



Puget Sound Partnership: ***Processes Required to Measure Puget Sound Restoration Are Not Yet in Place***

Proposed Final Report
Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee
December 1, 2011

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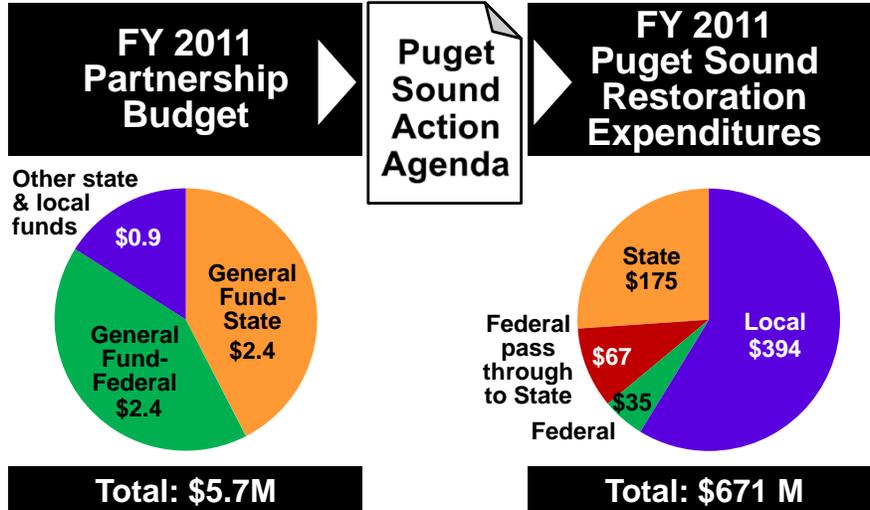
Partnership to lead effort to restore and protect Puget Sound by 2020



2007 legislation was detailed, 70-section bill:

- Defined organization structure
- Required **science-based Action Agenda in 2008** to achieve six goals and eight objectives by 2020
- Established **accountability mechanisms** in Action Agenda and after completed
- Directed JLARC audits in 2011 and 2016

Partnership charged with guiding \$671M in agencies' expenditures in FY 11



Accountability mechanisms not in place for 2008 Action Agenda



- I. Accountability mechanisms needed so Legislature will know whether progress is being made restoring Puget Sound
- II. After 2012 Action Agenda is delivered, additional work required in statute remains
- III. Offers three recommendations to improve accountability and communication with the Legislature

PSP reports:

Revised Action Agenda in 2012 to be more in line with guidance in statute

Accountability requirements for 2008 Action Agenda and 2012 Update

 Key Accountability Requirements	Done for 2008?	Detail
 Measurable Benchmarks Near- and long-term	No	2008 Agenda did not contain near-term or long-term benchmarks.
 Linkages Between actions, benchmarks and goals	No	No clear linkages between results of completing actions and achieving the goals and objectives in statute.
 Prioritized Actions To inform budget decisions	Partial	Prioritized in 3 lists based on 3 recovery strategies with no overall prioritization or guide; not prioritized at local level.
 Monitoring and Transparent Reporting Of Action Agenda	No	Cannot tell which actions have been implemented, their cost, or their results, based on public reporting of Action Agenda.

After the Action Agenda update is adopted, additional work remains



Statute directs the Partnership to:

- 1** Assess progress of Sound's restoration
- 2** Recommend reallocations in state Puget Sound spending
- 3** Develop fiscal incentives and disincentives



RECOMMENDATIONS



Recommendation 1: Action Agenda update



The Puget Sound Partnership should report to the Legislature how it is:

- (A) Addressing the required Action Agenda elements (6 specific items), and
- (B) Planning to address additional statutory requirements (3 additional items).

Partnership concurs

Recommendation 2: Improve accountability and transparency



In future State of the Sound reports, the Partnership should provide the following for each near term action:

- Responsible entity, funding provided and expected result;
- Degree it met outcomes and benchmarks and contributed to Puget Sound recovery;
- How modified through adaptive management.

Partnership concurs

Recommendation 3: Report barriers



The Partnership should submit a biennial report to the Legislature summarizing barriers as the agency implements the tasks required in statute.

- The State of the Sound report may be the appropriate vehicle for this biennial reporting.

Partnership concurs

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