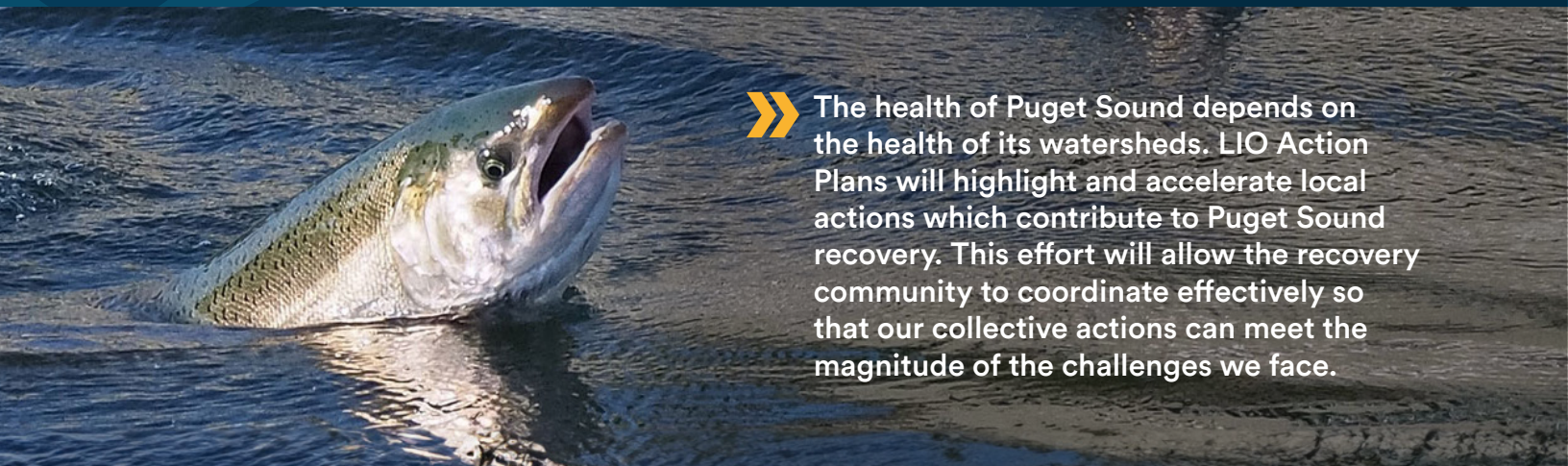


Accelerating Puget Sound Recovery with LIO Action Plans



» The health of Puget Sound depends on the health of its watersheds. LIO Action Plans will highlight and accelerate local actions which contribute to Puget Sound recovery. This effort will allow the recovery community to coordinate effectively so that our collective actions can meet the magnitude of the challenges we face.

WHAT ARE LIO ACTION PLANS?

A LIO Action Plan is a detailed outline of gaps, needs, and barriers in the form of “actions” to take to advance recovery goals in the [Action Agenda](#). Each LIO Action Plan will be aligned with a Puget Sound [Action Agenda Topic](#), adding geographic specificity to recovery needs and aligning our local and regional planning frameworks. LIO Action Plans should represent measurable, ambitious, yet achievable accomplishments that can be tracked and reported on within the four-year period of the Action Agenda. Eventually, we hope to set LIO Targets with local partners using [Action Agenda Progress Indicators](#) to measure and assess recovery progress at the LIO level. LIO Action Plans will outline the actions which need to be enacted within an LIO geography to achieve the associated LIO Target.

LIO Action Plans will be published in the online version of the Action Agenda and will serve as a foundation for the Partnership’s tracking, evaluation, and accountability efforts. Along with state agency [Program Targets](#) and habitat restoration targets developed with Lead Entities, LIO Action Plans will help coordinate needs and actions across the recovery community. By reporting on a consistent metric across all LIOs, data from across Puget Sound can be rolled up to identify successes, opportunities, and investment needs to advance the Action Agenda at both the local and regional levels.

Over time, we envision that LIO Action Plans and their eventual LIO Targets could support LIOs to coordinate across geographies on shared recovery needs and better develop regionally funded projects in collaboration with the Partnership and its Strategic Funding Team. We see LIO Action Plans as a mechanism that will meaningfully advance efforts in the Action Agenda by better connecting local and regional recovery efforts, and enhancing the support needed for local recovery efforts to be successful.

Benefits of participating in the development of LIO Action Plans:

- ▶ **Get recognized.** Showcase local contributions to Puget Sound recovery through the Action Agenda and other publications
- ▶ **Assess needs.** Provide the Partnership and the recovery community with a transparent and consistent basis to assess local program needs and advocate for increased support
- ▶ **Identify barriers.** Document barriers within and across LIOs that the Puget Sound recovery system can work to address
- ▶ **Share lessons learned.** Facilitate a community of practice across the recovery community, including among LIOs and between LIOs and regional programs
- ▶ **Improve your funding pitch.** Bolster support and justification for funding requests, such as grant applications, by being formally listed within the Action Agenda



HOW WILL LIO ACTION PLANS BE USED?

LIO Action Plans will be an important tool for the Partnership, LIO Coordinators, and recovery partners to assess local program needs, advocate for increased support of these programs, and identify regional opportunities to work together. The Partnership will partner with LIO Coordinators to:

- ▶ **Leverage the Puget Sound recovery community to support local programs in reaching their goals.** The Partnership and recovery community will support local programs with implementing their LIO Action Plans by:
 - » **Aligning opportunities:** the Partnership and Strategic Implementation Leads will intentionally consider tasks and priorities needed to implement LIO Action Plans when developing RFPs and updating plans;
 - » **Addressing legal and policy barriers:** work with the Partnership's boards and Legislative Program and Strategic Implementation Leads to discuss needed statutory or policy changes; and
 - » **Coordinating work on barriers:** work with the Partnership and Strategic Implementation Leads in the Leadership Council and Ecosystem Coordination Board forums to facilitate dialogue among multiple agencies about coordination opportunities.
- ▶ **Focus collaboration and technical assistance between local and regional levels.** The Partnership and LIO Coordinators will meet annually with local partners to discuss and record progress, successes, barriers, and opportunities in implementing LIO Action Plans. These consultations will identify how the programs and the regional recovery system can help address funding or capacity gaps, legal constraints, administrative or coordination issues, or program inefficiencies.
- ▶ **Seek financial support of programs and affiliated projects.** In cases where monetary support is needed to achieve recovery goals, the Partnership and its Strategic Funding Team will work with LIO Coordinators to identify funding opportunities that can support local program and affiliated project needs and encourage funders to use LIO Action Plans in their decision making.
- ▶ **Inform future updates of the Action Agenda.** LIO Action Plans will inform future updates of the Action Agenda and applicable strategies. LIO Action Plans will showcase how local work, needs, and priorities contribute to the development and implementation of the Action Agenda.
- ▶ **Track and celebrate contributions of LIOs and their local programs to Action Agenda goals using a shared, measurable metric.** The Partnership will collate Action Agenda Progress Indicator data to assess progress on LIO Targets. LIOs and local programs do not need to do any additional data gathering or reporting when they create a target. Progress on LIO Targets will be reported via the [PS Info](#) platform.
- ▶ **Highlight and communicate program accomplishments.** LIO work will be highlighted through the Partnership's various communication platforms, including Puget Sound Info, Making Waves, State of the Sound, coordinated press releases, and others.



WHICH ACTION AGENDA TOPICS WILL WE DEVELOP LIO ACTION PLANS FOR?

The Partnership and LIO Coordinators developed the first LIO Action Plan in early 2024 on the topic of [Onsite Sewer Systems](#). Following this successful pilot effort, LIO Action Plans will continue to be developed on additional Topics in the 2026-2030 Action Agenda. 2025 LIO Action Plan topics will include 1) Healthy Shorelines and 2) Floodplains and Estuaries.