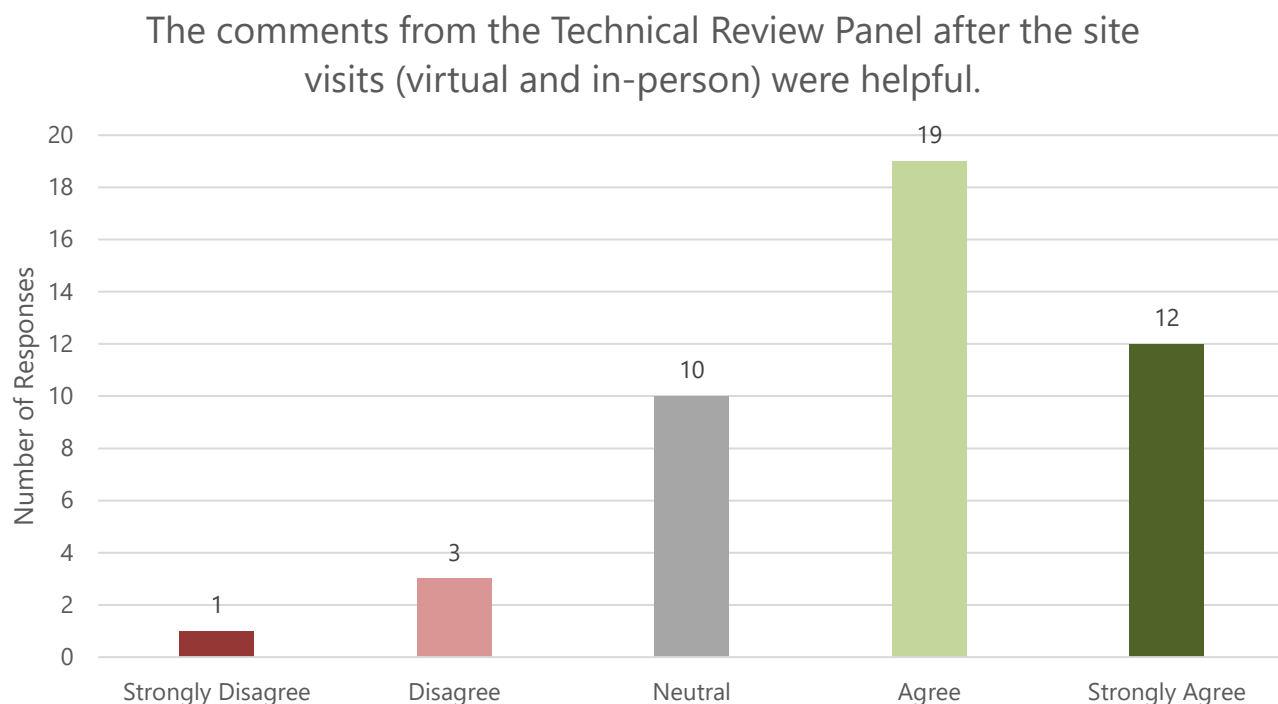
- Sixty-four percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the questions in the PRISM online application helped them to fully describe their project's goals and objectives.
- Many respondent comments indicate that there was not enough space (character count) to fully answer the questions.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

How would you improve the project proposal?
An increased word count for the assessment justification would have allowed for a more complete description. We were able to attach a supplemental questionnaire sheet, however, it would have streamlined the application for the reviewers and ourselves had we been able to include the information in the main body of the application, rather than as an attachment, which may or may not have been as thoroughly vetted as the main application text.
Set up questions for less redundancy in answers.
remove or expand word limits
Eliminate the numerous duplication of request for information, e.g., how many times and places does the species to benefit need to be stated
More flexibility would allow project sponsors to better represent their unique projects, and as described previously the mandatory character limits are horrible. In particular there is not a good section to really describe a project -- there is the super short description and then a lot of questions. There is no one good place to describe a project
Increase character limits. If character limits are increased, then I would "Strongly Agree" to this statement.
The word count limits were too short to give meaningful answers to many of the questions.
Initially, the answer lengths were too short. they were lengthened during the application process, but without a Project Narrative section there was nowhere to provide a clear explanation of a complex project in one place. The questions that are in the proposal aren't necessarily in the order that helps explain the project.
Make it shorter and more succinct.
There were challenges with word count issues in several questions.
Need more character limit for limiting factors
There are places in the application that ask for duplicate information on separate screens. In some cases it was necessary to duplicate information to satisfy the review panel expectations about full answers to questions that had been answered in other locations.
The questions were good, but character limits and required "Yes/No" answers (ie does your project address climate change) in some places limited our ability to fully describe project benefits.
Have a specific question regarding match, the source, and if I need state or federal SRFB dollars. It seems strange that the only place asked about funding is in the cultural resources section of application.
I can't remember the details now, but there were some aspects of the current format that made it hard to describe the project in full.
The local review panel mostly knows the high level questions.

Survey Results: Technical Review Site Visit Comments



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
The comments from the Technical Review Panel after the site visits (virtual and in person) were helpful.	9%	22%	69%

Notes

- Sixty-nine percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the comments from the Technical Review Panel were helpful.

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

How was the comment form helpful? How could the comment form be improved?
Some of the comments included questions that were clearly outlined in our presentation and uploaded PRISM materials, so it felt as if the project had not been reviewed. It was suggested in the comments we could be labeled a Project of Concern but it was related to an adaptation we'd made based on the advice of our local review process. We were worried and unsure how to avoid being labeled a Project of Concern.
The regional technical team provided valuable feedback for our project development, particularly following the early stage 'abstract' presentation. Comments received at this point provided us with the opportunity to adapt our project proposal to one which would be more competitive. Although our technical review panel has extensive local knowledge of the region, a more balanced representation from each of the subbasins would increase the equity between projects.
It's great to get the feedback and perspective of the comments.
The technical review team often brings up questions not even related to the project or are just about their own personal area of focus. I don't really see the technical review team adding much to any of the projects.
The goal is to achieve conservation products and the comments should be constructive to improve the outcome, not to hinder or become an obstacle.
It was a difficult and challenging year for this. Some of the feedback and concerns I received, particularly from the state review panel, wouldn't have been raised if we were able to do in person site-visits and see the site on the ground, instead of looking at photos and video. Our local TAG was more familiar with the worksite, so they were still able to give some valuable feedback on the project proposal.
The comments themselves were helpful but even though it is much appreciated that the RCO streamlined the grant process this year, it meant meaningful comments from the review panel did not occur at the most helpful time in the process. I hope this is improved in future project rounds.
Allowed us to add more to the project per their requests such as site signage.
They were helpful but at times their questions and comments came across as if they did not read and/or review the proposal because they asked basic questions and had comments that were explained in the text.
There is some continued confusion over exactly what is needed at each design stage despite having some guidance listed at the end of Manual 18. I would strongly encourage explicit statements of exactly what modeling of x,y,z flows/scenarios and any other components are needed if possible. Good examples would be helpful for designs and design reports I think.

Generally I don't feel the reviewer comments are helpful. They just make more work for the sponsor. Sponsors spend hours on the project site and hours negotiating with the landowner, so there is usually a reason why a project ends up with the constraints and/or limitations it has. The reviewers have none of this background and come to the site for the first time and say "you should do X, Y and Z to make it a better project" when those issues were already thoroughly discussed and are not feasible because of landowner or other constraints outside of the sponsor's control. Or they ask for additional information that takes time and effort on the sponsor's part but isn't going to change anything about the project anyway. If the issues don't make a project ineligible or a POC, I think the reviewer's comments/requests should just be optional in terms of obligations for the sponsor.

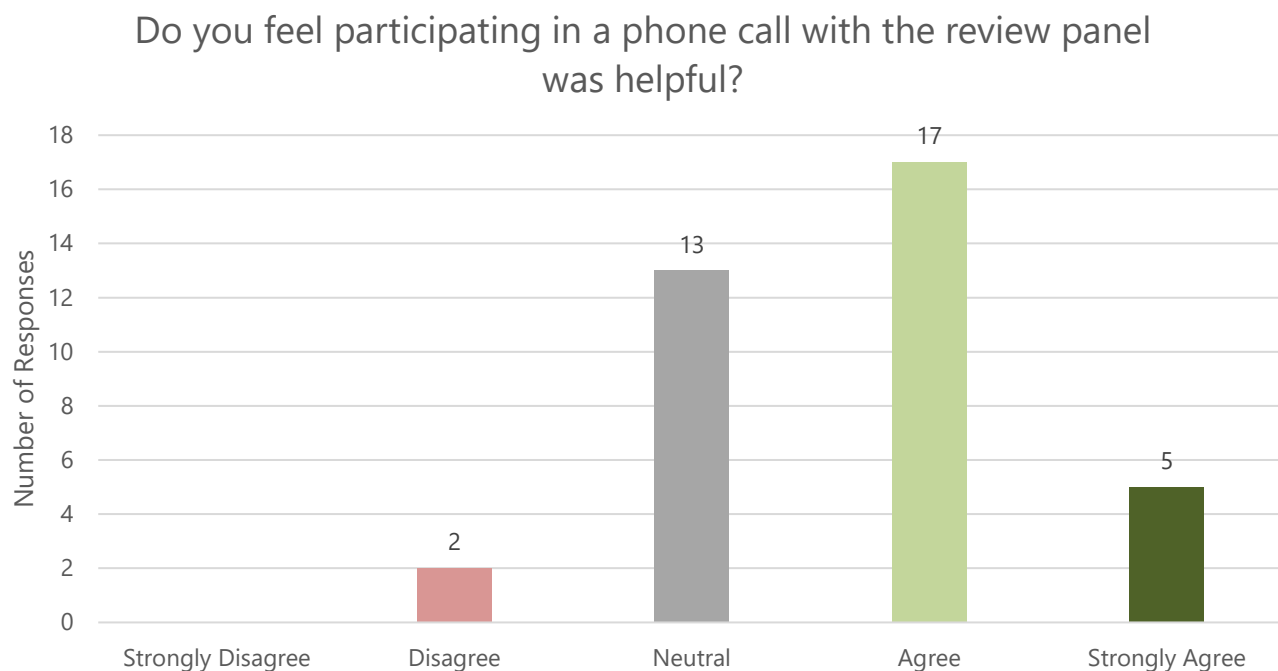
It would be helpful if comments about specific application questions could be referenced to the tab and question number.

Having comments after the site visit allowed me to tailor my application more in-line to what the reviewers were looking for.

I felt that the reviewer's attention was not completely on the presentation.

Very helpful, but ensure the review panel stays true to their charge. Do not interpret the priorities of the area and what should be done. Review the projects presented.

Survey Results: Technical Review Phone Call



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
Do you feel participating in a phone call with the review panel was helpful?	5%	35%	60%

Notes

- Sixty percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the phone call with the Review Panel was helpful.

Customer Comments

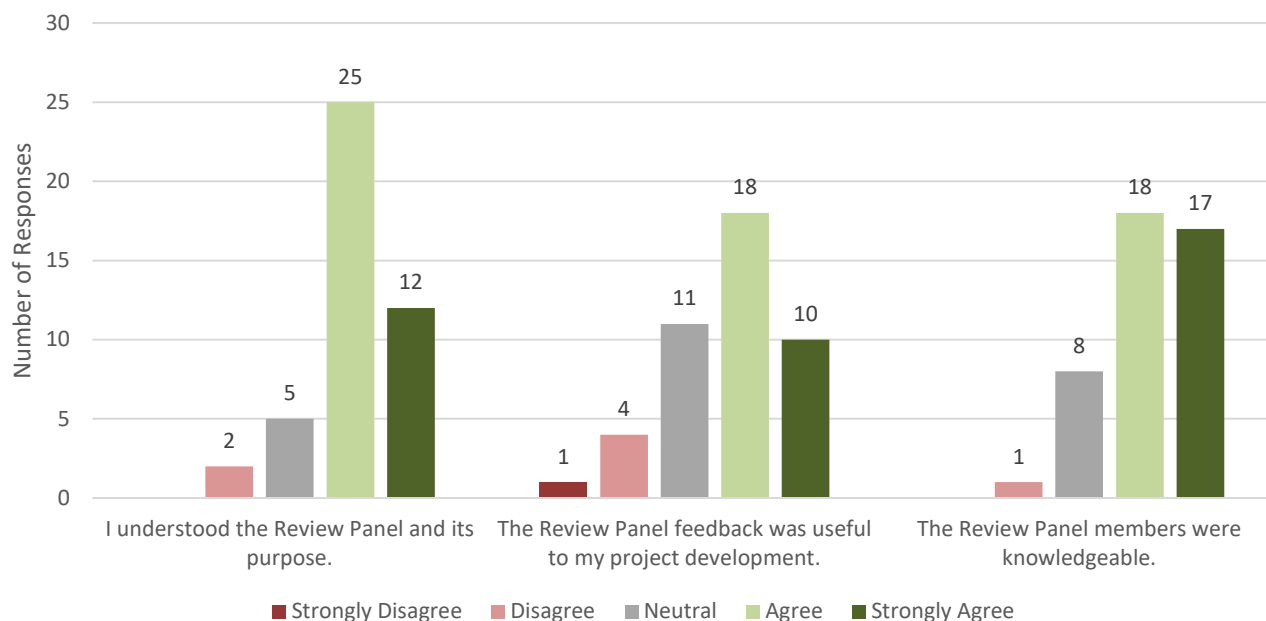
The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

How was the comment form helpful? How could the comment form be improved?
In our area the review panel phone call focused on projects that may be labeled Project of Concern.
Yes, in earlier rounds but N/A for 2020.
Good opportunity to understand the reason behind a question or directive. Good opportunity to respond to a question timely to eliminate it from becoming an obstacle. Good opportunity to flesh out desired response to a question

Yes but in person would be so much easier.
It would have been more helpful if the Review Panel members had looked over the responses prior to the call so the dialogue could have been more two-way.
It was challenging to not be able to answer the Review Panel's comments and questions on the phone call, but they did allow us to send questions about their comments in advance of the phone call, and thankfully they reviewed the questions and that helped us to have a much better and helpful discussion on the phone.
Being my first time through this process, any and all interactions with those knowledgeable of the application process was quite helpful.
We didn't have any major concerns leading into the phone call last year but anticipate it being very useful should we have any POCs. (no N/A option to select)
I didn't feel like there was much to be clarified during the call. Review panel comments were clear.
Need more time. There should be an allotted time per project, not an hour for everyone, even those that didn't want it.

Survey Results: General Technical Review Panel Feedback

Please tell us about your experience with the Review Panel through the entire grant round process.



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
I understood the Review Panel and its purpose.	4%	11%	83%
The Review Panel feedback was useful to my project development.	11%	24%	62%
The Review Panel members were knowledgeable.	2%	18%	78%

Notes

- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the Technical Review Panel and its purpose (83 percent), found the Panel's feedback useful to their project development (62 percent), and found the Panel's members to be knowledgeable (78 percent).

Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

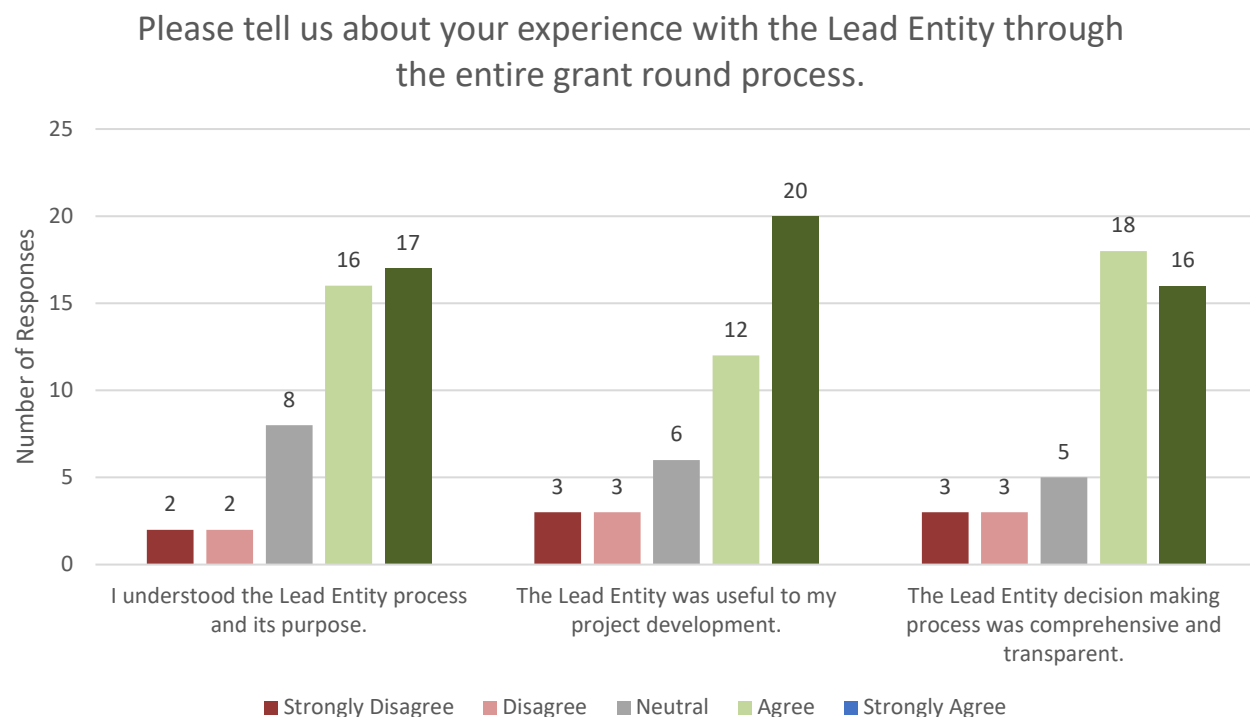
Please provide feedback on your experience with the Review Panel.
Some feedback was useful, some comments suggested they hadn't reviewed our proposal.
I'm not sure if there's a disconnect between the SRP and the RTT, but they don't seem to align on statewide priorities in our region. Also, if the SRP had more constructive comments earlier in the grant round to help address certain questions
Although I understand the purpose of the Review Panel in general, their feedback was not very useful to our project development. The feedback from our local technical review panel was useful, as it was more based in local knowledge of the basins and community concerns/local buy in. The comments from the SRP were a bit at odds with the preferences of the RTT, which made it difficult to adapt and adjust to commentary from both review panels. The questions from the state review panel after the virtual site visits were largely questions about content which was covered in the application and/or the presentation. This resulted in additional time invested in an already lengthy application process. Following the abstract presentation to the RTT, we had adapted our project proposal, pivoting away from design and implementation and towards a reach assessment and project design. The reach assessment was a direct request from our local RTT; however, the state review panel pushed back on a reach assessment in combination with a design. In short; the feedback from the RTT and the SRP were somewhat at odds with one another, making it difficult to fulfill both of their requirements simultaneously.
Although this project benefits salmon, the control of noxious weeds did not seem to be well understood by the review panel.
Too many reviews, e.g., habitat work group review, citizen committee review, technical committee review
Very much appreciate the RCO technical review panel in Skagit this year.
There were a couple of times one of the SRFB Review Panel mixed up applications during the virtual site visit and phone call and that was very confusing for everyone. Questions for our Restoration application were helpful, but some of the questions received on our Design application seemed more appropriate for a project further along in the process. Technical reviewers requested additional landowner willingness from landowners outside of the project area and wanted assurances from landowners to agree to design elements that would be evaluated during the alternatives analysis. I think the lack of site visits made it more difficult to describe the site conditions of the design project to the Review Panel, which led to some of the confusion.
There are some conflicts of interest on the review panel, which may be of concern on some projects or when budgets are tight. The outside reviewers from the State don't seem to really get the local dynamic of how challenging it is to deliver a project in a rural isolated area.
They were helpful but at times their questions and comments came across as if they did not read and/or review the proposal because they asked basic questions and had comments that were explained in the text.

We always appreciate very clear and explicit comment forms to help ensure we're understanding what questions/concerns the panel has for each project. One of the challenges this year was trying to ensure the panel had a good grasp on design proposals (particularly without in person site visits). There was some discussion/concern from the panel that designs did not show enough potential project value. Sponsors expressed concern that these projects were design proposals and some of the questions about potential habitat gain were impossible to answer at this stage as these projects were design proposals and those answers would come as part of the design process.

I'm not sure what you mean by the "review panel" - is this the technical review panel or the ranking committee?

Our regional technical team has significantly more influence over the technical review than the Review Panel.

Survey Results: Lead Entity Experience



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
I understood the Lead Entity process and its purpose.	8%	18%	74%
The Lead Entity was useful to my project development.	14%	13%	71%
The Lead Entity decision making process was comprehensive and transparent.	14%	11%	75%

Notes

- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they understood the Lead Entity process and its purpose (74 percent), found the Lead Entity useful to their project development (71 percent), and thought the Lead Entity's decision making process was comprehensive and transparent (75 percent).

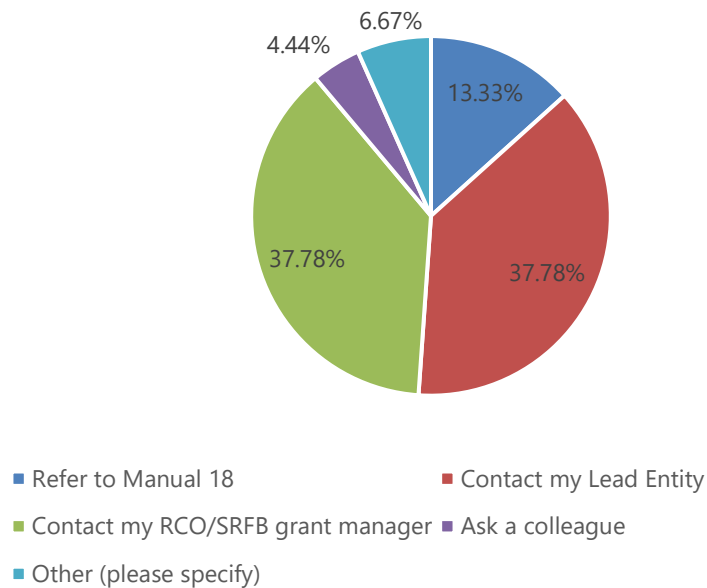
Customer Comments

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Please provide feedback on your experience with the Lead Entity.
For a supposed "shortened" grant cycle process, the amount of time and energy needed to for this grant is one of the most laborious grant processes out there. And it doesn't seem any shorter or easier than before. In 2019, it went from March until October for the sponsor's engagement. In 2020, It went from January until September. Either way still conflicting with project implementation timing (summer) which makes it hard for proper engagement through the grant cycle for some smaller organizations. The Lead Entity for Upper Columbia, does not ease this burden. Although they are trying to find easier ways, just seems like more layers and hoops for Sponsor to go through. Now there's a separate form besides PRISM, that isn't easily transferable. There's a pre-application proposal, and ranking on top of the rest of the application process.
The LE was very useful and available to answer questions about the process in the general as well as my project in particular.
There are so many committees and decision-making bodies, with so much overlap, it's nearly impossible to keep track of who is saying what and why. You need a flowchart just to keep up with the conversations, much less glean useful information.
The lead entity was not available during a critical moment in getting the project agreement signed and returned to RCO.
Overall, the Lead Entity process is very useful to my project development. One exception is that the Lead Entity process includes a closed CRT Technical Review Team Meeting just before the CRT submits their scores and ranked list. The Technical Review Team provides a summary of their assessment of each application to the rest of the reviewers to aid them in their ranking process. Over the past two grant cycles, incorrect information about our projects has been shared at the Technical Review Meeting and distributed to CRT members. In both instances, these were misunderstandings about the project that should have been clarified during the multiple opportunities for questions. This year, we requested and were granted an opportunity to correct this misinformation at the start of the ranking meeting, after CRT Reviewers had submitted their ranked list.
The LE follows the process well, but the process is simply too long. Need to look at Oregon OWEB model to dramatically reduce the length of time of developing and reviewing proposals. OWEB used to do 2 grant rounds per year - allowing funds to get on the ground much faster than here.
Having the LE involved in the application process was very useful for navigating the needs of the applications and support of the application content itself.
Lead Entity does not have a project development role in Upper Columbia.
The lead entity process, questions, and scoring criteria seemed to be biased heavily towards engineered restoration projects. For example, immediacy of benefit is scored very high, which immediately knocks down acquisition projects with potential to restore long-term natural habitat forming processes. A few of the lead entity reviewers commented on how it was hard to score acquisition projects with the same criteria being used for the restoration projects.

Survey Results: How Applicants get Questions Answered

When I have a question about my project or the RCO/SRFB process, I most often:



Other, if specified:

I do a little of all of these things.

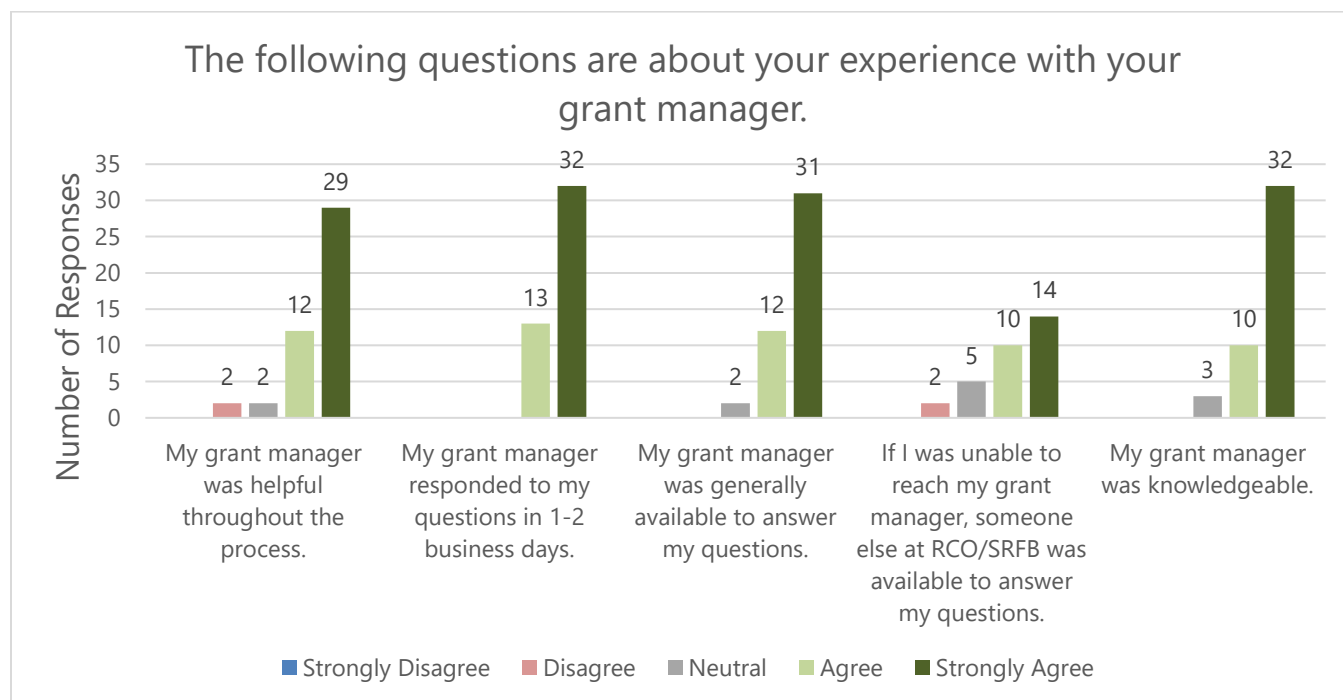
Note: I am a Lead Entity Coordinator filling out this survey.

Depends on where in the process. Generally the most questions come from the local process.

Notes

- A majority of respondents identified either their RCO/SRFB grant manager or their Lead Entity as the resource they use most often when they have questions about their project or the RCO/SRFB process.

Survey Results: Grant Manager Feedback



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
My grant manager was helpful throughout the process.	4%	4%	91%
My grant manager responded to my questions in 1-2 business days.	0%	0%	100%
My grant manager was generally available to answer my questions.	0%	4%	96%
If I was unable to reach my grant manager, someone else at RCO/SRFB was available to answer my questions. ³	4%	11%	53%
My grant manager was knowledgeable.	0%	7%	93%

Notes

- Both the survey results and comments indicate that grant managers are an integral part of the grant process.
- Of the respondents who included comments, most were positive.

³ Fourteen respondents (31 percent) responded N/A to this question. Presumably some of these respondents didn't need to contact other staff at RCO/SRFB because their grant manager was available to answer questions.

Customer Comments

Please use this space to provide any feedback you have about your experience with your grant manager or other RCO/SRFB staff.

Our RCO grant manager was great and helped us explain to the state technical review panel how our project had integrated local technical advice through our lead entity process. He helped us understand the state review panel comments.

My RCO grants manager always responds promptly and was very helpful helping to navigate the process; as it was my first experience with this grant process, I had a lot of questions, and he was very helpful throughout.

The grant managers are amazingly helpful! Shout out to Beth Auerbach and Kat Moore and Kim Sellers. You guys are awesome!

Compared to the last grant manager, this one is less helpful in terms of granting extensions and waiving certain requirements. The last one would also make me aware of upcoming deadlines for example. The current one seems to only respond to me if I first contact her.

Our grants manager is fantastic and has an extremely positive and helpful attitude.

Marc Duboiski is the absolute best project manager! He provides all of the information I need, and solves all problems. Give him a raise, but do NOT promote him.

My grants manager is fantastic and always available and helpful.

Our grant manager is awesome.

We have an excellent grants manager for our area. Thank you!

I work with a lot of different funding sources and the SRFB grant managers are some of the best!

My grant manager was a poor communicator of what they exactly wanted in the application. It felt less of what was needed for the application and more of their own personal preferences for the application sometimes at the detriment of the application.

GM responded to me quickly but heard from others they did not get timely response.

Duboiski is stellar, wonderful to work with.

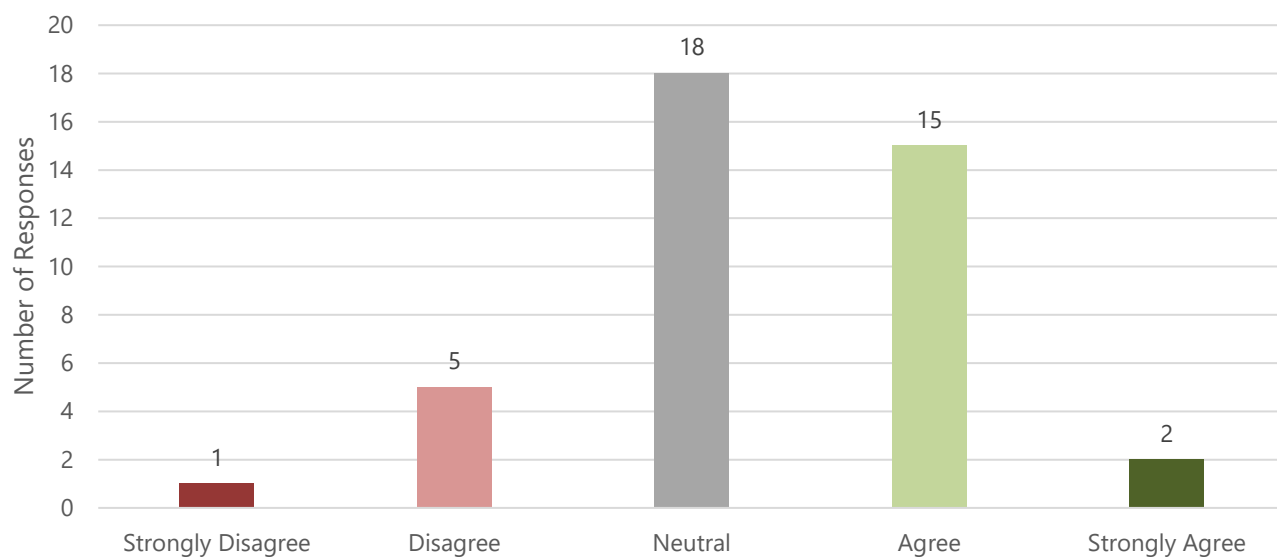
Grant manager was knowledgeable and helpful. Making this process as simple as possible would be better.

He likes to go off on tangents and share stories. I wish he would just stick to business. I do enjoy his humor.

Thanks, Elizabeth Butler!

Survey Results: Process Efficiency

Overall, was this grant round process more efficient than previous grant rounds?



	Percent Disagree or Strongly Disagree	Percent Neutral	Percent Agree or Strongly Agree
Overall, was this grant round process more efficient than previous grant rounds?	15%	44%	41%

Notes

- Many comments indicated that it still took the same amount of time.

Customer Comments

Comments

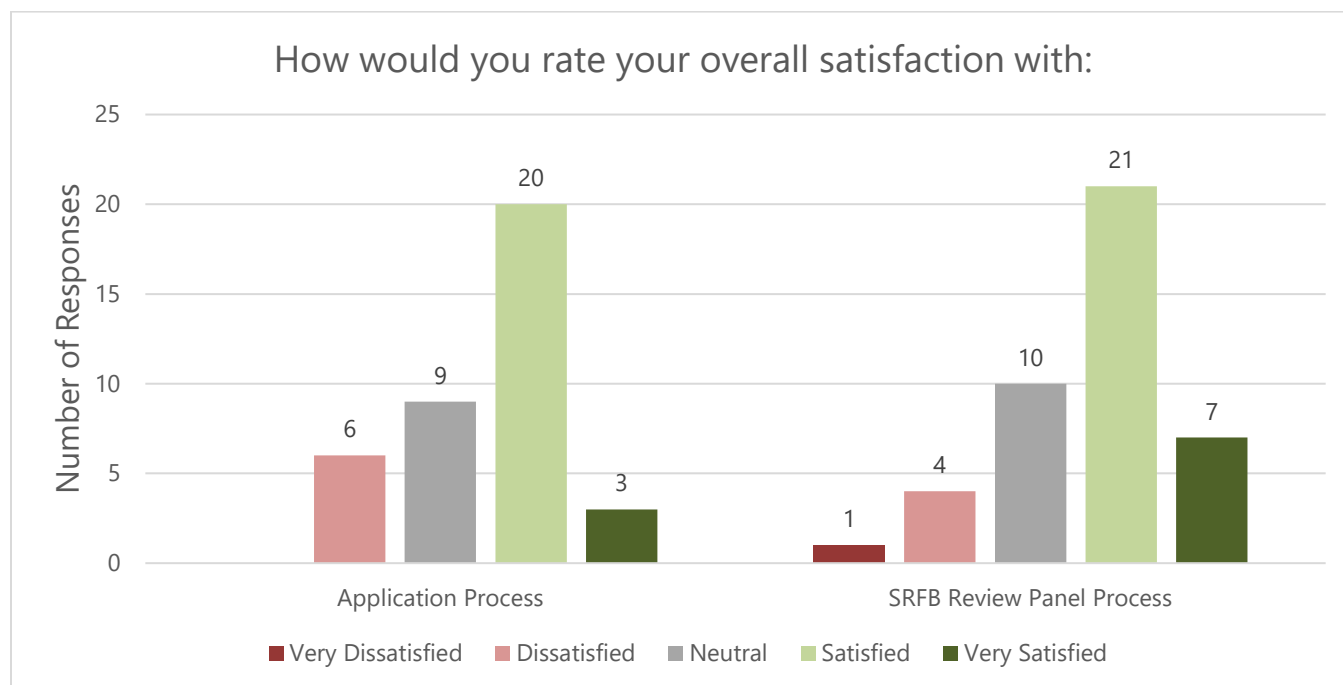
Still took about the same, if not more effort and time for the grant round. It was just pushed 2 months earlier and not feel like it was condensed. If there was a way to condense the whole process to 4 months, or base it on the FBRB grant process then it could be more efficient. (Application -> Letter to proceed -> full Application/presentation -> Review -> funded list)

This was my first experience with this grant. However, even though the grant round was apparently pared down, it was still a very lengthy and time consuming process.

The workload was just as heavy as in previous years for us. I didn't notice this difference in my overall workload.

With the exception of what felt like a bit of a duplicate effort in presentations to the RTT/SRFB and our 'site visits'.
I did not experience much benefit from these improvements.
Since this is my first time participating I don't feel qualified to answer this question.
It will take awhile to get in sync but having the money available earlier is helpful.
As noted above I think overall this round was more efficient than last, and the earlier contracts are nice, but there were snags with switching to PRISM online in the same year and the global pandemic did not help. The biggest challenge is trying to set up the reviews so that comments from the RCO tech panel (along with local lead entity comments) are timely to support project development. At the same time, I really appreciated that field reviews in Skagit were later in the year, otherwise we would have to move up our local process, which would limit the value of an abbreviated process
The compressed grant round didn't seem easier or more streamlined, especially with COVID-19. It would have helped if RCO provided deadline extensions considering sponsors and reviewers workload increased substantially due to COVID-19. RCO did eventually make some concessions and an extension to the Site Visit, but it required the Local Entity coming up with a solution, rather than RCO. In general, the local and state processes got too compressed due to COVID and meetings were on top of each other and not spaced out well. In a normal year, I do think the compressed grant round may help reviewers stay more familiar with the projects throughout the process. I also appreciate SRFB funds being made sooner and the grant round not cutting into the restoration summer season as much.
It may have been more efficient for the reviewers. The level of effort required by the project sponsors seems to be about the same as usual, just in a shorter period.
This was my first time going through the process so I can't compare it to previous rounds.
It seemed a little better, but not nearly as efficient as I have experienced with other Govt salmon recovery programs. Consider talking with Liz Redon at OWEB re the Willamette review team process. Way better and efficient than what I have seen here.
Generally agree. It was definitely tight in a few places (comment forms>phone call) and COVID presented unique challenges. Overall it was an improvement.
This round did not seem more efficient, just accelerated. Since this was a transition year, it seems possible that the changes to the process will lead to increased efficiency in future years.
Just felt compressed, but overall better.
I don't think the changes to the process made a significant difference in efficiency
Slightly easier/more efficient. The early application due date was a bit crunched.
And you had a global pandemic to conduct virtual site visits. Seemed about the same. The state likes to LEAN itself into new issues to correct. It would be nice to keep a grant cycle the same from one year to the next without making a single change! Has RCO ever done that?
I like the quicker timeline but did not like the proposal being in PRISM. It is more difficult to share with partners and track project changes. The virtual site visits were easily 3-4x as much work and it often felt the applications were not reviewed and rather they wanted all the information in the presentation rather than a site visit.

Survey Results: Overall Satisfaction



	Percent Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied	Percent Neutral	Percent Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Application Process	16%	24%	61%
SRFB Review Panel Process	12%	23%	65%

Notes

- A majority of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the application process and the SRFB Review Panel process.
- Some respondent comments indicated that the application process is too lengthy.

Customer Comments

Comments

The local technical review and the state review panel review should be more coordinated if the state panel is going to provide feedback on the local value of a project.

Although the individuals at each step and level were very helpful and informed and provided valuable guidance through the process, the application process is incredibly lengthy. The various complete application due dates, review entities, and presentations require a lot of resources from project sponsors. The process seems to benefit project sponsors who submit applications every year-- the local review entities are familiar with their organizations, their service regions, and have more background information. From an organization which had

not had a project application in several years, and a subbasin which does not have many projects put forward, the playing field does not feel quite equal.
As a first time applicant I was happy to just make it through the process
See issues of efficiency and time commitment to prepare. We spent over 20K in staff time preparing and processing three grants this year (we had to get a local appropriation to do it). For a small county that kind of up front investment is not sustainable.
2020 was a little bumpy and there were some concerns with large number of NMIs at first review but things worked out in the end. It would be very help to have the next years' calendars approved at the Sept SRFB meeting rather than Nov as many of the LEs are already starting their grant rounds at that point.
The transition, including new expectations related to the acceleration of the process, made it a frustrating grant round.
They tend to overstep and introduce bias. They should not be forming their review on their like or dislike for certain types of projects, or their personal views about what is a priority in the watershed.
In general, I think that the application and review process could be made more simple, but I think there were some improvements this year.

Survey Results: Other Program Suggestions

Survey respondents suggested the following grant programs work better than the RCO/SRFB process:

- Fish Barrier Removal Board
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
- FFFPP
- Oregon OWEB

The following table includes unedited applicant comments submitted for this survey question.

Is there another grant program that you think works better than the RCO/SRFB process? Based on your experience with other grants, what could RCO/SRFB adopt from other grant programs?
FBRB, or just have one simple application that's full application and the rest is decided upon. I understand the engagement of the sponsor throughout the process, but it just seems too time-consuming of a grant process, that we struggle to find funding to support throughout the entire grant round.
The review by the RTT and the SRP could be discussed between them; the RTT has a local background which is informing their review. It would have been useful had the SRP discussed their review with RTT; as they provided differing preferences for our project scope, making it difficult to meet two sets of criteria.
Hmmm... The WWRP process seems to be shorter yet just as rigorous. Could we follow that model instead?
n/a
Most of the other programs I've received funds through all base their process off the RCO/SRFB process. The ones that don't didn't have a better process.
EPA competitive Wetland Program Development Grant, EPA 319 competitive Non-point pollution prevention grant, BIA Invasive Species Control
USFWS Section 6 program. Seems it is more designed to achieve successful completion as opposed to getting things done one specific way. RCO needs staff to understand the work and not be hung up on checklists and process
FFFPP is the best process that I am involved in. The application is simple. You don't have to apply over and over again.
At this time I have no suggestions.
Simplify. I like the opportunity to respond to SRFB and local reviewers questions and comments and provide further clarification, but somehow it seems like too much back and forth and also not enough back and forth. I'm not sure what the solution is, but at the end of the day, I think reviewers get information and meetings overload and are unable to process all of the information that is thrown at them.
No
Oregon OWEB. Move to 2 cycles a year, streamline the application and review process. One review team (vs CAG and tech), one ranking meeting, one site visit, one application without revision except reviewer terms.
no, overall this one has a good process, clear expectations, and is successful.
No, I think it's pretty good. But I do feel the technical reviewers have too much latitude and say over the project and create additional unnecessary work for sponsors.
King County's grant portals are user friendly and easy to navigate.
ESRP works well and is totally transparent. Less cumbersome application process.
ESRP is worth reviewing. They summarize review criteria and general site information well.
No

Private funding processes are much more streamlined and flexible.

No, I think SRFB works well.

Ecology provides a detailed rating form back to applicants so you can see where the application could have been stronger. This would be useful for making stronger SRFB applications moving forward and useful in using the SRFB applications towards match grants.

Survey Results: What is the most challenging part of the RCO/SRFB grant process?

Thirty respondents chose to answer this open-ended question. The following tables include unedited comments submitted by applicants for this question.

Comments
Subjectivity of the evaluations. The application process is expensive and hard to understand for new applicants.
The amount of "layers" you have to go through to even get on the final list to be submitted, and having to be present/engaged the whole time. (workshop, pre-proposal, pre-proposal presentation, pre-proposal ranking, application, application to PRISM, RTT presentation, RTT ranking, replies to RTT comments, CAC presentation, CAC ranking, final submission of applications, SRP, SRP comments, and then final list)
The various due dates and small variations of a "complete" application vs a "final" application, and when the reviewing entities would review application changes were challenging to keep straight. Additionally, the feedback of the RTT and SRP created two different sets of preferences for our project application; difficult to accommodate.
Aligning project development work with WWRP project development, if WWRP is used as match. Ideally we could adjust the budget for PSAR and SRFB after we have submitted WWRP applications (technical completion, not final) because sometimes the WWRP reviewers suggest changes that dramatically change the budget. Perhaps the final presentation for SRFB could be later?
The "wishy-washy" nature of it. It would be nice to be a little more cut and dry.
Finding funding to support the time involved.
The technical review team is not very helpful and seems like just something to jump through that doesn't bring any benefits to the project.
my own lack of experience with the process
Jumping through bureaucratic hoops that often seem arbitrary and capricious.
Submitting documents in various PRISM programs, and correcting/deleting a erroneously submitted document, which then prohibits further actions in PRISM
Sometimes project languish due to lack of match. The Lower Columbia is especially hard for the District to find match for.
The most challenging part of the RCO/SRFB grant process is determining the most up to date data to use for providing linear gain. This changed numerous times during this last grant rounds as the new WDFW Chehalis Basin Culvert Prioritization webmap was being developed.
Lack of funding
It is a lot of work for the funding range, compared to other grant processes. It can really feel like a let-down when you put so much time and effort in and you don't end up getting funding. I wish there was more of a screening process in the beginning, and only certain proposals are invited (after the preapp stage) to complete the full application. The lead entity /TAG could work to screen preapps and then send applications to a select group of proposals.
Budgeting in PRISM. It is not intuitive.
The process is so laborious for both the sponsor and reviewers. There are lots of opportunities for reviewers and sponsors to discuss the projects, but the applications include A LOT of information for reviewers to process. This makes it challenging for reviewers to stay "up to speed" with each project throughout the process and remember questions that have already been answered or follow the improvements to the application.
The time it takes to do all of the steps.

The long processing time. Hard to hold landowner interest and budgets for the time it takes to process and get proposals approved and under contract.
ensuring design docs meet expectations (and navigating situations where the rivers move/change that then affect design docs, resulting in redesigns.) There should be a certain level of field-fitting implicitly allowed as rivers are dynamic and we need to be able to adapt accordingly.
Getting through all the screens in PRISM.
I was surprised and frustrated by the expectation that applicants should be updating applications in between submittal and before receiving tech panel comments.
The process can get convoluted and needs to be better streamlined
Length of PRISM application.
Trying to rework the applications over and over to meet the needs of the GM.
Lots of steps to complete in a now accelerated time frame.
This year, it was the changing timeline and processes due to COVID. Also, one of the grant manuals (WWRP) was updated 2 days before the grant was due. Which changed some of the required documents and evaluation criteria. This really impacted our ability to submit an application that was correct.
Making sure the descriptions and terminology are correct.
The time requirements to fill out applications and lack of flexibility.
The relentless process, constantly in a state of pursuing new funds, while actively managing existing agreements. RCO seems to spend a ton of effort on cultural resources, and the costs per project have gone way up.
The amount of work, specifically this year.

Survey Results: What is the best part of the RCO/SRFB grant process?

Thirty-two respondents chose to answer this open-ended question. The following tables include unedited comments submitted by applicants for this question.

Comments
Talking with technical reviewers during the evaluation process is helpful.
Availability of a larger pot of money, but the pot, in general, hasn't seen an increase in quite some time. Especially considering the inflation of all the other costs due to cost-of-living increases. Finding it harder to get "larger" projects funded properly or fully because of the cost of everything has gone up dramatically. Which makes it even more competitive if larger project(s) are in the hopper because they will take more than 50% of the available funds. This can be seen by the year-to-year increase in the cost of total proposed projects.
The early abstract was a good way to receive feedback before investing too much time and effort into a project. If the local RTT determined a project would not be likely to score highly, that is valuable information to have early in the process, before a sponsor invests too much time(money!) into an application.
Getting funded!
It facilitates such important work!
The streamlining of the regional and statewide application to PRISM this year was an improvement.
PRISM overall works well and the grant managers are helpful.
Technical review
Receiving the money for the work done to restore salmon habitat.
Interaction with grants manager and receiving a grant.
Local knowledge.
Kristen is great at keeping everyone apprised of deadlines and additional information the Habitat Work Group may be looking for that is not otherwise in the manual.
The community-driven nature of the process - that the projects put forth come from science the LEs directing the work.
We have a great lead entity and working with everybody to get feedback and develop project ideas so we are putting together better projects is great, even if we don't end up getting SRFB funding.
The availability of funding and the expertise of the many people involved.
I do like the proposal questions and opportunity for the site visits and presentations and to communicate directly with reviewers and respond to their questions.
The process is predictable and there is a good sense of likelihood of success from the outset.
Local coordination at the Lead Entity level
Site visit - for some its the only time they get to remote locations.
Clear expectations and process, thorough project review
Getting a project funded :)
Site visits are a great learning opportunity
Reporting is easy and clear.
Usually it is helpful to hear the review panels thoughts. It improves the project.
Lots of peer review by subject matter experts. SRFB money arriving sooner.
Availability of a grant manager to answer questions and clarify process
Moving to PRISM

I appreciate the collaborative environment fostered by the Lead Entity and the great support provided by our grants manager
Working with local technical staff and RCO grant managers.
Site inspections in the field!
Opportunities to learn about projects in other regions -- the grant managers are great resources for that.
The feedback opportunity prior to final submittal.

Survey Results: Additional Feedback

Eleven respondents chose to answer this open-ended question, and provide additional suggestions or comments. The following tables include unedited comments submitted by applicants for this question.

Comments
I understand the state review panel has many projects to review, but I think it would be helpful if there was more coordination or familiarity between the local technical review and state review to avoid redundancy or confusion.
My opinion is that decisions could be made with about half of the required input. Everyone's always going to have questions, and we could spend hours on each project speculating about what-if's. There is risk involved with this work. It seems like there could be more efficient ways these resources are expended.
Consistency from year to year in the application process and especially the required documents would be very helpful.
Provide monthly checkins with applicants and grantees so that deadlines are met and projects that are mutually beneficial to the goals of the RCO office get funded and completed.
I appreciate you all are doing the best you can, amidst the bureaucracy of WA that is shockingly slow. RCO seems to be a leader to look towards ways to improve and deliver results. Thanks for listening.
Overall, we are supportive of the new grant round timeline and appreciate the hard work and good communication with review panel and grant managers. Looking forward to the next year! We appreciate getting monitoring projects on the same footing/timeline and stress how important it is to get these projects an opportunity for funding. They are critical for monitoring our populations and are critical in addressing data gaps in the region.
Really emphasize consistency in what is required with the application process across lead entities. GMs vary greatly in their requirements which is confusing and frustrating when applying in 2 or more areas.
Need to address how to fund large-scale projects in this region. We are breaking up large-scale projects into phases to accommodate funding constraints, resulting in great inefficiencies.
n/a
Generally, I think streamlining the process and providing as much flexibility as possible would be helpful. Thanks.
Get more money from legislature and feds.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2021
Title: Follow-up on Option D Monitoring Initiatives
Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator

Summary

Following the November 19, 2020 board meeting presentation of Item 7, *Update of Monitoring Options*, the board provided direction and guidance to the GSRO and the monitoring panel. The board asked for more detailed information on current and future monitoring initiatives. The below three (3) Initiatives will be discussed in detail, including the matrix framework for monitoring considerations found in Attachment A. These are the questions/direction given to staff by the board:

- Critical Uncertainties: Define the term and outline the process and monitoring investments that will address critical uncertainties (or critical information gaps).
- Initial pilot projects: Identify the criteria for selecting floodplain-scale restoration monitoring proposals.
- Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs): Next steps and how to wind down the IMW monitoring program.

Board Action Requested

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

Background

At the November 19, 2020 board meeting, the board approved monitoring option D with the following 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.

During discussions among the board members at the November 19, 2020 board meeting and in subsequent conversations, further direction was provided to address the following elements at the March 3, 2021 board meeting:

- Provide more information and better define what is meant by the term “critical uncertainties” and outline a process or framework that will move a “critical uncertainties” (or critical information gap) monitoring program forward.
- Identify the criteria that will help to establish a pilot floodplain-scale restoration monitoring program.
- Begin the dialogue to better understand how to wind down the IMW monitoring program and what the implications will be.

Critical Information Gaps

Through collaborative discussions between the monitoring panel and the regional recovery boards, the group determined that it was more accurate and most appropriate to replace the term “critical uncertainties” with the term “critical information gaps”. The term “critical uncertainties” is a specific scientific term that has broader applications and implications in salmon recovery. Replacing it with the term “critical information gaps” will help to avoid confusion or misunderstanding within and outside the board’s processes.

Critical Information Gaps: In the context of the SRFB monitoring program, we define “critical information gaps” as scientific information needs that, if addressed by the appropriate monitoring, will improve the efficacy and efficiency of restoration actions or will contribute to an information gap that is inhibiting progress towards recovery.

In addition to defining the term, there was also an interest by some members of the board, the monitoring panel, and the regions to develop an approach and framework to assist with prioritizing and sequentially addressing these critical Information gaps over time. For this reason, the monitoring panel and regions developed the following conceptual approach and framework (highlighted below, but captured in more detail in Attachment A.) The monitoring framework is considered draft and will be refined over the next several months. It is envisioned that this monitoring framework will be a living document that can be re-visited as necessary to frame up and guide monitoring discussions and board decisions about what monitoring efforts to prioritize for funding.

Monitoring Decisional Framework

The monitoring framework is outlined below (and detailed in Attachment A) and will assist the board in identifying monitoring priorities that address critical information gaps and guide salmon recovery board monitoring priorities. The need to prioritize monitoring is underscored by the importance of focusing on habitat restoration activities that are cost-effective and can help lead to improvements in salmon populations and the habitats they occupy. This foundation includes a table framework containing uncertainty categories, key questions, relevance to the board, potential monitoring remedies, regional needs, and funding considerations.

<i>Critical Information Gap</i>	<i>Key Questions That Could be Answered by Monitoring</i>	<i>Importance for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty or Information Gap</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>	<i>Regional Needs</i>	<i>Constraints & Opportunities</i>	<i>Cost</i>
--	--	--	--	--	------------------------------	---	--------------------

The primary categories within the monitoring framework are the following:

- Limiting factors
- Habitat status and trends
- Fish distribution
- Climate change
- Fish population status and trends
- Continuing and emerging threat

The following questions are posed below to each of the above categories:

- Key questions?
- Relevance for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board?
- Reasons for the uncertainty?
- Potential monitoring remedies?
- Regional need and priority?
- Costs?

Initial Pilot Project (Floodplain-Scale Restoration Monitoring)

Per board discussions and approval of monitoring option D at the November 19, 2020 board meeting, the board directed the monitoring panel to work with the recovery regions to further identify the criteria for selecting the floodplain monitoring proposals so that the restoration scale monitoring pilot could move forward.

Consistent with the draft monitoring framework, the priority of the proposed new monitoring is to move forward with the pilot project for floodplain-scale restoration monitoring. This direction and recommendation are supported by consensus of the monitoring panel, in consultation with the board's monitoring subcommittee and with input from the council of regions.

This pilot project follows the methodology of a board-approved RFP in 2019 for the Floodplain Remote Sensing Study Plan (Cramer Fish Sciences – June 2020).

The floodplain-scale restoration monitoring pilot program had already been identified as a high priority per discussions with the monitoring panel and the salmon recovery regions. In addition, the floodplain-scale restoration pilot monitoring program is identified as a critical information gap in the monitoring framework. Therefore, the monitoring panel included this pilot as part of the monitoring option D.

The criteria below were developed to assist with site selection and to inform board decisions on moving forward with funding for this Floodplain-scale restoration pilot program.

Pilot Project key criteria for floodplain-scale restoration monitoring-site selection include: (from Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) 2020)

- A project should be 1 km or greater in length.
- Restoration actions are prescribed in advance as part of a study plan and should not include any other habitat management actions.
- An adequate buffer of 20 times bank-full width should exist upstream of study area.
- The number of sites that can be sampled is limited largely by the cost of acquiring topography and bathymetry (LiDAR), which we estimate will limit sampling to 6-10 sites total, with monitoring at half of the sites initiated in 2021 and the others in 2022.
- The long –established history of varied Middle Entiat River initiatives, serves as an ideal eastern Washington location for the pilot project.

The sampling schedule methodology for selected sites has been outlined in the previously published CFS report for the board and is summarized here for convenience. Sampling will occur over a range of flows to included flow-based and periodic random sampling. Sites will be sampled one year before restoration, immediately after restoration is completed (year 0, as built), and at 3 and 5 years after restoration. Ten years was identified in the 2020 CFS study plan. However, for this proposed scaled-down version, feedback from the monitoring panel was that five (5) years will be sufficient.

Additional requirements associated with floodplain-scale restoration monitoring:
In subsequent technical discussions, it was deemed that the following additional project requirements will aid in efficacy and accountability of the outcomes for the floodplain-scale monitoring.

- o Must be sampled via remote sensing as per Cramer Fish Sciences June 2020 study plan BUT in a scaled down fashion from the original plan.
- o Must satisfy the criteria for selecting floodplain-scale effectiveness candidate sites in both eastern and western Washington.
- o Must identify leveraged cost-share opportunities and timeliness.
- o Must utilize adaptive management / transfers of information from the 'pilot' to the board, monitoring panel, and restoration practitioners.

Floodplain-Scale Restoration Monitoring Sites

Eastern Washington Site: Middle Entiat

The Middle Entiat (a former IMW) has had a significant amount of resources invested in establishing this site as a pilot to support a proof-of-concept for a board investment. This site meets the criteria as established by board approved methodology (CSF 2020), has garnered support from the council of regions, and multiple stakeholders, including the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Chelan County, and the Bureau of Reclamation. Progressive positive momentum in this has been shepherded by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region.

- o This proposal for board consideration is a scaled-down version of the floodplain-scale restoration monitoring pilot project, as a proof-of-concept for this new form of effectiveness monitoring. Future board requests for additional investments will be determined from the subsequent analysis, review, and recommendations from the monitoring panel to the board.

Western Washington Site: Selection in Process

At the time of drafting this memo, a western Washington floodplain site had not yet been selected. There are several options on the table, however, the monitoring panel and regional organizations are still working through the list of potential sites. If funding is approved, there would be a requirement to inform the board of the specific project site(s) prior to proceeding with the monitoring.

Both sites will be selected by April 30, 2021 and the board will be informed of the decision.

Cost to Implement

The cost to implement this pilot monitoring for year one will be \$165,00. This will fund two sites, the Middle Entiat and a Western Washington site (to be determined later). The monitoring will occur in year one, year three, and year five.

This monitoring program is scalable. Depending on outcomes and what is learned from the pilot, the board will be able to scale up this monitoring program, if desired.

IMW Program Overview

Per the direction from the board, the IMW monitoring program is undergoing an internal review process. The program has been in place for 12 years and was identified as a priority in the Comprehensive Forum for Monitoring Salmon Recovery. The board has been interested in reviewing the long-term plan for IMWs for quite some time and directed GSRO to work with the IMW teams to describe when the IMWs would be winding down, potential implications, and lessons learned.

GSRO is working with the IMW principal investigators to conduct this internal review and has distributed a series of questions for each of the IMW complexes for their consideration. The general questions are outlined below for reference. In addition to providing written responses to the questions, the IMW principal investigators can be available for brief presentations at subsequent board meetings. The Hood Canal IMW volunteered to do a brief presentation at the March 3, 2021 meeting. This will allow some interaction, insight, and feedback that can help refine questions and guide board presentations by the other IMW complexes.

IMW Project Questions to Guide Discussions

1. Briefly explain the original goal/intent of your IMW and the parameters being monitored. What were some key assumptions and were they validated during the study? What are the strongest elements of your IMW (i.e., ability to shed light on restoration efficacy)?
2. What management questions was your IMW set up to address?
3. What was the original timeline for your IMW? If there were delays, what factors were responsible?
4. What insights is your IMW revealing?
5. How is what you are learning being translated into information that can be used to inform policy or funding decisions for the salmon recovery funding board? Give examples.
6. What haven't we learned that you expected to learn?

7. Describe science/information and policy decision impacts of reduced IMW funding.
8. Would you recommend a synthesis of the data compiled thus far with your IMW and/or across all IMWs funded by the SRFB?

Request for Regional Monitoring Funding

At the November 19, 2020 board meeting, there was a request included within monitoring option D to allow the regions to access the remaining 2019 unobligated monitoring funds. This was considered a one-time funding request to allow the regions to move forward with one year of regional monitoring while the monitoring panel continued to refine the monitoring framework. This proposal was tabled at the November 19, 2020 meeting, but the regional salmon recovery boards requested that this proposal be resubmitted for board consideration.

The current plan is that the monitoring framework will be finalized in the coming months and, once in place, can be used to inform future board monitoring decisions.

In the meantime, the regions requested that this request be forwarded and included in this memo for board consideration. If funding is provided, it will be added to the overall pot of regional funding and projects will be selected in September 2021 through the regional process with monitoring panel review.

The current request for both the floodplain-scale monitoring pilot and the regional monitoring funding is to use the unobligated FFY 2019 and 2020 monitoring funds, which totals \$369,622. For the regional monitoring projects, the unobligated funds would be added to whatever is awarded in the 2021 PCSRF grant for regional monitoring projects.

Budget

Monitoring Activity	Unobligated FFY 2019	PCSRF Awards FFY 2020	Potential Available from 2019 and 2020
Project Effectiveness / Critical Information Gaps	\$133,622	\$236,000	\$369,622

Monitoring Activity	Current Funding Requests
Floodplain Scale Restoration Monitoring	\$165,000
Regional Monitoring	\$133,622
Remaining to Carry Forward for Monitoring	\$71,000

Suggested Motion

- Move to approve funding for the floodplain-scale restoration pilot program for year one up to and not to exceed \$165,000. Delegate authority to the Director to approve contracts necessary to complete this work.
- Move to approve one-time funding in the amount of \$133,622 in unspent monitoring funds for regional monitoring in the 2021 grant round. These funds will be added to the 2021 PCSRF funding for regional monitoring projects, and projects will be reviewed by the monitoring panel and submitted to the board for final approval consistent with Manual 18 guidance.

Attachment A

Attachment A - Monitoring Framework of Critical Information Gaps

Monitoring Framework of Critical Information Gaps

Preface:

The conceptual approach builds on Goal 2, Item 3 (Monitoring Strategy) in the SRFB's mission statement. Attachment A itemizes some of the most significant information needs relative to salmon recovery and potential monitoring programs that could address those needs. The list has been discussed by the monitoring panel and council of regions but may not include some monitoring projects that are deemed worthy of SRFB funding at some point in the future. Attachment A is limited to those information needs and monitoring actions that can be considered for SRFB support. In addition to satisfying Goal 2, Item 3, some of the identified monitoring activities may address other SRFB goals and strategies.

The framework is presented in two parts. The Attachment A summarizes critical knowledge topics, how these topics relate to the SRFB mission, the reasons why knowledge is incomplete, and potential monitoring actions that could fill knowledge gaps. Attachment A are tailored to the specific needs of salmon recovery regions in Washington State by connecting different monitoring activities with regional data gaps, organizational constraints and partnering opportunities, and estimated costs.

Monitoring Framework for Addressing Critical Information Gaps

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
Fish population status and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish in / Fish out • Intensively Monitored Watersheds – IMWs (adults and juveniles) • Some regional monitoring projects (e.g., smolt trapping) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the trends in adult and juvenile (freshwater) productivity? • Are restoration projects contributing to de-listing of imperiled populations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps quantify direct benefits of freshwater restoration to target species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population assessments are time-consuming and expensive, especially in remote areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult abundance • Juvenile abundance • Marking or tracking programs (to identify migration patterns or changes in life stage survival) • Evaluation of new or novel technologies to reduce costs (e.g., new tagging methods, Didson sonar enumeration) • Non-abundance measures such as genetic change
Habitat status and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMW habitat monitoring • Large reach-scale monitoring (e.g., floodplain systems) • Project-scale monitoring (e.g., project effectiveness monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we losing productive floodplain and instream fish habitats more rapidly than we are gaining them through in-stream restoration? • Are we improving riparian conditions more rapidly than they are being degraded? • Is the habitat connectivity needed for fulfillment of all fish life cycle needs is being maintained? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs restoration investments by quantifying habitat improvements in different geographic settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large-scale freshwater habitat metrics are often poorly defined and may show little relationship to fish populations • Large-scale metrics may be difficult or expensive to measure • Effects of climate change on habitat can be unclear • Knowledge of salmon life histories is incomplete • There is an imperfect understanding of locations with high productive potential for salmon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/test new methods of quantifying the quantity and quality of fish habitats at scales relevant to fish populations • Evaluation of new or novel technologies to reduce costs (e.g., remote sensing) • Obtain habitat or water quality data to inform climate change models • Compile existing habitat data in a common data base for broad scale analyses and dissemination

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do instream habitat conditions and their adjacent riparian areas change over time at the sub-regional/watershed scale? • Fish / habitat relationships: what are characteristics of areas with high salmon production / abundance / survival? 			
Limiting factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensively Monitored Watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the key factors limiting fish populations on a regional scale? • Is regular monitoring of assumed limiting factors needed to assure that restoration projects are focused on the right problems? • Can monitoring determine how are key limiting factors changing over time on a regional scale, considering new emerging threats, critical data gaps, and climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate determination of the most important limiting factors for different salmon species is critical to formulating appropriate restoration projects • Some questions may be one-time or periodic assessments or studies, as opposed to routine monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field data used to diagnose limiting factors do not represent actual conditions • Conditions have changed since original limiting factor analysis was performed • Restoration projects addressing presumed limitations to fish populations do not appear to be affecting VSP parameters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform multiple limiting factor analyses (different models) to determine if similar conclusions are reached • Update analyses of available data on a regular basis to determine if limiting factors have changed • Test importance of limiting factors by running field tests at large spatial scales (e.g., use intensively monitored watersheds to determine if improvements in target conditions lead to corresponding improvements in population performance) • Improve identification of limiting factors by better coordinating existing fish monitoring data with monitoring information on habitat condition

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can monitoring determine if there are limiting factors constraining salmon production that currently are not being considered? 			
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensively Monitored Watersheds Fish in / Fish out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can monitoring determine if stream flow and stream temperatures trends are consistent with predictive climate change models? What monitoring is needed to refine and parameterize existing climate change models to be more regional specific and accurate for restoration practitioners? Can monitoring help determine what the key mechanisms are through which climate change will affect fish habitat, diversity and abundance? Can monitoring determine what habitat characteristics are associated with sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is important to know if stream flow or temperature are changing in accordance with predicted models as this may influence where and how restoration occurs Acting proactively to monitor climate impacts may improve the effectiveness of restoration projects Identifying sites with high resilience to climate change impacts would be useful for prioritizing restoration efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific projections of climate change models on flow (annual hydrograph patterns) and temperature regimes are rarely available for smaller watersheds Frequency and duration of severe weather events (floods and droughts) is impossible to predict Restoration projects may be designed around hydrologic regimes that exist now, but may not exist in the future Increased frequency and severity of wildfires can affect the efficacy of many types of habitat improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine and down-scale climate change models so they can be applied to small watersheds. Test the models with monitoring at select locations Assess the vulnerability of existing and future habitat restoration projects to extreme weather-related conditions. However, this may not involve routine monitoring Design restoration projects that are resilient to future climate events, and that will respond to channel mobilizing flows in desirable ways. Test the restoration approaches with monitoring at select locations in watersheds that are prone to severe disturbances Develop a better understanding of the characteristics of riparian zones that makes them resistant to fire intrusion. Test the assumptions with monitoring at select locations

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
		that have high resilience to the changes anticipated from climate change?			
Fish distribution and access to historical spawning, rearing, and migration habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish in / Fish out • Intensively Monitored Watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can periodic monitoring help determine the distribution of fish on a watershed basis across the state? • Do fish have sufficient access to remaining nodes of high-quality habitats? • How does fish distribution, abundance and diversity on a watershed basis change over time? • How does fish distribution and access to productive habitats change after habitat restoration actions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized maps of salmon location exist for most river basins, but access to locally productive sites (e.g., floodplains, temperature refugia) is important • Many restoration actions such as floodplain reconnection and replacing impassable road crossings have been identified as high priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of fish distribution surveys year-round hampers identifying locations of critical habitats • Existing distribution maps are often based on outdated information • Distribution and impact of non-native fishes and other aquatic species are incompletely known • New barriers to fish movements may not yet be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically update fish surveys, including surveys in seasons that are infrequently sampled. Commit to periodic monitoring (e.g. every 5 years) to verify fish distribution within river basins • Use novel techniques such as eDNA to document fish presence in hard-to-sample areas • Increase funding for monitoring invasive species that could affect distribution and abundance • Develop and regularly update a central and publicly available clearinghouse for known fish locations and barriers to movement
Continuing and emerging threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensively Monitored Watersheds • Some regional monitoring projects (e.g., invasive) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the trends in number or amounts of water withdrawals? • Can monitoring help determine if previously unknown factors are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging threats affect where and how restoration should be focused, and how effective that restoration may be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water withdrawals are incompletely known • New barriers to fish movements are not documented • Loss of healthy riparian areas has not been quantified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved monitoring of irrigation, industrial, and drinking water withdrawals • More complete periodic inventories of culverts in streams with anadromous species

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
	species assessments)	contributing to declines in populations (e.g., recent finding that chemicals from tires causes pre-spawning mortality)?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution (e.g., elevated levels of pharmaceuticals in nearshore waters) is incompletely known • Introduced fish diseases and predators are poorly studied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad-scale monitoring of riparian areas, including mapping of expansion of unwanted invasive plant species • Expanded monitoring programs for newly identified pollutants • Regular toxicological and non-native fish predator surveys

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2020

Title: Report on Salmonid Fish Passage from WDFW & the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board

Prepared By: Margen Carlson, WDFW, Habitat Program Director and Tom Jameson, WDFW, Habitat Program, Fish Passage Division Manager

Summary

This memo gives a brief description of activities of the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and related issues at the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

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

Washington State interest and investment in salmonid fish passage has grown steadily since the Boldt Decision of 1974, the U.S. District Court "Culverts Case" Injunction of 2013 and the establishment of the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB). Margen Carlson, WDFW's Habitat Program Director, and Tom Jameson, WDFW's Fish Passage Division Manager, will provide an update on the following: fish passage barrier inventories; fish barrier removal implementation; rulemaking relating to fish passage, fish screening and climate adapted water crossings; and progress toward the creation of a statewide fish passage barrier removal strategy.

Strategic Plan Connection

The Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB) program aligns with the overall mission of the SRFB by providing opportunities to restore salmon habitat and ultimately recover ESA listed and traditionally depleted stocks of salmon.

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

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: March 3, 2020

Title: Overview of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

Prepared By: Jay Krienitz, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Summary

This memo gives a brief description of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program.

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

Jay Krienitz, Jenna Jewett, Dr. Tish Conway-Cranos, with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Habitat Program, and Kay Caromile with RCO will give an update on the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). They will review last year's work and preview the planned activities for the next biennium. The team will discuss the following:

- 2021-2023 highlights, budget, and metrics.
- Shore Friendly Program (a landowner incentives and behavior change program);
- Priority science and adaptive management initiatives; and
- 2021 ESRP/PSEMP Nearshore Summit.

ESRP is crucial to salmon recovery because of the importance of nearshore ecosystem restoration for Chinook, eelgrass, shellfish, forage fish, and nearshore functions critical for salmon. The process-based restoration approach is important for habitat restoration because it creates resilient shorelines that adapt to climate change, sea level rise, and supports multiple species and human interests. ESRP is moving away from opportunistic project selection and towards strategic ecosystem recovery through innovation and targeted investments.

Strategic Plan Connection

The ESRP program aligns with the overall mission of the SRFB by providing opportunities to restore salmon habitat and ultimately recover ESA listed and traditionally depleted stocks of salmon.

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



Beaux Arts Village
Bellevue
Bothell
Clyde Hill
Edmonds
Hunts Point
Issaquah
Kenmore
Kent
King County
Kirkland
Lake Forest Park
Maple Valley
Medina
Mercer Island
Mill Creek
Mountlake Terrace
Mukilteo
Newcastle
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
Seattle
Shoreline
Snohomish County
Woodinville
Woodway
Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council
Forterra
Friends of the Issaquah
Salmon Hatchery
Greater Seattle Chamber
of Commerce
Mid-Sound Fisheries
Enhancement Group
Mountains to Sound
Greenway Trust
Northwest Marine Trade
Association
Sno-King Watershed
Council
Trout Unlimited/
Water Tenders

Alderwood Water and
Wastewater District
National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
US Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Departments:
Ecology
Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources
Washington Association of
Sewer and Water Districts
King Conservation District

January 23, 2021

The Honorable Chair
Steve Tharinger
314 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery
Council State Legislative Priorities

Dear Chair Tharinger:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we wish to share our enclosed priorities for the upcoming state fiscal biennium. Your leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our efforts—and Washington State's commitment—to protect and restore habitat for salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, salmon habitat restoration is essential to ensuring the long-term availability of Chinook salmon as the primary prey resource for critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas. Our priority restoration work also benefits streamflows, supports tribal treaty fishing rights, and makes our watersheds and communities resilient to a changing climate.

During these unprecedented and challenging times, the state's investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration is even more important. Construction of habitat restoration projects is providing jobs, supporting local economies, and helping achieve multiple objectives, including flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, and open space conservation. Economic studies document that every \$1 million invested in watershed restoration results in between 16 to 24 new or sustained jobs and \$2.5 million in total economic activity, of which 80 percent stays in the local community where the project is constructed.

State funding in the current 2019-2021 biennium is enabling watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Your support for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Salmon Recovery Funding Board programs helps watersheds advance science-based recovery strategies and implement priority habitat restoration and protection projects. Funding for the Floodplains by Design program is advancing implementation of multiple benefit projects that restore critical salmon habitat and reduce flood hazards. Thank you for supporting these critical programs.

Attached are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's priorities for the 2021-2023 biennium. We encourage you to continue the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide. Specifically, we ask your support for the following:

- \$80 million for **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which funds habitat protection and restoration projects statewide, as well as half of the salmon recovery Lead Entity program to coordinate implementation of salmon recovery in local watersheds throughout the state.
- \$69.9 million for **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which will fund a prioritized list of large salmon recovery projects around Puget Sound and provide funding to each Puget Sound watershed for smaller-scale – but critically important – habitat projects.
- \$70 million for **Floodplains by Design** capital request in the Department of Ecology's budget, which will implement a prioritized list of multi-benefit floodplain projects around the state that enhance salmon habitat and protect public health and safety.
- \$974,000 for salmon recovery **Lead Entity program** operating request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which continues base funding for Lead Entities to maintain locally-supported, watershed-based salmon recovery by prioritizing projects to maximize the public's investment.
- \$20 million for **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports nearshore protection and restoration.
- \$140 million for **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports priority habitat protection.
- \$9.1 million for **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports aquatic lands protection and restoration and improved public access.
- \$65.6 million for **Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports removal of barriers to fish passage.
- Support stormwater management and water quality improvement in Washington Department of Ecology budget:
 - \$75 million for **Stormwater Financial Assistance Program**.
 - \$80 million for **Centennial Clean Water Program**.
 - \$315 million for **Water Pollution Control Revolving Program** (aka, Clean Water State Revolving Fund).

Chair Steve Tharinger

January 23, 2021

Page 3 of 3

In these unprecedented economic and social times, WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making state budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon and orca recovery, restoring the health of Puget Sound, and working to address effects of climate change.

If you have any questions about how these priorities advance our salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Stokes
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Bellevue



Mark Phillips
Vice-Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park

Enclosure

NOTE: This letter was sent to all legislators in the following legislative districts: 1, 5, 11, 21, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, as well as the leadership of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee, House Capital Budget Committee, and House Environment Committee.

cc: JT Austin, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Laura Blackmore, Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Hillary Franz, Director, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Carol Smith, Director, Washington State Conservation Commission
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Jeff Breckel, Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Tricia Snyder, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery Manager

2021 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

STATE PRIORITIES



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

CAPITAL BUDGET

Highest Priority Funding Programs

- **Support \$69.9 million for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.** Supports implementation of the highest priority habitat protection and restoration projects throughout Puget Sound.
Program includes:
 - 1) base funding for watershed habitat projects grant round (first \$30 million), and
 - 2) funding for ranked list of large-scale projects.
- **Support \$80 million for state salmon recovery funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.** Leverages federal funding and serves as required match for annual grant rounds managed by watershed-based salmon recovery Lead Entities around the state to recommend salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.
- **Support \$70 million for Floodplains by Design in Washington Department of Ecology budget.** Supports large-scale, multiple benefit floodplain restoration and management projects.
- **Support \$20 million for Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.** Provides grants to protect and restore the Puget Sound nearshore.



Chinook Salmon

Other Priority Funding Programs

- **Support \$140 million for Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.** Provides funding for land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland and forest preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities.
- **Support \$9.1 million for Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.** Provides funding to protect and restore natural aquatic ecosystem processes, provide public access to the water, and increase public awareness of aquatic lands.



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

- **Support \$65.6 million for Fish Barrier Removal Board in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.**
Provides funding to remove barriers to fish passage for Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and Lake Sammamish kokanee that limit access to valuable habitat.
- **Support stormwater management and water quality improvement priorities in Washington Department of Ecology budget:**
 - \$75 million for Stormwater Financial Assistance Program
 - \$80 million for Centennial Clean Water Program
 - \$315 million for Water Pollution Control Program (aka, Clean Water State Revolving Fund)

Operating Budget

- **Support \$974,000 for salmon recovery Lead Entities in Recreation and Conservation Office budget.**
Provides base grants to Lead Entities in watersheds around the state to administer a locally-based process to develop and prioritize projects for funding through the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board (per RCW 77.85).
- **Support state agency budget requests for monitoring salmon populations and for studies and management of predation, disease, and other issues that affect WRIA 8 salmon populations and are vital to understanding and reporting on progress towards recovery.**

Policy Legislation

- **Track and support legislation seeking to improve regulatory protections for areas that are important for salmon habitat.**
- **Support legislation seeking to provide immunity from liability for entities that implement habitat restoration projects involving the placement of large wood.**
- **Track and participate in efforts to develop and establish new watershed-based and/or regional funding authorities that support multiple benefit projects addressing salmon habitat protection and restoration and Puget Sound recovery priorities.**
- **Support legislation addressing effects of climate change on Chinook salmon and salmon habitat.**



River floodplain restoration

2009_10284a_w8_leg_priorities

For more information about these priorities, please contact:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)
jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov • 206-477-4780
www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/