

# Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed 2026 Legislative Priorities

## FEDERAL BUDGET PRIORITIES – Fiscal Year 2027

### Downstream fish passage facility at Howard A. Hanson Dam (HAHD)

Support necessary funding for the U.S. Army Corps to ensure design and construction remains on track for the 2030 deadline. Meeting this deadline is critical to advancing regional water security and salmon recovery efforts. Fish passage at HAHD will restore access to more than 100 miles of salmon spawning and rearing habitat and represents one of the single largest potential habitat gains for Puget Sound Chinook salmon and southern resident orca whale recovery.

### 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.

- **\$110 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.
- **\$57 million - Puget Sound Geographic Program funds** in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency budget. The program funds local and regional Puget Sound recovery efforts (e.g., Marine Resources Committees) and supports innovative approaches to addressing stormwater, habitat, shellfish, flooding, water quality and quantity, and endangered species recovery.
- **\$50 million – National Estuary Program** funds support core funding for 26 estuary restoration programs nationwide, including the Puget Sound Partnership and associated recovery grants.
- **\$1.3 million – WA State Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs)** in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service budget. RFEGs are critical to community-driven salmon recovery efforts, creating thousands of jobs and spurring millions of dollars in economic development.

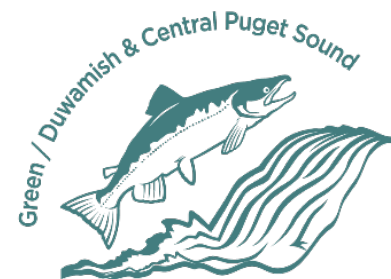
## FEDERAL POLICY PRIORITIES

### Streamline National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) Regulatory Review

Work with Federal Emergency Management Agency on ways to accelerate salmon projects by reducing the regulatory burden associated with NFIP review – especially those with willing landowners that pose no adverse impact to existing insurable structures. No-rise analysis requirements resulted in an average project delay of 17 months and postponed expenditure of \$128.5 million in federal funding.

### Advance Stormwater Solutions

Advancing research and policy changes to address impacts of the tire dust chemical 6PPD-quinone on salmon survival is also needed to ensure long-term viability of salmon in urbanized watersheds.



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