

## Leadership Council Resolution 2011-21 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for land cover

**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**, patterns and rates of change of land cover provide a key indication that “freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

**WHEREAS**, patterns and rates of change in land cover can affect how “a quality of human life ... is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem” (RCW 90.71.300(b)); and

**WHEREAS**, land cover evaluated via products from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Coastal Change Analysis Program has been adopted as one of the Partnership’s Dashboard indicators of ecosystem condition; and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts have analyzed land cover changes and joined policy advisors in developing potential ecosystem recovery targets for land cover; and

**WHEREAS**, Science Panel members provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their October 6, 2011 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the October 20, 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:

Sufficient forestlands, agricultural lands, open space, natural lands (i.e., forest, prairie), and developed lands and related infrastructure to support habitat needs, support natural processes, and generate ecosystem services.

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

By 2020, average annual loss of forested land cover to developed land-cover in non-federal lands does not exceed 1,000 acres per year and 268 miles of riparian vegetation are restored or restoration projects are underway.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Partnership staff will work with the steering committee of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program to convene a monitoring work group to (a) develop a robust system of indicators to characterize local and regional trends in land cover and land conversion, especially related to forest cover, farmlands, and riparian areas, and (b) identify, coordinate, and produce consistent data on changes in land cover.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the target adopted by this resolution will be re-evaluated once the 2006-2011 land cover change data are available.

Resolution Moved By: David Dicks

Resolution Seconded By: Steve Sakuma

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:** October 20, 2011