



Proposed Final Report

Measuring Outcomes of Land Acquisitions and Regulations

January 2018

Regulations and acquisitions protect habitat in different ways. Outcome information for both is limited, and can be improved.

Rachel Murata | Suzanna Pratt | Eric Thomas



Key findings

- 1** Regulations and acquisitions protect habitat in different ways.
- 2** Outcome information can be improved through statutory direction, along with agency planning and investment for monitoring.
- 3** Land stewardship plans do not include measurable outcomes.

3 Legislative Auditor recommendations

1 **OFM and RCO should develop and submit a joint plan to the Legislature** detailing the actions, costs, and timelines needed to comply with statutes that direct them to measure performance of acquisition programs.

Agencies
concur

2 The **Legislature should consider requiring state agencies to work with local governments** to develop outcome-focused performance measures for regulatory programs implemented at the local level.

3 **DNR, WDFW, and State Parks should provide the Legislature with a plan** detailing the resources necessary to report stewardship needs.

Agencies
concur

6 Acquisition Programs



Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (RCO)



Salmon Recovery Funding Board (RCO)



Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (PSP, RCO)



Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (PSP, RCO, WDFW)



State Parks and Recreation Commission



Trust Land Transfer program and other DNR expenditures



Other programs that expand outdoor recreation

7 Regulatory Programs



Growth management regulations regarding critical areas (Commerce)



Wetland restrictions (Ecology)



Shoreline management rules (Ecology)



Forest practices regulation (DNR)



Hydraulic Project Approval program (WDFW)



Clean Water Act (Ecology)



Flood plain management (Ecology)

Regulation or acquisition? Based on mapping analysis, depends on goals



Shape and distribution may be a better indicator of protection than total acres



Conservation goals should determine approach

- Species needs
- Approaches are not mutually exclusive
- Other conservation tools available



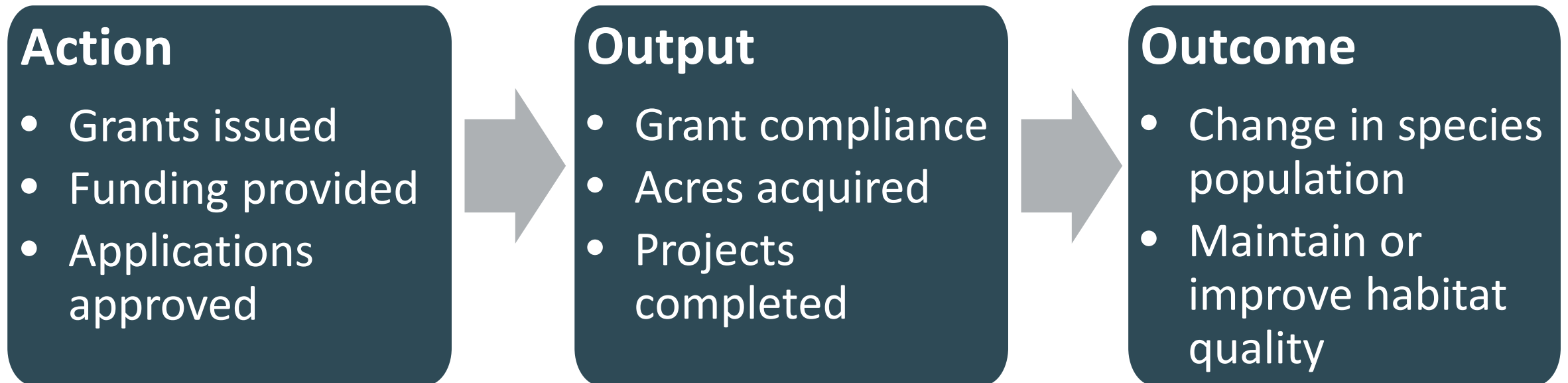
New effort to map where regulations apply

- Complements existing conservation planning tools



Outcome information can be improved through statutory direction, along with agency planning and investment for monitoring.

Outcomes indicate how effective the program or project is in meeting its goals



Programs measuring outcomes share three traits



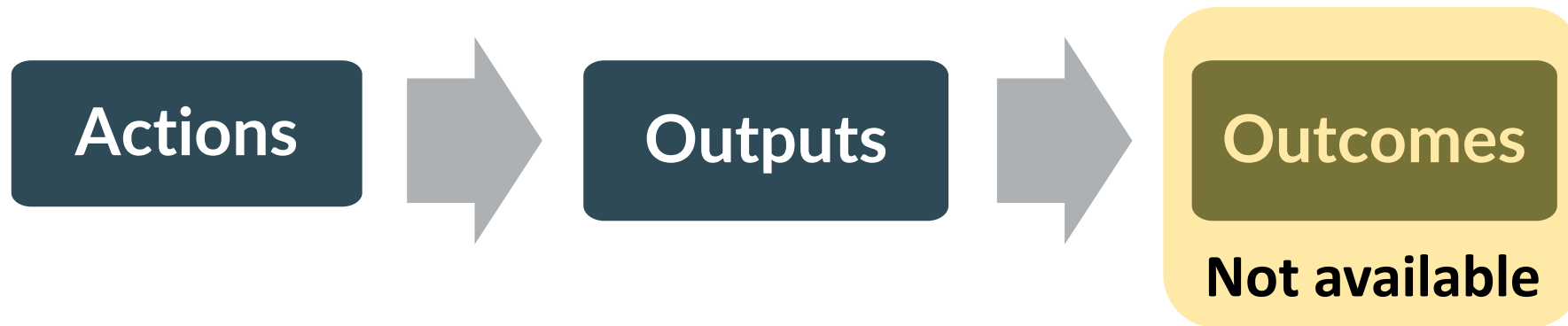
Legal requirement to monitor outcome measures

Clear monitoring plan with goals, desired outcomes, and metrics

Dedicated resources for monitoring

Outcome measures for acquisition programs required by statute, but not developed

Except for five programs identified in report, outcomes (how well programs work) not measured



Statute requires OFM and RCO to use outcome-focused performance measures for grant programs

Legislative Auditor Recommendation #1

OFM and RCO should develop and submit a joint plan to the Legislature detailing the actions, costs, and timelines needed to comply with statutes that direct them to measure performance.




RCO and OFM concur



Local governments implement state regulations

- Local work varies widely
- Some effectiveness studies
- No comprehensive monitoring

Local approaches vary

	Legal requirement	➔	No statutory requirement
	Clear monitoring plan	➔	Guidance exists; some jurisdictions monitor
	Dedicated resources	➔	Local jurisdictions report limited capacity

There is no systematic approach to statewide outcome measurement.

Legislative Auditor Recommendation #2

If the Legislature wants reliable information about the outcomes of regulatory programs implemented at the local level, it should require that state agencies work with local governments to develop outcome-focused performance measures.



Land stewardship plans do not include measurable outcomes.



Management plans lack measureable stewardship outcomes

- Plans exist for most DNR, WDFW, and State Parks lands and include stewardship activities
- Agencies do not consistently communicate goals, actions needed, and progress.

Legislative Auditor Recommendation #3

DNR, WDFW, and State Parks should provide the Legislature with a plan detailing the resources necessary to report stewardship needs.

**DNR, WDFW, and State Parks
concur**

Key findings

Regulations and acquisitions protect habitat in different ways

Outcome information can be improved

Land stewardship plans do not include measurable outcomes

3 Legislative Auditor recommendations

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Contact Us

Rachel Murata
(360)786-5293

rachel.murata@leg.wa.gov

Suzanna Pratt
(360)786-5106

suzanna.pratt@leg.wa.gov

Research Analysts

Eric Thomas
(360)786-5182

eric.thomas@leg.wa.gov

Project Coordinator

Full Report

leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2017/HabitatLands/pf/default.html

