



DRAFT 2022 Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

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

Federal Priorities

- Support proposed funding increases for priority salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration programs in the pending federal infrastructure bill and budget reconciliation bill, which would boost funding for several priority programs over the next five years.
 - Support inclusion of \$400 million over five years included in \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) (\$80 million in base program funding per fiscal year starting in FY 2022).
 - Support \$172 million of additional funding over five years for PCSRF (an increase of \$34.4 million per year starting in FY 2022).
- Support funding in the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Fiscal Year 2022 Work Plan *[amount TBD]* to:
 1. Advance design and construction of critical prioritized infrastructure repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks.
 2. Support continued Corps staff engagement in the process to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Lake Washington Ship Canal.
 3. Identify important fish passage upgrades and improvements to the fish ladder in the list of prioritized Locks facility repair projects.
- Support passage of the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound” (PUGET SOS) Bill in the Senate, which will establish 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.
- Support \$50 million for Puget Sound Geographic Program in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to provide key funding to support Puget Sound recovery projects.
- Support \$50 million for the National Estuary Program (NEP), which increases annual appropriations to \$1 million per NEP to support core program funding for Puget Sound Partnership.

State Priorities

- Support passage of the “Governor’s Salmon Package”. The framework and content for this package is being developed and is intended to include requests in the 2022 legislative session and the 2023-2025 biennial legislative session. WRIA 8 is involved in discussions to inform this effort through our participation in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council. Currently, the Governor’s staff has articulated a broad framework for legislative action in four main categories:
 1. Invest in clean water infrastructure
 2. Protect and restore vital salmon habitat
 3. Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat
 4. Build climate resiliency
- 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. This could include proposals to define and implement “net ecological gain,” and regulatory improvements that enhance protection of riparian areas and lake and marine shorelines.
- Track and participate in efforts to improve existing funding authorities to support salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities and efforts to develop new watershed-based and/or regional funding mechanisms to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities.
- Support legislation and funding requests that promote stormwater management planning, coordination, and implementation at a watershed scale, address critical data/information needs, and that seek innovative solutions to achieve multiple benefits from integrating stormwater management and habitat protection and restoration. Champion legislation that prioritizes implementation of natural drainage systems, such as low impact development and green stormwater infrastructure, at the watershed scale.
- Support efforts to address effects of climate change on salmon and salmon habitat. WRIA 8 recognizes that recovering salmon requires planning for and adapting to changing watershed conditions resulting from climate change. WRIA 8 supports policies and programs that address temperature impaired water bodies to improve salmon migration and survival, increase the pace of salmon habitat protection and restoration to improve ecosystem resiliency, and that mitigate projected effects of climate change on salmon.