

Green/Duwamish Watershed (WRIA 9)  
Shared Strategy Feedback for Decision Makers

**I. Key Questions for Regional Summit: The following questions are important to determine the contribution of the Green/Duwamish Watershed to regional salmon recovery in the next ten years. Answers to these questions by the end of December 2004 will support regional consensus on the direction for Puget Sound salmon recovery at the January 2005 summit.**

1. What are your long-term and ten year goals for the Chinook population? Of the habitat conditions which you identified as necessary for the populations which use your watershed, which can you make significant progress on in the 10-year timeframe?
2. What are the conditions necessary to implement the actions identified in your 10-year timeframe? Are they supported by those responsible for implementation? If funding during the next ten years is not available for all areas where you would like to make significant progress, how would you prioritize actions?
3. What actions are necessary to achieve the protection of existing functions? What conditions must be in place to achieve protection? Are those conditions supported by those responsible for implementation?

**II. Essential Decisions for Final Watershed Chapter: Based on the chapter submittal, the summer review process, and our best scientific understanding, the Technical Recovery Team and the Shared Strategy Work Group consider the following policy decisions as the most important to answer and include in the chapter by April 30, 2004. This will increase the certainty that actions taken in the next ten years will move us on a trajectory toward recovery.**

1. Steps and timetable necessary to reconcile hatchery management practices and habitat actions and goals (Shared Strategy Work Group acknowledges its responsibility to encourage assistance from co-managers concerning this issue)
2. Water quality: timetable and steps to address temperature and dissolved oxygen levels where these are significant factors limiting productivity
3. Protection: the level of protection of all intact areas of nearshore (forage fish spawning beaches and habitats) and freshwater tributaries which provide functions that support Chinook, bull trout and summer chum; timeline and steps to provide protection where gaps exist
4. Adaptive Management: identification of an adaptive management structure to monitor and manage progress toward habitat goals

**III. Increasing ESU Certainty: The Technical Recovery Team suggests that addressing the following will increase the certainty of meeting ESU recovery and should be noted in the plan with a brief statement of long-term strategy to address even if it is not possible to develop actions at this time.**

1. Include measurable habitat protection and restoration goals in the plan along with actions and a timetable to achieve them.
2. Identify any specific objectives and actions necessary to ensure that the management of habitat, hatcheries and harvest are consistent over the next ten years (Shared Strategy acknowledges its role and responsibilities concerning this issue).
3. Describe the extent of protection of nearshore processes and functions, including feeder bluffs, eelgrass beds, forage fish habitats and other features and attributes which support Chinook and bull trout.
4. Develop a strategy to address flow problems in areas where they have been identified as a limiting factor

**IV. Highlights of the Summer Review: This section summarizes our understanding of your responses to the six questions from your June submission and August discussions.**

**A. Information about the planning approach, conditions necessary to achieve recovery, and measurable goals**

- 1. Planning Group:** Local jurisdictions within the Green/Duwamish watershed are working collaboratively on a comprehensive salmon habitat plan to contribute to salmon recovery. Co-managers are not formally engaged in the WRIA 9 planning effort. However, the WDFW Habitat Steward provides consistent input and participates in technical meetings and technical-policy linkage workshops.
- 2. Recovery Conditions: Has the watershed group identified the conditions (habitat, harvest, and hatchery) necessary to reach recovery?**  
Participants in the WRIA 9 habitat plan are currently evaluating habitat conditions and recommendations of actions that will be necessary to achieve habitat goals. The WRIA 9 technical team has developed conclusions on timing of hatchery releases based on their study of wild and hatchery fish interactions. Co-managers have not yet jointly identified conditions necessary to reach recovery.
- 3. Measurable Goals: Has the watershed group described how they will assess their movement toward recovery?**

Planning targets have not been established by the Co-managers or provided to the WRIA 9 habitat planning participants. However, the Strategic Assessment does provide goals for VSP parameters.

- 4. Long-term contribution to ESU Recovery: What is the long term contribution of the independent spawning populations using this watershed for ESU recovery? To achieve ESU recovery, the TRT draft delisting criteria recommend that all populations show significant improvements. Also, based upon the delisting criteria, 2-4 populations in each of the five sub-regions must achieve the planning targets and other viable salmonid population parameters (VSP). These criteria are not intended to limit additional populations in each of the five regions from achieving the planning targets.**

Based upon the TRT draft delisting criteria, the central Sound populations that must meet the planning targets have not been defined, with the exception of the White River early run Chinook, which must meet planning targets and other VSP parameters (core population/low risk). There is not yet sufficient information for the Green River Chinook population to know whether the long term contributions of these populations will be supportive or core/low risk.

**B. Highlights of improvements completed or underway or existing protections of ecological functions that support recovery (Note: Results for fish have not been evaluated)**

1. Fish access/passage: Downstream fish passage improvements from HHD are under construction or are underway.
2. Contaminated Sediments: Sediment remediation activities which have been completed in the Lower Duwamish and Elliott Bay have resulted in improved conditions for fish.
3. Nearshore/estuarine habitat restoration: Intertidal habitat restoration projects in the Lower Duwamish have resulted in improved conditions for fish.
4. Riparian: Numerous projects have been completed by watershed partners in the Middle and Lower Green. The implementation of Fish and Forest and Habitat Conservation Plans in the upper watershed contribute to the protection of riparian functions and values that support chinook.
5. Water quality: Wastewater management, stormwater regulations, and other programs are resulting in improved conditions for fish.
6. Protection: Significant land acquisitions are contributing to the protection of Middle Green habitat. The Middle Green provides high quality habitat for multiple life stages in support of VSP goals. The implementation of each jurisdiction's Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Programs, and other ordinances and voluntary programs contribute to the protection of habitat functions and values that support Chinook and bull trout.
7. Harvest: Significant reductions in harvest of Chinook have been made by the co-managers.

**C. Significant proposals – proposed strategy that strives to significantly protect or improve an important factor for recovery of the fish with actions that can be**

**evaluated qualitatively or quantitatively for their results for fish; total cost of proposal(s)**

1. Access to the Upper Green River sub-watershed above HHD will be provided by a trap and haul program. Co-managers are currently discussing and resolving specific details.
2. The Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Study and Restoration Project, which is a joint effort of the WRIA 9 jurisdictions and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, identifies additional diverse habitat improvement projects that result in benefits for Chinook and other fish populations.
3. The WRIA 9 Near-Term Action Agenda provides protection and restoration actions by sub-watersheds which address factors of decline. Funding sources and actions that improve regulations and internal procedures for the protection of fish habitat are included.
4. Flows are expected to improve in the river pursuant to the construction and implementation of the Additional Water Storage Project designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Total Cost of Proposal:**

Ball-park cost estimates for actions identified for implementation in the Near-term Action Agenda within a ten-year timeframe total \$3.8 million for Green/Duwamish and watershed-wide projects. Prioritization and preliminary costs for priority actions and alternatives will be discussed by planning participants in October 2004. Preliminary costs for preferred suite of actions will occur in November 2004.

**D. Poised – the watershed has designed or initiated a process that will result in the development of significant proposals to improve conditions for fish. Anticipated or resulting proposals should be included in the recovery chapter.**

1. Fish access/passage: Downstream passage of fish at Howard Hanson Dam is expected to be restored.
2. The identification of strategies and actions addressing limiting factors and VSP goals is underway. Workshops to determine priority actions and alternatives, opportunities and constraints, and feasibility will be held through November 2004.