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September 6, 1995

Introduced By:

salmonth

Proposed No.:

95-613

MOTION NO.

**9655**

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A MOTION expressing King County's  
interest in becoming a charter member of  
*For the Sake of Salmon.*

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the vital importance of  
Pacific Salmon runs to the economic, environmental and  
cultural well-being of King County; and

WHEREAS, the viability of many salmon runs is  
jeopardized by a wide variety impacts including human  
activities; and

WHEREAS, all communities and institutions that generate  
such impacts should bear responsibility for minimizing them;  
and

WHEREAS, King County has already recognized its  
responsibility to contribute constructively to the challenge  
of salmon restoration through Waterways 2000, the Cedar River  
Legacy, the King County Comprehensive Plan and other County  
programs; and

WHEREAS, *For the Sake of Salmon* has begun to undertake a  
complementary set of initiatives, based on creative incentive  
programs and the dedicated efforts of broad based citizen  
councils rather than mandatory regulation and control, in  
rural watersheds across the region; and

1           WHEREAS, King County has been invited to become a  
 2 charter member of *For the Sake of Salmon* with no associated  
 3 obligation to provide funding for the organization and no  
 4 loss of authority or policy making prerogative:

5           NOW, THEREFORE BE IT MOVED by the Council of King  
 6 County: that the County become a Charter Member of *For the*  
 7 *Sake of Salmon* and a signatory to its establishing Charter,  
 8 attached hereto as Attachment A, at a ceremony scheduled on  
 9 September 15, 1995.

10           PASSED by a vote of 11 to 0 this 11<sup>th</sup> day of

11 September, 1995.

12           KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
 13           KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

14           Kent Pullen  
 15           Chair

16           ATTEST:

17           Gerald A. Peterson  
 18           Clerk of the Council  
 19

20           Attachments: A: *For the Sake of Salmon* Charter

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# CHARTER

## FOR THE SAKE OF THE SALMON

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### PREAMBLE

For the Sake of the Salmon is an organization created for the purpose of supporting and coordinating efforts to protect, restore and sustain the salmon.

We are convinced this is critical to the success of regional salmon protection and restoration. This effort is not intended to impose solutions on any region, nor to usurp the existing authorities and responsibilities of any government jurisdiction. It takes a voluntary, non-regulatory approach. Its purpose is to facilitate effective local solutions by providing information and assistance to the many efforts needed to protect and restore the salmon, and serve as a forum to increase coordination and cooperation among its members.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of *For the Sake of the Salmon* is to restore salmon to levels which ensure healthy, sustainable natural populations and support productive fisheries.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in *For the Sake of the Salmon* is open to all public and private organizations who share our vision and principles and wish to contribute in a coordinated, positive manner to the success of our mission.

The charter signature members of *FOR THE SAKE OF THE SALMON* are:

- Governors of Pacific salmon region states;
- Tribal leaders of affected tribes;
- Regional directors of federal resource agencies; and
- Community, public interest and private sector organizations.

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Indian Tribes/Tribal Organizations

- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
- California tribes (?)
- Indian Tribe
- other(?)

Local Governments

- Counties
- Cities
- Ports
- Natural Resource Conservation Districts
- Public Utility Districts
- Other(?)

State of California

The State of Oregon

The State of Washington

The State of Idaho(?)

Federal Agencies

National Marine Fisheries Service

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental Protection Agency

US Forest Service

BLM (?)

NRCS (?)

Non-Governmental Organizations

Private Sector Organizations

Environmental Organizations

Watershed Councils

Others(?)

**9655****PRINCIPLES**

- *Salmon are essential to our quality of life and a diversified, sustainable economy. Natural populations of salmon are indicators of the health of our land and water, and we seek to restore them to levels that ensure their survival and support productive fisheries.*
- *A robust regional economy, and our ability to protect, restore and sustain salmon, are mutually interdependent. We reject the idea that salmon must be sacrificed in the name of economic prosperity, or that economic sectors must be sacrificed to sustain the salmon.*
- *A healthy, sustainable fishing industry and the jobs it supports are positive and deliberate outcomes of our efforts.*
- *The role of federal, state, tribal, and local governments is to work together and with the public to protect, restore, and sustain salmon. Together we seek to establish a regional framework with measurable objectives in order to maximize efficiency, minimize duplication, and provide the necessary technical expertise.*
- *The success of salmon protection and restoration efforts depends upon the full participation of local citizens, landowners, the private sector and governments, focusing on the specific needs of their watersheds.*
- *Protection, restoration, and long term maintenance of the salmon and their ecosystems will be based on the best available scientific information. Action, however, cannot always be conditioned on absolute certainty.*
- *While consensus is desirable, restoring and sustaining the salmon will require difficult decisions, and these decisions may not always be unanimous.*
- *Successful protection and restoration of salmon and other natural resources can best be achieved by an integrated, ecosystem approach to management, rather than a species-by-species approach.*
- *Innovative economic incentive programs and other voluntary approaches are the preferred means for restoring and sustaining salmon. Where existing mechanisms provide inadequate incentives or serve as disincentives to conservation actions, new mechanisms will be proposed to promote conservation of salmon.*
- *An appropriate foundation of regulations is necessary to sustain salmon. Whenever possible, simplification of existing regulations and improved enforcement are to be favored over new regulations.*

**9655****STRATEGY**

We will sustain our cooperative effort to restore the salmon relying upon a five part strategy:

1. We will identify public and private policies that contribute to the decline of the salmon and identify ways to make human activities less harmful. We will emphasize the creation of economic incentives and the identification of positive alternatives to activities affecting habitat. Development of innovative landowner incentive programs to encourage habitat conservation will be a key element of our effort.
2. Because so much habitat throughout the range of the salmon already has been seriously degraded, we will seek to assist in the identification and protection of the remaining healthy habitat which is increasingly critical to the future existence of the salmon. In addition, we will assist existing efforts, and support new initiatives, to restore productivity in areas where habitat already has been degraded. This will be accomplished through the active involvement of local citizens and organizations focused on the specific needs of individual watersheds.
3. We will promote efficiency and cost-effectiveness in government efforts to protect and restore the health and productivity of our salmon resources. This will be accomplished by promoting and facilitating better coordination and cooperation among all levels of government. We will help create functional mechanisms to interact with and support local governments. We will call for the reduction of ineffective and unnecessary regulatory burdens on private activities.
4. We will establish a system to monitor progress toward measurable salmon recovery objectives. To assure a rational scientific basis, we will develop a coordinated system of scientific data for salmon region-wide. We will develop biologically sound criteria that serve as a common standard to guide prioritization of habitat projects. Our goal is achieving the greatest benefit from available resources.
5. We will seek to encourage a conservation and stewardship ethic toward our natural environment in government, the public, and private decision making. This will be accomplished by making better information available about how decisions affect the salmon's environment and offering reasonable alternatives and options that are more compatible with sustaining salmon. This effort will involve our educational institutions and other public and private organizations.

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## IMPLEMENTATION

Implementing the *For the Sake of the Salmon* initiative will require the sustained effort of people dedicated specifically to that task. We are creating, with this charter, the *For the Sake of the Salmon* Conservation Council to manage the initiative and serve as a focus of accountability for the success of our mission.

The member states, tribes, federal government, local governments, private sector, public interest and community organizations commit to working together through the Council to maximize cooperation, coordination and effectiveness of our salmon effort.

### Governing Body

*For the Sake of the Salmon* will be governed by the Conservation Council and an Executive Committee. By-laws will provide a decision-making structure that guarantees all members have a voice, no one group or government on the Council holds a controlling position and decisions can be made. Policies and recommendations developed by the Council become effective upon adoption by the Executive Committee.

Membership: The Council shall be comprised of representatives of the member organizations

Function: The primary functions of the Conservation Council are:

1. Serve as a forum to review public and private policies that affect salmon and develop recommendations as to how those policies can be modified and improved to contribute to the protection, restoration and maintenance of the salmon;
2. Propose incentive-based policies that encourage and reward stewardship;
3. Establish a system to monitor progress toward measurable salmon recovery objectives;
4. Develop biologically sound criteria to guide available funding into the most important protection and restoration projects first;
5. Report progress toward protecting and restoring salmon stocks and fisheries to the member states and tribes, Congress and the President; and
6. Reach out to other governments, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and individuals to urge their participation.

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## **Executive Committee**

**Function:** The Executive Committee will oversee implementation of *For the Sake of the Salmon* policies and priorities. The committee will have final authority on the adoption of *For the Sake of the Salmon* policies, workplans and budgets.

**Voting:** The Executive Committee will be comprised of seven groups with each group having one vote. The groups are: (1) federal government, (2) state governments, (3) tribal governments, (4) local governments, (5) fishing industry (sport/commercial businesses and angler groups) (6) private industry (e.g., timber, agriculture, utilities, aluminum) and (7) conservation/environmental organizations. Each group will decide how their vote is cast. Adoption of a motion requires a three-fourths majority of members present and voting.

## **Funding**

*For the Sake of the Salmon* will require financial support from federal, tribal, and state jurisdictions and other sources to maintain an executive director and small staff capable of carrying out the purposes of this initiative and approved directives of the Conservation Council.

*For the Sake of the Salmon* will seek support for protection, restoration and conservation projects from private, public and community resources.

We sign this charter because we all recognize salmon are important to our region and need our help. That help must include the strong involvement of local citizens and communities working in specific watersheds, with each local effort part of a comprehensive regional approach that ensures available resources are used efficiently and effectively - *For the Sake of the Salmon!*



**9655****FOR THE SAKE OF THE SALMON****-FIRST YEAR GOALS-  
DRAFT****GOAL - Support and encourage formation of watershed groups throughout the region.**

Watershed groups throughout the region, whether it be the Nooksak Recovery Team in Washington, the Coquille Watershed Council in Oregon, or the Mattole Watershed Group in California, are bringing together traditionally warring parties in their local watershed and getting surprising results. The watershed groups are voluntary in their participation, non-regulatory in their approach and are focused on watershed health and recovery of the salmon, not who is to blame.

These voluntary non-regulatory efforts are getting results that far exceed what you could every achieve with a top-down regulatory approach. For example, farmers on the Coquille River are creating wetlands, fencing miles of the riparian area to keep livestock out, and creating side channels to provide overwintering habitat for coho. The forest industry is voluntarily donating heavy equipment to move large woody debris into streams, increasing road maintenance to reduce the risk to healthy areas and some companies are conducting comprehensive watershed assessment to identify specific problems.

Citizens and agencies are working with landowners to provide the muscle and the scientific information necessary to make these voluntary watershed projects effective.

If these watershed groups are formed and supported coastwide, they offer the opportunity for a new kind of salmon recovery strategy. It is a strategy that captures the peoples concern for the survival of salmon and shows that local voluntary efforts can go a long way when there is a shared concern for salmon.

The long-term health of the resource will depend on local citizens caring about the health of their watershed, not just a government agency issuing rules and regulations.

**9655****GOAL - Develop a coordinated regional information system on watershed and salmon health.**

Local watershed groups need widely-scattered resource information pulled together in a usable format for their use in doing watershed assessment and restoration planning.

The region needs information about the progress we are making toward restoration. Successes and failures in individual watersheds need to be tracked and reported on a regional report card. This report card will enable the region to see our progress toward restoration of salmon and watershed health.

**GOAL - Develop a monitoring system that tracks progress towards measurable salmon recovery objectives.**

The goal is a regional report card showing progress toward our objectives. The Chesapeake Bay Multi-State Recovery effort uses measurable objectives ranging from dissolved oxygen to Bernie's boot view. They are objectives that combine science with commonsense and show the regional progress of the recovery effort.

To measure progress toward these objectives will require significant citizen assistance through local watershed groups. The objectives must make sense to the person on the street, as well as the scientists who have studied these problems. The objectives must measure both short and long term issues so we can show we are moving in the right direction (if we are) fairly quickly.

**GOAL - Seek regional agreement on a biologically-based prioritization system.**

Watershed groups are seeking biologically based guidance that will help them pursue the most important projects within their watershed first. It is unlikely we will have all the money we need for every possible protection and restoration project, so it is important to do the most important projects first.

Several prioritization systems already exist. For the Sake of the Salmon will convene regional scientists and restoration practitioners to take the best of each existing system and synthesize a new regional prioritization system. This will help insure we are not wasting our protection and restoration dollars in a watershed.

**9655****GOAL - Be a clearinghouse, network hub, and trouble shooter for local watershed groups.**

Local watershed groups need a connection to a larger regional strategy. They need access to information about other watershed efforts to avoid reinventing the wheel in every watershed and they need a troubleshooter to help achieve agency coordination within a watershed to achieve restoration and protection.

For the Sake of the Salmon will provide a computer bulletin board service to watershed groups. We will provide a communication service to keep local groups aware of each others activities and we will be a clearinghouse for information useful to watershed groups. A small staff at the central office will also provide a troubleshooting role to local watershed councils when agencies are operating in an uncoordinated fashion within any given watershed. It will be a goal of For the Sake of the Salmon to help these local groups achieve coordination within their watershed.

**GOAL - Develop a regional package of proposed incentives for private landowners.**

There are numerous incentives being used by federal, state and local governments to encourage private landowner participation in protection and restoration projects. We are collecting information on existing incentives and how well they work. A survey of landowners will be necessary to find out what they need to participate in protection and restoration efforts.

For the Sake of the Salmon will convene a regional forum to develop a proposed package of incentives for private landowners that we believe should be put in place in all jurisdictions within the Pacific Salmon region. These incentives, if enacted, would help us insure private landowner participation in our restoration and protection efforts.

**GOAL - Serve as a regional forum for the resolution of issues related to salmon.**

For the Sake of the Salmon can serve as a unaffiliated forum for the discussion and resolution of issues surrounding salmon management in the Pacific Salmon region. There are numerous issues that need a new look and For the Sake of the Salmon is in a unique position to facilitate that new look. Issues relating to harvest, hatcheries, the endangered species act, hydro, and habitat all need a new regional look.

**9655****GOAL - Serve as a vehicle for private sector involvement in effective restoration efforts.**

For the Sake of the Salmon has available to it a 501C3 Nonprofit Corporation that can provide tax benefits to private sector participants in watershed and salmon restoration. We will be reaching out to private sector entities encouraging them to invest in salmon restoration through watershed councils while getting a tax benefit. This will be a useful compliment to the existing interest of private companies in this region to be associated with salmon restoration and recovery. The effect of this outreach effort will be increased support for local watershed efforts while insuring that the investment is achieving measurable biological results.

**GOAL - Encourage the development of an educational curriculum relating to salmon and their lifecycle needs.**

For the Sake of the Salmon recognizes that the salmon s survival depends on all of us. To achieve effective salmon and watershed restoration will require an educated public. If students receive information about the salmon s lifecycle needs and its interrelationship with watershed health they will be far more prepared to engage in effective restoration efforts. The purpose of our salmon survival curriculum is not to lay blame at any one persons door, rather it is to explain how all of us must understand the needs of salmon if they are to recover.

**GOAL - Create a speakers bureau For the Sake of the Salmon .**

For the Sake of the Salmon must be presenting a positive message throughout the region that salmon recovery is possible. We must identify effective public speakers who can deliver this positive message to their local communities. The speech must be an effective mixture of local success stories, the larger regional picture, and how all these local watershed efforts fit together into a regional recovery strategy. The speech must conclude with a request that those listening to the speech become involved in their local watershed effort and then layout how to do that. The speakers bureau will help showcase the stewardship ethic that is developing in local watersheds - For the Sake of the Salmon .

**GOAL - Develop a system to grant awards for excellence in restoration projects and outreach efforts.**

We need a regional Emmy Awards for salmon restoration work. The awards must come from the highest level possible (President of the United States, Governors, Tribal leaders), have real meaning in recognition of real work, and give positive reinforcement to significant salmon and watershed restoration efforts. It is a way for the region and the country to say thank you for the new stewardship ethic - For the Sake of the Salmon .