

Resolution 2010-07

Regarding Support for Timely Alignment of Floodplain Programs with the Biological Opinion for the National Flood Insurance Program in Puget Sound

WHEREAS, floodplains have historically and will for the foreseeable future provide a number of ecological services of high value to the social, economic and ecological health of Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership seeks to advance floodplain management decisions and actions that reflect the importance of floodplains to the achievement of Puget Sound recovery goals; and

WHEREAS, the Action Agenda recommends working directly with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and local jurisdictions to address floodplain development issues that affect the regional effort to recover Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS, the FEMA implements the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which through the issuance of insurance influences the type and extent of development in floodplains; and

WHEREAS, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a Biological Opinion finding that the NFIP jeopardizes the existence of several Puget Sound species listed under the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, NMFS has identified seven actions for FEMA that would bring the NFIP into compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the third of which calls for FEMA to modify its implementation of the NFIP minimum criteria to prevent and/or minimize the degradation of channel and floodplain habitat; and

WHEREAS, NMFS has set a deadline of September 22, 2011 for work by FEMA and 122 communities in Puget Sound to implement this action; and

WHEREAS, the timely alignment of local floodplain programs with NMFS' Biological Opinion will be one important contribution toward establishing conditions in floodplains that support the six goals for a recovered Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS, parties affected by and interested in the implications of the recommended modifications to the NFIP for their programs are seeking additional clarity and guidance regarding the substance and implementation of the modifications; and

WHEREAS, staff from FEMA, NMFS and the Partnership have identified the key issues needing resolution in order to facilitate timely programmatic alignment and developed a collaborative strategic plan to reach resolution of these issues.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership supports effective and timely implementation of actions to achieve compliance with the NMFS' Biological Opinion by the September 22, 2011, deadline as an important contribution toward Puget Sound recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership supports the implementation of the collaborative process to resolve issues related to the NMFS Biological Opinion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership encourages a broader regional exploration of what is necessary to manage floodplains such that they support the recovery of Puget Sound and the implementation of the NMFS Biological Opinion.

Resolution Moved By: Dan O'Neal

Resolution Seconded By: Diana Gale

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

DATE: November 19, 2010