

Science and Monitoring

D4. Science and Monitoring

Convene and facilitate the implementation of a strategic science and regional monitoring program that improves decisions about how to restore and protect Puget Sound.

The overall objective of the Science Program is to inform and continually improve the scientific basis for decisions of Partners and policy-makers on how to protect and restore Puget Sound. The Partnership's science and monitoring team supports the Science Panel and Monitoring Steering Committee in enlisting the assistance of the Puget Sound scientific community in the work of the regional effort and communicating findings and implications. Science Program staff work closely with the Performance Management team in assessing the region's overall progress in attaining the targets that have been set and describing the status of the recovery effort.

D4.1 **Oversee strategic planning for Puget Sound recovery science**

The Puget Sound Partnership with the guidance Science Panel leads the technical steps identified in the Partnership's Open Standards adaptive management process for strategic planning and prioritization, including identifying key ecosystem components, drivers and pressures on the ecosystem, assessing linkages and risks and assisting in setting of targets for reducing risks and pressures.

Ongoing Programs

Key Ongoing Program Activities

- Updating the Biennial Science work Plan on a two-year cycle in conjunction with the Action Agenda. The Biennial Science Work Plan is the mechanism by which the Puget Sound Partnership and its partners identify, prioritize and direct monitoring, research, support of decisions, and funding to focus on the key scientific uncertainties that are hindering political or technical actions to recover and protect Puget sound.

Near-Term Actions

None; work in the near-term will focus on implementation of ongoing programs.

D4.1.1 **Continue to build an accessible, peer-reviewed base of scientific knowledge about ecosystem status, effectiveness of recovery strategies and actions and ecosystem indicators provides policy-relevant information for decision-makers.**

The Puget Sound Partnership with the oversight of the Science Panel and collaboration with the Puget Sound Institute works to build the scientific knowledge to inform decision-making and to update and revise the Action Agenda. This includes setting expectations for the quality of the work; preparing key technical documents, reports, and peer-reviewed publications based on that work; and coordinating with the Puget Sound Institute at the University of Washington Tacoma to develop a web-based compendium of research and information for policy makers and stakeholders.

Science Program staff support the Science Panel to provide synthesis of scientific findings and effectively communicate these findings to the Puget Sound Management Conference.

Ongoing Programs

Key Ongoing Program Activities

- Building the Puget Sound Partnership Technical Memorandum Series
- Publishing and updating the Puget Sound Science Update.
- Producing the Biennial Science Work Plan and participation in the formulation of the “State of the Sound” document.
- Overseeing peer review of technical documents and products.

Near-Term Actions

None; work in the near-term will focus on implementation of ongoing programs.

D4.1.2 Maintain and expand a network of scientific expertise for informing decision-makers.

A key role of the Partnership is to build and catalyze capacity for scientific efforts by convening, coordinating and enlisting the Puget Sound scientific community (agencies, tribal nations, universities, citizen groups) in implementing a strategic science program. The responsibilities for this biennium include enlisting the scientific community in reviewing ecosystem indicators, analysis of ecosystem targets, and assessment of pressures on the ecosystem.

Ongoing Programs

Key Ongoing Program Activities

- Facilitating collaboration among the members of the Science Panel, Puget Sound Institute, Nearshore Science Team, Recovery Implementation Technical Team, and other regional work groups.

Near-Term Actions

None; work in the near-term will focus on implementation of ongoing programs.

D4.2 Coordinate the development and implementation of the Ecosystem Monitoring Program.

The Partnership is required by statute to implement and coordinate a Puget Sound assessment and monitoring program. The purpose of the Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Program is to coordinate and integrate the work of existing and future monitoring efforts to determine the status and trends of key components and indicators of the health of the Puget Sound and to inform subsequent decisions about whether recovery actions have been effective.

The monitoring program is structured to engage a broad range of partners via the Monitoring Steering Committee and the organization and facilitation of topical work groups. The effort relies on existing efforts as the building blocks for a coordinate program. Decision-making for monitoring rests with the Monitoring Steering Committee and is responsive to the Leadership Council. The Science Panel provides independent review and critique of the program.

D4.2.1 Coordinate committees and the process of developing monitoring plans.

PSP staff is responsible for coordinating and supporting the complex, multi-partner effort around monitoring for Puget Sound. This task involves leveraging existing resources at the local and regional levels to ensure that existing and future monitoring programs are coordinated and aligned with the Action Agenda and inform decision-making on subsequent actions.

Ongoing Programs

Key Ongoing Program Activities

- Staffing committees and topical workgroups
- Ensuring that there is a consistent approach in the assessing of priorities and development of monitoring plans.
- Facilitating communication among committees and between the Science Panel and PSP decision-making bodies.

Near-Term Actions

None; work in the near-term will focus on implementation of ongoing programs.

D4.2.2 Lead efforts to compile, manage, analyze and report data on indicators to support the Partnership's adaptive management plan.

This task is intended to enhance the programmatic approach to monitoring watershed health to better integrate data collection on ecosystem indicators and pressure reduction targets, analysis, and interpretation with performance management and decision-making systems.

Ongoing Programs

Key Ongoing Program Activities

- Work with partners to provide data for the Dashboard of Vital Signs
- Work with partners to increase the quality of data collection and analysis
- Work with partners to refine efforts to report on the efforts of key actions and suites of actions
- Collaborate with partners and other PSP teams in the drafting of the “Report on Status and Trends of Indicators and the State of the Sound.”

Near-Term Actions

None; work in the near-term will focus on implementation of ongoing programs.

D4.2.3 Coordinate the design and Implementation of the Monitoring Accountability Application

This task involves identifying the business requirement for building a Monitoring Accountability Application will result in a web-based inventory of monitoring programs to help raise awareness and enhance coordination of efforts among all sectors in the region.

Near-Term Actions

- D4 NTA 1:** **Develop the Puget Sound Partnerships adaptive management framework and technical tools to assist in the steps of the adaptive management cycle.**
- › **Publish technical memorandum describing the Puget Sound Partnership’s adaptive management framework June 2012**
 - › **Publish technical memorandum describing methods of assessing pressures on the Puget Sound ecosystem June 2012**
 - › **Develop adaptive management frameworks for five watersheds that links watershed recovery, recovery of ESA listed species July 2013**
- D4 NTA 2:** **Help design and implement a Monitoring Accountability Application.**
- › **Provide the business requirements for the Monitoring Accountability Application, including the web-based inventory**
 - › **Establish and maintain a publicly available web-based inventory of Puget Sound monitoring programs**