

# Codification White Paper

## Background

A bill (HB 2113) was introduced in the Washington State Legislature to codify the Task Force. This bill was prepared at the recommendation of state legislators that serve from the Spokane area, with the understanding that the budgeting process would be simpler and more effective in allocating state budget to future Task Force funding requests.

The bill emerged during the legislation session and as a group the Task Force did not have opportunity to provide input on the bill language. A hearing was held on the bill in the Spring of 2019 and some Task Force members or their representatives testified at the hearing. The bill did not move out of committee, but the Task Force was still successful in the recent session in securing funding for the 2019 – 2021 biennium.

In follow up to this experience, the Task Force asked the MOA ad hoc group, organized under the Funding Work Group, to research codification and provide information back to the Task Force on what codification could mean for the group, what other organizations in Washington State have been codified, and what information about these organizations can be shared/similarities highlighted.

The MOA ad hoc group met twice in July to discuss edits to the MOA and to review the information compiled by White Bluffs Consulting on codification examples.

## Codification Findings

There are several different types of organizations that have been codified by the Washington State legislature or established through executive action by the Governor. Budget has been provided by the State Legislature to support these organizations in completing their identified purposes and assignments, ranging from a few hundred thousand dollars (e.g., Washington Invasive Species Council) to several million dollars (e.g., Puget Sound Partnership) each biennium. Sometimes specific membership is identified and a sunset date where work is to be completed by is often included. At times this date has been extended.

- **Future of Work Task Force** – Established in 2018 to recommend mechanisms and structures for sustainable industry sector partnerships through which employers and workers can collaborate to support economic growth in Washington. Recommendations are due by June 30, 2020.
- **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** – Established in 2017 to improve the visibility and coordination of state habitat and recreation land purchases and disposals. The group meets quarterly and is scheduled to sunset on July 31, 2027.
- **Washington Invasive Species Council** – Established in 2006 to provide policy direction, planning and coordination for combatting invasive species. The group was scheduled to sunset in 2011 but the legislature recently extended this date to 2022.

- **Governor's Orca Recovery Task Force** – This task force was established by Governor Inslee through executive order in 2018 to provide the best recommendations for recovering the southern resident Orca population.
- **Puget Sound Partnership** - A collaborative effort established by the State Legislature in 2007 to protect and recover Puget Sound ecosystem health by 2020 through developing and guiding implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda. The Partnership is mandated to: (1) set science-based priorities for restoring and protecting Puget Sound; (2) support partners to implement priority actions; and (3) ensure accountability for results through shared measures and effectiveness monitoring. Activities include strategic leadership and coordination, Puget Sound salmon recovery, science, funding strategies, policy and legislation, monitoring and performance management.
- **Suicide Safer Homes Task Force** - A Task Force established to raise public awareness and increase suicide prevention education among new partners who are in key positions to help reduce suicide. Specific membership positions and assignments are identified by the state legislation, and the Task Force remains in effect until June 30, 2020.

Additional detail on each of these examples is provided in Attachment 1.

### **Recommended Next Steps**

Members of the Task Force are invited to review the information provided in this white paper, discuss internally with others within your respective organizations about whether you might be willing to support codification, and be prepared to share your thoughts and questions, and discuss the topic at one or more upcoming Task Force meetings. Based upon these discussions, the Task Force will select a path forward, to either 1) seek codification in the upcoming State Legislative session, or 2) to continue with the historical pattern of seeking funding every two years through the state capital budgeting process.

**Attachment 1**