2019 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Partners
Updated: January 2019

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.
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STATE OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES

- Support for $2.5 million for the Lead Entity program in the Recreation and Conservation Office’s budget, to support continued 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.

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:

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