

Puget Sound Action Team **Strategic Framework – 2003-2005**

Purpose of the Puget Sound Action Team

Protect and restore the Puget Sound and its spectacular diversity of life now and for future generations.

Core Business

1. Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) is the State's Partnership for Puget Sound: the Action Team Partnership defines, coordinates and implements the state's environmental and sustainability agenda for Puget Sound.
2. The PSAT staff's primary strategic focus is at the ground level, outside of Olympia: we achieve key environmental and sustainability objectives in Puget Sound by working closely with governmental and non-governmental entities throughout the region.

The Action Team Partnership Has 3 Overarching Goals

1. Protect and restore Puget Sound's water quality
2. Protect and restore habitat for fish, shellfish and wildlife in Puget Sound
3. Protect the biological resources of Puget Sound and recover species at risk, including orcas, salmon, and groundfish

The Action Team Partnership is Focused on 7 Critical Priorities¹

(these challenges must be addressed to achieve our goals for Puget Sound)

1. Clean up contaminated sites and sediments
2. Reduce continuing toxic contamination and prevent future contamination
3. Reduce the harmful impacts from stormwater runoff
4. Prevent contamination from on-site septic, sewage systems and other non-point sources
5. Protect shorelines and other critical areas that provide important ecological functions
6. Restore degraded nearshore and freshwater habitats
7. Develop and implement conservation and recovery plans for orca, salmon, groundfish and forage fish.

¹ There are other priorities and activities spelled out in the Puget Sound Work Plan which will continue – these 7 priorities are proposed to be the core focus of the Action Team Partnership and Action Team staff

How Does the Action Team Partnership Work?

The Action Team is an innovative partnership of state agencies and non-state entities jointly committed to the protection and restoration of Puget Sound. The Action Team is the central coordinator in state government for the state's vision and collective effort on Puget Sound.

The Action Team partnership helps to establish and coordinate conservation and management priorities, recommends the allocation of resources and develops and manages interagency and multi-party teams and cooperative efforts.

The Action Team partnership is a critical interface between the State's efforts and the myriad non-state partners who are and will be leaders in protection and restoration efforts, including tribes, local governments, special districts, business and environmental interests.

The Action Team is governed by a board consisting of directors of state agencies with direct responsibilities and authorities for conservation and restoration of Puget Sound, along with representatives of tribal, county and municipal governments.

The Action Team is advised by the Puget Sound Council made up representatives from a variety of important interests from the Puget Sound region.

What is the Role of the Action Team Staff?

The AT staff coordinate the Action Team's conservation agenda for Puget Sound. They provide four key functions, with a variety of services, including:

Puget Sound Advocate: Serve as the central "voice" in state government for Puget Sound and its conservation needs. Define and highlight the issues of greatest importance across the region and all the jurisdictions. Recommend courses of action. Keep the Sound and its conservation challenges as 'top of mind' issues for the surrounding population. Highlight and celebrate positive progress and good projects, motivate positive actions. Track and participate in significant policy development in Puget Sound, promote practical solutions, and work to find alternatives to ideas and projects that may cause serious harm to Puget Sound.

Puget Sound Information and Monitoring: Collate, synthesize and provide credible information to all parties that need it to help achieve the conservation and management priorities of the Action Team partnership. Monitor progress and ensure that ongoing science and research is linked back to decision-making and program development.

- Coordinate Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP) and other science

- Track key indicators of Puget Sound's health
- Develop a comprehensive Puget Sound GIS database
- Maintain a library of Puget Sound conservation materials
- Research and collate best practices around key issues (e.g. stormwater, toxics remediation, etc.), maintain a database for practitioners

Puget Sound Outreach and Education: Engage and activate local people and entities in our shared agenda for Puget Sound, through a variety of education and outreach efforts, such as:

- Workshops on important issues and conservation and sustainability tools
- Produce targeted publications and web-based information
- Keep Puget Sound conservation issues and solutions in the media
- Distribute Public Involvement and Education (PIE) funds

Puget Sound Conservation Projects – The staff works to align the interests and work of the state with that of local governments, business, tribes, federal agencies and interest groups by working closely with jurisdictions and actors throughout the region on high priority issues and initiatives. These include:

- Targeted planning assistance to local jurisdictions to adopt and implement plans that integrate salmon recovery, nearshore habitat protection, water quality, shoreline master programs, stormwater programs, and local land use
- Targeted technical assistance for high profile demonstration projects that solve problems and create replicable pathways – work in highest priority issues and geographies
- Focused assistance and training to educate and accelerate adoption of best practices – troubleshoot obstacles to adoption
- Convene and/or participate in appropriate groupings of interests to resolve difficult issues (focus on engaging all those affected and interested, and seek to engage non-traditional partners)
- Fill gaps and help to acquire needed resources