

**Draft Outline of 2020 Action Agenda for Puget Sound
Leadership Council Discussion Draft
October 1, 2007**

What is the 2020 Action Agenda? (recap of Sept 21 meeting)

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 or sufficient 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 with specific responsibilities, actions, and commitments to greatly improve accountability.

The 2020 Action Agenda will serve as:

A. 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.

B. The region's direction for protecting and managing our ecosystem so that both people and the natural environment thrive. 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.

- Identify the performance and accountability measures we will use to gauge the progress resulting from our actions.
- 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.
- Be 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. This could include making political and/or scientific progress on challenging concerns.
- Continue and/or 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.

Assumptions about the 2020 Action Agenda: (some new, some Sept 21 recap)

A. The 2020 Action Agenda will be organized to answer the following questions:

- 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?)
- What is the current status of Puget Sound? (Where are we now in terms of the health of Puget Sound?)
- What do we need to do have a healthy Puget Sound (How do we get there? What key threats need to be addressed?)
- What are the specific assignments and accountabilities for achieving a healthy Puget Sound? (Capital, programs, policy, and scientific actions with assignments and commitments for implementation)
- How much will it cost to implement the Action Agenda and how will we pay for it?

B. 2020 Action Agenda specifications:

- Easy to understand and practical. The Action Agenda will be designed to be used by implementers every day, not sit on a shelf.
- 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.

- Living and evolutionary. It can be improved and increasingly strategic 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 actions: what is needed, who will do it, and by when. This will include identifying priorities.
- 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.
- Short (goal of about 100-200 pages with a 20-30 page executive summary). Technical back up material can be in appendices or posted separately on the website.
- Summarize and reference more detailed work programs of specific agencies and organizations.
- The major sections will be hierarchically organized as follows: 1) overall/overarching ecosystem need/problem/action; 2) Six Partnership ecosystem goals (human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, and water quantity); and 3) Action Areas (including six Partnership goals within the action areas)
- Actions will be cross-referenced to allow users to easily identify accountability.
 - Partnership goal and related topic area (e.g., Water quality actions including toxics, nutrients, pathogens, and stormwater)
 - Implementer organized by agency and organization type
 - Action area summary

C. **Existing programs and projects will be continue to be implemented while we create the Action Agenda.**

One page summary of draft outline

I. Executive Summary

II. Introduction (background, role of Partnership, how to use the Action Agenda, process by which Action Agenda was created, how it will be updated/adapted)

III. What is a healthy Puget Sound? (*Where are we going? How will we know if the ecosystem is healthy and how should we measure progress?*)

IV. What is the current status of Puget Sound's health? (*problem statement*)

Overarching threats and risks to system as a whole, specific threats and risks to each goal, threats and risks in action areas.

V. What will it take to achieve a healthy Puget Sound? (*How do we get there? This is the bridge from the problem to the action*). (*Could include programmatic benchmarks for the region*)

- A. Priority broad ecosystem approaches for the region that address the overarching and linked threats (e.g., what is the region's specific approach to addressing land use)
- B. Priority approaches for each ecosystem goal to address priority threats and risks (e.g., what is the overall specific way will we approach water quality and any related topics such as stormwater).
- C. Priority approaches by Action Area to address priority threats.

VI. What are the specific assignments and accountabilities for achieving a healthy Puget Sound? (*Capital, programmatic, policy, and scientific actions with assignments and commitments for implementation tied to Sections IV and V*)

- A. Partnership Goal and Topic with implementers, responsibilities, programs, and programmatic benchmarks.
- B. Implementer role, responsibility, and programs with programmatic benchmarks to measure success, program costs, and funding.
- C. Cross-reference by Action Area

VII. How much will in cost to implement the 2020 Action Agenda and how will we pay for it?

Appendices

Detailed Draft Outline

I. Executive Summary (*Very accessible, also printed as separate document to be easily available to the public*)

II. Introduction

- A. 2020 Action Agenda background (*why needed, what it is intended to achieve*)
- B. Role of the Puget Sound Partnership (*accountability, coordination, activities*)
- C. Description and graphic of how governments, organizations, interests fit into the Action Agenda (e.g., communication lines, authority lines, etc.) *to help show accountability*)
- D. How to use the 2020 Action Agenda
- E. Overview of process used to create the 2020 Action Agenda
- F. How it will be updated and adapted

III. What is a healthy Puget Sound? (*Where are we going? How will we know if the ecosystems is healthy and how should we measure progress?*)

- A. Vision for healthy Puget Sound (from Governor)
- B. Narrative description of a healthy Puget Sound that includes:
 - i. Partnership goals of human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, and water quantity.
 - ii. Ecological and societal (e.g., farming, urban center, etc.) roles/profiles of each action area. *This may be general or more detailed depending on information available:*
 - a. San Juan Islands
 - b. Whidbey Island
 - c. North Central Puget Sound
 - d. South Central Puget Sound
 - e. South Puget Sound
 - f. Hood Canal
 - g. Strait of Juan de Fuca
- C. Ecological measures for a healthy Puget Sound (*includes 1) measures—what and how much should we achieve, and 2) benchmarks—process along the way*). *The measures tell us where we are going and used to evaluate progress. This is the long-term description of ecosystem health.*
 - i. Human Health
 - a. Measurable outcomes
 - b. Measurable benchmarks
 - ii. Human Well-being and Prosperity
 - a. Measurable outcomes
 - b. Measurable benchmarks

- iii. Species and food web
 - a. Measurable outcomes
 - b. Measurable benchmarks
- iv. Habitat
 - a. Measurable outcomes
 - b. Measurable benchmarks
- v. Water Quality
 - a. Measurable outcomes
 - b. Measurable benchmarks
- vi. Water Quantity
 - a. Measurable outcomes
 - b. Measurable benchmarks

D. Indicators that we will use to show the overall health of Puget Sound (*e.g., a subset of measures or benchmarks used for a report card*)

IV. What is the current status of Puget Sound’s health? (*problem statement with descriptions clearly related to the outcomes and benchmarks categories*).

- A. Summary what scientific information about we know about the ecosystem status as a whole (*over-arching and scientifically based threats and risks to the system as a whole and links between problems*).
- B. Summary of scientific information about what we know about the threats and risks for each of the six ecosystem goals (*more detail on problems related to each goal*).
 - i. Human Health
 - ii. Human Well-being and Prosperity
 - iii. Species and Food Web
 - iv. Habitat
 - v. Water Quality
 - vi. Water Quantity
- C. Summary of scientific information for each sub-area (*more detail on risks and threats in each action area if known*)
 - i. San Juan Islands (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
 - ii. Whidbey Island (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
 - iii. North Central Puget Sound (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)

- iv. South Central Puget Sound (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- v. South Puget Sound (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- vi. Hood Canal (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- vii. Strait of Juan de Fuca (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)

V. What will it take to achieve a healthy Puget Sound? (*How do we get there?*)
This section is the link between the problem and the actions.

- A. Priority broad ecosystem approaches (strategies) for the region that address the over-arching and linked threats?
 - i. Priority linked threats and risks (*impacts to multiple goals*)
 - ii. Over-arching regional approaches. There are probably a handful of these such as:
 - a. land use
 - b. climate change,
 - c. others . . .
 - d. Could include overarching scientific questions that must be addressed in order to be more effective with strategies (*e.g., food web and ecosystem model to identify quantifiable benchmarks*)
 - iii. Over-arching approaches to collaboration and accountability
 - a. How the region will solve problems (*e.g., collaboration, approaches to working with specific sectors such as agriculture, etc.*)
 - b. Role of enforcement
 - c. Role of incentives
 - d. Others?

- B. Priority approaches (strategies) for each ecosystem goal to address priority threats and risks (*e.g., As a region, how do we want to approach this goal. Could be: where do we get the most bang for the buck, what types of actions are proven to be successful and reduce risk of action/inaction; any priority geographic focus in order to address Sound-wide issues, other criteria*). *These should be short, specific, and could include output benchmarks.*
 - i. Human Health
 - a. Priority threats and risks
 - b. Regional approach to protecting, restoring, and maintaining human health

- ii. Human Well-being and Prosperity
 - a. Priority threats and risks
 - b. Regional approach to protecting, restoring, and maintaining human well-being and prosperity
- iii. Species and food web
 - a. Priority threats and risks
 - b. Regional approach to protecting, restoring, and maintaining species and food web
- iv. Habitat
 - a. Priority threats and risks (includes habitat types found throughout PS)
 - b. Regional approach to protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat
- v. Water Quality
 - a. Priority threats and risks (includes toxics, nutrients, pathogens, stormwater)
 - b. Regional approach to protecting, restoring, and maintaining water quality
- vi. Water Quantity
 - a. Priority threats and risks (includes fish and wildlife and people)
 - b. Regional approach to protecting, restoring, and maintaining water quantity

C. Priority approaches by action area that addresses priority threats and nest under the ecosystem approach. *This should be short and specific where possible.*

- i. San Juan Islands (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- ii. Whidbey Island (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- iii. North Central Puget Sound (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- iv. South Central Puget Sound (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- v. South Puget Sound (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)
- vi. Hood Canal (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)

- vii. Strait of Juan de Fuca (include human health, human well-being and prosperity, species and food web, habitat, water quality, water quantity)

VI. What are the specific assignments and accountabilities for achieving a healthy Puget Sound? (*Capital, programmatic, policy, and scientific actions with assignments and commitments for implementation*)

This would be presented in a three way cross-walk: 1) by Partnership Goal, 2) by implementer, and 3) by Action Area.

A. Partnership Goal and Topic (1) *identify what agencies and organizations work on specific concerns to show that capital, policy, programs, and scientific actions and decisions need to be managed in a collaborative and coordinated way; programmatic benchmarks; 2) Cross-reference to other topics as needed (e.g., toxics are an concern for human health and water quality so either list twice or once with a reference). Tied to priorities in Section V.*

- i. Measuring Progress and Adjusting Actions (aka Monitoring and Adaptive Management)
- ii. Over-arching concerns
 - a. Land use
 - b. Climate change
 - c. Funding? [Does this fit? Or separate section see VII below?](#)
 - d. Others
- iii. Human health
 - a. Cross reference to toxics and pathogens
 - b. Air quality
- iv. Human prosperity and well-being
 - a. Tribal?
 - b. Tourism?
 - c. Other economic?
 - d. Other social?
- v. Species and Food Web
 - a. Imperiled species (e.g., Overall links for food web, salmon recovery, orca recovery, others)
 - b. Biodiversity
- vi. Habitat (include PSNERP, NW Straits, Shorelines Alliance, others working Sound-wide, reference salmon recovery or put habitat components in here)
 - a. Protection
 - b. Restoration
- vii. Water Quality
 - a. Toxics
 - b. Nutrients
 - c. Pathogens

- d. Stormwater
- viii. Water Quantity
 - a. People
 - b. Fish and wildlife

B. Implementer role, responsibility, and programs with programmatic benchmarks to measure success, program costs, and funding. (*Big picture level with references to where the agencies and organizations have their own program plans*). Section tied to the priorities identified in Section V.

- i. Puget Sound Partnership
- ii. Federal government agencies
- iii. Tribal governments
- iv. State government agencies
- v. State legislature
- vi. Regional organizations (Puget Sound Regional Council, others? [NW Straits?](#), [PSNERP could go here or with its home organizations](#))
- vii. Counties
- viii. Cities
- ix. Special districts (ports, conservation districts, shellfish protection districts, health districts, others)
- x. Watershed planning and implementation groups (salmon recovery, MRCs, water quantity planning, others)
- xi. Universities
- xii. Business interests and organizations
- xiii. Agricultural interests and organizations (need to define scale of groups to include)
- xiv. Conservation and environmental NGOs ([need to define scale of groups to include and level of detail -- what about small "Friends xyz Creek"?](#))
- xv. Others?

C. Cross-reference by Action Area

- i. San Juan Islands (include Partnership goals and implementers)
- ii. Whidbey Island (include Partnership goals and implementers)
- iii. North Central Puget Sound (include Partnership goals and implementers)
- iv. South Central Puget Sound (include Partnership goals and implementers)
- v. South Puget Sound (include Partnership goals and implementers)
- vi. Hood Canal (include Partnership goals and implementers)
- vii. Strait of Juan de Fuca (include Partnership goals and implementers)

VII. How much will in cost to implement the 2020 Action Agenda and how will we pay for it?

- A. Total estimated cost estimates [breakdown by program/issue area?](#)
[Agencies lumped together \(e.g., all feds\)?](#)
- B. Recommended overall funding strategy with responsibilities

Example Possible Appendices

- A. Action Area summaries (recap of Action Area problem statement, overall approach, implementation responsibility) (if useful)
- B. Summary of public engagement process during development of the Action Agenda
- C. Summary of public comment and responses
- D. Summary of all outreach and education programs with implementers (if useful)
- E. Strategic Science Plan and Biennial Science Work Plan (separate document(s)) (description of PS science related activities, prioritized research needs, other)