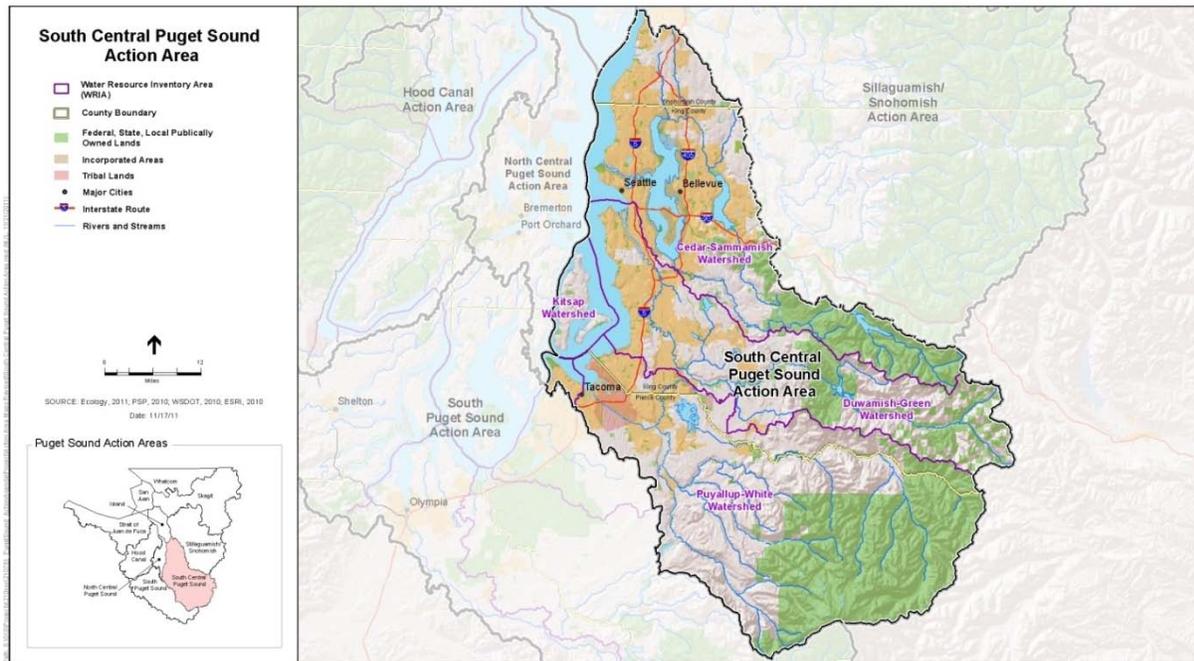


# The Action Agenda in South Central Puget Sound

## Profile<sup>29</sup>

The South Central Action Area is home to 2.5 million residents living in three of Washington’s largest cities—Seattle, Bellevue, and Tacoma, and in suburban and rural residential development that reaches across unincorporated King and Pierce Counties. The northernmost portion of the action area is located in southwest Snohomish County. South Central Puget Sound is the most urbanized portion of Puget Sound and includes infrastructure of commercial and residential buildings, large areas of pavement, a heavily modified shoreline, and a pervasive road network. Although portions of the action area have been intensively developed, approximately 77% of the area is not considered urban, with vast tracts of agricultural lands in rural King and Pierce County, and undeveloped wilderness in Mount Rainier National Park and the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The three major river systems originate in the Cascades near Snoqualmie Pass, Cascade Pass, and Mount Rainier, travel through forests and farms, and empty into Lake Washington and Puget Sound. Glacial melt from Mount Rainier feeds the Puyallup/White River system, while the Green/Duwamish and Cedar/Sammamish are supplied by snow melt and rainfall. Lowland areas receive average rainfall of 40 inches per year. In highly urbanized portions, many streams or stream segments have been placed in drainage pipes and re-assert their presence during storms and flood events.



<sup>29</sup> Puget Sound Partnership will double check facts and figures listed in profiles during the public review period.

The two largest bays in the South Central area are Seattle’s Elliott Bay and Commencement Bay near Tacoma. Vashon-Maury is the largest island south of the Admiralty Inlet. The major currents within the saltwater basin of central Puget Sound generally flow northward along the west side of Vashon Island, and southward through the East Passage. The marine waters of Puget Sound form warm layers at the surface during the summer months due to river input and solar heating. These layers are mixed during winter months by seasonal winds and cool weather. An underwater sill by the Tacoma Narrows also alters the pattern of marine water circulation.

South Central Puget Sound is the economic driver of the region, and largely of the State of Washington. The region generates approximately \$165 billion in annual economic activity, comprising approximately 62% of the gross state product. Major commercial and industrial enterprises are concentrated here, including technology, aerospace, finance, insurance, health care, business and professional services,



commercial fishing, recreation, and tourism. These industries are served by international port facilities in Seattle and Tacoma, along with SeaTac international airport, Boeing Field, and passenger and freight railroad services. The region has 14,900 acres of designated manufacturing industrial centers in six locations: Ballard Interbay, Duwamish, North Tukwila, Auburn/Kent, Overlake, and the Port of Tacoma. Water supply for most of the population of the area is provided by the City of Seattle and the City of Tacoma, through their operations on the Cedar and Green Rivers, respectively.

Following the adoption of the Growth Management Act in the 1990s, land use strategies have been somewhat effective in containing sprawl, as more than 93% of the growth in King County since 1996 has been concentrated within the designated urban growth boundary. Significant tracts of commercial forest and agriculture remain in the eastern and southeastern portions of the area. There are many challenges in trying to retain habitat features and natural amenities while trying to accommodate a projected 800,000 new residents to this area in the next 20 -25 years.

In general, the residents of the South Central Action Area are remarkably informed and engaged citizens. There is a high level of volunteerism and civic engagement with many agencies and local NGOs are able to benefit from the resources and knowledge base of the public for assistance with on-the-ground projects and public process for furthering recovery.

### **Unique ecosystem characteristics and assets**

The varied ports and waterways of South Central Puget Sound have made it an international shipping center for regional and national industries, natural resource extraction (logging, fisheries, mining), and agricultural products. Urban estuaries support many small marine, ship building/repair, and industrial enterprises. Public transportation to Kitsap County and Vashon Island is provided by the Washington State Ferry System and other vessel traffic consists of passenger ferries, fishing boats, research vessels, small recreational craft, and cruise ships. Recreation spots include Lakes Washington, Sammamish, and Tapps; Puget Sound beaches such as Alki Beach in West Seattle, Seahurst in Burien, and Pt. Defiance in Tacoma; and along the Mountain to Sound Greenway along Interstate 90, the middle Green River, and the White River above Enumclaw. The headwaters of the major rivers in this area are protected through

their status as parklands managed by the National Park Service, wilderness areas managed by the USDA Forest Service, and the headwater source areas of the water supplies of Seattle and Tacoma.

The federal listing of Puget Sound Chinook was the first time a threatened species listing for salmon had occurred in such an urban environment. Despite the extensive urbanization of South Central Puget Sound, Chinook salmon and other salmon species spawn in the major rivers and lakes. Unique salmon populations include the spring run of White River Chinook, Issaquah Creek and Cedar River summer and fall Chinook, Lake Sammamish Kokanee, and Lake Washington Sockeye. The Green River is one of the top ten Steelhead rivers in Washington and supports substantial natural and hatchery populations of salmon. Bull trout, Rainbow and Coastal cutthroat trout, and Coho, Chum, and Pink salmon are also present in some of the river systems. Strong community efforts and watershed partnerships are directed at salmon recovery throughout the area, and many restoration programs are regionally financed. While other fish, wildlife, and bird communities are abundant in undeveloped portions of the action area, those species that coexist well with humans are generally present in the urban sectors.

## Local Action Agenda Process

The South Central Local Integrating Organization (LIO), known as the Action Area Caucus Group, spent nearly a year working through the 144 soundwide actions in the 2008 Action Agenda, discussing how actions translate to local watersheds and the larger South Central Puget Sound area. The Caucus Group identified a top tier of actions and then developed more specific action plans for the priority actions.

The Caucus Group involved the participation of member groups, ad hoc work groups, and significant help from both policy and technical staff of member organizations to identify the threats and pressures most significant to the South Central Action Area. Final outcomes were discussed in meetings of the entire Caucus Group, and the information below was officially transmitted to the Puget Sound Partnership at the October 2011 meeting of the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

## Key Threats/Pressures

The South Central Action Area Caucus Group has identified four priority issues to address key pressures on the South Central Puget Sound ecosystem. The priority issues include:

- Land development
- Shoreline alteration
- Stormwater
- Loss of floodplain function

The South Central Action Area Caucus Group also identified five priority ecosystem pressures to address that are of specific importance to the South Central Puget Sound. The priority pressures include:

- Dams, levees, and tidegates
- Toxics and legacy contaminants
- Toxics and excess nutrients in the marketplace

- Habitat conversion
- Climate change

## Opportunities, Priorities and Near Term Actions

In addition to the priority pressures identified for the South Central Puget Sound area and the local contributions to the Action Agenda ecosystem targets, the South Central Action Area Caucus Group also developed key themes and recommendations that are fundamental to the strategies and near term actions described in greater detail below. The key themes and recommendations from the Caucus Group are:

- Local land use and environmental standards are essential for habitat protection and there is a need for better alignment between state standards and the targets being set for Puget Sound recovery;
- To effectively deal with pressures and threats, desired outcome and actions will have to be tailored to land uses and development patterns while working toward a Soundwide target;
- There needs to be a more concerted effort to effectively advocate for federal and state funding (including preserving current funding) for salmon recovery. In addition, there is a need for an integrated funding strategy for Puget Sound with salmon recovery and stormwater as central elements. The strategy should also be aligned with land use and regulatory changes; and
- To successfully advocate for state and federal funding for stormwater investments in Puget Sound, there needs to be a more refined assessment of total need and priorities across the region for retrofits, operation and maintenance, and source control.

The South Central Action Area Caucus Group identified ten priority strategies, as listed below (in alphabetical order). The ten priority strategies were honed from a more comprehensive list of strategies that were all considered important in addressing the local pressures.

- A. Acquire and/or Protect high-value habitat and land at immediate risk of conversion
- B. Change Shoreline Management Act (SMA) statutes and regulations to limit residential shoreline armoring and overwater coverage, and promote “green” shoreline replacements
- C. Develop a strategic funding proposal for habitat restoration and protection priorities
- D. Fund and implement stormwater retrofits to improve operations/maintenance of existing stormwater infrastructure
- E. Implement salmon recovery habitat protection and restoration recommendations
- F. Incorporate low impact development (LID) requirements into stormwater codes and develop and implement LID incentives
- G. Keep toxics and excess nutrients out of the waste stream
- H. Restore floodplains to recreate ecosystem function
- I. Restore and protect Local Toxics Control Account funding under the Model Toxics Control Account (MTCA)
- J. Work with local governments to develop and implement policies and regulations that advance Action Agenda implementation

The South Central Action Area Caucus Group also identified eight near term actions to support the strategies. They include:

NEAR TERM ACTIONS	RELATED LOCAL STRATEGY	POSSIBLE LEAD GOVERNMENT, AGENCY, AND/OR ORGANIZATION	PROPOSED PERFORMANCE MEASURE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)
<p><b>Policy Alignment</b>            a. Seek better alignment of state standards for stormwater, Shoreline Master Programs, and floodplain development regulations with Soundwide targets and Action Agenda priorities</p> <p>b. Review and align local policies and regulations with targets and Action Agenda priorities.</p> <p>c. Work w/ federal and state govts at a watershed scale to integrate current and future investments for Clean Water Act compliance (e.g. Superfund Clean-up, CSOs, NPDES), with habitat restoration, to maximize benefits; Work with agencies to increase funding sources.</p>	J	<p>a. PSP coordinates w/state agencies</p> <p>b. PSP coordinates through the caucus</p> <p>c. PSP, legislature, Governor, Environmental groups, local governments, WRIAs</p>	<p>c. More unified approach by PSP and the region in seeking funding for habitat, stormwater, and Puget Sound protection.</p>	<p><b>Policy Alignment</b>            a. Seek better alignment of state standards for stormwater, Shoreline Master Programs, and floodplain development regulations with Soundwide targets and Action Agenda priorities</p> <p>b. Review and align local policies and regulations with targets and Action Agenda priorities.</p> <p>c. Work w/ federal and state govts at a watershed scale to integrate current and future investments for Clean Water Act compliance (e.g. Superfund Clean-up, CSOs, NPDES), with habitat restoration, to maximize benefits; Work with agencies to increase funding sources.</p>
<p><b>Salmon Recovery and Floodplains</b>            Implement highest priority salmon recovery habitat protection and restoration recommendations from WRIA 8, 9 and 10 three-year work plans:</p>	E, C, H	Salmon Recovery lead entities	Regional salmon recovery metrics (possible examples include: acres restored, linear feet of stream or	SRFB/PSAR, Conservation District, Conservation Futures, mitigation, EPA Puget Sound Restoration and

NEAR TERM ACTIONS	RELATED LOCAL STRATEGY	POSSIBLE LEAD GOVERNMENT, AGENCY, AND/OR ORGANIZATION	PROPOSED PERFORMANCE MEASURE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)
<p>For Floodplain Restoration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop concept and preliminary strategy</li> <li>• Conduct economic analysis, including ecosystem goods and services</li> <li>• Ensure integration with floodplain acquisition and restoration plans.</li> </ul>			<p>shoreline restored, fish passage barriers removed, etc.)</p> <p>To what extent are WRIA plan recommendations being implemented? Monitoring and adaptive management strategies</p> <p>Floodplain acres restored; linear feet of levee setback, fish use</p>	<p>Protection funds plus possible additional funding sources</p>
<p><b>Habitat at Risk</b></p> <p>Acquire and/or protect high-value habitat and land at immediate risk of conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize existing information from adopted plans; assess; consult plans (etc); create and implement a strategy</li> <li>• Provide increased funding for acquisition of high-value habitat at immediate risk of conversion</li> </ul>	A	Local governments, NGOs (e.g. Forterra)	Acres acquired/protected (add #)	SRFB/PSAR, transfer of development rights (TDR), Conservation Futures, Conservation Districts, NGO land acquisition funds; FEMA for frequently flooded; DOE's flood hazard
<p><b>Sustainable Funding for Watersheds</b></p> <p>Seek to establish sustainable funding sources and authorities for watershed restoration and protection priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-WRIA discussions of funding need and review of potential mechanisms</li> </ul>	C	WRIAs, watershed groups	Number of partners supporting funding proposal (including business interests)	Need legislative approval of local authorities that are better matched to an integrated, watershed approach to habitat, stormwater, and water quality.
<p><b>"Green" Shorelines</b></p> <p>Implement "green" shoreline replacements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote green shoreline BMPs,</li> </ul>	B	Local jurisdictions NGO's	# of property owners willing to restore shoreline; linear	Ecology, PSAR, Conservation Districts

NEAR TERM ACTIONS	RELATED LOCAL STRATEGY	POSSIBLE LEAD GOVERNMENT, AGENCY, AND/OR ORGANIZATION	PROPOSED PERFORMANCE MEASURE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)
incentives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund/implement shoreline restoration plans</li> </ul>			feet of armoring removed or “green” /soft shoreline installed)	
<b>Stormwater Management</b> a. Fund and implement municipal Stormwater Management Programs (SWMPs) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structural stormwater retrofits</li> <li>O&amp;M of existing stormwater infrastructure</li> <li>Source control (e.g., business inspections, education &amp; outreach)</li> <li>Incorporation of LID requirements into stormwater codes</li> <li>Development and implementation of LID incentives</li> <li>Incentives for business to help</li> </ul> b. Identify and analyze funding mechanisms c. Advocate for ongoing funding for retrofits and operations.	D, F	Legislature, Ecology, Local Jurisdictions, NGOs	\$s allocated annually to support SWMPs – both retrofit and operations and maintenance funding  Number of successful stormwater projects implemented  # Jurisdictions with LID requirements in stormwater codes	Legislature/Ecology, Federal/EPA/National Estuary Program
<b>“True” Source Control</b> Develop Puget Sound wide effort for source control (i.e., product management, control; e.g., copper in brake pads legislation)	G	PSP/Ecology  Local governments	Regional organization addressing(e.g., similar to ‘Green Chemistry’ in CA)	Legislature/Ecology, Federal/EPA/National Estuary Program
<b>Funding for Remediation of Toxic Sites</b> Restore and protect Local Toxics Account under Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) to continue cleanup and remediation of toxic sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate legislators about the importance of assuring adequate state funding is available to move remedial actions forward</li> </ul>	I	Legislature/Ecology/Governor/PSP – plus other interests such as ports, cities, counties, environmental community, some parts of the business community	DOE is able to provide an appropriate level of state match to approved Remedial Action Grant projects. LTCA is protected for its intended	Fee on existing toxics, including petroleum products.

NEAR TERM ACTIONS	RELATED LOCAL STRATEGY	POSSIBLE LEAD GOVERNMENT, AGENCY, AND/OR ORGANIZATION	PROPOSED PERFORMANCE MEASURE	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCE(S)
in a timely manner.			statutory purposes.	

## Link to Recovery Targets

For the Soundwide pressure reduction targets (land development, wastewater, shoreline alteration, and stormwater), the South Central Action Area Caucus Group identified related local issues and opportunities to help reduce the pressure.

PRESSURE REDUCTION TARGET CATEGORY	LOCAL ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES
<b>Land Development</b>	<p>Residential, commercial, port and shipyard development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat Loss/High-value habitat conversion (from historic conditions, including loss of forest cover); Reduced large woody debris and carbon inputs to stream systems; Loss of storage in wetlands; Reduction in habitat resilience; Degradation and loss of topsoil/duff layer</li> <li>Floodplain development impairs ecological function</li> <li>Watershed alteration that causes flooding, erosion, and polluted runoff</li> <li>Local governments influence land development through their comprehensive land use plans, zoning, stormwater regulations, shoreline master programs, critical areas regulations, and incentives for protection of resource lands, open space, and habitat.</li> <li>State agencies play a role in setting standards for/reviewing these plans and regulations. Federal agencies (Corps, FEMA and NOAA) also play a role in setting standards that affect land development, including floodplain development and wetland mitigation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watershed-based salmon recovery plans have identified highest priority habitat areas for protection</li> <li>Development of best practices/model policies or regulations</li> <li>Update land use policies and regulations updates (e.g., SMPs, CAOs, etc.) to support habitat restoration and protection priorities in existing plans</li> <li>Ensure that agriculture and working forest land are maintained as economically viable</li> <li>Reform vesting law to be at time of permit issuance</li> <li>Local jurisdictions work to sunset permits in areas vulnerable to conversion; Avoid re-extension of vesting rights</li> <li>“Frequently flooded” land buyout</li> <li>State agencies can more explicitly link standards for land use comprehensive plans, Shoreline Master Program updates, stormwater regulations, local flood plans, and floodplain development regulations to targets for Puget Sound recovery (i.e., what standards or actions need to be present in local SMPs if we are going to meet the targets for shoreline armoring?)</li> <li>PSP, state agencies and local governments can develop and share best practices/model for policies, regulations, Transfer of Development Rights, and tax incentive</li> </ul>

PRESSURE REDUCTION TARGET CATEGORY	LOCAL ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In some cases, local ability to modify land development practices is limited by “vesting” of development rights under old standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>programs (e.g., PBRs).</li> <li>Identify areas where vested development regulations most limit capacity to meet recovery targets. Use targeted purchase of development rights, tax incentives to reduce number of parcels likely to develop under old standards. Local governments can tighten standards for re-extension of vesting rights. State should consider reform of vesting law.</li> <li>The Corps and DOE are about to approve King and Pierce counties’ framework for “fee-in-lieu” of wetland stream mitigation. This provides a possible model for other jurisdictions around the Sound.</li> </ul>
<b>Shoreline Alteration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential shoreline armoring and overwater structures (including residential conversion to bulkheads, estuary hardening, and issues related to railroad mainline(bulkhead) maintenance)</li> <li>Lack of adequately protective regulatory updates and enforcement; No clear path forward for local jurisdictions struggling to address shoreline armoring</li> <li>Land use practices and regulations in conflict with environmental goals, including lack of enforcement regulations</li> <li>Local governments influence shoreline armoring and construction of overwater structures through their Shoreline and critical areas regulations, Shoreline Master program restoration plans, zoning, investments in shoreline acquisition and restoration, and technical assistance to land owners</li> <li>DOE sets standards/reviews SMP updates</li> <li>Local governments need support, guidance, funding to better align local SMPs with meeting Puget Sound recovery targets</li> <li>While models for “green” shoreline development are being developed in freshwater environments, more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote “green” shoreline techniques for property owners (lead by WRIA 8)</li> <li>Leverage current SMP updates</li> <li>Clear definition of no-net-loss provision for SMP updates</li> <li>Legislative change in State Shoreline regulations (that makes armoring an allowed accessory use to a single family residence)</li> <li>Critical Area Ordinance updates</li> <li>Salmon Recovery Plans-specifically the 3 year plans</li> <li>Pursue watershed based analysis of habitat needs – from mountains to the Sound</li> <li>Change in State HPA requirements</li> <li>Implementation of Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program recommended projects</li> <li>Shoreline Acquisition and Protection Projects (Snohomish, King, Pierce counties)</li> <li>PSP and DOE can more explicitly link standards for Shoreline Master Program updates to targets for Puget Sound recovery (i.e., what standards or actions need to be present in local SMPs if we are going to meet the target for shoreline armoring?)</li> <li>Many local governments have either recently updated/or are in the process of updating their plans. PSP and DOE can support local update efforts by highlighting examples of actions and standards that will further PSP recovery targets.</li> <li>PSP and action agenda can reference and</li> </ul>

PRESSURE REDUCTION TARGET CATEGORY	LOCAL ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES
	examples along saltwater shoreline would facilitate more wide-spread adoption	seek federal and state funding for "restoration" elements of local SMPs
<b>Stormwater</b>	<p>Surface water loading and runoff from the built environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater retrofits</li> <li>• Stormwater infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>• Habitat conversion from historic conditions, including loss of vegetative cover and duff</li> <li>• Disruption of natural hydrologic regimes, due to land conversion to impervious surfaces; asphalted and realigned stream channels; and native vegetation removal</li> <li>• Local governments influence stormwater runoff through their land use and zoning, stormwater regulations and design standards, zoning, clearing standards, public outreach, monitoring maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, and capital investments in new facilities/facility retrofits.</li> <li>• State and federal agencies set minimum standards for stormwater regulations and monitoring. PSP has identified a significant unmet need for stormwater retrofits and removal of legacy loads.</li> <li>• Upcoming NPDES permit likely to include new requirements for Low Impact Development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low Impact Development</li> <li>• Puget Sound Partnership work with several local governments to develop and integrate LID into local codes (fully implement requirements of Phase I and II NPDES permits(including LID requirements)); link standards to targets for Puget Sound recovery</li> <li>• Mitigation: improve working relationship with WSDOT on stormwater issues</li> <li>• WSU is beginning to look at a more natural drainage approach to address multiple opportunities around naturally managing stormwater</li> <li>• Groundwater management plans (Pierce)</li> <li>• Port Redevelopment Plans?</li> <li>• Watershed Action Plans</li> <li>• Complete and implement TMDLs</li> <li>• Comprehensive Drainage Basin Plans (Pierce County)</li> <li>• Pursue watershed based municipal stormwater permits</li> <li>• Fund a preliminary needs assessment for stormwater</li> <li>• Encourage retrofit projects; seek federal and state funding support; EPA-grant funded work in local watersheds (e.g., WRIA 9) is under way and will help to provide future guidance on how to identify and prioritize retrofit needs</li> <li>• Stormwater infrastructure maintenance</li> <li>• Critical Areas Ordinance updates</li> <li>• Shoreline Master Program updates</li> <li>• "Foil the Oil" campaign (Pierce County)</li> <li>• Clean up industrial pollution</li> <li>• Open Space and Recreation Area Plans (Pierce County)</li> <li>• Voluntary association of local governments (e.g., Sustainable Cities Roundtable) are sharing best practices</li> </ul>
<b>Wastewater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined Sewer Overflows</li> <li>• Increase in biotoxins, pathogens, and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seattle and King County improvements required under NPDES permits and</li> </ul>

PRESSURE REDUCTION TARGET CATEGORY	LOCAL ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES
	viruses	<p>federal/state water quality mandates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should look for opportunities to integrate actions in response to different mandates at a watershed scale to maximize benefits from public investments in CSOs, Superfund clean-up, source control, habitat restoration, etc.</li> <li>• Using green stormwater infrastructure to slow the flow</li> <li>• Complete and Implement TMDLs</li> <li>• Watershed Action Plans</li> </ul>
<b>Loss of Floodplain Function</b>	<p>Habitat Loss; Dams and Levees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Levee vegetation maintenance</li> <li>• National Flood Insurance Program and the Endangered Species Act</li> <li>• Floodplain Regulations (e.g. SMP, FEMA NFIP compliance)</li> <li>• Agriculture and salmon recovery seen as competitors for ecologically significant/ highly productive land</li> <li>• Impacts of recreational safety concerns and policies on floodplain restoration efforts for salmon recovery and flood management</li> <li>• Habitat conversion from historic conditions, including loss of forest cover and natural floodplain functions; reduced large and woody debris and carbon inputs to stream systems; loss of storage in wetlands; reduction in habitat resilience change in hydraulic regime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watershed-based salmon habitat restoration and protection projects (Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, etc.)</li> <li>• Regional forum to discuss and recommend a regional variance to the Army Corps of Engineers levee vegetation maintenance standard</li> <li>• EPA Ecosystem Restoration and Protection grants</li> <li>• Allow for agriculture and working forest uses that are not detrimental to floodplain function or salmon recovery options</li> <li>• FEMA and NOAA provide clarity and assistance to jurisdictions for compliance with the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program</li> <li>• Develop approaches that balance river recreational safety with implementation of floodplain restoration project priorities</li> <li>• Prevent development in floodplains</li> <li>• Critical Areas Ordinance updates</li> <li>• Shoreline Master Program Updates</li> <li>• “Frequently flooded” land buyout</li> <li>• Construction of setback levees</li> </ul>

Of the ecosystem targets identified in the broader Action Agenda update, the South Sound LIO identified those that are of particular local interest to the region as well as local contributions to the targets. These include:

ECOSYSTEM TARGETS OF LOCAL INTEREST	LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUNDWIDE RECOVERY
Floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of riparian and floodplain restoration and protection priorities from watershed salmon recovery plans (measured by acres restored or protected)</li> <li>• Participation in efforts to obtain regional variance to Army Corps of Engineers levee vegetation maintenance policy</li> <li>• Sharing local approaches for updating floodplain development regulations for consistency with FEMA biological opinion.</li> <li>• Opportunity to engage new/emerging farming community of small-scale, direct marketing farms in practices (and marketing efforts) that achieve win-win outcomes (e.g., Salmon Safe farm labeling)</li> </ul>
Shoreline Armoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing nearshore restoration priorities in watershed salmon recovery plans (measured by linear feet of armoring removed and/or habitat restored)</li> <li>• Local jurisdictions updating shoreline master programs to guide shoreline land use, development regulations and restoration.</li> <li>• Federal, state and local governments jointly seeking funding to implement shoreline restoration elements of local SMPs</li> <li>• Green Shorelines Steering Committee in WRIA 8 serving as multi-agency group working to increase awareness, acceptance, and implementation of green shorelines alternative to armored shorelines in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish</li> </ul>
Freshwater Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green stormwater infrastructure projects</li> </ul>
Summer Stream Flows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green stormwater infrastructure projects</li> </ul>
Water Insects in Freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green stormwater infrastructure</li> <li>• Creek restoration projects</li> <li>• Protection of existing high-quality riparian areas</li> </ul>

## Local Implementation Structure

The South Central Action Area contains well-functioning, coordinated efforts to restore habitat, protect habitat, and reduce water pollution. To build on and support the work of existing groups and to improve action area communication, coordination, and integration among these different efforts, a small, broadly inclusive caucus group was identified to help refine and confirm action area priorities using input from constituents. The South Central Action Area Caucus Group also helps identify opportunities to improve local coordination and integration of Puget Sound recovery efforts and update and inform the action area representative to the Ecosystem Coordination Board. In 2010, the Caucus Group was recognized by the Puget Sound Partnership’s Leadership Council as the Local Integrating Organization for the South Central Action Area.

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### IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION IN SOUTH CENTRAL

The South Central Action Area Caucus Group is composed of elected officials and staff from key implementer groups, including local jurisdictions, watershed groups, tribes, business, and non-governmental organizations.

Meetings of the Caucus Group are held regularly in the Renton City Hall Council Chambers, often in close proximity to an Ecosystem Coordination Board Meeting.

Participants in the Caucus Group included the following:

- King and Pierce counties
- Cities of Seattle, Tacoma, and Bellevue
- Suburban Cities Association of King County (City of Black Diamond and City of Kenmore)
- Pierce County Cities and Towns Association (City of Fife)
- Ports of Seattle and Tacoma
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- Public Health – Seattle and King County
- Tacoma – Pierce County Health Department
- WRIA 8 (Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed) Salmon Recovery Council
- WRIA 9 (Green/Duwamish Watershed) Ecosystem Forum
- WRIA 10/12 (Puyallup/White and Chambers Clover Watershed) Citizen Advisory Committee
- Environmental constituency (Citizens for a Healthy Bay and Cascade Land Conservancy)
- Agricultural constituency (WSU King County Extension)
- Business constituency (Boeing and Tacoma Chamber of Commerce)
- Puget Sound Regional Council
- Puget Sound Partnership (state agencies rep)

## References and Additional Resources

*To be listed*