Criteria to Prioritize Candidate Actions

The following criteria should be considered to prioritize actions for the first round of the Action Agenda. This criteria is based on the Guiding Principals for Ecosystem Management that were developed through input from a broad array of stakeholders including the topic forums, action area meetings, the Science Panel and the Ecosystem Coordination Board.

- **Address Top Priority Threats**: Selected actions should address the top priority threats of habitat alteration and pollution. Actions that address more than one threat are preferred.
- **Strategic Priorities**: Protection of highly functioning existing habitat, prevention of additional pollutants going into the Sound and restoration of areas that can recreate ecosystem function should be the highest priority.
- **Magnitude of Benefit**: Choose actions with the greatest magnitude of benefit. Generally, projects that have benefits that extend Sound-wide should be prioritized over all others.
- **Ecosystems Goals**: Choose projects that help achieve the greatest number of ecosystem goals.
- **Urgency and Irreversibility**: Prioritize actions that address imminent threats to ecosystem health especially when the potential damage would be costly or impossible to reverse.
- **Cost/Benefit**: Select actions that provide the greatest benefit for the money and effort expended.
- **Likelihood of Success**: Actions should be selected that have a high probability of achieving intended results.
- **Readiness**: Priority actions should be ready to implement now. That includes a well-developed action plan, a budget, and a schedule as well as significant support by key constituents.

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Top priority actions should be considered initiatives that must be started immediately in order to achieve ecosystem goals by 2020.

All other actions should be maintained in a pool of candidates for future consideration for implementation. Partnership staff should continue to refine and develop these actions for implementation at a later date.