

**Puget Sound Partnership
Action Agenda Status Update for Leadership Council**

February 28, 2008

Discussion Purpose

- Keep Leadership Council up-to-date on Action Agenda status and progress
- Seek Leadership Council guidance on specific aspects of the Action Agenda

For some of the items below, the Leadership Council will have a more detailed discussion at the meeting. Other briefing materials are available for those topics.

Status

The status is organized around the four Action Agenda questions:

1. What is the current status of Puget Sound's health and what are the biggest threats to it?
2. What is a healthy Puget Sound?
3. What actions must be taken that will move us from where we are today towards a healthy Puget Sound by 2020?
4. Where should we start?

1. What is the current status of Puget Sound's health and what are the biggest threats to it?

- The Risk Analysis initiated by NOAA Fisheries will set the over-arching framework and context for the ecosystem. An expert review workshop was held on February 20th with several Science Panel members in attendance. Staff will give a brief overview of the next steps on March 3.
- Nine workshops are being held around Puget Sound to discuss the sound-wide risk analysis and bring in the local information. The overarching goal is to work toward a shared understanding of current status and threats to Puget Sound. Attendees are invited to add their local knowledge and perspectives to the status and threats assessment of Puget Sound through small and large group discussion. The focus is on existing data. Each of the workshops is followed by more open community discussion.

Four of the nine workshops will have been held before the Leadership Council meeting. We will bring highlights to the meeting. Two of the workshops have been rescheduled to ensure more participation. Approximately 50 participants have attended the afternoon workshop. Participation in the community conversations has been 25-30 people per meeting.

2. What is a healthy Puget Sound?

- The Leadership Council will discuss and confirm using the legislative definitions of a healthy Puget Sound (handout).
- A brief progress update on the indicators work will be available.
- The Leadership Council will begin a discussion about using policy-based targets and benchmarks at the meeting (handout).

3. What actions must be taken to move from where we are now to a healthy Puget Sound by 2020?

- The Partnership is conducting an inventory of existing responsibilities and work. The deadline for submittal is February 29. Initial results will be available for review at the upcoming Action Area meetings. Examples will be available at the Leadership Council meeting.
- Based on Science Panel guidance, six topic forums (mirroring the Partnership goals) have been initiated to essentially answer the four questions of the Action Area from both scientific and policy perspectives. The Leadership Council will have a discussion about the assignment to these topic forum groups. Note that the Topic Forums are focused on “what needs to be done”. The Ecosystem Coordination Board will be more focused on the “how”.

Each Topic Forum will have one topic-focused workshop and we will have one overall synthesis workshop. These workshops are being scheduled as quickly as possible.

- A second set of Action Area meetings will be scheduled for early May to discuss actions, including the work of the topic forums.

4. Where should we start?

- At the Leadership Council meeting, we will begin a discussion about selecting criteria for setting priorities. To help seed the discussion, staff will bring examples of ideas from the Action Area workshops (handout).