

Action Agenda Costs Estimating Report and State Budget Development April 30, 2010

Background

The Partnership's enabling statute requires the Leadership Council to undertake significant responsibilities related to performance management and accountability.

To meet these requirements the Partnership began developing a performance framework in 2009 using the Open Standards for Conservation. Many stakeholders, including tribes, government agencies, and interest groups participated in development and review of interim work products. The Partnership also collected financial information on state agency estimated budgets to implement Near Term Actions in the Action Agenda as it completed the 2009 State of the Sound report.

Under RCW 90.71.320, state agencies responsible for implementing the Action Agenda are to provide to the Partnership by June 1 of each even-numbered year their estimates of the actions and the budget needed in the forthcoming biennium to implement their portion of the Action Agenda. This requirement was established to provide the Governor, Legislature and the public an accurate estimate of agencies costs to implement the Action Agenda in the next biennium.

In addition, state agencies are also required to work with the Partnership in developing biennial budget requests to achieve consistency with the Action Agenda and to be submitted to the Governor for consideration in the biennial budget process. Agencies are required to seek the concurrence of the Partnership in the proposed funding levels and sources included in their proposed budget.

The Partnership's Leadership Council is also required by RCW 90.71.370 to submit by September 1, 2010 to the Governor and Legislature recommendations for the funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda in the succeeding biennium. This report is to:

1. Identify funding needed by Near Term Action,
2. Address funding responsibilities among, local state and federal governments as well as nongovernmental funding; and
3. Provide funding needed to support the work of the Partnership, Leadership Council, ECB, and Science Panel.

Finally, if a state agency submits an amount different than that included in its cost estimate to implement the Action Agenda in its biennial budget request, the Partnership and state agency shall jointly identify the differences and the reason for this differences and present this information to the Office of Financial Management by October 1, 2010.

Workplan

To complete this work PSP would undertake four activities:

1. Develop guidelines and coordinate state agency Action Agenda costs estimates.
2. Work with state agencies, federal agencies and local partners to develop cost estimates for Action Agenda Near Term Actions with a focus on high priority threats They include: 1) Shoreline Alteration, 2) Surface water run-off (try to distinguish urban versus rural), 3) Residential, industrial and commercial development (land cover protection), 4) dams, levees and tidegates (estuarine restoration focus), 5) wastewater treatment plant discharges, 6) onsite septic discharges, 7) marine invasive species, and 8) water withdrawal and diversion.
3. Complete by September 1, 2010 the cost estimates for implementing the Action Agenda in the 2011-13 Biennium.
4. Coordinate with the Natural Resource subcabinet and individual state agencies budget requests related to the Action Agenda for the 2011-13 Biennium.

To meet these statutory requirements the following actions and timeline is proposed.

April 12, 2010 – PSP staff discuss cost estimating guidance at State Caucus meeting.

April 26, 2010 – Transmit Action Agenda costs estimating guidance to state agencies.

April 29, 2010 – Discuss requirements with **Federal Caucus Executives**

April 29, 2010 – Discuss requirements at **Natural Resource Agency cabinet**

May 2010 – David Dicks and PSP staff meet with state agency directors and federal agency regional administrator to discuss proposed budget requests and accomplishments for the 2011-13 Biennium.

May 6, 2010 – Discuss process to involve **Ecosystem Coordinating Board (ECB)** members in developing the costs for state agency, local government and federal agency funding to implement the Action Agenda in the 2011-13 biennium for high priority threats.

June 1, 2010 – State agencies submit cost estimates to implement the Action Agenda for the 2011-13 Biennium to the Partnership.

June 4, 2010 - Federal agencies submit cost estimates to implement the Action Agenda for the 2011-13 Biennium to the Partnership.

June 24, 2010 - Discuss requirements at **Natural Resource Agency Cabinet**

June - July 2010 - David Dicks and PSP staff meet with state agency directors and fiscal staff to reach agreement between the agency and PSP on proposed agency budget requests.

July 2, 2010 – Complete draft report on recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on cost to implement the Action Agenda for the 2011-13 Biennium. Submit to state agencies and other partners for review.

July 12, 2010 – Discuss state agency comments on cost estimates with State Caucus.

July 15, 2010 – Discuss state agency, local partners and federal agency comments and identify gaps on cost estimates with the **ECB**.

July 16, 2010 – Close comments on draft cost estimate reports.

July 21, 2010 – Submit draft report on funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda in the 2011-13 Biennium to the **Leadership Council**.

July 29-30, 2010 – **Leadership Council** approve submittal report on funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda in the 2011-13 Biennium.

August 13, 2010 – Complete funding report and submit to OFM and the Governor's Policy Office for review and approval.

September 1, 2010 – Submit recommendations to the Governor and legislative fiscal committees for the funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda for the 2011-13 Biennium.

September 1, 2010 (tentative) – State agencies submit biennial budget request to OFM. State agencies submit copies of Puget Sound decision packages and capital budget request to the Partnership.

September 2010 – Meet with state agencies to finalize rationale for differences between agency budget request and Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda funding recommendations.

September 10, 2010 – Brief **ECB** on report on funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda in the 2011-13 Biennium. Discuss differences between estimate of funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda and state agency budget requests.

September 16-17 – Discuss with **Leadership Council** differences between estimate of funding necessary to implement the Action Agenda and state agency budget requests.

October 1, 2010 – PSP and each state agency submit joint letter identifying reasons for differences between agency budget request and Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda funding recommendations.

December 20, 2010 – Governor submits 2011-13 biennial budget requests to the Legislature.