



NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM BASE PROGRAM

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP BASE AWARD WORK PLAN

VISION:

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) leads a collaborative effort to create a shared roadmap for recovery by leading a collaborative effort to chart the course to recovery, supporting and empowering partners to implement the Action Agenda, and managing shared measurement and accountability.

INTENT:

To demonstrate excellent performance as a National Estuary Program in its mission to accelerate the collective effort to recover and sustain Puget Sound to achieve vibrant, enduring natural systems and communities.

OUTCOME:

The Puget Sound Partnership is a highly performing organization in terms of program implementation, ecosystem status and trends, and reporting.

THE TEAM:

Project sponsors: Sheida Sahandy (Partnership)
Project manager: Karin Berkholtz (Partnership)

THE TASKS:

Task A—Financial Management: To show excellent performance across the Management Conference by strategically researching funding opportunities while demonstrating sound fiscal management practices.

This task advances the financial sustainability of the Partnership through effective administration of fiscal management responsibilities, documenting nonfederal national estuary program match to the federal investment in the Puget Sound NEP, and by developing a plan for mobilizing funding to increase investment in Puget Sound recovery by public and private entities.

Staffing: Chief Operating Officer

Task B—Program Planning and Administration: To engage the Partnership's Boards and partners in the development and adaptive management of the Action Agenda

This task encompasses the Partnership's role to administer, manage and lead the framework for collaboration across the Management Conference, support four boards, provide organizational support to implement the EPA funding model, support the 2018 update to the Action Agenda, focus considerations of extreme weather events and changes in climate into existing processes and programs, and support professional development opportunities for Partnership staff.

Staffing: Laura Blackmore, Tristan Peter-Contesse, Planning Division Manager, Peter Best, Jennifer Pouliotte, and the Chief Operating Officer.

Task C—Outreach and Public Involvement: To support direct public engagement by sub-awardees of the Partnership, through agency and Partnership communications, and by regional coordination with other units of government, and to develop sustainable methods for social approaches and strategic communications, and support Partnership staff professional development opportunities.

The Partnership, as a backbone organization, engages with the public through the work of the Marine Resources Committees affiliated with the Northwest Straits Commission and through Local Implementing Organizations. These organizations directly engage citizens in planning, proposing projects, restoration, research projects, and special events. These organizations serve as coordinating groups that organize and implement priority recovery projects. This task includes Partnership and agency communications, strategic regional engagements, and leadership participation in national NEP conferences and the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

Staffing: Erin Ryan-Peñuela, Stacy Vynne, Karin Berkholtz, Alexandra Doty, Cathy Cochrane, Erika Lari, Jon Bridgman, Jeff Parsons, Laura Blackmore

Task D—Research: To provide a federal complement to the state’s ongoing investment in coordinating and implementing a strategic science program to support Puget Sound ecosystem recovery, as well as science support for development and adapting Implementation Strategies.

This task supports foundational elements of a strategic science program, such as collaborating on the State of the Salish Sea, and developing and implementing the technical program for the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference.

Staff: Scott Redman

Task E—Ecosystem Assessment and Monitoring: To ensure that Partnership programs and activities are adaptively management and continually improved, that decision-making is informed by credible scientific information, that approaches recognized by the Management Conference are applied and developed to monitor Vital Sign indicators, that tools used for monitoring are efficient and cost-effective, and that opportunities to improve the quality of data collection are provided by and for partners and sub-awardees.

This task supports a more direct and thorough Management Conference process for adaptive management of the Action Agenda and related implementation work by focusing on the most undeveloped components of the recovery system, results and effectiveness evaluation, and incorporating learning into future planning and implementation efforts. This task enhances support for PSEMP. In addition, this task supports monitoring that tracks, evaluates and reports on the condition of the Puget Sound ecosystem by identifying gaps in monitoring, and evaluates the success of Action Agenda recovery work.

Staffing: Kari Stiles, Nathalie Hamel, Scott Redman, and Karin Berkholtz

Task F—Reporting: To support the Partnership’s programmatic reporting obligations, and to encourage and support utilizations of tools by Partners across the Management Conference to adaptively manage recovery and protection and note trends and new and emerging issues.

This task includes the 2017 State of the Sound Report. A major effort is Vital Signs reporting. Through this task, the Partnership supports partner utilization of GIS, reporting systems, and tools, such as Miradi™. The Partnership documents and reports progress and outcomes through federal reporting platforms (FEATS, NEPORT and NEP Atlas).

Staffing: Alex Mitchell, Karin Berkholtz, Jen Burke