

# Integrating Human Wellbeing and Ecosystem Services into Near Term Action Planning in the Puget Sound

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## Introduction

This is an EPA funded, collaborative project between OSU and PSP, led by Dr. Kelly Biedenweg, Dr. David Trimbach, and Whitney Fleming (PhD student). This project is Part of a **much larger effort**, which aims to **better integrate social science and human wellbeing into ecosystem recovery efforts** at the regional and local levels within the Puget Sound Region (Figure 1)

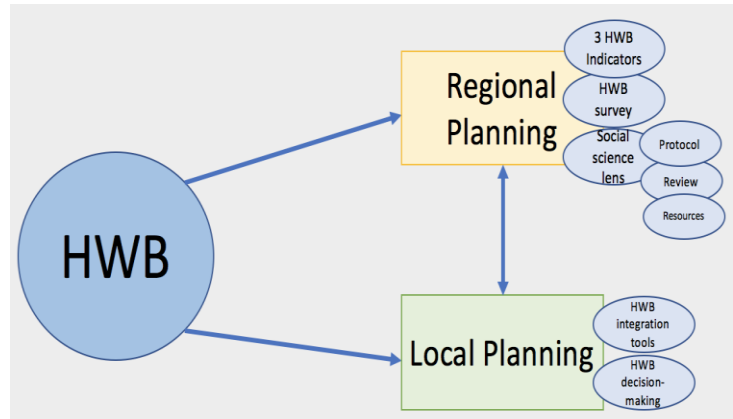


Figure 1. HWB Integration Projects Moving Forward with Examples

## Overarching focus:

- To help integrate human wellbeing indicators with ecological indicators in LIO decision-making, including NTA development and scoring process.

## What can this project offer (benefits) to LIOs and beyond?

- Practical tools, capacity, and resources – all tailored to LIOs' needs and interests.
  - Examples: **funding** (Miradi assistance funding and LIO participation funds that are tailored to LIOs' needs and interests) and **tool development and/or integration assistance** (conceptual models, Vital Sign (HWB) integration, pertinent data and information integration best practices, tradeoffs/consequences of different strategies, specialized decision-making tools, etc.) **that can assist with decision-making**.
  - Example: If your LIO is interested in one particular strategy or tool, you can work with us to **organize a training session or workshop**.
  - Example: A LIO has recognized shellfish beds as a high priority Vital Sign, this project can **help provide tools or strategies to help your LIO better understand, address, and prioritize** shellfish beds.
  - **Tools/resources that may include workshops or trainings can be organized in conjunction with individual LIOs to best meet LIO needs and potential time limitations.**
- Lessons learned from research component will be documented and analyzed in order to tease out best practices, limitations, challenges, etc. that could then be used to **inform future ecosystem recovery efforts and decision-making** (local, regional, and elsewhere).
  - Research consists of **interviews** (with LIO Coordinators and members), **cognitive mapping** (interactive exercise), and **participant observation**.
  - The research component is a **requirement of EPA funding** and contributes to a broader evaluation.

## How much time will the LIO need to commit?

- This project is meant to be **low impact** in both time and capacity for LIOs.

- Interviews with cognitive mapping exercise with LIO Coordinators and members will likely take **45-60 minutes each** (one will be conducted prior to the tool provision and one after – in order to assess tool/resource effectiveness, challenges, lessons learned)
- Trainings/workshops/tools/integrations can be added to the regular AHSS meeting agendas, and therefore don't require additional time.

### Project goals:

- This project has **2 overlapping goals and components** (Figure 2):
- Work closely with 4 communities to **identify a tool and/or tools that allows us to see the social, ecological and financial costs, benefits, and factors** of different strategies or decision-making criteria.
- Evaluate **how working with such tools can influence the interest and ability to consider wellbeing indicators in decision-making.**

### Why this topic matters or what do these goals entail?

It builds upon the **Partnership's ongoing efforts** and provides opportunities and resources to **better integrate human wellbeing (e.g.: the Vital Signs) and ecosystem services** into LIO decision-making and efforts via specific tools or strategies.

### Would you like to participate (either aspect) in the project? Questions?

- Project Manager - Dr. David J. Trimbach – [david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu](mailto:david.trimbach@oregonstate.edu)
- Website: <https://integratinghumanwellbeing.weebly.com/project-details.html>
- LIO Coordinator or ERC



Figure 2. Overlapping Project Components