

February 1, 2012

Chris Townsend, Program Director: Planning and Policy
Puget Sound Partnership
326 East D Street
Tacoma, WA 98421

Re: Draft Action Agenda Update

Dear Mr. Townsend,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Action Agenda Update. At our meeting on January 26, 2012, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (Council) discussed the draft document. This letter provides you with initial input from the Council as a whole; member organizations intend to submit detailed comments.

The Council supports the idea of identifying strategic initiatives in the draft Action Agenda Update, to assist the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) with targeting its efforts. We understand that these strategic initiatives are still under development.

The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council strongly urges you to include implementing the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan (Recovery Plan) as a strategic initiative in the 2012 Action Agenda. We believe this is wise for several reasons:

- Salmon recovery is Puget Sound recovery. The two are intertwined.
- The Recovery Plan is a regional plan based firmly in science. It contains chapters for restoring each watershed in Puget Sound, plus the nearshore, to health. Scientists vetted the Recovery Plan, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adopted it.
- Communities throughout the region are actively participating in implementing the Recovery Plan.
- In short, we believe that including implementing the Recovery Plan as a strategic initiative will help the Partnership achieve its goals efficiently and effectively, and carry out its responsibility to implement the Recovery Plan.

We suggest that there are at least two options for accommodating our request. First, you could clearly define the Habitat Protection initiative to include full implementation of the Recovery Plan, including the full spectrum of integrated solutions. Or, you could develop implementation of the Recovery Plan as a separate and fourth strategic initiative.

We also suggest including implementation of each watershed's three-year work plan as a near-term action. Like the Recovery Plan, each watershed's three-year work plan is developed by a multi-stakeholder watershed group and vetted by local scientists. These work plans represent the priorities for action in each watershed around Puget Sound, and if implemented, will help achieve multiple objectives consistent with Action Agenda priorities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at troutt.david@nisqually-nsn.gov or (360) 349-2390 to discuss these comments. Thanks again for the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Troutt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Troutt
Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council

Cc: Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
Watershed Leads
Recovery Implementation Technical Team
Recovery Council interested parties