



WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery Technical & Citizen Committee Meeting

October 16th, 2024

Member Participants: Jessica Côté, Hannah Booth (WDFW), Paul Williams (SWS), Fred Kiga, Kathleen Landel, Barbara Brock (Co-Chair), Jeff Cordell, Lee Chavez (WWS), Kelly Zupich (MRC), Kurt Shlimme (WCLT), Christine Stephens (SCD), Todd Zackey (co-chair), Jessica Cote, Renee Zavas-Silva **Others:** Clea Barenburg (LE Coordinator), Carlie Miller, Jessica Reed, Jen Schmitz, Natasha Coumou (Tulalip), Valerie dos Santos, Hadley Beahan

Introductions & Updates

- Presentation by Natasha Coumou of Tulalip Tribes- Shared the Tulalip Fish Passage Coordination [tool](#) and how we may use this in future ranking. Strategy to look at projects above blocked mouths of streams. The fish barriers are in the South Whidbey Basin (Tulalip U&A) and are in the Stillaguamish and Snohomish County; as well as parts of Island County.
- Tulalip Tribes' Barrier Prioritization Tool, is in development. Natasha encourages input and updates as there is missing information for WRIA 6. With the existing inconsistencies with other maps as well as slow progress on culvert replacements, the Tribes are developing a Best Professional Judgment prioritization of fish passage barriers. They hope to understand data gaps and coordinate with partners to initiate assessments, perform outreach, leverage current and future work to secure funding, and expedite implementation. The prioritization is based on existing remotely-sensed data, along with available, existing passability assessments, which all have challenges. The barriers are inventoried in a mapping tool intended to be used for the next three years of federal funding opportunities.

The strategy is open for comment – please see it at the following link: [Tulalip Prioritization Tool and Coordination/Implementation Strategy](#) The web map tool that is currently also undergoing review but you can find it here: [Tulalip Prioritization Tool Web Map](#)

Other maps to review where work is needed on fish passage: WASDOT- <https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/protecting-environment/fish-passage> WDFW- <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>

LE shared better links to some of our reports, as many were lost when Island County updated the website. Here are two good links to the first fish passage barrier study in IC and the second priority area 2 fish passage reports- Area 2 priority fish passage from SFEG with PRISM link- <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=19-1343>

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WACOISLAND/2023/03/23/file_attachments/2445633/Final%20Island%20County%20Fish%20Passage%20Barrier%20Inventory%20report.pdf%20%281%29%20%281%29.pdf

Public Works 2014 report with PRISM link

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=14-1015>

[2015 07 15 1123 Final Report.pdf](#)

- DNR manager, Jen Schmitz, updates on upcoming Habitat SIL workshop Oct 24 and 25, PSP Local Forum EPA report from past, and work with Island County Planning and Climate consultant. Local Forum last summer with EPA at Leadership Council- [NEWS RELEASE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency review shows Puget Sound Partnership making progress with environmental results](#) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency review shows Puget Sound Partnership making progress with environmental results. HSIL has had a few spots open up for the HSIL Fall Forum: Planning for sea level

rise and climate related hazards to nearshore habitat in Puget Sound. If you or a colleague member learned about the forum late and would like to attend, please sign up! If you or they fill out the [waitlist form](#).

- Climate Resiliency Sub Element for the Comprehensive Plan. Stakeholders from a variety of organizations and industries have been invited to participate in the workshops including environmental groups, builders, tribes, social services, NASWI, and economic development. The public is invited to listen in and observe the workshops; there will be a chance for the public to provide written comments to inform the process. Sea-level Rise: October 21, 2024, 1 – 3:30 PM Groundwater: October 29, 2024, 1 – 3:30 PM Heat: November 1, 2024, 10 AM – 12:30 PM
- [Island County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update](#) Shared that workshops will be held in-person at the Coupeville Rec Hall. For questions, please email compplan@islandcountywa.gov. Island County Climate Element Resiliency Explorer StoryMap on our [online engagement website](#) which gives an overview of the climate resiliency work done to date. Reminder that Camano Islanders would like to see workshops on Camano.
- LE has shared out reports and information on climate and sea level rise for Jen to share at these workshops. <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/894/Sea-Level-Rise-and-Coastal-Flood-Risk-Assessment>
- MRC- Recently conducted a survey on hard armoring and change over time with percentage of permitted and unpermitted work in Island County. Report was shared. Kelp monitoring was successful this past year. See Armoring report -[071724-shoreline-armoring-survey-and-permit-analysis.pdf \(islandcountymrc.org\)](#)
- Outreach/Events- Town Hall on Camano. Shared Fish Passage culvert updates from Camano projects. Thanked Hadley for Baby Salmon live here with Sound Water Stewards on Camano- <https://soundwaterstewards.org/our-work/education-projects/baby-salmon-live-here/> Thanked Snohomish Conservation District for support and past outreach on Kristoferson. Kristoferson creek and snapshot for project- <https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=19-1578>
- Whidbey Basin update- HSIL grant awarded <https://pugetsoundestuary.wa.gov/2024/07/09/sil-2024-investment-plan/> See [Investment List](#) for details of Whidbey Basin project- Building Reliable Habitat Restoration Information in the Whidbey Basin Lead entities (LEs), as the watershed-based groups tasked with working with project sponsors to implement salmon recovery projects, are uniquely positioned to document and share the story of restoration throughout a watershed. In 2023, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) requested that LEs set quantitative habitat restoration and acquisition targets that would be used to inform Action Agenda Progress Indicators. PSP asked LEs to update information for projects on their 4 Year Work Plans (4YWP) which are maintained in the state's Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP). Upon review of the request, Whidbey Basin LE staff found that SRP data was out of date, missing significant information and lacked consistent metrics; and LE staff and sponsors lacked capacity to meet PSP's request. Whidbey Basin has received unprecedented funding to advance salmon recovery projects from sources not connected to or well-represented in the SRP database (projects supported by Ecology Floodplains by Design, NOAA-directed BIL funding, local sources). Updating project funding and metric information is crucial to develop and relay restoration funding strategies and success, support region/state requests and convey the pace and magnitude of habitat restoration actions to the public. Whidbey Basin LEs are seeking funding as a group to transform their existing database into a useful and comparable tool necessary to meet our Basin's and PSP's planning and communication goals.

WRIA 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7

Discussion

- SRTCC members reviewed the project status from this year and reviewed status of funding allocations.

- Status of SRTCC committee with need to replace COG member. Jen Schmitz will share information with COG, but no rush to replace member until after November elections and before site visits.
- Funding/SRFB -Reviewed the timeline of Grant Round and the latest updates on projections of funding numbers. Chose March 12th as best site visit day with 5th as the back up choice.

SRTCC 2024 projects ranked and funded

-North Livingston Bay Sherman-<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1118>

-Cultus Bay Private Fish Passage Project-

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1274>

-Race Road fish passage culvert replacement-

<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1117>

-Double Bluff protection-<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1119>

The Double Bluff WRIA 6 project ranked high for PSAR Large CAP funding, and ranked top 2 of Target Investment list- <https://www.psp.wa.gov/PSAR-CCA.php> ESRP ranked 2nd out of 40! Double Bluff from ESRP (Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program)24-1200 with presentation in July- <https://rco.wa.gov/grant/estuary-and-salmon-restoration-program/> <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ESRP-InvestPlan-2025.pdf>
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/projectsnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1200>

See the SRTCC website for more information on the grant round- <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/698/Salmon-Recovery-Funding-Board-SRFB-GRANT> or found on the [Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration](#) website

Skagit grant round projects under review by their committees

- Race Road fish passage culvert replacement- looks to be funded half
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1117>
- Maylor Marsh Enhancement – looks to be fully funded
<https://secure.rco.wa.gov/prism/search/ProjectSnapshot.aspx?ProjectNumber=24-1734>

Shared new mapping tools like-

[Puget Sound Nearshore Tidal Restriction and Wetland Mapping](#) ESRP Prism Project #20-1941P Cramer Fish Sciences December 19, 2023

PMEP-[Data Products | Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat ...](#) Estuary and Nearshore Habitat Viewer. This map viewer highlights spatial data products developed by PMEP to characterize habitats and synthesize information in support of habitat. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3729f0c7207d48dea3171d627b4940f9>

NEXT - November- review 2025 Grant round information and verify committee chairs

- December- RFP goes out and LE transition

Meeting adjourned about 4:15 – Thank you for the wonderful and supportive Kudo board!