



Status Update: 2019 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

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

SUMMARY – Updated March 2019

Federal Priorities:

Topic	Status
<p>Support \$70 million Fiscal Year 2019 appropriation for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.</p>	<p>Although it was initially included in Senate Appropriations Committee bill at \$70 million, it was reduced back to \$65 million, consistent with FY18 funding level.</p> <p>President’s 2020 proposed budget zeroes out the program. State partners requesting a \$70 million funding level for 2020. WRIA 8 submitted appropriations requests for \$70 million to Congressman Kilmer and Congresswoman Jayapal.</p>
<p>Support \$11.807 million in the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan to implement critical prioritized infrastructure repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks.</p>	<p>Corps’ FY19 Work Plan provides funding for all five priority design projects included in the Seattle District's request. While the District’s full \$11.807 million request was not funded, only a few lower priority work items were not funded (none fish related).</p>
<p>Support the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act” (PUGET SOS Act).</p>	<p>Previous legislation being edited for reintroduction.</p>
<p>Support proposed federal legislation that seeks to increase funding and incentives for green stormwater retrofits and infrastructure, including the Preventing Pollution through Partnerships Act (H.R. 7041) which would incentivize private investment in green infrastructure through creation of a new category of tax-exempt Green Infrastructure Private Activity Bonds (PBAs) that state and local governments can use to encourage developers to include green infrastructure into development plans.</p>	<p>Legislation introduced as HR 7041, the Preventing Pollution through Partnerships (P3) Act</p>

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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State Budget Priorities:

State Agency / Program	Budget	2019-2021 Budget Request	2019-2021 Governor's Budget
Recreation and Conservation Office			
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	Capital	\$79.6 million	\$42.5 million*
Salmon Recovery (SRFB-State portion)	Capital	\$88.904 million	\$35 million
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	Capital	\$130 million	\$115 million
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	Capital	\$6.6 million	\$4.963 million
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	Capital	\$20 million	\$12.5 million
Fish Barrier Removal Board	Capital	\$50 million	\$25.08 million
Lead Entity and Regional Organization Program	Operating	\$866,500	\$2.4 million (shifted from SRFB capital budget request to operating budget)
Department of Ecology			
Floodplains by Design	Capital	\$70 million	\$42.8 million+
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program	Capital	\$60 million	\$66 million

* This amount provides funding for the grant round allocations distributed to all Puget Sound watersheds plus the first-ranked large capital project – Middle Fork Nooksack fish passage. This funding level does not provide funding for Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River (third-ranked large capital project), which would require a \$51.4 million funding level.

+ This amount provides funding for the top 8 projects on Ecology's ranked list. This funding level does not provide funding for the Cedar River Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection project (ranked #12), which would require a \$57.2 million funding level.

Summary of WRIA 8 Legislative Outreach

On February 6 and February 27, WRIA 8 representatives met with state legislators to discuss our 2019 salmon recovery and watershed health priorities. WRIA 8 representatives included Mark Phillips, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Vice Chair and Lake Forest Park Councilmember, and Carl Scandella, Yarrow Point Mayor Pro Tem, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz. For some of our meetings, we were joined by representatives from partners including, Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group, American Rivers, Snoqualmie Watershed Forum, and WRIA 9. We emphasized the importance of several capital budget funding programs that support salmon habitat protection and restoration, including the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration and Floodplains by Design programs, which include high priority King County projects. We emphasized securing additional funding for salmon habitat restoration is especially critical to make meaningful progress on Orca recovery (fully funding these programs was the #1 recommendation by the Governor's Orca Task Force).

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We focused on meeting with legislators in key budget leadership positions and legislators in the 5th and 11th districts, which include two priority WRIA 8 projects on funding lists, but neither of which would be funded based on funding levels in the Governor's budget:

- 1) King County's Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River ([Ranked #3 on the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration large capital project list](#))
- 2) Seattle Public Utilities' Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection project on the Cedar River ([Ranked #11 on the Floodplains by Design project list](#)).

A few messages we heard from legislators:

- All legislators were generally supportive of the need to invest in salmon recovery. However, most did not know the specific funding programs or how the funding amounts for these programs in the Governor's budget compared to agency budget requests.
- While most legislators noted salmon and Orca recovery are a top priority, we were told several times that this will be a very challenging budget year with funding needs for mental and behavioral health and additional basic education commitments to be addressed.
- We heard from Rep. Tharinger's staff that the budget leadership isn't hearing enough about the need to invest in salmon recovery priorities from the public, local jurisdictions and organizations, and legislators themselves. They encouraged those who support salmon recovery and specific habitat restoration projects to contact legislators. We also discussed the need for a broader outreach and awareness building campaign.

We met with the following legislators and/or their aides:

- Rep. Bill Ramos (5th District)
- Rep. Lisa Callan (5th District)
- Sen. Mark Mullet (5th District)
- Rep. Zach Hudgins (11th District)
- Rep. Steve Bergquist (11th District) – House Appropriations Vice Chair
- Sen. Bob Hasegawa (11th District)
- Rep. Steve Tharinger (24th District – House Capital Budget Committee Chair
- Rep. Gael Tarleton (36th District – House Finance Committee Chair
- Sen. David Frockt (46th District) – Senate Ways and Means Vice Chair and Operating and Capital Budget lead
- Rep. Larry Springer (45th District)
- Rep. Nicole Macri (43rd District)
- Rep. Amy Walen (48th District) – House Finance Vice Chair
- Rep. Strom Peterson (21st District) – House Capital Budget Vice Chair
- Sen. Marco Liias (21st District)
- Sen. Guy Palumbo (1st District)

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