

# Salmon Recovery Funding Board



## FACT SHEET

### Board Members

- David Troutt, Dupont, Chair
- Nancy Biery, Jefferson County
- Bob Bugert, Wenatchee
- Phil Rockefeller, Bainbridge Island
- Samantha "Sam" Mace, Spokane
- Conservation Commission
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation

### 2015-2017 Budget

Operations	\$4 million
Capital	\$222 million

### Funding

- State general obligation bonds
- Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery fund

### Authorizing Law

Revised Code of Washington 77.85

### Recreation and Conservation Office

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Olympia WA 98504-0917  
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## Restoring Salmon: Good for the Economy, Good for Washington

Salmon are a vital part of Washington's economy, recreation, culture, and heritage.

Commercial and recreational fishing alone in Washington are estimated to support 16,000 jobs and \$540 million in personal income. Salmon restoration projects are estimated to have created another nearly 6,000 jobs.

For more than a century, the streams, rivers, and bays that salmon call home have been damaged as cities and towns grew. Changing ocean conditions too have decimated salmon populations.

The decline of salmon habitat has had far reaching effects on Washington's economy and traditions, from ending generations-old family fishing businesses, to changing the type of fish we eat at dinner, to affecting wildlife that rely on salmon as food, such as iconic orca whales.

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Funds Statewide Priorities

In the 1990s, the federal government began listing Pacific Northwest salmon under the Endangered Species Act. As more salmon became listed, state leaders realized they needed a coordinated effort. By the end of the decade, the Legislature had created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to administer state and federal funds to protect and restore salmon habitat.

The board has created an approach unique in the nation for the recovery of salmon. Local communities work together to write recovery plans that are approved by the federal government. The communities develop projects, vet them locally, and submit them to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for scientific and technical review. This "bottom up" approach engages local communities in salmon recovery and the state oversight ensures that only the best, most scientifically sound projects are funded.

The board also plays a key role in supporting the organizations that implement the federally approved recovery plans and in managing the state funding, which is critical to securing federal grants.

The board performs and accomplishes its work through staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office. The on-the-ground work of acquiring or restoring property for salmon recovery is done by grant recipients.



# Salmon Recovery Funding Board

## INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

### Salmon Recovery Grants

The Recreation and Conservation Office offers multiple grant programs for salmon recovery, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Boards awards grants in two of those:

- General salmon recovery grants
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grants

Through these two grant program, applicants apply for projects to:

- Restore damaged habitat.
- Fix barriers to fish migration.
- Conserve pristine habitat.

Grant applicants must contribute a minimum of 15 percent of the cost of the project.

### Project Selection and Monitoring

#### Project Selection

The grant process is an open, public process. Local and regional citizen groups develop plans and solicit projects. Those projects are evaluated by local scientific panels and citizen committees, reviewed by regional organizations, and sent to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for funding consideration.

This combination of locally-generated projects, endorsed by local communities, and reviewed by scientists, means that the priority projects have local and scientific support.

#### Monitoring

In addition to funding projects, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board takes an active role in funding monitoring efforts to ensure salmon recovery projects are making a difference.

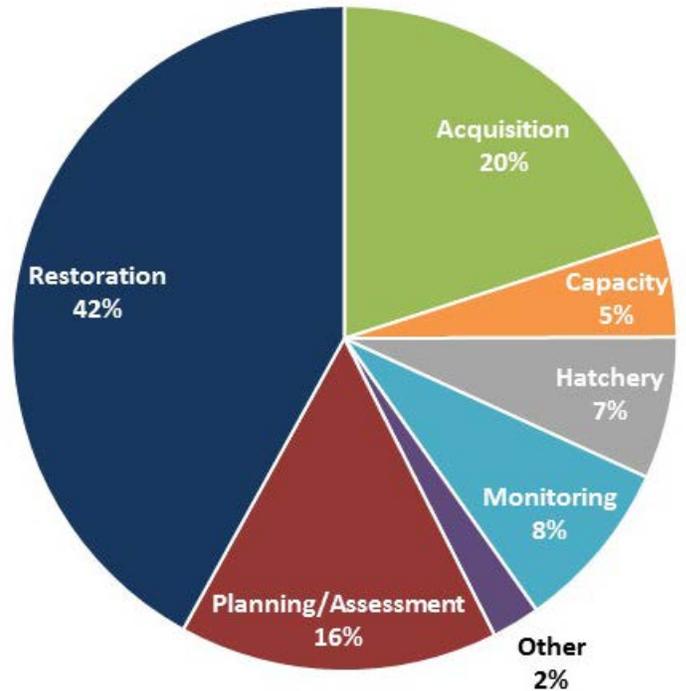
The board is monitoring selected projects across the state to see which kinds of restoration actions are the most effective. The board also is looking more intensively at a few selected watersheds to quantify resulting changes in salmon populations.

### Is Salmon Recovery Working?

Washington State is beginning to see the effects of salmon recovery funding. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office reports that 6 of 15 salmon populations are near recovery goals or are increasing.

\*Represents all salmon recovery grants administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office, including those by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

### Types of Grants Awarded 1999-2015\*



Volunteers help plant trees in the Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region. Trees help shade and cool water for salmon. They also drop branches in the water, which can slow the water and give places for salmon to rest and hide from predators.