

July 9, 2009

To: Leadership Council

From: Joe Ryan, Salmon Recovery and Local Implementation Director

Subject: Update on Local Integration

The Partnership is moving forward on its plan to integrate Salmon Recovery and broader Action Agenda implementation. Attached is a two-page description of this work, which is intended to start a conversation with local communities. We expect that each Action Area will have unique organizational strengths, approaches, and needs. Our plan is to meet each area of the Sound on its own terms. Our strategy is three-fold: (1) focus efforts to implement key actions from the Action Agenda at the local scale; (2) begin the conversation with local communities about integrating local efforts; and (3) accelerate salmon recovery.

The local integration conversation is delicate. Some are concerned that local integration could merely become another layer, unless there are resources that are provided and defined authority. The Partnership needs to be clear about what is needed from local integration and how local integrating groups will be supported in their work. We need to be mindful of the need to make this work more efficient at the same time that we support local efforts.

There will be many centers for implementing the Action Agenda, including local governments, tribes, private sector entities, watershed planning units, watershed councils, shellfish protection areas, regional fishery enhancement groups, marine resources committees (including those working with the Northwest Straits Commission) nearshore groups, watershed lead entities, state agencies, and the federal government. The Partnership is responsible for facilitating a process that clarifies how these centers of implementation relate to each other.

Hiring Update

Over the past six months, the Partnership has completed the hiring process to integrate its Regional Liaison and Salmon Recovery teams. We now employ five members of the newly named Ecosystem Recovery team. We have announced additional positions externally and have begun interviewing candidates to fill two additional positions on this team. It is expected that hiring will be completed by the end of July.