As per the SSB 5248 legislation, the Ruckelshaus Center will*

- Work with willing participants…and involve and apprise legislators and legislative staff.
- Conduct fact-finding and discussions with identified stakeholders…
- Identify stakeholder concerns, desired outcomes, opportunities and barriers…
- Identify existing regulatory, management, and scientific information related to critical areas including, but not limited to:
  - critical areas ordinances adopted under 36.70A RCW;
  - acreage enrolled in CREP;
  - acreage protected by conservation easements;
  - requirements of federally approved salmon recovery plans;
  - buffer widths;
  - the impact of agricultural activities on Puget Sound recovery efforts; and
  - compliance with water quality requirements.
- Issue two interim reports…to the governor and appropriate committees of the house and senate by December 1, 2007 and December 1, 2008.
- Facilitate discussions to identify policy and financial options or opportunities to address issues and desired outcomes identified in first phase.
- Examine innovative solutions, including, but not limited to, outcome-based approaches that incorporate to the maximum extent practicable, voluntary programs or approaches.
- Examine ways to modify existing statutory provisions to ensure that regulatory constraints on agricultural activities are used as a last resort if desired outcomes are not achieved through voluntary programs or approaches.
- Work to achieve agreement among participating stakeholders and to develop a coalition that can be used to support agreed upon changes or new approaches to protecting critical areas during the 2010 session.
- Issue a final report of findings and legislative recommendations to the governor and appropriate committees of the house and senate by September 1, 2009.

* Excerpts paraphrased from SSB 5248 related to the stakeholder process.