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Clyde Hill  
Edmonds  
Hunts Point  
Issaquah  
Kenmore  
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Renton  
Sammamish  
Seattle  
Shoreline  
Snohomish County  
Woodinville  
Woodway  
Yarrow Point

Cedar River Council  
Forterra  
Friends of the Issaquah  
Salmon Hatchery  
Greater Seattle Chamber  
of Commerce  
Mid-Sound Fisheries  
Enhancement Group  
Mountains to Sound  
Greenway Trust  
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 14, 2021



The Honorable [Senator/Representative]  
[Name]  
[Address]  
[Address]

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

Dear [Senator/Representative]:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we wish to share our enclosed 2021 federal budget and legislative priorities. The Council is comprised of 28 local governments and stakeholder representatives from businesses, community groups, concerned citizens, and state and federal agencies working collaboratively since 2000 to recover Chinook salmon, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The federal government’s leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our efforts—and the nation’s commitment—to protect and restore habitat for iconic Pacific Northwest salmon, returning them to sustainable, harvestable levels for current and future generations and to ensure the long-term availability of Chinook salmon as the primary prey resource for critically endangered Southern Resident Orcas.

Thank you for your past strong support for continued federal investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration. During these unprecedented and challenging times, the federal government’s investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration is even more important. Construction of habitat restoration projects is providing jobs, supporting local economies, and helping achieve multiple objectives, including flood risk reduction, water quality improvement, and open space conservation. Economic studies document that every \$1 million invested in watershed restoration results in between 16 and 24 new or sustained jobs and \$2.5 million in total economic activity, of which 80 percent stays in the local community where the project is constructed.

The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce, is the foundation of salmon recovery in Washington State. These critical federal funds help leverage substantial state and local resources and amplify on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration progress. Thank you for your continued support of this vital program for salmon recovery.

In 2021, we encourage you to build on the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and throughout Washington State (see attached priorities info sheet). Specifically, we ask that you support the following:

- **\$70 million Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund** in Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.
- **Including at least \$28,473,000 in the Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan to advance design and construction of critical prioritized infrastructure repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks.** In addition, advocate for the Corps' continued engagement in the process to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal that pose a grave threat to salmon survival, and for the Corps to identify important upgrades and improvements to the fish ladder.
- **Continue to support the National Estuary Program in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),** which is core funding for Puget Sound Partnership as the agency coordinating Puget Sound recovery and for competitive grants supporting implementation of near-term actions called for in the Action Agenda for Puget Sound recovery.
- **\$38 million for the Puget Sound Geographic Program in the EPA,** which provides key funding to support Puget Sound recovery priorities, including innovative approaches to addressing stormwater, habitat, shellfish, flooding, water quality and quantity, and endangered species recovery, including Chinook salmon and Southern Resident orcas.
- **Support efforts to pass legislation that enhances the federal government's role and investment in Puget Sound recovery,** including establishing a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office in the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate federal Puget Sound recovery efforts with state, local and tribal recovery efforts and enable greater levels of federal funding for Puget Sound recovery. Legislation should also seek to amend the Clean Water Act to add a new section dedicated to Puget Sound recovery, providing lasting and structural recognition of the Puget Sound as a waterbody of national significance on par with the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.
- **Support including priority Puget Sound habitat restoration and water infrastructure improvements as key elements of federal economic stimulus packages.**

In these unprecedented economic and social times, we appreciate the challenges involved in federal policy and budget decisions and applaud your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue the federal government's commitment to salmon recovery in Washington State and to restoring the health of Puget Sound and addressing the effects of climate change.

[Senator/Representative]

January 27, 2021

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If you have any questions about how these priorities advance our salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
Councilmember, City of Lake Forest Park

Enclosure: 2021 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council federal budget and legislative priorities

cc: Jay Inslee, Governor, State of Washington  
Barry Thom, NOAA West Coast Regional Administrator  
Scott Rumsey, NOAA Deputy Regional Administrator  
Alexander Bullock, Colonel, Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District  
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
David Troutt, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
Laura Blackmore, 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  
Carol Smith, Director, Washington State Conservation Commission  
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Laura Watson, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology  
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members  
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery  
Manager