



Legislative Priorities for Puget Sound Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Recovery

Water Resource Inventory Area 8 Partners
Version September 2013

Federal Priorities

- **Support and sustain \$65 million for NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund** in the 2014 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. These funds allow NOAA to award grants to Washington State, Tribes and local watershed partners to implement salmon recovery priorities. These are the grant funds WRIA 8 directs through the annual Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round process.
- **Support the passage of the Puget Sound Recovery Act** to designate Puget Sound as a "Great Waterbody." The Act will designate Puget Sound as a formal Clean Water Act program and authorize up to \$90 million in federal funding, annually, to implement priority restoration efforts and protect water quality.
- **Encourage the Washington State congressional delegation to communicate with local, regional and national leadership at the Corps in support of funding the Army Corps of Engineers' prioritized list of critical infrastructure repairs and updates to the Hiram H. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks.** These repairs and updates are immediately necessary for continued safe operation of the Locks for navigation, maintaining lake levels (for the SR-520 and I-90 floating bridges) and providing safe passage for ESA listed Chinook salmon. WRIA 8 further requests the delegation's help to encourage and enable the Corps to make long-term improvements to the Ballard Locks.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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State Priorities

- **Thank state legislators for \$70 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund**, of which WRIA 8 received \$1.4 million to award as grants to implement the highest priority salmon habitat acquisition and restoration projects in our watershed.
 - In WRIA 8, this funding will assist local partners in completing six high priority habitat acquisition and restoration projects (all projects have substantial local match):
 - Cedar River floodplain acquisition and relocation of residents out of harm's way to enable future floodplain restoration.
 - Issaquah Creek riparian and in-stream habitat restoration.
 - Nearshore creek daylighting and salt marsh restoration in Edmonds.
 - Little Bear Creek fish passage barrier removal.
 - Sammamish River side channel restoration design in Bothell.
 - A portion of this funding also supports local watershed capacity to support project development and implementation.
- **Thank state legislators for continued funding for salmon recovery**
Lead Entities in the Recreation and Conservation Offices operating budget to match federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund funding from NOAA in the 2013-2015 biennium. For the past 12 years, WRIA 8 has received a \$60,000 grant to support staff work on assisting sponsors with project development, implementation tracking, and coordination of our Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grant round process.

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