

Updated 11/15/20

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda



December 1-2, 2021

Online Meeting

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

Day 1

Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dSi1ABXWToulPMeBnOv3sQ

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 828 4737 1798

Day 2

Registration Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dUJlZWKgR1-PuNdvPOyZ7g

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 886 1932 8737

Location: RCO will also have a public meeting location for members of the public to listen via phone as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, **unless this requirement is waived by gubernatorial executive order.** In order to enter the building, the public must not exhibit symptoms of the COVID-19 and will be required to comply with current state law around personal protective equipment.

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

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov. You may also use the messenger in the Webinar to message Julia 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 17, 2021 to ensure availability.

Wednesday, December 1 (Day 1)

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision)• Approval of September Meeting Minutes (Decision)• March Meeting Location• Remarks by the chair	Chair Breckel
9:15 a.m.	1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff Update• Request for SubcommitteeB. Fiscal Update (Written Only)C. Performance Report (Written Only)	Director Duffy Mark Jarasitis Brent Hedden
9:45 a.m.	2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orca ReportB. Salmon Section Report	Erik Neatherlin Tara Galuska Marc Duboiski
10:30 a.m.	General Public Comment for items not on the agenda: <i>Please limit comments to 3 minutes.</i>	
10:35 a.m.	BREAK	
10:50 a.m.	3. Partner Reports (10 minutes per Partner) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council of Regions• WA Salmon Coalition• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	Alex Conley Mike Lithgow Lance Winecka

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

11:20 a.m.	4. Manual 18: Targeted Investments Criteria <p>*Public comment will occur prior to adopting the motion. Please limit comments to three minutes.</p>	Megan Duffy
Noon.	LUNCH	
1:00 p.m.	5. Carbon Credits Policy Decision <p>*Public comment will occur prior to adopting the motion. Please limit comments to three minutes.</p>	Ben Donatelle

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

1:30 p.m.	6. Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans	Bennett Weinstein
2:15 p.m.	7. Monitoring Briefing	Erik Neatherlin and Keith Dublanica

BOARD BUSINESS: PARTNER REPORTS

3:00 p.m.**8. Partner Reports**

- Conservation Commission
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Transportation

Brian Cochrane
Annette Hoffmann
Katrina Lassiter
Jeff Davis
Susan Kanzler

3:30 p.m.**RECESS***Chair Breckel*

Thursday, December 2 (Day 2)

OPENING

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	<i>Chair Breckel</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision)• Remarks by the chair	

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

9:10 a.m.	9. 2022 Policy Workplan Discussion	<i>Ben Donatelle and Megan Duffy</i>
10:40 a.m.	10. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans	<i>Kat Moore</i>
11:10 a.m.	11. Region Presentation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hood Canal Coordinating Council• Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Funding Board	<i>Scott Brewer and Melody Kreimes</i>

12:10 p.m. ADJOURN

Next meeting: Joint Retreat and Regular Meeting – March 2-3, 2022 – Room 172, Natural Resource Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Subject to change considering COVID

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 22, 2021

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Kaleen Cottingham	Olympia	Stephen Bernath	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis (absent)	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
VACANT	VACANT	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 called the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB/board) to order at 9:02 AM. After the chair provided opening remarks, **Julia McNamara**, Board Administrative Assistant, determined quorum. **Members Kanzler** and **Davis** were not present; however, Member Kanzler joined the meeting later from 11:00AM -3:00 PM.

Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, covered webinar rules and etiquette which was followed by Chair Breckel's request for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Motion: Approval of September 21, 2021 meeting agenda

Moved by: Member Cottingham

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Following the agenda approval, Chair Breckel introduced **Kaleen Cottingham**, previous RCO director, as the newest member of the board.

Next, Chair Breckel read a resolution of recognition for **Lorraine Loomis**, a treasured salmon recovery advocate and Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission who recently passed. Several board members and attendees gave remarks commending her character and hard work.

Resolution: Approval of Resolution of Recognition for Lorraine Loomis, Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved**

Item 1: Director's Report

Megan Duffy, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director, provided an overview of RCO's activities since the last SRFB meeting in June. Her report included changes in staff, the decisions packages RCO submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for the 2022 supplemental legislative session, and RCO's equity review.

Reporting on the 2022 supplemental decision packages, Director Duffy noted that one would be submitted for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) for a fulltime employment (FTE) and another for the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC) for a half FTE.

Addressing the equity review, Director Duffy stated that \$375,000 had been appropriated for the review of several of RCO's grant programs. RCO has contracted with the Vida Agency, and Prevention Institute, and ESRI to accomplish the proviso work. These contractors are building maps in relation to RCO grants and health disparities, completing outreach to underserved communities, and taking a deeper look into RCO's grant application process. This proviso must be complete by June 30, 2022.

Before closing the item, Director Duffy reminded **Chair Breckel** that the June 2021 meeting minutes and the 2022 SRFB meeting dates needed approval.

Motion: Approval of June 2021 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

On the topic of the December 2021 meeting of SRFB, the board agreed to keep the meeting on Zoom in recognition of the uncertainties associated with COVID-19 and discussed moving the board retreat to March of 2022.

Motion: Approve the 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Dates
Moved by: Member Cottingham
Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott
Decision: **Approved**

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report

Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator, and **Tara Galuska**, GSRO Orca Coordinator, provided a briefing on the recent work accomplished by GSRO. Mr. Neatherlin and Ms. Galuska covered the federal affairs and partner activities, the 2023 Salmon Conference, details on orca recovery, and a brief monitoring update.

Mr. Neatherlin said that GSRO staff have been working with the state agencies, partners, the Governor's Office, and Congressional delegation on federal funding and infrastructure requests.

Addressing the 2023 Salmon Conference, Mr. Neatherlin reported that a steering committee is being created and the board members are welcome to join. **Chair Breckel** asked to join.

Providing an update on Orca recovery, Ms. Galuska reported that her main role is to coordinate the implementation of the recommendations of the Orca Task Force. Recent changes that will help Orca include the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) work on a new wastewater permitting to decrease water toxicity, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) greater vessel distance requirement, and GSRO's work on the Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy.

Finally, Mr. Neatherlin provided a brief monitoring update, detailing that the monitoring framework final draft would be complete by March of 2022.

Salmon Section Report

Marc Duboiski, Salmon Grants Team Manager, provided an overview of the salmon grant section activities, focusing on the other programs (non-SRFB) the team manages and their recent biennial allocations. Funding details of these programs can be found in the meeting materials.

General Public Comment: No comment at this time.

Item 3: Partner Reports

Council of Regions

Alex Conley, Council of Region (COR), provided a briefing on COR's activities, which can be found in the meeting materials.

In his verbal report, Mr. Conley highlighted the following:

- Ecology's and Corp of Engineers' streamlined process of the Clean Water Act permitting.
- GSRO's and COR's dialogue and inclusion of regional perspective in the Statewide Salmon Strategy update process.
- The need for maintenance funding for closed SRFB project contracts.
- COR's need for 2022 predicted regional monitoring funds.
- COR's collaboration and meetings focused on Columbia River policy.

WA Salmon Coalition

Suzanna Smith, Washington Salmon Coalition, provided an overview of the WA Salmon Coalitions (WSC) activities.

This update included:

- Introducing the new lead entity coordinators for the North Pacific Coast, Klickitat, Yakima, Upper Columbia, and WRIA 14.
- The work of lead entities to wrap-up ranked lists and bringing projects into the cleared category.
- A training lead by the Headwaters People concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- The August 26th meeting with RCO Director Duffy on developing better salmon tracking methods, investigating more options for distributing resources, and more efficient vertical coordination.
- The updated Lead Entity reference guide, which will be released in October.
- WSC's letter of support to federal agencies in support of salmon.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups

Lance Winneka, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, provided an overview of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group's (RFEGs) activities. This included:

- RFEG's Salmon and Schools Program development in collaboration with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).
- RFEG's 49 applications for RCO grants.
- Projects being slowed down due to permitting, floodplain assessment, and cost increases.

In closing, Mr. Winnecka explained that cost increases allowed through RCO can only do so much.

BREAK: 10:50 AM- 11:05 AM

Item 4: Manual 18 2022 Calendar

Kat Moore, Senior Outdoor Grant Manager, provided an overview of the proposed administrative revisions and policy changes to *Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection* and asked for approval of the grant calendar.

Addressing the policy changes, Ms. Moore explained that additions would include the Targeted Investment policy and the new riparian buffer requirements.

For administrative changes, the Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) projects will sunset, a cultural resource map will be required by applicants in PRISM to determine the "Area of Potential Effect", the grant calendar will remain on the same timeline, and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) appendix will be updated to reflect any changes in process.

The Review Panel also recommended policy changes to the 2023 Manual 18 to address the cost-benefit evaluation criteria for acquisition of upland areas and the cost and composition of riparian planting.

Member Cochrane offered his support for the policy changes regarding the cost-benefit evaluation criteria for the acquisition of uplands.

Member Cottingham asked for clarification surrounding the RMAP sunset date.

Member Bernath clarified that RMAPs required land managers to update their roads by July 1, 2016, but due to economic recession, this date was extended to October 2021. This was originally extended by the Forest Practices Board.

SRFB members discussed the possibility of extending the Board's policy, but **Director Duffy** clarified that the policy was based on RCW 77.85.130(6) that allowed the SRFB to provide grants for legal obligations "*when expedited action provides a clear benefit to salmon recovery...*" Because the RMAP effort under the Forest Practice Rules is expiring

in October 2021, the actions can no longer be considered “expedited” and therefore the policy cannot continue.

Public Comment

Katie Krueger, North Pacific Lead Entity Committee Member, provided comment that was not in favor of sunseting RMAP. She believes funding these could lead to more salmon recovery on timberland.

Because the board expressed concern with landowners’ requirements, the cost associated with them and its impact on salmon recovery, **Director Duffy** suggested that RCO review existing statutory requirements and authorities and work with DNR to understand if any RMAP projects have been extended beyond the deadline to determine if a gap exists and if SRFB funds can support efforts.

TASK: Determine the statutory requirements of RMAP and look at the RMAP projects that exist to determine if there is a gap that can be supported under SRFB authority.

Before closing the item, Ms. Moore reminded the board that the 2022 grant round calendar needed approval.

Motion: Approve the 2022 Grant Round Calendar within Manual 18

Moved by: Member Cottingham

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Item 5: Riparian Guidance for Manual 18 Decision

Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator, provided a briefing on the state-tribal riparian workgroup and how it will be integrated into Manual 18.

Member Cottingham recused herself from this topic due to a conflict of interest from her time as RCO Director.

Providing context, Mr. Neatherlin reminded the board that during the 2019 Centennial Accord meeting, the Governor committed to tribal leaders that he would form a state-tribal work group to establish a statewide standard for riparian habitats and recommend an approach to riparian protection. The statewide standard will be based on WDFW two-volume guidance on riparian habitat from 2020. These volumes provide guidance about riparian area width requirement for funded projects.

Based on this guidance and a request from SRFB at the November 2020 meeting, staff created documents with proposed standard width measurements. RCO staff also created

several working groups including a SRFB subcommittee, which collaborated with recovery partners, stakeholders, and tribes to develop language for Manual 18. A summary of that language can be viewed below:

Proposal
Riparian Standard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 200-yr SPTH• (All applicants are encouraged to meet SPTH riparian standard)
Match Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0% = Above SPTH• 15% = Below SPTH
Screening Process for Flagging Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flagged if included on the State's CWA section 303(d) list of temperature impaired streams
Requirements When Project is Flagged <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If on CWA 303(d) list and less than SPTH, requires justification + letter (WDFW biologist/Tribal biologist)

Jeannie Abbott, GSRO Program Coordinator, said that this language applied to projects whose primary intent is riparian planting.

When opened to discussion, **Chair Breckel** asked for clarification on the meaning of “flagged”. **Ms. Moore** clarified that if a project is not reaching the site-specific tree height (SPTH) on a CWA section 303(d) listed stream, then it would be noted and flagged in PRISM.

Addressing project match, **Member Kanzler** asked if it would change if the project was a different restoration type but included riparian restoration. The policy applies currently to those projects for which the primary purpose is riparian plantings.

Director Duffy reminded the board that this would be a three-year pilot project and match requirements could be adapted over time, and other issues that arise will be further evaluated as well.

Public Comment: No public comment

Motion: Move to adopt the Manual 18 riparian guidance as a pilot program for three years.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approve**

Lunch: 12:07PM-1:30PM

Item 6: Targeted Investments Manual 18 Updates

Katie Pruitt, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an overview of the implementation procedures for the Targeted Investment Policy.

Ms. Pruitt reminded the board that the 2022 Targeted Investment priority is Southern Resident Orca Whale recovery, with a funding level of \$3.7 million. The process for implementation will be the same as other SRFB grants, but only one project will be submitted per region. After scoring, the final project will be selected in September of 2022.

Ms. Pruitt explained that before coming to the board for approval of implementation, RCO staff solicited stakeholder input and integrated it into the Manual 18 changes.

Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, provided comment in favor of SRFB having the final decision on which project is selected, regardless of the score. He also provided criteria suggestions, which can be found in the meeting materials.

Suzanna Smith, WSC, commented in favor of the targeted investment policy, but wanted it to be used as a pilot policy with room for growth in the future.

Following comment, the board requested changes to their role in the funding of projects. Rather than approving the highest scored projects as provided by the Review Panel, the board requested additional considerations to inform funding decisions and clarity that the Review Panel's role is to provide technical findings of fact. They also asked that some work to clarify the scoring criteria, as suggested by Mr. Conley's written comments, be completed. These edits will be brought back to the board at the December 2021 meeting for decision.

Task: Integrate language into Appendix J of Manual 18 clarifying that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's role in project selection and what it may consider in doing so. Minor technical, clarifying changes will be made to the scoring criteria as mentioned in the Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board's commentary on the topic.

Item 7: Washington Invasive Species Council: Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species to Salmon Recovery

Joe Maroney, WISC Chair, and **Allen Pleus**, WDFW Aquatic Invasive Species Unit, provided an overview of invasive species that threaten salmon recovery.

Mr. Pleus noted that species such as European Green Crab, Quagga and Zebra Mussels, and Northern Pike pose some of the greatest threat towards salmon, but other salmon impacting species and diseases exist.

To tackle invasive species, WDFW's Aquatic Invasive Species unit focuses on prevention, early detection, rapid response, infested site management, local/regional coordination, education/outreach, and enforcement.

Chair Breckel asked about a citizen's legal ability to kill European Green crab. Mr. Pleus clarified that citizens can legally kill invasive species, but reporting is recommended as people have difficulty with proper species identification and often end up killing a native species.

Member Bernath was interested in the success of tackling Northern pike. Mr. Maroney noted that a regional technical forum has been created to assist with the species and he could provide an overview of their work at a future SRFB meeting.

Item 8: Carbon Credits Policy and Discussion

Before the start of the agenda item, **Member Cottingham** recused herself.

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an overview of the Carbon Credits and Payments for Ecosystem Service policy. This policy would enable RCO grantees to enroll RCO-funded projects in carbon offset and other payment for ecosystem services programs. This policy has already been adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) for their projects, and RCO is proposing a similar policy for the SRFB.

After Mr. Donatelle's presentation, **Chair Breckel** remarked that oftentimes an RCFB project may provide match with a SRFB grant. Without the carbon credits policy in place through SRFB, Chair Breckel wanted to know if the RCFB project would be eligible to enroll regardless. Mr. Donatelle clarified that the project would not be eligible.

Member Bernath said that under RCO's potential policy, smaller landowners would struggle and the board should seek avenues to make it easier.

Overall, the board directed Mr. Donatelle to continue the policy development to bring back to the board at their December 2021 meeting.

TASK: Bring back the Carbon Credit Policy development to SRFB for review and consideration at the December 2021 meeting.

Item 9: Partner Reports

Conservation Commission

Member Brian Cochrane provided a brief overview of the Conservation Commission's work.

He explained that the executive director would be leaving the Commission on October 15, 2021.

Next, he reported the decision packages that would be submitted to OFM concerning the Conservation Commission, including:

- Conservation equity and engagement for \$500,000 to complete an equity assessment of all programs and support conservation districts that will help underserved communities.
- No more than \$2 million in funding for the Sustainable Farms and Fields program.
- No more than \$2 million for the Farmland Protection and Affordability Investment program.

Department of Ecology

Member Annette Hoffman provided a brief overview of the work being done at the Department of Ecology.

Addressing new staff, Ecology is hiring FTEs to address the work needed due to the Climate Commitment Act.

Next, she reported the decision packages being submitted to OFM for the 2022 supplemental legislative session.

These packages include:

- Funding for improved compliance of the Shoreline Management Act to ensure compliance with no net loss standards and to include grants for local jurisdictions and compliance staff.
- Funding for the Centennial Clean Water Fund for the riparian funding incentives.
- Funding for a pilot project to map the channel migration zones to identify GIS mapping methodology in the riparian areas across Washington.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Stephen Bernath provided an update on the work of the Department of Natural Resources.

Speaking on the 2021 legislative session, he noted DNR's success in securing substantial funding for forest health and wildlife. In the next month, there will be a new Deputy of Forest health and practices and more fulltime firefighters versus seasonal positions.

Looking forward to the 2022 supplemental legislative session, DNR will submit several decision packages, including:

- Funding to pilot a not-yet adopted salmon strategy to focus on WRIA 7. Part of this funding will go towards hiring a salmon coordinator to complete the inventory of small salmon culverts.
- Funding and authority to support a potential avoided conversion policy that would support a stakeholder group and advisory group for one year.
- Funding for the small landowners dealing with carbon credits.
- Lidar request package to complete the statewide need and an update.

Member Bernath also highlighted the fire season, explaining that some lands were closed due to weather conditions that could have led to wildfires.

Lastly, Member Bernath announced that he is retiring next month, and **Katrina Lassiter** will be DNR's new SRFB designee.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Jeff Davis was excused from the meeting and unavailable for an update.

Department of Transportation

Member Susan Kanzler departed from the meeting at 3:00 and was unavailable for an update.

RECESS at 3:34PM

The meeting was recessed at 3:34PM to resume the following day at 9AM.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 23, 2021

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Kaleen Cottingham	Olympia	Stephen Bernath	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis (Absent)	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
		Susan Kanzler (Absent)	Designee, Washington Department of Transportation

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Call to Order

Chair Jeff Breckel opened the meeting at 9:05AM and requested that **Julia McNamara**, Board Administrative Assistant, call roll and determine quorum. **Members Jeff Davis** and **Susan Kanzler** were absent.

Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, covered webinar etiquette.

Motion: Approve September 23, 2021 agenda with the amendment of moving the retreat discussion to December 2021 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved as amended**

Item 10: 2021 Grant Round

Overview

Marc Duboiski, RCO Salmon Grants Team Manager, provided an overview of the 2021 Grant Round. He explained the timeline, which runs from February to September, starting with site visits and application completion and ending with the funding meeting where the board approves project funding by region.

During the grant round process, 125 projects were submitted, including 22 conditioned projects and one project of concern. Overall, 105 projects would be fully funded. The total cost of these projects is \$39.2 million, which includes \$19.2 million in match and \$20 million in SRFB state and federal funding.

Chair Breckel asked why projects with that were solely for cost increases were included within the funded projects and Mr. Duboiski clarified that cost increases over \$100,000 are encouraged to go through the next grant cycle. The annual statewide cost increase fund is set each year at \$500,000.

Slideshow of Featured Projects

Several Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Salmon Outdoor Grants Managers provided overviews of featured projects within different regions in Washington.

- **Elizabeth Butler** presented project [21-1195](#): Toppenish Passage and Screening Assessment.
- **Brandon Carmon** presented project [21-1035](#): MF Newaukum Centralia Alpha Fish Passage Construction.
- **Josh Lambert** presented project [21-1034](#): Riparian Enhancement and Knotweed Control 2021
- **Alice Rubin** presented project [21-1005](#): Cougar Creek Fish Passage Restoration Asotin County Conservation District.
- **Amee Bahr** presented project [21-1130](#): Grays River Conservation Area
- **Marc Duboiski** presented [21-1175](#): Mystery & War Creeks Reach Wood Restoration
- **Marc Duboiski** and **Jenny Baker**, WDFW, presented project [21-1187](#): Island Unit/Deepwater Phase 2 Preliminary Design.

Review Panel Comments

Tom Slocum, Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel Chair, provided an overview of review panel observations and noteworthy projects from the 2021 grant round.

Mr. Slocum highlighted the success of the PRISM evaluation portal and virtual project presentations; the panel's concern with the lack of large, high-benefit project submissions; and the lack of consistency in riparian planting costs across projects.

Addressing upland acreage in acquisition proposals, Mr. Slocum suggested RCO require a better process for quantifying land to best evaluate how the property will help salmon.

The review panel's last suggestion was to remind applicants of the importance of identifying SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) project objectives.

Closing, Mr. Slocum highlighted several noteworthy projects that can be found in the meeting materials.

During board discussion, **Chair Breckel** asked how the board would play a role in implementing the review panel's suggestions. **Director Duffy** explained that RCO will work with the Technical Panel and stakeholders to develop potential policies for the upland acreage and riparian planting recommendations for board consideration, and the other suggestions could be discussed at the SRFB retreat.

Task: Add two SRFB Review Panel suggested grant round improvements to the SRFB list of potential items for discussion during its retreat. These topics are strengthening resolve for high-benefit projects and the issue of differing criteria for SRFB applications supported by other RCO salmon funding.

Member Endresen-Scott addressed the politics surrounding larger-scale projects and asked the review panel for their ideas to address this issue. Mr. Slocum suggested getting active support from the local governments.

BREAK: 10:35AM-10:45AM

Member Sullivan stepped away during the break and returned at 10:57AM

Project of Concern

[Project 21-1053](#): Point No Point Estuary Restoration Preliminary Design submitted by the Mid-Puget Sound Fish Enhancement Group. The intent of this project is to create a preliminary design to restore tidal exchange into a 23-acre freshwater marsh.

Review Panel

Mr. Slocum provided an overview of why this project is likely to fail, highlighting that similar projects in the past failed.

According to the 2018 ESRP Point No Point project [18-2076](#), a feasibility study showed negative impacts to drainage and the possibility of a water table if the project were to go forward with the restoration of tidal influence. This project also received opposition from the people who live directly adjacent to the project.

If the board chooses to move the project forward, the review panel suggested the following additions and/or alternatives:

1. Kitsap County or another entity initiates a buy-out program to remove development adjacent to the marsh.
2. Kitsap County commits to funding for flood protection and groundwater pumping infrastructure, plus permanent operation, and management costs.

Counter Position by Project Sponsor and Region

Juliana Tadano, Nearshore Project Manager at Mid-Puget Sound Fish Enhancement Group, provided her support for the project and reasoning behind it.

This project has a coastal sediment processes and tidal prism for a self-sustaining barrier and embayment reconnection. In the marsh, this would connect a freshwater stream and increase species diversity. To determine the feasibility and effects on nearby housing, geotechnical and hydrolytic modeling are necessary, which could be funded by SRFB.

She also noted that there was ample outreach to the surrounding community to let them know what was happening with the project. This included five meetings with 44 participants. There were concerns from the neighbors, but the project sponsors will continue outreach to keep the neighbors included.

Following Ms. Tadano, **Amber Moore**, Puget Sound Partnership, **Chairman Forsman**, **Suquamish Tribe**, and **Tom Ostrom**, Suquamish Tribe, also provided words of support for the project.

Public Comment:

Dave Herrera, Skokomish tribe and fisheries and wildlife policy representative, provided comment in support of the project.

Dawn Spilsbury Pucci, Island Lead Entity, provided comment in support of the project.

Andrew Nelson, Kitsap county, provided comment in support of the project

Christine Brinton, homeowner, commented in opposition to the project.

Jessica Cote, Blue Coast Engineering, provided comment in support of the project.

After public comment, **Chair Breckel** opened the floor to discussion. While Members felt some hesitation over the project, they ultimately believed the Project of Concern label should be removed and that the project should be funded.

Item 11: 2021 Grant Round Overview by Regions

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Alicia Olivas, Hood Canal Lead Entity Coordinator, provided an overview of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council's work.

This year, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council submitted eight projects for SRFB funding, which spanned widely across their land jurisdiction.

In addition to the projects listed, Ms. Olivas addressed some larger ongoing project areas that were funded by SRFB. These included:

- Snow Creek and Salmon Creek Watershed
- Lower Big Quilcene River Floodplain
- Dosewallips River Floodplain
- Duckabush River Estuary
- Mainstem Skokomish River

During discussion, **Member Bernath** asked for clarification of funding on the Duckabush River Estuary project where a bridge is being replaced with involvement by the Washington Department of Transportation (WDOT). Ms. Olivas clarified that WDOT is contracted but is not providing funding for the project.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Steve Manlow, Executive Coordinator of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), provided an update.

In the 2021 grant round, LCFRB had a single monitoring proposal and 23 habitat project applications requesting a total of \$6.8 million, but only 10 projects could receive \$4 million in funding. The projects funded would target key limiting factors in watersheds with multiple ESA listed species and phase projects.

Looking forward to the next grant round, LCFRBs intends to make more effective habitat investments by tackling different strategies. These strategies will include addressing climate change, examining species trajectory, roles of restoration work relative to land use, and sponsor and community capacity for different projects.

Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

Mike Lithgow, Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region Kalispel Tribe-Pend Oreille Lead Entity, provided thanks to everyone involved in the SRFB process this year.

Puget Sound Partnership

Amber Moore, Salmon Recovery Manager, provided some of the Puget Sound Partnership's accomplishments.

From the 2021-2023 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program, Ms. Moore stated that three projects were funded out of the eight submitted.

She said that PSP is working on updates to their Puget Sound Salmon Recovery plan and the new content will surround estuaries, population growth, stormwater, climate change, instream flow, water quality, and monitoring.

Before closing, she highlighted two projects in the works- The Dungeness and River's Edge Floodplain Restoration projects. Both projects involve levee setbacks, which will result in significant reclaimed and restored floodplain.

Chair Breckel asked about the PSP recovery plan and if the National Marines Fisheries (Fisheries) will have to readopt the plan. Ms. Moore replied that Fisheries will be asked to review it, but there is no need for a readoption. **Member Cottingham** asked about the Steelhead plan status and Ms. Moore explained that it was completed a few weeks ago and is supported by NOAA.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

John Foltz, Board Director, provided an overview on the work done by the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board.

In his overview he highlighted the 2021 grant round, the results of two projects, and thoughts on the emergency response.

From the 2021 grant round, they had 13 projects proposed for funding, with their top ranked project being a monitoring project. They are also working on implementing 42 habitat and restoration projects within their region.

The two projects that he highlighted were the Tucannon River Habitat Programmatic and the Asotin IMW.

Closing, Mr. Foltz suggested having emergency funding for projects funded by board. This funding would address fires, flooding, and other emergencies.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Tracy Bowerman, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity, provided an overview.

From the grant round, 10 projects could receive full funding and one project could be partially funded.

Next, she noted that staff had worked hard to collect ecological data to see where restoration work would have the greatest impact in their region, and they have also done work on barrier prioritization.

Despite all this work, she noted that Chinook and Steelhead levels continue to decline. These declines are due to poor ocean conditions, harvest, hydro, and hatchery. The Upper Columbia Recovery Plan looks at all these issues and has a recovery work group discussing these topics.

Coast Salmon Partnership

Mara Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Coast Salmon Partnership, gave an overview of their work.

Ms. Zimmerman explained that Coast Salmon Partnership has a Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Plan. The plan goal is to prevent additional ESA listing of Washington coast salmon.

Within the 2021 grant round, there would be three projects that could be funded for the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity, four projects for the Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity, the Chehalis Basin Lead Entity has five projects, and the Willapa Bay Lead Entity has two projects.

Looking forward, they want focus on large river restoration, a pilot watershed restoration, fish barriers, and climate change.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Alex Conley, Chair, provided an overview of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board.

He noted that this board works from the 2009 Yakima Steelhead Recovery Plan and the Yakima Bull Trout Action Plan.

For the Yakima Lead Entity, there were seven projects that could be funded.

Looking forward, they intend to look more at big floodplain projects, Federal irrigation Projects, Fish Passage projects, instream flow negotiations, irrigation system improvements, mainstem Columbia action, and monitoring.

Closing, Mr. Conley suggested giving the regions more time to speak.

Item 12: 2021 Grant Round, Board Funding Decisions

Marc Duboiski presented the funding decisions.

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,876,000 for the Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Regions shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Funding Report, dated September 2021. This amount includes \$562,800 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved**

Washington Coast Salmon Partnership Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,914,000 for projects and project alternates on the Coastal Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021.

Moved by: Member Cottingham

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$2,062,000 for projects and project alternates on the Upper Columbia Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved**

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,688,000 for projects and project alternates on the Snake River Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021.

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$6,824,487 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Puget Sound Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021.

Moved by: Member Cottingham

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$380,000 for projects on the Northeast Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021.

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved**

Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$4,000,000 for projects and project alternates on the Lower Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021. This amount includes \$108,000 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County Lead Entity.

Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Motion: Move to approve \$1,255,512 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region, ranked list, as shown in Attachment 6 of the 2021 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2021.

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Before closing the meeting, a resolution was read on behalf of **Member Stephen Bernath**, who has served on the SRFB for many years.

Motion: Adopt a resolution of recognition for Member Stephen Bernath

Moved by: Member Endresen Scott

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved**

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 1:12pm.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM.

The next meeting will be December 1-2, 2021 online. Subject to change considering COVID.

Approved by:

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2021

Title: Director's Report

Prepared By: Megan Duffy, RCO Director

Summary

This memo describes key agency activities and happenings.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Agency Update

RCO Reports on Work with Tribes

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) recently provided a report on its work with tribes in preparation for the 2021 Centennial Accord. The accord, which was established in 1989 between the federally recognized Indian tribes of Washington and the State of Washington, provides a framework for a government-to-government relationship and implementation procedures to assure execution of that relationship. RCO reported on several initiatives including specialized tribal grant agreements, cultural resources work, and outreach to tribes for the development of the statewide recreation and conservation plan. In addition, RCO reported the award of more than \$40 million in grants to 19 tribes in 2020-2021. These funds went toward 69 projects to restore and protect salmon habitat, develop athletic and boating facilities, and create water access sites. Since 1972, when the agency first assisted a tribal project, RCO has administered 627 grants to 27 tribes. Totaling more than \$205 million, these projects have helped tribes with waterfront access and restoration, boating facility



construction, salmon habitat restoration and monitoring, fish hatchery improvements, trail development, and athletic facility and park development.

Cultural Resources

In early 2021, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS - NOAA) made the formal determination that the issuance of Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) to Washington State was considered an undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NMFS acknowledges that they have the responsibility to consult with the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officers and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO/THPOs) to account for any effects of PCSRF funded projects on cultural resources. NMFS notified RCO that they were in the process of retaining contract assistance to support the program in meeting their responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA, and shared that they intended to pursue coverage at the PCSRF-program level via a programmatic agreement (PA) in Washington State.

For the past decade, RCO has operated as the de-facto lead agency for addressing cultural and historic resources related to projects funded through this program. RCO led the review and consultation effort in accordance with our state Governor's Executive Order (GEO) 05-05, and now under GEO 21-02. NMFS's approach to a programmatic agreement in Washington State would largely delegate the Section 106 responsibilities to RCO.

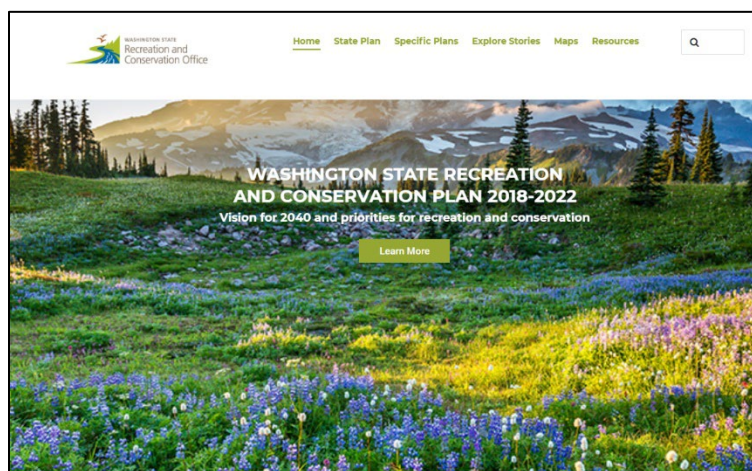
In September, NMFS transmitted formal letters initiating consultation with Tribes, State Agencies, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to consult and provide comments regarding the preparation of a programmatic agreement. RCO staff have been actively engaged in discussions with NMFS in the process. The development and execution of a programmatic agreement for this delegation will likely take a full year to complete.

RCO anticipates that this delegation will create a workload increase for the state, both in the number of projects that RCO will consult on and the added steps of the Section 106 process as compared the state's Executive Order 21-02 process. RCO intends to stay active in the development of the PA to ensure that the final agreement will have the least disruption to project delivery, provide additional funding for RCO staff, and continue the state's efforts in protecting cultural and historic resources.

Update to the State Recreation Plan Gets Underway

Updates to the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan* and *State Trails Plan* are underway with a series of surveys to inform priorities. Board members are encouraged to take the survey. The first survey, managed by Eastern Washington University, asks the public about recreation demand (What do you do? Where do you do it? and How often?). A second survey, managed by RCO, asks

recreationists about their experiences (What do you look for in an experience? How far must you travel? How do you get there? What prevents you from participating?). This survey prioritizes communities of color and other diverse communities. So far, the survey has generated nearly 2,600 responses. As part of the Web page hosting this survey, people are asked to share stories, photographs, and locations of their favorite places. To date, 62 people have “pinned the map” to share their favorite places. The experience survey was offered in Spanish, which is the first time RCO has created a survey itself in another language. A third survey will ask recreation and conservation providers to identify their land management challenges to provide services. Tribal governments also will receive a provider survey, but with additional questions to recognize their unique challenges.

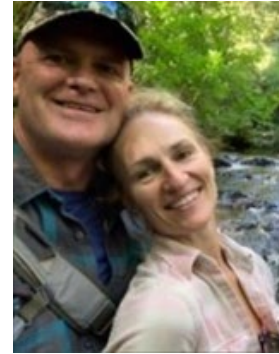


RCO Employee News

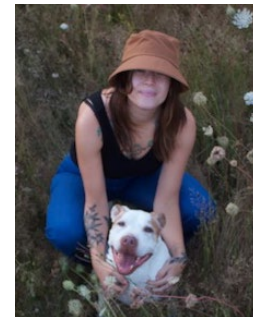
Sandy Dotts joined RCO November 1 as an outdoor grants manager in the Salmon Grants Section. She comes to us from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she has spent her past 21 years as both a habitat biologist and watershed steward in northeast Washington. She has been active in the Kalispel Tribe-Pend Oreille Lead Entity for salmon grants since 2000 and has provided technical assistance on many Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Family Forest Fish Passage Program grants. Sandy received her bachelor of science degree in natural resource management from Washington State University. She and her husband live in Colville with their two horses.



Bridget Kaminski joined RCO November 1 as an outdoor grants manager in the Salmon Grants Section. She spent the past 14 years at the Washington Department of Natural Resources as an aquatic land manager and natural resource technician in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. She provided technical assistance on a wide variety of projects and reviewed many Salmon Recovery Funding Board projects on the Olympic Peninsula. She grew up on the Olympic Peninsula, fished for salmon along Whidbey Island and for steelhead in the Dungeness River, and now fly fishes in local streams and lakes. She is also a beekeeper. Bridget earned her bachelor of science degree in wildlife biology from Washington State University. She and her family live in Port Ludlow.



Blake Brady will start November 16 as the administrative assistant to the Grant Services Team. Her career has ranged from bookkeeper to bartender, fitness instructor to front-of-house manager, and most recently charities program lead for the Office of the Secretary of State.



Ashlyn "Ash" Fansler will join the Policy and Board Team as an administrative assistant November 16. She has worked as an administrative assistant for an herb wholesaler and as an assistant office manager for International Hardwoods of Michiana. Ash also has been a web optimizer for a day spa and an Oregon camp counselor and lifeguard. Having grown up in the woods of Michigan, she says she was taught to have deep appreciation and respect for the environment. In the workforce, she began focusing on sustainability and implemented recycling and composting programs, became a member of a company's Green Team to organize city-wide clean-ups, and helped obtain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for another. She earned her associate in applied arts from Washtenaw Community College in Michigan.



Chris Popek started his new role November 1 as a compliance assistant in the Grant Services Section. He served as an administrative assistant for that team for the past 2 years.



Wendy Brown announced she will leave RCO November 30 for a job in the Washington State Senate, where she'll be working on the capital budget for the Ways and Means Committee. She has been with RCO for 12 years, serving first for 5 years as the Washington Invasive Species Coordinator and then for 7 years as the policy director



News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group's** November 17 meeting was cancelled. The lands group will meet next on February 23, 2022.

Invasive Species Council met September 16 and discussed two invasive species—spotted lanternfly and tree-of-heaven—and their risks to the environment and economy. Notably, members also discussed environmental justice and use of language by answering facilitated questions. The council will meet next December 9 with topics including a spotted lanternfly action plan, the U.S. Navy Northwest Region, and European green crab response.



The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met online October 5 to hear updates on the equity review project, physical activity task force, state recreation and conservation plan, state trails plan, and community athletic facilities grants. The board also was briefed on the Land and Water Conservation Fund's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, complementary uses policy, and The Trust for Public Land's Green Schoolyards Project. In action items, the board discussed changing criteria in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's State Parks Category and increasing grant limits in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The board will meet next January 25-26.

Fiscal Report

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

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023, actuals through October 15, 2021 (FM 03). 12.5% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2021-2023	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2015-17	\$ 1,746,440	\$1,697,240	97%	\$49,200	3%	\$2,997	1%
2017-19	\$6,230,576	\$6,081,640	98%	\$148,936	2%	\$266,648	4%
2019-21	\$14,669,777	\$14,669,777	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,602,263	11%
2021-2023	\$25,724,000	\$12,463,151	48%	\$13,260,849	52%	\$2,980,239	24%
Total	\$48,370,793	\$34,911,808	72%	\$13,458,985	28%	\$4,852,147	14%
Federal Funded							
2016	\$389,018	\$389,018	100%	\$0	0%	\$205,504	53%
2017	\$4,159,679	\$3,787,810	91%	\$371,869	9%	\$110,449	3%
2018	\$7,627,453	\$6,142,192	81%	\$1,485,261	19%	\$478,841	8%
2019	\$10,867,937	\$10,523,215	97%	\$344,722	3%	\$475,346	5%
2020	\$16,530,979	\$13,990,619	85%	\$2,540,360	15%	\$1,285,327	9%
2021	\$17,848,000	\$14,649,311	82%	\$3,198,689	18%	\$0	0%
Total	\$57,423,066	\$49,482,165	86%	\$7,940,901	14%	\$2,555,467	5%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$6,926,576	\$5,145,301	74%	\$1,781,275	26%	\$617,483	12%
PSAR	\$107,036,152	\$100,206,779	94%	\$6,829,373	6%	\$2,350,572	2%
Subtotal	\$219,756,587	\$189,746,053	86%	\$30,010,534	14%	\$10,375,669	5%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	\$8,117,810	\$8,117,810	100%	0	0%	\$825,392	10%
Subtotal	\$8,117,810	\$8,117,810	100%	0	0%	\$825,392	10%
GRAND TOTAL	\$227,874,397	\$197,863,863	87%	\$30,010,534	13%	\$11,201,061	6%

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 2022. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of November 4, 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 2022. 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.

Nineteen salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2021 to November 4, 2021), with sixteen passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 44.3 miles of stream (Table 2).

Measure	FY 2022 Performance
Blockages Removed	19
Bridges Installed	8
Culverts Installed	8
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
14-1366	Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	0.4
17-1228	Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	1.77
17-1417	Chico Cr Fish Passage Golf Club Hill Rd	Kitsap County of	16
17-1424	Coffee Cr Fish Passage Restoration	Mason County Public Works	4.2
18-1200	Hungry Harbor Passage	CREST	1.2
18-1627	Newskah Road Fish Barrier Correction Construction	Chehalis Basin FTF	1.5
19-1575	Railroad Creek Culvert Removal, Clallam County	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	0.15
19-1591	Scammon Creek-Hamilton	Lewis Conservation District	1.29

19-1601	Squalicum Creek Fish Passage (Ph 3 & 4) Bellingham	Bellingham City of	8.9
19-1630	Cottonwood Creek Barrier Correction	Asotin Co Conservation Dist	2.54
19-1636	Coleman Creek at Vantage Hwy Passage Restoration	Kittitas County Public Works	0.35
19-1711	RFEG 19-21 DFW Funding	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	6
Total Miles			44.3

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2022 operational performance measures as of November 4, 2021.

Measure	FY Target	FY 2022 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	80%	●	Seventy-six agreements for SRFB-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	90%	●	189 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 170 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, 504 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	83%	●	Twenty-four SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year. 20 of them closed on time.

Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	4	●	Four SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	3	●	Staff have inspected 3 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2022 to reach the target.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2021

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Director
Marc Duboiski, 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

Introduction / Background

Federal Affairs

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) has continued to work with Governor's Office staff in DC, state agencies, partners, and the Congressional delegation on federal funding and infrastructure requests. This work is ongoing and will continue to secure additional federal funding for salmon and orca recovery.

On November 5, 2021, the House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and it was signed into law by President Biden on November 15. A summary of key program funding can be found on Senator Cantwell's website ([here](#)). As of the writing of this memo, the Build Back Better Act is currently being negotiated. A vote on this plan is expected before Thanksgiving. Here is a [link](#) to the Build Back Better Act language.

On October 22, 2021, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray and Governor Jay Inslee issued a [joint statement](#) on next steps as they pursue a joint federal-state process to establish a comprehensive solution for salmon recovery in the Columbia River Basin.

Partner Activities

In September, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and GSRO attended a tour hosted by the Quinault Indian Nation on the Upper Quinault River. The tour was an example of a big river project that has multiple benefits including climate resiliency that requires multiple partners including tribes, state and federal agencies, and local landowners. The tour was well attended with representatives from Quinault Indian Nation Council and staff, National Park Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

In October, GSRO initiated and organized quarterly meetings between the regional salmon recovery directors and the WDFW Director and Executive Management Team. The purpose of these quarterly meetings is to improve coordination, collaboration, and communication around salmon recovery. The meetings will continue quarterly and will align with state and federal budget cycles.

Megan Duffy, Erik Neatherlin and Wendy Brown attended (virtually) the 32nd Centennial Accord meeting, hosted by the Governor's Office.

In November, RCO and GSRO attended the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meeting to provide updates and answer questions. This meeting is part of the effort of RCO and GSRO to regularly attend the salmon recovery board meetings around the state.

Also, GSRO was invited to join and panel a presentation at the Washington Forest Protection Association annual meeting to discuss the update to the statewide salmon strategy and priorities for salmon recovery.

Statewide Salmon Strategy Update

The GSRO delivered the Statewide Strategy Update to the Governor's Office and a final version of the strategy update is expected to be released by the Governor's Office in November or December.

Salmon Recovery Network

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) has a new facilitator, Ross Strategic. Ross Strategic coordinated interviews with SRNET members. The first meeting with Ross Strategic will be in December.

Monitoring

GSRO will provide a more in-depth update as part of agenda Item 7. Briefly, the Pacific Northwest Monitoring Partnership Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) workshops occurred in November, and summary reports are being compiled to share with participants and the board monitoring subcommittee. Work continued on implementing the restoration scale effectiveness pilot project with additional site selections and data collection. Please see Item 7 for more detailed information.

Orca Recovery

October 16 was Orca Recovery Day. From the beginning of the Orca Task Force, the Puget Sound Conservation Districts has organized this annual event, which brings together salmon restoration volunteer events from across the region to bring awareness and action around orca recovery and the plight of Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW). Many of the projects and sponsors participating in the event are funded through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB/board), so it is also an opportunity to educate the public about the board and salmon recovery. There were 85 events hosted by 98 organizations involving 1,892 volunteers across the region, including Canada, Oregon, and Eastern Washington. An estimated 22 acres were restored, 13,519 native plantings, and 29,891 pounds of trash collected. Over 1.3 million people were reached just in Puget Sound alone.

In addition to the Orca Day events, Tara Galuska participated in a radio interview on Coastal Café by Washington Sea Grant about salmon and orca recovery; a webinar hosted by Orca Network on the connection between salmon and orca; and Tara and Megan Duffy were interviewed by Austin Jenkins of Television Washington (TVW) about the RCO and orca recovery; and co-presenters for the webinar were Jacque White on the Marine Survival Study, Brad Hanson on prey for orca, and David Troutt on salmon recovery history and tribal treaty rights with a focus on the history of the Nisqually watershed. There is good momentum in the orca community around salmon recovery.

In early October, the Governor's Office asked for a tour of a salmon and orca projects. Tara Galuska worked with the Governor's staff to organize a tour of the Dungeness River levee setback projects in Sequim, sponsored by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Clallam County. Megan Duffy and Tara Galuska met on-site with the Governor, state partners, and local project proponents to explain the importance of these large-scale projects to salmon and orca recovery. The Dungeness River projects have an RCO investment of \$15 million, including SRFB, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Pacific Salmon Orca Conservation funds, among many other partners and funding sources. This was an excellent opportunity to walk the

site with the Governor as he emphasized how important it is to address climate change to protect these large-scale investments.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

New Grants Management Staff

We are pleased to announce the addition of Sandy Dotts (Colville, WA) and Bridget Kaminski (Port Ludow, WA) to our team.

Sandy has spent her last 21 years at WDFW as both a habitat biologist and watershed steward in northeast Washington. She enjoys helping landowners, local governments, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and tribes navigate the complexities of taking an idea for a project and getting it done on the ground – from funding to implementation. Sandy has been active with the Pend Oreille (now Kalispel Tribe) lead entity for the SRFB process since 2000. She has provided technical assistance on many SRFB and Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) projects.

Bridget has spent her last 14 years at DNR both as an aquatic land manager and natural resource technician in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. She enjoys working with landowners, local organizations, and regulatory agencies when managing contracts such as right of entries, easements, and leases on state-owned aquatic lands (SOAL). Bridget has provided technical assistance on a wide variety of projects proposed on SOAL. She has reviewed many SRFB acquisition and restoration projects throughout the Olympic Peninsula.

2021 Grant Round

RCO staff and grant recipients are working on completing contracts for the salmon projects funded by the board in September.

Manual 18 Updates

Most of Manual 18 and the 2022 grant cycle timeline was adopted at the September 2021 board meeting. Staff will present one final update, Item 4: Targeted Investments, for inclusion into the 2022 manual.

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 November 4, 2021. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program (BAFBRB), the FFFPP, the Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative

program (WCRRI), the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), or the Chehalis Basin Strategy program (CBS). 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	123	437	2,772	3,332
Percentage of Total	3.7%	13.1%	83.2%	

Strategic Plan Connection

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.

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

Attachments

Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between August 25- November 4, 2021. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g., designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out 29 projects or contracts during this time.

Approved Amendments

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between August 25 - November 4, 2021. Staff processed 16 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Attachment A

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from August 25, 2021 – November 4, 2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>14-1366</u>	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase	PSAR Large Capital Projects	9/9/2021
<u>16-1215</u>	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Bear Creek Reach 6 - Phase II Construction	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/27/2021
<u>16-1428</u>	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Cornet Bay Riparian Planting Stewardship	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/14/2021
<u>16-2804</u>	Skagit Land Trust	Middle Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition	Salmon State Projects	10/13/2021
<u>17-1064</u>	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Sunlight Shores Shoreline Bulkhead Removal	Salmon Federal Projects	10/25/2021
<u>18-1627</u>	Chehalis Basin FTF	Newskah Road Fish Barrier Correction Construction	Salmon Federal Projects	11/2/2021
<u>18-1651</u>	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Mainstem Teanaway Restoration Design at RM 8	Salmon Federal Projects	9/21/2021
<u>18-1751</u>	Lummi Nation	Camp 18 Phase I In-Stream Wood Placement	Salmon State Projects	10/4/2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>18-1776</u>	San Juan County Parks Dept	Agate Beach County Pk Shoreline Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	8/30/2021
<u>18-2020</u>	Palouse Conservation District	Steptoe Creek Instream Habitat Rehabilitation	Salmon Federal Projects	10/28/2021
<u>19-1212</u>	Lower Columbia FEG	SF Toutle Headwaters Cooperative Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/18/2021
<u>19-1648</u>	Clallam County of	North Olympic Peninsula LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/7/2021
<u>19-1649</u>	Grays Harbor County of	Chehalis Basin LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	8/26/2021
<u>19-1650</u>	Hood Canal Coord Council	Hood Canal Regional Salmon Recovery BN 19-21	Salmon Federal Activities	10/18/2021
<u>19-1651</u>	Island Co. Dept. Natural Res.	Island County LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/7/2021
<u>19-1652</u>	Kalispel Tribe	Pend Oreille LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/7/2021
<u>19-1653</u>	King County of	WRIA 8 LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/3/2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>19-1654</u>	King County of	WRIA 9 LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/23/2021
<u>19-1656</u>	Klickitat County of	Klickitat County LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	8/30/2021
<u>19-1657</u>	Lower Columbia Fish Recov Bd	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board BN 19-21	Salmon Federal Activities	10/18/2021
<u>19-1659</u>	Mason Conservation Dist	WRIA 14 LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/7/2021
<u>19-1660</u>	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	10/19/2021
<u>19-1665</u>	San Juan County of	San Juan LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	8/25/2021
<u>19-1666</u>	Skagit Watershed Council	Skagit Watershed Council LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/7/2021
<u>19-1667</u>	Snohomish County of	Snohomish Basin LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	8/26/2021
<u>19-1669</u>	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Stillaguamish Co-LE Tribe BN 19-21	PSAR-Lead Entity Contracts	8/30/2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>19-1672</u>	University of Washington	North Pacific Coast LE BN 19-21	Salmon-LE State Contracts	9/7/2021
<u>19-1683</u>	Triangle Associates, Inc	Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy Update	Salmon Federal Activities	10/25/2021
<u>19-1711</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	RFEG 19-21 DFW Funding	Salmon State Activities	10/11/2021

Attachment B

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
16-1306	Seahorse Siesta Barge Removal	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	10/25/2021	Adding \$10,000 of ESRP FY 15-17 funds.
16-1577	South Prairie Creek (RM 4.0-4.6) Phase 2	South Puget Sound SEG	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	10/12/2021	\$81,100 of 17-19 PSAR funds is removed from this project, so it can be applied elsewhere where needed. The project scope was fully completed.
17-1148	Berwick Creek Barrier Removal and Realignment	Lewis County Public Works	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	10/25/2021	The total project cost was increased by \$72,193.26. Half of the funds (\$36,096.63) are from the SRFB and the other half is sponsor match.
18-1313	Elwha Estuary Levee Assessment	Coastal Watershed Institute	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	10/4/2021	Increasing FY 17-19 ESRP funds by \$40,000. Sponsor match remains at \$20,752.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
18-2629	2018 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Restoration II	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	9/17/2021	Changing the line of coding to add federal grant as match, so sponsor has the federal nexus to charge indirect costs.
19-1118	South Prairie Creek RM 4.8 Right Bank	Forterra	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/14/2021	Forterra is requesting a cost increase of \$81,100 for higher appraised value. Forterra has secured \$48,900 in additional funds to make up for the remaining difference.
19-1332	Salmon Point Community Beach Shoreline Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/13/2021	Cost increase of \$9,643 in 15-17 PSAR returned funds, approved by PSP. Sponsor maintains 15% match.
19-1365	Stillaguamish Tidal Wetlands- Acq.	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	9/10/2021	Add \$490,158 of Stillaguamish 21-23 PSAR funds to the overall project. Add \$170,000 of 13-15 PSAR Large Cap Returned Funds. Match shown in PRISM at 15%.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>19-1390</u>	Chico Creek Salmon Park Habitat Restoration	Kitsap County of	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/4/2021	Adding \$722,405.93 of FY17-19 FBRB funds that were made available when 17-1417 Chico Cr Fish Passage Golf Club Hill Rd closed short.
<u>19-1451</u>	Crescent Beach restoration feasibility	San Juan County Public Works	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	9/14/2021	To add state salmon project funding \$79,405 to project. This request was approved by the LE and SRFB in the 2020 grant round, and fully funds the 2019 request.
<u>19-1471</u>	Okanogan Basin Barrier Assessment	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	9/21/2021	The match share is reduced by \$2,600 and is now 19.7%, over the minimum requirement.
<u>20-1050</u>	North Touchet Phase 3	Umatilla Confederated Tribes	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	10/28/2021	This cost change adds \$101,000 in grant funds approved through the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board as part of the 2021 grant round and approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on September 23, 2021.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
<u>20-1198</u>	WRIA 13 Passage Inventory & Prioritization	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	9/17/2021	To add 21-23 PSAR funds of \$44,150 from the WRIA 13 LE allocation.
<u>20-1326</u>	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition IV	Skagit Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/25/2021	Adding the 2021-2023 PSAR funds from the Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity allocation.
<u>20-1369</u>	IMW - South Fork Skagit Channel Construction	Skagit County of	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	10/25/2021	Adding in the remaining project funds from the 21-23 PSAR - Skagit LE allocation - \$1,255,758. This project is in an IMW and does not require match.
<u>20-1562</u>	Armor Removal at Shaw Island's Broken Point	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/13/2021	Adding \$108,020 of FY21-23 ESRP funding Reducing required sponsor match to 0.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2021

Title: Manual 18: Targeted Investments Program Implementation

Prepared By: Katie Pruitt, Planning and Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo includes board directed amendments to the implementation procedures and criteria for the Targeted Investments Program. The program, as amended is ready for board approval in Manual 18.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

At the September 22, 2021 meeting, staff presented procedures and criteria to implement the Targeted Investments Program. The procedures and criteria were developed for Manual 18 and include funding and priority information, eligibility and evaluation criteria, and the application and review process. Stakeholder input was provided in the development of the proposal, as summarized in the [September Item 6 memo](#).

The board accepted public comment and discussed the proposal at the September meeting before directing staff to make two changes: 1) to expand the board's decision-making role, and 2) to strengthen the scoring for orca recover benefit.

Amendment summary

BOARD DECISION-MAKING

The board's role in the September proposal was to fund the highest scoring project as determined by the Technical Review Panel. The board requested their role in funding Targeted Investments include additional considerations. These changes have been made and the project score will be one of several decision-making considerations including: the technical merit of the proposal, climate change resilience, whether a project addresses a critical recovery need, how well it leverages resources, and how aligned it is with the priority benefit.

ORCA RECOVERY BENEFIT

The second change is to ensure projects that protect and enhance orca prey salmonid production receive the highest score. These changes are mainly technical in nature, correcting terminology, and ensuring restoration and protection projects are equally valued. These changes have been reviewed by the Council of Regions and staff.

Other changes

Other technical amendments are added for clarity. These include additional information to explain: 1) how to interpret the NOAA Fisheries and WDFW (2018) SRKW Priority Chinook Stocks Report, and 2) how to document leveraged funds.

All amendments are reflected in Attachment A with track changes and presented to the board for final approval.

Board Decision

Move to approve the Targeted Investments Program procedures and criteria as presented in Attachment A.

Next Steps

Once approved, staff will include Attachment A as a Manual 18 appendix.

Strategic Plan Connection

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

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

Attachments

Attachment A - Manual 18: Targeted Investments Program, as amended

ATTACHMENT A

MANUAL 18 APPENDIX:

TARGETED INVESTMENTS PROGRAM

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) adopted a policy enabling Targeted Investments on September 16, 2020. A Targeted Investment is a project that addresses a SRFB-identified priority to accelerate progress towards achieving salmon recovery. The general parameters of the policy are to fund Targeted Investments if: 1) the annual regional status quo allocation¹ has been met, 2) the project addresses one or more strategic priorities as determined by the SRFB, and 3) the project cannot be funded within the current allocation or sub-allocation to lead entities. Proposals are submitted by the salmon recovery regional organization (also referred to as "region") and must be endorsed by the lead entity.

The policy, described in this appendix, is inspired by several years of SRFB discussions and the piloting of Targeted Investments in 2019.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Each biennium the SRFB determines if there are funds available and chooses one or more policy priorities to target investments. If funding is available, project applications will be accepted during the regular grant round of the second year of the biennium (even years). Each salmon recovery region may promote one project application. The application must be submitted no later than June 27, 2022; the date final revised applications are due according to the 2022 SRFB grant schedule. Applications must meet all regular salmon recovery project application requirements.

Targeted Investments must be endorsed by the lead entity, but they are not part of the annual lead entity ranking process. The project will follow the initial review timeline of the lead entity where the project is located. However, once the preliminary review panel process is complete, the regional recovery organization must select one project for final submittal by the June 27 due date.

On June 2, 2021, the SRFB determined funding is available for Targeted Investments in the 2021-2023 biennium and selected one policy priority: **Southern Resident orca recovery**. The 2021-

¹ Status-quo refers to an \$18 million annual grant round allocation. The annual allocation is a combination of federal and state funds.

2023 Targeted Investments project review process will be conducted during the 2022 annual SRFB grant round and will include the steps outlined below.

PROJECT SUBMITTAL:

Each salmon recovery region may promote one final project application, according to the 2022 SRFB grant schedule timeline. Applicants must follow the application timelines and requirements for the 2022 grant round outlined in this manual, and by the lead entity where the project is located. Targeted Investment projects must also satisfy additional requirements described in this appendix and found in the application questions in PRISM.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW PROCESS:

Applications will follow Steps 1 through 4 established in *Section 3: How to Apply of this manual*.

Applications will follow *Section 4: SRFB Evaluation Process of this manual*. This includes review of projects by the SRFB Review Panel for technical merit. Applications may have additional review as determined by the lead entity or region and must be submitted no later than the date indicated on the 2022 SRFB calendar. In addition, each Targeted Investment project will be scored by the Review Panel using the evaluation criteria included in this appendix. A list of scored projects will be provided to the SRFB. The SRFB will make the final decision on which project(s) to fund.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION:

The SRFB will approve funding for one or more Targeted Investments at the September 2022 meeting. Targeted Investment awards will be administered through contracts between project sponsors and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

FUNDING AND PRIORITY DETERMINATION

2021-2023 FUNDING

The SRFB may request project proposals for Targeted Investments, only if funding remains after allocating the annual statewide status quo funding of \$18 million. Status quo funding is a combination of the state capital budget and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

On June 2, 2021, the SRFB approved a \$20 million grant round in 2021, thereby meeting and exceeding the status quo allocation of \$18 million. In addition, the SRFB determined up to \$3.7 million is available for Targeted Investments.

Projects may be proposed to the SRFB with a combination of Targeted Investment funding and other SRFB awarded funds (regular SRFB funds, PSAR funds, or PSAR large cap funds), but these funding sources may not be used to fulfill Targeted Investment project matching requirements. The same project may simultaneously apply for multiple fund sources (e.g., apply for Targeted Investments, and also be included on the lead entity ranked list). Applicants seeking funding from multiple funding sources should work closely with their RCO grant manager and lead entity

coordinator to determine the best way to structure the application and funding. PRISM will track each fund separately to ensure the SRFB and partners can account for the use of the funds.

PRIORITIES

Each biennium, the SRFB will adopt one or more Targeted Investment priority from the list below.

Approaching recovery: The investment improves habitat for an Endangered Species Act-listed species nearing recovery goals, as set by the National Marine Fisheries Service status reviews. The Targeted Investment would address an outstanding habitat restoration and/or protection issue or threat that, if corrected, would move the listed species closer to the recovery goal.

Southern Resident orca recovery: The investment focuses on actions that benefit natural origin salmon populations that are a high priority in the Southern Resident orca task force recommendations.

Populations at risk: The investment focuses on improving habitat for endangered, threatened, or non-listed populations in decline or at-risk of extinction, where at-risk populations are identified by indicators such as fishery closures or updated status reviews.

Future threat abatement: The investment focuses on removing or contributing to the abatement of a threat that will nullify recovery efforts (e.g., climate change, predation).

Emergency response: The investment focuses on advancing salmon habitat protection and restoration in watersheds that have experienced natural and/or anthropogenic disasters that have or will result in significant adverse impact on a population.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Each regional recovery organization may submit only one project for SRFB consideration that meets the biennial priority(ies). In addition to the eligibility requirements found in *Section 2: Eligible Projects*, of this manual, each project proposal must satisfy all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Address a SRFB-selected Targeted Investment priority.
2. Improve long-term habitat quality and productivity, and therefore resiliency, of salmonids.
3. Advance a project that cannot be funded by the current sub-allocation to lead entities or the current regional allocation*.
4. Leverage additional funds (not including federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund).
5. Restore and/or acquire habitat (may include design).
6. Letter of support from the lead entity where the project is located.

7. The only project selected by a salmon recovery region for funding.

* If the proposal is under the regional allocation, a letter of justification from the region must be included in the application.

MATCH

Consistent with all SRFB salmon recovery grants, applicants must provide money or resources to match a minimum of 15% or more of the grant, from non-SRFB administered funds. The additional leveraged funds required under eligibility criteria, may be used to satisfy the match requirement.

EVALUATION AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PROCESS

TECHNICAL REVIEW

Targeted Investments will initially be reviewed by an RCO grants manager to ensure the proposed application is complete and the project meets the minimum eligibility criteria. Applicants must follow the preliminary application review timeline of the lead entity where the project is located to ensure the project application materials are submitted at least two weeks before SRFB Review Panel site visits and initial review. After the site visits, the SRFB Review Panel will indicate whether a project is clear, conditioned, needs more information (NMI), or a project of concern (POC). Project with a status of NMI or POC will be returned to applicants and given an opportunity to answer questions and comments, and resubmit. Projects will be re-reviewed after the final application is submitted June 27, 2022. Only one project per salmon recovery regional organization is considered for final review by the SRFB Review Panel. The SRFB Review Panel will indicate whether the project is cleared or conditioned for funding, or whether it remains a POC and is not recommended for funding. See Sections 3 and 4 of this manual for more details on the technical review.

EVALUATION AND SCORING BY REVIEW PANEL

The Review Panel will score final applications using the Targeted Investments evaluation criteria. No more than one project per region will be scored. The Review Panel will include a written evaluation with findings to support scoring ~~scoring will be used to create a list~~ to be presented to the SRFB. The evaluation and scoring will occur after the final application deadline in late June once projects have been cleared or conditioned through the review process. Projects that are identified as a final status project of concern (POC) will not be scored or recommended for funding.

ROLE OF THE SRFB

In addition to setting priorities and determining the availability of funds, the SRFB has the authority to fund Targeted Investments.

The SRFB will determine which project(s) to fund a project eligible for Targeted Investments funding by considering the following:

1. Meets all eligibility criteria,
2. Meets all evaluation criteria,
3. Is not designated a Project of Concern, ~~and~~
4. The Review Panel's written evaluation and score ~~Receives an evaluation score from the SRFB Review Panel of a project's technical merits,~~
5. The degree and extent to which a project addresses the selected strategic priority or priorities,
6. The extent to which the project will be resilient to climate change;
7. Whether a project addresses a critical recovery need or issue, and
8. The extent to which a project leverages resources and/or supports broader recovery efforts.

~~If more than one project receives the highest score, or the top two or more projects are scored within 3 points, the SRFB may consider the following:~~

- ~~1. Leveraged funds. The amount and source of leveraged funds (i.e., how much additional funding the applicant brings to the project).~~
- ~~2. Critical in sequence. How critical the project is within a sequence of related project. Is the completion of the Targeted Investment project key to achieving the goals of a larger, overall project?~~

~~The highest priority project will be funded first.~~ The SRFB will not partially fund more than **one** Targeted Investments project proposal per biennium. For a project to be fully funded the requested project funding has been met with any of the following funding sources: SRFB, PSAR, or PSAR large cap. For example, a 3-million-dollar project may only need an additional 1 million from Targeted Investments to be fully funded.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each project will be evaluated for technical merit using the evaluation criteria in the PRISM application and the scoring criteria developed for Targeted Investments. The applicant's proposal will address how they meet the criteria for acquisition and restoration projects (see Criteria 1-13 established in Appendix F of this manual) and planning projects. In addition, the applicant's **PRISM** proposal will address the scoring criteria listed below. The criteria evaluate Targeted Investments priority benefit, species and habitat benefit, likelihood to succeed, and cost. The highest score possible is 60 points. The priority benefit for the 2022 grant round is Southern Resident orca recovery. The most competitive proposals will protect salmonids in areas determined critical to successful feeding for orca. This means the entire application will be scored based on its benefit to orca recovery.

Priority Benefit – 10 points			
Orca recovery benefit	0-10 based on ESU/ <u>Stock Group</u>	The project focuses on habitat actions that benefit natural origin-salmon populations stock groups that are a high priority in the Southern Resident orca task force recommendations, <u>as listed below</u> . Proposals that protect <u>and enhance</u> salmonid production in areas determined critical to successful feeding will receive the highest score. Scores based on NOAA Fisheries and WDFW (2018) SRKW Priority Chinook Stocks Report.	
		<u>Chinook ESU/Stock Group</u>	<u>Score</u>
		<u>ESU/ Stock Group</u>	<u>Run Type</u>
		<u>Rivers or stocks in group</u>	<u>Score</u>
		Northern Puget Sound	Fall
		Nooksack, Elwha, Dungeness, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish	10
		Southern Puget Sound	Fall
		Nisqually, Puyallup, Green, Duwamish, Deschutes, Hood Canal systems	10
		Lower Columbia	Fall
		Fall Tules and Fall Brights (Cowlitz, Kalama, Clackamas, Lewis, others)	10
		Upper Columbia & Snake Fall	Fall
		Upriver Brights (Washington state only)	8
		Lower Columbia	Spring
		Lewis, Cowlitz, Kalama, Big White Salmon	8
		Middle Columbia	Fall
		Fall Brights	8
		SNAKE RIVER	Spring-Summer
		Snake, Salmon, Clearwater (Washington state only)	8

		Northern Puget Sound	Spring	Nooksack, Elwha, Dungeness, Skagit (Stillaguamish, Snohomish)	8	
		Washington Coast	Spring	Hoh, Queets, Quillayute, Grays Harbor	7	
		Washington Coast	Fall	Hoh, Queets, Quillayute, Grays Harbor	7	
		Middle & Upper Columbia Spring	Spring	Columbia, Yakima, Wenatchee, Methow, Okanagan	7	
		Southern Puget Sound	Spring	Nisqually, Puyallup, Green, Duwamish, Deschutes, Hood Canal systems	5	

Species and Habitat Benefits 20 points

Species	0-5	<p>Proposal addresses multiple orca prey species stocks, and multiple life history stages for one or more orca prey species stocks will receive the highest score.</p> <p>5= multiple life stages of a single orca prey population stock or multiple populations stocks</p> <p>3= single life stage of a single orca prey population stock</p> <p>0= no listed population orca prey stock</p>
Ecological Processes and Features Limiting Factors	0-10	<p>Projects that recover habitat through process-based solutions will receive the highest scores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project identifies limiting factor and life history stage <u>for target stocks</u> Project results in a high functioning site that restores or protects ecosystem processes Surrounding conditions support the project The site is resilient to future degradation The project is designed to be resilient to climate change Sustainable over time, self-sustaining, or naturally increasing benefit; temporary fixes will score lower Hardened infrastructure solutions are acceptable but will score lower <p>8-10 = The project restores all the significant natural processes to the site and <u>significantly addresses improves</u> limiting factors</p>

		<p>5-7 = The project restores most of the moderate levels of natural processes and /or addresses most moderately improves limiting factors</p> <p>0-4 = The project has limited restoration of natural processes or and doesn't adequately address limiting factors</p>
Scale of benefit	0-5	<p>A higher number of quantified benefits and measurable restoration benchmarks will receive the highest score.</p> <p>Restores access to or improves and/or protects juvenile and/or adult high quality, functional habitat (structural/flow/temp) for the target chinook stocks measured by <u>metrics such as:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon habitat gain in miles • Salmon habitat improved in acres • Salmon habitat protected in acres • <u>Measurable improvements in flow conditions</u> • <u>Measurable improvements in water quality</u> • <u>Improvements in life-stage specific survival rates</u> <p>5 = A significant gain in salmon access or habitat from restoration or <u>prevention of habitat loss from</u> protection measures</p> <p>3 = A moderate gain in salmon access or habitat from restoration or <u>prevention of habitat loss from</u> protection measures</p> <p>0 = Little or no gain in salmon access or habitat from restoration or <u>prevention of habitat loss from</u> protection measures</p>
Likelihood to Succeed – 20 Points		
Appropriate Scope w/ Clear Goals and Objectives	0-5	<p>Goals and objectives of the project have been clearly communicated within a scope that is achievable and fitting for the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project addresses root cause of problem identified. • Objective's support and refine biological goals. • Objectives are specific quantifiable actions to achieve stated goal (See Manual 18). • Proposals that demonstrate the project is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first will receive the highest score. <p>5 = Goals and objectives are clearly communicated and achievable with implementation of the proposed project</p> <p>3 = Goals and objectives are not entirely clear or may not all be achievable with implementation of the proposed project</p> <p>0 = Project does not address root causes of identified problems or unlikely to meet objectives</p>

Logical Approach and Schedule	0-5	<p>Proposals that demonstrate readiness to proceed will receive the highest score.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate and achievable time frame and order of events to complete the project. • Level of design complete. • Permit stage. <p>4-5 = Project is ready to proceed with an appropriate level of design completed and most permitting requirements completed</p> <p>0-3 = Project must still complete important design elements or still require significant permit review</p>
Landowner Support	0-5	<p>Evidence of project support from directly impacted landowners (written or verbal during site visit) will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project has evidence of support from impacted landowners (letter of support, landowner acknowledgement)</p> <p>0-3 = Project does not have strong evidence of landowner support</p>
Sponsor/ Participants Experience	0-5	<p>Past experience with restoration and/or acquisition projects reflects a higher likelihood of future success. Proposal sponsors that have successfully implemented salmon restoration projects will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project sponsor has demonstrable experience with successful project implementation</p> <p>0-3 = Project sponsor has little or no demonstrated experience with project implementation</p>
Cost - 10 Points (All Projects)		
Best Use of Public Funds	0-5	<p>A well justified funding request that demonstrates good use of funds, availability of matching funds, and a clear and complete budget will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project has a clear budget and justified costs</p> <p>0-3 = Project has a less clear budget and justification of costs</p>
Leverage additional funds	0-5	<p>The proposal leverages additional funds (not including federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund). Any project that leverages a 50% or more <u>match of the total project cost</u> will receive the highest score. <u>Leveraged funds must be clearly documented in the Cost Estimate Spreadsheet, but do not need to be used as official match for the application request as long as the 15% match requirement is met.</u></p> <p>4-5 = Project leverages 50% or more in matching funds</p>

		0-3 = Project leverages less than 50% in matching funds
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HOW TO APPLY

To apply for Targeted Investment funds, work with the lead entity coordinator to enter project information into the Salmon Recovery Portal and create an application in PRISM. Additional information about the portal is in Section 5 of this manual. Once the project application is submitted through the portal, the portal will assign the project a PRISM project number. Use that project number to find the project in PRISM and complete the application. All applicants must use PRISM Online to complete applications. Applicants must ask the regions to complete a Targeted Investments Project Certification Form for each project submitted and attach the completed forms in PRISM with their final applications. If you need further information about how to submit an application, please see Section 3 of this manual.

FUNDING TIMELINE

All applications will follow the same timeline and requirements as all other SRFB applications.

PROJECT AMENDMENTS

Sponsors must follow the amendment process outlined in *Section 6 and Appendix I: Amendment Request Authority Matrix* in the manual.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2021

Title: Carbon Offsets Policy

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo describes RCO's policy on carbon offsets and payments for ecosystem services. RCO staff requests a decision from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to adopt the policy and enable funded projects to enroll in carbon offset and payments for ecosystem services programs.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction

At the September 22, 2021, Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff provided a briefing on the *Carbon Credits and Payments for Ecosystem Services Policy*. This policy is one of a series of actions to address climate change recommended by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Climate Change Subcommittee.

Staff outlined the policy as it was adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board¹, described conditions under which RCO funded project sponsors are likely to engage in the carbon offset marketplace, and discussed how SRFB funded projects may

¹ Recreation and Conservation Funding Board resolution 2021-02, January 2021.

align with these potential opportunities. The board voiced general support for the policy and requested an opportunity to consider adopting it in December.

Carbon Offsets Policy Overview

Broadly, this policy enables grantees who have acquired property with RCO funding assistance to participate in carbon offset crediting or payment for ecosystem services projects. It establishes a standard that the carbon project cannot adversely impact the grant assisted site and requires any deed restrictions used to secure the credit generating activity to be subordinate to RCO's deed of right or assignment of right. It requires revenue generated from the sale of credits to comply with RCO's pre-existing income use requirements.²

RCO has established a procedure for sponsors to notify RCO that they intend to enroll a project site in such a program. The policy provides a mechanism for RCO review of the proposed project and retains RCO's authority to approve or deny the request based on compatibility or any anticipated adverse impacts to the RCO funded site.

The following policy will be included in RCO's Acquisitions Manual (Manual 3) for 2022.

POLICY STATEMENT: Carbon Offsets and Payments for Ecosystem Services

Properties acquired or encumbered with state funding assistance from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) may be enrolled in carbon credit and other payments for ecosystem service market programs to the extent that activities generating the credits or payments do not conflict or interfere with the RCO funding purpose. Through such markets, funded properties may be used to leverage the state's investment to secure a source of income for stewardship and maintenance of conserved properties or future property acquisitions in accordance with RCO's income use policy and [Washington Administrative Code 286-13-110](#).

If the sponsor secures the activity generating the carbon or ecosystem service credits with a restriction on the title of the RCO funded property or properties, the restriction may not:

² The income use policy allows revenue to be directed back into stewardship of the property, stewardship of other properties in the sponsor's portfolio, or to be leveraged for future conservation acquisitions. See RCO Manual 3: Acquisition Projects, p.72.

- Subordinate RCO's deed of right or assignment of right;
- Conflict or interfere with RCO's funding purpose and ability to enforce the terms of RCO's project agreement;
- Reduce or diminish RCO's ability to pursue a remedy in the event RCO issues a determination of non-compliance or conversion for the project area.

If the activities generating carbon or ecosystem services credits are found to be incompatible or conflict with RCO's funding purpose, the RCO funded project area may be subject to a determination of non-compliance or conversion. See *RCO Manual 7: Long-Term Obligations* for more information on compliance, non-compliance and conversion policies and procedures.

Procedure and delegation of authority

Prior to committing to a carbon finance or other payment for ecosystem services project, the sponsor must provide RCO with written notice. The notice must include:

- Which RCO funded properties will be included in the project
- The crediting or payment terms and anticipated time commitment of the project
- Acknowledgement of RCO's income use policy

Prior to recording any deed restriction, the sponsor must provide RCO the opportunity to review the deed restriction for compatibility with RCO's funding terms and conditions. RCO may approve the deed restriction under the complementary covenants policy, suggest modifications to receive approval, or deny based on the above provisions. The RCO Director or their designee is responsible for approval of the deed restriction.

Limitations

This policy only applies to state funding programs administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Properties acquired with federal funds administered by the board are not eligible unless carbon and ecosystem service payment projects are authorized by the federal program.

Discussion

There are two primary reasons for developing this policy. One is to affirm that the board considers carbon projects to be an appropriate and compatible use of funded project sites. RCO has similar policies that guide specific uses of a project site such as tree removal and timber harvest, livestock grazing, concessions and leases, and utility permits.

The second purpose of this policy is to clarify conditions under which using a deed restriction to secure the carbon offset project may be consistent with the project's funding purpose. In very limited circumstances, enrolling a carbon offset project may require committing to secure the carbon sequestering asset through a restriction on the property title, for example, a covenant barring the removal of trees. The policy requires RCO have an opportunity to review any restriction before it is recorded to ensure compatibility with RCO's deed of right, assignment of right and long-term funding obligations.

The policy creates a procedural check to ensure compatibility at the initiation of a carbon project. When a sponsor notifies RCO of their intent to enroll a grant funded property in a carbon offset project, the policy authorizes RCO's director, or director's designee, to approve the proposal, request more information, or deny the carbon project based on a review of the project details. Some carbon sequestration activities simply may not be compatible with all RCO funded projects. If the activity proposed is determined to be incompatible or inconsistent with RCO's funding purpose, RCO may deny the sponsor's request.

Finally, RCO retains all rights to pursue a remedy should a future condition be discovered that constitutes non-compliance with long-term funding obligations after a carbon project is enrolled. As with every RCO funded project, future unanticipated activities or impacts to the project site could conflict with RCO's original funding intent. If site-specific or other unforeseen circumstances arise that cause a carbon project to conflict with the RCO funding purpose, RCO's inspection process, compliance team, and ultimately the funding boards retain all their current authority to declare a conversion and seek a remedy through current policy.

Request for Decision

Currently, this policy is limited to projects funded with grants administered by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Recreation and Conservation Office. Staff is requesting the Salmon Recovery Funding Board adopt this policy. If the Board approves, the limitation will be removed, and projects that acquire property using Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants will be eligible for carbon offset programs.

Strategic Plan Connection

This policy supports the [Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Strategic Plan](#) goal two: *Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical **and efficient** use of resources.*

Staff Recommendation

RCO staff recommends the Salmon Recovery Funding Board adopt this policy.

Streamflow Restoration Planning Update



Why is watershed planning important?

Streamflow restoration watershed planning helps improve rivers and streams for salmon and provides water for rural homes in Washington.

More information

Please visit the Streamflow Restoration planning webpage¹.

Contact us

We will update this publication as the process advances.
Please email your questions to WRProjects@ecy.wa.gov

ADA Accommodations

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6872 or email at WRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

Streamflow Restoration law passed to boost rivers and streams

In January 2018, the Legislature passed the streamflow restoration law ([RCW 90.94](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.94)²) to help enhance streamflows

The law directed 15 local planning groups to develop new watershed plans or update existing plans to offset the impacts from new domestic permit-exempt wells and achieve a net ecological benefit (NEB). The law set legislative deadlines for plans to be locally approved and adopted by Ecology.

Ecology is finalizing five watershed plans

The streamflow restoration law ([RCW 90.94.030](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.94.030)³) also established a pathway for plan preparation, adoption, and rulemaking for incomplete plans. Following the law, Ecology is preparing final draft plans based on the local planning group's work in five watersheds or Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs):

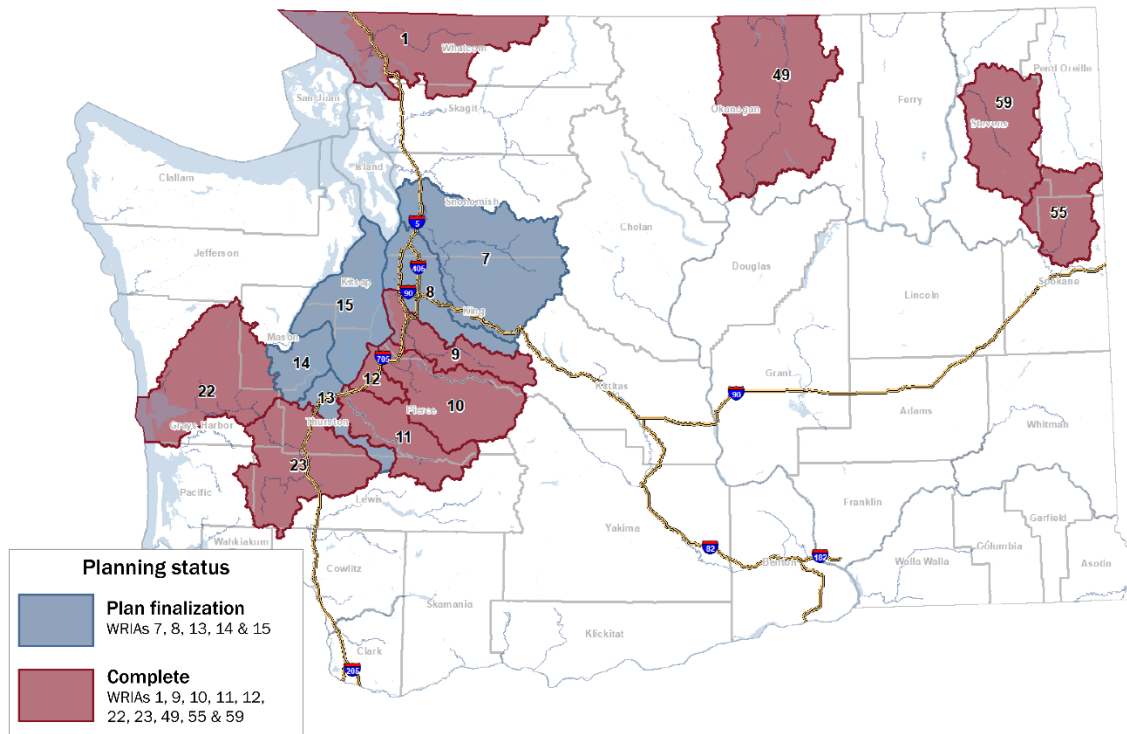
- WRIA 7 – Snohomish
- WRIA 8 – Cedar-Sammamish
- WRIA 13 – Deschutes
- WRIA 14 – Kennedy-Goldsborough
- WRIA 15 – Kitsap

¹ ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration/Streamflow-restoration-planning

² app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.94

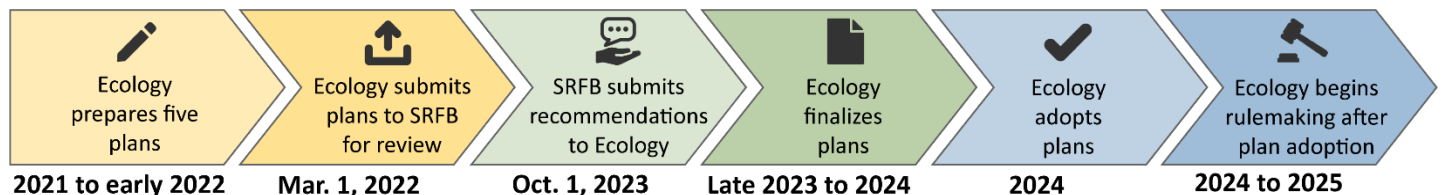
³ [https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.94.030](http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=90.94.030)

Streamflow restoration watershed planning status



Timeline for plan finalization

Ecology is coordinating with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to finalize the remaining five plans. The timeline below follows the Inter Agency Agreement between Ecology and RCO.



- **Jul., 2021 to Feb., 2022:** Ecology prepares five final draft plans.
- **Mar. 1, 2022:** Ecology submits plans to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) for technical review.
- **Oct. 1, 2023:** SRFB completes technical review of the plans and submits recommendations to Ecology.
- **Late 2023 to 2024:** Ecology considers SRFB's recommendations, and may amend the final draft plans in late 2023.
- **2024:** Ecology adopts plans.
- **2024 to 2025:** Ecology initiates rulemaking within six months of plan adoption.

Ecology's rulemaking is a public process guided by the Washington Administrative Procedure Act (APA), ch. 34.05 RCW. Ecology Rulemaking will be undertaken consistent with the requirements of the streamflow restoration law (RCW 90.94.030) and must be completed within two years.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Which watersheds were part of the streamflow restoration law and what was the local planning process?

A: The streamflow restoration law (RCW 90.94) established two processes for watershed planning:

1. Previously established planning groups in seven watersheds (WRIAs 1, 11, 22, 23, 49, 55, and 59) updated their existing watershed plans under chapter RCW 90.94.020.
2. New Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Committees were created in eight watersheds (WRIAs 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 15) to develop new watershed plans under chapter RCW 90.94.030. The law required that all committee members approve the plan before submitting to Ecology for adoption. Plans in WRIAs 9, 10, and 12 were adopted by June 30, 2021, the legislative deadline. Plans in WRIAs 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 were not completed by the deadline and will be completed as required by RCW 90.94.030(3)(h).

Q: Why did Ecology not adopt watershed plans for WRIAs 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15?

A: Despite working diligently over the past two and a half years to develop a draft plan, committees did not reach agreement by all members to complete their planning process.

Q: How will Ecology use the draft plans prepared by the committees?

A: As Ecology develops the final draft plans, it will follow, as the committees did, the law, POL 2094 and the NEB guidance⁴. Ecology will also consider all available information, including draft materials developed by the committees.

Q: Is Ecology required to conduct rulemaking if a committee did not approve their plan or Ecology could not adopt the plan by June 30, 2021?

A: Yes, in the case where a committee did not approve their plan and Ecology could not adopt it, the law requires Ecology to initiate rulemaking within six months after it goes through the process (see timeline graphic above) and adopts the plan. Once rulemaking begins, the law requires the final rule to be completed within two years.

Q: Will local committees be involved in finalizing plans for WRIAs 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15?

A: No, the committees worked on their plans from Fall 2018 through June 30, 2021, the legislative deadline.

Q: Will tribes continue to play a role as the planning progresses through this five step process?

A: The Department of Ecology and RCO, as agencies of the State of Washington, have on-going relationships and conversations with each of the Tribes interested in this work. Ecology maintains its commitment to coordinate with our governmental partners as we collectively move toward optimal outcomes for water and instream resources to meet the needs of people and the environment.

Q: How is this planning process related to Ecology's statewide competitive streamflow grant offering?

A: Projects identified in the adopted watershed plans or rules receive some funding priority in the statewide competitive granting process as provided in the current round's grant guidance.⁵

Q: How can I track progress of the planning?

A: For more information and updates on the process, visit the streamflow restoration planning webpage.⁶ Please send your questions to WRProjects@ecy.wa.gov. We will do our best to include the responses to your questions in future versions of this publication.

⁴<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/1911079.html>

⁵<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2111019.html>

⁶<https://ecology.wa.gov/Water-Shorelines/Water-supply/Streamflow-restoration/Streamflow-restoration-planning>

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2021

Title: Monitoring Update and Briefing

Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator
Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Director

Summary

Following the June 2021 meeting, the board directed GSRO to continue to work with the SRFB monitoring subcommittee to address key questions about the Intensely Monitored Watershed (IMW) program and to lay the groundwork for monitoring funding decisions in 2022. This briefing provides background and progress on the monitoring subcommittee's work to date and outlines the work ahead for 2022.

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

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee

Following the June 2021 meeting, the board directed GSRO to continue to work with the SRFB monitoring subcommittee to address key questions about the IMW program and to lay the groundwork for monitoring funding decisions in 2022. The monitoring subcommittee was formed in 2020 and is comprised of representatives from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Monitoring Panel, Council of Regions (COR), Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), and GSRO.

The subcommittee meets monthly and plans to wrap up its work in the spring, ahead of the June 2022 board meeting. The subcommittee developed a work plan focused on three main objectives.

1. Developing a Decisional Framework for Monitoring
2. Supporting the development of an IMW Lessons Learned Report

3. Developing Monitoring Program Recommendations for board consideration

Subcommittee Work Plan

Decisional Framework for Monitoring

The purpose of the Decisional Framework for Monitoring is to provide an organized structure to facilitate an informed conversation among the subcommittee and board members about the board's monitoring programs. The Decisional Framework is organized around the following elements: key monitoring programs relevant for salmon recovery, relevance for the board, potential benefits or tradeoffs of board engagement or funding, and the potential role of the board in guiding future monitoring activities. The Decisional Framework is considered a working document subject to updates as we learn, but the subcommittee plans to have a final working draft by the end of 2021, to guide and inform subcommittee and board conversations, recommendations, and decisions.

IMW Lessons Learned Report

The IMW Lessons Learned Report will summarize current findings from the IMW studies, outline the role for IMWs in the board's monitoring portfolio moving forward, and identify near-term opportunities for information sharing that can directly inform board funding decisions. Monitoring panel member, Dr. Bob Bilby is lead on this report and is relying on information from the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership IMW workshops being completed in 2021, as well as information directly from the IMW teams. Dr. Bilby is also working with the IMW teams to engage directly with the subcommittee as the report is developed so that the subcommittee can provide additional guidance and insight. A draft report is expected in early 2022. Findings from this report will be presented to the board in March and will inform subcommittee recommendations.

Monitoring Funding Recommendations

The subcommittee has tasked itself with summarizing and presenting recommendations for monitoring funding to the board for consideration. The subcommittee will rely on the Monitoring Decisional Framework, annual reports submitted by Fish In/Fish Out and IMW projects, the IMW Lessons Learned Report, interactions with the IMW teams, and its own meeting discussions and deliberations. The monitoring subcommittee may discuss preliminary recommendations with the board at the March 2022 meeting and plans to guide and inform staff recommendations that can be presented at the June 2022 board meeting.

Additional Information

Adaptive Management

The board and the subcommittee have expressed an interest in developing a longer-term adaptive management strategy. The monitoring subcommittee is discussing this topic but recognizes that developing an adaptive management strategy is a large undertaking, requiring additional resources and is outside the current scope of the monitoring subcommittee's immediate work. However, the subcommittee will continue to discuss adaptive management, focusing on potential near term actions, that may also set the stage for future work supported with additional resources.

Floodplain Restoration Pilot Program

The Floodplain Restoration/Remote Sensing Effectiveness Monitoring Pilot Project funded by the board is underway. Site selection and implementation of this project is being guided by the monitoring panel, regional recovery boards, and GSRO. This pilot project is not part of the subcommittee's immediate work plan, but periodic updates are provided as needed or requested by the subcommittee.

Strategic Plan Connection

This work supports *Goal 2* of the board's strategic plan: Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources.

[SRFB Strategic Plan \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/srfb/strategic-plan)

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

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 1-2, 2021

Title: Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans, Item 10

Prepared By: Kat Moore, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

Update on the eligibility of Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan projects.

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

Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) Projects Eligibility

A Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) is a forest road inventory and schedule for repair work that is needed to bring logging roads up to state standards. The plans are a component of the *Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan* completed in December 2005 and later approved by the federal services. The state's forest practice rules, developed to conform with the Habitat Conservation Plan, require large forest landowners to develop and implement road maintenance and abandonment plans for roads within their ownership. Large forest landowners were required to have all roads within their ownership covered under a Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)-approved RMAP by July 1, 2006, and to bring all roads into compliance with Forest Practice's standards by July 1, 2016. In 2011, the Forest Practices Board amended its administrative code to allow forest landowners to extend the deadline for completing the road work scheduled in their RMAPs for up to 5 years, or until October 31, 2021.

In August 2009, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) adopted a policy for funding RMAP-related projects. This policy allows for RMAP-related projects, including

fish passage and sediment reduction projects, in both small and large forests. The 2010 grant round was the first grant round that RMAP projects were eligible.

For the projects to be eligible, RMAP projects had to meet certain criteria. The SRFB based the criteria on the language from [RCW 77.85.130\(6\)](#), which states:

"The board may award a grant or loan for a salmon recovery project on private or public land when the landowner has a legal obligation under local, state, or federal law to perform the project, when expedited action provides a clear benefit to salmon recovery, and there will be harm to salmon recovery if the project is delayed. For purposes of this subsection, a legal obligation does not include a project required solely as a mitigation or a condition of permitting."

Based on RCW 77.85.130(6), RMAP projects were eligible if they met the following criteria:

1. Project is not solely mitigation.
2. Project is an expedited action ahead of the Department of Natural Resources-approved RMAP schedule. Expedited actions do not include RMAP projects that might be delayed beyond their originally scheduled completion dates.
3. Projects must provide a clear benefit to salmon recovery.
4. There will be harm to salmon recovery if the project is delayed (i.e., not completed earlier than the scheduled completion date).

The deadline for completion of the RMAPs was October 31, 2021. Forest landowners who have outstanding RMAP projects are still under a legal obligation to bring their roads up to current standards, including correcting fish passage barriers. Since the deadline for completion has passed, there is no expedited action that the SRFB can support, and therefore RMAP projects can no longer be eligible under the criteria of RCW 77.85.130(6).

Update from Department of Natural Resources

Recreation and Conservation Office staff met with staff from the DNR to discuss the current state of RMAP now that the October 31, 2021, deadline has passed. DNR confirmed that forest landowners with outstanding RMAP projects are still under a legal obligation to correct them. The exact number of remaining fish passage barriers is unknown, as the deadline for landowners' annual progress reporting is May 2022. After May 2022, DNR expects to have an account of the number and location of fish passage barriers that still need to be corrected. The landowners with these barriers still have a legal obligation to correct the barriers through the forest practices rules, and the DNR

will work with those landowners on plans to correct them. However, since those actions will not be expedited, they are not eligible to be funded by the SRFB due to the criteria in RCW 77.85.130(6).

Other Possible Funding Sources

RMAP projects that are located on the coast are currently eligible for Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRRI) program funding. While the 2022 manual for this program has not yet been adopted, we anticipate RMAP projects will continue to be eligible the program's next grant cycle. The WCRRRI program does not have the same requirements regarding expedited actions on legal obligations as does the SRFB.

Strategic Plan Connection

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

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

Next Steps

Staff has updated Manual 18 to remove RMAP project eligibility and will be publishing the manual after the December board meeting.

Executive Committee

*Alicia Olivas
Hood Canal Lead Entity*

*Ali Fitzgerald, Co-Vice Chair
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board*

*Amy Hatch-Winecka
Deschutes WRIA 13 Salmon Recovery
Lead Entity*

*Dawn Pucci, Co-Vice Chair
Island County Lead Entity WRIA 6*

*Kirsten Harna
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity*

*Lisa Spurrier
Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity*

*Mike Lithgow
KalisPELL-Pend Oreille Lead Entity*

*Suzanna Smith, Chair
WRIA 9 Green/Duwamish and Central
Puget Sound Watershed*

Members

*Anna Geffre
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity*

*Ashley Von Essen
Nisqually Lead Entity*

*Aundrea McBride
Skagit Watershed Council*

*Becky Peterson
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board*

*Bill Armstrong
Quinalt Indian Nation Lead Entity*

*Cheryl Baumann
N. Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon*

*Denise Smee
Lower Columbia Lead Entity*

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

*Gretchen Glaub
Snohomish Lead Entity*

*Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz
Lake Washington, Cedar, Sammamish
Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity*

*Kathy Peters
West Sound Watershed Council*

*Michael Horner
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery
Board Lead Entity*

*Sam Whitridge
San Juan Lead Entity*

*Steve Hagerty
WRIA 14 Lead Entity*

*Tom Kollasch
Pacific County Lead Entity*

*Tracy Bowerman
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery
Board Lead Entity*

*Whitney Reynier
Klickitat County Lead Entity*



WASHINGTON
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Community-Based Salmon Recovery

November 24, 2021

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

RE: Washington Salmon Coalition Support for Adaptive Response

Dear Chair Breckel and members of the Board,

The Washington Salmon Coalition (Coalition) is writing to offer support for the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's proposed concept for an Adaptive Response funding source for completed closed SRFB-funded projects. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal.

There are several ways Adaptive Response funding could positively impact restoration project implementation.

It is understood that salmon habitat restoration projects have a certain degree of calculated risk as part of their design. Each sponsoring entity makes a judgement call on the level of certainty required to move a project forward, and often this is driven by the availability of funding to accommodate any risks, however small. Adaptive response funds could reduce initial project costs by allowing a sponsor to establish trigger points, monitor, and adaptively respond to risks only when needed.

The ability to adapt and respond also can increase landowner willingness. Risk and liability are an important element of assuring landowners that their environmentally positive actions will not place an undue burden on them over time. Having a funding resource available to support adaptive management is another tool for increasing landowner willingness.

Adaptive response funding acknowledges the dynamic nature of our watersheds, now accelerated by climate change which will create unprecedented future conditions. Access to adaptive response funding will ensure we are delivering the best projects and adapting those projects when needed while protecting investments already made.

The Coalition supports a proof-of-concept for Adaptive Response funds. We encourage exploring all funding mechanisms to support this critical need. This could

Executive Committee*Alicia Olivas**Hood Canal Lead Entity**Ali Fitzgerald, Co-Vice Chair**SNAKE RIVER SALMON RECOVERY BOARD**Amy Hatch-Winecka**Deschutes WRIA 13 Salmon Recovery
Lead Entity**Dawn Pucci, Co-Vice Chair**ISLAND COUNTY LEAD ENTITY WRIA 6**Kirsten Harna**Chehalis Basin Lead Entity**Lisa Spurrier**Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity**Mike Lithgow**Kalispell-Pend Oreille Lead Entity**Suzanna Smith, Chair**WRIA 9 Green/Duwamish and Central
Puget Sound Watershed***Members***Anna Geffre**North Pacific Coast Lead Entity**Ashley Von Essen**Nisqually Lead Entity**Aundrea McBride**Skagit Watershed Council**Becky Peterson**WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board**Bill Armstrong**Quinalt Indian Nation Lead Entity**Cheryl Baumann**N. Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon**Denise Smee**Lower Columbia Lead Entity**Donald "Kit" Crump**Co-Lead for Stillaguamish Watershed
Lead Entity**Gretchen Glaub**Snohomish Lead Entity**Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz**Lake Washington, Cedar, Sammamish
Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity**Kathy Peters**West Sound Watershed Council**Michael Horner**Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery
Board Lead Entity**Sam Whitridge**San Juan Lead Entity**Steve Hagerty**WRIA 14 Lead Entity**Tom Kollasch**Pacific County Lead Entity**Tracy Bowerman**Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery
Board Lead Entity**Whitney Reynier**Klickitat County Lead Entity*

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include cost-sharing a revolving fund, opt-in options for sponsors and lead entity programs, use of a lead entity's allocation towards adaptive response, market driven structures, or public-private financing partnerships. As project costs increase, adaptive response funding must grow accordingly.

The Coalition is committed to help structure and operationalize this concept in partnership with the Council of Regions, Recreation and Conservation Office staff, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. We encourage you to endorse this concept for further development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Washington Salmon Coalition

p.p. Suzanna Smith, Chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition

cc: Megan Duffy, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Melody Kreimes, Executive Director, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

COUNCIL OF REGIONS UPDATE for the SRFB's December 1-2, 2021 Meeting

Prepared by Alex Conley, Chair

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

1. We are excited to **work with GSRO as 1) the Governor's office develops funding and policy recommendations** for the 2022 supplemental legislative session and **2) partners identify projects that could be funded under federal infrastructure proposals**. We thank GSRO consistently engaging with us and bringing our recommendations into their discussions with the Governor's Office and Natural Resources agency leadership.
2. **COR met with WDFW leadership in October** to discuss areas of common interest and how regions and the Department can best collaborate. We are working to schedule topic-specific follow-up discussions and regular check in meetings. Thanks to GSRO for brokering this partnership!
3. COR continues to **work with with the Army Corps of Engineers and Ecology and other partners to identify and implement ways to address Clean Water Act Permitting challenges**.
4. **COR is excited to be a part of the ongoing discussion of ways to fund adaptive management and adjustments to past SRFB projects**. Thanks to Melody Kreimes for leading this effort. Melody will be leaving the Upper Columbia Board; we will miss her and wish her the best in new adventures!
5. COR has **held monthly COR calls and organized COR participation** in groups such as SRNet and the Fish Barrier Removal Board.
6. COR members **continue to engage with GSRO and the monitoring panel** to finalize a list of Key Uncertainties that identify monitoring needs and the SRFB's potential role in meeting them.
7. The four **Columbia Regions have been meeting monthly** to coordinate on Columbia River topics.

Specific Council of Regions Input for the December SRFB Meeting:

Item #4: Targeted Investments Criteria

We'd like to thank RCO staff for their work to solicit and respond to feedback from regions and lead entities in preparing the Targeted Investments Manual 18 changes before you today. This version gives us the direction we need to develop region-specific solicitations and ranking process so that each region can then provide a single project to the SRFB for final review.

Item #7: Monitoring

The Regions encourage the SRFB to identify and allocate any potentially available funding above the \$350,000 base for Regional Monitoring proposals as soon as possible (now, or in March), so that the regions can solicit projects and coordinate among regions with a target funding amount in mind.

Item #9: Policy Workplan Discussion

The Council of Regions look forward to engaging with the Board and RCO staff and the SRFB develops and implements its 2022 policy work plan.

Item #11: Regional Presentations

Thank you for inviting individual regions to present to the Board; we look forward to lively discussions!



1 December 2021

Chair Breckel, Director Duffy, and members of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board,

My name is Mara Zimmerman and I am the Executive Director for the Coast Salmon Partnership. I want to state my support for including Washington Coast fall Chinook and spring Chinook stock groups in the Targeted Investment program without designating priority for specific rivers within each stock group. In preparing my comments for you this morning, I have gathered information from technical experts at NOAA and WDFW. I also read the peer-review papers, reviewed associated supplemental material, and consulted with RCO staff Tara Galuska and Jeannie Abbott.

In 2018, NOAA and WDFW published a report that laid out priority Chinook salmon stocks for Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) recovery and this report was the basis for priorities of the SRFB Targeted Investments program. In this report, individual coastal rivers were listed (or omitted) and this has raised the question whether some rivers on the Washington coast were intended to have higher priority than others. In my opinion, there is a lack of technical evidence to prioritize among rivers of the Washington Coast Region at this time. To that end, I would like to share with you the following observations:

1. **First, existing coded-wire tag (CWT) data support overlap between Chinook salmon and SRKW from Washington coast rivers that were not named in the 2018 report.** A recent paper by Dr. Andrew Shelton and colleagues used CWT from four hatcheries on the Washington Coast to describe ocean distribution of fall Chinook salmon, and the 2018 report related this distribution to SRKW feeding areas. Despite being the source of data for overlap with SRKW, neither the Nemah nor the Quinault were listed rivers in the 2018 report.
2. **Second, available genetic results cannot currently resolve SRKW diets on a river by river basis from the Washington Coast Region.** A recent paper published by Dr. Brad Hanson and colleagues used genetics to describe the contribution of Washington Coast Chinook stock group to SRKW diets but did not examine this contribution at the level of individual rivers. According to the WDFW genetics lab, there are no current genetic results that could assign either fall Chinook or spring Chinook to specific rivers of the Washington Coast.

In summary, I encourage you to align the funding priorities for the Targeted Investment program with the science that is available to support these priorities. Science data are continuing to advance and NOAA is currently updating Chinook stock priorities for SRKW in response. At present, however, it is my opinion that it would be premature to include river-specificity for Washington Coast Chinook in SRKW restoration strategies such as the Targeted Investment grant program.

PROTECT THE BEST • RESTORE THE REST

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SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 1, 2021

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Katrina Lassiter	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Kaleen Cottingham	Olympia	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
VACANT	VACANT	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 called the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting to order at 9AM. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, was invited to call roll to determine quorum. Ms. McNamara also covered Zoom ground rules and etiquette.

Motion: Move to Approve the December 1-2, 2021 Agenda

Moved By: Member Endresen-Scott

Seconded by: Member Cottingham

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Move to Approve the September 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Cottingham

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Approved: **Approved**

Chair Breckel addressed **Member Katrina Lassiter's** exit as a SRFB member. Member Lassiter expressed gratitude for her time as the Department of Natural Resource (DNR) designee and explained that she is leaving DNR and moving into a new role at the Department of Ecology (ECY).

Next, Chair Breckel noted the possibility of an in-person or hybrid retreat in March 2022.

After providing remarks of reflection on 2021's successes and challenges, Chair Breckel recognized **Wendy Brown**, RCO's previous Policy Director, who recently started work with the senate; **Marc Duboiski**, the new Salmon Section Manager; and **Tara Galuska**, the new Orca Recovery Coordinator for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO).

Item 1: Director's Report

Megan Duffy, RCO Director, provided updates and activities of RCO in the last quarter.

The update included staff changes, the expectations and undecided location for the March 2-3, 2022, meeting, and the creation of a subcommittee. Board members agreed to delegate the decision about whether the March Board meeting should be held in person or virtually to the Board Chair and the Director. This would enable for the most recent virus trends to be taken into consideration.

Director Duffy requested formation of the subcommittee to discuss and provide recommendations to the full board on two large cost increases, one for the Dungeness levee setback project and the other for the Gold Basin project. **Members Chris Endresen Scott** and **Annette Hoffman** volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Director Duffy explained to the group that they should anticipate more cost increases as delays occur, supply chain issues continue, and projects become more complex and expensive. The board suggested that cost increases be an issue discussed at its retreat as the topic in general required additional attention.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report (GSRO)

Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Director, provided a briefing on the recent work accomplished by GSRO, noting that greater detail can be found in memorandum 2 of the meeting materials. Mr. Neatherlin covered federal affairs, partner activities, and details on the recently passed bipartisan infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The infrastructure package includes many projects that will benefit salmon in Washington State, including increased funding for NOAA's Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

Next, Mr. Neatherlin expressed gratitude for **Director's Duffy's** attendance in various state agency and tribal organization meetings, including a meeting with the Quinault Indian Nation's Tribal Council.

Tara Galuska, GSRO Orca Recovery Coordinator, discussed the overall success and outstanding state agency involvement in Orca Recovery Day. Ms. Galuska also noted the Governor's visit to the Dungeness Levee Setback project with Ms. Galuska, Director Duffy and others. The Dungeness project supports Chinook salmon recovery and therefore benefits the Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW).

Next, Ms. Galuska noted that she drafted a progress report that will be released December 9, 2021 and will be incorporated into the new Orca Recovery Website. Ms. Galuska also compiled the budget decision packages for SRKW work related to the task force recommendations from state agencies. She will circulate this report and share the material at the March 2022 board meeting.

Salmon Section Report

Marc Duboiski, RCO Salmon Recovery Section Manager, introduced new salmon staff and encouraged patience from sponsors as the team adjusts to new geographic areas and the shifting of lead entities. Next, Mr. Duboiski briefed the board on recent salmon team activities that included scheduling lead entities site visits, preparing application workshops, and planning the Review Panel meetings scheduled for January 2022. Mr. Duboiski ended with pictures of staff, project tours and a recent example where damage occurred to a project due to flooding. Mr. Duboiski pointed out that more weather-related damage may be anticipated on future projects.

The board followed Mr. Duboiski's presentation with discussions on climate change and occurrence of natural disasters that effect salmon recovery. Member Cochrane suggested that these natural disasters act as a way for project sponsors to better understand process-based restoration.

General Public Comment:

Carl Wassilie, Yu' pik Biologist, provided comment encouraging more government-to-government interaction and incorporating more indigenous knowledge in salmon recovery efforts.

BREAK: 10:35 AM- 10:50 AM

Item 3: Partner Reports

Council of Regions (COR)

Alex Conley, Council of Regions, briefed the board on COR activities. Additional details on the COR's work can be found in Mr. Conley's written update. Mr. Conley mentioned that GSRO had helped to initiate a meeting between the lead entities (LE) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to allow the LEs to describe their role in salmon recovery. He also addressed the dialogue concerning closed projects that need additional funding. Closing, Mr. Conley expressed eagerness for the guidance on targeted investment proposals and clarification on the future of the SRFB's monitoring program.

WA Salmon Coalition (WSC)

Suzanna Smith, Washington Salmon Coalition, expressed the benefit of having a WSC member on the cost increase sub-committee, briefed the group on recent salmon recovery efforts, mentioned a new action plan that includes three new subcommittees at WSC, and introduced **Mike Lithgow** as the new WSC chair. Mr. Lithgow will be providing WSC updates in the future.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Lance Winecka, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, provided an overview of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group's (RFEs) activities and problems being faced, including:

- RFE's supply chain problem progression, noting that culverts will be delayed by six months and costs will double for materials.
- RFE's challenges accounting for increased costs within planning projects.
- Meeting match requirements for large, complex projects.

If partners are welcome, Mr. Winecka offered his involvement in the cost-increase board subcommittee.

Chair Breckel reminded Mr. Winecka that the cost increase subcommittee is specific to the two projects, while problems with overall project cost increases is a broader policy issue and will be discussed at the next meeting in March 2022.

Mr. Winecka lastly expressed concerns for cost increase timing. Groups that don't anticipate a cost increase have a disadvantage and this will encourage project sponsors to request cost increase funding before they know the true cost. **Member Kaleen Cottingham** asked Mr. Winecka about contingency plans and if the board should

encourage sponsors to build their own. Mr. Winecka explained that contingencies are not built into the budget because engineers and other professionals provide bids that are on based on past projects with lower costs. Mr. Winecka would like to add contingency costs as a line item in applications, but uncertain future construction costs are difficult to predict.

Item 4: Manual 18: Targeted Investments Criteria

Member Cottingham recused herself from Item 4.

Director Duffy provided an overview of the proposed administrative revisions and policy changes to *Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection*. The revisions included language and technical corrections to terminology with review from the COR.

Public Comment:

Mara Zimmerman, Executive Director of Coast Salmon Partnership, provided comment in support of including the fall and spring chinook stock groups, but expressed hesitancy in providing stock groups from any specific rivers.

Member Annette Hoffman and Chair Breckel expressed support for Ms. Zimmerman's opinion and noted that the language had been revised in the most recent draft presented to the board.

Motion: Approve the Targeted Investments program procedures and criteria as presented in Attachment A of memorandum 4.

Moved by: Member Sullivan

Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott

Decision: **Approved**

LUNCH: 12:00PM-1:00PM

Member Jeff Davis did not rejoin the meeting following lunch.

Item 5 Carbon Credits Policy Decision

Member Cottingham recused herself from Item 5.

Ben Donatelle, RCO Natural Resources Policy Specialist, provided a briefing on the developed Carbon Credits Policy. This policy enables grantees who have acquired

property with RCO funding assistance to participate in carbon offset crediting or payment for ecosystem services projects.

Following Mr. Donatelle's briefing, **Chair Breckel** asked if there are carbon credit opportunities for wetlands. Mr. Donatelle replied that such opportunities do exist.

Motion:	<u>Move to approve the adoption of the carbon offset policy as provided in Item 5</u>
Moved by:	Member Endresen-Scott
Seconded by:	Member Sullivan
Decision:	Approved

Item 8: Partner Reports

Chair Breckel suggested moving to Item 8 for partner reports because the agenda was ahead of schedule and the Item 6 presenter had not yet joined the meeting.

Conservation Commission

Member Brian Cochrane provided a brief overview of the commission's work. He reported that Carol Smith had retired from her position as the Executive Director and there will be interviews shortly for her replacement. Member Cochrane also mentioned that the Commission's policy advisor is working with the Office of Financial Management (OFM) on a proviso for the commission to investigate a program to provide riparian plant material.

Department of Ecology (ECY)

Member Hoffman provided a brief overview of the work being done at the Department of Ecology.

Addressing the supplemental budget, Member Hoffman reported that ECY and OFM have been working on creating a budget that would include salmon recovery funding. In the last session, ECY received funding to (1) assess potential hazards tire dust pollutants (6PPD-Q) and other chemicals or chemical classes and breakdown products that effect salmon via water runoffs, (2) develop a method for the laboratory measurement of 6PPD-Q and related chemicals in water and storm water on ECY instruments, and (3) collaborate with WSDOT, UWT and WSU-Puyallup to identify 6PPD-Q priority areas for monitoring and best management practice implementation. Member Hoffman also noted that ECY had received funding for continuous monitoring of watershed nutrients to support the nutrient reduction strategy for Puget Sound. This funding will increase

monitoring capacity, such as storm event sampling at the mouth of seven largest rivers discharging into Puget Sound.

She also discussed the importance of newly released general nutrient permit for Puget Sound, which was envisioned when the Orca Task Force was first established

Lastly, she mentioned that RCO and ECY had signed an interagency agreement with RCO to fund review the five final draft streamflow restoration plans.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Member Lassiter began by discussing federal funding, noting that some funding would be used for ecosystem restoration and that additional funding may come in through the National Estuary Program.

Addressing requests to legislature, she noted that DNR is working on a bill to create a Kelp and Eelgrass Conservation Health plan. The goal includes restoring 10,000-acres of kelp and eelgrass by 2040. A second legislative request concerns fire suppression funds, which currently cannot be used on fire-related administrative work. DNR is requesting to remove the proviso that doesn't allow the funds to be used for administrative needs in order to use the funds for administrative needs.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW did not have a representative to provide a briefing.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Member Susan Kanzler opened her briefing noting that DOT had completed 15 fish passage projects in 2021, opening about 88 miles of fish habitat. These projects corrected 14 injunction barriers. One barrier was corrected outside of the injunction area on Swauk Creek, in partnership with the US Forest Service. The DOT is on track to correct the largest number of barriers to date, with the \$726 million funding for the 21-23 biennium. There are nearly 156 fish barrier correction projects in design and 116 fish passage projects in construction this biennium. It is estimated that this will improve about 450 miles of upstream salmon and steelhead habitat.

Next, Member Kanzler noted that DOT recently created the [2030 Fish Passage Delivery Plan](#), which is available to the public. This plan includes an interactive map that **Chair Breckel** predicted would be useful for LEs to use for their timeline and schedule. This integration of efforts will leverage benefits.

Chair Breckel brought the meeting back to Item 6

Item 6: Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans

Bennet Weinstein, Manager of Stream Flow Restoration at ECY, provided an overview of RCW 90.94.030, the role of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in making recommendations to Ecology for approval of Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plans, and Ecology's timeline for the release of the five final draft plans to the board.

Providing context, Mr. Weinstein explained that RCW 90.94.030 came out of *Whatcom County v. Hirst, et al.* (2016) where the growth management act case concluded that counties or Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) needed to find technically sufficient water to support their building permits. This RCW necessitated that 8 new plans be created and 7 be updated. The intent of the plans is to offset the impact to surface waters from new permit exempt wells and result in a net ecological benefit. Out of the total 15 plans, 5 were not approved and adopted and now require review by SRFB. This includes WRIs 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15.

During 2019 and the early formation of these plans, ECY created the Streamflow Restoration Policy and Interpretive Statement (POL 2094) and Net Ecological Benefit Guidance (GUID-2094) to help advise the plan's formation and provide transparency for the implementation of RCW 90.94.030.

The five remaining draft plans will be submitted to SRFB for review March 1, 2022, and SRFB will have until October 1, 2023, to submit their recommendations to ECY. ECY will finalize and adopt the plans in 2024.

Given the expertise required for such a review, **Kathryn Moore**, Salmon Recovery Grants Manager, briefed the group on the development of a request for qualifications and quotations to bring the technical expertise on board to review the five watershed plans. Ms. Moore has prepared a draft timeline for review panel meetings and two board briefings that will occur in 2022 and 2023.

Item 7: Monitoring Briefing

Erik Neatherlin had to participate in another meeting so **Keith Dublanica**, GSRO Science Coordinator, presented the next item.

Keith Dublanica provided an overview of board monitoring panel activities. This included developing a workplan that focused on determining which programs to pursue and fund, how to distribute funds across programs, and provide recommendations to the board. The subcommittee has met monthly and developed the following Decisional Framework:

- Organizes monitoring programs for decision making
- Captures benefits and identifies leveraged opportunities
- Guides which of the programs the SRFB will fund

Mr. Dublanica discussed the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) lessons learned report. This will summarize current findings from IMW studies, outline IMW roles, and identify opportunities for information sharing that will inform future board decisions.

Mr. Dublanica next presented a draft 2022 timeline and mentioned additional tasks assigned to the sub-committee:

- Tracking the restoration scale pilot program
- Adaptive management program for SRFB
- Identifying board priorities at the June 2022 SRFB meeting

TASK: Chair Breckel requested the SRFB monitoring sub-committee, with input from the monitoring panel, provide monitoring options for consideration in March, and for deliberations and final decision in June.

RECESS at 2:48 PM

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 2, 2021

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Katrina Lassiter	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Kaleen Cottingham	Olympia	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
VACANT	VACANT	Susan Kanzler	Designee, Washington Department of Transportation

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Call to Order

Chair Jeff Breckel opened the meeting at 9:01AM and requested that **Julia McNamara**, Board Liaison, call roll and determine quorum.

Motion: Approve December 2nd, 2021 agenda
Moved by: Member Cottingham
Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott
Approval: **Approved**

Item 9: 2022 Policy Workplan Discussion

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, provided an overview of the 2019-2021 policy items in ranking order and outlined what policy items the board will prioritize in the upcoming biennium. For the 2019-2021 biennium, the board's ranking order of priorities was:

1. Climate change
2. Landowner willingness
3. Water storage

4. Water rights

For the 2021-2023 biennium, the board ranked the following priorities in this order:

1. Guidance on riparian plantings
2. Funding uplands as part of salmon recovery projects
3. Adaptive response funding
4. Public access on salmon recovery projects.

Mr. Donatelle outlined some remaining topics for the board to consider as well.

After board discussion of additional policy topics, **Director Duffy** suggested moving policy topics into three main categories for discussion purpose. The categories included:

1. Immediate issues: Potential sponsor problems (permitting, supply chain disruption, lack of contractors, cost increases, etc.)
2. Statewide influences on salmon recovery
3. Universal influences on salmon recovery (climate change, water storage, etc.)

As the board continued to discuss topics, **Member Annette Hoffman** suggested that the board use the forthcoming monitoring recommendations and decision-making framework to guide policy conversation. Topics such as emerging salmon recovery issues, SRFB's role in salmon recovery, landowner willingness, cost increases, riparian corridors, and permitting were surfaced. These items were included in a list of "core functions" that the board could possibly address at its retreat. Other issues included the potential for additional federal funding and match.

Director Duffy reminded the board of staffs' capacity to complete policy work and asked board members if they would be comfortable with a meeting facilitator, which they were.

To create a ranked list of priorities, **Chair Breckel** suggested a subcommittee be created. **Members Kaleen Cottingham** and **Jeromy Sullivan** volunteered.

Item 10: Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans

Kathryn Moore, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, provided an overview of the RMAP (Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans) Criteria Framework. Ms. Moore clarified that RMAP projects are ineligible for SRFB funding, as RMAP projects can no longer be expedited actions ahead of the DNR-approved schedule. Concerning fish barriers on forested land that remain, a list could be provided by DNR by May 2022. It was also mentioned that RMAP projects will remain eligible in the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative grant program, as this program does not have the same

requirements regarding expedited actions on legal obligations as does the SRFB. **Member Jeff Davis** mentioned the Family Fish and Forest Passage Program as a funding source for small forest landowners with RMAP projects remaining as well.

BREAK: 10:35AM-10:50AM

Item 11: Region Presentation

Melody Kreimes, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Council (UCSRC) LE, **Scott Brewer**, Hood Canal Coordinating Council LE, and **Alicia Olivas**, Hood Canal Coordinating Council LE, provided updates on regional activities and concerns. UCSRC's concerns included:

- Pinniped predation of Chinook salmon
- Avian predation of steelhead
- Spill timing of dams for salmon release
- Ineffective engagement with NOAA
- Difficulty implementing projects on United State Forest Service (USFS) land
- Chinook pre-spawn mortality data due to rising stream temperatures

From Mr. Brewer's point of view, there are additional issues that salmon recovery is facing, including limiting factors, SRFB's view of projects, and a lack of decisive leadership.

Alicia Olivas provided an update on the Duckabush project progress. **Member Sullivan** expressed concerns about tribal access to Middle beach and optimism about resolution. Ms. Olivas also expressed sponsor concerns, such as overall capacity.

Mr. Erik Neatherlin reminded the group that the Governor put together multiple initiatives that are coming to fruition. Ms. Olivas ended the conversation outlining the complexity of the projects and the need to address feasibility.

ADJOURN: Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Next meeting: Joint Retreat and Regular Meeting- March 2-3, 2022 – Room 172, Natural Resource Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Subject to change considering COVID restriction

Approved bv:



Chair Jeff Breckel