

# Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

## FACT SHEET

### Who may Apply?

- State, local, and federal agencies
- Native American tribes
- Nonprofit organizations
- Private institutions
- Academic institutions

### Grant Categories

Program priorities steer funding toward projects focused on restoring physical ecological processes.

- Acquisition
- Design
- Restoration

### Funding

Funding comes from the State Building Construction Fund and federal sources depending on availability.

### Leveraging State Dollars

Grant recipients must provide at least 30 percent in matching resources.

### Recreation and Conservation Office

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## Advancing Puget Sound Restoration and Protection

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program provides grants to protect and restore Puget Sound beaches, bays, and river deltas. The grants focus on strategic, ecosystem restoration projects that align with regional recovery efforts in the Puget Sound *Action Agenda*.

## Benefiting Local Communities by Investing in Natural Systems

Ecosystems are the plants, animals, and natural processes that work together for life to thrive. Disruptions to one element in an ecosystem can be disastrous to life in the ecosystem, like links in a chain. Healthy, functioning ecosystems provide many things—fish, shellfish, other wildlife, clean water and air, opportunities for recreation, and reduced damage from floods and erosion.

As people have developed cities and towns around Puget Sound, they have altered shorelines, damaging the plants, animals, and waters there, reducing ecosystem benefits enjoyed by humans.

By linking science and ecosystem-scale projects, the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program ensures that investments are strategic and will translate into shorelines that are intact, functioning naturally, and resilient to climate change.



The Mason Conservation District worked with the Skokomish Tribe to restore and reconnect more than 1,500 acres of wetlands to the Skokomish River estuary and shoreline. Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding was instrumental in opening channels and creating fish access to the estuary.

## The Value of Nature

Ecosystem services are defined as the benefits people derive from nature, free of charge.

Trees, water, and animals provide goods and services such as breathable air, drinkable water, nourishing food, flood risk reduction, waste treatment, and stable atmospheric conditions. These are all examples of ecosystem services.

Three of those services: Aesthetics, which is the value we get from enjoying the sights, sounds, smells, and presence of nature; wildlife habitat, and water quality were valued at between \$115 billion and \$216 billion a year on public lands in Washington State.<sup>1</sup>



# Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program Fact Sheet

## RESTORING AND PROTECTING PUGET SOUND

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program is a critical part of recovery efforts for salmon and other animals, such as the southern resident killer whales.

Funding is broadly distributed throughout the Puget Sound area and supports jobs in multiple sectors from design and engineering to on-the-ground construction.

### Typical Projects

- Protecting near-shore and wetland habitat
- Restoring salmon habitat and estuaries
- Removing or breaching dikes and removing bulkheads
- Conducting feasibility studies or designing projects
- Decommissioning roads and removing fill

### Ensuring the Best Projects are Funded

The annual grant process is open and competitive. A technical review committee evaluates projects on their cost and likelihood of addressing high priority ecosystem impairment. Proposals are ranked and funded in order.

### Grant Recipients (2007-2017)

Bainbridge Island Land Trust  
Burien Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department  
Capitol Land Trust  
Coastal Geologic Services Inc.  
Coastal Watershed Institute  
Ducks Unlimited-Vancouver  
Forterra  
Friends of the San Juans  
Great Peninsula Conservancy  
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
King County  
Lummi Nation  
Mason Conservation District  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Nisqually Indian Tribe  
Nisqually River Foundation  
North Olympic Land Trust  
North Olympic Salmon Coalition  
Northwest Watershed Institute  
Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation  
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe  
Seattle  
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Skagit Land Trust  
Skagit River System Cooperative  
Snohomish County

Snohomish Conservation District  
South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group  
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians  
Suquamish Tribe  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of Washington  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District  
Whatcom County



The Northwest Watershed Institute used a \$527,000 grant to buy 9 acres in the Dabob Bay Natural Area and restore the shoreline. The natural area is one of the highest quality estuarine embayments remaining in Puget Sound.

<sup>1</sup>Tania Briceno and Greg Schundler, "Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State," Earth Economics, Tacoma, WA, January 2015, pp. 40-41,44.