



September 2015

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10

# Puget Sound Action Agenda – Implementation Strategies and Actions for Vital Sign Recovery Assistance Program

## Request for Proposals - Fact Sheet

<b>Purpose:</b>	Provide technical advice to Puget Sound Management Conference and make and manage subawards for implementing priority Action Agenda strategies and actions.
<b>Eligible Applicants:</b>	Federal agencies, WA State agencies and local units of government. Special purpose districts. Universities. Tribes, and NGOS in the Puget Sound basin in the United States.
<b>Estimated Funding:</b>	\$15,000,000 - \$20,000,000 total all awards - annually for 5 years
<b>Number of Grants:</b>	3 anticipated
<b>Amount per Grant</b>	Estimated \$2,000,000-\$10,000,000 federal funds (annual increments X 5 yrs. Required match: 1:1 of federal funds.
<b>Length of Grant</b>	5 years
<b>Anticipated Announcement:</b>	September 22, 2015 with 69 days open period. <a href="http://www.grants.gov/">http://www.grants.gov/</a> and <a href="http://www2.epa.gov/puget-sound/funding-and-grants">http://www2.epa.gov/puget-sound/funding-and-grants</a>
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### Request for Proposals

On September 22, 2015 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) issued a competitive grant announcement, soliciting proposals under the **Puget Sound Action Agenda – Implementation Strategies and Actions for Vital Sign Recovery Assistance Program**. The Request for Proposals (RFP) announces the availability of funds to create and maintain Strategic Initiative teams, form technical workgroups to develop implementation strategies, provide technical recommendations to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program (NEP) Management Conference, to develop and refine the technical criteria for selecting priority actions, and to make and manage subawards to implement the work endorsed by the NEP Management Conference consistent with the

2014/2015 Puget Sound Action Agenda and subsequent workplan updates for the protection and restoration of Puget Sound.

### Eligible Entities-

Federal government or Washington State government agencies; Public and private institutions of higher education located in the United States. Units of local government organized under Washington State law and located within the Greater Puget Sound basin. Special purpose districts, as defined by Washington State law at R.C.W. 36.93.020, including but not limited to, irrigation districts, and water and sewer districts that are located in or govern land and water resources within the greater Puget Sound basin; and conservation districts located in or governing land and water resources within the greater Puget Sound Basin Watershed planning units formed under RCW 90.82.040 and RCW 90.82.060,

local management boards organized under RCW 90.88.030, salmon recovery lead entities organized pursuant to RCW 77.85, regional fisheries enhancement groups organized pursuant to RCW 77.95.060 and Marine Resource Committees organized pursuant to RCW 36.125.010 and RCW 36.125.020 if they are located within or their jurisdictions include waters and/or lands within the greater Puget Sound basin. Intrastate organizations such as associations of cities, counties or conservation districts in the greater Puget Sound basin. Nonprofit non-governmental entities. Federally recognized Indian Tribes located within the greater Puget Sound basin and any consortium of these eligible Tribes. We strongly encourage eligible applicants to consider working as collaborators; one eligible entity must be named as the principle applicant.

## **Eligible Activities**

Work with the EPA Puget Sound program, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), the NEP Management Conference and the other stakeholders to implement and refine the FY16 Puget Sound funding model as released by EPA on March 27th, 2015.

See: [http://www.psp.wa.gov/announcement\\_050115.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/announcement_050115.php).

Implement and manage a subaward program to support the 3 Strategic Initiatives in the Action Agenda- Habitat, Stormwater, and Shellfish. The 2014/2015 Action Agenda can be found at: [http://www.psp.wa.gov/2014\\_action\\_agenda\\_download.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/2014_action_agenda_download.php)

Fund activities identified in the Action Agenda to refine, monitor progress and help achieve Vital Sign targets. A complete description of the Puget Sound Action Agenda Vital Signs can be found at: <http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/index.php>

Help guide and solicit actions that study, evaluate, model, plan, and prepare for the impacts of climate change on Puget Sound ecosystem protection and restoration activities

Form the long –standing Strategic Initiative teams needed to make technically supported recommendations of prioritization and sequencing of Action Agenda Near Term Actions – NTAs- and provide expert opinion to inform future modifications to the Action Agenda. Form technical workgroups as needed to develop

new Implementation Strategies and to refine existing Implementation Strategies

Working with the PSP and Puget Sound Management Conference boards, adaptively manage the implementation and future updates of the Action Agenda.

## **Action Agenda - 3 Strategic Initiatives**

In the approved 2012 update of the Action Agenda, three areas of focus were identified that would deliver the most progress toward ecosystem recovery for the funds and effort invested. Termed “Strategic Initiatives”, these three priority areas are expected to provide the foundation of the Action Agenda through 2020. These initiatives are summarized below.

### **Protect and Restore Habitat**

Restoring damaged shorelines and protecting salmon habitats along the rivers and streams that flow into Puget Sound is necessary to sustain the many beneficial uses of Puget Sound including the recovery of local salmon runs and the commercial, recreational and tribal treaty rights associated with these valuable fisheries.

### **Prevent pollution from Urban Stormwater Runoff**

Many streams that drain into Puget Sound are threatened from stormwater runoff due to pollution, altered flow regimes and resulting habitat degradation. These stressors result in alteration of the quality

and quantity of water flowing in a stream channel such that organisms are exposed to more rapid and severe changes in water flows, elevated levels of contaminants and nutrients, altered channel stability and morphology. In short, polluted runoff from roads, roofs, parking lots, other paved areas, and from agriculture is considered the biggest threat to the water quality of Puget Sound and its contributing streams and rivers. Although we have many tools, technologies and practices for reducing stormwater pollution, we need to use them much more widely across the many local jurisdictions within the Puget Sound Basin.

### **Restore and re-open Shellfish Beds**

Shellfish harvesting is a major economic sector in Puget Sound supporting over 3,200 local jobs and bringing in an estimated \$270 million dollars to the region each year. It is also a tribal treaty right and a treasured tradition for countless Northwest families.

But harvests are threatened by pollution that has closed more than 7,000 acres of Puget Sound beaches from commercial, recreational and tribal harvest. The health of our local shellfish beds begins on land, through reduction of pollution from contaminated runoff and failing on-site sewage systems.

### **View the full RFP at:**

<http://www2.epa.gov/puget-sound/funding-and-grants-puget-sound>

Apply on-line at:

<http://www.grants.gov/>