

***National Estuary Program***

**Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore  
Protection and Restoration**

**Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan and  
Six-Year Implementation Strategy**

**June 19, 2013**

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington State Department of Natural Resources**



## Puget Sound Lead Organization Structure

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The National Estuary Program (NEP) Lead Organization Cooperative Agreement for Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration (Marine and Nearshore Cooperative Agreement) was awarded to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in February 2011. This was one of seven NEP Lead Organization Assistance Agreements that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded at that time to Management Conference partners to support Puget Sound recovery. The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) co-leads the implementation of this work through an interagency agreement with WDFW. An 'Overview of the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and Funding Agreements under CWA Section 320 is provided in Section F, Appendix I and introduces the general role and relationship of these Lead Organizations. This amended work plan has been developed and formatted to be consistent with the National Estuary Program FFY 2012 Funding Guidance.

See Appendix I - Overview of the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and Funding Agreements under CWA Section 320.

This proposed work program will support at least eight of the twenty recovery targets identified for Puget Sound including eelgrass, estuaries, wild Chinook salmon recovery, shoreline armoring, Pacific Herring, marine sediment quality, orcas, and toxics in fish. The outputs and/or outcomes of each sub-award will be assessed for their relative contribution to these recovery objectives and the findings will be documented through Financial and Ecosystem Accounting and Tracking System (FEATS) reporting.

Both competitive and directed sub-awards may be made under this work plan based on the guidance that has been established by the Lead Organizations for this purpose.

## A. Marine and Nearshore Implementation Plan Summary

*The Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program funds actions that implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda and advance recovery by protecting and restoring marine and nearshore habitats and ecosystem functions.*

The Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program (Grant Program) strives to make precisely targeted investments in high priority actions that will achieve measurable results and meaningful contributions to Puget Sound recovery. The following principles are the foundation for our investments:

- Protecting functioning elements of the ecosystem
- Preventing irreversible harm
- Preventing new pathways for existing threats to cause harm
- Improving ecosystem resilience by restoring key processes to achieve both no net loss, and net gain, of ecological function

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources co-lead the Grant Program. The Grant Program is funded by the National Estuary Program and has received approximately \$12.1 million for the first three funding rounds. All federal grant money is matched dollar-for-dollar with state funds.

Each investment we make helps implement the Puget Sound Action Agenda and advances ecosystem recovery targets. Each of our projects plays at least a supporting or foundational role to, and often directly implements, specific sub-strategies and or near-term actions. In addition, some Grant Program projects also support sub-strategies and near-term actions that are being led by others, including other National Estuary Program Lead Organizations. By protecting and enhancing nearshore habitat, our investments directly promote Puget Sound salmon recovery.

Our work is organized into five investment areas. The work in each category has an objective that implements the mission and principles of the Grant Program. Our approach is oriented around addressing what are understood to be the greatest threats to Puget Sound marine and nearshore habitats, and our investment categories reflect this approach. The work we fund is ambitious, achievable, innovative, and critically important to Puget Sound recovery.

Investment Area	Objectives
<b>Effective Regulation and Stewardship</b>	Reduce development pressure in Puget Sound marine and nearshore environments through regulatory and voluntary protection mechanisms.
<b>Strategic Capital Investment</b>	Further reduce development pressures in the nearshore by implementing strategic restoration and acquisition projects.
<b>High Priority Threats: Invasive Species and Oil Spills</b>	Prevent invasive species and oil spills from degrading Puget Sound and compromising on-going and future recovery efforts.
<b>Adaptive Management</b>	Adaptively manage our program through exploration, action, monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment to produce optimal results at the project, programmatic, and Puget Sound recovery levels.
<b>Cross-Cutting Investments</b>	Address threats to Puget Sound that cut across Lead Organizations to achieve synergistic results beyond the scope of the Grant Program.

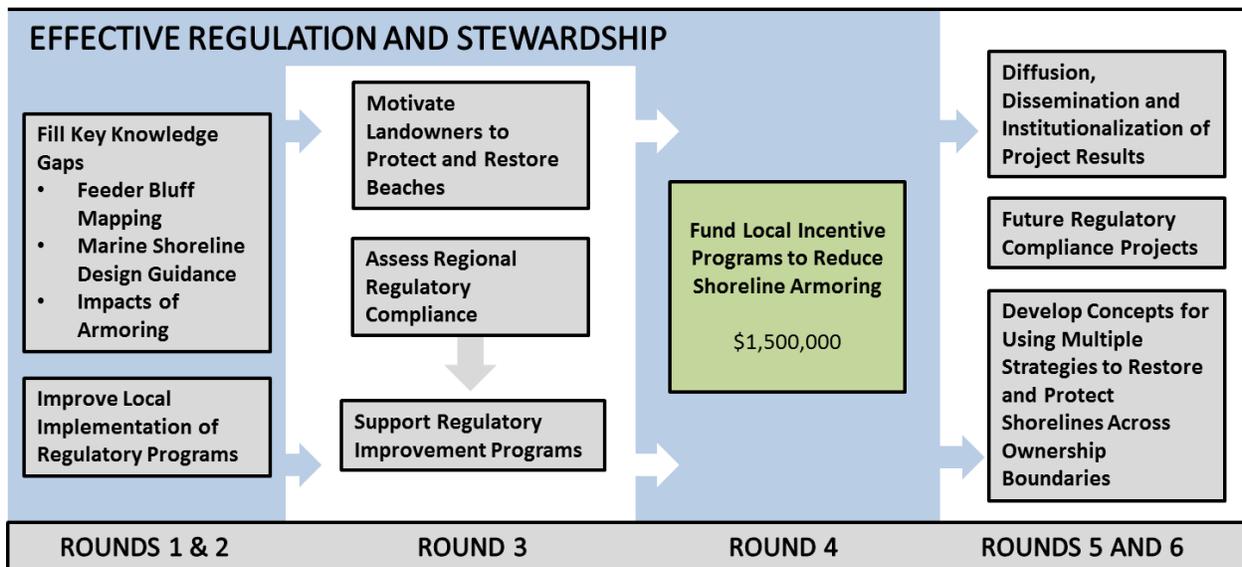
## I. Effective Regulation and Stewardship

Effective regulatory programs, as well as public and private stewardship, are crucial components of Puget Sound recovery. Without these protection mechanisms, Puget Sound will continue to lose foundational habitat and ecosystem processes, and restoration efforts will be undermined. Investments made in this category aim to reduce development pressure on Puget Sound marine and nearshore environments.

Our projects are sequenced to:

- Identify and take action on high priority work, including filling knowledge gaps or gathering crucial information
- Pilot novel approaches targeting long-standing barriers to success
- Implement the most successful approaches, incorporating insight gained through research and pilot projects

This approach allows us to address high priority actions that have been identified, provide critical information for protection and restoration, and pilot novel approaches. Applying adaptive management principles will help us implement the most successful strategies. This process provides a path to understanding the nature of problems and effective solutions.



Effective Regulation and Stewardship projects address these Puget Sound Action Agenda sub-strategies:

Use complete, accurate, and recent information in shoreline planning and decision making at the site-specific and regional levels (B1.1)	Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations, and policies that protect the marine nearshore and estuaries, and incorporate climate change forecasts (B1.2)
Improve, strengthen, and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and permits that protect the marine and nearshore ecosystems and estuaries (B1.3)	Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setbacks when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment (B2.3)
Implement a coordinated strategy to achieve the 2020 eelgrass recovery target (B2.4)	Increase access to and knowledge of publically owned Puget Sound shorelines and the marine ecosystem (B4.2)

Two projects, the Feeder Bluff Mapping and Marine Shoreline Design Guidance, will provide recent, complete, and accurate information (B1.1), as well as support for local governments to adopt and implement more appropriate protective regulations (B1.2). Several of our projects specifically work to improve and strengthen enforcement and compliance strategies (B1.3), as well as to remove shoreline armoring directly and through the use of incentives (B2.3). Investment in beach restoration will also provide opportunities to increase public access to and knowledge of the shoreline and the marine ecosystem (B4.2). Projects proposed for rounds five and six will further advance these sub-strategies by increased investment in proven approaches.

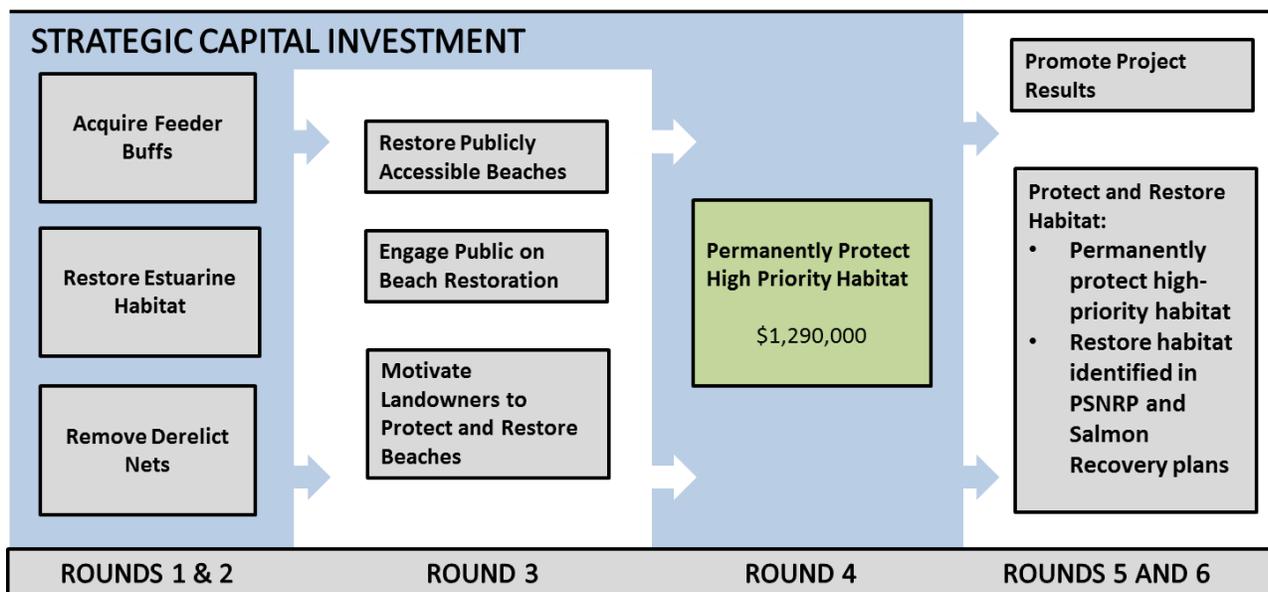
## II. Strategic Capital Investment

Restoring degraded habitat and protecting functioning habitat from degradation are critical action items for Puget Sound recovery. The Grant Program's strategy is to support acquisition of high priority habitat such as feeder bluffs, and to support restoration of important habitat, such as estuaries and beaches, as well as the physical and ecological processes that sustain Puget Sound.

Our projects are sequenced to:

- Make investments in areas that will protect key habitat and yield high value recovery benefits
- Provide up-front support to generate the best possible and most responsive future projects for restoration
- Build public support for the importance of shoreline processes for a healthy Puget Sound, ecosystem, and reduce demand for shoreline modifications, motivating future restoration and stewardship on public and private lands
- Synthesize the insights and tools from previous rounds and investment areas such as effective regulation, to support demonstration projects across public and private land to restore shoreline habitat and function

With early rounds of funding, we focused on protecting priority habitat and restoring estuary function. Projects to restore shoreline physical processes and ecological functions of beaches and bluffs are important, but they are not as well understood or developed as those in estuaries or coastal embayments. The Grant Program focused round three funding on building awareness of the importance of the shoreline sediment delivery and transport systems in supporting healthy beach ecosystems. By focusing on the strategic removal of shoreline modifications on beaches that are publicly accessible, these restoration projects will serve as demonstrations to promote public understanding of beach system function. This will help individuals understand what healthy beaches look like, the functions they provide, and how they can get involved and personally invested in protecting and restoring Puget Sound. With round four funds, we will establish incentive programs that target waterfront property owners to motivate them to restore, protect, and better steward their beaches.



**Strategic Capital Investment projects address these Puget Sound Action Agenda sub-strategies:**

Permanently protect priority nearshore physical and ecological processes and habitat, including shorelines, migratory corridors, and vegetation particularly in sensitive areas such as eelgrass beds and bluff backed beaches (B2.1)	Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects and accelerate projects on public lands (B2.2)
Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setbacks when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment (B2.3)	Protect intact marine ecosystems particularly in sensitive areas and for sensitive species (B3.1)
Implement and maintain priority marine restoration projects (B3.2)	Increase access to and knowledge of publically owned Puget Sound shorelines and the marine ecosystem (B4.2)

By funding acquisitions and habitat restoration projects, we are permanently protecting nearshore ecological and physical processes (B2.1) and implementing prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects (B2.2). Several Grant Program restoration projects remove shoreline modifications, such as armoring, and will provide opportunities to increase access to and knowledge of shoreline and marine ecosystems (B2.3 and B4.2). Grant Program investments also focus on protecting marine ecosystems and supporting priority marine restoration projects, such as derelict fishing net removal (B3.1 and B3.2).

### III. High Priority Threats: Invasive Species and Oil Spills

Investments in this category of high priority threats prevent invasive species from establishing in and degrading Puget Sound and compromising on-going and future recovery efforts. Also, this category of work is intended to prevent catastrophic oil spills, which would overwhelm recovery gains in Puget Sound.

Our projects are sequenced to:

- Assess and quantify risks posed by invasive species and oil spills
- Create management recommendations for best management practices and protocols
- Prepare local entities to contribute to oil spill response

- Evaluate the priority of addressing threats from oil spills and invasive species relative to other Puget sound marine and nearshore threats
- Base future investments on risk assessments and identified priorities and management recommendations

Projects in early rounds allowed for precisely focused investments targeting the highest impact problems in the most effective ways. We have invested in assessments of oil spills and invasive species threats which were identified as crucial knowledge gaps by managers and regulators. In the future, investments will be informed by the results of early round projects and a new integrated risk assessment. We are also investing in an on-the-ground effort to address emerging invasive species threats, such as the green crab or another high priority species, in order to prevent future impacts to Puget Sound marine and nearshore habitat and species.

We are funding work to combat invasive species threats by addressing ballast water and biofouling pathways (B5.3). Our investments also address both oil spill risk assessments to inform prevention strategies (C8.1), and local spill preparedness and response (C8.2, C8.3). Our round four investment in marine invasive species early detection and monitoring will directly advance B5.3 NTA 2.

#### **IV. Adaptive Management**

Adaptive management is a process of structured learning applied to management actions—exploration, action, evaluation, and adjustment—that links science and policy. It is a key feedback mechanism for helping to ensure that new information and facts are used to inform the refinement of strategies and actions necessary for recovery of Puget Sound. It is important to invest in a strategic adaptive management system that fosters a common understanding of the role of adaptive management, evaluates progress towards ecosystem recovery, and informs necessary changes to our Grant Program strategies.

The Grant Program addresses adaptive management at three levels:

- The project level, where progress towards achieving objectives informs any necessary course corrections,
- The program level, where new information will inform adjustments to the balance of projects we fund over time, and
- The Puget Sound recovery level, where new information about the pressures on Puget Sound and priorities for marine and nearshore protection and restoration will inform the direction of the Grant Program and other Sound-wide recovery efforts.

With early rounds of funds, the Grant Program is investing in developing strategies related to these three levels, as well as filling key knowledge gaps that are preventing action towards marine and nearshore protection and restoration. In the future, we will use the emerging outcomes from the work we have funded to guide investments towards the most effective strategies.

#### **V. Cross-cutting Investments**

There are threats and barriers to Puget Sound recovery that cross jurisdictional boundaries, disciplines, and parts of the ecosystem. As a result, the Grant Program invests in innovative strategies and actions that achieve synergistic results across areas such as habitat protection, water quality, and public awareness and behavior. We do so by either supporting cross-cutting efforts within our existing investments or by partnering with other Lead Organizations to invest in projects that achieve synergistic

results. Regular coordination activities among Lead Organizations help identify cross-cutting needs and opportunities.

Currently, the Grant Program is investing in two projects that assess the impacts of water pollution on Puget Sound biota, in particular mussels and eelgrass, in order to inform policy and management actions in the future. With rounds three and four funds, we are investing in work that cuts across marine and nearshore protection and restoration work into stewardship. More specifically, we are advancing behavior change strategies by developing tools that will be used to incentivize voluntary improvements to management of privately owned shorelines. The Grant Program is working closely with the Puget Sound Partnership, as the Stewardship Lead Organization, to design and implement these projects.

## B. Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan

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### Introduction to Projects 1 - 3

The main theme for our investments of the FFY13 award is to protect and restore the Puget Sound shoreline. We will do this by supporting local governments and others to develop programs that provide incentives to landowners to reduce the shoreline armoring, as well as provide long-term protection for priority shoreline habitat. These investments will produce results that contribute to the 2020 ecosystem recovery target in the Puget Sound Action Agenda to reduce the amount of shoreline hardening.

The main areas of investment in the FFY13 (Round 4) work plan, are in “Effective Regulation and Stewardship” and “Strategic Capital Investment”, as well as one small project in “High-Priority Threats” on marine invasive species. This plan builds on and advances investments made with funds from previous years, especially FFY12, by continuing to advance a strategy to address shoreline modifications to improve nearshore ecosystem functions. In the long-term, this effort is intended to restore beach system functions through the removal of shoreline modifications such as armoring, on public and private lands. This will lead to increased use by fish and wildlife of the shoreline, as well as reduce the demand for new shoreline modifications.

A small amount of the FFY13 award will be used to develop and institute an early detection and monitoring program for an invasive marine species, either the European Green Crab or another high priority threat. Each of these three investments directly advances priority Near Term Actions identified in the Habitat Strategic Initiative of the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

#### Project 1:

#### *Protect & Restore Through Incentives: Programs to Motivate a Reduction in Shoreline Armoring*

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The Puget Sound Marine & Nearshore Grant Program, in implementing the Puget Sound Action Agenda, has created a long term vision for protecting and restoring the shoreline. Early investments in protections of high-priority feeder bluffs, restoration of estuaries, and restoration of beaches by removing armoring are important investments with clear outcomes. However, it is important to develop, support, and institutionalize local programs that can provide educational opportunities to learn about shoreline restoration as well as provide incentives to motivate landowners to remove or forgo armoring on their shorelines, so that more landowners are willing to protect and restore their property. These efforts, combined with improvements to the implementation of regulatory programs and filling knowledge gaps critical to management, work to address the issues of shoreline development from multiple angles.

Our work in Round 3 that identifies social marketing strategies to motivate landowners to remove or forgo armoring and the development of a toolkit for local governments to develop programs that provide incentives for this behavior, lays the groundwork for our Round 4 investment.

In Round 4, we will provide tools and funding to local governments and other capable entities who want to start or enhance a program to provide incentives to shoreline property owners to forgo or remove armoring. The entities will be able to use information from the social marketing strategy to identify they type of incentives that will work given their demographics and local goals for shoreline restoration.

This is the first priority of our Round 4 Workplan.

***Project 2:***

***Long-Term Protection of Bluff-Backed Beaches or Other Priority Habitat***

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In this round, we will invest in attaining long-term protections of bluff-back beaches or other high priority habitat. Building support for shoreline restoration and protection through stewardship is a long and necessary process; however, the actual ecological results are a little longer to achieve than on-the-ground investments in protection measures.

Permanent protections through acquisition of high priority habitat are expensive relative to the amount of funds available. We propose to use Round 4 funding on conservation easements or other protection measures to make more cost effective use of this investment.

Our strategy for this project is to develop an agreement with one or more established land conservation entities to carry out the protections on our behalf. The properties we invest in must be identified through an established process such as PSNERP or another credible process to ensure limited funds go to priorities: protecting feeder bluffs or other high-value habitat.

***Project 3:***

***Marine Invasive Species Early Detection and Monitoring: European Green Crab or Other High Priority Threat***

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The Grant Program used the Habitat Strategic Initiative of the Puget Sound Action Agenda as our main investment guide in developing this work plan. During the draft work plan engagement process, we asked participants which of three Near Term Actions in the Habitat Strategic Initiative we should invest in if there were additional funds beyond what is needed to implement Project 1. Long-term protections of bluff backed beaches and invasive species early detection and monitoring rose to the top.

To inform our decision on which invasive marine species to focus on, we reviewed the Washington Invasive Species Council assessment of risks of invasive species and met with state agency experts. The European Green Crab was identified as the species to focus efforts on. We intend to continue discussions with marine invasive species experts, and this investment will either target the green crab or another high priority threat to Puget Sound.

The potential for partnerships in this project is great. There is a lot of interest in preventing the invasive green crab from entering into the Puget Sound, as it preys on oysters and damages eelgrass. Currently, it is in the Canadian waters of the Salish Sea, where monitoring efforts are already underway.

Project 1	<p align="center"><b>Protect and Restore Through Incentives: Programs to Motivate a Reduction in Shoreline Armoring</b> <i>Effective Regulation and Stewardship</i></p>
<b>Main Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate and support existing, sustainable programs to help shoreline landowners forgo, remove, or choose alternatives to shoreline armoring</li> <li>• Protect and restore beach system function and high priority habitat by reducing the amount of armoring along Puget Sound shorelines</li> <li>• Leverage FFY12 investments in social marketing and incentive-type strategies to meet goals of reducing the impacts of armoring.</li> </ul>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Support local governments and others to initiate or support existing, sustainable programs that lead to a reduction in shoreline armoring. The programs will employ marketing and behavior change strategies, and offer incentives, including education, technical assistance, or other resources to facilitate a reduction in armoring. Programs will be based on data on actual barriers and motivators of the target audience, and will include plans and strategies to continue the program beyond the life of the grant. Programs could focus on forgoing armoring, removing armoring, using setbacks or softer techniques, or a combination of these. Priority may be given to projects that focus on mapped bluff-backed beaches or other high priority habitat. If available, additional funding may be provided to help secure long-term protections.</p>
<b>Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sub-Strategy B2.3</b> - <i>Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setback when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment</i></li> <li>• <b>Sub-Strategy B2.1</b> - <i>Permanently protect priority shoreline habitat, like bluff-backed beaches</i></li> <li>• <b>Sub-Strategies D5.2</b> - <i>Develop and promote science-based targeted communications and behavior change strategies;</i> <b>D5.3</b> - <i>Enable and encourage residents to take informed stewardship action;</i> and <b>D5.4</b> - <i>Improve effectiveness of local and regional awareness-building and behavior change programs through vetted messages, proven strategies and outcome-based evaluation.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Potential Partners and Roles</b>	<p>The Grant Program will work with local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, state agencies and others to identify the marketing and incentive tools and strategies that will be effective for the unique demographic/geographic conditions and needs of target areas.</p>
<b>Outputs/Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple programs initiated across Puget Sound that use data-driven tools and strategies to motivate shoreline property owners to choose alternatives to shoreline armoring</li> <li>• Landowners, or related points of contact (such as contractors, real estate agents, permit reviewers identified and targeted as potential candidates for the programs</li> <li>• On-the-ground projects that forgo or remove armor are initiated at multiple Puget Sound locations</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Milestones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant agreements in place Summer 2014</li> <li>• Projects completed by Summer 2016</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Budget</b>	<p><b>Approximately \$1,500,000</b></p>
<b>OUTCOMES Short-term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local governments and others have tools to work effectively with landowners on armoring reduction</li> <li>• Programs initiated or enhanced that employ the tools and strategies tailored to local communities</li> <li>• Shoreline landowners understand the value of beach processes and work for, not against them</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners are willing to protect and restore beach process on private land</li> <li>• Shoreline habitat is protected from armoring or restored through armoring removal</li> <li>• Beach system functions are restored and protected along Puget Sound shorelines</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programs institutionalized to reduce armoring beyond the period of the grants</li> <li>• Improved habitat quality and increased fish and wildlife use of shorelines</li> <li>• An improved understanding and shift in values toward natural shorelines</li> <li>• Additional landowners are willing to protect and restore beach processes</li> </ul>
<b>CWA Core</b>	<p>Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program</p>

Project 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Long-Term Protection of Bluff-Backed Beaches or Other High Priority Habitat</b> <i>Strategic Capital Investment</i></p>
<b>Main Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide funds and tools to local governments or land conservation organizations to provide long-term protection of bluff-backed beaches or other priority habitat</li> <li>• Leverage previous investments on incentives to reduce armoring to secure long-term protection of restored shoreline or shoreline where armoring was avoided</li> </ul>
<b>Description</b>	<p>Through an agreement with one or more entities such as established land conservation organizations, provide long-term protection of bluff-backed beaches and other priority habitat. Habitat will be identified by PSNERP or another vetted method. These properties could have been identified through Project 1 – <i>Programs to Motivate a Reduction in Shoreline Armoring</i>, or identified by a government, land trust, or other credible entity. If the contractor is successful in attracting shoreline owners to agree to formal long-term protection, the Grant Program could potentially provide some funds to help secure the agreement.</p>
<b>Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies</b>	<p><b>Sub-Strategy B2.1.1 - Protect 10% of Bluff-Backed Beaches</b></p>
<b>Potential Partners and Roles</b>	<p>The Grant Program will work with local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations, state agencies, and/or land conservation organizations to identify and secure long-term protections of bluff-backed beaches.</p>
<b>Outputs/Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline properties identified for protections</li> <li>• Long-term protection is secured on priority shoreline habitat</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Milestones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement in place with contractor(s) by mid-2014</li> <li>• Negotiations with property owners starting mid-2014</li> <li>• Protective covenants in place for selected properties by mid-2016</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Budget</b>	<p><b>Approximately \$1,287,304</b></p>
<b>OUTCOMES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecosystem processes are protected</li> <li>• Local governments and others work effectively with landowners to secure protections</li> <li>• Shoreline landowners understand the value of beach processes and work with, not against them</li> </ul> <p><b>Intermediate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners are willing to protect important ecological benefits on their land</li> <li>• Shoreline habitat and beach system functions are protected</li> </ul> <p><b>Long-term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved habitat quality and increased fish and wildlife use of shorelines</li> <li>• There is an increased understanding and shift in values toward natural shorelines</li> <li>• Landowners are willing to protect and restore beach processes</li> </ul>
<b>CWA Core Program</b>	<p>Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program</p>

Project 3	<b>Marine Invasive Species Early Detection and Monitoring: European Green Crab or Other High Priority Threat</b> <i>High Priority Threats</i>
<b>Main Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent and rapidly respond to the spread of the Green Crab, or another high priority marine invasive species, through an early detection and monitoring program</li> <li>• Protect Puget Sound from ecological and economic harm caused by the spread of the Green Crab, or another high priority threat, especially to shellfish, eelgrass, and other resources</li> </ul>
<b>Description</b>	<p>This project will develop an early detection and monitoring program for the invasive marine green crab, or another high priority species threatening Puget Sound. It will be the focal point for collaboration between state, federal, international, local and tribal governments, as well as shellfish growers and local entities such as Marine Resource Committees, who are interested in preventing the spread of the chosen species. The monitoring program would be volunteer-based with oversight and coordination by a project lead, and designed to be self-sustaining. The lead entity would develop the monitoring protocol, provide training, purchase equipment and establish a volunteer monitoring network.</p>
<b>Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies</b>	<p><b>Sub-Strategy B5.3.2. Invasive Species Early Detection and Monitoring</b></p> <p>The Green Crab was identified through an Invasive Species Management Priorities exercise conducted by the WA Invasive Species Council as a top priority within this NTA. The Green Crab is already present in the Salish Sea on Vancouver Island, and the Canadians are monitoring the crab. This investment will either focus on the green crab, or another high priority species identified by marine invasive species experts.</p>
<b>Potential Partners and Roles</b>	<p>WDFW, USFWS, Canadian resource agencies, Tribes, Washington Invasive Species Council, SeaGrant, Canadian entities, Marine Resource Committees, and others interested in the selected species could have a role. Entities such as MRCs could manage monitoring programs in their areas. Tribes and shellfish growers could participate in planning and monitoring. Canadian monitoring program for green crab could help guide development of the Puget Sound program and provide an international unified effort in the Salish Sea.</p>
<b>Outputs/Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early detection and monitoring program developed</li> <li>• Volunteer training developed and conducted, and supplies purchased and distributed</li> <li>• Volunteer monitoring programs in place in strategic areas</li> <li>• Report on data of invasive species presence in Puget Sound and volunteer efforts</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Milestones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement in place with implementing entity by August 2013</li> <li>• Protocol and training developed, and equipment purchased, by February 2014</li> <li>• Training of volunteers through April 2014</li> <li>• Monitoring in place by June 2014</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Budget</b>	<p><b>Approximately \$100,000</b></p>
<b>OUTCOMES Short-term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detection and monitoring plans are in place</li> <li>• Trained volunteers conduct monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early detection leads to control measures</li> <li>• Threats to the ecosystem, displacement of native species, and to the economy are eliminated or greatly reduced</li> </ul>
<b>Long-term</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The target invasive species has not established in Puget Sound</li> <li>• Puget Sound in general, and shellfish and eelgrass resources in particular, are protected</li> </ul>
<b>CWA Core Program</b>	<p>Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program</p>

## C. Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Work Plan Summary Table

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Attachment 1 is a table summarizing the Grant Program's six-year implementation strategy. Projects in the table are grouped by the investment areas of the Grant Program, including program management. Within these groups, projects targeted with round four funds are highlighted in orange, and projects planned for rounds five and six are highlighted in blue. Investments with funds from rounds one and two are listed together.

The Summary table is attached (Marine and Nearshore Six-Year Table.xlsx)

## D. Major Accomplishments

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### ***Investment Strategy Development***

The Grant Program has developed investment strategies that advance Puget Sound recovery and the priorities of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. An example is a major focus on protecting and restoring beaches through a multi-pronged approach that addresses the complex shoreline issue of armoring. Projects started on the ground with acquisition of high priority feeder bluff habitat in order to provide long-term protection of critical nearshore ecosystem processes. Next, investments were made in restoration of beaches, through removal of armoring or other shoreline modifications, in publicly accessible places so that the public would have opportunities to view and learn from compelling alternatives to armoring of the shoreline.

The program has also invested in a number of projects that are working to improve compliance with and implementation of existing regulations that address armoring and other development along the shoreline. Finally, investments were made in filling key knowledge gaps – mapping of Puget Sound feeder bluffs, design guidance on alternatives to armoring, and an evaluation of the cumulative impacts of armoring – which will provide the region with critical new information.

The program is now setting the stage for additional protection and restoration of the shoreline by supporting stewardship by private landowners, using tools to motivate and overcome barriers to a reducing shoreline armoring. This will be complemented with additional long-term protections of shoreline habitat, particularly feeder bluffs or other high priority places under threat from development, through agreements with landowners to secure conservation easements or other voluntary protection measures.

The work to engage many of the local governments, tribes, nonprofits, and other entities working towards common goals has helped to advance this multi-pronged approach. The program will continue to build on and leverage similar projects, learn from the lessons and successes of past efforts, and adapt our approach over time towards the most effective strategies.

### ***Early Investment Results***

The Grant Program now has 40 grant projects or contracts, and has committed approximately \$9.3 million of EPA funds to important Puget Sound marine and nearshore protection and restoration work (not including the costs of administering our EPA cooperative agreement). These projects, although not yet complete, are contributing to Puget Sound recovery and advancing the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

Through the *Puget Sound Derelict Net Removal and Pilot Project*, the program has funded to-date the removal of 143 of the remaining known shallow water derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound. This will allow more than 31 acres of marine habitat to recover from the impacts of the nets, and will prevent future sea life from being killed. Six newly lost nets were also reported and removed during this project, preventing future damage to marine habitat and species. In Hood Canal, all of the known, shallow water, derelict fishing nets have now been removed.

In another grant project, *Targeted Outreach to Reduce Impacts from Shore Hardening in Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area*, workshops for planners and coastal landowners have been highly successful. Nineteen people attended the workshop for Snohomish and Island County planners on shoreline processes and characteristics of soft shore armoring, and the evaluation feedback was very positive. The goal of the landowner workshop was to increase knowledge about coastal processes, habitat, and best

management practices, as well as to provide an opportunity for landowners to receive site visits on their property to discuss shoreline management options. Sixty-one people attended the landowner workshop, and site visits with interested landowners have begun. An additional landowner workshop was added to meet the demand.

The *Toxic Contaminant Monitoring in Mussels* project is evaluating the extent and magnitude of contamination of biota in Puget Sound, using caged mussels as a test species and establishing baseline data. The results of the project will be provided to state legislators and other decision makers whose choices can impact the health of nearshore waters. This project also extensively engages citizens, local governments, tribes, and other partners, who sponsor or otherwise support sampling in their areas. The overwhelming interest in the project has allowed project staff to increase the number of sampled sites from an early target of 60, to 108 across Puget Sound.

These are just three examples of how Grant Program projects are advancing Puget Sound recovery by addressing critical marine and nearshore habitat needs.

### ***Program Implementation***

In many cases, the primary threats to Puget Sound are known, if not always fully understood. However, there are often myriad impediments to solving what are almost always complex, multi-faceted problems. The program has made several notable achievements that allow these difficult problems to be addressed.

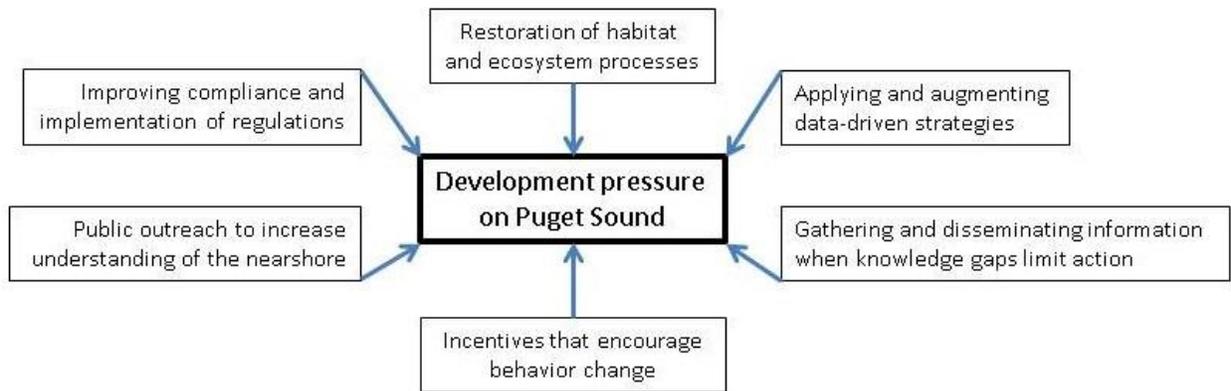
The Grant Program is a collaboration between WDFW and DNR who have statutory leadership, missions, policies and programs to protect and restore marine and nearshore habitats and resources in Washington State. As such, the Grant Program has access to and draws on the experts and resources at WDFW and DNR, leveraging limited dollars and maximizing benefits from the collaboration. The Grant Program uses a strategic, sequenced, and adaptive approach to investments in order to successfully address key problems. The amount of funding the program receives is relatively small in comparison to the scale of the problems we are charged to address. The approach our team has crafted is a primary accomplishment, as it allows us to leverage a relatively small amount of funding to address complex and massive problems in a meaningful way.

We have created an action oriented investment system that allows us to integrate existing resources and expertise by bringing together diverse sets of subject-matter experts. These experts often include scientists, regulators, restoration experts, policy experts, tribes and stakeholders. By bringing the right people together, with the proper focus, we are able to answer several questions:

- What is the nature of a given threat or problem?
- Is there an identified solution to a problem, and what needs to be done to achieve successful outcomes?
- Why isn't the identified solution being implemented successfully now? What are the implementation barriers?

By answering these questions, we identify barriers to success, the highest priority actions to achieve desired outcomes, and any critical knowledge gaps that are preventing action. Equipped with this information, our team can make investments in ambitious, innovative projects. We can also sequence our investments over time, and leverage outputs and outcomes of early investments to achieve greater and greater benefits for Puget Sound over time.

Many of our investments address development impacts on nearshore and marine environments, which are understood to be one of the greatest threats to these ecosystems. Because of the complex nature of development pressures, we are investing in solutions from multiple angles. By using our investment system, we are able to identify the many important facets of key problems, and target solutions that will provide measurable results towards reducing impacts from development pressure.



The Grant Program has also succeeded in implementing a transparent, highly accountable disbursement system that allows our program to assure that all projects meet expected goals and outcomes. By using a deliverables-based grant system, we are able to review sub-award outputs to be certain that each piece of a sub-award meets Grant Program standards and provides the maximum benefit to Puget Sound recovery.

Additionally, our program has further leveraged our federal funding by investing in a number of projects that provide matching funds, in addition to the 1-to-1 matching funds that Washington State already provides. This has allowed us to fund projects that are more ambitious than would be possible if only state and federal funds were used. This also further assures that we will achieve better outcomes, by increasing sub-awardees' stake in a given project.

By engaging subject-matter experts, addressing multiple facets of development pressures, leveraging early investments, implementing highly accountable sub-awards, and adapting our approach as we gather information, we have created an investment system that we believe will achieve our intended short, medium, and long-term outcomes for Puget Sound.

## E. Proposed FFY2013 Budget Summary

### I. FFY13 Budget

Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration										17-Jun-13
<u>Six-Year Summary by Investment Area</u>										
<i>Total Federal Funds Available</i>	3,089,224	5,480,000		3,600,000	3,320,582	9,000,000	9,000,000			
<i>Date awarded to Marine &amp; Nearshore Program</i>	2/1/2011	8/30/2011		6/28/2013						
Federal Fiscal Year (in thousands of dollars)	2010	2011	FY10/11 Total	2012	2013	2014	2015	Potential Addtl Funding	Potential Total	
1 Adaptive Management <sup>1</sup>	\$ 278,030	\$ 739,800	\$ 1,017,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,215,000	2,430,000	3,447,830	
2 Effective Regulation and Stewardship	\$ 1,251,136	\$ 1,972,800	\$ 3,223,936	\$ 850,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 3,240,000	\$ 3,240,000	8,830,000	12,053,936	
3 Strategic Capital Investment	\$ 695,075	\$ 1,233,000	\$ 1,928,075	\$ 2,133,262	\$ 1,287,304	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000	7,470,566	9,398,641	
4 Threat Reduction: Invasives	\$ 139,015	\$ 246,600	\$ 385,615	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	910,000	1,295,615	
5 Threat Reduction: Oil Spill	\$ 139,015	\$ 246,600	\$ 385,615	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	810,000	1,195,615	
6 Set-Aside for Crosscutting Issues	\$ 278,030	\$ 493,200	\$ 771,230	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 810,000	\$ 810,000	1,620,000	2,391,230	
7 Program Management and Indirect Charges	\$ 308,922	\$ 548,000	\$ 856,922	\$ 616,738	\$ 433,278	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	2,850,016	3,706,938	
<b>Sum Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,089,224</b>	<b>\$ 5,480,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,569,224</b>	<b>\$ 3,600,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,320,582</b>	<b>\$ 9,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,000,000</b>	<b>24,920,582</b>	<b>33,489,806</b>	
Percentage of Federal Dollars by Year	2010	2011	% of FFY10/11	2012	2013	2014	2015	% of Addtl	% of Total	
1 Adaptive Management <sup>1</sup>	9%	14%	12%	0%	0%	14%	14%	10%	10%	
2 Effective Regulation and Stewardship	41%	36%	38%	24%	45%	36%	36%	35%	36%	
3 Strategic Capital Investment	23%	23%	23%	59%	39%	23%	23%	30%	28%	
4 Threat Reduction: Invasives	5%	5%	5%	0%	3%	5%	5%	4%	4%	
5 Threat Reduction: Oil Spill	5%	5%	5%	0%	0%	5%	5%	3%	4%	
6 Set-Aside for Crosscutting Issues	9%	9%	9%	0%	0%	9%	9%	7%	7%	
7 Program Management and Indirect Charges	10%	10%	10%	17%	13%	10%	10%	11%	11%	
<b>Total Percent</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>								

<sup>1</sup> First two years in Component 3 and remainder included in Component 6

Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration								17-Jun-13
<u>FFY13 Summary</u>								
Object Class	Adaptive Management <sup>1</sup>	Effective Regulation and Stewardship	Strategic Capital Investment	Threat Reduction: Invasives	Threat Reduction: Oil Spill	Set-Aside for Crosscutting Issues	Program Management & Indirect	Total
A. Personnel							\$ 159,181	\$ 159,181
B. Fringe Benefits							\$ 58,220	\$ 58,220
C. Travel							\$ 4,590	\$ 4,590
D. Equipment							\$ -	\$ -
E. Supplies							\$ 18,360	\$ 18,360
F. Contractual							\$ -	\$ -
H. Other (grants)		\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,287,304		\$ 100,000		\$ 124,756	\$ 3,012,060
I. Total Direct	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,287,304	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 240,351	\$ 3,252,411
J. Indirect Charges (28.36%)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68,171	\$ 68,171
<b>K. Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,287,304</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 433,278</b>	<b>\$ 3,320,582</b>

\*no indirect on H. Other (grants)

## II. Matching Resources

All required match is provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. Between the two agencies, all federal funds are matched one-to-one by State funds; we also collect some additional match from project sponsors.

## III. Staff

**Patricia Jatczak**, *Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program Manager*

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Co-lead of the Marine and Nearshore LO. Responsible for implementing the Cooperative Agreement with EPA.

**Margaret McKeown**, *Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program Manager*

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Co-lead of the Marine and Nearshore LO. Responsible for implementing the Cooperative Agreement with EPA.

**Derek Day**, *Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program Specialist*

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Assistant to the Co-leads. Provides overall support to the Grant Program.

## F. Appendix I-II

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### Appendix I. Overview of the Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference and Funding Agreements under CWA section 320

#### **Puget Sound Management Conference**

For the purposes of the National Estuary Program, the Puget Sound Management Conference includes: the statutorily-described Partnership including the Puget Sound Partnership state agency, Leadership Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Science Panel; and the broader partnership coalition that includes tribal governments, the Puget Sound caucuses affiliated with the Ecosystem Coordination Board, the Salmon Recovery Council, Northwest Straits Commission, implementing networks, formal and informal interest groups, watershed groups, individual local governments, and representatives from Canadian agencies.

As created, the Partnership is intended to be a multi-disciplinary, networked regional coalition. To fulfill this role, structures have evolved to provide specific coordination, advice, implementation and collaboration. Some elements, like the Education, Communication and Outreach Network (ECO Net) and Local Integrating Organizations were created by the Partnership. Other coalitions and groups existed prior to the Partnership or have been developed by partners engaged in Puget Sound recovery. These include but are not limited to the Puget Sound Institute, Puget Sound caucuses (federal, state, environmental, tribes), the Northwest Straits Commission, Lead Organizations which support implementation efforts across key topic areas, formal and informal interest groups, watershed groups, local government coalitions, and trans-boundary (US/Canada) work groups. The salmon recovery program includes the Salmon Recovery Council and its affiliated Recovery Implementation Technical Team (RITT), and watershed Lead Entities. The general composition and organization of the Management Conference relationship is shown in the following figure.

For more information about the management conference structure and decision-making roles within the conference, please refer to Appendix C of the 2012 Puget Sound Action Agenda.

#### **Lead Organizations for supporting implementation of the Action Agenda**

Beginning in 2010, EPA has provided Puget Sound Geographic Program funding to Washington state agencies and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to serve as ‘Lead Organizations’ to develop and implement multi-year strategies for supporting implementation of the Action Agenda through both directed and competitive sub-awards. The Lead Organizations include:

- Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration (Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources)
- Watershed Protection and Restoration (Departments of Ecology and Commerce)
- Toxics and Nutrients Prevention, Reduction and Control (Department of Ecology)
- Pathogen Prevention, Reduction and Control (Departments of Health)
- Managing Implementation of the Action Agenda (Puget Sound Partnership)
- Outreach , Education and Stewardship (Puget Sound Partnership)
- Tribal Implementation (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission)

Workplans for each of these Lead Organizations are updated annually and submitted to EPA for approval of funds under CWA section 320 along with the National Estuary Program Base Grant.

**Federal Inter-Agency Agreements for supporting implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda**

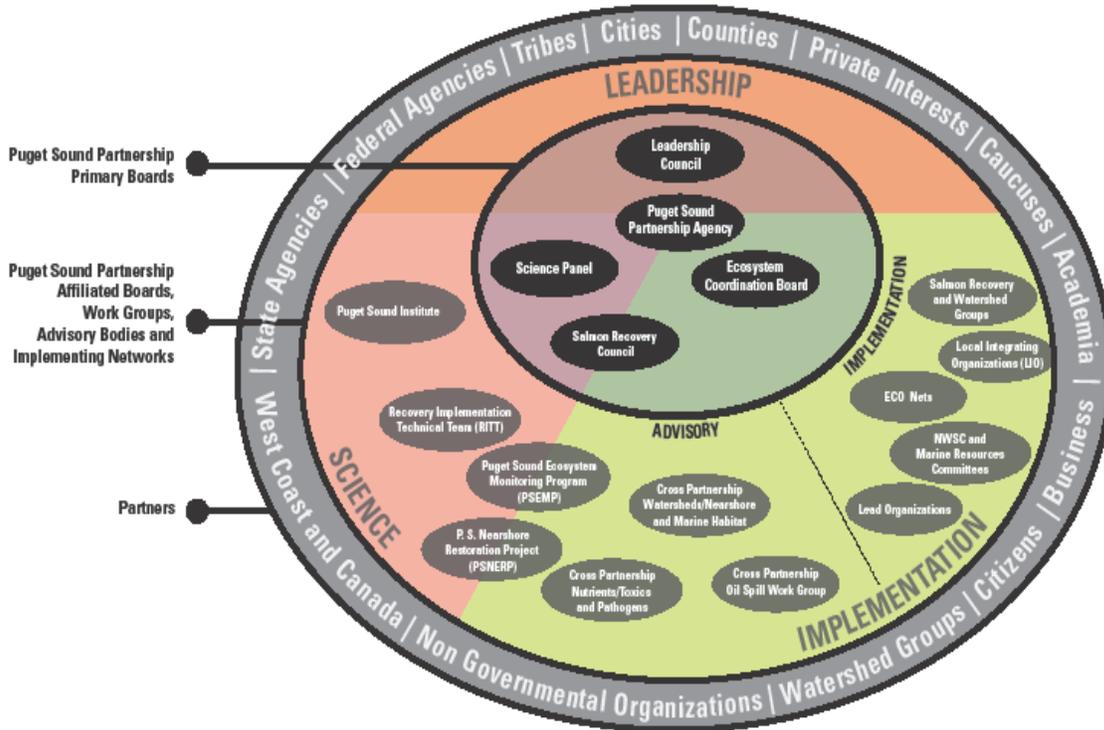
The federal caucus promotes information sharing, development of joint work priorities, and collaboration among federal agency leadership and staff to support implementation of the Action Agenda. Thirteen federal agencies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to commit to these working principles, and all federal agencies with Puget Sound interests are welcome to participate. Agencies include those with environmental and natural resource responsibilities such as NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as well as those with local defense and security responsibilities such as the Coast Guard, Army, and Navy. The federal caucus has a work plan to guide their engagement with Puget Sound recovery efforts and many federal agencies have been assigned actions in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

For certain topics, federal roles and activities are necessary to support implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. In some cases, EPA cooperates with and supports other federal agencies where additional federal coordination, involvement or federal program support is needed to accomplish identified actions and produce important outputs or help achieve outcomes that are unique to federal agencies or programs and where additional capacity is necessary to do so. In such cases, CWA Section 320 funds are used to support Federal Inter-Agency Agreements to conduct necessary work in a timely or particular manner.

**Tribal capacity to engage in the Puget Sound Management Conference.** Beginning in 2010, EPA has provided Puget Sound Geographic Program funding to all federally-recognized tribes in the greater Puget Sound basin, and consortia of these eligible tribes. EPA Region 10 obtained a waiver from competition for these awards. The purpose of these awards is to provide financial assistance to cover the basic activities to enable the tribes to participate in the implementation of the CCMP/Action Agenda and do not duplicate or supplement funding provided under Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP). These awards are incrementally funded each year.

# Puget Sound Partnership Management Conference

Conceptual diagram of organization and partner structure



05/22/2012

## Appendix II. Summary of Comments & Responses

### Draft Work Plan Feedback

The Grant Program distributed a draft FFY13 work plan for comments, due May 8<sup>th</sup>. The following is a summary of written comments received, and our responses.

Comment Summary	Grant Program Response
<p>Regarding the incentive program investment, concern that there is little evidence that shows incentive programs alone are adequate to reduce shoreline armoring. Funds should be directed to disseminating data and information from previous investments. May be more beneficial to assemble a technical assistance team to assist willing landowners. Also, funding should focus on addressing laws and regulations that allow shoreline armoring and pose obstacles to Puget Sound recovery. Uncritical endorsement of incentives could lead to reliance on incentives instead of addressing regulatory exemptions.</p> <p>Support acquisition of bluff-backed beaches and other priority habitat. Regarding investment in invasive species early detection and monitoring, question how green crab was selected as the species of focus. Extent to which green crab inhibits and threatens native species and habitat is relatively unknown. A better focus would be to work with local entities, tribes, and/or LIOs to address species that pose the greatest immediate threat to protection and restoration efforts. <i>(Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission)</i></p>	<p>We agree that incentive programs alone would not be adequate to recover Puget Sound. Our investments have included on the ground restoration and protection, improvements to regulatory program implementation, education, and filling of knowledge gaps, which are all important elements of improving management along the shoreline. We intend to build on the successes and lessons learned from past efforts, and to use evaluation to make adjustments if needed. We also see technical assistance as one of the key incentives that could be provided.</p> <p>Green crab was selected as a potential focus for early detection and monitoring because it was identified by the WA Invasive Species Council as one of the most significant marine invasive species to Puget Sound. We intend to continue discussions with subject matter experts about the most effective target species for this investment. We also plan to work with and support interested local governments, tribes, or other entities with this project.</p>
<p>Regarding green crab early detection and monitoring investment, change “Invasive Species Council” to “Washington Invasive Species Council” throughout the proposal. Keep open options of funding for implementation, going either to WDFW or NGO such as NWSF (five MRCs expressed interest in participating). NGO may be able to solicit funding to continue work beyond grant. Also, may be prudent to consider in this investment what will be done if green crabs are found. <i>(Allen Pleus, WA Dept of Fish &amp; Wildlife)</i></p>	<p>We have updated references to Washington Invasive Species Council. We agree that an NGO may be the best entity to implement this investment. Also, we will consider how to include response if green crabs are found as part of this investment.</p>
<p>Regarding incentive programs, PSCD supports this investment. Understand value of exploring new programs, but consider direct funding to existing programs that have a proven track record in the topic area, including PSCDs. PSCDs are trained and organized to address LOs goals. Conservation districts use a model of education, technical assistance, and implementation support, and PSCD programs have addressed protection and enhancement on private marine shoreline properties. Currently have sustainable marine shoreline programs and services, marketing strategies and curricula, and a list of private marine shoreline landowners interested in some level of</p>	<p>We are considering the best way to effectively and efficiently implement the incentive program investment, and recognize that a number of entities, including conservation districts, have significant, relevant expertise and experience. We will work to ensure programs are aligned with and/or are informed by this relevant expertise.</p>

<p>shoreline enhancement project planning and implementation support. PSCDs have agreed to increase regional stewardship and share staff, develop a joint work plan, and collaborate on regional priorities with local, state, federal, and tribal stakeholders. <i>(Bill Knustsen, King Conservation District, on behalf of 12 Puget Sound Conservation Districts)</i></p>	
<p>Supports spending plan proposal, particularly the incentive program investment, but request modification. In addition to initiating new programs, support existing programs.</p> <p>Thank you for your work to align this funding cycle with the Action Agenda and work of the Local Integrating Organizations <i>(Terry Williams, San Juan County LIO)</i></p>	<p>We agree that the incentive program investment should support both new and existing programs, and have adjusted our project descriptions to reflect this.</p>
<p>In general, support draft priorities. Note that funding for restoration projects identified in the PSNERP Final Design Report is identified for future R5/6 investment. Support this, but also request a portion of R4 funding be available for this purpose. Also support funding for permanent protection of bluff-backed beaches and river delta restoration projects.</p> <p>Recommend that funds should be pooled for new and innovative cross-cutting incentives for watershed landowners implementing priority actions in local recovery plans. A flexible and simple, streamlined application process could provide critical support for implementing innovative local solutions, and our collective work to advance Puget Sound recovery. <i>(Bob Carey, The Nature Conservancy)</i></p>	<p>Although we cannot make investment in PSNERP restoration final designs an investment theme for FFY13 at this stage, one of these projects could potentially be advanced by our investment in permanent protection of bluff-backed beaches or other high priority habitat (as a first step in advancing a restoration project).</p> <p>Regarding cross-cutting investment in incentives, both the Watersheds and Marine and Nearshore LOs are or have invested in incentive approaches to achieve our intended environmental outcomes. Although we do not plan to pool funds at this time specifically for the use of incentives (given the broad range of issues incentives are being used to address), we do see the importance of communicating across the LOs about the successes and lessons learned from incentive approaches. We can commit to coordinating if opportunities arise around specific incentive programs.</p>
<p>Strategic restoration projects in urban estuaries can result in high ecological function in proportion to their size or complexity, and provide significant public exposure and appreciation for the value of restoration and protection. <i>(Port of Bellingham)</i></p>	<p>We agree with the potential value of restoration in urban settings, both ecological and in public education. Depending on funding levels, we intend to fund additional restoration in future rounds. Restoration of critical habitat and ecosystem function in urban areas could be a component.</p>
<p>Comments on four ecosystem LO proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct funding to LIO organizations for local project sponsors to implement local specific actions cited within the Action Agenda.</li> <li>- Directed funding from LOs to local specific actions.</li> <li>- When offering RFPs, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do not require match</li> <li>- Provide three months for submission of proposals</li> <li>- Simplify RFPs to minimize time required for development</li> <li>- Allow public awareness and education to be an allowable component within each RFP</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>LIO Local Near Term Action (NTA) Allocations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EPA has been approached in the past about providing block grant funding to LIOs and has decided not to distribute funding in this manner. EPA's funding is distributed through the Lead Organizations in a manner intended to directly reach the organizations appropriate for implementing each individual NTA and LNTA that will advance the regional priorities identified in the Action Agenda to the greatest extent.</li> </ul> <p><b>Directed Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- EPA will be exploring opportunities with the LOs,</li> </ul>

Cross-cutting project suggestions:

- Local Oil Spill Preparedness Projects - direct funds to accomplish local oil spill preparedness NTAs (and ongoing funding needs) from the Strait Action Area and the San Juan Islands
- Local Ambient Monitoring and Data Analysis - integrate and support local volunteer ambient monitoring and data analysis programs as part of the Coordinated Ecosystem Monitoring Program being developed by PSP

Regarding incentive program investments, allow as part of projects:

- Targeted assessment work that is designed to inform incentive programs, such as mapping to identify priority areas.
- Education through locally organized and targeted shoreline landowner workshops.
- Ample one-on-one technical and permitting assistance for private shoreline landowners

Do not require implementation beyond life of grants, which might be difficult. Support or advocate for sustainable funding of programs once established.

Regarding long-term protection of bluff-backed beaches, rely on vetted priorities within most recent local Lead Entity salmon recovery 3-Year Work Plans and, where appropriate Shoreline Master Programs (SMP), as the primary source materials for selecting projects for this funding.

Make information and data from past investments widely available in a timely manner. We understand that the development of the Marine Shoreline Design Guidance is behind schedule. Will it be available in time to inform the development of the incentive programs?

*(Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network)*

LIOs, and others involved in the Management Conference to identify potential efficiencies and implementation advantages of different funding mechanisms for LNTAs. These opportunities are likely to increase as the linkages strengthen between regional strategies and local priority implementation.

- Our LO has funded, or proposes to fund in the future, work that advances local priority actions identified in the Action Agenda by all of the LIOs (see below). Our FFY13 work plan alone is aligned with the local priorities of 9 of the 10 LIOs. For example, in the Straits, some of these investments include:

- Salmon Recovery Plans
  - Past investment in 3 Crabs Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration, and aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY14/15
- Oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response
  - Five existing investments
- Bulkhead removal (in SMP Updates, Implementation, and Intergovernmental Coordination)
  - Aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY13

- We have not required match in our more recent RFPs, and have extended timelines for submission of grant proposals, to the extent possible given the need to spend funds from EPA effectively and quickly. We will continue to work to simplify RFPs. Depending on the topic, we can consider education as a component of investments.
- Our current investments include five oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response projects. Depending on funding levels and based on the outcome of our investment in the marine component of an integrated risk assessment, we could potentially invest in additional oil spill work with FFY14/FFY15 funds.
- Given our limited funding and time for investment, we need additional information on the highest priorities for ambient monitoring, and how this would achieve our intended outcomes for Puget Sound.
- Regarding our incentive program investment, these are helpful suggestions. Targeted assessment, education, and technical assistance are all potential program elements.
- Regarding long-term protection investment, we agree and intend to rely on vetted priorities, such as PSNERP and salmon recovery plans.
- Dissemination of information and data from our

	<p>investments is a high priority, and we intend to dedicate future funds to this effort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MSDG should be available early in 2014, in advance of initiating incentive programs.</li> </ul>
<p>Key issues with LO work plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investments should more directly relate to local near term actions.</li> <li>- Need stronger and clearer information about how LOs are supporting local-level unfunded projects and priorities.</li> <li>- Majority of LO awards should begin with existing unfunded local level priorities as published in the 2012 Action Agenda.</li> <li>- The volume of non-competitive NEP funds invested in State agency programs and for expensive, individual Puget Sound projects, negatively affects local opportunities to carry out prioritize projects and achieve results.</li> <li>- LO spending plans do not optimize the expertise and solid track record of local public and private organizations and Tribes to get work done and, therefore, accomplish Puget Sound recovery.</li> <li>- Kitsap County has dedicated a lot of energy to West Central LIO. LO plans do not take local ownership into full account.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding Marine and Nearshore work plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The emphasis on action is positive (protection of shorelines, bulkhead removal, etc.)</li> <li>- Investment plan is overly specific, and doesn't allow for local governments to address their near-term actions. Recommend LO remove specific projects and directly support locally adopted unfunded priority NTAs.</li> <li>- Behavioral studies to discourage armoring are a very poor investment. There is a need for locally based science education to landowners. LO should support local definitive science, which in turn provides a strong backing for educating landowners. LO support therefore should go to local unfunded shoreline priorities to address shoreline assessments and stressors like armoring.</li> <li>- Financial incentives not sufficient to motivate changes in landowner behavior. Lack of certainty or understanding of beach processes is likely issue.</li> <li>- Need to target education at first points of contact at the local level (real estate agents and contractors) and preferably not through state level actions.</li> <li>- Regulatory exemptions for residential bulkheads must be acknowledged as one, if not THE, largest barrier to reducing net shoreline armoring. If you want to assist local governments, this is where to focus.</li> <li>- Who, specifically, is receiving funds to conduct the social marketing campaign? Why?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Our LO has funded, or proposes to fund within our six-year strategy, work that advances local priority actions identified in the Action Agenda by all of the local areas (see below). Our FFY13 work plan alone is aligned with the local priorities of 9 of the 10 local areas. For example, for the priorities identified by the West Puget Sound LIO, some of these investments include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize and protect marine and nearshore ecosystems by improving shoreline permitting, compliance monitoring, and enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aligned with Kitsap County T.A.C.T. grant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Identify priority areas where otherwise functioning drift cells and their associated processes – erosion, sediment contribution, transport and deposition – are compromised by armoring, and encourage armoring removal and erosion control alternatives that better protect and restore nearshore ecosystem processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY13</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Restoration plans for every SMP include alternatives to traditional shoreline armoring, and incentives for the removal of existing armoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY13</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Behavioral study (social marketing strategy) is an investment already identified in our FFY12 work plan.</li> <li>- We understand that financial incentives alone may not be sufficient to change behavior. Science-based education and technical assistance will likely be allowable components of incentive programs, based on research and data on the barriers and motivators for Puget Sound communities. We may also allow science-based approaches to identifying appropriate locations for incentives, which could address lack of certainty about the outcomes of alternatives to traditional armoring.</li> <li>- Although we have not invested directly in changing laws and regulations, we have invested in many projects that help improve management of the shoreline: public engagement in the process of updating SMPs (e.g. Targeted Awareness Grants), filling critical knowledge gaps that will help local governments and others better manage</li> </ul>

<p>Answers to Grant Program questions about focus of incentive program investments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Largest opportunity to have an impact is with repairs and replacements, not new, bulkheads.</li> <li>- Do not focus too narrowly, let the grant applicants make their case for programs based on local priorities.</li> <li>- Recommend funding a survey of armoring on public lands, take opportunities to demonstrate alternatives.</li> </ul> <p>Regarding investments in addition to incentive programs, easements may be more affordable than acquisition, support PSNERP projects if there is a willing and ready sponsor, very expensive PSNERP projects should not be funded, and invasive species early detection and monitoring should be supported if it is a local priority in the Action Agenda.</p> <p><i>(Kitsap County)</i></p>	<p>the shoreline (e.g. feeder bluff mapping), effective regulation grants that improve compliance and enforcement, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A contractor with expertise and experience conducting similar social marketing campaigns will be selected through our competitive RFP process.</li> <li>- Regarding incentive program investment, we will allow proposals based on local priorities (remove existing armoring, forgo new, etc.) and the outcome of our FFY12 investments.</li> <li>- Comments refer to supporting PSNERP projects that have a ready sponsor, and also not funding PSNERP projects due to their cost. Cost and timeline for completion would likely be considerations in selecting future restoration projects to fund.</li> </ul>
<p>Regarding how to engage partners in the green crab early detection and monitoring investment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Communicate benefits from participating.</li> <li>2) Educate partners on potential impacts of green crab and encourage them to also monitor the species most likely to be impacted. Maybe partner with university biology classes or environmental clubs.</li> <li>3) Encourage research into best way to control the species once they are detected.</li> <li>4) Waive scientific collection permit fees or pay the permit fees for partners until budgets are less restricted.</li> <li>5) Encourage innovative thought.</li> <li>6) Host a kick-off event and/or a post-season event to debrief, connect partners and volunteers, and to encourage cross-pollination.</li> </ol> <p>Also, consider example of Spartina monitoring/control.</p> <p><i>(Sharon Riggs, Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve)</i></p>	<p>These are helpful suggestions for how to successfully implement marine invasive species early detection and monitoring. We will likely build them into our investment.</p>
<p>Looks good. For the protection of bluff backed beaches investment, to avoid confusion, please specify that conservation easements or fee simple acquisition of shoreline property or portion of property by land trusts, public agencies and other nonprofit land conservation organizations is acceptable.</p> <p>For the [incentives for] bulkhead removal investment, please specify that acquisition or conservation easement purchase of a property or portion of a property to facilitate removal of a bulkhead and provide permanent protection is acceptable.</p> <p><i>(Peter Bahls, NW Watersheds Institute)</i></p>	<p>Acquisition could be an option for achieving our intended goals, depending on the cost.</p> <p>Also, we agree that conservation easements could be a component of our incentive programs, in order to ensure long term protection where property owners choose to forgo or remove armoring. Acquisition, however, is likely outside of the scope of incentive programs, where the goal is to motivate stewardship of the property owner.</p>
<p>Regarding incentive program investment, monitor how successful you are being as the project progresses so you can make adjustments and recommendations to guide the project.</p> <p><i>(Dave Palazzi, WA State Dept of Natural Resources)</i></p>	<p>We agree that evaluation will be an important component of the incentive programs, both during and after. We will work with grantees to develop performance measures and adjust their projects based on early results if needed.</p>

Regarding incentive program investment, urge that this effort consider lessons learned from past similar efforts, and incorporate timely technical assistance funding for local governments and property owners. Having the ability to provide needed technical assistance, at the time the property owners are aware of the benefits and interested in implementing meaningful action, is critical to any incentive program. <i>(Betsy Cooper, King County)</i>	We agree that our investment should build on lessons learned from past efforts, and see technical assistance as one of the key incentives that could be provided.
Very well done. The logic is solid, and it clearly builds on previous rounds and lays good ground work for R5/6. Perhaps you could express your funding allocation as a % range [before final budget is available] to articulate your relative priorities. In future investments, supportive of additional investment in effectiveness/ compliance monitoring, as well as advancement of beach restoration designs funded with FFY12 funds. <i>(Curtis Tanner, PSNERP)</i>	We have indicated in our work plan the relative priorities of our FFY13 investments.

### **Major Themes Feedback**

Early in development of this work plan, the Grant Program sought feedback on proposed investment themes for FFY13 funds. We received written feedback from 16 individuals or entities at that stage. The following is a summary of the comments received on areas for investment, and the Grant Program’s responses.

<b>Recommended Investment Theme</b>	<b>Grant Program Response</b>
Protect bluff-backed beaches, including NTA B2.1.1	This is proposed as a FFY13 investment theme, as well as a proposed target for FFY14/FFY15 funds, depending on funding level.
Restoration projects identified by PSNERP (NTA B2.2.1)	We have already targeted one PSNERP project for funding with FFY12 funds, and propose to potentially target additional projects with FFY14/FFY15 funds, if funding levels allow for significant investments.
Invasive species efforts, including early detection and monitoring NTA B5.3.2	This is proposed as a FFY13 investment theme, depending on funding level.
Improve regulatory protection and enforcement	We have already targeted improvements to regulatory protections and enforcement with FFY10, FFY11, and FFY12 funds. Propose to potentially target additional projects with FFY14/FFY15 funds, depending on funding level and outcomes of earlier investments.
Monitoring and science/research priorities, including salmon survival, effectiveness monitoring, and local ambient monitoring	Investment in invasive species early detection and monitoring is proposed as a FFY13 investment, depending on funding level. We have also already targeted a number of projects with FFY10, FFY11, and FFY12 funds that include monitoring or other data gathering/research. Given our limited funding and time for investment, we need additional information on the highest priority investments we could make within this investment theme, and how they would achieve our intended outcomes for Puget Sound.
Pursue cross-cutting work	This is proposed as a FFY13 investment (behavior change efforts fall within the Stewardship Lead Organization). Also, a number of our past investments have targeted cross-cutting work, and we may target additional projects with FFY14/FFY15 funds, based on the outcome of our investment in a marine risk assessment.

Actual removals of armoring	We are funding up to nine beach restoration projects focused on removing armoring or other modifications with FFY12 funds. We propose to pursue additional restoration, potentially including removal of armoring, with FFY14/FFY15 funds.
Salmon recovery plan priorities and restoration actions	Many of our current protection and restoration investments support or advance salmon recovery, and a number are identified as priorities in salmon recovery three-year work plans ( <i>see additional information below</i> ). Also, we propose to target additional high priority marine and nearshore salmon recovery plan projects, depending on project objectives and funding level, with FFY14/FFY15 funds.
Coordination and filling data gaps on MPA/reserve network	We understand that more information is needed on questions such as pressures that could be effectively addressed by establishing marine protected areas, and whether existing protected areas are addressing the highest priority threats to Puget Sound. The results of our investment in a marine risk assessment could help shed light on these questions. We also understand that developing a regional network of reserves would face significant challenges, and we need additional clarity on how we could effectively achieve desired outcomes for Puget Sound with this investment, given our limited funding and time window for investment.
Harvest and hatchery reform	Our program primarily focuses on habitat protection and restoration, and many of our investments benefit and support critical habitat for salmon and other species. While important issues, hatchery reform and harvest management do not fit well into our program's scope or mission.
Marine riparian forest enhancement	This could be an element of habitat restoration investments targeted with FFY14/FFY15 funds.
Local oil spill preparedness	Our current investments include five oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response projects. Depending on funding levels and based on the outcome of our investment in a marine risk assessment, we could potentially invest in additional oil spill work with FFY14/FFY15 funds.
Fund local priorities, LNTAs in the Puget Sound Action Agenda	Across our current and proposed investments, we have advanced priorities identified by each of the Local Integrating Organizations. <i>Please see below for examples of priorities identified by local areas that are supported or advanced by the Grant Program's six-year strategy.</i>

## Examples of Grant Program Investments in Priority Restoration and Protection Identified in Salmon Recovery Plans

### Restoration

- *Milltown Island/South Fork Skagit River Restoration*: Skagit Estuary and South Fork Skagit listed as Tier 1 priority for estuarine habitat, riverine tidal and floodplain restoration- relevance for juvenile Chinook (Skagit Watershed Council - WRIAs 3 and 4, three-year work plan)
- *Port Susan Bay Dike Set-back*: Specifically identified as one of a number of projects necessary for achieving 10 year goal identified in WRIA 5 Stillaguamish three-year work plan, which implements WRIA 5 Chinook Recovery Plan
- *Woodard-Chapman Bay Fill Removal*: Listed as a Priority Tier 1 on the South Sound 3-Year Watershed Implementation Priorities for WRIAs 13 and 14
- *Skokomish Estuary Restoration (Phase III)*: Identified in Hood Canal 3 year work plan for salmon recovery
- *3 Crabs Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration*: Identified in 3-year work plan of the North Olympia Peninsula Lead Entity

- *Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration*: Tier 1 priority in WRIA 9 Green-Duwamish three-year work plan
- *Bowman Bay Armoring Removal*: Advances Hood Canal Coordinating Council (Action Area LIO) priorities to remove shoreline - Hood Canal Summer Chum Recovery Plan
- *Fort Townsend Shoreline Restoration*: Recently added to Hood Canal Coordinating Council three-year work plan
- *Titlow Estuary Restoration*: Priority Tier 2 on Nisqually Watershed three-year work plan

### **Acquisition**

- *Point Heyer Drift Cell Preservation Phase II*: Priority in WRIA 9 Green-Duwamish three-year work plan
- *Dabob Bay Natural Area Acquisition*: Dabob Bay protection actions identified in local plans including the Hood Canal Lead Entity 3-Year work program (Hood Canal Coordinating Council 2010), which is designed to implement the Puget Sound Chinook and Hood Canal summer chum recovery plans.
- *Barnum Point Acquisition*: Identified as a priority in the WRIA 6 Island County three-year salmon recovery implementation plan (April 2010). Aligns with specific recommendations in Regional Nearshore and Marine Aspects of Salmon Recovery in Puget Sound (Puget Sound Action Team 2005). It implements recommended protection actions for Whidbey Basin (Table 6-12) (e.g. "Protect all deltas, shoreline and pocket estuaries within the entire basin from further degradation..."), fulfills objectives under the goal of maintaining nearshore and marine habitats and ecosystem processes (7.1), and implements strategy 7.2.1 to —protect functioning habitat and high quality water commensurate with the needs of viable salmon

### **Examples of Local Priorities Supported/Advanced in Grant Program Six-Year Strategy**

The following is a selection of local priorities identified in the Puget Sound Action Agenda that are aligned with the investments of our six-year strategy. These priorities are either addressed by our current investments, or could be advanced based on our proposed investment themes for FFY13, FFY14, and FFY15 funds, depending on the level of funding we receive.

#### *Whatcom: Consolidated WRIA 1 Policy Boards*

- Identify key areas for protection through conservation easements
  - Aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY13
- Continue implementing the WRIA 1 Salmonid Recovery Plan
  - Aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY14/15
- Implement habitat restoration projects
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities and proposal for FFY14/15

#### *Island County/Watershed LIO*

- Implement the Island Watershed/WRIA 6 Salmon Recovery three-year work plan
  - Past investment in Barnum Point Acquisition, and aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY14/15
- Support and fund economic research aimed at creating property owner incentives
  - Aligned with Grant Program's work plan for FFY12 – research and tools that will help local governments and others create and implement property owner incentives
- Implement protection of prioritized nearshore/marine habitats
  - Aligned with Grant Program's proposal for FFY13

- Create incentive program for landowners to remove existing bulkheads or replace them with soft shore armoring
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Seek funding to increase code compliance monitoring
  - Aligned with past investments
- Develop program to provide assistance to shoreline land owners for ecologically sound land development
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Prioritize and strategically remove derelict fishing gear
  - Aligned with past investment to remove remaining, known derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound
- Identify invasive species and vectors for introduction
  - Aligned with past investment in analysis of two vectors – ballast water and hull fouling - and proposal for FFY13 – focus on marine invasive species early detection and monitoring

*Stillaguamish and Snohomish Watersheds: Executive Steering Committee*

- With regional support, seek to strengthen protection of non-armored shorelines
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Identify and protect 100% of existing unarmored shoreline
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Protect remaining natural shoreline by encouraging soft shore armoring in bulkhead retrofits and where armoring is necessary
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Prioritize and strategically remove derelict fishing gear
  - Aligned with past investment to remove remaining, known derelict fishing nets in Puget Sound
- Implement Salmon Recovery 3-year work plan
  - Past investment in Port Susan Bay Dike Setback, and aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Large scale estuary restoration projects
  - Aligned with past investments and Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Large scale shoreline and nearshore projects to remove bank armoring and use “green” alternatives
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities and proposal for FFY14/15
- Small scale nearshore restoration
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Create design standards for soft-shore armoring
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s past investment in Marine Shoreline Design Guidance
- Local efforts to identify and eradicate invasive species impairing habitat
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13 – focus on marine invasive species early detection and monitoring

*South Sound: Alliance for a Healthy South Sound*

- Implement South Sound projects identified by PSNERP 10% feasibility list
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Implement South Sound Watersheds salmon recovery 3-year work plan

- Past investment in Woodard-Chapman Bay Dike Set-back and Titlow Estuary, and aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15

*South Central: South Central Puget Sound Caucus Group*

- Implement highest priority salmon recovery habitat protection and restoration from WRIAs 8, 9, 10 three-year work plans
  - Already supported Seahurst Park Shoreline Restoration and Point Heyer Drift Cell Preservation Phase II, and aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Acquire and/or protect high-value habitat and land at immediate risk of conversion
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Implement “green” shoreline replacements, promote green shoreline BMPs, incentives
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13

*Hood Canal: Hood Canal Coordinating Council*

- Highest priority salmon recovery projects – acquisition, protection, and restoration activities
  - Already supported multiple projects identified Hood Canal salmon recovery plans, and aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Improve programs aimed at fostering voluntary stewardship and improving re/development standards such as identifying standards for soft shore protection
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- High priority PSNERP projects with landowner support
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Restore beaches by removing and retrofitting infrastructure, set-backs, and revegetation
  - Aligned with past investments and proposal for FFY13
- Restore estuaries by removing infrastructure and setting back levees/revetments
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15

*San Juan Islands: San Juan Action Agenda Oversight Group*

- Maintain local oil spill readiness and response programs
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities
- Provide information and work with landowners regarding importance of retaining and restoring native vegetation, trees and ground cover, and geologic processes
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Improve compliance and enforcement capacity
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities
- Identify and implement shoreline protection tools including land preservation via acquisition and conservation easements, restoration, and protection of marine areas consistent with treaty rights
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Risk-based analyses to improve marine safety (vessel traffic risk analysis)
  - Aligned with past investment
- Provide convenient landowners access to technical assistance
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13

*Strait of Juan de Fuca: Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network*

- Salmon Recovery Plans
  - Past investment in 3 Crabs Nearshore and Estuarine Restoration, and aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15

- Oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response
  - Aligned with past investments
- Bulkhead removal (in SMP Updates, Implementation, and Intergovernmental Coordination)
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13

*West Puget Sound*

- Prioritize and protect marine and nearshore ecosystems by improving shoreline permitting, compliance monitoring, and enforcement
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities
- Identify priority areas where otherwise functioning drift cells and their associated processes – erosion, sediment contribution, transport and deposition – are compromised by armoring, and encourage armoring removal and erosion control alternatives that better protect and restore nearshore ecosystem processes
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Restoration plans for every SMP include alternatives to traditional shoreline armoring, and incentives for the removal of existing armoring
  - Aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13

*Skagit Watershed (no agreed upon strategies yet – these are broad preliminary ideas)*

- Protect and recover salmon
  - Already supported Milltown Island/South Fork Skagit River Restoration, and aligned with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15
- Protection of marine and nearshore ecosystems that still function well
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities, and with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY13
- Implement and maintain priority ecosystem restoration projects
  - Aligned with past investment opportunities, and with Grant Program’s proposal for FFY14/15