

American Water Resources Association
2009 ANNUAL WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE
November 9-12, 2009
Seattle, WA

Monday, Nov. 9

10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

SESSION 2: Local Panel – Restoration of Puget Sound: The Role of Freshwater Quantity Science and Policy in Restoration of Puget Sound

Panel Moderator: Adam Gravley
Gordon Derr LLP, Seattle, WA

A panel of speakers will address the water quantity topic in Washington's Puget Sound restoration initiative. ("Puget Sound Partnership" or PSP). The panel and each speaker's individual presentation will be organized around the major strategies and action priorities identified by the PSP. The Washington Legislature created the PSP in 2007 to lead an ambitious program to protect and restore Puget Sound using an ecosystem approach. It is charged with defining a "2020 Action Agenda" that identifies work needed to protect and restore Puget Sound, based on science and with clear and measurable goals for recovery. In asking "what does a healthy ecosystem look like," the PSP found that clean and abundant freshwater is "essential for all other goals affecting ecosystem health." As a result, the Action Agenda lists as a top priority the securing of adequate quantities of clean fresh water for human uses and for instream flows to support aquatic habitats and species. However, most Puget Sound watersheds have "compromised" surface water flows and groundwater resources. The PSP commissioned small groups of science and policy experts to prepare topic papers to synthesize existing information and to serve as starting point for action moving forward. Water Quantity is one of five key topics for which topic papers were prepared. The Water Quantity topic paper identified four major water quantity strategies to advance the 2020 goal:

1. Integrated, ecosystem approach to environmental management and planning in Puget Sound
2. Conservation / Demand management
3. Protect and enhance instream flows
4. Stormwater quantity management

Each of the four strategies are accompanied by proposed actions in the short and long term. During this session, speakers will focus on one or more of the strategies and proposed actions. Speakers will address:

- a) key information or gaps,
- b) a "critical look" at one or more of the strategies,
- c) other strategies that should be included,
- d) important considerations to pursuing one or more of the strategies, including specific actions, and
- e) other relevant points.