Strategic Lean Project Report

Puget Sound Info Modernization Project

Agency: Puget Sound Partnership

Partners and Customers:

Partners: Department of Ecology; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Health; Department of Fish and Wildlife; Recreation and Conservation Office; Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Environmental Protection Agency; University of Washington – Puget Sound Institute; Sitka Technology Group

Customers: Puget Sound recovery partners, funders and decision-makers.

Project Impact

The Puget Sound Partnership improved and consolidated its Puget Sound recovery information systems, resulting in more efficient reporting for partners, higher quality data, and better access to data.

Puget Sound Info increases data transparency and supports improved accountability regarding Puget Sound recovery priorities, investments and progress. The provision of a modern, secure, remotely accessible database supports work flow efficiency gains for tracking and reporting on Puget Sound for recovery partners, including state agencies.

This project aligns with the following Results Washington outcome measures:
- Sustainable Energy and a Clean Environment – Keeping Puget Sound Ecosystem Healthy
- Efficient, Effective, and Accountable Government
    o Ensuring information on actions, programs and other investments is accurate and accessible to support evaluation of whether or not these investments are achieving their stated results and moving the state toward broader Puget Sound recovery goals and objectives.
    o Increasing the availability of information to determine how key state programs and activities could be more effective.
    o Increasing Partnership and partner agency staff efficiencies by removing duplicate tasks within and across agencies, modernizing and streamlining workflows, and allowing staff to get back to the mission critical work of analyzing and synthesizing the information needed to support improved decision-making.

Puget Sound Info also advances the Partnership's Strategic Plan in several ways. It provides the information necessary for the Partnership to perform three of its core functions: Support collaborative decision making to chart the best course for recovery and implement shared measures to increase accountability and identify the need for course correction. The platform advances specific Strategic Plan goals to fully implement an adaptive management program by bringing information about the effectiveness of actions and other investments into decision making, and developing tools to ensure a thorough approach to managing performance and ensuring the best available data are considered in decision making. Finally, the availability of data and effectiveness information will help the recovery community leverage state funds to generate additional resources and support from a diversity of sources for Puget Sound recovery.

Project Summary

The Partnership is the state agency responsible for coordinating the efforts of hundreds of partners to accelerate Puget Sound recovery. In statute, the agency is required to evaluate and hold itself and sister agencies accountable for making sound investments in line with Puget Sound recovery priorities. The agency manages a wide variety of information from many partners – including indicator status (monitoring), spatial

data, project and program status reporting and budget summaries, strategic priorities and recovery plans, project effectiveness assessments and dashboard reports.

This information is used to assess the health of Puget Sound, identify the greatest threats to the ecosystem and human wellbeing, understand which actions and programs are most effective, understand where partners are and are not making progress toward recovery objectives, and support decisions about where and when to invest limited resources. In this context, the agency is responsible for ensuring decisions at all levels are informed by the best available information about Puget Sound recovery investments and their impacts.

The agency has used multiple applications to manage this information in separate, non-integrated systems. The Partnership has historically had very limited capacity to perform this service and provide sufficient transparency or accountability for investments due to limited staff resources and outdated, insufficient and make-do information management systems. This project integrates the reporting systems and data availability into a single, easy-to-use portal that will reduce barriers to access the information, helping the recovery community improve decision-making and informing the public on the condition of Puget Sound.

Problem Statement

Consolidate multiple separate data systems into a single information center.

Improvements Made

From mid-2018, the Partnership completed a Puget Sound-wide information needs assessment and successfully implemented the Puget Sound Info modernization project. This was the first discrete phase of a multi-phase effort to improve the quality, quantity and transparency of Puget Sound recovery information for all partners.

The initial assessment summarized the collective information management needs, evaluated current information systems' ability to meet those needs, identified a suite of alternatives for improving information systems, and recommended a path forward for implementing system improvements. As a result, the Partnership rolled out the following information systems as a part of the Puget Sound Info platform:

- **Puget Sound Info:** online data center and website for sharing information about Puget Sound recovery.
- **Action Agenda Tracker**: allows implementers, funders, decision makers, and the public to track Puget Sound recovery actions.
- **Vital Sign Dashboard**: indicator tracking and reporting on measures of ecosystem health and progress toward Puget Sound recovery goals
- **National Estuary Program (NEP) Atlas**: tracks and shares information about EPA Puget Sound NEP investments, activities, and accomplishments.
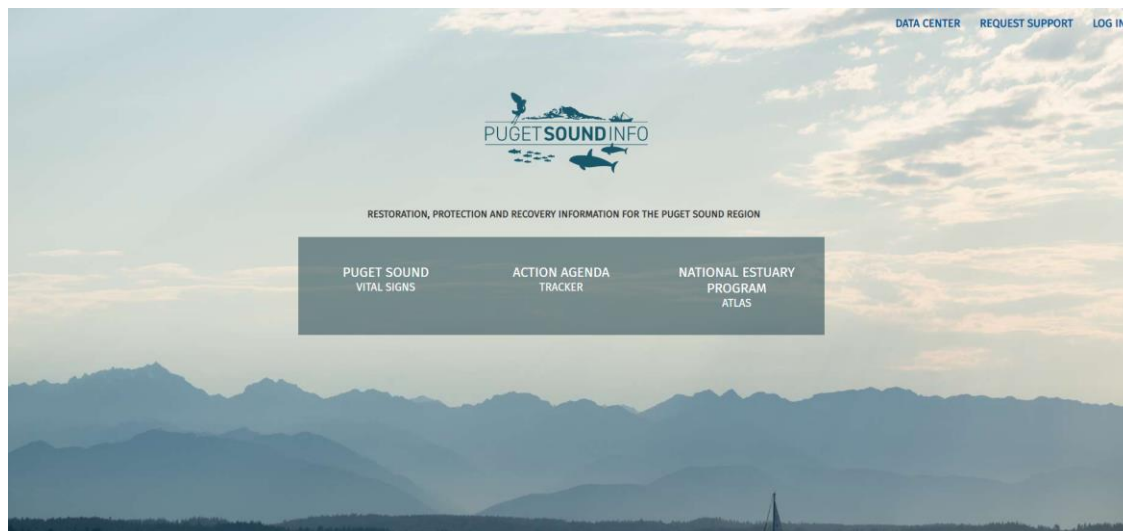
Project Results

Quality

Decreased number of separate data management systems **from** 3 **to** 1 integrated information platform.
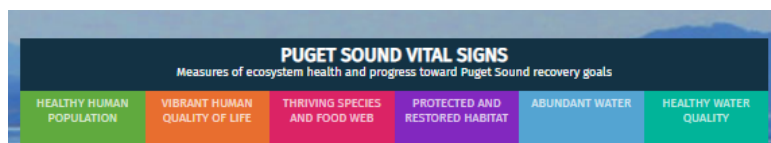
→ *Increased integration of, and access to Puget Sound recovery information.*

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Puget Sound Info Webpage

Vital Signs Indicator Summary Page

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## Results Summary from the Action Agenda Tracker

2018-2022 Action Agenda NTA Funding Status

As of early December 2019, **110 funding programs are supporting NTAs and an additional 10 funding programs are targeted by NTAs for future funding.** An additional 50 NTAs have reported secured funding and we are working to identify these sources of funding. For detailed information on the funders supporting Puget Sound recovery priorities, please see **Funding Programs.**

NTA Funding Summary
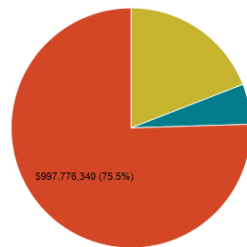
NTA Funding Status by NTA Owner Organization Type

$997,776,340 (75.5%)

Secured Funding   Targeted Funding   No Funding Identified
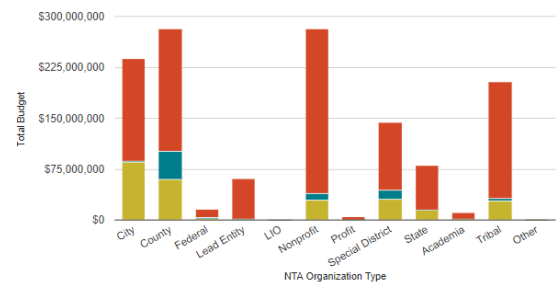
Project Details

Date improvement project was initiated: 5/1/2018
Project Contact: Alex Mitchell   **Email:** alex.mitchell@psp.wa.gov   **Phone:** 360.464.1220
Report reviewed and approved by: Larry Epstein, Deputy Director