WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL

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

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October 25, 2018

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RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council state legislative priorities

«GreetingLine»

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we wish to share our enclosed priorities for the upcoming state fiscal biennium. Your 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. Salmon habitat restoration supports local economies and construction jobs, provides community benefits, and makes ecosystems more resilient to changing future conditions. Increased salmon abundance also improves the prey source for endangered Southern Resident Orcas.

To date, the state's investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration funding programs has enabled watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Legislative support for salmon recovery and watershed health programs helps enhance our science-based salmon recovery efforts and implement priority projects that achieve multiple benefits—restored salmon habitat, reduced flood hazards, and improved water quality. State funding also provides important leverage and match to federal and local funding.

Despite these investments and the progress we are making, our state's salmon populations continue to decline. To reverse this trend, we need to increase the pace of protecting and restoring habitat and improving water quality. Attached are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's priorities for the 2019-2021 biennium. We encourage you to accelerate the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide. Specifically, we ask that you support the following:

- $88.904 million for the ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board*** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which funds habitat protection and restoration projects statewide, as well as half of the salmon recovery Lead Entity program to coordinate implementation of salmon recovery in local watersheds throughout the state.
- $79.6 million for the ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which will fund a prioritized list of large salmon recovery projects around Puget Sound and provide funding to each Puget Sound watershed for smaller-scale—but critically important—habitat projects.

DRAFT

- $70 million for the ***Floodplains by Design*** capital request in the Department of Ecology's budget, which will implement a prioritized list of multi-benefit floodplain projects around the state that enhance salmon habitat while also protecting public health and safety through reduced flood risk.
- $866,500 million for the Lead Entity and Regional Organization program operating request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which continues base funding for Lead Entities to maintain locally-supported, watershed-based salmon recovery in Washington, garnering local support for habitat projects, prioritizing projects to maximize the public's investment, and ensuring investments in salmon recovery are scientifically-valid and efficient.
- $130 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports priority habitat protection.
- $6.6 million for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports aquatic lands protection and restoration and improved public access.
- $20 million for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports nearshore protection and restoration.
- $50 million for the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports removal of barriers to fish passage.
- $60 million for the Stormwater Financial Assistance Program capital request in the Department of Ecology's budget to support local stormwater pollution prevention.

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 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 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Stokes
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Bellevue

Mark Phillips
Vice-Chair
Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park

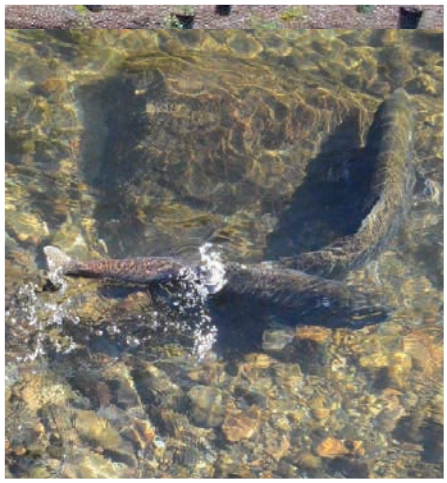
Enclosure: 2019 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council state legislative priorities

NOTE: This letter was sent to all legislators in the following legislative districts: 1, 5, 11, 21, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, as well as the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee, House Capital Budget Committee, and House Environment Committee.

cc: Sheida Sahandy, Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Hillary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Maia D. Bellon, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Mark Clark, Director, Washington State Conservation Commission
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
David Troutt, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Steve Martin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Alicia Olivas, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery Manage

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)
jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov • (206) 477-4780 • http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/

2019 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health



Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Partners

Updated: September 2018

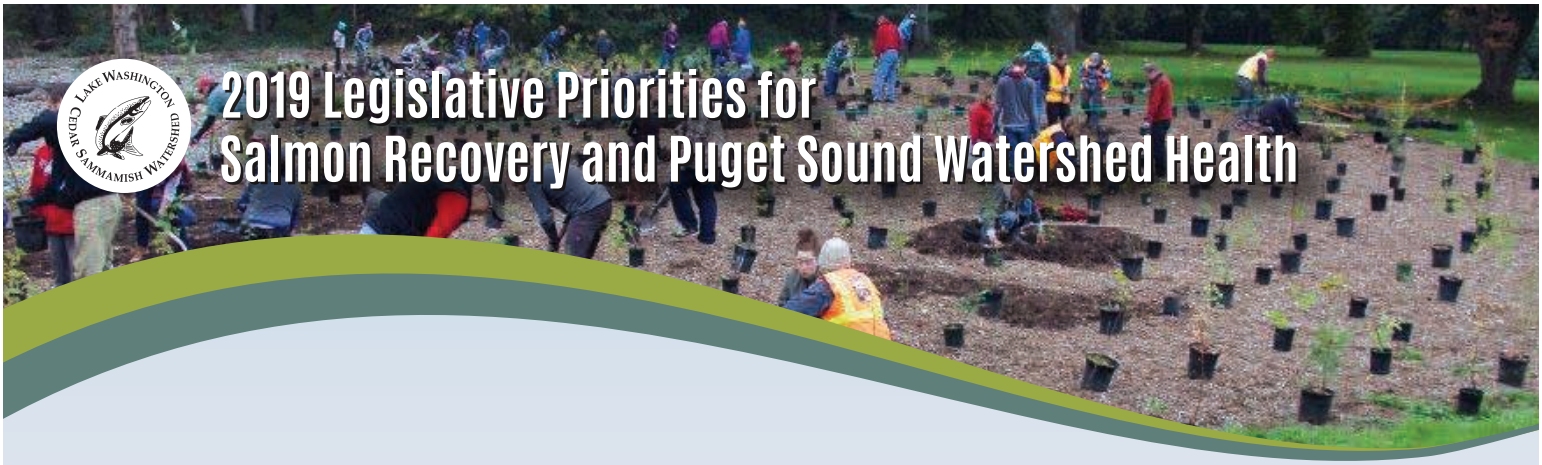
STATE CAPITAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Recreation and Conservation Office budget

- Support $79.6 million Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program funding request for salmon habitat projects.
- Support $88.904 million Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding request for salmon habitat projects.
- Support $130 million Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funding request for habitat conservation, land protection, farmland and forestland preservation, and outdoor recreation.
- Support $6.6 million Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account funding request for projects that protect and restore natural aquatic ecosystem processes, provide or restore public access to the water, and increase public awareness of aquatic lands.
- Support $20 million Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding request for projects that protect and restore the Puget Sound nearshore.
- Support $50 million Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board funding request to remove barriers to fish passage.

Department of Ecology budget

- Support $70 million Floodplains by Design program funding request for multi-benefit floodplain restoration projects in the Washington Department of Ecology budget.
- Support $60 million Stormwater Financial Assistance Program funding request in the Washington Department of Ecology budget to provide funding to local communities to prevent pollution of water bodies from stormwater and run-off from urbanized areas.



2019 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

STATE OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Support $866,500 for salmon recovery Lead Entity program in Recreation and Conservation Office's budget to support Lead Entities in watersheds around the state to develop and prioritize projects for funding to the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board (per RCW 77.85).

STATE POLICY LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

- Support state agency budget requests for monitoring salmon populations and for studies and management of predation, disease, and other issues that affect WRIA 8 salmon populations.
- Track and support legislation that seeks to improve regulatory protections for areas that are important for salmon habitat.
- Support and explore opportunities to engage in developing legislation that seeks to provide immunity from liability for entities that implement habitat restoration projects involving the placement of large wood.
- Track and participate in continued efforts to explore new watershed-based and/or regional funding authorities to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon habitat protection and restoration, water quality, stormwater management, and flood management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov
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