



Snoqualmie Watershed Forum

September 2026

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Salmon SEEs on is here!

The Salmon SEEs on program has kicked off for its 20th season, and it is prime salmon spotting season! Salmon SEEs on coordinates with program partners to highlight and promote opportunities for the public to see salmon in local streams and rivers when they return this summer and fall. The [Salmon SEEs on website](#) provides a map and details for several self-guided viewing locations as well as in-person interpretive viewing opportunities. Contact Renee Leichter, rleichter@kingcount.gov, if you want to learn more!

Happy Water New Year 2027! and...What is a Water Year?

A “water year” is a 12-month period from October 1st to September 30th, used for tracking surface water data like rain, runoff, and stream flow. The water year is named for the year in which it ends, which means water year 2026 is almost over. Our streamflow and rainfall gages show that the 2026 cumulative rainfall was close to the historical average. However, a lot of that fell during a very wet December/January and March/April periods, and we had a drier summer than average. Streamflow measurements show big spikes during the floods in December and March, but otherwise low. While it has been a wetter water year than 2025, we still are projected to ~ 5% under the average for rainfall (despite the wet start!). Flow has been below average since late March/early April. Happy water new year 2027! Questions, contact Norah Kates, nkates@kingcounty.gov.

Midpoint Update King County Comprehensive Plan

The County began work on the 2029 Midpoint Update to the 2024 King County Comprehensive Plan, which will guide key policy changes and shape environmental review and community engagement through 2029. In August, public comments to the scope of work closed, with over 150 comments received. The proposed scope of work centers on three major focus areas: implementing new climate change and resiliency requirements, updating the Shoreline Master Program to reflect sea level rise and storm impacts, and advancing housing policies. Additional updates may refine policies and development regulations related to surface water management, public facilities, rural infrastructure, and land use studies across several communities. A Supplemental EIS will accompany this work, with draft materials expected in early 2028. The County emphasizes inclusive public participation throughout the process, with the next public review expected early 2028. <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/local-services/buildings-property/development-planning-regulations/regional-planning/king-county-comprehensive-plan#toc-id2029-Midpoint-Update>

Snohomish Basin Riparian Implementation and Wildlife Solutions

Watershed Partners, convened by Sound Salmon Solutions, were awarded \$476,618 as part of the second iteration of funds from the state Puget Sound Riparian Lead program this last August. This

project represents a collaborative and coordinated approach among 6 co-sponsors (Sound Salmon Solutions, Beavers Northwest, Snohomish Conservation District, Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance, Trout Unlimited, and Wild Fish Conservancy) to address one of the most cited barriers to successful riparian implementation identified by landowners and practitioners in the Snohomish Basin: wildlife and especially beaver impacts to vegetation and hydrology. Project elements include wildlife coexistence technical resource development, riparian-focused community-based social marketing and technical assistance, wildlife coexistence training for riparian practitioners, riparian monitoring, and riparian implementation, all guided by a core working group. More information, contact Matt Distler with Sound Salmon Solutions, matt@soundsalmonsolutions.org.

Snohomish Forum and Guests Tour the Estuary

On September 10, participants toured key Snohomish River estuary restoration sites, visiting Langus Riverfront Park, Smith Island, Qwuloolt Estuary, Chinook Marsh, and Spencer Island to see ongoing efforts in tidal reconnection, marsh enhancement, and multi-benefit floodplain restoration. Estuaries in the Snohomish Basin provide critical rearing habitat where juvenile Chinook linger during an important stage of their lifecycle. Wild Chinook rely on these areas more heavily than hatchery fish, increasing their exposure to contaminants but also making these habitats essential for survival and resilience. These estuarine habitats support salmonids from the entire Snohomish watershed including Snoqualmie and Skykomish watersheds by offering refuge, food resources, and physiological transition zones needed for successful migration to Puget Sound. Thank you to Gretchen Glaub, Carston Curd, and Anna Kagley and all the speakers for making it a fantastic tour!

Lead Entity and Snohomish Forum Grant Program News

The 2026 Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Grant Round evaluated six submitted projects, ranking and clearing them for state and federal funding with total requests exceeding \$14 million, including several large capital projects over \$1 million that also competed in regional PSAR and state Targeted Investment processes. With approximately \$480,000 available this year—mostly dedicated to repaying a Stillaguamish watershed loan—and an additional \$100,000 to \$150,000 in federal PCSRF funds still pending, the region will skip a 2027 grant round and instead apply anticipated 2027 funding, estimated at around \$2 million plus potential large-capital awards, to unfunded 2026 projects. During this pause, Snohomish LE staff will focus on outreach around major projects, strategic partner coordination, advancing HSIL grant work, and initiating updates to the 2005 Salmon Conservation Plan.

Welcome Juliana Tadano as the new Project Coordinator!

After a very robust recruitment process with over 80 applicants, we are thrilled to announce our new project coordinator, Juliana Tadano. Juliana brings extensive experience in salmon recovery across dam removal research, nearshore habitat projects, and regional ecosystem coordination. She most recently served as a Puget Sound Recovery Strategist with Puget Sound Partnership, integrating policy, funding, and implementation to advance habitat restoration. Her background includes project management, grant development, cross-agency planning, and shoreline restoration in King County. In the coming weeks, Juliana will be looking for opportunities to connect with partners and become acquainted with the unique issues and opportunities for salmon restoration and protection in the Snoqualmie and South

Fork Skykomish watersheds. Her first day will be September 21st. Reach out and say hello!

jtadano@kingcounty.gov

Current and Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

LOCAL GRANTS

King County Flood Control District's Sub-Regional Opportunity Fund: Currently open, Closes October 6, 2026. (<https://kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/grant-programs-funding/sub-regional-opportunity-fund/>),

The Subregional Opportunity Fund is set aside every year by the King County Flood Control District for use by the jurisdictions within King County to design or implement projects primarily related to flood and stormwater control. Water Quality and habitat-related projects are eligible if the focus is on flooding or stormwater. Funding is available to all jurisdictions within the district's service area.

Cooperative Watershed Management Grants (WRIA 7, 8, 9): Scheduled to open late Nov. 2026.

Cooperative Watershed Management grants fund salmon recovery projects (capital, riparian, research, education & outreach) tailored to the needs and priorities of each watershed.

Conservation Futures Fund King County: Scheduled to open on November 2, 2026. Conservation Futures supports the purchase of parks and open spaces such as natural lands, urban greenspaces, forests, community gardens, farms, and trails.

King County Flood Control District's Flood Reduction Grant Program opens spring 2027. These grants address countywide flood issues associated with stormwater control, urban streams, coastal erosion/coastal flooding, and culvert replacement/fish passage restoration.

REGIONAL/STATE GRANTS

Ecology's Water Quality Combined Funding Program: currently Open, Closes September 30, 2026.

(<https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Payments-contracts-grants/Grants-loans/Find-a-grant-or-loan/Water-Quality-Combined-Funding-Program#ApplicantInformation>). This program provides annual funding to projects that improve and protect water quality, including non-point source pollution.

2029-2031 Biennial State Grant Programs

- **Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board: expected to open Fall 2027.**
- **Floodplains by Design: expected to open Fall 2027.** This Grant program funds flood risk reduction and floodplain restoration projects in Washington's major river corridors.

More Funding Opportunities, especially federal opportunities, can be found online at: Puget Sound Recovery Acceleration Funding Tool (<https://arcg.is/1uSaCa>)