

May 19, 2009

At the May 27-28 meeting, the Leadership Council will be asked to approve an updated version of the Action Agenda and a thematic comment-response summary for the November 2008 and March-April 2009 comment periods. The documents needing approval are on the Partnership website under the Leadership Council meeting materials. A link to the agenda and meeting materials is also on the home page.

The Action Agenda update reflects changes needed in order for the Action Agenda to become the new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Puget Sound under federal Clean Water Act Section 320 (National Estuary Program). The primary differences between the December 1, 2008 Action Agenda and the May 2009 Action Agenda Update are inclusion of a new appendix that outlines the Partnership's roles and responsibilities as well as the structure of the Partnership and decision-making process; more detail and a timeline for the performance management system (Question 3, Parts E.1 and E.4 are substantially revised, part of Question 1 is revised); revisions to the introduction to reflect the comment-response summary and changes between December and May; minor revisions to the introduction of Question 3; and references to the topic forum papers (in the new appendix). Tribal names in the Salish language and interpretation of the name meanings have been added to the action area profile tables. The update also includes minor clarifications and corrections that were identified following December 1, 2008 through staff reconsideration of the November 2008 comments and March-April 2009 comments. The contents of and comments on the March 2009 supplement have also been folded into the May 2009 Update.

Following Leadership Council approval for both documents, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will review the Action Agenda for consistency with the National Estuary Program for acceptance as the new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for Puget Sound under federal Clean Water Act Section 320. Partnership and EPA staff have worked closely together on the May 2009 Update to help facilitate timely EPA review. Copies of the new Action Agenda will be printed following both approval by the Leadership Council and confirmation by EPA.