

Leadership Council Resolution 2011-13 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for floodplains

WHEREAS, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

WHEREAS, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

WHEREAS, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

WHEREAS, the extent and condition of freshwater floodplains provides a key indication that “freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

WHEREAS, extent and condition of freshwater floodplains can affect how “a quality of human life ... is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem” (RCW 90.71.300(b)); and

WHEREAS, technical experts convened by Partnership staff have presented analyses to the Partnership about potential ecosystem recovery targets for floodplains; and

WHEREAS, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their May 24 and 25, 2011 meeting and additional information presented to the Board on May 25, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of the May 24 and 25, 2011 Ecosystem Coordination Board meeting and additional information presented to the Board on May 25, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the public and stakeholders were provided an opportunity to weigh in on the options provided; and

WHEREAS, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the June 16 and 17, 2011 meeting of

the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership's guiding principles for target setting

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that

The Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Freshwater floodplains that support natural processes and deliver ecological services to keep people and property safe during flood flows, support fisheries production, and provide water filtration and ground water recharge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Partnership's 2020 recovery target for floodplains shall be expressed as:

By 2020, 15% of degraded floodplain areas are restored or floodplain projects to achieve that outcome are underway across Puget Sound and there is no additional loss of floodplain function in any Puget Sound watershed relative to a 2011 baseline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Partnership will work collaboratively with partners over the next two years, to develop and refine indicators addressing floodplain extent and condition (connectivity, condition and flood storage capacity). This work will include identification of the most important floodplain areas on which to focus recovery and protection efforts (e.g.. the entire 100-year floodplain or a narrower, more dynamic and ecologically critical portion of the floodplain). The two-year work plan would include completion of Ecology's current Sound-wide mapping of channel migration zones and modifications to river-floodplain interactions due to shoreline alteration (to be completed 2013) as well as development of a land cover-based measure of riparian and floodplain condition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that reevaluation of the target adopted by this resolution will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures.

Resolution Moved By: _____ Diana Gale _____

Resolution Seconded By: _____ David Dicks _____

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

DATE: _____ June 17, 2011 _____