

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM
CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON

AGENDA TITLE:	Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council Update
DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
PRESENTED BY:	Rika Cecil, Environmental Programs Coordinator Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator
ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing

PROBLEM/ISSUE STATEMENT:

Puget Sound Chinook Salmon are found within Shoreline in McAleer Creek. In addition, Shoreline's marine near-shore is an important pathway for migrating juvenile salmon. When Chinook Salmon were listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1999, Council authorized the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to help create the WRIA 8 Forum of 27 local jurisdictions in King and Snohomish Counties. The goal of the Forum was to jointly fund the development and implementation of a Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan that would meet ESA requirements.

Tonight's discussion provides an opportunity, prior to Council consideration of an updated ILA this fall, to review the City's interaction with WRIA 8 and to be provided with an update on the Salmon Recovery Council's current efforts, which will be presented by Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Watershed Coordinator.

RESOURCE/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The 2015 City budget, which was approved by Council on November 24, 2014, includes \$16,337 in Surface Water Management funds to support the Salmon Recovery Council's continued implementation of the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

RECOMMENDATION

No action is required as this item is for discussion purposes only.

Approved By: City Manager **DT** City Attorney **MK**

BACKGROUND

Puget Sound Chinook Salmon are found within Shoreline in McAleer Creek. In addition, Shoreline's marine near-shore is an important pathway for migrating juvenile salmon. When Chinook Salmon were listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1999, Council authorized the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) to help create the WRIA 8 Forum of 27 local jurisdictions in King and Snohomish Counties. A map denoting the WRIA 8 Watershed is attached to this staff report as Attachment A. The goal of the WRIA 8 Forum was to jointly fund the development and implementation of a Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan that would meet ESA requirements.

In 2001, Council approved the ILA to create the WRIA 8 Forum and jointly fund the development of a conservation plan to protect and restore Chinook Salmon. As well, in 2005, Council adopted Resolution No. 232 to ratify the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (Plan), and authorized the extension of the WRIA 8 ILA. In 2006, Council ratified the current ILA, effective January 2007 through 2015, to provide the governance structure for implementation of the WRIA 8 Plan and create the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council. Current and former Shoreline City Councilmembers Rich Gustafson, Janet Way, Chris Eggen, Chris Roberts, and Jesse Salomon have actively represented the City at the WRIA 8 Forum and/or the Salmon Recovery Council.

The Plan received federal approval in 2007, and it continues to be implemented through habitat restoration projects, legislation, and education. In 2011, the Five-Year Implementation Progress Report identified the broad areas of continued concern (Attachment B).

DISCUSSION

In 2015, staff anticipates that the Council will be interested in reaffirming its commitment to salmon recovery by signing the 2016-2025 WRIA 8 ILA to continue the important work of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council. This action will be scheduled for Council consideration in early fall.

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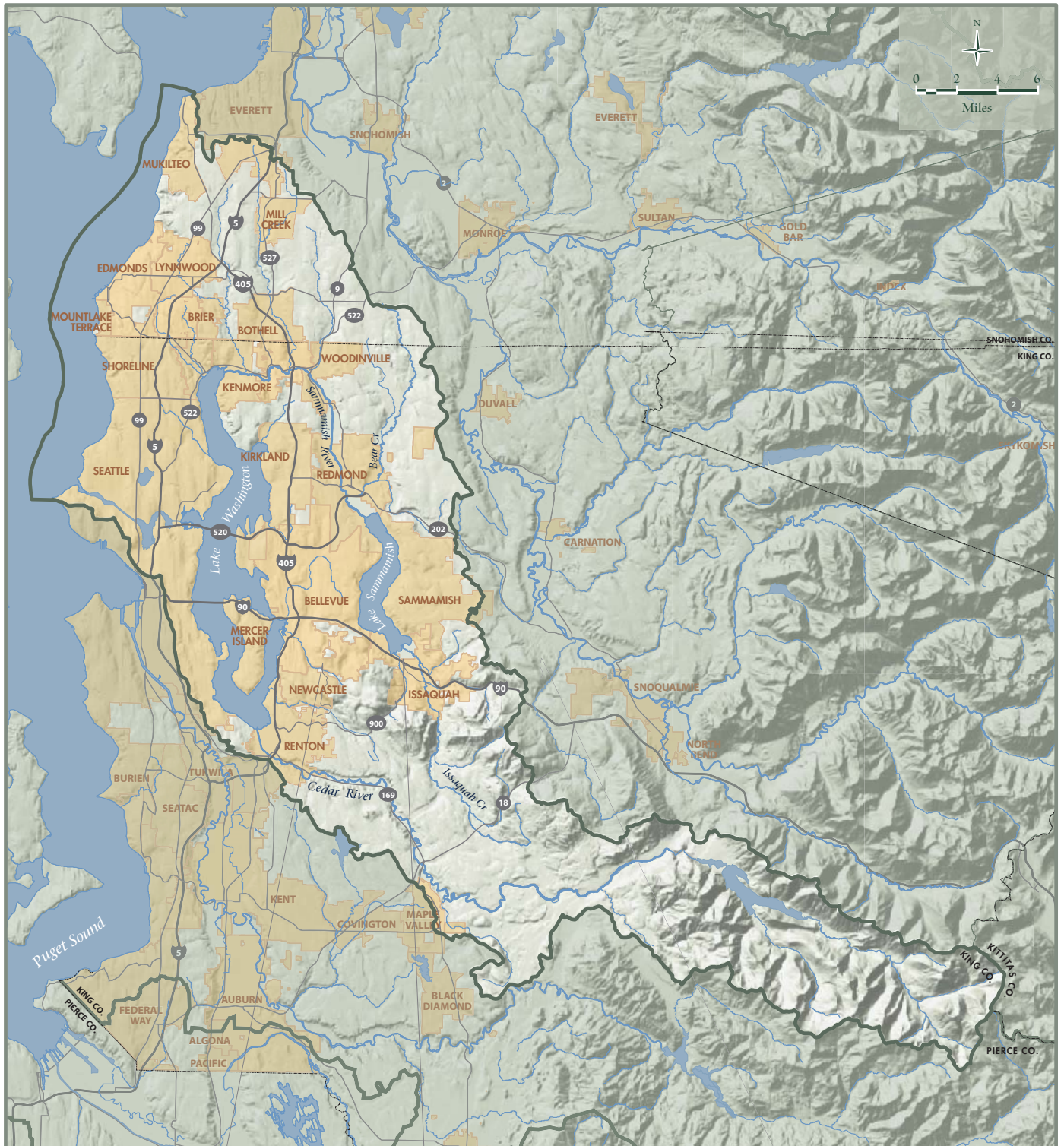
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: WRIA 8 Watershed Map

Attachment B: Our Future: Challenges and Opportunities

Attachment A
WRIA 8 Map



VII. Our Future: Challenges and Opportunities



Watershed Report uses video to inspire high school students

How do you engage a new generation in protecting our watershed? Try making them leaders in producing a video.

Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW) has been working with high school students to research, narrate, and produce The Watershed Report. The innovative project is a series of short video reports on positive sustainability trends in the 13 school districts and 27 cities of the greater Lake Washington Watershed.

Updated every year, the report is like a collaborative report card. The report is featured each year on 19 public access channels.

The first report premiered in June 2010 with over 150 community leaders in attendance. The video won an award for watershed films sponsored by the Whole Watershed Restoration Initiative.

FCRW recruits students for the report through sustainability presentations in all 13 school districts in the watershed.

We have much to celebrate after the first five years of implementing the Chinook Conservation Plan. We have reason to believe that salmon will continue to be a vibrant, thriving part of our watershed into the future. We appear to be holding the line on Chinook salmon population trends and maintaining forest cover in the rural parts of the watershed. Collectively, we are taking the right actions in the right places for salmon recovery. Our commitment to improving the health of our watershed, and recovering salmon, remains strong.

Too Little Progress in Implementing Plan Recommendations

Although the commitment to salmon recovery is strong in WRIA 8, at the five-year point of implementing the Plan we are not as far along as we anticipated when we ratified the Plan in 2005. We've only implemented 14% of the projects on our "Start List" of high priority habitat projects, and we should be closer to 50%. As discussed in Section VI, we've identified land use and outreach recommendations in the Plan needing more focused implementation efforts. A primary reason we have not made more progress is that, like most watersheds in Puget Sound, we are behind on our ambitious goals for funding salmon recovery.

In 2011, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued its five-year status review of implementation of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan (of which the WRIA 8 Chinook Plan is a chapter). It found that habitat is still declining Puget Sound-wide and that not enough is being done to protect and restore habitat.

New Focus Areas for the Next Five Years

Based on our watershed analysis and Chinook salmon population trends, we need to:

- Restore more Cedar River floodplain habitat.
- Continue working with lakeshore property owners through our Green Shorelines outreach program.
- Protect and restore riparian areas in both the urban and rural parts of the watershed.
- Find solutions to address the barrier to restoring natural shoreline processes caused by railroads along the WRIA 8 marine nearshore.
- Improve fish passage through the Ballard Locks and Ship Canal.

Opportunities and New Partnerships

With so many partners and our strong record of local match for state and federal funding, WRIA 8 is an influential voice for change. We need to ask for continued state and federal funding for salmon recovery and work with other Puget Sound watersheds and partners to develop new funding sources. We need to look at creative partnerships for implementing recovery actions, and focus on actions that provide multiple benefits. We can be more effective and efficient at implementing some actions in the WRIA 8 Plan when we collaborate and share the load. We should also work more with nonprofit and community groups to advance the most important projects and programs. We need to tell our salmon stories, highlight our challenges, celebrate our successes, and invite watershed residents to join us in our work to ensure a future for salmon in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed.