



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  
 Woodway  
 Yarrow Point

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

Alderwood Water and Wastewater District  
 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 Washington Departments:  
 Ecology  
 Fish and Wildlife  
 Natural Resources  
 Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts  
 King Conservation District

November 3, 2016

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
 Office of the Governor  
 PO Box 40002  
 Olympia, WA 98504-0002



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

Dear Governor Inslee:

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, I wish to share our enclosed priorities for the upcoming state fiscal biennium. Your 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. Additionally, salmon habitat restoration is a proactive approach to making watershed ecosystems resilient to a changing climate.

The state’s investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration for the 2015-2017 biennium is permitting watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Your support for the ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** and ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board*** programs helps watersheds enhance our science-based salmon recovery efforts and implement priority habitat restoration and protection projects. Funding in the current biennium for the ***Floodplains by Design*** program is also advancing implementation of multiple benefit projects that restore critical salmon habitat, reduce flood hazards, and improve water quality. Thank you for supporting these programs, the results of which are in progress.

Attached are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council’s priorities for the 2017-2019 biennium. We encourage you to build on the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide. Specifically, we ask that you support the following:

- \$55.3 million in general obligation bonds for the ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board*** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which funds habitat protection and restoration projects statewide.
- The ***Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration*** capital request in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which at \$80 million for the biennium will fund a prioritized list of large salmon recovery projects around Puget Sound and will provide funding to each Puget Sound watershed for smaller-scale—but critically important—habitat projects.
- The ***Floodplains by Design*** capital budget request through the Department of Ecology, which will dedicate \$70 million to a prioritized list of multi-benefit

The Honorable Jay Inslee

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floodplain projects around the state that enhance salmon habitat while also protecting public health and safety.

- ***Support the Lead Entity program and funding from the state general fund provided in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget.*** Lead Entities perform an essential function to salmon recovery in Washington, garnering local support for habitat projects, prioritizing projects to maximize the public's investment, and ensuring investments in salmon recovery are scientifically-valid and efficient. The Recreation and Conservation Office operating budget for 2017 – 2019 includes \$907,000 to support Lead Entities.
- ***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 to helping achieve salmon recovery goals.

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, restoring the health of Puget Sound, and working to address effects of climate change.

If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 8 or how these priorities advance our salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Andy Rheume  
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
Mayor, City of Bothell

Enclosure

cc: Sheida Sahandy, Director, Puget Sound Partnership  
Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office  
Maia D. Bellon, Director, Washington Department of Ecology  
Jim Unsworth, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
David Troutt, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
JT Austin, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Governor's Office  
Jim Cahill, Senior Budget Assistant, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management  
Nona Snell, Senior Budget Assistant, Capital, Office of Financial Management  
Myra Baldini, Capital Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management  
Heather Matthews, Natural Resource Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management  
Amy Hatch-Winecka, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition  
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members  
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Salmon Recovery Manager



# 2017 Legislative Priorities for Puget Sound Watershed Health and Salmon Habitat Recovery

*Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed  
(WRIA 8) Partners*  
Updated: September 2016

## ***State Priorities***

### **Capital Budget**

- **Support the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Fund capital funding request.**  
PSAR funds support implementation of the highest priority habitat protection and restoration projects throughout Puget Sound. The program includes: 1) base funding allocated among Puget Sound watersheds for a list of grant round habitat projects, and 2) funding for a prioritized list of specific, large-scale, high-priority capital projects submitted by Puget Sound watersheds. Funds are derived from State general obligation bonds (RCW 77.85). A small portion of this funding also supports local watershed capacity for project development and implementation.  
  
***Request:** Support the Puget Sound Partnership's PSAR funding request of \$80 million for the 2017 – 2019 biennium (contained in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget).*
  
- **Support the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) capital funding request.**  
SRFB funds consist of federal PCSRF dollars and state capital funds that serve as the required match to federal funds. Together, these dollars support annual grant rounds for salmon habitat protection

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)  
[jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) • (206) 477-4780 • <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/>

and restoration projects in watersheds around the state. This funding is a cornerstone of WRIA 8's annual grant round, yet the funding from the state has been in decline for several years. For 2017 – 2019, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board intends to use a portion of the state funding to support Lead Entity capacity related to project development, which is intended to increase Washington's competitiveness for federal PCSRF funds.

***Request:*** Support the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) Salmon Recovery Funding Board state capital funding request of \$55.3 million for the 2017 – 2019 biennium.

- **Support the Floodplains by Design capital funding request.**  
In the past two biennial legislative sessions, the legislature allocated funding to the Department of Ecology to support a list of multiple benefit floodplain restoration and management projects, including the following WRIA 8 priorities:
  - In the 2013-2015 biennium, King County received a \$4.1 million grant to support completion of the Cedar River Rainbow Bend floodplain restoration project and assist with relocating residents of a mobile home park as part of the Riverbend floodplain restoration project.
  - In the 2015-2017 biennium, King County and Seattle Public Utilities received a grant to acquire floodplain properties in priority reaches of the Cedar River and develop final design of the Riverbend floodplain restoration project.
  - For the 2017 – 2019 biennium, King County applied for funding to construct the Riverbend Floodplain Reconnection Project on the Cedar River.

***Request:*** Support Ecology's Floodplains by Design funding request of \$70 million for the 2017 – 2019 biennium.

- **Support the Puget Sound Partnership's funding strategy, specifically as it relates to advancing implementation of PSP's three strategic initiatives—habitat, stormwater, and shellfish.**

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The overall intent of PSP's funding strategy is to protect Puget Sound, and funding will support the Partnership's ability to implement the Action Agenda for Puget Sound, which directly and indirectly benefits salmon recovery. PSP's salmon recovery habitat restoration priorities may fall more directly under the PSAR program, but the strategic initiatives are an avenue to support stormwater reduction priorities; multi-objective habitat enhancement projects; and integrated water infrastructure projects that address a mix of stormwater, habitat, water supply, and flood protection.

***Request:** Support the Puget Sound Partnership's legislative funding strategy for capital actions supporting implementation of the Action Agenda for Puget Sound.*

### Operating Budget

➤ **Support the appropriation of state general funds in the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) budget to support Lead Entities.**

RCO requests state general funds to support Lead Entity operational capacity, and these funds combine with federal PCSRF dollars to support annual Lead Entity grants for project development, grant round coordination, and project tracking. For over 10 years, the grant award to WRIA 8 was \$60,000, but for the 2016 – 2017 state fiscal year, the award will be \$45,658 due to declining state contributions and a commensurate decline in Washington's PCSRF award. The decline in federal PCSRF funds has been linked directly to the amount of capacity funds included in Washington's PCSRF application relative to the other four west coast states, which has increased due to the decline in state appropriations. As a result, the state contribution is necessary to improve Washington's competitiveness for PCSRF, which affects capital and capacity funding.

***Request:** Support RCO's request of \$907,000 in state general funds to support Lead Entity operational capacity. This is the same amount*

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*requested in the 2015 – 2017 biennium.*

### **Policy Legislation**

- **Track and participate in 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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