

WRIA 8 Legislative Priorities Update

Salmon Recovery Council – March 16, 2023



2023 State Legislative Session

- Session ends April 24
- Legislative cutoffs: 2/17, 2/24, 3/8, 3/29 (bills must pass out of policy committee in opposite house)
- Few salmon recovery related bills remain “alive”:
 - **HB 1181** – Improving the state’s climate response through updates to comprehensive planning under GMA
 - **HB 1378 / SB 5433** – Concerning the removal of derelict aquatic structures and restoration of aquatic lands
 - **SB 5104** – Puget Sound shorelines monitoring (Status: Passed policy committee and fiscal committee)
- Proposed legislation related to supporting riparian area protection and restoration is not moving forward, but funding elements may become a budget proviso



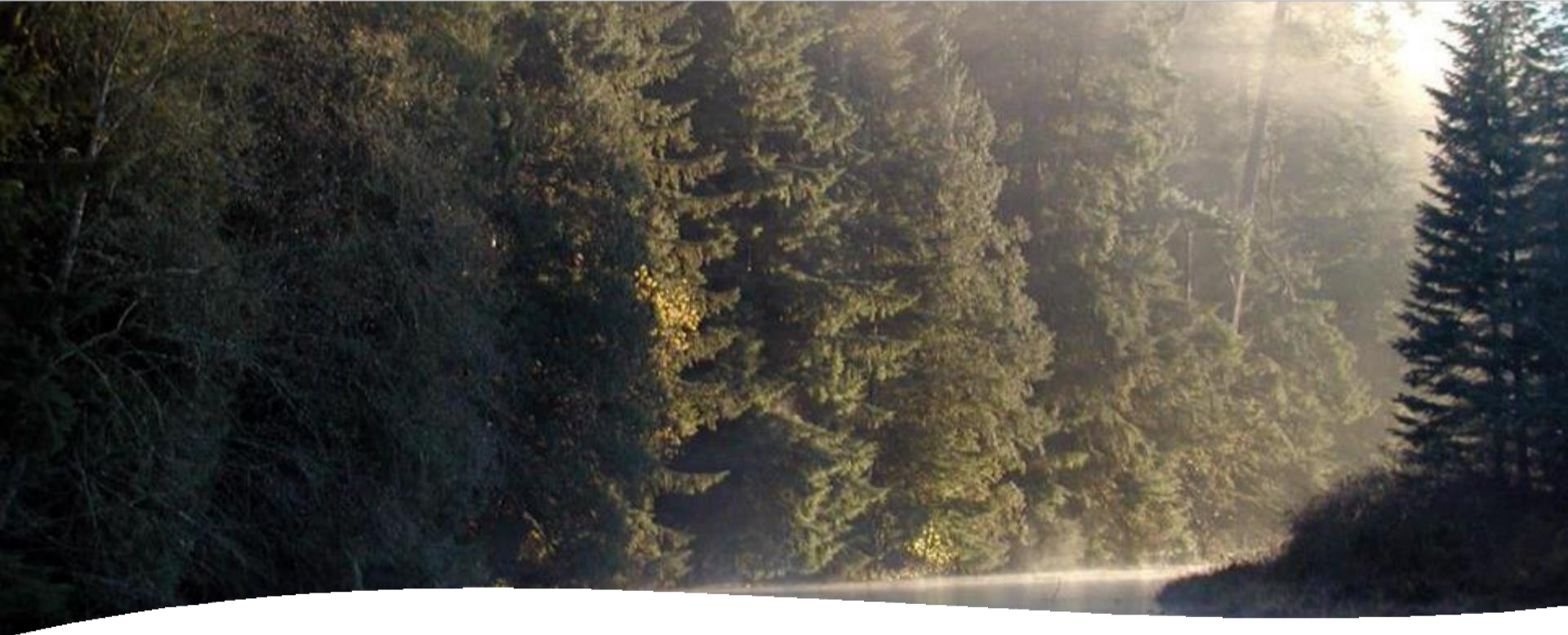
Budget Priorities

- WRIA 8 letters to Governor and state legislators supported key capital grant funding programs and operating budget priorities.
- Anticipate budget House and Senate budgets soon after March 20
- Proposed budget provisos support key priorities:
 - \$1.4M to support managing predation on salmon in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish
 - \$365,000 to support reducing impacts of predation and lighting on salmon survival in Lake Sammamish and Lake Washington
 - New funding for riparian area protection and restoration (**tentative*)
- Now's the time for additional support!



Federal Priorities

- Fiscal Year 2023
 - Approved National Defense Authorization Act, supports several WRIA 8 priorities
- Fiscal Year 2024 – Continuing to seek support for...
 - \$70M for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (increase from \$65M)
 - \$1.5M for Army Corps of Engineers to conduct feasibility study of Ballard Locks modifications:
 - Fish ladder improvements
 - Addressing elevated temperature and low dissolved oxygen conditions
 - Funding for remaining critical Locks infrastructure repairs (~\$25M)
- Congressional appropriations requests and participation in Puget Sound Day on the Hill



Questions??

