

Foster Collaborative Partnerships (Draft, October 12, 2011)

Effective implementation of the ongoing activities and new actions identified in Sections A, B and C requires collective action. No one interest or sector holds the key that will advance and lift ecosystem recovery. This section of the Action Agenda presents overarching strategies, ongoing programs and near-term actions for the greater collective work of the Puget Sound region. This work entails coordination across partner interests, leading edge approaches to behavior change and stewardship, as well as coordinated ecosystem monitoring.

It is important to note that many of the strategies, sub-strategies and actions in this section have significant coordination roles for the Puget Sound Partnership agency. These programs are included in this section because they include and depend on the efforts of many partners. The Partnership specific roles and actions are in the Partnership Section of the Action Agenda.

D1. Foster collaborative partnerships across partner interests and sectors to advance implementation

D.1.1 Continue to improve, support and advance the coordination of local recovery actions via local integrating organizations.

Puget Sound is large and diverse in terms of the natural system and human communities, and many watershed-based programs exist around Puget Sound. The Partnership embraces an overall ecosystem approach with nested watershed approaches as the way to solve and manage the complex resource problems facing Puget Sound. Many locally-based groups exist for salmon recovery, marine resources, watershed management (RCW 90.82) and protection, and water quality. The number of watershed and local groups working on problems is quite large and the Partnership is working with local interests to build on the existing work, create a more efficient and effective approach to address problems, and provide technical services.

The Partnership's authorizing statute (RCW 90.71.260) created seven action areas to help organize the work of protecting and restoring Puget Sound. In some cases such as Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the action area is a useful scale for defining working boundaries. In other cases, the action area is too large geographically, or too diverse, and a more watershed-based approach is needed. Local Integrating Organizations have been or are being formed to serve as a coordinating body for Action Agenda implementation.

Local integrating organizations, also referred to as LIOs, provide a mechanism for the Puget Sound Partnership and others to work directly, in a coordinated way, with local communities to help prioritize actions and implement the Action Agenda. In response to the 2008 Action Agenda call for improved

coordination of implementation at the local level, LIOs were formed. These are coordinating bodies, helping to integrate and advance efforts from various entities in each action area. The broad goals and expectations of LIOs are to provide input to the update of the Action Agenda, coordinate implementation discussions and priorities, and help assess and report progress at the local level.

D.1.2 Focus collective partner implementation efforts advance implementation of multiple needs.

Implementation across the interests and expertise of government sectors and interests is needed to advance implementation. This entails both bringing individual interests to solving particular problems, as well as setting aside individual interests to act collectively.

This section needs to be further developed.

D.1.3 Integrate and coordinate Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts with related work in Canada and along the west coast.

Puget Sound is part of the Salish Sea that encompasses the Puget Sound of the United States and Georgia Basin of Canada. Many pressures facing the Puget Sound ecosystem must be addressed on both sides of the border at the same time. Those pressures include invasive species, wastewater, polluted runoff, air pollution, and climate change. Puget Sound recovery efforts are bolstered by close collaboration with our Canadian partners on scientific investigations, planning, and action implementation.

Puget Sound is also intricately related physically and politically to the Pacific Ocean. There are many collaborative efforts on the west coast focused on ocean health that can and do contribute to Puget Sound ecosystem recovery efforts.

Canada: Relations between Canada and the United States federal natural resource agencies is guided by a Statement of Cooperation¹ (SOC) between Environment Canada and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The SOC has a two-year work plan that guides collaborative work.² Relations between the Province of British Columbia and Washington State is guided by an agreement signed by the Premier and Governor that created an Environmental Coordination Council.³ The Coastal and Oceans Task Force was created to enhance collaboration between the state and province on ocean health. The Partnership and the provincial Ministry of the Environment have been working with the SOC workgroup to merge the state/provincial work plan on transboundary marine restoration efforts with the federal level plan to the extent possible. Elements of that work plan may be incorporated into topic-specific strategies in the Action Agenda.

West Coast. There are numerous on-going efforts to coordinate marine restoration efforts on the west coast of the United States. These include, but are not limited to:

¹ Provide accurate cite and link to document.

² Provide cite and link.

³ Cite and copy agreement.

- State Ocean Caucus: The Department of Ecology convenes representatives from state agencies that play a role in the management of coastal areas.
- West Coast Governor’s Agreement: The WCGA establishes a framework for collaboration between Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska on a variety of issues including ocean health. The Department of Ecology also leads these coordination efforts.
- The Pacific Coast Collaborative: similar to the West Coast Governor’s Agreement and includes the Province of British Columbia..

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- Collaboration with Canadian federal and provincial governmental agencies on Salish Sea science and management activities. Specifically, this includes:
 - Collaboration with Canada to host the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Washington in 2013. The Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference is widely recognized as critical to collaboration on science and policy issues related to Salish Sea recovery. It is the primary conduit for coordination and collaboration between Washington State and British Columbia. It is also important to scientists and policy makers working on Puget Sound issues without a transboundary component. Each conference has a strong first nations/tribal component and is therefore vital for the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and values into ecosystem recovery efforts. (EPA)
 - Adoption of federal-state-provincial transboundary work plan and meet regularly to coordinate implementation of actions. (PSP, EPA)
 - Inviting a Canadian representative to participate as an ad hoc member of the ECB and one to participate as an ad hoc member of the science panel to improve coordinated transboundary management efforts. (PSP) [Is this supported?](#)
- Continued participation in the state-wide State Ocean Caucus and coordination among the West Coast Governor’s Agreement state leads as needed to learn from other efforts, to transfer knowledge about Puget Sound experience, and to collaborate on building capacity in the region for ecosystem recovery efforts..

D.1.4 Engage and coordinate diverse members and expertise of the scientific community to provide the scientific information that will inform and advance Puget Sound recovery.

Enlisting and coordinating the diverse members and expertise of the scientific community to provide the scientific information that will inform and advance Puget Sound recovery is a key strategy for increasing the effectiveness of the Action Agenda strategies. This section presents an approach for convening, coordinating and enlisting the scientific community to focus on identifying scientific priorities and developing the scientific tool and structure to inform decisions.

The scientific community within the Puget Sound, Pacific Northwest, and nationally are resources to this strategy. Key resources for implementing this strategy include 1) Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel, which oversees, guides, and assesses this strategy, 2) The Puget Sound Institute at the University of Washington, which brings together scientists and engineers from different agencies and institutions in an independent think-tank environment to work with policy makers on critical issues in the restoration and protection, and 3) the expertise and capacity of the scientific staff throughout the Puget

Sound region, including the Puget Sound Partnership. The Puget Sound Partnership's role in convening and foster this engagement is in PSP Section xx.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- The Partnership Science Program activities to work with the scientific community to develop and adapt a strategic approach for identifying and prioritizing science that focuses on the key decision-critical physical, ecological, and social uncertainties that hinder efforts to protect and recover the Puget Sound
- Implementation of the multi-discipline, stakeholder-based coordinated ecosystem monitoring program (See Section D.7 and PSP Section xx)
- The Puget Sound Institute at the University of Washington.

D.1.5 Continue to explore and implement creative ways to offer and share technical expertise across sectors and interests.

Long-term ecosystem recovery is complex and will continue to require innovation in how the Puget Sound region approaches and solves problems. Loaned staff, executive programs, issue-specific think tanks, or centers for excellence are ideas that should be considered where needed.

Near Term Action Proposals

D1. NTA 1: By April 2012, x number of LIOs will have identified their local priorities for inclusion in the 2011 Action Agenda update

D1. NTA 2: By 201x, x number of LIOs will implement agreed upon work plans and report at least semi-annually to the Partnership on achieving the work plan goals