

PugetSoundPartnership

our sound, our community, our choice

Preliminary Ranking of Near-Term Actions

At their October meeting, the Leadership Council requested staff to rank near-term actions based on criteria derived from guiding principals for ecosystem management. The principles were developed through input from a broad array of stakeholders including the topic forums, action area meetings, the Science Panel, the Ecosystem Coordination Board and the Leadership Council. Staff conducted a qualitative review of near-term actions for strategic priorities A through C in the November 6 draft of the Action Agenda. The attached table is the preliminary result for discussion purposes at the ECB meeting.

Criteria Used to Rank the Near-Term Actions

- **Priority Threats:** Staff evaluated the extent to which each near-term action would address an identified threat to the ecosystem. Actions that address the alteration of habitat or the input of pollution were ranked higher than actions that did not address these threats. Actions that address more than one threat were given higher priority.
- **Strategic Priorities:** Actions were evaluated to determine the extent to which they would employ one of the strategic priorities established by the Leadership Council. Those priorities are: 1) protect ecosystem processes; 2) restore ecosystem processes; 3) prevent pollution; and 4) work better together. Equal weight was given to each priority.
- **Magnitude of Benefit:** Actions that had the potential to make the greatest contribution to the achievement of ecosystem goals were ranked higher than others. Both potential effectiveness and geographic extent of expected benefit contributed to this ranking.
- **Ecosystems Goals:** Actions were ranked according to how well they addressed each ecosystem goal. Actions that address multiple goals were ranked proportionally higher.
- **Urgency and Irreversibility:** Actions that address imminent threats to ecosystem health, especially when the potential damage would be costly or impossible to reverse, were given proportionally higher rankings than other actions.
- **Implementation Criteria:** Key factors such as the probability that a project would achieve its intended results and the readiness of the project to implement were also considered.

2020 Action Agenda Possible Ranking of Actions
For discussion with the Ecosystem Coordination Board only - 11/10/2008

Cat	Action	Description
Protect Intact Ecosystems Processes, Structure and Function		
A	A1.3	Initiate or complete maps for each of the watersheds within the Puget Sound basin to refine existing work and identify site specific locations for protection and restoration.
A	A2.5	Provide funding and technical assistance to local jurisdictions to update local shoreline management programs by current deadlines with all updates complete by 2013.
A	A2.1	Purchase high value habitat and land at immediate risk of conversion as identified through existing processes such as the salmon recovery plans and others (e.g., WWRC)
A	A4.1	Purchase development rights or use conversation easements for working lands at immediate risk of conversion.
A	A4.4	Continue to implement existing forest practice plans and regulations consistent with the Action Agenda including the state trust lands HCP, state forest practices rules as informed by the Forest and Fish Plan, and others.
A	A5.1	Advocate for national or west coast regional ballast water discharge standards.
A	A5.2	Implement the Department of Fish and Wildlife ballast water regulatory compliance monitoring program (if standards in A5.1 are not established)
A	A2.7	Change Shoreline Management Act statues and regulations to require a shoreline conditional use permit for bulkheads and docks associated with all residential development; for all new shoreline hardening; for all seawall/bulkhead/revetment repair projects; and for new docks and piers.
A	A3.3	Develop and implement the comprehensive basin flow protection and enhancement programs called for in the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan.
A	A3.4	Implement the recommendations from the approved water quantity plans under the Watershed Planning Act consistent with the Action Agenda and coordinated with other local restoration and protection efforts.
A	A3.6	Establish local water masters to increase water code compliance and enforcement.
A	A3.7	Support municipal water systems implementation of Washington Department of Health's Water Use Efficiency Rule, including establishing water conservation goals, metering, and reporting from all municipal suppliers.
A	A1.1	Convene a regional planning forum to create a coordinated vision for protecting and restoring Puget Sound ecosystem.
A	A2.6	Provide local governments with guidance regarding a strategy to achieve and measure no-net-loss of ecological function as required by the Shoreline Management Act and the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines.

2020 Action Agenda Possible Ranking of Actions
For discussion with the Ecosystem Coordination Board only - 11/10/2008

Cat	Action	Description
A	A1.2	Prepare a set of criteria to guide decisions for acquiring and protecting high-value, high-risk habitat.
A	A2.3	Convene a task force to develop a recommended mechanism to the Partnership on options to rapidly acquire properties with high ecological value and imminent risk of conversion.
A	A2.2	Advocate for proposed Wilderness designations: a) Support Alpine Lakes Wilderness addition and b) Pratt River Wild and Scenic Designation.
A	A3.1	Complete setting flow rules in watersheds that currently do not have instream flow rules, with priority given to critical basins or those with known significant problems meeting instream or out-of-stream demands .
A	A4.5	Continue ongoing work to resolve conflicts between aquaculture and upland uses
A	A4.6	Implement components of the Washington Department of Natural Resource Aquatic HCP that protect critical habitat.
A	A3.2	Begin to update instream flow rules to ensure they are based on current science.
A	A2.4	Work with the Marine Managed Areas Work Group chaired by DFW to develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness of MPAs by December 2009.
A	A4.3	Support the Conservation Commission's efforts to protect productive agricultural areas consistent with the Action Agenda priorities.
A	A4.2	Coordinate with the SSB 5248 project by the Ruckelshaus Center that is working to resolve conflicts between agricultural activities and critical areas regulations.
A	A5.3	Develop a Puget Sound baseline and database of invasive species to guide control efforts.
A	A3.8	Develop a gray water reuse rule by December 31, 2010.
A	A3.5	Evaluate and implement solutions to exempt well issues.
		Restore Intact Ecosystems Processes, Structure and Function
B	B1.2	Complete large-scale restoration projects at the mouths of major river systems in Puget Sound where there is a high likelihood of recreating ecosystem function.
B	B1.1	Implement restoration projects in the salmon recovery three-year work plans and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program of the Nearshore Partnership.
B	B1.3	Investigation in a timely way to help identify and refine nearshore restoration opportunities and move toward implementation.
B	B3.1	Implement coordinated incentive and technical assistance programs for private landowners through the Conservation District, WSU Extension, and local governments.
B	B2.2	Continue Bellingham Bay Pilot Program to clean up Bellingham Bay in a coordinated way.
B	B2.1	Fund a one year pilot program to develop a coordinated clean up and restoration plan for the Port Angeles Harbor and
		Reduce the Sources of Water Pollution

2020 Action Agenda Possible Ranking of Actions
For discussion with the Ecosystem Coordination Board only - 11/10/2008

Cat	Action	Description
C	C1.8	Implement immediate remediation actions to address Hood Canal's low dissolved oxygen through the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program.
C	C2.2	Provide financial and technical assistance to cities and counties to implement NPDES Phase I and II permits.
C	C2.4	Develop and implement low impact development incentives.
C	C2.3	Assist cities and counties in adopting low impact development stormwater codes for development and redevelopment.
C	C1.7	Implement Shellfish District Protection plans, Marine Managed Area plans, and related projects to restore water quality at commercial and recreational shellfish areas that are degraded or threatened.
C	C1.9	Implement priority strategies and actions to address low dissolved oxygen in South Sound, targeted areas in the Whidbey Basin, and other vulnerable areas.
C	C1.3	Permanently fund a rescue tug at Neah Bay.
C	C4.1	Develop and implement septic system management plans in each Puget Sound county.
C	C1.1	Conduct a focused outreach campaign to reduce pollutants identified in the Phase II of the toxic loading study that are priority threats to Puget Sound.
C	C1.2	Implement Department of Ecology's PBT program to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of all chemicals on the PBT list.
C	C2.6	Develop high-level criteria that can be applied in 2009 to determine the highest priority areas around the Sound for stormwater retrofits.
C	C2.8	Implement private property stewardship, incentive, and technical assistant programs (e.g. Conservation Districts, WSU Extension, local government programs) that focus on reducing sources of water pollution, particularly in priority areas.
C	C4.3	Enhance and target septic loan programs to ensure that programs are targeted to areas of with demonstrated loadings issues and vulnerable waters.
C	C3.2	Provide funding to local governments, particularly in nutrient sensitive areas, to initiate projects to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities.
C	C1.6	Implement existing air management plans consistent with the Action Agenda.
C	C2.7	Implement road maintenance and abandonment programs for federal and state owned lands (including trustlands) as well as private timber lands.
C	C2.5	Convene a focus group to evaluate the technical and programmatic solutions for CSOs in the context of improving water quality in fresh and marine water and preserving and recovering the health of Puget Sound.
C	C5.2	Refine Ecology's near-term prioritization criteria for site clean ups to be consistent with the Action Agenda and incorporate criteria into toxic clean up grant programs.
C	C2.1	Establish a regional coordinated monitoring program for stormwater, working with the Monitoring Consortium of the Stormwater Work Group.
C	C3.3	Support federal facilities in reducing nutrient and pathogens, particularly in already impaired areas.

2020 Action Agenda Possible Ranking of Actions
For discussion with the Ecosystem Coordination Board only - 11/10/2008

Cat	Action	Description
C	C1.4	Obtain enhanced delegated authority from the Coast Guard to the Department of Ecology to inspect vessels, investigate incidents, and approve oil spill prevention plans for vessels and facilities.
C	C1.5	Petition EPA to establish Puget Sound as a No Discharge Zone to eliminate bacteria, nutrients and pathogens from being discharged into Puget Sound.
C	C4.2	Revise the current septic system rule no later than December 2010 so that standards are established to address new septic system technologies.
C	C6.2	Fund the shellfish and fish advisory monitoring programs.
C	C6.1	Fund the swimming beach monitoring program.
C	C5.1	Continue to implement ongoing high priority toxic remediation and clean up projects.
C	C3.1	Ensure that AKART or better standards are met in nutrient sensitive areas such as Hood Canal, South Sound, and the Whidbey Basin.
		Work Efficiently and Effectively Together
		<i>Actions listed in the order presented in the Draft Action Agenda. They are not ranked.</i>
D	D1.1	Coordinate implementation of existing plans and programs that support the Action Agenda, and realign or discontinue plans and programs that conflict with the strategies and actions set forth in the Action Agenda.
D	D1.2	Develop and implement the Steelhead Recovery Plan, building on the Chinook Recovery Plan and integrating the Action Agenda priorities.
D	D1.3	Use and augment existing species plans to create actionable workplans for imperiled species without existing or specified plans.
D	D1.4	Continue the integration of habitat, harvest, and hatchery efforts in the salmon recover plans and watershed three-year work plans.
D	D1.5	Make the southern resident killer whale plan actionable with assignments and implementation timelines and implement the plan.
D	D1.6	Implement the 2008 Revision to the Pacific Salmon Treaty.
D	D1.7	Implement the priority recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group to update state hatcheries to protect wild salmonid stocks.
D	D2.1	Once the recommendations of the Climate Change Study Groups are available, integrate and coordinate them with the Action Agenda.
D	D3.1	Integrate the work of the Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership (PSNERP), including the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, into the Puget Sound Partnership to improve efficiency, coordination and to avoid overlap and duplication of
D	D3.2	Fund salmon recovery and other collaborative groups such as Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups and 2514 watershed planning groups in the near-term to continue existing work.
D	D3.3	Fund tribes to participate in the refinement and implementation of the Action Agenda, including salmon recovery plans.
D	D3.4	Establish a Federal Puget Sound Office
D	D3.5	Consider the recommendations of the Local Integration Task Force and implement appropriate follow up actions.

2020 Action Agenda Possible Ranking of Actions
For discussion with the Ecosystem Coordination Board only - 11/10/2008

Cat	Action	Description
D	D3.6	Support appropriations to federal agencies to implement specific priorities in the Action Agenda.
D	D3.7	Continue and expand outreach to, and collaboration with, private and nongovernmental interests including, the Puget Sound business caucus, environmental caucus, agricultural groups, shellfish growers, and private landowners in the implementation of the Action Agenda.
D	D4.1	Conduct an institutional analysis of local, state and federal agencies with regulatory authority over upland terrestrial and aquatic habitats, species protection, and water quality.
D	D4.2	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Clark County pilot of the Office of Regulatory Assistance's iPermit program, and adjust the program as needed. Identify a Puget Sound county and one or more cities in the same watershed in which to further pilot the iPermit program.
D	D4.3	Convene a process and make recommendations to the Partnership about streamlining permitting processes for habitat restoration projects.
D	D4.4	Convene a process with Corps, NMFS, USFWS, jurisdictions responsible for levee maintenance, and stakeholders to identify and describe conflicts between levee maintenance standards and healthy habitat.
D	D4.5	Support funding and legislation to allow state loans to local governments to conduct environmental reviews under SEPA at the planning or programmatic level.
D	D4.6	Develop, fund, and implement an off-site mitigation pilot project funded through a fee in lieu of construction program in one to three Puget Sound watersheds.
D	D5.1	Convene a process with federal, state and local jurisdictions to develop an ideal compliance assistance and inspection program that would leverage existing fragmented inspection programs into an integrated program without co-opting the regulatory and enforcement authority of any jurisdiction.
D	D5.2	Provide additional state compliance inspectors to ensure that business producing hazardous waste are complying with regulations.
D	D5.3	Support state water quality fee revisions to provide additional compliance staff at Department of Ecology
D	D5.4	Provide additional staff at the Department of Ecology to conduct field visits to improve compliance with shoreline and aquatic regulations.
D	D5.5	Develop and implement a training program for designers and contractors who work in nearshore areas.