

Puget Sound Partnership's 2012 Action Agenda Update: Revised Approach Continues to Lack Key Accountability Tools Envisioned in Statute

Briefing Report

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Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee

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Legislature Created PSP in 2007 to Lead Effort at Restoring Puget Sound

Statute explicit/detailed, launching from two decades of restoration efforts: science based; prioritized recovery efforts; measurable steps to determine what's working; adaptive management to make adjustments

Partnership delivered initial Action Agenda

JLARC issued Briefing Report on PSP's plans to transition from planning to oversight entity

JLARC completed audit and cited concerns with Action Agenda: problems linking actions to results, prioritizing actions, and monitoring for results

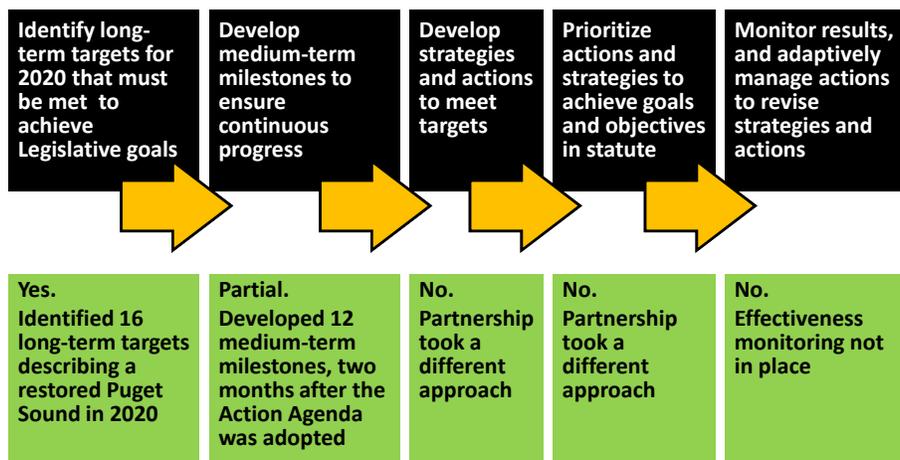
JLARC directed to review 2012 Action Agenda: did it respond to JLARC's audit concerns?

2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015

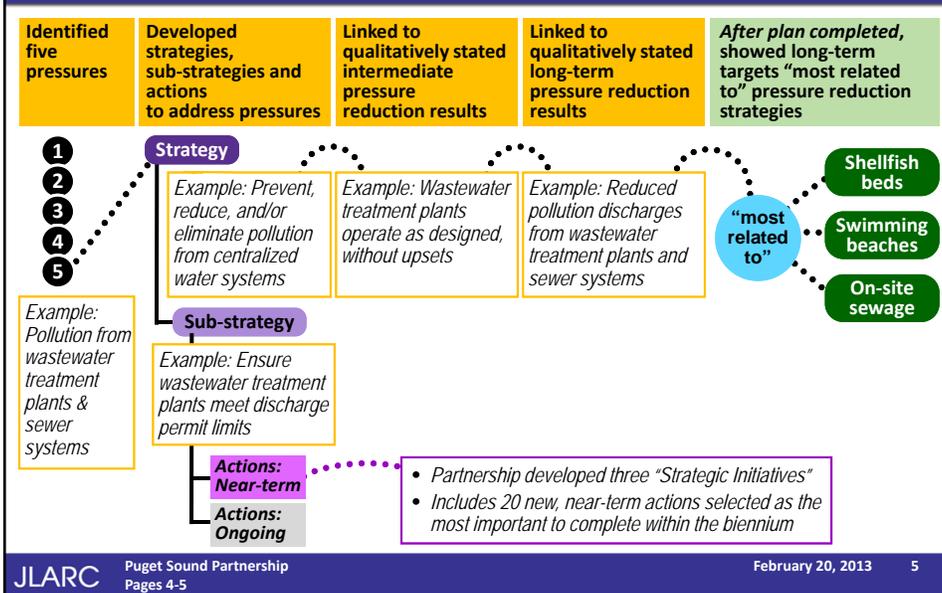
Focus: Did PSP Address JLARC's Accountability Concerns in its 2012 Action Agenda?

- The 2012 Action Agenda improves accountability, but continues to have shortcomings in three key areas: **1) linkages, 2) prioritization, and 3) monitoring**
- Partnership's response indicates it believes that statutory requirements may not be possible and took a different approach than in statute
 - ♦ State may not know how much restoration its investments have achieved or if they are making sufficient progress to achieve the 2020 goals

Statute Requires the Partnership to Develop the Action Agenda to Meet Measureable Outcomes



Approach Does Not Show How Actions Contribute to Measureable Progress Toward Long-Term Targets



1) Linkages: Actions Are Not Linked to Expected Progress Towards Long-Term Restoration Goals

- ✓ Action Agenda shows linkages between strategies and statements of "intermediate pressure reduction results"
- ✗ Strategies are not directly linked to the amount of progress they will make towards long-term restoration goals
- ✗ No timeline for when these results must be achieved to restore the Sound by 2020
- ✗ No statement to measure against to determine if these results have been achieved

2) Prioritization: Actions Are Not Prioritized to Meet Long-Term Restoration Goals

- Partnership prioritized 20 near-term actions
- Prioritization effort was not based on meeting long-term targets
- Partnership recommends that all “effective” ongoing programs be maintained without identifying which actions or programs are effective
- Hundreds of millions of dollars to be spent on ongoing programs have not been prioritized

3) Monitoring: Data Is Not Available to Facilitate Adaptive Management

Statute requires Action Agenda updates to be based on adaptive management, which requires an understanding of what is and is not working

- Measures in 2012 Action Agenda primarily track whether or not tasks have been completed
- PSP reports that more emphasis on monitoring is needed
- PSP reports that information on the effects of prior implemented actions were generally not available to develop the Action Agenda

Partnership's Response Indicates Statutory Requirements May Not Be Possible

- PSP states that “the level of certainty regarding cause and effect relationships in something as complex as ecosystem recovery is largely unattainable”
- Without these cause and effect linkages, the Legislature will not know:
 - ♦ How much restoration progress the state's investments have achieved; and
 - ♦ Whether those investments are making sufficient progress to achieve the 2020 goals

Legislature Anticipated the Need to Revise Statute

Leadership Council directed to “make recommendations to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Senate and House of Representatives for local or state administrative or legislative actions to address barriers it has identified to successfully implementing the action agenda.”

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