

# PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

STATE OF WASHINGTON



Revised September 2007

## What is the Puget Sound Partnership?

A new state agency created to lead the cleanup and restoration of Puget Sound's health. The Partnership will coordinate restoration programs and projects throughout the region.

## What is the Partnership's goal?

Restore Puget Sound's health by 2020.

## Why create a new agency for Puget Sound?

Puget Sound is in trouble, and to date, work to restore and protect Puget Sound has been fragmented, with no overarching goals or priorities for the ecosystem. The work has lacked accountability for the results needed to achieve a healthy Sound.

The Partnership's work will be ecosystem-based, accountable and collaborative.

The Partnership will work to integrate the regional work on salmon recovery and other key processes in building its Action Agenda.

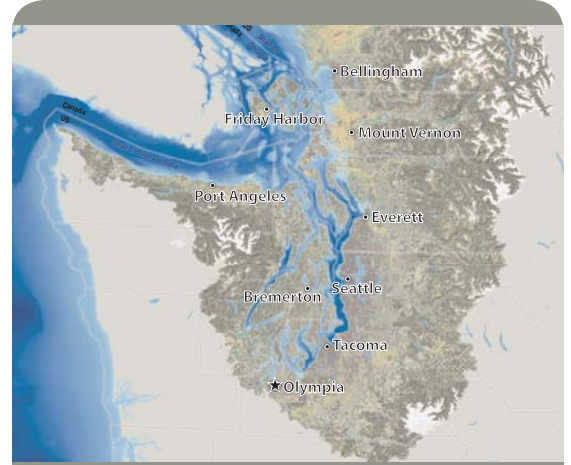
## What will the Partnership do?

**Develop a 2020 Action Agenda by September 2008.** A comprehensive, long-term plan covering the entire Puget Sound ecosystem that will:

- Identify and place priorities on actions that will recover the Sound by 2020.
- Identify those responsible for the actions along with potential sources of funding.
- Be based on science.
- Include clear goals and specific measures of progress.

**Oversee the work to carry out the 2020 Action Agenda and ensure accountability.** The Partnership will hold the responsible parties accountable for delivering results. The Partnership will also closely track how effectively money is spent and report results to the Legislature, the Governor and the public.

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## What is different about the Puget Sound Partnership?

*The Partnership differs from previous Puget Sound recovery work in key ways:*

- An **expanded scope of work** for coordinating salmon recovery, water quality, habitat protection and restoration, and sufficient and safe water supply for people and wildlife.
- The authority to **create and carry out a 2020 Action Agenda** that makes assignments and sets clear targets and timelines for action.
- Has the tools to **hold entities accountable** for making progress.
- A renewed **emphasis on connecting upland watersheds and marine basins.**
- A responsibility to **collaborate with local watershed groups** and work within existing watershed frameworks.
- Uses **independent science advice** and expertise.
- A **firm deadline** —recovery of the Sound by 2020.

<< continued "What will the Partnership do?"

**Promote public awareness and engagement.** The Partnership will work with a variety of groups and businesses to launch a long-term strategy to raise awareness about Puget Sound's condition. Additionally, the Partnership will build a new network of existing organizations to increase opportunities to engage citizens in helping to protect and restore Puget Sound.

**Make science front and center.** A nine-member Science Panel will develop a strategic program that identifies gaps in scientific knowledge and recommends priorities for monitoring and research. The Panel will also identify specific scientific actions to take over the course of each biennium to support the progress toward a healthy Sound by 2020.

## Who serves on the Puget Sound Partnership?

- **Leadership Council.** Seven independent citizens from throughout the Puget Sound region lead the Partnership. The governor appointed the members in July 2007. Bill Ruckelshaus is the first chair of the Council.
- **Ecosystem Coordination Board.** A 27-member board made up of stakeholders from across the region will advise the Leadership Council and help develop and carry out the Action Agenda. The Council will announce board members this fall.
- **Science Panel.** A nine-member Science Panel will provide independent scientific advice and expertise to the Leadership Council. The Council will appoint the Science Panel based on nominations from the Washington Academy of Sciences this fall.
- **Executive Director and staff.** David Dicks, Executive Director, leads the day-to-day operations of the Partnership along with a professional staff.

## Partnership background

In 2005, Gov. Chris Gregoire outlined her vision for Puget Sound and appointed leaders in the region to develop recommendations for preserving the health and ecosystem of Puget Sound.

On May 7, 2007, the Governor signed a law creating the Puget Sound Partnership. Staff and many of the responsibilities from the Puget Sound Action Team were transferred to the Partnership. The Partnership is part of the Governor's executive cabinet. The regional salmon recovery functions of Shared Strategy for Puget Sound become the responsibility of the Partnership on January 1, 2008.

*Leading the effort to protect and restore Puget Sound and its spectacular diversity of life, now and for future generations.*

**LEARN MORE: 800.54.SOUND • WWW.PSP.WA.GOV**

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## How do I contact the Partnership?

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