

A Framework for Tracking Projects and New Permit-Exempt Wells using  
Salmon Recovery Portal

This document describes the elements required to track projects from a conceptual stage through completion and monitor new permit-exempt domestic well construction. Project and well tracking are an essential component of implementation monitoring and adaptive management procedures. Therefore, it is recommended that projects be tracked through planning and implementation phases to enhance the Committee's ability to conduct implementation monitoring at the sub-basin and WRIA scale, monitor grant funding, identify plan successes and deficiencies, and streamline project development.

The Committee recommends a pilot program using the Salmon Recovery Portal (SRP; <https://srp.rco.wa.gov/about>) to conduct project tracking for the streamflow restoration effort under 90.94.030 RCW. As a statewide salmon recovery tracking tool, the capacity for the SRP to allow for goal setting, hierarchical project tiers, supplemental information, and printing of automated reports makes it well-suited for tracking projects associated with streamflow restoration and salmon recovery efforts. As a statewide tool administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and in partnership with salmon recovery Lead Entities (LE), the SRP provides a dynamic platform to track project development, funding, and offsets.

Tracking of projects will consist of two primary phases: (1) uploading required project information from all projects included in this plan into the SRP, and (2) uploading and updating all funded projects, project reports, and completed projects into the SRP database on an annual basis. Phase 1 will be coordinated and funded by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and implemented by trained University of Washington (UW) data stewards in collaboration with RCO staff and Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff. Phase 2 project uploads will be implemented by UW data stewards in consultation with Ecology grant management, RCO, and WDFW staff. To improve harmonization of streamflow restoration efforts with ongoing salmon recovery activities, local salmon recovery LE Coordinators shall be consulted prior to initial data uploads. While input and oversight is welcomed, no commitment of additional work is required from LE Coordinators. Streamflow restoration projects not funded through the streamflow restoration grant program, will be updated by data stewards during any grant reporting to Ecology or RCO. Primary quality control measures will be performed by data stewards. Funds to support initial and ongoing costs of data steward data entry (Phases 1 and 2) will be provided by WDFW.

The Committee recommends, at minimum, the following data fields for streamflow tracking: WRIA, sub-basin, project description, funding source, estimated cost, project spatial boundaries or coordinates, project sponsor (if applicable), estimated water offset or habitat benefits (using Pacific Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) metrics or reference to the PCSRF list), and target project start date. Projects with sensitive locations can be made private or those with

undetermined locations can be entered as a project boundary or defined at the sub-basin scale. New domestic permit-exempt well location data will be drawn from the Ecology Washington State Well Report database<sup>1</sup>. Well location data will be incorporated into the SRP using point coordinates, or at the section or sub-basin scale to support implementation monitoring and adaptive management goals.

To support the implementation of the above program for tracking projects under 90.94.030 RCW, WDFW has initiated pilot projects in two 90.94.020 RCW basins: the Nisqually River Basin (WRIA 11) and the Chehalis River Basin (WRIAs 22/23). These pilots are coordinated by WDFW in conjunction with RCO, Ecology, local LE Coordinators, and the Planning Units. Intended as a proof of concept, these pilots are examining the capacity and effectiveness of the SRP to track streamflow restoration projects.

<sup>1</sup> <https://apps.wa.gov/ecology/wellconstruction/map/WCLSWebMap/default.aspx>