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

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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
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
Still working on:

• What kind of projects should we strive to incentivize along the continuum?

• Specific recommendations and the most effective implementation approach
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.
Questions?