GOVERNOR LAUNCHES MAJOR INITIATIVE ON PUGET SOUND

Saying that we must "do more" and "do it better" to protect and restore Puget Sound, Gov. Chris Gregoire launched an initiative in December 2005 to revitalize efforts to protect one of the state's crown jewels.

The Governor enlisted some of the region's leading citizens to form a new public/private group called the Puget Sound Partnership to develop an aggressive 15-year plan to solve Puget Sound's most vexing problems.

As part of her initiative, the Governor and the 2006 Legislature put into place a $52 million spending package and three laws that will address critical short-term needs.

Acknowledging the hard work already underway, the governor said at the Dec. 19, 2005, press conference that more needs to be done to protect and restore the Sound. And it needs to be done now.

"Cleaning and protecting Puget Sound must be at the top of our state agenda. But I know from experience that state government can't do it alone," she said.

About the Puget Sound Partnership

The Partnership has 15 members and four legislative liaisons and is co-chaired by the Governor; Billy Frank, Jr., Chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; and Bill Ruckelshaus, Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The public is welcome to attend the Partnership's regular meetings.

Chris Gregoire
Billy Frank, Jr.
Bill Ruckelshaus
Sam Anderson
Sherry Appleton
Michael Bogert
Jim Darling
Norm Dicks
Mark Emmert, Ph.D.
Luke Esser
Kathy Fletcher
Fred Jarrett
Patty Lent
Colin Moseley
Phil Rockefeller
Mike Shelby
Ron Sims
Doug Sutherland
Bill Taylor

The charges

The Governor charged the Partnership with five tasks and asked for initial recommendations by June 15, 2006 and final recommendations by October 2006.

- **2020 AGENDA** Recommend a set of key actions to recover the Sound by 2020.
- **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** Engage citizens, governments, the business and conservation communities, and others in ramping up efforts to recover the Sound.

- **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE** Recommend the best organizational structures and approaches to steward the Sound back to health and protect it over time.
- **FUNDING** Review funding sources for protecting and restoring the Sound and set spending priorities to achieve the desired outcomes by 2020.
- **SCIENCE** Recommend how broad-based scientific knowledge should be organized and applied in order to inform policies and assist in setting/meeting goals.

(highlighting added)

May 25, 2006
Puget Sound Partnership
Excerpts from **DRAFT Goals and Outcomes for Protecting and Restoring the Puget Sound Ecosystem** (Highlighting added)

A Healthy Puget Sound
We start our framework at the highest level, the vision set out by the Governor:

Puget Sound forever will be a thriving natural system, with clean marine and freshwaters, healthy and abundant native species, natural shorelines and places for public enjoyment, and a vibrant economy that prospers in productive harmony with a healthy Sound.

To track our progress towards the vision of healthy Puget Sound, we next identify specific goals that address the key attributes of a healthy ecosystem. Six draft goals, each accompanied by several possible outcomes, are identified below.

Goal 1: Native Species Thrive.
This means: *the numbers, productivity and condition of native species are appropriate to ensure that their populations thrive and the food web functions to support ecosystem needs, including human use and enjoyment.*
We will know we are succeeding if we achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

Native Species Outcome 1: Marine and terrestrial food web members such as southern resident killer whales, salmon, forage fish, eelgrass, zooplankton, and bird species, including less charismatic species or species that are not harvested for consumption, occur at sustainable population levels that are maintained over time.

Native Species Outcome 2: Native species persistence and food web functioning are not significantly impeded by the abundance and distribution of invasive species.

Native Species Outcome 3: The food web supports sustainable human harvest of salmon, shellfish, rockfish, groundfish and other species such that healthy food web relationships are maintained.

Goal 2: Habitat Is Protected and Restored.
This means: key *freshwater, estuarine, nearshore, marine and terrestrial habitats are created and sustained by natural processes and human management.*
We will know we are succeeding if achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

Habitat Outcome 1: Quality, quantity and distributions of key marine, nearshore, and terrestrial habitats … support terrestrial, freshwater and marine food webs.

Habitat Outcome 2: Terrestrial, freshwater and marine processes maintain and create sufficient quantity, quality, and distribution of terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.

Habitat Outcome 3: The abundance and distribution of invasive species do not significantly impair habitat quality, quantity, or the processes that maintain habitats.

Goal 3: Stream Flows Are Sufficient.
This means: *the magnitude and variability of stream flows and ground water levels support the ecosystem, including its species and human use and enjoyment.*
We will know we are succeeding if we achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

...

Goal 4: Marine and Fresh Water are Clean.
This means: *water is clean enough to support the ecosystem and its species, including human use and enjoyment.*
We will know we are succeeding if we achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

...

Goal 5: Human Health Is Protected.
This means: *human health is supported by a functioning ecosystem and human management.*
We will know we are succeeding if we achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

...

Goal 6: Socio-Economic Well-Being Is Supported by and Consistent with a Functioning Ecosystem.
This means: *socioeconomic well-being is supported by a functioning ecosystem and management.*
We will know we are succeeding if we achieve the following outcomes by 2020:

...

Preliminary Intermediate Outcomes and Strategic that Could Help Achieve the Ecosystem Goals and Outcomes
These preliminary intermediate outcomes and strategies were developed for and discussed as part of the May 15th workshop. ... Some of the outcomes are ecosystem wide while others are issue specific.

Ecosystem Level
- Decision systems exist to account for actions cumulatively across the ecosystem.
- New development in rural areas and urban areas does not impair local fresh or marine water bodies in terms of water quantity and quality.
- A system is in place to measure and maintain the progress of recovery of species.
- Climate change preparation is in place and implemented.

Native Species Thrive
- Harvest and hatchery practices do not disturb or harm food web linkages or key species.
- Focus of species management practices has shifted from recovering individual species to managing a healthy ecosystem

- Systems are in place to rapidly respond to introductions of new invasive species and prevent them from spreading.

Habitat Is Protected and Restored

- Urban growth areas accommodate the majority of new growth
- Rural lands conserve natural land cover to protect habitat and watershed processes.
- State-owned aquatic lands protect ecosystem processes.
- Habitat protection and restoration needs are prioritized across the region.
- Restoration focuses watershed processes and the landscape scale.
- Working lands and resource industries are economically vital and use sustainable practices that protect habitat.
- Private landowners support habitat protection and restoration.

Stormwater Does Not Cause Harm

- ...

Stream Flows Are Sufficient

- ...

Marine and Fresh Water are Clean

- ...