



# Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Jefferson, Kitsap & Mason Counties; Port Gamble S'Klallam & Skokomish Tribes

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## Hood Canal Local Integrating Organization – 2018 Near Term Action Direct Funding Decision

The EPA National Estuary Program allocates \$100,000 on an annual basis directly to Local Integrating Organizations (LIOs) for implementation of priority local Near Term Actions (NTAs) in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

The 2018 funding guidelines required LIOs to select one new 2018 NTA to receive these funds (with a few exceptions). More details on the 2018 funding guidelines can be found in the meeting summary [linked here](#).

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council's Board of Directors sub-committee, the Integrated Watershed Plan (IWP) Steering Committee, convened to make this funding recommendation on September 25, 2018 (meeting summary [linked here](#)). The recommendation was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on October 17, 2018, and the LIO's funding selection was submitted to the Action Agenda Strategic Initiative Leads in November.

### 2018 NTA Direct Funding Recommendation

The IWP Steering Committee elected to recommend a ranked list of three projects for this funding. The Strategic Initiative Advisory Teams (SIAT) are still undergoing their 2018 NTA funding deliberations for all NTAs in the Action Agenda and we do not yet know which local NTAs will be selected. In the event that our top recommended project is funded by the SIAT, the LIO's direct allocation would then go to the next project on our list.

The three projects recommended for funding represent a nuanced consideration of criteria. Included in that criteria was a discussion around the impact \$100,000 could have on a given project. NTA owners with project budgets over \$100,000 were contacted for brief revised descriptions of which aspects of their project could be implemented within that budget. The Steering Committee's preference was projects for which \$100,000 could make a large impact on achieving project objectives, the project's widespread ability to leverage and support other work, and its contribution toward IWP goals for Hood Canal recovery.

The following three projects were recommended for funding to the Action Agenda Strategic Initiative Leads:

1. NTA 0386 Hood Canal Shellfish Initiative
2. NTA 0384 Hood Canal Steelhead Recovery Plan Development
3. NTA 0179 Chimacum Creek Restoration and Protection Plan – Phase 2