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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

December 2008

**Item #3c: Salmon Habitat Projects Conference**

**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Salmon Section Manager

**Presented By:** Brian Abbott, Salmon Section Manager

**Approved by the Director:**

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**Proposed Action: Briefing**

**Summary**

In December 2007, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) decided to host a second conference for project sponsors. The goals of the conference are to exchange information about successful projects funded by the Board, recognize the work performed by project sponsors, and explore ways to build better projects.

The Board set aside \$50,000 to cover the costs of the conference, which is scheduled for April 15 and 16, 2009 at the Little Creek Conference Center in Shelton. The draft outline (Attachment A) provides additional details.

**Background**

In April 2007, the Board hosted its first conference for project sponsors. Close to 400 people participated, and by all accounts the conference was very successful. Project sponsors asked the Board to host another forum as a way to learn what has worked, what has not, and how to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of projects.



In December 2007, the Board decided to host a second conference for project sponsors. They established an organizing subcommittee that includes staff or representatives from the following:

- Recreation and Conservation Office
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)
- Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG)
- Washington Conservation Commission
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (WDFW)
- Puget Sound Partnership

The subcommittee has set three goals for the conference:

- Create a forum for project sponsors to exchange information about successful salmon habitat protection and restoration projects funded by the Board.
- To honor and appreciate the work performed by all Board project sponsors.
- Expand the conference to a second day to explore in more detail “How to build better projects”

The subcommittee has again opted to keep registration cost as low as possible to encourage more sponsors to attend. The conference center also is offering a low hotel rate for participants. As a result, the subcommittee expects that between 400 and 600 people will participate in the conference.

### **Next Steps**

RCO staff will send announcements to interested parties in the coming weeks.

### **Attachments**

- A. Draft Conference Outline

## **Attachment A: Salmon Habitat Projects Conference, Draft Conference Outline**

### Conference Goal and Purpose

- Create a forum for project sponsors to exchange information about successful salmon habitat protection and restoration projects funded by the SRFB from 1999 to present.
- To honor and appreciate the work performed by all SRFB project sponsors.
- Expand the conference to a second day to explore in more detail “How to build better projects”

### Conference General Format

- Project sponsor presentations – Lessons learned
- Project Results – Formal and Informal
- Panel Discussion (sponsors/experts) “How to build better projects”

### Timing

April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2009

### Location

Little Creek Conference Center 15 minutes west of Olympia

### Audience

Up to 600 salmon habitat project enthusiasts

- Project sponsors
- Lead entities (technical & citizen committees)
- Tribal interests
- Conservation Districts
- Land trusts
- Estuary enthusiasts
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- NOAA Fisheries
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State and local governments
- Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office
- Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife watershed stewards, area habitat biologist & technical staff
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board and its Review Panel and technical advisors
- Others

## Presenters

### *Day 1*

Project Sponsor presentations in one of five categories:

- Habitat restoration: instream, passage/diversion/screen/inventory, riparian, upland
- Nearshore/Estuary
- Acquisition
- Assessments
- Special projects

### *Day 2 (Possible topics) – Building Better Projects*

- Repeat some sessions
- Nutrient Enhancement
- Funding organizations
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Small Grant Program
- Monitoring
- RCO billing and project management (repeating session)
- SRFB Review Panel – Meet the SRFB Review Panel
- Permitting – Limit 8, Cultural Resources
- Hatchery Reform –
- Large Wood Materials – Finding, Storing, and purchasing
- Working with your Lead Entity and Region

## Registration

- Free to lead entity coordinators, project sponsors presenting.
- \$50-\$80 per person for all others

## Cost

Support staff to work on the logistics	\$15,000
Facility rental & meals	\$44,000
Materials and advertising	\$4,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$63,000</b>
Registration (Estimated 400 @ \$50)	(\$20,000)



# April 2009



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Salmon Habitat Projects Conference

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	<b>\$63,000</b>
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### Organizing Sub-committee:

- RCO,
- WDFW: Lead Entities and RFEG Representative, Habitat Division
- Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG): Representative from the LEAG
- WA Conservation Commission: Field Representative
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (WDFW)
- Puget Sound Partnership