

Salmon Recovery Network Facilitation

MEETING 3 | APRIL 15, 2022

WELCOME

- Elizabeth McManus (facilitator from Ross Strategic) welcomed the group to the third SRNet meeting.

UPDATES FROM GSRO AND SRNET MEMBERS

- Erik Neatherlin (RCO/GSRO) gave an update that GSRO will be reaching out to state agencies, regional recovery organizations, and tribes on their 2023-2025 biennial priorities. Erik noted that they will be reaching out to state agencies in May and that those priorities will be compiled into recommendations that will be sent to the Governor's Office in late October.
- Jess Helsley (Wild Salmon Center) provided an update that many federal agencies and their applicable programs are currently working on their spend plans. Jess noted that spend plans from Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service (Year 1 Fish Passage Program) have been released.
- Jeff Breckel (SRNet co-chair and Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board) noted that SRF has funding for projects (approximately \$75 million). He noted that with the overall increase in resources/materials, the funding board is looking at how it can use these funds most effectively.
- Members brought up the following topics for discussion:
 - Match requirements to receive federal funds
 - Concern about culvert funding
 - Access to federal spending plans
- Jess and Erik provided the following responses:
 - There are programs that have an anticipated match requirement which can be an obstacle for many programs and organizations. However, Jess observed that there are some programs that have match waivers.
 - Jess and colleagues are communicating with Senator Cantwell's office regarding culverts and funding. The funding is not intended to be a plus up for Department of Transportation (DOT) to use for the injunction case. Erik noted that the money will be coming from the Federal DOT to the state DOT and the next step is to think about how to distribute the funding across the landscape.
 - On the White House website, there are links to federal spending plans. Jess noted that each agency has different methods to announce the release of their spending plans.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

- Representatives from RCO/GSRO, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish & Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, State Conservation Commission, and Puget Sound Partnership provided updates on new programs from the 2022 Legislature that are going to be implemented.

Erik from RCO/GSRO provided the following updates:

- RCO will be managing the large grant program (\$75 million) that Jeff mentioned.
- There is an open GSRO job position to implement the strategy and would be responsible for delivering the biennial implementation plan for the strategy.
- There is funding for RCO to expand the Northeast Upper Columbia Region above the blocked areas to establish a lead entity to help coordinate habitat strategy.

Tom Buroker from the Department of Ecology provided the following updates:

- Ecology has investments in Riparian Habitat Protection and Restoration and Clean Water. Details on each item can be found in the annex.
- Tom noted that if members are interested in the channel mitigation data, he can provide them the appropriate contact information.

Jeremy Cram from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife provided the following updates:

- WDFW is looking to incorporate salmon recovery planning into the Growth Management Act for Central Puget Sound counties and improve monitoring in Western Washington for hatchery monitoring and evaluation for existing hatchery programs and wild salmon productivity. WDFW is also looking at harvest monitoring in the ocean, Puget Sound, and freshwater systems of Western Washington. There is also need for increased hydropower funding to increase scientific capacity to better engage in hydropower relicensing.
- SRNet members had the following questions and comments:
 - How will you convey implementation methods to SRNet?
 - The \$25 million that is in the general fund will be moved to the recovery account to hold the funds for future work on the Duckabush
 - What are the priorities for the riparian habitat funds? When will the workgroup be formed, how is the group being selected, and will stakeholders be able to participate?
- Jeremy and Erik provided the following responses:
 - Implementation methods will be conveyed as they are decided. Jeremy noted that there are a lot of discussions regarding implementation and there will be more clarity in July. WDFW is trying to figure out how new funding and programs fit into existing programs.
 - Erik also noted that \$25 million was funded for the Duckabush which is approximately half of what was originally requested.
 - Erik noted the Office of Financial Management is the lead for the workgroup that will develop recommendations on “proposed changes in policy and spending priorities to improve riparian habitat to ensure salmon and steelhead recovery”. OFM is still developing a work plan for this effort.

Tom Bugert and Alex Smith from the Department of Natural Resources provided the following updates:

- DNR noted that they have investments in the following areas:

- Improvements to the salmon habitat and riparian standards across DNR owned and managed agricultural and aquatic nearshore land. Currently three projects: restoring a gravel yard in Southern Still Harbor and removing derelict outfall from Lowry Point, removing creosote treated pilings in the Snohomish River estuary, and stream restoration at Lake Bay.
- Additional investments are being made for LIDAR, drought research, implementation of watershed resilience plans, aquatic restoration natural areas work and resource protection and urban forestry projects, and to reduce the backlog of Forestry Riparian Easement Program applications.
- DNR noted that although they do not have funding for nursery capacity, DNR is aware that it is important and is currently looking at pipelines to increase state and private capacity.

Brian Cochrane from the Washington State Conservation Commission provided the following updates:

- With the new funds, SCC is looking to create the following programs:
 - Sustainable Farms and Field Programs, riparian plant propagation program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and increase the capacity of the Voluntary stewardship program.

Don Gourlie from the Puget Sound Partnership provided the following updates:

- PSP is finishing updates to the watershed chapters of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. PSP is also hiring two new staff, a salmon policy advisor to assist with implementation of the regional chapter of the Puget Sound Recovery Plan, and a new staff member to do research and monitoring for salmon recovery in the Puget Sound region.

PRESENTATION DISCUSSION

- Elizabeth prompted SRNet members to think about the implications of the new work and how SRNet can utilize that information to get the most out of these investments.
- SRNet members brought up the following questions and topics for discussion:
 - Potential for SRNet to collectively ask for a temporary moratorium on the need for a match for cost increase requests
 - Budget request for increased funding for Lead Entities project development and capacity
 - Workforce capacity needed to support implementation (specially at the Army Corps of Engineers)
 - Incorporating salmon recovery into the Growth Management Act
 - Inclusion of net ecological gain in implementation strategy
 - How do we show positive results from the increased funds in a short amount of time and emphasize that increased funds are needed?
 - Connections between agencies and their own riparian and restoration work
 - SRNet could be forum of how Governor’s salmon strategies were developed and provide that background context
- The planning team provided the following responses:
 - Erik emphasized that riparian will continue to be a priority for the state and tribes. Between now and next legislative session, what are our priorities in 2023-2025? Will it be legislation? What

might be in the budget ask? GSRO is currently regrouping the coordination among agencies and discussing how to move forward.

- Jeff emphasized that communication and coming together is key. He advised that the group think about how to efficiently work together and learn about constraints and needs. SRNet is a venue for communication about what is happening in the salmon recovery community and how the SRNet community can assist or get in front of messaging.
- Erik noted that information sharing within the group is critical and to think proactively. One pathway is to communicate on big initiatives and think about how it will play out in legislature. Second pathway is to get out in front of issues that members care about. Erik observed that the group could use the upcoming Orca Action Month as an opportunity to reinforce the connection between salmon and orcas.
- Mara observed that members are coming from different agencies and organizations and its vital to think about how these efforts interact, intersect, and who is moving these messages forward.

FOLLOW UP ON DAVID TROUTT'S M2 SUGGESTION

- Elizabeth brought up David's communication idea and asked the group to think about the types of communication and coordination needed and who would be interested in engaging in that effort
- SRNet members provided the following ideas:
 - Use social media and newsletters to reach the public on positive stories and ongoing issues
 - Engage with educators and children on salmon recovery
 - Engage with communications people who meets quarterly to discuss an environmental issue collectively
 - Need to have a target focus, direction, and audience
- The planning team provided the following responses:
 - Erik noted that the group could commit to have agency communication staff coordinate. Erik observed that this type of effort has happened in the past for the orca recovery efforts. They could meet periodically and focus on a couple of issues and SRNet could provide the policy perspective.

ACTION ITEMS

- GSRO, SRNet co-chairs, and facilitators (Planning Team) to review notes and develop potential topics for future meetings.
- GSRO and SRNet co-chairs to coordinate with members who are part of current communication teams.
- Facilitators to send calendar invite and agenda to SRNet for the June 17th meeting.

ANNEX



2022 Enacted Supplemental Budget - Salmon-Related Items

Salmon-Related Budget Items \$ in thousands - Biennialized FTEs		Enacted Budget 3/31/2022				
		FTE	GF-State	MTCA ¹	Other	Total
Riparian Habitat Protection and Restoration						
1	Stream Mapping Assessment	2.3	901			901
2	Shoreline Aerial Photography		200			200
3	Shoreline Management Assistance	3.5	896			896
4	Channel Mitigation Zone Mapping		164			164
Clean Water						
5	Address Toxic Tire Wear Chemical			1,322		1,322
6	Toxic Tire Wear in Stormwater	4.1		1,382		1,382
7	Increase Local Stormwater Capacity			4,000		4,000
8	2022 Community-Based Public-Private Stormwater Partnership (Capital Budget)			1,000		1,000
9	Hydropower Compliance Assistance	2.0	557			557
10	Wastewater Permit Implementation	1.8	550		439	989
11	Nutrient Credit Trading		350			350
Totals		12.8	3,618	7,704	439	11,761

Protecting the Environment | Ensuring Public Health | Supporting Economic Growth & Jobs

As the state’s lead environmental agency, Ecology’s mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations, while valuing and supporting Washington’s economic success. We’re tackling challenges that are unique to our times and require us to take a broad and holistic approach to our work that focuses on not only *what* we do, but also *how* we do it.

Ecology’s strategic goals are to:

- Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees.
 - Reduce and prepare for climate change impacts.
 - Prevent and reduce toxic threats and pollution.
 - Protect and manage our state’s waters.
 - Protect and restore Puget Sound.

In Washington and across the Pacific Northwest, salmon populations are struggling. Climate change, habitat loss, pollution, and other factors are hampering salmon recovery efforts. The following summarizes each salmon strategy-related budget item for Ecology in the enacted 2022 supplemental budgets. Please note that the budget notes below are subject to change as the Office of Financial Management (OFM) and legislative staff finalize language later this fall.

Riparian Habitat Protection and Restoration

Stream Mapping Assessment. \$901,000, 2.3 FTEs. Funding is provided in FY 2023 and FY 2024 to identify the methodologies and resources needed to maintain the accuracy of the National Hydrography Dataset for Washington, which provides stream-mapping information for riparian areas. (General Fund-State)

Shoreline Aerial Photography. \$200,000. One-time funding is provided for updated aerial photographs of marine and lake shorelines, which are used for local shoreline master programs and other purposes. (General Fund-State)

Shoreline Management Assistance. \$896,000, 3.5 FTEs. Ongoing funding is provided for technical assistance and enforcement staff to improve compliance with riparian area protections under local Shoreline Master Programs. (General Fund-State)

Channel Mitigation Zone Mapping. \$164,000. Channel migration zone (CMZ) maps depict the areas in a floodplain where a stream or river channel can be expected to move naturally over time. One-time funding is provided to identify standardized mapping methodology and to offer support for tribes, counties, and local jurisdictions to refine existing CMZ maps with local information. (General Fund-State)

Clean Water

Address Toxic Tire Wear Chemical. \$1,322,000. One-time funding is provided for materials science expertise and collection of industry data necessary to evaluate the feasibility of alternatives to tire chemicals, related to the 6PPD chemical. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Toxic Tire Wear in Stormwater. \$1,382,000, 4.1 FTEs. One-time funding is provided to study the ability of stormwater systems to filter out tire dust and develop best management practices to treat contaminated stormwater. (Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Increase Local Stormwater Capacity. \$4,000,000. Ongoing funding is provided to increase local stormwater capacity grants to fill gaps in local stormwater management with an emphasis on meeting new permit requirements to address toxic pollutants in stormwater. (Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account)

2022 Community-Based Public-Private Stormwater Partnership. \$1,000,000 (CAPITAL BUDGET).

Stormwater runoff carries a multitude of pollutants from urban development and roads, impacts water quality, and harms aquatic life and salmon. Funding is provided for Ecology, in collaboration with partner agencies, to develop local capacity and private investments in advancing implementation of stormwater retrofits statewide, especially among historically underserved communities. (Model Toxics Control Stormwater Account)

Hydropower Compliance Assistance. \$557,000, 2.0 FTEs. Ongoing funding is provided to participate in the review of non-federal hydropower dam license renewals and new hydropower license applications to address fish passage requirements and identify mitigation solutions. (General Fund-State)

Wastewater Permit Implementation. \$989,000. 1.8 FTEs. In FY 2020, the Department of Ecology developed a nutrients general permit for Puget Sound wastewater treatment plants to reduce nutrient pollution in Puget Sound. A combination of one-time and ongoing funding is provided for staff to administer the permit and provide technical assistance to permittees. (General Fund-State, Water Quality Permit Account)

Nutrient Credit Trading. \$350,000. One-time funding is provided to develop recommendations for nutrient credit trading that could achieve nutrient discharge reductions for point source dischargers covered under the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit. (General Fund-State)