

Appendix E: Monitoring Plan

BACKGROUND:

The collaborative process undertaken during the *Planning for Climate Change on the North Olympic Peninsula Project* brought together over 150 stakeholders from across the North Olympic Peninsula of Washington State. This group used best available climate change projections to identify and prioritize specific climate change vulnerabilities of the region, as well as devise appropriate adaptation strategies to minimize those vulnerabilities and leverage opportunities. The recommended adaptation strategies in the project's final "Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula" are centered on three focus areas: Ecosystems, Water Supplies, and Critical Infrastructure. In order to track progress towards and achievement of these prioritized adaptation strategies, the Monitoring Plan Owner defined below will continue to access the collaborative relationships initiated by this project, and will make quarterly requests for updates of adaptation work being implemented across the region. As climate change is an evolving and shifting risk to the region, a Monitoring Plan is crucial to understanding the outcomes of climate change impacts and the success and challenges of adaptation efforts. It is also a deliverable of the project, "to track how land use planning or other planning decisions are being impacted by the Adaptation Plan."

Step 1: Identify Monitoring Plan Owner

Cindy Jayne, as the Chair of the Local 20/20 Climate Preparedness Group (Local 20/20 is a Jefferson County sustainability-focused non-profit), will act as the Monitoring Plan Owner, working in collaboration with Olympic Climate Action (a Clallam-County focused Climate Action group). It is expected this commitment will total 10 hours/year. As a backup, Ian Miller with Washington Sea Grant has indicated he could take on this role if needed. The monitoring shall continue for two years, from November 2015 – November 2017, at a minimum.

Step 2: Identify Monitoring "Partners"

Near the culmination of the project (September/October 2015), the Monitoring Plan Owner will contact Project "Partners" that represent organizations that could be involved in implementing adaptation strategies to explain the Monitoring Plan process and to seek interest in participating in this effort. Partners can opt out of this effort at any time in the future but will continue to receive emails if they do not request to be removed from participation. Partners will be contacted on a quarterly basis and asked to complete a form on a voluntary, rolling deadline. Partners will be invited to share the responsibility with colleagues and other related organizations

Step 3: Outline Monitoring Plan Process

The Monitoring Plan will exist as a track-able spreadsheet outlining Adaptation Strategies from the project as row headings, with empty sub rows to fill in with an "on-the-ground" strategy shared by a Monitoring Partner (including both in process work as well as completed work).

Partners will also be able to share other adaptation strategies under implementation which are not directly tied to this project recommended strategies. A Monitoring Partner will notify the Monitoring Plan Owner through a form requested quarterly (but available online continuously) of the strategy they or another group are implementing, and will share information as to the:

- I. Title of the Strategy
- II. Responsible Entity(s), Contact point (if applicable)
- III. Date of Implementation
- IV. Climate Change vulnerability/impact the strategy is meant to address
- V. Progress/Challenges of the Strategy
- VI. Date of Completion (if applicable)

The Monitoring Plan Owner will post this information online on a semi-annual basis, as well as sending it via email to the Monitoring Partners.

Step 4: Climate Impacts Tracking and Adaptive Management

The Climate Change Preparedness Plan for the North Olympic Peninsula generated a set of climate projections and impacts in 2014/2015 and the strategies prioritized were based on those projections. Over time, though, as different climate impacts express themselves on the North Olympic Peninsula, particular adaptation strategies designed to address those impacts may acquire an urgency and rise in implementation priority. In order to facilitate that prioritization process, and to facilitate the efficient use of regional resources, we are proposing a currently un-funded component to our monitoring plan, the development of an annual regional climate impacts status report. Such a report would include information and data on a variety of climate impacts highlighted in the Preparedness Plan, such as air and water temperature trends from sites around the North Olympic Peninsula, the status of glaciers (and their impacts on rivers), and sea level data from tide gauges. There are a variety of templates for such a report, including a monthly climate summary published by the Office of the Washington State Climatologist (<http://www.climate.washington.edu/newsletter/>). The report would enable project partners to constantly update the priorities assigned to adaptation strategies, and focus on the most pressing given observed impacts. However, given this is currently unfunded, this step is not being committed to at this time, but is being documented here as a desirable next step if funding is available.

Step 5: Sharing Adaptation Resources

The Monitoring Plan Owner may also encourage and support the Monitoring Partners in sharing information on potential grant opportunities and collaboration opportunities for implementing adaptation strategies, including potentially sharing a staff resource to identify grant opportunities.