

Watershed Education for Decision Makers

Program Goal: Raise awareness of salmon recovery issues and solutions among elected officials through interactions with salmon recovery professionals and project sponsors during site tours

History of Program

- Development funded as a pilot program by PSP in 2014 for WRIA 5
- Decision makers – Tribal, municipal, county, and state elected leaders in the Stillaguamish basin – surveyed regarding interest and format in participating in such a program
- Watershed Resources for Salmon Recovery guide developed
- 2015 NTA to implement program in WRIA 5 did not rank
- Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding sought and awarded from King County Flood Control District (KCFCD) in 2015 to launch program in WRIs 7 & 8
- WRIA 7 & 8 specific WRSR guides developed
- One tour in each WRIA organized and implemented in spring 2017
- Grants ended & final reports submitted

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WRIA 7 Results

- Development of a comprehensive Watershed Management for Salmon Recovery Reference Guide tailored specifically to WRIA 7. This guide provides a detailed but accessible overview of salmon habitat, their biology, human impacts, conservation laws relevant to salmon recovery, how recovery is managed within the watershed, and the solutions available to enact salmon recovery.
- Participation of 10 representatives from a variety of entities and jurisdictions in the 6/16/2017 Snoqualmie Valley watershed tour. Represented were Puget Sound Partnership, Forterra, King County, Snohomish County Public Works, Snohomish County Executive's Office, City of Duvall, City of Lake Stevens, and City of Carnation. Project sites at Oxbow Farm and Cherry Creek were toured.
- Lively and engaged conversation among participants regarding how each represented entity could coordinate with other entities to problem solve around watershed specific salmon recovery challenges like balancing farmland preservation, flood control, and habitat restoration.
- Enthusiastic verbal & written feedback that participants loved the networking and brainstorming opportunity with old and new colleagues and look forward to future site tour opportunities.
- Other salmon conservation professionals expressed interest in attending the tour. As space was available we included two staff members from Forterra (Staff Attorney/Acting V-P, Senior Project Manager Riparian Restoration), one staff member from Puget Sound Partnership (Legislative Policy Director), Lake Stevens Stormwater Engineering Technician, and two staff members from Snohomish County (LIO Coordinator, Special Projects Coordinator Surface Water Management). Elissa Ostergaard, King County Snoqualmie Salmon Recovery Manager, who presented a "Science Update" during the lunch portion of the tour, attended the entire tour. The benefit of including salmon conservation professionals was that the tour participants had a wide range of experts to question during the tour.

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WRIA 8 Results

- Development of a comprehensive Watershed Management for Salmon Recovery Reference Guide tailored specifically to WRIA 8.
- Participation of 2 elected officials from City of Sammamish and City of Shoreline and representatives from WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Seattle Public Utilities providing context and details on the 5/19/2017 Lake Washington watershed tour.
- Lively and engaged Q&A session among participants and tour leaders regarding the WRIA 8 watershed specific salmon recovery challenges like balancing farmland preservation, flood control, and habitat restoration.
- Other salmon conservation professionals expressed interest in attending the tour. The benefit of including salmon conservation professionals such as Jeanette Dorner, Executive Director, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, was that the tour participants had experts to question during the tour.

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Lessons Learned

- Cultivating relationships with elected officials, especially legislative aids to state legislators, is key to getting their participation. They are more likely to respond when invitations come from known contacts.
- Enticing participation by elected officials with value added benefits such as contact with groups of constituents and good press opportunities would likely increase participation.
- Networking with salmon recovery professionals at the state level who have frequent contact with legislators to recruit elected participants.
- Engaging multiple partners in implementing program.
- Offering multiple tour opportunities to accommodate for varied schedules.



WRIA 7 Cherry Creek Riparian
Restoration tour - 6/16/2017

Wayne Gullstad, property owner

Bank regrading and channel
realignment with island
formation at convergence with
mainstem Snoqualmie

LWD placement and planting