

Partnership Science-Policy Work Groups Agenda Item #1

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Approved by Director: DDD

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Overview

At the recommendation of the Leadership Council and Science Panel, the Partnership is forming small, cross-Partnership groups to help advance key science-policy discussions and work. The purpose of the groups is to:

- Make sure scientific work done in support of the Partnership work is focused on relevant questions
- Serve as a venue to vet key science-policy issues so that policy decisions have scientific input and basis
- Serve as a sounding board for key agency priorities

Groups are informal and advisory. They will meet as needed (approximately quarterly) on to focus on specific high-level guidance and directional questions needed by staff. They will be composed of:

- Two Leadership Council members
- Three Ecosystem Coordination Board members
- Two Science Panel members
- One Partnership staff as lead point of contact

Technical and/or policy leads, as well as other experts may be needed to listen to the direction or advise as requested.

- Staff will bring proposals of specific ideas and questions to the groups for specific guidance (not just briefings)
- While groups will not have formal proceedings, staff will consider the ideas and bring forward any recommendations to the Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, or Science Panel as appropriate, and external groups assisting with work.
- Participants can help staff explain group advise to others

Staff is working with the Leadership Council to form the groups. Some ECB members will be asked participate as needed.

Proposed groups with topics:

- Performance Management Framework
 - Ecosystem indicators
 - Intermediate outcomes
 - Action accountability
 - Ecosystem monitoring
 - Adaptive Management
 - Ecosystem and action reporting
 - Puget Sound Science Update

- Threats to ecosystem health
 - Identification of geographic distribution of threats and identification of magnitude of threats and urgency
 - Identification of links between threats to the condition of specific species, habitats, water quality, freshwater flows, and human health and well-being.
 - Investigations that link indicators of health to strategies

Near-term specifics could include:

- Integrated Ecosystem Assessment work related to estimating spatial distribution and magnitude of threats
 - Watershed characterizations
 - Ecosystem conceptual models
 - Key questions for the toxics loading inventory
 - Key questions for nutrient and dissolved oxygen modeling
 - Evaluation of priorities for stormwater retrofits
 - Revisions to Topic Forum papers
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- Implementation strategies and short-term priorities
 - Use of toxic loading inventory to guide loadings reduction strategies
 - Advice about resolution of floodplain management and levee maintenance
 - Input on scenario development (e.g., IEA modeling related to land use and stormwater management)
 - Input on advanced wastewater treatment strategies based on synthesis of nutrient loading, dissolved oxygen modeling, and technology assessments
 - Integration of PSNERP and NOAA IEA modeling projects and tasks with other Partnership work.

 - Outreach and communications
 - Broad scope that needs to be narrowed

 - Finance, Funding, and budget
 - Long-term funding strategies
 - Allocation strategies for federal funding
 - Financial strategy