

# PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

## Agenda Item Briefing Sheet

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**Meeting Date:** September 21, 2007

**Agenda Item:** Action Area Boundary Decision

**Staff Contact:** David Dicks, Executive Director

**Presenter(s):** David Dicks, Executive Director

**Action Requested:** Adopt the staff recommendation for the Action Area delineation in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal Areas.

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### **Background:**

At the Council's August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Leadership Council adopted 5 of the 7 staff Action Areas mandated by SB 5372. The Council delayed the delineation of the Areas identified as the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal in order to have further discussions between representatives of the two areas. The Council asked the Partnership's Executive Director to meet with the various concerned parties to see if a consensus path forward could be reached.

Executive Director Dicks met with concerned parties on September 14 in Port Townsend to discuss the options and how the local entities could work together within the Action Areas. The meeting was productive and enabled many of the key interests to express the rationale for their preferred boundary line. No consensus was reached but there was wide-spread agreement within the group that from an oceanographic standpoint the Point Wilson makes the most sense. There were concerns expressed from local governments that their would be additional burdens placed on them if the Point Wilson line (as opposed to the Jefferson County line) was chosen. This was a particular concern to Port Townsend and Jefferson County. The Skokomish Tribe also expressed a preference for the Jefferson County line.

### Participants in the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting:

David Dicks, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership  
David Sullivan, County Commissioner (and WRIA 17 Lead), Jefferson County  
Randy Harder, Skokomish Tribe  
Ron Charles, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal Council  
Paul McCollum, Natural Resource Director, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Al Latham, District Manager, Jefferson Conservation District  
Judy Surber, Senior Planner, City of Port Townsend  
Steve Tharinger, Clallam County Commissioner and DRMT Chair  
Anne Murphy, Executive Director, Port Townsend Marine Science Center  
Paula Mackrow, Executive Director, North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Mark Welch, Mayor, City of Port Townsend  
Scott Chitwood, Natural Resource Director, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
Dave Herrera, Fish and Policy Director, Skokomish Tribe  
Jay Watson, Executive Director, Hood Canal Coordinating Council  
Ron Allen, Chair, Tribal Council, Jamestown S'klallam Tribe  
Michelle Sandoval, Deputy Mayor, City of Port Townsend  
John Cambalik, Regional Liaison, Puget Sound Partnership

### **Recommendation:**

It is the recommendation of staff that the Point Wilson delineation line be selected as boundary between the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca Action Areas. The staff also suggests that the Council emphasize the following in making their decision:

- The City of Port Townsend and Jefferson County are encouraged to participate in both Action Areas as they have interests and responsibilities in both;
- Capacity: investigate ways to provide the necessary capacity to local governments, tribes, and other entities to develop and implement the Action Agenda for each of the two Action Areas; and
- Inter-Boundary Partnerships: encourage partnerships and substantive improvements in regular communications and collaboration across the boundary between the various groups and processes and at all levels within each group or process (*i.e.*, elected officials and other decision makers, policy, and technical).

### **Action Requested at Today's Meeting:**

Based on the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup>, the following motion is recommended:

Move that the Council adopt the boundaries for the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal Action Areas as identified in the associated map "Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal Action Areas, September 21, 2008". It is further moved as follows:

- The Council encourages the city of Port Townsend and Jefferson County to participate in both Action Areas as they have interests in and responsibilities to both.
- Partnership staff should investigate ways to provide the necessary capacity to local governments, tribes, and other entities to participate in the development and implementation of the Action Agenda for each of the two Action Areas.
- The Council encourages partnerships and substantive improvements in regular communications and collaboration across the boundary between the various groups and processes and at all levels within each group or process (*i.e.*, elected officials and other decision makers, policy, and technical).

# **Puget Sound Partnership Proposed 2020 Action Agenda Framework September, 2007**

**Purpose:** The statute creating the Puget Sound Partnership directs the Leadership Council to adopt the 2020 Action Agenda by September 1, 2008. At the September 21, 2007 Leadership Council meeting, the Executive Director and Leadership Council will discuss:

- What is the 2020 Action Agenda?
- Recommended principles to use in developing the Action Agenda
- Timeline considerations

## **What is the 2020 Action Agenda?**

Across Puget Sound, many communities, government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and citizens are actively engaged in efforts to protect and restore Puget Sound. Implementation of existing plans and programs is critical and must continue. While implementation of these plans is likely to benefit the ecosystem, the actions may not be tailored to assure a healthy Puget Sound by 2020.

The 2020 Action Agenda will provide a system-wide perspective for setting priorities and taking action. A single, over-arching plan will ensure that we focus and coordinate our collective efforts and funding to reach the 2020 goals. This means agreeing and acting on high priority concerns and effective actions with specific tasks, responsibilities, and commitments to greatly improve accountability.

The 2020 Action Agenda will define:

1. What is a healthy Puget Sound? (Where are we going? How will we know if the ecosystem is healthy and how we should measure progress?)
2. What is the current status of Puget Sound? (Where are we now in terms of the health of Puget Sound?)
3. What do we need to do have a healthy Puget Sound (How do we get there? What key threats need to be addressed?)
4. What are the specific assignments for achieving a healthy Puget Sound? (Capital, programs, policy, and scientific actions with assignments and commitments for implementation)
5. How much will it cost to implement the Action Agenda and how will we pay for it?

The 2020 Action Agenda will serve as:

- **An overall guide to protecting, restoring, and maintaining a healthy Puget Sound.** The legislation mandates that a healthy Puget Sound has:
  - A healthy and prosperous human population supported by a healthy Puget Sound that is not threatened by changes in the ecosystem
  - A quality of life that is sustained by a functioning ecosystem
  - Healthy and sustaining populations of native species in Puget Sound, including a robust food web
  - A healthy Puget Sound where freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and maintained.
  - An ecosystem that is supported by groundwater levels as well as river and stream flow levels sufficient to sustain people, fish, and wildlife, and the natural functions of the environment
  - Fresh and marine waters and sediments of sufficient quality so that the waters in the region are safe for drinking, swimming, shellfish harvest and consumption, and other human uses and are not harmful to the native marine mammals, fish, birds, and shellfish of the region.
  
- **An agenda to manage our ecosystem holistically.** It will:
  - Define precisely what a healthy Sound would look like, and define where we are going.
  - Create one set of scientifically-based priorities and actions with assignments for implementation that are tied to measurable results in the ecosystem. All areas of the Sound are important and sub-regional priorities will nest under ecosystem priorities.
  - Improve the effectiveness of on-the-ground efforts. This could include political and/or scientific progress on challenging concerns.
  - Help build the long-term support and commitment that is needed to sustain a healthy ecosystem by significantly engaging governments, affected groups and individuals and communities in creating the Action Agenda.
  - Start key research needed to improve the certainty of our actions. This will help us successfully manage Puget Sound as an ecosystem over the long-term.
  
- **A tool to help implementers be more effective with their projects and programs.** This means supporting governments, community organizations and interests, and citizens to take effective actions and have the resources they need to do the work.

- **Living and evolutionary.** It can be improved over time as we learn more about the success of our actions and what is needed to continue to make progress so that we reach the 2020 goals.
- **Focused on effective action.** This includes identifying priority actions, making sure our resources are allocated to and focused on critical improvements, and becoming increasingly strategic over time. It also means that we keep implement existing projects and programs while we create the Action Agenda.
- **Easy to understand and practical.** The Action Agenda will be designed to be used by implementers every day, not sit on a shelf.
- **Based on science.** The role of the science is to provide information to decision makers about the certainty of actions and reducing risks of action and inaction.
- **Primarily developed from existing plans and work in progress.** This means that the Partnership will work closely with governments and tribes, watershed groups, and others who helped develop plans and programs and are implementing them.

### **Recommended principles to use in developing the Action Agenda**

The following principles should be used to help guide the development of the Action Agenda:

- **Interested parties are essential participants in the process.** Participation and broad engagement is vital for developing a high quality, well-supported Action Agenda. The diversity of interests, governments and the public should be significantly engaged in the development of the Action Agenda to:
  - Include local knowledge and experience in developing the Action Agenda.
  - Increase ownership of and enthusiasm and support for implementation and progress, as well as long-term accountability
  - Increase the ability to make decisions about priorities and resolve problems and conflicts
  - Establish credibility for the Partnership as a collaborative, inclusive entity that gets things done
  - Expand and diversify the base of public support needed over the long-term.
- **Collaboration and cooperation across sectors and interests is vital.** The Partnership will strive to encourage constructive, inclusive conversations, as well as foster creative ways to make decisions that benefit multiple needs. In addition, many public agencies and other organizations are ready to offer expert staff assistance. Harnessing this enthusiasm in a constructive way could increase ownership,

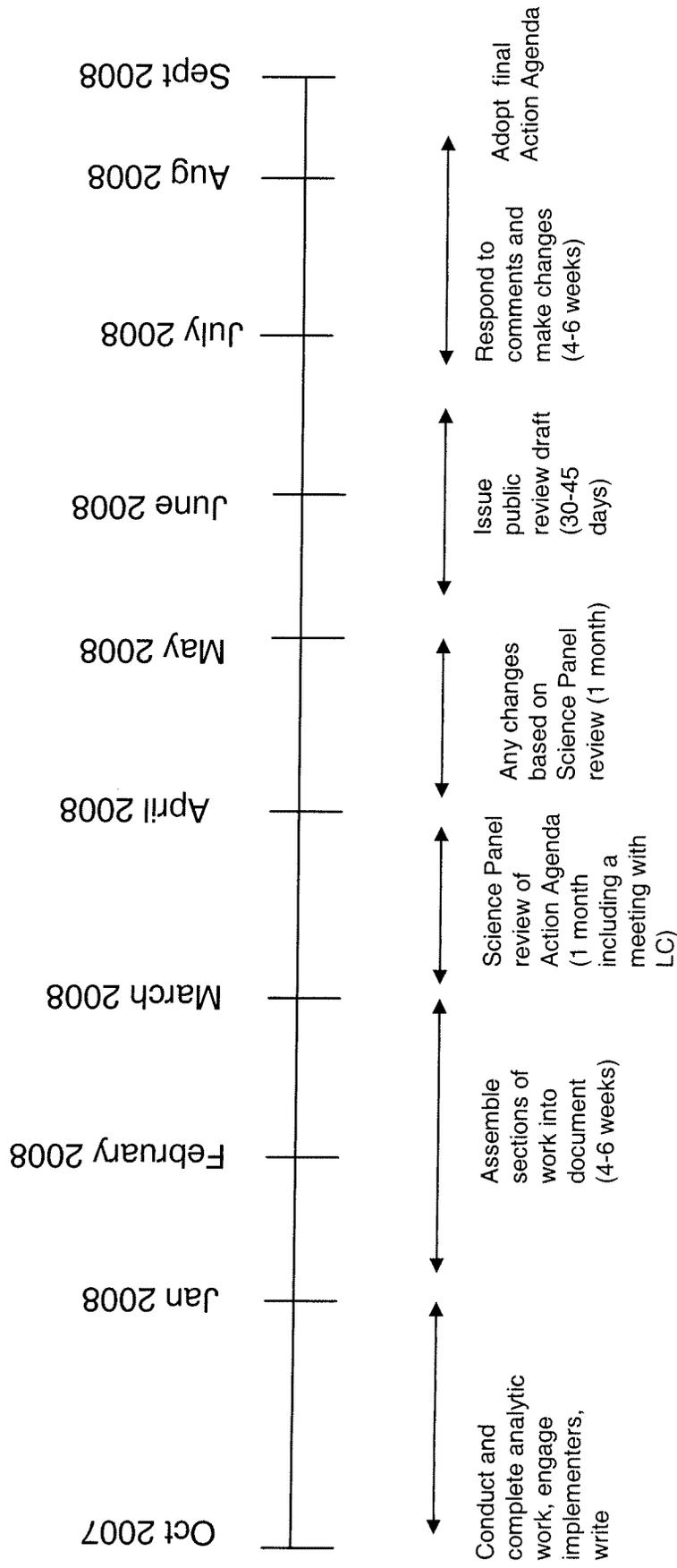
significantly help accomplish the work, and diversify the expertise available to the Partnership.

- **The Action Agenda creation process should be clear and transparent from the beginning.** Interested parties and the public should understand the process including how decisions will be made and when and how to participate.
- **Public engagement is critical and should be tied to the Partnership's broader public campaign.**
- **The process should strive to include a scientific review of proposed actions.** This will ensure that the collective action gives us the results we want.
- **In the action areas, the focus will be on working with implementers rather than creating new organizing structures at the action area level.** Because Puget Sound is large and ecologically diverse, the action areas should be a useful tool to for organizing information in a way that 1) nests under the ecological priorities; 2) easy for people in specific communities to see "their" actions; and 3) shows what is needed in specific geographic places.

### **Timeline Considerations**

In order for the Action Agenda to become the new guiding plan for the National Estuary Program, a 30-60 public review must be conducted. We are in discussions with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the specific parameters for the comment period. A possible Action Agenda timeline is attached.

# Possible 2020 Action Agenda Timeline



September 21, 2007