

Organization

Puget Sound Partnership

Project Title

Assessing the legacy and potential impacts of policy alternatives in the Puget Sound recovery system

Main Topic Area

Analysis and Evaluation

Organizational Background

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) is the state agency formed to support the region's collective effort to restore and protect Puget Sound. Working with more than 750 partners including Tribes, city and county governments, scientists, businesses, and non-profits, the Partnership coordinates and catalyzes partner action around a common Action Agenda and tracks progress to optimize recovery. The agency's vision for Puget Sound is for "vibrant, enduring natural systems and communities".

The Partnership's roles include

ALIGN THE WORK OF PARTNERS around a shared vision and strategy, the Puget Sound Action Agenda. We steward the effort to collaboratively build the Action Agenda so that recovery resources can be efficiently allocated based on a science-driven, prioritized system. We ensure decision makers are well-informed and have the information they need to advance these priorities.

ENSURE SMART INVESTMENTS through a shared, science-based system of measurement and monitoring that promotes accountability, effectiveness, and progress. This helps inform decisions about the most efficient and effective ways to allocate future investments.

SUPPORT PRIORITY ACTIONS by advancing policy and mobilizing funding needed for local and regional partners to succeed in achieving Puget Sound recovery goals. We strive to remove financial, regulatory, and resource barriers for our partners by directing outside

resources toward priority actions, improving the policy and regulatory environment, and working as a catalyst within the system to get the job done.

Project Description

The Partnership is using alternative future scenarios analysis to explore and assess how the actions we collectively take (or could take) today play out in the future. As part of this process, the Partnership will consider pressures like climate change, regional population growth, and development—each of which are expected to increase in impact over the coming decades. In addition, we recognize that community values and social structures, governance, and coordination and participation intersect with biophysical pressures in complex ways that need to be accounted for. The opportunity for the consultants is to explore and analyze identified policies to understand their past and potential ramifications on ecosystem recovery and human well-being. The team will work within the broader context of scenario planning and integrating social-ecological dynamics into ecosystem recovery.

Travel Required

No

Deliverables

The desired deliverable for this project is a concise policy analysis consisting of both summary text or graphics and a more synthetic report. The deliverable is likely to include an overview of policies reviewed, differential impacts of those policies against a set of criteria. As possible, the policy analysis should also include recommendations for policy selection and modification to minimize adverse effects and maximize benefits.

A virtual presentation of findings is also desirable. This presentation could be to Partnership staff and or to those on the scenario advisory group, which includes local officials and members of the Science Panel.

Key Tasks for Consultants

- Virtual meetings and work sessions: Students will listen in and, as appropriate, participate in bi-weekly scenario meetings (which include Partnership staff and advisors) and scenario-focused work sessions that include individuals from across the recovery system.
- Policy and criteria selection: Students will engage in the selection of policies and criteria lead by the Partnership and advisors. As interested, students will have an opportunity to advise on the selection of policies and criteria.
- Policy Analysis: Students will build from the selected policies and criteria to design and conduct a policy analysis, likely focusing on a subset of policies or criteria.
- Final Report: Students will draft a final report that covers review of selected policies against a set of criteria and recommendations for inclusion in the scenario initiative.
- Presentation: Final presentation to Partnership staff and scenario advisory group members.