

Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed 2022 State Legislative Priorities

GOVERNOR'S SALMON PACKAGE

A multiyear legislative push around salmon recovery would accelerate and amplify conservation and restoration efforts to make to significant progress towards recovery goals for Puget Sound Chinook.

- Support priorities outlined in the Governor's Washington State Salmon Recovery Package, which we understand will reflect the following topics;
 1. Invest in clean water infrastructure
 2. Protect and restore vital salmon habitat
 3. Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat
 4. Build climate resiliency

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING

Salmon recovery needs continue to outpace available funding, and additional funding is necessary to accelerate progress towards regional recovery goals.

- Improve funding authorities that support salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration and/or pursue new watershed-based or regional funding authorities to accelerate implementation of multi-benefit projects.

FISH PASSAGE BARRIER REMOVAL

Restoring access to historical salmon habitat (> 40% currently inaccessible) in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed is critical to long-term salmon recovery.

- Accelerate progress on fish barrier removal to restore access to potential salmon habitat. There is a growing recognition of the importance of restoring juvenile salmon access to non-natal tributaries that provide important juvenile rearing habitat.

STORMWATER

Stormwater retrofits and green infrastructure investments are necessary to address both lethal and sublethal impacts to salmon, including coho mortality events observed across urbanized portions of the watershed.

- Advance watershed scale coordination in stormwater management and accelerate investments in green stormwater infrastructure and retrofits to address the adverse impacts of stormwater pollution on salmon.

SEDIMENT CLEAN-UP

Reducing contaminant exposure pathways is needed to improve juvenile salmon marine survival and increase Chinook salmon productivity.

- Support funding to accelerate contaminated sediment clean-ups and source control efforts to reduce exposure pathways and increase early marine survival of salmon.

MONITORING & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Monitoring salmon populations is critical to understanding recovery progress and informing adaptive management.

- Support Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife requests for increased research and monitoring funding to improve tracking of recovery progress (e.g., fish in/fish out monitoring) and address priority knowledge gaps related to stressors impacting Green River Chinook salmon.



Please contact Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, at mgoehring@Kingcounty.gov or (206) 263-6826 for more information.

Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed 2022 State Legislative Priorities

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Improved watershed resiliency is needed to mitigate the impacts associated with the projected increases in both regional temperatures and extreme weather events that negatively impact salmon.

- Advance climate resiliency and adaptation planning to mitigate the effects of climate change on aquatic ecosystems and enhance watershed resiliency to projected shifts in regional climate.
- Support climate policies to achieve science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets and minimize the severity of climate change impacts on pacific salmon.

REGULATORY PROTECTIONS

Habitat protection is fundamental to long-term watershed restoration efforts to ensure ongoing development pressures do not undermine restoration efforts

- Improve regulatory protections and conservation incentives for important components of salmon habitat within the regulatory framework for shorelines and critical areas.



Please contact Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, at mgoehring@kingcounty.gov or (206) 263-6826 for more information.