

Hood Canal Integrated Watershed Plan

Five-Year Strategic Priorities - May 2014

Executive Summary

Introduction

In 2010, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) partnered with a diverse array of organizations, agencies, and individuals to develop the Hood Canal Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP). The IWP was intended to be a comprehensive strategic framework for advancing a common vision (*Humans benefit from and coexist sustainably with a healthy Hood Canal*) by integrating the full range of natural resource management efforts across all relevant jurisdictions.

The initial scope of the IWP was to be fully inclusive of all potential issues relevant to natural resource management in the Hood Canal watershed. However, the realities of a comprehensive planning process in an ecologically and socially complex landscape challenged the planning partners' capacity to manage the process, complete the plan, and implement the resulting strategies. So, the scope of a first iteration was narrowed to focus on a more tractable subset of issues and strategies - with an emphasis on the work the HCCC would lead and be responsible to accomplish.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Establish five-year strategic priorities for the HCCC to implement and guide regional actions towards the Vision
- Establish a framework for accountability of strategy implementation, identification of strategic gaps, and continuous evaluation and adaptive management

The plan and supporting framework will continue to be developed as implementation of the priority strategies occurs. Subsequent iterations will reflect an expansion, retraction, or shift in scope as informed by the evaluation process and an assessment of changing circumstances, improved understanding, and effectiveness of strategies.

Elements

Focal Components

Through the "re-scoping" process five of the original fifteen focal components were selected to be the focus of this iteration, they include:

- Shellfish
- Commercial Shellfishing
- Salmon
- Forests
- Forestry

Primary Pressures

Four of the original 26 pressures impacting the selected focal components (above) were selected as the most important.

- Commercial and residential development
- Transportation and service corridors
- Climate change and ocean acidification
- Wastewater discharges and stormwater runoff

Key Strategies

As with focal components and pressures, careful decisions were made to include only a sub-set of existing or potential strategies designed to reduce the primary pressures or strategies that the HCCC is uniquely positioned as a regional entity to advance. These priority strategies include:

A – Policy and Regulatory Strategies

Strategy A1: Complete an inventory and assessment of existing countywide planning policies

B – Ecological Restoration, Remediation, or Enhancement Strategies

Strategy B1: Fully implement the Pollution Identification and Correction Programs and Pollution correction action teams

Strategy B2: Carry out HCCC’s role as the Lead Entity for salmon recovery

Strategy B3: Implement and manage the HCCC In Lieu Fee Mitigation Program

Strategy B4: Complete the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Framework for Chinook salmon

Strategy B5: Identify potential climate change adaptation strategies for Hood Canal

Strategy B6: Develop a Hood Canal Regional Stormwater Retrofit Plan

C – Education, Outreach, and Communications Strategies

Strategy C1: Develop outreach and communication tools to raise public awareness and support

Evaluation and Adaptive Management

Evaluation of implementation success will occur annually through internal review of work plans that are explicitly linked to the 5-Year set of strategic priorities. A comprehensive assessment of implementation success and desired impact on focal components will occur at the end of five years to inform a plan update process.

Communicating Progress

An approach for measuring and communicating progress toward desired impacts to Hood Canal communities and regional stakeholders has been initiated with the identification of a set of indicators associated with each focal component that will then be used to produce an annual state of the Hood Canal report. The structure and appearance of the report will link directly to the IWP website.