



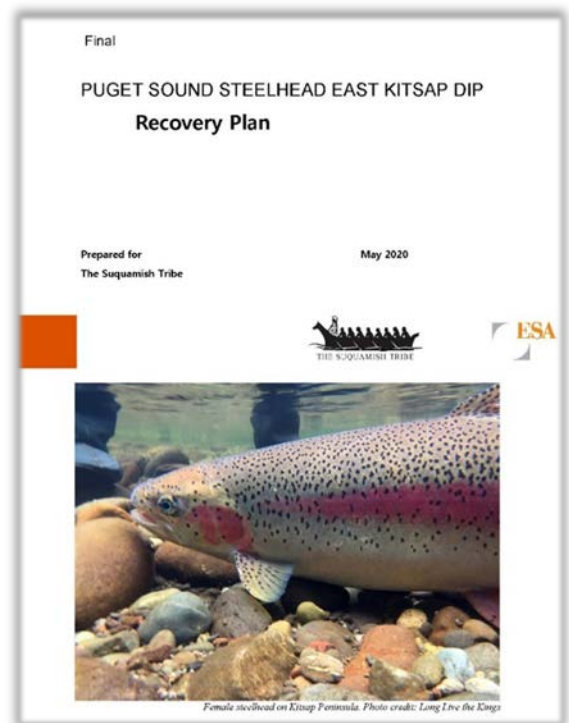
Summer 2020 Update

WSPER had a busy spring! All meetings were moved online due to COVID-19, the East Kitsap Steelhead Recovery plan was finalized, and members completed two prioritization processes for recovery funding. Anticipated work for the rest of 2020 includes the following:

- Compilation of a planned project list to share with the State to show top priority recovery projects that are ready to be implemented if funding is made available.
- Completion and adoption of WSPER's bylaws and a new WSPER website.
- Beginning a process to review and update the 2016 Ecosystem Recovery Plan.

East Kitsap Steelhead Recovery Plan

In June, the Suquamish Tribe announced release of the Puget Sound Steelhead East Kitsap Demographically Independent Population (DIP) Recovery Plan. The Plan describes current ecological and habitat conditions and those necessary to recover and sustain a viable East Kitsap Steelhead DIP. The Plan is the result of a collaborative effort led by the Suquamish Tribe and involving the Co-Managers, NOAA Fisheries, and WSPER member organizations. The final Recovery Plan, Executive Summary, and summary of the planning process can be found [here](#).



Salmon Habitat Project Funding

In June, the Executive Committee approved a prioritized list of salmon habitat recovery projects for an estimated \$1.257 million in recovery funding, a portion of which is dependent on the State's 2021 budget. The projects were reviewed and vetted by the Technical Advisory Group and WSPER Working Group. The estimated funding would fully fund the first six priority projects.

Prioritized List of Habitat Projects (list continues on page 2)

1. [Rocky Creek Estuary and Riparian Protection](#) – Great Peninsula Conservancy
2. [Finn Creek Design and Permit](#) – Wild Fish Conservancy
3. [Lower Grovers Creek Habitat Protection 2020](#) – Great Peninsula Conservancy
4. [Minter Creek Conservation Easement](#) – Great Peninsula Conservancy
5. [Rose Point Nearshore and Estuary Restoration](#) – Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
6. [Cramer McCracken Acquisition¹](#) – Key Pen Parks

¹The Executive Committee recommended Key Pen Parks change the name of this project to honor Scott Gallacher.

Prioritized List of Submitted Habitat Projects (continued)

- 7. [Springbrook Creek Preserve Protection Restoration](#) – Bainbridge Island Land Trust
- 8. [KGI Fish Passage and Flood Resilience Inventory](#) – South Puget Sound Enhancement Group
- 9. [Lower Strawberry Creek Restoration](#) – Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
- 10. [Ruby Creek Fish Passage and Stream Restoration](#) – Kitsap Conservation District

Near Term Action (NTA) Funding

In April, the Executive Committee approved a ranked list of NTAs for use of \$100,000 National Estuary Program (NEP) money. The East Kitsap Forage Fish monitoring NTA is the top-ranked project and will receive the full funding award plus an expected funding match from the Habitat SI. The NTA will extend forage fish monitoring for two years.

| Local WSPER NTAs Funded with NEP Funds: 2016-2020 | | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Year | Local NTA Name | NTA Owner | Funding Secured | Total Funding Available |
| 2020 | 2018-0437 East Kitsap Forage Fish Monitoring | Suquamish Tribe | \$200,000 | \$100,000 + \$100,000 Match from Habitat Strategic Initiative Shared Investment |
| 2019 | 2018-0505 Strategic West Central Watertype and eDNA Assessment | Wild Fish Conservancy | \$70,000 | \$100,000 |
| | 2018-0322 Shore Friendly Kitsap | Kitsap County | \$30,000 | |
| 2018 | 2018-0901 Curley Creek Prioritized Restoration | Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group | \$70,000 | \$100,000 |
| | 2018-0322 Shore Friendly Kitsap | Kitsap County | \$30,000 | |
| 2017 | South Dogfish Creek Restoration Project | City of Poulsbo | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |
| 2016 | Shore Friendly Kitsap | Kitsap County | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

Events/Trainings/Opportunities

Training: August 11-14. Free Virtual Workshops on Process-Based Restoration of Riverscapes to benefit fish, wildlife, and working lands. Participants learn skills in project planning, design, and implementation. See course [Design Manual](#). Hosted by Utah State University. **Register [Here](#).**

Grant Opportunity: NOAA [Advancing Climate Adaptation and Coastal Community Resilience](#) opportunity. Seeks proposals that enhance adaptation and resilience planning and implementation.

Grant Opportunity: Rose Foundation [Orca Fund grant opportunity](#) for projects centered on improving water quality and/or aquatic habitat within the Southern Resident Orcas’ home range including Puget Sound.

Upcoming Meetings

Working Group: August 11, October 13, and December 8

Executive Committee: September 10

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[Lead Entity Website](#)
[LIO Website](#)