



Western Washington University  
**Western CEDAR**

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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2018 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Seattle, Wash.)

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Apr 5th, 2:00 PM - 2:15 PM

## **Puget Sound federal task force: federal coordination and collaboration to protect and restore Puget Sound shorelines**


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Bonifacino, Gina and Meyer, Susan, "Puget Sound federal task force: federal coordination and collaboration to protect and restore Puget Sound shorelines" (2018). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 341.

<https://cedar.wvu.edu/ssec/2018ssec/allsessions/341>

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# **Puget Sound Federal Task Force Action Plan**

## **Nearshore and Estuaries**

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## **KEY ACTIONS**

**2.2.3.8 Protection of ESA habitat landward of the Corps' CWA jurisdictional boundary**

**2.2.3.9 Coastal Improvement Team**

**2.1.1 Evaluate existing programmatic or streamlined regulatory tools/processes for activities related to Puget Sound habitat**



# WHY?





# **TWO WORKGROUPS**

**Shorelines Workgroup -  
Comprised of federal  
and state agencies, with  
a specific task.**

**Nearshore and Estuaries  
Workgroup – Comprised  
of federal agency staff  
who helped develop the  
Action Plan.**

# SHORELINES WORKGROUP

- Consists of federal and state regulatory agencies
- Task – Incentivize marine shoreline restoration and encourage the use of soft shore approaches over hard armoring by removing disincentives in the permitting process.
- Discussions have included:
  - desired outcomes
  - use of existing tools
  - Recommendations
  - Different types of soft shore approaches



# SHORELINES WORKGROUP

**Preliminary recommendations include:**

- **Develop an activity-based programmatic ESA process**
- **Form a multi-agency review team – to coordinate pre-app meetings, site visits, correspondence**
- **Develop a sustainable training program for regulatory staff and contractors**
- **Investigate the feasibility of a soft shore insurance program**
- **Develop a GIS-based tool to help applicants gather information necessary for permit reviews**



# SHORELINES WORKGROUP

## Still working on:

- What kind of projects should we strive to incentivize along the continuum?
- Specific recommendations and the most effective implementation approach

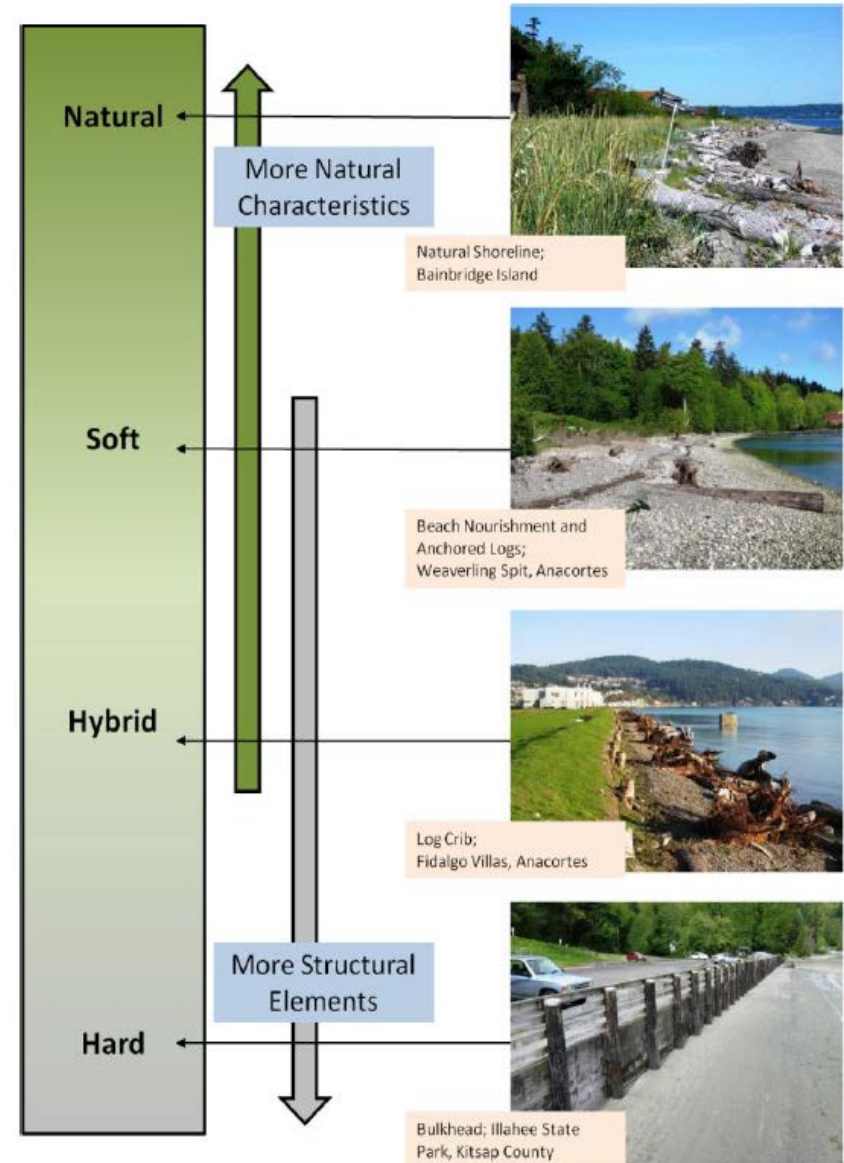


Figure 1. Soft shore projects lie along a continuum between those that are natural (top) and those that are heavily armored (bottom). (SOURCE: Gianou 2014)



# NEARSHORE AND ESTUARIES WORKGROUP

**Consists of  
NOAA, Corps,  
USFWS, FEMA,  
and NRCS**

**Discussion of  
the barriers to  
getting on-the-  
ground  
restoration**

**Focus on land  
acquisition and  
the many differing  
grant conditions,  
timelines, and  
authorities**







# **NEARSHORE AND ESTUARIES WORKGROUP**

**Held an  
Acquisition  
Workshop with  
TNC in Jan.- over  
40 participants-  
considered all  
habitats**

**Brainstormed  
solutions and  
actions for 4  
key problem  
statements**

**Example-Develop a  
Tool Finder and  
post on relevant  
websites such as  
Office of  
Regulatory  
Assistance and  
Innovations**

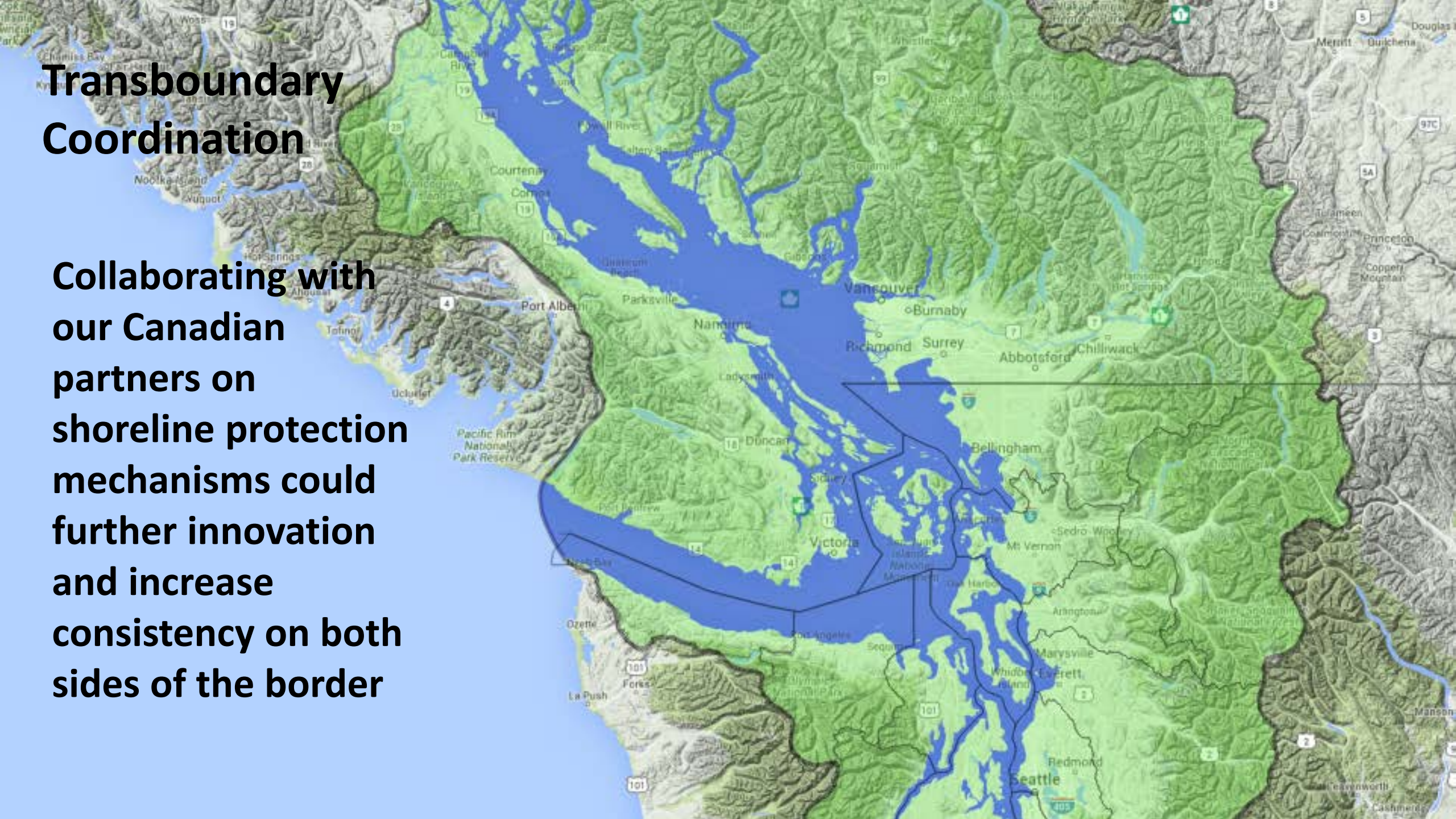
# **How has the Puget Sound Federal Task Force influenced this work?**

- **Regional federal leaders have provided support for their staff to participate in the workgroups**
  - **There is enthusiastic participation by workgroup members**
- **Biweekly RIT meetings provide a venue for sharing accomplishments**
- **The RIT meets biannually with the Tribal Management Council and at least annually with Tribal leaders to get feedback on priorities and approaches**



# Transboundary Coordination

**Collaborating with  
our Canadian  
partners on  
shoreline protection  
mechanisms could  
further innovation  
and increase  
consistency on both  
sides of the border**





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# Questions?



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