



2026 State Legislative Priorities for Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Watershed Health

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

Supplemental Budget Requests

- **Support supplemental capital budget appropriations to fully fund 2025-27 biennium agency requests for priority salmon recovery grant programs, including:**
 - Salmon Recovery Funding Board
 - Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration
 - Floodplains by Design
 - Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
 - Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board
 - Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- **\$800,000 to Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue successful and effective removal of predatory fish species in the Lake Washington basin to support juvenile salmon survival.** This will support continuing the successful and important work funded by a 2023-25 budget proviso and local investments, addressing a key factor limiting salmon survival.
- **Restore funding for critical salmon recovery and outdoor education programs, including:**
 - “Salmon in the Schools” and “Outdoor Learning” in Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - “No Child Left Inside” in Washington State Parks.

For more information about these priorities, please contact:

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Policy Legislation

- **Advance and provide resources for streamlining regulatory review and permitting to support habitat restoration project implementation.** Build on the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the federal and state Multi-Agency Review Team to establish and support a coordinated and streamlined permitting process for ecologically beneficial projects.
- **Improve regulatory protections for important salmon habitat,** including regulatory improvements that enhance protection of riparian areas and lake and marine shorelines.
- **Increase funding for enforcement of permit conditions and development regulations.** Lack of adequate regulatory permit enforcement at the state and local level enables continued unpermitted development and loss of habitat and critical areas.
- **Improve integration of salmon recovery into land use planning and policies.**
- **Improve stormwater management and mitigate impacts of toxic runoff on salmon:**
 - Support ongoing efforts to both accelerate phasing-out the tire chemical 6PPD and minimize exposure pathways for aquatic ecosystems. Despite recent investments in monitoring and treatment, 6PPD remains a major threat to salmon survival.
 - Promote and fund stormwater management planning, coordination, and implementation at a watershed scale and seek innovative solutions to achieve multiple benefits from integrating stormwater management and habitat protection and restoration
 - Support low impact development, green stormwater infrastructure, and retrofits to older stormwater facilities. Seek a dedicated funding source for local government stormwater retrofits.
- **Align investments in equity and environmental justice with salmon recovery priorities** to achieve multiple benefits for salmon populations and human communities.
- **Support outreach, education, and stewardship projects and programs** that raise awareness, empower the next generation to continue salmon recovery and climate change mitigation work, and promote and engage private landowners in using best available science to guide decisions in how they manage their property to protect and restore important habitats and improve environmental conditions.
- **Increase investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities through existing funding authorities, and support innovative funding approaches,** including new watershed-based and/or regional funding mechanisms and public-private partnerships that engage state agencies and private funding sources to support multiple-benefit projects.