Interim Draft

The Puget Sound Federal Task Force Action Plan

FY 2017-2021









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1.0 Background

Puget Sound is the second largest estuary in the United States. This deep, ecologically diverse fjord system is located within the broader Salish Sea, south of the border between the United States and Canada. The Puget Sound ecosystem supports the largest salmon runs in the lower 48 states and is home to substantial concentrations of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors; abundant shellfish and dozens of marine mammal species. Puget Sound is also a powerful regional and national economic force, home to some of the largest ports exporting and importing goods from the nation's leading trading partners in Asia and other countries. Also home to Army, Navy, and Air Force Installations, Puget Sound is critical to our nation's defense.

Despite its rich ecological resources and thriving economy, the Puget Sound ecosystem is experiencing significant challenges. Approximately 70 percent of the Puget Sound's original estuaries and wetlands have disappeared due to urban and agricultural development, and beaches and shellfish beds continue to be closed from bacterial and pollutant contamination. Populations of salmon that once numbered in the millions are now listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The Puget Sound Federal Task Force was established by MOU in October 2016. See Appendix A. Under the MOU, the Regional Implementation Team of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force will develop a five-year Action Plan that includes a coordinated list of federal priority projects, federal policy priorities for Puget Sound recovery, and budgets for these priorities. The Regional Leadership Team has developed and submitted the Action Plan to the national Puget Sound Federal Task Force for review and approval by June 1, 2017.[1]

The Regional Implementation Team used priorities identified through the Western Washington Tribal Treaty Rights at Risk initiative, Tribal Habitat Priorities, the 2016 State of Our Watersheds Report, the 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda, and salmon recovery priorities as the primary basis for the Federal Action Plan. The Action Plan may also include priority federal actions not addressed in the Action Agenda or salmon recovery plans. Transboundary issues and priorities will be integrated into the Action Plan as an outcome of coordination with Canadian partners. Section 2 of the Action Plan is organized around the three strategic initiatives contained within the Action Agenda: habitat, shellfish and stormwater as well actions that cut across the three strategic initiatives, vessel traffic and actions on or related to federal lands and facilities that address all three strategic initiatives. All of the actions included in this plan are subject to the authorization and appropriation of funds.[2]

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[1] The Puget Sound Federal Task Force Regional Leadership Team submitted an interim Action Plan to the national Puget Sound Federal Task force prior to January 20, 2017 (on January 17, 2017) as requested by Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director at the White House Council on Environmental Quality at the October 18, 2016 Puget Sound Federal Task Force Regional Leadership Meeting with CEQ.

[2] As required by the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. Sections 1341, 1342, and 1517, all activities of the parties in implementing this Federal Action Plan are subject to the availability of authorized and appropriated funds. Nothing in this Federal Action Plan obligates any of the parties to expend or transfer appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement or incur other financial obligations. Any activities or projects involving the transfer, reimbursement or contribution of funds among the patties to this Federal Action Plan will be handled under separate agreements and any negotiation, execution and administration of such agreements must be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This Federal Action Plan does not provide such authority.

2.0 Priority Federal Actions to Protect and Restore Puget Sound

2.1 Cross-cutting Actions

2.1.1 Evaluate existing programmatic or streamlined regulatory tools/processes for activities related to Puget Sound habitat

Identify any critical gaps in those tools/processes, and in cooperation with the State, ensure information on how to utilize existing tools is accessible at the Governor's Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance. Activities to be evaluated include restoration actions such as culvert replacements, floodplain, and estuarine restoration activities. Specific activity types within those categories and other categories of actions may also be evaluated.

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: NOAA, EPA / USACE, USFWS, others

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Enables applicants, including agencies and Tribes, to move forward with restoration and other projects which conform to programmatic criteria more quickly, predictably, and with greater regulatory certainty. In addition, these programmatic regulatory efforts have been demonstrated to reduce the overall regulatory workload.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time. If new tools/processes are identified for development, additional resources may be necessary.

2.1.2 Implement the National Estuary Program for Puget Sound protection and recovery

Implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda through the Strategic Initiative Leads and Tribal Lead Organization, backbone coordination for Puget Sound Recovery, updates to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, implementation strategies, science and monitoring.

Lead Agency: EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda through funding for the Strategic Initiative Leads and Tribal Lead Organization, supporting backbone coordination for Puget Sound Recovery, updates to the Puget Sound Action Agenda, and support for implementation strategies, science and monitoring.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $30M/year Puget Sound Geographic Funds

2.2 Habitat

2.2.1 Remove fish passage barriers

Correcting salmon and steelhead migration barriers caused by culverts and other man-made structures provides immediate benefits to anadromous fish stocks by reconnecting potential spawning and rearing habitat and reestablishing natural stream processes. Federal agencies with land management or facilities management responsibilities have identified numerous fish migration barriers under their respective jurisdictions and are working to correct high priority sites. Multiple Federal programs provide technical assistance and help fund fish passage barrier corrections on state, local government, tribal and private ownerships.

Because of the strong link to ESA species recovery plans and TRAR issues, this action plan focuses on correcting man-made migration barriers for salmon and steelhead. Future iterations of the action plan will incorporate the need to correct migration barriers for resident fish.

2.2.1.1 Correct salmon and steelhead culvert fish passage barriers on National Forest System roads

There are 26 known fish passage culvert barriers that block passage for salmon and steelhead across forest roads within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie (MBS) and Olympic National Forests (OLY) (1 anadromous barrier on the OLY, 25 on the MBS). The barrier culverts limit accessibility and production from approximately 19 miles of anadromous streams (1.6 miles OLY, 17.5 miles MBS). The Forests are correcting culvert barriers by replacing the defective structures with appropriate fish passage designs or removing the structures permanently if they are no longer needed. Culvert barrier replacements are prioritized based on the amount of salmon and steelhead habitat that would be accessed and sites within identified Priority Watersheds. See Appendix F for a list of Forest Service culvert barrier correction priorities.

Lead Agency: USFS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Over the next 5-year period we anticipate correcting and/or permanently removing 8 fish passage barrier culverts on salmon and steelhead streams under current funding levels (1 barrier for the OLY, 7 for the MBS).

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $1.2M/year is needed to correct the 26 identified salmon and steelhead culvert barriers within the 5-year period. Annual needs will vary depending on the specific projects selected. The Olympic and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests seek out funding to implement fish passage culvert barrier corrections through USFS Legacy Roads and Trails funding, Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), grants, and partnerships. Only 1 culvert barrier correction is currently planned for funding with USFS Legacy Roads and Trails funding over the next three years. Additional funding to accelerate important fish passage restoration accomplishments would increase the rate of barrier corrections. Accomplishments will be proportional to available funding and capacity to design and implement projects.

2.2.1.2 Correct salmon and steelhead culvert fish passage barriers on National Park Service roads

There are 18 priority fish passage culvert barriers that block passage for salmon and steelhead within Olympic (OLYM), North Cascades (NOCA), and Rainier (MORA) National Parks (5 on OLYM, 4 on NOCA, 9 on MORA). Altogether the 18 priority culverts limit accessibility and production from approximately 6.34 miles of anadromous streams on National Park Service units (5.64 miles OLYM, 0.2 miles NOCA, 0.5 miles MORA). The parks are correcting culvert barriers by replacing the defective structures with appropriate fish passage designs as funding allows. Additional fish passage surveys are needed at OLYM where more than 100 culverts have been identified on fish-bearing streams in the park.

Lead Agency: NPS

Time Frame: Ongoing program with accomplishments over the next 10-year period

Expected Outcome: The NPS has submitted proposals to correct and/or permanently remove 13 fish passage barrier culverts on salmon and steelhead streams (4 at NOCA and 9 at MORA).

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $100K/year is needed to correct the 9 identified salmon and steelhead culvert barriers at MORA within the 5-year period. Additional resources will be needed to correct the barriers at OLYM and NOCA. Annual needs will vary depending on the specific projects selected. The National Park Service is pursuing funding to implement fish passage culvert barrier corrections provided through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), the EPA's Salmon Habitat Improvement Fund, and grants from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board. At this time, proposals have been submitted for 13 culvert barrier corrections that could be completed over the next ten years. Additional funding to accelerate important fish passage restoration accomplishments will increase the rate of barrier corrections. Accomplishments will be proportional to available funding.

2.2.1.3 Correct salmon and steelhead culvert fish passage barriers on U.S. Navy property

Navy's Shelton to Bangor/Bremerton railroad (RR): Fish passage assessment of 53 culverts under the Navy's RR was completed (June 2015). Final report assesses barrier status, and calculates priority index scores for all 53 culverts using WDFW protocols; providing conceptual design and cost estimates for culvert repair/replacement for 36 highest priority barriers along the RR.

Naval Base Kitsap, Bangor: In 2015, the Navy completed construction of a 12-foot arched culvert to replace a fish blocking culvert which restored natural conditions to Devil's Hole Creek at Bangor. The culverts re-design and construction project restored access to ~5,500 linear feet of stream habitat to salmonid species.

Naval Station Everett – Jim Creek: In 2010, three damaged metal culverts on Jim Creek tributaries were replaced with concrete box culverts. Further design improvements to these three culverts could provide additional access of up to a total of 500 feet of stream for juvenile salmonids. An additional 500 feet of stream habitat for juvenile salmonids could also be made available through replacement of a fourth culvert on a small tributary of Jim Creek.

Lead Agency: U.S. Navy

Time Frame: Ongoing program with accomplishments from FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: The Navy will continue to evaluate and correct fish passage barrier culverts on salmon and steelhead streams on Navy property based on availability of funding.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): The Navy is currently investigating how to fund culvert projects; however, all corrective actions are subject to the constraints of available resources (personnel, funds and equipment).

2.2.1.4 Design and construct improved fish passage at Mud Mountain Dam

Lead Agency: USACE

Time Frame: Project has been initiated. Anticipated operational facility by December 2020

Expected Outcome: New Operational Fish Passage Facility to pass up to 60,000 fish per day including ESA listed Chinook and Bull Trout in accordance with NOAA and USFWS Biological Opinions

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Total cost over $100M. Annual resource needs will vary

2.2.1.5 National Fish Passage Program

Provide technical assistance on project development and funding for native fish and aquatic species barrier correction projects through National Fish Passage Program.

Lead Agency: USFWS

Time Frame: Ongoing program

Expected Outcome: The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program to restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitat that has been fragmented by man-made barriers. Fish passage projects restore unimpeded flows and fish movement by removing barriers or providing ways for aquatic species to bypass them. Projects are prioritized based upon the benefits to species and the geographical area. Typical projects include barrier culvert removal or replacement with a fish passable culvert or bridge and re-opening oxbow and off channel habitats. Typical funding amounts range from $50K to $100K with a minimum 25% cost share requested.

Preferred NFPP projects:

- Show demonstrable ecological benefits for Federal trust species.
- Exhibit permanence of fish passage benefits.
- Make use of the most current scientific knowledge and proven technology.
- Address objectives outlined in approved management plans.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): The Western Washington National Fish Passage Program typically receives $100K annually, dependent upon Congressional allocations.

2.2.1.6 Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Through Community Based Restoration (NOAA Restoration Center)

Support salmon and steelhead barrier correction projects through Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency funding, Community Based Restoration

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: Ongoing program for the next 3-5 years per Cooperative Agreements

Expected Outcome: Ecosystem and Community Functional Lift

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $10 M National Competition Resiliency, $8M Community-based Restoration National Competition

2.2.1.7 Salmon recovery efforts through local, state and regional organizations and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

Lead Agency: NOAA

Timeframe: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Habitat restoration projects, population assessments and monitoring, and fish passage projects including culvert upgrades per state and NMFS criteria.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Washington's award for FY16 was $18.5M

2.2.1.8 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations. EQIP is available to agricultural producers who could receive a payments totaling no more than the 2014 Farm Bill limit of $450,000 per eligible landowner for conservation practice implementation.

Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch land.

Producer Eligibility:

- Be agricultural producer (person, Tribe, legal entity, or joint operation who has an interest in the agricultural operation, or who is engaged in agricultural production or forestry management).
- Control or own eligible land.
- Comply with adjusted gross income (AGI) for less than $900,000. Note: Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or Alaska Native corporations are exempt from the AGI payment limitations.
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations with NRCS that addresses at least one natural resource concern.

Lead Agency: NRCS

Time Frame: Ongoing program through the current Farm Bill which will expire in 2018.

Expected Outcome: At current funding levels, average of 10 miles of stream habitat opened for each year of dedicated Farm Bill Program funding.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): A combined total of $5.5M dedicated financial assistance for salmon recovery received for 3 years (2012, 2013, & 2016) in Puget Sound with additional funding requested for FY17.

2.2.1.9 Salmon and steelhead barrier correction projects on Federal-aid eligible roadways

Lead Agency: FHWA

Time Frame: The Federal-aid program is funded through 2020. WSDOT's program of fish barrier removals includes FHWA funding along with substantial state funding. WSDOT's 6-year Fish Passage Plan is posted on their website, and is based on $258M of state and Federal funding. WSDOT's target is removing 30-40 fish barriers per year.

*Expected Outcome***:** Removal of fish barriers in Washington State, in particular the 818 barriers identified in the Tribal lawsuit injunction for removal by 2030.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Washington State receives over $600M in Federal-aid Highway funding annually. Additional Emergency Relief funds are provided in response to natural disasters. Projects are chosen by WSDOT and local public agencies to address safety and capacity needs on the highway and ferry systems. FHWA exercises oversight over the Federal-aid Highway program.

2.2.1.10 Fish passage barrier correction projects on roads that access Federal and Tribal lands and on roads owned by Federal and Tribal entities (WFLHD)

Lead Agency: FHWA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Removal of fish barriers on Federal, Tribal and publicly-owned land. Specific projects are chosen by the federal land management agencies, states, and tribes

Resources (subject to future appropriations): The Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) is an available funding source for federally owned routes. The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is an available funding source for a public road or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands, for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in a State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government. The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is an available funding source for tribal owned and tribal designated publically owned roads. FLTP projects compete for funding nationwide. FLAP projects compete for funding within the state (approximately $13M annually in Washington State). TTP projects are designated by the tribes.

2.2.1.11 Pre-disaster hazard mitigation and post-disaster recovery/mitigation fish passage related actions requested by applicants

Lead Agency: FEMA

Time Frame: Ongoing with disaster declarations and other grant programs that are not dependent on disaster declarations.

Expected Outcome: Recover from impacts of disasters and prepare for possible disasters via increasing resiliency, while mitigating for any adverse impacts from the proposed actions that FEMA has been requested to fund. FEMA can help support fish passage barrier removal priorities via apprising state agencies and other partners of planned actions to be funded via FEMA so that: a) others can potentially seek additional support from other entities to repair or replace with an alternate structure (i.e. a betterment); or b) change priorities for other funding based on knowledge of what FEMA plans to fund.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Varies annually based on disaster declarations and on budgets allocated for those grants that are not dependent on disaster declarations.

2.2.1.12 Collaborate with State Fish Passage Removal Board (FPRB)

Collaborate with FPRB to help prioritize and fund fish passage projects.

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: NOAA and USFWS / NRCS, FHWA, USFS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Collaborating with the State FPRB to identify priority fish passage projects and aligning Federal grant programs to consider FRRB priority projects, to the extent feasible, will maximize the potential resource benefits within the available funding.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): See actions 2.1.1.6 through 2.1.1.11 above

2.2.2 Protect and restore floodplains, and in-stream and riparian habitat

The Puget Sound Action Agenda contains recovery targets for floodplains, riparian and in-stream habitat, and functioning floodplains, riparian areas and in-stream habitat are critical for recovery of ESA listed, treaty protected salmonids. A regional floodplain strategy (Floodplain Implementation Strategy) has been developed by Washington State that includes federal programs, but federal engagement has been limited in the development of that strategy. Though federal engagement has been limited in the development of the Floodplain Implementation Strategy, federal agencies are coordinating through projects and programs to address floodplain and riparian protection and recovery in key geographic areas. The following actions include new federal engagement on strategies for floodplain, riparian and in-stream habitat conservation, ongoing programs that are critical to ensuring functioning floodplains and riparian areas and in stream habitat and collaborative approaches with local entities and tribes to achieve recovery goals.

2.2.2.1 Engage with Washington State to support and update the Floodplains Implementation Strategy

The Washington State Implementation Strategy is an integrated federal, state, tribal, local approach to accelerate progress towards the floodplain vital sign target in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: EPA/USACE, NRCS, FEMA

Time Frame: FY 2016 and FY 2017

Expected outcome: A coordinated state and federal floodplains implementation strategy.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): FTE to participate in meetings. The combined estimated cost for reducing flood risk and restoring salmon habitat over the next 10 to 20 years is over $3 billion, with approximately $2.2 billion associated with flood risk reduction projects and $120 M/year associated with salmon recovery to define federal role in elements of the implementation strategy.

2.2.2.2 Convene work group to coordinate riparian science, and corridor protection and restoration

Federal agencies will coordinate with state agencies, tribes and others on riparian buffer science, collaborate with state agencies, tribes and others on an approach to riparian corridor protection and restoration, and will explore a demonstration project for the approach.

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: EPA / NRCS, NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2018, possibly through FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Collaborative approach to riparian protection and restoration including a demonstration project for riparian reach scale protection and restoration.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): .1 - .2 FTE/Agency

2.2.2.3 Reach scale planning and riparian easements and restoration in priority stream reaches

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: EPA / NRCS, NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Target will be updated based on pilot year. Current target is eight reach scale projects and eight landowner agreements for riparian easements completed annually resulting in protected stream buffers and landowner collaboration.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $3.0M Puget Sound Geographic Funds pass through to Washington State

2.2.2.4 Assist state and local partners in completing the development of a floodplain mapping and prioritization tool

Defining the extent and condition of Puget Sound floodplains for the purpose of guiding and tracking progress toward Puget Sound's floodplain protection and restoration objectives is an ongoing effort that needs additional input and refinement from relevant federal programs. The current data sets are not very accurate and the resulting analysis is coarse. More precision is needed at the local and reach scales in order to assess specific opportunities to meaningfully contribute towards recovery of local floodplain functions across the Puget Sound basin.

Lead Agencies: USGS, USFWS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2018

Expected Outcome: This project will ultimately establish maps, and function/degradation criteria and performance metrics that will be critical to floodplain restoration and protection programs as they develop and evaluate projects for their likelihood to make progress towards the recovery targets essential to Puget Sound recovery.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $300K, FTE to participate in technical meetings

2.2.2.5 Improve community resilience through climate change science, modeling, and response

Lead Agency/ Coordinating Agencies: NOAA / EPA, others

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Continue and expand support for climate change modeling and resiliency planning and implementation, including agricultural and fisheries sciences. Expand watershed based modeling tools such the Coastal Resilience planning tool (The Nature Conservancy) by funding local agencies and non-profits, and dedicating federal staff time for collaborative efforts. Continue and expand agricultural research for climate change resilience.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): TBD

2.2.2.6 Continue to implement the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Jeopardy Biological Opinion (BiOp) for Puget Sound

The NFIP BiOp affects 122 communities in the Puget Sound region that participate in the NFIP.

Lead Agencies: FEMA, NOAA

Time Frame: Ongoing

Expected Outcome: Continue public outreach and technical assistance, hold four annual workshops for participating communities, continue NOAA participation in Community Assistance Visits, complete annual BiOp implementation report, continue technical assistance for Habitat Assessment review, continue to improve guidance documents, continue to encourage "Door 2" compliance option.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 2.0 FTE FEMA, 0.5 FTE NOAA

2.2.2.7 Improve community resilience by increasing incentives to move development away from high risk areas also important to recovery/FEMA subprogram to encourage beneficial functions

Lead Agency: FEMA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: FEMA will examine Community Rating System (CRS) Credits to determine where enhancements can be made to provide incentives or better advertise incentives offered through the CRS Program to communities that conduct creditable activities (I.e. preservation of open space, acquisition projects, etc.) that lead to more resilient communities. FEMA has already produced a document that highlights current activities (as of the 2007 CRS Coordinators Manual): https://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/regions/regionx/nfip_esa_guidance_docs/crs_credit_for_habitat_protection_final.pdf. This document will be updated over the next year to reflect changes made in the 2013 CRS Coordinators Manual. The document will then be presented to the CRS Task Force for adoption. FEMA will then socialize the document and produce additional guidance propaganda to accompany the document focused on local communities taking action.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): TBD

2.2.2.8 Support Salmon Recovery

Support updates of Puget Sound Chinook watershed chapters and completion and implementation of the Puget Sound Steelhead Recovery Plan. Engage with Watershed, Lead Entity recovery planning strategies to identify and develop essential actions for salmon and steelhead recovery. Incorporate other federal agency planning mechanisms, such as the Puget Sound Partnership Chinook Implementation Strategy and the US Forest Service Watershed Condition Framework into informing and supporting in-stream habitat improvements.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agencies: NOAA / NRCS, USFS, USDOT, USFWS, EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Improvement in habitat limiting factors by enhancing channel and floodplain form and function, increasing channel complexity for spawning and cover, creating off-channel habitats for juveniles, improving channel and floodplain stability for water quality and alleviating impacts from non-native fishes or other aquatic and riparian species. Improving in-stream habitat will enhance salmon and steelhead trout populations throughout the Puget Sound where streams and rivers have been highly modified but are still essential to the species survival. In-stream habitat restoration actions will occur on various federal, state and private ownerships.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Support for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, $65M in FY 2016 (NOAA). Sustain funding for Puget Sound Coastal Program (USFWS), Wetlands Reserve Easements Program (NRCS). Federal programs, such as the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) can fund in-

stream habitat enhancement connected to environmental concerns of conducting actions like road repair or reconstruction. There are large-scale in-stream projects associated with the Puget Sound habitat strategic initiative where funding needs are equal to or greater than $2M.

2.2.2.9 Continue to implement the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, NRCS helps American Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under ALE, NRCS provides a portion of the acquisition cost to an eligible partner entity. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands. Under WRE, NRCS provides 100% of the funding for easement acquisition and restoration cost.

Lead Agency: NRCS

Time Frame: Ongoing program through the current Farm Bill which will expire in 2018. It is expected that ACEP will be reauthorized in the next Farm Bill.

Expected Outcome: WRE can remove fish barriers in estuary wetland areas through the removal and replacement or full removal of non-fish friendly tide gates. It is also possible to remove sea levees and set them back away from the tidal fringe areas. ALE priority for funding will protect or enhance threatened and/or endangered species if identified in the development of the conservation plan that will be tied to the easement.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $1.8M annually Statewide for ALE easements and almost $1M available for WRE acquisition and wetland restoration practice implementation.

2.2.2.10 Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance to producers through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements. The NRCS contribution is a portion of the total project cost for technical and financial assistance. Partner match leverages NRCS Farm Bill program dollars.

Lead Agency: NRCS

Time Frame: Ongoing program through the current Farm Bill which will expire in 2018.

Expected Outcome: New partnerships for FY 2017 with Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) including $1.5 million with the Whatcom Conservation District and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Additional partnerships could be secured dependent on Partner proposal application process.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): FY 2017 Proposals have already been submitted and funded. FY 2018 should be announced sometime during the summer of 2017.

2.2.2.11 NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

Through strategic application of technical assistance and funding in target locations, CRP aims to remove barriers to restoration and stewardship of the nation’s fisheries, and increase the economic and ecological resilience of coastal communities.

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021, ongoing.

Expected Outcome: Acres of habitat restored, Volunteer hours, and Community benefit measures

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Ongoing appropriations

2.2.2.12 Natural resource damage assessment (NRDA)

Under authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601 *et seq*. ("CERCLA") and other laws, federal, state, and tribal governments collaborate to form a natural resource trustee council to: assess and quantify injuries to natural resources from oil spills or releases of hazardous substances at particular sites; pursue damages claims against potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") through negotiation or litigation; and restore habitats to make the public whole. Federal agencies should develop a mechanism for responding to concerns that nationwide guidance or policy unnecessarily restricts the ability of Trustees to reach settlements with PRPs at sites in the Puget Sound region, particularly where tribal treaty resources are affected. This approach could expedite implementation of NRD restoration projects that address Puget Sound priorities, particularly in cases where opportunities exist to coordinate remedial (cleanup) activities concurrently with NRD restoration project implementation.

Lead Agencies: NOAA, USFWS

Time Frame: Settlement timing varies by case.

Expected Outcome: Acres of habitat restored or value of damages recovered. Settlement negotiations underway at Port Angeles Harbor, Port Gamble Bay, and Port Gardiner sites.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Ongoing appropriations. Funding for restoration projects and Trustee participation provided by PRPs through settlement or adjudication.

2.2.2.13 Support integrated floodplain corridor project planning and implementation

Support, encourage, and engage in integrated corridor project planning and implementation that increases floodplain connectivity, improves agriculture viability, improves instream and riparian habitat, and increases the flood resilience of communities. Support planning, engineering, and project implementation. Provide funding for professional facilitators; local, state, tribal, and federal staffing; stipend or grant money for participating farmers/agricultural representative in support of initiatives/forums/planning entities that focus of multiple benefit projects (e.g. Snohomish County Sustainable Lands Strategy, Snoqualmie Farm, Fish, and Flood Initiative, Skagit Tidegate and Fish Initiative, Floodplains by Design).

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: NOAA, USFWS, NRCS / FEMA, USACE, USDOT, CEQ

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Collaborative watershed planning and implementation, increased funding leverage through coordinated investments, maintained and improved agricultural viability, improved ecological function and habitat quality, and restored floodplains through integrated, watershed-wide strategies, funding and project implementation. Successful implementation of integrated projects for the benefit of farms, fish, and flood requires buy-in and collaboration from farmers, tribes, community members, and resources agencies.

Providing support for professional facilitators, agency staffing at local, state, and federal level, and stipend or grant money for participating farmers or agricultural representatives will increase the success of watershed scale planning efforts and lead to faster implementation of better projects.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): FTE, funding

2.2.2.14 Collaborate with tribes, and state and local organizations to govern the Snohomish Coordinated Investment (CI) Initiative

The CI initiative aims to improve state and federal business practices to accelerate ecosystem recovery and integrate the local, state and federal authorities over habitat restoration, farmland and water supply protection, and flood hazard mitigation that overlap within local communities. We are developing a structure for increasing information flow between local actors, and the governments that affect their operating environment, based on "Lean" business practices. Projects were identified as feasible proof of concept efforts by local, state, tribal and federal partners, including: A floodplain management forum, Snohomish County regulatory coordination, and funding coordination actions.

Lead Agency/Collaborating Agencies: NOAA/other federal agencies

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: This action will insure cross agency collaboration on three high value actions that require interaction between the Federal Task Force, Results Washington Goal Council, and the Puget Sound Ecosystem Coordination Board.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Coordination and collaboration are already the mandate of named institutions

2.2.2.15 Coordinate with state and local partners on the Floodplain Management Forum

Floodplain management affects multiple state and federal agencies address to flood hazards, with impacts critical habitats, food security and public infrastructure. A short lived technical work group will evaluate how federal and state activities and assets could better support multiple-benefit floodplain projects.

Lead Agencies: NOAA, FEMA

Time Frame: Complete in FY 2017

Expected Outcome: This effort will investigate how programs at the federal, state, and local level, that all affect flood hazard management, and can support large floodplain projects that provide diverse benefits to communities. Areas targeted by the local Snohomish Sustainable Lands Strategy will be used as a test of concept, with support from innovative floodplain managers from nearby watersheds, and the Floodplains by Design partnership.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 0.50 FTE or equivalent over 2 years, to serve as liaison between federal agencies and local partners would strengthen follow through

2.2.2.16 Test Improvements in funding coordination (Coordinated Investment Initiative)

Three tasks are anticipated to accelerate local projects and reduce costs: 1) defining a project budget structure that allows project managers to reduce administrative waste when managing multiple state and federal grants, 2) maintaining a federal and state funding opportunity schedule to support multi-benefit projects, and 3) evaluating process inefficiencies when using federal, state and local funds to acquire properties that lead to multi-benefit projects.

Lead /Coordinating Agencies: NOAA / USDA, FEMA, USFWS, EPA

Time Frame: First two tasks complete in 2017, perhaps delayed by limited capacity

Indicator of Success: 1) Draft project budget and task structure for Leque Island to support combined funding, 2) State-Federal multi-benefit project funding schedule and update mechanism

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 0.5 FTE Federal funding liaison to the State Water and Salmon Grant Coordination Group would accelerate implementation.

2.2.2.17 Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration Project

Complete the design and construction phases of this large project.

Lead Agencies: USACE, NRCS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Completion of over 275 acres of riverine and nearshore restoration, restore year-round fish passage to the South Fork Skokomish River. NRCS will support implementation phase where existing program authority allows.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 65% Federal share of $20M in partnership with the Skokomish Tribe and Mason County, annual resource needs will vary.

2.2.2.18 Green/Duwamish River Ecosystem Project

Authorized in WRDA 2000, this ecosystem restoration construction authority covers approximately 45 discrete restoration sites, of which 7 have been constructed under this authority. Additional restoration sites are ready to proceed with design and construction once cost control questions have been addressed.

Lead Agency: USACE

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021 (3- 5 years per project)

Expected outcome: Continued completion of discrete restoration actions under this authority to include potential stream, floodplain and nearshore restoration.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 65% Federal share in partnership with King County and various local governments, annual resource needs will vary

2.2.2.19 Dungeness River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe

Feasibility study of restoration opportunities in the lower 12 miles of the Dungeness River.

Lead Agencies: USACE EPA, NRCS, NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2019

Expected Outcome: Completion of feasibility study, agency approval of recommended plan, and request for new construction authorization from Congress

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 50% Federal share of $3M study in partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

2.2.2.20 Establish reliable relationships between stream flow levels and fish habitat

Establish reliable relationships between stream flow levels and fish habitat for key fish species and life stages in watersheds where this technical work has not already been conducted. In watersheds where reliable relationships between stream flow and fish habitat exist, engage with state and tribal partners on federally reserved instream flow water rights for tribal governments.

Lead Agency: BIA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Data on instream flow and fish habitats.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): TBD

2.2.3 Nearshore Habitat and Estuaries

Nearshore and estuarine habitats are some of the most productive ecosystems on earth. Freshwater from Western Washington rivers flow into salty waters of Puget Sound to form a nutrient-rich soup that nourishes plankton and plants, which in turn, nourish oysters, clams, crabs, salmon, and birds. Estuaries also serve as buffers to protect shorelines from erosion and flooding, and filter pollutants to improve water quality. Nearshore habitats provide nursery and feeding grounds for numerous ecologically and economically valuable fish and shellfish species. These habitats are particularly vulnerable to land use and development pressures. Puget Sound nearshore habitats and estuaries have not been spared from the pressures of rapid population and economic growth, which is expected to increase in the decades to come. The following actions were identified as priorities to help move the needle toward recovery of these habitats over the next five years. Updates to these actions will occur each year as new information is revealed from research and monitoring of existing projects and programs.

2.2.3.1 Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP)

PSNERP offers a unique opportunity to tackle large-scale habitat restoration based upon a comprehensive science-based assessment of Puget Sound. Three projects have been chosen to move forward with the design phase in three major river deltas/estuaries.

Lead Agency: USACE

Time Frame: Design and initiate construction of first of 3 authorized sites by FY21.

Expected Outcome: Completion of over 2,100 acres of nearshore restoration at 3 sites (Nooksack River Delta, the North Fork Skagit Delta, and the Duckabush River Estuary), including removal of nearly 28,860 linear feet of shoreline stressors.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 65% Federal share of $452M project overall in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, annual resource needs will vary.

2.2.3.2 Puget Sound Master Plan implementation of projects from the Corps' Puget Sound Restoration Tiered Implementation Strategy, as established by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Study

This includes an additional 21 projects under other Corps' authorities (Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters (§544), Continuing Authorities Program (§206), and General Investigations)

Lead Agency: USACE

Time Frame: Ongoing (3-5 years per project) - A subset of the 21 projects could be completed in the 5-year timeframe of this Action Plan

Expected Outcome: Completion of nearly 6,000 acres of nearshore restoration

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 50-65% Federal share for each $5-$15M project depending on the project phase, annual resource needs will vary

2.2.3.3 Estuary Restoration Act Projects

Continue to promote a coordinated Federal approach to estuary habitat restoration by forging effective partnerships among public agencies and between the public and private sectors by providing financial and technical assistance for smaller estuary habitat restoration projects (under $1M) and to develop and enhance monitoring and research capabilities.

Lead Agencies: USACE, NOAA, EPA, USFWS, USDA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Restoration of smaller estuary habitat projects that may not rise to the funding level with other funding sources.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Annual project-specific requirements will vary

2.2.3.4 Snohomish Estuary Restoration Evaluation

Federal, state and local partners are investing approximately $60M to restore 1400 acres of the Snohomish Estuary, 30% of the recovery target. An ad hoc unfunded effort by federal, tribal, state, and local partners is positioned to verify how this effort is affecting endangered salmon populations.

Lead Agencies: NOAA, USGS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Quantification of the population effects of restoration

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $200K/year

2.2.3.5 Puget Sound Coastal Program

Support habitat restoration on any ownership, generally in tidally influenced/coastal areas. Limited ability to help with assessment and acquisition

Lead Agency: USFWS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Feet/Acre/Mile naturally functioning nearshore habitat

Resources (subject to future appropriations): ~$250K /year. Usually fund 4-5 projects/year with most funding decisions made in January-February

2.2.3.6 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program

Assist state agencies with acquisition (fee or easement), or restoration of coastal wetlands and adjacent uplands. Nationally competitive, but Puget Sound proposals have historically competed very well.

Lead Agency: USFWS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Acres of nationally or regionally declining coastal wetlands protected/restored

Resources (subject to future appropriations): +$20M nationally. Up to $1M per project. Applications due in June, decision announced Dec.-Jan.

2.2.3.7 National Fish Passage Program

Restore native fish and other aquatic species to self-sustaining levels by reconnecting habitat. Priority based upon the benefits to species and the geographical area.

Lead Agency: USFWS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Miles/Acres reopened to aquatic species

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $15 - $80K per project. Applications due November 15 annually

2.2.3.8 Protection of ESA habitat landward of the Corps' Clean Water Act jurisdictional boundary

Consider options in coordination with federal and state partners that may be implemented to protect ESA species and habitat in the upper intertidal zone.

Lead Agencies/Coordinating Agency: NOAA, EPA/USACE

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2020

Expected outcome: Coordinated consideration for options to protect ESA habitat and species.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 1-2 FTEs/year in the beginning of the coordination process

2.2.3.9 Coastal Improvement Team

Increase federal support for additional pilots for green infrastructure (e.g., green/living shorelines) in support of enhanced coastal resiliency and habitat.

Lead Agencies: EPA, NOAA

Time Frame: Set up team in FY 2017 and continue through FY 2020.

Expected outcome: Increased education and awareness by shoreline property owners of the implications of hard shoreline armoring. Increased bulkhead removal and restoration projects as well as increased living shoreline protection methods.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 0.5 FTE/year/agency

2.2.3.10 2017 Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions

Revise regional general and specific conditions for bank stabilization, if necessary, based on results of cumulative impacts analysis in Puget Sound

Lead Agencies: USACE, EPA, NOAA

Time Frame: 3 months (March 2017)

Expected outcome: Appropriate regional conditions that are based on consideration of the cumulative impacts of bank stabilization in Puget Sound

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.2.3.11 HPA enforcement, SMA implementation and permitting

Support state agencies regarding HPA enforcement, SMA implementation, streamlined permitting of restoration projects and other strategies to increase shoreline management effectiveness, including developing a definition for No Net Loss of ecological function.

Lead Agencies/Cooperating agency: EPA, NOAA/NRCS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2020

Expected outcome: coordinated implementation and enforcement of state laws, a clear, scientifically-based definition of No Net Loss of ecological function for the Shoreline Management Guidelines implemented by the Department of Ecology and local governments.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Existing staff time + 0.25FTE/agency for the first two years

2.3 Stormwater

Effectively manage stormwater to minimize impact to natural resources

Stormwater pollution is a major water quality and water quantity challenge for Puget Sound. It takes relatively little traditional impervious surface (as little as 5-8% of a watershed's area) to result in significant degradation to the physical, chemical and biological processes in our streams and nearshore areas, processes critical to the functional health of Puget Sound. As a water quality issue, stormwater requires our dedicated attention if we are to protect our local watersheds and the aquatic resources and beneficial uses vital to the communities of this region, including:

- Maintaining recreational uses of our streams, rivers and beaches;
- Protecting our salmon runs, shellfish harvests, and up the food web to Orca;
- Protecting drinking water sources for downstream communities;
- Reducing downstream flooding, stream scour and erosion.

The actions below include support for research and direct capital improvements, planning and prioritizing efforts to ensure targeted enhancements and improvements, as well as leveraging and execution of existing federal authorities to ensure maximum environmental protection.

2.3.1 Implement research advancing practical solutions for stormwater management

Areas of focus include understanding the toxic effects of stormwater on salmonid populations and the effectiveness of green infrastructure.

Lead Agency: EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Successful execution of Interagency Agreements guided by results of previous scientific findings.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $500K in federal funding annually over next five years

2.3.2 Facilitate and support effective storm water management on Federal and Tribal lands/facilities under EPA's Clean Water Act jurisdiction

Use direct implementation and existing oversight authorities, funding incentives, collaboration, and other tools.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agencies: EPA/ NOAA, USFWS, US Navy, US Army

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: EPA's completion of all required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) storm water discharge permits for regulated Department of Defense and Tribal areas within the urbanized portion of the Puget Sound basin. Work includes the completion of all associated Endangered Species Act consultations (using biological thresholds identified by NOAA stormwater research) required for the issuance of such federal NPDES MS4 permits within EPA's CWA jurisdiction, and engages other neighboring local jurisdictions where necessary.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 1 – 2 FTE/year, in the form of permitting and technical staff at EPA, and USFWS/NOAA to complete permit development and technical analysis, including appropriate coordination, negotiation, and consultation with all regulated entities. ~$250,000/year in grants or discretionary funding to assist regulated Tribal governments within the Urbanized Area with capacity development and implementation of their local storm water management program.

2.3.3 Stormwater treatment as part of transportation projects

US DOT funds many projects which treat stormwater runoff from previously untreated impervious surfaces, or improve existing stormwater treatment to current standards.

All Federally-funded transportation projects must meet applicable stormwater standards. Federal-aid projects managed by the FHWA Washington Division in Washington State comply with WSDOT's Highway Runoff Manual, which has been determined by the Washington Department of Ecology to be equivalent to Ecology's Stormwater Manual

Lead Agencies: FHWA, FTA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Improvement in water quality in Puget Sound watersheds through improved stormwater treatment for existing impervious surfaces.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Washington State receives approximately $600M in Federal-aid highway funds per year. Projects are chosen by WSDOT and local public agencies to address safety and capacity needs on the highway and ferry systems. FTA spends at least $100M per year on capital projects. Most of these projects include some kind of stormwater treatment, and most treat some amount of runoff from existing pavement as well as all runoff from new pavement.

2.3.4 Refine and implement Stormwater Retrofit Prioritization Methodology

Document an approach for evaluating and ranking retrofit projects based on both environmental impact (with respect to Stormwater Implementation Strategies in the Action Agenda) and cost effectiveness.

Lead Agency: EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Completed Stormwater Retrofit Prioritization Methodology available and applied basin-wide, which ultimately will generate a ranked list to help in any future funding decisions.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Combined 1 FTE from multiple team members over a five-year period

2.3.5 Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP)

Continued support (in-kind match) for RSMP scientific research. Continued membership of federal caucus of RSMP. Develop recommendations for a monitoring strategy specific to agricultural runoff.

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: EPA, USGS/ FWS, NRCS, NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Fully staffed federal caucus (three representatives), maximum use of USGS Cooperative Matching Funds, finalized recommendations package for agricultural runoff monitoring presented to RSMP.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): ~0.25 annual FTE total, minimum $100K federal funding annually

2.3.6 Support Source Control Programs

Federal support is needed to ban or regulate toxic products, such as pesticides in lawn-applied fertilizers. Expanded federal investment in the Puget Sound Local Source Control Partnership helps support pollution prevention specialists that bring technical knowledge of hazardous waste and stormwater management to the doorstep of small businesses.

Lead Agency: EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Successful execution of Interagency Agreements guided by results of previous scientific findings.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $300K federal funding annually over next five years

2.3.7 Coordinate to support state development of water quality guidance for nonpoint sources on agricultural lands

Coordinate to support state development of water quality guidance for nonpoint sources on agricultural lands

Lead/ Coordinating Agencies: EPA/ NRCS, NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Share technical information with State on water quality protection based on federal studies, research, and expertise.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): one FTE annually

2.4 Federal Lands and Facilities

2.4.1 Decommission and stabilize National Forest System roads

There are 1,425 miles of forest roads on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Olympic National Forests that pose high risk to aquatic resources based on the recently completed Sustainable Roads Strategies (426 miles OLY, 999 miles MBS). The Forests are decommissioning unneeded roads and implementing corrective actions to stabilize roads in Priority Watersheds. See Appendix E for a list of Forest Service road decommissioning, storage, and stabilization project priorities.

Lead Agency: USFS

Time Frame: Ongoing program with accomplishments over the next 5-year period

Expected Outcome: Over the next 3-year period we anticipate decommissioning and/or storing 30 miles of roads that pose high risk to aquatic resources under current funding levels (6 miles OLY, 24 miles MBS). Priority watersheds for restoration include the Dungeness River, Suiattle River, Upper White River/ Greenwater River, and NF Nooksack River. As road restoration work is completed in the existing priority watersheds, new priority watersheds will be identified.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $880,000/year would be needed to complete the identified road treatments in Priority Watersheds within the 5-year period. Annual needs would vary depending on the specific projects selected. The Olympic and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests anticipate receiving approximately $430,000 in USFS Legacy Roads and Trails funding over the next three years to implement road decommissioning and road stabilization projects. Additional funding to accelerate important restoration of road derived impairments to water quality and fisheries habitat will be sought through grants and partnerships. Accomplishments will be proportional to available funding and our capacity to plan, design, and implement projects.

As restoration work is completed in the current priority watersheds and moves into new priority watersheds there will be a need for additional resources to develop collaborative restoration action plans, complete watershed-scale road assessments and NEPA documents, and design appropriate corrections so they can be implemented on-the-ground. Specific projects to address the highest-priority problems will be identified at that time.

2.4.2 Protect aquatic habitat on National Forest System lands

Continue to implement Forest Plans and the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) Aquatic Conservation Strategy to protect and restore aquatic resources.

Lead Agency: USFS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2020 / ongoing

Expected Outcome: Over the next 5-year period increase the National Watershed Condition Framework score from “At Risk” to “Fully Functioning” for 2 watersheds (1 watershed each for the OLY and the MBS). Over 80% of management activities would meet Best Management Practices.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $1.2 M/year. The Olympic and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests are managed under their respective Forest Plans and the NWFP Aquatic Conservation Strategy. Appropriated agency funds provide support for aquatic specialists to provide input and monitor activities effecting aquatic habitats. The capacity of Forests to monitor watershed conditions, develop partnerships, and implement restoration projects will be proportional to the funding available.

2.5 Vessel Traffic and Pollution Prevention and Response

Three pillars of the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety and Environmental Protection missions are Prevention, Preparedness, and Response. The Coast Guard's Marine Safety mission ensure commercial vessels, both foreign and domestic, transit U.S. waters safely and are environmentally sound. While the health of our Nation's waters and marine resources is vital to our economy, our waterways are also an economic highway essential to the Nation's access to several billion tons of foreign and domestic freight annually. The Coast Guard works closely with state and local authorities, tribal governments, waterways stakeholders and private industry, as well as with international organizations, such as the IMO, to protect U.S. interests and balance equities across the maritime domain. The U.S. Coast Guard works collaboratively with the Canadian Coast Guard in support of vessel traffic management and in support of the Canadian/United States Joint Response Team to identify the specific processes whereby both Coast Guards communicate, consult and coordinate vessel traffic management and the ability to respond to discharge or threat of discharge of pollution into the contiguous waters of interest of both Canada and the United States. An integrated Coast Guard approach to safety, environmental protection, waterways management and maritime security ensures the long-term success of the global maritime transportation system.

2.5.1 Utilize flexibility within the ERFO program

Utilize flexibility within the ERFO program to improve structure performance and meet current standards when repairing or replacing flood damaged structures on federal and tribal owned roads and on publically owned roads on the National Tribal Transportation Inventory

Lead Agencies: FHWA, USFS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2020 / ongoing

Expected Outcome: Emergency Relief funds cover construction of replacement structures that meet current standards as an accepted practice when replacing flood damaged structures on State and county roads with Emergency Relief funds, as opposed to only funding replacement to a level that meets out of date standards. Providing similar flexibility when replacing flood damaged structures on National Forest System roads with ERFO funds would improve structure performance, reduce stream impacts and potential fish passage concerns, and reduce the potential for the same site to fail over and over again. Additionally, Federal land management agencies and tribes can supplement ERFO funds to change the scope of the ERFO eligible repairs.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Additional resources necessary to fund modifications to improve structure performance will be dependent on the number and magnitude of storm damage sites and annual congressional appropriations.

2.5.2 Implementation of new inspection regulations

The Coast Guard will implement recently issued 46 CFR Subchapter M creating an inspection standard and regulations for towing vessels that have not previously been inspected. These regulations will address human error through requiring a Safety Management System, Pilothouse Resource Management, enhanced manning and increased mariner credentialing. The regulations also address greater oversight of vessel design, machinery, firefighting and other parts of the vessel. This will provide a greater oversight of the towing vessel fleet and an increase in awareness of operations.

Lead Agency: USCG

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Through vessel inspection we expect to see an increase awareness of the condition of the towing vessel fleet and reduction in pollution from towing vessels. Greater participation in the VTS system allows for better monitoring and assistance to prevent incidents in Puget Sound.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.5.3 Implementation of Commercial Fishing Vessel voluntary compliance program

Fishing vessels account for over half of the oil, by volume, discharged into Puget Sound. By implementing the Fishing Vessel Voluntary Compliance Program, Fishing Vessels will receive greater guidance and oversight on compliance with regulations.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agency: USCG/NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Increase in vessel safety for the Commercial Fishing fleet in Puget Sound. An increase in compliance with the regulations will help to decrease the number of incidents and help garner a better response to oil that is spilled.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.5.4 Effectively manage vessel activities

The purpose of Vessel Traffic Service Puget Sound is to function as an integral part of the Coast Guard waterways management efforts by facilitating the safe and efficient transit of vessel traffic to assist in the prevention of collisions, groundings, maritime casualties and ensuing environmental damage. Carefully trained military and civilian watch standers monitor and communicate with vessels in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, San Juan Islands, and Puget Sound. The Coast Guard will monitor the increased number of vessels required to use Automatic Information System (AIS) carriage onboard vessels that have previously not been required to broadcast AIS. This includes smaller passenger, towing, and fishing vessels as well as dredging operations inside or near shipping lanes.

Lead Agency: USCG

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Increase in visibility of vessels within the Vessel Traffic System allowing for greater awareness of operators in congested waterways. Vessels that use AIS will have better information for collision avoidance decreasing the number of incidents and gain greater visibility of the locations of vessels that are carrying Certain Dangerous Cargos. The addition of fishing vessels that carry AIS will help us identify potential conflicts for vessels operating in the same area.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.5.5 Effectively manage vessel traffic and coordinate joint prevention and response activities

Transition from Coast Guard Vessel Traffic System (CGVTS) to Ports and Waterways Safety System (PAWSS). The Coast Guard is transitioning from an older CGVTS to the PAWSS which will allow better visualization of vessel movements. The Coast Guard works closely with Canada to ensure compatibility

with the system that they are using for the seamless handout of vessels between the two countries and hold joint meetings between Canada and the PSVTS to improve communications between the two systems and develop better practices for operations.

Lead Agency: USCG

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: More effective vessel traffic management throughout Puget Sound to decrease the number of vessel interaction preventing pollution incident. Improve ability to respond quickly to incidents with precise vessel location and communication decreasing the impact to the environment. Continued work with Canada to ensure safe vessel operations within our respective waters.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.5.6 Support multi-agency effort to develop vessel traffic risk assessment

Work collaboratively with WA Department of Ecology and local maritime industry stakeholders to provide waterways management and vessel traffic system guidance and recommendation for the 2015 Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment (VTRA) Study.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agencies: USCG/EPA, USACE, NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Identify risk mitigation strategies that can be used to decrease the risk of a pollution spill in Puget Sound.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.5.7 Develop plans and interagency cooperation for pollution response

The U.S. Coast Guard will maintain a robust Area Contingency Plan to better prepare and respond to oil and hazardous substance incidents. The Northwest Area Contingency Plan provides for orderly and effective implementation of response actions to protect the people and natural resources in the Pacific Northwest. It promotes the coordination of and describes the strategy for a unified and coordinated federal, state, tribal, local, potential responsible party, response contractor, response cooperative, and community response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil or a release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance from inland and marine sources. Regional planning and coordination of preparedness and response actions shall be accomplished through the Regional Response Team (RRT). The standing RRT is co-chaired by EPA and USCG District 13. The role of the standing RRT includes evaluation of communication systems and procedures, planning, coordination, training, evaluation, preparedness, and related matters on a region-wide basis. In the Northwest Area, these activities are conducted concurrent with the Area Committee.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agencies: USCG**/**EPA, NOAA, DOI

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected Outcome: Protect public health and safety and the environment by ensuring coordinated, efficient, and effective support of the federal, state, tribal, local, and international responses to significant oil and hazardous substance incidents within the USCG Thirteenth District Area of Responsibility that is Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 compliant with respects to critical habitat or endangered species.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): The USCG and EPA are cost sharing ESA Section 7 Consultation on the Northwest Area Contingency Plan at the cost of $200K. The USCG and EPA, through a subcommittee of the National Response Team, are working with NOAA and DOI at the headquarters lever and in consultation with field offices to find ways to reduce cost and improve collaboration in the field.

2.5.8 Coordinate international cooperation for preparedness and response activities

In the spirit of preparedness and ability to respond to oil spills that may impact, or initiate from Canada, the U.S. Coast Guard will plan and prepare for transboundary oil spills with Canada. The U.S. Coast Guard will identify specific processes whereby both the USCG and Canadian Coast Guard communicate, consult, and coordinate in response to discharge or threat of discharge of pollution into the contiguous waters of interest of both Canada and the United States. The Canada - US Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP), and a Geographic Annex for the Pacific Coast, also known as CANUSPAC, will present the basic information necessary to execute an efficient and effective response operation in the contiguous waters to which the CANUSPAC applies to include Straits of Juan de Fuca, Haro, and Georgia Strait as well as Boundary Passage. The CANUSPAC Joint Response Team (JRT) members facilitate the movement of response personnel and equipment across the borders and can activate other federal agencies as needed.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agencies: USCG/EPA, NOAA, DOI

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Ensure the response to marine pollution or threat of marine pollution is consistent with the *Canadian Coast Guard Marine Spills Contingency Plan - Pacific Region* and the *Northwest Area Contingency Plan* (USCG) in an effort to best manage an international/transboundary oil spill and, among other things, protect endangered species and critical habitat.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources needed at this time

2.6 Shellfish

Protect, restore and facilitate sustainable cultivation and harvest of molluscan shellfish resources

Shellfish have been harvested for thousands of years from Puget Sound. The region's Tribes rely on shellfish for cultural, subsistence and commercial purposes. Shellfish have been farmed in Puget Sound for over a hundred years with the industry providing many jobs and economic benefits, especially in rural communities. Recreational shellfish harvest also provides economic benefits, as well as a strong sense of place for residents of Washington. Shellfish are a key part of our marine ecosystems, providing habitat and helping filter and cleanse water, thereby being part of the solution to restore and preserve the health of Puget Sound. The actions called out here draw from the Washington Shellfish Initiative (Phase I and II) and the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda's Shellfish Strategic Initiative—both of which resulted from extensive coordination between state and federal agencies, local governments, tribes, and non-governmental organizations.

2.6.1 Water quality protection and Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Programs

Provide support to implement the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda's Shellfish Strategic Initiative through the National Estuary Program and associated pass through programs to the state. Continue to support state, local and tribal work to protect and restore water quality in shellfish growing areas, specifically as related to the five barriers identified in the initiative's Shellfish Bed Implementation Strategy: (1) lack of effective and sustainable local nonpoint pollution programs; (2) insufficient farm waste management; (3) limited control of boater's waste; (4) difficulty implementing on-site sewage system management and repair programs; (5) wastewater treatment plant outfalls to Puget Sound. Ensure laws to protect water quality are adequately enforced.

Lead Agencies: EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017- FY 2021

Expected outcome: Achieve goal of 10,000 acres upgraded by 2020.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $5M/year Puget Sound Geographic Program funds passed through support to state agencies

2.6.2 Puget Sound 'No Discharge Zone' (NDZ)

Ecology has proposed to establish a "No-Discharge Zone" for Puget Sound which would prohibit the discharge of vessel sewage - both treated and untreated - into Puget Sound waters. Ecology's petition concluded that there is sufficient need for establishing a No-Discharge Zone to protect water quality and the related ecological, economic, and recreational benefits provided by Puget Sound. EPA funding could provide support to continue to improve pump out facilities in Puget Sound.

Lead Agency: EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: If the recently (Nov 2016) proposed Puget Sound NDZ is implemented it is estimated that 700 acres of commercial harvest shellfish areas could be upgraded to harvestable status.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $500K/year through the Puget Sound National Estuary Program

2.6.3 Environmental Quality Initiative Program (EQIP)

The voluntary EQIP program is actively treating water quality concerns inclusive of surface water with excessive nutrients, pathogens and temperature through the installation of conservation practices. These contracts are written with individuals and tribes.

Lead Agency: NRCS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: The three portions of EQIP: (1) the Nation Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) that is active in the Nooksack drainage with the goal of improving water quality concerns in Portage Bay, which will improve water quality of tribal and commercial shellfish beds. (2) The Regional Conservationists Partnership Program (RCPP) has a proposal to implement $9.5 million of actions in Puget Sound, sponsored through the Washington Conservation Commission. This proposal is targeted in watersheds that are showing impaired water quality that drain to Puget Sound. (3) The general EQIP program available to all working lands in Puget Sound. The general EQIP program treats many resource concerns with water quality being one of the leading resource concerns treated.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources required at this time

2.6.4 Oil spill preparedness and planning

Provide support for the Washington Shellfish Initiative Goal 1.6 to insure shellfish growing and harvest areas are adequately included in oil spill planning and response.

Lead/Coordinating Agencies: USCG, NOAA/EPA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Implementation of Washington Shellfish Initiative Oil Spill Preparedness and Planning action items.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): 0.25 FTE/year

2.6.5 Ocean acidification monitoring

Maintain existing ocean acidification (OA) monitoring and advance the adoption of new subsurface ocean acidification monitoring technologies to better assess changes in the oceanic source waters feeding into Puget Sound. Continue to promote modeling capabilities which allow for seasonal forecasting of potentially corrosive conditions entering into Puget Sound. Provide technical expertise to Washington entities and tribes to support ongoing monitoring of OA in Puget Sound.

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021 /ongoing

Expected outcome: Carbon chemistry of Puget Sound waters monitored to support sound management of living marine resources and adequate reporting for Clean Water Act regulations. Sufficient data on carbon chemistry of source waters of Puget Sound provided to modelers of Puget Sound chemistry, who support decisions about nutrient management.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $275K/year in support of validation and OA product enhancement of J-SCOPE forecast system for Washington and Oregon coastal waters; total needed is 16% Federal share of ~$1.7M/year NOAA investment towards sustained monitoring, data quality assurance and synthesis, and advanced OA technology development specific to the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

2.6.6 Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) detection and prediction

The Sound Toxins Program provides biweekly HAB sampling throughout the Puget Sound. The Environmental Sample Processor provides automated daily HAB sampling at sentinel sites producing real-time data. Together, these tools are used to forecast harvest closures due to high levels of HABs. This early warning system enables shellfish to be harvested in advance of closures protecting human health and reducing economic loss.

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021 /ongoing

Indicator of Success: Early warning of events that cause closure of shellfish harvest, enhancing shellfish safety for commercial, recreational and tribal consumers along the 2500 miles of Puget Sound shoreline.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $90K/year (Sound Toxins at $40K/year; the Environmental Sample Processor at $50K/year, for 5 years); total needed is 10% Federal share of ~$5M project in partnership with WA Department of Health, WA Sea Grant, tribes, shellfish growers, environmental learning centers, tribes, and private citizens

2.6.7 Pathogenic vibrio detection and prediction

To reduce risk of unnecessary shellfish bed closures and to reduce risk of human illnesses, we need tools to accurately monitor for pathogenic Vibrios and predictive models to optimize harvest timing. These tools are priority needs identified by the Food and Drug Administration and the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference for the Pacific Northwest.

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021 /ongoing

Indicator of Success: Reduction in shellfish bed closures and illnesses due to pathogenic Vibrios

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $80K/year for three years, $50K/year for two years for work in partnership with WA Department of Health, commercial harvesters, and tribes; NOAA Fisheries supports this effort at ~$86K/year, subject to Congressional appropriations

2.6.8 Conservation genetic risk assessment

Develop genetic risk assessment tools and evaluate management strategies to inform best management practices for culture and enhancement of native shellfish in Puget Sound.

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Decision support tool and management strategies for 3 native shellfish species

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $100K/year; in partnership with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and other collaborators

2.6.9 Implement aquaculture regulatory framework

Establish and communicate a process for shellfish aquaculture applicants to apply for verification for Department of Army Permits including NWP48 (Aquaculture):

Lead Agencies: USACE, NOAA, USFWS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2018

Expected outcome: Streamlined, transparent, and predictable regulatory process.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): No additional resources required at this time

2.6.10 Habitat value of shellfish

Accurately quantifying the habitat value of shellfish and associated gear in the marine environment compared to existing habitats is required for proper management. Currently three studies are underway comparing shellfish aquaculture and eelgrass habitats.

Lead Agency/Coordinating Agencies: NOAA/USACE, EPA, USFWS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Documentation of fish use and prey availability of shellfish aquaculture habitat compared to eelgrass habitat. Host a workshop with scientific experts and regulators to share study results and state of the science resulting in the development of consistent management strategies.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $100K/year for five years

2.6.11 Native shellfish hatchery

NOAA and the Puget Sound Restoration Fund are working with state, tribal and industry partners in WA to restore 100 acres of oyster habitat by 2020 and rebuild sustainable populations of pinto abalone. The Kenneth K. Chew Center for Shellfish Research and Restoration produces the science and juvenile shellfish required for this restoration.

Lead Agency: NOAA

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Produce 2,500 bags of Olympia oyster seed to accelerate Olympia oyster recovery at priority sites. Produce 5,000 juvenile abalone and 2 million larval abalone for outplanting.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): $320K/year (funding for full time FTE at $200K/year; continued operations and maintenance at $120K/year); total needed is 25% federal share of $5M project in partnership with state agencies, tribes and other collaborators.

2.6.12 Native Oyster Restoration Projects

NRCS will continue to expand a collaborative effort with the tribes, NGO Puget Sound Restoration Fund, WDFW, and the Washington Shellfish Growers Association to contribute towards implementing the native Olympia Oyster Restoration Plan.

Lead Agency: NRCS

Time Frame: FY 2017 - FY 2021

Expected outcome: Two new restoration sites and enhancement of two existing populations of oyster will be implemented on eligible private and tribal aquaculture operations through EQIP.

Resources (subject to future appropriations): Annual request for funding of this program has been supported by NRCS through the EQIP program.

3.0 Science and Monitoring

Federal agencies have extensive expertise, capabilities and access to national and regional capacity for fundamental science and monitoring programs to support Puget Sound ecosystem recovery. Credible and salient scientific information and technical support are needed at the regional, sub-regional, and local levels to support recovery planning and implementation processes, address policy barriers, and inform the best next steps for recovery. While in many major coastal ecosystem recovery efforts there are well-organized federal/state/local science enterprises that support recovery planning and implementation efforts, Puget Sound does not yet have a formal dedicated structure for effectively integrating federal science and monitoring expertise and capabilities for this purpose.

This Action Plan calls for the Inter-agency Federal Science and Monitoring work group created under the Federal Task Force MOU to: 1) determine interim steps that could be taken to help address this critical gap with current resources and capacity; 2) develop a process for prioritizing current and planned federal science and monitoring activities that are consistent with Puget Sound recovery needs; and 3) collaboratively develop options for developing a Federal Puget Sound Science Program that brings to bear federal scientific and technical expertise and capacity to support collaboration, leveraging, and science needs for Puget Sound recovery. While the staffing of the Science and Monitoring work group has not yet been finalized, the Regional Implementation Team has created a list of known high-priority science and monitoring activities that are needed to support the habitat, stormwater and shellfish strategic initiatives in the 2016 Puget Sound Action Agenda, tribal habitat priorities, and federal priorities for Puget Sound Recovery. These current activities are listed and described in Appendix D.

The Federal Science and Monitoring work group will convene one or more science and monitoring workshops with partners to discuss these interim steps, to get input on the development of the proposed prioritization process, and to discuss the idea of the development of a federal interagency science plan that supports Puget Sound ecosystem recovery and the needs of recovery partners (Interagency activity, Appendix D). Science and monitoring activities and priorities that were submitted in response to earlier drafts of the Action Plan will be discussed at these workshops and considered for inclusion in the subsequent science plan. This plan will also take into consideration the Puget Sound Partnership's Biennial Science Work Plan, PSEMP's monitoring gaps and priorities, PSNERP's science plan, and other regionally significant science plans.

4.0 Treaty Rights at Risk

Six priority issues for federal engagement

In 2015, a subset of Federal Task Force agencies committed to address six priority tribal treaty rights issues raised by Western Washington Treaty Tribes. Some of these issues, or approaches to address these issues, are also included in Section 2 of this Action Plan. Puget Sound Tribes submitted comments to the Puget Sound Federal Task Force Regional Leaders on the Action Plan including comments relating to some of these issues. See Appendix C.

1. NOAA/EPA: Washington State Nonpoint Source Program under the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments (CZARA).
2. USACE/EPA/NOAA: Shoreline armoring: Protection of ESA habitat landward of the Corps Clean Water Act jurisdictional boundary. Consider options in coordination with federal and state partners that may be implemented to protect ESA species and habitat.
3. USACE/EPA: Marine/Freshwater Shorelines- Cumulative Effects of the Nationwide Permit Program.
4. USDA: Transparency on USDA funded agricultural best management practice projects.
5. USDA/NOAA/EPA/CEQ: Riparian buffers: Respond to tribes' request to revise USDA practices.
6. USFWS/EPA/NOAA/BIA: Support sustainable harvest of salmon and shellfish to meet the Treaty protected and non-treaty fisheries including support for the process and schedule developed jointly by federal-tribal-state partners to develop and approve watershed-specific hatchery plans consistent with the ESA and NEPA.

5.0 Puget Sound Federal Task Force Governance and Action Plan Implementation

The Governance structure for the Puget Sound Federal Task Force and process for Action Plan development and annual updates is established in the MOU. The Puget Sound Federal Task Force Regional Implementation Team will implement the Action Plan and report progress on implementation of the plan as outlined in the MOU. The Regional Implementation Team will meet regularly to implement and track implementation of the Action Plan and established in the MOU, work in partnership with the Puget Sound federally recognized tribal governments, State of Washington, diverse stakeholders and Canadian partners in the implementation of this Action Plan.

Puget Sound Federal Task Force engagement with Puget Sound Tribes

The Puget Sound Federal Taskforce MOU recognizes the importance of respecting Puget Sound tribal treaty rights and the Federal Government's obligation to do so. The Puget Sound Federal Taskforce consulted with Puget Sound Tribes in the development and update of this Action Plan and will coordinate and partner with tribes in the implementation of the Action Plan. As outlined in the MOU, the Task Force will convene an annual meeting between the Federal Regional Implementation Team and Tribal Management Conference to review Federal priorities and receive input on the Federal work plan.

In addition, where Treaty Rights at Risk are raised by Puget Sound Tribes, the Federal Task Force will work to address them. If those Treaty Rights at Risk issues cannot be resolved with the Puget Sound Tribes and the Puget Sound Federal Task Force the Tribes can elevate those issues to the established national Treaty Rights at Risk CEQ/Federal Deputies resolution process.

Puget Sound Federal Task Force engagement in the Puget Sound Management Conference

The Puget Sound Federal Task Force will engage with the Puget Sound Partnership and Puget Sound Management Conference boards and committees in the implementation of the Action Plan as it relates to the state's recovery plan and CCMP for Puget Sound, the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

Puget Sound Partnership and the Action Agenda

The Puget Sound Federal Task Force (PSTFTF) will coordinate with the Puget Sound Partnership regularly to share information on Federal Task Force activities and to discuss Task Force activities support the Action Agenda and Management conference activities. The Puget Sound Partnership Director will be invited to attend Puget Sound Federal Task Force Regional Implementation Team meetings at least biannually. The Puget Sound Federal Task Force Regional Implementation Team will participate in Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams, Implementation Strategy development teams and management conference boards and councils as described below.

Puget Sound Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB)

The federal agency ECB representatives are: U.S. EPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and NOAA Fisheries. These agencies will regularly attend ECB meetings, and provide updates to the ECB on PSFTF activities as well as raise ECB matters at PSFTF meetings.

Puget Sound Leadership Council

The Puget Sound Federal Task Force does not have representation on the Puget Sound Leadership Council but will coordinate with the Puget Sound Partnership as needed on Puget Sound Leadership Council business.

Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel and Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
The Puget Sound Partnership Science Panel (SP) and the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP) have included PSFTF member agency representation since the inception of the Puget Sound Partnership board structure and the creation of PSEMP. However, there are a number of steps that could be taken to strengthen communications and improve federal leadership in support of Puget Sound science and monitoring for ecosystem recovery.

These steps include:

- Establish a liaison between the PSP Science Panel and the Science and Monitoring working group of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force to facilitate information sharing and cooperation.
- In collaboration with the PSP Science Panel and PSEMP, conduct an evaluation of the coordinated monitoring programs of other Federal/State coastal ecosystem recovery efforts, including the San Francisco Bay Delta, the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, the Lower Columbia Estuary, and other relevant efforts. The evaluation would focus on lessons learned and provide a wider perspective on approaches to conducting ecosystem-scale monitoring programs in support of long-term ecosystem recovery.
- Evaluate the PSEMP gap analysis for science and monitoring activities that the PSFC could address. Identify high-priority critical gaps.
- Establish a working relationship with PSEMP that includes the use of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force as a "forum" for presenting PSEMP goals, approaches, and needs to federal agencies. For example, this forum could be used to scope the PSEMP gap analysis evaluation

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC)
This regional body of decision-makers on salmon recovery, policy, and funding advises the Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council on decisions relating to salmon recovery and the implementation of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan and Puget Sound Steelhead recovery plan development. The Salmon Recovery Council provides policy direction for implementation of salmon recovery plans and actions, develops an overarching strategic approach to funding, project selection, and near-term conservation actions. Federal coordination with the Salmon Recovery Council will help inform PSFC participants of emerging salmon and habitat conservation opportunities, interagency issues, and provide insight into regional priorities. The objective of sharing PSSRC information and priorities within the federal Regional Implementation Team is to ensure appropriate federal agency policy, funding, and program alignment to support salmon, steelhead and habitat protection and restoration.

Currently, NOAA Fisheries, EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife representatives are members of the Salmon Recovery Council.

Additional staff resources would facilitate more direct involvement in annual proposed project and work plan reviews, and Puget Sound Chinook salmon recovery plan updates and steelhead recovery plan development and implementation. Various federal agencies also have opportunities to leverage and support recovery projects through funding, permitting, and technical assistance. Several PSFC agencies have restoration programs that could be tapped to support state and local efforts with additional resources to support on-the-ground actions.

Local Governments, non-profit organizations and other management conference partners
The Puget Sound Federal Task Force will coordinate and partner with other management conference partners (local governments, non-profit organizations, universities, others) on the implementation of

this Action Plan. The Puget Sound Federal Task Force will seek to coordinate federal actions to support local entity work to recover Puget Sound at the local level.

Appendix A. Puget Sound Federal Task Force MOU

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PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

I. BACKGROUND

(a) Puget Sound, Washington, is among the most important estuary ecosystems in the United States, providing critical human and ecological values. Puget Sound is approximately 650,000 square miles and encompasses an 8-million-acre watershed. Its unique nearshore ecosystem comprises more than 2,500 miles of river deltas, coastal embayments, beaches, bluffs and rocky shorelines. The ecosystem supports more than 4.7 million people, including 19 federally recognized tribal governments; 211 fish species; 100 sea bird species; and 13 marine mammal species, such as orca whales. It also annually handles over $77 billion in imports and exports, $10 billion in outdoor recreation, and $2 billion in agriculture revenue. Decades of human activity and development have degraded the ecological function of Puget Sound. Despite enthusiastic conservation efforts, the ecological health of Puget Sound remains threatened.

(b) The preservation and restoration of Puget Sound requires continued action and focus. Climate change, natural processes and human development impose stress on the ecosystem and contribute pollutants to the sound. With the projected climate change and amount of growth in human population over the next 20 years, these threats may increase. During the past 125 years, approximately 70 percent of critical habitats, including salt marshes, eelgrass beds and estuaries, have been damaged or completely lost. This habitat loss and degradation have contributed directly to the decline of fish and wildlife resources important to the people who live here, including Native Americans who have relied on these resources for millennia. The decline of Pacific salmon, necessitating protection of several once abundant species under the Endangered Species Act, is emblematic of the interrelationship among ecosystems, natural resources and people. This degradation has elevated the protection and restoration of Puget Sound to a national priority.

(c) Given the national significance of the Puget Sound ecosystem and its importance to the millions of people who depend on it for economic, cultural, and environmental benefits, it is imperative that the federal government reinforce and strengthen its leadership role, working in partnership with the federally recognized tribes, State of Washington and interested partners. The State of Washington convenes the Puget Sound Management Conference that develops and implements the Puget Sound Action Agenda, a collaborative roadmap for restoration and

protection that also serves as the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (for Puget Sound the "Action Agenda") under the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program.

(d) Longstanding treaties dating from 1854 and 1855 establish important responsibilities for the federal government to protect tribal treaty resources. As habitat and salmon continue to face challenges in Puget Sound, the need to follow through on these responsibilities is more important than ever. Article VI of the U.S. Constitution declares treaties as part of the supreme law of the land, with the same legal force as federal statutes. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will adhere to and support the federal government's responsibility to address tribal treaty rights and trust responsibilities in situations where the plans and actions implemented under this MOU may affect them and recognizes the duty to engage in government-to-government consultation prior to any action related to Puget Sound that may impact a federally recognized tribe.

(e) Puget Sound is also part of a larger Salish Sea Ecosystem that includes the Georgia Basin in Canada. Our collective success in conserving Puget Sound and the Salish Sea is dependent on effective binational cooperation with Canadian federal, provincial and local governments and First Nations. An existing Statement of Cooperation is in place between the EPA and Environment and Climate Change Canada that created a working group and annual work plans for sharing scientific information, developing joint research initiatives and ensuring coordination of environmental management initiatives and long-term planning. This MOU is intended to complement the existing Statement of Cooperation, facilitating ongoing transboundary cooperation between U.S. and Canadian governments.

II. VISION AND PURPOSE

(a) The parties, identified below, envision a healthy and sustainable Puget Sound ecosystem that provides for a high-quality and resilient long-term ecological and economic state and restores the environmental integrity and sustainability of the system.

(b) This MOU establishes the national Puget Sound Federal Task Force to work in partnership with the Puget Sound federally recognized tribal governments, State of Washington, diverse stakeholders and Canadian partners to apply our authorities, programs, available resources and scientific capabilities toward achieving the vision and purpose of this MOU.

(c) This MOU establishes a voluntary structure for coordinating and aligning the actions of the federal agencies with primary federal responsibilities and authority over key aspects of Puget Sound and its tributaries. This includes the establishment of the Puget Sound Federal Task Force supported by regional federal leadership and implementation teams.

(d) This MOU is intended to achieve the following purposes:

- Strengthen the coordination among federal agencies and provide for closer and more efficient coordination between regional and national federal leadership in the setting and execution of federal priorities and the resolving of issues in a timely fashion, consistent with existing federal agency procedures and processes;

- Strengthen generally the coordination among federal agencies on mitigation of potential environmental impacts;
- Strengthen generally the intergovernmental coordination of federal actions with tribal, state and local governments as well as the coordination of public and private efforts;
- Strengthen the early and ongoing integration of federal activities and capabilities into the Puget Sound Action Agenda and its implementation, working with the federally recognized tribal governments, Puget Sound Management Conference, other state agencies and the public;
- Strengthen and expand the federal contribution of scientific and technical expertise as practicable with available federal appropriations;
- Contribute to fulfilling federal trust responsibilities to the Puget Sound federally recognized tribal governments, as they relate to the action plan and priority actions; and
- Serve to create a standing federal venue through which to share information, meet and engage in government-to-government consultation as it relates to the action plan and priority actions.

(e) This MOU does not alter, diminish or create any legal obligations for federal agencies or expand the authorities granted by underlying statutes nor does it alter or diminish any existing federal treaty obligations or trust responsibilities.

(f) This MOU revokes and supersedes the existing regional federal partnership agreement that established the Puget Sound Federal Caucus and builds upon and complements the collaborative work the federal government, tribes, the state and other key partners are already conducting.

III. PARTIES

The parties to this MOU are:

(a) The United States Department of the Interior (DOI), which has jurisdiction pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. Section 661 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Section 1531 et seq.) and other applicable laws;

(b) The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has jurisdiction pursuant to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et seq.) (Clean Water Act), the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. Section 300f et seq.) and other applicable laws;

(c) The United States Department of Commerce (DOC), including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which has jurisdiction pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. Section 661 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S. C. Section 1531 et seq.) (ESA), the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. Section 1801 et seq.) and other applicable laws;

(d) The United States Department of the Army (DOA), which is provided for and maintained by Congress pursuant to Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution and having the mission, functions, organization and authorities granted by Title 10 of the United States Code and other applicable law, and includes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which has

jurisdiction pursuant to flood control, and water resource development authorizations, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U .S.C. Section 408) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344) and other applicable laws;

(e) The United States Department of the Navy (DON), including the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps, which is provided for and maintained by Congress pursuant to Article I of the U.S. Constitution and having the mission, functions, organization and authorities granted by Title 10 of the United States Code and other applicable laws;

(f) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which has jurisdiction pursuant to Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. Section 3801 et seq.), as amended, and other applicable laws;

(g) The United States Department of Transportation (DOT), which enters this MOU pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 301; and

(h) The United States Coast Guard (USCG), which has jurisdiction pursuant to 14 U.S.C. Sections 81, 88, and 89, the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1221 et seq.), Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act) (33 U.S.C. Section 1251 etseq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. Sections 2701 et seq.) and other applicable law, and enters this MOU pursuant to 14 U.S.C. Section 92, 93, 141, and other applicable law; and

(i) The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), which has jurisdiction pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. Section 4321 et seq.) and other applicable laws.

IV. NATIONAL PUGET SOUND FEDERAL TASK FORCE

(a) A national level Puget Sound Federal Task Force (Task Force) is hereby established and will serve as the primary leadership group. The Task Force will be co-chaired by the Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), or such other person as the Executive Office of the President shall designate, and a rotating co-chair among the signatory agencies. The rotating co-chair will serve for a period of two years.

(b) The Task Force will include a senior designee from each of the following agencies: the Department of Commerce, the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Environment and Energy, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment), the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Homeland Security and such other interested agencies as determined by the co-chairs.

(c) The Task Force will serve as the primary interagency entity for achieving the vision and purpose of this MOU, working through and serving as the national policy oversight body for the regional teams, described below. The Task Force will, among other things:

- In coordination with affected stakeholders, review and approve the Puget Sound Action Plan, updates and other products produced by regional implementation teams;
- Outline implementation costs and ensure they are achievable within available resources;
- Review interagency issues identified and elevated via the regional implementation teams from time to time; and
- Coordinate its actions with the White House Council on Native American Affairs, as needed.

(d) The Task Force will meet approximately biannually, or as needed, to fulfill its purposes and provide an annual progress report to signatory agency principals, the Office of Management and Budget and others as appropriate.

V. REGIONAL PUGET SOUND IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS

Teams will support regional implementation, including regional Leadership and Implementation Teams, and, as necessary, issue-specific sub-teams.

(a) The Region 10 Administrator of the EPA and a rotating co-chair among the other regional agencies will co-chair the Leadership Team, to include regional principals or their designees from DOI, USDA, NOAA, DOA, DON, Corps, DOT, DHS, or other involved agencies or sub-agencies as the co-chairs determine. The Leadership Team also will include members from specific sub-agencies or bureaus, including the individual bureaus within DOI and USDA. The rotating co-chair will serve for a period of two years. If needed, the regional Leadership Team may develop a separate agreement to incorporate additional regional federal entities to support implementation of this MOU.

(b) The Leadership Team will meet biannually or as needed to provide regional leadership for federal actions within Puget Sound and the Salish Sea, with the purpose of facilitating implementation and addressing priority actions across federal agencies and jurisdictions. The Leadership Team can invite, as appropriate, state and tribal leaders to participate in its meetings to promote transparency and coordination.

(c) The Leadership Team will be the primary regionally based, interagency, federal forum through which to:

- Integrate federal efforts with those of tribal, state and local entities in the implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda;
- Plan and coordinate federal efforts for the implementation of salmon recovery efforts in and around Puget Sound and its tributaries;
- Support federal efforts to mitigate potential environmental impacts;
- Facilitate the coordination of federal trust responsibilities to the Puget Sound federally recognized tribal governments, as they relate to the action plan and priority actions, in the execution of these duties as needed and agreed to by involved agencies and tribes; and

- Identify bilateral functions relating to the stewardship of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea with Canada and First Nations related to the existing EPA and Environment and Climate Change Canada Statement of Cooperation as appropriate.

(d) The Implementation Team, consisting of senior managers and staff from each of the participating agencies and sub-agencies or bureaus, including the individual bureaus and agencies within DOI, DOT, DHS, and USDA, will provide federal planning and implementation support for the Puget Sound Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans under the Endangered Species Act, binational efforts and other federal Puget Sound restoration and protection priorities including tribal trust responsibilities by:

- Developing, evaluating and updating the federal action plan (see VI);
- Coordinating and collaborating with partners, and representing federal interests and programs on the boards of the state-led Puget Sound Management Conference; and
- Providing input to the binational Salish Sea plans and actions, as appropriate.

(e) The Implementation Team may establish sub-teams as necessary to coordinate on specific Puget Sound restoration and protection areas of focus. Sub-teams could include, but are not limited to: 1) science and monitoring, 2) federal lands, assets and infrastructure investments, and 3) international issues/Salish Sea.

VI. FEDERAL ACTION PLAN AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

(a) By June 1, 2017, the Task Force will approve a five-year action plan that leverages federal programs across agencies and serves to coordinate diverse programs on a specific suite of priorities. The national Task Force will coordinate the action plan with agency principals, CEQ and the Office of Management and Budget.

(b) The regional Implementation Team will develop the action plan for review and adoption by the Task Force. In developing the plan, the Implementation Team will engage with the federally recognized tribal governments via an annual meeting with the Tribal Management Conference and with the state via an annual meeting with the Puget Sound Management Conference and other state agencies as identified by the governor of Washington, as well as other partners and stakeholders, as appropriate.

(c) The Implementation Team will use all available strategic, economic development and other related plans when developing the action plan. In coordination with the military installations in the Puget Sound region, the plan will take into account and not adversely affect national security interests. Since salmon are critically important, the Puget Sound Action Agenda and salmon recovery priorities, as developed by the Puget Sound Management Conference led by the State of Washington Puget Sound Partnership and tribal priorities and plans, are two of the foundations to inform action plan development. The plan may also include priority federal actions not addressed in the Action Agenda or salmon recovery plans. Transboundary issues and priorities may be integrated into the action plan as an outcome of coordination

with Canadian partners through the existing EPA and Environment and Climate Change Canada Statement of Cooperation as appropriate.

(d) The Regional Implementation Team will evaluate annually the action plan and modify it as deemed necessary by the parties in order to adapt to new circumstances and events. The action plan should provide consistency and focused federal activity on a rolling five-year basis.

(e) The regional agencies, using as a foundation applicable state and tribal science and monitoring plans, will coordinate and collaborate on science activities with federal, state, tribal and local agencies, as well as academic and nongovernmental organizations to include identifying critical research gaps where federal science, monitoring and analytical resources and programs could play a critical role.

(f) The regional Implementation Team will provide input on an annual basis to the binational Salish Sea action plan under the Joint Statement of Cooperation between EPA and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

VII. TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS AND TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) The parties to this MOU recognize the substantial subject matter overlap among Puget Sound stewardship, treaty rights and obligations and trust responsibilities. We also recognize the importance of respecting the distinctions among these differing responsibilities and commit to doing so in the execution of this MOU. This MOU does not supersede any treaty rights or trust obligations.

(b) Given the above, the regional Leadership Team will serve as an interagency venue to facilitate coordination of activities involving the federal trust responsibilities to the federally recognized tribes of Puget Sound. It will engage in appropriate coordination and consultation with federally recognized tribal governments on the execution of the action plan and priority actions in circumstances where multiple agencies are involved. Individual agency government-to-government consultation policies and procedures will continue to be used for single-agency actions and treaty rights matters.

(c) The regional Implementation Team will confer annually with federally recognized tribal governments working either directly or through the Tribal Management Conference. This will include an annual meeting between the regional Implementation Team and the Tribal Management Conference to review and receive input on the federal action plan.

(d) Where issues arise that pertain to the implementation of the action plan and priority actions that could affect the federal trust responsibilities to the Puget Sound tribal governments, the regional Leadership Team will facilitate coordination and information sharing so that each individual agency is more effectively able to complete individual consultations with affected tribes. If those issues cannot be resolved at the regional level in a reasonable amount of time, the parties to this MOU recognize that either tribal governments, individual local agencies or

the regional Leadership Team may elevate issues through existing agency dispute/issue resolution or, in the alternative, be guided by the principles of the Operational Draft Issue-Elevation Process for Western Washington Treaty Tribes' Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative resolution process for resolving issues regionally and elevating issues to the national/headquarters level.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

(a) This MOU does not and does not intend to restrict the authority of any party to act as provided by law, statute or regulation.

(b) This MOU addresses the activities of the parties and, as such, does not address and thus does not restrict the activities and authorities of any other federal agency or office.

(c) This MOU does not and does not intend to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any person against the United States, its departments, agencies or entities, its officers, employees, agents or any other person.

(d) This MOU will take effect upon the signature of all of the parties, and it will remain in effect for a period of 10 years from the date on which it takes effect. This MOU may be extended or modified at any time upon the mutual written consent of the parties. Additionally, a party may terminate its participation in this MOU at any time by providing written notice to the other parties at least 30 days in advance of the desired termination date.

(e) As required by the Anti-deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. Sections 1341, 1342, and 1517, all activities of the parties in implementing this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Nothing in this MOU obligates any of the parties to expend or transfer appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, interagency agreement or incur other financial obligations. Any activities or projects involving the transfer, reimbursement or contribution of funds among the parties to this MOU will be handled under separate agreements and any negotiation, execution and administration of such agreements must be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority.

(f) The Parties and their respective agencies and offices will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

(g) The Parties will consult with one another to resolve disputes at staff levels and elevate disputes through the respective organizational levels only if necessary. Notification of potential conflict or a dispute by either Party must be put in writing, and attempts to resolve the matter at the staff level should occur within 30 days. If there is no resolution at this level within 30 days, either Party may elevate the issue to the appropriate officials.

Notwithstanding any such referral, each party reserves the right to make a final decision on any matter within its statutory authority.

IX. SIGNATURES

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

September 30, 2016

Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

September 30, 2016

Secretary
Department of Commerce

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

Secretary
Department of Agriculture

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

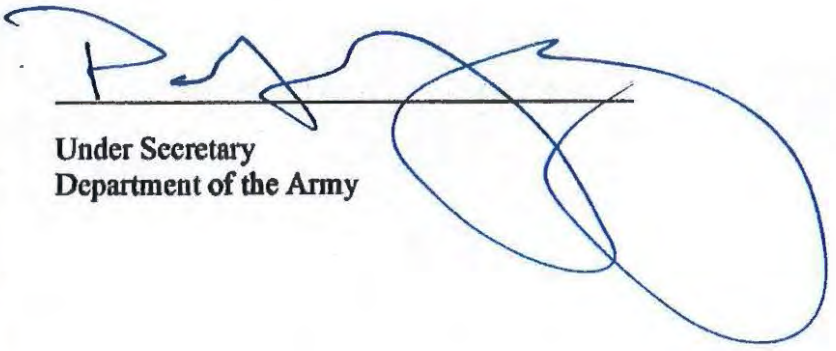
OCT 14 2016

Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency

Date

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

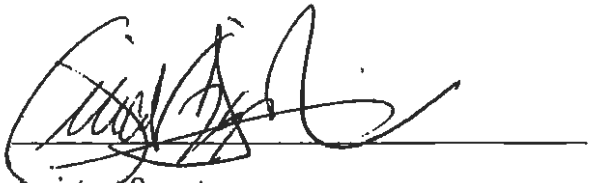


Under Secretary
Department of the Army

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

October 7, 2016



Assistant Secretary
Department of Transportation

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

September 30, 2016

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Insallations, & Environment)
Department of the Navy

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

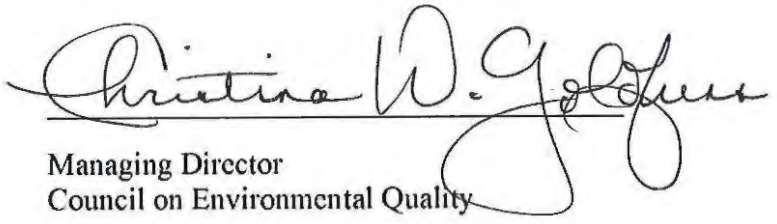
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES

Paul F. Zukunft 31 OCT 2016

Commandant
United States Coast Guard

PUGET SOUND
FEDERAL TASK FORCE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES



Managing Director
Council on Environmental Quality

Appendix B. Summary Table of Priority Federal Actions to Protect and Restore Puget Sound

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
Cross- cutting Actions	NOAA	2.1.1	Evaluate existing programmatic or streamlined regulatory tools/processes for activities related to Puget Sound habitat	No additional resources needed at this time. If new tools/processes are identified for development, additional resources may be necessary.
	EPA	2.1.2	Implement the National Estuary Program for Puget Sound protection and recovery	$30M/year Puget Sound Geographic Funds
Habitat	USFS	2.2.1.1	Correct salmon and steelhead culvert fish passage barriers on National Forest System roads	$1.2M/year is needed to correct the 26 identified salmon and steelhead culvert barriers within the 5-year period.
	NPS	2.2.1.2	Correct salmon and steelhead culvert fish passage barriers on National Park Service roads	$100,000/year is needed to correct the 9 identified salmon and steelhead culvert barriers at MORA within the 5-year period.
	U.S. Navy	2.2.1.3	Correct salmon and steelhead culvert fish passage barriers on U.S. Navy property	The Navy is currently investigating how to fund culvert projects; however, all corrective actions are subject to the constraints of available resources (personnel, funds and equipment).
	USACE	2.2.1.4	Design and construct improved fish passage at Mud Mountain Dam	Total cost over $100M. Annual resource needs will vary.
	USFWS	2.2.1.5	National Fish Passage Program	The Western Washington National Fish Passage Program typically receives $100,000 annually, dependent upon Congressional allocations.

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
	NOAA	2.2.1.6	Coastal Ecosystem Resiliency Funding Community Based Restoration (NOAA Restoration Center)	$10M National Competition Resiliency, $8MCommunity-based Restoration National Competition
	NOAA	2.2.1.7	Salmon recovery efforts through local, state and regional organizations and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)	Washington's award for FY16 was $18.5M
	NRCS	2.2.1.8	Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)	A combined total of $5.5M dedicated financial assistance for salmon recovery received for 3 years (2012, 2013, & 2016) with additional funding requested for FY17.
	FHWA	2.2.1.9	Salmon and steelhead barrier correction projects on Federal-aid eligible roadways	Washington State receives over $600M in Federal-aid Highway funding annually. Additional Emergency Relief funds are provided in response to natural disasters.
	FHWA	2.2.1.10	Fish passage barrier correction projects on roads that access Federal and Tribal lands and on roads owned by Federal and Tribal entities (WFLHD)	The Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) is an available funding source for federally owned routes. The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is an available funding source for a public road or transit system that is located on, is adjacent to, or provides access to Federal lands, for which title or maintenance responsibility is vested in a State, county, town, township, tribal, municipal, or local government. The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is an available funding source for tribal owned and tribal designated publically owned roads.
	FEMA	2.2.1.11	Pre-disaster hazard mitigation and post-disaster recovery/mitigation fish passage related actions requested by applicants	Varies annually based on disaster declarations and on budgets allocated for those grants that are not dependent on disaster declarations.

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
	NOAA, USFWS	2.2.1.12	Collaborate with State Fish Passage Removal Board (FPRB)	See actions 2.1.1.6 through 2.1.1.11 above
	EPA	2.2.2.1	Engage with Washington State to support and update the Floodplains Implementation Strategy	FTE to participate in meetings. The combined estimated cost for reducing flood risk and restoring salmon habitat over the next 10 to 20 years is over $3 billion, with approximately $2.2 billion associated with flood risk reduction projects and $120 million/year associated with salmon recovery to define federal role in elements of the implementation strategy.
	EPA	2.2.2.2	Convene working group to coordinate riparian science, and corridor protection and restoration	.1-.2 FTE/ Agency
	EPA	2.2.2.3	Reach scale planning and coordinate and fund riparian easements and restoration in priority stream reaches	$3.0M Puget Sound Geographic Funds pass through to Washington State
	USGS, USFWS	2.2.2.4	Assist state and local partners in completing the development of a floodplain mapping and prioritization tool	$300,000, FTE to participate in technical meetings
	NOAA	2.2.2.5	Improve community resilience through climate change science, modeling, and response	TBD
	FEMA, NOAA	2.2.2.6	Continue to implement the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Jeopardy Biological Opinion (BiOp) for Puget Sound	2.0 FTE FEMA, 0.5 FTE NOAA
	FEMA	2.2.2.7	Improve community resilience by increasing incentives to move development away from high risk areas also important to recovery/FEMA subprogram to encourage beneficial functions	TBD
	NOAA	2.2.2.8	Support Salmon Recovery	Support for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, $65M in FY 2016 (NOAA). Sustain funding for Puget

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
				Sound Coastal Program (USFWS), Wetlands Reserve Easements Program (NRCS). Federal programs, such as the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP), Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) can fund in-stream habitat enhancement connected to environmental concerns of conducting actions like road repair or reconstruction. There are large-scale in-stream projects associated with the Puget Sound habitat strategic initiative where funding needs are equal to or greater than $2M.
	NRCS	2.2.2.9	Continue to implement the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	$1.8M annually Statewide for ALE easements and almost $1M available for WRE acquisition and wetland restoration practice implementation.
	NRCS	2.2.2.10	Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)	FY 2017 Proposals have already been submitted and funded, FY 2018 should be announced sometime during the summer of 2017.
	NOAA	2.2.2.11	NOAA Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)	Ongoing appropriations
	NOAA, USFWS	2.2.2.12	Natural resource damage assessment (NRDA)	Ongoing appropriations. Funding for restoration projects and Trustee participation provided by PRPs through settlement or adjudication.
	NOAA, USFWS, NRCS	2.2.2.13	Support integrated floodplain corridor project planning and implementation	FTE, funding

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
	NOAA	2.2.2.14	Collaborate with tribes, and state and local organizations to govern the Snohomish Coordinated Investment (CI) Initiative	Coordination and collaboration are already the mandate of named institutions
	NOAA, FEMA	2.2.2.15	Coordinate with state and local partners on the Floodplain Management Forum	0.50 FTE or equivalent over 2 years, to serve as liaison between federal agencies and local partners would strengthen follow through
	NOAA	2.2.2.16	Test Improvements in funding coordination (Coordinated Investment Initiative)	0.5 FTE Federal funding liaison to the State Water and Salmon Grant Coordination Group would accelerate implementation.
	USACE, NRCS	2.2.2.17	Skokomish River Ecosystem Restoration Project	65% Federal share of $20M in partnership with the Skokomish Tribe and Mason County, annual resource needs will vary.
	USACE	2.2.2.18	Green/Duwamish River Ecosystem Project	65% Federal share in partnership with King County and various local governments, annual resource needs will vary.
	USACE, EPA, NRCS, NOAA	2.2.2.19	Dungeness River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	50% Federal share of $3M study in partnership with the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.
	BIA	2.2.2.20	Establish reliable relationships between stream flow levels and fish habitat	TBD
	USACE	2.2.3.1	Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP)	65% Federal share of $452M project overall in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, annual resource needs will vary.
	USACE	2.2.3.2	Puget Sound Master Plan Implementation of projects from the Corps' Puget Sound Restoration Tiered Implementation Strategy, as	50-65% Federal share for each $5-$15M project depending on the project phase, annual resource needs will vary

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
			established by the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Study	
	USACE, NOAA, EPA, USFWS, USDA	2.2.3.3	Estuary Restoration Act Projects	Annual project-specific requirements will vary
	NOAA, USGS	2.2.3.4	Snohomish Estuary Restoration Evaluation	$200K/year
	USFWS	2.2.3.5	Puget Sound Coastal Program	~$250K /year. Usually fund 4-5 projects/year with most funding decisions made in January-February.
	USFWS	2.2.3.6	National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program	+$20M nationally. Up to $1M per project. Applications due in June, decision announced Dec.-Jan.
	USFWS	2.2.3.7	National Fish Passage Program	$15 - $80K per project. Applications due November 15 annually
	NOAA, EPA	2.2.3.8	Protection of ESA habitat landward of the Corps' Clean Water Act jurisdictional boundary	1-2 FTEs/year in the beginning of the coordination process
	EPA, NOAA	2.2.3.9	Coastal Improvement Team	0.5 FTE/year/agency
	USACE, EPA, NOAA	2.2.3.10	2017 Nationwide Permit Regional Conditions	No additional resources needed at this time
	EPA, NOAA	2.2.3.11	Support state agencies regarding HPA enforcement, SMA implementation, streamlined permitting of restoration projects	Existing staff time + 0.25FTE/agency for the first two years

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
Stormwater	EPA	2.3.1	Implement research advancing practical solutions for stormwater management	$500K in federal funding annually over next five years
	EPA	2.3.2	Facilitate and support effective storm water management on Federal and Tribal lands/facilities under EPA's Clean Water Act jurisdiction	1 – 2 FTE/year, in the form of permitting and technical staff at EPA, and USFWS/NOAA to complete permit development and technical analysis, including appropriate coordination, negotiation, and consultation with all regulated entities. ~$250,000/year in grants or discretionary funding to assist regulated Tribal governments within the Urbanized Area with capacity development and implementation of their local storm water management program.
	FHWA, FTA	2.3.3	Stormwater treatment as part of transportation projects	Washington State receives approximately $600 million in Federal-aid highway funds per year.
	EPA	2.3.4	Refine and implement Stormwater Retrofit Prioritization Methodology	Combined 1 FTE from multiple team members over a five-year period
	EPA, USGS	2.3.5	Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP)	~0.25 annual FTE total, minimum $100K federal funding annually
	EPA	2.3.6	Invest and Support Source Control Programs	$300K federal funding annually over next five years
	EPA	2.3.7	Coordinate to support state development of water quality guidance for nonpoint sources on agricultural lands	one FTE annually
Federal Lands and Facilities	USFS	2.4.1	Decommission and stabilize National Forest System roads	$880,000/year would be needed to complete the identified road treatments in Priority Watersheds within the 5-year period. Annual needs would vary depending on the specific projects selected. The Olympic and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
				anticipate receiving approximately $430,000 in USFS Legacy Roads and Trails funding over the next three years to implement road decommissioning and road stabilization projects. Additional funding to accelerate important restoration of road derived impairments to water quality and fisheries habitat will be sought through grants and partnerships. Accomplishments will be proportional to available funding and our capacity to plan, design, and implement projects.
	FHWA, USFS	2.4.2	Utilize flexibility within the ERFO program	Additional resources necessary to fund modifications to improve structure performance will be dependent on the number and magnitude of storm damage sites and annual congressional appropriations.
	USFS	2.4.3	Protect aquatic habitat on National Forest System lands	$1.2 M/year. The Olympic and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forests are managed under their respective Forest Plans and the NWFP Aquatic Conservation Strategy. Appropriated agency funds provide support for aquatic specialists to provide input and monitor activities effecting aquatic habitats. The capacity of Forests to monitor watershed conditions, develop partnerships, and implement restoration projects will be proportional to the funding available.
Vessel Traffic and Pollution Prevention and Response	USCG	2.5.1	Implementation of new inspection regulations	No additional resources needed at this time
	USCG	2.5.2	Implementation of Commercial Fishing Vessel voluntary compliance program	No additional resources needed at this time
	USCG	2.5.3	Effectively manage vessel activities	No additional resources needed at this time

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
	USCG	2.5.4	Effectively manage vessel traffic and coordinate joint prevention and response activities	No additional resources needed at this time
	USCG	2.5.5	Support multi-agency effort to develop vessel traffic risk assessment	No additional resources needed at this time
	USCG	2.5.6	Develop plans and interagency cooperation for pollution response	The USCG and EPA are cost sharing ESA Section 7 Consultation on the Northwest Area Contingency Plan at the cost of $200K. The USCG and EPA, through a subcommittee of the National Response Team, are working with NOAA and DOI at the headquarters lever and in consultation with field offices to find ways to reduce cost and improve collaboration in the field.
	USCG	2.5.7	Coordinate international cooperation for preparedness and response activities	No additional resources needed at this time
Shellfish	EPA	2.6.1	Water quality protection and Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Programs	$5M/year Puget Sound Geographic Program funds passed through support to state agencies
	EPA	2.6.2	Puget Sound 'No Discharge Zone' (NDZ)	$500K/year through the Puget Sound National Estuary Program
	NRCS	2.6.3	Environmental Quality Initiative Program (EQIP)	No additional resources required at this time
	USCG, NOAA	2.6.4	Oil spill preparedness and planning	0.25 FTE/year
	NOAA	2.6.5	Ocean acidification monitoring	$275K/year in support validation and OA product enhancement of J-SCOPE forecast system for Washington and Oregon coastal waters; total needed is 16% Federal share of ~$1.7M/year NOAA investment towards sustained monitoring, data quality assurance

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
				and synthesis, and advanced OA technology development specific to the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem.
	NOAA	2.6.6	Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) detection and prediction	$90K/year (Sound Toxins at $40K/year; the Environmental Sample Processor at $50K/year, for 5 years); total needed is 10% Federal share of ~$5M project in partnership with WA Department of Health, WA Sea Grant, tribes, shellfish growers, environmental learning centers, tribes, and private citizens.
	NOAA	2.6.7	Pathogenic vibrio detection and prediction	$80K/year for three years, $50K/year for two years for work in partnership with WA Department of Health, commercial harvesters, and tribes; NOAA Fisheries supports this effort at ~$86K/year, subject to Congressional appropriations
	NOAA	2.6.8	Conservation genetic risk assessment	$100K/year; in partnership with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife and other collaborators.
	USACE, NOAA, USFWS	2.6.9	Implement aquaculture regulatory framework	No additional resources required at this time
	NOAA	2.6.10	Habitat value of shellfish	$100K/year for five years
	NOAA	2.6.11	Native shellfish hatchery	$320K/year(funding for full time FTE at $200K/year; continued operations and maintenance at $120K/year); total needed is 25% federal share of $5M project in partnership with state agencies, tribes and other collaborators.

Focus	Lead Agency	#	Action	Resources (subject to appropriations)
	NRCS	2.6.12	Native Oyster Restoration Projects	Annual request for funding of this program has been supported by NRCS through the EQIP program.

Appendix C. Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference Comments

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January 9, 2017

Mr. Dennis McLerran, Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 10
1200 6th Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: December 14, 2016 Draft Puget Sound Federal Task Force Five-Year Federal Action Plan

Dear Regional Administrator McLerran:

The Tribal Management Conference recognizes the opportunity to provide a review of and comment on the draft Puget Sound Federal Task Force Five-Year Federal Action Plan. As you are aware, the Tribal Management Conference (TMC) is a forum that was created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new funding and decision model for the National Estuary Program(NEP) for Puget Sound, and has been further formed and initiated by the Tribes. As such, Puget Sound tribes have been utilizing the TMC forum to support and help coordinate, as needed and appropriate, their participation in the development and updates of the Action Agenda and other NEP and Puget Sound restoration and recovery efforts in order to best protect treaty rights and to protect and restore treaty resources throughout Puget Sound.

The Puget Sound Federal Task Force Action Plan affords yet another opportunity to articulate what is needed to further shepherd recovery efforts across the region, while providing an additional platform through which tribal priorities and the restoration and protection of tribal reserved treaty rights and resources may also be identified and advanced. Upon review, the draft action plan largely consists of current and ongoing programs- a categorical listing of things that are already being done in Puget Sound. The TMC recognizes that while it is helpful to list in full the actions that federal agencies look to take or otherwise continue to support relative to Puget Sound recovery efforts, this compilation that is being relied upon to form the basis of the federal action plan could be improved. Generally, the TMC would like to see a federal action plan that is less of a descriptive summary of actions already being done, and instead prefers to see a more proactive and prescriptive document that will articulate those precise actions- programmatic, regulatory, incentive based, or otherwise that will truly drive recovery of Puget Sound.

Through several discussions and forums, tribes have issued very specific requests and actions that they have identified as being advantageous, if not essential to the further protection and restoration of treaty resources and the treaty rights themselves. Specifically, the federal action plan could be greatly improved through the inclusion of such actions and priorities, including, but not limited to:

- **Utilizing the Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT)** as the landward extent of the CWA section 404 permitting jurisdiction for the protection of shoreline habitat in all marine and estuarine areas in Washington State. Currently, the Seattle District of the Army Corps utilizes the mean higher high water mark as the landward extent of its regulatory jurisdiction. Setting the jurisdictional boundary at the HAT would not only enable greater protection of valuable shoreline habitat- including habitat vital to ESA listed species, but

would also increase regulatory alignment across federal agencies. For example, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) uses the extreme high tide line as the landward boundary when designating critical habitat of ESA listed salmon; the HAT boundary is the same as the extreme high tide line. *Action Plan item this could relate to: #2.1.5.8*

- **Riparian and floodplain restoration and conservation programs are developed and consistent with salmon recovery objectives and goals, protect treaty rights to shellfish, and achieve state water quality standards.** Many agricultural easement programs, for example, will 'lock-in' agricultural land uses, regardless of whether they were historically salmon habitat and thus in need of restoration. Such federal programs need to develop policies and assurances that easement programs do not prohibit the restoration of salmon habitat, or otherwise perpetuate a land use designation that is or will lead to further or sustained degradation of habitat and/or water quality.

- **Nationwide Permits and cumulative effects of permitted habitat loss** needs to be better addressed. The Seattle District Corp of Engineers should look to prohibit the use of certain nationwide and regional general permits because of the continued loss of habitat and further destruction of habitat that these permits enable. Such permits that could be looked to for revision are those covering bank stabilization, dock/overwater structures, bulkheads, and mooring buoys. Revising regional general conditions and/or moving away from general permits and instead requiring individual permits for activities such as those referenced above, would help ensure adequate review of permitted activities and that such permits are receiving the appropriate amount of review for compliance with ESA and Clean Water Act standards and the evaluation of the cumulative effects of permit decisions. *Action Plan item this could apply to #2.1.5.9*

- **Federal Oversight of Washington's Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.** Continued federal engagement and federal oversight is needed to ensure that Washington State achieves compliance with applicable federal laws (e.g. CZARA and Clean Water Act § 319) through adopting and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) that protect treaty-reserved resources from nonpoint sources of pollution. Additionally, BMPs that are developed and implemented should include those that both achieve and maintain all applicable water quality standards as well as protecting designated uses under the Clean Water Act. Moreover, while the adoption of and process to develop BMPs in the state of Washington remains a politically arduous task, federal engagement and oversight of this process could help support and usher timely adoption of scientifically sound management practices that will protect water quality and treaty reserved resources that depend on clean water.

In addition to specific actions such as these, a well-crafted federal action plan should be aligned and positioned to support those tribal, state, and local actions and management schemas that are currently in place and being implemented. At this time, this federal action plan has yet to clearly show how it is linked to and/or supporting or is supported by other Puget Sound documents, such

as the Puget Sound Action Agenda, or salmon recovery plans. A clearer and concise articulation of this federal planning effort and its connectivity and coordination with state and local efforts would further enhance the value added of this additional process proposed to be implemented over the next 5 years.

Finally, the TMC recognizes the opportunity in having the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative (TRAR) and the associated tribal priorities referenced in name and section of the Puget Sound Federal Action Plan. *(See section 4.0 of the Puget Sound Federal Action Plan).* However, it is important to note that the Puget Sound Task Force and their 'Action Plan' cannot become the sole vehicle and forum through which these tribal priorities will look to be resolved through. Tribal treaty rights and the Tribes' Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative encompasses Tribes and treaty rights that exist beyond the geographic extent of Puget Sound. As the federal trustees who also maintain a government to government relationship with each individually federally recognized treaty tribe in western Washington, limiting the federal response to TRAR requests to the geography of Puget Sound is inappropriate. Rather, a TRAR response must also take into account those needs and priorities of treaty tribes outside of Puget Sound and must include those tribes along the coast. In addition to this, it remains imperative that adequate tribal consultation- that is to say early, often, and meaningful engagement on a government to government basis must be utilized when developing and further refining this federal action plan; and any and all subsequent plans, programs, and policies that could potentially affect tribal treaty rights, treaty reserved resources- including cultural resources, the exercise of tribal self-determination, and tribal sovereignty, generally. A commitment to continue to consult with tribes for the purpose of protecting and restoring all treaty reserved rights and resources- both on and off reservation lands, is further supported by EPA's most recent memorandum on *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes when discussing Treaty Rights,*[1] as well as the related inter-agency memorandum acknowledging federal coordination and collaboration for the protection of treaty rights and natural resources[2].

In closing, the Tribal Management Conference recognizes and appreciates the opportunity to provide a review and comment on this draft federal action plan, and further understands that this is an iterative process. As this federal action plan works to become a more complete and final draft by June 2017, we look forward to continuing to work with you along the way and over the course of implementing this work plan to ensure its constant refinement and adaptive management in order to best protect tribal reserved treaty rights and resources and to lend opportunities to recover Puget Sound.

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[1] See *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights. February 2016.*

[2] See *Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Tribal Treaty Rights Related to Natural Resources.* White House Tribal Nations Conference. November 29, 2016

If you have any questions or need for further discussion, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Thank you,

David Herrera

David Herrera,
Chair, Puget Sound Tribal Management Conference.

Appendix D. Priority Federal Science and Monitoring for Puget Sound

Agency/ Organization	Project description	Annual budget (FY 2016)	Outyear (FY 17' – FY 21')
US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	Assess stormwater runoff impacts in urban/urbanizing watersheds of Puget Sound by identifying the highest priority toxic stormwater runoff threats to salmonids & their habitats.	$300,000	TBD
	Develop & implement green stormwater strategies to ensure the ecological integrity of salmon habitats by identifying mitigation strategies to aid long-term habitat conservation & restoration.	$300,000	TBD
United States Geologic Survey (USGS)	Implement the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) at the scale of Puget Sound to model the combined impacts of sea level rise, increased winter river flooding, and storm surge on large storm-related coastal flood events	$1,000,000 / TBD	$1,000,000 per year
	Assess and monitor the delivery and routing of sediment to prioritized large river deltas and nearshore environments to aid restoration and floodplain protection efforts and characterize the resilience of these environments to climate change and sea level rise.	$400,000 / Habitats Strategic Initiative, USGS Programmatic Funds, other partners	$300,000/ year
	Generate and compile data and information on groundwater resources and water use to assist development of WRIA and regional-scale water-resource management strategies that are protective of summer low flows while ensuring adequate water supply for domestic, agricultural, and other out-of-stream uses.	$350,000 / Habitats Strategic Initiative & USGS programmatic funds	$350,000/year
	Compile Puget Sound basin stream temperature data from multiple sources to include newer data (post-2013) and data for currently data-poor areas, model the data, and map stream temperature/cold water refugia at finer scales than the existing NorWEST tool	$150,000 / TBD	$100,000/year

Agency/ Organization	Project description	Annual budget (FY 2016)	Outyear (FY 17' – FY 21')
	Continue post-dam removal sediment studies in the Elwha River system, including studies of ecosystem responses to changes in the sediment-regime.	$200,000 / USGS programmatic funds & USEPA IAG	$150,000/year
	Conduct comprehensive retrospective study of Thornton Creek (Seattle) restoration outcomes (water quality, stream flow, and biotic responses), synthesizing longer-term monitoring activities from USGS (NAWQA "Urban Indicator" site), WA Dept of Ecology, and other agencies. This project will serve as a model of synthesizing different monitoring program data as a model for effectiveness monitoring.	$150,000 / TBD	$150,000/year TBD
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Develop and implement a basin-scale habitat status and trends assessment for watersheds and associated marine nearshore	$215,000/NOAA programmatic funds and TBD	
	Develop an ecosystem-scale model for Puget Sound in collaboration with the Marine Survival Project. Atlantis is the platform for ecosystem scale model.	$150,000/NOAA programmatic funds and Marine Survival Project	$300,000
	Develop hindcast and forecast tools to assess juvenile marine survival of ESA-listed Pacific salmon coupled with process studies on growth and survival.	$600,000 for 2 years, $250,000 long term/TBD	$150,000 TBD
	Conduct hypothesis-based process studies for forage fish and eel grass	$152,000/NOAA programmatic funds and TBD	$300,00 need in years 1- 2; $250,000 annually after that, TBD

Agency/ Organization	Project description	Annual budget (FY 2016)	Outyear (FY 17' – FY 21')
	Assess next-generation monitoring tools such as eDNA for use in monitoring juvenile salmon outmigration in large rivers.	$125,000/NOAA programmatic funds and TBD	$125,000 TBD
	Continue annual zooplankton monitoring program through a distributed network approach with multiple collaborators	$340,000/TBD	$150,000 TBD
NOAA with USGS and NPS	Continue collaborative monitoring of the Elwha watershed post dam removal.	$479,000/NOAA programmatic funds and partnership	$350,000 TBD
	Conduct investigations on the impact of urbanization on marine ecosystems and on water quality (stormwater) and potential mitigation options	$350,000/NOAA programmatic funds and TBD	$450,000 TBD
	Federal Shellfish Research Program	$325,000 (over next four years)/programmatic funds and TBD	$300,000 TBD
NOAA with Washington Sea Grant	Early warning system for harmful algae blooms and Vibrios	$158,000/NOAA programmatic funds and TBD	$325,000 NOAA programmatic funds over three additional years, then TBD

Agency/ Organization	Project description	Annual budget (FY 2016)	Outyear (FY 17' – FY 21')
United States Forest Service (USFS)	Continue to implement watershed-scale habitat status and trends assessment for watersheds and aquatic habitats as part of the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program (AREMP) and the National Watershed Condition Framework.		$150,000 TBD
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	NRCS has requested participation in the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) for Puget Sound. CEAP assessments are carried out at the field, watershed and landscape scale and include analysis of the cumulative effects and benefits of conservation practices on the natural resources and environment.		
	Edge of Field Monitoring contracts. NRCS anticipates obligating four contracts with individual producers to quantify the impacts of conservation work on water quality.	$460,000	$400,000 (FY 17')
	The Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) is a collaborative monitoring program with western Washington municipal stormwater permittees, federal and state agencies to measure the effectiveness of stormwater management actions and communicate widely applicable information on the finding.	$400,000 (under EQIP) $10,000 staff	$500,000 (under EQIP) $10,000 staff
EPA	VELMA project to model effectiveness of riparian buffers and other watershed management practices	$60,000	$60,000
	Develop and implement a strategy for budget alignment among the federal agencies for science & monitoring activities in Puget Sound.	.2 -.3 FTE	.2 - .3 FTE

Agency/ Organization	Project description	Annual budget (FY 2016)	Outyear (FY 17' – FY 21')
	Support the Science and Monitoring Work Group's design and development of a formal Puget Sound Science Program tasked with providing the best possible scientific information to inform recovery decisions.	.2 - .3 FTE	.2 - .3 FTE
	Support increased coordination between federal, tribal, state, local, and academic science and monitoring programs and activities.	.2 - .3 FTE	.2 - .3 FTE
Interagency participation, coordinated through Science and Monitoring Work Group	Develop an integrated Federal/State/private research plan to support long-term ecosystem recovery in Puget Sound that includes a process for updates at an appropriate frequency. An important part of this research plan would involve the development and communication of a conceptual model of the linked social-ecological complex systems that can serve as the foundation for many science activities, including linked ecosystem models, the development of hypothesis-based monitoring systems, and supporting an interdisciplinary (natural and social sciences) research program across the many institutions active in Puget Sound.		

Appendix E. Forest Service Road Decommissioning, Storage, Stabilization Project Priorities

Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Road Treated	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Project Summary	Project Status
Suiattle River/Big Creek	5.2	$230,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	A construction contract will be put in place to decommission the following roads: 2642070, 2642080 and 2643.	The Project has been tentatively approved for funding in FY17 under the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail (CMLG) funding. This project is covered in the Suiattle River ATM EA (2012). The Skagit River System Cooperative (the science and research body that represents the Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish Tribes) is currently working on a road assessment that will support designs for this project.
Suiattle River/Big Creek	2.5	$120,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	A construction contract will be put in place to hydrologically close the following roads: 2641, 2640 and 2660012.	The Project has been tentatively approved for funding in FY17 under the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail (CMLG) funding. This project is covered in the Suiattle River ATM EA (2012). The Skagit River System Cooperative is currently working on a road assessment that will support designs for this project.
White River/Headwaters White River	1.3	$233,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	A construction contract will be put in place to decommission the following roads: 7065210, 7060410, 7000255, 70000510, 70000610, 7080350, 7080450 and 3 unauthorized roads.	The Project has been tentatively approved for funding in FY18 and FY19 under the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail (CMLG) funding. This project is covered by the Greenwater ATM NEPA (2016).

Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Road Treated	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Project Summary	Project Status
White River/Headwaters White River	6.9	$268,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	A construction contract will be put in place to store the following roads: 7000210, 7000250, 7000310, 7000810, 7063, 7063210, 7063410, 7063610, 7068, 7068210, 7068211, 7068212, 7068214, 7068218, 7068400, and 7068600.	The Project has been tentatively approved for funding in FY18 and FY19 under the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail (CMLG) funding. This project is covered by the Greenwater ATM NEPA (2016).
North Fork Nooksack River/Glacier Creek	8.3	$588,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	A construction contract will be put in place to decommission the following roads: 3910000, 3910010, 3910025, 3910030, 3910105, 3940000, 3940020, 3940022 and 3940025.	The Project has been tentatively approved for funding in FY18 and FY19 under the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail (CMLG) funding. This project is covered by the NF Nooksack ATM NEPA (2016).
Dungeness River/ Middle Dungeness River	6.3	$310,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	Decommission Forest Roads 2875020 (0.6 mi); 2875070 (1.8 mi); 2877050 (0.7 mi); 2877090 (1.4 mi); 2878050 (0.6 mi); 2878110 (0.9 mi); Close, remove culverts, and place in storage Forest Road 2877052 (0.3 mi)	The Project has been tentatively approved for funding in FY19 under the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail (CMLG) funding. This project is consistent with Dungeness Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan, Dungeness River Management Team Recommended Restoration Projects for the Dungeness River, North Olympic Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy, Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda for Puget Sound, Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan, and the Draft Recovery Plan for WA Coastal/ Puget Sound Bull Trout. A watershed-scale NEPA is currently underway for road decommissioning and closure projects in the Dungeness watershed.

Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Road Treated	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Project Summary	Project Status
Dungeness River/ Middle Dungeness River	11.1	$690,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	A total of 29 undersized culverts on perennial or intermittent streams will either be replaced, the fills will be lowered to reduce diversion potential, or overflow pipes installed. Roads to be treated include: 2880000 (1.0 mi); 2870000 (4.5 mi); 2870050 (2.8 mi); and 2878000 (2.0 mi).	This project is consistent with Dungeness Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan, Dungeness River Management Team Recommended Restoration Projects for the Dungeness River, North Olympic Lead Entity Salmon Recovery Strategy, Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda for Puget Sound, Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan, and the Draft Recovery Plan for WA Coastal/ Puget Sound Bull Trout.
Dungeness River/ Headwaters Dungeness River	1.1	$120,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Decommission Forest Road 2870000 (1.1 mi); Relocate existing Tubal Cain Trail Head to new EMP of 2870000 road.	A watershed-scale NEPA is currently underway for road decommissioning and closure projects in the Dungeness watershed.
Dungeness River/ Headwaters Dungeness River	0.1	$110,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	2870270 - Replace road crossing near 2870 road with appropriate size structure to reduce potential for plugging	
White River/Headwaters White River	8.6	$259,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	A combination of treatments will be applied to the road surface, ditchline and outsloped areas. These treatments could include installation of: drain dips, rocking stream crossings, adding cross drainage, reclaiming ditchlines, etc. The roads in which storm proofing treatments will occur include: 7060, 7060110, 7060210, 7060310, 7060311, 7060313, 7060315, 7060316, 7060318 and 7060319.	This project is covered by the Greenwater ATM NEPA (2016).

Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Road Treated	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Project Summary	Project Status
Dungeness River	24.5	$1,060,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Complete remaining 24.5 miles of road decommissioning, closure, and storage on Forest Service roads within the Dungeness River 5th field watershed	This project is consistent with Dungeness Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan. A watershed-scale NEPA is currently underway for road decommissioning and closure projects in the Dungeness watershed.
Dungeness River	43.6	$410,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Complete remaining storm damage risk reduction treatments on 43.6 miles of Forest Service roads within the Dungeness River 5th field watershed	This project is consistent with Dungeness Collaborative Watershed Restoration Plan. A watershed-scale NEPA is currently underway for road decommissioning and closure projects in the Dungeness watershed.

Appendix F. Forest Service Fish Passage Project Priorities

Project Priority	Project Name	Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Habitat Reconnected	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Salmon, Steelhead and/or bull trout recovery plan focus project?
1	Straight Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Suiattle River/Circle Creek-Suiattle River	0.2 miles	$95,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	Y
2	East Fork East Twin Aquatic Organism Passage	Lyre River/Twin River	1.6 miles	$925,000		Y
3	All Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Suiattle River/Tenas Creek-Suiattle River	0.25 miles	$95,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	Y
4	Conrad Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Suiattle River/Tenas Creek-Suiattle River	0.5 miles	$100,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	Y
5	Boyd Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper North Fork Nooksack River/Boyd Creek	0.5 miles	$140,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
6	Greenwater River Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper White River/Greenwater River	1.1 miles	$640,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
7	WF White River Aquatic Organism Passage and Road Decommissioning	Upper White River/WF White River		$200,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y

Project Priority	Project Name	Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Habitat Reconnected	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Salmon, Steelhead and/or bull trout recovery plan focus project?
8	SF Stillaguamish Aquatic Organism Passage	SF Stillaguamish River	1.5 miles	$910,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	Y
9	Silver Springs Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	White River/Headwaters White River	0.3 miles	$150,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	Y
10	Intake Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper Green River/Twin Camp Creek	0.6 miles	$260,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	Y
11	Northeast Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper Green River/Sunday Creek	0.7 miles	$130,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	Y
12	Little Sandy Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Baker River/Lower Baker Lake	1.0 miles	$440,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	N
13	Sauk River Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper Sauk River/Falls Creek-Sauk River	0.12 miles	$110,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	Y

Project Priority	Project Name	Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Habitat Reconnected	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Salmon, Steelhead and/or bull trout recovery plan focus project?
14	Suiattle River Off-channel Enhancement and Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Suiattle River/Circle Creek-Suiattle River		$425,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Priority Watershed	Y
15	Chain-Up Creek Tribe Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper North Fork Nooksack River/Glacier Creek(?)		$100,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
16	Swamp Creek Tribe Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper North Fork Nooksack River/Swamp Creek(?)		$90,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
17	Slippery Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper White River/Slippery Creek		$100,000	USFS Watershed Condition Framework - Functioning at Risk from Road Effects	N - passage at lower dams is being planned
18	Midnight Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$220,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
19	Greenwater River Off-channel Habitat Enhancement and Aquatic Organism Passage No. 1	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$120,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
20	Greenwater River Off-channel Habitat Enhancement and Aquatic Organism Passage No. 2	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$120,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y

Project Priority	Project Name	Watershed (5th Code HUC/6th Code HUC)	Miles of Habitat Reconnected	Estimated Cost	Forest Service Watershed Status	Salmon, Steelhead and/or bull trout recovery plan focus project?
21	Twenty-eight Mile Creek Aquatic Organism Passage No. 1	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$110,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
22	Twenty-eight Mile Creek Aquatic Organism Passage No. 2	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$110,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
23	George Creek Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$110,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y
24	Pyramid Creek Tribe Aquatic Organism Passage	Upper White River/Greenwater River		$300,000	USFS Pacific NW Aquatic Conservation Strategy - Focus Watershed	Y