

Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Summit Resolution

January 26 and 27, 2005

WHEREAS,
all of us living in the Puget Sound region know first-hand its stunning beauty; the unique role it plays in our culture and the abundant resources it provides;

WHEREAS,
many of our most prominent businesses could be headquartered anywhere on the globe, but are here because they need bright, talented employees that want to live in areas with a high quality of life;

WHEREAS,
salmon, one of our regional totems and key indicators of environmental health, are in trouble and the threats to them are continuing to mount;

WHEREAS,
people in the Puget Sound region are committed to protect and restore the land and waters that define our quality of life, and we have a rich history of success in addressing natural resource challenges;

WHEREAS,
communities across the 14 major river basins that drain into Puget Sound have joined together through the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound to build on existing efforts and develop plans and actions to protect and restore our watersheds and the marine waters so people and salmon can flourish;

WHEREAS,
The treaty Indian tribal co-managers in western Washington have a unique cultural relationship with the salmon, possess a guaranteed right under the U.S. Constitution to harvest these sacred fish, and are fully committed to their recovery;

WHEREAS,
a comprehensive recovery plan and commitments for implementation are needed to maintain and increase funding from federal, state and local sources;

WHEREAS,
to be successful it's going to take the collective efforts of the entire Puget Sound region to improve and restore the Sound and its watersheds for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

We commit to our common goal to recover self-sustaining, harvestable salmon runs in a manner that contributes to the overall health of Puget Sound and its watersheds and allows us to enjoy and use this precious resource in concert with our region's economic vitality and prosperity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

As participants in the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound, we are committed to the completion of a regional salmon recovery plan for Puget Sound by June 2005 that will set local and regional recovery goals and priorities, measures to achieve the goals and priorities, and a schedule and approach for addressing elements still under development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That we are committed to create a 10-year detailed set of protection and restoration actions for each watershed and the marine waters that:

- protect habitat functions and ecological integrity through both regulatory and voluntary tools,
- improve habitat functions and ecological integrity to support sustainable fish populations,
- continue to manage harvest and hatchery programs to ensure healthy and fishable salmon populations,
- invest our resources wisely, and
- start us on the trajectory toward recovery.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That we are committed to creating and advocating for a unified, 10-year funding program that prioritizes the most important actions and level of investment across all Puget Sound and its watersheds and supports the regional and local structures necessary to adapt as we learn, ensuring effective and efficient implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

That we are committed to working collaboratively with all our partners and citizens over the long-term to recover salmon thereby improving the health of Puget Sound, and to building broad-based support for this approach.

We as individuals, affirm the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Resolution on this 27th day of January, 2005

David Allen, Northwest Regional Administrator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bill Baarsma, Mayor, City of Tacoma

Norm Dicks, Representative, U.S. House of Representatives

Billy Frank, Jr., Chairman, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Jeff Koehn, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Darlene Kordonowy, Mayor, City of Barnbridge Island

John Ladenburg, Pierce County Executive

Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries

Patty Murray, Senator, United States Senate

Aaron Reardon, Snohomish County Executive

Joe Ryan, President, Washington Environmental Council

Ron Sims, King County Executive

Bill Wilkerson, Executive Director, Washington Forest Protection Association