

Submit a proposal for a Near Term Action to help recover Puget Sound (Deadline is 10 a.m., December 31, 2015)

Accelerating and coordinating the collective effort to recover and sustain the Puget Sound is the mission of the Puget Sound Partnership, and the Puget Sound Action Agenda is the plan we use to guide the effort. The Action Agenda is developed with our partners and includes specific actions that must get underway over the next 2 years if we are to stay on track toward recovery.

What is a Near Term Action, and who can propose one?

The 2016 Action Agenda update focuses on identifying ecosystem recovery actions called Near Term Actions (NTAs). NTAs are local or regional activities that can be accomplished in 2 to 4 years and are trackable, measurable, and necessary for achieving Puget Sound recovery.

For a description of the scope and priorities of NTAs please see the NTA Solicitation (available on our website http://psp.wa.gov/2016_AA_NTA.php).

An NTA can be proposed by any group or anyone willing and able to oversee the implementation of an NTA and report on its progress.

What is the process and deadlines for proposing NTAs?

The process and deadlines for proposing NTAs differs based on the NTA owner and the geographical scale of the NTA. Coordination with and approval by a Local Integrating Organization, or LIO, may be required. An LIO is a collaboration of tribes, local governments, and non-government organizations that understand, coordinate and plan for local activities to improve the condition of Puget Sound.

Local entities and tribes. Submit an NTA proposal to the LIO where the action is primarily taking place. Each LIO has its own process and deadlines for reviewing and approving NTA proposals, so local and tribal entities should contact their LIO as soon as possible to avoid missing key deadlines. After the LIO approves the proposal, it can be submitted to the Partnership. Please check with the LIO for details. (See page 44 of the NTA solicitation for LIO contact information.) Special conditions apply for the Skagit/Samish watershed where there is no LIO yet—see page 39 of the NTA Solicitation (http://psp.wa.gov/2016_AA_NTA.php).

Regional entities. Submit regional NTA proposals directly to the Partnership, but we strongly encourage you to first coordinate with the affected LIOs to avoid potential duplication and conflict with local plans. The Partnership has created a simple NTA idea sharing platform to facilitate coordination between regional and local entities.

(<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form?EQBCT=ccb3aac149044a21ba761bb2fd8fb2e6>)

What information should be included in the NTA proposal?

To prepare and submit an NTA proposal to the Partnership, use the downloadable Excel-based submittal form on the Partnership's website. The NTA submittal form and instructions, as well as other resources, are available on our NTA web page (http://psp.wa.gov/2016_AA_NTA.php). The submittal form encompasses the following components:

- **Section 1.** Cover sheet of administrative information (one page)
- **Section 2.** Proposal narrative and cost estimate (four pages)
- **Section 3.** Supplemental information if your NTA is part of a multi-phase action or an ongoing program (one page)
- **Section 4.** Objectives and performance measures (one page)
- **Section 5.** Results chain graphic (one page for each results chain)
- **Sections 5a-5d.** Data input tables that document your results chain in Section 5 (for database purposes)

To meet the review criteria, each proposal needs to answer these questions:

- Who will be responsible for making sure the proposed action happens?
- What does the proposed action involve and how will it contribute significantly to Puget Sound recovery?
- Where does the proposed action fit into the Action Agenda? How can we make sure it's coordinated and aligned with other recovery actions taking place?
- What will be the outcome of the action? What will it accomplish in terms of ecosystem recovery? How will the result of the action be measured?
- What's the science behind the action?
- How much will the action cost?

How is an NTA proposal submitted?

We're requiring that the proposals be submitted electronically, via the Partnership's NTA web page. (http://psp.wa.gov/2016_AA_NTA.php)

Who reviews the NTA proposals?

NTA proposals will be evaluated in January and February by the Strategic Initiative Transition Teams, an independent team of interdisciplinary specialists. Their evaluations will be based on how well a proposal meets a list of standardized criteria. Submittal requirements and evaluation criteria are detailed on pages 9 and 10 of the NTA solicitation.

(<https://pspwa.app.box.com/s/43heo2w6kb28197m3s3wsw69kkg90oud>)

DEADLINE: NTA proposals for the 2016 Action Agenda update must be submitted through the Partnership's website no later than 10 a.m. on December 31, 2015.