



State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative

Commission Work Session

March 19, 2025



Recreation Perspectives



Recreation Perspectives



Convergence of Interests

- Long-term goal of state agencies to develop resource management capacity
- Formal request for action to Governor by Federally-recognized Treaty Tribes through Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
- Pandemic-related acceleration of recreation and obvious impacts
- Window of opportunity to clarify Government-to-Government relationship and obligations





State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative (STRII)

31 federally recognized tribes with protected rights in Washington

Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Recreation and Conservation Office



Desired Outcomes

- Improved condition and on-going conservation of natural and cultural resources
- Protection of Tribal rights and interests
- High-quality, sustainable recreational opportunities and experiences available to the public
- Improved cooperation and working relationship among independent state agencies and Tribes
- Defendable recreation management decisions

Vision

Tribes and state agencies work together to co-develop recreation management tools and an adaptive management framework that effectively coordinates cooperative stewardship of natural and cultural resources and preserves protected tribal rights on state lands.



Goals

- Share information and receive informal feedback on recreation policy, programs, projects, and initiatives
- Develop a technical process to:
 - Identify and prioritize locations where recreation may be causing degradation of natural or cultural resources,
 - Assess potential impacts of recreation consistently across state lands,
 - Identify management strategies to avoid or mitigate recreation impacts.

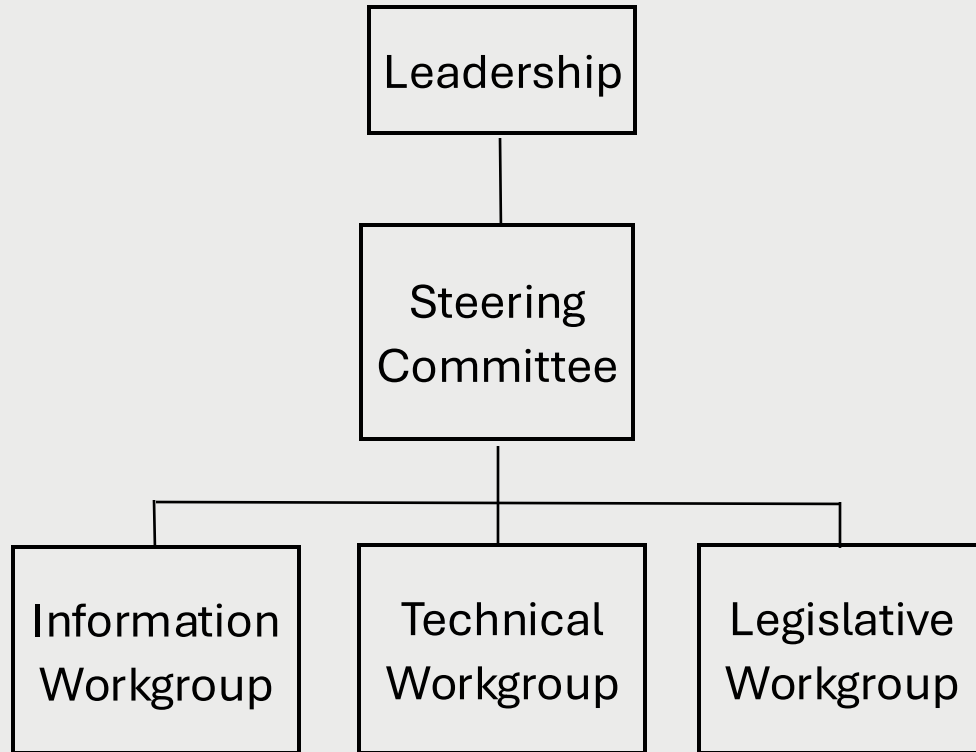


Relation to Agency Tribal Consultation

- Not considered Consultation
- Multi-Tribe-multi-agency coordination
- Does not replace G2G consultation processes
- G2G consultation can be initiated any time



Organizational Structure and Lines of Effort



Tribal and state caucuses meet independently as necessary

Information Sharing Workgroup

- **Review and approve charter**
- Develop Integrated plan
- Share project and program information

Technical Workgroup

- Develop and implement technical assessment and adaptive management framework

Legislative Workgroup

- Coordinate budget requests
- Review legislation and proposed budgets

Guiding Documents

Charter

Provides background, sets roles and responsibilities and guides communication and decision making for the initiative's work

Integrated Plan

- Synthesizes and links to DNR, DFW, and State Parks recreation information and plans
- Describes plan for STRII efforts for the next few years



STRII Charter Content

- Background
- Vision
- Communication principles
- Organizational structure, meetings, participants, and assignments
- Decision making process



STR II Charter

Considerations

- Procedural guidance for the initiative only
- Joint advice to state agency and Tribal leadership
- Integrates into existing Tribal and state agency decision making processes and policies (including SEPA, APA)
- Working on language connecting to Integrated Plan





STRII Charter Adoption

- Tribal-state agency leadership review (May '24)
- Working charter in use (May '24 – Jan '25)
- Updated charter circulated for review by Tribes and state agencies (Feb – Mar '25)
- Finalize charter and transmit to leaders (April '25)
- Adoption of finalized charter by Tribal and state agency leaders by consensus (June '25)



Next Steps

Remainder of 2023-25 biennium

- Complete draft of Integrated Plan
- Complete development of process to identify and prioritize areas to implement technical framework on areas with at-risk natural resources
- Identify 3-4 pilot project locations to apply, test, and refine technical framework
- Tribal-State Agency Leadership Assembly (June 2025)

2025-27 Biennium

- Implement pilot projects
- Refine technical framework and expand to include cultural resources
- Continue information sharing improvements

