

PSNERP-Nearshore Science Team (NST)

Monthly Meeting Synthesis

24-25 October 2007

Venue: 10-24: WDFW Offices, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 600 Capitol Way North; 10-25: Conference Room SL3, OB2, Olympia, Washington

Attendance: Si Simenstad (Chair; UW), Justin Boevers (UW), Megan Dethier (UW), Kurt Fresh (WDFW), Guy Gelfenbaum (USGS), Bernie Hargrave (USACE), Tom Leschine (UW), Tom Mumford (DOE), Hugh Shipman (DOE), Curtis Tanner (WDFW)

Guests: Jen Burke (UW), Randy Carman (WDFW), Paul Cereghino (NOAA), Larry Dominguez (DNR), Michael Friese (DNR), Jeff Gaekle (DNR), Justin Holt (DNR), Debby Hyde (Pierce Co.), Bruce Jones (NWIFC), Betsy Lyons (TNC), Theresa Mitchell (WDFW), Doug Myers (PSP), Osa Odum (NWIFC), Kristin Swendaal (DNR), Ron Thom (PNL-BMSL)

Primary Meeting Topics:

1. *Science Morning:* John Bower (WDNR), “*Aquatic Lands, State Owned Aquatic Lands and Their Management*”
2. ESRP Enhancement funding priorities
3. PSNERP-SSHIAP typology hybrid/Change Analysis metrics and data recovery
4. Project Scale Monitoring and Adaptive Management: final report out by Ron Thom
5. Human dimensions strategy for restoration

Science Morning: John Bower and Justin Holt (WDNR), “Aquatic Lands, State Owned Aquatic Lands and Their Management” (Kristin Swendaal and Michael Friese contributed policy perspectives)

- John and colleagues presented history of tidelands (and bedlands) ownership, laws and regulation in the State, describing how ownership of tidelands to the state, through the equal footing doctrine, has always been a contentious issue. Extremely complex, with multiple classifications (harbor lines, 1st class tidelands, and 2nd class tidelands) and jurisdictions over state-owned aquatic lands (SOAL). Result is that case-by-case analysis is almost always necessary.
- SOAL at statehood estimated to include ~2.93 million acres, including open coast but doesn't include land retained by tribes.
- Legislative Directives for SOAL Management involves four-part balancing test: (1) encourage direct public use; (2) foster water-dependent uses; (3) ensure environmental protection; and, (4) utilize renewable resources; a 5th unstated goal is to derive revenue generation through leasing (even though DNR doesn't have a fiduciary trust)
- Discussion revolved around DNR taking a more comprehensive look at use of SOAL and application of balancing test. DNR has no authority to purchase lands, but they can be gifted, could be changed via legislation.
- A major discussion point revolved around how federal restoration action might occur on SOAL? There is no perpetuity with DNR leases of SOAL: can lease 2nd class tidelands for up to 50 years, and aquatic reserve is 90-year designation. But, lease on land can be considered tenuous. It was suggested that restoration on SOAL will raise the bar for future use of the lands, as it is a condition of the lease to return the land in a condition no less than when you acquired it.
- Are SOAL viable restoration areas over long term? Life of the project defined by USACE is 50 yrs. Feds consider authorized project as in perpetuity. There are some precedents with agreements between USACE & DNR for 90yrs.
- Bottom-line: PSNERP Implementation Team should understand impact SOAL will have on desired actions, but also opportunities to work with DNR to alter policies and even laws that would enhance restoration potential on SOAL.

ESRP Enhancement Funding Priorities (Paul Cereghino)

- Paul led brainstorming of strategies to optimize use of supplemental ESRP funds for 2008 that may provide opportunity to evaluate projects or other options. 9/22 projects involve some form of dike set-back; 2nd biggest group on the list is acquisitions.
- General discussion about ESRP included: (1) case study of dike removal, perhaps with social science focus on temporary fix; (2) a wood waste removal as restoration best management practices investigation; (3) creating mechanisms to monitor sites for a couple years before starting restoration intervention; and (4) how to manage approved projects that are not ready to implement. (1) and (3) offer possible ESRP opportunity for '09-'11 ESRP funding for SAW workgroup to do an enhancement proposal. Doug indicated he was going to provide a scope of work for research with dike setback, sea level rise, and human dimensions.
- Other ideas: (1) suggestion to use funds strategically to fully test the PSNERP conceptual model; and (2) development of generic hydrodynamic model for use in designing and evaluating dike removal and other hydrodynamic management measures.

PSNERP-SSHIAP Typology Hybrid/Change Analysis Metrics and Data Recovery (Jen)

- Jen provided update on SSHIAP-PSNERP typologies for Sound-wide change analysis.
- We are merging efforts to determine how well SSHIAP typology interfaces with Shipman typology? Overall they line-up well and map the same 'thing.' Some tricky interpretations will require finessing data sets, but hybrid looks feasible. Bottom line: overall goal is one typology, not competing typologies.
- Jen is also working with Anchor on first delivery order under USACE IDIQ. Data discovery task is complete. All datasets will be in a report available through the USACE website (likely not distributed until Change Analysis is completed).

Project Scale Monitoring and Adaptive Management (Ron Thom, PNNL-BMSL)

- Ron summarizes results of project-specific monitoring assessment designed to provide monitoring and adaptive management (AM) guidelines for use by those in evaluating individual restoration projects.
- Analyzed how many projects were meeting PSNERP monitoring and AM principles: concluded that project managers monitor (64%), but don't have a great understanding of what AM is or how it is applied.
- Report includes an eight-component monitoring framework to address the most critical need: "What do I absolutely need to know to maximize my ability to manage the project toward its goal?"

Human Dimensions Strategy for Restoration (Tom Leschine)

- General discussion about PSNERP needing to conduct a social assessment: What do stakeholders think about nearshore restoration? What do they value in the current conditions? What is their desired future state? We would also benefit from an institutional assessment; as observed during DNR land tenure presentation (*Science Morning*, above), we need better understanding of institutional relationship between restoration actions and private land tenure.
- Approach is to research what surveys have been done elsewhere about attitudes towards restoration, how does restoration get communicated? Options include pilot studies, focus groups, market research. Literature review on selling of conservation plans. Depending on desired action, strategy for human dimension will vary; could target community leaders, or school children, or housewives. Most successful approach has been to find common interest between restoration action and individuals, example of promoting a mud management plan disguising a stream restoration action.
- Next steps? PM would need a human dimension proposal. PM agrees that a need exists to better understand the human dimension, and the approach should start with identifying programmatic needs for stakeholder involvement.