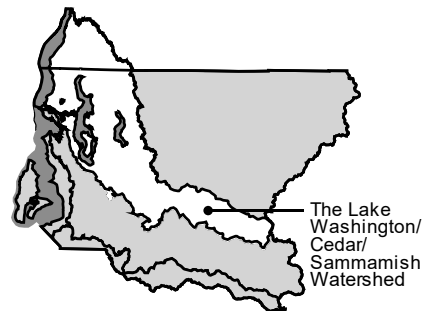




Beaux Arts Village  
 Bellevue  
 Bothell  
 Clyde Hill  
 Edmonds  
 Hunts Point  
 Issaquah  
 Kenmore  
 Kent  
 King County  
 Kirkland  
 Lake Forest Park  
 Maple Valley  
 Medina  
 Mercer Island  
 Mill Creek  
 Mountlake Terrace  
 Mukilteo  
 Newcastle  
 Redmond  
 Renton  
 Sammamish  
 Seattle  
 Shoreline  
 Snohomish County  
 Woodinville  
 Woodway  
 Yarrow Point

Alderwood Water and  
 Wastewater District  
 The Boeing Company  
 Cedar River Council  
 Forterra  
 Friends of the Issaquah  
 Salmon Hatchery  
 Mid-Sound Fisheries  
 Enhancement Group  
 Mountains to Sound  
 Greenway Trust  
 National Oceanic and  
 Atmospheric Administration  
 Sno-King Watershed Council  
 Trout Unlimited  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 Washington Departments:  
 Ecology  
 Fish and Wildlife  
 Natural Resources  
 Washington Association of  
 Sewer and Water Districts  
 Washington Policy Center  
 Water Tenders

September XX, 2021



The Honorable «Title»  
 «First» «Last»  
 «Address1»  
 «Address2»  
 «City», «State» «Zip»

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

Dear «Title» «Last»:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we wish to share our federal budget and legislative priorities, including our strong support for funding increases in the federal budget reconciliation bill and federal infrastructure bill that provide a much-needed boost to funding for priority salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration programs. 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 reducing flood risk, improving water quality, restoring fish passage, supporting tribal treaty fishing rights, providing public access to open space, and makes our watersheds and communities resilient to a changing climate. These critical federal investments help leverage substantial state and local resources and amplify on-the-ground habitat protection and restoration progress. Thank you for your continued support of these vital programs.

Our Council is comprised of 28 local governments and stakeholder representatives from businesses, community groups, 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.

Specifically, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council’s FY2022 federal priorities include:

- 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).
- Support \$172 million of additional funding over five years for PCSRF.
- Support funding in the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Fiscal Year 2022 Work Plan 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.

Thank you for your ongoing strong support for continued federal investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration. 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.

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



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  
Laura Blackmore, Director, Puget Sound Partnership  
Megan Duffy, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office  
Jeff Breckel, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
David Troutt, Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council  
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
Suzanna Smith, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition  
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members  
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish  
Watershed