Federal Priorities

- **Support** at least $110 million in base funding for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The PCSRF program is the primary federal funding for salmon recovery and supports annual grants for priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.

- **Support funding** to advance design and construction of critical prioritized infrastructure repairs to the Hiram M. Chittenden (Ballard) Locks, including design and construction of an exclusion structure for the saltwater drain intake system to keep adult salmon from becoming trapped and important upgrades and improvements to the fish ladder. **Advocate for the Corps’ continued engagement in the multi-partner Lake Washington Ship Canal Roundtable process to identify and advance alternatives to address elevated water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen in the Ship Canal.**

- **Support** key Puget Sound restoration funding programs and policy priorities, including:
  - **$57 million for Puget Sound Geographic Program** in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This program provides key funding to support Puget Sound recovery priorities, implementation of voluntary actions, and adaptive management. Funding supports local and regional partner efforts, including ten local integrating organizations and seven Marine Resources Committees. The program supports innovative approaches to addressing stormwater, habitat, shellfish, flooding, water quality and quantity, and endangered species recovery, including Chinook salmon and Southern Resident orcas.
  - **$50 million for National Estuary Program (NEP).** This is core program funding for Puget Sound Partnership and for competitive grants supporting implementation of priority Puget Sound recovery actions.

- **Support** directing funding from the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act to priority habitat restoration and water infrastructure improvements in WRIA 8 and Puget Sound. Several salmon recovery related priorities are identified for funding through recent federal investments. Aligning this funding with state and local project priorities and/or to flow through existing state programs supports and supplements existing salmon recovery priorities.
• Support innovative efforts to streamline regulatory review and permitting to support habitat restoration project implementation.

• Support federal funding for research and management of stormwater to reduce impacts to salmon. Stormwater is the largest source of pollution to the Puget Sound and much of the developed landscape does not have stormwater treatment. Chemicals from decaying tires, specifically 6PPD-quinone affect coho, Chinook, sockeye and steelhead. In particular, coho have been shown to be most sensitive and succumb to “urban runoff mortality syndrome” within hours of exposure. Federal funding is needed to support local governments in implementing critical stormwater retrofit projects to capture and treat toxic runoff. Federal infrastructure funding provides a once in a generation opportunity to effectively address stormwater management.

• Support and create mechanisms to enable innovative funding approaches, including public-private partnerships, that engage federal agencies and private funding sources to implement projects, especially those under federal authority.

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**State Priorities**

**Supplemental Budget Requests**

• **Support $62 million for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board** to fully fund the agency request in the 2023-2025 biennium capital budget and implement critical salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.

• **Support $11.2 million for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program** to fully fund the agency request in the 2023-2025 biennium and restore priority shoreline and nearshore habitats critical to salmon and other species.

• **Direct funding from State Climate Commitment Act – Natural Climate Solutions Account** *(RCW 70A.65.270)* to support:
  
  o **Salmon habitat protection and restoration**, including shorelines, riparian areas, and floodplains. Protecting and restoring salmon habitat mitigates impacts of climate change by addressing elevated water temperatures, improving groundwater recharge, reducing flood risk, and protecting against sea level rise. Directly fund existing salmon habitat protection and restoration programs, including Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Floodplains by Design, riparian restoration, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, and Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board.
  
  o **Regional stormwater management goals as defined by the King County Stormwater Summit**, including: 1) Stormwater parks that treat polluted stormwater runoff, reduce water temperatures to support fish survival, and enhance access to open space and recreation opportunities in underserved areas; and, 2) Construction and operation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) projects that reduce flood risks, reduce water pollution, and enhance green spaces in historically underserved communities.
Policy Legislation

• **Support state agency budget requests for monitoring salmon populations, and for studies and management of issues affecting salmon survival**, including predation, elevated water temperatures, artificial light at night, disease, and other issues.

• **Support innovative efforts to streamline regulatory review and permitting to support habitat restoration project implementation.** Build on the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the federal and state Multi-Agency Review Team to establish and support a coordinated and streamlined permitting process for ecologically beneficial projects.

• **Support legislation seeking to improve regulatory protections for important salmon habitat**, including proposals to define and implement “net ecological gain,” and regulatory improvements that enhance protection of riparian areas and lake and marine shorelines.

• **Support increasing funding to regulatory entities for permit enforcement of land use regulations.** Lack of adequate regulatory permit enforcement enables continued unpermitted development and loss of habitat and critical areas.

• **Support Growth Management Act reforms that integrate salmon recovery and climate change into comprehensive planning** and align with salmon recovery goals and targets.

• **Support legislation and funding requests promoting stormwater management planning, coordination, and implementation at a watershed scale, addressing critical data/information needs, and seeking 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. Champion legislation that prioritizes implementation of low impact development, facilitates green stormwater infrastructure, and that supports retrofits to older stormwater facilities to improve protection of the environment at the watershed scale.
  o Seek a dedicated funding source for local government stormwater retrofits.
  o Create a new funding source or modify an existing one to support multiple benefit stormwater projects that integrate stormwater management and salmon habitat restoration (modeled on the Floodplains by Design funding program)

• **Support efforts to address effects of climate change on salmon and salmon habitat.** WRIA 8 recognizes that recovering salmon requires planning for and adapting to changing watershed conditions resulting from climate change. WRIA 8 supports policies and programs that address temperature impaired water bodies to improve salmon migration and survival, increase the pace of salmon habitat protection and restoration to improve ecosystem resiliency, and that mitigate projected effects of climate change on salmon.
• Align investments in equity and environmental justice with salmon recovery priorities to achieve benefits for salmon populations and human communities.

• **Support outreach, education, and stewardship projects and programs** that raise awareness, empower the next generation to continue salmon recovery and climate change mitigation work, and promote and engage private landowners in using best available science to guide decisions in how they manage their property to protect and restore important habitats and improve environmental conditions.

• **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.