



# Salmon Recovery Funding Board

## Recreation and Conservation Office

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## Board Members

- Jeff Breckel, Chair  
Stevenson
- Kaleen Cottingham,  
Olympia
- Chris Endresen Scott,  
Conconully
- Joe Maroney, Spokane
- Conservation Commission
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and  
Wildlife
- Department of Natural  
Resources
- Department of  
Transportation

## 2023-2025 Budget

- \$16.4 million operating  
budget
- \$181 million capital budget

## Authorizing Law

Revised Code of Washington  
77.85

## Restoring Salmon is Good for the Economy and Good for Washington

Salmon are a vital part of Washington's economy, recreation, culture, and heritage. The decline of their populations in the past decades has had far reaching effects on the state's economy and traditions, from ending generations-old family fishing businesses, to changing the type of fish eaten at dinner, to affecting wildlife that rely on salmon as food, including the Pacific Northwest's iconic orcas.

### 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. The Legislature created the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to administer state and federal funds to protect and restore salmon habitat.

The board created an approach unique in the nation for salmon recovery. Local communities worked together to write recovery plans that were approved by the federal government. Today, communities develop projects, vet them locally, and submit them to the 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 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 Grants

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

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

Through these two grant programs, applicants apply for projects to accomplish the following:

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

## Project Selection

The grant process is an open, public process. Local and regional groups develop plans and solicit projects. Those projects are evaluated by local scientific panels and public 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

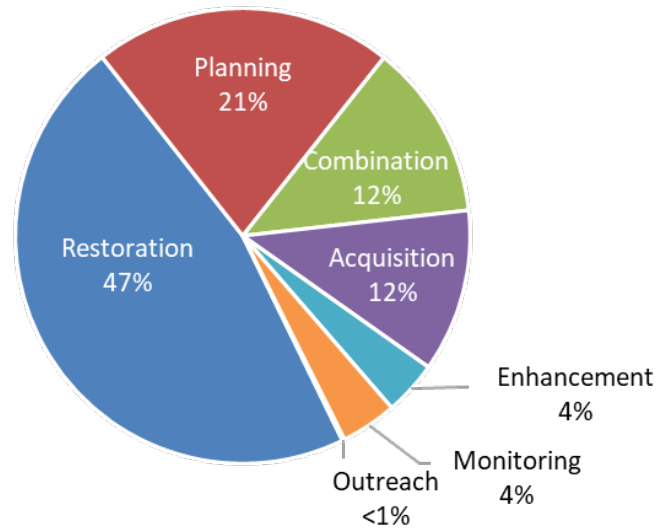
In addition to funding projects, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board takes an active role in funding monitoring efforts to ensure salmon recovery projects are making a difference.

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.

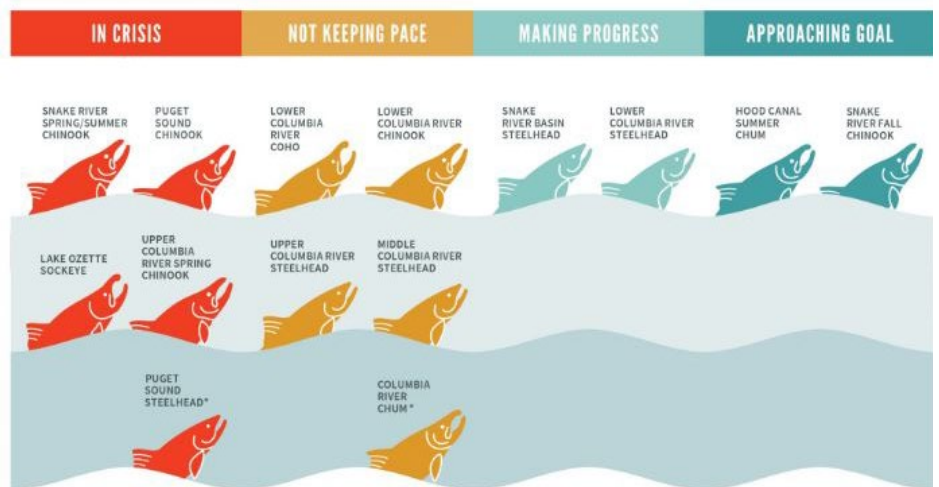
## Is Salmon Recovery Working?

Washington State is beginning to see the effects of salmon recovery funding, but there is a long way to go. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office reports that four of fourteen salmon and steelhead populations are making progress or near recovery goals.

Board-Funded Salmon Recovery Projects  
1999-2023



## Salmon Abundance



\* Lacks complete data  
Data Source: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife