



Salmon Recovery Grants

Recreation and Conservation Office

PO Box 40917

Olympia WA 98504-0917

Telephone: (360) 902-3000

Hearing Impaired Relay Service: 711

E-mail: info@rco.wa.gov

Website: <https://rco.wa.gov/>

Who May Apply?

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

Funding Sources

The sale of state bonds and federal grants and appropriations.

Leveraging State Dollars

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

Types of Projects Funded

- Acquisitions
- Assessments
- Fish passage repair
- Monitoring
- Planning and project design
- Restoration

Saving Washington Salmon

Salmon are a vital part of Washington's economy, recreation, culture, and heritage. Domestic commercial fishing creates nearly 23,000 jobs in Washington, with salmon harvest alone worth almost \$14 million a year.¹ Recreational fishing generates more than \$1.5 billion in economic activity annually in Washington State.²

To ensure that salmon remain a vital part of Washington, the Recreation and Conservation Office offers a variety of grants to repair damaged salmon habitat, conserve pristine habitat, and open migration pathways.

Repairing Damaged Habitat

Multiple grant programs provide funding to protect and restore salmon habitat.

- **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program:** Grants and technical assistance to protect and restore Puget Sound near-shore and incentives to landowners to create healthy shorelines.
- **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration:** Grants to protect and restore salmon and bull trout habitat in the Puget Sound.
- **Salmon Recovery:** Grants to conserve and improve important habitat conditions or watershed processes to benefit salmon and bull trout.
- **Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative:** Grants and technical assistance for Washington's coastal communities to protect and restore the environment while stimulating the economy.

Opening Fish Passage

In addition to the grant programs above, two programs focus specifically on correcting barriers to fish passage.

- **Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board:** Grants to plan, provide, or improve fish migration upstream and downstream of road crossings, dams, and other in-stream barriers.
- **Family Forest Fish Passage Program:** Grants to correct barriers to fish passage in streams in small, privately-owned forests.

Conserving Habitat

Several programs protect salmon habitat by funding land purchases and restoration.

- **Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account:** Grants to conserve and restore the shorelines of navigable waters of the state.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** Grants to conserve wild lands.
- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program:** Grants to conserve and restore habitat for wildlife including endangered and threatened species and areas along waterways or that represent native ecological systems or unique plant or animal communities.

More Information

Visit the Recreation and Conservation website for application details, grant schedules, and other requirements at <https://rco.wa.gov/>.

¹National Marine Fisheries Service. (2022). Fisheries Economics of the United States, 2019. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA Tech. Memo. NMFS-F/SPO-229A, 236 p.

²Mojica, J., and Fletcher, A., 2020. Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, 2020 Update. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA.



Paul Vecsei