



West Sound Partners

for Ecosystem Recovery

Working Group Meeting

DECEMBER 10, 2021 | 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM



Welcome, Introductions, & Coordination Team Updates

9:30 – 10:00

Introductions (Zack Holt)

Review meeting objectives and agenda (Zack Holt)

Review October Working Group meeting notes (Zack Holt)

Staffing update (Kathy Peters)



**Working Group Meeting
December 14, 2021
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Virtual - Zoom**

Zoom Information:

Link to Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93887259501?pwd=SFU4SENVVmFsKytHOUE4ck1BU2VpZz09>

Meeting ID: 938 8725 9501 **Phone:** (253) 215-8782 **Passcode:** 422173

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,93887259501#,,,,,0#,,422173#

AGENDA

Draft v.12/13/21

Meeting Objectives:

- Review 2022 salmon and ecosystem recovery grant applications schedules and process
- Identify next steps following Ecosystem Coordination Board West Sound Local Forum
- Discuss 2022 WSPER Work Plan
- Hear regional and local updates

Time	Topic	Lead	Materials
9:30 am (30 min)	Welcome, Introductions, & Coordination Team Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Review meeting objectives and agenda • Review October Working Group meeting notes • Staffing update 	Zack Holt, Working Group Chair	Agenda October meeting notes
10:00 am (30 min)	WSPER Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 Call for projects • Subcommittee work on fish barrier prioritization • WSPER membership for 2022 • Legacy projects – <i>Kathy Peters, Kitsap County</i> 	Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator	
10:30 am (30 min)	Follow up from ECB Local Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review recommendations • Discussion of next steps 	Zack Holt, Working Group Chair	Summary of recommen- dations



11:00 am (10 min)	Break		
11:10 am (20 min)	WSPER 2022 Work Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review draft 2022 Work Plan – <i>Renee Johnson, WSPER Coordinator</i> Review of Actions in PSP Action Agenda - <i>Becky Hollender, PSP</i> Ecosystem Recovery Plan update – <i>Annalise Ritter, WSPER Coordination Team</i> 		Draft 2022 Work Plan
11:30 am (10 min)	Salmon Recovery Council Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) into grant application processes Legislative updates 	Tom Ostrom, Technical Advisory Group Chair	
11:40 (15 min)	Round Table Updates	WSPER members	
11:55 am (5 min)	Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Items and next steps 		
12:00	Adjourn		



Working Group Meeting

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM | October 12, 2021 | Remote Meeting

Meeting Summary DRAFT v. 12.12.21

Action Item	Responsible Party
Schedule a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting to discuss the salmon recovery grant round process for 2022.	Kathy Peters
Update WSPER website with the 2022 Salmon Recovery Grant Round schedule.	WSPER Coordination Team
Schedule a meeting with WSPER members to discuss pre-spawn mortality.	WSPER Coordination Team

Introduction and WSPER Business

Annalise Ritter, WSPER Coordination Team, welcomed participants to the web meeting and led introductions (see page 4 for participant list).

Annalise provided an update to the Working Group about the October 28 Ecosystem Coordination Board (ECB) West Sound Local Forum, noting that the WSPER Coordination Team is working with partners and guest speakers to prepare presentations about multiple ecological issues faced at the local level. Topics include integration of salmon and ecosystem recovery into local planning, water quality challenges and shellfish downgrades, and derelict vessel removal and management of on-water living practices. ECB meeting participants will discuss ways the ECB can support solutions to these local challenges at the regional level.

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, Kitsap County/WSPER Coordination Team, provided a County staffing update. Kirvie accepted a position as a Senior Planner at Kitsap County, and the Department of Community Development is interviewing for the position of WSPER Coordinator.

Kirvie also shared that noted that the Point No Point project’s Project of Concern status was overturned. She expressed appreciation for WSPER partners who supported this effort.

2022 Grant Opportunities

Kathy Peters, Kitsap County, reviewed 2022 grant opportunities available for WSPER members. The group discussed the opportunities and local projects that may be applicable to each. Kathy noted that WSPER will look comprehensively at all potential projects and how they meet ecosystem needs, and determine what grant they are best suited for. Specifics about the grants are listed below.

- Salmon Recovery Grant Round:** The 2022 grant round process will open in late 2021 for salmon recovery projects. Local partners are encouraged to put forward projects in December for

consideration in the 2022 review process, which begins in January and culminates with approval in September. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board review panel will conduct site visits in March; some may be in-person while some projects may lend themselves to virtual site visits.

- **Puget Sound Acquisition and Recovery (PSAR) Large Capital:** The PSAR Large Capital Program is aimed at funding projects that are both regionally significant and provide the most benefit to salmon species in Puget Sound.
- **Legacy Projects:** The group discussed which projects in West Sound might qualify as legacy projects. Suggestions included fish barrier projects on Chico and Dickerson Creeks, property acquisition in Gig Harbor, the Curley Creek project, estuary projects on Navy property, and others. It was suggested that WSPER develop a list of large tracts of forest and riparian habitat areas that are important to local watersheds and related initiatives to protect and manage them.

Action Item: Kathy Peters will schedule a TAG meeting to discuss grant opportunities in further detail.

Action Item: The WSPER Coordination Team will update the WSPER website with the 2022 Salmon Recovery Grant Round schedule.

Identification of Priority Watersheds for Pre-Spawn Mortality Monitoring

Jamie Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy (WFC), gave a presentation on a study of pre-spawn mortality in Puget Sound. Pre-spawn mortality is a condition linked to road runoff that causes death before adults can reproduce or lay eggs. Recently published science identified a chemical compound used to extend the life of car tires that increases pre-spawn mortality in Coho salmon populations. This study is gathering data on how many Coho are returning to their spawning sites using weekly spawning surveys in five West Sound watersheds. An effort is underway to work with the tire industry to identify alternatives to the harmful chemicals, but in the meantime this study is focused on mitigation. The study team plans to share the data and collaborate with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Tribes in West Sound, who also collect data on Coho. Jamie shared GIS maps of the watershed showing known locations of Coho and invited WSPER members to share information about which streams they know Coho to use.

WSPER members participated in the discussion, suggesting a focus on Minter Creek, Rocky Creek, and Crescent Creek. There was interest in a separate meeting to discuss the topic further.

Action Item: The WSPER Coordination Team will schedule an optional, small-group meeting with WSPER members to discuss pre-spawn mortality.

Shellfish Health and Vitality

Brian Katz, Oregon State University (OSU), gave a presentation titled “Exploring Inequities in Shellfish Health in the Salish Sea.” The study looked at the relationship between biotoxins and harvest frequency across Puget Sound watershed sub-basins using an interactive mapping activity. In this activity, participants share information on where, when, and for what purpose they harvested shellfish in the Salish Sea within a given time period. Brian led the Working Group through the activity and then showed how the map visualizes participant harvest activity in relation to the presence of various toxins around the Sound. The group discussed the results. A participant suggested focused data collection on who is

harvesting for subsistence purposes to better understand the results through an equity lens. Another participant recommended a paper by Trainer et al. from 2003 that summarized data from several decades of monitoring paralytic shellfish toxins.

WSPER members are invited to contact Brian (katzbr@oregonstate.edu) with any questions or comments.

Near Term Action Update: Kitsap Natural Resources Asset Management Program

Matthew Medina, Kitsap County, and Charlotte Dohrn, Washington Environmental Council (WEC), gave a presentation on the Kitsap Natural Resources Asset Management Program. This program is a collaboration among several entities and tribes in Kitsap. It was developed in response to the Kitsap County 2016 Comprehensive Plan, which emphasized managing the natural environment as an essential asset using a level of service framework, similar to how roads and other infrastructure are managed. Level of service is a ranked metric that, in the context of natural resources, provides information about the condition of a natural asset and the ecosystem services the asset provides. The core team is working collaboratively to develop and implement a framework to proactively manage shorelines, forests, and streams using this approach. The process involves developing logic and concept models, technical work, piloting the models, ongoing engagement, and developing documentation and implementation guidance.

WSPER members are invited to contact Matt (mmedina@co.kitsap.wa.us) or Charlotte (charlotte@wecprotects.org) with any questions or comments.

Roundtable Updates:

- Pierce County is seeking to fill a Planner III position to help with culvert replacement and fish passage coordination.
- Pierce County finished its Huge Creek at 160th construction project.
- Kitsap County's Conservation Futures pilot program team is meeting with consultants and the Salmon Recovery Council to identify what is needed to develop the program. Kitsap hopes to develop a county-wide salmon and ecosystem recovery plan that incorporates County priorities. The County is also working to understand how to use available funding. WSPER members noted an alignment of this effort with the Kitsap Natural Resources Asset Management Program.
- The Puget Sound National Estuary Program Strategic Initiative Advisory Team opened [recruitment for 2022-23](#). Three topic areas include Stormwater, Habitat and Shellfish.
- Workshops series hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership to collaboratively identify actions that advance the strategies and desired outcomes for the 2022-2026 Action Agenda update. General information about Phase 4 of the Action Agenda update can be found [here](#).

Attendees

Amy Smalley, WSU Extension Water Stewardship Program

Adam Brown, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Brenda Padgham, Bainbridge Island Land Trust

Blake Joplin, Wild Fish Conservancy

Charlotte Dohrn, Washington Environmental Council

Christian Berg, City of Bainbridge Island

Christian Kereki, Kitsap County

David Trimbach, Oregon State University

Deb Rudnick, Bainbridge Island Watershed Council

Erik Steffans, Great Peninsula Conservancy

Hanna Brush, Stillwater Environmental Center

Jaime Glasgow, Wild Fish Conservancy

Jim Aho, Illahee Forest Preserve

Kay Caromile, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

Kirvie Mesebeluu-Yobech, WSPER Coordinator/Kitsap County

Mary Krauszer, Pierce Conservation District

Marty Ereth, Pierce County

Matthew Medina, Kitsap County

Melissa Fleming, Stillwater Environmental Center

Renee Johnson, Kitsap Public Health

R. Huffman, *Affiliation unknown*

Renee Scherdnik, Kitsap County

Scott Steltzner, Squaxin Island Tribe

Steve Todd, Suquamish Tribe

Tom Ostrom, Suquamish Tribe

Zack Holt, City of Port Orchard and Working Group Chair

Annalise Ritter, Facilitator/Notetaker, Triangle Associates

WSPER Updates

10:00 – 10:30

- Call for projects, website updates (Renee Johnson)
- Fish barrier prioritization and stormwater committees (Renee Johnson)
- WSPER membership for 2022 (Renee Johnson)
- Legacy projects (Kathy Peters)



Follow up from ECB Local Forum

10:30 – 11:00

Zack Holt

Review recommendations

Discussion of next steps

Integration of Salmon and Ecosystem Recovery in Local Planning Efforts

Recommendations from Panelists:

- Increase local funding available to integrate salmon and ecosystem recovery priorities into comprehensive plans.
- Move beyond planning and policy development and focus on implementation. Allocate money directly to local planning for implementation via state level legislative reform.
- Recognize that there are many competing priorities that local jurisdictions face; support them in addressing these conflicts.
- Emphasize management and stewardship of critical areas once they've been protected (see the Nisqually Land Trust for a great example program).
- Support keeping UGA boundaries where they are to prevent urban sprawl.
- Support the development of proposals that have smaller ecological impact and do not require compensatory mitigation.
- Support the integration of salmon and ecosystem recovery strategies and priorities directly into funding processes such as transportation planning, rather than simply referencing standalone recovery documents.
 - For example, Kitsap County's Comprehensive Plan includes the following goal: "Environment Goal 1. Formally treat natural environments, including forest lands, shorelines, freshwater systems, intact ecosystems, and other critical areas, as an essential asset that is planned for, managed, and invested in to meet the needs of current and future generations."
 - Kitsap County is leading an NTA to develop a natural resources management program. Move this to the level of roads and stormwater infrastructure investment and management plan.
- Jurisdictions should develop CFPs that invest funds in local ecosystem recovery.

Water Quality Challenges with Shellfish Downgrades

Paul Williams gave an overview of the history of Chico Bay and shellfish harvesting, bed closures and reopening in the area.

Grant Holdcroft and Tobbi Stewart described the PIC program and how it works to protect water quality and public health. Pollution comes from many sources, so the PIC program must use a multifaceted approach.

Recommendations:

- Develop and fund a program to help property owners who can't afford to design, repair or replace their septic systems, like the Kitsap Shore Friendly program.
- Continue to fund the Craft3 Program
- Continue to fund the USDA Home Repair Program
- Continue to fund of Public Work Trust Funds

Derelict Vessel Removal and On-water living practices

Mark Dorsey described the challenges faced by his district in Port Orchard. He spoke representing Public Works, as well as the Police Department. Port Orchard and other jurisdictions have limited staff capacity and training to manage unsafe on water living practices and derelict vessels.

Tami Allen, Bainbridge Island Harbor Master, described how BI has worked on vessel monitoring in Eagle Harbor and beyond for about 20 years and maintained a relationship with DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program Manager. BI has committed staff and resources to this effort over the long term, which helps them keep on top of the issue.

Troy Wood, DNR DVRP, shared about the Derelict Vessel Removal Program's work and the resources it offers to local jurisdictions. Staff capacity is an issue for DNR but they are advocating for more funding from the legislature.

Recommendations:

- Support DNR's request for a diversion of watercraft excise tax dollars to the DVRP, to increase its budget by about \$5 million per biennium.
- Support West Sound in establishing county-wide professional staff who can help manage derelict vessel monitoring and reporting as well as boater education and monitoring. Shared investment proposal to Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council + areas in Gig Harbor if needed.
- Support the development of region-wide, holistic solutions to the housing crisis.



WSPER 2022 Work Plan Update

11:10 – 11:20

Renee Johnson



Task	Oct-Nov-Dec 2021	Jan-Feb-Mar 2022	Apr-May-June 2022	July-Aug-Sept 2022	Oct-Nov-Dec 2022
Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery					
Identify, review, and submit salmon habitat project list for 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds	2022 Project development	Project presentation	Project review	List due August	2023 Project Development
Update Salmon Recovery Portal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop 2023 and 2024 Planned Project Forecast List for salmon recovery - Update 4-year workplan 			Due June 1		
Update Salmon Recovery Strategies					
Implement East Kitsap Steelhead Recovery Plan					
Local Integrating Organization (LIO)					
Organize, support, administer, facilitate, and coordinate LIO					
Participate in development of 2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda Update	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 5	PSP Adoption	
Update Local Ecosystem Recovery Plan				Finalize ERP	
Identify and prioritize projects and programs for EPA National Estuary Program strategic funding					

OUTREACH TASKS (Lead Entity and LIO)					
Participate in regional planning and coordinating groups					
Build community support and inform and communicate with local decision makers and community partners about the work of the LIO and Lead Entity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to highlight and work on important challenges and solutions identified through the ECB local forum and salmon recovery 					
(ECB Local Forum Outcome) <i>Engage local decision makers and program leads to identify opportunities to integrate salmon and habitat recovery needs and priorities into local jurisdiction planning</i>					
(ECB Local Forum Outcome) <i>Engage local decision makers and program leads to address gaps and challenges in water quality protection and shellfish bed recovery</i>					
(ECB Local Forum Outcome) <i>Engage local decision makers and program leads to address gaps and challenges in addressing derelict vessel removal and on-water living practices</i>					

Note: This is a draft WSPER workplan for 2022. All tasks reflect the Lead Entity and LIO contract obligations. Based on feedback from the Working Group, the WSPER LIO chose to participate in regional planning and coordinating groups (such as the Action Agenda Coordination Group, Ecosystem Coordination Board, Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP), etc.) as well as work to inform and educate local decision makers and community partners on the work of the WSPER LIO and Lead Entity.



Break

11:00 am – 11:10

Review Action Agenda Updates

Becky Hollender, PSP

11:20 – 11:25

Becky to screenshare

- January 6-19 LIOs review proposed actions. This is a critical time to share local context.
- How do Working Group members want to review recommended actions? Small group assemble in January? Other ideas?



Ecosystem Recovery Plan update
Annalise Ritter 11:25 – 11:30

Ecosystem Recovery Plan (ERP) Review: Recommended Starting Place for the 2021 ERP

2016 ERP Starting Place: Ecosystem Components



1. Watersheds, Forests, Riparian Areas, and the Built Environment

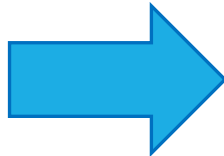


2. Shellfish Growing Areas



3. Nearshore Habitat and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

Ecosystem Broken Down by Geographic Area



2021 ERP Starting Place: Sound wide Goals & Vital Signs*



Ecosystem Broken Down by Elements & Human Well-Being

*With slight modifications – See following table

Vital Signs Small Group Recap

1. Small groups of WSPER members met for working meetings focused on each ecosystem component.
2. The Coordination Team captured notes from each discussion in the shared copy of the table (v1).
3. Post Meeting: The Coordination Team created a new table (v2) designed to track specific data sources for each indicator and identify gaps.

WSPER Ecosystem Recovery Plan
Vital Signs, Indicators, and Measurable Goals Tracking Table

West Sound Ecosystem Goals (Starting Place for PSP)	Working Group Meeting - Small Group Discussion Topic		PSP Identified Indicators for Reference Only (Add for review)	Small Group Discussion Topic	Subgroup Task	
	Proposed West Sound Vital Signs (Are these vital signs appropriate to West Sound? Do they need further discussion after this meeting?)	Small Group Meeting Notes on Vital Signs			Vital Signs Trends Assessment (Improving, Holding, Losing Ground)	Measurable Goals
Healthy Water Quality and Quantity	Freshwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer stream flow - overlap with protected and restored habitat metric of Summer low flows in streams and Phragmites mortality - where would this be captured? Under Toxics? Important indicator related to water quality, there is a need for documenting pre-spring mortality and we expand spawning surveys to include it Channel structure (place to measure right now) Ties into thriving species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshwater Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BI-IBI) Water temp in stream/riparian Nutrient concentration in stream/riparian Dissolved Oxygen Marine Benthic Index (Phase 1&2) Marine water temp Nutrient Balance Ocean acidification Sediment Chemistry Index Noise in marine water Ecology population monitoring water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need future conversations around which indicators are regional and which currently have data in West Sound 		
	Marine Water					
	Toxics in Aquatic Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Channel structure (place to measure right now) Ties into thriving species Indicators related to natural origin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminants in adult salmon Contaminants in English sole Contaminants in juvenile salmon Contaminants in Pacific herring Contaminants in cage/mussel Summer low flows 			
	Summer Stream Flows					
Protected and Restored Habitat	Beaches and Marine Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marine shorelands and vegetation 2. Estuaries 3. Forests 4. Streams, wetlands, and floodplains <p>add climate change, connectivity, resiliency</p> <p>*climate change analysis for all vital signs*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wetlands extent and condition 2. Extent of forest cover in nearshore marine riparian areas 3. Floating help canopy area 4. Percent of feeder bluffs in function condition 5. Short and long-term eelgrass site status 6. Drift cells in functional condition 7. Miles of intertidal beach in functional habitat 8. Understory tree abundance and condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Extent of riparian and forest cover 		
	Estuaries		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percent of estuarine habitat area in functional condition 2. Number of accessible pocket estuaries and embayments 3. Extent of forest cover in the upper, middle, and lower areas of watersheds 4. Forest conditions 5. Wetlands extent and conditions 			
	Forest and Wetlands		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Floodplain function in large and small river systems 2. Summer low flows in streams and rivers 3. Changes in hydrologic regime in streams and rivers 4. Extent of forest cover in freshwater riparian zones 5. Frequency of flood events 			
	Streams and Floodplains					
Toxics in Aquatic Life	Birds		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abundance of marine bird populations 2. Abundance of terrestrial bird populations 3. Estuarine birds 			
	Forage Fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All look applicable 2. Add shellfish species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biomass of spawning Pacific herring 2. Regional index of the stock and presence and health of forage fish such as Sand Lance, Surf Smelt, and Anchovy 			

V.1

Healthy Water Quality and Quantity

West Sound Vital Signs	Indicators for Vital Signs	Available Data Sources (Is this info being tracked? By whom?)	Data Quality/Notes (How reliable? What geographic areas are missing?)	Action Needed (Who will connect WSPER to the source(s) and how?)	Vital Sign Trends Assessment	Measurable Goals	Recovery Strategies
					TBD Later Date	TBD Later Date	TBD Later Date
Freshwater	1. Freshwater Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BI-IBI)	PSP PSEMP		Review what data PSP PSEMP is collecting and where (for all indicators). Review what data Ecology is collecting and where in West Sound (for all indicators).			
	2. Water Temperature in Streams/Rivers	Kitsap PUD (see data website) Squamish Tribe Port Orchard Poulsbo		Check with Anja Hart (Poulsbo) on data availability.			
	3. Nutrient concentration in streams/rivers						
Marine Water	1. Dissolved Oxygen			Check with PSEMP/Eyes over Puget Sound			
	2. Sediment Chemistry Index						
	3. Outfall data	PSP Stormwater PSEMP Monitoring Kitsap Public Health		Reach out to Kitsap Public Health for input on how to track outfall sampling and freshwater bacteria data			
	4. Marine Benthic Index (Phase 1&2)						
Toxics in Aquatic Life	5. Marine water temp						
	6. Nutrient Balance						
	7. Ocean acidification						
	1. Contaminants in mussels	Mussel Watch Data (see Toxics in Puget Sound: Workshop) Squamish Tribe Pierce County					

V.2

[Link to V.2 table](#)

Vital Signs & Measurable Indicators Next Steps

Questions for Consideration

1. What data is necessary for WSPER to identify measurable goals to track progress toward ecosystem recovery?
2. What data does still WSPER need access to that it should track?
3. What data is in the table that WSPER should **not** track?
(Consider how WSPER might use each type of data to advance toward specific recovery goals)

Salmon Recovery Council Updates

11:30 – 11:40

(Tom Ostrom)

- Legislative updates
- Incorporating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) into grant application processes

Round Table Updates

11:40 – 11:55

Next Steps/Action Items

11:55 – 11:55



2022 WSPER Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be virtual until further notice. See the [WSPER website](#) for meeting materials which will be available the Friday before each meeting.

Date	Meeting	Time
November 9	TAG	9:30 – 12:00
December 14	Working Group	9:30 – 12:00
January 18	TAG meeting	9:30 – 12:00
February 8	Working Group	9:30 – 12:00
March 22	TAG	9:30 – 12:00
April 12	Joint TAG & Working Group	9:30 – 12:00
May 10	TAG	9:30 – 12:00
June 14	Working Group	9:30 – 12:00
July 26	TAG	9:30 – 12:00
August 9	Working Group	9:30 – 12:00
September 13	TAG	9:30 – 12:00
October 11	Working Group	9:30 – 12:00
November 8	TAG	9:30 – 12:00
December 13	Working Group	9:30 – 12:00

From: Joan Drinkwin <jdrinkwin@nrccorp.com>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 12:15 PM
To: jdrinkwin@nrccorp.com
Subject: PMEP Releases FY2023 RFP for Project Funding

PMEP Now Accepting Proposals for Fish Habitat Restoration and Protection Project Funding

The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) requests proposals for projects that will advance fish habitat conservation and restoration along the West Coast. PMEP is seeking project proposals that restore or protect habitats for PMEP focal species within nearshore and estuarine systems (with an emphasis on habitat connectivity) or proposals that increase our understanding of fish habitats in estuarine and nearshore waters.

The project, or portion of a project, that PMEP funds must be completed within two years of receipt of funding and all PMEP funding and matching funds should be spent during that time. Project sponsors should assume that funding will be received in Summer of 2023.

Strong project proposals that request less than \$50,000 will be given precedence in an effort to fund a diverse portfolio of projects. However, proposals of particular merit may be funded at a higher level at the discretion of the review panel. Please refer to the full RFP for more details.

NEW THIS ROUND:

- All projects must show 1:1 non-federal financial match with the exception of projects proposed by tribal sponsors.
- Protection (including acquisition) projects are eligible.

How to Apply

To apply for funding, interested applicants should complete and submit the online application. Please read the full RFP for instructions regarding what information to include and the preferred format for information. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. **The deadline for project proposal submissions is 5:00PM Pacific Time, Friday, February 25, 2022.**

Access the full RFP at PMEP's website funding page [HERE](#).

Please share this announcement widely.

Kind Regards and apologies for cross postings,

Joan Drinkwin

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