# WRIA 7 Project Subgroup Overview

V091219, DRAFT

Purpose: *The role of the project subgroup is to begin identifying project ideas and assist in the development of project prioritization criteria*. The Project Subgroup has interest in creating a robust portfolio of projects to bring to the committee in aims of meeting WRE requirements, and more broadly achieving better overall hydrologic health in the long term.

**Intersection with WREC[[1]](#endnote-1):**

*WREC Committee-*Full body of voting and ex officio entities on all aspects of the final submitted plan to Ecology.

*Technical Workgroup-*Provides recommendation to the committee on growth projections, subbasin delineations, and consumptive use estimates.

*Project Subgroup-* Provides support to the committee on project identification and prioritization. Provides project recommendations to the committee.

Approach:

In coordination, related to *project identification* the project subgroup and technical consultants will:

* Continue to develop and refine the project inventory developed by Washington Water Trust[[2]](#endnote-2)
  + GeoEngineers will manage the project inventory on BOX, a secure file managing program, for workgroup and Committee members to post and view project ideas.
* Identify and develop additional projects for the Committee’s consideration
* Coordinate with the 4-year Work Plan update process to solicit additional water resource project proposals
* Develop a process for bringing projects to the Committee for review

In coordination, related to *project prioritization* the project subgroup and technical consultants will:

* Filter identified projects for fatal flaws to remove projects from consideration that do not meet the intent of the WRE Plan, documenting why projects have been filtered in or out.[[3]](#endnote-3)
* Develop draft project criteria to assist the Committee in prioritizing projects, and to ensure that projects and actions are in alignment with the Final NEB Guidance.

**Timeline and topics for workgroup to cover:**

August: Initial meeting. Subgroup discussed the sideboards and priorities. The subgroup discussed how they want to approach identification of projects.

September-October: The subgroup should discuss how they apply projects to subbasins in the watershed, once identified. Support water right acquisitions work be done by consultant in the fall and winter which may include identification of specific streams/reaches.

Ongoing Fall 2019-Winter 2020: Identification of project ideas by Committee members and others. Solicitation of additional project opportunities through 4-year work plan process. Support water right acquisitions work being done by consultant, including identification of streams/reaches.

Fall 2019: Committee and subgroup work on project criteria; apply initial fatal flaw criteria to existing projects; project subgroup reviews project ideas from Committee members and others (ongoing); determine how to bring forward projects to the committee for discussion and decision (one off, project types, by subbasin). Technical consultants to present on tools to characterize project benefits.

Winter 2019/2020: Committee reviews projects brought forward from the subgroup. Recommendations by committee and subgroup for technical consultants to further develop a subset of projects.

Support: Subgroups are expected to self-organize. A lead is identified for the subgroups, who will schedule meetings (phone or in person), lead the meeting, and document any outcomes of the discussion. Ingria and support staff can help take notes, schedule meetings and set up conference lines or webinars if needed. The subgroup should identify a representative to present out at the following Committee meeting.

## Considerations for “Sideboards”

We want to avoid projects that are:

* Required for compliance/mitigation under law.
* Estuary or shoreline projects that do not benefits streamflow.
* Projects completed prior to January 18, 2018.
* Projects that are not “water-resource related.”

## Considerations for Priorities

When considering project ideas, we will keep in mind:

* Include projects that benefit non-anadromous fish species.
* Include outside of the box thinking.
* Snohomish Basin Protection Plan areas identified as important for protection of hydrology.
* Projects that provide streamflow benefit.
* Make sure that salmon recovery is actually restoration recovery, not just offsets.
* Projects that enhance aquatic ecology and fisheries.
* Consider monitoring projects that may help identify water quantity data gaps or make sure projects in the plan are performing the way we think they will.
* Identify multiple benefits of projects, when possible.
* Consider projects that may have long-term benefits, even if benefits are not realized right away.
* Don’t forget about projects to help meet NEB.
* Be nimble when applying project criteria so we don’t work ourselves into a box.

1. Once workgroup and subgroup work has concluded, they may consider dissolving or a reorganizing around a new or common purpose. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Washington Water Trust has developed a comprehensive project inventory database from existing project lists in the watershed, including Snohomish Basin Near-Term Actions, the Snohomish 4-year Work Plan, and others. The database includes 259 projects the Snohomish Basin and identifies key attributes of such as the project name, source (e.g. specific project list, Committee member, or other), type, location, description, sponsor(s), stage of completion, and funding source. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Finer screening will be applied later in the process, with approval from the Committee. The subgroup may revisit the broader project list if too many projects have been filtered out and we want to revisit the broader list to fill gaps. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)