

# Salmon Recovery Grants

## FACT SHEET

### Who may Apply?

- Conservation districts
- Landowners
- Local governments
- Nonprofit organizations
- Regional fisheries enhancement groups
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Tribes

### Types of Projects Funded

- Acquisitions
- Assessments
- Fish passage repair
- Monitoring
- Planning
- Project design
- Restoration

### Funding

Funding for all the salmon recovery grants comes from a mix of the sale of state general obligation bonds, the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and other federal funds.

### Leveraging State Dollars

Grant recipients provide matching resources for some grants, ranging from 15-25 percent.

### Recreation and Conservation Office

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Olympia WA 98504-0917  
Telephone: (360) 902-3000  
TTY: (360) 902-1996

E-mail: [info@rco.wa.gov](mailto:info@rco.wa.gov)  
Web: [www.rco.wa.gov](http://www.rco.wa.gov)  
See project details on the RCO Web site using the "Project Search" feature.

## Saving Washington Salmon

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.<sup>i</sup>

For more than a century, the streams and bays where salmon live were damaged as cities and rural lands were developed. By the 1990s, salmon populations across three-quarters of the state were decimated. The federal government declared 18 species of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout near the brink of extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.

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

Communities in Washington have not been sitting by, waiting for someone else to fix the problem. Across the state, citizens, nonprofits, businesses, tribes, and governments have come together and created projects, based on science and federally approved recovery plans, to fix the worst of the problems. There is still much more to do.

## Providing Grants to Fix the Worst Problems

Four grant programs, administered through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Recreation and Conservation Office, provide funding to protect and restore salmon habitat:

- Salmon recovery grants
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program grants
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program grants
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration grants

These grant programs fund projects that do the following:

- Remove barriers to fish migration, opening new habitat.
- Replant riverbanks and remove roads to reduce the amount of fine sediment entering streams and destroying spawning habitat.
- Restore rivers, estuaries, wetlands, and beaches to create a variety of habitats.



King County used two grants totaling \$1.4 million to restore a section of the Duwamish River critical to survival of young, migrating salmon.

# Salmon Recovery Grants Fact Sheet

## INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

- Conserve water use so more is left in rivers for salmon.
- Protect quality habitat.
- Gather salmon and habitat data to prioritize and design better projects.
- Improve hatcheries to meet higher standards

### Salmon Recovery Is Working

Washington State is beginning to see the effects of more than a decade of salmon recovery funding: 6 of 15 salmon populations are increasing.

As land and waterways are restored, not only we are creating more places for salmon to live and grow and more places for other wildlife to live, we are creating jobs, reducing flooding, and making Washington a healthier place to live.

### Ensuring the Best Projects Receive Funding

Washington's approach to salmon recovery combines local community interests with scientific priorities to ensure projects with the best chance of success and the highest benefit to salmon are funded. There are several different ways projects are selected.

For several of the grant programs, local and regional citizen groups develop plans and solicit projects to protect and restore salmon species and their habitats. Projects are evaluated by local scientific panels and community groups to ensure they are scientifically sound and fit with the regional recovery plans approved by the federal government. The projects then are reviewed by regional organizations, and sent to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for funding consideration. Using its technical review panel, the board reviews the projects to ensure they benefit fish and have a high certainty of success before awarding funding. This combination of citizen-generated projects, endorsed by local communities and reviewed by scientists, means only the best projects are funded.

For the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, landowners apply and their projects are reviewed for eligibility by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. If eligible, their projects are ranked by staff from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. High ranking projects are added to the project funding list, which is presented to the program's steering committee for approval. The steering committee, which is made up of representatives from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Recreation and Conservation Office, and the Washington Farm Forestry Association, then approves the final project list.

For the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, projects to restore Puget Sound's shorelines, estuaries and bays are selected through a strategic, science-based, and competitive process. The Recreation and Conservation Office administers the grants.



Crews fix a barrier to fish passage on Garrard Creek in Grays Harbor County. The funding came from a \$21,000 grant through the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. The work opened up 1.2 miles of habitat to coho salmon and cutthroat trout.



Baby salmon swim near a logjam. Logjams slow the river, which creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators.

<sup>1</sup>Economic Analysis of the Non-Treaty Commercial and Recreational Fisheries in Washington State," TCW Economics, Sacramento, CA. December 2008, p.23.