



February 20, 2019

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City of Olympia
Executive Department

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The Honorable Cheryl Selby
Mayor of Olympia
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mayor Selby,

RE: Presenting details of the WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity

Thank you for your continued support of community-based salmon recovery in South Puget Sound. As you know, the WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity gathers the Squaxin Island Tribe, local governments, non-profits, state and federal agencies, the local Regional Fisheries Enhancement group, the Conservation District, and landowners around a table to rank actions and prioritize projects in Henderson, Budd, and Eld Inlets and a portion of the Nisqually Reach. The stakeholders use science as the foundation to identify projects that restore and conserve freshwater and nearshore habitat to reestablish salmon abundance.

Since 1999, the WRIA 13 Lead Entity has opened over 32 miles of streams for spawning and rearing salmon, protected over 1,500 acres of habitat, restored over 35-acres of estuary habitat ideal for rearing young salmon, removed more than 0.5 miles of shoreline armoring, and planted six miles of riparian corridors in conjunction with placing 250 key pieces of large wood back into streams. The investments made from federal and state grants is leveraged 3:1 with local funds and in-kind volunteers.

The City of Olympia has partnered with the WRIA 13 Lead Entity by providing staff support to assist with creating the recovery plan and to participate in project selection, but also directly on projects. City staff and the Lead Entity Committee have partnered on restoration projects such as the Mission Creek estuary and fish passage project, and the Lower Lake Lawrence project on the Deschutes. This combined effort to find funding works to leverage dollars and make the most efficient use of the taxpayer investment.

The WRIA 13 Lead Entity respectfully requests the opportunity to update the City Council on activities to date and to discuss the future of the WRIA 13 Lead Entity. The presentation can be tailored to the time allotted, allowing additional time for a dialogue, perhaps 20-40 minutes, per your direction.

Thanks once again for your support. I look forward to working with you and your staff as we collaborate to create a better future for salmon and their habitat in WRIA 13.

Sincerely,

Marc Daily
Executive Director, Thurston Regional Planning Council

Cc:
Steve Hall, City of Olympia
Rich Hoey, City of Olympia
Joe Roush, City of Olympia



Marc Daily
Executive Director

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