

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE: Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8 Salmon Recovery
Council Update
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
PRESENTED BY: Rika Cecil, Environmental Programs Coordinator

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

The purpose of this staff report is to provide Council an update on the activities of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8 – Water Resource Inventory Area #8) and their salmon recovery efforts.

Chinook salmon are found in McAleer Creek in Shoreline. In 1999, the federal government listed Puget Sound Chinook salmon as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Salmon have historically been, and continue to represent, a vital part of the culture and economy in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8), which includes Shoreline. Under the ESA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is required to develop and implement a plan to address recovery of the species. To reflect local conditions, NOAA agreed to allow WRIAs to develop the draft salmon recovery plans for their approval.

In 2001, 27 local governments in King and Snohomish counties, including the City of Shoreline, signed an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to create the WRIA 8 Forum and jointly fund the development of a conservation plan to protect and restore Chinook salmon.

After the development of the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan* (the Plan) in 2005, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) was created to oversee the implementation of the Plan. Currently, Councilmembers Janet Way and Chris Eggen attend the SRC’s bi-monthly meetings.

Since the Governor has authorized the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), made up of citizens, governments, tribes, scientists and businesses to develop a Puget Sound regional recovery plan, WRIA 8 has submitted its Salmon Conservation Plan to the PSP for inclusion into the regional recovery plan for NOAA’s review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

In 2010, the City will support the regional WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council with \$16,128 in funds in the Surface Water Management budget.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required.

Approved By:

City Manager



City Attorney

BACKGROUND

- In 2001, 27 local governments in King and Snohomish counties, including the City of Shoreline, signed an Interlocal Agreement to create the WRIA 8 Forum and jointly fund the development of a conservation plan to protect and restore Chinook salmon.
- On July 25, 2005, the Council adopted Resolution No. 232, ratifying the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.
- On November 28, 2005, the City Council authorized the extension of the WRIA 8 ILA through December 31, 2006.
- On October 16, 2006, the Council ratified the current ILA, effective January 2007 through 2015, which provides the governance structure for implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan and creates the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC).

DISCUSSION

Since local governments have jurisdiction over the habitat aspects of Chinook survival, the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan focuses on salmon habitat conservation. Actions by municipalities that can lead to salmon recovery include land use and stormwater management policies and programs, habitat restoration and protection projects, and public involvement activities. Since salmon harvest and hatchery actions will affect salmon recovery, PSP will integrate these considerations with the Plan's habitat recommendations.

The WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan identifies actions in subareas for each salmon population, based on relative watershed condition and Chinook abundance and use. Tier 1 areas have the highest quality habitat and fish abundance and/or use; Tier 2 areas are for enhancement of spatial structure and diversity that will lead to salmon population expansion into those areas; Tier 3 areas have relatively the most degraded habitat and infrequent Chinook use.

Since Shoreline is considered a Tier 3 subarea, our local actions include improving and restoring water quality and natural hydrologic process through habitat restoration, public outreach and stormwater enhancements. Examples include the following:

- Installation of fish passable culverts on Corliss Place south of Ronald Bog
- Adoption of the 2009 State Department of Ecology Stormwater Manual that includes low impact development (LID)
- LID implementation in the southeast Shoreline Green Street project that will improve water quality and reduce stormwater flows
- Habitat and/or wetland restoration projects in Ballinger, Boeing and Thornton Creek watersheds

- Stormwater improvement projects in the Boeing Creek watershed (Pan Terra and North Pond) and Thornton Creek watershed (Cromwell Park stormwater wetland) to reduce peak flows and improve water quality.
- Environmental Mini-Grant support for water quality monitoring, habitat restoration, and/or storm drain stenciling by students at Meridian Park, Echo Lake and Parkwood Elementary Schools
- Nearshore workshops that helped Richmond Beach residents become stewards and protect the important, but fragile nearshore environment
- NPDES Permit implementation that reduces pollution and improves water quality through public outreach of best management practices for car maintenance, pet waste and yard care, among others.

Several goals and policies in the City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan support the WRIA 8 and PSP salmon recovery plans, including the following:

- Goal EN I: Through leadership, policy, and regulation, the City shall strive to minimize impacts on the natural environment. The city shall lead and support efforts to protect and improve the natural environment, protect and preserve environmentally critical areas, and minimize pollution and the waste of energy and materials.
- Goal EN III: Protect, enhance and restore habitat of sufficient diversity and abundance to sustain existing indigenous fish and wildlife populations. Balance the conditional right of private property owners to develop and alter land with the protection of native vegetation and critical areas.
- Goal EN VI: Preserve, protect and, where feasible, restore wetlands, shorelines, surface water and ground water for wildlife, appropriate human use, and the maintenance of hydrological and ecological processes.
- Policy ENh: Solutions to stream habitat problems should focus on those types of problems that first protect and preserve existing habitat, then enhance and expand habitat in areas where wild anadromous fish are present, and lastly, enhance and expand habitat in areas where other wild fish are present.
- Policy EN61: The City shall work with citizen volunteers, state and federal agencies, and Indian tribes to identify, prioritize, and eliminate physical barriers and other impediments to anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat.

Similarly, implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan helps the City meet its 2009-2010 Council Work Plan Goal #4: Create an environmentally sustainable community.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required.

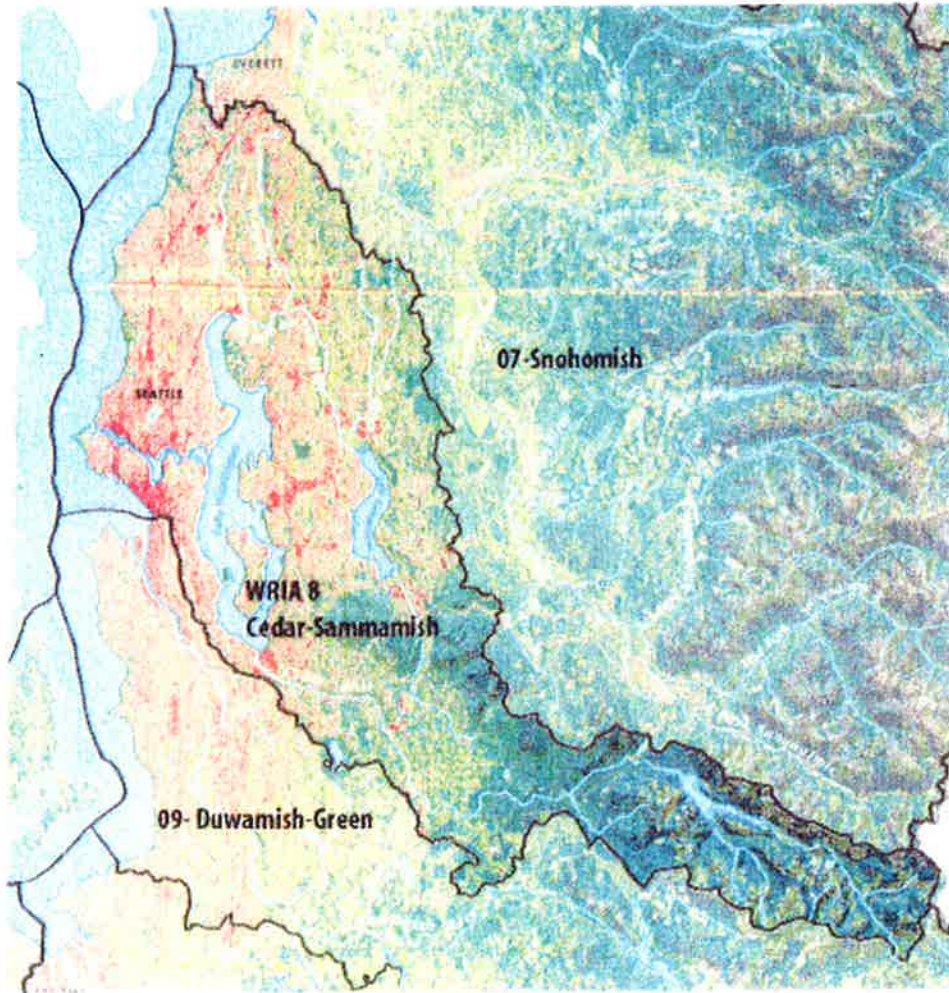
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – McAleer Watershed Map
Attachment B – WRIA 8 Map



Attachment B – WRIA 8

Lake Washington / Cedar / Sammamish Watershed



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