

**Puget Sound Partnership  
Strategic Priorities and Candidate Initiatives and Action Agenda Steps  
Draft Discussion for the Leadership Council October 22-23, 2008**

Partnership Strategic Priorities and Objectives	Implementation Needs (not a full list) and Candidate Sound-wide Partnership Initiatives	Candidate Initiative
<b>Priority A: Protect Intact Ecosystem Processes, Structure, and Function</b>		
<b>A.1 Permanently protect the intact areas where marine, marine nearshore, estuary, freshwater rivers and floodplains, and upland processes, structures, and functions are still intact</b>		
<i>A.1.1 Use permanent protection designations for high value habitat that is vulnerable to conversion to maintain land cover and habitat and reduce land conversion rates.</i>	<p>1. Immediately acquire high value habitat vulnerable to conversion/loss. In the near-term, implement projects already prioritized in one or more collaboratively prioritized plans (Salmon Recovery Plans, Watershed Plans, and others). Candidate projects will be evaluated against Action Agenda principles and criteria for inclusion as an initiative. Possibilities include: A) Acquire Devil's Head: Devil's Head is one of the few remaining large stretches of undeveloped shoreline in South Sound Project acquires important feeder bluff at high risk of future development; B) White River Land Acquisition: 2500 acres of habitat along 10 miles of the White River at Lake Tapps that is in danger of conversion); and intact habitat in the north Sound and Straits region.</p> <p>2. Implement a strategic network of marine managed areas that contribute to conserving the biological diversity and ecosystem health of Puget Sound. Work with the Marine Managed Areas Work Group chaired by WDFW to develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness of MPAs by December 2009. Prepare to incorporate recommendations for MPAs in Puget Sound into the Action Agenda and take a lead role in implementation. Also, complete management plans for existing marine managed areas: Cherry Point; C) Develop management plans to establish currently nominated reserves: Nisqually Estuary, Protection Island, and Smith Island.</p> <p>3. Support pending Wilderness designations: A) Support Alpine Lakes Wilderness addition and B) Pratt River Wild and Scenic Designation.</p> <p>4. Establish a revolving fund and criteria for the rapid acquisition of properties with high ecological value and imminent risk of conversion or degradation. Projects should be identified on a watershed characterization study as a priority for protection and be considered a priority according to Action Agenda criteria.</p> <p>5. Expand the State Coastal Wetland Conservation Fund: This program would provide State pass-through monies to eligible applicants to conserve natural areas of Puget Sound shorelines.</p>	<p>X</p> <p>X</p>

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<i>A.1.2 Update and implement regulatory programs related to growth and shoreline protections to increase protection at an ecosystem scale.</i>	1. Provide funding and technical support necessary to ensure that all Puget Sound jurisdictions complete their shoreline management program (SMP) updates on schedule.	X
	2. Provide technical assistance to local governments on how to achieve the already required no-net-loss of ecological function. Initiative should include templates for monitoring no-net loss. Could the two initiatives be combined?	X
	3. Amend the Shoreline Management Act to require provisions related to residential bulkheads and docks, including the exemptions for construction of "a normal protective bulkhead common to single family residences" and a "dock" from the basic shoreline permit (Substantial Development Permit). Provisions relating to other overwater structures would also be amended. Specifically, the proposal would require a Shoreline Conditional Use permit for all new shoreline hardening, for all seawall/bulkhead/revetment repair proposals, as well as new docks and piers. More specifically: a) Soft armoring techniques should always be used where new armoring or retrofits are unavoidable; b) No net loss of shoreline function should be allowed; c) New shoreline hardening in areas with feeder bluffs should be prohibited; d) New over water structures or shoreline hardening in the vicinity of forage fish spawning areas and eel grass beds would be restricted.	X
	4. Support legislation to provide WDFW with civil enforcement authority for Hydraulic Permit Approvals.	X
	5. Provide annexation incentives for cities to encourage them to take over management of urban growth areas from counties. This may include requiring counties to provide an adequate mix of commercial, retail, and/or industrial lands within urban growth areas to provide future revenues for annexing cities. For new developments in the urban growth area, this action may also include requiring counties to implement the community design standards of an annexing city to support strong linkages between existing neighborhoods and newly annexed areas.	X

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	6. Use development incentives to increase and improve redevelopment, including stormwater management upgrades and restoration, in urban areas. Example incentives could include flexible design standards such as setbacks, building height restrictions, parking and road design; use of transfer of development rights; and property tax incentives such as the Public Benefit Rating System program.	X
	7. Work with FEMA to restrict or prohibit further development in floodplains.	X
	8. Limit density in rural areas and on natural resource lands to maintain ecosystem processes and forest cover using a mix of tools including, incentives, model ordinances, or legislation.	
	9. Resolve barriers that currently limit density and infill development in cities and within urban growth areas, such as transportation concurrency issues.	
	10. Provide model planning policies to local governments to improve the effectiveness of local Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act policies.	
<b>A.2 Protect and conserve water flows to increase and sustain water availability for instream and human uses</b>		
<b>A.2.1</b> <i>Reform state water laws to be more protective of instream flows and encourage conservation</i>	1. Discourage waste of water resources and protect instream flows by addressing water laws that promote a "use it or lose it" philosophy, and limit the water right holder's ability to put available water to its most efficient use.	X
	2. Use pricing structures to discourage overuse, particularly in flow limited areas or low flow periods.	
	3. Evaluate and implement solutions to water use issues related to exempt wells: Start by convening a stakeholder group to identify management options for addressing exempt wells.	X
	4. Avoid future interbasin water transfers	
<b>A.2.2</b> <i>Implement and update stream flow protection and enhancement programs.</i>	1. Complete instream flow setting in basin without adopted rules. Department of Ecology would adopt new water management/instream flow rules where low flows have been identified as a limiting factor sufficient to support dependent aquatic species and to maintain flow related water quality issues such as temperature and dissolved oxygen in the following basins by the end of FY 13.	

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	2. Implement Stream Flow Protection and Enhancement Program for salmon: Complete the Instream Flow Protection and Enhancement Program (PEP) framework called for in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.	
	3. Strengthen instream flow rules to be more protective of resources for instream and human needs. Updates should begin in basins where flow rules were set before 1986 and include clarification of de facto rules that some basins are using in addition to the State rules.	X
	4. Implement existing 2514 plans consistent with the Action Agenda and coordinated with other local protection and restoration efforts	
	5. Establish Watermasters to Increase Water Code Compliance and Enforcement: Provide funding for local water masters to be local contact to water users, provide a local compliance presence, protect the resource, reduce water use, and protect senior water rights, including instream flows.	X
<i>A.2.3 Implement Washington Department of Health's Water Use Efficiency Rule.</i>	See below (dees not need to be a separate category)	
<i>A.2.4 Expand opportunities to reuse, reclaim, and recycle water resources</i>	1. Fund and implement Washington Department of Health's Water Use Efficiency Rule. The state requires water conservation goals and reporting from all municipal suppliers.	
	2. Require use or other performance measures at wastewater treatment plants to reduce nutrient loading, especially during critical times of the year when receiving waters are most vulnerable	
	3. Investigate, and if desired and feasible, implement a water quality crediting and trading framework. (see recommendation under funding strategy)	X
	4. Identify and address barriers to improve use and reuse of rainwater, graywater, stormwater, and wastewater.	
<b>A.3 Protect and support long-term stewardship of working farms, forests, and aquatic lands consistent with the Action Agenda to help maintain ecosystem function and improve viability of rural communities.</b>		

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<i>A.3.1 Use, expand and promote financial incentives that allow working lands to stay viable.</i>	1. Purchase development rights to working forests at immediate risk of conversion. Example options: Protect the headwaters of A) Chimacum Creek and 2) Union River from development by purchasing development rights and providing monetary incentives to foresters to maintain forest management/timber work.	X
<i>A.3.2 Use, expand, promote, and coordinate existing landowner stewardship programs and focus efforts on ecosystem priorities.</i>		
<i>A.3.3 Promote economically viable farms and agriculture that are protective of watershed health</i>	1. Expand cooperative marketing programs such as Puget Sound Fresh to bring locally-grown food to Puget Sound markets 2. Fund incentive programs to encourage farmers to engage in sustainable farming practices 3. Amend GMA to require jurisdictions to use flexible zoning techniques on agricultural lands to allow small farms to diversify revenues through farm related ventures. 4. Engage the farming community in land use and conservation planning, including watershed assessments 5. Use incentives and easements programs when acquisition of agricultural land is deemed vital for protection and restoration efforts. 6. Support the Ruckelshaus Center's Critical Area Ordinances Project and expand the scope to include protection of ecosystem processes: As directed by the State legislature and Governor, this project is working to help resolve conflicts surrounding agricultural activities and the development and implementation of critical areas protections. 7. Implement the Conservation Commission Working Lands Initiative: Seeks to prevent conversation to urban and residential uses through markets and technical assistance.	
<i>A.3.4 Promote economically viable, healthy working industrial and small forests that are protective of watershed health</i>	1. Continue to implement the Forest and Fish Agreement and Forest Habitat Conservation Plan consistent with the Action Agenda 2. Align the management of state forest trust rules with the Action Agenda	
<i>A.3.5 Promote working aquatic lands that are protective of ecosystem health to provide abundant shellfish for commercial, subsistence, and recreational harvest.</i>	1. Identify and resolve conflicts between aquacultural uses and upland uses. Consider additional protection for aquacultural uses to ensure long-term viability of the industry, where appropriate.	

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	2. Implement Ecology Best Management Practices for shellfish production	
<b>A.4 Rapidly respond to the introduction of new invasive species</b>		
<b>A.4.1</b> <i>Implement key Puget Sound related recommendations that will prevent the introduction of new invasive species as identified in the Invasive Species Council "Invaders at the Gate" Strategic Plan.</i>		
<b>A.4.2</b> <i>Restrict ballast water discharges in Puget Sound as first step in preventing introduction of new invasive species.</i>	1. Fund the Department of Fish and Wildlife ballast water regulatory compliance monitoring program to prevent the introduction of new invasive aquatic species into marine waters.	X
<b>Priority B: Restore Ecosystem Processes, Structures, and Functions</b>		
<b>B.1 Implement and maintain priority ecosystem restoration projects for marine, marine nearshore, estuary, freshwater riparian and uplands.</b>		
<b>B.1.1</b> <i>For the near-term, immediately implement high priority projects identified in existing processes. These include salmon recovery three-year work plans, road decommissioning plans, and other documented and well-vetted processes.</i>	1. Implement projects in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and three-year work plans: Support restoration and protection actions for ecosystem processes and functions necessary to implement the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan and the Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Summer Chum Salmon Recovery Plan. Evaluate all projects to ensure consistency with the Action Agenda. A project list has been proposed for the upcoming biennium.	

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	<p>2. Immediately complete in-progress high priority large-scale restoration projects that have a high probability of recreating ecosystem functions. These large-scale projects often require funding amounts not typically available through current state and federal grant programs.</p> <p>Estuary and nearshore restoration project candidates: A) Nisqually Delta, B) Port Susan Stillaguamish estuary restoration, C) Smith Island restoration in the Snohomish River Estuary, D) Skokomish Delta dike removal investigation and restoration project, E) Dungeness dike setback and delta restoration phases 2 and 3, and F) Carpenter Creek restoration.</p> <p>Mainstem river restoration projects that have a high probability of recreating ecosystem functions including floodplain reconnection. Candidates include: A) Cedar River-Rainbow Bend Restoration, B) Middle Green Levee Setback; and C) Puyallup Levee Setback.</p> <p>Barrier removal project candidates include: A) Nooksack Middle Fork diversion dam removal; B) Elwha Dam removal acceleration; C) Howard Hansen Dam Fish ladder on the Green River.</p> <p>Remove derelict fishing gear and vessels, starting in the San Juan Islands. Based on historical fishing effort and past experience locating derelict fishing gear, the Northwest Straits Initiative estimates that are an estimated 2,066 nets remaining in the San Juan Islands, all in salmon migration corridors. Project would complete surveys of historical fishing grounds are needed to locate all remaining derelict fishing nets and then remove nets.</p>	X
<p><i>B.1.2 Over the long-term, implement projects identified through the watershed assessment and harmonization of existing efforts identified in Priority A.</i></p>		
<p><b>B.2 Complete efforts that help inform and refine restoration priorities to improve regional ability to strategically identify and implement restoration projects</b></p>		
<p><i>B.2.1 Accelerate the completion of the Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Partnership's General Investigation.</i></p>	<p>1. Complete the General Investigation as soon as possible</p>	

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<b>B.2.2</b> <i>Develop a region-wide program to remove fish passage barriers building on existing efforts.</i>	1. Consistent with and supportive of remedies adopted in response to US vs.. Washington, inventory, prioritize and implement necessary passage improvements on culverts and other barriers that are preventing safe passage of salmonids to and from spawning or rearing areas. This encompasses culverts and barriers that have not been evaluated or prioritized in other, active programs intended to rectify passage problems from culverts. It could also encompass culverts and barriers that have been identified/evaluated/prioritized outside of a region or watershed-scale prioritization framework, provided owners of those barriers opt for their inclusion.	
<b>B.3 Revitalize waterfront communities to increase the ability of ports to grow and market themselves as “green” and livability of urban areas.</b>		
<b>B.3.1</b> <i>Implement a green ports strategy</i>	1. Incentivize the adoption of green port programs: Create a program for ports to go beyond current regulatory requirements in effort to market themselves "clean and green". Include an outreach strategy to leverage experience of green port leaders.	
<b>B.3.2</b> <i>Improve the coordination of waterfront restoration and clean up efforts.</i>	1. Work with major partners to develop a coordinated clean up program for Port Angeles Harbor and waterfront as a demonstration project for other areas.	X
<b>B.3.3</b> <i>Prioritize habitat restoration at clean up sites where the probability of recreating ecosystem function is high.</i>	1. Conduct habitat restoration at Toxic Clean-up Sites: Build upon existing cleanup efforts to enhance habitat restoration on a bay-wide scale in the following eight priority bays: A) Port Gamble (also includes Kitsap Peninsula & Bremerton); B) Dumas Bay (Poverty Bay to Dash Point); C) Padilla Bay/Fidalgo Bay & Port of Anacortes; D) Port Angeles; E) Oakland Bay, Shelton; F) Port Gardner/ Port of Everett; G) Budd Inlet, and H) Bellingham Bay.	X
<b>B.4 Implement stewardship incentives to increase private landowners ability to undertake restoration projects.</b>		
<b>B.4.1</b> <i>See recommendations in Section A for working lands</i>		
<b>B.4.2</b> <i>Implement incentives for industrial and commercial landowners</i>		
<b>Priority C: Reduce the Sources of Water Pollution</b>		
<b>C.1 Prevent pollutants from being introduced in the Puget Sound ecosystem to decrease the loadings from toxics, nutrients and pathogens.</b>		

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<b>C.1.1</b> <i>Implement a prioritized, comprehensive chemical management program to reduce loading into Puget Sound.</i>	1. Conduct a focused outreach campaign to reduce pollutants identified in the Phase II of the toxic loading study that are priority threats to Puget Sound: This effort would likely be focused on pharmaceuticals and pollutants in stormwater runoff. A pharmaceutical take back program should be included.	X
	2. Support national efforts to develop standards for new and emerging contaminants. This will require tracking national efforts and strategically assisting where input from Puget Sound can be most effective.	
	3. Use chemical substitutions, cradle to grave management of products with hazardous materials and chemicals, reduce and reuse materials where possible.	
	4. Implement chemical action plans	
	5. Invest in technologies that treat toxics and emerging chemicals of concern.	
	6. In accordance with Ecology's Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics Program, reduce and ultimately eliminate all discharges of chemicals on the PBT list, including chemicals in consumer products where safer alternatives exist so that the need for mixing zones for PBT chemicals is eliminated.	X
<b>C.1.2</b> <i>Implement targeted programs to reduce pollution from marine vessels, land-based transportation, and air emissions</i>	1. Enhance Emergency Response Capability - Work with federal congressional delegation to identify a permanent source of funding for the rescue tug at Neah Bay. Support annual state funding until an alternative permanent source is secured.	X
	2. Obtain enhanced delegated authority from the Coast Guard to the Department of Ecology to inspect vessels, investigate incidents, and approve oil spill prevention plans for vessels and facilities	X
	3. Establish No Discharges Zone(s): Petition EPA to establish Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone to eliminate bacteria, nutrients and pathogens from being discharged into Puget Sound. Prioritize areas of the Sound that are nutrient limited, have high vessel use, are significant for shellfish production and/or that are otherwise especially vulnerable for phase in of the no discharge zone. Ensure that pump out facilities with maintenance programs are available prior to implementation of new rules.	X
	4. Promote efforts to reduce number of vehicles on roads	

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<b>C.1.3</b> <i>Develop and implement water quality clean up and management plans to reduce pollutant loads.</i>	1. Work with WDOE and EPA to expedite and improve the TMDL development and implementation process in Puget Sound.	X
	2. Immediately develop and implement strategic priority actions to increase dissolved oxygen in the three areas of Puget Sound with or at risk of low dissolved oxygen: Hood Canal, South Sound, Whidbey Basin.	X
<b>C.2 Use comprehensive, integrated approach to managing urban stormwater and rural surface water runoff to reduce stormwater volumes and pollutant loadings.</b>		
<b>C.2.1</b> <i>Integrate efforts to manage stormwater discharges with work to protect land cover and reduce pollutants at the watershed scale and across Puget Sound.</i>	1. Protect water quality by establishing watershed area-wide stormwater permits through Section 208 of the Clean Water Act, that focus on the multitude of discharges that occur in logical geographic areas, rather than discharge-specific inputs or jurisdictional boundaries.	
	2. Establish priorities and coordination for water quality monitoring under NPDES permits	
<b>C.2.2</b> <i>Manage stormwater runoff in urban and urbanizing areas to reduce stormwater related impacts.</i>	1. Assist local governments in implementing the NPDES Phase I and II Stormwater Permits, so that water quality standards are met. This includes financial and technical assistance.	X
	2. Improve stormwater management in communities not covered by NPDES permits. Provide financial and technical assistance to local governments to create local comprehensive stormwater control programs, so that water quality standards are met.	X
	3. Expand NPDES permits to include jurisdictions with municipal separated storm sewer systems (MS4) to include communities that fall under the thresholds used by the 303(d) process.	X
	4. Support the implementation of the most recent edition of the Department of Ecology's Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington and continue to advance conventional storm water management controls.	
	5. Assist cities and counties in adopting the now required low impact development stormwater codes for development and redevelopment: Provide standards for low impact development and the determination of criteria to determine feasibility.	X

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	6. Develop and implement low impact development Incentives: Develop and implement low impact development Incentives: Work with regional experts to develop and implement incentives and remove barriers to the use of low impact stormwater management techniques on development projects	X
	7. Evaluate the use of funds currently programmed for CSO improvements for storm water control actions. See Seattle language. See KC language	X
	8. Prioritize and Fund Stormwater Retrofits in Urban Areas: Provide assistance to local governments to reduce, manage and control stormwater runoff pollution. Develop ecological and economic criteria to prioritize areas to retrofit. Priority should be given to projects that would improve areas under the greatest threat and provide the greatest return on the investment. Pilot and monitor retrofits that use innovative low impact development techniques to determine effectiveness of technology and to advance state of knowledge about design, implementation, cost, and maintenance requirements.	X
	9. Modify the Public Works Trust Fund to fund stormwater retrofit	
<b>C.2.3</b> Manage surface water run-off in rural areas and on working resource lands to reduce pollutant loadings	1. Implement the Forest and Fish Plan consistent with the Action Agenda on applicable forest lands.	
	2. Fund Conservation Districts to working with rural landowners to use best management practices to protect water quality, and with farmers to develop and implement farm plans.	?
	3. Implement road maintenance best practices and abandonment plans on forest lands.	
	4. Develop and implement creative approaches for agricultural-related discharges that reflect the realities of food production while reducing impacts from more diffuse rural land uses such as non-commercial livestock facilities and nurseries.	
<b>C.3</b> Prioritize upgrades and manage wastewater treatment plants to reduce nutrient and pathogen loading.		
<b>C.3.1</b> Require tertiary or Class A wastewater treatment to reduce nutrient loadings in nutrient sensitive areas of Puget Sound		

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<i>C.3.2 Implement priority upgrades of wastewater treatment facilities to reduce nutrient and pathogen loading.</i>	1. Provide State Assistance Grants for Modernizing Wastewater Treatment starting in key areas: Build on current water quality grant programs and the results of the toxic and nutrient loadings analysis to include advanced treatment technologies for nutrient removal at wastewater treatment plants. Provide financial and technical assistance to local governments with wastewater treatment plants scheduled to be upgraded in the next five to ten years and in areas where significant nutrient loading originates. Priority will be given to projects that reduce pollutant loadings (nutrients, toxics, and pathogens) and that develop alternative water supplies by reclaiming and reusing municipal wastewater. Candidates include but are not limited to: A) Belfair, Skokomish, Pottlatch/Hoodsport (Hood Canal area); B) Paradise Bay (Jefferson County); C) Oakland Bay (Shelton), and D) Dosewallips (Hood Canal).	X
	2. Assist local governments in developing wastewater treatment projects so that projects are ready to go when funding is available.	X
	3. Require federal facilities to reduce nutrient and pathogen loading consistent with the Action Agenda priorities.	
<i>C.3.3 Use innovative treatment plants in urbanizing areas to increase effectiveness of treatment and efficiency of actions.</i>		
<i>C.3.4 Align State Public Works Trust Fund and Revolving Trust Fund projects with the Action Agenda priorities</i>		
<b>C.4 Establish and maintain locally-based coordinated and effective on-site and septic system management to strategically and systematically reduce nutrient and pathogen loading</b>		
<i>C.4.1 Establish, in each county, a coordinated way to systematically identify and replace failing or poorly functioning septic and on-site treatment systems, and maintain septic systems.</i>	1. Establish Septic Utilities and Increase Capacity of Local Health Jurisdictions to Implement On-site septic Management Plans: Establish septic system utilities to serve sensitive drainages throughout the Sound to ensure that existing septic systems are well maintained. Focus first in South Sound, Hood Canal, and other areas prone to increasing levels of hypoxia and in shellfish threatened areas. Encourage community systems in areas of high residential density and promote nitrogen-reducing technology where feasible. Facilitate the development and implementation of robust on-site septic management plans as per 3SHB 1458 (On-site Sewage Disposal System Bill).	X

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	2. Support an On-site Septic System Technology Clearinghouse at Department of Health Fund programs to assess type of on-site systems and proximity to ground and surface waters that pose the greatest threat to discharging nutrients and pathogens. Ensure that septic system treatment technologies and gray water reuse options are readily available to adequately protect and conserve the state's water resources. Integrate data into the Partnership data management system	
<b>C.4.2</b> <i>Provide innovative cost-share and loan programs for homeowners who need them.</i>	1. Enhance Septic Loan Programs: Ensure that septic loan programs can be targeted to areas of with demonstrated loadings issues and vulnerable waters. Leverage public and private funds to increase the scope of loan programs.	X
<b>C.5 Prioritize and implement remediation and clean up projects to reduce pollutants and use funding effectively.</b>		
<b>C.5.1</b> <i>Prioritize and implement clean up projects.</i>		
<b>C.5.2</b> <i>Prioritize removal of creosote log pilings and loose logs based on estimated contribution of logs to overall loadings at specific sites starting in priority clean up areas.</i>		
<b>C.6 Continue to monitor swimming beaches as well as conduct shellfish and fish advisory programs to reduce human exposure to health hazards</b>		
<b>C.6.1</b> <i>Maintain ability to respond to harmful algae blooms and other natural conditions that can be harmful to human health</i>		
<b>C.6.2</b> <i>Maintain human health monitoring of swimming beaches.</i>		
<b>Priority D: Work effectively and efficiently together as a system on priority needs</b>		
<b>D.1 Use the Action Agenda as the strategic, ecosystem framework for action in Puget Sound to improve regional effectiveness in achieving ecosystem outcomes.</b>		
<b>D.2 Develop and implement a coordinated and prioritized long-term strategy for population and economic growth, ecosystem protection and restoration, and a changing climate to improve overall effectiveness of the strategies to protect the ecosystem and reduce pollution.</b>		

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<i>D.2.1 Build on existing efforts to create and implement a sound-wide vision for accommodating population and economic growth while protecting Puget Sound to increase coordination and efficiency and protection of ecosystem goals.</i>	1. Convene a sound-wide forum including regional planning groups to create a consistent planning vision platform for Puget Sound that supports, A) Creating development in urban growth areas and redevelopment in cities that is compact, livable, transit and pedestrian oriented, and minimizes impacts to the environment; B) Creating strategies to fund upgrades to urban infrastructure to support compact communities; C) Integrating planning across disciplines such as transportation, economic development, water quality protection, stormwater management, water supply and instream flows, and species recovery; D) Limiting significant additional development in rural areas to prevent urban sprawl and impacts to the environment; E) Protecting the rural character of rural areas rural communities and small towns, including local jobs, and avoiding impacts to the environment; and F) Protecting the economic viability of long-term commercial agriculture, forestry, mining and shell-fish harvesting, while protecting and restoring Puget Sound ecosystems	X
<i>D.2.2 Develop and implement consistent sound-wide decision-making framework for protecting and restoring ecosystem processes and functions.</i>	1. Prepare the analytical, decision-making framework that can be applied anywhere in Puget Sound to make land use decisions in marine, freshwater and upland terrestrial areas about the level of protection needed to ensure continued functioning of the ecosystem. It will provide a description of when and where protection of ecosystems is absolutely necessary to ensure the continuation of the system itself. It will also describe the set of conditions where the highest level of protection is less important, and some impacts can be tolerated. Convene a work team of scientists, land use planner and legal staff to produce a protection decision-making framework; have broad review and engagement of the Science Panel.	X
<i>D.2.3 Perform watershed-scale assessments to refine and improve prioritization of areas for growth, protection, and restoration to improve effectiveness and efficiency of efforts.</i>	1. Initiate or complete rapid assessments for each of the watersheds within the basin building on existing work such as the salmon recovery plan and other assessments and incorporating new information that may be available to provide a common vision for integrating and harmonizing existing efforts to be more effective and confirm or modify areas for growth, protection or restoration.	X

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<i>D.2.4 Integrate and harmonize existing sound-wide and local plans and programs to improve efficiency and effectiveness in addressing Action Agenda priorities.</i>	1. On a Sound-wide level, integrate species protection and recovery plans including, the State Biodiversity Report, federal ESA species recovery plans, the Nearshore Needs Assessment, and many others. At the local level, integrate salmon recovery plans, clean water plans and programs, GMA plans and many others. In the near-term while the watershed assessments are being prepared, this work can begin at a high level to improve consistency and efficiency with the Action Agenda and Action Area priorities	
	2. Integrate the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership, including the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program into the Puget Sound Partnership to improve efficiency, coordination and to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts	
<i>D.2.5 Support, develop, and integrate climate change programs and adaptation strategies into the Action Agenda to improve effectiveness of implementation and regional and local readiness for anticipated changes.</i>	1. Integrate the recommendations of the Land Use and Climate Change Advisory Committee with priorities, steps, and initiatives of the Action Agenda. Integrate the recommendations of the West Coast Governor’s Agreement and Western Climate Initiative with other State and local climate change initiatives.	
<b>D.3 Build and sustain long-term capacity of local partnerships to effectively and efficiently implement the Action Agenda.</b>		
<i>D.3.1 Increase and improve the ability of collaborative groups and processes to implement priority work and resolve trade-offs and conflicting needs.</i>	1. Enhance the ability of the Partnership to foster and engage collaboration throughout Puget Sound. Work with Partnership leadership bodies (Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, Science Panel) and implementers, as well as elected officials and community leaders to implement the Action Agenda; improve Partnership technical expertise.	X
	2. Harmonize and integrate the numerous local collaborative processes building on Partnership. This includes clarifying the role of numerous watershed stewards.	X
	3. Fund salmon recovery and other collaborative groups in the near-term to continue existing work	X
	4. Facilitate and sustain a collaborative process in the Skagit Watershed to identify and prioritize restoration and protection projects.	X
<i>D.3.2 Increase the ability of cities, counties, and special districts to provide coordinated local technical assistance to landowners, homeowners, and businesses on priority needs</i>		

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<i>D.3.3 Engage the state agencies to increase focus on implementation of Action Agenda priorities and improve collaboration</i>		
<i>D.3.4 Engage Puget Sound tribes to increase focus on implementation of Action Agenda priorities and improve collaboration while respecting sovereign status.</i>	1. Ensure tribes have needed capacity to engage in the implementation of the Action Agenda	
<i>D.3.5 Engage the federal government to increase implementation of the Action Agenda.</i>	1. Fund technical support to implemented NPDES permit programs. 2. Support a strong coastal zone management program and policies 3. Maintain, repair, and decommission roads and fish passage barriers on federal lands. 4. Provide scientific support focused on Action Agenda priorities 5. Coordinate actions and research with existing local collaborative planning and implementation processes 6. Implement water quality treatment at federal facilities consistent with Puget Sound priorities. 7. Implement water conservation and reuse at federal facilities consistent with Puget Sound priorities. 8. Provide adequate funding for Action Agenda priorities 9. Establish a Federal Puget Sound Office: Work with the Congressional delegation to pass of federal legislation authorizing Puget Sound under the Great Waters Program, including establishing a federal Puget Sound Office to improve coordination of federal agencies and codify ongoing federal authorization for funding.	X
<i>D.3.6 Expand outreach to and collaboration with the business and development community to improve problem solving and support for protection and restoration efforts.</i>		
<i>D.3.7 Expand access to and rates of landowner participation in voluntary incentive programs to improve the ability of private landowners to protect and restore ecosystem processes.</i>		
<i>D.3.8 Share knowledge and expertise across jurisdictional boundaries to improve effectiveness and avoid duplication of effort.</i>	1. Establish "Centers of Excellence" to for multiple areas of expertise central to achieving ecosystem goals including topics such as low impact stormwater management. These centers should attract the best resources and funding opportunities to the region and be a clearinghouse for the dissemination of the expertise to areas throughout Puget Sound.	X
<i>D.3.9 Use excellent customer service when working with private landowners and businesses to improve effectiveness and compliance.</i>		

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<i>D.3.10 Grow and use the Puget Sound non-profit entity to increase education and outreach efforts.</i>		
<i>D.3.11 Work cooperatively with Canada on management and scientific investigations to increase collaborative problem solving and information sharing.</i>		
<b>D.4 Reform the environmental regulatory system to protect habitat at an ecosystem scale</b>		
<i>D.4.1 Align federal, state, and local agency regulatory programs in Puget Sound to improve coordination, efficiency, and effectiveness of implementation.</i>	1. Start to align environmental management by 1) conducting an institutional analysis of local, state and federal agencies with regulatory authority over upland and aquatic habitats and species and water quality, and 2) implementing actions to resolve overlapping and conflicting authorities.	X
	2. Identify overlaps and conflicts between environmental requirements and permit conditions. Work with local, state and federal partner agencies to resolve discrepancies in permit conditions and identify ways to resolve overlaps and conflicts among environmental requirements and permits. Implement Office of Regulatory Assistance iPermit Program in two Puget Sound Watersheds in 2009-11 biennium.	X
	3. Investigate opportunities to develop and use new Clean Water Act general permits to promote development in urban areas by improving efficiency for review of development projects. This would include 1) regional general permits development projects with urban growth areas and 2) programmatic general permits for projects that often require mitigation.	
	4. Amend State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to exempt development projects from compliance with SEPA where a cities or county has previously prepared a non-project, programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. reviews related to UGA expansions. his action would eliminate the requirement to provide site-by-site SEPA reviews, and therefore expensive appeals and delay. Amend RCW 82.02.020 to authorize a "latecomer fee" for local governments to be assessed against developments that directly benefit from the programmatic SEPA.	X

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	5. Reconcile levee maintenance standards to address the ecosystem needs of providing habitat and protecting public safety. Suspend non-emergency maintenance projects funded with PL-8499 funds pending revision of standards to better meet ecosystem goals. Collaborate with the Corps and other key stakeholders to develop modifications to standards or their application through the existing variance mechanism.	X
<i>D.4.2 Streamline and coordinate the environmental permit review process to improve the consistency of decisions.</i>	1. Fund a process to streamline permitting processes for habitat restoration projects. Regulations that would be reviewed and possibly require change include but are not limited to the following: local regulations for building permits/clearing and grading, WDFW's Hydraulic Permit, Ecology's Clean Water Act, Section 402 and Section 401, and Army Corps of Engineers' Clean Water Act Section 404.	X
<i>D.4.3 Increase the success rate of mitigation projects to achieve no-net loss standards.</i>	Implement the In-lieu fee recommendation of the Mitigation that Works Forum.	X
<b>D.5 Improve compliance with rules and regulations to increase the likelihood of achieving ecosystem outcomes.</b>		
<i>D.5.1 Integrate environmental regulation and permit field compliance across federal, state, and local jurisdictions to improve efficiency of implementation and effectiveness of achieving environmental outcomes.</i>	<b>1. Lead a process to integrate field compliance monitoring activities across federal, state, and local jurisdictions. An integrated field compliance monitoring program should include land use, shoreline, water quality, water use, hazardous materials, and other environmental permit related activities. Ultimately, field inspectors should be located in each watershed and be tasked with assisting landowners, builders, and contractors with understanding regulatory requirements, strategizing optimal environmental protection approaches, and monitoring to ensure compliance with a full spectrum of environmental protection regulations. The process should determine the geographic scope that each inspector should cover and the appropriate employer.</b>	X
<i>D.5.2 Provide financial and technical assistance for cities and counties to conduct and improve compliance monitoring.</i>		
<i>D.5.3 Provide funding and authority for state agencies to implement environmental regulations.</i>	1. Provide additional state compliance inspectors to ensure that business production hazardous waste are complying with regulations.	X
	2. Support state water quality fee revisions to provide additional compliance staff at Department of Ecology	X
	3. Provide additional staff at the Department of Ecology to conduct field visits to improve compliance with shoreline and aquatic regulations.	X

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<i>D.5.4 Develop and implement water use compliance programs in each basin to improve the availability of water for people and instream uses.</i>	See instream flow protection section	
<i>D.5.5 Train designers and contractors who work in the marine and freshwater nearshore areas on desired outcomes, best management practices and rules.</i>	1. Develop and implement a training program for designers and contractors who work in nearshore areas. Work with Association of General Contractors, Master Builders, and other professional organizations in the Puget Sound region to develop and implement training programs to educate designers and contractors who regularly work adjacent to or over waters of the state. Consider partnerships with existing university and community college extension programs.	X
<b>D.6 Use biodiversity, ecological, and economic perspectives when making decisions about harvest, human production of resources, and human disturbance of species to improve the sustainability of resources for human and natural system needs.</b>		
<i>D.6.1 Implement priority actions of the State Biodiversity report.</i>		
<i>D.6.2 Implement existing species conservation plans while a more integrated planning approach is created.</i>	1. Continue to implement the salmon recovery plan and watershed three-year work plans, including integration of habitat, harvest, and hatchery efforts	
<i>D.6.3 Conduct future species conservation planning from an ecosystem perspective and do multi-species planning as much as possible.</i>	1. Develop and implement the Steelhead Recovery Plan building on the Chinook Recovery Plan and integrating the Action Agenda priorities.	
<i>D.6.4 Set harvest targets and regimes based on ecosystem needs, including the economic and natural system.</i>	1. Support the 2008 Revision to the Pacific Salmon Treaty	
<i>D.6.5 Implement the priority recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group</i>	1. Implement the priority recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group	
<b>D.7 Provide sufficient, stable funding and ensure funding is focused on priority actions to increase efficiency and effectiveness.</b>		
<i>D.7.1 Focus existing Puget Sound spending on Action Agenda priorities to increase efficiency.</i>	1. Align federal, state, and local funding with Action Agenda priorities	X
	2. Conduct targeted procurement towards desired outcomes rather than broad grant solicitations	X
<i>D.7.2 Provide additional funding to increase our ability to address priority prevention, restoration, and clean up needs.</i>	1. Create a dedicated sources for funding.	

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	2. Create new and/or expand existing infrastructure loan programs for public infrastructure projects (sewers, stormwater retrofits, water quality facilities, and potentially natural systems).	
<i>D.7.3 Use innovative funding methods, including market-based approaches to increase diversity of funding mechanisms and engagement of private sector interests.</i>	1. Investigate, and if desirable, implement an initial pilot project such as a water quality credit and trading system to improve compliance by allowing a wide range treatment solutions and/or the fee-in-lieu mitigation program.	X
	2. Investigate, create, and implement additional tools to set up markets including 1) rules for adding new resources to the trading pool (e.g., stormwater, flood storage, habitat); 2) a cross-resource crediting system base on net ecosystem benefit; 3) a market institution to buy, hold, and sell credits and broker transactions; and 4) rules and policies to initiating and managing pilot and long-term trading programs	
<b>D.8 Increase and sustain coordinated efforts for communication, outreach, and education to increase public awareness and encourage individual stewardship.</b>		
<i>D.8.1 Implement a long-term, highly visible communications effort to increase public understanding of the threats facing Puget Sound and engagement in reducing personal impact.</i>	1. Promote a soundwide effort on a few actions that individual people can do to help protect Puget Sound	X
<i>D.8.2 Coordinate and unify Puget Sound related public information programs improve consistency of messages with the Action Agenda and efficiency.</i>	1. Use the existing Education, Communication and Outreach Network (EcoNet) to coordinate education, outreach and volunteer efforts. 2. Use the Education Working Group of federal, state, and local agencies to coordinate educational related policy and grant efforts.	
<i>D.8.3 Expand and sustain local volunteer steward and educators programs focused on Action Agenda priorities to increase participation rates and improve efficiency of communication efforts.</i>	1. Provide an easy-to-access, coordinated network of local volunteer activities to Puget Sound residents. The network will include opportunities for restoration, "citizen science" for monitoring, and outreach. 2. Build and train volunteer stewards and educators. 3. Provide coordinated technical assistance to volunteer efforts focused on consistent messages and up-to-date scientific and technical information, including monitoring protocols. 4. Implement the WSU Beachwatcher Sustainability Plan to sustain current programs and expand the effort to all 12 Puget Sound counties.	X

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<i>D.8.4 Strengthen K-12 environmental programs to improve long-term understanding of Puget Sound issues and solutions. This effort will build on and tie into existing efforts.</i>		
<b>D.9 Implement a focused, well-balanced science program that improves regional capacity to understand the ecosystem, threats to it, and the effectiveness of our actions, as well support decision-making with scientific information.</b>		
<i>D.9.1 Develop and maintain an open, peer-reviewed, and responsive capacity to meet the scientific needs of the Partnership</i>		
<i>D.9.2 Develop and use an ongoing integrated ecosystem assessment for Puget Sound to improve our ability to determine what is healthy and to evaluate implementation strategies.</i>	1. Continue to develop the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for Puget Sound	X
<i>D.9.3 Develop and implement a coordinated, prioritized, and integrated ecosystem monitoring, modeling, and research program</i>	1. Create a sustained, integrated ecosystem monitoring program. Adapt existing monitoring programs to provide information on ambient conditions, threats, and effectiveness of recovery actions. This will include analyzing which monitoring efforts to continue, add, modify, or cease and developing and overseeing institutional arrangements to ensure broad participation in coordinated monitoring efforts. It will also include refinement of indicators	X
	2. Implement the priority recommendations in the Biennial Science Work Plan. For 2009 these are to predict how Puget Sound might change in the future and to assess the effects of different management actions: a) analysis to predict future conditions; b) assess effectiveness of nearshore restoration efforts to inform action adaptation; c) evaluate or predict watershed-scale effects on land use change and stormwater management on pollutant loads and harm to aquatic life; and d) assess how changes or impacts to forage fish affect pelagic and nearshore food webs.	X
	3. Support collaborative scientific investigations that promote ecosystem based management. Specifically A) Phase 2 of the indicators work to inform management targets, B) assess risks and investigate threats and drivers; C) evaluate management scenarios. Such efforts will include but not limited to the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment for Puget Sound, ongoing investigations of sources and pathways of toxic and nutrient loading, Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program, and others.	X
<b>D.10 Build and use a performance management system to improve accountability for on-the-ground results in the ecosystem and implementation of actions</b>		
<i>D.10.1 Build and use a coordinated adaptive management system so that the Partnership and implementers can modify and adjust efforts.</i>	1. Next Partnership steps on Action Agenda Adaptive Management	

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	2. Continue to integrate the Salmon Recovery Plan monitoring and adaptive management work into the broader Puget Sound effort. This includes A) continuing to finalize the required salmon recovery adaptive management plan and B) watershed implementation tracking and reporting for implementation progress.	
<i>D.10.2 Develop and implement an accountability system for Puget Sound implementers.</i>	1. Develop and implement Partnership accountability system next steps: Track the funds from state, federal, local, tribal and other sources directed to actions intended to benefit the Puget Sound ecosystem. Recipients of funding will be asked to report on how dollars were allocated and what actions were implemented. All expenditures will have an action, a responsible person, a set of milestones with timelines and a performance measure. Implementers will likely be asked to report to the Partnership beginning in 2009.	X
<i>D.10.3 Develop and implement a shared Puget Sound information management system.</i>	1. Next Partnership steps on Information Management system	