



PNIAF 2019

Local Waterway Restoration

Puget Sound Partnership: A state agency tasked with coordinating and facilitating efforts to restore the Puget Sound watershed

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Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee



Partnership created in 2007.

JLARC directed to look at:



Extent to which Partnership expended funds for implementing regional plan



Efficiency and effectiveness of Partnership oversight

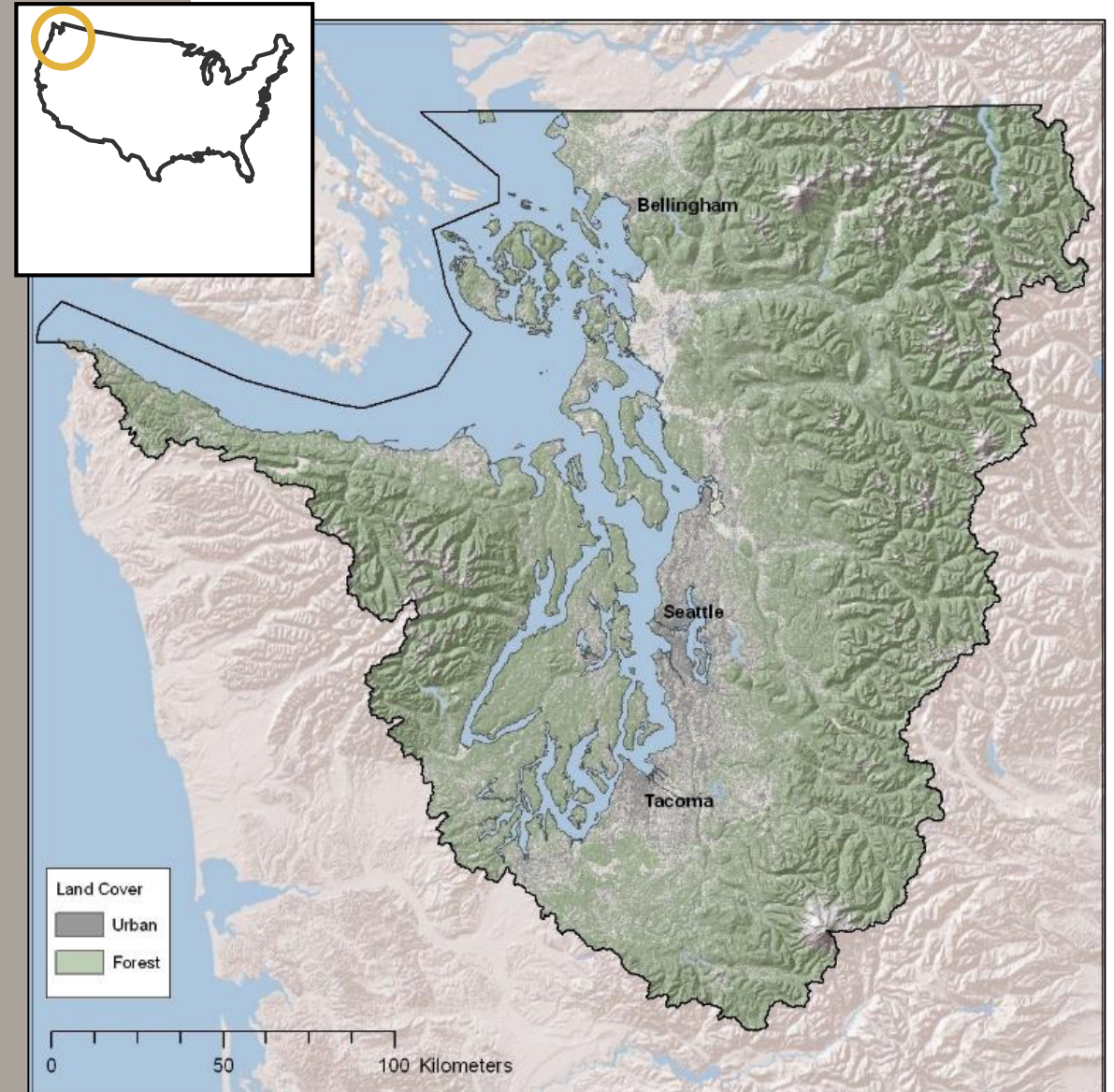


Ways to improve Partnership performance and structure

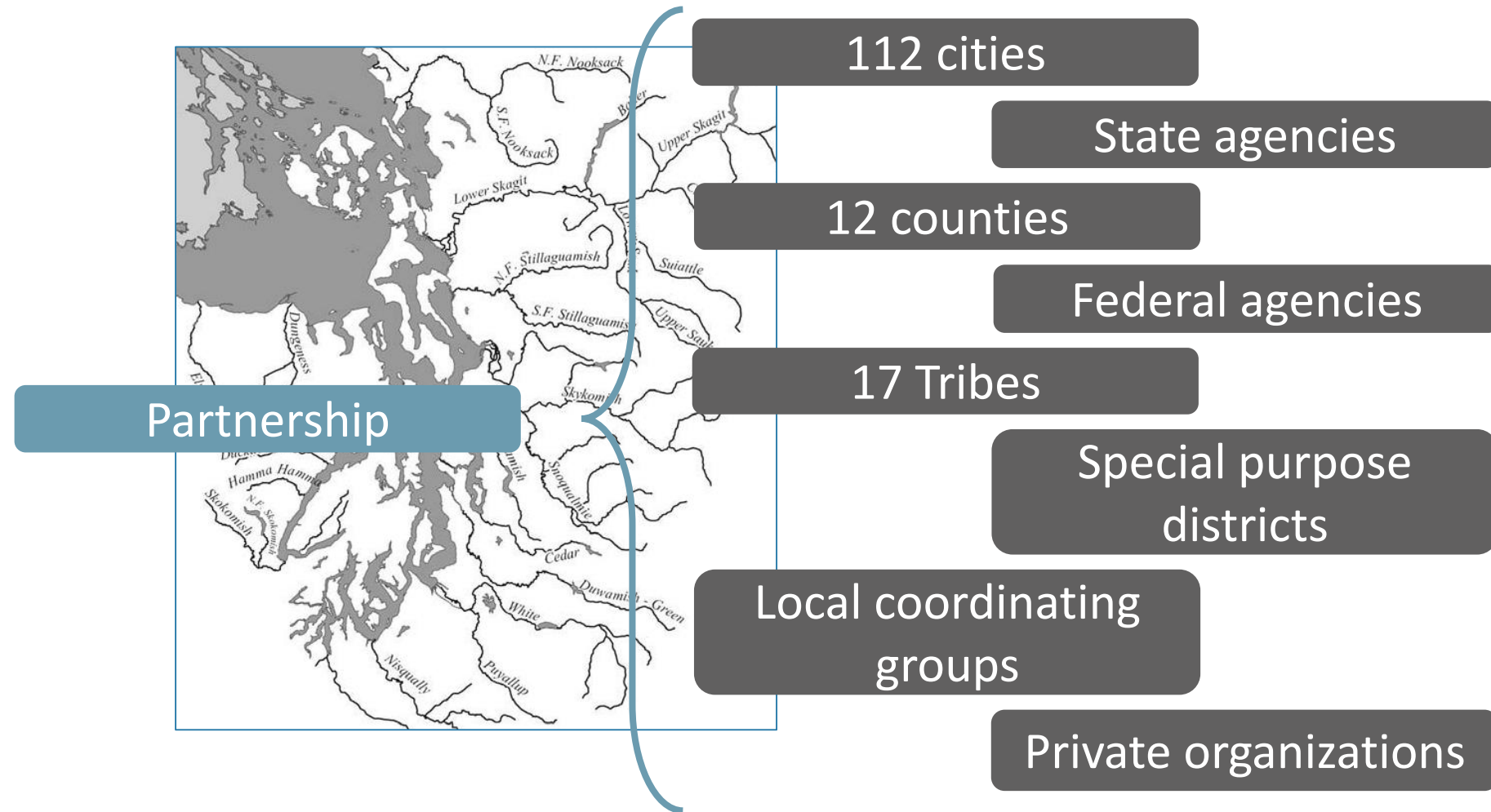
Puget Sound is located in the northwest corner of Washington in the United States

Legislation noted that Puget Sound was “in serious decline” with parts “in serious crisis”

The agency was directed to recover Puget Sound **by 2020**



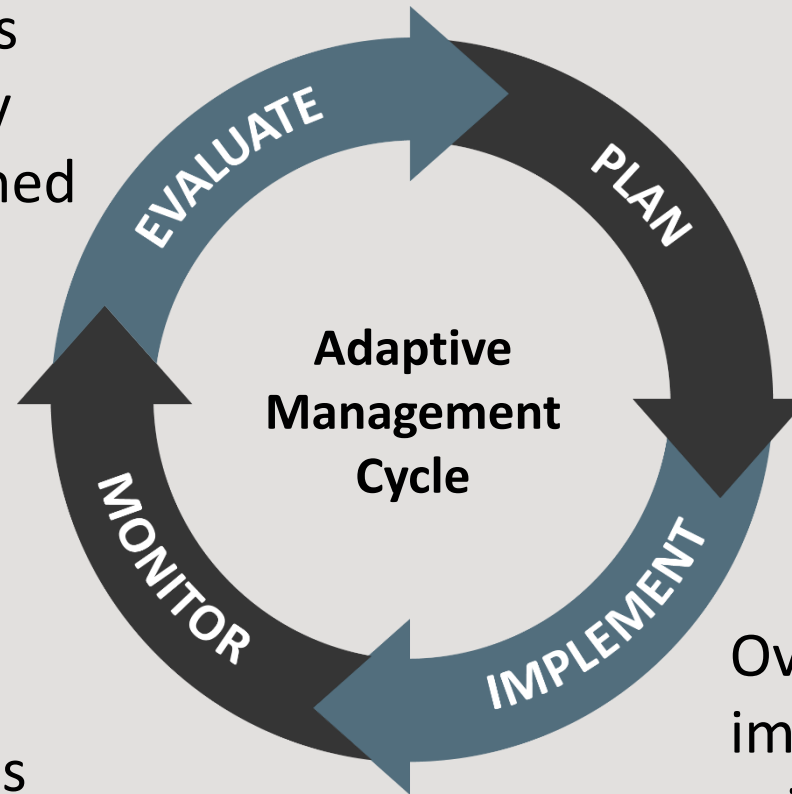
Legislation called for **more coherent and effective system** to guide recovery effort



Partnership's role in recovery

Evaluate progress towards recovery and lessons learned

Develop regional recovery plan



Track, monitor, and report results

Oversee implementation and prioritize actions

Contextual challenges

Significant portion of agency's budget is federally funded

Agency has no regulatory authority, and does not directly fund actions

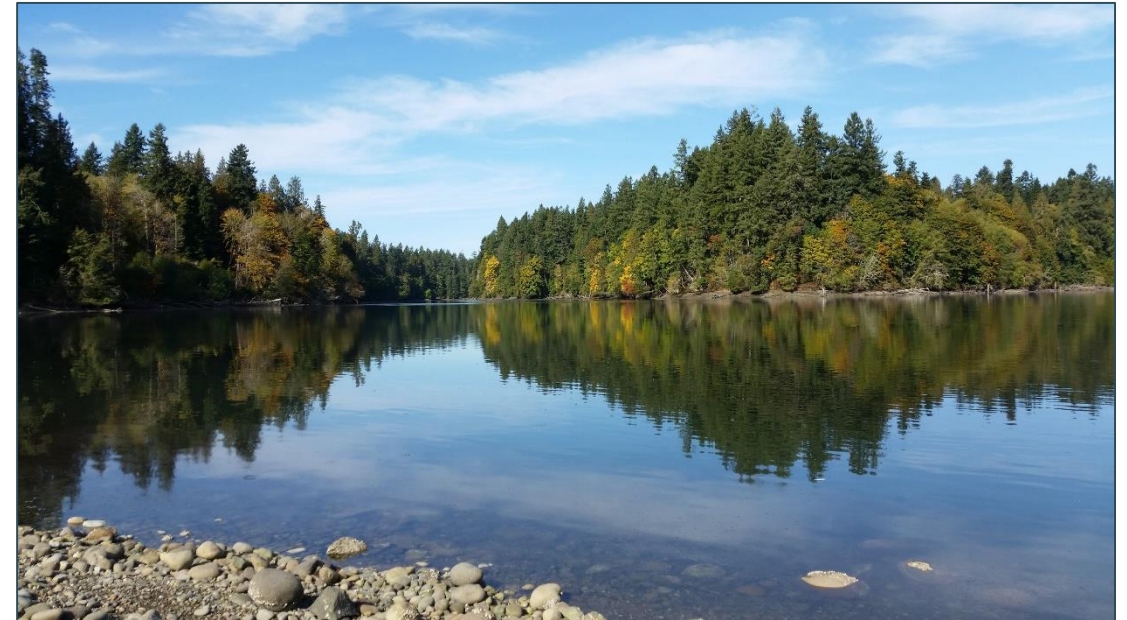
Multiple entities involved in recovery effort, each with their own ideas and approaches

Audit methodology

Compliance audit: are they following statute?

Mixed method approach: document analysis, qualitative interviews, observation of board meetings, and field trips to see examples of restoration projects.

Team meetings key part of analysis.



Key finding 1: Recovery and planning timeframes were too short

Statute set recovery goal of 2020

Statute required recovery plan, called Action Agenda, to be updated every two years

- Resulted in a lot of energy and resources going into planning instead of action



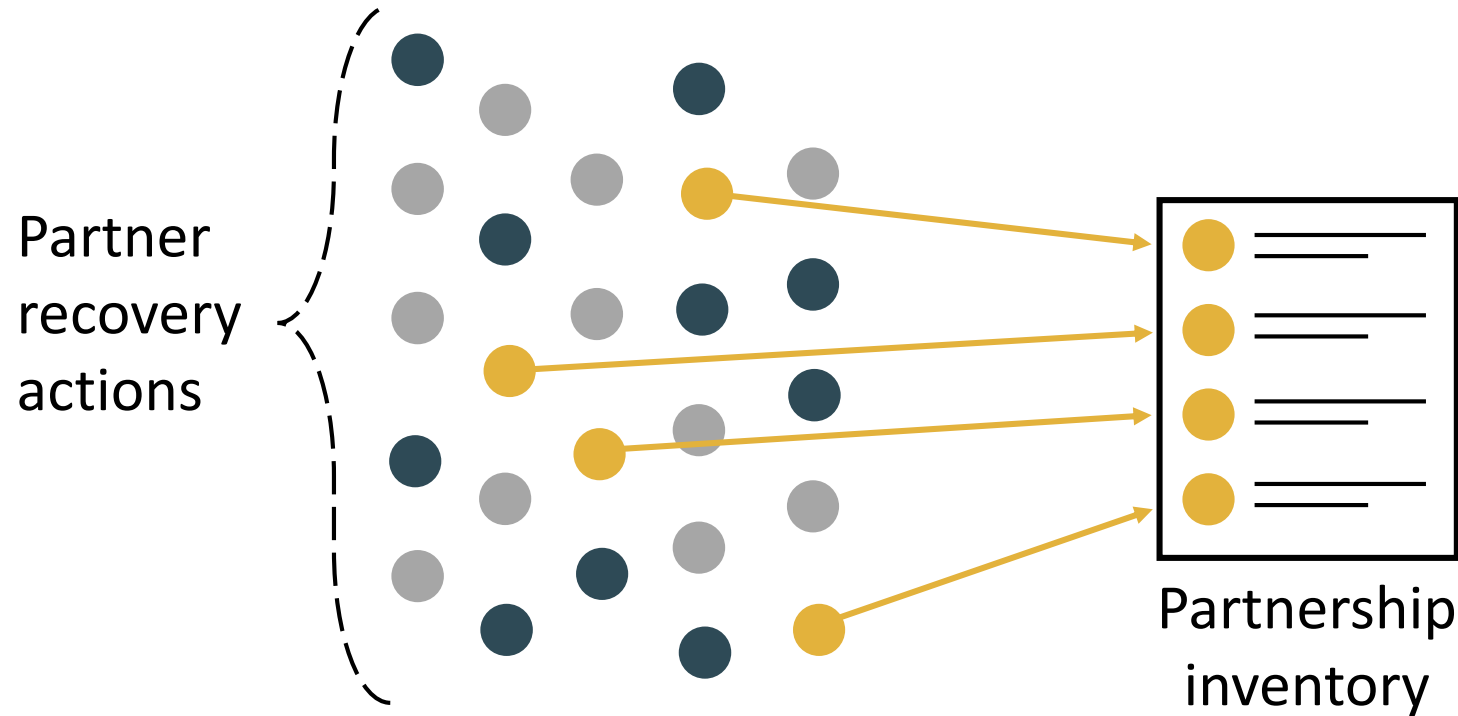
Key finding 2: Incomplete information available for agency to effectively prioritize recovery actions, as required by law

There are 3 types of actions

- **Near term actions:** discrete actions that can be completed in 2-4 years.
- **Ongoing programs:** actions with no end date.
- **Other actions:** actions that are not near term actions or ongoing programs.



Only some actions and funding inventoried



This limits ability to evaluate and prioritize full recovery effort

Key finding 3: Recovery hindered by deficiencies in monitoring program and incomplete connection of actions to recovery targets

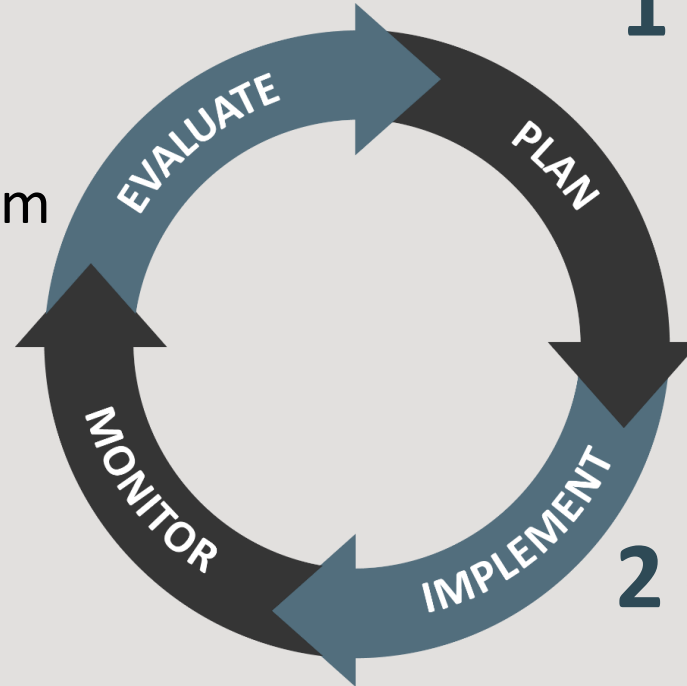


Monitoring program set up as quasi-independent organization, both part of and separate from Partnership

Processes and reports for planning and assessing progress were separate, making it difficult to incorporate lessons learned into next planning cycle

3 Legislative Auditor Recommendations

3 Partnership
Addressing monitoring program deficiencies and clarify links between monitoring and planning



1 Partnership
Addressing changes needed to the planning and recovery timeframes

2 OFM & Partnership
Proposing how they will create a more complete inventory of actions and funding



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Full Report

[http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2017/
PSPartnership2016/f/default.htm](http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/2017/PSPartnership2016/f/default.htm)