# WRIA 9 – Governance Structure for Salmon Recovery in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed



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Presentation to the Green/Duwamish Watershed Strategy, Stormwater Work Group

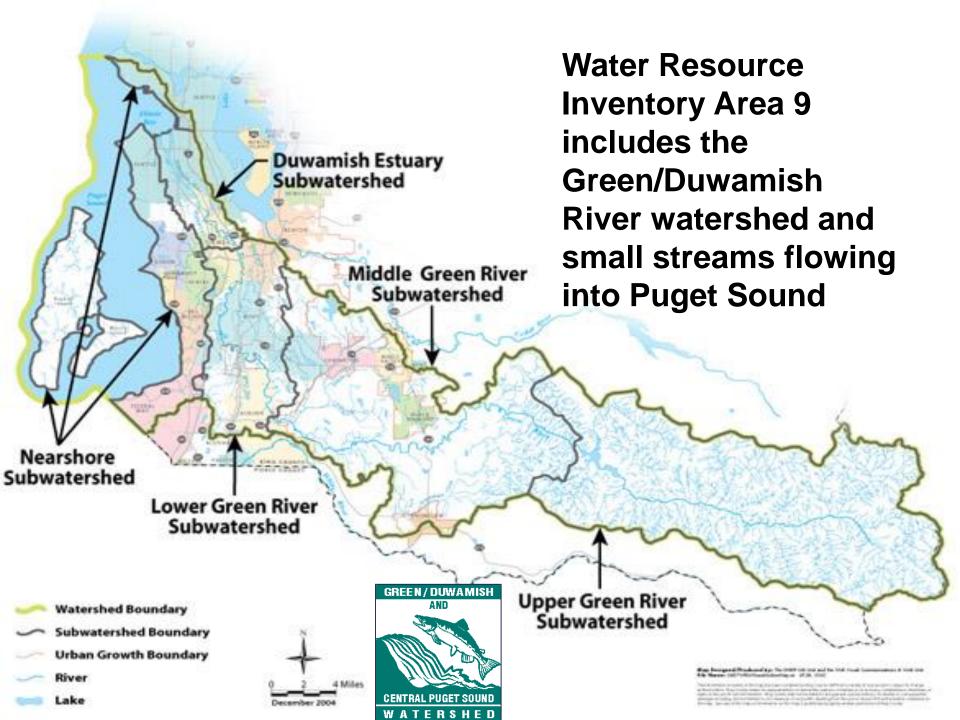
September 15, 2016

### **Presentation Summary**

- Origin of Water Resource Inventory Area 9
   Lead Entity Endangered Species Act
- Salmon Habitat Plan 2005
- Interlocally established Watershed Governance & Decision Making
- Key Management Strategies
- Integration with other resource management efforts

# King County Watersheds (Water Resource Inventory Areas)





### Salmon Recovery Plans: Watersheds of Puget Sound

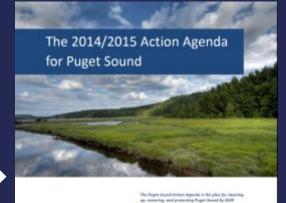
WRIA 8 / 9 Recovery Plans SALMON HABITAT PLAN Making Our Watershed 

Approved 2005



Approved 2007

Action Agenda for Puget Sound Recovery



PugetSoundPartnership

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Approved 2008 (updated 2014)



#### WRIA 9 Governance Structure

- Watershed Ecosystem Forum
  - Policy direction, plan implementation and updates
- Management Committee
  - Budget, administration
- Implementation Technical Committees
  - Project review, monitoring, plan updates
- Working Groups/subcommittees as needed
  - Subarea plans, strategies



## WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

- Authorized by Interlocal Agreement among 17 local governments
- Voting members representing:
  - 16 cities
  - King County
  - Water districts
  - Port of Seattle
  - Environmental interests
  - Agriculture
  - Business interests
  - State and federal agencies



# Role of the WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum

- Directing implementation and funding
- Educating and engaging

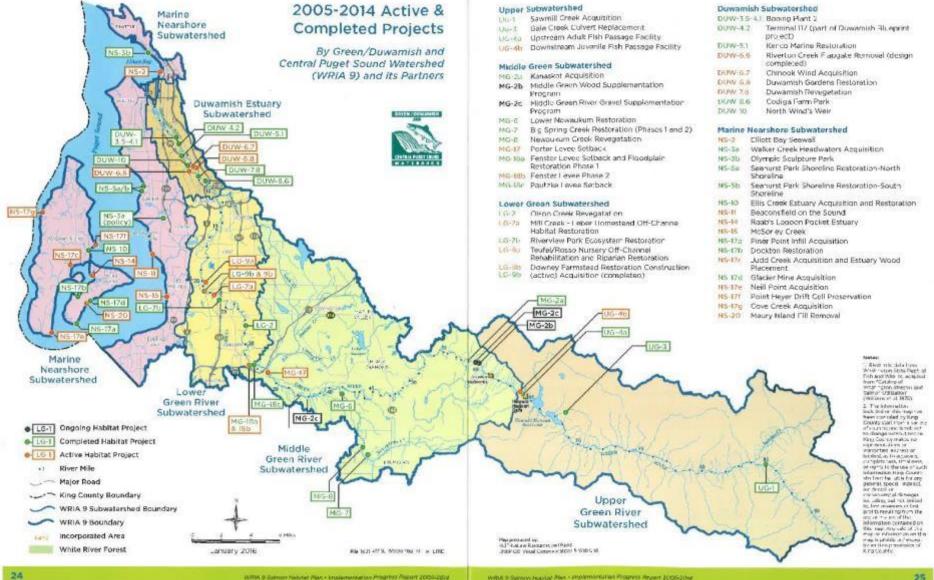
- Providing policy direction
- Building capacity





### Salmon Habitat PLAN: 2006-2015 Science into Policy and Actions

- Protect, Connect, & Unlock the Natural Potential
- Increase abundance of natural-origin spawners from current 1,737 to 4,200 per year
- Implement the 10-year priority project and program list:
  - 75 habitat *restoration* projects
  - 57 habitat *protection* projects
  - 26 programs (e.g., stewardship, public education and outreach)



### What have we accomplished in WRIA 9?

- 918 acres protected through acquisition or easement
- 80 acres of riparian area planted
- 1.2 miles of levees removed or set back
- 57 acres of floodplain reconnected
- 3,370 feet of marine shoreline restored







### **Integrating Other Efforts**

- Fish passage at Howard Hanson Dam and Tacoma Diversion Dam
- Lower Green River System-Wide Improvement Framework
- Providing education and stewardship services in partnership with Environmental Science Center, King Conservation District, Flood Control District, and community organizations.
- Riparian area stewardship and noxious weed treatment
- Puget Sound recovery

#### Stormwater in the WRIA 9 Habitat Plan

- 2005 science did not show water quality as a threat to Chinook salmon
  - 2005 plan encourages Low Impact Development
  - No stormwater projects included
- Recent science indicates contaminants and temperatures a problem for Chinook survival
- Addressing water quality in Habitat Plan update, now through 2018
- Staff capacity, funding are limitations