

Puget Sound Partnership

our sound, our community, our chance

Principles for Setting Priority Strategies Agenda Item #04

Prepared by: Martha Neuman

Approved by Director: DDD

Presented by: Martha Neuman

Proposed Action: Briefing

The following principles are from the topic forums and action area meetings with refinements from the Ecosystem Coordination Board. These were used to help identify the strategic priorities. They can also be used to help further define more specific actions that may be contained in the Action Agenda. When making decisions we should:

- a. Address threats and choose opportunities with the highest potential magnitude of impact.
- b. Address threats with the highest level of urgency. (How imminent is the threat; will it result in an irreversible loss, how resilient are the resources that are affected?)
- c. Use strategies with a reasonable certainty of effectiveness.
- d. Use strategies that are cost effective.
- e. Address the processes that form and sustain ecosystems rather than focusing narrowly on protecting or fixing individual sites.
- f. Attempt to address threats at their origin instead of reacting after the damage has been done.
- g. Anticipate and prevent problems before they occur. (With more people coming to the region and a changing climate, a proactive strategy is increasingly important.)
- h. Address multiple threats and their interactions with strategies that work together. We cannot afford to look at problems or develop solutions in isolation.
- i. Watch out for unintended consequences. Evaluate strategies so that actions to address one problem do not cause harm to other ecosystem functions and resources.
- j. Account for the variations in ecosystem conditions and processes in different geographic areas of Puget Sound. Parts of Puget Sound are fairly intact while others are severely degraded, and rebuilding strategies need flexibility to encompass regional differences.
- k. Ensure that no region or economic sector bears the entire responsibility for implementing solutions.