

National Estuary Program

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

**Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Work Plan and
Six-Year Implementation Strategy**

June 21, 2012

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



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Puget Sound Lead Organization Structure

The National Estuary Program (NEP) Lead Organization Cooperative Agreement to Protect and Restore Watersheds of Puget Sound (Watershed 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 Appendix I and introduces the general role and relationship of these Lead Organizations. This amended workplan 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 workplan 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 advance Puget Sound 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 \$8.6 million for the first two funding rounds. We anticipate receiving approximately \$3.6 million to fund Round 3 (R3) projects. 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 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, innovative, and critically important to Puget Sound recovery.

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

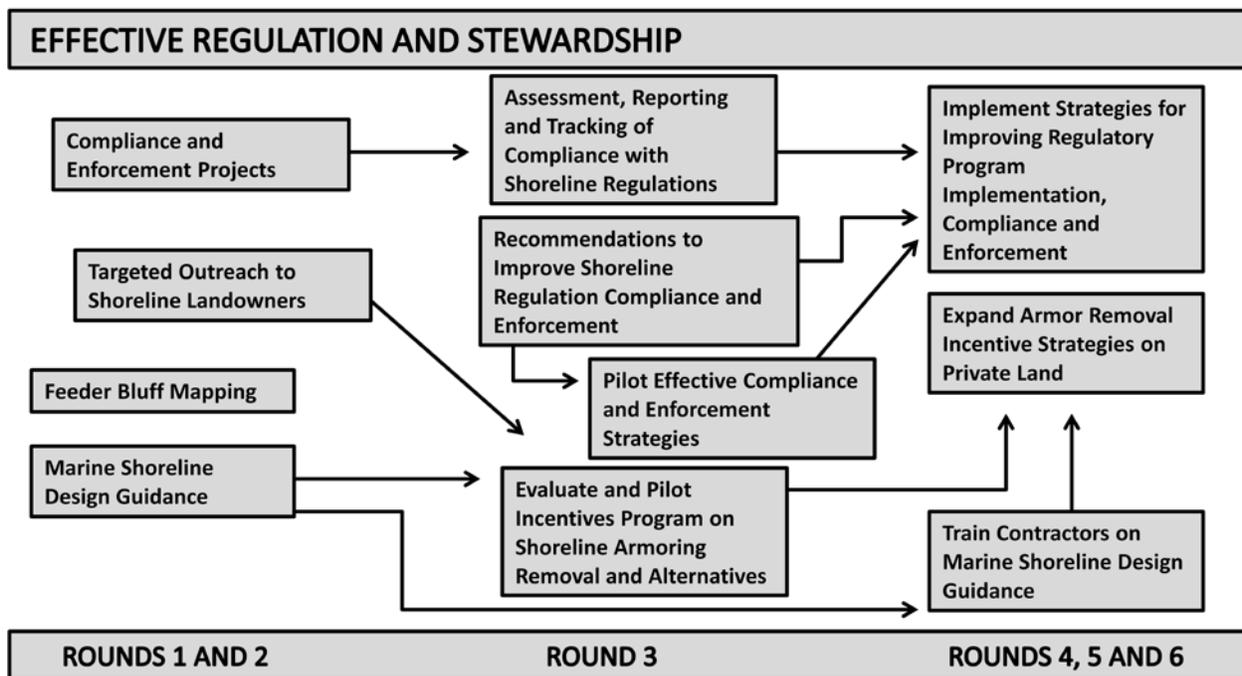
I. Effective Regulation and Stewardship

Effective regulation, as well as public and private stewardship, are crucial components of Puget Sound recovery. Without these protection mechanisms, Puget Sound will continue to lose habitat and ecosystem processes, and restoration efforts will be undermined. Investments made in this category aim to reduce human 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, pilot novel approaches. Applying adaptive management principles will help us broadly 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)

The Feeder Bluff Mapping and Marine Shoreline Design Guidance projects 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). Our round three projects specifically work to improve and strengthen enforcement and compliance strategies (B1.3), as well as to remove armoring (B2.3) and increase public access to and knowledge of shoreline and the marine ecosystem (B4.2). Rounds four through six projects will further advance these sub-strategies by increased investment in proven approaches.

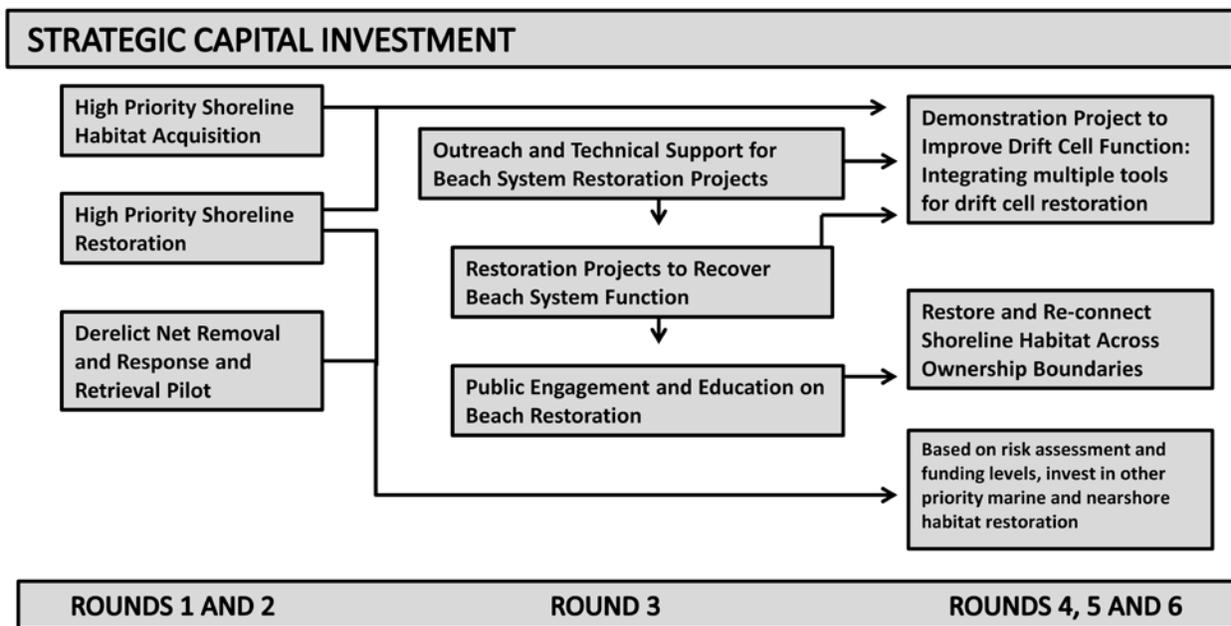
II. Strategic Capital Investment

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 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 intends to focus round three and future 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 beach system function. Long-term protection of our investments is also a high priority we are committed to pursuing. We will also target waterfront property owners to educate them on the benefits of beach restoration and the ecological impacts of hardening their shoreline. Ultimately, we strive to motivate private and public landowners to restore, protect, and steward the important habitat and ecosystem processes on their property. For citizens who may not own shoreline property, we work to help them 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.



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). Restoration projects will be targeted towards removing shoreline modifications, such as armoring, and will include a focus on increasing access to and knowledge of shoreline and marine ecosystems (B2.3 and (B4.2). Grant Program investments also focus on protecting marine ecosystems and implementing 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 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 from overwhelming 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 will allow for more precisely focused investments targeting the highest impact problems in the most effective ways. We are investing in assessments of oil spill 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.

We are funding work to combat invasive species threats by addressing ballast water and biofouling pathways (B5.3). Our investments will also address both oil spill risk assessments to inform prevention strategies (C8.1), and local spill preparedness and response (C8.2, C8.3).

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 will invest in innovative strategies and actions that achieve synergistic results across areas such as habitat protection, water quality, and public awareness and behavior. We will 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 Lead Organization coordination activities 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 round three funds, we will contribute at least 10% to work that achieves cross-cutting benefits. We will look first to our investments in Effective Regulation and Stewardship and Strategic Capital Investment to accomplish this goal. If suitable cross-cutting work does not emerge from these investments, we will potentially partner with other Lead Organizations to support work that benefits marine and nearshore habitat and species. In future rounds, we will continue to seek work that resolves problems across jurisdictions and parts of the ecosystem.

B. Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Work Plan

I. Effective Regulation and Stewardship

Introduction to Projects 1A-1C

In order to address pressures from development, the Grant Program invests in strategies that improve the success of regulatory programs in protecting habitat, species, and ecological processes in marine and nearshore environments. Regulations are in place now at the local, state, and federal levels that are intended to protect ecological resources. However, their effectiveness is reduced by problems with implementation and a lack of full compliance with existing regulations.

There are several ways in which regulations that are intended to protect Puget Sound are not fully doing so. In some cases, conditions in development permits that protect ecological resources are not properly followed, or a required permit or exemption is never obtained. In other cases, regulations are not fully implemented when jurisdictions do not condition permits to the extent of their authority. Regardless of what regulations are in place to address development pressures, compliance and implementation problems weaken protection of Puget Sound.

Through a competitive process, the Grant Program selected nine projects from across Puget Sound that will improve implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of development regulations. These projects are testing and implementing innovative tools and techniques such as assessing and improving compliance and enforcement, enhancing outreach and education for shoreline planners as well as the public, developing tools to better manage nearshore habitat, and providing technical assistance to landowners in the permitting process. In addition, the Grant Program is supporting public outreach and education in several jurisdictions updating their Shoreline Master Programs about the need to recover Puget Sound and the importance of shoreline management. In future years, the Grant Program will build on the most successful strategies to continue to support and improve implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of regulatory programs.

In order to better understand the nature of regulatory compliance across Puget Sound, we will invest in an analysis of compliance with regulations in strategic locations, as well as a review of successful approaches to compliance and enforcement. We will then use that information, in complement to the results of our current investments, to invest in targeted actions that successfully address the factors that influence compliance and ultimately improve protection of nearshore and marine environments.

Introduction to Project 2

Shoreline modifications interfere with ecological processes that create and maintain shoreline habitat, affecting species that rely on the nearshore and, ultimately, the health of Puget Sound. Reducing the amount of armored shoreline is critical to Puget Sound recovery and is one of the 2020 ecosystem recovery targets. One of the strategies for ultimately reducing the amount of shoreline armoring across Puget Sound is providing incentives to landowners to remove, set-back, or replace armoring with softer alternatives on their property. To determine the approaches to landowner incentives that are most likely to succeed, the Grant Program will invest in research and development of recommendations based on interviews and/or focus groups with landowners around Puget Sound and other relevant information. These recommendations will feed into a pilot project testing effective incentive tools and strategies.

The total of these four investments is \$850,000.

Project 1A	<u>Assessment, Reporting, and Tracking of Compliance with Shoreline Regulations</u> Effective Regulation and Stewardship New Project	
Main Objectives	The objective of this project is to assess compliance with marine and nearshore development regulations at strategic locations across Puget Sound, as well as report and follow-up on violations. Information and insights gained from this work will be used in project 1B to identify barriers to compliance and strategies to improve compliance and enforcement. Ultimately, the information will be used in project 1C to target pilot projects based on clear information about the nature of the problems.	
Description	This project will gather information and data through field surveys of the shoreline in select areas of Puget Sound, such as areas of important salmon habitat and/or areas with high levels of permits or new shoreline armoring, to document regulatory compliance with marine and nearshore development regulations. The project will also include reporting violations to the appropriate regulatory authorities and tracking the outcomes of violation reporting.	
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B1.1 – Use complete, accurate and recent information in shoreline planning and decision making at the site-specific and regional levels • Sub-Strategy B1.2 – Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations, and policies that protect the marine nearshore and estuaries, and incorporate climate change forecasts • Sub-Strategy B1.3 – Improve, strengthen and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and permits that protect the marine and nearshore ecosystems and estuaries 	
Potential Partners and Roles	Key partners will be local governments, state agencies including WA Department of Ecology, potentially NOAA and/or other federal agencies, or community/volunteer organizations such as Marine Resource Committees.	
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on shoreline permits issued in selected locations and violations found in select locations • Summary of violations reported and the outcome of the reports 	
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts in place by fall 2012 • Target completion by August 2013 	
Estimated Budget	\$200,000	
OUTCOMES	Clear information on current shoreline conditions and compliance along Puget Sound, and on the results of reporting violations, is available.	
- Short-term		
- Intermediate	Based on improved knowledge, effective local and regional strategies that improve compliance and enforcement are implemented.	
- Long-term	Protection of Puget Sound habitat and species from pressures of development is improved, leading to sustained and improved ecosystem health.	
CWA Core Program	Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program	

Project 1B	<p align="center"><u>Recommendations to Improve Shoreline Regulation Compliance and Enforcement</u></p> <p align="right">Effective Regulation and Stewardship New Project</p>
Main Objectives	The objective of this project is to identify effective strategies to improve compliance and enforcement of shoreline regulations.
Description	This project will analyze permit compliance data from the field surveys and outcomes of reporting in project 1A. It will also review existing literature on and analyses of effective regulatory program implementation, and compile other relevant existing information, such as the San Juan Initiative. Finally, a report on recommendations for improving compliance and enforcement across Puget Sound will be produced. This information will be used in project 1C.
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B1.1 – Use complete, accurate and recent information in shoreline planning and decision making at the site-specific and regional levels • Sub-Strategy B1.2 – Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations, and policies that protect the marine nearshore and estuaries, and incorporate climate change forecasts • Sub-Strategy B1.3 – Improve, strengthen and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and permits that protect the marine and nearshore ecosystems and estuaries
Potential Partners and Roles	Working closely with local governments, WA Department of Ecology, permittees, and other partners, we will hire a contractor to produce the report.
Outputs/Deliverables	This investment will result in a set of recommendations based on field work, program analyses, and existing sources of information that can be used to reduce non-compliance with shoreline development regulations. The final recommendations will be distributed and presented to stakeholders.
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP issued in Feb 2013 • Contract awarded in May 2013 • Report on recommendations due December 2013
Estimated Budget	\$150,000
OUTCOMES	
- Short-term	Information is available to stakeholders that recommends effective strategies to improve compliance and enforcement based on new data and existing information, and informs project 1C.
- Intermediate	Effective strategies are implemented.
- Long-term	Protection of Puget Sound habitat and species from pressures of development is improved, leading to sustained and improved ecosystem health.
CWA Core Program	Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program

Project 1C	<p align="center">Pilot Projects on Effective Compliance and Enforcement Strategies</p> <p align="right">Effective Regulation and Stewardship New Project</p>
Main Objectives	The objective of this project is to demonstrate effective strategies for improving compliance and enforcement.
Description	Implement compliance and enforcement pilot projects that rely on the recommendations of project 1B, as well as the early successful outcomes of other Grant Program investments in effective regulation and stewardship.
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B1.1 – Use complete, accurate and recent information in shoreline planning and decision making at the site-specific and regional levels • Sub-Strategy B1.2 – Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations, and policies that protect the marine nearshore and estuaries, and incorporate climate change forecasts • Sub-Strategy B1.3 – Improve, strengthen and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and permits that protect the marine and nearshore ecosystems and estuaries
Potential Partners and Roles	Partners will likely include local governments and state agencies that are responsible for implementing pilot projects.
Outputs/Deliverables	Multiple pilot projects that test and demonstrate effective compliance and enforcement strategies.
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts awarded in early 2014 • Pilots completed by early-mid 2015
Estimated Budget	\$200,000
OUTCOMES	
- Short-term	Lessons are learned through the outcomes of the pilot projects on the effectiveness of tested strategies.
- Intermediate	Effective strategies are transferred to other jurisdictions.
- Long-term	Protection of Puget Sound habitat and species from pressures of development is improved, leading to sustained and improved ecosystem health.
CWA Core Program	Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program

Project 2	<p align="center"><u>Evaluate and Pilot Incentives Program on Shoreline Armoring Removal and Alternatives</u></p> <p align="right">Effective Regulation and Stewardship New Project</p>
Main Objectives	<p>The objective of this project is to identify incentive approaches that will effectively encourage landowners to remove armoring or replace with softer alternatives to armoring, and to test these tools and strategies in a pilot project.</p>
Description	<p>In phase 1 of this project, we will invest in research to identify the most effective incentive strategies and recommendations on how to successfully implement them. Research will likely include literature reviews, interviews, and potentially focus groups of landowners around Puget Sound. In phase 2, this information will feed into a pilot project that tests the effective strategies. The pilot will also rely on a previous investment in developing design guidelines for armoring alternatives in Puget Sound, which should be complete by December 2013.</p>
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B2.3 – Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setbacks when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment • B2.3 NTA 1 – Homeowner Incentives for Landward Setbacks
Potential Partners and Roles	<p>We intend to run a competitive process to identify an entity to research incentives and produce recommendations. Local governments and state agencies are likely partners to implement the pilot project.</p>
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of existing successful incentive programs, interviews with individuals involved with successful programs either in the Puget Sound region or other regions, and interviews and/or focus groups with shoreline owners • Detailed guidance on effective strategies and programmatic structures for implementing incentives to remove shoreline armoring • Recommendations on establishing a working program in Puget Sound • Implementation of a pilot project based on this information and the design guidance for marine shoreline armoring alternatives
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP issued in fall 2012 • Contract awarded in October 2012 • Report on effective incentive approaches and implementation strategies due June 2013 • Contract in place for pilot project by July 2013 • Pilot project implementation October 2013-October 2014
Estimated Budget	<p>\$300,000</p>
<p>OUTCOMES</p>	
- Short-term	<p>Clear information is available on effective approaches to incentives to reduce armoring. Recommendations are available for implementing a successful incentive program in Puget Sound. Lessons are learned through testing effective approaches.</p>
- Intermediate	<p>Effective incentive strategies are implemented across Puget Sound. Increased public willingness to restore beach processes on private land. Shoreline armoring on private lands is removed, set back, or replaced with soft alternatives.</p>
- Long-term	<p>Sediment transport systems are restored. Shoreline habitat is restored. Species using nearshore habitat thrive.</p>
CWA Core Program	<p>Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program</p>

II. Strategic Capital Investments

One of the Grant Program's primary investment areas is "Strategic Capital Investment", which addresses development pressures in the nearshore and marine environments by implementing capital restoration and protection projects consistent with process-based analyses. With funds from Rounds 1 and 2, we invested in the acquisition of three shoreline parcels that contain high priority habitat, as well as in four estuary restoration projects that are priorities for salmon recovery. In FFY12, we will continue to advance our strategy by addressing removal of shoreline modifications in order to improve and restore nearshore ecosystem functions. Combined, these investments in restoring and maintaining ecosystem processes will contribute to shoreline function and increase their resiliency to climate change and other future impacts.

We understand that the need to restore the sediment delivery and transport processes that sustain Puget Sound beaches is a high priority, yet relatively few substantial projects of that nature have been identified, designed, or implemented.

The Grant Program determined that investments in restoration of physical processes and ecological functions on beaches that are accessible to the public lay a solid course for future investments in shoreline armoring removal on public land. With Round 3 funds, we will invest in publicly accessible demonstration projects, as well as outreach and education geared toward changing shoreline property owners' behavior and understanding of the impacts of shoreline modifications. In the long-term, this effort is intended to restore beach system functions through reduced demand for shoreline modifications, including armoring, on public and private land, leading to improved habitat and increased use by fish and wildlife of the shoreline. The three projects in this category are closely linked, and all are new. The total of the Round 3 investment in this category is \$2,133,262.

Project 3	<p align="center"><u>Outreach and Technical Support for Beach System Function Restoration Projects</u></p> <p align="right">Strategic Capital Investment: Habitat Restoration New Project</p>
Main Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the likelihood of successful proposals for beach system restoration projects by informing land managers of the goals of the RFP and providing guidance on proposal development; and, • Ensure that selected restoration projects are successful by providing technical assistance to project proponents
Description	<p>We will engage a restoration professional to develop and deliver presentations to land managers to explain the goals of the RFP. We will also fund technical support and assistance to the project proponents. Priority will be given to projects that are ready for construction, have publically accessible beaches with high visitation, and have opportunity for public participation.</p>
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B2.1- 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. • Sub-Strategy B2.2.- Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects and accelerate projects on public lands • Sub-Strategy B2.3- Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setback when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment
Potential Partners and Roles	<p>The Grant Program will contract to provide outreach and support to nearshore restoration specialists. A technical expert will work with the successful beach restoration project applicants, and with the public outreach contractor (Project 3).</p>
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and presentations to shoreline land managers on the goals of the Grant Program in relation to beach system restoration and the upcoming RFP. • Provide assistance with response to the RFP in order to get high quality proposals. • Provide technical assistance to successful project proponents as they construct or design their project.
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of materials and outreach to potential project proponents (July – Sept 2012) • Work with selected project managers on technical project issues (January 2013 – March 2013) • Provide technical assistance on restoration plans or construction (March 2013 – September 2013)
Estimated Budget	<p>\$50,000</p>
OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential applicants understand goals of the project • Responsive proposals are received for evaluation • Projects resulting from the RFP are designed to achieve desired outcomes <p>- Short-term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are implemented according successful designs for restoring beach system function <p>- Intermediate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach system functions are restored along Puget Sound shorelines • Increased fish and wildlife use of restored beaches • Public willingness to restore beach process on private land increased <p>- Long-term</p>
CWA Core Program	<p>Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program</p>

Project 4	<p align="center">Restoration Projects to Recover Beach System Function Strategic Capital Investment: Habitat Restoration New Project</p>
Main Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To demonstrate safe and effective beach system restoration so that shoreline property owners are more willing to remove shoreline modifications; and, • To restore the sediment delivery and transport processes that sustain Puget Sound beaches
Description	<p>An RFP will be developed to seek projects to restore beach system physical processes and ecological functions. Criteria will be developed that favors projects on publically accessible shoreline, that are designed and ready to be implemented, and that have public engagement opportunities, while also considering proposals for development of designs and projects just for removal of armoring.</p>
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B2.1- 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. • Sub-Strategy B2.2.- Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects and accelerate projects on public lands • Sub-Strategy B2.3- Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setback when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment
Potential Partners and Roles	<p>In addition to land managers, likely partners include other state and local agencies, restoration groups and other NGOs, marine resource committees or other citizen groups, and tribal governments, as well as outreach and education specialist (Project 3).</p>
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach restoration projects identified for funding • Removal of shoreline modifications • Public awareness coordination
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFP issued (September 2012) • Grants awarded (December 2012) • Projects underway (by June 2013; target substantial completion by June 2015) • <i>Part of Project 3: Public outreach/education activities September 2013 – September 2014</i>
Estimated Budget	<p>\$1,833,262 (plus \$870,578 from Rounds 1 & 2, for a total RFP budget of \$2,703,840)</p>
OUTCOMES - Short-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach restoration projects identified and substantially advanced towards completion. • Forum or information materials on beach processes and ecological functions • Shoreline modifications removed
- Intermediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater public understanding of importance of beach system functions • Shoreline modification removal process used as educational tool • Beach system function restored on shoreline
- Long-term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved habitat quality and increased fish and wildlife use of restored beaches • Public willingness to restore beach process on private land increased • Shoreline modifications are removed on more public and private land
CWA Core Program	<p>Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program</p>

Project 5	<p align="center">Public Engagement and Education on Beach Restoration Strategic Capital Investment: Habitat Restoration New Project</p>
Main Objectives	The objective of this activity is to increase awareness and support for beach restoration projects to affect behavior change so that shoreline property owners will be more likely to remove armoring or other shoreline modifications on their property or not install them in the first place.
Description	An RFP will be issued for development and implementation of an outreach, education, and media strategy for the public on shoreline processes, reducing demand for armoring, and encouraging removal of armoring. This strategy will likely include the use of social research to understand landowner perceptions of shoreline armoring.
Action Agenda Goals and Sub-Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-Strategy B2.1- 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. • Sub-Strategy B2.2- Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects and accelerate projects on public lands • Sub-Strategy B2.3- Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setback when armoring fails, needs repair, is non-protective, and during redevelopment
Potential Partners and Roles	The contractor will work closely with the Grant Program, PSP, RCO, ESRP staff, tribes, the successful beach restoration project applicants, nearby landowners, and the public
Outputs/Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a media strategy to increase public awareness • Development of public awareness and engagement opportunities at restoration projects • Pre- and post-focus groups or other techniques to determine public understanding of the need for beach system restoration and their interest in removing armoring or other modification on their property • Development of educational and presentation materials for the general public and private shoreline landowners
Estimated Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach specialist contracted (November 2012) • Focus groups or other information gathering tools developed (December 2012 – March 2013) • Preparation of materials and outreach on restoration projects (January 2013 – May 2013) • Media strategy developed (August 2013) • Presentations, outreach activities (September 2013 – September 2014)
Estimated Budget	\$250,000
OUTCOMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The general public has access to beach restoration demonstration projects • Greater understanding of the attitudes of shoreline property owners • Increased awareness of importance of beach processes and ecological functions <p>- Short-term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater public understanding of shoreline processes <p>- Intermediate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline modification removal process used as educational tool • Shoreline modifications removed <p>- Long-term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beach system function restored on private shoreline • Improve habitat quality and increased fish and wildlife use of restored beaches • Public willingness to restore beach process on private land increased • Shoreline modifications are removed on more public and private land
CWA Core Program	Protecting coastal waters and large ecosystems through the National Estuary Program

C. Federal Fiscal Year 2012 Work Plan Summary Table

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 three funds are highlighted in orange, and projects planned for rounds four through six are highlighted in blue. Investments with funds from rounds one and two are listed together.

Summary table is attached (Attach 1 Marine & Nearshore six-year table)

D. Major Accomplishments

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. Our program has made several notable achievements that allow us to address these difficult problems.

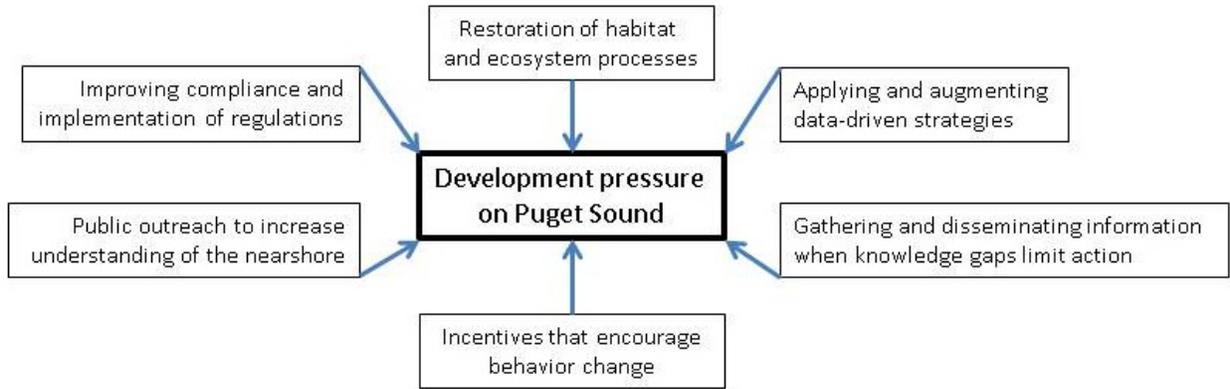
The Grant Program is a collaboration between WDFW and DNR who have statutory leadership, missions, policies and programs to protect and restore marine and nearshore habitats and resources in Washington State. As such, the Grant Program has access to and draws on the experts and resources at WDFW and 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 our 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 one of our primary accomplishments, 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 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 2012 Budget Summary

I. Budget Tables

Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration									
Six-Year Summary by Investment Area									
Total Federal Funds Available		3,089,224	5,480,000		3,600,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	9,000,000	
Date awarded to Marine & Nearshore Program		02/01/2011	08/30/2011		assumed FY12				
Federal Fiscal Year (in thousands of dollars)	2010	2011	FY10/11 Total	2012	2013	2014	2015	Potential Addtl Funding	Potential Total Funding
1 Adaptive Management ¹	\$ 278,030	\$ 739,800	\$ 1,017,830	\$ -	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 1,215,000	3,645,000	4,662,830
2 Effective Regulation and Stewardship	\$ 1,251,136	\$ 1,972,800	\$ 3,223,936	\$ 850,000	\$ 3,240,000	\$ 3,240,000	\$ 3,240,000	10,570,000	13,793,936
3 Strategic Capital Investment	\$ 695,075	\$ 1,233,000	\$ 1,928,075	\$ 2,133,262	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000	\$ 2,025,000	8,208,262	10,136,337
4 Threat Reduction: Invasives	\$ 139,015	\$ 246,600	\$ 385,615	\$ -	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	1,215,000	1,600,615
5 Threat Reduction: Oil Spill	\$ 139,015	\$ 246,600	\$ 385,615	\$ -	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	\$ 405,000	1,215,000	1,600,615
6 Set-Aside for Crosscutting Issues	\$ 278,030	\$ 493,200	\$ 771,230	\$ -	\$ 810,000	\$ 810,000	\$ 810,000	2,430,000	3,201,230
7 Program Management and Indirect Charges	\$ 308,922	\$ 548,000	\$ 856,922	\$ 616,738	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	\$ 900,000	3,316,738	4,173,660
Sum Total	\$ 3,089,224	\$ 5,480,000	\$ 8,569,224	\$ 3,600,000	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 9,000,000	30,600,000	39,169,224
NOTE: Amendment 1 included "Threat Reduction: Unsustainable Fishing" at 0.05%. These funds have been added to Strategic Capital Investments									
Percentage of Federal Dollars by Year	2010	2011	% of FFY10/11	2012	2013	2014	2015	% of Addtl	% of Total
1 Adaptive Management ¹	9%	14%	12%	0%	14%	14%	14%	12%	12%
2 Effective Regulation and Stewardship	41%	36%	38%	24%	36%	36%	36%	35%	35%
3 Strategic Capital Investment	23%	23%	23%	59%	23%	23%	23%	27%	26%
4 Threat Reduction: Invasives	5%	5%	5%	0%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%
5 Threat Reduction: Oil Spill	5%	5%	5%	0%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%
6 Set-Aside for Crosscutting Issues	9%	9%	9%	0%	9%	9%	9%	8%	8%
7 Program Management and Indirect Charges	10%	10%	10%	17%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%
Total Percent	100%	100%							
¹ First two years in Component 3 and remainder included in Component 6									

Marine and Nearshore Protection and Restoration

FFY12 Summary

Object Class	Adaptive Management ¹	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							\$ 124,095	\$ 124,095
B. Fringe Benefits							\$ 47,790	\$ 47,790
C. Travel							\$ 1,875	\$ 1,875
D. Equipment							\$ -	\$ -
E. Supplies							\$ 14,980	\$ 14,980
F. Contractual		\$ 650,000	\$ 300,000				\$ -	\$ 950,000
H. Other (grants)		\$ 200,000	\$ 1,833,262				\$ 105,051	\$ 2,138,313
I. Total Direct	\$ -	\$ 850,000	\$ 2,133,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 293,791	\$ 3,277,053
J. Indirect Charges (28.36%)	\$ -	\$ 184,340	\$ 85,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,527	\$ 322,947
K. Total	\$ -	\$ 1,034,340	\$ 2,218,342	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 347,318	\$ 3,600,000
FTE Assumptions	FFY 2012	Total Time	Yearly Salary	Yearly Rate				
DFW Environmental Planner 4	1.00	1.00	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000				
DFW Environmental Specialist 2	1.00	1.00	\$ 34,000	\$ 34,000				
DNR Environmental Planner 4	0.80	0.80	\$ 51,200	\$ 64,000				
Total			\$ 149,200	Total Estimated Salaries				
			\$ 57,442	Estimated Benefits (38.5%)				
DFW FTE/Year:			\$ 206,642.00	DNR & DFW Salaries & benefits				

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

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.

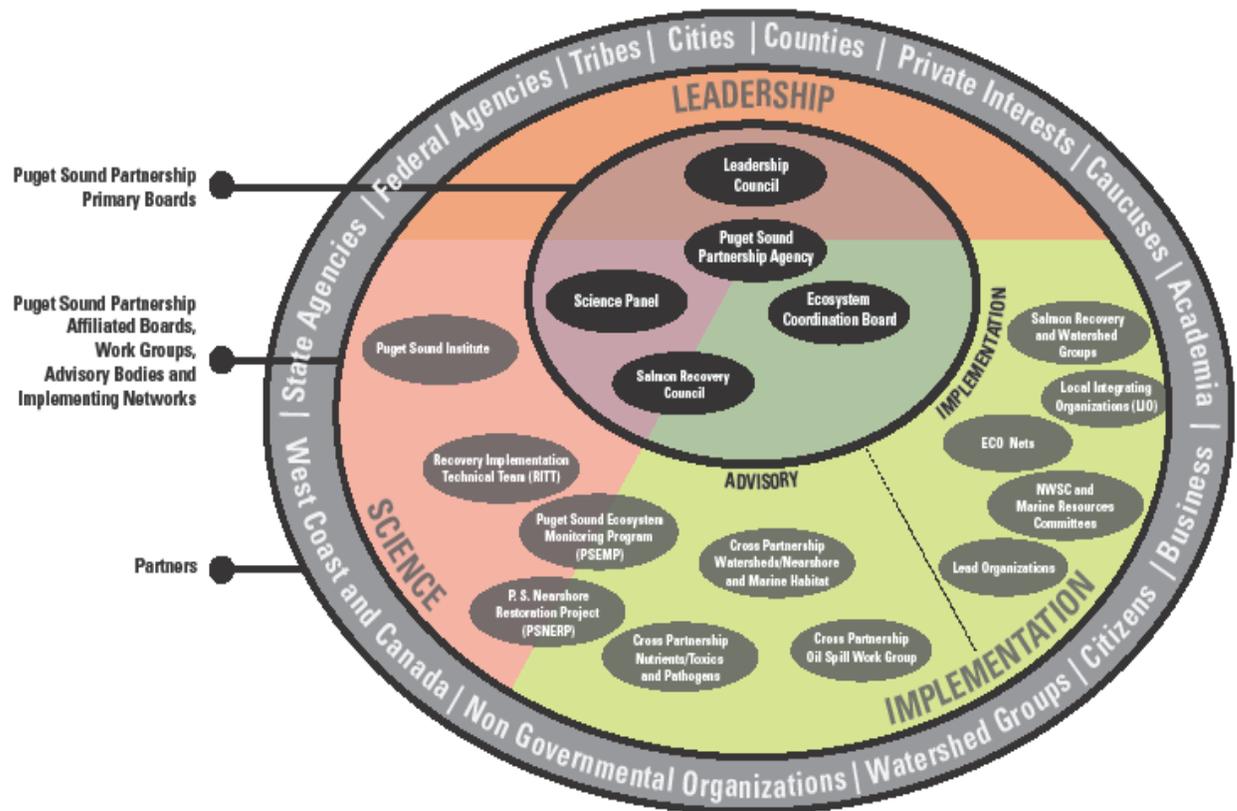
For certain topics, federal roles and activities are necessary to support implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. In some cases, EPA cooperates with and supports other federal agencies where additional federal coordination, involvement or federal program support is needed to accomplish identified 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. Comment Response Summary

Input during Implementation Plan development

The Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program consulted experts in effective regulation and strategic capital investments to inform our R3 Implementation Plan. We solicited feedback which was used to refine the approach presented to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and the Cross Partnership Advisory Group (CPAG) as our draft round three work plan and six-year strategies. The following is a selection of key themes from the early feedback we received that has influenced our approach or will be used to ultimately shape the projects we fund.

Some comments received require more substantial technical and policy discussions among multiple parties and are beyond the scope of the LO work plan response to comments. Therefore, some responses, where noted, are works in progress.

Strategic Capital Investment Feedback

- Our portfolio of investments is well-balanced and we are addressing a relatively under-addressed project type, namely beach system restoration. This is our greatest restoration need, but it is uncertain whether suitable projects will be available in the short-term.
- It could be ambitious to expect several suitable beach system restoration projects. We should consider a scenario in which we do not receive the number or types of proposals we are expecting and remain somewhat flexible in our approach. Investing in early outreach and technical assistance should help generate better projects.
- Our focus on landowner and public awareness and education (Effective Regulation project 1C) should include concepts on both protecting and restoring shorelines because both are needed to achieve our goal of no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. We need to educate (particularly private) property owners about the importance of protecting existing shore functions, functions that are typically degraded by new armoring.
- There are several Puget Sound sites that have mature restored shorelines that could provide good opportunities for public viewing and education.
- Integrating restoration and regulatory protection in order to break down barriers to sediment supply makes a lot of sense, as does focusing on public lands in order to generate accomplishments and success stories to engage private landowners.

Response: The ultimate goals of our restoration strategy in FY12 (R3) are to improve beach system function and to influence landowners to minimize modifications on their shorelines that negatively impact beaches. One of the key elements of our strategy, therefore, is accessibility for the public to view and learn from the restoration projects we fund. We intend to be flexible on ownership of lands where we invest in restoration (for example, state or local government, tribal, NGO) in order to increase the opportunities for restoration, as long as the projects meet both goals.

We agree that educating the public and landowners should include important concepts on both restoring and protecting shorelines. We will consider this when developing the scope of the Effective Regulation project 1C. We will also look to existing successful restoration sites to demonstrate to the public the restoration possibilities for their shorelines.

Effective Regulation

- Data on actual shoreline conditions compared to permits will be very useful, however in many cases this information will not provide a simple solution regarding how to improve compliance.
- Regarding Effective Regulation project 1B, evaluating information on compliance and developing recommendations will be challenging. It will be important to provide opportunities for feedback from local governments, construction firms, and other stakeholders, and input should be obtained well before the recommendations are finalized.
- It will be important to include partners in this work, such as WA Department of Ecology and construction firms.
- We should also include a final step of presentation and distribution of the information and recommendations to stakeholders.

Response: We agree that analyzing information on compliance and producing recommendations will be a significant effort. We believe the budget for this investment (\$150,000) will allow for a thorough and successful product. In refining the scope for the project, we will consider how to involve and ultimately communicate the information to partners and stakeholders.

Comments from Cross-Partnership Advisory Group on Draft Round Three Work Plan and Six-Year Strategies (Distributed 5/17/12, Presented 5/22/12)

Cross-Partnership Advisory Group meeting, 5/22/12

Comments – Effective Regulation and Stewardship	Response
<i>Alan Chapman, Lummi Nation:</i> We could invest in an evaluation of sufficient vs. insufficient regulations. We could develop a test case in an area with strong regulations and one where they are not to determine where the habitat is better off.	As we move forward, we will take into consideration how we could assess the effectiveness of existing regulations in meeting their intended objectives. Although we do not believe it is within the scope of the Grant Program to pursue changes to laws, our investments do strive to provide critical information on pressures to the marine and nearshore environments and to improve protection provided by existing regulations. The Grant Program will use this information to improve our marine and nearshore regulatory strategies over time and this information will also be available to governments, non-profits, and members of the public who are interested in the effectiveness of regulations.
<i>Stan Walsh, SRSC:</i> What about the single family residence permit exemption [under existing Washington State Law]? We could evaluate if specific permitted bulkheads are necessary (for instance, is the bulkhead actually protecting critical structures vs. yard, trees, gazebo. etc.?). We have the potential for analysis of actual protection provided by rules, and whether they are properly implemented.	
<i>Bob Carey, TNC:</i> We cannot achieve no-net-loss with the [single family residence bulkhead, substantial development permit exemption]. Our investment should be designed to give us a better understanding of the impact of the exemption on habitat. It would be valuable to gain understanding of what we can do within the existing rules to protect, and provide more information on the impact of actual rules, with recommendations to overcome existing rules not being protective. Does our investment in feeder bluff mapping include sea level rise considerations? Does it indicate areas that will become sediment delivery areas or change in rates of sediment delivery as sea level changes? Forecasts could be helpful in providing increased protection.	
<i>Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC:</i> It is important to reduce demand for armoring. There are misperceptions surrounding when bulkheads are	

needed and lack of knowledge about the consequences. Also, there are misperceptions about the relative importance of upland runoff vs. wave action on coastal erosion. People might not realize actions such as vegetation clearing could cause erosion. Outreach, incentives, and soft-shore strategies are important components of reducing demand for shoreline armoring.	intended to improve public awareness and reduced demand for shoreline armoring.
<i>Barbara Rosenkotter, San Juan County:</i> The San Juan Initiative would offer some useful hypotheses to work from. Are there specific places you are looking at for effective regulation projects?	We intend to consider and build on existing work, such as the San Juan Initiative, and investments we have already made.
<i>Lawrence Sullivan, NWIFC:</i> Will the investment in shoreline tracking and monitoring happen from a boat? Are tribes eligible to do this work?	We have not yet finalized the scope of this project, but plan to do so by fall 2012. We will consider the eligibility of tribes and other interested entities depending on the scope.
Comments – Strategic Capital Investments	
<i>Alan Chapman, Lummi Nation:</i> What are the functions we are working to restore or protect, geological or biological? Will you be looking at priority locations? Provide clear definition of what results we actually want in restoring habitat. Bellingham has some example projects. Regarding cost-effectiveness of acquisition, one model is to buy shoreline property, preserve key areas, and re-sell remaining property for a smaller net cost.	In order to achieve healthy habitat, we invest in protecting and restoring the ecosystem functions that create and maintain habitat. We could consider locations of priority habitat in order to assist in selecting projects.
<i>Stan Walsh, SRSC:</i> What are our timeline expectations? These projects can take years to get moving.	We understand that designing and implementing successful restoration projects can take years. We will strive to identify projects that are ready to be implemented in the near-term.
<i>Lawrence Sullivan, NWIFC:</i> If we fund project design, will the sponsor be required to seek implementation/construction phase funding? How can we still leverage design projects?	We will take this into consideration when we refine the scope of our beach system restoration RFP.
<i>Bob Carey, TNC:</i> Likes the attention on critical beach systems. Don't lose sight of the need for acquisition. We've only lost 25% of beach habitat, as opposed to flood plain ecosystems which are essentially gone. We can leverage other tools such as conservation easements.	We agree with the need to protect intact systems, which is a focus for our protection and restoration investments. We will continue to consider the effectiveness of acquisitions as a Grant Program investment strategy, in light of future funding amounts.
<i>Rebecca Benjamin, North Olympia Salmon Coalition:</i> Large public lands projects might not appear relevant to landowners and may have too localized an outreach effect. Jefferson County has done some soft-shore projects that could be examples. Having smaller local projects is important. Need demonstrations on private property.	We agree, and have shifted our approach to focus on restoration projects that are likely to be visited by the public, whether on public lands or not. We anticipate this approach will provide us more diverse project options than a focus on public lands alone. We also agree that leveraging existing successful restoration projects in our public outreach strategies will strengthen our approach, and plan to
<i>Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC:</i> Public lands projects are good, but very different from private lands. Need to change perception about what is desirable for beaches. We should consider a large private "street of dreams" type project, and incorporate incentive programs.	
<i>Barbara Rosenkotter, San Juan County:</i> We could leverage current or	

<p>existing work to jumpstart the outreach component. In terms of education, understanding of the function of beach systems is critical. If we can reduce the demand for bulkheads, we could encourage only installing bulkheads to protect critical infrastructure. Include this in outreach.</p>	<p>include these sites. Ultimately, we intend to provide information and demonstrations to the public in order to improve awareness about the impacts and alternatives to hard shoreline armoring.</p>
<p>Comments – Additional Relevant Comments</p>	
<p>There should be some way to look at smaller jurisdictions, some way to spread our funding.</p>	<p>These are important points that we believe the Lead Organizations collectively should continue to discuss.</p>
<p>More time for working on a pre-proposal is helpful for sponsor organizations. A significant quantity of work goes into the coordinating, building partnerships, and submitting a proposal. If there is a pre-proposal, groups can decide if it is worth putting a great deal of work into a large proposal that may not be competitive.</p>	
<p>Will there be match and partnering requirements? Match can be a significant barrier to some potential sponsors.</p>	

Ginny Broadhurst, NWSC

Comment	Response
<p>I think the marine/nearshore investment strategy is well thought out. I appreciate all that has gone into developing this to consider short and long term needs and results. There are many challenges and I think you’ve done a nice job of determining where you can make a difference with this funding.</p> <p>As I said on the phone, there’s a lot of mis-information out there that drives people to armor their shorelines. I don’t think we’ll solve the problem through education but I think it’s an important part to reduce demand, and we need strict enforcement of existing regulations.</p>	<p>Reducing demand is the focus of our investment in public outreach and awareness, as well as in developing incentive strategies to reduce armoring. We are also focused on improving enforcement in our regulation investments.</p>

Todd Hass, PSP

Comment	Response
<p>I want to recommend that the LO consider evaluating whether/how there may be opportunities for future funding for or pursuit of NTA B 1.1.1 (in quotes below), most likely in the Adaptive Management investment area. The NTA outlines an effort to pursue a map based integration/ harmonization of various science-based priorities for nearshore protection. It was first developed by the shoreline alteration IDT [Inter Disciplinary Team organized by the Puget Sound Partnership to assist with development of the 2012 Action Agenda] to promote habitat protection, and serve as an organizational foundation/prerequisite for subsequent protection and restoration substrategies in the AA. For additional context, the associated substrategy, B 1.1 scored highly overall (7) in the preliminary “Rankings of Action Agenda Sub-strategies” and two other substrategies (B 2.1 and B 1.2, ranked 3 and 4 respectively) actually depend to a moderate degree on its completion.</p>	<p>We appreciate this suggestion and will continue to seek input on priorities for investment in restoration and protection that we could consider in the future.</p>

“B 1.1.1 PSP will lead the integration of existing science-based, geographic priorities for nearshore protection, restoration, enhancement and managed growth by July 2014. This includes identifying areas where local inventories and sediment supply priorities overlap with high-value areas for salmon, shellfish, and other natural resources at the drift-cell scale. The outcome of this effort will be agreed upon maps or other documents showing the science-based priorities for protection, restoration, enhancement, and managed growth at a drift cell (or below) scale, as well as outreach to implementers to consider this information as part of prioritization efforts including capital projects.”

Bob Carey, The Nature Conservancy

Comment	Response
<p>Shoreline armoring. This is arguably the biggest threat to Puget Sound’s nearshore ecosystem. The proposed focus of the Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program on enforcement and permitting issues is appropriate but probably insufficient given the single family exemption [under existing Washington State Law]. Work funded under this program should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A determination of the extent to which ongoing shoreline armoring can be reduced through changes in the permitting and enforcement programs and the extent to which it cannot; and 2. The development of a <i>viable</i> strategy to overcome the threat that will still remain given the existence of the single family exemption. This is a complex issues that has political and legal ramifications – see, for example, the attached document “The Legal Implications of Sea Level Rise in Washington,” done for UW Climate Impacts Group, which includes among other things, the following: <p><i>“Because the public trust doctrine requires that the state hold its coastal resources in perpetual trust for the people and arguably requires the state to protect those resources, it is often used to justify rolling easements or any other prohibitions against shoreline armoring. Although not yet settled in Washington, the public trust doctrine presumably attaches to shores regardless of their location because the public trust extends up to the ordinary high water mark. As the ordinary high water mark migrates inland, so should the public trust. Similarly, if the ordinary high water mark moves seaward through accretion, so should the public trust. Because a sea wall prevents the ordinary high water mark from migrating landward, it arguably denies the public its reversionary trust interest. It also, arguable, destroys the public’s trust interest in the beach itself because armoring often causes beaches to disappear as a result of increased erosion activity.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that statutes authorizing shoreline armoring, like the Shoreline Management Act, may only be valid if they maintain public trust rights. This issue has not yet been raised in Washington. But policymakers should be aware that state authorization of armoring could lead to potentially successful litigation based on this theory.”</i></p>	<p>Although we do not believe it is within the scope of the Grant Program to pursue changes to laws, our investments do strive to provide critical information on pressures to the marine and nearshore environments and to improve protection provided by existing regulations. We will continue to consider addressing key knowledge gaps that emerge as regional priorities, as well as actions we can take to improve the effectiveness of regulations in protecting marine and nearshore habitat and ecosystem functions. The Grant Program will use this information to improve our marine and nearshore regulatory strategies over time and this information will also be available to governments, non-profits, and members of the public who are interested in the effectiveness of regulations.</p>

WDFW doesn't need to lead this work. But, as this issue is repeatedly identified as a major recovery barrier, it could fund the development of a viable strategy.	
Shoreline protection. We also appreciate the focus on bluff-beach systems. However, we believe that insofar as these systems are relatively less degraded than other nearshore systems (pocket estuaries, etc.) there is a critical opportunity to advance protection of this system type that isn't afforded other systems. In addition to regulatory approaches, the Grant Program should specifically prioritize and fund efforts to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire easements, fee titles or use other voluntary mechanisms to protect those bluff systems that have been identified as highest priority (by PSNERP and/or other relevant studies); and 2. Develop new innovative approaches to fund or otherwise bring higher levels of protection to shorelines. 	We will continue to consider in the future which strategies will most effectively protect marine and nearshore environments, as well as innovative approaches that are identified by the region to improve protection.

John Cambalik, Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network, Strait and Sound Environmental

These comments were approved by a majority of the members of the Strait ERN Steering Group.

Comment	Response
Comment period was too short. It does not allow for a comprehensive and collaborative approach.	We understand that the short timeframe was difficult, and appreciate the feedback offered, given the time constraint. Our short time period for response was based on EPA's deadline.
In the near term (R3), member organizations of LIOs will have limited opportunity to effectively apply for funding to accomplish a meaningful number of specific actions for their watershed related NTAs listed within the 2012 Puget Sound Action Agenda within this biennium.	We believe our beach system restoration RFP, as well as our Effective Regulation investments (1C and 2) will offer opportunities for projects at a local scale.
Overall, the actions proposed seem too focused on studying, planning, investigating, and piloting and not on implementing actions at the local level.	The majority of our funding is allocated to on-the-ground beach system restoration projects. Although investigation and reporting are part of Effective Regulation projects 1B and 2, we plan to take action by implementing the recommendations in these reports in projects 1C and 2.
With each category of investment for R3, it is important to effectively represent and ultimately fund actions across a diversity of development types - urban, rural, and urbanizing areas - that are easily accessible and relevant to local geographic areas.	We will take this into consideration as we refine the scope of our R3 investments.
Collaboration to prepare high quality proposals takes time. One-month turn around for submitting proposals is too short. Pre-proposals are effective for minimize time wasted for applicants and to develop higher quality proposals.	We will take this into consideration as we implement our investments.
The amount of money in R3 is too low to make meaningful gains in the	We agree that it is costly to restore

short-term in achieving net gain in unarmored shoreline.	shorelines, and are attempting to leverage grant dollars by addressing broader behavior change with our outreach and education strategies.
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Comments from Tribes and NWIFC on Draft R3 Work Plan and Funding Process (Discussed 5/16)

NWIFC memo to EPA – 5/30

Comment	Response
Regarding consistency with the federal response to the Treaty Rights at Risk paper - USFWS proposes a web-based system to allow citizen monitoring of shoreline hardening and reporting of unauthorized activities. Not indicated in work plan. More involvement from key federal agencies would likely better support alignment with federal laws and objectives.	Feedback we received on this point from USFWS indicated that this project was proposed, but is not funded. We intend to coordinate with federal agencies on our effective regulation investments and shared priorities.
Concern that the schedule for engagement, review, and for meaningful response is unduly compressed.	We understand that the short timeframe was difficult, and appreciate the feedback offered.
Ensure NEP funding and LO work plans get applied in a manner that is consistent with EPA’s commitment to align work plans and sub-award criteria with salmon recovery plans and applicable water quality standards.	We believe our focus on addressing development pressures is critical to and consistent with salmon recovery, as well as broader Puget Sound recovery.
It is absolutely necessary for resources managers to be apprised of the works being conducted in their watersheds.	EPA has committed to sharing information on selected projects with tribes and providing opportunities for feedback.