



AGENDA

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council

Thursday, January 19, 2023, 2:00-4:15PM
Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

***See bottom of agenda for meeting link and other connection information**

Meeting Packet Page

1.	Welcome and Review Participants		John Stokes, Chair Councilmember, City of Bellevue	2:00-2:10
2.	Public Comment		John Stokes	2:10-2:15
3.	Consent Agenda: • Approval of Meeting Notes for November 17, 2022	<u>3</u>	John Stokes	2:15-2:20
4.	Updates & Announcements	<u>11</u>	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager	2:20-2:35
5.	Chair and Vice Chair Selection (Decision) Consider approval of candidates to fill the Salmon Recovery Council Chair and Vice Chair positions through 2024.	<u>20</u>	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	2:35-2:50
6.	Legislative Priorities Update and Draft Letter to State Legislators (Decision) Hear an update on the 2023 legislative session, review proposed Governor's budget funding levels for WRIA 8 state legislative priorities, and consider approval of a draft letter to state legislators.	<u>21</u>	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz Don Gourlie, Puget Sound Partnership	2:50-3:15
7.	Impacts of Climate Change on Watershed and Salmon (Information) Hear a presentation on climate change impacts to the watershed ecosystem and salmon. Hear highlights of relevant strategies and actions from the King County Strategic Climate Action Plan, and a review of priority actions addressing impacts of climate change in the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan.		Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator Guillaume Mauger, Climate Impacts Group Lara Whitely Binder, King County	3:15-4:00
8.	Success Story – Community Action Training School Hear a presentation from Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group about the Community Action Training School (CATS) to engage community volunteers in projects in environmental advocacy, restoration, and community engagement. This program is supported by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council through Cooperative Watershed Management grants.		Tracy Banaszynski, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	4:00-4:15

Next Meeting: March 16, 2023, 2:00-4:15PM

Link to join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82152049156?pwd=Uk5ZQXliYnlTY3JOeEZWOENwOTgrQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 5204 9156 | (253) 215-8782

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WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) Meeting Notes

Zoom Video Conference || November 17, 2022, 2:03 pm – 4:24 pm

Members Present		
#	Name	Affiliation
1)	CM John Stokes, Chair	City of Bellevue
2)	CM Vanessa Kritzer, Vice Chair	City of Redmond
3)	Jeanne Zornes, Deputy Mayor	City of Bothell
4)	CM Kim Muromoto	City of Clyde Hill
5)	CM Diane Buckshnis	City of Edmonds
6)	Paul Crane	City of Everett
7)	CM Victoria Hunt	City of Issaquah
8)	CM Lisa Anderl	City of Mercer Island
9)	CM Rituja Indapure	City of Sammamish
10)	CM Alex Pedersen	City of Seattle
11)	CM Brian Bogen	City of Woodway
12)	CM Strom Peterson	Snohomish County
13)	CM Ted Frantz	Town of Hunts Point
14)	CM Carl Scandella	Town of Yarrow Point
15)	Corinne Helmer	Cedar River Council
16)	Larry Franks	Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)
17)	Kristin Haugen	King Conservation District
18)	Noel Gilbrough	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
19)	Tor Bell	Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
20)	David Kyle	Trout Unlimited
21)	Cleo Neculae	Washington State Department of Ecology
22)	Stewart Reinbold	Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
23)	Jordanna Warneck	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Alternates Present		
24)	CM Ryan McIrvine	City of Renton
25)	CM Roisin O'Farrell	City of Sammamish
26)	Michele Koehler	City of Seattle
27)	Leah Mikulsky	City of Woodinville
28)	Sarah Heerhartz	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
29)	Joshua Thompson	Snohomish County
30)	David Bain	Sno-King Watershed Council
31)	Terry Lavender	Water Tenders
Other Attendees		
32)	Cheryl Paston	City of Bellevue
33)	Janet Geer	City of Bothell
34)	Allen Quynn	City of Issaquah
35)	Richard Sawyer	City of Kenmore
36)	Rachel Konrady	City of Kirkland
37)	Tom Hardy	City of Redmond
38)	Peter Holte	City of Redmond
39)	Kristina Lowthian	City of Renton
40)	Toby Coenen	City of Sammamish
41)	Sophie Chiang	King County
42)	Denise Di Santo	King County

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43)	Joan Lee	King County
44)	Scott Muchard	King County
45)	Larry Reymann	Environmental Science Center
46)	Amani Moyer-Ali	Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
47)	Gary Smith	Trout Unlimited
48)	Jim Schloemer	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
49)	Michael MacDonald	Washington State Department of Transportation
50)	Whitney Neugebauer	Whale Scout
51)	Carrie Byron	WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator
52)	Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz	WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager
53)	Lauren Urgenson	WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
54)	Renee Lechlitter	WRIA 8 Administrative Coordinator

- I. **Welcome and Review Participants** - Councilmember (CM) John Stokes, Chair, called the November 17, 2022, Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting to order at 2:03 pm. Chair Stokes welcomed everyone and established quorum by conducting roll call.
- II. **Public Comment:** No public comment.
- III. **Consent Agenda:** SRC meeting minutes from September 15, 2022 were discussed. No edits were received prior to this meeting.

***Action:** The SRC voted unanimously to approve the September 21, 2022 meeting notes.*

- IV. **Updates & Announcements – Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager**
 - Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz (Jason MK) introduced new Snohomish County representative, Councilmember Strom Peterson.
 - Jason MK and CM Diane Buckshnis attended the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council meeting on September 29th, which focused on approval of policy and approach to request Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) capacity funding and discussing planning for developing a PSAR 10-year work plan and more.
 - The South Central Action Area Caucus (LIO) last met on September 20th. Jason noted he hopes this forum can help advance some of the SRC's equity and inclusion priorities and further integrate those principles in salmon recovery work.
 - WRIA 8 staff scheduled three tours and site visit opportunities in September for partners to meet in-person and see key places and projects in the watershed. One was hosted at the Ballard Locks in partnership with Long Live the Kings, the second was at the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery partnering with Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery and the third was at Lake Sammamish State Park partnering with Mountain to Sound Greenway Trust.
 - Jason MK shared that a few key projects in the watershed are being completed or have just been completed including the Riverbend project on Cedar River, Lower Issaquah Creek side channel construction, Little Bit on Bear Creek, and Meadowdale Beach and Estuary Restoration that will complete half of the WRIA 8 nearshore restoration goal.

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- WRIA 8 staff recently worked with King County to submit a proposal to secure Puget Sound Partnership Habitat Assessment grant funds to assess juvenile salmon use of off channel habitat on the Cedar River.
- Jason MK noted that WRIA 8's legislative priorities are finalized and the letter to the Governor was sent. Additionally, the 2023 SRC meeting schedule has been set and calendar invites will be sent shortly.
- The 2022 partner survey for WRIA 8 salmon recovery services will be coming out in late November or early December and is a chance to provide feedback on the WRIA 8 staff team's work program and services provided this year.
- WRIA 8 staff is working with the Technical Committee and Implementation Committee to consider combining the two committees into an Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) on a trial basis starting in 2023. The purpose is to make more efficient use of partner time and have more holistic discussions with partners.
- Jason MK noted leadership selection for SRC Chair and Vice Chair positions will be done in January of 2023, please notify Jason MK if you are interested in being considered.
- Dave Kyle (Trout Unlimited) shared information on the recent October 2022 kokanee release, which included a blessing from the Snoqualmie Tribe and release of about 100 juvenile kokanee. Additionally, the Lewis Creek culvert replacement on I-90 is being worked on. The eDNA analysis of myxotoxin parasites funded through a WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management grant, has completed sampling in the Ship Canal, Lake Washington, Cedar River, and all tributaries. This will fill a key knowledge gap.
- Terry Lavender (Water Tenders) mentioned King County prop 1 regarding an increase in the Conservation Futures Levy is approaching a 70% yes vote. This will double the open space and habitat acquisition dollars available and will enable many future restoration projects.
- Kristina Lowthian (City of Renton) shared that the City of Renton is currently accepting comments on the Renton Stormwater Management Action Plan through November 28th.

V. WRIA 8 Small Grant Program Funding Recommendations (Decision item) – Carrie Byron, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator

Carrie Byron presented an overview of the Small Grant Awards Program, including funding recommendations for SRC consideration. Up to \$150,000 was available to award and the program focused on proposals that contributed to early stages of future capital project development and/or incorporated equity and environmental justice principles into salmon recovery work that wouldn't typically compete well in the regular grant round. Funding recommendations were prepared by a review team that included people from various agencies including WRIA 8, King County, and Washington Department of Natural Resources. In total five proposals were received. The review team recommended fully funding one project and half of another project.

The first project recommended for funding is the Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group Salmon Friendly Lakes Pilot Program Development and falls into the project development category. The proposed award is \$49,870 and is the total amount that was being requested.

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This project will launch a pilot program to promote stewardship with private lakeshore property owners to improve lakeshore habitat in Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington. In the future this will hopefully promote more lakeshore capital projects.

The second project is the City of Sammamish "Fish Passage Barrier Assessment and falls in the project development category as well. The proposed award is \$25,000, which is half of what was requested. This project is a proposal to prepare a comprehensive fish passage barrier assessment for the city.

WRIA staff and the review team felt the program was worth running again, and the hope is to work towards allocating more of this money to future small grant award rounds and work to build connections with community groups to draw out proposals focused on community engagement and equity. Pending approval today work will begin to get the successful proposals under contract and start the two projects right away.

Discussion:

- Toby Coenen noted overall grant application process and help provided was great and gives kudos to WRIA 8 for getting this process going.
- CM Rituja Indapure commented how exciting it is to see Sammamish on this list and is thankful for support from WRIA 8.

Action: *The SRC voted unanimously to approve the Small Grant Program funding recommendations.*

VI. **WRIA 8 Grant Round Briefing and Cooperative Watershed Management Funding Guidance (Decision item)** - Carrie Byron, WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator

The anticipated 2023 grant round funding is \$391,711 from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Confirmation of the total will have to wait for funding program allocations during the legislative session. Annual SRFB funding is administered by RCO and is a combination of federal and state dollars. SRFB eligible activities include habitat restoration, protection/acquisition, and monitoring. WRIA 8 issues requests for proposals locally in watershed, the project subcommittee will evaluate these along with RCO SRFB technical review panel who will eventually clear them for funding. Subcommittee develops funding recommendations for SRC decision next May, then approved decisions will be forwarded to SRFB to be cleared for funding. Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program is funded through the King County Flood Control District. This year's CWM funding allocation is \$4,026,636 with additional return funds from previous grants being anticipated this year that will get rolled into the grant round. Eligible activities for CWM funding include habitat restoration, protection/acquisition, monitoring/assessment, and outreach and education. The CWM 2023 review process will be similar to 2022 with two main changes. The first is including a pre-proposal screening process, to ensure projects align with recovery strategies and cut down on the work associated with reviewing incoming proposals. The project subcommittee will then evaluate proposals and will split the subcommittee into subgroups who will then develop funding recommendations for SRC

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decisions, and those approved items will be forwarded to the Flood Control District. The second change coming next year is the roll out of the new county wide online application process.

Proposed CWM funding allocations are approximately 75% to restoration projects and acquisitions, approximately 20% to monitoring and assessment, and 5% to education and outreach.

Carrie also noted there is an opening for an SRC representative on the Project Subcommittee in 2023. The Project Subcommittee reviews proposals and develops funding recommendations for SRC consideration.

Discussion:

- CM Ted Frantz asked if the King County Flood District funding is the same as King Conservation District (KCD) funding that WRIA 8 allocated years ago. He also asked about where Proposition 1 funds would come from if it passes. Additionally, he asked if the Proposition 1 funding would target property acquisitions to support restoration projects, and would that potentially be a source for funding to support WRIA 8 projects? Jason MK added in the past KCD provided funding to WRIA 8 to recommend allocating up until 2012 when funding to the WRIAs was shifted to King County Flood Control District. Carrie clarified Proposition 1 funds would support the County Conservation Futures Program and project sponsors use Conservation Futures to leverage other funding sources to support WRIA 8 priorities. Jason MK added Conservation Futures has its own citizen review committee, and King County Council approves funding recommendations.

ACTION: The SRC voted unanimously to approve the CWM Grant Program funding guidance.

VII. Salmon Returns and Monitoring Update (information) – Lauren Urgenson, WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator

It is the time of the year when salmon have completed their spawning, so this presentation has been put together to share this year's returns in the context of long-term population status and trends; describe the types of information we have available on salmon during phases of their life history; and the ways WRIA 8 uses the available information to inform recovery strategies. The focus of this presentation is on two key stages of life for Chinook salmon: 1) the adult migration stage when salmon enter the watershed at the Ballard Locks, and 2) the spawning stage which happens when salmon return to their natal streams or hatcheries to spawn. These two stages take place June-September at the Ballard Locks for locks counts and then during September-November for spawning ground surveys.

Ballard Locks adult salmon count data is collected by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and provides information on adult salmon migration into the watershed each year. The data is collected from June-October every year to

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include returns of sockeye, Chinook, and coho. Counts are conducted at the fish ladder viewing window and in the Locks chambers. The percentage of fish that move through the fish ladder can vary greatly (17-72%) across years, with the remainder entering through the large and small locks along with boats during locks openings. Returns this year were higher than forecasted. The forecast for Chinook was 5,200 but the locks count was 17,441, the forecast for sockeye was 10,200 but the count was 43,300, and coho was forecasted at 14,000 but the count was 25,600. Ballard Locks counts include both hatchery origin and naturally spawning fish. Recent discussion about the locks counts has focused on a growing difference between Chinook salmon counted at the Ballard Locks and the amount counted as part of spawning grounds surveys and at the Issaquah Hatchery. In 2022, 46% of the over 17,000 Chinook counted at the Locks were unaccounted for on the spawning grounds or at the hatchery. It is unclear what is causing this difference, but salmon face multiple challenges including pinniped predation (and stress and wounding from being chased by harbor seals). Also, high water temperatures in the Ship Canal may be associated with salmon cycling through the locks multiple times to modulate their body temperature, potentially resulting in some double counting.

WRIA 8's primary focus is recovery of naturally spawning salmon populations. The WRIA 8 Plan includes abundance goals. Chinook natural spawning abundance goals for the Cedar River is to reach 1,680 fish with 80% of natural origin by 2025, and for the Sammamish River the goal is to reach 1,083 fish and to maintain or increase natural origin by 2025. Spawning ground surveys are conducted between September and November each year. In the Cedar River counts are based on the number of redds surveyed and in the Sammamish River counts are based on the number of fish at specific index stream reaches. In addition to the numbers of fish counted during spawning ground surveys biologists also collect information about age, health, pre-spawn mortality, and percentage of natural origin or hatchery fish. In 2022, 933 Chinook were counted on the Cedar River, historically natural origin Chinook have comprised about 74% on the Cedar River. For the Sammamish River, 3,305 Chinook were counted, which is far above the WRIA 8 goal. Ultimately, it would be good to see the amount of natural origin fish increase.

Using data shared by WDFW, trends over the last 12 years of Sammamish Chinook, Cedar Chinook, and hatchery returns, Sammamish returns are mostly hatchery fish. Examining information collected during the different stages of the Chinook life cycle tells us different things about what factors and locations may be most limiting for salmon. The locks counts tell us how many salmon are returning. Spawning surveys tell us where fish are going, how many are spawning naturally, and how these abundances align with recovery goals. WRIA 8 looks at all the factors at play in different stages during the salmon life cycle to better understand the most limiting factors and update and adapt salmon recovery goals and recommendations based on the best information available.

Population productivity of natural origin Chinook in Puget Sound is a key metric used to determine if the population is growing or shrinking. Overall, across Puget Sound the productivity of natural origin Chinook populations is not meeting recovery goals and most populations remain well below recovery ranges. Many populations are supplemented by hatchery fish. The

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Cedar River is one of the only locations in the south central Chinook major population group where natural origin productivity is > 1 during the last couple of years.

Discussion:

- Chair Stokes mentioned this information is complex and recommends scheduling a separate session to focus further on this topic since it typically creates a lot of questions from Council members. Jason MK agreed staff would think about scheduling in the future.
- Larry Reymann asked if there is a trend of Chinook egg production tracking smaller? Larry Franks added the hatchery figure is in the 3800-4000 range.
- Terry Lavender commented on the missing fish through the locks and asked whether a similar issue is happening with sockeye. Lauren clarified it has been happening with sockeye but is a more recent issue for Chinook.
- CM Ted Frantz asked if more data and trends that go along with numbers could be accessed to find out more about what is going on with salmon populations. Lauren clarified that quite a bit of data is used to piece together what is happening and is working to focus more on temperature issues in the locks and Ship Canal and predation issues.
- Dave Kyle asked if there are any thoughts about moving the counting station further upstream to mitigate possible double counting at the locks?
- David Bain asked what kind of monitoring is going on to look at what happens to fish between the locks and spawning grounds? Lauren clarified monitoring over time has been led by the Co-Managers (WDFW and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe) and she is currently unsure how WRIA 8 can help fill these knowledge gaps. There have also been various individual studies conducted over time, including thermal tagging studies which is how we know Chinook cycle through the locks. Currently there is no long-term monitoring program in between the juvenile screw trap sites on Bear Creek and the Cedar River and the Locks. Steward Reinbold from WDFW added they are working to find out ways to get a better handle on that.

VIII. Success Story – Little Bit Stream Restoration Project on Bear Creek (information) – *Sophie Chiang, Scott Muchard, and Denise Di Santo, King County*

The Little Bit Stream restoration project site is on Bear Creek in Redmond, about 3.5 miles downstream from the confluence with the Sammamish River. The overall goal for this project was to increase volume and availability of off channel habitat for juvenile salmon and increase overall channel complexity and habitat quality. The completion of this project closes a gap of restoration in the stream reach and is about 650 lineal feet of restoration. Additionally, this project addresses three strategies in the WRIA 8 Plan – protecting and restoring flood plain connectivity, functional riparian vegetation, and channel complexity.

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Starter and side channels were excavated and used to drive some of the flow from the main channel. Over time these side channels will develop and provide additional habitat and flood conveyance. Large wood was added to the main stem and excavated channels along with stabilized slash piles that provide habitat cover and work with together to help raise low flows and guide the flow into the constructed side channels.

Chinook were seen using side channels within three weeks of connecting the habitat, beavers and other wildlife have been seen on-site. To finish the project, native trees and shrubs will be planted and completed in spring of 2023. The monitoring period will end in summer of 2025 and this project site will go into the King County Parks inventory.

Discussion:

- Sarah Heerhartz asked what plans are in place for monitoring wood movement and changes in the creek over time? Scott Muchard mentioned since there is no bridge close to this project there is more flexibility with wood placement, but logs are stabilized. Money is set aside to be used if monitoring indicates something with the placed wood needs to be addressed. Sophie added there is a long stretch down stream of project site currently has wood already in place that would catch other wood from potentially migrating too far.
- **Next Meeting:** Vice Chair Kritzer noted the [next SRC meeting](#) is January 19, 2023, from 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:24 pm.



WRIA 8 Updates and Committee Reports

January 19, 2023

- **Puget Sound Regional Update** – The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PS SRC)** last met on November 17. The meeting focused on:
 - Emergency projects policy discussion.
 - Discussion of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) 10-Year Plan, PSAR program cost analysis, and options for updating PSAR return funds policy.
 - Puget Sound recovery priorities legislative update and review of priorities ranking.
 - Net ecological gain discussion.
 - Annual work plan status update.
 - Legacy projects portfolio presentation of projects list and next steps discussion.

The PS SRC is scheduled to meet next on January 26. Diane Buckshnis, Edmonds City Councilmember, and Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represent WRIA 8.

The **South Central Action Area Caucus** (Local Integrating Organization (LIO)) last met on December 1 for a 2023-2025 work plan discussion. The work plan is being informed, in part, by priorities in the WRIA 8's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Strategic Plan. Other work plan topics include improving integration between stormwater and salmon and land use and habitat restoration, and developing recommendations to support proposals for federal funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz represents WRIA 8 on the LIO.

- **2022 WRIA 8 Partner Satisfaction Survey results** – King County, as WRIA 8 service provider, conducts an annual survey to gauge partner satisfaction with the WRIA 8 watershed salmon recovery services. In general, survey results indicate good to excellent satisfaction with the WRIA 8 team's services in terms of identifying priorities, coordinating and facilitating meetings, project coordination, technical services, tracking and advising partners of emerging issues, and overall effectiveness. Responses to several open-ended questions affirm the approach and effectiveness of the services provided by WRIA 8, as well as several excellent suggestions for topics to focus on in meetings. Please see a summary of results from the survey of 2022 services in the meeting packet.
- **2023 WRIA 8 Grant Round is open!** – The WRIA 8 annual request for proposals for salmon recovery grant funding through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) programs. Eligible activities include habitat restoration and protection projects, outreach and education programs, and monitoring activities. Successful proposals will implement activities identified in or consistent with the 2017 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan Update and the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan. Notices of intent are due January 25, 2023. [View our funding opportunities website](#) or contact Carrie Byron (cbyron@gmail.com) for more information and application instructions.

- **Technical workshop on pinniped predation in the Lake Washington Ship Canal –** WRIA 8 has contracted with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to support WRIA 8 staff in technical workshop planning, facilitation, and production of identified deliverables. Primary goals of the workshop include: 1) share knowledge and lessons learned based on previous management strategies, research studies, and ongoing observations of pinniped predation on salmon at the Ballard Locks; 2) identify key limitations, constraints, and potential benefits of alternative management actions; 3) ultimately, recommend an adaptive plan responsible entities could implement to reduce levels of pinniped predation on adult and juvenile salmon at the Ballard Locks.
- **Department of Health Advisory on Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish –** In December, the State Department of Health issued a [Fish Advisory Evaluation](#) warning against consumption of carp, large- and smallmouth bass, cutthroat trout, and Northern pikeminnow in Lake Washington. Also, largemouth bass and northern pikeminnow in Lake Sammamish. These fish were found to contain PFOS which is a type of PFAS – per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance, often called “forever chemicals” found in firefighting foam, stain resistant carpets, nonstick pans, and other products. The warning is based on 2018 evaluations of fish tissue samples. The highest PFOS contamination was found in smallmouth bass sampled in Lake Washington. Prior to the recent PFOS advisory, Lakes Washington and Sammamish had existing advisories for PCBs and mercury. Lake Washington northern pikeminnow and carp were designated no consumption. Lake Washington was also limited to one or two-meals/month of large- (>300 mm) or small cutthroat, respectively, and 1 meal/month of yellow perch due to PCB concentrations. In Lake Sammamish, northern pikeminnow was designated no consumption, and small mouth bass was limited to 2 meals/month due to mercury contamination.
- **WRIA 8 E-News –** The [December edition](#) of the WRIA 8 E-news included the following topics and updates: Information on recent US Geological Survey light mapping efforts in Lake Washington, a call for salmon-related creative expression pieces, media stories about salmon, and announcements of recent funding opportunities and project and program updates. The next edition is scheduled for February 23. Please submit proposed topics to Renee Leichter (reichliter@kingcounty.gov) by February 14.

WRIA 8 Committee Reports

WRIA 8 SRC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Subcommittee meeting – We are shifting meetings of the DEI Subcommittee from bi-monthly to meeting on an as-needed basis to enable more time for continued progress on actions already identified in our DEI Strategic Plan. Priority actions include continued engagement with the South-Central Local Integrating Organization’s (LIO’s) DEI project and program review; continued progress in DEI aspects of WRIA 8 grant rounds; and strengthening connections with partner DEI/ESJ initiatives.

WRIA 8 Implementation Technical Committee – The newly formed Implementation Technical Committee (ITC) met for the first time on January 11. The purpose of joining the Implementation and Technical committees is to gain efficiencies in partner engagement, information sharing, and to achieve more coordinated and cohesive action outcomes. The January meeting focused on updates across WRIA 8 core work areas – project

funding/implementation, education/outreach, science/monitoring, and policy/legislation/advocacy. The meeting also included participant input on priority topics for future ITC meetings and project update presentations by Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust on Lower Issaquah Creek restoration and King County on the Riverbend project on the Cedar River.

WRIA 8 Technical Committee – The WRIA 8 Technical Committee met in December and topics included review of Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group’s Bear Creek Tretheway Project monitoring plan, introduction to trap nets by WDFW, and discussion of plans to integrate Implementation and Technical committees on a trial basis. The Technical Committee will continue to meet bi-monthly, on months we do not meet as an ITC.

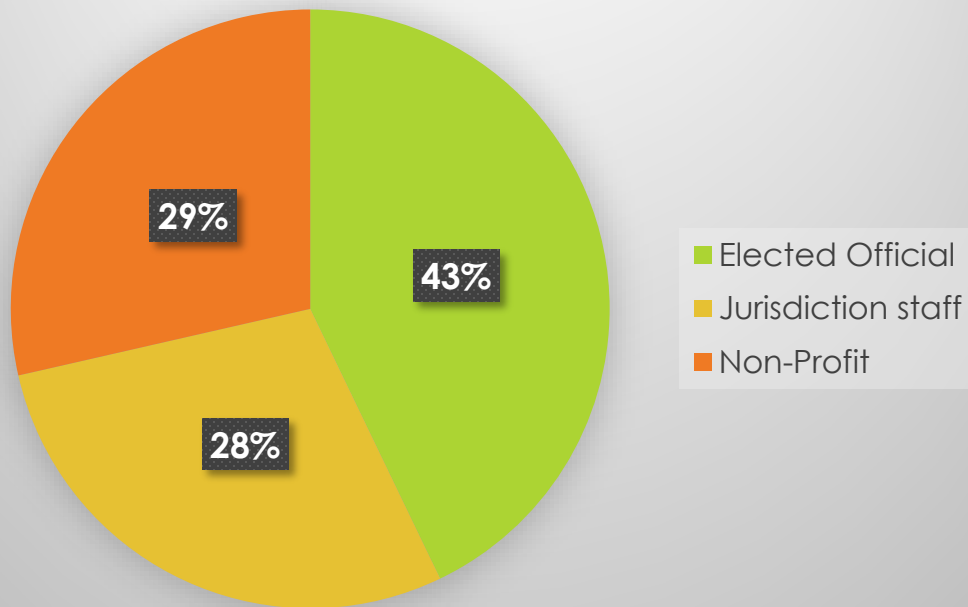
Legislative Subcommittee – The Legislative Subcommittee reviewed the draft letter to state legislators and leadership of key legislative committees, which the Salmon Recovery Council is considering for approval at the January meeting. The Subcommittee will continue to meet periodically and as needed during the 2023-2025 state legislative session to discuss emerging legislation and funding proposals to assess how they align with WIRA 8’s priorities and recommend taking action in support.



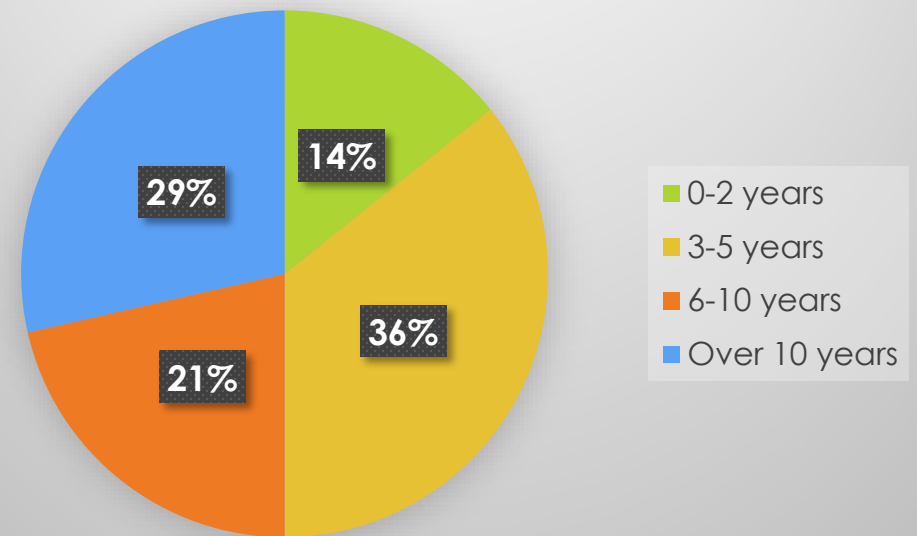
WRIA 8 Salmon
Recovery
Council Partner
Satisfaction
Survey
2022

Survey Demographics

What is your affiliation with the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council?

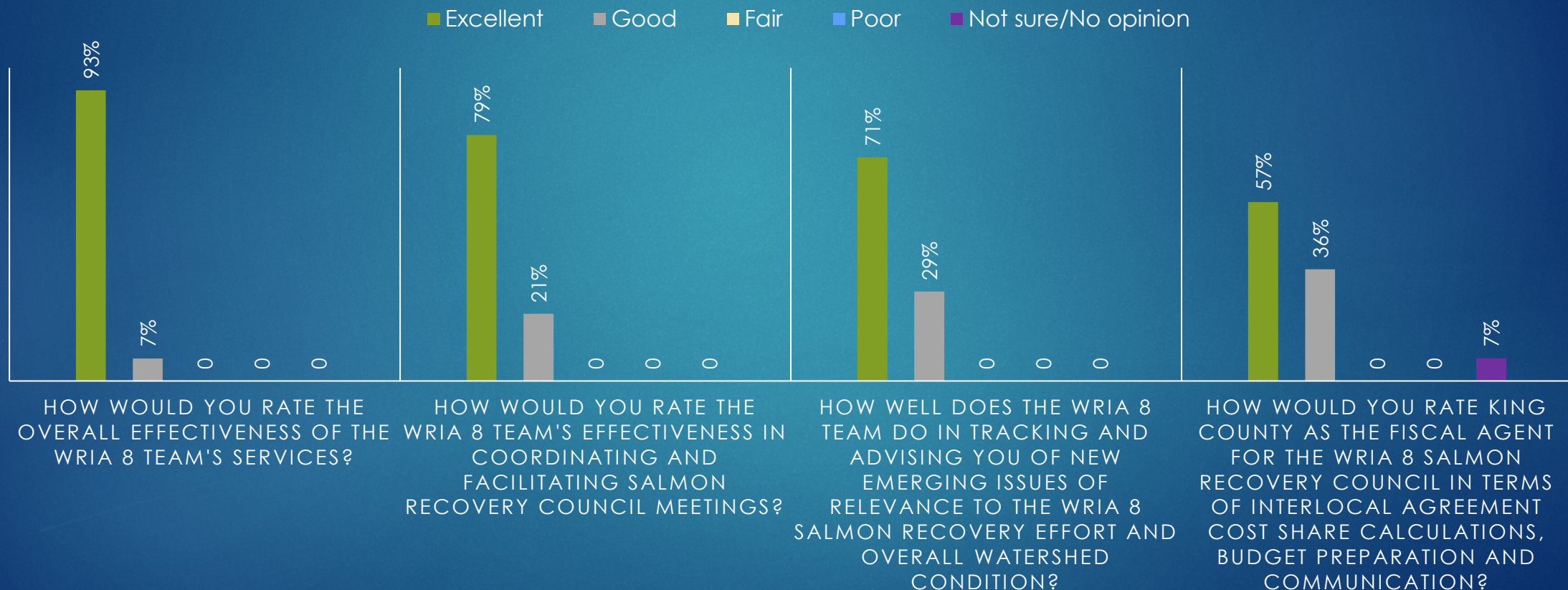


How long have you been a member or partner of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council

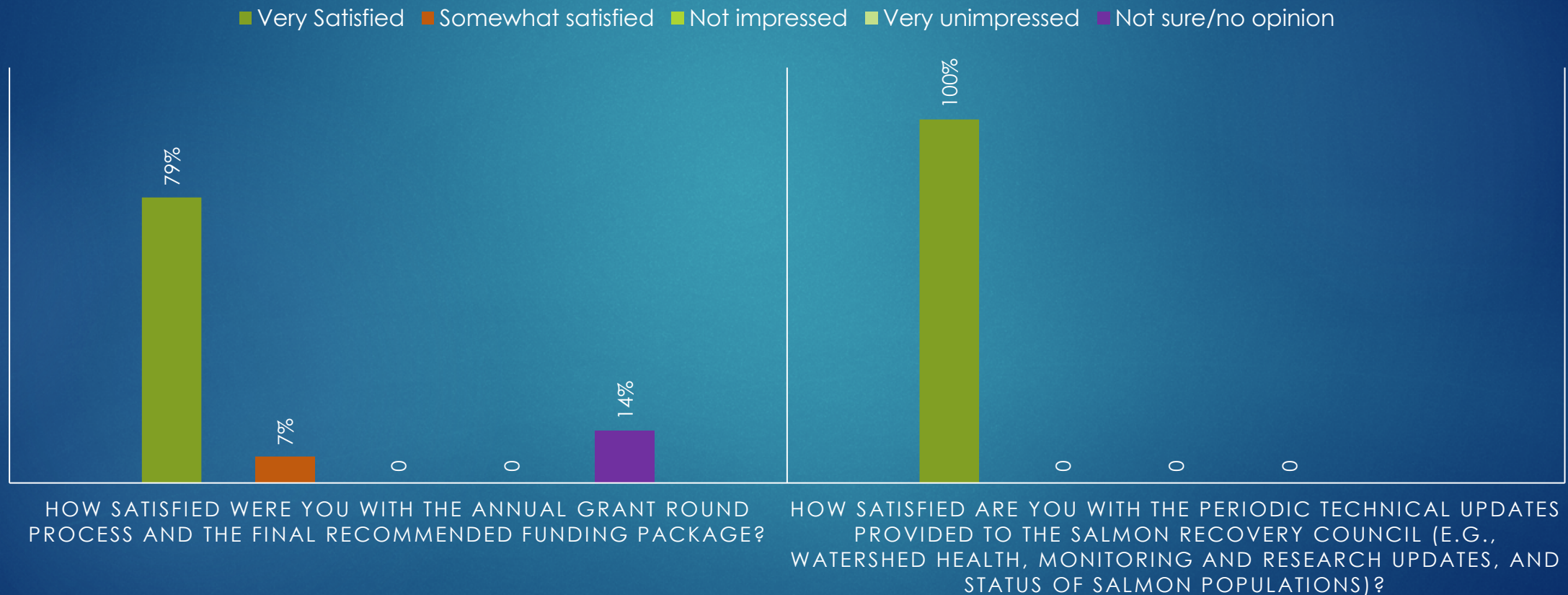


Total Responses Received = 14

WRIA 8 Team Effectiveness and Tracking Abilities



Satisfaction with Grant Round and Technical Updates



What do you see as the most valuable services the WRIA 8 team provides?

- Grant coordination
- Project prioritization
- Technical assistance
- Regional coordination
- Developing legislative priorities and advocacy for programs; providing a framework to learn how partner communities are faring
- Educating elected officials and coordinating resources
- Updates on current salmon issues and keeping our town up to date on the science
- Sharing latest research on salmon recovery
- Updates to best available science

Do you have any specific areas of interest or topics for WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council meetings?

- Overall progress (amount of land protected, habitat restored, etc.) as part of regional effort
- How WRIA 8 dovetails with state-wide salmon recovery efforts
- Water quality, temperature and predation in the Ship Canal
- Local laws and ordinances supporting salmon
- Success stories
- 6PPD-q
- Harvest/bycatch management
- King County Regional Stormwater Summit goals/process



WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Chair and Vice Chair Selection

January 19, 2023

Background

The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) needs to consider filling two key leadership positions:

- SRC Chair
- SRC Vice-Chair

In 2018, the SRC updated its operating guidelines to establish selection of a Chair and Vice Chair every two years, with terms beginning on even years.

Interest in filling the positions was solicited from SRC members. Current SRC Chair, John Stokes, City of Bellevue Councilmember, and Vice Chair, Vanessa Kritzer, City of Redmond Councilmember, both expressed interest in serving again. No additional interest in either position was received from other SRC members.

Decision

The SRC should approve selection of Councilmember Stokes as WRIA 8 SRC Chair and Councilmember Kritzer as WRIA 8 SRC Vice Chair for the term beginning in 2023 through 2024.

WRIA 8 State 2023-2025 Budget Priorities Summary

State Agency / Program	Budget	2017 – 2019 Appropriation	2019-2021 Appropriation	2021-2023 Budget Request	2021-2023 Appropriation	2023-2025 Budget Request	2023-2025 Governor’s Budget	2023-2025 House Budget	2023-2025 Senate Budget	Final 2023-2025 Budget
Recreation and Conservation Office										
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	Capital	\$40 million	\$49.5 million	\$69.9 million	\$52.8 million	\$65.4 million	\$50 million			
State Salmon Recovery (SRFB-State portion)	Capital	\$19.71 million	\$25 million	\$80 million	\$30 million	\$82 million	\$40 million			
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	Capital	\$80 million	\$85 million	\$140 million	\$100 million	\$135 million	\$120 million			
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	Capital	\$12.29 million	\$6.6 million	\$9.1 million	\$9.1 million	\$5.7 million	\$5.7 million			
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	Capital	\$8 million	\$10 million	\$20 million	\$15.7 million	\$25.5 million	\$25.5 million			
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	Capital	\$19.75 million	\$26.5 million	\$65.6 million	\$26.8 million	\$94.6 million	\$48.15 million			
Lead Entity and Regional Organization Program	Operating/ Capital		\$974,000 (plus \$2.4 million as part of State Salmon Recovery capital)	\$828,000	\$974,000 (plus \$2.4 million as part of State Salmon Recovery capital)	\$4.47 million	\$4.47 million			
Department of Ecology										
Floodplains by Design	Capital	\$35.4 million	\$50.4 million	\$70 million	\$50.9 million	\$70.4 million	\$49.8 million			
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program	Capital	\$55 million	\$44 million	\$52.7 million	\$75 million	\$68 million	\$68 million			
Centennial Clean Water Program	Capital	N/A	N/A	\$80 million	\$40 million	\$80 million	\$40 million			
Water Pollution Control Revolving Program	Capital	N/A	N/A	\$300 million	\$300 million	\$435 million	\$435 million			
Streamflow Restoration Program	Capital	N/A	N/A	\$40 million	\$40 million	\$40 million	\$40 million			



Beaux Arts Village

Bellevue

Bothell

Clyde Hill

Edmonds

Everett

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

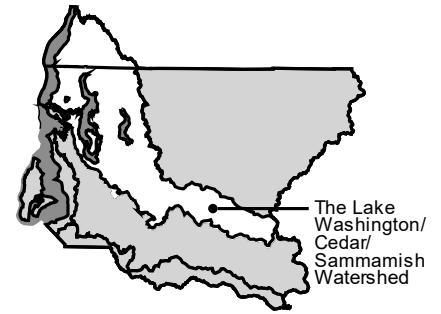
Water Tenders

January XX, 2023

The Honorable [Representative/Senator]

[Address]

Olympia, WA 98504-0002



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

Dear [Representative/Senator]:

Thank you for supporting salmon recovery investments during the 2022 legislative session, which provided an important boost to salmon habitat restoration and scientific research to inform efforts addressing issues most critical to salmon survival. Your ongoing leadership is vital to ensuring we can continue our efforts — and Washington State's commitment — to recover salmon populations listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we urge you to build on last year's investments by supporting priority salmon habitat restoration funding programs and investments in science that inform on-the-ground policy and management actions to improve fish passage in streams, support tribal treaty fishing rights, ensure adequate stream flows, protect public access to open space, and make our watersheds and communities resilient to a changing climate.

The state's investment in salmon recovery is enabling local watershed groups and the Puget Sound region to make significant progress on our highest priority projects. However, our state's salmon populations continue to decline. To reverse this trend, we need to build on and sustain the increased investment in salmon recovery you supported last year and to leverage the unprecedented recent federal investment supporting salmon recovery. During the upcoming legislative session, we encourage you to accelerate this progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide.

Below are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council's priorities for the 2023-2025 biennium. We ask your support for the following:

Capital and Operating Budget Requests:

- **\$4.5 million for salmon recovery Lead Entities** and regional organizations in the Recreation and Conservation Office operating budget, which will enhance capacity to develop and manage projects and proposals to secure available local, state, and federal resources for projects in Washington State.
- **\$82 million for Salmon Recovery Funding Board** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which matches federal funding and supports habitat protection and restoration projects statewide, as well as operating costs of the salmon recovery Lead Entity program to coordinate implementation of salmon recovery in local watersheds throughout the state.

- **\$65.4 million for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which will fund critically important habitat projects in all Puget Sound watersheds and a prioritized list of large regional salmon recovery projects.
- **\$70.4 million for Floodplains by Design** in the Department of Ecology’s budget, which will implement a prioritized list of multi-benefit floodplain projects around the state that enhance salmon habitat and protect public health and safety.
- **\$20 million for Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports nearshore protection and restoration.
- **\$94 million for Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which supports removal of barriers to fish passage.
- Support funding for other important funding programs including Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Water Quality Combined Funding program.

Priority policy and legislative issues:

- Support state agency budget requests for monitoring salmon populations, and for studies and management of predation, elevated water temperatures, artificial light at night, priority aquatic invasive weeds, and other issues that affect survival of WRIA 8 salmon populations.
- 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. Support advancing research and policy/product changes to address impacts of the tire dust chemical 6PPD-quinone on salmon survival. Establish a dedicated funding source for local governments to implement stormwater retrofit projects.
- Support improving regulatory protections for areas that are important salmon habitat, including defining and implementing “net ecological gain,” and enhancing protection of riparian areas and lake and marine shorelines.
- Support Growth Management Act reforms that align with salmon recovery goals and targets, including integrating salmon recovery and climate change into comprehensive planning.
- Support streamlining regulatory review and permitting for habitat restoration projects, and increased funding to regulatory entities for permit enforcement of land use regulations.
- Increase investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities through existing funding authorities, and support innovative funding approaches, including new watershed-based and/or regional funding mechanisms and public-private partnerships that engage state agencies and private funding sources to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities.
- Seek to align investments in equity and environmental justice with salmon recovery priorities to achieve benefits for salmon populations and human communities.
- Support efforts to address effects of climate change on salmon and salmon habitat.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making state budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon and orca recovery, restoring the health of Puget Sound, and working to address effects of climate change.

If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 8 or how these priorities advance salmon recovery objectives, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager for the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8), at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Stokes
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Bellevue

Vanessa Kritzer
Vice-Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Councilmember, City of Redmond

cc: Laura Blackmore, Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Megan Duffy, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Hillary Franz, Director, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Nick Streuli, Executive Director of Policy and Outreach, Office of the Governor
Ruth Musgrave, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Carrie Sessions, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Barbara Baker, Chair, Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission
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
Mike Lithgow, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Salmon

In Washington and across the Pacific Northwest, salmon populations are struggling against climate change, habitat loss, pollution and other factors. We are losing riparian, or streamside, habitat to increased human population and development, as well as pollution and degradation. Climate change contributes to this decline by increasing the number and magnitude of droughts and floods, worsening ocean conditions, warming streams, shifting food webs, intensifying pollutants and shifting the balance of predator populations.

Saving Washington's iconic salmon

Gov. Jay Inslee proposes new investments to protect and restore salmon populations and habitat across the state

Across the region, people have worked tirelessly to bring salmon back from the brink, and those efforts have restored thousands of acres of fish habitat. Still, salmon and other species are losing more habitat than they are gaining. Over 70% of our 14 populations of endangered or threatened salmon and steelhead are not keeping pace with recovery goals, are still in crisis, or require immediate action.

In 2021, Gov. Jay Inslee — drawing from decades of work by numerous experts, state agencies, salmon recovery partners, tribes and stakeholders — put forward an update to the state's salmon recovery strategy. To implement the strategy, Inslee proposed new and urgent investments to protect and restore salmon, steelhead and trout populations across the state. In addition, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office convened the Natural Resources Subcabinet to develop a work plan around the new strategy priorities. That work plan was finalized in Nov. 2022.

The governor now proposes the strongest suite of budget and policy initiatives in Washington's history to help protect and restore vital salmon



Sockeye salmon spawn in the Little Wenatchee River near Leavenworth, Washington. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service photo)

habitat and restore salmon populations across the state. These initiatives address the highest priority actions in the governor's Salmon Strategy, while aligning with known tribal priorities and regional salmon recovery plans. They include the following:

- Protect and restore riparian habitat.
- Invest in clean water for salmon and people.
- Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat.
- Protect and manage our state's waters.
- Align harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery.
- Address predation and food web issues for salmon.

Protect and restore riparian habitat

With this budget, the governor commits to historic investments that can restore and protect healthy functioning riparian ecosystems critical to salmon survival. The green corridors along rivers and streams are important during critical periods of a salmon's lifecycle, providing shade and stream temperature moderation, water filtration, habitat for insects and other wildlife, and cover for spawning and foraging. In 2022, Inslee contracted a study and evaluation of all state voluntary and regulatory riparian programs. As part of this process, the governor convened roundtable discussions with tribes, farmers, cities, counties and state agencies. [Two final reports were issued in Dec. 2022](#) with recommendations for how to move forward on riparian protection.

It is within our best interest to maintain, preserve, conserve and rehabilitate riparian lands. Doing so will help us reduce water temperature, improve climate resiliency, maintain carbon sequestration and better protect the health of fish, wildlife and ecosystems for the economic and social well-being of this state and its people. To implement new

The Climate Commitment Act (CCA), a new climate law, is generating significant revenue and is supercharging our investment in natural climate solutions that support salmon protection and restoration. In 2021, the Legislature passed the governor-requested bill to cap and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, invest proceeds in projects to reduce carbon emissions, expand clean transportation, and build healthier, more resilient communities. A portion of CCA funds is specifically dedicated to projects that make the state's waters and forests more resilient to climate change impacts, conserve working forestlands, and increase their carbon pollution reduction capacity through sequestration and storage. This biennium, the governor will invest \$154 million in CCA revenues toward projects that support salmon protection and recovery.

protections for salmon riparian habitat, the governor proposes the following steps:

- **Riparian program evaluation:** Continue the work of the Riparian Taskforce to engage stakeholders, tribes, and state agencies as they develop measures to improve and protect riparian areas across the state.
(\$489,000 GF-S)
- **Riparian habitat assessments and mapping:** Continue work begun in the current biennium to assess and map the state's riparian habitat. The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will identify streams that — if conserved or restored — will provide the greatest habitat value and will demonstrate the extent of cumulative improvements to statewide riparian conditions over time. Ecology will also improve the state's understanding and mapping of channel migration zones. To identify and monitor riparian areas, unstable slopes and fish habitat, the Department

of Natural Resources (DNR) will continue to collect statewide lidar data. This provides better data to protect and understand salmon habitat and stressors. In addition, the State Conservation Commission will enhance its efforts to monitor the effectiveness of the Voluntary Stewardship program.

(\$10.1 million GF-S, \$1.4 Million Public Works Assistance Account)

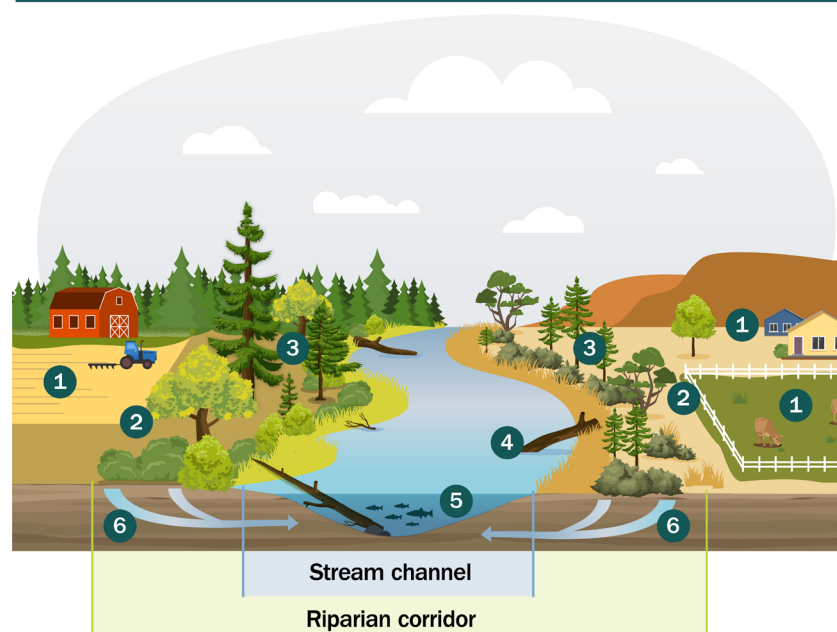
- **Integrated science hub for agriculture:** The State Conservation Commission will establish a program to connect scientists and practitioners to monitor and better quantify the benefits of agricultural Best Management Plans (BMPs). The commission will conduct additional social science research to understand how to best engage with landowners in implementing BMPs.
(\$1.25 Million GF-S)
- **Riparian public education:** Many landowners do not understand the importance of maintaining riparian areas whether they live in urban, suburban, rural, agricultural or forested areas. The State

Conservation Commission will develop and implement a program to educate landowners on how they can best manage and restore their lands to improve riparian habitat.

(\$2.0 million GF-S)

- **Riparian coordinator:** State riparian protection and restoration programs are not always coordinated, and do not share common metrics nor a consolidated data platform. The Recreation and Conservation Office will establish a position to coordinate projects between state agencies, develop common metrics across programs and consolidate data platforms.
(\$398,000 Natural Climate Solutions Account)
- **Riparian restoration on working lands:** To accelerate improvements to state riparian areas on agricultural and forest lands, the governor proposes significant new investments. This includes \$100 million for a new Riparian Conservation Grant program with the State Conservation Commission that provides financial assistance to landowners implementing riparian protection and

Healthy riparian corridor



- 1 Using best management practices upland minimizes pollution
- 2 Healthy corridor filters pollutants before getting into the stream
- 3 Large trees help keep the stream cool and provide habitat
- 4 Fallen trees in the stream provide habitat
- 5 Fish thrive in cool and clean water
- 6 Groundwater inputs help support streamflows and keep water cool

Department of Ecology

restoration measures. Funds will also be available to conversation districts so that they can use technical assistance to help landowners develop farm plans and conservation projects. The state will match the funding for the existing federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement program, which works with willing farmers to plant native trees and shrubs and remove livestock and agricultural activities from riparian areas.

(\$13 million GF-S, \$100 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

- **Protect forested riparian habitats:** The governor proposes to fund two major programs that protect forested riparian areas. DNR's Forest Riparian Easement program reimburses landowners for the value of the trees they leave to protect fish habitat. And, the Rivers and Habitat Open Space program funds conservation easement purchases from willing private forest landowners to protect riparian open space, especially channel migration zones for Endangered Species Act-listed species.

(\$11.6 Natural Climate Solutions Account, \$3.4 million bonds)

- **Reforestation Strategy:** Restoring riparian habitats and areas impacted by wildfires requires tree seedlings. DNR will develop a comprehensive strategy to tackle barriers to reforestation, including through expanding seed collection, increasing the capacity of the state's public nursery, and addressing workforce needs.

(\$2 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

Land use planning

Salmon need cool, clean water and a variety of habitats that allow them to feed, travel, rest, hide from predators, and spawn. Protecting and restoring these habitats requires a combination of voluntary programs and regulatory tools.

- **Incorporate salmon into land use planning:** Regulatory protection is necessary as Washington continues to grow, develop, and use more land and water. Regulations can prevent degradation and restore unavoidable impacts of permitted development. The Department of Commerce will provide local governments with technical assistance and grants to integrate salmon recovery plans and watershed characterization work into their land-use planning and regulation.

(\$5.5 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

Capital investments to protect and restore habitat

It is critically important to continue capital investments in habitat protection and restoration. These grant programs fund the highest priority projects in watersheds throughout the state — projects that have been scientifically and publicly vetted. This includes grant programs that implement the process established by the Salmon Recovery Act, where watershed-based groups act as lead entities to coordinate regional and local recovery plan priorities. It also includes state grant programs with a specific benefit to salmon recovery such as floodplain management, near-shore restoration or region-specific programs for Puget Sound or the coast. These programs have kept extinction at bay. The governor recommends the following investments to restore salmon habitat:

- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration program** (Recreation and Conservation Office) – Fund projects to advance Puget Sound near-shore recovery.

(\$25.5 million bonds)

- **Floodplains by Design** (Department of Ecology) – Re-establish floodplain functions to improve salmon habitat and reduce flood risk in Washington's major river corridors.

(\$49.8 million bonds)

- **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program** (Recreation and Conservation Office) – Fund habitat restoration and protection to restore Puget Sound’s natural systems.

(\$50 million bonds)

- **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** (Recreation and Conservation Office) – Fund habitat projects and other necessary activities to achieve overall salmon recovery.

(\$40 million bonds, \$75 million federal)

- **Salmon recovery region and lead entity capacity** (Recreation and Conservation Office) – Enhance local capacity to fully develop, implement and integrate recovery plans with state agency habitat recovery programs.

(\$4.5 million GF-S)

- **Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative** (Recreation and Conservation Office) – Fund grants to proactively address the region’s

highest priority ecological protection and restoration needs. This will ensure resilient coastal lands and waters.

(\$17.6 million bonds)

- **Duckabush–Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration project** (Department of Fish and Wildlife) – Continue the next phase of the Duckabush estuary restoration project, reconnecting historical channels and removing estuary blockages such as highways, fill, levees and bridges.

(\$41 million bonds, \$30 million federal)

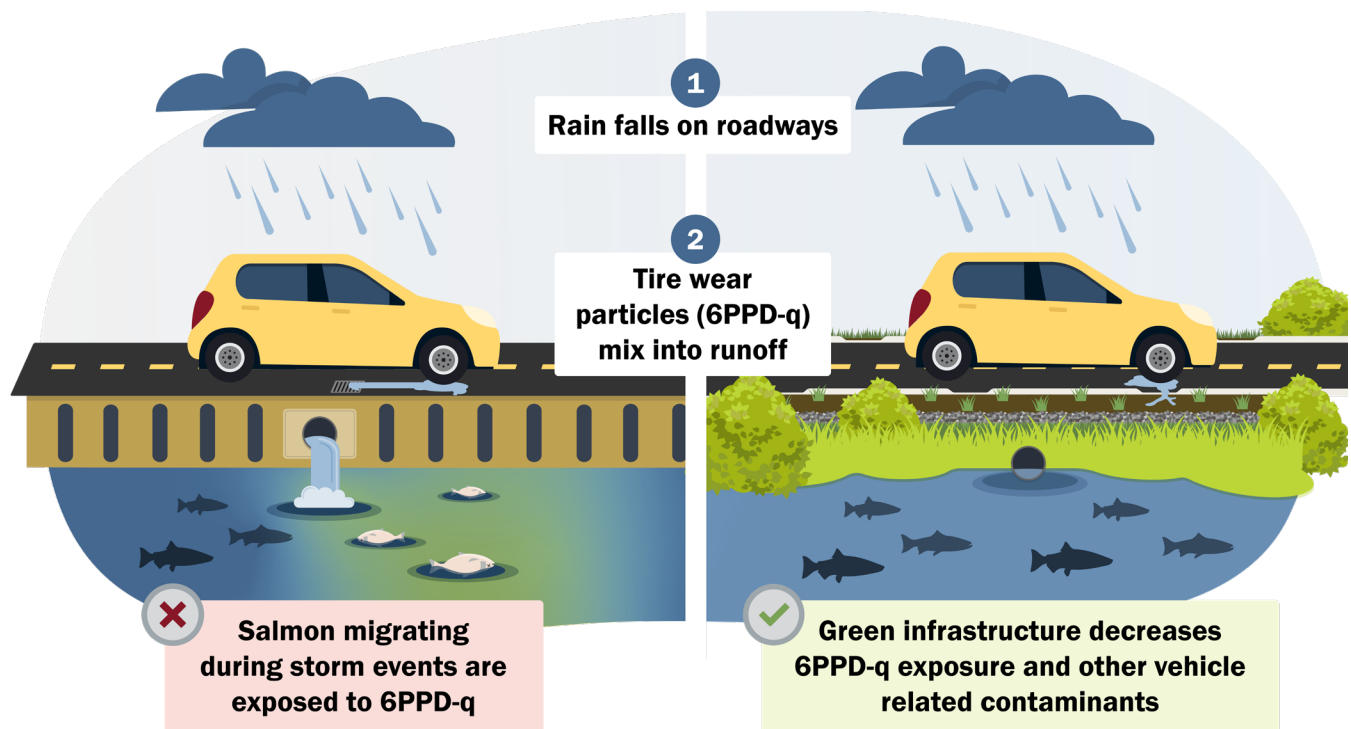
- **Watershed Resilience Action Plan for Snohomish** (Department of Natural Resources) – Fund the Snohomish watershed-scale salmon recovery plan. This includes kelp and eelgrass monitoring, large woody material installations, and fish passage barrier surveys and outreach.

(\$2.8 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)



Volunteers plant trees alongside streams in the Skagit River watershed. Trees are a critical part of the ecosystem, shading the river and keeping it cool for fish. Photo courtesy of Michelle Quast, Department of Ecology

How toxic tire wear chemical 6PPD-q enters salmon habitat



Department of Ecology

Invest in clean water for salmon and people

Salmon and people need clean water to survive. That's why the governor is prioritizing funding to reduce toxins in stormwater, improve stormwater infrastructure and support wastewater investments.

One of Inslee's highest-priority proposals this biennium will address the toxic chemical 6PPD-quinone, created when a commonly used chemical in tires interacts with ozone. This chemical runs into streams when it rains, entering the bloodstream of coho salmon and killing them. Scientists only recently identified this specific chemical, found in almost every automobile tire.

- **Tire dust in stormwater** (Department of Ecology)
 - Continue research to better monitor and understand 6PPD's persistence in the environment, and identify effective best management practices

to treat 6PPD and other tire wear chemicals in stormwater runoff.

(\$5.2 million MTCA Operating Account)

- **Toxic tire wear chemical** (Department of Ecology)
 - Develop a strategy and recommendations to eliminate 6PPD in tires. Funding also continues work from the previous biennium to expand research into safer alternatives to 6PPD and conduct alternative assessments for possible replacement chemicals.

(\$2.7 million MTCA Operating Account)

- **Emerging toxics in Chinook salmon and Southern Resident killer whale** (Department of Fish and Wildlife)
 - Track contaminants of emerging concern, including 6PPD-quinone, in the orca-salmon food web.

(\$4.8 million MTCA Operating Account)

The governor also proposes investments to accelerate improvements to water quality by addressing stormwater runoff and promoting good wastewater management.

- **Address nonpoint pollution** (Department of Ecology) – Enhance technical assistance to landowners, help promote best management practices and increase the timeliness of the state’s water quality assessment to improve nonpoint pollution control.

(\$2.3 million MTCA Operating Account)

- **Municipal wastewater permitting** (Department of Ecology) – Increase administrative capacity to reduce the backlog of expired municipal wastewater permits.

(\$5 million MTCA Operating Account)

- **Stormwater Financial Assistance program** (Department of Ecology) – Fund grants to local governments to finance stormwater retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater. This reduces toxics and other pollution entering marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers and groundwater.

(\$68 million MTCA Stormwater Account)

- **Stormwater public-private partnerships** (Department of Ecology) – Support technical assistance and competitive grants to help communities assess and develop stormwater projects.

(\$3 million MTCA Stormwater Account)

- **Stormwater retrofits** (Dept. of Transportation) – Funds best management practices to improve the collection and treatment of stormwater runoff on the state’s highways.

(\$20 million Move Ahead Washington Account)

Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat

Various human-made constructs block salmon from accessing large amounts of historic fish habitat. These include inaccessible culverts on roads and highways, and dams that limit important areas for rearing and spawning. The governor’s proposal expands state efforts to coordinate the correction of fish passage barriers, mitigate impacts of existing barriers, and prevent new barriers from occurring.

Remove fish passage barriers

The state already uses established capital grant programs to identify and remove impediments to salmon and steelhead migration. Inslee proposes to continue investing in these programs as well as reintroduction efforts in the Upper Columbia.

- **Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board** (Department of Fish and Wildlife) – Fund and implement the statewide barrier correction strategy to restore access to salmon habitat.

(\$27.3 million bonds, \$20.8 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

- **Family Forest Fish Passage program** (Recreation and Conservation Office) – Fund the ongoing grant program that provides financial assistance to family forest landowners to correct fish passage barriers.

(\$10.9 million Natural Climate Solutions Account)

- **Toutle River fish collection facility upgrades** (Department of Fish and Wildlife) – Fund improvements to the collection and transport of Endangered Species Act-listed coho salmon and steelhead to historic spawning habitat upstream of the Toutle River sediment retention structure.

(\$17.3 million bonds)

- **Hood Canal bridge fish passage improvements:**

The design of the Hood Canal bridge results in the death of 50% of juvenile steelhead passing through it. The Recreation and Conservation Office will provide a one-time grant to install and assess a near-term solution to reduce juvenile steelhead mortality.

(\$3.6 million GF-S)

- **Analyze new electrical generation and transmission for lower Snake River dam removal**

(Department of Commerce) - Earlier this year, Inslee and Sen. Patty Murray released a study determining that the lower Snake River dams could not be removed until clean energy alternatives can be developed to replace the power these dams generate. The governor's budget provides funding to develop a detailed replacement plan. This plan would lay out how to maintain the reliability and adequacy of the existing electrical power system, will be consistent with the Clean Energy Transformation Act, and can replace fossil fuels currently used in the transportation, industry and buildings sectors.

(\$5 million GF-S)

- **Analyze barge transportation options for the lower Snake River dams**

(Department of Transportation) - Funds the Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of highway, road and freight rail transportation needs and options to accommodate the movement of freight and goods that currently move by barge through the lower Snake River dams. This analysis will evaluate existing freight volumes and traffic patterns as well as infrastructure needs, including costs, if the dams were removed.

(\$5 million Motor Vehicle Account)

- **Upper Columbia River reintroduction:** A priority action in the strategy is to reintroduce salmon above dams and other human-caused barriers. This better meets native peoples' cultural and spiritual values, honors treaty rights, supports recovery

efforts, and increases cultural and economic benefits for all Washingtonians. The upper Columbia tribes will be able to access grants to continue salmon reintroduction efforts in the upper Columbia River.

(\$3 million GF-S)

Prevent future barriers

In addition to correcting barriers, it is important to invest in how we can plan and improve regulations to prevent future barriers. To help, the governor proposes the following:

- **Fish passage rulemaking:** WDFW will complete rulemaking for fishways, flow, and screening to protect fish passage when rivers and streams are modified for human uses.

(\$388,000 GF-S)

- **Statewide prioritization of barriers:** Continue work by the WDFW to prioritize fish passage barrier correction projects. This work will maximize salmon recovery efforts, integrate with regional organization barrier prioritization, and coordinate projects with the state's schedule for culvert corrections.

(\$584,000 GF-S)

- **Fish passage maintenance team:** Fishways and fish screens are required to provide safe passage for migrating fish. Hundreds of state, federal, and



*Riparian salmon habitat along Icicle Creek near Leavenworth.
(Photo courtesy of Mark Duboiski)*

private fishways and fish screens provide passage for millions of migratory fish. WDFW owns 100 fishways that provide access to 1,768 miles of spawning and rearing habitat, and over 100 fish screens that protect downstream migrating fish. The department will increase its capacity to operate and maintain state fish passage facilities and to provide technical assistance.

(\$3.6 million GF-S)

Protect and manage our state's waters

Climate change has, and will continue to alter where, when and how much water is available – it will increase the frequency of both drought and flooding events. Inslee proposes the following investments to help ensure we have adequate supplies to support communities, agriculture, our natural environment, ecosystem and aquatic species.

- **Drought preparedness and response** (Department of Ecology) – Through agency-request legislation, permanently fund drought planning and preparation to help communities develop resiliency to the effects of climate change, while also providing permanent and ongoing resources to support Ecology's effective emergency response to droughts when they occur.
(\$5.5 million GF-S)
- **Streamflow Restoration program** (Department of Ecology) – Continue the Streamflow Restoration program by funding projects to acquire senior water rights, promote water conservation and water reuse, monitor streams and groundwater, and develop natural and constructed infrastructure to improve in-stream flows statewide.
(\$40 million bonds)
- **Streamflow policy support** (Department of Fish and Wildlife) - The department will continue to provide policy and scientific support to the Department of Ecology regarding surface and

groundwater resource management issues with a focus on fish and wildlife needs for adequate instream flows.

(\$1.0 million GF-S)

- **Water Irrigation Efficiencies program** (Conservation Commission) – Fund projects to improve the efficiency of how water is delivered and applied on agricultural lands.
(\$6 million bonds)

Some river basins have unique challenges that require a concerted and collaborative approach to addressing water management. Inslee supports the following basin-specific efforts to develop integrated water strategies:

- **Colombia River Basin Water Supply** (Department of Ecology) – Continue implementing the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development program to deliver additional water supplies for agricultural purposes, meet the water needs for growing communities, and improve streamflow conditions for fish and other wildlife.
(\$42.4 million bonds, \$1.5 million other)
- **Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Water Supply** (Department of Ecology) – Continue implementing the Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan to provide comprehensive, long-term water resources. This includes a habitat improvement program to address the environmental and economic demands that support basin wildlife, irrigation and municipal water supplies.
(\$42 million bonds)
- **Chehalis strategy implementation** (Department of Ecology) – Support the long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration plan in the Chehalis River basin.
(\$70 million bonds)

- **Nooksack Basin flood prevention** (Department of Ecology) – Support state, provincial, tribal and local government planning to reduce flood hazards and restore ecosystem function in the Nooksack Basin and Sumas Prairie. Funding will also support project development and implementation to reduce flood risk in communities.

(\$3.9 million GF-S)

- **Upper Columbia and Nooksack adjudications** (Department of Ecology) – Prepare and file water right adjudications in the upper Columbia River (Water Resource Inventory Area 58) and Nooksack (Water Resource Inventory Area 1) watersheds. Adjudications resolve water right disputes by determining who has the legal right to use water, and the priority and quantity of each right.

(\$4.3 million GF-S)

- **Walla Walla 2050 water management plan** (Department of Ecology) – Proposed legislation would authorize projects that improve water supplies to benefit in-stream resources and out-of-stream uses. The proposal would coordinate efforts to implement the Walla Walla 2050 water management plan.

Align harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery

Harvest management

Preventing overharvest of commercial and recreational fisheries is key to rebuilding critically low stocks and meeting the state's co-management responsibilities with Washington tribes. Inslee's budget creates a robust monitoring program to ensure recreational and commercial salmon and steelhead harvests are within permit limits. This would also demonstrate accountability on the state's share of salmon harvest and ramp up enforcement and prosecution of fisheries crimes.



Children watch salmon at Spring Creek Fish Hatchery (Photo -USFWS)

The governor proposes the following harvest management investments this biennium:

- **Fisheries enforcement compliance:** Fund additional WDFW enforcement officers to increase fishery compliance since officers are encountering more recreational harvesters than ever before and find that many take more salmon than allowed.
(\$2.7 million GF-S)
- **Salmon and steelhead monitoring:** Continue work by WDFW to improve Puget Sound steelhead spawning estimates. Funding would also help the state continue monitoring salmon migration to inform recreational fishery management decisions.
(\$1.6 million GF-S)
- **Building salmon team capacity:** Salmon harvest management requires extensive data and modeling to understand fisheries impact and maintain fishing opportunities. Ongoing funding is provided to WDFW to provide additional analysis to better inform fisheries co-management negotiations with federal and tribal partners.
(\$680,000 GF-S)

Hatcheries

State hatcheries provide fish for harvest and help meet tribal treaty obligations. Inslee's budget proposal provides additional investments in hatcheries. This includes additional ongoing hatchery maintenance funding and one-time support of fish production at the Toutle and Skamania River hatcheries resulting from shortfall in federal Mitchell Act funding. It also includes extending a grant to the Lummi Tribe for improvements at the Skookum hatchery. (\$4.5 million GF-S)

Inslee's budget also funds the design and permitting for construction of a new hatchery on the Deschutes River in Thurston County to increase Chinook salmon production in South Puget Sound. (\$12 million bonds)

Address predation and food web issues for salmon

As people modified habitat, they upset the food webs, the interconnected food chains in an ecosystem. Food webs became more accommodating to predators

and more hostile to salmon. Managing predators is a complicated issue, confounded by scientific uncertainty and ethical issues. Consider California sea lions, which are protected under federal law, yet have greatly increased their numbers in Washington. Pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) take full advantage of dams, fishways, and other habitat modifications to eat large amounts of juvenile and adult salmon.

The following investments implement the governor's priority to reduce impacts from predators such as seals and sea lions:

- **Columbia River pinniped predation:** Fund work by the WDFW to reduce the high number of sea lions eating salmon in the Columbia River. (\$1.5 million GF-S)
- **Salish Sea marine mammal surveys:** Expand Department of Fish and Wildlife surveys of diets of seals and sea lions in the Salish Sea and identify nonlethal actions to deter them from eating salmon and steelhead. (\$940,000 GF-S)



Salmon strategic agenda

Summary of investments, 2023-2025 operating and capital budgets

Proposal	Agency	Amount
PROTECT AND RESTORE VITAL SALMON HABITAT		
Regulatory protection		
Growth Management Act update for salmon habitat	Commerce	\$5,494,000
Riparian management		
Riparian program evaluation	Office of Financial Management	\$480,000
Integrated science hub for agriculture	Conservation Commission	\$1,250,000
Riparian public education	Conservation Commission	\$2,000,000
Voluntary Stewardship Program monitoring	Conservation Commission	\$1,420,000
Riparian systems assessment	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,994,000
River migration and stream mapping for salmon	Ecology	\$354,000
Statewide lidar acquisition and refresh	Natural Resources	\$7,756,000
Riparian coordinator	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$398,000
Voluntary protection and restoration		
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$25,492,200
Floodplains by Design	Ecology	\$49,800,000
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program	Puget Sound Partnership	\$50,000,000
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$115,000,000
Salmon recovery region and lead entity capacity	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$4,472,000
Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$17,563,000
Duckabush-Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project	Fish and Wildlife	\$71,000,000
Watershed Resilience Action Plan for Snohomish	Natural Resources	\$2,864,000

Restoration of habitat on working lands		
Riparian Conservation Grant Program	Conservation Commission	\$100,000,000
Conservation technical assistance	Conservation Commission	\$10,000,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	Conservation Commission	\$15,000,000
Forest Riparian Easement Program	Natural Resources	\$10,000,000
Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program	Natural Resources	\$5,020,000
Salmon Riparian Restoration Program	Conservation Commission	\$3,000,000
Reforestation Strategy	Natural Resources	\$2,066,000
Subtotal:		\$502,423,200
INVEST IN CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SALMON AND PEOPLE		
Toxics reduction		
Tire dust in stormwater	Ecology	\$5,195,000
Toxic tire wear chemical	Ecology	\$2,702,000
Emerging toxics in Chinook salmon and Southern Resident killer whale	Fish and Wildlife	\$4,816,000
Stormwater and wastewater infrastructure improvements		
Addressing nonpoint pollution	Ecology	\$2,256,000
Municipal wastewater permitting	Ecology	\$5,002,000
Stormwater Financial Assistance Program	Ecology	\$68,000,000
Stormwater public-private partnerships	Ecology	\$3,000,000
Stormwater retrofits	Transportation	\$20,000,000
Subtotal:		\$110,971,000

CORRECT FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS AND RESTORE SALMON ACCESS TO HISTORICAL HABITAT		
Fish passage barrier removal		
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	Fish and Wildlife	\$48,146,000
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$10,870,000
Toutle River fish collection facility upgrades	Fish and Wildlife	\$17,321,000
Hood Canal Bridge Fish Passage	Recreation and Conservation Office	\$3,600,000
Analyze new electrical generation and transmission for Lower Snake River dam removal	Commerce	\$5,000,000
Analyze of barge transportation options for the lower Snake River dams	Transportation	\$5,000,000
Reintroduction		
Upper Columbia River reintroduction	Fish and Wildlife	\$3,000,000
Preventing future fish passage barriers		
Fish passage rulemaking	Fish and Wildlife	\$388,000
Statewide barrier prioritization	Fish and Wildlife	\$584,000
Fish Passage Maintenance Team	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,482,000
	Subtotal:	\$95,391,000
PROTECT AND MANAGE OUR STATE'S WATERS		
Streamflow policy support	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,037,000
Streamflow Restoration Program	Ecology	\$40,000,000
Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program	Conservation Commission	\$3,000,000
Columbia River Water Supply Development Program	Ecology	\$43,850,000
Drought preparedness and response	Ecology	\$5,500,000
Upper Columbia and Nooksack adjudications	Ecology	\$4,274,000
Yakima Basin Integrated Plan Water Supply	Ecology	\$42,000,000
	Subtotal:	\$139,661,000

ALIGN HARVEST, HATCHERIES, AND HYDROPOWER WITH SALMON RECOVERY		
Harvest management		
Fisheries enforcement compliance	Fish and Wildlife	\$2,714,000
Salmon and steelhead monitoring	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,644,000
Building Salmon Team capacity	Fish and Wildlife	\$680,000
Hatchery investments		
Toutle and Skamania River hatcheries	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,896,000
Support of tribal hatcheries	Fish and Wildlife	\$900,000
Critical infrastructure maintenance	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,771,000
Deschutes River Hatchery	Fish and Wildlife	\$12,000,000
Subtotal:		\$21,605,000
ADDRESS PREDATION AND FOOD WEB ISSUES FOR SALMON		
Pinniped management		
Columbia River pinniped predation	Fish and Wildlife	\$1,506,000
Salish Sea marine mammal surveys	Fish and Wildlife	\$940,000
Subtotal:		\$2,446,000
Total:		\$872,497,200

117TH CONGRESS End-of-Session Review

Federal actions for Puget Sound recovery in the National Defense Authorization Act and omnibus appropriations package

Puget Sound Recovery Governance and Funding

- ▶ Creates a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), putting national focus on Puget Sound recovery at the same level as other nationally significant water bodies, such as the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.
 - » Creates an office through which the federal government may direct future appropriations.
 - » Coordinates, aligns, and tracks Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) activities with the Action Agenda, Salmon Recovery Plans, the Treaty Rights at Risk Initiative, and the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program.
 - » Serves as a connection with Canadian government for Salish Sea restoration and protection.
- ▶ Codifies the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, a framework to align the resources and knowledge of federal agencies – in coordination with both state and tribal partners – with a common mission to uphold tribal treaty rights and restore and protect Puget Sound.
- ▶ Sends **\$54 million annually** for the EPA's Puget Sound Geographic Program, a \$19 million increase over the previous fiscal year and nearly double the amount from three years ago, to fund projects related to the Puget Sound Action Agenda. These projects improve water quality, restore habitat for salmon and other species, and protect shorelines.
- ▶ Directs at least **\$850,000 annually** to the Puget Sound National Estuary Program, a \$100,000 increase over the previous fiscal year.
- ▶ Provides **\$2.5 million** for competitive grants for National Estuary Programs, a \$500,000 increase over the previous fiscal year
- ▶ Provides **\$3 million** for the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative.

Investing in salmon recovery

- ▶ Directs **\$72 million** to NMFS to conduct science and management for protected Pacific Salmon species, a \$5 million increase over the previous fiscal year. At least \$6 million must be used to address the backlog of Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans.
- ▶ Directs **\$65 million** to NMFS to capitalize the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (same level from the previous year) to help prevent extinction of listed salmonid species.

- ▶ Directs **\$41 million** for NMFS to conduct Pacific Salmon Treaty activities, a \$1.5 million increase over the previous fiscal year. Treaty activities include protecting and expanding spawning habitat, increasing hatchery production, and carrying out conservation efforts to prevent overfishing and maximize production.

Expanding and accelerating Fisheries Resource Disaster Relief

- ▶ Makes it easier to declare fisheries disasters and send out disaster relief funds and expands the uses of that funding to include hatcheries and habitat restoration.
- ▶ Directs **\$300 million** to NMFS to provide Fisheries Disaster Assistance (keeps the level established in the CARES Act) to support fishing families affected by cancelled crab and salmon harvest, including the 2019 Puget Sound salmon fishery.

Protecting Southern Resident orcas

- ▶ Creates a "Whale Desk," manned by the Coast Guard in Puget Sound, to warn ships when whales are present. The Whale Desk will combine data streams on whale locations and sends that information – along with information about seasonal no-go zones and speed limits – to vessels so they can take proper action.
- ▶ Creates a new grant program to fund efforts that reduce threats to marine mammals from vessel traffic.
- ▶ Prioritizes support for projects that deal with threats to marine mammals listed under the Endangered Species Act, such as the Southern Resident orcas.
- ▶ Directs the Maritime Administration to study technology and best management practices for reducing underwater noise from vessels.
- ▶ Creates a new grant program to study basic levels and trends in the underwater soundscape to protect marine life.
- ▶ Directs **\$2.25 million** to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to support the recovery of the Southern Resident orcas, a \$250,000 increase over the previous fiscal year.

Investigating toxic tire-wear particles

- ▶ Directs federal agencies to analyze the science and management recommendations related to tire related chemicals (like 6PPD-Quinone) and their effects on Pacific salmon at ports.
- ▶ Includes **\$1 million** for the Center for Urban Waters in Tacoma to continue work on protecting salmon from toxic chemicals like 6PPD-Quinone.

Providing fish passage for the Howard Hanson Dam

- ▶ **\$878 million** (including money already allocated) for the construction of downstream fish passage at the Howard Hanson Dam, opening at least 100 miles of prime salmon and steelhead habitat.

Restoring the Duckabush Estuary

- ▶ Requires the Army Corps to consider the costs of highway removal and replacement for the Duckabush Estuary restoration project as eligible for cost sharing with the state, potentially reducing the state's funding obligations.
- ▶ Includes **\$6 million** for the Army Corps to do initial work on the project, including culvert replacement, creosote piling removal, and other habitat landscape restoration measures.

Restoring the Green/Duwamish Watershed

- ▶ Directs **\$2 million** to the Army Corps to help implement the Green/Duwamish River Ecosystem Restoration Project (ERP). This project includes 20 restoration projects spanning the tidal estuaries to the spawning and wildlife habitat areas in the upper basin.

Improving water flows in the Dungeness River

- ▶ Sends **\$2.72 million** to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help advance the Dungeness Flow Restoration & Aquifer Recharge Off-channel Reservoir Project, which will ensure enough water flows in the Dungeness River for listed salmon and steelhead species.

Analyzing issues at the Ballard Locks

- ▶ Directs the Army Corps to study possible changes to the Ballard Locks, including fish ladder improvements and efforts to fix high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels.

Providing Clean Water

- ▶ Invests **\$1.6 billion** in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, including for clean water-related "Community Project Funding" such as:
 - » **\$1.02 million** from EPA to Mountains to Sound Greenway for in-stream restoration and large woody material installations along a stretch of Issaquah Creek in Lake Sammamish State Park.

- » **\$1.5 million** from EPA to the Town of Steilacoom to support uncovering and restoring Garrison Springs Creek.
- » **\$2 million** from EPA to the City of Oak Harbor to support a program that corrects excess water flow, allowing the city to repair leaky mainlines and avoid sewage overflows into Puget Sound.
- » **\$3 million** from EPA to Jefferson County to support construction of the Port Hadlock Sewer Project.

Reducing permit backlogs

- ▶ Directs **\$2 million** to NMFS (in collaboration with the Army Corps) to address a backlog of consultation requests for permits for in-water construction and to increase outreach and communication efforts.

Valuing the contributions of the "Blue Economy"

- ▶ Directs federal agencies to start a program that gauges and tracks the economic value of marine waters. This will include the values of Puget Sound priorities such as living resources; tourism; recreation; subsistence, commercial, recreational, and charter fishing; and shellfish farming.

Aiding efforts to address aquatic nuisance species

- ▶ Gives technical aid and advice to state and tribal agencies that inspect and decontaminate recreational vessels to manage and control aquatic invasive species.

Enhancing conservation on military bases

- ▶ Expands conservation programs on military bases to include natural and nature-based features to promote resilience. Makes invasive species management programs permanent.

Supporting Marine Science and Career Development

- ▶ Invests **\$80 million** for the National Sea Grant College Program, a \$4 million increase over the previous fiscal year.

Supporting the National Wildlife Refuge System

- ▶ Directs **\$260.5 million** to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for wildlife and habitat management actions at National Wildlife Refuges, an \$11 million increase over the previous fiscal year.

PUGET SOUND GEOGRAPHIC FUNDING