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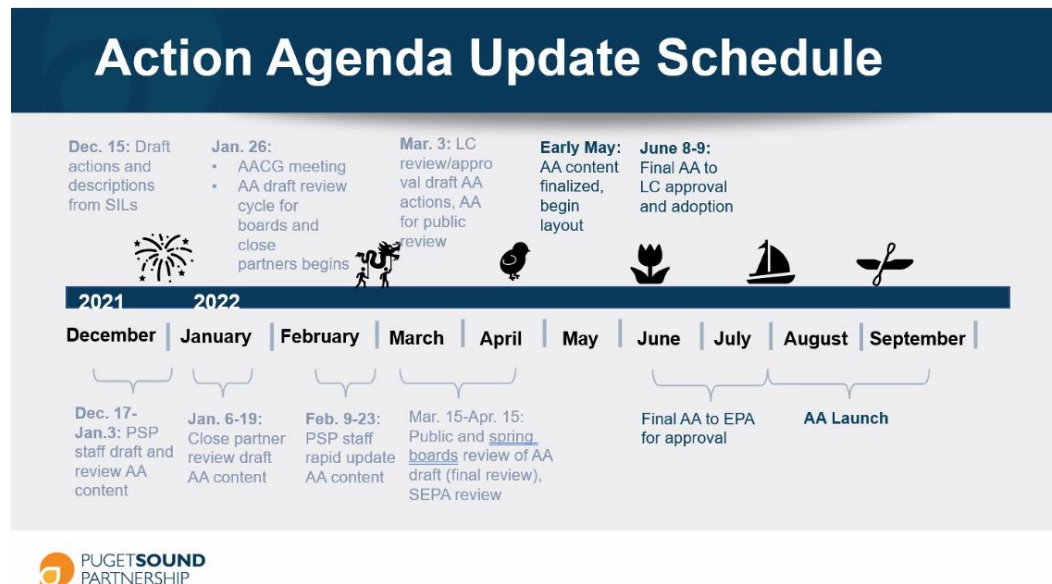
Overview

West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) serves at the Lead Entity for Salmon Recovery and the Local Integrating Organization for ecosystem recovery. Over the past several months, our members and coordination team have been busy with several activities to advance salmon and ecosystem recovery. See the updates below for more information.

WSPER Local Integrating Organization (LIO) Updates

WSPER works to develop, coordinate, and implement strategies and actions to protect and recover local ecosystems.

We have been working with Puget Sound Partnership and others to develop the 2022 Draft Action Agenda. The 2022-2026 Action Agenda will be finalized this month and presented to the Leadership Council for approval and adoption in June.



The Puget Sound Partnership, the EPA, and the Strategic Initiative Leads are hosting forums to discuss a new funding model for Puget Sound National Estuary Program. Discussion topics include operational funds for LIOs (WSPER receives \$125,000/year), \$500,000 subawards (for LIOs to use over 4 years on local priorities), and a process for the National Estuary Program (NEP) funding (to include RFPs administered through the Strategic Initiative Leads). More details are expected later this summer.

The WSPER Coordination Team and consultants at Triangle Associates are working on updating our 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan, which was last updated in December 2016. The Ecosystem Recovery Plan identifies local priorities around habitat, stormwater management, and shellfish recovery.

WSPER Lead Entity Updates

WSPER supports a diverse group of project sponsors, technical experts, and citizens who are committed to **developing salmon recovery projects** that reflect local priorities. WSPER's 2022 allocation is about \$1.2 million from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund (PSAR). Project sponsors are developing projects with feedback from the SRFB Technical Review Panel and the WSPER Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Working Group. The list of projects will be ranked and brought to the Executive Committee for a vote at their August 11 meeting. *See pages 3-7 for photos and more information about the proposed projects.*

Note: In the recent legislative session, an additional \$75 million was allocated to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for salmon recovery (\$50 million for projects over \$5 million and \$25 million for projects under \$5 million). More information to come on how the SRFB will distribute and disburse these funds.

WSPER's Planned Project Forecast List (PPFL) is due to RCO June 15. The PPFL is used to communicate funding needs to the legislature. Project sponsors who plan to apply for SRFB or PSAR funding within the next two years should contact Renee Johnson rkjohnso@kitsap.gov to include projects in the PPFL. Legacy Projects will be considered for inclusion.

WSPER Proposed Salmon Habitat Projects

Project sponsors have worked hard to put together an impressive suite of projects to compete for SRFB funds. Learn more about the 15 projects below. WSPER hosted field visits with the RCO Review Panel in March and have received the initial review status. Of the projects, four are *Cleared*, nine are *Needs More Information*, and two are *Project of Concern*.



McNeil Island Estuary Restoration-Bodley Creek & Floyds Cove

Sponsor: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Status: Needs more information
[McNeil Factsheet](#)



Henderson Bay Armor Removal Design

Sponsor: Pierce Conservation District
Status: Cleared for funding
[Henderson Bay Factsheet](#)



North Creek/Donkey Creek Culvert Replacement at Harborview Dr. Feasibility

Sponsor: City of Gig Harbor

Status: Needs More Information

[North/Donkey Creek Fact Sheet](#)



Salmonberry Creek Protection

Sponsor: Great Peninsula Conservancy

Status: Needs More Information

[Salmonberry Creek Protection Factsheet](#)

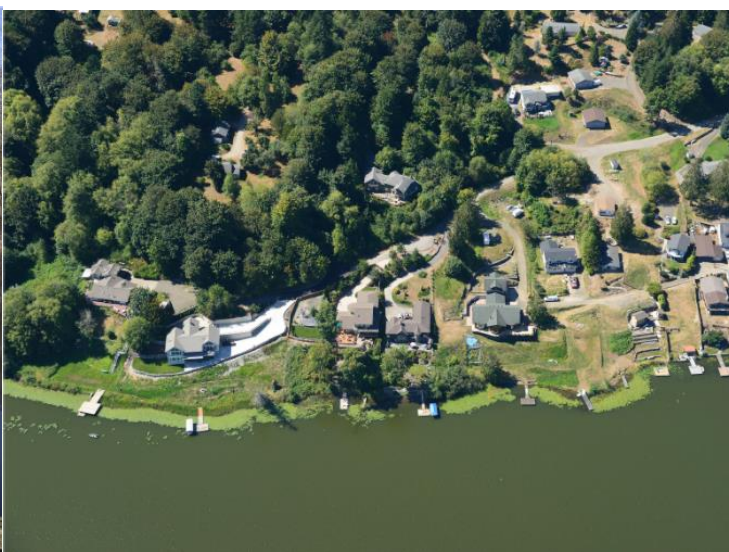


Long Lake Predation Assessment

Sponsor: Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group and Wild Fish Conservancy

Status: Needs More Information

[Long Lake Predation Assessment Factsheet](#)



Long Lake Residential Riparian Enhancement

Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Status: Project of Concern

[Long Lake Residential Riparian Factsheet](#)



Cooper Creek Culvert Restoration

Sponsor: City of Bainbridge Island:

Status: Needs More Information

[Cooper Creek Fact Sheet](#)



Fletcher Bay Road Fish Passage Restoration

Sponsor: City of Bainbridge Island, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Status: Needs More Information

[Fletcher Bay Fact Sheet](#)



Lower Manzanita Creek Restoration Design

Sponsor: Bainbridge Island Land Trust:

Status: Project of Concern

[Manzanita Fact Sheet](#)



Barnabee Final Design and Stream Restoration Project

Sponsor: Bainbridge Island Land Trust:

Status: Needs More Information

[Barnabee Fact Sheet](#)



Rose Point Embayment Restoration

Sponsor: Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Status: Needs More Information

[Rose Point Fact Sheet](#)



Crabapple/Carpenter Creek Estuary Protection

Great Peninsula Conservancy

Status: Cleared for funding

[Crabapple Carpenter Fact Sheet](#)



Washington Conservation Corps Crew for Riparian Restoration

Sponsor: Kitsap Conservation District:

Status: Cleared for funding

[WCC Riparian Restoration Factsheet](#)



Finn Creek Estuary Restoration

Sponsor: Wild Fish Conservancy

Status: Needs More Information

[Finn Creek Fact Sheet](#)



Photos were obtained from project applications or were photographed by WSPER staff. See project applications for existing source citations.

Skunk Bay Armor Removal

Sponsor: Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Status: Cleared for funding

[Skunk Bay Armor Removal Factsheet](#)

Other Updates

Every four years, EPA collects information about publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities, nonpoint source control projects, decentralized wastewater management, and stormwater/sewer combined control facilities. This information is used to prepare a report for Congress about funding needs. You can access the EPA's page here:

<https://www.epa.gov/cwns/about-clean-watersheds-needs-survey-cwns>.

Legislative Updates

Considerable funding was allocated to natural resource topics. Updates are provided by Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director, Recreation and Conservation Office.

HB 1329—Concerning the open public meetings act. This bill encourages open public meetings to continue to include remote or tele-access, as has become the norm during the pandemic.

HB 2078—Establishing the outdoor school for all programs. \$10m this session and \$40 million ongoing in future biennia, is in the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's (OSPI) budget. However, in the bill, OSPI may work with RCO to facilitate the funding. It's unclear at this point what RCO's role will be. This program will have an important impact on youth across the state.

Budget Overview:

Traditionally the largest pot of funding for RCO comes through the state capital budget. Although we did receive funding through the supplemental capital budget, most new funding was provided through the operating budget. A common question is what that may mean for re-appropriations on large projects. The operating funds were put into the Salmon Recovery Account. A few projects were listed as ongoing or had at least some funding expected in future biennia. Those are noted next to the projects, below.

Capital Budget:

- \$15m in additional federal spending authority—to be prepared for additional funding in the new federal budget. This authority may not be utilized unless new federal funding is allocated.
- \$1m for fish barrier removal projects in Skagit County.
- \$480k for Dash Point Park and Pier project
- \$10m for Springwood Ranch project (with an additional \$12m next biennium)
- \$1m for Upper Quinault River restoration project (this was in addition to the \$1m allocated in the original biennial budget, for a total of \$2m)

Operating Budget:

- \$25m for Duckabush Estuary Restoration
 - \$559k for flowering rush eradication
 - \$4k for invasive species council (technical funding fix)
 - \$139k to guide implementation of governor's salmon recovery strategy (with \$270k/biennium ongoing)
 - \$200k to Spokane Tribe to expand salmon recovery region (\$400k/biennium ongoing)
 - \$25m for salmon projects under \$5m—authorized through SRFB
 - \$50m for salmon projects over \$5m—authorized through SRFB
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- Other agencies also did quite well, but I wanted to highlight for you all a few additions to other agency budgets:
 - State Conservation Commission--\$10m for riparian restoration projects
 - WDFW--\$8.56m for European Green Crab response
 - WDFW and DNR--\$5m (each) for recreation maintenance backlog (\$10m/biennium ongoing for each agency)
 - State Parks \$1.25m for maintenance backlog (\$10m/biennium ongoing)