



Beaux Arts Village
 Bellevue
 Bothell
 Clyde Hill
 Edmonds
 Hunts Point
 Issaquah
 Kenmore
 Kent
 King County
 Kirkland
 Lake Forest Park
 Maple Valley
 Medina
 Mercer Island
 Mill Creek
 Mountlake Terrace
 Mukilteo
 Newcastle
 Redmond
 Renton
 Sammamish
 Seattle
 Shoreline
 Snohomish County
 Woodinville
 Woodway
 Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council
 Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
 Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
 Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
 Long Live the Kings
 Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
 Mountains to Sound Greenway
 Northwest Marine Trade Association
 Sno-King Watershed Council
 Trout Unlimited
 Water Tenders

Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 US Army Corps of Engineers
 Washington Departments:
 Ecology
 Fish and Wildlife
 Natural Resources
 Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
 King Conservation District

January 7, 2015

The Honorable “First” “Last”
 Washington State “Place”
 “Address”
 “PO Box”
 “City, State, Zip”



RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council State Legislative Priorities

Dear “Salutation” “Last”:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, I wish to share our enclosed priorities for the 2015 State legislative session. The Legislature’s leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our efforts—and Washington State’s commitment—to protect and restore habitat for salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, salmon habitat restoration is a proactive approach to making watershed ecosystems more resilient to a changing climate.

The state’s investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration for the 2013-2015 biennium is permitting watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Your support for the ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** program has helped watersheds enhance our science-based salmon recovery efforts and advance regional recovery objectives. Funding in the current biennium for the ***Coordinated Investment in Puget Sound Floodplains*** program is also greatly advancing implementation of multiple benefit floodplain management projects that restore critical salmon habitat, reduce flood hazards, and improve water quality. Thank you for supporting these programs, the results of which are in progress.

For the 2015-2017 biennium, we encourage the Legislature to build on the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide. Specifically, we ask that you support the following:

- The ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** capital budget request, which at \$131 million for the biennium will fund a prioritized list of 21 large salmon recovery projects around Puget Sound and will provide funding to each Puget Sound watershed for smaller-scale—but critically important—habitat projects.
- The ***Floodplains by Design*** (formerly the Coordinated Investment in Puget Sound Floodplains) capital budget request, which will dedicate \$50 million to a prioritized list of multi-benefit floodplain management projects around the state that enhance salmon habitat while also protecting public health and safety.
- Up to \$40 million in general obligation bonds as the state match for the ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board*** grant program, which funds habitat protection and restoration projects statewide.

The Honorable “First” “Last”

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- ***Restoration of the state match used to support the watershed-based salmon recovery “Lead Entity” organizations tasked with implementing recovery efforts.***
A commitment of \$770,000 in state general funds to the Recreation and Conservation Office’s operating budget will position Washington State to be more competitive to receive a greater share of the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), which supports implementation of priority habitat protection and restoration projects in communities throughout the state.
- ***New watershed-based funding mechanisms that recognize the link between salmon recovery, water quality, and stormwater and floodplain management.***
With salmon recovery funding continuing to be limited, alternative funding mechanisms focused on overall watershed health are vitally important in helping us achieve our salmon recovery goals.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making state budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State’s commitment to salmon recovery and to restoring the health of Puget Sound.

If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 8 or how these priorities advance our salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Coordinator at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Larry Phillips
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council

Enclosure

cc: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery
Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed
Coordinator