

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St SE
Olympia WA 98501

PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917



(360) 902-3000
TTY: (360) 902-1996
Fax: (360) 902-3026

E-mail: Info@rco.wa.gov
Web site: www.rco.wa.gov

STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

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Item #17: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Strategic Plan Revisions

Prepared By: Jim Fox, Special Assistant to the Director
Megan Duffy, Policy Analyst
Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison/Accountability Manager

Presented By: Jim Fox, Special Assistant to the Director

Approved by the Director:

Proposed Action: Discussion and Direction

Summary

At the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) meeting held in May 2008, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff provided the Board with a revised version of its Mission, Roles, and Responsibilities document. The Board directed staff to rewrite the document to create a strategic plan. Staff prepared the attached draft for consideration.

Background

The Legislature created the Board in 1999 in response to the federal Endangered Species Act listing a number of salmon species as threatened or endangered. The Board funded its first grant applications in September 1999, and adopted its first strategy document, entitled *SRFB Mission, Roles and Responsibilities, and Funding Strategy*, in June 2001. The Board amended the document in September 2001.

During its February 15, 2008, discussion, the Board identified sections of the 2001 document that may need revision. At the meeting held in May 2008, staff provided the



Board with a revised version of the document. The Board directed staff to rewrite the document and create a strategic plan.

Analysis

Attachment A is a revised plan for Board consideration. Staff proposes the following changes to refocus the document on policy and strategy so that it guides the Board's overall efforts and helps promote public understanding.

1. Add three goals and a series of objectives and strategies to advance the Board's work.
 - a. Staff developed the goals, objectives, and strategies from the "Overall strategy" and "Guiding Principles."
2. Summarize the partnerships, rather than providing full descriptions.
 - a. The Board also could add an appendix that more fully describes key partnerships.
3. Removed the following items, which appear in Manual 18, rather than having them as part of the strategic plan.
 - a. Funding strategy and policy
 - b. Board evaluation and funding process

Next Steps

Staff will incorporate the Board's input into a revised version of the plan, and will add outputs and performance measures. Staff will present the plan for approval at the October 2008 meeting.

Attachments

- A. Draft of proposed Board Strategic Plan

Salmon Funding Recovery Board Draft Strategic Plan

Mission

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) will support salmon recovery by funding habitat protection and restoration projects and related programs and activities that produce sustainable and measurable benefits for fish and their habitat statewide.

Goals

1. Ensure the best possible investment of funds in salmon recovery activities through a fair process that considers sound science and a comprehensive, coordinated approach.
2. Be accountable for those investments through public oversight, economical use of resources, and project effectiveness.
3. Build citizen support for salmon recovery efforts

Objectives and Strategies for Achieving Board Goals

Goal 1: Ensure the best possible investment of state and federal funds in salmon recovery activities through a fair process that considers sound science, local community values and priorities, and a comprehensive, coordinated approach.

Objective 1.A

Regional salmon recovery plans, lead entity strategies, and tribal governments' salmon recovery goals should guide the identification and prioritization of habitat projects and other salmon recovery activities.

Strategies to Achieve 1.A

1. Provide funding to implement habitat protection and restoration projects identified as priorities in the regional recovery plans and lead entity strategies.
2. Provide funding for other salmon recovery activities such as assessments and monitoring.

Objective 1.B

Use and help ensure the use of sound science at each individual stream reach, watershed, recovery region, and statewide.

Strategies to Achieve 1.B

1. Base funding decisions on sound science
2. Foster inclusion and coordination of scientific support at all levels of salmon recovery
3. Establish practices and dedicate resources to obtain broad-based scientific input
4. Work to ensure all watersheds and recovery regions have sufficient scientific support for their work.
5. Ensure that the knowledge of habitat conditions, ecosystem processes, and trends in long-term factors (e.g., climate change and population growth), guide the type, complexity, location, and priority of proposed habitat protection and restoration.
6. Use adaptive management principles to improve success in meeting stated project objectives.

Objective 1.C

Ensure that community values and priorities are included in planning and identifying, prioritizing, and funding projects.

Strategies to Achieve 1C

1. Review stakeholder involvement in project prioritization through the review panel observations and lead entity responses to evaluation questions.

Objective 1.D

Coordinate across levels of government and geographic scales to balance diverse interests and use resources efficiently.

Strategies to Achieve 1.D

1. Support projects that meet salmon recovery goals and the goals of other related planning efforts. (Examples include watershed planning, growth management, shoreline master planning, harvest and hatchery practices and others.)
2. Provide guidance, flexibility, and funding support to the lead entity program
3. Seek Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG) input on program revisions and new policies to ensure Board actions are supportive of LEAG activities and interests

4. Provide funds to regional organizations to develop and implement regional recovery plans.
5. Consult with the Council of Regions on grant making policies and procedures.
6. Seek input from Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and the Forum on Monitoring Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery on key policy decisions such as regional allocation of funds, monitoring activities, data sharing and special projects.
7. Work with the Puget Sound Partnership to develop and implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda. Starting in 2010, the Board will give preference to projects from Puget Sound Partners within the Puget Sound regional recovery area.
8. Explore the relationship to other restoration and protection tools and efforts, such as transfer of development rights, purchase of development rights, mitigation banking, and ecosystem markets.

Goal 2: Be accountable for our investments through public oversight, economical use of resources, and effective projects.

Objective 2.A

Integrate public participation and outreach into Board actions.

Strategies to Achieve 2.A

1. Continue to ensure that the public is aware of and has access to Board meetings and other elements of the funding process.
2. Provide clear, comprehensive, and easily accessible information to the public about restoration and protection projects via electronic databases and other communication tools.

Objective 2.B

Support an overall monitoring strategy to assess the long-term success of Board-funded projects and other recovery efforts.

Strategies to Achieve 2.B

1. Conduct program-wide monitoring to determine the effectiveness of Board-funded restoration and protection projects in achieving stated objectives
2. Support validation monitoring of selected watersheds to determine whether watershed health and salmon populations are responding to recovery efforts
3. Support status and trend monitoring

Objective 2.C

Meet Legislative and Congressional reporting requirements

Strategies to Achieve 2.C

1. Provide an annual report to the Washington State Legislature.
2. Provide an annual report, including performance measures, to NOAA-Fisheries.
3. Participate in and provide information for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office State of Salmon Report.

Objective 2.D

Facilitate information sharing among project sponsors and experts in the restoration/preservation community.

Strategies to Achieve 2.D

1. Continue to sponsor workshops and policy forums for project sponsors, lead entities, regional organizations and other interested parties.

Goal 3: Build public support for salmon recovery efforts

Objective 3.1

Ensure projects are designed and prioritized to build community support for overall recovery efforts.

Strategies for Achieving 3.1

1. Encourage the selection of projects that help build community support while providing benefits to salmon and their habitat.

Objective 3.2

Encourage public involvement in planning and implementation activities.

Strategies for Achieving 3.2

1. Base funding decisions on community support and priorities, including social, cultural, educational, and economic values.
2. Help ensure that lead entity strategies include community values and priorities, and that projects have community support.

Partners in Achieving Mission and Goals

The Salmon Funding Recovery Board recognizes that success in achieving its mission and meeting its goals requires important partnerships with the Legislature, Governor, state and federal agencies, tribes, and regional and local communities throughout the state. Partners include, but are not limited to:

1. *Lead entities*: Voluntary watershed-based organizations established by RCW 77.85 that select and submit projects to the Board for funding consideration.
2. *Lead Entity Advisory Group (LEAG)*: A Forum that enhances the lead entity program by exploring lead entity issues and improving communication among local and state organizations.
3. *Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs)*: The fourteen RFEGs implement salmon recovery projects, including habitat protection and restoration, and participate in lead entities.
4. *Regional salmon recovery organizations*: Entities that develop and implement salmon recovery plans, which are required under the Endangered Species Act, or coordinate salmon restoration projects across a region in areas where there are no recovery plans. Regional organizations and lead entities work together to identify and prioritize habitat protection and restoration strategies and other salmon recovery activities.
5. *Council of Regions*: A forum for networking among regional recovery organizations and developing solutions to common issues in coordination with lead entities, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, and the Board.
6. *Governor's Salmon Recovery Office*: Coordinates and produces a statewide salmon strategy; assists in the implementation of regional recovery plans; helps secure funding for local, regional, and state recovery effort; and provides the Biennial State of Salmon report to the Legislature.
7. *Puget Sound Partnership*: State agency that addresses the health of Puget Sound by developing and implementing an action agenda for restoration...
8. *Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership*: Co-managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers, the Nearshore Partnership addresses priorities in the Puget Sound marine nearshore ecosystem.
9. *Tribes*: Individual tribes, along with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission are involved in regional recovery organizations, lead entities, the Puget Sound and Nearshore Partnerships, and are sponsors of salmon recovery projects.
10. *Federal*: Federal partners, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA-Fisheries) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, and U.S. Forest Service.