



September 29, 2015

To Interested Parties:

The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound is calling for Puget Sound recovery actions designed to (1) protect and restore habitat; (2) recovery shellfish beds; and (3) prevent pollution from stormwater in the South Sound area. (See attachment 1 for a map.) ***Preliminary proposals are due by October 23, 2015 (4 weeks from now) and, for actions that move forward, final proposals and information are due November 30, 2015.***

Background

The Alliance for a Healthy South Sound, comprised of officials from Mason, Thurston, and Pierce Counties, the Squaxin Island Tribe, and the Nisqually Tribe of Indians, is the Local Integrating Organization (LIO) for South Puget Sound. One of the responsibilities of an LIO is to identify high-priority actions necessary for Puget Sound recovery and submit those actions to the Puget Sound Partnership for consideration for the Puget Sound Action Agenda and the funding that flows from the Action Agenda.

This year, the process for identifying actions, and the guidance for the types of actions that will be considered for Action Agenda funding, is in transition. Significantly more information than was needed in the past will be required for actions to be included in the Action Agenda and the review process at the PSP level is significantly more involved. Guidance on this process was issued on September 22, 2015 and actions are due to PSP by December 31, 2015. The Alliance has structured its process to try to maximize that limited time on actions that ultimately will be successful in Action Agenda funding. AHSS is in the process of developing a complete, locally-derived recovery plan for South Puget Sound; once that plan is final (i.e., next year) it will become the primary document that will govern identification and review of actions for submittal to PSP for inclusion in the Action Agenda.

Near Term Actions That Will Be Considered this Year

1. Habitat protection and restoration. Actions that seek to protect or restore South Sound habitat, particularly estuaries and other marine/nearshore habitat and freshwater riparian and wetlands systems. Note PSP has specified that projects which successfully pass through local, regional, and state technical review in the SRFB or PSAR funding processes will be adopted by reference as NTAs into the Action Agenda.

2. Shellfish bed protection and restoration. Actions that seek to reopen or upgrade previously downgraded shellfish growing areas, protect or improve water quality in shellfish growing areas in threatened or concerned status, maintain open shellfish beds (those classified as approved or conditionally approved), in particular actions that seek to accomplish these goals by preventing or controlling fecal pollution from humans (e.g., via OSS) or animals (livestock).

3. Stormwater. Actions that seek to control pollution from stormwater.

In addition:

Local basis in science is critical. Project proponents must be able to demonstrate a scientific and technical basis for their proposed action, ideally by pointing to the basis for their project in a locally-derived (i.e., South Sound focused) management or recovery plan such as a shellfish district improvement plan.

Actions should be discrete and should be complete, or substantially complete within 2 years from June 2016. Actions that are one step in a sequence towards a broader accomplishment are acceptable.

Ability to be competitive in the PSP review process is required. All projects must have a clear connection with one or more of the Action Agenda substrategies identified by PSP as part of the three 2016 Action Agenda strategic initiatives (including crosscutting substrategies). These substrategies, along with additional information on PSP's specific interests and priorities within these substrategies, are listed in tables 3-6 on pages 13-37 in the PSP NTA solicitation (attachment 4). AHSS has identified a subset of these substrategies that are of particular interest to us (attachment 2); however, please note that project proponents are not limited to those substrategies. As discussed in the background section, AHSS is in the process of developing a complete, locally-derived recovery plan for South Puget Sound; once that plan is final (i.e., next year) it will become the primary document that will govern identification and review of actions.

Please understand that AHSS's role is to carry out local review to ensure that projects submitted to PSP reflect our local needs and priorities. Once projects are submitted to PSP we are afforded no further role in decision-making about (1) whether the project is actually included in the Action Agenda, or (2) whether the project is prioritized for funding in the Action Agenda. PSP makes those decisions based on their published criteria alone (attachment 4). Project proponents should review those criteria carefully to ensure that their project will be competitive in the PSP review process.

AHSS Review Criteria and Steps

Step 1. Preproposal and screening. We strongly encourage all project proponents to go through a preproposal, screening-level conversation. The purpose of the preproposal, screening-level conversation is to, as much as possible, make sure actions can successfully navigate AHSS and (as much as we can predict it) PSP review early in the process before project proponents invest time and resources in preparing full proposals. To support this screening-level conversation we ask that project proponents use the existing AHSS project endorsement process (available on the AHSS website and in Attachment 3) which involves preparing a brief written project description and discussion of the ecosystem benefits, certainty of success, and project costs. Please also identify which of the priority PSP substrategies the project would implement and review the PSP submittal requirements and be prepared to discuss how they could be met.

AHSS is happy to assist project proponents in preparing results chain graphics for projects. This can be discussed during the preproposal conversation. Guidance on the PSP criteria are in table 2 (pages 9-11) in Attachment 4. Note that for projects that occur in the South Sound, AHSS must review and endorse the project as consistent with our emerging strategy before it can be submitted to PSP for potential inclusion in the Action Agenda.

Step 2. Proposal development. After a preproposal, screening-level conversation, project proponents who choose to move forward should develop a full project proposal using the PSP project template. (PSP has said this template will be available by October 5.) AHSS must submit projects to PSP using the template or they will not be considered for inclusion in the Action Agenda. AHSS is available to help project proponents navigate and complete the PSP project template.

Step 3. South Sound Technical Team review. The South Sound Technical Team will conduct a 3-step review process as outlined below

1. Threshold review – Only actions that have sufficient scientific basis and that can be tied to one or more of the priority PSP substrategies will be accepted. As described above, the purpose of the preproposal, screening-level conversation is to, as much as possible, make these determinations early in the process before project proponents invest time and resources in preparing full proposals.
2. Benefit review – The action will be evaluated considering the geographic scale (size of area affected by the action) and intensity (degree or strength of the effect of the action), with projects that restore (or halt a threat to) part of the ecosystem over a larger area (geographic scale) to a greater extent (intensity) ranking higher. The following scoring criteria will be used.
 - Scale:
 - 1 = action addresses the entire South Puget Sound region
 - 2 = action addresses a watershed/inlet/island
 - 3 = action addresses a subwatershed/subinlet/shoreline reach
 - 4 = action is small, e.g., less than 10 acre, pocket estuary
 - intensity:
 - 1 = effect of action is widespread throughout the geographic scale and is likely to restore or halt threats/ stressors
 - 2 = effect of action is widespread at the geographic scale and will significantly restore ecosystem function or retard threats/stressors
 - 3 = effect of action is localized through the geographic scale and will moderately restore ecosystem function or retard threats/stressors
 - 4 = effect of action is very localized in a portion of the geographic scale and will slightly restore or retard threats/stressors

Category ratings will be entered into the following matrix to provide a benefit score.

		Intensity rating			
		1	2	3	4
Scale rating	1	1	1	2	4
	2	1	2	3	4
	3	2	3	3	4
	4	4	4	4	4

3. Readiness review – Readiness will evaluate project feasibility and community support using the following considerations.
 - Feasibility (+/- 1)
 - Does technology exist / to what extent is it understood or proven?
 - Does the NTA proponent have the technical and financial capacity to manage / accomplish the action?
 - Community support (+/- 1)
 - Are landowner / other necessary partnerships in place?
 - Is there stakeholder interest and/or support?

At the end of its review, the Technical Team will make recommendations to the AHSS Executive Committee on what actions best represent local priorities and likely would be most competitive in the Action Agenda process.

Step 4. AHSS Executive Committee review. The AHSS Executive Committee will review the Technical Team's recommendations and make final decisions about what actions to submit to PSP for consideration for the 2016 Action Agenda.

Schedule

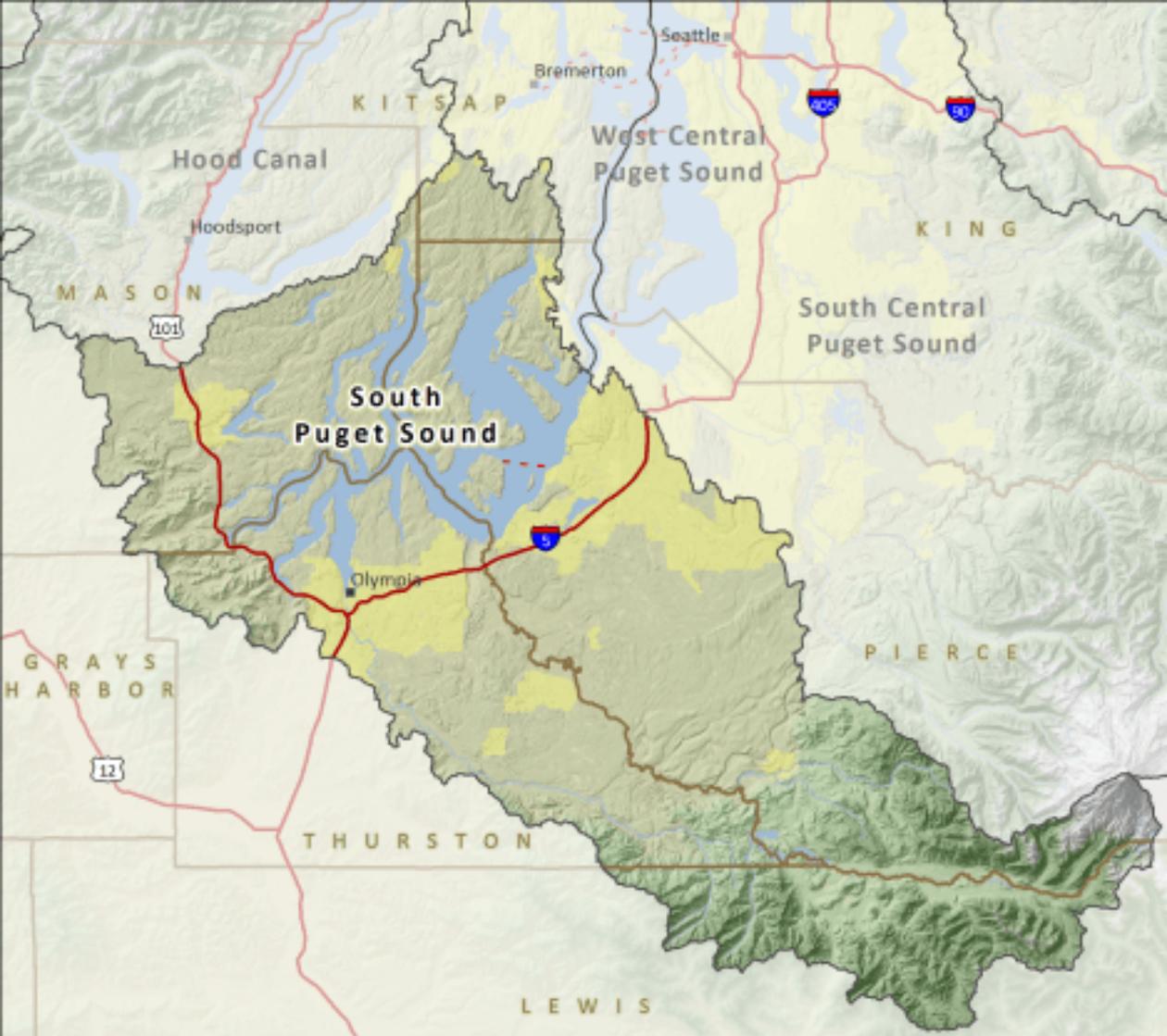
- Preliminary proposals / screening conversations: by October 23, 2015 (4 weeks from today)
- Final proposals: by November 27, 2015 (5 weeks from screening)
- AHSS Technical Team review: November 30-December 11, 2015 (2 weeks)
- AHSS Executive Committee decision making: week of December 14, 2015
- Submittal to PSP: no later than December 31, 2015 (this is a hard deadline)

For More Information

For more information please contact Elizabeth McManus (AHSS coordinator) at 360-570-0899 or emcmanus@rossstrategic.com.

Attachments

1. AHSS map
2. AHSS substrategies of interest, identified to date
3. AHSS presubmittal process
4. PSP solicitation of NTAs for the 2016 Action Agenda



- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--|---------|
| | Local Area Boundary | | City |
| | County | | Ferry |
| | Urban Area | | Highway |



PRELIMINARY AHSS Substrategies of Interest Related to PSP Strategic Initiatives							
PSP Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies			Which Strategic Initiative is the Substrategy Part of?				
		South Sound	Habitat	Shellfish	Stormwater	Cross-Cutting	Cross-Cutting Topic Area
		Current					
		Potential future					
A1.1.	Identify and prioritize areas for protection, restoration, and best suitable for (low impact) development				Added		
A1.2.	Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations and policies consistent with protection and recovery targets, and incorporate climate change forecasts		x				
A1.3.	Improve, strengthen and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, plans, regulations, and permits consistent with protection and recovery targets	x	x				
A2.2	Implement and maintain priority freshwater and terrestrial restoration projects	x Salmon recovery workplan NTAs	Added				
A4.2.	Provide infrastructure and incentives to accommodate new and re-development within urban growth areas		x				
A5.1-	Improve data and information to accelerate floodplain protection, restoration and flood hazard-management		Removed				
A5.3.	Protect and maintain intact and functional floodplains	x Salmon recovery workplan NTAs	x				
A5.4.	Implement and maintain priority floodplain restoration projects	x Salmon recovery workplan NTAs	Added				
A6.1.	Implement high priority projects identified in each salmon recovery watershed's 3 year work plan	x Salmon Recovery workplan NTAs	x				
A7.1.	Update Puget Sound instream flow rules to encourage conservation		x				
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		x				
B1.3.	Improve, strengthen and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and permits that protect the marine and nearshore ecosystems and estuaries	x	x				
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	x McNeil Island NTA	x				
B2.2.	Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects and accelerate projects on public lands	x four estuary NTAs	x				
B2.3.	Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setbacks when armoring fails, needs repair, is non protective, and during redevelopment	x	x				
B3.1.	Protect intact marine ecosystems particularly in sensitive areas and for sensitive species	x		x			
B5.3.	Prevent and rapidly respond to the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species		x				
C1.1.	Implement and strengthen authorities and programs to prevent toxic chemicals from entering the Puget Sound environment				x		
C1.5.	Control wastewater and other sources of pollution such as oil and toxics from boats and vessels			x			
C1.6.	Increase compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and permits	x		x		Added to cross-cutting	Regulation and Enforcement
C2.1.	Manage urban runoff at the basin and watershed scale	x nutrient reduction strategy NTA; small city stormwater program NTA			x		
C2.2.	Prevent problems from new development at the site and subdivision scale	x			x		
C2.3.	Fix problems caused by existing development	x			x		
C2.4.	Control sources of pollutants	x			x		
C2.5.	Provide focused stormwater-related education, training, and assistance	x shellfish and stormwater focused education NTAs			x		
C3.1.	Target voluntary and incentive-based programs that help working farms contribute to Puget Sound recovery	x part of PIC prgm		Added			
C3.2.	Ensure compliance with regulatory programs designed to reduce, control or eliminate pollution from working farms	x also part of PIC prgm		x			
C5.1.	Effectively manage and control pollution from small on-site sewage systems	x		Added			
C5.2.	Effectively manage and control pollution from large on-site sewage systems	x		Added, Tier 2			
C5.3.	Improve and expand funding for small on-site sewage systems and local OSS programs	x county OSS program funding NTAs		x			
C7.1.	Improve water quality to prevent downgrade and achieve upgrades of important current tribal, commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting areas	x		x			
C7.2.	Restore and enhance native shellfish populations	x		Added, Tier 2			
C7.3.	Ensure environmentally responsible shellfish aquaculture based on sound science	x		Moved to Tier 2			
C8.1.	Prevent and reduce the risk of oil spills		x				
C8.3.	Respond to spills and seek restoration using the best available science and technology		x				
C9.1.	Complete Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies and other necessary water cleanup plans for Puget Sound to set pollution discharge limits and determine response strategies to address water quality impairments			Added	Added		
C9.4.	Develop and implement local and tribal pollution identification and correction (PIC) programs	x		x			
D4.1.	Oversee strategic planning for Puget Sound recovery science			Added, Tier 2		New	Science
D4.2.	Implement a coordinated, integrated Ecosystem Monitoring Program			Added, Tier 2		New	Monitoring
D5.2.	Collaboratively develop and promote science-based targeted communications and behavior change strategies across the region			Added, Tier 2		New	Behavior Change

D5.3.	Enable and encourage residents to take informed stewardship actions addressing infiltration, pollution reduction, habitat improvement, forest cover, soil development, critical areas, reductions in shoreline armoring, and specific actions identified in sub-strategy D5.1	x				New	Behavior Change
D6.1.	Implement a long-term, highly visible, coordinated public-awareness effort using the Puget Sound Starts Here brand to increase public understanding of Puget Sound's health, status, and threats. Conduct regionally-scaled communications to provide a foundation for local communications efforts. Conduct locally-scaled communications to engage residents in local issues and recovery efforts			Added, Tier 2	x	New	Communication - Outreach and Education
D6.2.	Incorporate and expand Puget Sound related content in diverse delivery settings (e.g., recreation, education institutions, local government, neighborhood and community groups, nonprofit organizations, businesses). Connect residents with public engagement and volunteer programs			Added, Tier 2		New	Communication - Outreach and Education
D6.3.	Incorporate Puget Sound place-based content into K-12 curricula throughout the Puget Sound region. Connect schools with technical assistance, inquiry-based learning opportunities, and community resources. Implement student service projects connected to ecosystem recovery. Link schools to organizations with structured volunteer opportunities			Added, Tier 2		New	Communication - Outreach and Education
D7.4.	Provide public information conduits connecting individuals to local activities, resources and decision-making processes—including cost-share programs, technical assistance, volunteer experiences and ways to engage in civic structures and processes	x		Added, Tier 2		New	Communication - Outreach and Education
n/a	Strategic Initiatives should be developed to ensure that the Action Agenda specifies actions that help improve the resiliency of the ecosystem to the effects of climate change and that address key ecosystem vulnerabilities to climate change and variability					New	Climate Change Impacts
A2	Protect and restore upland, freshwater and riparian ecosystems	x				New	Riparian Corridor Management

Project Information Sheet

Applicant: _____

Strategic Initiative: _____

Priority Near-Term Action: _____

Ecosystem threat summary

Project Description

Major Tasks

Budget

Project Schedule

Project Partnerships and Roles

Project Scoring Criteria for Technical Reviewers

Ecosystem benefits (10 points possible)

On a scale from 0 to 10 score the project on its benefit to the South Sound ecosystem and how well it advances ecosystem recovery. In your scoring you may consider the following issues:

- Project addresses an AHSS Priority Near Term Action
- Project addresses an AHSS Interim Strategic Initiative
- Project addresses an Ecosystem Recovery Target
- Project will protect or restore natural functions and processes.
- Location is identified as a priority site by an assessment or study (such as County/city shoreline inventory & characterization documents, PSNERP, nearshore project selection tool)
- Project addresses key identified limiting factors
- Project is integrated or associated with other ecosystem recovery projects in the watershed

Certainty of success (10 points possible)

On a scale from 0 to 10 score the project on the certainty of its successful improvement of ecosystem conditions. In your scoring you may consider the following issues:

- Project is ready to go –as evidenced by pre-project planning such as designs, permits underway, etc.
- Project proponent and partners have the experience and capabilities for success
- Landowner is ready and willing to have the work done
- No action could mean the loss of opportunity (property development, loss of matching funds)
- Community support for the project is strong
- Monitoring funds or plan is available

Cost of project (10 points possible)

On a scale from 0 to 10 score the project on its cost effectiveness. In your scoring you may consider the following issues:

- The budget is clearly defined and accurate
- The project will produce a substantial and desirable ecological effect relative to project cost
- There is the probability of maintenance or operational funds available after the project is implemented



2016 PUGET SOUND

ACTION AGENDA UPDATE

**Solicitation Requesting Near Term Action Proposals
for the 2-year Implementation Plan Component
of the 2016 Action Agenda Update**

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Introduction

The purpose of this solicitation is to request proposals for Near Term Actions (NTAs) to include in the 2016 Action Agenda update. NTAs can be proposed by government agencies and tribes, academic institutions, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and businesses and individuals. (See *Eligibility & Evaluation Criteria*, below.)

The 2016 Action Agenda update will include NTAs that are focused on and prioritized to implement the following three Strategic Initiatives:

- Prevent pollution from **stormwater**.
- Protect and restore **habitat**.
- Protect and recover **shellfish** beds.

First identified and described in the 2012 Action Agenda and updated in July 2015, the Strategic Initiatives emphasize priority topics and issues critical to Puget Sound recovery. Each Strategic Initiative describes approaches, or sub-strategies, for addressing these priority topics and issues.

Proposed NTAs should describe activities that can implement Strategic Initiative sub-strategies at a local or Sound-wide scale. Activities may include new programs, specific projects, scientific investigations, or other types of actions described in this solicitation.

This solicitation introduces new requirements and processes for developing, submitting, reviewing, and adopting NTAs into the Action Agenda. These new procedures are intended to ensure that NTAs address critical needs or barriers to recovery, are feasible and ready for implementation, and are developed to a stage that supports future funding decisions.

Background

Action Agenda

The Puget Sound Action Agenda is the region's roadmap for Puget Sound recovery. The Puget Sound Partnership's Leadership Council has directed that the implementation of the Action Agenda focus on the priorities in three Strategic Initiatives addressing stormwater, habitat, and shellfish. To facilitate this directive and adjust to a new funding model under the federal National Estuary Program, for the 2016 update the Action Agenda will be restructured into two major components:

Recovery Plan: A long-term, comprehensive recovery plan that covers the breadth of issues, goals, strategies and sub-strategies previously identified. This component will also be adopted as the National Estuary Program Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

Implementation Plan: A 2-year implementation plan with near term actions (NTAs that implement the Strategic Initiatives and Implementation Strategies.

Vital Signs

In 2010, the Partnership established 21 indicators of ecosystem health. Many of these indicators, collectively called the Puget Sound Vital Signs, have recovery targets, which articulate the 2020 goals for ecosystem conditions. In addition, the Partnership has identified 41 pressures that define human activities that may affect the physical, structural, and ecological processes and functions in the

ecosystem. The pressures inform the recovery targets, strategies, and actions required to achieve recovery goals.

Strategic Initiatives

In 2012, three region-wide priorities were incorporated into the Action Agenda to address the most significant problems and to focus recovery efforts:

- Prevent pollution from urban **stormwater** runoff.
- Protect and restore **habitat**.
- Protect and recover **shellfish** beds.

Each of the Strategic Initiatives is comprised of sub-strategies. NTAs are intended to implement the sub-strategies and advance the Strategic Initiatives. Last spring, three interdisciplinary workgroups updated the Strategic Initiatives, and the Leadership Council subsequently approved the updates. The Leadership Council also endorsed the updates for defining the scope for the 2-year Implementation Plan component of the 2016 Action Agenda update.

Implementation Strategies

Implementation Strategies are plans for achieving specific 2020 ecosystem recovery targets that are associated with the Vital Signs. These plans are designed to inform the Action Agenda and identify priority approaches and key geographic areas for achieving specific recovery targets. The first two of these strategies, addressing estuaries and shellfish beds, are being used to identify and prioritize NTAs for the 2016 Action Agenda update. Additional Implementation Strategies will be developed in advance of the 2018 Action Agenda update.

Strategic Initiative Transition Teams

Three Strategic Initiative Transition Teams were established in July 2015 to help develop the 2-year Implementation Plan component of the 2016 Action Agenda update. Each team focuses on one of the three Strategic Initiatives – stormwater, habitat, shellfish. Cross-cutting issues that affect more than one Strategic Initiative are coordinated between the teams.

The teams are central to the development of the 2-year Implementation Plan. The team's responsibilities directly relevant to this solicitation include:

- Identifying regional priorities within the Strategic Initiatives important for accelerating the recovery of Puget Sound
- Soliciting, reviewing, and prioritizing NTAs for inclusion in the 2-year Implementation Plan

Team members are technical and policy experts recruited from across the Puget Sound region, providing a range of local, regional, and tribal perspectives. The teams are jointly coordinated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Puget Sound Partnership; Washington State Departments of Ecology, Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resources, and Health; and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Scope of Action Agenda in Relation to Available Funding

In updating the Action Agenda, we seek to define a suite of NTAs that will ensure the progress necessary to achieve the Puget Sound recovery 2020 goals and targets¹, regardless of available funding. This is a different approach than in a grant process and NTA proponents should understand that submitting an NTA is not a guarantee to receive future funding.

This approach highlights that significant gaps exist between funding needed and funding currently available. To address this discrepancy, the Partnership’s Ecosystem Coordination Board developed a funding strategy for the three Strategic Initiatives². The strategy provides some context for the scope of annual funding available for the Strategic Initiatives (Table 1).

Table 1: Strategic Initiative Cost, Funding, and Funding Gap

Strategic Initiative	Estimated Annual Cost (need)	Estimated Annual Funding Available	Funding Gap
Habitat	\$325–441 million	\$86–119 million	\$206–355 million
Stormwater	\$540–690 million	\$425–575 million	\$65–265 million
NPDES Permits and Codes	\$440–490 million	\$375–425 million	\$15–115 million
Retrofits and non-Permit Code	\$100–200 million	\$50–150 million	\$50–150 million
Shellfish	\$41–53 million	\$12–14 million	\$27–41 million
Total	\$906–1,184 million	\$523–708 million	\$298–661 million

Additionally, in recent years the National Estuary Program (NEP) has provided about \$30 million annually, which is a relatively small portion of the total available funding. This highlights the importance for partners not to constrain NTA planning to available NEP funds, but instead to consider the following questions:

- What work do we need to accomplish in the near term to implement the Strategic Initiatives and Implementation Strategies?
- What work do we believe we can actually accomplish in the near term if the money were to be available?

Working to close the funding gap is part of the collective responsibility of those involved in the effort to recover Puget Sound.

¹ RCW 90.71.310 (1)(d). Identify and prioritize the strategies and actions necessary to restore and protect Puget Sound and to achieve the goals and objectives. *The goals of recovery for 2020 are defined by the Vital Signs and the 2020 targets for those Vital Signs.*

² ECONorthwest, Evergreen Funding Consultants, and Triangle Associates. Sept. 9, 2014. Funding Strategy for the Strategic Initiatives from the 2012–2013 Puget Sound Action Agenda—[Volume 1: Summary of Findings and Recommendations](#) and [Volume 2: Technical Report](#). Prepared for Puget Sound Partnership Ecosystem Coordination Board Finance Subcommittee.

Eligibility

To be eligible for review, all NTA proposals must meet the requirements defined in this section. NTA proposals that do not meet these requirements may not be accepted.

NTA Owners

Any entity willing and able to oversee the implementation of an NTA and report on its progress may submit an NTA proposal in support of the protection and recovery of Puget Sound—these entities are called “NTA owners.” Usually, the NTA owner is the entity that receives (or expects to receive) money to implement the NTA; however, partners may also share this fiscal role. The NTA owner must demonstrate organizational support for submitting an NTA. NTA owners may include the following:

- Government agencies and governmental organizations (federal, tribal, state, local, special purpose districts)
- Academic institutions
- Non-profit organizations
- Businesses
- Individuals

Note: *Many grant programs are more restrictive with who can receive grant funds. NTA owners and their partners should understand the requirements of intended funding sources to ensure eligibility for those funds.*

Submittal Method

NTA owners must submit NTA proposals in accordance with the requirements provided in Step 1 in the *Process and Deadlines* section of this solicitation.

Scope

An NTA proposal can be large or small in scale. However, NTAs must take place within (or apply to) the Puget Sound basin and must comply with the following guidelines regarding scope:

- The NTA must clearly implement at least one sub-strategy associated with the Strategic Initiatives. The sub-strategies are listed in the *Strategic Initiatives and Regional Priorities* section of this solicitation. It is encouraged, but not required, that NTAs implement one of the regional priorities identified by the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams listed in the *Strategic Initiatives and Regional Priorities* section of this solicitation.
- The simple continuation of an existing, funded program cannot be submitted as an NTA proposal. Ongoing programs that contribute to the recovery and protection of Puget Sound will be reflected in the Action Agenda through means other than NTAs. An NTA proposal could, however, relate to improving, expanding, or otherwise changing an ongoing program. An NTA proposal could, if necessary, address continued funding support needed for sustaining recent changes or enhancements to ongoing programs while long-term funding is secured.
- NTAs should ideally be completed within a 2 year timeframe, beginning when funding is secured. We recognize that some NTAs may require longer timeframes to complete a single phase of an action, and therefore, will allow up to 4 years per phase, if necessary. NTAs expected to take longer than the 2-4 year timeframe should be proposed in phases. All NTAs

should have a measurable and significant milestone every 2 years. Note: proposing NTAs as a single phase does not guarantee the action will be funded as a single phase.

- NTA proposals cannot bundle or package multiple actions into one NTA. NTA Proposals should include those elements necessary to define a discrete and trackable action.³

Note: *If you are not sure that your NTA proposal is consistent with these guidelines regarding scope, you should consult with the Puget Sound Partnership staff listed in the Supplemental Information section of this solicitation before submitting an NTA proposal.*

Eligibility for Specific Types of Actions

Salmon Recovery Projects

One objective in this new solicitation process is to accelerate recovery. In addition to aligning and streamlining the review process with some funding sources (i.e.: National Estuary Program funds), another means for accomplishing that objective is to avoid duplicative proposal and technical review processes that consume substantial resources for both proponents and reviewers. To that end, many salmon recovery projects have a dedicated technical review and funding process and we do not wish to cause duplicative effort with this solicitation process.

Therefore:

- Projects that intend to seek SRFB or PSAR funds should not be submitted as NTAs. They will be adopted into the Action Agenda by reference if they have successfully passed through local, regional, and state technical review and would then have all the benefits of an NTA, but without a duplicative process.⁴
- Projects that are ineligible for SRFB or PSAR funds can be submitted as NTAs.

Ocean Acidification

NTA proposals specific to the recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, such as science and monitoring (e.g.: modeling, monitoring, science-based experiments) related to ocean acidification, should be coordinated with the Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) prior to being submitted. The MRAC will be provided a list of ocean acidification related NTAs to review and may flag NTAs that are inconsistent with the Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations.

Science & Monitoring

Science and monitoring NTA proposals must directly relate to one or more of the sub-strategies in tables 3, 4, or 5 to be eligible for review. Science and monitoring actions related to other

³ For example, a pollution identification and correction (PIC) program includes several elements (e.g.: monitoring, enforcement, , etc.) that are essential to making a naturally integrated NTA to achieve coinciding geographic, ecological, and human wellbeing outcomes and therefore should be included in one NTA proposal. A package of restoration projects focused on different habitat types, across different geographical areas, and intended to benefit different species is an example of an unacceptable NTA proposal.

⁴ Adoption by reference would apply any time a project meets the local and technical review requirements, not only those projects that qualified at the time the Action Agenda was adopted.

aspects of ecosystem recovery may be recommended to the Partnership for inclusion in the 2016 Biennial Science Work Plan through a separate process. For full consideration by the Science Panel, please submit recommended science actions to kelly.adams@psp.wa.gov by October 21, 2015.

Submittal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

All NTA proposals must provide the information listed in the table below, as required in the submittal template. Proposals are limited to no more than 4 pages. Guidance and reference documents are available on the Puget Sound Partnership website as noted in the *Supplemental* section of this solicitation.

All NTAs will be assessed by the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams using the evaluation criteria listed in the table below. These evaluation criteria will apply to all types of NTAs, including capital projects, programmatic actions, science programs, and education/outreach projects, as well as multi-phase and single-phase actions. Cross-references are provided to indicate how the submittal requirements inform the evaluation.

Table 2: Submittal Requirements and NTA Evaluation Criteria

NTA Submittal Requirements	NTA Evaluation Criteria
<p>Owner & Partners Identify the NTA owner and the partners that will help implement the NTA. Briefly describe all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities. • Level of organizational support for implementing this NTA. • Experience and capacity relevant to implementing this type of action. (Criteria 1a, 1b, 1c) <p>NTA Description</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly describe the proposed action, including goals and objectives, key approaches, and the major process steps for achieving the action. (Criteria 1d, 1e, 1f) • Briefly describe why the action is important and how the action will contribute toward achieving one or more Puget Sound Vital Signs and, if applicable, 2020 recovery targets. (Criteria 2a, 2b, 3b) • In the template table provided, identify sub-strategies from the Strategic Initiative(s), priority pressures (sources and stressors) from the Puget Sound Pressures Assessment, and ecological and/or human wellbeing Vital Signs (and targets, if applicable) that are linked to the NTA. • Include a graphic showing how the NTA fits into a results chain(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenever possible, simply mark-up the applicable prototype results chain(s)⁵ provided. • If the NTA does not fit into a prototype results chain(s), an NTA owner may propose a modified results chain(s) to document the logic model for the action. NTA owners in this situation should contact PSP staff as early as possible for assistance with developing revised results chain(s). Note: The recommendation of NTAs in the Action Agenda based on revised results chains will be considered provisional pending final technical approval of the revised 	<p>1. Probability of Success</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The NTA proponents demonstrates they possess the expertise and experience to implement projects at the scale and complexity proposed in the action. b. The NTA proponents have adequate capacity and organizational support for accomplishing the action within the stated timeframe. c. If applicable, the NTA engages critical partners and demonstrates committed partnerships. d. It is clear from the submittal that the NTA can achieve its stated goals or objectives within the stated timeframe. e. The NTA does not depend on other key actions or processes being addressed first (or the proposal demonstrates those key actions or processes will be completed prior to implementing the NTA). f. The NTA uses a proven approach or, if an alternative approach is used, the proposal demonstrates uncertainties in the selected approach have been addressed.

⁵ Prototype results chains and guidance will be provided through the *NTA Solicitation Web Page* provided near the end of this solicitation.

<p>results chain(s).</p> <p>Multi-Phase Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the NTA is part of a multi-phase action, further describe the proposed NTA in the context of the overall scope, including the goals and objectives for both the overall action and for the phase described in the proposed NTA. Include a brief schedule for the overall action. Describe how the proposed NTA is a priority step in the sequence and is necessary for future steps to occur. (Criteria 1e) <p>Ongoing Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the NTA is related to an ongoing program, further describe how the ongoing program has been funded in the past and how the NTA is critical to improving, expanding, or otherwise changing the ongoing program. <p>Performance Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the template table provided, identify a clear set of performance measures (milestones, outputs and outcomes) to track implementation, effectiveness, and long term ecological outcomes consistent with the following guidance: (Criteria 1d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measures correspond directly to the goal of the action, as articulated in the NTA description ○ Measures are clear, concise, and easy to understand; non-technical ○ Process steps are chronological ○ Delivery schedules are clearly specified ○ Responsibility for delivery is assigned (performance measures are specific to each entity/jurisdiction) ○ Measurable objectives have been set, against which results can be gauged 	<p>2. Ecological and/or Human Wellbeing Benefits</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The NTA addresses a clearly defined need, priority pressure, or barrier. b. The NTA is based on a sufficient understanding of the ecosystem benefits and links to ecological and/or human wellbeing Vital Signs through sub-strategies in the Strategic Initiatives. c. The proposal demonstrates the overall benefit of the proposed action.
<p>Regional Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly describe how the NTA responds to the regional priorities identified in the <i>Strategic Initiatives and Regional Priorities</i> section of this solicitation. (Criteria 3a) 	<p>3. Addresses an Identified Regional Priority</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The NTA addresses one or more priorities identified in the <i>Strategic Initiatives and Regional Priorities</i> section of this solicitation.

<p>Science-based/Technical Rationale for the Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly describe the scientific/technical basis for selecting and scoping the proposed NTA, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Obvious alternatives considered and why they were not selected. ○ How location, sequence, and timing of the proposed action were considered relative to other ecosystem protection and recovery needs and whether the proposed action precludes other ecosystem recovery actions. (Criteria 1f, 4a, 4b, 4c) • Briefly describe how the NTA’s benefits and potential for success were analyzed, including identified barriers, uncertainties, and risks. (Criteria 4d) • If applicable, briefly describe how resilience to climate change (and ocean acidification, if applicable) has been considered in the development of the NTA. If not applicable, explain why the NTA would not be affected. (Criteria 4e) 	<p>4. Scientifically/Technically Sound</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The NTA provides a science-based approach to achieve the benefit. b. If applicable, the NTA works toward protecting, restoring, or enhancing natural ecosystem processes, functions, or services. c. If applicable, the NTA is sequenced in a watershed/ecosystem context and does not depend on other processes or conditions being addressed first. d. The proposal identifies barriers, uncertainties, and risks; and potential responses to these are provided. e. As applicable, the NTA addresses resiliency to climate change (and ocean acidification, if applicable).
<p>Cost Estimate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a cost estimate for the full cost of implementing the NTA and a brief description of how this estimate was determined. If this proposal is part of a phased project, provide the total cost estimate for each phase of the project. If applicable, provide an estimated cost range that reflects uncertainties in the cost of the NTA. (Criteria 5a, 5b) 	<p>5. Cost Estimate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cost estimate reasonably captures the full cost (or estimated cost range based on uncertainty) of the NTA, relative to the geographical area. b. The benefits identified under Criteria 2 are reasonable in relationship with the cost estimate.

Each NTA will be scored against the evaluation criteria on a scale of 1 to 10 and then weighted, as follows. Note that extra weight is given to NTAs that have addressed a regional priority identified by the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams in the *Strategic Initiatives and Regional Priorities* section of this solicitation.

Score	0	1	...	5	...	10
Interpretation	Cannot be Evaluated	Very Poor		Moderate		Very Good

#	Evaluation Criteria	Weight
1	Probability of success	.25
2	Ecological and/or human wellbeing benefits	.25
3	Addresses an identified regional priority	.25
4	Scientifically sound	.20
5	Cost estimate	.05

Strategic Initiatives and Regional Priorities

Table 3: Stormwater Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies and Regional Priorities

The Stormwater Strategic Initiative Transition Team is soliciting for near term action (NTA) proposals that will implement the sub-strategies of the Stormwater Strategic Initiative, which are included in bold in the left-hand column below. A brief description of the scope of the sub-strategy, adapted from the 2014 Action Agenda, is provided in italics in the left-hand column. The middle column provides additional useful information and clarifications about the scope of the sub-strategies that may be helpful. The team is particularly looking for NTA proposals associated with the sub-strategy that are focused on the regional priorities called out in the right-hand column, which will be awarded extra weight in the evaluation process (see the *Submittal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria* section of this solicitation). If the right-hand column is empty, then the team did not identify regional priorities for that sub-strategy.

#	Stormwater Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
A1.1	<p>Identify and prioritize areas for protection, restoration, and best suitable for (low impact) development.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy focuses on identifying what lands are ecologically important and where they are located in Puget Sound. The intention is to make this information available to local jurisdictions to help in land use decisions, aiming to focus land development away from areas that are ecologically vulnerable and areas that are important to maintain in the Puget Sound region.</i></p>	<p>Actions may address any development or land use types and are not limited to those only addressing low impact development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS mapping of areas appropriate for protection, restoration, and low impact development. • Produce watershed characterization assessments. • Improve regional base maps, such as stream layers, catchment boundaries, or stream typing.
C1.1	<p>Implement and strengthen authorities and programs to prevent toxic chemicals from entering the Puget Sound environment.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy helps in addressing chemicals of concern; continuing and enhancing programs that reduce and prevent release of toxic chemicals; focusing on preventing pollution that enters Puget Sound from key sources—vehicles, pesticides, and toxic pollutants in air emissions; and better</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create and implement Chemical Action Plans (CAPs). • Promote Green chemistry and other Alternative Assessments to address toxics. • Develop tools, studies or information to more effectively implement stormwater permits. • Research emerging contaminants.

#	Stormwater Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
	<i>understanding/characterizing of emerging contaminants of concern and developing strategies to address these.</i>		
C2.1	<p>Manage urban runoff at the basin and watershed scale.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy addresses the need to protect native vegetation, soils, and high quality habitat; site new development appropriately; and better connect land use and stormwater management.</i></p>	Actions are not limited to urban areas, but should be conducted on a watershed or basin level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake basin and watershed planning that integrates land use planning and stormwater management. • Undertake capital planning on catchment or watershed basis. • Develop and implement approaches that regionalize operational and pollution reduction efforts and activities.
C2.2	<p>Prevent problems from new development at the site and subdivision scale.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy includes National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for municipalities, state highways, industries, construction sites, and boatyards; continuing the transition to low impact development; and ensuring that new development outside NPDES-permitted areas uses standards and practices equivalent to those used within permitted areas.</i></p>		
C2.3	<p>Fix problems caused by existing development (structural upgrades; regular and enhanced maintenance).</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy includes fixing problems from existing development through structural retrofits; ongoing regular maintenance and enhanced maintenance (e.g.: high efficiency street sweepers and system cleaning to remove legacy pollutants); and redevelopment policies and activities.</i></p>	Urban Centers are designated by cities and counties within the urban growth area in comprehensive land use plans to accommodate population growth under the Growth Management Act. The Puget Sound Regional Council has also	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize where retrofits occur. • Provide infrastructure and incentives to accommodate re-development within designated Urban Centers in an urban growth areas (UGAs). • Assess the maintenance needs and life-cycle strategies for existing stormwater infrastructure, and prioritize infrastructure replacement needs.

#	Stormwater Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
		identified urban centers in VISION 2040, the regional growth strategy for the four central Puget Sound counties and associated cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, create and/or implement innovative approaches to promote retrofit programs on private property • Research, study and/or pilot legacy pollutant removal programs with the intent of filling data gaps.
C2.4	<p>Control sources of pollutants.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy includes local pollution and control programs, inspections, technical assistance, and enforcement.</i></p>	This sub-strategy is intended to identify, address, and reduce toxics, nutrients and pathogens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote source control and technical assistance programs at the local level. • Reduce pollutants from on-site septic system sources; agriculture operations; and/or toxics from residential and commercial uses. • Promote enforcement and compliance related to pollution source control.
C2.5	<p>Provide focused stormwater-related education, training, and assistance</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy focuses on information, education, and training on stormwater-specific issues to be provided for multiple audiences.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design, develop and implement innovative stormwater education programs that target residents and businesses. • Promote stormwater education programs that are designed to be replicated across Puget Sound.
C9.1	<p>Complete Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies and other necessary water cleanup plans for Puget Sound to set pollution discharge limits and determine response strategies to address water quality impairments.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy helps support marine and fresh water quality through development and implementation of TMDL studies that identify pollution sources and corrective actions to address identified problems. The TMDL process complements other</i></p>		

#	Stormwater Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
	<i>strategies to control sources and pathways of excess nutrients and toxic chemicals from entering Puget Sound.</i>		
D6.1	Implement a long-term, highly visible, coordinated public-awareness effort using the Puget Sound Starts Here brand to increase public understanding of Puget Sound’s health, status, and threats. Conduct regionally-scaled communications to provide a foundation for local communications efforts. Conduct locally-scaled communications to engage residents in local issues and recovery efforts.	Puget Sound Starts Here (PSSH) is an established successful, regional branded program. The program represents a significant investment that was designed to continue as a public awareness and communication tool across the region.	Promote and enhance the Puget Sound Starts Here program and take it to the next level.

Table 4: Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies & Regional Priorities

The Habitat Strategic Initiative Transition Team is soliciting for near term action (NTA) proposals that will implement the sub-strategies of the Habitat Strategic Initiative, which are included in bold in the left-hand column below. A brief description of the scope of the sub-strategy, adapted from the 2014 Action Agenda, is provided in italics in the left-hand column. The middle column provides additional useful information and clarifications about the scope of the sub-strategies that may be helpful. The team is particularly looking for NTA proposals associated with the sub-strategy that are focused on the regional priorities called out in the right-hand column, which will be awarded extra weight in the evaluation process (see the *Submittal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria* section of this solicitation). If the right-hand column is empty, than the team did not identify regional priorities for that sub-strategy.

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
A1.2	<p>Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations, and policies consistent with protection and recovery targets, and incorporate climate change forecasts</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy is aimed at helping local governments act in ways that are consistent with Puget Sound recovery. It also aims to identify and provide incentives to local jurisdictions for implementing, monitoring, and enforcing regulations and permits that are consistent with the broader recovery targets for Puget Sound in freshwater and terrestrial environments.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the Puget Sound Pressures Assessment and results chains for background on ecosystem pressures (sources and stressors) • These actions are not limited to government organizations; for example, non-governmental organizations could provide information useful to government agencies. <p>The sub-strategy scope also includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and prioritizing areas for protection, restoration, and best suitable for (low impact) development, including protection and restoration of riparian corridors. • Protecting and conserving ecologically important lands at risk of conversion to a more intensive use. • Managing runoff at the basin and watershed scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of actions from existing strategic plans that address ecosystem pressures (sources and stressors) from land development, shoreline infrastructure, roads, and estuarine/freshwater structural barriers. • Focus on protection and restoration of areas in and surrounded by lower intensity land uses, including agriculture. • Address critical information gaps important for the current implementation of Comprehensive Plans, Critical Areas Ordinances, and Shoreline Master Programs as well as their next round of updates. • Conduct climate change vulnerability analysis, including identifying areas resilient to climate change as well as to integrate land use, protection, and restoration priorities. • Update plans, regulations, and
and			
B1.2	<p>Support local governments to adopt and implement plans, regulations, and policies that protect the marine nearshore and estuaries, and incorporate climate change forecasts</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports providing access to</i></p>		

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
	<p><i>the best available science that can help support local resource management agencies and local government in their decisions for development and redevelopment in nearshore and marine environments.</i></p>		<p>policies for resiliency to climate change based on existing vulnerability analyses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and restore marine (estuary or nearshore) and freshwater riparian areas and floodplains, particularly large or contiguous areas. • Address local capacity to support large estuary restoration efforts.
<p>A1.3</p> <p>and</p> <p>B1.3</p>	<p>Improve, strengthen, and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, plans, regulations, and permits consistent with protection and recovery targets</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy aims at helping to strengthen and streamline elements of local, state, and federal environmental permitting processes and programs by identifying ways to make permit decisions more predictable and efficient, assuring that information on ecologically sensitive lands is considered, and helping to direct development to areas that are more ecologically resilient. Streamlining, in this case, is not intended to advocate for the elimination of regulations, but rather supports efforts to help regulations be implemented more predictably and efficiently.</i></p> <p>Improve, strengthen, and streamline implementation and enforcement of laws, regulations, and permits that protect the marine and nearshore ecosystems and</p>	<p>These actions are not limited to government organizations; for example, non-governmental organizations could implement plans or provide information useful to government agencies.</p> <p>The sub-strategy scope also includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support actions to implement Habitat Conservation Plans in general. • Maintaining forest roads and implement road abandonment plans for working forest lands subject to the Forest Practices Rules on schedule, and ensure federal forest managers meet or exceed state standards for road maintenance and abandonment on federal lands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve ecologically important lands at risk of conversion to a more intensive use (e.g.: TDR-transfer of development rights; LCLIP-land conservation and local improvement program). • Ensure fully functional, long-term, effective compensatory mitigation, including adequate maintenance and monitoring, for impacts that cannot be avoided. Example NTAs might address science, monitoring, and capacity to implement programs. • Promote protection and restoration of marine/freshwater riparian corridors, especially priority areas identified in existing plans. • Improve compliance with water quality standards on state and privately owned forests and agricultural lands. • Improve programs to ensure that current and future culverts meet or exceed fish passage standards.

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
	<p>estuaries</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports implementation and enforcement of federal, state, and local environmental laws and permits.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve compliance with existing environmental laws by ensuring adequate resources for the enforcement of existing laws and assessing implementation (permitting and enforcement) and outcome effectiveness of existing laws and regulatory programs. • Streamline permitting for habitat restoration projects to improve speed and reduce costs of the permitting process while maintaining regulatory standards.
A2.2	<p>Implement and maintain priority freshwater and terrestrial restoration projects</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports the continuation, expansion, and further coordination of programs to effectively encourage private landowners and industrial/commercial landowners to undertake and maintain restoration projects. It includes support for incentives and assistance, such as direct and indirect financial incentives, technical assistance, recognition/certification for products or operations, and conservation leasing.</i></p>	Structural barriers include culverts, dikes, dams, and similar structures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data and information to prioritize and accelerate riparian restoration and protection. • Implement restoration of riparian areas. • Improve data and information to prioritize and accelerate removal of structural barriers. • Implement prioritized structural barrier removals.
A4.2	<p>Provide infrastructure and incentives to accommodate new and re-development within urban growth areas</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports local governments in addressing infrastructure gaps, improving</i></p>		

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
	<p><i>coordination between cities and special purpose governments in infrastructure planning and development, and promoting investments in urban amenities and recreational facilities to help encourage new and redevelopment in urban growth areas, while also protecting and restoring critical habitats within urban growth areas. It is aimed at achieving compact urban patterns that direct development away from agricultural and forest lands and protect wildlife habitat, ecosystem functions, and water quality overall in the Puget Sound.</i></p>		
<p>A5.3</p>	<p>Protect and maintain intact and functional floodplains</p> <p><i>The focus of this sub-strategy is on ecosystem-level programmatic actions that contribute to maintaining and protecting intact habitat functions of floodplains in undeveloped areas; Support the development and implementation of policies and procedures that prevent and/or minimize degradation of existing channel and floodplain habitat functions through implementation of the National Flood Insurance Program by federal and local regulators since this program greatly influences the type and extent of development in floodplains.</i></p>	<p>The sub-strategy addresses floodplains ranging from the valley wall to the sea (including estuaries).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on rural and agricultural landscapes with opportunities to protect and provide access to priority habitat for threatened and endangered species such as Chinook, steelhead, and summer chum. • Improve data and information (floodplain mapping, inundation, channel migration zone, historic habitat analysis, etc.) to accelerate floodplain protection, restoration, and flood hazard management. Relates to land use activities and potential impacts on floodplain habitat processes. • Identify key areas for acquisitions, easements, or other similar actions. • Align policies, regulations, planning, and agency coordination to support multi-benefit floodplain

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
			<p>management, incorporating climate change forecasts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities to acquire exceptional habitat at above-market value.
A5.4	<p>Implement and maintain priority floodplain restoration projects</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on rural and agricultural landscapes with opportunities for priority habitat for threatened and endangered species such as Chinook, steelhead and summer chum. Improve data and information (e.g.: floodplain mapping, inundation, channel migration zone, historic habitat analysis, etc.) to accelerate floodplain protection, restoration and flood hazard management. Align policies, regulations, planning, and agency coordination to support multi-benefit floodplain management, incorporating climate change forecasts. Identify key areas for acquisitions, easements or other similar actions.
A6.1	<p>Implement high priority projects identified in each salmon recovery watershed's 3 year work plan</p>	<p>In submitting work under this sub-strategy, proposers should use the information developed for each watershed under Phase I of the Chinook monitoring and adaptive management effort, as well as updated project lists submitted to the Puget Sound Partnership in 2015. Additionally, see the <i>Eligibility</i> section of this solicitation: Not all salmon recovery projects should be submitted as NTAs.</p>	<p>Actions should implement one or more of the priorities identified in the other sub-strategies.</p>

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
A7.1	<p>Update Puget Sound instream flow rules to encourage conservation</p>		
B2.1	<p>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.</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy seeks to accelerate the implementation of priority projects that address problems identified for Puget Sound nearshore environments and move acquisition and restoration efforts forward.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eelgrass and bluff-backed beaches are provided as examples—they do not reflect an exhaustive list of sensitive habitats that warrant protection. Proposals should consider previous regional prioritization efforts (e.g.: Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNERP) Strategies for Nearshore Protection & Restoration) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a landscape level strategy (e.g.: drift cell, watershed) that integrates protection, restoration and enhancement opportunities. Conserve relatively intact shorelines that currently provide high value ecosystem services (e.g.: large sites with low levels of degradation). Improve data, planning, and stakeholder coordination important to inform landscape level (e.g.: drift cell) strategy development and implementation. Achieve multi-benefits, including resilience/adaptation to climate change.
B2.2	<p>Implement prioritized nearshore and estuary restoration projects, and accelerate projects on public lands</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports Sound-wide restoration, including on public lands where opportunities for acquisition, landowner negotiation, or access permission can often be implemented more quickly than similar projects on private lands and can provide models for future restoration efforts on other lands.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies to both public and private lands. Estuary restoration targets cannot be met with existing public lands only. Projects on private lands and/or involving acquisition of private lands will be critical to meeting the targets. Proposals should build on previous regional prioritization efforts (e.g.: Estuary Implementation Strategy; Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNERP)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore and enhance regionally lost (e.g.: big river estuaries) or declining nearshore habitats (e.g.: eelgrass) and provide for connectivity, as well as self-sustaining and resilient ecosystem services. Implement a landscape level strategy (e.g.: drift cell, watershed) that integrate protection, restoration, and enhancement opportunities. Undertake multi-benefit actions that promote collaboration between diverse stakeholders (e.g.: delta restoration and agricultural communities).

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance ecosystem resilience to climate change (e.g.: sea level rise & ocean acidification). • Investigate opportunities to acquire exceptional habitat at above-market value.
B2.3	<p>Remove armoring, and use soft armoring replacement or landward setbacks when armoring fails, needs repair, is non protective, and during redevelopment</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports efforts to remove armored shorelines and restore these areas, and to promote alternatives to hard-armoring, like soft-shore protection, landward setback of structures, and other techniques that reduce or prevent shoreline hardening.</i></p>	<p>“Soft armoring” is more accurately described as “soft shore protection.” Specifically, it entails the use of indigenous materials such as gravel, sand, logs, and root masses in designs that have some degree of flexibility, mimicking natural process. More detailed information can be found in the 2014 Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on and/or implement recommendations from previous studies, including the Marine Shoreline Design Guidelines, Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNRP), Social Marketing Strategy to Reduce Armoring Behavior on Puget Sound, and the Integrated Nearshore Priorities Tool. • Actions that reflect a landscape level strategy (e.g.: drift cell) that integrates protection, restoration, and enhancement opportunities to maximize ecological function. • Actions that focus on ecologically important feeder bluffs or private residential properties that will help serve as regional examples to influence regional shoreline landowner behavior. • Target geographical areas where larger-scale restoration is feasible (either individually or cumulatively) and can yield measurable benefits to ecosystem process, structure, and function.

#	Habitat Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use innovative approaches to incentivize armor avoidance and soft shore protection techniques that help expand regional implementation.
B5.3	Prevent and rapidly respond to the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species		This sub-strategy is a priority only when supporting the implementation of another restoration or protection action.
C8.1	<p>Prevent and reduce the risk of oil spills</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports state programs to systematically analyze regional and industry-specific patterns in oil spill risk by regulated industries and subsequently target prevention efforts.</i></p>	<p>Deep draft vessel traffic in the waters of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea will increase by more than 25% if proposed estimates come to pass, elevating the risk of accidents and oil spills.</p> <p>The sub-strategy scope also includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing transboundary agreements and modify as needed to ensure appropriate rules, regulations, and enforcement options designed to reduce the risk of accidents, oil spills and environmental damage from increased vessel traffic. 	Promote and coordinate the proactive use of maritime risk assessments.
C8.3	<p>Respond to spills and seek restoration using the best available science and technology</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports improvements to the state’s spill response capacity and access to the best achievable technology and training for safe, prompt, and appropriate response to a worst-case oil spill scenario. It also supports strengthening coordination with Canada in response to transboundary spills.</i></p>	<p>The sub-strategy scope also includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect data on the quality of marine waters, sediments, and organisms to establish the baseline for “no net loss” of environmental quality in the event of a spill. Increase local volunteer knowledge and capacity to assist in a spill response. 	

Table 5: Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies & Regional Priorities

The Shellfish Strategic Initiative Transition Team is soliciting for near term action (NTA) proposals that will reduce or prevent fecal bacterial pollution of shellfish beds and make progress on the Shellfish Vital Sign target of a net increase of 10,800 acres of harvestable shellfish beds. The 10,800 acre target underscores the need to restore and upgrade areas affected by fecal pollution while also protecting areas currently open for harvest. Fecal bacterial pollution is identified as a major barrier to achieving the Shellfish Vital Sign target.

Sub-strategies within the Shellfish Strategic Initiative are organized into two tiers. This NTA solicitation is for Tier One sub-strategies with emphasis on the over-arching priorities, described below. NTA proposals will not be accepted for Tier Two sub-strategies unless the NTA proposal presents a significant, extraordinary opportunity that will also advance a Tier One sub-strategy.

Over-Arching Priorities

- Preference (i.e.: higher scores) will be given to NTAs that lead to the following:
 - An upgrade in Samish Bay or Portage Bay shellfish growing areas.
 - Re-opening or upgrading previously downgraded shellfish growing area.
 - Reversal of declining water quality trends and protection of water quality in shellfish growing areas that are in “threatened” or “concerned” status.
 - Maintaining the status of open shellfish beds classified as “approved” or “conditionally approved.”
- Preventing and controlling fecal pollution from humans (via onsite septic systems) and animals (livestock) are the priority targeted pollution sources.

Barriers

Bacterial pollution from onsite septic systems and farm operations have been identified as significant barriers to achieving the Shellfish Vital Sign target, as identified in the Results Washington Action Plan and the Shellfish Implementation Strategy. Applicants should describe how the proposed NTA will overcome these barriers, if applicable.

The table below includes the Strategic Initiative sub-strategies, which are included in bold in the left-hand column below. A brief description of the scope of the sub-strategy, adapted from the 2014 Action Agenda, is provided in italics in the left-hand column. The middle column provides additional useful information and clarifications about the scope of the sub-strategies that may be helpful. The right-hand column includes any additional priorities identified by the Shellfish Strategic Initiative Team in addition to the over-arching priorities above. If the right-hand column is empty, then the team did not identify regional priorities for that sub-strategy.

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
Shellfish - Tier One Sub-Strategies			
B3.1	<p>Protect intact marine ecosystems, particularly in sensitive areas and for sensitive species</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy focuses on conservation of marine environments that provide sensitive, rare, or unique habitats; culturally and historically important sites; recreational and commercial fisheries; and recreational enjoyment of Puget Sound.</i></p>		See the Over-Arching Priorities.
C1.5	<p>Control wastewater and other sources of pollution, such as oil and toxics from boats and vessels</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy addresses the need to establish No Discharge Zones, provide sufficient and convenient pump-out capacity, and promote effective outreach and education programs that reduce pollution from vessels.</i></p>	Actions should focus on fecal pollution from vessels.	See the Over-Arching Priorities.
C1.6	<p>Increase compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and permits</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy helps ensure compliance with environmental laws intended to prevent and control pollution from human and animal fecal pollution sources.</i></p>		See the Over-Arching Priorities.
C3.1	<p>Target voluntary and incentive-based programs that help working farms contribute to Puget Sound recovery</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy addresses programs, guidelines, and technical assistance opportunities that help farmers identify potential pollution impacts from farming activities and implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce, control, or eliminate pollution.</i></p>	Working farms are places, both large and small, where agricultural activities occur.	See the Over-Arching Priorities.
C3.2	Ensure compliance with regulatory programs designed to	Actions should focus on bacterial	See the Over-Arching

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
	<p>reduce, control or eliminate pollution from working farms</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy addresses compliance with programs that control and prevent water pollution from farming activities in order to reduce and/or eliminate nutrient and bacteria discharges into surface water and/or to minimize these from leaching into groundwater.</i></p>	<p>discharge.</p> <p>Working farms are places, both large and small, where agricultural activities occur.</p>	<p>Priorities. The Shellfish Strategic Initiative focuses on bacterial pollution.</p>
<p>C5.1</p>	<p>Effectively manage and control pollution from small, onsite sewage systems</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy address programs for onsite sewage systems and state requirements for local health jurisdictions to carry out comprehensive plans that ensure onsite sewage systems are properly managed to protect public health and sensitive waters. This sub-strategy also addresses marine recovery areas (MRAs) with existing onsite sewage systems that are degrading shellfish growing areas or marine waters where low dissolved-oxygen levels or fecal coliform are a concern, or where nitrogen has been identified as a contaminant of concern.</i></p>	<p>Actions should focus on fecal coliform concerns.</p>	<p>See the Over-Arching Priorities.</p>
<p>C5.3</p>	<p>Improve and expand funding for small onsite sewage systems (OSS) and local OSS programs</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy is aimed at developing reliable sources of funding to support local onsite sewage system programs and homeowner assistance programs for repair or replacement of failing onsite sewage systems.</i></p>	<p>The intent of this sub-strategy is to encourage development of NTAs that will result in sustainable funding for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local management of OSS programs, including advancement of the OSS target (e.g.: document the OSS, achieve compliance with inspections, and identify and repair or replace failures in areas with shellfish growing areas) and 	<p>See the Over-Arching Priorities.</p>

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
		<p>other desired outcomes. Refer to page 13 in the Shellfish Implementation Strategy for more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSS financial assistance programs in areas with shellfish growing areas. • Identify and designate areas where enhanced OSS management is needed. 	
C7.1	<p>Improve water quality to prevent downgrade and achieve upgrades of important current tribal, commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting areas</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy addresses regional and local programs that protect and improve water quality and control pollution, helping to prevent the degradation of healthy shellfish beds and to achieve upgrades of degraded shellfish beds.</i></p>	<p>This sub-strategy can be used to address wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrades, outfall changes, and other wastewater or stormwater infrastructure improvements or planning.</p> <p>Actions should focus on fecal coliform.</p>	See the Over-Arching Priorities.
C9.1	<p>Complete Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies and other necessary water cleanup plans for Puget Sound to set pollution discharge limits and determine response strategies to address water quality impairments</p> <p>This sub-strategy helps support marine and fresh water quality through development and implementation of TMDL studies or local pollution control plans that identify pollution sources and corrective actions to address identified problems. The TMDL process complements other strategies to control sources and pathways of excess nutrients and toxic chemicals from entering Puget Sound.</p>	The priority focus is on implementation of TMDLs, not development of TMDLs.	<p>See the Over-Arching Priorities.</p> <p>Implement existing plans, such as TMDLs or local pollution control plans, to reduce fecal coliform bacteria in watersheds and shellfish growing areas.</p>
C9.4	Develop and implement local and tribal pollution	PIC programs with a high probability	See the Over-Arching

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
	<p>identification and correction (PIC) programs</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy helps implement local pollution identification and correction programs that determine the causes and sources of water pollution in specific geographical areas, and ensures corrective actions are taken to address the pollution sources and protect Puget Sound marine and fresh water health.</i></p>	<p>of success include the following essential elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent, long-term, ambient water quality monitoring to prioritize projects and evaluate action effectiveness. • Coordinated outreach about proposed PIC projects and results to increase community awareness, participation, and support. • Source identification sampling. • Provision of information, site inspection, technical assistance, and financial support to correct identified sources of pollution. • Effective enforcement capability. Enforcement is used when compliance efforts fail. • Sustainable funding to maintain long-term stability of the program. 	<p>Priorities.</p>
<p>Shellfish - Tier Two Sub-Strategies</p>			
<p>Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for this NTA solicitation. Do not submit an NTA that addresses Tier Two sub-strategies unless the NTA presents a significant, extraordinary opportunity that would advance the success of a Tier One sub-strategy.</p>			
<p>C5.2</p>	<p>Effectively manage and control pollution from large on-site sewage systems</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports the Washington State Department of Health’s permit regulations for large onsite sewage systems with flows between 3,500 and 100,000 gallons per day (gpd), and requirements for protection of public health and the environment.</i></p>		<p>Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.</p>

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
C7.2	<p>Restore and enhance native shellfish populations</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports efforts to protect and restore native shellfish species, focusing on two species: native Olympia oysters and pinto abalone.</i></p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
C7.3	<p>Ensure environmentally responsible shellfish aquaculture based on sound science</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports efforts to clarify the potential impacts of shellfish aquaculture and help communities build consensus and collaboration on the role of shellfish aquaculture in Puget Sound.</i></p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
D4.1	<p>Oversee strategic planning for Puget Sound recovery science</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports strategic planning and prioritization, including the technical steps identified in the Open Standards; and supports continuing to build scientific knowledge and policy-relevant information for decision makers.</i></p>	See the <i>Eligibility</i> section of this solicitation: Actions that address recommendations of the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification should be coordinated with the Washington Marine Resources Advisory Council.	Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
D4.2	<p>Implement a coordinated, integrated Ecosystem Monitoring Program</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports the Partnership’s role in implementing and coordinating the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, which coordinates and integrates existing and future monitoring efforts to determine the status and trends of key components and indicators of Puget Sound health; it also supports monitoring data being used to inform decision makers about whether recovery actions have been effective, and helps identify where improvements (adaptations) might be needed at both local and regional scales.</i></p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
D5.2	<p>Collaboratively develop and promote science-based targeted communications and behavior change strategies across the region</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy focuses on coordinated and effective social marketing, incentive programs, and education and outreach efforts based in social science that can lead to public awareness and behavior changes, and which can be utilized Soundwide.</i></p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
D6.1	<p>Implement a long-term, highly visible, coordinated public-awareness effort using the Puget Sound Starts Here brand to increase public understanding of Puget Sound’s health, status, and threats. Conduct regionally-scaled communications to provide a foundation for local communications efforts. Conduct locally-scaled communications to engage residents in local issues and recovery efforts.</p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
D6.2	<p>Incorporate and expand Puget Sound related content in diverse delivery settings (e.g.: recreation, education institutions, local government, neighborhood and community groups, nonprofit organizations, businesses). Connect residents with public engagement and volunteer programs.</p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
D6.3	<p>Incorporate Puget Sound place-based content into K-12 curricula throughout the Puget Sound region. Connect schools with technical assistance, inquiry-based learning opportunities, and community resources. Implement student service projects connected to ecosystem recovery. Link schools to organizations with structured volunteer opportunities.</p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.
D7.4	<p>Provide public information conduits connecting individuals to local activities, resources and decision-making processes—including cost-share programs, technical assistance, volunteer</p>		Tier Two sub-strategies are not a priority for NTA solicitation unless the NTA

#	Shellfish Strategic Initiative Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priority for NTAs
	experiences and ways to engage in civic structures and processes.		also supports a Tier One sub-strategy.

Table 6: Cross-Cutting Strategies, Sub-Strategies, and Regional Priorities

The cross-cutting sub-strategies in the table below are considered relevant to all three Strategic Initiatives. The sub-strategies are included in bold in the left-hand column below. A brief description of the scope of the sub-strategy, adapted from the 2014 Action Agenda, is provided in italics in the left-hand column. The middle column provides additional useful information and clarifications about the scope of the sub-strategies that may be helpful.

Cross-cutting NTAs are intended to support and promote implementation of critical actions in a more efficient and synergistic way across one or more of the Strategic Initiatives, such as a public engagement plan; or to support other sub-strategies and regional priorities. Therefore, NTAs linked to one of these sub-strategies should support the implementation of sub-strategies in the three Strategic Initiatives and the regional priorities identified in Tables 3, 4, and 5.

#	Cross-Cutting Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
	<p>Climate Change and Ocean Acidification Impacts</p> <p><i>An important component in addressing recovery is to consider and address the impacts of climate change (and ocean acidification, if applicable) in all implementing actions proposed for the Action Agenda. Sea level rise, increased frequency and severity of flooding, erosion, temperature changes, and ocean acidification—all will increase risks to vulnerable communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.</i></p>	<p>The effects of climate change (and ocean acidification, if applicable) should be considered in the development of all NTAs.</p> <p>Actions with carbon or climate mitigation benefits must be tied to the sub-strategies in Tables 3, 4, or 5.</p>	<p>The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to climate change. These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.</p> <p>The teams will use resiliency to climate change in their NTA evaluation process. These are described in the Tables 2.</p>
A2	<p>Riparian Corridor Management</p> <p>Protect and restore upland, freshwater, and riparian ecosystems</p> <p><i>The strategy is aimed at protecting lands that are of high ecological value from development or further development.</i></p>	<p>Protection and restoration of marine and freshwater riparian corridors are important cross-cutting strategies that protect from increased water temperatures, protect water quality, and retain or enhance habitat. Strategy A2 addresses this issue and can provide guidance, but does not currently have a more specific sub-</p>	<p>The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to riparian corridors management. These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.</p>

#	Cross-Cutting Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
		strategy addressing riparian corridors.	
C1.6	<p>Regulation and Enforcement</p> <p>Increase compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and permits</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy helps ensure compliance with environmental laws; it aims to prevent and control pollution through targeted enforcement of those laws.</i></p>		<p>The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to policy- and decision-critical science. These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.</p>
D4.1	<p>Science</p> <p>Oversee strategic planning for Puget Sound recovery science</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports strategic planning and prioritization, including technical steps identified in the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (identifying key ecosystem components, drivers and pressures on the ecosystem, assessing linkages and risks, and assisting in setting of targets). It also supports the continuing effort to build scientific knowledge and policy-relevant information for decision makers.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound science provides the continued basis for decisions and policy-makers on how best to protect and restore Puget Sound. Science and monitoring are shared efforts and resources. Sub-strategy D4.1 supports extended efforts to build on our scientific knowledge and coordinate the need to fill scientific gaps and provide policy-relevant information for decision makers. • NTAs proposed for D4.1 must relate to one or more of the sub-strategies in the strategic initiative tables. • See the <i>Eligibility</i> section of this solicitation: Science actions related to other aspects of ecosystem recovery will not be adopted as NTAs but may be recommended to the Partnership 	<p>The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to policy- and decision-critical science. These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.</p>

#	Cross-Cutting Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
		for inclusion in the 2016 Biennial Science Work Plan.	
D4.2	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Implement a coordinated, integrated Ecosystem Monitoring Program</p> <p><i>This sub-strategy supports the Partnership’s role in implementing and coordinating the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, which coordinates and integrates existing and future monitoring efforts to determine the status and trends of key components and indicators of Puget Sound health. It also supports the use of monitoring data to inform decision makers about whether recovery actions have been effective, and it helps identify where improvements (or adaptations) might be needed at both local and regional scales.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action Agenda supports the coordination and integration of science assessments and monitoring to help determine the status and trends of the health of Puget Sound. • Actions that promote integrated approaches to provide support for monitoring across the three Strategic Initiatives could be considered in the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). • NTAs proposed for D4.2 must relate to one or more of the sub-strategies in the strategic initiative tables. • See the <i>Eligibility</i> section of this solicitation: Monitoring actions related to other aspects of ecosystem recovery will not be adopted as NTAs but may be recommended to PSEMP for inclusion in the 2016 Biennial Science Work Plan. 	The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to policy- and decision-critical science. These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.
D5.2	<p>Behavior Change</p> <p>Collaboratively develop and promote science-based targeted communications and behavior change strategies across the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior change is important to many of the Strategic Initiative sub-strategies as a means to incentivize human actions that are beneficial to recovery or to deter 	The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to policy- and decision-critical science.

#	Cross-Cutting Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
D5.3	<p><i>This sub-strategy focuses on coordinated and effective social marketing, incentive programs, and education and outreach efforts based in social science that can lead to public awareness and behavior changes, and which can be used Soundwide.</i></p> <p>Enable and encourage residents to take informed stewardship actions addressing infiltration, pollution reduction, habitat improvement, forest cover, soil development, critical areas, and reductions in shoreline armoring</p>	<p>human actions that are harmful to or further degrade Puget Sound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This includes behavior change efforts that are Sound-wide or pilot programs intended to be replicated across the Sound and that support priority actions in one or more of the Strategic Initiatives. 	<p>These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.</p>
D6.1	<p>Awareness and Education</p> <p><u>Issue awareness and building understanding:</u></p> <p>Implement a long-term, highly visible, coordinated public-awareness effort by using the Puget Sound Starts Here brand to increase public understanding of Puget Sound’s health, status, and threats. Conduct regionally-scaled communications to provide a foundation for local communication efforts. Conduct locally-scaled communications to engage residents in local issues and recovery efforts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and education, along with behavior change, are important across all three Strategic Initiatives. Note that public awareness, public involvement, education, and behavior change efforts all serve different purposes and are not synonymous. This includes increasing awareness and understanding of Puget Sound’s health, status and threats, as well as engaging the public in educational efforts and staff in technical training efforts related to priorities of one or more of the three Strategic Initiatives. This includes public awareness, public involvement, education, and engagement efforts that are Sound-wide or pilot programs intended to be replicated across the Sound and that support priority actions in one or more of the 	<p>The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams have identified regional priorities related to policy- and decision-critical science. These are described in the Tables 3, 4, and 5.</p>
D6.2	<p><u>Public enqagement and diverse communication delivery:</u></p> <p>Incorporate and expand Puget Sound related content in diverse delivery settings (e.g., recreation, education institutions, local government, neighborhood and community groups, nonprofit organizations, and businesses). Connect residents with public engagement and volunteer programs:</p>		
D6.3	<p><u>Education and technical assistance:</u></p> <p>Incorporate Puget Sound place-based content into K-12 curricula throughout the Puget Sound region. Connect schools with technical assistance, inquiry-based learning opportunities, and community resources. Implement student service projects connected to</p>		

#	Cross-Cutting Sub-Strategies	Additional Information & Clarifications	Regional Priorities for NTAs
D7.4	<p>ecosystem recovery. Link schools to organizations with structured volunteer opportunities</p> <p><i>Public information and connecting the public to activities, resources and decision-makers:</i></p> <p>Provide public information conduits connecting individuals to local activities, resources, and decision making processes—including cost-share programs, technical assistance, volunteer experiences, and ways to engage in civic structures and processes</p>	Strategic Initiatives.	

Process and Deadlines

The following are the major steps in the submittal and review process for all NTA proposals. **NTA proposals may not be accepted if they do not meet the eligibility and submittal requirements or follow this process.**

1. NTA proposals must be submitted through one of the following pathways.
 - A map of Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) is provided for your reference in the *Supplemental Information* section of the solicitation.
 - a. Local Entities & Tribes - Proposed NTA will take place in only one LIO:**
 - Submit the NTA proposal to the LIO. Follow the LIO's NTA submittal process (contact the LIO for details, contact information is provided in the *Supplemental Information* section of this solicitation).
 - The LIO may only approve an NTA proposal for submittal to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (see Step 2, below) if the LIO determines that the NTA is consistent (or at least not inconsistent) with the "Early Elements" of their LIO's 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan. If the LIO does not give approval, the NTA owner cannot submit their proposal to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams.
 - b. Local Entities & Tribes - Proposed NTA will take place in more than one LIO:**
 - Submit the NTA proposal to the primary LIO where most of the activity will occur. Follow the NTA submittal processes for the primary LIO (contact the LIO for details, contact information is provided in the *Supplemental Information* section of this solicitation).
 - The primary LIO may only approve an NTA proposal for submittal to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (see Step 2, below) if the primary LIO determines that the NTA is consistent (or at least not inconsistent) with the "Early Elements" of their 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan. If the primary LIO does not give approval, the NTA owner cannot submit their proposal to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams.
 - These NTA owners are strongly encouraged to coordinate with all of the secondary LIOs and must at least share their proposal with all of the secondary LIOs (contact the LIO for details, contact information is provided on the last page of this solicitation).
 - The secondary LIOs should flag the NTA and notify the NTA owner if the NTA conflicts with the "Early Elements" of their 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan. The NTA owner should consult with the secondary LIO to resolve any identified conflicts.
 - c. Regional Entities - Proposed NTA will take place in one or more LIOs:**
 - If the proposed action will occur in a few LIOs (i.e.: 3 or less), the NTA owner is strongly encouraged to coordinate with the LIOs prior to submitting the proposal.
 - Submit the NTA proposal directly to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (see Step 2, below).

- These NTAs do not have to go through an LIO review first, however, they will be reviewed in Step 3 by affected LIOs to ensure they do not conflict with LIO 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plans.

d. Proposed NTA will take place only in the Skagit/Samish watershed (for the purposes of this solicitation only and until an LIO is formed):

- A tribe or local entity in the Skagit/Samish watershed should work with a regional entity willing to sponsor an NTA submittal. Only a regional entity (e.g.: Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, state or federal agency, or region-wide NGO) may submit NTA proposals in this category since there is no LIO in the Skagit watershed.
- Regional entities may submit NTA proposals directly to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams (see Step 2, below).
- These NTA owners are encouraged to coordinate with local tribes and other local entities, as appropriate, to avoid conflicts with local strategic plans, as applicable.

2. All NTA proposals being submitted from Step 1 (above) to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams must be submitted by the NTA owner through the Puget Sound Partnership web site by **10am on December 31, 2015** using the submittal template⁶ and submittal portal available through the NTA Web Page (see *Supplemental Information* section of this solicitation). If you cannot use the website or the provided template, please request alternative arrangements no later than December 23, 2015 (Contact Libby Hudson, 360-464-1227 or libby.hudson@psp.wa.gov). Early submittals are welcome and encouraged.

- Upon receipt of an NTA proposal, the Puget Sound Partnership will send the NTA owner an email acknowledgement that the NTA was received.
- The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams may conduct additional NTA recruitment after the submittal deadline to fill gap(s) in submittals for key regional priorities identified in the *Strategic Initiative and Regional Priorities* section of this solicitation.
- As part of the submittal process to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams, NTA owners must affirm on the submittal form:
 - They have the support of their organization to submit the NTA.
 - Their NTA, if applicable, has been approved for submittal by a Local Integrating Organization (LIO) (see Step 1a or 1b, above) and has not been flagged by a secondary LIO (see Step 1b, above).

3. By January 4, 2016, the Puget Sound Partnership will forward all NTA proposals to:

- The appropriate Transition Team(s) for initial review.
- The applicable LIOs based on the geographical scope of the NTA to:
 - Confirm local scale NTA proposals were approved by the LIO for submittal to the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams.

⁶ The submittal template will be available by October 5, 2015.

- Flag any NTAs from regional entities that conflict with the LIOs “Early Elements” of their 5-year Ecosystem Recovery Plan by January 18, 2016. Any conflicts will need to be addressed by February 1, 2016 in order for the NTA to proceed to final review and be included in the Action Agenda. If a conflict isn’t resolved, the Strategic Initiative Transition Team will decide if the NTA may proceed to final review.
 - c. The Washington Marine Resource Advisory Committee to flag any NTAs related to ocean acidification that are inconsistent with the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification recommendations.
4. The Transition Teams will conduct an initial review of the NTA proposals with the goal of providing comments to NTA owners that would help improve their NTAs. NTAs will be triaged into one of three categories:
 - a. Category 1: NTA may benefit from minor revisions or does not need revision
 - b. Category 2: NTA would benefit from substantive revisions
 - c. Category 3: NTA has serious concerns that must to be addressed before the NTA can advance into the final review process.
 5. The Puget Sound Partnership will provide the results of the initial review to NTA owners by January 18, 2016. LIOs will also receive this information for the proposed NTAs that will take place within their geographical area.
 6. If an NTA owner chooses to refine their NTA proposal, they will have until February 1, 2016 to submit the final proposals.
 - a. If an NTA proposal was triaged as Category 1 or 2 and the owner chooses not to further refine it, the original proposal will be considered final for the review process.
 - b. If an NTA proposal was triaged as Category 3 and the owner chooses not to refine it, the proposal will not receive further consideration and will be dropped from the review process.
 - c. If an NTA proposal was triaged as Category 3 and the owner does refine their proposal, the Transition Teams will determine if the revision has adequately addressed the concerns raised during the initial review and can proceed into the final review process.
 - d. NTA owners and applicable LIOs will be notified if an NTA is not advanced into the final review process.
 7. The Transition Teams will evaluate the final proposals using the evaluation criteria provided in the *Submittal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria* section of this solicitation. By February 29, 2016, each Transition Team will produce a ranked list of NTAs that will become part of the Draft Action Agenda 2-year Implementation Plan.

Note: The inclusion of NTAs with revised results chains (not mapped to prototype results chains) in the final ranked list will be provisional, pending the final technical review of the revised results chain for acceptance into the prototype library. The review process for the revised results chains is still to be determined, but is expected to occur after the adoption of the Action Agenda.

8. To ensure a fair, open and transparent process:
 - a. The LIOs and the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams will need to review proposals based on published criteria and maintain a record of review for each NTA submitted using a template provided by the Puget Sound Partnership⁷.
 - b. By December 31, 2015, LIOs will need to provide the Puget Sound Partnership with a summary of their NTA solicitation and review process as well as a list of all NTAs submitted and their outcome in the review process. The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams will need to provide this same information to the Puget Sound Partnership by February 29, 2016.
 - c. The Puget Sound Partnership will publish a summary of the NTA solicitation and review process along with a list of all NTAs submitted and their outcome in the review process as part of the procedural record.
 - d. Any NTA owner who feels their NTA proposal was not reviewed consistent with stated criteria by an LIO or the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams may petition to the Management Conference during the Action Agenda adoption process. Letters of petition must be received by the Puget Sound Partnership by March 30, 2016.

⁷ The record of review template will be available October 5, 2015.

Supplemental Information

NTA Web Page

Web Page: http://www.psp.wa.gov/2016_AA_NTA.php

The Puget Sound Partnership has established a web page to support this NTA solicitation process. On the web page you will find this solicitation document and a wide range of information useful to understanding this solicitation process and supporting the development of NTAs. The information on the web page will be updated, as necessary, in order to keep the region up to date on the solicitation process, including guidance and helpful resources. The web page will include the following:

- NTA submittal template (available by October 5, 2015)
- NTA submittal portal (available by October 5, 2015)
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ)
- Glossary of terms
- Guidance documents
- Background resources
- Technical resources

Map of Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs)



Questions? Who to Contact

In order to provide consistent and efficient service to those needing assistance related to this solicitation. The people listed below will be the first point of contact for questions related to a wide range of information related to this solicitation. If they cannot directly answer your questions, they will reply promptly with an answer or connect you with the appropriate person to assist you.

Regional Solicitation and Regional Priorities

Primary Contact	For questions related to...
<p>Libby Hudson Environmental Planner Puget Sound Partnership (360) 464-1227 libby.hudson@psp.wa.gov</p> <p>Kelly Adams Administrative Assistant Puget Sound Partnership (360) 464-1233 kelly.adams@psp.wa.gov</p>	<p>NTA submittal process, Action Agenda, Vital Signs, Strategic Initiatives, Implementation Strategies, Puget Sound Pressures Assessment, logic models,</p>
<p>Blake Nelson Washington Department of Ecology (360) 407-6940 bnel461@ecy.wa.gov</p>	<p>Regional priorities for the Stormwater Strategic Initiative</p>
<p>Patricia Jatczak Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (360) 902-2597 patricia.jatczak@dfw.wa.gov</p>	<p>Regional priorities for the Habitat Strategic Initiative</p>
<p>Mary Knackstedt Washington Department of Health (360) 236-3319 mary.knackstedt@doh.wa.gov</p>	<p>Regional priorities for the Shellfish Strategic Initiative</p> <p>Shellfish Beds Implementation Strategy</p>

LIO Solicitations and NTA Review Process

For questions related to the local LIO process, use the contacts provided below. Links to LIO web pages are located at the NTA web page above.

LIO	LIO Primary Contact	Puget Sound Partnership Liaison
Whatcom LIO	Becky Peterson genevaconsulting@comcast.net (360) 392-1301	Leah Kintner leah.kintner@psp.wa.gov (360) 464-2010
San Juan LIO	Betsy Daniels bdaniels@triangleassociates.com (206) 583-0655	Suzanna Stoike suzanna.stoike@psp.wa.gov (253) 348-2367
Island LIO	Lori Clark l.clark@co.island.wa.us (360) 679-7352	Suzanna Stoike suzanna.stoike@psp.wa.gov (253) 348-2367
Strait Ecosystem Recovery Network	John Cambalik straitsoundenvironmental@wavecable.com (360) 797-3161	Gretchen Glaub gretchen.glaub@psp.wa.gov (360) 464-1219
Snohomish/Stillaguamish LIO	Karen Stewart karen.stewart@snoco.org (425) 388-6464 Mary Hurner mary.hurner@co.snohomish.wa.us (425) 388-6401	Heather Cole heather.cole@psp.wa.gov (360) 464-1225
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	LIO Primary Contact Haley Harguth hharguth@hccc.wa.gov (360) 328-4625	Stacy Vynne McKinstry stacy.vynne@psp.wa.gov (360) 464-2012
West Central LIO	Claire Chase cchase@triangleassociates.com (206) 583-0655	Tristan Peter-Contesse tristan.peter-contesse@psp.wa.gov (360) 464-2002
South Central Action Area Caucus Group	Gretchen Muller gretchen@cascadiaconsulting.com (206) 449-1115	Bruce Wulkan bruce.wulkan@psp.wa.gov (360) 339-4626
Alliance for a Healthy South Sound	Elizabeth McManus emcmanus@rossstrategic.com (360) 570-0899	Stephanie Suter stephanie.suter@psp.wa.gov (360)464-2013

For questions about the Skagit/Samish watershed, contact:

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