

## **Leadership Council Resolution 2011-22 Adopting a 2020 ecosystem recovery target for land development: avoiding development of ecologically important areas**

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.310(1)(c) states that “The action agenda shall include near-term and long-term benchmarks designed to ensure continuous progress needed to reach the goals, objectives, and designated outcomes by 2020;” and

**WHEREAS**, RCW 90.71.280(3), “the [leadership] council shall confer with the [science] panel on incorporating ... benchmarks into the action agenda;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Partnership has applied the term “targets” to refer to long-term benchmarks designed to ensure progress to designated outcomes by 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the science-policy workshop convened as part of the Science Panel meeting on December 14, 2010 recommended that the Partnership adopt ecosystem recovery targets to address the full breadth of the Partnership’s interests in a recovered ecosystem as part of the 2011 revisions to the action agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, patterns and rates of land development provide a key indication that “freshwater, estuary, nearshore, marine, and upland habitats are protected, restored, and sustained” (RCW 90.71.300(d)); and

**WHEREAS**, patterns and rates of land development can affect how “a quality of human life ... is sustained by a functioning Puget Sound ecosystem” (RCW 90.71.300(b)); and

**WHEREAS**, technical experts have analyzed land cover changes and joined policy advisors in developing potential ecosystem recovery targets for land development; and

**WHEREAS**, Science Panel members provided a review of technical materials developed in support of target setting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ecosystem Coordination Board has discussed potential ecosystem recovery targets, based on the background information presented in advance of their October 6, 2011 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, a summary of information from these analysis, review, and engagement processes included in the meeting materials for the October 20, 2011 meeting of the Leadership Council provide sufficient background for adoption of ecosystem recovery targets consistent with the Partnership’s guiding principles for target setting

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Partnership defines a functioning, resilient ecosystem to include:

Puget Sound landscapes that provide important habitat and hydrology functions and a land base to support the built environment for a growing human population.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a Partnership 2020 recovery target for land development shall be expressed as:

Basin-wide, by 2020, loss of vegetation cover on indicator land base over a 5-year period does not exceed 0.15% of the 2011 baseline land area.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Partnership staff will work with the steering committee of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring and assessment program to convene a monitoring work group to identify both the existing and needed data and resources to create and implement a system of land development and land cover indicators to characterize local and regional trends by county and/or action area as well as changes of forest lands, farmlands, and riparian areas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that reevaluation of the targets adopted for land development will be triggered at the direction of the Partnership's Science Panel based on their evaluation of scientific information about ecosystem conditions and pressures (e.g., additional attributes of the land development pressure for which targets might be set; other approaches for defining ecologically important lands).

Resolution Moved By:     Dan O'Neal    

Resolution Seconded By:     David Dicks    

Approved/Denied/Deferred (underline one)

**DATE:**     October 20, 2011