Narrative for WRIA 2 / San Juan County
Salmon Recovery 3 Year Work Program: 2012 Update

Adaptive Management continues to be the overarching theme for San Juan County's salmon recovery work...

A brief background is provided here to provide the context for the questions being asked for this work plan update.

San Juan County / WRIA2 Goals and Priorities for Salmon Recovery - Interim Strategy

Over the last few years, WRIA2 has concentrated on performing assessments necessary to fill critical data gaps to document the important habitats in the San Juans and to have a better understanding of how, when and where salmon are utilizing San Juan County's shorelines, fresh and marine waters. This is the highest priority action(s) identified in the San Juan County Salmon Recovery Chapter:

> "The key goal in San Juan County is to identify critical habitats and ecosystem interactions in order to develop protection and restoration actions that will be most effective in moving populations of Puget Sound Chinook towards recovery. In San Juan County (WRIA2) protection of high quality nearshore marine habitat is the top salmon recovery goal. The current prioritized action strategy to meet the protection goal is:
>
> 1. Assessment Projects – fulfilling critical data gaps via assessments which will enhance and support protection and identify needs and opportunities for restoration;
> 2. Protection Projects – includes data sharing, stewardship, acquisition and easements, incentives and education;
> 3. Restoration Projects – to be based on habitat condition assessments."

Since multiple assessments have now been completed, WRIA2 is working to bring the various assessments and data sets together and to analyze and use the assessment information to prioritize protection and restoration actions for San Juan County. This work continues through the "Pulling It All Together" (PIAT) project. The results of the analysis will then be incorporated to update the local work plan. The development of a protection and restoration plan will create a common understanding of geographic priorities and direct efforts toward local projects that are critical to the recovery of salmon.

Thus the actions as stated above from the recovery plan would now be prioritized in this manner:

1. Protection Projects – includes acquisition and easements informed by the "Pulling It All Together" project, data sharing, stewardship, incentives and education;
2. Restoration Projects – based on habitat assessments and "Pulling It All Together" project analysis;
3. Assessment Projects – includes monitoring, filling data gaps, and conducting research that will in turn support protection and restoration efforts.

Interim Strategy

The "Pulling It All Together" (PIAT) project is still in progress so an interim strategy to provide guidance for this current grant round will be used until the project has been completed and the results have been used to update the local work plan.

What we know now and can document is that the current approach being pursued via the PIAT project is an emphasis on priority nearshore areas based on their use by these fish in the San Juans: juvenile Chinook, juvenile forage fish, and spawning forage fish.

The next steps for the PIAT project will be to complete a degradation analysis of conditions in nearshore areas in the San Juans to identify protection and restoration areas. This work will be the final step in the PIAT project which is scheduled to be completed June 2012.

The PIAT project work has resulted in development of a framework to prioritize actions by geographic priority for fish recovery; these are reflected in the work plan for 2012. For the 2012 grant round, we will use the same emphasis on priority areas for fish use that the PIAT project has identified as the interim strategy. Evaluation criteria for the 2012 grant round have been updated to incorporate salmon recovery priority regions identified as highest, high and moderate in the scoring of project proposals for Benefit to Salmon and Fit to Plan. See Appendix A for Evaluation Criteria and priority area maps.

Adaptive management discussions have been occurring since January 2009 with the local salmon TAG, the Marine Resources Committee (CAG) Salmon Subcommittee, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) staff, and the Regional Implementation Technical Team (RITT). The original adaptive management matrix provided by the RITT in 2009 was instrumental in the first adaptive management discussions and helped highlight that San Juan County has achieved a majority of the original recovery chapter goals and actions.

The local salmon groups have continued these adaptive management conversations and will work with the PSP staff and the RITT to continue the formal adaptive management and monitoring (AMM) process.

As of late 2011, the local AMM process has completed a tailored version of the Puget Sound regional template for the San Juans. Additional refinements may be made when the PIAT project is completed in 2012. The PIAT project to date has synthesized, analyzed, and displayed key data layers that identify priority regions for protection and restoration actions that benefit salmon recovery.

A two-day AMM Workshop was held in January 2012. The PIAT project results to date were presented at the AMM workshop. The PIAT work helped identify three top threats/stressors - Overwater Structures, Shoreline Armoring, and Roads. During the workshop, Results Chains were created addressing the top three threats. At this point, we are awaiting additional feedback and guidance from the RITT to proceed with next steps. Based on the work to date, a draft AMM chapter has been created for the San Juans and will continue to be revised as we continue our AMM work.

This context is helpful background information to provide as we respond to the questions being asked for this work plan update:

Consistency Question

1. **What are the actions and/or suites of actions needed for the next three years to implement your salmon recovery chapter as part of the regional recovery effort?**

The 3 year work plan spreadsheet with the list of project and programmatic actions is included with this narrative. A brief summary of the work plan is also provided in this narrative.

Project evaluation criteria have been revised to incorporate what's now known about priority locations for juvenile salmon as well as juvenile forage fish and forage fish spawning beaches. The ratio of points awarded for Benefit to Salmon and Fit to Plan/Strategy has been modified to better reflect the results of assessments completed in prior years and the PIAT project work to date. The criteria have also been modified to consider sea level rise in project review. Assessment work on sea level rise is still in progress via the PIAT project, however, the evaluation criteria address this qualitatively with a question project proponents will answer regarding long term benefit to salmon from a proposed project with respect to climate change.

Pace/Status Question

2. **What is the status of actions underway per your recovery plan chapter? Is this on pace with the goals of your recovery plan?**

As noted previously, the original adaptive management guidance and matrix provided by the RITT in 2009 helped document the status of the strategies and actions outlined in the WRIA2 recovery chapter. Most of the actions outlined in the chapter have been completed.

The WRIA2 salmon recovery chapter does not have a timeline for actions so the pace had not been established in the plan; however, since WRIA2 has completed many actions listed in the chapter we are at a stage where a full update to the local San Juan County chapter is appropriate.

3. **What is the general status of implementation towards your habitat restoration, habitat protection, harvest management, and hatchery management goals? Progress can be tracked in terms of 'not started, little progress, some progress, or complete' or in more detail if you choose.**

The primary goals of the local chapter are to fill critical data gaps, document the important habitats in the San Juans, and to have a better understanding of how, when and where salmon are utilizing San Juan County's shorelines, fresh and marine waters. Now that these data gaps identified in the chapter are complete, we are in the process of analyzing and using the information via the PIAT project to prioritize key actions for protection and restoration. As noted, many actions are completed; however, some actions are more programmatic and will be ongoing.

The PIAT project has now provided a regional and subarea-specific way to target both protection and restoration actions and, thereby, a basis for prioritizing them based on documented shore type preferences for juvenile salmon and juvenile forage fish as well as documented forage fish spawning areas.

The TAG and the MRC have continued to broaden our understanding of habitat integration with hatchery and harvest management for salmon recovery in the WRIA 2 region. Mike O'Connell presented an overview of how the Glenwood Springs hatchery on Orcas Island is managed by Long Live the Kings. Lummi and Tulalip Tribes fisheries biologists, Alan Chapman and Kit Rawson, provided an overview of current harvest management. Also, Jack Giard of Lopez Island, a member of the North of Falcon group of federal, tribal and state fishery managers, reported on its fall 2011 meeting including Washington State and British Columbia salmon runs.

A question still remains as to the interaction of wild and hatchery fish in the San Juans and is a matter for future research and assessment. However, given the local priority for protection of habitat, it is unlikely to be a priority for funding and staff emphasis through the San Juan Lead Entity.

Sequence/Timing

4. **What are the top implementation priorities in your recovery plan in terms of specific actions or theme/suites of actions? How are these top priorities being sequenced in the next three years? What do you need to be successful in implementing these priorities?**

The top priorities in the WRIA2 plan, as previously noted, are protection actions and assessments to fill critical data gaps, to document the important habitats in the San Juans, and to have a better understanding of how, when and where salmon are utilizing San Juan County's shorelines, fresh and marine waters. Now that these data gaps identified in the chapter are nearly complete, we are analyzing and using the information for prioritization of key actions for protection and restoration. The results of the *"Big Picture"* project completed in 2010 provide us with

information regarding fish utilization of the San Juans. The "*Big Picture"* project results along with the other completed assessments supplied critical data for the development of a modeling framework to prioritize and sequence protection and restoration actions via the PIAT project.

In the interim, we have been using previous assessments to lead to restoration projects. The *Nearshore Impact Assessment* and the *Soft Shore Protection Blueprint for San Juan County Forage Fish Beaches* identified a number of restoration projects in the county and have led to some of these projects being funded and completed.

Assessments (i.e., the eelgrass, kelp, feeder bluffs, and forage fish spawning beach data) have also been used for protection efforts, such as in the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) Update which is finally scheduled to be completed by the end of 2012 - 7 years after the original required date of completion. These and additional assessments such as the shoreline modification inventory and fish utilization study (aka "Big Picture" project) are being incorporated into the Master Program (SMP Update) scheduled for completion in 2013-2014.

Protection priority actions indicated by the PIAT project (and also the original San Juan recovery chapter) rely to a significant degree on San Juan County's use of the findings in the CAO and SMP updates now underway. The Lead Entity and its Citizen Advisory Group, the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee, will influence the county to incorporate what's been learned about the most critical habitats and the major stresses on them, but can't direct or control the outcomes and timing for these regulatory updates.

Priorities for restoration, however, will be better aligned with high priority habitats than in past grant rounds for projects. These may also be more readily incorporated into the required SMP restoration plan element than protection priorities.

Next Big Challenge

5. **Do these top priorities reflect a change in any way from the previous three-year work program? Have there been any significant changes in the strategy or approach for salmon recovery in your watershed? If so, how & why?**

Yes, since multiple assessments have now been completed, WRIA2 is now working to bring the various assessments and data sets together and to analyze and use the assessment information to prioritize protection and restoration actions for San Juan County. This work is in progress now through the PIAT project. The results of the analysis to date are incorporated into evaluation criteria to update the local work plan. The development of a protection and restoration plan will create a common understanding of priorities and direct efforts toward local projects in priority regions that are critical to the recovery of salmon.

Thus the actions as stated from the recovery plan would now be prioritized in this manner:

1. Protection Projects – includes acquisition and easements informed by the PIAT project, data sharing, stewardship, incentives and education;
2. Restoration Projects – based on habitat assessments and PIAT project analysis;
3. Assessment Projects – includes monitoring, filling data gaps, and conducting research that will in turn support protection and restoration efforts.

Also, because the PIAT project results have highlighted both the priority habitat locations and the top priority threats to them, monitoring these over time can be better designed and coordinated to inform adaptation but remains challenging with uncertain funding.

6. **What is the status or trends of habitat and salmon populations in your watershed?**

Our focus has been on obtaining a fundamental understanding of the role of the nearshore and, specifically, the role of the San Juans in supporting salmon – their habitats and food web. Thus, we essentially have baseline data now for critical habitats such as the location and extent of eelgrass and kelp, documented forage fish beaches, etc. We also have information indicating which nearshore habitats appear to be of greatest value to juvenile migrating salmon by shoreline/shoreform type and by geographic location and distribution.

Through the formal AMM process we will be evaluating what it is we should be monitoring. For example, do we repeat the baseline habitat assessments every x years to determine the trends of whether we are gaining or losing these habitats? Do we repeat the juvenile fish utilization study in x years to analyze changes to the resource(s) over time in the San Juans? Discussions with the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) will continue in the context of the Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) Monitoring Plan regarding what other things should be monitored in our nearshore environment, i.e., water quality, additional species presence and/or abundance, threats, other habitat trends, etc?

7. **Are there new challenges associated with implementing salmon recovery? actions that need additional support? If so, what are they?**

- Consistent funding for the local Lead Entity (LE) Program continues to be at risk as the County has provided no funding since 2009 and due to budget constraints is not likely to be willing to contribute any funding anytime in the foreseeable future. The proposed funding for the LE Program in the San Juans via RCO and PSAR Capacity funding has been reduced. This has impacted the local LE Program as the funding now supports only one part-time staff person (three days per week) to run the program. It is very challenging transitioning the LE Coordinator from full time to a part time position while the role and demands are still more than full time in scope. Balls are starting to be dropped and various deliverables are delayed as the LE Coordinator no longer has time to work on them. Most deliverables are taking longer to complete and the overall work plan and timeline for most tasks will need to be extended; i.e., less will get done and the timeline to do so will be longer.
- The support for the Outreach & Education Coordinator shared with the Marine Resources Committee has been eliminated due to reduced funding in both programs. The Outreach & Education efforts are critical towards implementing the highest priority actions for protection but can no longer be pursued.
- Additionally, state natural resource agencies such as DNR, ECY and DFW continue to have significant staff and resource reductions, thus incurring additional losses for local monitoring, survey work and support for local jurisdictions. It is challenging to get state agencies to attend meetings and participate in work in the San Juans due to our remote geographic location.
- Support for monitoring - It took us a decade to cobble together the funding to get to our current "baseline" assessments. Based on our past experience, there doesn't appear to be any support to continue funding assessments and certainly even less interest in funding monitoring.

Work Plan

Previously, since WRIA2 never had a place to track projects, the 3 year work plan spreadsheet by default became the place to document known projects. Thus the previous spreadsheet(s) documented all identified projects and programs necessary for salmon recovery. With the implementation of the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) the 3 year work plan spreadsheet is a more accurate representation of what projects are currently in progress, can be started in the next 3 years, or can be completed over the 3 year period. Additionally some projects which are really programs are ongoing and thus would extend beyond the 3 year timeframe.

In addition to the salmon recovery habitat projects, we have chosen to also populate the HWS with programmatic efforts. Thus, we are populating the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) with all salmon recovery activities in San Juan County.

Prioritization

The PIAT project analyzed the data and assessments which have been completed in the San Juans to date and the results are now being used to target protection and restoration actions in priority areas.

In priority order the actions from the WRIA2 recovery plan are:

1. Protection Projects – includes acquisition and easements informed by the PIAT project, data sharing, stewardship, incentives and education;
2. Restoration Projects – based on habitat assessments and PIAT project analysis;
3. Assessment Projects – includes monitoring, filling data gaps, and conducting research that will in turn support protection and restoration efforts.

Project proponents will need to document how a proposal relates to the priority areas that have been identified from the PIAT project analysis. See Appendix A for additional details outlined in the Evaluation Criteria including priority area maps.

Currently projects in the 3 year work plan are prioritized based on tiers:

Tier I projects are projects which address the highest priority work such as protection actions in priority regions or address previous or in-progress assessment projects.

Tier II projects are restoration projects. It is anticipated that Tier II restoration projects would become higher priority if/when they are supported by, are the result of assessment results that support the restoration activity, or are identified in the restoration plan element of the yet-to-be updated San Juan SMP.

With the development of a modeling framework to prioritize and sequence protection and restoration actions vie the PIAT project, habitat type and spatial prioritization are key factors in project prioritization.

Overview

The issues facing WRIA 2 are those of protecting quality habitat and restoring modified or degraded habitat. Much of the 408 miles of shoreline is high quality but pressure from development is impacting nearshore areas and water quality. San Juan County is experiencing some of the most rapid growth in Washington State with shoreline and nearshore habitats becoming increasingly stressed from residential and urban development and recreational / tourism uses. Past agricultural practices and water withdrawals have degraded the limited freshwater spawning and rearing habitats in the islands. Freshwater quantity issues exist due to diversions from historic watersheds, changing the flow into streams that historically had salmon runs. Fish barriers from roads, bridges and culverts exist. Water quality is affected by failing septic systems, wastewater effluent and contaminants. Inputs of water and air pollution from outside of the County may also be affecting nearshore habitat quality. Marine waters are impacted by point and non-point pollution at fuel docks and marinas, stormwater runoff, and from potential oil spills.

Once critical habitats have been identified for salmon and their prey, protection and restoration of these habitats become a priority. Additionally, as water quality and quantity issues are better documented and understood protection from these impacts become of interest to the community and are also important to address.

Capital Projects
It is anticipated that most of the future capital projects on the work plan will come from the results of the PIAT project.

San Juan County has over 400 miles of shoreline to evaluate in light of habitat for salmon and their prey and current restoration projects are supported based on the results of previous assessment work such as the *Nearshore Impact Assessment* and the *Soft Shore Protection Blueprint for San Juan County Forage Fish Beaches* and due to previously funded feasibility studies such as for Deer Harbor, Thatcher Bay, False Bay and Garrison Creek. These projects will increase habitat quality for salmon and their prey. Multiple restoration projects were completed in the last year:

- Cascade Creek/Point Lawrence Road Culvert Replacement with a new bridge on Orcas.
- Smuggler's Cove Road Forage Fish Habitat Restoration on Shaw. Note: Forage fish were documented spawning on the restored beach in December.
- Neck Point Coastal Marsh Restoration on Shaw.
- Barlow Bay Nearshore Restoration on Lopez.

The acquisitions in the work plan would permanently protect significant shoreline areas throughout the islands. The Cascade Creek acquisition protects a significant portion of the only remaining unprotected sections of Cascade Creek along with adjacent tidelands. Cascade Creek is one of the very few year round fresh water streams in the San Juans. The recent President Shoreline Acquisition will protect over 2500 feet of shoreline and 20 acres of upland habitat in a priority region that was identified via the PIAT project work.

Non-Capital Projects
The work plan highlights a number of protection actions that are the primary focus of salmon recovery work in the San Juans. Over the last few years, WRIA2 has concentrated on performing assessments necessary to fill critical data gaps to document the important habitats in the San Juans and to have a better understanding of how, when and where salmon are utilizing San Juan County's shorelines, fresh and marine waters. WRIA2 has now reached the point where these important assessments have been completed and is now in the process of bringing the various assessments and data sets together to analyze the assessment information to create a tool for prioritizing protection and restoration actions for San Juan County via the PIAT project.

Protection actions are much more than just acquisitions or conservation easements and include all of the work necessary to educate the public on why salmon are critical and necessary resources for humans and other species, what issues are occurring in our natural environment, and information regarding how to manage and steward natural resources. This is being carried out via a number of Education and Outreach programmatic activities working with a number of local organizations.

Protection is also ensuring that regulatory and voluntary actions are effective and requires working with local organizations including San Juan County government to highlight existing voluntary incentive protection programs, working to create new incentive programs, implementing protective regulations via the CAO Update and the SMP Update, and implementing County code which supports LID techniques and projects.

The LE Coordinator participated in the CAO Update Committee meetings for over 2 years. This committee is no longer active, but direct participation in this process led to many of the previously funded assessments being included in the Best Available Science for the CAO Update. Many of the assessments completed via the salmon recovery work will also be used in the SMP Update process for the Shoreline Inventory and the Shoreline Environment Designations. It is also anticipated that the 3 year work plan will contribute to the SMP restoration plan element. The results of the CAO and SMP Updates will be significant for long term and far reaching actions that will provide greater protection for WRIA2's wetlands, streams and shorelines.

The *Ecosystem Based San Juan Initiative(SJI)*, led by a broad constituency of volunteer community leaders and regional resource managers, evaluated how successful local volunteer, incentive, regulatory and education programs are in securing the vitality of our natural resources for future generations. The results of the SJI are highlighted as separate habitat protection projects:

- *Education and Technical Assistance to Improve Protection,*
- *Improving Enforcement, and*
- *Improving Incentives for Shoreline Protection*

Some of these projects/programs are in the process of being implemented via the EPA grant *Managing Growth in Island Communities* which is discussed in more detail in the following Outreach and Education section. Some of this work requires support and/or resources from San Juan County staff which is difficult with the current budget and staffing issues. Most of these projects/programs will require additional funding in order to implement the key results of the SJI project. However, based on the SJI recommendations, the county (through the Local Implementing Organization) has also secured an EPA grant to fund Technical Assistance via what is called the TACT grant as discussed further below.

The recently funded *Neighborhood Salmon Conservation Easement Program* is an acquisition planning project that will develop a multiple landowner easement template that protects habitat and habitat forming processes, educate landowners, explore values and interest, and test incentives at targeted salmon recovery regions in San Juan County. As protection is not being achieved with current regulatory systems and full acquisition of property is prohibitively expensive, protection through easements is the best option. Primary project objectives are to create a neighborhood easement tool that protects shoreline habitat along adjacent parcels located within one drift cell geomorphic unit or pocket beach, and to gain commitment from multiple landowners for the purchase or donation of natural shoreline conservation values. Long-term protection of priority habitat and habitat forming processes though neighborhood conservation easements provides an important salmon recovery tool. This approach, which integrates site specific, parcel scale protection within the context of landscape and geomorphic scale ecological processes, offers an innovative framework for habitat protection and salmon recovery efforts.

Outreach and Education

WRIA2 is seasonally affected by human population increases both from summer residents and visitors. Two approaches to achieving our goals must be made: residents and businesses need information and encouragement to develop and steward their property in a "salmon friendly" manner and visitors need information on how their actions will benefit the ecosystem in San Juan County. Educational outreach has several vectors: scientists in the classroom, salmon in the schools program, adult education and lecture series, etc. Educational outreach programs run by others include workshops and classroom experiences for residents and information exchange at marinas and ferry terminals for visitors.

Guidance is needed for private citizens and governments that will lead to conservation and preservation of Chinook salmon, forage fish and their critical habitats. Technical assistance is aimed at managers to keep them knowledgeable about research findings and habitat issues. Public education is aimed at all age groups of county residents. School children will learn the importance of marine habitats and workshops provided for landowners to acquaint them with "best management practices" of their property for salmon

and forage fish. The "Salmon in the Schools" program is aimed at 4th grade students where they spend a semester learning about Chinook salmon and rearing juveniles for release.

The Beach Watchers program began in 2006 and focuses on ecosystem awareness for residents and visitors to San Juan County although its future here is now uncertain as the funding for the program in San Juan County has recently been eliminated

Increased awareness of managers and citizens of proactive methods they can use as part of the San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area (MSA) is a key component of the outreach work in WRIA2 and is spearheaded by the MRC. An understanding of the links between watersheds, land use, and nearshore habitats is emphasized.

The Lead Entity and the MRC combined their resources in 2008 to hire a part time Education & Outreach Coordinator to help with much needed public outreach and education and message coordination. Due to reduced funding for both programs and needing to triage where limited funding is used, this position had to be eliminated in 2011. On a very limited basis the LE and MRC coordinators (both part time) continue to participate with the local ECONet / Stewardship Network and other organizations which provide education and outreach programs in San Juan County.

Technical Assistance to landowners regarding how to develop and steward their property is a critical component in being able being able to modify behaviors and to create a "stewardship ethic." A key result of the San Juan Initiative documented the need for technical assistance in a variety of forms from web site information to on the ground assistance. The *Education and Technical Assistance to Improve Protection* project highlights the results of this need identified via the SJI work. Providing technical assistance to local landowners is a key component of the EPA Puget Sound Watershed Management Assistance Program grant for San Juan County. The *Managing Growth in Island Communities* (EPA funded) project will build long term capacity to protect rapidly developing shorelines in the San Juan Islands by piloting a program in two basins, on Orcas and San Juan Island, to provide technical assistance and incentives for landowners and business owners to retain shoreline buffers and adjacent forests, install low impact development (LID) technologies, prevent pollution, improve wastewater and stormwater management and restore or enhance habitat. The project will also build private and public professional capacity for sustainable development by integrating LID into county development codes, installing a high profile LID project to manage runoff from Eastsound, build consumer demand for LID, and train government agency staff and building contractors in LID and other sustainable technologies.

Additionally, as previously mentioned, in 2012 San Juan County secured an EPA grant to fund Technical Assistance via the Lead Organization Nearshore and Marine Protection and Restoration Grant Program. The work supported will be to:

- provide technical assistance and pre-site visits, free of charge, to shoreline landowners,
- provide education and outreach to the development community, internal staff, and key decision makers,
- develop and deliver outreach and educational materials,
- provide post-construction site visits to ensure compliance, and
- cultivate relationships with regional technical experts.

Salmon Recovery Coordination/Implementation

Each year more is asked of the Lead Entity Coordinators throughout the state yet the base funding to support salary, travel, supplies and office expenses has not increased since 1999 although the Lead Entity role has expanded significantly. In 2006 San Juan County increased their funding to ensure a full-time Lead Entity Coordinator position. However, due to budget issues, as of 2009 San Juan County no longer provides any funding for the Lead Entity program so it must be fully grant funded. Additionally, the

County now requires indirect support from any grants and has started charging for items they once provided as in-kind support to the program so the need for funding is even greater each year.

There are currently over 30 governmental and non-governmental partners involved in restoration, conservation, education, research, planning and managing the marine resources in San Juan County. The Lead Entity Coordinator is becoming a clearing-house of ideas, information and actions as well as the primary point of contact for any and all habitat related projects in the county. The Lead Entity Coordinator is necessary to promote collaboration, eliminate redundancy and focus on priorities among the many partner organizations.

The overarching objective of the next few years for the LE Program is to distribute the results of the Pulling It All Together (PIAT) Project. The results of this work will impact most all areas of the local work plan and will need to be provided to a number of local groups and state agencies and incorporated in a variety of other projects. The current work plan includes the following implementation actions:

- Inform updates to the Oil Spill Geographic Response Plans for the San Juans based on the PIAT project results.
- Follow up with WDFW on the status of in-water work windows specified in Hydraulic Project Approvals issued for projects in the San Juan Islands to ensure that current knowledge and timing of juvenile salmon and forage fish presence in the nearshore is being used effectively.
- Identify remaining gaps in data and prioritize further assessments.
- Engage closely in the county's updates to its Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Program. These are fundamental to adapting how shorelines are developed and protected and how priority fish habitat loss is prevented based on current information and for monitoring in the future.
- Revamp WRIA2's Habitat Work Schedule (HWS). Incorporating the results of the Pulling It All Together (PIAT) project in HWS will likely require a complete revamp of how projects are tracked in HWS for the San Juans. For example, the results will likely change the hierarchy currently in use and priority project areas will also need to be included via the Geographic Region feature in HWS.
- Continue working with the RITT and PSP to complete the AMM section of the WRIA2 plan and pursue opportunities to update the San Juan Chapter overall.

This work plan was ambitious to begin with and now with reduced funding and only a part time LE Coordinator it will be even more challenging to accomplish. The Lead Entity program wish list includes having a fully funded position that is not at risk during county, state and federal budget crises.

Appendix A: WRIA2 2012 Evaluation Criteria

SAN JUAN COUNTY WRIA 2 LEAD ENTITY
Application Process and Scoring Criteria
2012 Salmon Recovery Funding

Approved by the San Juan County Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) / San Juan County MRC on April 4, 2012.

San Juan County / WRIA2 Priorities for Salmon Recovery

The "Pulling It All Together" (PIAT) project analyzed the data and assessments which have been completed in the San Juans to date and the results are now being used to target restoration and protection actions in priority areas.

In priority order the actions from the WRIA2 recovery plan are:

4. Protection Projects – includes acquisition and easements informed by the "Pulling It All Together" project, data sharing, stewardship, incentives and education;
5. Restoration Projects – based on habitat assessments and "Pulling It All Together" project analysis;
6. Assessment Projects – includes monitoring, filling data gaps, and conducting research that will in turn support protection and restoration efforts.

Project proponents will need to document how the proposal relates to the priority areas that have been identified from the PIAT project analysis. See maps in Appendix A.

Pre-Application Process

A pre-application starts with finalizing the project information in the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) http://hws.ekosystem.us/ . The items that need to be included on a proposed project in HWS are verified by running the Validation Tool titled "Validate for San Juan LE" on the project face page. Additionally, all projects must have in HWS:

- At least one Activity Type included and quantified.
- For nearshore projects, the Nearshore Habitat Type must also be included.
- Projects must be mapped via the HWS Mapping/GIS tool.

Proposed projects are now required by RCO to be submitted in PRISM using the new PRISM/HWS interface. Refer to the document from RCO titled, "Steps to Initiate a PRISM Application in HWS" attached in Appendix C and/or refer to Manual 18, Section 6.

The following information and attachments must be submitted in PRISM for pre-application review: (Note: Proposed projects must also be in HWS as noted above.)

- Project name
- Project type
- Project sponsor
- Project description
- Estimated budget
- Project location map
- Site or parcel map
- Map showing project location in Priority Salmon Recovery Region (see Appendix A)

- A preliminary design plan or sketch for restoration projects and any future restoration projects.
- Draft Project Proposal (*Please Note: This is a new RCO requirement for pre-applications, see Manual 18, Section 3.)*

Pre-Application Evaluation Criteria

During the pre-application review process, the local Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will provide preliminary feedback regarding questions and/or recommendations on how the proposals could be enhanced. Scoring is based on Red, Yellow or Green.

This is the guidance used for Red, Yellow, Green scoring:

Red = Not Recommend

Proposal does not fit the local salmon recovery strategy and/or issues can not be addressed during timeframe for the funding round. Proposal may not be eligible to move forward and be submitted for SRFB funding.

Yellow = Recommend with changes

Questions, feedback, comments and recommendations are provided to project proponent to clarify, enhance or improve proposal. Proposal could move to green once questions/issues are addressed. Moving from Yellow to Green is via TAG consensus.

Green = Recommend

Proposal is acceptable and is eligible to be submitted for SRFB funding. Additional comments are noted to suggest enhancements or improvements for the proposal.

Final Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals should be complete, succinct and clear. Sponsors should document assertions when necessary. Reviewers will not give the benefit of the doubt to incomplete or vague applications.

Total project evaluation scores will be comprised as follows: Benefit to Salmon - 45%, Fit to Plan/Strategy - 40%, and Socioeconomic Impacts - 15%. The local Salmon Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will also evaluate projects based on Certainty of Success which will be categorized by Red, Yellow or Green.

When scoring projects, rank each project from 1-10 under each category (Benefit to Salmon, Fit to Plan/Strategy, and Socioeconomic Impacts). TAG and CAG members should use only whole numbers in scoring projects; please do not use decimals or fractions. Overall score will be determined by multiplying the score for each category by its weight and adding to obtain the final score. For example, a score of 8 for Benefit to Salmon, 8 for Fit to Plan/Strategy and 6 for Socioeconomic Impacts would have a final score as follows: $8(0.45) + 8(0.40) + 6(0.15) = 7.7$.

TAG members are encouraged to ask questions regarding projects and information should be shared between reviewers.

Certainty of Success (Red, Yellow, Green) – Scored by TAG

Certainty of Success will be evaluated based on sponsor documentation that establishes the project intent regarding:

- ❖ Technical Feasibility, Methodology, Achievability - Accomplish the objectives within the stated period of time given the requested resources and available matching funds.
- ❖ Requires limited maintenance, works with natural ecosystem processes, is self-sustaining, and uses materials appropriate in scale and complexity to efficiently accomplish the work.
- ❖ Documented landowner cooperation/approval, permitting processes and requirements completed, water availability, etc.
- ❖ Pursues the most cost effective alternative to achieve desired outcome.
- ❖ Makes effective use of matching funds.
- ❖ Supporting documentation of all project partners and what match each partner may be providing.
- ❖ Endorsements or statements of cooperation from agencies or other entities on whom the project depends.
- ❖ How could the project be impacted by climate change / sea level rise? What is long term benefit to salmon with changing climate? See Appendix B - letter from WRIA2 TAG regarding proposed sea level rise.

SCORING: Scoring will be based on:

Red = Not Recommend

Proposal issues can not be addressed during timeframe for the funding round. Proposal is not eligible and may not be submitted for SRFB funding. However, the TAG should still score the proposal as much as possible on the additional criteria so that the CAG has information for them to make any final decisions, if needed, regarding which proposals may advance for SRFB funding.

Yellow = No TAG Consensus

The TAG was unable to come to consensus regarding the proposal. The CAG will make the final decision regarding whether the proposal may advance for SRFB funding.

Green = Recommend

Proposal is acceptable and/or issues have been resolved. Proposal is eligible to be submitted for SRFB funding.

Moving preliminary scoring from Red or Yellow to Green is via TAG consensus.

Benefit to Salmon (45 %) – Scored by TAG

Preference will be given to projects that are Chinook focused and address factors affecting Chinook.

In general, projects will be evaluated based on Scientific Merit, Costs vs. Benefits, Potential of Project to Inform Efforts, etc.

- ❖ Explain how your proposal will benefit salmon such as improving or maintaining Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) Parameters:
  - Abundance
  - Productivity
  - Spatial Structure
  - Diversity
- ❖ Explain by what mechanisms benefit will be achieved.
- ❖ Explain what methods will be used.

- Protection and Restoration Projects: Show that project will benefit a particular life history phase, stock of salmon, habitat type and/or salmon prey species.
- Protection and Restoration Projects: Synergistic, builds on previous habitat projects on site or nearby.
- Assessment Projects: Identify gap the assessment is addressing. Show how the results of the assessment will be used to inform and support the local work plan.
- Assessment Projects: Collect data consistent with current protocols, including statistical precision criteria, where applicable.

Note: Assessment projects will not likely be supported during this grant round.

SCORING: Total possible score = 10. Weight = 45%

Fit to Plan/Strategy (40 %) – Scored by TAG

Fit will be evaluated based on how well the proposed project fits the local strategy and the PIAT project priority areas noted in Appendix A. The project should be documented in the 3 year work plan and should be in the Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) http://hws.ekosystem.us/.

The project should be located in a Priority Salmon Recovery Region and also addressing a priority area for Chinook and/or Forage Fish within that region. Fit will also be evaluated on the overall priorities of 1) Protection, 2) Restoration and 3) Assessments. *However, please note that assessment projects will not likely be supported during this grant round.*

- ❖ Step 1 – First, discuss how the proposal fits the Priority Salmon Recovery Regions i.e. Map 1 in Appendix A. Provide map showing project location in Priority Salmon Recovery Region.
- ❖ Step 2 – Then discuss how the project is addressing priority areas for Chinook and/or Forage Fish i.e. Maps 2, 3, 4 in Appendix A.

SCORING: Total possible score = 10. Weight = 40%

Socioeconomic Impacts (15 %) – Scored by CAG

(Note: Even though this category is scored by the CAG, any input from the TAG is welcome.)

Socioeconomic Impacts will be evaluated based on sponsor documentation that establishes the project intent to:

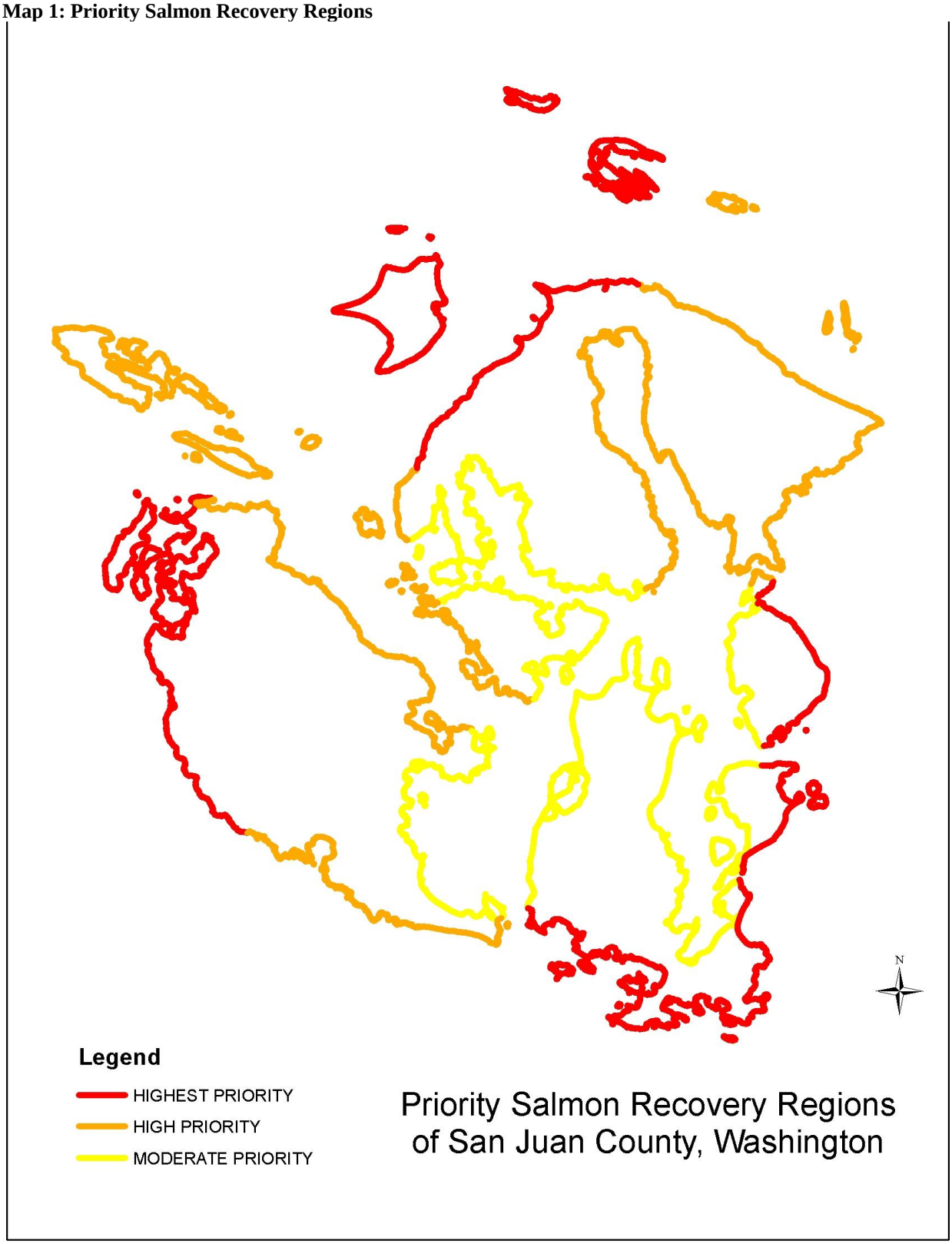
- ❖ Build community support in terms of volunteer contributors and/or local partners; enhance community education and outreach about the watershed.
- ❖ Synergistic Activity - Complements, enhances, provides synergy with existing programs.
- ❖ Produce secondary community benefits such as increased public safety, decreased risk of property damage, or improvements to physical infrastructure.
- ❖ Sustainable disposal plan – how is any de-construction waste reused, recycled or otherwise disposed of?

SCORING: Total possible score = 10. Weight = 15%.

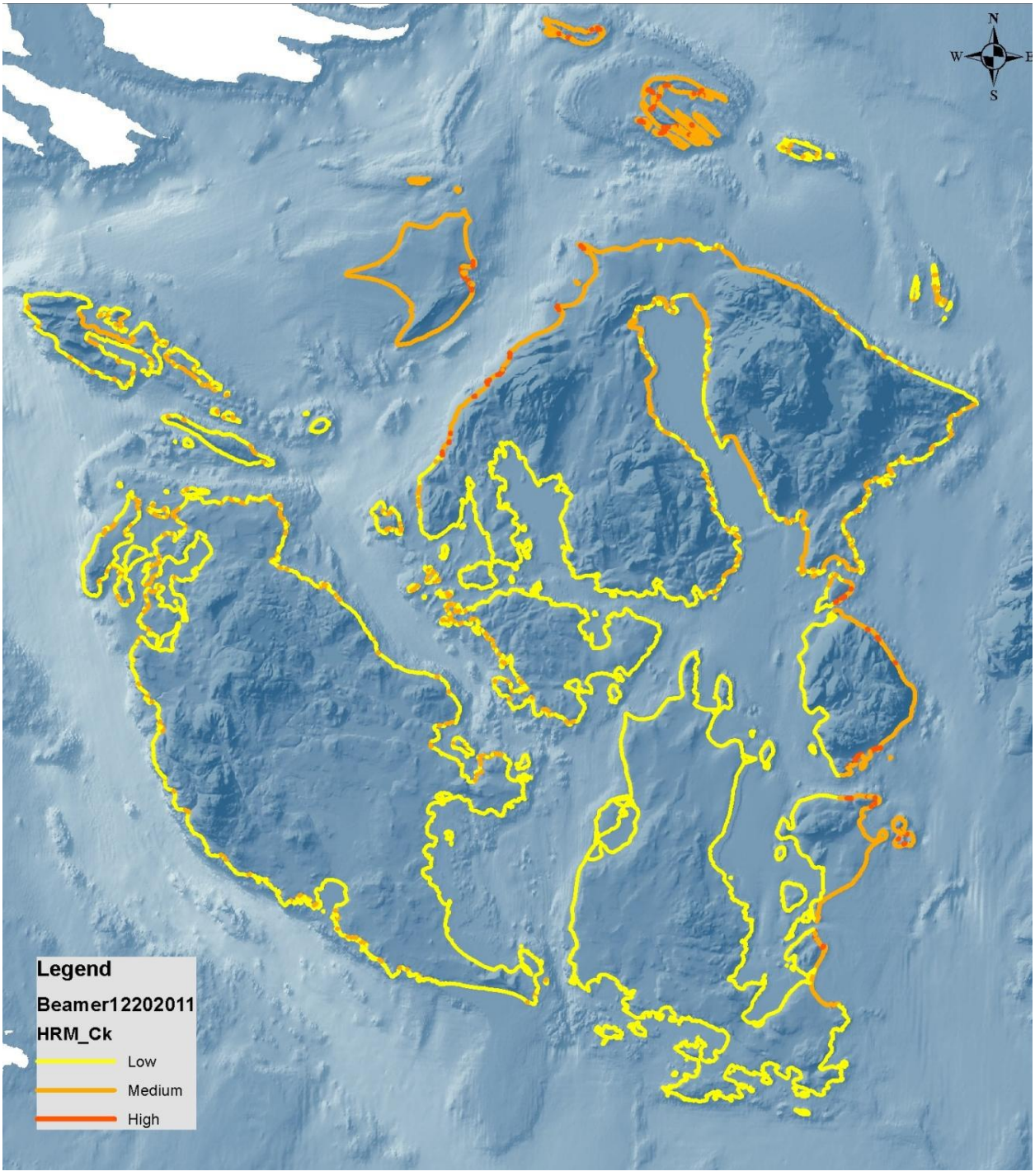
Appendix A: PIAT Project Maps

Please Note: These maps have been updated and are different than the ones in the 2011 Evaluation Criteria.

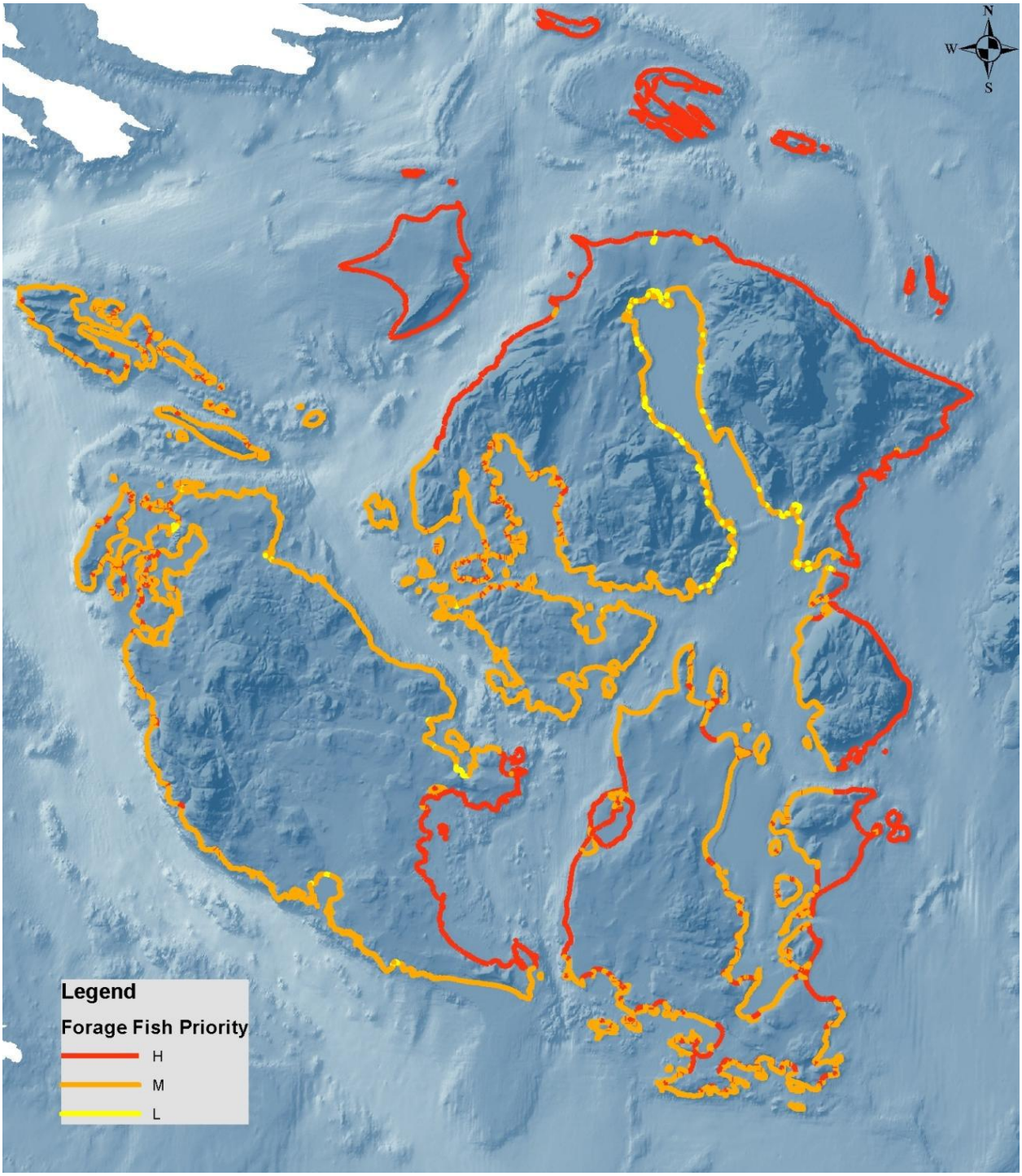
Map 1: Priority Salmon Recovery Regions



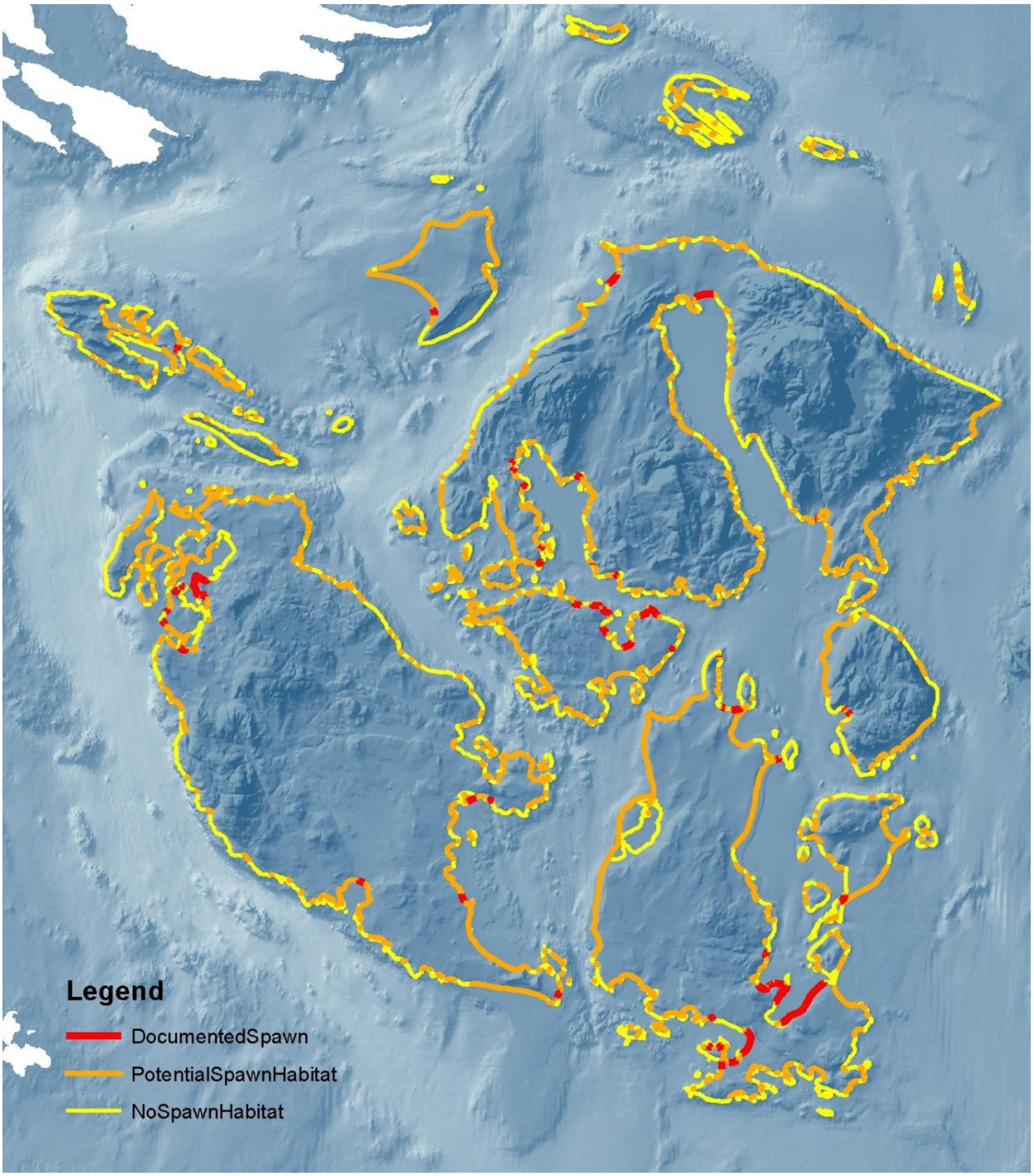
Map 2: Juvenile Chinook Presence Probability



Map 3: Juvenile Forage Fish Presence Probability



Map 4: Forage Fish Spawn Habitat



Appendix B: Letter from TAG Regarding Sea Level Rise

Date: February 16, 2011

To: Janice Biletnikoff, Senior Planner
San Juan County - Community Development and Planning Department

From: Technical Advisory Group for Salmon Recovery in San Juan County (TAG)[1]

Subject: Best Available Science for Frequently Flooded Areas

The Technical Advisory Group for Salmon Recovery in San Juan County (TAG) is submitting comments on the draft Best Available Science for Frequently Flooded Areas.

The TAG is charged with making recommendations to the Lead Entity on salmon restoration and protection projects in San Juan County via the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds. In recent years, the value of these projects has exceeded $1 million annually. In addition the TAG regularly advises the Lead Entity, Puget Sound Partnership, Marine Resources Committee and others on issues affecting salmon and salmon recovery in San Juan County. As the ramifications of global climate change become more apparent, the TAG has incorporated current scientific information into evaluating its effects on salmon recovery and restoration efforts. For example, beginning in 2006 the TAG has required SRFB applicants to describe, among other things, how their projects would be impacted by climate change / sea level rise. Using this criterion, projects whose restoration benefits are likely to be negatively impacted by sea level rise have received lower priority for funding. Examples include coastal erosion repairs to County-maintained roads where the potential benefit to salmon would be better served by relocating the roadway to a higher elevation.

The draft BAS for Frequently Flooded Areas does a good job of summarizing the current status of sea level rise in Puget Sound. The "very high" projection of 68.9 inches by 2100 (Clancy et al 2009) is consistent with the TAG's working hypothesis of 60". This assumes no meaningful change in processes, both natural and anthropogenic, that affect climate change. The author rightly acknowledges the many complexities in climate change and local conditions that create uncertainties about the rate and magnitude of sea level rise in San Juan County. Current models show the rate of sea level rise accelerating with the melting of terrestrial ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica, with most of the rise occurring in the latter half of this century.

The TAG believes sea level rise will affect the County in numerous ways beyond what is summarized in the BAS sections 5.3.3.3 and 5.4. For example, ongoing maintenance of County roads along eroding shorelines has degraded surf smelt spawning areas, which can decrease an important food source for salmon and other marine life. With sea level rise in mind, we recommend Public Works plan to relocate erosion-sensitive roads inland. Further, we support the County adopting the "very high" projections for sea level rise in all land-use planning and capital projects and recommend revisiting these projections as new scientific information becomes available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

[1] The TAG consists of Eric Beamer, Alan Chapman, Ray Glaze, Gene Helfman, Steve Hinton, David Hoopes, Judy Meyer, Robert Naiman, Kit Rawson, Chuck Schietinger, Kimbal Sundberg, and Bob Warinner

Appendix C: "Steps to Initiate a PRISM Application in HWS"

Steps to Initiate a PRISM Application in HWS - 2/12

This first page of guidance assumes a project is already in Habitat Work Schedule (HWS) because it has been identified as a priority in the local recovery plan. Either the project sponsor or lead entity has created the project. The project has a description, project map and files attached. Users will be led from a Project Facepage, to a "Contract" Facepage to submit an application to PRISM. Below is a click-by-click guide to send that project to PRISM for final review and for remaining data to be entered. Go to the next page if you need to find out what to do if the project is not already in HWS.

Before you get started, you will need the following information:

- HWS user name and password
- HWS project name (50 characters or less) or ID number
- Application Amount
- PRISM Project Type
- Primary Project Sponsor
- PRISM user name and password

Click-by-Click to Submit

1. From Project Facepage, copy the project description if it is more than 1500 characters
2. Click Edit Budget/Funding Summary
3. Click Enter Funding
    - Entry Date will auto populate
    - Click Add Funder and enter SRFB in search box
    - Click enter
    - Select SRFB in the drop-down list of funders
    - Click Add Contract and Create Contract Based on Template - Click Next
4. Screen Defaults to Active PRISM Submit 2012 Template – Click Next
    - Or:
    - Option to add a Contract Category unique to your lead entity
    - Option to modify the contract name (this will be the name of the project in PRISM – **MUST BE 50 CHARACTERS OR LESS**)
    - Option to modify the Contract Number (Defaults to Project Number)
    - Option to modify the Contract Start and End Date (Defaults to Project)
    - Option to modify the Application Status
5. Screen Defaults to description, data will auto populate 1500 characters from project description in HWS
    - Option to modify the description (use the description copied earlier and paste it in a Word or other document if it needs to be reduced, then paste in the shortened description)

6. Click Next **(DO NOT CLICK BOXES TO SELECT ATTACHMENTS AT THIS TIME)**
7. Enter amount requested from SRFB (Screen Defaults to funding source, entry date and fiscal year.)
    - Option to modify funding entry date (defaults to today's date)
    - Option to modify fiscal year (defaults to current year)
    - Click Next
8. Review Contract Information – Click Create Contract
9. Contract created, user returned to Project Funding Entry Screen, Click Save and Close to return to the Project Funding and Expense Page
10. Click the word "Close" (not the "x" on the right) to return to Project Facepage
11. Open Contract (scroll down to Contracts under Budget/Funding Summary and click on the "live" contract name)
12. Click Edit Contract Attributes (at bottom of the contract)
    i. Select PRISM Project Type
    ii. Select PRISM Primary Sponsor
    iii. Press Save and Close to return to Contract Facepage
13. Click Submit (this submits contract to PRISM)
    i. Enter PRISM Username
    iii. Enter PRISM Password
    iv. Press Close
14. **REMEMBER TO WRITE DOWN THE PRISM PROJECT ID NUMBER: 12-xxxx**
    - Option to View in PRISM (click on "View in PRISM" button at top)

Benefits of this Approach

- The public, stakeholders and SRFB reviewers can all see the proposed project as it relates to other projects in their lead entity
- It is easy to add files, photos and a map in HWS.
- Once the link is made from HWS to PRISM, future data in PRISM will come back into HWS in the appropriate project. Metrics will be returned automatically and users can run project reports alongside projects funded by other entities (not just SRFB).
- Data quality will be improved because data will be stored in one system (PRISM) and displayed in another (HWS).

What happens when I don't have my project in HWS?

If the project is not yet in HWS, then a project sponsor or lead entity coordinator can create project in HWS with the minimal data needed to be passed to PRISM.

I. Start without a Project

1. Login to HWS
2. Click on Projects
3. Click Add Project
4. Choose standard project or project in multi-level hierarchy and click Next
   If multi-level hierarchy
   I. Click on Project Folder box
   II. Select Level 3 Project to create
5. Choose to start with an empty project or project template and click Next
6. Click the Project Category box

I. Select a Project Category - Click Next

7. Enter Project ID and Name
   I. Click on the Project ID box and enter ID number
   II. Click on the Project Name box and enter the Project Name - Click Next
8. Review project information and click Next
9. Enter a Start and End Date
10. Click Save and Close

Your project has been created successfully. If you want to add a description, files or a map then users have the option to add those now and have them transferred to PRISM. Otherwise, users can enter all of the additional information directly in PRISM. To get your project submitted to PRISM, go back to the top of these instructions and work through the "click by click" steps to submit your application.