



WEST SOUND
WATERSHEDS COUNCIL

West Sound Watersheds Council 2010 Three-Year Work Plan Update

Salmon recovery involves a complex set of actions and interactions that are both directed by the Recovery Plans and by the reality within each watershed. The three year work plan is one tool used to reflect those complex interactions.

The purpose of the work program update is four-fold: 1) to provide a forum for watershed groups, the Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT), and Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) staff to discuss the work, status, and needs of salmon recovery in each salmon recovery watershed chapter and regionally; 2) to have a tool that documents the work, status, and needs of salmon recovery per each salmon recovery watershed chapter for the next three years that can be rolled up into a regional statement of the funding and capacity needs, current status, and existing work underway; 3) to be a tool for identifying priority projects for current and future funding opportunities; and 4) to document changes in the implementation of each salmon recovery watershed chapter.

The components of the 3 Year Work Plan are a spreadsheet of priority projects and programs that can be started within three years (2010, 2011, 2012), and a narrative. The narrative describes the progress, changes, and status of recovery implementation and the work program since the previous year's update.

Spread sheet of Priority Projects and Programs

This spreadsheet is attached as an excel file. The color coding is as follows:

White: no change from 2009

Yellow: new project added in 2010

Green: active project (funded)

Blue: completed

Orange: new information or updates to existing projects.

For more information about many of the projects, including photos, maps and project sponsor information, please see the Habitat Work Schedule site at: <http://hws.ekosystem.us>

Narrative

1. What are the actions and/or suites of actions needed for the next three years to implement your salmon recovery chapter as part of the regional recovery effort?

The primary hypothesis that forms basis for the suites of actions proposed in this update is that the **nearshore habitat is the highest priority for investment** in this lead entity. Most of the projects and programs proposed in the next three years are targeted at protecting or restoring quality nearshore habitat.

Additionally we intend to extend our documentation of existing freshwater ecosystems through the water typing in selected West Sound streams. We have begun in the North Kitsap area in May 2010, chosen because of the desire to preserve forest and wetland ecosystem connectivity and the potential for large scale land use changes.

2. What is the status of actions underway per your recovery plan chapter? Is this on pace with the goals of your recovery plan?

We did not have 10 year goals not identified specific actions in the *Salmon Recovery Plan*. We believe that the Action Agenda adopted in December 2008 identifies many goals that will serve us in future planning endeavors.

We have made significant strides with regard to the documentation of the restoration needs and other recovery actions through the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS). This tool has been adopted eagerly by most project sponsors, and most are getting comfortable with entering and maintaining information about projects.

The lead entity would like the Partnership and NOAA fisheries to formally include the attached document: ***East Kitsap WRIA 15 Salmon Recovery Planning Implementation and Habitat Analysis Matrix*** as a part of the East Kitsap Chapter of the Plan. This document also applies to the South Sound nearshore portion of the lead entity.

3. What is the general status of implementation towards your habitat restoration, habitat protection, harvest management, and hatchery management goals?

Habitat Restoration:

Chico Creek:

The Chico Creek instream restoration project phase 1 was completed in 2008 and phase 2 will be completed in 2010. This instream restoration project was begun in 2004, prior to the shift to a nearshore focus because of the adoption of the Recovery Plan. Chico Creek is the most productive salmon stream (all species including steelhead and some stray Chinook) on the Greater Kitsap Peninsula, and is the largest freshwater stream in Dyes Inlet.

This instream restoration is taking place in the lower mile of the watershed, on a private golf course that has been channelized since 1924.

The largest restoration planned in our watershed is opening the Chico Creek estuary. Washington State DOT (WSDOT) built Highway 3 in the early 1960's, primarily as a link between the Naval Shipyard in Bremerton and the Bangor Submarine Base on northern Hood Canal, as directly as possible. To that end, they filled the salt marshes and the estuary, and put the creek in 2-8 foot wide, approximately 500 foot long culverts and channel. The culvert under Hwy. 3, and at the County's Kitty Hawk Road, just downstream, are partial fish barriers with one of the state's highest "Priority Index" for fish passage. Planning is well underway to replace the Highway 3 culvert with a large bridge, led by the WSDOT. The first steps in the restoration of the Chico Estuary were recently funded through the US Navy and the EPA, led by the Suquamish Tribe. Construction to remove the Kitty Hawk culvert should take place in 2011.

Carpenter Creek:

This is a straight forward project that was identified and funded in 2002 by the SRFB and the US Army Corps of Engineers, near Kingston, in Central Puget Sound. The Washington Dept. of Fisheries installed an 8 foot tide gate at this location as a satellite "fish farm" in the late 1950's. There was, and still is, a fairly pristine 26 acre shallow estuary at this site, obvious habitat for juvenile migrating salmonids. The fish farm didn't prove to be workable, and the tide gate has remained in place, restricting tidal flow and stranding salmon and other species inside the culvert for almost 50 years. The plans are to replace the culvert with a 90 foot bridge. This project was included in the 2010 legislative capital budget and construction will begin in late 2010.

Misc. Nearshore:

There are several fully funded nearshore restoration projects on Bainbridge Island that are in final design and should be completed in the next 3 years. There are also nearshore projects in conceptual or early design phases proposed in all the East Kitsap Peninsula inlets, the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas, and most of the islands in WRIA 15.

The lead entity has been discussing how to prioritize nearshore restoration and protection projects, but the projects continue to be more opportunistic than strategic. Kitsap County is poised to begin a "Regional Shoreline Restoration" grant funded by the EPA that will focus on the removal of shoreline armoring on both public and private lands.

Freshwater: We do not have funding available for the freshwater restoration projects that would protect the Puget Sound steelhead that are known to inhabit our small streams and bays. We do expect that the water typing project described above will help define the status and trends of the Kitsap steelhead.

Habitat Protection:

The Lead Entity was able to fully fund the SRFB request for acquisition of Devils Head at the southern point of the Key Peninsula, thanks to additional funding allocated from 3 of the 4 other South Sound lead entities. This pristine nearshore has been on the priority list for protection for many years, and will be acquired by Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services (original grant was proposed by the Cascade Land Conservancy). The cooperation and good will fostered by this sharing of financial resources for the greater South Sound is exemplary.

A large part of the habitat protection focus is on the Shoreline Management Plans updates, with all 5 cities (Bainbridge Is., Poulsbo, Bremerton, Port Orchard, Gig Harbor) and Kitsap County starting this process in 2009.

The Nearshore Assessment for eastern Kitsap County was funded in 2004 and was finished in 2009. It is currently being used by the shoreline planners in several jurisdictions to update their Shoreline Master Programs. The assessment will also inform the basis for another newly awarded EPA grant that Kitsap County and some of the cities will use for "Shoreline Alternative Futures Analysis".

We also are working more closely with our local land trusts (Bainbridge Island and Great Peninsula Conservancy) on conservation and restoration opportunities through easements and other tools for habitat protection.

Harvest and Hatchery Management:

We have no identified harvest or hatchery activities associated with the *Salmon Recovery Plan*, however we are starting to link habitat restoration projects with volunteers doing salmon spawning surveys (Bainbridge) and small scale hatchery supplementation to compliment small stream restoration (Bainbridge and Manchester).

The lead entity also plans to engage the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Minter Creek Hatchery program staff in the planning and execution of habitat protection and restoration activities.

4. What are the top implementation priorities in your recovery plan in terms of specific actions or theme/suites of actions? How are these top priorities being sequenced in the next three years? What do you need to be successful in implementing these priorities?

Most of the projects and programs proposed in the next three years are targeted at protecting or restoring quality nearshore habitat. One specific and recurring theme for our priorities is: How do we utilize the nearshore assessment information data sets for prioritizing future projects? We do know that this is a consistent theme in other nearshore focused watersheds, and hope to work more broadly than this geographic area on this topic.

What we need to accomplish these goals is consistent funding for coordination of actions, and technical support for local jurisdictions.

5. Do these top priorities reflect a change in any way from the previous three-year work program? Have there been any significant changes in the strategy or approach for salmon recovery in your watershed? If so, how & why?

There have not been any significant changes.

6. What is the status or trends of habitat and salmon populations in your watershed?

We continue to struggle with land use issues, similar to other developing areas of Puget Sound, but do not have any information on the status and trends of our salmon populations.

7. Are there new challenges associated with implementing salmon recovery actions that need additional support? If so, what are they?

There are no new challenges. Salmon recovery in our West Sound watersheds is synonymous with protection and restoration of our lowland streams and nearshore.