Puget Sound Recovery

Sheida Sahandy, Executive Director
and Partners
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Necessary and ongoing learning—
how to protect and recover Puget Sound

But pressures threaten to overwhelm gains—we are not going to meet most of the 2020 targets

Solution?

Innovation and Partnerships

3 Backbone Roles of the Partnership

- Remove
- Mobilize funding
- Educate decision makers

TOTAL FUNDING NEED $200.8 million
(27% of 362 NTAs with complete reports)

FUNDING GAP 78%

2016-2018 ACTION AGENDA

FUNDING GAP

2020 Target:

- Reduce or remove projects under way to restore, 12% of designated Puget Sound
  shoreline areas

As additional loss of shoreline continues, in very Puget Sound watershed relative to 2011 baseline
Backbone role important in VUCA world

- Volatile
- Uncertain
- Complex
- Ambiguous

- **Vision**: clear priorities for action
- **Understanding**: engaging with partners broadly for global perspective
- **Clarity**: seeing essential issues and elements in noisy systems
- **Agility**: responding quickly in changing conditions
Opportunity: Engage more of society, drive innovation

- We are coordinating state and federal agencies with local and tribal governments, non-profits

- Need to focus on public-private partnership to increase scope of effort, investments, and innovation
  - Carbon fiber pervious pavement
  - Waste converted to drinking water
  - Many more

Partnerships within the state family – our three Strategic Initiatives leads
• Strategic Initiative Lead: Dept. of Ecology
  • Vince McGowan, Lead for Municipal Stormwater Management

• Status:
  • Most stormwater-related Vital Sign measures are not changing or show mixed results

• Partnership/Innovation Example:
  • Local government, low impact development, and stormwater action monitoring

Habitat: Engage local processes to develop approaches for protection and restoration

• Strategic Initiative Leads: WDFW & DNR
  • Julie Watson, WDFW’s Policy Lead for the Habitat Strategic Initiative
  • Kirsten Feifel, DNR’s Policy Lead for the Habitat Strategic Initiative

• Status:
  • Restoration is making modest gains, but not at the pace needed to achieve targets
  • Rates of forest loss, shoreline armoring, and eelgrass coverage suggest some success in protection, but losses continue

• Partnership/Innovation Example:
  • Sea-level rise adaptation workshops
  • Zooplankton monitoring
Shellfish: engage growing area-specific efforts to improve water quality; develop effective programs to control pollution

- Strategic Initiative Lead: Dept. of Health
  - Emily Sanford, Lead for the Shellfish Strategic Initiative

- Status:
  - Water quality improvements are increasing the area of harvestable shellfish beds, though successes at large growing areas will be needed to achieve target

- Partnership/Innovation Example:
  - Liberty Bay upgrade

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Cross-Sector Partner Presenters

- John Stark, WSU Puyallup and Washington Stormwater Center
- Mindy Roberts, Washington Environmental Council
- Monte Marti, Snohomish Conservation District and Puget Sound Conservation District Caucus
- Stephanie Solien, Leadership Council Vice Chair, Puget Sound citizen volunteer
The Washington Stormwater Center was created through a state legislative mandate (R.C.W. 90.48.545) for a stormwater technical and educational resource center for all stormwater permit holders in the state.

A joint center between UW-Tacoma and WSU-P developed in 2010.

Pre-spawn mortality in Coho
Incorporating carbon fibers into permeable pavements (funded by the Boeing Company)
Permeable pavements - a great idea but there are problems

- Do not have the tensile and compressive strength of regular pavements
- Can clog over time if not maintained properly

The WSU engineering team developed the process to incorporate carbon fiber into permeable asphalt and concrete
WSU Puyallup developed the toxicity data
Community Engagement ~ Private Landowner Participation

Monte Marti, District Manager
Snohomish Sustainable Lands Strategy

- Conservation District role ~ bring our communities together
- Innovative partnerships ~ diverse interests ~ common desired outcomes
- Multi-benefit approach
- Agreement around multi-benefit funding
  - Conservation Commission ~ Shellfish/RCPP/CREP
  - DOE Floodplains by Design
  - WDFW Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
  - Not the only funding leveraged
- Integrating with Results Washington

Innovating for the Future

1. Foster coordination and understanding among diverse interests
2. Develop unique local solutions

Supportive Coordinated State and Federal Policies and Programs

Information Flow

Fish
Farms
Floods
Tribes
Snohomish Sustainable Lands Strategy (SLS)
Role of Private Landowners

- Innovation is critical – R&D focus to address pressures on Puget Sound.
  - Cascadia Innovation Corridor

- Partnerships are critical – Lend us your voice to bridge the gap with other sectors and across the border.
  - Establish a Salish Sea transboundary work group (State/BC)

- Science is critical and real – Affirm our dedication to science-based decision-making, including monitoring programs
  - 2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference
Thank you!

ONSITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Indicator:
Inventories, inspections and repairs

![Graph showing percentage of onsite sewage systems with inspection current and pending, with target at 95%](image)
**SHELLFISH**

Indicator:
Shellfish beds re-opened to harvest

![Graph showing Shellfish beds re-opened to harvest](image)

**SWIMMING BEACHES**

Indicator:
Condition of swimming beaches

![Graph showing Condition of swimming beaches](image)
PUGET SOUND CHINOOK SALMON

Indicator:
Spawning population abundance

ESTUARIES

Indicator:
Restoration of estuarine wetlands

2020 target = 7,380 acres
**EELGRASS**

Indicator:
Sound-wide eelgrass area

![Graph showing eelgrass area over years]

2020 target = 64,000 acres

**ORCA**

Indicator:
Number of Southern Resident killer whale

![Graph showing number of killer whales over years]

2020 target = 95 whales