



- Beaux Arts Village
- Bellevue
- Bothell
- Clyde Hill
- Edmonds
- Hunts Point
- Issaquah
- Kenmore
- Kent
- King County
- Kirkland
- Lake Forest Park
- Maple Valley
- Medina
- Mercer Island
- Mill Creek
- Mountlake Terrace
- Mukilteo
- Newcastle
- Redmond
- Renton
- Sammamish
- Seattle
- Shoreline
- Snohomish County
- Woodinville
- Yarrow Point

- Cedar River Council
- Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
- Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
- Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
- Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Mountains to Sound Greenway
- Northwest Marine Trade Association
- Sustainable Fisheries Foundation
- Trout Unlimited
- Water Tenders

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Washington Departments:
 - Ecology
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - Natural Resources
- Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
- King Conservation District

February 12, 2014



The Honorable “First” “Last”
 Washington State “Place”
 “Address”
 “PO Box”
 “City, State, Zip”

RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council State Legislative Priorities

Dear “Salutation” “Last”:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, I wish to share our enclosed priorities for the 2014 State Legislative session. The Legislature’s leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our efforts—and Washington State’s commitment—to protect and restore habitat for salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Thank you for supporting investments in the highest priorities for salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration in the 2013-2015 biennial budget. In particular, your support for funding the *Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration* program allows Puget Sound watersheds to maintain and enhance progress on science-based, locally-supported salmon habitat restoration. Additionally, funding the suite of projects that were part of the *Coordinated Investment in Puget Sound Floodplains* request was an efficient and effective way to support multiple benefit floodplain management projects that restore critical salmon habitat, reduce flood hazards, and improve water quality. We hope the Legislature continues to provide funding for these programs in the future.

In addition, *we support efforts to develop new watershed-based funding mechanisms that recognize the link between salmon recovery, water quality, and stormwater and floodplain management.* With salmon recovery funding continuing to be limited, alternative funding mechanisms focused on overall watershed health are vitally important in helping us achieve our salmon recovery goals.

While the Legislature has been a strong supporter and partner of salmon recovery projects, state funding to support the watershed-based salmon recovery “Lead Entity” organizations tasked with implementing recovery efforts has been reduced by nearly 50%. *We request the Legislature restore the state’s portion of Lead Entity funding.* These funds will match federal funding and position Washington State to be more competitive to receive a greater share of the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) to implement priority habitat protection and restoration projects throughout the state’s watersheds and local communities. State funding is provided in

The Honorable "First" "Last"
February 12, 2014
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the Recreation and Conservation Office's operating budget to match PCSRF funding from NOAA in each biennium.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making state budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon recovery and to restoring the health of Puget Sound.

If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 8, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Coordinator at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Phillips". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Larry Phillips
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Chair, Metropolitan King County Council

Enclosure

cc: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery
Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kunz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed
Coordinator



Legislative Priorities for Puget Sound Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Recovery

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Partners

Updated: January 2014

State Priorities

- **Thank state legislators for \$70 million for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund**, of which WRIA 8 received \$1.4 million to award as grants to implement the highest priority salmon habitat acquisition and restoration projects in our watershed.
 - In WRIA 8, this funding is assisting local partners to complete six high priority habitat acquisition and restoration projects (all projects have substantial local match):
 - Cedar River floodplain acquisition and relocation of residents out of harm's way to enable future floodplain restoration.
 - Issaquah Creek riparian and in-stream habitat restoration.
 - Nearshore creek daylighting and salt marsh restoration in Edmonds.
 - Little Bear Creek fish passage barrier removal in Woodinville.
 - Sammamish River side channel restoration design in Bothell.
 - A portion of this funding also supports local watershed capacity for project development and implementation.
- **Thank state legislators for continued funding for salmon recovery Lead Entities, and request the nearly 50% reduction in State funding for Lead Entities be restored as match for federal funding.** State funding is provided in the Recreation and Conservation Offices operating budget to match federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funding from NOAA in the 2013-2015 biennium. Over the past few years, the nearly 50% reduction in State funding has been backfilled through PCSRF funds; however, reinstating the State dollars would make

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Watershed Coordinator, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov • (206) 477-4780 • <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/>

Washington State more competitive with NOAA to receive a greater share of PCSRF funding. For the past 12 years, WRIA 8 has received a \$60,000 Lead Entity grant to support project development, grant coordination, and tracking implementation.

- **Support continued efforts to explore new watershed-based funding authorities to support multiple-benefit projects that address salmon habitat protection and restoration, water quality, stormwater management, and flood management.** Since 2011, recognizing the limited funding available to implement salmon recovery, WRIA 8 supported and participated in cross-watershed discussions to identify alternative funding mechanisms to implement multiple-benefit watershed priorities, including but not limited to salmon recovery habitat restoration, stormwater management, and flood management. These efforts and discussions are on-going and may result in future legislation.

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