



Green/Duwamish & Central Puget Sound Watershed 2024 Legislative Priorities

WASHINGTON STATE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PRIORITIES

\$20 Million - Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Program

The SRFB grant program provides the foundation of statewide salmon recovery efforts. It supports implementation of watershed-based salmon recovery plans. Annual grant rounds provide funding for locally vetted and prioritized salmon habitat projects. The 2023-2025 Biennial Budget appropriation of \$20M was significantly short of the original \$82M funding request submitted by the Recreation & Conservation Funding Board. The \$20M supplemental funding request is critical to raising the bar on past funding levels which have fallen short of demonstrated need to make significant strides in salmon recovery.

2024 Supplemental Biennial Work Plan Addendum: Governor's Salmon Strategy Update

Support supplemental budget requests that support continued implementation of the 2021 Governor's Salmon Strategy Update priorities. These investments include a combination of programs and initiatives that need additional funding to fulfill project lists, ongoing funding to manage capacity, or new funding to address an emerging need, such as leveraging federal dollars.

WASHINGTON STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

Streamline Regulatory Review and Permitting for Salmon Habitat Restoration

Regulatory review and permitting adds significant project costs and can delay project implementation for thoroughly vetted and local supported habitat projects. Expanding investments in innovative approaches to streamline regulatory review and permitting is needed to reduce barriers and accelerate project implementation. Efforts should build on pilot efforts (e.g., Habitat Recovery Pilot Program) from the previous legislative sessions to support improvements to the permitting process for voluntary restoration projects.

Improve Regulatory Habitat Protections and Conservation Incentives

Habitat protection is fundamental to long-term watershed restoration efforts to ensure ongoing development pressures do not undermine restoration efforts. Building on previous legislative efforts around riparian buffer protections, the concept of "net ecological gain," and integrating salmon recovery into the Growth Management Act provides opportunity to address previous stakeholder concerns and improve the regulatory frameworks for protecting and restoring salmon habitat.

Accelerate Watershed Scale Coordination and Investment in Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Stormwater runoff continues to be regionally recognized as one of – if not the top – threat to aquatic ecosystems. Increased funding for stormwater retrofits and green infrastructure is necessary to address both lethal and sublethal impacts to salmon, including coho mortality events observed across urbanized portions of the watershed. Support parallel efforts to accelerate research and policy/product changes to address impacts of the tire dust chemical 6PPD-quinone on salmon survival.

Mitigate Impacts of Climate Change on Salmon

Climate resilient watersheds benefit local communities and salmon. Projected climate change impacts will adversely impact local communities and native salmonids across Puget Sound. Achieving science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets will be critical to minimizing the severity of projected climate shifts. Support policies and investments that enhance watershed resiliency and mitigate the negative impacts associated with the projected increases in both regional temperatures and extreme weather events.