

## West Sound Watersheds Council 3 Year Work Plan 2008 Update

This narrative is written to accompany the matrix update of the 3 Year Work Plan for the West Sound Watersheds Council (WSWC) lead entity. This update covers the entire lead entity, with projects and programs that are in the South Sound planning area (marine areas south of the Narrows) marked with an asterisk.

The WSWC lead entity wrote this update specifically for review by the Puget Sound NOAA Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT) for the 2008 Round of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). This lead entity has \$327,395 available for projects.

**How were these projects selected?** Almost all of these projects were included on the 2007 review and/or the 2007 SRFB ranked list. The only new project on the Work Plan this year is the proposed bridge over Chico Creek on State Highway 3, which has strategic ties to the other projects in the Chico basin. All projects are highest priority known at this point. Additionally, there are projects on this list that have all the funding needed, and are scheduled for completion or progress during the next three years. They are included to update the RITT on funding and design progress.

**Are there projects that were left off the list?** Yes.

Projects that have not progressed enough to have cost estimates or timelines within the next three years were not included on the list. Other actions, such as non-capital projects that do not qualify for SRFB were not included.

WSWC expects to continue to refine and align our priorities, strategies and actions for salmon recovery with the six goals of the Puget Sound Partnership. The multi-species focus of our lead entity strategy and Puget Sound steelhead recovery actions are very closely aligned with ecosystem function protection and restoration.

**How did the watershed decide on the costs for the projects?** Costs were provided by project sponsors and vary in their expected preciseness with amount of design completed. Costs are estimated for the entire project.

### **General progress, changes and status of implementation of the Recovery Plan:**

- The West Sound Watershed Council continues to progress in its' organizational structure. The group has met monthly since

- January 2007, and has enjoyed broad participation by West Sound local and tribal governments, as well as state agency representatives. The North Central Puget Sound Action Area is entirely contained in the WSWC geographic area, so PSP action agenda issues and related discussions have been highlighted at meetings.
- The cities, counties and tribes are in the process of discussing and approving an interlocal agreement for governance of the organization. The interlocal agreement itself took nearly a year of work.
  - The website planned as a primary communication tool has not been functional, but this problem has been overcome in the last month. A design team is at work on a [westsoundwatersheds.org](http://westsoundwatersheds.org) site.
  - WSWC project partners are entering projects in the Habitat Work Schedule. It is expected that all projects on this 3 Year Work Plan will be entered by June 30, 2008.
  - One of the highest priority actions in the WSWC Chinook Recovery Plan is the protection of quality nearshore habitat. Two significant shoreline acquisitions were included in the accomplishments for 2007/2008 – one in Northwestern Kitsap County (Pilot Point) and one on the Key Peninsula in Pierce County (Taylor Bay). A third acquisition on Anderson Island in South Sound will add upland and nearshore property to a small park (Marine View).
  - We contributed a portion of our lead entity funds to restore the Nisqually River estuary in South Sound, since it will have broad benefit to salmonids and Puget Sound health.
  - The Nearshore Assessment field work for East Kitsap was completed in 2007 and is currently in analysis and modeling by Battelle Labs. This work will guide our project selection in this part of the lead entity in future years.
  - We still lack adaptive management and H-Integration programs. There have not been staff or funding to address these items.

This is a summary of the projects on the matrix:

**Chico Creek Instream Restoration:** This restoration is at the Kitsap Golf and Country Club, where over 1000 feet of stream in the lower reach of Chico Creek has been channeled and banks armored. The restoration is a key part of the lower Chico Creek restoration process. The project is now planned for phases, as a result of damage to the stream banks in December 2007 floods, and under funding. The project engineering and design for phase 1 is nearing completion and the permits have been secured. It is scheduled for construction in 2008.

**Chico Estuary Restoration:** There are a series of projects aimed at restoring the floodplain of Chico Creek in Dyes Inlet. The components of this restoration include: vacating a County road (Kitty Hawk) and culvert at the mouth of the creek, providing access to 3 homes via acquisitions and a new access road, and then building a new bridge over the creek for State Highway 3. (The creek is channeled through a 12 foot wide culvert under the highway now). The work is in planned in concert with the Washington State Dept. of Transportation capital planning process.

**Barker Creek Estuary Restoration:** This project will replace a five foot diameter culvert with a bridge at the mouth of Barker Creek in Dyes Inlet, restoring tidal function to the lower mile of stream and facilitating fish passage. Permits are secured, and the project is scheduled for completion in 2008.

**Carpenter Creek Estuary Restoration:** This project replaces a tide gate (installed by the state of Washington for fish rearing) with a bridge and gives proper tidal function to 26 acres of undeveloped estuary habitat near Kingston. This is a US Army Corps of Engineers (COE) Section 206 project that is permitted and waiting for a federal budget approval. The SRFB, COE and Kitsap County have been working lately to keep this project funding alive, which is difficult because of the State of Washington need to expend funding allotted in previous bienniums.

**Strawberry Plant Park Restoration:** This project is located in Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island and includes the following actions: Remove intertidal fill, bulk heading, debris, and piles. Restore intertidal, estuarine and marsh habitat. Remove concrete parking area and restore riparian forest. The project design is under way and is scheduled for construction in 2009.

**Pritchard Park East Bluff:** This project is located on Bainbridge Island and includes the following actions: Relocate driveway & utilities, restore riparian forest, remove 500+ feet of bulk heading and restore feeder bluff function. The project design is under way and is scheduled for construction in 2009.

**Indianola Waterfront Preserve:** This project will replace a 15" culvert with a bridge, and remove fill from the estuary habitat behind the culvert. This was historically a part of Miller Bay, at Indianola, on the Port Madison (Suquamish) Reservation. The project design is under way and is scheduled for construction in 2009.

**Harper Estuary Restoration:** This project opens up the tidal area now blocked at a historic pocket estuary in southern Kitsap County. The project design is under way.

**Beaver Creek – upper pond and culvert:** This project is the last phase of the restoration of the Beaver Creek. An extensive restoration project dating back to 2003 has been ongoing in the lower reaches and estuary of Beaver Creek. This proposed fourth phase will directly tie into these ongoing restoration efforts and will address two of the last major modifications in the lower reaches of Beaver Creek. Phase 4 will assess and design the removal of an artificial sediment detention pond along Beaver Creek. The downstream restoration efforts have been designed to accommodate a fully functioning upstream condition and will be improved by the proposed project.

**\*Marine View Park Addition** – Anderson Island: Adds upland and nearshore property to a small park (Marine View). This was a new project made possible by a low sale price and large match from the project sponsor.

**Donkey Creek Restoration:** This project is located at the head of the bay in Gig Harbor. This is a part of a multi-phased project that daylights the creek, restores the riparian and estuary areas.

**\*Taylor Bay Acquisition:** This will protect the undeveloped portion of Taylor Bay, at the southern end of the Key Peninsula on Case Inlet, and 39 acres of upland.

**Pilot Point:** This will protect highest quality marine shoreline (as identified in the Kitsap Salmonid Refugia Report), and 40 acres of upland include two streams in northern Kitsap County, one mile south of Point no Point.

**\*WRIA 15 Prioritization and Development (Nearshore Habitat Restoration Projects in West Pierce County):** SRFB grant in 2006 gave SPSSEG funding to develop and design nearshore restoration projects in the South Sound. Expected timeline for completion of this project is 2008.

**Blakely Harbor Park Restoration and Pritchard Park West Riprap Removal** are identified in the Bainbridge Island shoreline restoration planning as high priority. These projects are moving forward with partial funding from NRDA. They are in the planning stages.

**\*Little Minter fish passage:** This project was identified and designed prior to the adoption of the Recovery Plan. This project would be a good start for H-integration and adaptive management in the lead entity, because of the extensive research and habitat information on this stream.

**West Sound Nearshore Fish Utilization Assessment (stock monitoring support):** Kurt Fresh, NOAA Fisheries and an expert in this field of research has noted that the Tribe's cooperative beach seine research (with WDFW, local cities and volunteers, and colleges and schools) is the longest running effort in Puget Sound. This provides valuable insight into changing species abundances, water quality observations, and is tied to several SRFB projects as a monitoring component and to several EPA superfund sites that have no biological monitoring component. The Tribe uses this effort to evaluate interactions between hatchery and wild fall Chinook using their condition factor and taking fish health samples when it's possible to get fish health pathologists on board.

**\*Tacoma Narrows Bridge Modification:** Over the past three years the Squaxin Island Tribe has placed acoustic sensors at depths of up to 240 feet in the Tacoma Narrows. Information from these temporary listening lines has shown high levels of marine mortality for salmon populations originating from South Puget Sound. Additionally, numerous tags from seven other investigations have been detected by these listening lines.

After these successful trials, the Squaxin Island Tribe, Nisqually Tribe, WDFW, WDOE, UW, Evergreen College, ACOE, NOAA, and the NWIFC successfully petitioned the Washington Department of Transportation to leave attachment points for acoustic sensors on the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Eight mounts can be placed on the bridge at depths accessible to volunteer divers. Each mount will be coated in a protective layer designed to give a useful life of over 50 years; however, left untreated the attachment points are expected to begin deteriorating. This represents a unique one time opportunity to maintain year round acoustic lines in the Tacoma Narrows that can be maintained for no cost for several decades.

**East Kitsap Nearshore Assessment:** This field work for this assessment was completed for 2007. This work is essential for strategic planning for protection and restoration of the nearshore.