



Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed 2024 Legislative Priorities

FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

Downstream fish passage facility at Howard A. Hanson Dam

Fish passage at Howard A. Hanson Dam (HAHD) will restore access to approximately 40% of the historical salmon habitat within the watershed and represents one of the single largest potential salmon habitat gains in Puget Sound for supporting Puget Sound Chinook salmon and southern resident orca whale recovery. Support necessary funding and potential policy changes to ensure design and construction remains on track for the 2030 deadline.

Federal salmon and Puget Sound Recovery Funding Programs

Federal programs play a key role in helping Washington fund implementation of recovery plans and complements other state initiatives to improve salmon habitat.

- **\$70 million - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)** in the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. PCSRF supports state and tribal recovery efforts for Pacific salmon and steelhead in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. The PCSRF program is the primary federal funding for salmon recovery and supports annual grants for priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.
- **\$54 million - Puget Sound Geographic Program funds** in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency budget. The program funds local and regional Puget Sound recovery efforts and 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 – National Estuary Program (NEP)** funds supports core funding for 26 estuary restoration programs nationwide, including Puget Sound Partnership and its Local Integrating Organizations.

FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

Advance Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Solutions

Stormwater runoff continues to be recognized as one of – if not the top – threat to aquatic ecosystems. Federal funding is critical to supporting local governments in implementing stormwater retrofits and green infrastructure projects to address both lethal and sublethal impacts to salmon, including coho mortality events observed across urbanized portions of the Puget Sound. Advancing research funding and policy/product changes to address impacts of the tire dust chemical 6PPD-quinone on salmon survival is needed to ensure long-term viability of salmon in urbanized watersheds.

Mitigate Impacts of Climate Change on Salmon

Climate resilient watersheds benefit local communities and salmon. Projected climate change impacts will adversely impact local communities and native salmonids across Puget Sound. Achieving science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets will be critical to minimizing the severity of projected climate shifts. Support policies and investments that enhance watershed resiliency and mitigate the negative impacts associated with the projected increases in both regional temperatures and extreme weather events.