

Targeted Investments Policy

As adopted September 16, 2020

Background

Salmonids are an icon of Northwest tribal culture and intertwined in the identity of many communities. They contribute to our economy, inform us of the health of our environment, and are linked to the abundance of other species in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Salmon populations in Washington State are restored through regionally specific, scientifically rigorous, and locally produced recovery strategies. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board provides funding for elements necessary to achieve overall salmon recovery, including habitat projects and other activities that result in sustainable and measurable benefits for salmon and other fish species.

The Salmon Recovery Act (Chapter 77.85 RCW) establishes the board's authority to make grants and loans for salmon recovery activities. The Act directs the board to develop procedures and criteria for allocating funds for salmon habitat projects and recovery activities on a statewide basis.

The board adopted a funding formula based on objective parameters of physical and biological factors within a region. This formula, known as the regional allocation, gives a set percentage to each regional salmon recovery organization. The regional allocation is awarded each year to projects submitted by lead entities.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board intends this policy to guide funding for projects that cannot be funded by the regional allocation, clarify when the board will make funding decisions, and give the board flexibility to respond to emerging issues.

The board may request proposals for targeted investments, only if funding remains after allocating the annual statewide status quo funding of \$18 million.¹

¹The grant round allocation has been \$18 million annually since 2010. The annual allocation is a combination of federal and state funds.

Targeted Investment Definition

A targeted investment is a project that addresses a board-identified priority to accelerate progress towards achieving salmon recovery.

Targeted Investment Priorities

The board may adopt one or more targeted investment priority each biennium from the list below.

1. **Approaching recovery:** The investment improves habitat for an Endangered Species Act-listed species nearing recovery goals, as set by the National Marine Fisheries Service status reviews. The targeted investment would address an outstanding habitat restoration and/or protection issue or threat that, if corrected, would move the listed species closer to the recovery goal.
2. **Southern resident orca recovery:** The investment focuses on actions that benefit Endangered Species Act-listed, natural origin salmon populations that are a high priority in the southern resident orca task force recommendations.
3. **Populations at risk:** The investment focuses on improving habitat for endangered, threatened, or non-listed populations in decline or at-risk of extinction, where at-risk populations are identified by indicators such as fishery closures or updated status reviews.
4. **Future threat abatement:** The investment focuses on removing or contributing to the abatement of a threat that will nullify recovery efforts (e.g. climate change, predation).
5. **Emergency response:** The investment focuses on advancing salmon habitat protection and restoration in watersheds that have experienced natural and/or anthropogenic disasters that have or will result in significant adverse impact on a population.

Qualified Investment Criteria

Each eligible regional recovery organization may submit one project for board consideration. The project must meet each of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Address a board-identified targeted investment priority.
2. Improve long-term habitat quality and productivity, and therefore resiliency, of salmonids.
3. Advance a project that cannot be funded by the current regional allocation or sub-allocation to lead entities.
4. Leverage additional funds (not including federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund).
5. Restore and/or acquire habitat (may include design if the project leverages other funds).
6. Be endorsed by the lead entity where the project is located.
7. Be endorsed and submitted by the salmon recovery region for funding.