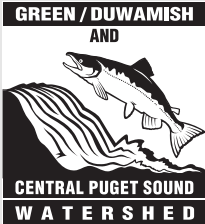


WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) STEERING COMMITTEE



Auburn
Burien
Covington
Kent
King County
Normandy Park
Renton
Seattle
Tukwila

Port of Seattle
Covington Water District
King Conservation District
Tacoma Public Utilities
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department of Ecology
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Natural Resources

Washington Environmental Council
Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance
Trout Unlimited

The Boeing Company
Plum Creek
Timber Company
Master Builders Association
South County Chambers of Commerce Coalition
King County Agricultural Commission
King County Livestock Oversight Committee

May 2002

Dear Salmon Conservation Partner:

On behalf of the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound (WRIA 9) Steering Committee, I am pleased to send you this *Near-Term Action Agenda (NTAA)* for salmon habitat conservation in our watershed. It is our hope that our local government partners will use this *Agenda* to help protect and restore salmon habitat in our watershed.



The *NTAA* recommends projects, policies, programs, practices, and studies for WRIA 9 that have a high potential for benefiting salmon. Actions are focused on chinook salmon and bull trout, which were listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1999. The *NTAA* is the result of four years of collaborative efforts and one year of sustained discussion among elected officials, city and county staff, business and environmental groups, scientists, and concerned citizens. Its recommendations are based on the scientific foundation of the WRIA 9 Habitat Limiting Factors and Reconnaissance Assessment Report (December 2000). This *NTAA* provides guidance for salmon habitat conservation in our watershed while we work on a long-term Comprehensive Salmon Conservation Plan.

The *NTAA* focuses on habitat. Of course, loss and degradation of habitat are only some of the factors contributing to the decline of salmon. Hatchery management, harvest, and dams also are important and are being addressed in other forums. However, as local governments and citizens, we have the authority and responsibility for much of the habitat in our watershed. By doing our part, we will contribute to larger, regional efforts to recover threatened species of salmon.

We selected actions for the *NTAA* using two key principles:

- Are we confident that the action will help salmon?
- Is the action *doable* in the next 2-4 years?

The resulting list of actions is not a catalog of every good idea that *could* be done; rather, it is a list of priority actions that we think can be done.

Each jurisdiction will decide how to implement the recommendations of the *Near-Term Action Agenda*. We believe community/environmental groups also will continue to play an important role and the *NTAA* identifies actions where their involvement will be particularly helpful.

To track progress, the Steering Committee is asking local governments and other implementers to report annually on steps taken to carry out the recommendations of this document. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead as we implement this *Near-Term Action Agenda* for salmon habitat conservation.

Sincerely,

Dwight Pelz, Chair, WRIA 9 Steering Committee
Councilmember, King County Council

Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including: Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila