FLOODPLAIN RECOVERY TARGET REFINEMENT PROJECT

The Washington State Department of Ecology and Puget Sound Partnership are initiating a project to refine our ability to achieve and track progress towards the Puget Sound Action Agenda Vital Sign targets for Protection and Restoration of Floodplains.

Improving our ability to inform and track floodplain protection and restoration efforts

In an effort to improve our strategic investments towards floodplain protection and restoration, and better track and communicate progress, a 2-year effort is underway that will inform decision-makers about progress being made towards our recovery goals. The project has the following major objectives:

- Develop a regionally accepted floodplain “footprint” and attributes of function and degradation.
- Develop regionally consistent criteria and metrics for on-the-ground activities that contribute towards improving and protecting floodplain conditions.
- Improve the Puget Sound Partnership Vital Sign targets.

How we’re doing it

PSP and Ecology will convene a set of pilot watershed groups to refine our method for incorporating multiple regional and locally developed geospatial data sets that delineate floodplain extent and categorize function and condition. Recommendations for improvements to the Vital Sign Targets will be made for incorporation into the Action Agenda, Floodplain Implementation Strategies, and State of the Sound Reporting.

WHY IS THIS ISSUE IMPORTANT?

To receive and maintain support for community investments in floodplain protection and recovery it is essential to be able to set achievable goals and communicate progress towards them!

WHAT YOU CAN DO

To contribute towards Puget Sound floodplain recovery let your community leaders know that you support investments in projects that restore floodplain functions and protect people and property from further harm. For more information, refer to What you can do at the Partnership’s Vital Signs website.

ABOUT ECOLOGY AND PSP

The Washington State Departments of Ecology and Puget Sound Partnership are public institutions with missions to protect and restore the environment we love for all to benefit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Floodplain Condition Assessment and Vital Sign Refinement

A project led by the Puget Sound Partnership and Washington Department of Ecology improves our ability to communicate progress on floodplain restoration in the Puget Sound Basin.

Regional and Watershed Experts Combine for an Improved Assessment of Floodplains

Through a process which engaged technical experts in floodplain management, salmon recovery, and spatial analysis, the Puget Sound Basin has a regionally and locally vetted product that:

- Supports the 2015 Floodplains Implementation Strategy by providing regional and local recovery planners with a spatial database of floodplain extent and condition.
- Outlines methods for restoration project tracking to more accurately quantify and communicate progress towards the Floodplains Vital Sign Target established by the Puget Sound Action Agenda.
- Provides recommendations for ways to improve the Floodplains Vital Sign Target in the future.

A Value to Local Recovery Planning!

The project engaged experts in 3 pilot watersheds (Green/Duwamish, Stillaguamish, and Dungeness) to refine the mapping with local data for floodplains in those areas. This provided an opportunity to identify a subset of the historic floodplain which is currently more frequently flooded and hence a higher priority for restoration investments. This subset was provided in a spatial database and will be useful for local salmon recovery planning and performance tracking.

Looking Forward

Future work following on this project will include:

- Continuing to refine the remaining 14 major floodplain maps with local partners.
- Engaging regional grant programs in use of the project tracking methods.
- Informing future Vital Sign updates and Target setting.

LINKS

Report, Spatial Data and other materials
https://pspwa.box.com/v/MonitoringFloodplainProject
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