

**Time:** Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

**Order of Presentation:** In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

**Public Comment:** If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

You also may submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, Attn: Wendy Loosle, Board Liaison, at the address above or at [wendy.loosle@rcو.wa.gov](mailto:wendy.loosle@rcو.wa.gov).

**Special Accommodations:** If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please notify us at (360) 902-3086 or TDD (360) 902-1996.

## Wednesday, May 6

### OPENING AND WELCOME

- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order** *Chair*
- Determine Quorum
  - Review and Approve Agenda (*Decision*)
  - Approve February 2015 Meeting Minutes (*Decision*)

### MANAGEMENT AND PARTNER REPORTS

- 9:05 a.m. 1. Management Report**
- A. Director's Report *Kaleen Cottingham*
  - B. Legislative, Budget, and Policy Updates *Wendy Brown*
  - C. Performance Update (*written only*)
  - D. Financial Report *Mark Jarasitis and*
    - i. Reading and Understanding RCO Financial Statements *Brent Hedden*
    - ii. E-Billing Update
    - iii. New Federal Financial Requirements
- 
- 9:45 a.m. 2. Salmon Recovery Management Report**
- A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report *Brian Abbott*
    - i. Communications Strategy Update
    - ii. Salmon Recovery Conference Pre-View
  - B. Salmon Section Report *Tara Galuska*
  - C. Preview of Lunch Tour to Mission Creek
- 
- 10:15 a.m. 3. Reports from Partners**
- A. Council of Regions Report *Jeff Breckel*
  - B. Washington Salmon Coalition Report *Darcy Batura*
  - C. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups *Colleen Thompson*
  - D. Board Roundtable: Other Agency Updates *SRFB Agency Representatives*

---

**10:45 a.m. General Public Comment:** *Please limit comments to 3 minutes.*

---

**10:50 a.m. BREAK**

---

**BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS**

---

**11:05 a.m. 4. Project Decisions**

- A. Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO #14-1366) *Mike Ramsey*
  - B. Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering Dungeness Railroad Trail Bridge Replacement (RCO #15-1052) *Kathryn Moore*
  - C. Pre-Approval of "Time-Sensitive" PSAR Projects, if any, Contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage *Tara Galuska*
- 

**11:35 p.m. Lunch and Tour of Mission Creek Reconnection at Priest Point Park** *Tara Galuska*  
*Lance Winecka*

---

**BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS**

---

**1:30 p.m. 5. Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding** *Brian Abbott*  
*Sarah Gage*

---

**BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS**

---

**2:00 p.m. 6. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes** *Leslie Connelly*

---

**2:30p.m. 7. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**  
A. Habitat Program Briefing *Jeff Davis*  
B. Fish Barrier Removal Board Briefing *Julie Henning*

---

**3:15 p.m. 8. The Salish Sea Marine Survival Project: Summary and Status of Puget Sound Activities** *Michael Schmidt, Long Live the Kings*  
*Neala Kendall, WDFW*

---

**3:45 p.m. BREAK**

---

**4:00 p.m. 9. Monitoring Panel Update** *Keith Dublanica*  
*Brian Abbott*

---

**4:30 p.m. ADJOURN**

---

**SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS**  
**February 26, 2015**

---

| <b>Item</b>  | <b>Formal Action</b> | <b>Follow-up Action</b>   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| December 2014 Meeting Summary                              | Decision: APPROVED   | No follow-up action requested.  |
| 1. Management Report                                       |                      |   |
| A. Director's Report                                       | Briefing             |   |
| B. Legislative and Policy Updates                          | Briefing             |   |
| C. Survey Results from Applicants and Board Members        | Briefing             | As a result of the board member survey, staff will provide hard-copies of the presentations provided at each meeting to board members.  |
| D. Performance Update                                      | Briefing             |   |
| E. Financial Report ( <i>written only</i> )                |                      |   |
| 2. Salmon Recovery Management Report                       |                      |   |
| A. Salmon Section Report                                   | Briefing             |   |
| B. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office                       | Briefing             |   |
| C. Communications Strategy Update                          | Briefing             |   |
| D. Completed Project Highlights                            | Briefing             | Staff will provide information on Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) funds used to acquire the properties for project Pt. Heyer Drift Cell Preservation 2011 (RCO Project <a href="#">11-1282A</a> ).  |
| 3. Reports from Partners                                   | Briefing             | Chair Troutt and Director Cottingham will draft a letter to the Bonneville Power Administration that addresses fish passage issues due to dams on the Columbia River. The draft will be circulated to board members, and review by the Governor's Office. |
| 4. Monitoring Updates                                      |                      |   |
| A. Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Challenge | Decision: APPROVED   |   |
| B. SRFB Monitoring Program 2004-2014 Document              | Briefing             | Mr. Dublanica will email the formatted draft document to board members showing the funding that supports monitoring efforts.  |
| C. Monitoring Video  | Briefing             |   |

|   |                    |  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| 5. Manual 18  |                    |  |
| A. General Overview of Changes                                    | Briefing           | No follow-up action requested.   |
| B. Monitoring Eligibility Policy Change                           | Decision: APPROVED |  |
| 6. South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment            | Decision: APPROVED | No follow-up action requested.   |
| 7. Salmon Recovery Conference Update                              | Briefing           | No follow-up action requested.   |
| 8. State of Salmon Report Presentation                            | Briefing           | No follow-up action requested.   |
| 9. Mitigation Matching Project Update                             | Briefing           | No follow-up action requested.   |
| 10. Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Changes                  | Briefing           | Staff will begin drafting rule changes per the Administrative Procedure Act and follow up with a briefing at the May meeting.  |
| 11. Expanding the Grant Program to Include Large Capital Projects | Briefing           | Staff will seek guidance from the Office of Financial Management (OFM), draft the proposal, and look to regional organizations, lead entities, and recovery partners for feedback by September 2016. Staff would then present the full proposal at the October 2015 meeting for the board's consideration. |

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** February 26, 2015

**Place:** Olympia, WA

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members Present:

|                            |                   |                        |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>David Troutt, Chair</b> | Olympia           | <b>Carol Smith</b>     | Department of Ecology                    |
| <b>Nancy Biery</b>         | Quilcene          | <b>Susan Cierebiej</b> | Department of Transportation             |
| <b>Sam Mace</b>            | Spokane           | <b>Megan Duffy</b>     | Department of Natural Resources          |
| <b>Phil Rockefeller</b>    | Bainbridge Island | <b>Brian Cochran</b>   | Washington State Conservation Commission |
|                            |                   | <b>Erik Neatherlin</b> | Department of Fish and Wildlife          |

**It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.**

## Opening and Welcome

Chair David Troutt called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. and the board members and attendees introduced themselves. The board welcomed two new members: Brian Cochrane, representing the Washington State Conservation Commission, and Erik Neatherlin, representing the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Amee Bahr called roll and a quorum was determined.

## Agenda adoption

**Moved by:** Member Sam Mace

**Seconded by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Motion:** APPROVED

## December 2014 Meeting Summary

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Phil Rockefeller

**Motion:** APPROVED

Director Kaleen Cottingham described the materials provided for the board for the day's meeting.

## Management and Partner Reports

### Item 1: Management Report

**A. Director's Report:** Director Cottingham shared the results of the State Auditor's completed accountability audit of RCO. The four areas of focus included grants, travel, cash receipts, and cash disbursements. There were no findings in this audit. Chair Troutt commended staff for the clean audit, and Member Biery seconded.

Director Cottingham provided updates on staff transitions, welcoming the new invasive species coordinator, Raquel Crosier, who began in January. Brian Abbott with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office will go to Washington, D.C. later this year to advocate for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PSCRF) award. RCO applies for PCSRF funds annually, receiving \$20.5M of the \$58M appropriation this year. The recent award, although slightly higher than what RCO received the prior year, will not cover expected costs. As for the state budget, RCO did not receive funding for the four additional salmon recovery funding requests for general fund money.

**B. Legislative and Policy Updates:** Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on the current legislative session. The budget is expected to be rolled out near the end of March. The most recent forecast was somewhat favorable, although the demands on the budget far exceed the expected revenue. The Legislature requested information regarding salmon projects and funding, e.g., which programs support culvert work, Puget Sound, acquisitions, etc. Many legislators asked for information regarding salmon grants and the minimum state funding that RCO needs to match federal funding.

Director Cottingham met with Senator Curtis King to discuss the opportunity for a potential new grant program that would support culvert work by cities and counties. Senator King expressed interest in the work of RCO's work and the contribution of other programs to salmon recovery.

Ms. Brown shared that the legislative session is reaching the bill cut-off date. Most bills RCO monitored have died, with the exception of [House Bill 5013](#). This bill restricts the conversion of agricultural land could impact future restoration efforts, specifically naming the Washington Department of Transportation

(WSDOT) as unable to use these lands for mitigation. RCO had been monitoring [Senate Bill 5551](#), which prevents awarding salmon recovery funding to groups that have sued Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) regarding hatchery issues, but the bill died in committee. RCO will continue to track [House Bill 1270](#) regarding new fish hatchery management structure and [House Bill 1000](#) about leasing water rights. [Senate Bill 5739, which](#) is no longer active, would have protected salmon spawning beds. [Senate Bill 5759, which is also no longer](#) active, would have limited DNR's ability to participate in habitat conservation plans (HCPs).

Nearly all of the governor-appointed board members are pending before the Senate for confirmation. The confirmation hearings are not scheduled at this time.

**C. Survey Results:** Jennifer Masterson, Data and Special Projects Manager, provided an overview of grant applicant and board member responses to a 2014 survey.

The grant round survey to applicants will support future process improvements. Ms. Masterson presented the applicant response data as outlined in the statistics and graphs in the board materials (Item 1C). Based on the survey results, RCO established several key action items for the 2015-16 grant round:

- Continue to simplify the RCO/SRFB grant round process for 2016.
- Improve and streamline the relationship between SRFB and local processes and deadlines.
- Evaluate whether to continue or improve the application workshop/webinar.
- Review applicant survey results with Technical Review Panel members and discuss potential improvements.
- Evaluate whether to continue to distribute applicant surveys annually or biennially.

Next, Ms. Masterson presented the results from the board member survey, which was distributed in late 2014. Key action items resulting from the survey include:

- The board should review its strategic plan.
- Improve linkages between meeting topics and the strategic plan.
- Discuss how to provide clarified fund status information.
- Improve the visual aspects of PowerPoint presentations.

In response to a board survey result about PowerPoint presentations, Director Cottingham noted that RCO staff typically fine-tunes presentations up to the day of the meeting, so it is difficult to provide an accurate copy of the slides in advance. She proposed that staff provide them the day of the meeting.

## **Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report**

**Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO):** Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator, provided an update on the [State of Salmon in Watersheds](#) (SOSiW) report, published February 2, 2015. He thanked his staff, particularly Jennifer Johnson, for their efforts in this work. He provided an overview of the items discussed later in the agenda, including IMW and monitoring updates, the upcoming Salmon Recovery Conference, and four videos developed to inform a broader audience about board-funded monitoring efforts.

Mr. Abbott provided a brief update on the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel, the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB), the regional organizations development of three-year work plans, and state and federal budget documents provided to congressional staffers so they understand RCO's budget and needs.

Chair Troutt asked for clarification on the roles and coordination of the FBRB. Mr. Abbott shared that WDFW chairs the board and the goal is to coordinate efforts. Member Biery asked about the FBRB goals

and actions, specifically whether they are working with regions and lead entities. If the FBRB develops focus areas, where these efforts would occur and how would they be implemented. Mr. Abbott explained that is early in the process, but collaboration and communication will continue between Lead Entities and the FBRB on these issues.

RCO submitted the final draft of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) request, asking for \$25M. The agency should know the award amount in June, after which applications are matched to the award amount in coordination with other partners.

Mr. Abbott shared information about a 45-minute work session presented to the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee that described funding, set up, successes, and challenges of salmon recovery within Washington State. RCO and GSRO co-presented with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board.

The salmon recovery communications strategy continues to move forward, with progress occurring in the contributing lead entities. RCO selected Triangle Associates to support the workgroup and facilitate meetings, with the first meeting scheduled for March 2, 2015. Pyramid Communications will brief regional areas on the importance of developing a region-specific communications strategy to help develop individual proposals for planning and implementation. Regional area briefings will strengthen their ability to identify region-specific needs and independently lead while operating in a coordinated network. Pyramid Communications built templates for partner organizations to use so the messaging frameworks remain consistent. Mr. Abbott described region-specific progress on respective proposals and unique communication plans including timeline, agendas, overall goals, and resources needed.

**Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Section:** Kat Moore, Salmon Section Manager, provided a brief update on the 2014 grant round. The board materials include details about funded projects, closed projects, and director authority regarding project amendments. Staff provided presentations regarding the 2015 grant round and the application workshop will occur on March 16, 2015. The salmon staff held a joint staff meeting with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) in Tacoma to talk about roles, grant round improvements, coordination, and progress.

The Review Panel will meet on March 30, 2015 to discuss applicant feedback and schedule project site visits.

## **Item 2D: Completed Project Highlights**

RCO Salmon Grant Managers Mike Ramsey, Alice Rubin, and Elizabeth Butler presented information on three recently closed projects.

Mr. Ramsey presented information about Maynard Nearshore Restoration (RCO Project [11-1314R](#)). This project restored 1,800 feet of shoreline through the removal of an old railroad grade and former lumber mill site. This is critical habitat for Hood Canal Summer Chum, Puget Sound Chinook, and a multitude of other nearshore dependent species, such as migratory birds, forage fish and shellfish. Member Cochrane asked about the crossings on Hwy 101. Mr. Ramsey indicated the collaboration that occurred between agencies to help the success of the restoration project.

Ms. Rubin presented information about Hamilton Creek Restoration, Phase II (RCO Project [10-1028R](#)). This project supported the installment of log jams through 2,250 feet of the main stem, scoured new pools, created an island network, sorted spawning gravels, created overhead cover, and stabilized eroding stream banks by planting over 4,500 trees. These efforts created three new side channels, including over 1,000 feet of new complex rearing and spawning habitat for Lower Columbia Coho, chum, winter

steelhead, and Chinook. Please view a short video, listed in the project attachments, about the chum channel [here](#).

Ms. Butler presented information about Pt. Heyer Drift Cell Preservation 2011 (RCO Project [11-1282A](#)). The project included a fee simple acquisition of six target parcels located in the Pt. Heyer Drift Cell, adding approximately 10 acres of marine forested feeder bluff, 7 acres of coniferous forest uplands, 7 acres of tidelands, and over 1000 feet of shoreline to the Natural Area. Chair Troutt asked Ms. Butler to provide information on Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) funds used to acquire the properties.

### **Item 3: Reports from Partners**

**Council of Regions Report (COR):** Jeff Breckel, Chair, provided an overview of the current issues facing the Council of Regions. Mr. Breckel touched on the efforts of each region to support the communication and outreach strategy, the partnerships among regions with NOAA pertaining to the 5-year status review, better data collection efforts, contributions to the *State of Salmon* report, and the Fish Barrier Removal Board. Mr. Breckel indicated that monitoring continues to be the key in showing accurate data progress, trends, and habitat concerns.

Chair Troutt commented on the collaboration between the board, the lead entities, and the regions. The board understands the needs regarding monitoring and hopes to continue collaborating with the regions to find comprehensive solutions.

**Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC):** Darcy Batura, Chair, and Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair, thanked the board for the opportunity to attend. Ms. Hatch-Winecka provided a summary of the lead entity legislative day, where appointments with local representatives provide an opportunity to share program and project successes. The [Washington Salmon Coalition Advocacy Handbook: A Guide for Communicating with Lawmakers](#) describes legislative communication goals and guides these outreach efforts. Other updates included regional planning meetings, funding priorities and requests, lead entity transitions and partner retreats, updates on regional-specific accomplishments, and the continued work as part of the Salmon Recovery Network. Please find full details regarding these issues in the WSC's report included in the board materials.

Ms. Batura thanked the board for their contributions to support lead entity efforts and shared the goals supported by the provided funding. Ms. Hatch-Winecka acknowledged and thanked Barbara Rosentkotter, as she retires this year. Chair Troutt and Director Cottingham thanked the Washington Salmon Coalition for their work and collaboration.

**Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs):** Colleen Thompson, Managing Director, shared information about recent goals and progress including contract workshops to better project implementation. She provided updates on legislative outreach and advocacy, including several events with state and federal representatives. Ms. Thompson distributed annual reports to the board.

Chair Troutt inquired about the RFEG budget and the amount of board funding that supports RFEGs. Ms. Thompson noted some capacity challenges, often due to the complexity of salmon recovery projects. She added that some funding comes from federal sources but still encourages full board support. Mr. Abbott noted that 18% of the funding supports RFEG.

**Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR):** Member Megan Duffy summarized the bills currently monitored by DNR this legislative session. Specifically Senate Bill 5559 regarding habitat conservation plans (HCPs) for over water and log structures. Chair Troutt asked about the specific target of the bill.

**Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT):** Member Cierebiej shared information about WSDOT projects that support salmon recovery and fish passage while addressing environmental deficiencies and stormwater. She noted 10 barriers corrected so far this biennium. A budget request submitted this session includes a funding package that would allow an additional 12 projects each biennium. If all funding requests are approved for the 2015-17 biennium, WSDOT could correct up to 50 barriers and have \$12 million available in stormwater retrofits.

**Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC):** Member Cochrane provided a brief update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program award of \$5.5M by USDA to Palouse Conservation District for farm conservation practices aimed at sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) load reduction in the Palouse River watershed with a one-to-one match.

**Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology):** Member Smith shared information about the forecasts for the next biennium specifically around the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) account which is used to address water quality. She shared a concern regarding the oil-by-rail transport issues as trains pass through Puget Sound and the Columbia River. Ecology will monitor this issue, since the emergency support funding is currently inadequate.

**Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NWPPCC):** Member Phil Rockefeller provided information on the Columbia River Basin on salmon recovery and mitigation efforts, including the NWPPCC Fish and Wildlife Program. He explained in-depth history, goals, and authorities of the program as they align with federal and state priorities. Member Rockefeller emphasized the need to coordinate strategies, programs, and funding to support successful salmon recovery efforts. He encourages future conversations and collaboration to resolve these ongoing, long-term habitat issues. When tribes and regions express priorities, an obligation exists to coordinate and make these changes happen. Chair Troutt thanked Mr. Rockefeller for his continued support.

More information about this program may be found at: <https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/>.

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW):** Member Neatherlin provided an update on the new WDFW director who recently met with the salmon recovery regions. He shared information about the federal and state funding gaps that may present challenges in the next few years. Mr. Neatherlin stated that early marine survival research for steelhead would likely receive funds in the next biennium with a goal of setting population and habitat for steelhead in Puget Sound. He shared information on the agency requests that are now part of the Governor's budget to support salmon recovery.

#### **General Public Comment**

No public comment provided at this time.

#### **Break 11:15 – 11:35 a.m.**

#### **Board Business: Briefings**

##### **Item 4A: Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Funding Challenge**

Mr. Abbott provided an update on funding IMW projects within Washington State specifically related to the NOAA Science Center. The challenge involves using capital funds for monitoring. To resolve this issue, staff from GSRO worked with NOAA and Ecology to find alternate funding solutions.

It now appears that the Science Center may be able to accept federal dollars. For the funding issues, Mr. Abbott referred to the options presented in Item 4A of the board materials (IMW Funding Challenge).

- The NOAA Science Center remaining funds not utilized that could fill the gap is roughly \$85,000.

- The Department of Ecology holds \$90,000 in unspent monitoring funds.
- If neither of the above are available, staff recommends using funds set aside for 2015 IMW projects. If moving funds represents the only option it would move \$170,000 from IMW projects to monitoring, leaving \$1,830,000 available for 2015 IMW projects.

**Motion:** Move to direct the RCO director to fill the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) funding gap as set forth in the staff memo, either by relying on NOAA and unspent Ecology IMW funds or secondarily, by utilizing Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funds previously committed to IMW projects.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Phil Rockefeller

**Motion:** APPROVED

#### **Item 4B: SRFB Monitoring Program 2004-2014 History Document**

Keith Dublanica, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, provided a brief ten-year history of the SRFB's monitoring strategy. The 2003 monitoring strategy, written by Bruce Crawford, established the methodology, criteria, and categories within the board's three broad monitoring areas: reach-scale effectiveness monitoring, fish in/fish out, and intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs). In 2013, Stillwater Sciences and RCO developed and updated Monitoring Investment Strategy. Mr. Crawford authored a ten-year history document, reviewed by the monitoring panel and practitioners in January 2015.

The summary document provides review material for the joint monitoring panel and practitioner work-session scheduled for March 30, 2015. Board members are invited to attend all or part of this all-day work-session with the monitoring panel and practitioners (provided they do not constitute a quorum). The board will review the final document at the May 2015 meeting, with adoption at the October 2015 meeting.

Chair Troutt acknowledged Mr. Crawford, seated in the audience, and thanked him for his efforts.

Member Rockefeller asked if the historical summary will include information about the funding that supports monitoring efforts. Mr. Dublanica confirmed that the summary would include funding information to present an accurate picture. He will send an electronic copy of the formatted draft document for board members to view.

#### **Item 4C: SRFB Monitoring Video**

Jennifer Johnson, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, shared information on the development of four monitoring videos produced by Wahoo Films of Bend, Oregon. GSRO consulted with Tetra Tech and the Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Ecology to develop video scripts and concepts. The short video clips capture late summer and fall seasons of 2014 throughout Washington State, to show spawning salmon through field interviews, graphics, stock, proprietary, and supplemental aerial footage. The board provided positive feedback on the content of the videos and the message.

All four videos are available on RCO's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/WashingtonRCO>.

**Lunch 12:15 p.m. – 1:05 p.m.**

#### **General Public Comment:**

Jeanette Dorner discussed the Smith Island Project, located in the Snohomish estuary. The large, complex restoration project is the largest contract that RCO currently holds (about \$16M). The project aims to restore 328 acres of farmland through strategic land acquisitions and by removing dikes. The estuary

represents an opportunity of grand scale to restore rich habitat and ecosystem function. Conflicts have arisen over the agricultural uses of the land under consideration. The Snohomish County Council also acts as the Diking District; for the project to move forward, the District must vote to approve the design/scope. Uncertainty exists as to whether the project will move forward. The Puget Sound Partnership drafted a letter to advocate for the project sponsor. Further letters and public comment are encouraged to keep momentum in the restoration efforts.

Chair Troutt noted that RCO will draft a letter of support and suggested that the board draft one as well. Member Biery asked that Chair Troutt attend the meeting of the Diking District to represent the board, read the draft letters from the board and from RCO, and provide comment.

Director Cottingham shared the draft language of the letter RCO intends to send and offered to draft a similar letter on the board's behalf.

Member Rockefeller inquired about the biological opinion for Puget Sound. Director Cottingham noted that in Puget Sound there are federally approved recovery plans for Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum. Ms. Dorner noted that the Smith Island Project is a benchmark in state and federal salmon recovery plans.

Member Neatherlin inquired about the arguments stated in opposition to the project. Ms. Dorner shared that the bill in favor of agriculture lands, that testimony provided opposed estuarine restoration due to loss of ag land. Member Neatherlin emphasized the value in receiving clarification on the opposing arguments in order for Chair Troutt to prepare science-based documentation for discussion at the Diking District meeting.

Please see Appendix A and Appendix B for copies of the letters drafted and sent to the Snohomish County Council.

### **Board Business: Decisions**

#### **Item 5A: Manual 18 – General Overview of Changes**

Kathryn Moore, Senior Grants Manager, presented information on proposed administrative revisions to the *Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18: Policies and Project Selection*. Staff received feedback from lead entities, the technical review panel, RCO staff, and the grant applicant survey. In addition to formatting and grammatical changes, RCO staff updated the 2015 grant schedule, provided more detail on project proposals goals and objectives as well as guidance on riparian buffers, updated language on long-term compliance obligations, provided new cost estimate examples, and created a PRISM-based submittal process for ranked project lists. The final version of Manual 18 is available on the RCO website and a workshop will occur in March regarding changes and the application process.

Ms. Moore discussed potential changes to the 2016 grant cycle based on feedback from sponsors and lead entity coordinators. These changes would include timing of site visits, final application deadlines, coordinating timing of SRFB review panel visits with lead entity review and ranking, timing of the SRFB funding meeting, coordinating project proposal with lead entity requirements, and coordinating with other funding programs like ESRP, Floodplains by Design, and PSAR. A committee will develop these recommendations to present to the board in September or December 2015.

#### **Item 5B: Monitoring Eligibility Policy Change**

Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator, briefed the board on the proposed policy change to expand monitoring as an eligible grant round project type with a number of conditions. Mr. Abbott summarized the proposed language and criteria as outlined in Item 5B of the board materials.

The new policy would change the balance between on-the-ground projects and monitoring. The proposed policy change would allow regional organizations the option of using up to 10% of its annual funding on monitoring projects. Several conditions exist for eligible monitoring activities and prohibits the use of state bond funds. If approved, Manual 18 will reflect appropriate language for monitoring eligibility in the 2015 grant round.

Director Cottingham noted that federal funds must support the program. Chair Troutt inquired about the design component of projects and if the monitoring or review panel would assess projects with established criteria, consistent methodologies, and protocols. He emphasized the need for the monitoring panel to know their role from the beginning. Member Smith asked if this counts as part of the 10% monitoring requirements for federal funding. Mr. Abbott indicated in the affirmative that the pressure may chip away at the big picture around state-wide versus regional monitoring, as both are necessary.

### **Public Comment**

Jeff Breckel shared that the lead entities and directors collaborated to develop the proposed language. The funding does not support major monitoring needs but will help regions fund current data gaps. Regional consultation with lead entities will support project flexibility, as well as thorough review and evaluation of the design.

Member Rockefeller asked about the amount of funds that would be used to support local monitoring. Mr. Breckel estimated that the amount would not exceed 10% of a regional allocation. This may represent a significant amount of funding, but respective salmon recovery boards would need to assess whether they want/can dedicate this funding, which could be used on other projects. It is a judgment call, balanced on region-specific needs.

Please see Appendix C for additional comment provided to the board.

**Motion:** Move to approve the proposed language as presented in the staff memo for including monitoring as an eligible project category in the Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant program, and include the appropriate language in the 2015 grant round manual.

**Moved:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded:** Member Sam Mace

**Discussion:** Member Smith stated her concern that these efforts should not undermine broader statewide efforts. Chair Troutt concurred.

**Action:** APPROVED

### **Item 6: South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment**

Mike Ramsey, Grant Manager, provided an update on the South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment ([14-1334P](#)). This project will assess the four sites identified by WDFW to determine the passability at various flows and develop design concepts for fish passage improvements if appropriate.

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) received funding for the 2014 grant round minus \$175,437 set aside for the South Fork project at the December 2014 meeting. A meeting held on January 5, 2015 with stakeholders, RCO staff, and review panel members clarified misconceptions about the initial proposal. The sponsor provided justification by providing previous hydraulic and fluvial geomorphic assessments for the upper South Fork Skokomish and technical advice received from agency staff and qualified consultants. The following conditions will apply to this project: the scope of work will include compiling various existing hydrology, hydraulic, and geomorphic assessments relevant for restoring Spring Chinook passage conditions. This information and on the ground data will inform and identify

conceptual design alternatives. The sponsor will convene a technical advisory group to develop the conceptual design alternative after completing the initial field measurements and modeling work.

Member Rockefeller inquired about potential design modifications should problems arise and the landowner acknowledgement. Mr. Ramsey provided options such as boulder-blasting and creating a fish-way. The landowner, Green Diamond, signed an acknowledgement form, not a landowner agreement. Evan Bauder indicated that some concerns exist around the elevation needed to ensure fish passage. The sponsor stated that the purpose is data collection to determine the best approach and urged the board to encourage potential solutions.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was provided at this time.

**Motion:** Move to approve \$175,437 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds for the South Fork Skokomish Canyon Fish Passage Assessment, RCO Project 14-1334P.

**Moved by:** Member Nancy Biery

**Seconded by:** Member Phil Rockefeller

**Discussion:** Member Rockefeller asked whether Spring Chinook navigate this stream and whether the low-flow scenarios were tested. Mr. Ramsey noted that Spring Chinook historically used the river and plans exist to reintroduce the species. The sponsor shared that previous historic reports indicated the need for restoration efforts and funding would support design and planning to fill a data gap. The project is part of the Skokomish regional recovery plan, but delayed relative to other plan metrics. The sponsor added that the project would need to conduct a study during low-flow seasons to determine the potential impacts to fish passage.

Member Rockefeller expressed concern that money expended may document an unfixable fish passage problem. Chair Troutt requested clarification on the problem resolution.

Tom Slocum, review panel member, confirmed that the review panel expressed similar concerns regarding fish passage. He spoke on behalf of the review panel, confirming their support of data collection in the design and planning phase of this project while emphasizing that potential future projects implement appropriate restoration actions.

Ms. Dorner shared that the Skokomish Tribe plans to introduce Spring Chinook and this project is critical to that work. She shared that the region supports the tribe in this effort. More data is needed, and they are grateful for the extra time allowed to consider this project.

Chair Troutt summarized the review process that the project traversed, noting the board should not debate recovery plan goals and metrics.

**Decision:** APPROVED

### **Board Business: Briefings**

#### **Item 7: Salmon Recovery Conference Update**

Brian Abbott and Sarah Gage of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office provided an update on the 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference. RCO, GSRO, the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and Long Live the Kings developed the following goals for the conference: 1) showcase salmon recovery projects in Washington State with an emphasis on lessons learned and problems solved; 2) include subject matter on habitat restoration, preservation, and hatchery reform; 3) include a breadth of salmon recovery

with diverse interests and geographies; and 4) to operate the conference in a fiscally sound manner. So far, sponsor engagement effectively has secured funding and support for the conference in the amount of \$31K.

The salmon recovery community responded enthusiastically to the call for abstracts, submitting nearly 200 abstracts covering a wide range of topics. The 2015 conference will be two and half days this year, including plenary and breakout sessions involving 23 topics. The schedule will include networking opportunities. Ms. Gage listed several businesses, vendors, and participating agencies.

Member Biery encouraged local government engagement to support community education and involvement. She suggested a "Salmon 101" session in collaboration with Brian Abbott to support basic salmon recovery awareness efforts.

#### **Item 8: State of Salmon Report Presentation**

Jennifer Johnson, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Implementation Coordinator, and Scott Boettcher, RCO consultant, presented the new biennial State of Salmon in Watersheds report. Ms. Johnson shared a hardcopy of the executive summary, also published online at [www.stateofsalmon.wa.gov](http://www.stateofsalmon.wa.gov). RCW 77.85.020 requires GSRO produce this biennial report for the Legislature.

The 2014 report: (1) displays data at both regional and state scales, (2) contains indicators of adult and juvenile fish abundance, watershed health, and recovery plan implementation, (3) highlights information gaps and needs, and (4) includes trends in funding, watershed plan program updates, and challenges to salmon recovery.

Mr. Boettcher discussed the development process, particularly including the goal to set up RCO and GSRO to maintain the website and data independently. The Department of Ecology supports these efforts. Other updates include the story map tool, intended to share statewide salmon recovery efforts specific to Washington's methodologies and real-time data across tribes, local, and state government. The goal is to de-mystify the work and complex projects in progress across the state. Access the story maps [here](#).

Ms. Johnson demonstrated various elements of the State of Salmon website, including the narrative summary pages, indicators of salmon abundance, regional data contributions, and connections to <http://www.data.wa.gov>. The new automation tool was also demonstrated. It displays WDFW's live fish abundance data organized by recovery region. Ms. Johnson thanked the agencies involved that provided data for the website and the report.

Mr. Boettcher demonstrated the new story map tool. These "salmon stories" represent a collaborative effort from tribes, agencies, and salmon recovery organizations and highlight watershed-scale salmon recovery with imagery and easy-to-read story maps.

Chair Troutt enthusiastically thanked the efforts of this year's SOS report. He emphasized how the report is inclusive and wonderful, especially the connection to the tribal community.

#### **Break 2:45 – 3:12 p.m.**

Chair Troutt invited Jeff Breckel to speak. Mr. Breckel commented on Member Rockefeller's remarks during the round-table updates. He encourages the board to engage in the process of thoughtful, transparent, technically sound feasibility of move fish above dams in the lower Columbia River region. The goal is to restore historic migration abilities.

Chair Troutt would like to draft a letter in support of the goals outlined by Mr. Breckel. Member Mace

seconded. Member Rockefeller noted that the long, ongoing process of restoration above dams; a letter issued within the next several days would be timely. There is still a question of the addressee, perhaps the Bonneville Power Administration. Member Biery suggested providing a copy to the Governor as well as members of Congress. Member Rockefeller clarified that this letter would support the exploration of options, available science, and feasibility, and suggested a measured response.

Chair Troutt and Director Cottingham will draft a letter and circulate the draft to board members. The intention is to draft a letter to BPA Administrator, with a copy to the Governor's Office.

Please see Appendix D for a copy of the letter drafted to the BPA Administrator.

### **Item 9: Mitigation Matching Project Update**

Jennifer Johnson, GSRO, along with consultants from Eldred & Associates and Cardno ENTRIX (Jennifer Aylor and Sky Miller) presented an update on the mitigation matching project. Mitigation matching can optimize the benefits of salmon recovery, habitat protection, and restoration by identifying salmon recovery projects that align with transportation mitigation obligations. Working with WSDOT, RCO is providing access to RCO habitat project lists and mapped locations in order to identify potential mitigation projects more efficiently. GSRO and RCO staff will work on a factsheet and other tools that will help inform partners on the progress of this work.

Ms. Aylor summarized and presented the in-development map-viewer tool that displays transportation projects matched with habitat restoration and protection projects, focused on mitigation and setting aside wetlands that enhance salmon restoration. Ms. Aylor provided history and development of the project specific to Washington's regional and statewide data. Mr. Miller provided an overview of the data inputs and matching methodologies. He provided some examples of local matching opportunities and mitigation sites, discussing potential challenges. One problem noted is that the Endangered Species Act requires avoidance and minimization of salmonid impacts, but not mitigation.

The team demonstrated the online matching tool's interactive features. With a secure login to protect data integrity, users can access additional information, site details, involved partners, and contributing agencies.

Ms. Aylor discussed potential opportunities that may support WSDOT in mitigation options. Ms. Johnson discussed next steps, such as adding more Habitat Work Schedule projects to the map-viewer, and continuing to explore user interfaces and data sharing between RCO and WSDOT.

Chair Troutt commented on the importance of mitigation, specifically paying attention to the life stage or history of salmonid species and plan to accommodate these cycles. Mr. Miller indicated that, with NOAA's direction, they look for limiting factor sites that help reach the mitigation goal, similar to those approved in estuarine and salmon spawning habitat.

Chair Troutt asked if the same impacts that the tool mitigates against remain in a given watershed. Mr. Miller confirmed this, stating that the benefits stay within the watershed.

Member Cochrane wondered if this would promote competition among sites for board funds and how these efforts would be coordinated. Ms. Johnson replied that competition may be a good thing as it indicates solid funding; development is a reality, so the key is to consider this when asking questions about how this tool will support mitigation projects. Ms. Aylor added that they have explored the question of coordinated inputs and impacts, especially in terms of regulation and funding sources.

## **Item 10: Washington Administrative Code Changes – Phase II Overview**

Leslie Connelly, RCO's Policy Specialist, presented an overview of phase II of the proposed changes to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Title 420 covers general grant program requirements of the board and the administration of grant programs. Ms. Connelly provided background on the process for updating RCO rules and procedures in WAC. In RCW 77.85.120, the board is designated with the authority to establish rules that will support accomplishment of their work as set forth in statute.

Substantive changes to the WAC have not been made since 2001. In 2014, Phase I of the WAC changes included changing the agency name to the "Recreation and Conservation Office." Ms. Connelly then provided a summary of the changes proposed for Phase II. Details of each change is documented in Item 10 of the board materials.

Ms. Connelly summarized the next steps and schedule for adopting rule changes to the WAC. An initial draft of revisions was submitted on February 4, 2015 and the "Notice of Inquiry" was published February 18, 2015. As there will be some substantive changes, a public hearing will be held at the next board meeting, with an effective date of June 7, 2015.

The board discussed timelines, constraints, and opportunity to review the changes prior to the public hearing.

RCO staff will begin to draft rule changes per the Administrative Procedure Act, submitting them to the board individually for comment. Ms. Connelly suggested providing sections of changes as they are updated. Stakeholder feedback will be sought from lead entities, regions, project sponsors, and interested parties.

## **Item 11: Expanding the Grant Program to Include Large Capital Projects**

Brian Abbott, GSRO, summarized the concept of developing a capital budget requests for the 2017-19 biennium. The purpose is to create a capital funding source for large-scale fish benefit projects needed to fully implement Salmon Recovery Plans outside of the Puget Sound region. He noted the past success of projects in the Puget Sound region, and described the foundational principles of the grant program concept: 1) add to the salmon recovery effort and not realign or take resources from existing capital programs, 2) consist of an open and transparent selection and prioritization process, and 3) utilize the current Review Panel process.

Feedback and drafting the request would need to be in place by September 2016. At that time, RCO would present the Governor and Legislature with a fully developed process and ranked list for inclusion in the 2017-19 capital budget.

Director Cottingham suggested collaborating with the Office of Financial Management, to ensure that the efforts will not be rejected immediately when submitted in September. RCO and GSRO staff would seek input from OFM, draft the proposal, and look to regional organizations, lead entities, and recovery partners for feedback by September 2016. The board would consider a full proposal at the October 2015 meeting.

Director Cottingham and Chair Troutt noted the importance of highlighting the program components as they address gaps in salmon recovery efforts for projects that are not eligible for the existing grant rounds.

## **Closing**

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 6-7, 2015 in Olympia.

Chair Troutt adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

**Approved by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
David Troutt, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DRAFT

Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98501

P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917



(360) 902-3000  
TTY (360) 902-1996  
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: [info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web site: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

February 27, 2015

Snohomish County Council  
Robert J. Drewel Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Smith Island Estuarine Restoration Project

Dear Council Members Dave Somers, Brian Sullivan, Stephanie Wright, Terry Ryan and Ken Klein:

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) is pleased to support the Smith Island Estuarine Restoration project. Composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor, and five state agency directors, the SRFB brings together the experiences and viewpoints of citizens and state natural resource agencies, to provide grants for salmon habitat protection and restoration. State and federal funding flows through the SRFB via a locally-based process that prioritizes actions to achieve salmon recovery statewide.

To date, the Smith Island Estuarine Restoration project has successfully competed for more than \$17 million dollars in funding from the SRFB and other grant programs. The Smith Island project has been successful in competing for recovery funding, in large part, because it is an integral part of the federally-approved salmon recovery plan under the Endangered Species Act. Research shows that one of the greatest limiting factors for Chinook salmon population recovery is the extensive Snohomish River estuary habitat loss important for early stage rearing. Today, fewer than 1,700 acres of estuarine tidal marsh remain connected and accessible to salmonids. A decline in excess of 80% of the historic area.

It is very exciting to see the progress being made on Smith Island. These types of projects take strong leadership, multiple partners, and significant investments of time and resources. Investing in salmon recovery is also good for the economy. In addition to increasing opportunities for commercial and recreational fishing, project design and construction contracts bring millions to local businesses. We want to thank the County for its leadership on this important restoration project, and urge you continue to support implementation.

Sincerely,

David Troutt, Chair  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board



Natural Resources Building  
1111 Washington St. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98501

P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917



(360) 902-3000  
TTY (360) 902-1996  
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: [info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web site: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

February 26, 2015

Snohomish County Council  
Robert J. Drewel Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Smith Island Estuarine Restoration Project

Dear Council Members Dave Somers, Brian Sullivan, Stephanie Wright, Terry Ryan and Ken Klein:

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is pleased to support the Smith Island Estuarine Restoration project. RCO is a small state agency that manages grant programs to create outdoor recreation opportunities, protect the best of the state's wildlife habitat and farmland, and help recover salmon.

To date, the Smith Island project has successfully competed for ten RCO administered salmon recovery and habitat restoration grants totaling nearly \$17 million dollars. These grants supported land acquisition, planning, design and permitting. Grant funds continue to be available for implementation of this regionally significant restoration project. This is an impressive project in scope and scale and represents the highest value project agreement administered by my agency.

I want to thank the County for its leadership on the restoration of the Estuary, and urge you to continue to support its construction. Re-establishing a properly functioning, self-sustaining estuarine tidal marsh ecosystem will provide critical rearing habitat for endangered Chinook salmon in the Snohomish River basin. Thank you for your commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

Kaleen Cottingham  
Director





February 26, 2015

Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
c/o David Troutt, Chair  
1111 Washington ST SE  
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Chairman Troutt and Distinguished Board Members,

I am writing to share with you the **Skagit Watershed Council' support for changing the monitoring eligibility policy** before you today. The potential change has been well vetted statewide and as far as we know there is 100% support for this discretionary policy as outlined in the briefing materials.

The Skagit Watershed Council is a non-profit organization dedicated to habitat recovery that would enable sustainable salmon and trout fisheries in the Skagit and Samish Watersheds. Our membership now includes 33 governments and NGOs, representing the broad spectrum of interests in salmon recovery in this large and productive basin.

From the Skagit perspective, **this modest change in policy has complete concurrence at both the technical and policy levels.** While our habitat protection and restoration work must continue as our main priority, the **need to answer ever-more-critical questions of the status and trends of the fish and habitat they depend on will become the defining conversation of the next 10 years.**

Without this change in policy, we will continue to be poorly equipped to state with confidence the long-term effectiveness of our actions, and will lack information critical to informing course corrections.

Thank you for your consideration of this modest but important policy change,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Richard Brocksmith'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Richard Brocksmith

Executive Director

Cc: Jeanette Dorner, Puget Sound Partnership  
Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Natural Resources Building  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

1111 Washington St. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98501



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

(360) 902-3000  
TTY: (360) 902-1996  
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: [Info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web site: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

March 9, 2015

Elliott Mainzer, Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Administrator Mainzer:

The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has been overseeing and coordinating the distribution of state and federal resources toward the recovery of salmon and their habitat since 2000. These investments are managed by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

We are pleased to offer our strong support for the recently revised Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program adopted in October 2014 by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. We encourage the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the other federal- action agencies with assets and responsibilities in the Columbia Basin, to extend tangible and on-going financial and technical support for the phased assessment of the feasibility of re-introducing salmonids above the Army Corps of Engineers Chief Joseph Dam, and the Bureau of Reclamation Grand Coulee Dam. Such an assessment would explore the biological and economic feasibility of providing upstream and downstream fish passage at the dams, and review the complexities of re-introducing salmon species to their historic habitat.

The 199 river miles of mainstem along with the increased tributary access above these federal dams are of regional significance and historically supported several stocks of salmon. Reconnecting this habitat would provide significant economic, tribal, cultural, and community benefits.

The SRFB stands ready to collaborate with you, and the many others engaged in the management of the Columbia River Basin resources, in proceeding down a carefully-managed pathway to assess the feasibility of re-introducing salmonids to these inaccessible areas.

We thank you for your consideration in this timely matter.

Sincerely,

David Trout, Chair  
Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board





# Salmon Recovery Funding Board

Correspondence for

May 6, 2015

Natural Resources Building  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

1111 Washington St. S.E.  
Olympia, WA 98501



(360) 902-3000  
TTY: (360) 902-1996  
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: [Info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web site: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)

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

April 14, 2015

Pat Stevenson  
Environmental Manager  
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians  
P.O. Box 277  
Arlington, WA 98223

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

Thank you for your call this morning to request an additional year to award the Stillaguamish Lead Entity's 2015 salmon funding allocation. Since March 22, 2014, the Stillaguamish Tribe and Snohomish County have been significantly impacted by the demands of managing the Steelhead Haven Landslide disaster, which dramatically reduced the staff time available for salmon recovery scoping, planning and restoration construction.

The Recreation and Conservation Office understands the great burden such a national disaster would create on your lead entity and will retain the remainder of Stillaguamish Lead Entity's funding allocation to be awarded by December of 2016. This will give the lead entity and project sponsors an additional year to prepare projects for funding. With several large scale restoration design and acquisition projects currently in progress, it appears that the lead entity will have a competitive funding round in 2016.

Please be aware that this time extension does not change the date by which funding will need to be expended. Regardless of the award date, the 2015 Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery funds and Salmon State funds must be expended by March 15, 2020.

The Lead Entity will need to work with the Puget Sound Partnership to secure an extension for awarding their Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund allocation for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kaleen Cottingham".

Kaleen Cottingham  
Director

cc: Michael Blanton, Puget Sound Partnership  
SRFB Members



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015

**Title:** Director's Report / Legislative and Policy Updates

#### Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities, including operations, agency policy issues, and legislation. Information specific to salmon grant management, performance management, and the fiscal report are in separate board memos.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

#### In this Report

- Agency operations
- Legislative, budget, and policy updates
- Update on sister boards

## Agency Operations

### E-billing Launches Successfully

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) successfully launched the electronic billing system on March 31. The new system, known as e-billing, is expected to save staff and grant recipients time and money, not to mention a few trees because of the now paperless process. Fiscal staff reached out to grant recipients to make sure they were aware of the transition. By the end of March, staff had trained 244 people and held 18 testing sessions. After the first week, here are a few statistics:

- 51 invoices were created in the system and 30 were submitted.
- Of the 30 invoices submitted, 2 invoices were returned to the sponsor for correction and 9 invoices were paid.

### PRISM 101 Training

RCO's PRISM Database Manager conducted 14 training sessions for about 120 project sponsors who were unfamiliar with PRISM. The trainings cover the basics of using PRISM, the difference between PRISM Online and PRISM 2007, and how to use start a new application, find information about projects, enter progress reports, and find help. Of the 33 participants who answered a post-training survey, the vast majority felt it was a good use of their time.

### RCO Speaks at Yakima County Regional Funders' Forum

More than thirty people participated in the Yakima County Regional Funders' Forum on March 13. The Yakima Valley Conference of Governments hosted the event, held in the Yakima Valley Historical Museum.

Federal, state, and local funding agencies shared information about grant and loan programs that support renovation and development of infrastructure. Participants had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with funders to hold detailed project discussions. RCO Section Manager Marguerite Austin delivered a presentation on Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and met with five communities interested in RCO grants. Attendees thought this was a very productive forum and requested the Yakima Valley Conference of Governments to conduct another one next year.

### **Engineers Meet to Discuss Fish Passage**

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program's (FFFPP) Fish Passage Team hosted the annual engineers gathering on March 13 in Olympia. Each year, the fish team gets together with project engineers and agency staff involved in the program to look at the past year's successfully completed projects. It is a great forum for project engineers to exchange information that helps make better projects and the program more efficient and economical. During the morning session, we reviewed the 2014 high priority fish passage projects that were constructed on 41 landowners' properties. The afternoon session was spent discussing issues related to the program, such as working with utility companies, erosion control, contractor issues, and project bidding.

### **Future of Federal Funding for Habitat Work Schedule**

RCO and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 31 to discuss the future and funding for our Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) data system. HWS is the salmon recovery lead entity tool for tracking and displaying how salmon projects relate to each other, what needs to be done next for salmon, and how progress is being made to address the problems harming salmon. USFWS staff let us know that the HWS is in their agency 2015 budget, but they are concerned about continuing to administer the funds in future years. GSRO is preparing an application for 2015 funding for the system. RCO discussed the history and need for the system with USFWS, as well as what's needed for a smooth transition if the money is not available in the future. Subsequently, the RCO Director met with the new director of the Washington State USFWS office and re-emphasized the importance of this funding to maintain HWS.

### **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Visit to Washington D.C.**

Brian Abbott, Executive Coordinator of GSRO, and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board's executive team (Paul Ward, Yakama Tribe; Steve Jenkins, Douglas County Commissioner; Derek Van Marter, Executive Director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board) visited the congressional delegation and federal agencies in Washington D.C. in April. The team had several busy days with over twenty-two meetings that included members, staffers, and federal agency leadership. The main message shared was to express appreciation to the congressional delegation for their continued support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), to let them know the funding is being well-spent, and to share that results are already visible.

### **Meetings with Partners**

**Washington Association of Land Trusts:** RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham spoke at the quarterly meeting of WALT regarding the [outdoor recreation economic study](#), the new [outdoor recreation brochure](#), the [2014 State of Salmon in Watersheds](#) report, our [requested budget](#), and [e-billing](#).

### Budget Update

The Washington State House of Representatives released its proposed operating and capital budgets on March 27. In the proposed operating budget, RCO's appropriation closely resembles the Governor's budget, however; it is lower overall. The net drop from the Governor's to the House's operating appropriation is \$253,000. No reductions were taken in lead entity funding.

The House capital budget numbers (see table below) align closely with the Governor's budget, with some exceptions:

- In the House budget, RCO receives two new grant programs – Coastal Restoration Grants and Catastrophic Flood Relief (the latter of which is for flood control in the Chehalis River basin).
- State funding for salmon holds steady at \$40 million in the House budget, but Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding drops \$10 million to \$40 million.
- Funding for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program is reduced from \$10 million in the Governor's budget to \$5 million in the House's budget.

Following the House budgets, the Senate released its proposed budgets a couple of weeks later. There is not much difference in operating budget appropriations between the House and Senate budgets. RCO's portion of general funds is reduced by \$111,000, which is a portion of what we had identified for the Governor's 15% budget reduction exercise. The Senate took the reductions we proposed in executive management and GSRO salary and benefits, but, similar to the House operating budget, left alone any reduction in general funds to lead entities.

In the Senate capital budget, the PSAR appropriation is \$25 million, which is \$25 million and \$15 million less than the Governor's and House budgets respectively. Salmon state funding is also significantly reduced in the Senate budget to \$16.5 million, and ESRP is funded at half the level of the Governor and House budgets. Similar to the House capital budget, we would gain two new grant programs – Coastal Restoration Grants (about \$3 million less in Senate budget) and Catastrophic Flood Relief (both budgets are \$50 million).

Besides the difference in appropriations between the House and Senate capital budgets, the Senate puts additional restrictions on how the money can be used for salmon recovery. These "budget provisos" direct or limit the use of funds in PSAR for restoration purposes only – no land acquisition allowed. The budget proviso for ESRP constrains the \$5 million appropriation such that \$2.5 million goes to the Vashon Island conservation initiative of the Vashon-Maury Island Land Trust program. This means only \$2.5 million is available for the previously ranked lists of restoration projects.

## 2015-17 Budget Proposal Summaries

| Funding Sources                         | Current Level<br>2013-15 | Agency<br>Request<br>2015-17 | Governor's<br>Proposal | House<br>Proposal | Senate<br>Proposal |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Bond Funded – New Appropriations</b> |                          |                              |                        |                   |                    |
| Estuary and Salmon Restoration          | 10,000,000               | 20,000,000                   | 10,000,000             | 10,000,000        | 5,000,000          |
| Family Forest Fish Passage Program      | 2,000,000                | 11,500,000                   | 10,000,000             | 5,000,000         | 5,000,000          |
| Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration | 70,000,000               | 140,000,000                  | 50,000,000             | 40,000,000        | 25,000,000         |
| Salmon Recovery (SRFB-state)            | 15,000,000               | 40,000,000                   | 40,000,000             | 40,000,000        | 16,500,000         |
| Coastal Restoration Grants              | -                        | -                            | -                      | 8,196,000         | 5,180,000          |
| Catastrophic Flood Relief               | -                        | -                            | -                      | 50,000,000        | 50,000,000         |
| <b>Federal Funds</b>                    |                          |                              |                        |                   |                    |
| Salmon – Federal                        | 60,000,000               | 60,000,000                   | 60,000,000             | 60,000,000        | 50,000,000         |

## Update on Sister Boards

### Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB)

The RCFB welcomed a new member in March. Peter Herzog is now the official designee from the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, replacing Don Hoch, State Parks director. The most recent RCFB meeting on April 8-9 focused on strategic goals and performance measures, the new criteria for the Youth Athletic Facilities program, changes to the Washington Administrative Code, and the new Boating Programs Plan. The RCFB also addressed a conversion request for the light rail system adjacent to Mercer Slough in Bellevue.

### Washington Invasive Species Council

The Invasive Species Council had a meeting March 12 in Olympia. The council discussed state and federal legislation impacting invasive species, focusing on developing a plan for outreach on the council's reauthorization. The council began the process of updating its strategic plan, which hasn't been updated since its creation in 2008, and discussed progress on various invasive species outreach projects. The council also discussed the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual New Zealand Mud Snail Conference, which it is helping coordinate and which will be held in Seattle June 16-17. Council staff returned recently from a trip to Washington D.C. for National Invasive Species Awareness Week. Accompanied by invasive species coordinators from Arizona, California, Oregon, and Nevada, she met with western state congressional offices to provide information on aquatic invasive species management and prevention in the West, with a special focus on boat inspection programs.

### Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Lands group met March 20 in Olympia. At the meeting, agencies shared information on legislation related to land acquisition and management, discussed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee report on public lands, and were briefed on the outdoor recreation economic study recently published by RCO.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Performance Update  
**Prepared by:** Meg O'Leary, Policy Administrator

#### Summary

This memo summarizes fiscal year 2015 grant management and project impact performance measures for projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board). The data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of March 31, 2015.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

#### In this Report

- Project Impact Performance Measures
- Grant Management Performance Measures

### Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in fiscal year 2015. Grant sponsors submit these performance measure data for blockages removed, fish passages installed, and stream miles made accessible when a project is completed and in the process of closing. The Forest Family Fish Passage Program (FFPP) and Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) are not included in these totals.

Twenty-one salmon blockages were removed so far this fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015), with ten passageways installed (Table 1). These projects cumulatively opened 26.21 miles of stream (Table 2).

**Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics**

| Measure                  | FY 2015 Performance |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Blockages Removed        | 21                  |
| Bridges Installed        | 6                   |
| Culverts Installed       | 4                   |
| Fish Ladders Installed   | 0                   |
| Fishway Chutes Installed | 0                   |

**Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible by SRFB-Funded Projects**

| <b>Project #</b>               | <b>Project Name</b>                               | <b>Primary Sponsor</b>         | <b>Stream Miles</b> |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <a href="#"><u>12-1625</u></a> | Mill Creek Fish Passage                           | Fish & Wildlife Dept of        | 6.75                |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1393</u></a> | QIN S.F. Salmon River Culvert Replacement Project | Quinault Indian Nation         | 5.8                 |
| <a href="#"><u>12-1325</u></a> | Moses Prairie Reclamation                         | Quinault Indian Nation         | 3.54                |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1462</u></a> | Coal Creek Culvert Replacement                    | Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition | 2.9                 |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1361</u></a> | Skokomish Estuary Restoration Phase III           | Mason Conservation Dist        | 2.39                |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1336</u></a> | Lower White Pine Reconnection                     | Chelan Co Natural Resource     | 2.24                |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1347</u></a> | Coulter Creek Barrier Replacement                 | Chelan Co Natural Resource     | 1.6                 |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1394</u></a> | QIN F-17 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project  | Quinault Indian Nation         | 0.8                 |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1395</u></a> | QIN F-15 Road Impounded Pond Enhancement Project  | Quinault Indian Nation         | 0.11                |
| <a href="#"><u>11-1587</u></a> | Mill Creek Passage - Reach Type 6                 | Tri-State Steelheaders Inc     | 0.08                |
| <b>Total Miles</b>             |   |                                | <b>26.21</b>        |

## Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2015 operational performance measures as of March 31, 2015.

**Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures**

| Measure  | FY Target | FY 2015 Performance | Indicator | Notes  |
|--|-----------|---------------------|-----------|--|
| Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding | 85-95%    | <b>84%</b>          | ●         | A total of 154 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mail agreements on average 54 days after a project is approved.   |
| Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)    | 65-75%    | <b>81%</b>          | ●         | A total of 513 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 415 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded in 9 days.  |
| Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days                                  | 100%      | <b>95%</b>          | ●         | During this fiscal year to date, 1,241 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. 1,175 bills were paid on time. Bills may not be paid on time because of incomplete sponsor paperwork or lack of proper documentation. Staff expect performance will improve after the initiation of e-billing on March 31. |
| Percent of Projects Closed on Time   | 60-70%    | <b>54%</b>          | ●         | A total of 80 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far this fiscal year. Forty-three of these projects closed on time.  |
| Number of Projects in Project Backlog  | 0         | <b>6</b>            | ●         | Six SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog. The backlog decreased by 9 since the last board meeting.  |
| Number of Compliance Inspections Completed                                   | 56        | <b>4</b>            | ●         | Management set a target of 75 SRFB-related inspections for the 2015 calendar year. The target reported here was prorated for the remaining months of the fiscal year.  |

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Financial Report  
**Prepared By:** Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

#### Summary

This financial report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of March 2015.

The available balance (funds to be committed) is \$2.4 million. The remaining amount for the board to allocate is approximately \$0.7 million, which is comprised of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) returned funds. The amount for other entities to allocate is \$1.7 million.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

### Balance Summary

| Fund  | Balance                |
|---|------------------------|
| Current State Balance   | \$0                    |
| Current Federal Balance – Projects, Hatchery Reform, Monitoring                 | \$0                    |
| Current Federal Balance – Activities  | \$807,140              |
| Lead Entities   | \$0                    |
| Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR*) & Puget Sound Restoration (PSR) | \$777,187 <sup>1</sup> |
| Estuary and Salmon Restoration  | \$415,714              |
| Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFPPP)                                      | \$423,596              |
| Puget Sound Critical Stock  | \$0                    |

<sup>1</sup> The PSAR balance is primarily returned funds. The Puget Sound Partnership is working to recommend to Recreation and Conservation Office staff, the use of these returned funds for previously approved PSAR project alternates and cost increases.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Budget Summary

For the Period of July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015, actuals through 04/03/2015 (fiscal month 21)  
 Percentage of biennium reported: 83.3%

| Grant Programs                          | BUDGET                                | COMMITTED            |             | TO BE COMMITTED    |             | EXPENDITURES         |                |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|
|   | New & Re-appropriation 2013-2015 (\$) | Dollars (\$)         | % of Budget | Dollars (\$)       | % of Budget | Dollars (\$)         | % of Completed |
| <b>State Funded</b>                     |                                       |                      |             |                    |             |                      |                |
| 2003-05                                 | \$159,127                             | \$159,127            | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$159,127            | 100%           |
| 2005-07                                 | \$947,980                             | \$947,980            | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$565,163            | 60%            |
| 2007-09                                 | \$1,892,914                           | \$1,892,914          | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$1,462,959          | 80%            |
| 2009-11                                 | \$210,888                             | \$210,888            | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$200,288            | 98%            |
| 2011-13                                 | \$7,238,131                           | \$7,238,131          | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$3,248,413          | 45%            |
| 2013-15                                 | \$14,382,000                          | \$14,382,000         | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$1,293,540          | 9%             |
| <b>State Funded Total</b>               | <b>\$24,831,040</b>                   | <b>\$24,831,039</b>  | <b>100%</b> | <b>\$0</b>         | <b>0%</b>   | <b>\$6,929,490</b>   | <b>28%</b>     |
| <b>Federal Funded</b>                   |                                       |                      |             |                    |             |                      |                |
| 2009                                    | \$4,221,631                           | \$4,221,631          | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$4,221,631          | 100%           |
| 2010                                    | \$12,634,686                          | \$12,634,685         | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$9,453,312          | 75%            |
| 2011                                    | \$12,613,585                          | \$12,613,585         | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$7,773,690          | 62%            |
| 2012                                    | \$19,269,120                          | \$19,207,019         | 99.7%       | \$62,101           | .3%         | \$11,169,749         | 58%            |
| 2013                                    | \$18,284,837                          | \$17,809,196         | 97%         | \$475,641          | 3%          | \$8,086,753          | 45%            |
| 2014                                    | \$18,175,890                          | \$17,906,493         | 99%         | \$269,397          | 1%          | \$1,424,069          | 8%             |
| <b>Federal Funded Total</b>             | <b>\$85,199,748</b>                   | <b>\$84,392,609</b>  | <b>99%</b>  | <b>\$807,140</b>   | <b>1%</b>   | <b>\$42,129,205</b>  | <b>50%</b>     |
| <b>Grant Programs</b>                   |                                       |                      |             |                    |             |                      |                |
| Lead Entities                           | \$7,079,977                           | \$7,067,385          | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$4,041,847          | 57%            |
| Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration | \$79,704,108                          | \$78,926,921         | 99%         | \$777,187          | 1%          | \$28,978,514         | 37%            |
| Estuary and Salmon Restoration          | \$16,578,572                          | \$16,162,859         | 97%         | \$415,714          | 3%          | \$7,149,163          | 44%            |
| Family Forest Fish Passage Program      | \$11,911,409                          | \$11,487,813         | 96%         | \$423,596          | 4%          | \$8,916,816          | 78%            |
| Puget Sound Critical Stock              | \$2,506,826                           | \$2,506,826          | 100%        | \$0                | 0%          | \$1,818,423          | 73%            |
| <b>Subtotal Grant Programs</b>          | <b>\$227,811,680</b>                  | <b>\$225,388,044</b> | <b>99%</b>  | <b>\$2,423,637</b> | <b>2%</b>   | <b>\$99,963,457</b>  | <b>44%</b>     |
| <b>Administration</b>                   |                                       |                      |             |                    |             |                      |                |
| SRFB Admin/Staff                        | \$4,493,653                           | \$4,493,653          | 100%        | -                  | 0%          | \$3,613,258          | 80%            |
| Review Panel                            | \$677,173                             | \$677,173            | 100%        | -                  | 0%          | \$441,513            | 65%            |
| <b>Subtotal Administration</b>          | <b>\$5,170,826</b>                    | <b>\$5,170,826</b>   | <b>100%</b> | <b>-</b>           | <b>0%</b>   | <b>\$4,054,771</b>   | <b>78%</b>     |
| <b>GRANT AND ADMINISTRATION TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$232,982,506</b>                  | <b>\$230,558,870</b> | <b>99%</b>  | <b>\$2,423,637</b> | <b>1%</b>   | <b>\$104,018,228</b> | <b>45%</b>     |

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Salmon Recovery Management Report  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator  
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

#### Summary

The following are some highlights of work recently completed by the staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO).

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Decision  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Direction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Briefing              |

### Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

#### Salmon Recovery Conference – May 27-29, 2015 Vancouver, Washington

The 2015 Salmon Recovery Conference is scheduled for May 27-29 in Vancouver, WA, co-hosted by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Long Live the Kings.

By returning to this conference location on the banks of the Columbia River, conference attendees can learn from the experiences of both Washington and Oregon salmon recovery projects and issues. Presentations will highlight what has worked in salmon recovery, what could have worked better, and how to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of projects, habitat restoration, and hatchery reform within Washington State and the Pacific Northwest region.

The [conference schedule](#) and other regular updates are available on the [conference website](#). The conference dates expanded from two to three days this year, and the final agenda is expected to be out by April 15. Keynote speakers include:

- **Norm Dicks**, U.S. Representative for Washington's 6th congressional district from 1977-2013
- **Bill Bradbury**, Oregon's former Secretary of State
- **John McMillan**, Science Director for Trout Unlimited's Wild Steelhead Initiative

You don't want to miss this stellar mix of plenary sessions, keynote speakers, and break-out sessions.

- [Register now!](#)
- [Exhibitor space](#) is still available, but going fast. Contact us at [salmonconference@rco.wa.gov](mailto:salmonconference@rco.wa.gov) if you would like to exhibit.

## **Communications Strategy**

In late August, the board agreed to continue to invest in a communication strategy and funded a series of recommendations from Pyramid Communications. A Salmon Recovery Network workgroup will provide a forum to bring together salmon recovery partners and create an environment for collaboration, innovation, coordination, trust, and relationship building across the various organizations. Triangle Associates was selected to support the workgroup and facilitate meetings. The first facilitated meeting was held April 13, 2015. A coordinated workgroup provided a forum to bring together salmon recovery partners and create an environment for collaboration, innovation, coordination, trust, and relationship-building across the various organizations. GSRO staff will provide an update at the May board meeting.

Working with the GSRO staff and lead entities, RCO's communication staff created a lead entity directory to educate local communities about the important salmon recovery work carried out across the state. Printed copies should be available by the May board meeting.

## **Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) held an all-day workshop with more than thirty practitioners who implement the board's monitoring program. The meeting offered structured presentations on the three components of the monitoring program: effectiveness monitoring, fish-in/fish-out, and intensively monitored watersheds. The monitoring panel will use this information to evaluate the monitoring program components and provide recommendations to the board in October.

## **Regional and Lead Entity Reviews**

GSRO staff manage the regional organizations' and lead entities' contracts. Part of this work includes meeting with regional organizations to complete their biennial reviews. GSRO staff document the accomplishments and challenges in their current scopes of work, as well as discuss the scopes of work for the next biennium. Sarah Gage, GSRO Lead Entity Program Manager, will meet with the Puget Sound, Coastal Washington, Klickitat, and Northeast Washington lead entities separately to complete their respective reviews by the end of 2015.

## **Habitat Work Schedule**

The Habitat Work Schedule is our salmon recovery lead entity tool for tracking and displaying how salmon projects relate to each other, what needs to be done next for salmon, and how progress is being made to address the problems harming salmon. Lead entities use the Habitat Work Schedule to track, report, and map their actions for planning, accountability, monitoring, and management, both geographically and over time.

GSRO meets regularly with the new Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) Action Committee to gather information about what system-users need, how to clarify metrics and streamline the system, and what outside data would be useful to include in HWS. The committee is primarily comprised of lead entity coordinators who work with GSRO staff to improve the quality of salmon project data. They also support alignment of HWS and PRISM's grant management data from historic projects where the data is out-of-sync. GSRO and the lead entities identify priority HWS metrics to report across the state at various scales, including in the *State of Salmon in Watersheds* report at the state scale. They also work with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) to report Puget Sound Action Agenda targets using specific PSP metrics that are tracked by lead entities in HWS.

RCO and GSRO met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on March 31 to discuss the future and funding for the HWS data system. GSRO finalized the 2015 funding application from USFWS to support the HWS system. Although the HWS is part of the USFWS 2015 budget, concern exists around the

funding in future years. To support this effort, RCO Director Kaleen Cottingham met with the new Washington State USFWS Director to emphasize maintaining funding for HWS.

### **Fish Barrier Removal Board**

GSRO is serving on the state's Fish Barrier Removal (FBR) Board, created by the Legislature last session. WDFW chairs the FBR board. Representative members include the Department of Natural Resources, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Association of Counties, Yakama Indian Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, Washington Department of Transportation, and GSRO. The FBR board will identify and expedite the removal of human-made or human-caused impediments to anadromous fish passage in the most efficient manner that is practical. The FBR board's tasks include developing a statewide fish passage barrier correction strategy.

Membership, agendas, minutes, and current products are available on the WDFW website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/advisory/fbrb/>. The FBR board is very interested in using existing human infrastructure (lead entities, Regions, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups, etc.) to prioritize projects.

## **Recreation and Conservation Office - Salmon Section Report**

### **Grant Management**

#### **2013 Grant Cycle Update**

All projects funded by the board in 2013 are under agreement and in "active" status. The active projects are well underway with project implementation.

#### **2014 Grant Cycle Update**

The board funded 118 projects in 2014, including Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW), and board-funded projects. The RCO grant managers actively worked to put all 2014 projects under contract.

The board approved a 2015-17 PSAR Large Capital project list with twenty-two projects at the December 2014 meeting, giving the RCO Director authority to enter into agreements, should the Legislature approve funding for the PSAR account. The Legislature has yet to finalize the budget.

#### **2015 Grant Cycle Update**

RCO submitted the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) application to NOAA and has a budget request pending with the Legislature. The amounts are uncertain at this time, making it difficult to predict the 2015 grant round funding. This grant round will include PCSRF, salmon state, and 2015-17 PSAR state funding. If the Legislature acts before the May board meeting, staff will be able to estimate a likely funding amount for the grant round. If the Legislature is not finished by May 6, the board will see an estimate at their May meeting, with the possibility of a special board meeting after the Legislature adopts a budget.

The 2015 grant round is officially underway.

- The finalized version of [Manual 18](#) is available on the RCO website with all of the application materials.
- The board's review panel held their grant round kick-off meeting to go over the manual, process, and timeline.
- Lead entities scheduled all of their project review site visits with the board's review panel. The first site visits occurred in March in the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity.

- RCO salmon section staff held an application workshop on March 16, 2015 and 50 potential applicants attended via WebEx. The presentation was posted as a PowerPoint and YouTube video to the [RCO website](#).

### Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP)

In March 2015, Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFP) held their annual engineer’s conference to review topics related to design and construction of fish passage projects. This year, the focus centered on projects constructed and completed in 2014 and lessons learned.

FFFP has a project list ready for 2015, pending budget approval. The 2015 list includes fifteen projects with eighteen barrier crossings. A total of 458 eligible landowners with 678 crossings remain on the waiting list. The FFFPP completed a [2014 Implementation Report](#) available on the RCO website.

### Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)

After releasing a request for proposals for projects this year, the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) ranked and recommended a list of twenty-one projects for funding consideration in 2015. ESRP also released an annual [2015 Program Report](#) available on the RCO website.

### Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between January 29, 2015 and March 30, 2015. To view information about a project, click on the blue project number. From that link, you can open and view the project attachments (e.g., designs, photos, maps, and final report).

### Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

The table below shows the major amendments approved between January 26, 2015 and March 30, 2015. Staff processed 38 project related amendments during this period, most were minor revisions related to project scope or time extensions.

**Table 1. Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director**

| Number                  | Name                                     | Sponsor                  | Program                               | Type                | Amount/Notes  |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| <a href="#">13-1062</a> | Pysht Floodplain Acquisition Phase 3     | North Olympic Land Trust | Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration | Project Type Change | Include planning as an eligible component to include ELJ design.  |
| <a href="#">10-1782</a> | WRIA 13 Water Type Assessment Phase 3    | Wild Fish Conservancy    | Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration | Project Cost Change | Increase costs by \$40,000 in returned PSAR funds to continue water typing in McLane Creek watershed.   |
| <a href="#">13-1094</a> | Lyre Estuary and Nelson Creek Protection | North Olympic Land Trust | Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration | Project Cost Change | Increase by \$76,870 in returned PSAR funds to replace bridge on property and for structure demolition. |
| <a href="#">14-1029</a> | Elwha Conservation Protection Assessment | North Olympic Land Trust | Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration | Project Cost Change | Increase costs by \$6,000 in returned PSAR funds to expand number of parcels included in assessment.    |

| Number                  | Name                                  | Sponsor             | Program                 | Type                | Amount/Notes   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <a href="#">12-1334</a> | Upper Elochoman River Reach 9 Restore | Columbia Land Trust | Salmon Federal Projects | Project Cost Change | Increase funds by \$55,134 to complete bridge removal in 2015 construction season. |

### Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of March 30, 2015.

- Staff works with sponsors to place “pending” projects under agreement, following approval at the December 2014 board meeting.
- Active projects are under agreement. Sponsors are working on implementation with RCO support for grant administration and compliance.

This table does not include projects funded through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program nor the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Although RCO staff support these programs through grant administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

**Table 2. Board-Funded Projects**

|                         | Pending Projects | Active Projects | Completed Projects | Total Funded Projects |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Salmon Projects to Date | 46               | 485             | 1,840              | 2,371                 |
| Percent of Total        | 1.9%             | 20.5%           | 77.6%              |                       |

### Attachments

- A. Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from January 29, 2015 – March 30, 2015.

## Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from January 29, 2015 – March 30, 2015

| Number                  | Name   | Sponsor                        | Program                        | Closed On |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| <a href="#">09-1604</a> | False Bay Watershed Flow and Habitat Assessment  | Washington Water Trust         | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 1/29/2015 |
| <a href="#">09-1668</a> | Corps General Investigation of Skokomish support | Mason Conservation District    | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 1/30/2015 |
| <a href="#">11-1674</a> | Lower Columbia VSP Monitoring                    | Fish & Wildlife Dept. of       | Salmon Federal Activities      | 2/13/2015 |
| <a href="#">14-2049</a> | PERS SRV Monitoring Evaluation Strategy 2014     | Fish Friendly Inc.             | Salmon Federal Activities      | 2/13/2015 |
| <a href="#">11-1588</a> | Bridge to Bridge - Levee Removal                 | Tri-State Steelheaders, Inc.   | Salmon Federal Projects        | 2/17/2015 |
| <a href="#">12-1631</a> | Dual frequency Indentification (DIDSON)          | Makah Tribe                    | Salmon Federal Activities      | 2/17/2015 |
| <a href="#">11-1534</a> | Robinson Park Orphan Rock Removal Restoration    | Skagit County Public Works     | Salmon Federal Projects        | 3/2/2015  |
| <a href="#">12-1490</a> | Pilchuck Creek Woody Debris Design               | Snohomish County Public Works  | Salmon Federal Projects        | 3/5/2015  |
| <a href="#">10-1878</a> | West Sound Water Type Assessment Phase II        | Wild Fish Conservancy          | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/6/2015  |
| <a href="#">11-1642</a> | Five Mile Creek LWD Placement                    | Mason Conservation District    | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/6/2015  |
| <a href="#">12-1928</a> | PS Steelhead Recovery Planning: HC Steelhead     | Long Live the Kings            | Salmon Federal Activities      | 3/6/2015  |
| <a href="#">11-1347</a> | Coulter Creek Barrier Replacement                | Chelan Co Natural Resource     | Salmon Federal Projects        | 3/10/2015 |
| <a href="#">14-1027</a> | Hoko River Estuary Remeander Assessment          | North Olympic Salmon Coalition | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/11/2015 |
| <a href="#">09-1450</a> | Savage Slough Acquisition and Restoration        | Seattle City Light             | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/16/2015 |
| <a href="#">11-1410</a> | Jim Creek Restoration                            | Sound Salmon Solutions         | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/16/2015 |
| <a href="#">08-1980</a> | WDFW Engineering Assistance for Puget Sound      | Fish & Wildlife Dept. of       | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/17/2015 |
| <a href="#">09-1440</a> | Barnaby Reach Feasibility                        | Skagit River Sys Cooperative   | Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration | 3/18/2015 |
| <a href="#">11-1313</a> | EF-16, Upper Daybreak                            | Clark County of                | Salmon Federal Projects        | 3/19/2015 |

|                         |  |                             |                         |           |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| <a href="#">09-1705</a> | Skamokawa Creek Community Watershed Implementation | Wahkiakum Conservation Dist | Salmon State Projects   | 3/24/2015 |
| <a href="#">12-1155</a> | Lower Quinault Floodplain Knotweed Control         | Quinault Indian Nation      | Salmon Federal Projects | 3/24/2015 |
| <a href="#">12-1164</a> | Ives Island Restoration Design                     | Lower Columbia River FEG    | Salmon Federal Projects | 3/24/2015 |
| <a href="#">12-1667</a> | Lower White Salmon R Habitat Protection Planning   | Mid-Columbia RFEG           | Salmon Federal Projects | 3/24/2015 |
| <a href="#">12-1703</a> | Lower Kalama Reach 1 A Tidal Design                | Lower Columbia River FEG    | Salmon Federal Projects | 3/24/2015 |
| <a href="#">12-1361</a> | Rayonier Grays River Mass Wasting Pullback Project | Lower Columbia River FEG    | Salmon Federal Projects | 3/25/2015 |
| <a href="#">10-1456</a> | McDonald Creek Large Wood Recovery                 | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe   | Salmon State Projects   | 3/27/2015 |
| <a href="#">11-1539</a> | SF Nooksack Downstream of Hutchinson Phase 1 and 2 | Nooksack Indian Tribe       | Salmon Federal Projects | 3/27/2015 |

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Lunch Tour Preview  
**Prepared By:** Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Grants Manager

#### Summary

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board, staff, and interested parties will depart from the Natural Resources Building (NRB) at 11:35 a.m. and convene at 12:00 p.m. for lunch at Shelter #3 in Priest Point Park, Olympia. After lunch, the group will take the beach access trail down to Budd Inlet and head south along the beach to reach the Mission Creek Estuary Restoration project location (RCO #11-1526). Lance Winecka, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, will provide a brief project overview and answer questions. The group will return to the NRB by 1:30 p.m. to resume the regular meeting.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

### Project Description

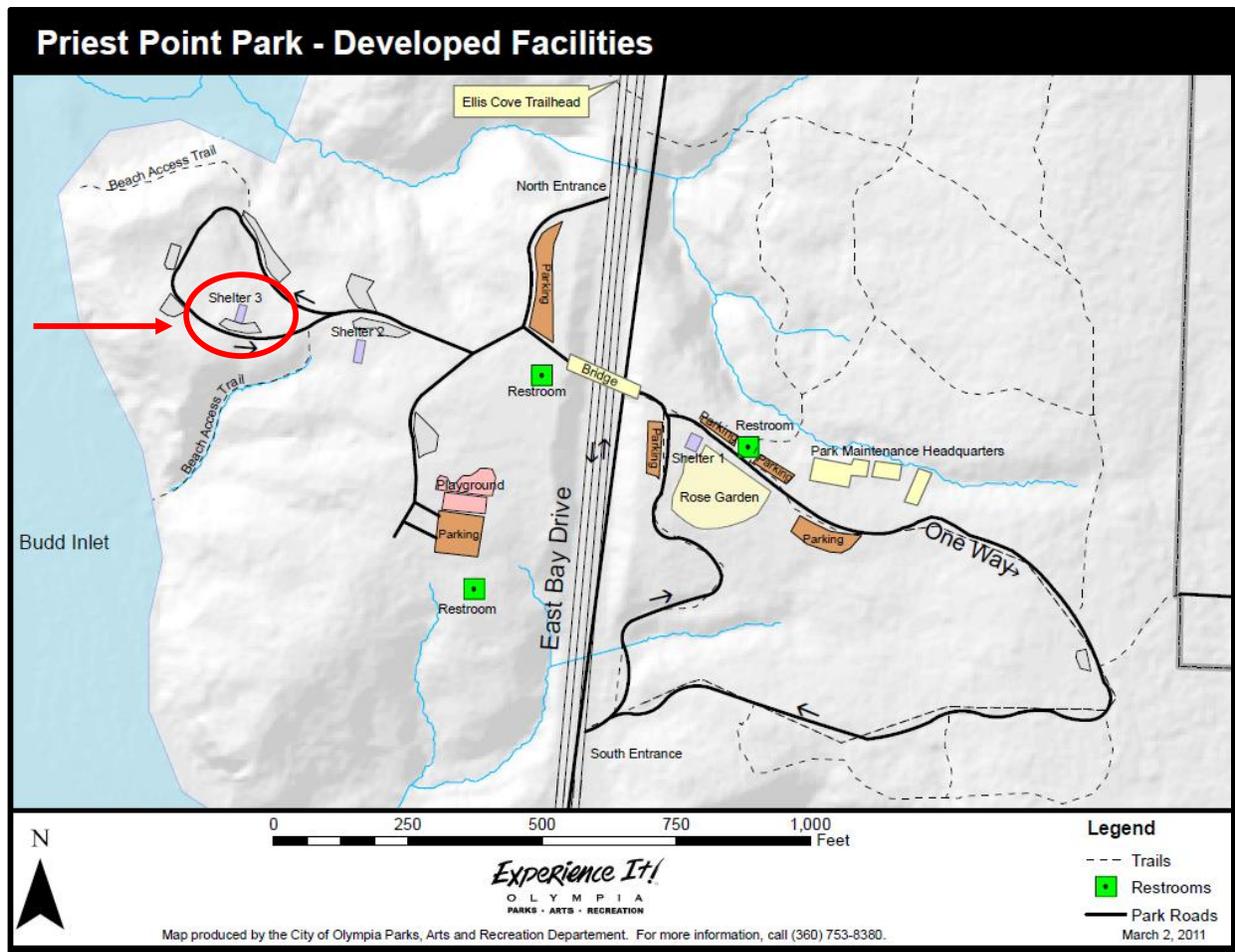
The Mission Creek Estuary Restoration (RCO Project #11-1526) was completed in collaboration with the Port of Olympia, City of Olympia, and South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG). Mission Creek Estuary Restoration received \$80,185 in funding from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and a sponsor match of \$120,000. The Mission Creek project has been identified in many local and regional watershed planning efforts, including the [Water Resource Inventory Area \(WRIA\) 13 Lead Entity](#) three-year work plan.

Mission Creek flows through Priest Point Park and discharges into Budd Inlet, Puget Sound, near Olympia, WA. Constructed in the early twentieth century, an earthen road embankment provided vehicle access across the mouth of Mission Creek. Installation of an overflow weir box and outlet culvert managed freshwater discharge and limited saltwater inundation into the area upstream of the road embankment. The road embankment and culvert severely affected upstream fish passage and limited estuarine function at the site.

SPSSEG restored fish and tidal access to Mission Creek and the shoreline surrounding the stream's outlet. This restoration project focused on removing human-induced stressors, including the road embankment, culvert, beach armor, and invasive vegetation, and also removed some sediment to help reclaim the small estuary. This project provides estuarine habitat and benefits for Chinook, coho, and chum that utilize embayments in Budd Inlet.

## Map and Driving Directions

RCO will provide a map with driving directions at the meeting. The times shown on the agenda are approximate. All tour participants are encouraged to carpool to Priest Point Park. We will meet at picnic Shelter #3 (shown below).





# Salmon Recovery Funding Board

## Item 3 – Reports from Partners

## WSC Officers

Darcy Batura, Chair  
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife  
Recovery Board Lead Entity

Amy Hatch-Winecka, Vice Chair  
WRIA 13 & 14 Salmon Recovery  
Lead Entities

Richard Brocksmith  
Skagit Watershed Council

John Foltz  
Snake River Salmon Recovery  
Board Lead Entity

Rich Osborne  
N. Pacific Coast & Quinault  
Indian Nation Lead Entities

Joy Juelson  
Upper Columbia Salmon  
Recovery Board Lead Entity

Dawn Pucci  
Island County Lead Entity

Jason Wilkinson  
Lake Washington, Cedar,  
Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)  
Lead Entity

## Members

Todd Andersen  
Kalispell-Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Kirsten Harma  
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Cheryl Baumann  
N.Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

Jeff Breckel  
Lower Columbia Lead Entity

Alicia Olivias  
Hood Canal Lead Entity

Ashley Von Essen  
Nisqually Lead Entity

Jacob Anderson  
Klickitat Lead Entity

Mike Nordin  
Pacific County Lead Entity

Doug Osterman  
Green, Duwamish and Central  
Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA  
9) Lead Entity

Marian Berejikian  
Westsound Watershed Council

Becky Peterson  
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board

Vacant  
San Juan Lead Entity

Lisa Spurrier  
Pierce County Lead Entity

Pat Stevenson  
Stillaguamish Tribe Lead Entity

Donald "Kit" Crump  
Co-Lead for Stillaguamish  
Watershed Lead Entity

Denise Di Santo  
Snohomish Lead Entity

# WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



## Community-Based Salmon Recovery

April 22, 2015

David Troutt, Chairman  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
WA Recreation and Conservation Office  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chairman Troutt and Board Members,

The statewide grant review is now in full swing and this is an incredibly busy time for Lead Entity Coordinators! At this point in our process, the Lead Entity coordinators are guiding project sponsors in the completion of their proposals & reviewing documents to make sure that applications are complete. They are preparing information for their Technical and Citizen Committee members, and they are also organizing and facilitating project site visits in a manner that makes the best use of the state review panel's time.

The purpose of a site visit is to allow individuals who will be evaluating the project to get a better sense of the problem and the project sponsor's proposed solution. In addition to the two state review panel members, other participants include the Lead Entity Coordinator and an RCO Outdoor Grants Manager. Other individuals who may also be present are board members, staff and/or members of the Technical Advisory Groups and Citizen's Committees.

This is an excellent opportunity for applicants to gather advice from attendees on ways to improve the proposal before the final review, and applicants are encouraged to revise their applications in response to feedback. After the site visits conducted, the review panel team will complete project comment forms with directions on how the applicant can improve the project before the final application deadline. Grant applicants must address review panel comments in their final applications.

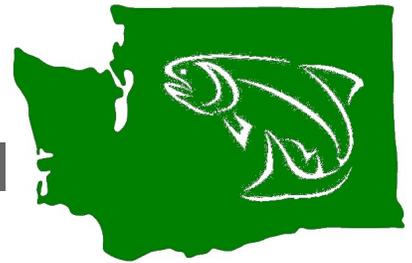
## WSC Web Page

Working with the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Washington Salmon Coalition is happy to present their newly created webpage. The need for a webpage was previously identified during the past year's organizational planning effort and reiterated in working with the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet). The page provides some background information about the WSC and links to key documents including the Mission, Structure, and Action Plan, the Advocacy Handbook, and the Lead Entity Coordinator Welcome Packet. The webpage is housed on the RCO site under the Lead Entity heading and can be found at [http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon\\_recovery/WashingtonSalmonCoalition.shtml](http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/WashingtonSalmonCoalition.shtml)

## LE Directory

In partnership the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Washington Salmon Coalition is happy to say the 2015 [Lead Entity Directory](#) is complete and online. This is a fantastic outreach document that provides an overview of how Lead Entities provide a local, balanced, coordinated, common-sense approach to salmon habitat project implementation. It describes how we play a key role in efficiently bringing together tribes, federal and state agencies, local governments, citizens, non-profits, business, and technical experts to make local decisions about how best to recover salmon. Finally, the directory provides a two page overview of each Lead Entity, which we can print individually for use during our local outreach efforts. WSC would like to thank RCO's Susan Zemek for the time and effort to develop the directory.

# WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



## Community-Based Salmon Recovery

### **Collaborative Approach to Legislative Outreach**

Throughout this Legislative session, WSC has collaborated with the Council of Regions on an initiative inspired and spearheaded by the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group Coalition's Managing Director Colleen Thompson. Prior to the House budget's release, we partnered on a joint letter to the House Capital Budget Committee members and Senate Ways and Means supporting RCO's \$40 million SRFB Capital Budget request. Now that all of the draft budgets are out for review, we have again sent a joint letter thanking House members for their support and reminding those in the Senate of the importance of salmon recovery in their districts. Each of the letters have been signed by all three of our organization's leadership and represent the first in what promises to be many opportunities to join forces to the benefit of salmon throughout Washington State.

### **LLTK/Cascadia Capacity Support Extension**

The Washington Salmon Coalition would like to draw your attention to, and seeks your support of, item 5 (Board Decisions for the 2015 Grant Round, item F) in the SRFB's meeting packet. At the Board's February meeting, WSC presented a lengthy summary of progress and successes over the past year. These successes and progress were largely a result of the support that the SRFB provided the WSC when you unanimously approved the Washington Salmon Coalition request in 2014 to use \$50,000 in anticipated unspent lead entity SRFB capacity grant funds to support WSC's statewide efforts as outlined in our Action Plan.

With this progress in mind, we think that our group is has been making great headway on our goals and are beginning to embody our broader vision for the Washington Salmon Coalition. We would like to share several letters supporting the approval of item 5. The organizational support has been critical and we hope that we will be able to extend this contract into 2016.

### **Salmon Recovery Network**

WSC is excited to continue participation in the Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) as we further statewide understanding and create connections between and amongst partners as we evolve into a cooperative team. The SRNet grew in April with the first facilitated work group meeting with participation that included representatives from Conservation Districts, the SRFB, and NOAA. The early success to date on Legislative funding requests between several partners is a positive step as we continue to evolve the communication framework, develop a work plan, and approve a charter. The linkage between SRNet and WSC Action Plan is strong and we look forward to continuing this work.

### **LE Staff changes**

Kirsten Harma, Chehalis Basin Lead Entity  
Jacob Anderson, Klickitat County Lead Entity

### **Lead Entity Vacancies**

San Juan County Lead Entity

# WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION



Community-Based Salmon Recovery

## Statewide News & Updates

### Snake River Salmon Recovery Board: Recycling by Helicopter



Helicopters were used to recycle large trees that were blown down in the Umatilla National Forest by placing them in the Tucannon River to rescue salmon. The project was one of 28 identified to help Chinook salmon recover from near extinction. Once placed in the river, the trees begin to restore natural river processes slowing the water, reducing erosion, and creating places for salmon to rest and hide from predators. Previous floods and human activity have washed away most of the trees, straighten the river, and eroded its banks, damaging the types of habitat salmon need to survive. In all, the helicopter placed 60 structures in a 2-mile section of this southeast Washington river, which flows from its headwaters in the Blue Mountains to meet the Snake River upstream from Lyons Ferry State Park near Starbuck. The project construction was completed 2012 with both short term and longer term goals. What we've seen is that it does take time for a project to be seasoned and integrated into the system to restore natural process. While there are certainly lots of short term benefits, some of the larger and longer term benefits are reliant upon a channel forming flow. However, even with that in mind changes and realized benefits seem to be occurring even quicker than expected.

The project was implemented by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife along with project partners and was in part funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board via the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board. <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx...>

### Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board – Partnerships to Leverage Project Funding

The Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board has created a formal partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to use the SRFB project review and selection process to identify and fund projects that implement riparian and instream enhancement in proximity to BLM managed lands in the Yakima Basin. The principle purpose of this agreement is to provide public benefit for fish and wildlife resources in Cowiche Creek and other riparian systems in Yakima, Kittitas, and Benton Counties, WA. Specifically, this agreement facilitates: a) fish screening and passage; b) reduction of irrigation withdrawals; c) riparian, floodplain and in-stream habitat restoration; d) reduction of fine sediment, and/or; e) reduction of creek temperature. BLM Funds are simply allocated to a project in proximity with their lands, which extend our SRFB allocation further down our project list.

Due to the robust nature of the SRFB grant review process, this partnership is proving to be an efficient method for a partner to allocate funds without the need to implement their own, Independent grant review. We think this represents a win-win scenario for administrative efficiency and for fish and wildlife resources!

On behalf of WSC, I thank you for your continued support,

Darcy Batura  
Yakima Basin Lead Entity Coordinator & WA Salmon Coalition Chair

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Project Decisions: Modify Board Conditions for the Kilisut Harbor Project (RCO #14-1366)  
**Prepared By:** Mike Ramsey, Salmon Section Outdoor Grant Manager

#### Summary

This memo summarizes a request from the project sponsor to revise a condition placed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase (RCO Project #[14-1366](#)), originally funded in 2014.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Briefing              |

## Background

The Kilisut Harbor Restoration is a multi-phase project initiated in 2012. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) funded the design phase of the Kilisut Harbor Restoration project (RCO #[13-1558](#)) in 2013 through the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) fund. The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) also funded the project, and is match to PSAR. The final elements which will inform the design, including sediment transport, channel stability, and hydrologic modeling, are nearly complete.

The board conditionally funded the construction phase of the project (RCO #[14-1366](#)) in 2014 through 2013-15 PSAR large capital funding. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) recommended two conditions. The first condition requires a positive finding by the review panel that the newly constructed channel remains open and functioning over time. The second condition requires the sponsor to provide documentation that the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) has negotiated with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to fund its own construction management responsibilities, rather than charging the sponsor for this \$1.27M estimated cost. (The full language of both conditions is provided below).

Additionally, due to the Kilisut barrier on State Route (SR) 116 being identified in the "Culvert Case,"<sup>1</sup> the board placed a third condition on the implementation phase requiring WSDOT to provide a cost-share commensurate with their legal obligation to provide fish passage. The project sponsor, North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), with support from the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and PSP, have requested that the third condition be revised to allow the project to move forward.

<sup>1</sup> United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage.

## **Project Description**

This project is located at the saltmarsh connection between Indian and Marrowstone Islands in Jefferson County, Washington. For the current funding request, the project objective is to remove road-fill and twin five-foot-diameter culverts from SR 116 and replace them with a four-span bridge, allowing for full exchange of water and sediment below the structure.

When completed, the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project will increase tidal inundation, improve water quality and restore fish passage and two important salmon habitats (tidal channels and saltmarsh). Re-creation of tidal channels will return lost habitat forming processes. Also, reconnection of the historic tidal channels will allow north/south migratory passage between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay. The latter would benefit multiple salmon species, including Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed Hood Canal summer chum, Puget Sound steelhead, and Chinook.

This project is supported by the Hood Canal Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, the WRIA 17 Limiting Factors Analysis, the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, and the Hood Canal Lead Entity 3-Year Work Plan.

## **Current Project Funding**

The planning and design phase is underway, funded at \$727,475 (PSAR & ESRP). The construction phase is currently in board-funded status, i.e., funds have been awarded but the project is not yet under agreement, at \$2,108,945.00. The PSAR Large Capital program has approximately \$5.1M in PSAR Return Funds, returned from various projects closing under budget or unable to be completed. These funds will be re-allocated following PSAR return fund policy recently approved by the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council on April 2, 2015.

NOSC re-applied for 2015-17 PSAR Large Capital funds and Kilisut Harbor ranked fourth out of twenty-two projects with a request amount of \$10M. In addition, the project is a Portfolio ESRP project and has requested \$2M in 2015 ESRP funds and would be eligible for funding at the current ESRP proposed budget level of \$10M. In light of the current budget forecast for PSAR in 2015, the Kilisut project may also be eligible for up to \$1M in funding from the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Lead Entity regular SRFB/PSAR grant round.

## **Project Conditions**

The board's review panel placed the two following conditions on the construction phase of this project:

1. The board's review panel will review and approve the consultant's report of sediment transport and channel stability hydraulic modeling and the final project design to assure that the channels will have a high likelihood of remaining open to fish passage at the design tidal ranges over a long-term (i.e. several decades) planning horizon. Alternatively, if the modeling predicts that the channels are likely to shoal in over this planning horizon, the final project design must include an operations plan that assures future funding for maintenance dredging.
2. Within six months of funding approval, the sponsor must provide documentation from Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) that PSP has made good faith efforts to work with WSDOT regional and state-wide management to develop an arrangement for WSDOT to fund its own construction management responsibilities, rather than charging this \$1.27M budget item to PSAR funding.

At the September 2014 meeting, the board approved the Kilisut construction phase funding with the following additional condition:

3. The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project up to the amount of the cost estimate in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

The third condition was approved through a board motion on September 18, 2014 relating to Salmon Recovery Funding Board money applied to WSDOT-owned barriers, which WSDOT has a legal obligation to correct (i.e., those barriers which are included on the March 2013 federal court injunction relating to fish passage barriers). The board's intent in approving this motion was that WSDOT would assume responsibility for the expense of correcting the passage barrier to the minimum requirements specified within the injunction. Salmon recovery funds may be used for costs associated with passage solutions that go above and beyond WSDOT's minimum requirements.

NOSC, with support from PSP and the Point No Point Treaty Council, are requesting that the third condition placed by the board be revised. NOSC, tribal, PSP, and WSDOT representatives have discussed the third condition and potential resolutions. They determined that the project will fail unless the condition is revised, based on the following two reasons:

- 1) While identified in the injunction as a barrier, the Kilisut project does not rise to importance within the WSDOT prioritization process to make it on to their 6-year plan; WSDOT has 16 years to complete all the projects.
- 2) Additionally, a WSDOT cost estimate aimed at the minimal passage requirements would provide almost no value to the restoration design the project sponsors hope to accomplish, yet would require a considerable amount time and funding by WSDOT to complete.

WSDOT supports the project and is willing to provide a financial commitment if their 15-17 budget allows; however, additional conversations will be needed to achieve condition #2. Nonetheless, NOSC has developed a close working-relationship with WSDOT, who has already provided \$30,000 in in-kind support for permitting and review of some initial design work.

## Request

### Staff Recommendation

For the reasons stated above, staff recommends that the board revise condition 3 with the changes proposed as follows:

3. The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. ~~Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this~~

~~fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, T~~the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project ~~up to the amount of the cost estimate~~ in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

## Attachments

- A. Letter of Support from the North Olympic Salmon Coalition
- B. Letter of Support from the Point No Point Treaty Council



## **NORTH OLYMPIC SALMON COALITION**

*Restoring wild salmon habitat on the North Olympic Peninsula*

---

[www.nosc.org](http://www.nosc.org)

April 6, 2015

TO: Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
FROM: Rebecca Benjamin, Executive Director, North Olympic Salmon Coalition  
RE: Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, RCO #14-1366 – Request to amend Condition #3

We provide here some background on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project and discuss and address three conditions placed on the project (RCO #14-1366) by the SRFB Board as recommended by the Technical Panel. We will make a case that the Board should consider amending the third condition placed on the project.

The importance of this project to salmon recovery is well documented. It is identified in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, HCCC Integrated Watershed Plan, HCCC Lead Entity 3-Year Workplan, as a high priority issue/action in the HCCC 2015 Prioritization Guidance document, and is a Local Near Term Action (HC6) in the Puget Sound Partnership 2014 Action Agenda.

As described in project documents submitted to the SRFB, the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project will focus on re-establishing the historic tidal exchange connection between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay in northeastern Jefferson County. Two actions are required to achieve the restoration goal: 1) re-creation of 2 tidal channels extending through the barrier beach on the Oak Bay side and 2) replacement of the undersized concrete culverts and SR116 causeway with a tidal channel spanning bridge. These actions will reestablish a northern and southern migratory corridor in an area of superb nearshore habitat between Kilisut Harbor and Oak Bay for juvenile and adult salmonids, including ESA-listed Hood Canal Summer Chum, Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound Steelhead.

NOSC and our partners have established communication with and gained support from the landowners, shellfish growers, Port Gamble and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribes, Skokomish Tribe, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, WSDOT, WDNR, WDFW, US Navy, Jefferson County PUD and Jefferson County Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service Department of Ecology. A support letter has been signed by more than 100 residents of Marrowstone Island and the community response during the kickoff meeting was very positive. This is a compelling project for all of our partners and the local communities have been willing and patient.

During the 2015-2017 PSAR Regional Large Capital request for proposals, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) submitted the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project for consideration. NOSC had also applied for PSAR Large Capital funding during the 2013-2015 round. In 2013-2015 the Kilisut Harbor

project ranked 10<sup>th</sup> overall, which meant that it fell near the funding cut-off line and received only partial funding. NOSC re-applied and re-competed during the 2015-2017 PSAR Large Capital round, and Kilisut Harbor this time ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 projects submitted.

During the 2013-2015 PSAR grant round, no conditions were placed upon the project. However, after the 2015-2017 PSAR grant round, the final project status as a Project of Concern is conditioned with the following:

Construction funding will be released upon the following conditions.

1. The SRFB review panel will review and approve the consultant's report of sediment transport and channel stability hydraulic modeling and the final project design to assure that the channels will have a high likelihood of remaining open to fish passage at the design tidal ranges over a long-term (i.e. several decades) planning horizon. Alternatively, if the modeling predicts that the channels are likely to shoal in over this planning horizon, the final project design must include an operations plan that assures future funding for maintenance dredging.
2. Within six months of funding approval, the sponsor must provide documentation from Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) that PSP has made good faith efforts to work with WSDOT regional and state-wide management to work out an arrangement for WSDOT to fund its own construction management responsibilities, rather than charging this \$1.27M budget item to PSAR funding.
3. \*The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project up to the amount of the cost estimate in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

The current status of each condition is briefly discussed, below.

Condition 1: We are working with the consultants to review work that will lead to the report of sediment transport, channel stability and hydraulic modeling. We hosted a technical meeting in January 2015 where consultants presented their preliminary results. A subsequent work session with funders, landowners, tribes, WDFW, permittees and restoration professionals resulted in meaningful feedback and recommended next steps for modeling. Given the complexity of the project site, and the cost of the project, we have had another highly respected firm complete a review of the modeling work done to date. The combined recommendations of the technical team and engineering review have led to defining the next steps for finalizing the assessment phase of work. We are working diligently to get the final results.

Condition 2: It is our understanding that preliminary discussions have occurred between the Puget Sound Partnership, the Tribes, and WSDOT and that there may be a distinct possibility of WSDOT funding its own construction management rather than charging \$1.27 million to PSAR funding. All parties are awaiting the results of the sediment transport and channel stability hydraulic modeling before resuming or finalizing these discussions.

Condition 3: We generally agree that it is a good idea that project sponsors should take into account the funding responsibilities of WSDOT under the Culvert Case Injunction when planning habitat restoration projects with salmon recovery funding. The Kilisut Harbor Project is a special case, however, and we think that other considerations are in order and that Condition 3 should be amended.

First, the planning, partnership-building, community outreach and other initial efforts for the Kilisut Harbor Project were well underway prior to the court's ruling on the Injunction and proposals had already been submitted and granted funding. Hence, there is currently considerable momentum, collaboration and good will in place towards making this a successful project which may be jeopardized if unnecessary conditions are placed on the project at this time. We suggest that any condition on the use of salmon recovery funding on a culvert to be funded by WSDOT under the Culvert Case Injunction should be in place at the onset of a habitat restoration project and not, as is the case for the Kilisut Harbor Project, put in place once the project is underway.

Second, the Kilisut Harbor culverts are one of the few (perhaps only) situations where the blockage to fish passage through the culverts is located entirely within a tidally-influenced basin. Saltwater culverts do not 'fit the mold' of the deliberations and prioritization of the rest of the freshwater-based culverts under the Injunction. WSDOT prioritized culverts on the Injunction list largely based on the amount of 'habitat gain' achieved, which is largely based on the lineal extent of habitat opened up to fish passage. Freshwater culverts opening up several miles of freshwater habitat are prioritized high on the list. The Kilisut Harbor culverts, without the conventional metric of 'number of stream miles opened up', were not prioritized very high on the list as a stand-alone culvert fix. In fact, it has been stated by the Tribes that, as part of the full restoration project, several miles of marine shoreline and 2,300 acres of highly productive salmonid forage, rearing and migration habitat will be opened to fish passage with the replacement of the two culverts in the causeway. WSDOT has not yet agreed to this measure of 'habitat gain' and until or unless they do, we can expect this site to remain low on the WSDOT list. WSDOT has 16 years to fix culverts under the Injunction and the Kilisut Harbor culverts are not on the current WSDOT 6-year plan; it is not likely that WSDOT will address the Kilisut Harbor Project culverts under the Injunction until many years in the future. And, during that time, the current PSAR funding would lapse in 2017 and the well-documented benefits to salmon recovery of the Kilisut Harbor Project will remain unrealized.

We propose that Condition 3 be amended. The 1<sup>st</sup> sentence simply introduces the Injunction and could be OK as is. The 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence, which requires NOSC to receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the Injunction, should be deleted. WSDOT has made it clear (1) that doing a cost estimate in a meaningful way would require a considerable investment by WSDOT of both time and funding that just are not a high enough priority to be made available at this time and (2) that it would provide limited benefit because the design would not be used as part of the full restoration Kilisut Harbor Project. Hence, the

requirement in the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence is a 'deal breaker' and sets up the entire project for failure. The 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence could retain the need to obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project, but could be edited to remove the referral to the amount of the WSDOT cost estimate. In fact, NOSC has a close working relationship with WSDOT and WSDOT has provided \$30,000 in-kind support for permitting and review of some initial design work. In addition, if Condition 2 is met, the funding by WSDOT of its own construction and management responsibilities, rather than charging \$1.27 million to PSAR funding, would be a significant financial contribution. The 4<sup>th</sup> sentence can be retained since no salmon recovery funds would ever be used for construction of a bridge on a State highway without WSDOT's participation.

Hence, we propose that Condition 3 could be amended to read as follows:

3. \*The United States District Court, Western District of Washington at Seattle, Case No. CV 70-9213 injunction known as the "Culvert Case" requires the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to correct the culverts in the causeway connecting Indian and Marrowstone Islands on State Route 116 for improved fish passage. ~~Before this project can proceed, the project sponsor must receive a cost estimate from WSDOT for WSDOT's share of this fish passage project in order to meet the court injunction. In addition, T~~the project sponsor must obtain a commitment from WSDOT to provide financial support, in-kind labor costs, or other expenditures associated with the project ~~up to the amount of the cost estimate~~ in support of the full restoration project at Kilisut Harbor on SR 116 funded by this grant agreement (RCO #14-1366). No construction funds shall be expended without WSDOT's participation in this project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the Board on our view of the Conditions placed on the Kilisut Harbor Project. We are all striving to make the very best use of very limited salmon recovery funding. We assert that amending Condition 3 placed on the Kilisut Harbor Project as we propose will achieve our mutual goal.

We look forward to the opportunity for this and other information to be presented to and considered by the Board at their May meeting.

This letter has been prepared in partnership with Michael Blanton, PSAR Manager for Puget Sound Partnership, and Thom Johnson, Environmental Program Manager for Point No Point Treaty Council.

Please let us know if you have any comments, questions, or need more information. I can be reached at 360-379-8051 or [rbenjamin@nosc.org](mailto:rbenjamin@nosc.org).

Sincerely



Rebecca Benjamin  
Executive Director



# POINT NO POINT TREATY COUNCIL

Port Gamble S'Klallam \* Jamestown S'Klallam

April 7, 2015

Tara Galuska  
Recreation and Conservation Office  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, Washington 98504-091

RE: PNPTC support to amend Condition #3: Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, RCO #14-1366

Dear Ms. Galuska,

The Point No Point Treaty Council (PNPTC) is a tribal organization that provides natural resources support services to our member tribes, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. The PNPTC and our member tribes are fully committed and strongly support efforts made by the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC) and its many partners to implement the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project. NOSC has a proven track record of managing and implementing successful salmon habitat restoration projects throughout the region.

The importance of this project to salmon recovery is well documented. It is identified in the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan, HCCC Integrated Watershed Plan, HCCC Lead Entity 3-Year Workplan, as a high priority issue/action in the HCCC 2015 Prioritization Guidance document, and is a Local Near Term Action (HC6) in the Puget Sound Partnership 2014 Action Agenda.

The Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project received funding during the 2013-2015 PSAR grant round and ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 22 projects submitted during the 2015-2017 PSAR grant round. No conditions were placed upon the project during the 2013-2015 PSAR grant round, but, after the 2015-2017 PSAR grant round, the final project status as a Project of Concern had three conditions that needed to be met before construction funding would be released.

In a letter dated April 6, 2015, NOSC makes a case that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) should consider amending Condition 3 placed on the project. The PNPTC and our member tribes concur with the assessment by NOSC and request that the Board support the amending of Condition 3 as proposed by NOSC.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input to the Board on our view of the Conditions placed on the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project. We are all striving to make the very best use of very limited salmon recovery funding. We assert that amending Condition 3 placed on the Kilisut Harbor Project as proposed by NOSC will achieve our mutual goal.

We look forward to the opportunity for this and other information to be presented to and considered by the Board at their May meeting. Staff from PNPTC will be in attendance to offer our support and to answer any questions, as needed.

If you have any comments, questions, or need more information, please contact Thom Johnson, PNPTC Environmental Program Manager, at 360-297-6532 (office), 360-731-7980 (cell), or [tjohnson@pnptc.org](mailto:tjohnson@pnptc.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Harder  
Executive Director  
Point No Point Treaty Council



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

Lynn Peterson  
Secretary of Transportation

Olympic Region  
5720 Capitol Boulevard, Tumwater  
P.O. Box 47440  
Olympia, WA 98504-7440  
360-357-2600 / FAX: 360-357-2601  
TTY: 1-800-833-6388  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov)

April 29, 2015

Mr. David Troutt, Chairman  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
WA Recreation and Conservation Office  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, RCO #14-1366 and proposal to amend  
the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB/Board) grant Condition #3

Dear Chairman Troutt and Board Members:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) supports the proposed Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project. WSDOT will continue to work with the project sponsor to advance design and construction of a modified State Route (SR) 116 between Indian and Marrowstone Islands in Jefferson County.

The project proposes restoring tidal connection between Oak Bay and Kilisut Harbor by replacing the roadway and culverts under State Route (SR) 116 with a full-spanning bridge and creating tidal channels through a barrier beach, which will improve habitat, water quality, and fish passage.

WSDOT has worked closely with the project sponsor, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition (NOSC), and has contributed \$30,000 in-kind support to date for preliminary engineering work.

In September 2014, the Board conditioned the award of construction funding to the project sponsor (RCO #14-1366) contingent upon obtaining a financial commitment from WSDOT in an amount no less than that required to replace the existing culverts in compliance with the "Culvert Case" injunction (Condition #3). WSDOT feels this condition is not reasonable given the current state of transportation funding and our fish passage program.

While the federal court injunction requires the State correct certain barriers to fish passage at the end of their useful life or sooner, it also directs the State to correct barriers with the greatest habitat gain first. While we support the objectives of the Kilisut Harbor Restoration project as proposed, there are hundreds of fish passage barriers inventoried at state highway crossings with significantly greater amounts of habitat. As we work to meet the requirements of the injunction, we feel compelled to direct the very limited resources available to other locations that can restore access to much greater amounts of habitat. WSDOT cannot make a financial commitment to the project as requested by the Board at this time.

David Troutt, Chairman  
April 29, 2015  
Page 2

Regarding Condition #2, WSDOT has met with the Puget Sound Partnership and discussed WSDOT's construction management role and participation for the project. Unfortunately, WSDOT cannot currently make a financial commitment to funding construction management for this project. Neither our existing budget, nor our budget request for the 2015-2017 biennium provides for this funding.

WSDOT supports the North Olympic Salmon Coalition's suggested revisions to Condition #3 as proposed in their letter of April 6, 2015. We have discussed the proposed revision with the project sponsor and support this approach. The modification would provide flexibility in moving the Kilisut project forward, while taking into consideration fiscal realities in WSDOT's fish passage program and future funding. WSDOT cannot make a financial commitment to the project at this time. If the modeling studies in Condition #1 show the project will be viable, then WSDOT will continue to support this project.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Dayton, P.E.  
Region Administrator

KJD:ip

cc: R. Smith, WSDOT HQ Fish Passage Program  
D. Severson, WSDOT OR Developer Services  
J. Sawyer, WSDOT OR EHS Office

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015

**Title:** Project Decisions: Approve Use of Returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Funds for Engineering the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO #15-1052P)

**Prepared By:** Kathryn Moore, Salmon Section Senior Outdoor Grant Manager

#### Summary

This memo summarizes a request from the Puget Sound Partnership and North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity to use a portion of their 2011-13 returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds for a new 2015 project on the Dungeness River. The request involves advancement of a bridge replacement design in response to a flood event on the river that damaged a bridge in the floodplain.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

#### Proposed Motion Language:

Move to approve \$172,473 in returned 2011-13 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds in the Puget Sound Region for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design, RCO Project 15-1052P.

## Background

### Project Details

The Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO Project #[15-1052P](#)) is located at the Dungeness River Railroad Bridge Park in Sequim, Clallam County. The Olympic Discovery Trail crosses the Dungeness River at the park over a railroad bridge and trestle. Flooding in February 2015 swept away one of the trestle's piling bents, allowing the Dungeness River to avulse. Instead of flowing under the 150-foot bridge opening, the main river channel now runs beneath the damaged trestle. The damage to the trestle was so great that the Olympic Discovery Trail is now closed over the river.

The railroad trestle is 585-feet long and is built on 35 creosote "pile bents" (or row of support poles) which are spaced 16-feet apart. These pilings restrict floodplain processes and have constrained the river channel to a single location for more than 60 years. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will design a replacement structure for the damaged railroad trestle that utilizes non-polluting materials and allows for natural river habitat-forming processes. The board toured this site in 2012 and discussed the need for opening up the approaches to the bridge to allow the river to occupy more of the floodplain. This project is now more urgent as a result of the 2015 flood event.

## **Funding for the Project**

The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity has a balance of \$172,473 in returned funds from their 2011-13 PSAR allocation. These returned funds are from the Salt Creek Estuary Reconnection project (RCO #11-1289), which was not completed. The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity have approved the use of the returned funds for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design Project.

## **Project Review**

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel (review panel) members visited the project site in March 2015. All members of the review panel reviewed the project and cleared it for funding with the following condition:

“The review panel must review and approve the preliminary designs before funds for completing final designs are released by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).”

The sponsor has accepted the condition on the project.

## **Board Decision**

The board is asked to approve \$172,473 in PSAR funds for the Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design (RCO Project #15-1052), using returned funds from NOPL's 2011-13 PSAR allocation.

## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the board approve #15-1052, Dungeness River Railroad Trestle Replacement: Design, using returned PSAR funding.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Project Decisions: Pre-Approval of "Time-Sensitive" PSAR Projects, if any, Contingent on 2015-17 Budget Passage  
**Prepared By:** Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

#### Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office's 2015-17 biennial budget request includes funds for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program. In accordance with the 2015 Manual 18, Appendix P, the Puget Sound Partnership asks the board to pre-approve seven PSAR projects in an accelerated grant round, contingent upon the Legislature approving PSAR funding in the capital budget, project review by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel, and lead entity ranking and submittal.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Request for Decision  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Briefing              |

#### Proposed Motion Language

Approve 2015-17 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects as presented in Attachment A and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once the projects are reviewed and ranked and funding is appropriated by the Legislature.

### Background

The budget request submitted to the Legislature for the 2015-17 capital budget included \$140 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant program; \$30 million of this appropriation would be used for the regular (formula driven) PSAR grant round in 2015, and the remainder would be used for large capital projects that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved in December 2014.

The board distributes the funds in coordination with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP). To provide flexibility and quickly fund projects ready for construction, the program can approve funds in a summer or fall board meeting. This year, Manual 18 included language that projects submitted and approved earlier than December's board meeting can receive funding contingent upon the following criteria:

- Complete applications are due at the time of the scheduled site visits.
- The sponsor must show a need for project implementation in the summer of 2015 (e.g., purchase and sale agreement for acquisition, permits, and timeline for construction, etc.).

- The lead entity must identify which projects need early approval by communicating with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) by April 1, 2015.
- The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel (review panel) will meet in July to review projects and provide the final status. If the project is not cleared, the sponsor will have to move through the full review process and can go to the October or December board meeting.
- The lead entity will submit their complete ranked project lists by August 14, 2015, including early projects. The project to be approved early must be fundable (i.e., within the lead entity's ranked list and PSAR allocation). The lead entity may submit its list earlier than August 14, thus allowing early-approved projects to go under agreement as soon as funding is available.
- Project agreements could be issued immediately following the August 14 application due date, or earlier if the conditions listed above have been met.

Upon board approval, the RCO Director could enter into project agreements once the Legislature appropriates funds for the PSAR program and the project meets the criteria listed above. The intent in limiting the accelerated approval process is to minimize duplicative staff work to a small list of projects that are ready to go and that expect to be completed or well on their way to completion by December 2015. The board will see the majority of 2015-17 PSAR projects at the December 2015 meeting.

### **Early Project Approval**

PSP coordinates with lead entities and the board to submit projects. All Puget Sound lead entities had the opportunity to submit time-sensitive projects by April 1, 2015. PSAR projects must meet the same eligibility requirements and go through the same review process as other board-funded projects. The review panel will review any early project through the normal grant round, unless reviewed and cleared for funding in a previous funding round. In order to receive funding, the lead entity will approve and submit projects through the ranked list.

PSP asks the board to approve seven projects as part of the 2015-17 PSAR grant program, per Manual 18, Appendix P. The board's approval gives the RCO Director the authority to enter into agreements for the projects once project review is complete. The early process enables time-sensitive projects to use 2015-17 funding and enter into a project agreement as soon as completing the review and submittal process and the Legislature funds the PSAR account.

## **Analysis**

### **Review of the Proposed Projects**

Seven projects were submitted for early approval. Two of the projects were previously reviewed by the review panel and submitted on lead entity ranked lists. The request adds additional 2015-17 PSAR funds to the projects.

Attachment A lists each project, describing the rationale for the early action proposal and the respective funding request.

### **Next Steps**

Five of the seven projects are new projects that will be reviewed and ranked this grant round. These PSAR projects will be submitted through the board's 2015 grant round process. The review panel will attend site

visits for each lead entity and provide comments for all project applications, including early projects. Lead entities will follow their local process of technical and citizen review and submit their project lists to RCO on or before August 14, 2015. The lead entity ranked list must include all of these projects in order to receive funding.

The PSP Leadership Council approved the PSAR funding process and regional project list and worked with the Salmon Recovery Council to delegate the timing of the distribution of funds to the Lead Entity Citizen's Committees. The local watershed technical committees will review all projects and determine whether they are consistent with the regional and watershed recovery strategies.

The board's review panel will review new projects for technical feasibility, including field reviews, and recommend them for funding, meeting on July 13 to finalize comments on the early projects.

The projects advance the implementation of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Partnership's Action Agenda.

### **Board Decisions**

The board is asked to approve the project(s) listed in Attachment A.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the board approve PSAR funding for the project(s) listed in Attachment A.

### **Attachments**

A. Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects and Funding Requests

## Early Action Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Projects and Funding Requests

| Number                  | Name  | Sponsor                   | Project Description and Rationale for Proposal  | PSAR        |             |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|
|                         |   |                           |   | Request     | Funding     |
| <a href="#">14-1001</a> | Mill Creek Side Channel (Leber 2014)              | City of Kent              | In Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9, the Duwamish Green watershed needs additional dollars to fund the Mill Creek restoration project. Reviewed and approved in the 2014 grant round, the project will start construction in September 2015. Funding from the 2013-15 PSAR account was redirected to another project to cover cultural resource expenses on WRIA 9's number 1 ranked project that is also going to construction this summer.  | \$250,000   | \$250,000   |
| <a href="#">09-1277</a> | Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration - Construction       | Tulalip Tribe             | The Snohomish Lead Entity proposed this project which needs additional funding to complete its final phase. The board approved a cost increase to finish construction of the setback dike in September 2014. This funding will enable the Tulalip Tribe to complete utility improvements, breach the dike, and complete the full 400-acre estuary restoration project approved in 2009  | \$500,000   | \$500,000   |
| <a href="#">15-1053</a> | Dungeness R. RR Trestle Replacement: Construction | Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe | The North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon proposed this project which will construct a channel-spanning structure which will replace the current railroad trestle and associated fill. The Olympic Discovery Trail uses the bridge and trestle to cross the Dungeness River. Flooding in February 2015 swept away one of the trestle's piling bents, allowing the river to avulse, and the main river channel now runs beneath the trestle. The pilings restrict floodplain processes and have constrained the river channel to a single location for more than sixty years. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will construct a replacement structure for the damaged railroad trestle that utilizes non-polluting materials and allows for natural river habitat-forming processes. | \$1,530,000 | \$1,530,000 |

| Number                  | Name   | Sponsor                       | Project Description and Rationale for Proposal  | PSAR                 |                    |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|
|                         |  |                               |   | Request              | Funding            |
| <a href="#">15-1173</a> | Skiyou Island Rock Removal & Riparian Restoration  | Skagit County Public Works    | The project involves a longstanding concept to remove derelict bank armor from the Skagit River. In late March 2015, a positive breakthrough with the landowner allowed the project proposal to proceed. Early action is important as the sponsor, Skagit County Public Works, hopes to remove the rock in summer 2015 before winter bank erosion threatens construction access.  | \$251,145            | \$251,145          |
| <a href="#">15-1165</a> | Pressentin Park Restoration Phase 2 and 3          | Skagit Fish Enhancement Group | The board funded the first phase of the project which led to the current final 'design and build' proposal. Early action guarantees the ability for SFEG to construct the project in summer 2017, rather than potentially delaying to summer 2018, given the design and permitting complexity. Early action will also improve cost and time efficiency as it allows the sponsor to seamlessly continue ongoing design efforts.  | \$2,208,841          | \$2,208,841        |
| <a href="#">15-1166</a> | Skagit Floodplain Side Channel Connectivity Design | Skagit Fish Enhancement Group | This project would allow for final designs and permitting of the replacement of up to five substandard culverts in Skagit River side channels. This accelerated design project would enhance accuracy, and allow for thorough consideration for available funding by multiple grant sources in 2016 (including not missing the next grant round beginning February 2016 in the Skagit). The project will likely enable at least one or two culverts to be replaced in 2016, rather than 2017. | \$166,228            | \$166,228          |
| <a href="#">15-1174</a> | Goodell Creek Restoration Preliminary Design       | Upper Skagit Indian Tribe     | Approval will allow the sponsor to conduct site investigations in summer 2015 in this high altitude system, enabling preliminary design to proceed throughout the winter and better prepare them to compete for the large capital programs available in 2016.   | \$386,750            | \$386,750          |
|                         |  |                               |   | <b>Total Funded:</b> | <b>\$5,292,964</b> |

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Region and Lead Entity Capacity Funding  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator  
Sarah Gage, Lead Entity Program Manager

#### Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office annually requests capacity funding as part of the grant from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) to support salmon recovery at the grassroots level. In addition, a portion of the state general funds appropriated to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) go towards supporting the lead entities. These funds together maintain a network of regional organizations and lead entities dedicated to salmon recovery. Staff requests that the board delegate the authority for the RCO Director, contingent on sufficient funds being appropriated in the agency's budget, to enter into contracts in the amounts of \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regions for capacity funding for fiscal year 2016. This totals \$4,568,185 of capacity funding for state fiscal year 2016.

If the final budget or the 2015 PCSRF grant award is less than expected, the director will provide interim funding for lead entities and regions and bring a recommendation for the board to consider at a special board meeting to be called to address any budget shortfall.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

### Background

Each year, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) submits a single Washington State application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant funding. The application is prepared on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC).

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects, monitoring (required by NOAA), administration, and capacity. Capacity is described as the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level by maintaining a network of regional organizations and lead entities.

## Available Funds

### Current Budgets

As of the writing of this memo, the Legislature has not adopted the budget for the 2015-17 biennium. RCO anticipates approximately \$907,229 in general state funds for lead entities, the same amount provided in the 2013-15 budget. We also expect between \$16.5 and \$40 million in capital funds for projects.

RCO expects to hear from NOAA in late May regarding the federal amount awarded through the 2015 PCSRF application. This year, the entire amount needed to fund regional organizations and lead entities was included in the application. Lead entities also receive state general fund dollars.

In past years, the board made up the difference between the PCSRF award and the amount needed for regions and lead entities with return funds. Currently, due to reduced federal funding and the board's recent commitment to fund Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) projects, utilizing return funds for capacity funding is no longer a sustainable strategy.

### Returned Funds

"Returned funds" refers to money allocated to projects/activities that returns when projects/activities either close under budget or are not completed. These dollars return to the overall budget. The funds have been available for cost increases, capacity needs, and to increase the funding available for projects in the upcoming grant round, if the Legislature re-appropriates the funds as part of either the regular capital budget or a stand-alone re-appropriation bill.

We currently have **\$1.83 million** in returned funds available for the 2015 grant round. Staff expects this balance to grow by December 2015. Again, use of these funds depends on legislative re-appropriation.

### Federal Fiscal Year 2016

The President's budget included \$58 million for PCSRF for federal fiscal year 2016<sup>1</sup>. This would be an 11% reduction from 2015. We will not know what the final budget will include for the program or the Washington State PCSRF grant award for the second year of the biennium (2016 grant round) until Congress takes action on the 2016 budget later this year.

### Available and Potentially Available Funds

The board funds grants with state and federal funding received for salmon recovery. Most of these funds are allocated to capacity, projects, and monitoring. Funding is determined annually in light of Washington's annual PCSRF grant award and the state dollars appropriated by the Washington State Legislature each biennium. A summary table of projected funds for 2015-2017 is included below (Table 1).

At the time of the writing of this memo, state budgets have not been enacted for the 2015-2017 biennium and the 2015 PCSRF grant award is pending.

---

<sup>1</sup> Federal fiscal year 2015 runs from October 1, 2015 until September 30, 2016. Any PCSRF funds from federal fiscal year 2015 would likely be available in mid- to late summer 2015.

**Table 1: Projected Funds for the 2015-17 Biennium**

|  | State 2015-17<br>Biennium       | Projected State Fiscal<br>Year 2016   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Capacity (Lead Entities and Regional Organizations)</b> |                                 |   |
| State operating budget (Lead Entities)                     | \$907,229                       | \$453,614   |
| PCSRF 2015   | \$4,111,571                     | \$4,111,571   |
| PCSRF 2016   | \$4,111,571 <sup>2</sup>        | --  |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>\$9,130,371</b>              | <b>\$4,568,185</b>  |
| <b>Salmon Recovery Funding Board Projects</b>              |                                 |   |
| <i>*\$18 million grant round</i>                           |                                 |   |
| State capital budget                                       | \$40,000,000 <sup>3</sup>       | \$10,440,000  |
| PCSRF 2015   | \$12,067,577                    | Staff estimates \$7.56M -<br>\$12M (of \$20 - \$25 million<br>total annual PCSRF Award) |
| PCSRF 2016   | \$12,067,577 <sup>4</sup>       | <i>unknown</i>  |
| IMW Projects   | <i>see footnote<sup>5</sup></i> | \$1,830,000   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>\$60,305,154</b>             | <b>\$19,830,000</b>   |
| <b>Available Return Funds (as of April 2015)</b>           | <b>\$1,830,000</b>              | <i>unknown</i>  |

### General Capacity Funding for Lead Entities and Regional Organizations

The board authorized an \$18 million grant round in 2014, providing the lead entities and regions with similar funding as previous years. The funding totals for fiscal year 2015 are included in Table 2 (in the Staff Recommendation Section) and summarized in funding tables (Attachments A and B).

RCO will know the 2015 PCSRF award amount by the end of June or first week of July. The current budget information is limited. We do know the general fund state for lead entities looks similar to previous years funding amounts. The 2015 PCSRF application includes enough funding to maintain funding similar to the previous year. RCO did not factor in any potential return funds between May 2015 and December 2015. The grant round funding hinges on the state salmon capital budget. At the time of the writing of this memo, the Governor proposed \$40 million, House budget included \$40 million, and the Senate budget included \$16.5 million.

<sup>2</sup> It is unknown what the actual 2016 PCSRF award will be. The President's budget includes \$58 million, with the potential to raise the amount to \$65 million which would hold the status quo.

<sup>3</sup> This is the amount proposed by the Governor and the House; the Senate has proposed \$16.5 m.

<sup>4</sup> Same as footnote 2.

<sup>5</sup> Funds in the amount of \$3,830,000 that the board has already obligated toward IMW projects for the 2015-17 biennium.

## Board Decisions for the 2015 Grant Round

The only scheduled board meeting before the beginning of new biennium begins (July 1, 2015) occurs in May. The following decisions will support salmon recovery capacity and the board's grant program for fiscal year 2015. If the legislative appropriation and the 2015 PCSRF grant are less than projected, the director will work with the chair of the board to call a special meeting to decide how to adjust the grant round target. Because of the timing, the staff recommends delegating authority to the director to enter into contracts based on the above mentioned assumptions.

Here are the specific staff recommendations:

- A. Set a target grant round of \$18 million for calendar year 2015.
- B. Reserve \$1.83 million for IMW projects.
- C. Approve funding for each regional organization for fiscal year 2016.
- D. Approve funding for each lead entity for fiscal year 2016.
- E. Approve funding for lead entity training and a chairperson (\$12,500)
- F. Approve funding (\$50,000) for facilitation of the Washington Salmon Coalition (from 2015 returned capacity funds)
- G. Reserve \$500,000 to be used for project cost increases in state fiscal year 2016, to be used consistent with policies in Manual 18.

GSRO will provide funding details at the May meeting based on any new information concerning the budget. The regular legislative session is scheduled to end on April 26, 2015, although special sessions are expected to follow. Current contracts with lead entities end June 30, 2015.

## Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board fund capacity at a total of \$4,568,185, which includes \$1,689,500 for lead entities and \$2,878,685 for regional organizations in fiscal year 2016. This is a status quo funding level for both regional organizations and lead entities. Table 2 summarizes the request; Attachment A details the allocations by regional organization and Attachment B summarizes allocations by lead entity.

If the state budget or Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award comes in less than expected, staff recommend providing interim funding and calling a special board meeting to decide how to adjust the capacity funding and the grant round target.

In light of the limited information on the state budget, staff suggests delegating authority to the RCO director to enter into regional and lead entity contracts and setting the grant round at a minimum of \$18M if supported by the state budget and 2015 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award. If complications arise in the final budget, RCO will call a special board meeting to determine options.

**Table 2. Proposed Lead Entity and Regional Organization Funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016**

| <b>Purpose</b>   | <b>Current Funding FY 2015<br/>(July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)</b> | <b>Proposed Funding<br/>FY 2016</b> |
|------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Lead Entities    | \$1,689,500   | \$1,689,500                         |
| Regions          | \$2,878,685   | \$2,878,685                         |
| Projects         | \$18,000,000  | \$18,000,000 <sup>6</sup>           |
| Projects in IMWs | \$1,937,647   | Up to \$1,830,000                   |

### **Next Steps**

If approved by the board, GSRO staff will complete the scopes of work for the regional organization and lead entity contracts for the 2015-2017 biennium. Agreements will be effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Similar to last biennium the board will approve funding for the second year of the biennium before June 30, of 2016.

### **Attachments**

- A. Funding Table for Regional Organizations
- B. Funding Table for Lead Entities

---

<sup>6</sup> Staff expect the PCSRF grant to come in between \$20 million and \$25 million. Based on this assumption and a state capital biennial budget of over \$22 million, the board would have at least an \$18 million dollar grant round for fiscal year 2016 (December 2015).

## Funding Table for Regional Organizations

| <b>Regional Organization</b>             | <b>Board Funding<br/>Adopted FY 2015</b> | <b>Proposed Funding<br/>FY 2016</b> |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board       | \$456,850                                | \$456,850                           |
| Hood Canal Coordinating Council          | 375,000                                  | 375,000                             |
| Puget Sound Partnership                  | 689,162                                  | 689,162                             |
| Snake River Recovery Board               | 333,588                                  | 333,588                             |
| Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board     | 435,000                                  | 435,000                             |
| Washington Coast Sustainable Partnership | 304,085                                  | 304,085                             |
| Yakima Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board    | 285,000                                  | 285,000                             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$2,878,685</b>                       | <b>\$2,878,685</b>                  |

## Funding Table for Lead Entities

| Lead Entity  | Board Funding<br>Adopted FY 2015 | Proposed Funding<br>FY 2016 |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity           | \$65,000                         | \$65,000                    |
| San Juan County Lead Entity                        | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity               | 80,000                           | 80,000                      |
| Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Stillaguamish Tribe) | 25,000                           | 25,000                      |
| Stillaguamish Co-Lead Entity (Snohomish County)    | 37,000                           | 37,000                      |
| Island County Lead Entity                          | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Snohomish Basin Lead Entity                        | 62,500                           | 62,500                      |
| Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Lead Entity      | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed Lead Entity  | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Pierce County Lead Entity                          | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity        | 62,500                           | 62,500                      |
| Thurston Conservation District Lead Entity         | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Mason Conservation District Lead Entity            | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity          | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity                | 80,000                           | 80,000                      |
| North Pacific Coast Lead Entity                    | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Quinalt Indian Nation Lead Entity                  | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Grays Harbor County Lead Entity                    | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Pacific County Lead Entity                         | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Klickitat County Lead Entity                       | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Pend Oreille Lead Entity                           | 60,000                           | 60,000                      |
| Upper Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery            | 135,000                          | 135,000                     |
| Yakima Basin Regional Salmon Recovery              | 65,000                           | 65,000                      |
| Snake River Regional Salmon Recovery               | 65,000                           | 65,000                      |
| Lower Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery            | 80,000                           | 80,000                      |
| Hood Canal Regional Salmon Recovery                | 80,000                           | 80,000                      |
| Lead Entity Chair                                  | \$4,500                          | \$4,500                     |
| Lead Entity Training                               | \$8,000                          | \$8,000                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>\$1,689,500</b>               | <b>\$1,689,500</b>          |



Island County  
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

P.O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239

April 28, 2015

Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
David Troutt, Chairman  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

RE: Support for Reallocation of Lead Entity Funds to Support the Priorities of the Washington Salmon Coalition Proposal

Dear Chair David Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

As Lead Entity Coordinator for WRIA 6 (Island), I am writing in support of the Washington Salmon Coalition's (WSC) proposal to, once again, utilize unspent capacity funds to provide organizational support to the WSC in efforts to implement the WSC workplan. This proposal requests a one-year extension to the contract that was a result from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's decision last May to approve the initial expenditure for capacity support to the WSC.

In the past year, the support the WSC received from the use of the reallocated capacity funds, via a contract with Long Live the Kings, has made a marked impact on WSC's work. For example, with their help, we've completed a significant revision of the document we call "the Lead Entity Guidance Manual". This is the document that we share with new Lead Entity Coordinators (LECs) that is a peer to peer supplement to RCO's Manual 19. It contains history, advice, examples, contacts and lessons learned from experienced LECs to new LECs. This empowers WSC team building and support in our LE community. Another significant impact in the last year due to the capacity support has been the assistance with meetings - agenda development, logistics, note taking and conversation tracking. This has ensured stronger follow through on decisions made and ideas developed during meetings. The facilitation at these meetings has enabled all LECs to be active participants in the discussions rather than losing 2-3 of us to handling logistics or not being able to contribute to the conversation because of note taking and agenda timing tracking. The full participation by all has been a very productive and efficient change and allows us to operate at full capacity at these meetings.

These are just a few specific examples of the benefits of the support received by the WSC. The benefits reach beyond these examples and are articulated in other letters of support that the Board is sure to receive. The WSC community as a whole has been grateful to the Board for the initial approval of reallocation of funds that enabled this support. I respectfully request that the Board approve the extension of this contract for the next year, at a minimum. If you have questions, please contact me at [d.pucci@co.island.wa.us](mailto:d.pucci@co.island.wa.us), or 360-678-7916.

Thank you kindly,

Dawn Pucci  
WRIA 6 (Island) Lead Entity Coordinator



## Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish (WRIA 8) Watershed

201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 600

Seattle, WA 98104-3855

April 16, 2015

David Troutt, Chair  
Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Support for extending Washington Salmon Coalition organizational support contract

Dear Chair Troutt,

At the March 20, 2014, meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board), the Board approved the reallocation of \$50,000 in unspent lead entity capacity funds to provide organizational support to the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC). I am writing to convey the value this support has provided to WSC and to support a one-year extension of the contract to allow this support to continue into 2016.

The WSC functions as an important forum for lead entities statewide, and WSC's Action Plan outlines numerous short-term and long-term objectives to support and strengthen Washington's 25 lead entities. Dedicated staff support (provided over the past year through a contract with Long Live the Kings) has allowed WSC to more efficiently implement its Action Plan. In no small measure due to the added staffing resources provided by this contract, WSC has advanced a number of its goals and objectives, including:

- Strategic planning related to long-term funding for lead entities and salmon recovery
- Working with salmon recovery partners to advocate for our work and develop common messages
- Facilitating the exchange of information and mentoring amongst lead entities
- Supporting effective statewide communication and outreach about lead entity accomplishments

The current Long Live the Kings contract expires on June 30, 2015. The contract carries a provision for a one-year extension, which again requires the reallocation of \$50,000 in unspent lead entity capacity funds. As an active participant in WSC for several years, I can attest to the value this contract has provided and encourage the Board to authorize this use of funds. If you have questions, please contact me at [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov), or 206-477-4780. Thank you for continuing to support lead entities.

Sincerely,

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz

Watershed Coordinator, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Cc:

Darcy Batura, Washington Salmon Coalition Chair and Yakima Lead Entity Coordinator

Sarah Gage, Lead Entity Program Manager

Brian Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Executive Coordinator

Jeanette Dorner, Ecosystem and Salmon Recovery Program Director

April 29, 2015

Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
David Troutt, Chairman  
P.O. Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Chair David Troutt and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity would like to thank the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for considering the approval of facilitation funding for the Washington Salmon Coalition from 2015 returned capacity funds, item 5F at the May 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting

The SRSRB Lead Entity supports the WSC effort and urges the SRFB to approve the proposal. This proposal does not seek new funding, instead it identifies a mechanism which would effectively and efficiently utilize the entire amount of Lead Entity funding available to the 25 Lead Entities across the state for the greater good of salmon recovery in Washington State. This same approach worked well over the past year.

Providing a mechanism to aid the communication, logistics, and other top priority efforts outlined in the WSC Action Plan would relieve the time commitment of the WSC Chair & executive committee, while further enabling the WSC and each Lead Entity to effectively serve as the backbone for locally-based restoration efforts done the Washington Way.

Gaining the additional support proposed will significantly help in accomplishing the WSC's, Lead Entities, and the SRFB's broader goals and objectives. Additionally, this proposal could serve as a pilot program to effectively use any unused Lead Entity funds in the future, as long as unused funds are available, therefore maximizing the benefit of locally based salmon recovery to the citizens of the state of Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed rule change.



Steve Martin  
Executive Director  
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Phase II Changes  
**Prepared By:** Leslie Connelly, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

#### Summary

This memo summarizes progress made on drafting amendments to Title 420 of the Washington Administrative Code. Staff requests board feedback on two sections: *Definitions*, and *Organization and Operations*.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Decision  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Request for Direction |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Briefing              |

### Background

At the February meeting, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff provided the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) with an overview of proposed amendments to [Title 420](#) of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). For reference, a list of the proposed amendments is in Table 1 of [Item 10](#) from the February meeting. The board instructed staff to draft amendments and provide an opportunity for board review.

### Draft Amendments for Board Review

Since the last board meeting, staff worked to draft amendments for two sections of Chapter 420-04 WAC.

#### WAC 420-04-010 *Definitions*

The amendments to the definitions bring in the appropriate statutory references, or, if there are no specific references, reflect statutory intent. New definitions define specific types of projects funded by the board. There are revised and new definitions for organizations that implement salmon recovery projects and activities. Finally, there are new definitions added for match, reimbursements, and project area.

Attachment A contains the draft amendments to terms in the *Definitions* section.

#### WAC 420-04-020 *Organization and Operations*

Staff proposes to change the title of the *Organizations and Operations* section to *Duties of the Board*. The amendments focus this section on the board's responsibilities in the Salmon Recovery Funding Act, Chapter 77.85 of the Revised Code of Washington. It that regard, the section is significantly longer in text.

The section collects the board’s responsibilities in one location for easy reference. The amendments also change information repeated from the Salmon Recovery Act into a reference.

Attachment B contains the draft amendments in the *Duties of the Board* section.

### More Draft Amendments Planned

Staff will continue to work on draft amendments for Title 420. As staff drafts material, they will share it with the board for review. After the board has reviewed and provided feedback to staff, RCO staff will engage discussions with stakeholders to get feedback on the draft materials.

### Public Involvement and Comment

The Administrative Procedures Act requires the board to conduct at least one public hearing at a scheduled meeting prior to adopting amendments to the rules. The schedule in the next section identifies the board’s October board meeting for the formal public hearing. Interested persons may either attend the public hearing or submit formal written comments in advance. RCO staff will notify interested persons about the proposed amendments via e-mail and on RCO’s Web site.

### WAC Amendments Schedule 2015

The schedule for changes must fit within the deadlines established by the Office of the Code Reviser for filings with the Washington State Register. The first step is to file the pre-proposal statement of inquiry. Staff completed this step. It was published in the Washington State Register on February 18, 2015. This filing secures the appropriate timeline for the board should they decide to proceed with the staff recommendation. Filing the pre-proposal does not obligate the board to proceed.

Depending on the length of time needed in the drafting process, the next opportunity for the board to conduct a public hearing is at the board’s meeting in October. Staff will work towards meeting this goal.

**Table 2. WAC Amendment Schedule 2015**

| Date (2015)               | Action  |
|---------------------------|---|
| September 2               | File notice of proposed rule-making (CR-102)                          |
| September 16              | Notice of proposed rule-making published in Washington State Register |
| September 16 – October 15 | Public comment period   |
| October 15-16             | Board meeting, public hearing, final adoption                         |
| October 17                | File notice of permanent rule-making (CR-103)                         |
| November 17               | Effective date  |

## Next Steps

RCO staff will continue to draft amendments to meet the schedule described above. RCO will solicit for formal public comments prior to the October meeting in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, which requires a minimum 20 day public comment period. Before the formal public comment period, RCO will consult with the board and then stakeholders and interested parties on the proposed amendments to get early feedback and comments.

## Attachments

- A. Draft Amendments Section 420-04-010 *Definitions*
- B. Draft Amendments Section 420-04-020 *Organization and Operations* (changed to *Duties of the Board*)

## Attachment A

### Draft Amendments Section 420-04-010 Definitions

#### WAC 420-04-010 Definitions.

For purposes of Title 420 WAC, the definitions in RCW 77.85.010 apply. In addition, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following definitions also apply:

(1) "Acquisition" means the ~~gaining of rights of public ownership by purchase, negotiation, or other means,~~ of fee or less than fee interests in real property, ~~and related interests such as water or mineral claims and use rights.~~ These interests include, but are not limited to, conservation easements, access easements, covenants, water rights, leases, and mineral rights.

(2) "Agreement" means the accord accepted by the office and the sponsor for the project and includes this agreement, any supplemental agreements, any amendments to this agreement and any intergovernmental agreements.

(3) "Applicant" means any agency, person or organization that meets qualifying standards, including deadlines, for submission of an application soliciting a grant of funds from the board. ~~Generally, eligible applicants for board funds include a state, local, tribal or special purpose government, a nonprofit organization, a combination of such governments, or a landowner for projects on its land.~~

(4) "Application" means the ~~form(s) developed and implemented for use by applicants in soliciting project funds administered by the board documents and other materials that an applicant submits to the office to support the applicant's request for grant funds.~~

(5) "Board" means the salmon recovery funding board ~~created by chapter 13, Laws of 1999 1st sp. sess. (2E2SSB 5595), now codified~~ as described in RCW 77.85.110.

(6) "Capacity funding" refers to block grants, as described in RCW 77.85.130(4), to implement habitat project lists developed under RCW 77.85.050 or to assist in carrying out functions to implement chapter 77.85 RCW.

(7) "Chair" means the chair of the board described in RCW 77.85.110.

~~"Development" means the construction or alteration of facilities, the placement or removal of materials, or other physical activity to restore or enhance salmon habitat resources.~~

(8) "Director" means the director of the office or that person's designee, as described in RCW 79A.25.150, ~~responsible for implementation of board activities under chapter 77.85 RCW.~~

(9) "Enhancement project" means a project that supports hatchery reform to improve hatchery effectiveness, ensure compatibility between hatchery production and salmon rebuilding programs, or support sustainable fisheries.

~~(10) "Lead entity" means the local organization or group, a city, county, conservation district, special purposes district, tribal government, regional recovery organization or other entity that is designated under jointly by the counties, cities, and Native American tribes within the lead entity area as described in RCW 77.85.050.~~

~~(11) "Lead entity area" means the area covered by a habitat project list based, at a minimum, on a watershed resource inventory area as described in RCW 77.85.010(13), combination of water resource inventory areas, or any other area designated jointly by the counties, cities, and Native American Tribes within the lead entity area as described in RCW 77.85.050.~~

~~(12) "Manual(s)" means a compilation of state and federal laws; board rules, policies, and procedures, rules, and director procedures, forms, and instructions that have been assembled in manual form and which have been approved by the office for dissemination by paper, electronic or other formats to all who may wish to parties that participate in the board's of office's grant program(s).~~

~~(13) "Match" or "matching share" means the portion of the total project cost in the project agreement provided by the project sponsor.~~

~~(14) "Monitoring or research project" means a project that monitors the effectiveness of salmon recovery restoration actions or provides data on salmon populations.~~

~~(15) "Office" means the recreation and conservation office or the office of recreation and conservation as described in RCW 79A.25.010.~~

~~(16) "Planning project" means a project that results in a study, assessment, project design, or inventory.~~

~~(17) "Preliminary expense Pre-agreement cost" means a project costs incurred prior to board approval, other than site preparation/development costs, necessary for the preparation of a development project before the period of performance identified in the project agreement.~~

~~(18) "Project" means the undertaking which is, or may be, funded in whole or in part with funds administered by the office on behalf of the board.~~

~~"Project agreement" means a project agreement, supplemental agreement, intergovernmental agreement, or project contract between the office acting on behalf of the board, and a project sponsor.~~

~~(19) "Project area" means the area consistent with the geographic limits of the scope of work of the project. For restoration projects, the project area must include the physical limits of the project's final site plans or final design plans and the surrounding area controlled by the project sponsor. For acquisition projects, the project area must include the area described by the legal description of the properties acquired in the project.~~

~~(20) "Regional recovery organization" or "regional salmon recovery organization" means an organization described in RCW 77.85.010.~~

(21) "Salmon recovery region" means a geographic area as described in RCW 77.85.010.

(22) "Reimbursement" means the payment of eligible and allowable costs that have already been paid by the sponsor per the terms of an agreement.

(23) "Restoration project" means a project that brings a site back to its original function as part of a natural ecosystem or improving the ecological functionality of a site.

(24) "Project-sponsor" means an eligible applicant under RCW 77.85.010(6) who has been awarded a grant of funds; and ~~has a signed~~ is bound by an executed project agreement; includes its officers, employees, agents, and successors.

## Attachment B

### Draft Amendments Section 420-04-020 *Organization and Operations*

#### WAC 420-04-020 ~~Organization and operations~~ Duties of the Board.

~~The board:~~

~~(1) Is an unsalaried body of ten members. Five members are citizens appointed by the governor from the public at large, with the consent of the senate, for a term of three years each. The other members are the:~~

- ~~(a) Commissioner of public lands;~~
- ~~(b) Director of the department of fish and wildlife;~~
- ~~(c) Director of the state conservation commission;~~
- ~~(d) Director of the department of ecology; and~~
- ~~(e) Secretary of transportation (or the designees of these individuals).~~

~~The five citizen members, including the chair, are voting members. The chair of the board is appointed by the governor from among the five citizen members. The board was created by the legislature in the Salmon Recovery Funding Act of 1999 (section 3, chapter 13, Laws of 1999 special session) codified in RCW 77.85.110.~~

~~(2) Membership of the board is defined in RCW 77.85.110.~~

~~(3) Is The board is authorized and obligated to:~~

~~(a) Allocate and administer grant programs funds for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery, and related programs and policies activities from amounts appropriated by the legislature (RCW 77.85.120);~~

~~(b) Develop procedures and criteria for allocation of funds for salmon habitat projects and salmon recovery activities on a statewide basis to address the highest priorities for salmon habitat protection and restoration (RCW 77.85.130(1));~~

~~(c) Adopt an annual allocation of funding (RCW 77.85.130(1));~~

~~(d) Establish a maximum amount of funding available for any individual project (RCW 77.85.130(1));~~

~~(e) Establish criteria for determining the award of block grants for capacity funding as described in RCW 77.85.130(4);~~

~~(f) Give preference and consideration to projects as described in RCW 77.85.130(2);~~

~~(g) Require applicants to incorporate the environmental benefits of the project into their grant applications and the statement of environmental benefits in its prioritization and selection process (RCW 77.85.135);~~

(h) Adopt procedures for lead entities to submit habitat project lists (RCW 77.85.050);

(i) May reject, but not add, projects from a habitat project list submitted by a lead entity for funding (RCW 77.85.130(3));

(j) Develop appropriate outcome-focused performance measures to be used both for management and performance assessment of the grant program (RCW 77.85.135); and

(k) Provide the legislature with a list of the proposed projects and a list of the projects funded by October 1st of each year for informational purposes (RCW 77.85.140).

(4) The board does not own or operate any salmon recovery properties or facilities.

(5) The board is not a public hearings board and does not decide land use issues. To the extent possible, all project proposals should demonstrate adequate public notification and review and have the support of the public body applying for the grant or the public body where the project is located.

~~(3) Performs and accomplishes work by a staff~~ (6) The office, under the supervision of the director appointed by the governor, performs and accomplishes work on behalf of the board.

(46) The board:

(a) Conducts regular meetings, pursuant to RCW 42.30.075, according to a schedule it adopts in an open public meeting~~;~~

(b) May conduct special meetings at any time, pursuant to RCW 42.30.080, if called by the chair~~;~~

(c) Maintains an official record of its meetings in a recorded audio format, unless written minutes are otherwise indicated for logistical reasons~~;~~

~~(5d)~~ Defines a quorum as three of its voting members, with a preference that at least two of the agency members shall also be present~~;~~ and

~~(6e)~~ Adopts parliamentary meeting procedure generally as described in *Robert's Rules of Order*. Only voting members may make motions or formal amendments, but agency members may request the chair for leave to present a proposal for board consideration.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

**Meeting Date:** May 6, 2015  
**Title:** Monitoring Panel Update  
**Prepared By:** Brian Abbott, GSRO Executive Coordinator  
Keith Dublanica, Science Coordinator

#### Summary

This memo provides an overview of how the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel (monitoring panel) will be evaluating each component of the board's monitoring program. The monitoring panel will prepare funding recommendations for the October 2015 meeting for the board to consider. This memo provides background on the establishment of the monitoring panel and outlines the next steps in generating the recommendations to the board.

#### Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

|                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Decision  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Request for Direction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Briefing              |

### Background

At the March 2014 meeting, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) approved the creation of a five-member monitoring panel, supported by \$50,000 in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funds. The decision was made in response to the recommendations published in Stillwater Sciences' report: *Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board* (2013). The purpose of the monitoring panel is to update the board's overarching monitoring strategy, develop an adaptive management framework, and provide guidance and funding recommendation to the board on the monitoring program.

In April of 2014, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) jointly released a Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for monitoring panel members. The responses were evaluated and ranked by a review team comprised of staff from GSRO, the Council of Regions (COR), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), and RCO. A smaller, secondary team made up of representatives from the board, GSRO, and the Snake River Recovery Region interviewed seven applicants on May 21, 2014 and selected five for the panel. After further discussions and negotiations, the five new members entered into contracts to serve as panel members for the duration of June 2014 through September 2015.

The monitoring panel convened June 5, 2014 and was assigned the following tasks:

1. Develop a revised strategic monitoring plan which would update the 2003 Draft Monitoring Strategy for Habitat Acquisition and Restoration Projects.
2. Create a functional adaptive management framework with clearly written expectations and a process for timely implementation.

3. Evaluate by performance, each component of the Board's monitoring program and provide guidance and funding recommendations to the Board.
4. Recommend changes in policy or funding criteria for project effectiveness monitoring and intensively monitored watersheds;
5. Compare and share monitoring results to determine if lessons learned in other monitoring efforts could be applied to Board programs.

The panel developed a collaborative process for completing the above tasks. In the interest of accelerating the completion of the monitoring strategy update, RCO retained Bruce Crawford to prepare a report summarizing the board's current monitoring program and its evolution over the last decade. Mr. Crawford also incorporated comments from the monitoring panel.

Each year henceforth, the monitoring panel will evaluate each monitoring component and provide the board with any recommended changes to the monitoring program. Two subject matter experts have been brought on to assist the monitoring panel with the review of each component of the monitoring program. Before finalizing the document, staff will complete the process of editing and formatting.

## **Work In Progress**

### **Creating a functional adaptive management framework**

The panel will draft an adaptive management framework. It is essential that the adaptive management framework closely link to the monitoring strategy; therefore, these two items should remain on the same schedule and be considered by the board together. The monitoring panel will present their recommendations for an adaptive management framework at the October 2015 board meeting.

### **Monitoring Workshop March 30, 2015**

On March 30, the monitoring panel hosted a workshop as an opportunity for dialogue between the monitoring panel and practitioners receiving board monitoring funds. The monitoring panel had two primary objectives convening the workshop:

1. To personally interact with the principal investigators, discuss specific questions, and gain a deeper understanding of each monitoring component included in the board's monitoring program (i.e., Project Effectiveness, Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW), and Status and Trends).
2. To provide an opportunity for practitioners to receive feedback from the monitoring panel.

### **Intensively Monitored Watersheds – Study Plans**

The monitoring panel received and commented on two of the four updated IMW study plans. The study plan is the foundation for the IMW work. The study plan documents where and when the work takes place, questions to be answered, and serves as a communication tool for the monitoring partners. All four study plans are due in final form by June 30, 2015.

### **Evaluate each component of the Board's monitoring program.**

Each monitoring practitioner received explicit direction on the information the panel requires to evaluate monitoring program implementation. The panel finalized reporting templates last fall and included these in the contract with each practitioner. As presented in the 2013 Stillwater Sciences report and embraced by the monitoring panel, practitioners must have an opportunity to implement any new expectations prior to the monitoring panel evaluating the performance of any changes in each monitoring component.

The monitoring panel developed a series of questions that each practitioner must answer for their annual assessment. These questions are based on:

1. Scientific objectives, monitoring methods, and documentation of quality assurance/quality control
2. Effectiveness of the restoration actions
3. Accountability – what was the progress on each major monitoring task or milestone
4. Collaboration and Communication – examples of how the monitoring program is collaborating with monitoring partners including sponsors, lead entities, regional organizations, and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies
5. Adaptive Management – challenges encountered in implementing the monitoring program.

### **Recommendations for the Board at the October Meeting**

The monitoring panel will provide recommendations specific to each component of the board's monitoring program. The recommendations will arrive in advance of the October 2015 meeting, so that the board may make funding decisions on the monitoring program at that time.

The monitoring panel will receive the information from the practitioners in July and will begin the process of evaluating and drafting recommendations. This is the first year of the monitoring panel developing recommendations for the board and the exact format and scope of the recommendations are currently unknown.

## **Attachments**

- A. Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel and Subject Matter Experts

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel Members

- 1) Marnie Tyler, PhD, Chair
- 2) Dennis Dauble, PhD
- 3) Jim Fisher
- 4) Micah Wait
- 5) Jody Lando, PhD

## Monitoring Panel Subject Matter Experts

- 1) Pete Bisson, PhD
- 2) Ken Currens, PhD