

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda



June 2, 2021
Online Meeting

Protecting the public, our partners, and our staff are of the utmost importance. Due to health concerns with the novel coronavirus this meeting will be held online. The public is encouraged to participate online and will be given opportunities to comment, as noted below.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wVo8GvngQTmBNKGfDYl6Hg

Phone Option: (669)900-6833 - **Webinar ID:** 930 2945 3965

Location: RCO will also have a public meeting location for members of the public to listen via phone as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, **unless this requirement is waived by gubernatorial executive order.** In order to enter the building, the public must not exhibit symptoms of the COVID-19 and will be required to comply with current state law around personal protective equipment. RCO staff will meet the public in front of the main entrance to the natural resources building and escort them in.

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a short staff presentation and followed by board discussion. The board only makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda decision item.

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to wyatt.lundquist@rco.wa.gov. You may also use the messenger in the Webinar to message Wyatt before the start of the item you wish to testify on. Comment for these items will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; accommodation requests should be received by May 19, 2021 to ensure availability.

Wednesday, June 2

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	<i>Chair Breckel</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision)• Approval of March Meeting Minutes (Decision)• Introduction of New RCO Director• Introduction of New Orca Recovery Staff• Recognition of outgoing Member Bugert• Remarks by the chair	

9:30 a.m.	1. Director's Report	
	A. Director's Report	<i>Director Duffy</i>
	B. Legislative and Policy Update	<i>Wendy Brown</i>
	C. Budget Overview	
	D. Communications Annual Update	<i>Susan Zemek</i>
	E. Fiscal Report (Written Only)	<i>Mark Jarasitis</i>
	F. Performance Report (Written Only)	<i>Brent Hedden</i>

9:50 a.m.	2. Salmon Recovery Management Report	
	A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report	<i>Erik Neatherlin</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status of Salmon Strategy Update• Salmon Recovery Conference Overview• 2023 Salmon Recovery Conference (Decision)• PCSRF Award	<i>Jeannie Abbott</i>
	B. Salmon Section Report	<i>Tara Galuska</i>

10:20 a.m.	General Public Comment for items not on the agenda: <i>Please limit comments to 3 minutes.</i>	
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10:25 a.m.	BREAK
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BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:40 a.m.	3. Preparation for the 23-25 Budget Request to the Legislature	<i>Wendy Brown, Tara Galuska, and Chantell Krider</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Planned Forecast List• Building a Targeted Investment List	

11:00 a.m.	4. Monitoring Updates and Reports	<i>Keith Dublanica, Pete Bisson, and Bob Bilby</i>
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11:30 a.m.	5. Allocate Funding for:	<i>Tara Galuska, Keith Dublanica, and Jeannie Abbott</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2021 Grant Round• 2021-22 Capacity Funding• 2022 Targeted Investment Funding Allocation• 2021 Monitoring Funding Allocation	

12:15 p.m.	LUNCH
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BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

1:15 p.m.	6. Targeted Investments Implementation and Priority Setting for 2021-23 Manual 18	<i>Katie Pruitt and Tara Galuska</i>
1:45 p.m.	7. Requests for Unobligated Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Funds	<i>Keith Dublanica and Erik Neatherlin</i>

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

2:45 p.m.	8. Climate Subcommittee Update and Recommendations	<i>Ben Donatelle</i>
3:15 p.m.	BREAK	
3:30 p.m.	9. Featured Projects	<i>Outdoor Grant Managers</i>
4:00 p.m.	10. Partner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council of Regions• WA Salmon Coalition• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups• Conservation Commission• Department of Ecology• Department of Natural Resources• Department of Fish and Wildlife• Department of Transportation	<i>Alex Conley</i> <i>Suzanna Smith</i> <i>Lance Winecka</i> <i>Brian Cochrane</i> <i>Annette Hoffmann</i> <i>Stephen Bernath</i> <i>Jeff Davis</i> <i>Susan Kanzler</i>
5:00 p.m.	ADJOURN	<i>Chair Breckel</i>

Next meeting: September 22-23, 2021 – Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501 -
Subject to change considering COVID

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING AGENDA AND ACTIONS

WEDNESDAY, March 3, 2021

Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
1) Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call and Determination of Quorum • Introduction of New Board Member • Review and Approval of Agenda • Approval of November Meeting Minutes • Remarks by the Chair 	<p>Decision</p> <p><u>Approval of March 2021 Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Endresen-Scott Decision: Approved</p> <p><u>Approval of November Meeting Minutes</u> Moved by: Member Endresen- Scott</p>	
	<p>Seconded by: Member Sullivan Decision: Approved</p> <p><u>Approval of Resolution of Recognition for Director Cottingham</u> Moved by: Member Endresen- Scott Seconded by: Member Bugert Decision: Approved</p>	
2) Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report B. Update on Riparian Policy Proposals and Process C. Update of RCO Director Hiring Process D. Legislative and Policy Update 		

3) Salmon Recovery Management Report		Task: GSRO will provide SRFB with Puget Sound Day on the Hill Official dates
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
4) State of Salmon Report and Demonstration of Website		
5) Overview of Salmon Strategy Update		Task: Mr. Neatherlin will provide the Strategy to the Board at the June 2021 meeting
6) Survey Results from 2020 Grant Round		
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
7) Follow-up on Monitoring Option D <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Uncertainties • Initial Pilot Projects • IMWs 	<u>Approval of Funding for the Entiat Floodplain Scale Restoration Monitoring Project</u> Moved by: Member Endresen-Scott Seconded by: Member Connelly Decision: Approved <u>Approval of \$133,622 of Unspent Monitoring Funds for the regional monitoring projects in the 2021 Grant Round</u> Moved by: Member Bugert Seconded by: Member Sullivan Decision: Approved	

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
8) Report from Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board		
9) Overview of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program		
10) Partner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council of Regions• WA Salmon Coalition• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups• Conservation Commission• Department of Ecology• Department of Natural Resources• Department of Fish and Wildlife• Department of Transportation		
ADJOURN		

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: March 3, 2021

Place: Online

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffman	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Leslie Connelly	Olympia	Stephen Bernath	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Bob Bugert	Wenatchee	Brian Cochrane	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Jeff Davis	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeromy Sullivan	Kingston	Susan Kanzler	Designee, Washington Department of Transportation

This summary is to be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Jeff Breckel opened the meeting at 9AM and thanked viewers for attending online. He noted that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is constantly working to improve the webinar process. For testimony, Chair Breckel asked that people notify **Wyatt Lundquist**, Board Liaison through email. He also noted that the meeting is being livestreamed by Television Washington (TVW).

Following the chair's comments, **Julia McNamara**, Board Administrative Assistant, called roll to determine quorum. Mr. Lundquist then provided webinar instructions and etiquette

Motion: Approval of March Agenda

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Endresen Scott

Decision: **Approved**

Motion: Approval of November 19, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Moved by: Member Endresen Scott
Seconded by: Member Sullivan
Decision: **Approved**

Chair Breckel welcomed **Member Leslie Connelly**, the new Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB/ Board) member. Member Connelly provided commentary and expressed gratitude for being invited as a SRFB member.

Because RCO director, **Kaleen Cottingham**, is retiring, Chair Breckel expressed gratitude and congratulations to her. He then invited past SRFB chairs (Tharinger, Troutt, and Rockefeller), RCO staff, and current SRFB members to offer congratulations.

Motion: Approval of a resolution dedicated to Kaleen Cottingham for her time serving as RCO director.
Moved by: Member Endresen Scott
Seconded by: Member Bugert
Decision: **Approved**

After the resolution was approved, Director Cottingham thanked the group for their kind words.

Item 2: Director's Report

Director's Report

Director Cottingham provided a brief update on RCO's goings-on and activities.

She noted that throughout 2021, all board meetings would remain online. She also noted that the State of the Salmon release in January 2021 had gained a lot of publicity, including the NY Times. She indicated that **Scott Chapman**, the RCO's PRISM Database Manager, would be retiring and **Brent Hedden** will be replacing him.

Update on Riparian Policy Proposal Process

Director Cottingham provided an update on the status of the riparian discussion with tribes. Following her "straw-dog" proposal presented to SRFB at the November 2020 meeting, RCO had proposed site potential tree height as the standard width measurement for all SRFB riparian restoration projects. The tribes are holding internal discussion and will follow-up with **Erik Neatherlin**, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's Executive Director, who will take over discussions with the tribes and others and will bring a proposal back to the SRFB.

Update of RCO Director Hiring Process

Scott Robinson, RCO Deputy Director, provided an update on the hiring process for the Director.

He explained that RCO had received 23 applications, with seven people being selected to be interviewed. These seven individuals were interviewed by a staff panel, a stakeholder panel, and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) panel. Following the interviews, RCFB selected three candidates to send to the Governor for their interview process. He noted that RCO expects to know who the director is by mid-March.

Legislative and Policy Update

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, provided an update on the 2021 legislative session and the Governor's proposed budget.

Ms. Brown started by noting that RCO has one agency request bill to extend the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC).

Next, Ms. Brown displayed two tables, one for the operating budget and one for the capital budget. From the operating budget reductions proposed to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in September, Ms. Brown explained that only funding from the greenhouse gas bill, house bill (HB) 2311, was taken in the Governor's budget. This totaled \$68 thousand. From the capital budget, the Governor proposed \$171, 447,000 in funding of all salmon related programs at RCO.

In closing she addressed salmon related bills that RCO is tracking. These included a permit streamlining bill, HB 1382, the bill to exempt salmon grants from retail sales tax (the grant itself, not the good and services purchased for the project), SB) 5220, a GMA reform bill to require net ecological gain, HB 1117, and the Governor's climate commitment act, SB 5126.

Chair Breckel asked about the capital budget release date. Ms. Brown responded that following the March 20th revenue proposals, more information concerning the capital budget would be released. **Member Bernath** asked for clarification on how the bills surrounding board's interaction with the public could affect RCO's boards. Ms. Brown explained that it was unlikely to affect RCO's boards.

Item 3: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report

Erik Neatherlin provided a report about activities of the GSRO.

Mr. Neatherlin reminded the board of his written memorandum, where they could find a more detailed update on GSRO's activities. During his presentation, he provided an update on events, letters, meetings with partners, and the orca recovery position.

For events, Mr. Neatherlin explained that Puget Sound Day on the Hill would be held virtually beginning Friday, April 23 for the following four Fridays and that the meeting of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery (PCSRF) states had been pushed to the fall. It is unknown whether the PCSRF meeting will be virtual or in-person.

One of the two letters that GSRO is working on is the PCSRF Five-State letter that is sent to congress. The Governor's Office will play a large role in this letter, which is targeted to be finished by May. The other letter was an addendum added to a letter to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Fish and Wildlife Commission where GSRO clarified their position on hatchery policy changes, salmon recovery, and tribe and treaty obligations. The WDFW letter addendum is attached in the materials.

Before passing the update off to **Jeannie Abbott**, GSRO Program Coordinator, he noted that RCO is looking to fill the new orca recovery position that was previously held vacant due to the pandemic hiring freeze.

Jumping in, **Chair Breckel** requested that Mr. Neatherlin provide the Board with more information on the Puget Sound Day on the Hill event.

Ms. Abbott briefly noted that GSRO, WDFW and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission are applying for the 2021 PCSRF with a request of \$25 million. The final application is due March 18th, 2021.

Closing, Ms. Abbott notified the Board that the Salmon Recovery Conference would be held virtually April 28-30, with 25 session, three keynote panels, and a social networking session.

Salmon Section Report

Tara Galuska, RCO Salmon Section Manager, welcomed Member Leslie Connelly and congratulated Director Kaleen Cottingham on her retirement.

Moving into her report, Ms. Galuska provided an update on the 2021 grant round and the Align Grant Coordination Workgroup.

This year's grant round is currently underway, where the LEAN process is being used for the second time. Lead entity site visits have been completed virtually and, if applications are approved by March by the review panel, sponsor's participation won't be necessary again until September. There are 110 applications that have been submitted and more to come in May.

Closing, Ms. Galuska reported that the Align Grant Coordination Workgroup is currently working on climate change related work and Ms. Galuska expects to report back to the board in the future.

Funded Projects Overview

Josh Lambert, Elizabeth Butler, and Alissa Ferrell, RCO Outdoor Grants Managers, presented three different passage projects.

Ms. Ferrell covered the Middle Fork Nooksack Diversion Dam Removal project. Mr. Lambert presented the Kilisut Harbor Restoration Project, and Ms. Butler covered the Pilchuck Dam Removal.

General Public Comment:

No public comment.

Item 4: State of Salmon Report and Demonstration of Website

Jennifer Johnson, GSRO Implementation Coordinator, provided an update on the State of Salmon (SOS) Report.

Ms. Johnson informed the board that the report is required by law every two years and must include data on salmon recovery. RCO includes additional information as further outreach and education. She explained that new additions include a stewardship tool, fish and status analysis, and a data dashboard.

This report is done in part to encourage the upholding of Washington's obligation to tribal treaty rights, as stimulus to our economy, and to protect our ecosystem.

From the report, Ms. Johnson highlighted that only four out of the 14 listed salmon species are making progress. Salmon face extinction due to human population density, climate change, and many more reasons. The priority actions in this report focus on land-use planning, long-term infrastructure process, and increased compliance and enforcement of existing land-use laws.

Closing, she provided a demonstration of the website and opened up to questions and commentary.

Member Connelly asked if GSRO had intention of sharing the information to a broader audience outside the salmon recovery world. Ms. Johnson explained that GSRO would be meeting with the Sierra Club, and others, and are open to more opportunities.

Other board members mentioned their gratitude for the report and expressed their fear for the lives of salmon.

Break: 11:31pm-11: 40pm

Item 5: Overview of Salmon Strategy Update

Mr. Neatherlin provided an overview of the Statewide Salmon Strategy.

This update, which has not occurred in 20 years, is needed to address legal challenges, policy changes, science advancements, and new information to better address salmon needs.

The key elements of this update include climate change, population growth, predators, food webs, as well as issues around habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and hydropower. These will address all salmon with the goal of getting them back to a healthy and harvestable levels.

Mr. Neatherlin explained that the update process includes a steering committee, a consultant, and staff support. There was collaboration with state agency senior staff and tribes. Tribal engagement occurred to ensure government-to-government collaboration. The tribes were invited to provide early input to the process and have reviewed the draft strategy.

Providing a timeline of the document process, Mr. Neatherlin explained that in February there was state agency and tribal review. In March, the Washington Academy of Sciences will make edits. In April, there will be an opportunity for public comment, and the final document will be presented to the Governor's Office in May.

The briefing was opened to questions and comments. **Member Endresen-Scott** asked how insufficient funding would be addressed in the new report. Mr. Neatherlin clarified that funding was one of the priorities in the report. **Member Bugert** asked about the inclusion of the Washington State Association of Counties who hold authority and jurisdiction of much of Washington's land use elements. Mr. Neatherlin explained that he would reach out to them during the public comment period.

Director Cottingham had Mr. Neatherlin address the bottom up/ top-down process.

That Board discussed this strategy further and requested that Mr. Neatherlin provide the updated strategy at the SRFB retreat.

Lunch: 12:15PM-1:20PM

Item 6: Survey Results from 2020 Grant Round

Brent Hedden, RCO Policy Specialist, provided the survey results from the 2020 grant round.

Mr. Hedden explained that the survey was open from October 2-30th, 2020. There were 45 response, totaling a 20 percent response rate. These responses came from organizations such as local governments, Native American tribes, non-profits, state agencies, and others.

Mr. Hedden provided some of the survey questions and mentioned that the board could find more questions and results in the memorandum

Overall, most responses were positive or neutral.

While most of the questions were rating questions from “strongly agree to strongly disagree”, there were also open-ended questions, such as “what was the best part of the grant round” and “what was the most challenging part of the grant round”?

To address some of the problems that applicants had, RCO made changes to the monitoring projects, the review panel phone call, PRISM, and the review of survey results with partners.

Following Mr. Hedden’s report, **Chair Breckel** asked if RCO had data on who was new to the process, specifically those who had rated the process negatively. Mr. Hedden stated that the survey did not provide a question that would acquire that type of data.

However, there was evidence that across the board, survey takers did not provide negative feedback to all questions.

Member Bugert asked Director Cottingham if the LEAN implementation had streamlined the process and cut costs. Director Cottingham explained that it had helped streamline work, but RCO has not been tracking the cost savings.

Closing the topic, **Member Connelly** asked if there was data showing where the responses are coming from geographically. Mr. Hedden explained that, that data did not exist since a question like that was not addressed.

Item 7: Follow-up on Monitoring Option D

Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science and Monitoring Coordinator, **Erik Neatherlin**, and **Pete Bisson**, Monitoring Panel Co-chair provided a detailed follow-up concerning monitoring option D from the SRFB meeting in November 2020.

To address the Board concerns, a SRFB monitoring subcommittee was created that included board members, recovery regions, the Washington Salmon Coalition, the monitoring panel and GSRO staff.

Moving forward, Mr. Dublanica explained that there were three primary initiatives being brought to the board.

1. The monitoring framework where the group would define the term “critical uncertainties” and outline the process and monitoring investments that address critical uncertainties.
2. The initial pilot project for a remote sensing where the group will identify the criteria for selecting large scale floodplain restoration monitoring proposals that are in Eastern and Western Washington.
3. The intensely monitored watersheds’ (IMW) next steps and how to wind down the program

In the context of the SRFB monitoring program, Mr. Dublanica defined critical information gaps as a scientific information need that, if addressed by the appropriate monitoring activities, will improve the efficacy and efficiency of restoration action or will contribute to an information gap that is inhibiting progress towards recovery.

To better address those information gaps, a monitoring framework was created that includes key questions and categories. Mr. Bisson provided an overview of the framework, which can be found in memorandum 7. He noted that the monitoring panel would continue working with the Council of Regions (COR) to complete the review and modifications of the iterative or “living” framework, which will be presented to the board again at the June 2021 SRFB meeting.

Mr. Dublanica addressed the initial pilot projects for remote sensing. The purpose of these pilot projects would be to monitor habitat improvements in restored floodplains using novel remote sensing methods. The pilot projects would test the hypothesis that floodplain and/or riparian restoration actions are beneficial for target fish species. And finally, the pilot projects could show that some types of remote sensing can be used to track habitat status and trends more efficiently and more cost-effectively than ground-based survey techniques.

There are two sites where these pilot projects would be developed- the Middle Entiat River and the Little Hoquiam River in the Coast region.

Finally, Mr. Dublanica spoke on the next steps for IMWs. A list of questions was developed and sent to the principal investigators and others involved in IMWs. The results will be presented to the board in June.

Before the presentation was opened to questions, Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Hood Canal IMW, one of the four western Washington IMWs.

Addressing Mr. Andersen, **Member Bernath** noted that the Hood Canal watershed was rain-based, but the results in a snow-based watershed could differ. He wondered if there had been any correlations with hydraulic changes due to climate change and how that changes migration changes? Mr. Anderson noted that this was not something that had been examined.

Chair Breckel identified confounding issues with IMWs: How can they be connected to the board and their funding decisions? Mr. Anderson explained that it would be best to improve the dialogue of the salmon restoration organizations.

Mr. Neatherlin reminded the board of the two resolutions up for decision and invited Mr. Dublanica forward for more information. Mr. Dublanica specifically spoke on the motion to approve one-time funding of \$133,622 in unobligated funding as the final element of the Option D.

Switching gears, Chair Breckel requested information on how the funding would be applied to the floodplain-scale restoration monitoring pilot projects and what the long-term obligation looked like.

Mr. Bisson explained that most of the funding would be put toward the Entiat pilot project, with limited funding being put toward the Little Hoquiam in the Coast region.

Chair Breckel was dissatisfied with the lack of detailed information on the Little Hoquiam project.

Member Hoffman asked for elaboration on the remote sensing and how it could be compared to other monitoring methods, to which Mr. Bisson explained that remote sensing could be more cost effective and efficient.

Addressing future funding for the pilots, **Director Cottingham** explained that funding would be required for years three and five for the Entiat projects, but because the project had not started in Little Hoquiam, or other as yet unspecified sites in western Washington, there would be a need to fund year zero, three, and five., TBD.

Mr. Bisson said the pilot project's "proof-of-concept" in both eastern and western WA floodplain sites would determine if more work was needed, if they would request more funding, and what other collaborative efforts and leverage was available.

Members continue to ask for clarification on how the funding would be spent, but those exact details could not be provided, which led to the board's hesitation of funding both floodplain pilot projects at this time.

Public Comment:

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Board, addressed the floodplain scale restoration pilot and expressed excitement towards its forward movement.

Mike Kaputa, Chelan County, explained to the board that the Entiat pilot project was ready and that the baseline salmon population was known. The project location is ready for post-restoration monitoring, which would take the twenty-year timeframe.

Following public comment, Chair Breckel requested the motion and Member Bugert recused himself from voting. Because the SRFB was not satisfied with the motion provided by GSRO staff, Member Endresen-Scott provided an alternate motion.

Motion: Move to approve funding for the flood-plain scale restoration monitoring pilot program in the Entiat for year one, up to and not to exceed, ninety-five thousand (\$95,000). Delegate authority to the Director to approve contracts necessary to complete this work, and authorize staff to explore other un-specified western Washington alternatives and bringing any that are ready (constructed), and can be completed within one year back to the board at the June 2021 meeting.

Moved by: Member Endresen Scott

Seconded by: Member Connelly

Decision: **Approved**

Public Comment:

Alex Conley, COR, explained the regional monitoring requests reasoning. He informed the board of COR's seven proposals under review that would total in \$438, 000. Currently, the PCSRF request is at \$300,000. Approving the request would cover the additional cost of the 2021 regional monitoring proposals.

Following comment, **Chair Breckel** asked for clarification on the unallocated funding that is available.

Director Cottingham reminded the board that unallocated funds can be used toward the board's targeted investments and that choosing where to place unallocated funds now would be premature. Allocation of funds, including return funds, will occur at the June meeting.

Member Bugert asked for confirmation that the board would only approve the \$133,622 in funding and further information on the unobligated funds.

Motion: Move to approve one-time funding in the amount of \$133, 622 in unspent monitoring funds for regional monitoring in the 2021 grant round. These funds will be added to the 2021 PCSRF funding for regional monitoring projects, and projects will be reviewed by the monitoring panel and submitted to the board for final approval, consistent with Manual 18 guidance.

Moved by: Member Bugert

Seconded by: Member Sullivan

Decision: **Approved**

Break: No break was taken

Item 8: Report from Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board

Margen Carlson, WDFW Habitat Program Director, and **Tom Jameson**, WDFW Fish Passage Division Manager, provided an update on the Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB).

Mr. Jameson opened explaining that the division he works for at WDFW helps manage a statewide data base for fish passage barriers. There are about 13,000 barriers in this database. Along with his role as the WDFW Fish Passage Division Manager, Mr. Jameson also acts as the BAFBRB chair. This board started in 2014 and includes WDFW, the Washington Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, GSRO, the Association of Cities, the Association of Counties, Tribes, and the salmon recovery regions.

The BAFBRB mission is the restoration of healthy and harvestable populations of salmon and steelhead statewide through the coordination and strategic removal of barriers to fish passage through two pathways: the watershed pathway and the partnership pathway.

- Watershed pathway: Board approved watershed prioritized by regional salmon recovery organizations and maximized the benefits to salmon at a populations scale.
- Partnership Pathway: Fix barriers near other barrier repairs and leverage previous fish passage investments.

From the Governor's proposed budget for the BARBRB, \$38 million was proposed out of the \$65.6 million request.

Ms. Carlson spoke on WDFW's undertaking of rulemaking for the fish passage and screening authority, which came about through the Orcas Task Force, legislative direction and commitment to tribal partners.

The goals of these rules are to codify current standards used by WDFW, to develop new standards for climate adapted water crossing, and to address compliance issues. The policy workshop draft language was completed in February with the participation of tribal partners, key stakeholders, and public input.

Transitioning to a new topic, Ms. Carlson mentioned that in the last legislation session, the legislature provided a proviso to WDFW to develop a comprehensive plan that builds on the investment in the injunction to deliver benefits to salmon and steelhead stocks that are listed as threatened or endangered, contribute to the protection and restoration of Southern Resident orca, and limit the harvest of anadromous fish under the Pacific Salmon Treaty or North of Cape Falcon Fishery negotiations. This work would be initiated throughout 2021.

Closing, the WDFW team opened an opportunity for comment and questions from the board.

Item 9: Overview of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

Jay Krienitz, WDFW, **Jenna Jewett**, WDFW, **Tish Conway**, WDFW and **Kay Caromile**, RCO, presented an overview of the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP).

Opening the overview, Mr. Krienitz explained that ESRP targets the Puget Sound Nearshore and it is a part of a broad level of WDFW Puget Sound Programs, such as the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program (PSNERP), WDFW Lands, and the Habitat Strategic Initiative.

He noted that the origins of ESRP come from PSNERP and was created in 2006. Thus far, there have been 140 investments across Puget Sound. ESRP projects include acquisition, design, planning, construction, and landowner incentives. The funding is put toward restoration and protection projects, learning projects, small grant projects, the Shore Friendly program, and strategic coordinated initiatives. ESRP's capital request was for \$21 million and the Governor's budget proposed \$20 million.

Moving forward, Ms. Jewett provided an overview of the Shore Friendly Program. The program began in 2014 under the Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program as an Environmental Protection Agency funded partnership between WDFW and DNR. When the funding closed in 2018, ESRP adopted the program and in 2019 the team ran a process for grants and had six programs created across Washington.

Shore Friendly targets residential landowners on the Puget Sound. The three main goals of the program are to have landowners remove existing shoreline armor, choose alternatives to hard armor, and making sure that hard armor isn't replaced.

To get landowners involved, there are typically incentives provided, such a grant funding to cut the cost.

Next Ms. Caromile provided the connection between ESRP and SRFB. One connection is through funding, where match and complementary funding is provided. One project example that included complementary funding from ESRP, PSAR, and SRFB to be completed was the Kilsut Harbor and Smith Island.

Ms. Caromile then touched on the ESRP Learning Program. Three sites that the Learning Program will target include Port Susan Bay, Wiley Slough, and Milltown where dike breaching and removal projects were completed. Unfortunately, the project outcomes could have been better, but through studying these sites, information on improving restoration projects can be gathered.

Closing the presentation, Ms. Conway introduced herself and provided greater detail on the Learning Program.

In general, the learning projects fall into:

- 1) Field investigations of ecosystem response to restoration actions.
- 2) Analyses intended to inform maximizing ecosystem benefits.
- 3) Predictive models of ecosystem processes.

Lastly, Ms. Conway informed the board of the Nearshore Restoration Summit and Synthesis where restoration planners, practitioners, natural scientists, and social scientist will join forces to teach the information they have. Following the summit, they will create proceedings of all the information and provide it to the restoration community.

Public comment:

Alex Conley, COR, expressed his thanks to WDFW and BAFBRB for including the regions in their discussion.

Item 10: Partner Reports

Council of Regions

Alex Conley, COR, highlighted that COR would continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with the Water Acts Program.

He also noted that the SRFB could find the 2019 Target Investments project on Mill Creek in his letter to the board.

Closing he explained that because the Little Hoquiam pilot project was not approved, preconstruction monitoring could not be carried forward.

WA Salmon Coalition (WSC)

Susanna Smith, WSC, explained that the Targeted Investment Policy adopted by SRFB was discussed at their last meeting. WSC also had a training to teach their members how to properly participate virtually.

Moving forward, Ms. Smith explained that the lead entities are issuing requests for proposals and supporting project sponsors.

Closing, she noted that WSC would be focusing more on training, communication and outreach, and the creation of a mentorship committee.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG)

Lance Winecka, RFEGs, provided an update. He noted that they are celebrating their 30th anniversary. They have a 2020 annual report and that the annual meetings will be held virtually. All 14 RFEGs are creating applications for SRFB projects.

Speaking to large scale problems, Mr. Winecka explained the difficulty in providing matching funds for the multimillion-dollar projects and tracking the funding even if it is found.

Department of Ecology

Member Hoffman informed the board that the Department of Ecology is actively supporting the governor's climate action proposal.

Department of Transportation (WADOT)

Member Kanzler highlighted the fish passage program. She noted that in July of 2020, WADOT's hydraulics engineers and fish biologist provided a training on fish passage and restoration design. For those that participated in the training, a certification process followed.

She also noted that in 2020 14 fish passage barriers were corrected and in summer of 2021, WADOT intends to remove 28 barriers.

ADJOURN 5:08 PM

The meeting adjourned at 5:08pm.

The next meeting of the Salmon Recovery Board will occur June 2nd & 3rd, 2021 through Zoom.

Approved by:

Jeff Breckel, Chair

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Director's Report

Prepared By: Megan Duffy, RCO Director and Wendy Brown, Policy Director

Summary

This memo describes key agency activities and happenings.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Agency Update

Governor Appoints New RCO Director

Governor Jay Inslee appointed Megan Duffy as the new RCO director. Megan has more than 20 years of experience working in natural resources in Washington. She served as the department supervisor for the Washington Department of Natural Resources, where she oversaw the daily operations of the agency and its 1,500 employees. Duffy also was the executive coordinator of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and a member of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board as the designee from the Department of Natural Resources. She started her career with Ross Strategic, where she helped local, state, and federal agencies develop policies and programs related to a diverse set of environmental issues. She joined us officially on May 1.



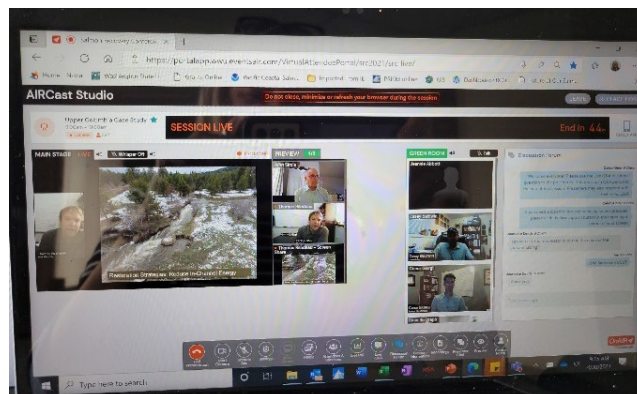
RCO Wins Zo8 Wellness Award

RCO has won the Zo8 Wellness Award from the Washington State Health Care Authority. The award is given to agencies that build a solid wellness program. The unusual name of the award has deeper meaning. "Zo" has a Greek root that means life and the "8" stands for the eight steps in the state's wellness program plan template. To build a wellness program, agencies must get leadership support, form a team, collect information, create a plan, promote activities, develop policies, evaluate progress, and share results. Way to go Allison Dellwo for leading this effort!



Salmon Recovery Conference Breaks Attendance Records

The first virtual Salmon Recovery Conference broke all attendance records, coming in with a whopping 1,319 registered participants. The previous record was 805 participants. This was the eighth salmon recovery conference. While everyone missed the opportunity to see one another and network, there was no shortage of excitement, enthusiasm, and inspiration. This year's conference had a



live feed from Governor Jay Inslee and Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck, and a performance by drummers from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. One of the highlights was when Representative Debra Lekanoff, the only Native American woman to currently serve in the Legislature, took her laptop outside during the opening plenary to show everyone the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Her impassioned speech was inspiring. Another highlight was hearing former poet laureate Claudia Castro Luna read her poem about the mighty Columbia River. The quality and participation numbers of the conference represents an enormous effort by GSRO and RCO staff as well as SRFB members. Thanks to all who contributed.

Puget Sound Day on the Hill

RCO is participating in Puget Sound Days on the Hill, a month-long series of Friday meetings with Congressional members and their staffs to raise awareness about the need for sustained federal investment in Puget Sound restoration and salmon recovery. The virtual event is hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission with planning support by other agencies including RCO. Representatives from tribes, state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and businesses, along with concerned residents, lend their voices in support of action to save Puget Sound and uphold tribal treaty rights. They are joined by members of Congress to engage in a question-and-answer session about priorities for Puget Sound, salmon, and orca. Representatives Derek Kilmer, Marilyn Strickland, and Suzan Delbene joined on April 23 and Senator Patty Murray and Representative Kim Schrier joined May 30. See Puget Sound Partnership's Web page for [more details](http://www.psdonth.org).



Legislature Wraps Up Session

The Legislature convened its session on time and passed both operating and capital budgets favorable to RCO. In addition, the Legislature extended the Invasive Species Council for another 10 years. In the operating budget, our maintenance level of funding remains whole, with several new studies and projects added and funding for the lead entities holding steady.

Here are the new salmon-related additions:

- **Hood Canal Bridge Fish Passage.** \$3.6 million to install a near-term solution to prevent juvenile Steelhead from dying at the Hood Canal Bridge.
- **Salmon Recovery Permit Streamlining.** \$152,000 to create a 4-year pilot project for streamlined permitting for certain salmon restoration projects.
- **Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan.** \$418,000 for the Nisqually River Foundation to implement the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan.
- **Upper Columbia River Reintroduction.** \$250,000 for a Spokane Tribe of Indians' pilot study of salmon migratory behavior and survival upstream of the Chief

Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. The pilot study will inform efforts to reintroduce salmon in this area.

- **Orca Recovery.** \$280,000 for an orca recovery position in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

In the capital budget, RCO received grant program amounts, which overall are more than \$145 million more than the current biennium. Below are the salmon-related grant program amounts.

Program	2019-21	2021-23 Request	2021-23 Final
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	\$10,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$15,708,000
Family Forest and Fish Passage Program	\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$5,957,000
Fish Barrier Removal Board Grants	\$26,491,000	\$65,600,000	\$26,795,000
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	\$49,507,000	\$69,900,000	\$52,807,000
Salmon Recovery (State)	\$25,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$30,000,000
Salmon Recovery (Federal)	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative	\$12,086,000	\$15,000,000	\$10,313,000
Total	\$178,084,000	\$310,500,000	\$191,580,000

News from the Other Boards

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** said goodbye to two long-serving board members: Brock Milliern (Department of Natural Resources designee), who has recently promoted to the Department of Ecology, and Joe Stohr (Department of Fish and Wildlife designee), who has served the board since 2013. The board introduced two new members, Amy Windrope, replacing Stohr, and Angus Brodie, replacing Milliern. At this meeting, the board also approved ranked lists in four grant programs. The next board meeting is scheduled for June, when the board will hold its annual retreat and approve funding for most of its grant programs.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met in March and heard an overview of the recent zebra mussel outbreak in Washington from aquarium moss balls. The council next meets virtually June 10. Topics will include the new threat of Japanese beetle to agriculture and trade, invasive species survey results, introduction to the new RCO director, and more.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of April 15, 2021

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021, actuals through April 15, 2021 (FM 21). 87.5% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2019-2021	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2013-15	\$1,936,999	\$1,936,999	100%	\$0	0%	\$753,959	39%
2015-17	\$2,973,000	\$2,973,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,793,000	94%
2017-19	\$11,332,731	\$11,332,731	100%	\$0	0%	\$6,228,313	55%
2019-21	\$21,570,000	\$21,570,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,957,229	14%
Total	37,812,730	37,812,730	100%	0	0%	12,732,502	34%
Federal Funded							
2015	\$3,324,250	\$3,324,250	100%	\$0	0%	\$3,324,250	100%
2016	\$7,782,478	\$7,675,211	99%	\$107,268	0%	\$6,689,222	87%
2017	\$11,149,935	\$9,825,075	88%	\$1,324,860	10%	\$6,602,831	67%
2018	\$16,258,379	\$15,124,620	93%	\$1,133,758	3%	\$8,372,428	55%
2019	\$18,085,650	\$18,085,650	100%	\$0	0%	\$6,562,487	36%
2020	\$17,945,000	\$15,154,953	84%	\$2,790,047	16%	\$686,120	5%
Total	74,545,692	69,189,759	93%	5,355,933	7%	32,237,339	47%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$7,351,824	\$7,351,159	99%	\$665	1%	\$4,438,538	60%
PSAR	\$94,941,623	94,183,778	99%	\$757,845	1%	\$34,831,225	37%
Subtotal	214,651,869	208,537,426	97%	6,114,443	3%	84,239,603	40%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	5,799,052	77%
Subtotal	7,534,243	7,534,243	100%	0	0%	5,799,052	77%
GRAND TOTAL	\$222,186,112	\$216,071,669	97%	\$6,114,443	3%	\$90,038,655	42%

Note: Activities such as smolt monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, and regional funding are combined with projects in the state and federal funding lines above.

Performance Update

The following data is for grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2021. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of May 6, 2021.

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) in fiscal year 2021. Grant sponsors submit these performance measure data for blockages removed, fish passages installed, and stream miles made accessible when a project is completed and in the process of closing. The Forest Family Fish Passage Program, Coastal Restoration Initiative Program, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program are not included in these totals.

Nineteen salmon blockages were removed so far, this fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to May 6, 2021), with thirty passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 56.01 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1. SRFB-Funded Fish Passage Metrics

Measure	FY 2021 Performance
Blockages Removed	19
Bridges Installed	6
Culverts Installed	8
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	16

Table 2. Stream Miles Made Accessible by SRFB-Funded Projects in FY 2021

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
15-1219	Icicle Creek-Boulder Field-Wild Fish to Wilderness	Trout Unlimited Inc.	23
16-1406	East Fork McLane Fish Passage Project	Thurston Conservation District	1.1
16-1533	IMW Sarah Cr. Habitat & Passage Enhancement	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	1.72
17-1117	Camp 7 Road - Fish Barrier Removal (Site 4)	Quinault Indian Nation	0.72

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
17-1158	Richards' Lost Creek Barrier Removal	Trout Unlimited - WA Coast	2.5
17-1160	Martin Ranch Road Culvert Fish Passage	Skagit County Public Works	0.62
17-1305	Mill Creek Passage – Park to Otis	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	0.17
17-1418	Johnson Cr Fish Passage_SitID R261020014604	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	6.2
17-1420	MF Newaukum Fish Passage_SitID 021(45011)(07070)	Lewis County of	2.5
18-1492	Frase Creek Fish Barrier Removal	Lewis County Public Works	2.74
18-1494	Bush Creek 3 Fish Barrier Correction Construction	Chehalis Basin FTF	8.44
18-1495	Mattson Road Fish Passage	Grays Harbor Conservation Dist	4.2
18-1857	Twisp Floodplain Left Bank Alcove Restoration	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	0.2
18-2146	Harlow's Creek Habitat Restoration	CREST	1.9
Total Miles			56.01

Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2021 operational performance measures as of May 6, 2021.

Table 3. SRFB-Funded Grants: Management Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2021 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	70%	●	96 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff mailed agreements on average 76 days after a project was approved.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	87%	●	549 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 479 in 15 days or less. On

Measure	FY Target	FY 2021 Performance	Indicator	Notes
				average, staff responded within 7 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	100%	●	During this fiscal year to date, 1,393 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	80%	●	65 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close so far, this fiscal year. 52 closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	3	●	Three SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog due to various issues.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	33	●	Staff have inspected 33 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2021 to reach the target. Target impacted by travel restrictions.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Communications Plan Status Update

Prepared By: Susan Zemek, Communications Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the progress of the implementation of the communications plan and outlines the work for 2021.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Introduction

RCO communications staff developed a 6-year, agency-wide, multi-board communications plan, which began in 2019. The plan has three goals:

- **Goal 1:** Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.
- **Goal 2:** Strengthen agency partnerships.
- **Goal 3:** Promote RCO's leadership, innovation, and continual improvement.

The plan also contains measures to gauge effectiveness of the actions and they are as follows:

- Increased media coverage generated by RCO outreach efforts.
- Increased social media followers.
- Increased visits to places on the RCO Web sites targeted by social media.
- Consistent appearance by RCO at public events to share agency missions.

- Increased subscribership, open rates, and Web site click-through rates in newsletters.

Overall, implementation of the communications plan this year was affected by two major events, the pandemic and the loss of the communications specialist employee (nearly all year). Those events caused a shift in the work to cover the essential tasks and did not allow much in the way of expansion or new projects. The pandemic also meant fewer public events, which resulted in declines in some of our measures of success.

Despite the many challenges, the communications staff had several major accomplishments throughout the year.

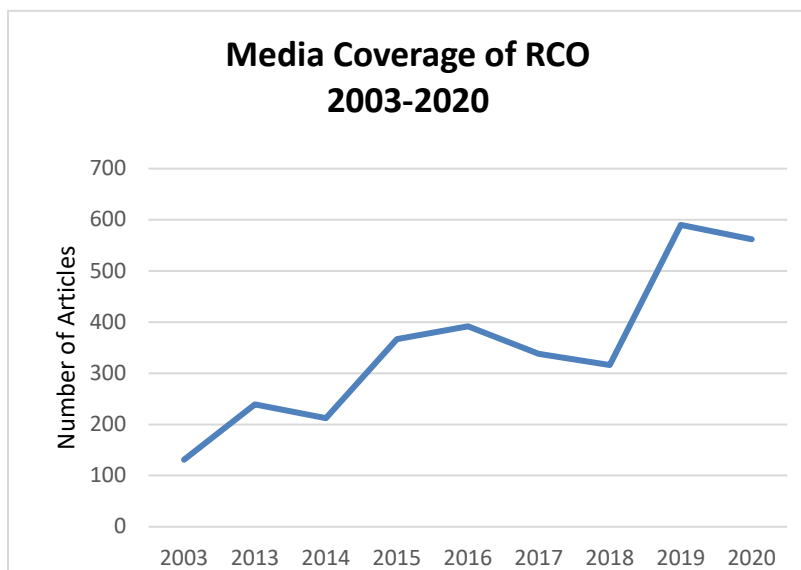
- Successfully completed pandemic-related messaging on the agency's Web site, social media, and director's blog.
- Successfully launched the State of Salmon in Watersheds Web site (the fourth Web site launched in 15 months). Work included producing a printed Executive Summary, complete revamping of the Web site, publishing a news release and social media posts, and producing a video. Overall, this year's release garnered more media coverage than in recent years, receiving international coverage and an article in the New York Times!
- Successfully announced two of RCO's major studies—the update to the economics study of outdoor recreation and the hiking-biking study with news releases, social media posts, and Web information.
- Successfully launched a new grant program, the Community Forests Program.
- Successfully promoted both the recreation and conservation spring and fall grant rounds and the salmon grant round, which operated under a condensed schedule. Work included updating 21 grant manuals.
- Successfully edited, designed, and produced more than 100 documents for distribution internally and to the public in 2020.

The end of this item contains a complete list of the salmon-related strategies, activities, and tasks used to implement the plan's goals. Below is a summary of the measures of success.

Metrics: Measure of Success

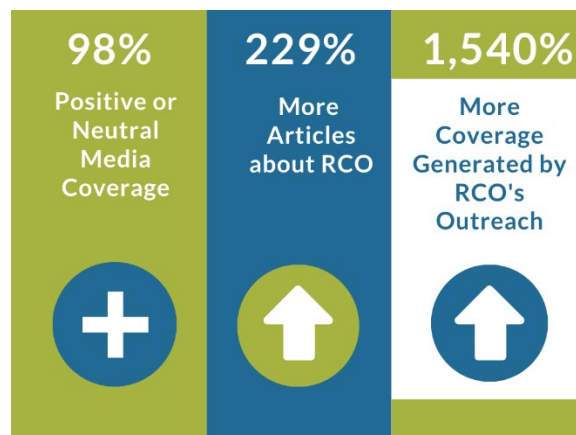
Metric: Increased Media Coverage Generated by RCO Outreach Efforts

Media coverage of RCO has improved significantly since the start of the communications program in 2003, but dipped by 5 percent in 2020. The number of news articles written about the agency increased 229 percent from 131 articles in 2003 to 562 articles in 2020. More than 5,800 articles have been written about RCO since the start of its communications program.



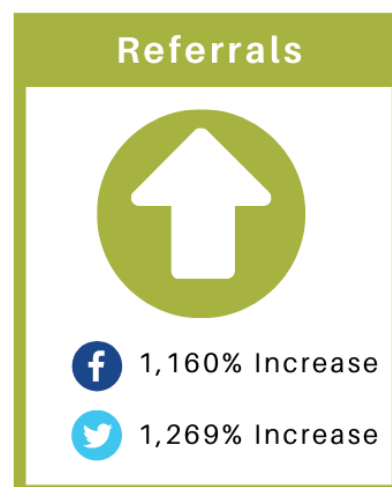
Not only are people seeing more about RCO, but what they are seeing is positive or neutral 98 percent of time.

In addition, RCO, through its news releases and social media posts, is generating more coverage of its boards, missions, and programs. The number of news articles resulting from RCO outreach dropped by 33 percent in 2020 but overall has improved 1,540 percent since 2003.



Metric: Increased Social Media Followers

This metric had mixed results. The number of posts to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram remained about the same (623 in 2019 and 618 in 2020), but the impact varied. The 277 Facebook posts reached 288,207 people with a 35 percent increase in page likes (3,272 to 4,434) but a 21 percent decrease in engagement per post compared to 2019. The 185 Tweets reached 163,200 people.



Metric: Increased Visits to RCO Web Sites Targeted by Social Media

To get people to learn more about RCO and its missions, the communications plan has social media posts drive people to the RCO Web site, where they can explore the agency more in-depth. RCO has seen referrals from social media to our Web site increase by half a percent from 2019 to 2020, which is significant considering Facebook engagement decreased by 21 percent. Over time, social media has continued to grow as a referral method to the RCO Web site from less than 1 percent of referrals in 2013 to more than 5 percent in 2020.

Metric: Consistent Appearance by RCO at Public Events to Share Agency Missions

The pandemic ended nearly all public events, such as ribbon cutting and groundbreaking ceremonies. RCO attended five events. This is a significant decrease from the 22 events in 2019.

Metric: Increased Subscribership, Open Rates, and Web Site Click-Through Rates in Newsletters

This metric was not tracked because staff delayed the expansion of the Director's Blog to external audiences.

Communications Plan Status Report by Goal

Activity	Tasks	Status
Goal 1: Build support for RCO's missions of salmon recovery, land conservation, recreation, and invasive species management.		
Strategy 1: Create compelling information about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions.		
Activity 1: Solicit compelling stories from staff and partners.	Task 1: Regularly reach out to staff to find stories and projects that exemplify the value of RCO's missions.	Done. Major accomplishments sought monthly through the director's blog.
	Task 2: Regularly mine partner news and social media posts to find stories about the benefit of investing in RCO's missions.	Done. We regularly link to social media posts from sister agencies about RCO-funded projects.

Activity	Tasks	Status
	Task 3: Use photographs, videos, audio, and informational graphics to make the stories more compelling.	Done. New this year was the creation of a video message to introduce the State of Salmon in Watershed report to the media.
Activity 2: Develop participatory or crowd-sourcing information to engage key audiences.	Task 1: Using important board policies, major agency events, news, or other venues, create ways for the public and other key audiences to engage with RCO.	Haven't started
	Task 2: Maintain a calendar of events that will highlight the value of RCO's mission and make RCO stories timely and engaging.	Done
	Task 3: Use an agency social media hashtag (#BestofWAOuthdoors) to encourage user-generated content on Instagram. Share crowd-sourced photos of grant-funded projects on our page.	Done
	Task 4: Continue to use the #salmonconf hashtag in connection with all Salmon Recovery Conference content and engage and share user-generated content before, during, and after the conference. Use #salmonrecovery for all content related to salmon grants, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.	Done
	Task5: Consider the use of polls, photo contests, a Twitter Chat, Facebook Live, and other opportunities to engage with our audiences on social media. Consistently respond to	Regularly respond to comments, haven't initiated

Activity	Tasks	Status
	comments, questions, and messages we receive on social media, when appropriate.	engagement events
Activity 3: Update agency publications to reflect benefit messages.		Done
Activity 4: Update the agency's Web sites to reflect the benefit of investing in RCO missions and to be more modern and accessible.	Task 1: Use social media to grow referrals to the Web site.	Done. Four of RCO's five Web sites have been updated. Social media referrals have increased from less than 1% to 5% of Web visits.
Strategy 2: Share the compelling messages with target audiences.		
Activity 1: Develop and implement a social media strategy that will build out a presence for RCO.	Task 1: Use social media advertising to grow engagement and followers.	Started. Have done one ad.
	Task 2: Jump onto trending topics, current news stories, and trending hashtags, when appropriate, on social media to bring added relevance and awareness to agency business.	Done
Activity 2: Expand viewers of RCO's newsletters	Task 1: Redesign the newsletters to be more compelling with better graphics and targeted stories.	Newsletter was redesigned and moved to SharePoint. Version for external audiences has not been redesigned.
	Task 2: Put the newsletters online with consistent publication deadlines.	Not started
	Task 3: Use Web site, presence at events, social media, and other avenues to solicit subscribers from RCO partners, user groups, and state and local leaders.	Not started

Activity	Tasks	Status
Activity 3: Share information about RCO projects, events, and accomplishments with agency partners.		Done. Regularly share with sister natural resource agencies and local government partners
Activity 4: Develop targeted information and distribution methods to reach underserved communities so they might participate in RCO grants and activities.	Task 1: Consider the use of social media advertising to reach specific audiences based on their location, page followings, and interests.	Started. have done only one ad
	Task 2: Aim to support accessibility by adding video captions and image alt text on platforms that offer these functions.	Done. Alt tags added to most photos on RCO Web sites and in major publications
Strategy 3: Engage the media in telling the story of RCO's missions.		
Activity 1: Promote RCO's missions to the media through a combination of news releases, media advisories, radio and television interviews, editorial content, and reporter tours.		15 news releases and media advisories sent to nearly 500 media outlets in 2020.
Activity 2: Expand media list to include recreation user groups, recreation and conservation blogs and magazines, and other specialty publications and information networks. Maintain media list with new reporters when outlets have staff turnover.	Task 1: Increase media following of our social media pages, particularly Twitter, for brief, up-to-date information directly available to media.	Done. media list updated. Have not tracked media followers yet.

Activity	Tasks	Status
Goal 2: Strengthen Agency Partnerships		
Strategy 1: Increase partners' understanding of RCO activities.		
Activity 1: Create materials about RCO that can be used by staff and board members when meeting with partners.	Task 1: Create two, high-level PowerPoint presentations about RCO and salmon recovery.	Not started
	Task 2: Help update the GSRO salmon videos to include new messages	Not funded
	Task 3: Create social media graphics and messaging tool kits that can be shared with partners for use on their channels.	Done
Activity 2: Develop standard protocols for communications about board policy changes.		Not started
Strategy 2: Look for opportunities to join with partners in activities.		
Activity 1: Seek opportunities for joint news releases or social media posts, or to participate in partner events.		Ongoing. We've done joint news releases with the Puget Sound Partnership when announcing grant awards and with invasive species organizations.
Activity 2: Continue to support the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force and the Salmon Recovery Network.		Done. Participating on the orca task force's communications subcommittee
Activity 3: Promote the good work of RCO partners through Bravo Awards.	Task 1: Schedule award ceremonies with the top-ranked projects in the majority of grant programs.	On hold due to pandemic
	Task 2: Promote Bravo Award ceremonies through news releases and social media.	On hold due to pandemic
	Task 3: Conduct testimonial-style interviews on video with	On hold due to pandemic

Activity	Tasks	Status
	representatives of Bravo Award recipients to speak to the impact of RCO funding in their community, and share those interviews in a variety of ways, such as on social media, the Web site, or in media releases.	
Activity 4: Join partners at their celebration events.	Task 1: Share events on social and consider live video featuring our remarks or grant-funded improvements.	Done although significantly fewer due to pandemic
Activity 5: Create materials about RCO that can be used by our partners when meeting with the public or key stakeholders.	Task 1: Build monthly social media content and distribute to salmon partners.	Monthly social media content is created but not systematically shared with partners.
	Task 2: Create resources for SRNet partners to use when attending their local events, such as salmon festivals.	Not started
	Task 3: Update the Lead Entity Directory to include all members of the network and explain how the network functions.	Draft completed, waiting review
	Task 4: Using the State of Salmon in Watersheds report, develop online regional media packets about salmon recovery with up-to-date, digestible content and contact information for reporters.	Not started
Strategy 3: Help unify the message of salmon recovery partners.		
Activity 1: Ensure RCO's messages are consistent with message framework.	Task 1: Update materials with framework messages and vocabulary.	Done and ongoing as publications are developed
	Task 2: Align RCO, GSRO, SOS Web pages and the front presented to public.	Done
Activity 1: Cultivate relationships with SRNet	Task 1: Reach out to SRNet partners to find good stories and train them in	Not started

Activity	Tasks	Status
members to develop a kind of regional "SWAT" team to assist with salmon recovery storytelling.	use of the communications plan and message framework.	
	Task 2: Build out and prioritize audiences.	Not started
	Task 3: Identify messengers in each region and practice elevator statement.	Not started
	Task 4: Help create materials reflecting the statewide story of salmon recovery.	Not started
	Task 5: Consider using a Facebook page or group on behalf of GSRO to aggregate attention and followers around the topic of salmon recovery across the state. Encourage following and engagement from lead entities and Salmon Recovery Network partners.	Not started
Activity 3: Harness the power of locally elected officials and tribes across the state who are active members of regional salmon recovery boards, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and lead entities to help RCO tell the story of salmon recovery.	Task 1: Educate elected officials about the opportunities to promote salmon recovery by, for example, meeting with legislators.	Not started
	Task 2: Provide tools.	Not started
	Task 3: Share RCO's social media strategy with network members to identify gaps and opportunities for collaboration. Increase following from elected officials, and members of tribal governments, regional salmon recovery boards, regional fisheries enhancement groups, and lead entities to help broaden social media reach and engagement among this audience.	Not started
Goal 3: Promote RCO's leadership, innovation, and continual improvement.		
Strategy 1: Ensure RCO maintains its brand as an exemplary grant agency with strong customer service.		
Activity 1: Promote RCO's efforts to improve its		Done

Activity	Tasks	Status
grant processes through Lean efforts, board policy changes, and other initiatives.		
Activity 2: Promote RCO's customer service.	Task 1: Consider featuring grant managers and other employees to emphasize the dedication of its employees and their strong value of customer service.	Done in social media.
	Task 2: Ensure RCO Web sites, publications, social media, and news media efforts are up-to-date, easily understood by the public, and clearly explain our grant processes.	Done
	Task 3: Survey staff about internal communications tools to ensure they are getting the information and tools they need to provide outstanding customer service.	Survey drafted
	Task 4: Build relationships with media reporters to foster strong understanding of RCO and its mission.	Done
Activity 3: Consider updating the agency's tagline: Investing in Washington's Great Outdoors to something that is more benefit-oriented.		Not started
Strategy 2: Strengthen agency branded identity		
Activity 1: Develop a unified look for the agency's Web site, publications, presentations, signs, newsletters, social media posts and cover photos,	Task 1: Develop graphic standards.	Started. We have begun mimicking the Web site design on agency publications and social media.
	Task 2: Develop agency writing style guide.	Started

Activity	Tasks	Status
and in-office agency branding.	Task 3: Design project signs to match branding.	Not funded

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, staff will accomplish the following:

1. **Implement the communications plan:** While much of the work will be a continuation of normal duties, staff hopes to redesign the director's newsletter and put it into electronic form so it can be shared with external stakeholders. Staff also hopes to develop targeted information and distribution methods to reach underserved communities so they might participate in RCO grants and activities.
2. **Social Media and Web site management:** Staff hopes to enhance two-way public engagement in social media and continue to build out a presence for RCO.
3. **Publication management:** Staff hopes to extend new graphic standards to more publications.
4. **Internal communications:** Staff hopes to survey staff about internal communications tools in order to keep those used by staff and redesign or eliminate ones with low use. Staff also hopes to continue developing writing style guidelines to help fellow staffers be better writers.

Strategic Plan Connection

The work of the communications staff fits under the following:

Goal 3: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Objective 3.A. Broaden public support and applicant pool for the board's grant programs.

Strategy 3.A.2. Increase public understanding of project benefits including economic and ecosystem benefits.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator
Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the recent work completed by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) Salmon Recovery Section.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing and Minor Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

Legislative and Partner Activities

RCO, GSRO and other WA state natural resource agencies assisted the Governor's Office in preparing federal funding requests. This included assistance in developing the Governor's April 2, 2021 letter regarding salmon and orca infrastructure needs. The letter and supporting information were sent to the Washington Congressional Delegation and committee staff.

GSRO also worked with Governor Inslee's Washington DC Office to coordinate a five-state Governor's letter of support for a \$70M Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund appropriation for Federal Fiscal Year 2022. This Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California and Alaska Governor's letter is critical in demonstrating broad support for federal funding and salmon recovery. A final signed letter from all five states was issued on April 22, 2021 (Attachment C).

Another federally focused effort during April and May is Puget Sound Days on the Hill, which raises awareness about the need for sustained federal investment in Puget Sound restoration and salmon recovery. The virtual event was hosted by Puget Sound Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) with other agencies including the Recreation and Conservation Office, providing planning support. Representatives from tribes, state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, and businesses, along with concerned residents, spoke to the importance of necessary actions to save Puget Sound and uphold tribal treaty rights. The representatives engaged with Members of Congress in a question-and-answer session about Puget Sound, Salmon Recovery, and Orca priorities. The 2021 Puget Sound Days on the Hill was held virtually every Friday afternoon during April 23rd – May 21st. Most members of Washington’s Congressional Delegation attended at least one session. See the Puget Sound Partnership’s webpage for more details: [PSDOTH 2021](#).

Salmon Recovery Network

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) continued to meet virtually in March focusing much of their effort on reviewing the 2021-23 biennial budget and policy bills. The group also worked on preparing site tours for partners and policy makers. SRNet’s next meeting is in June 2021.

2021 Salmon Recovery Conference

The eighth salmon recovery conference was held April 28-30, 2021 on the virtual platform called EventsAir. This was the first virtual conference and there were over 1,300 people registered for the event. We had representatives from Canada, Alaska, Utah, Maryland, Oregon, Colorado, Washington DC, Arizona, and Arkansas. Despite a few technical glitches, the conference was an overwhelming success

2023 Salmon Recovery Conference

When the 2021 conference was moved to an online format, the Vancouver Hilton agreed to rebook the 2023 conference without penalty. We are seeking the board’s approval to hold the 2023 Salmon Recovery Conference in Vancouver from April 17-19, 2023.

Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund (PCSRF)

Washington’s PCSRF application was submitted, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) notified RCO that our application will receive \$18.4M for the 2021 PCSRF award. We received \$18.5M in 2020 and \$18.64M in 2019.

Southern Resident Orca Recovery

RCO and GSRO are excited that Tara Galuska is our new state Orca Recovery Coordinator. Tara will be working with partners to help implement the recommendations of Gov. Jay Inslee's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force. Tara brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion to this position. More information about Tara's appointment can be found [here](#).

Salmon Recovery Section Report

2020 Grant Round

The SRFB approved the 2020 Grant Round projects at its September 2020 meeting. These projects are now under contract and work has begun. With the 2021-2023 capital budget finalized, staff will put the board approved Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program projects under contract in July.

2021 Grant Round

RCO kicked off the 2021 grant round with an announcement and application workshop in January. All site visits were held remotely again this year. The first review panel meeting was held in March after 14 lead entity site visits were complete. The panel reviewed 67 projects and of those 23 or 34% were cleared or conditioned. Therefore, these project applications are considered complete and await funding consideration later in the year. The remaining 11 lead entity site visits were completed by May 13, 2021.

To date there are 143 applications in PRISM requesting \$36.7 million. The grant round amount will be set by the board in June (Item 4) and projects considered for funding in September.

Other Salmon Related Programs

With the capital budget finalized, the program project lists will be funded at their respective appropriation levels. Here are the links to the proposed project lists for the 2021-2023 biennium.

ESRP: [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program proposed project list](#)

WCRRI: [Washington Restoration and Resiliency Program proposed project list](#)

BAFBRB: [Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board proposed project list](#)

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Administration

The following table shows projects funded by the board and administered by staff since 1999. The information is current as of April 28, 2021. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board program (BAFBRB), the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), the Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative program (WCRI), or the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP). Although RCO staff support these programs through grant and contract administration, the board does not review and approve projects under these programs.

Table 1. Board-Funded Projects

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
Salmon Projects to Date	17	431	2,704	3,152
Percentage of Total	0.5%	13.7%	85.8%	

Motions

Motions:

Move to approve hosting the 2023 Salmon Recovery Conference in Vancouver, WA and hiring Western Washington Conference Services to assist in planning.

Strategic Plan Connection

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

The Salmon Recovery Management Report supports *Goal 2* of the board's strategic plan, which focuses on the board's accountability for investments. By sharing information on staff activities and the grant round processes, the board can ensure accountability for the efficient use of resources.

Attachments

Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between January 26, 2021 and April 30, 2021. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g. designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out 35 projects or contracts during this time.

Approved Amendments

Attachment B shows the major amendments approved between January 28, 2021 and April 30, 2021. Staff processed 46 project-related amendments during this period; most amendments were minor revisions related to administrative changes or time extensions.

Letters

Attachment C – Multi-State Governor’s PCSRF Letter

Attachment D – Governor’s Letter to Congress Regarding American Rescue Plan Act

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from January 26, 2021-April 30, 2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>13-1078</u>	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Elwha River Revegetation Support Phase 2	PSAR Large Capital Projects	2/2/2021
<u>15-1061</u>	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Pysht River Floodplain Restoration: Phase III	Salmon Federal Projects	4/6/2021
<u>15-1219</u>	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Icicle Creek-Boulder Field-Wild Fish to Wilderness	Salmon State Projects	4/2/2021
<u>16-1406</u>	Thurston Conservation District	East Fork McLane Fish Passage Project	Salmon State Projects	2/23/2021
<u>16-1407</u>	Capitol Land Trust	WRIA 13 Habitat Acquisition Project Development	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/12/2021
<u>16-1450</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	Wilcox Reach - North Shoreline Protection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/19/2021
<u>16-1451</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	Wilcox Reach - Small Lots Acquisition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/20/2021
<u>16-1567</u>	Mason Conservation Dist.	Gosnell Cr LWD & Riparian Design & Implementation	Salmon Federal Projects	2/2/2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1591</u>	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Curley Creek Acquisition	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/23/2021
<u>16-1650</u>	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	2016 Collaborative Riparian Stewardship	Salmon Federal Projects	4/13/2021
<u>16-1672</u>	University of Washington	Evaluating Causes of Decline of Pacific Herring	Salmon Federal Activities	4/16/2021
<u>16-1749</u>	Mid-Columbia RFEG	NF Manastash Creek Floodplain Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	2/17/2021
<u>16-2099</u>	Walla Walla Co Cons Dist.	McCaw Reach Habitat Rest. Phase B Construction	Salmon State Projects	4/5/2021
<u>16-2284</u>	NW Indian Fisheries Comm	NWIFC Hatchery Reform 2016 Monitoring	Salmon Federal Activities	1/29/2021
<u>17-1062</u>	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Dugualla Bay Tidelands Acquisition	Salmon Federal Projects	3/26/2021
<u>17-1083</u>	Underwood Conservation Dist.	Little Wind River Phase IV Habitat Enhancement	Salmon Federal Projects	2/17/2021
<u>17-1120</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Tribal Mass Marking 2016	Salmon Federal Activities	4/13/2021

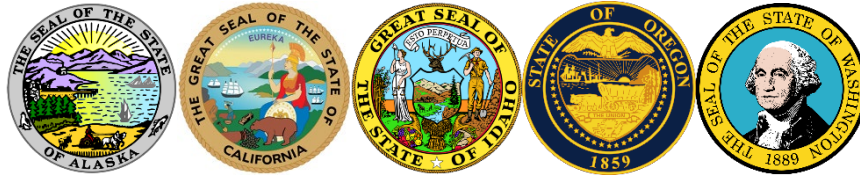
Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>17-1122</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	WDFW Lower Columbia VSP Monitoring - 2016	Salmon Federal Activities	2/4/2021
<u>17-1153</u>	Tulalip Tribes	Pilchuck Dam Removal Restoration Designs Project	Salmon Federal Projects	2/18/2021
<u>17-1163</u>	KWIAHT	Early Pacific Sandlance Life History & Survival	Salmon Federal Activities	4/12/2021
<u>17-1282</u>	Underwood Conservation Dist.	White Salmon Irrigation District Fish Screen	Salmon State Projects	3/25/2021
<u>17-1305</u>	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	Mill Creek Passage – Park to Otis	Salmon Federal Projects	1/29/2021
<u>18-1213</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	2017 Chinook Mark-Selective Fisheries Monitoring	Salmon Federal Activities	4/12/2021
<u>18-1465</u>	The Nature Conservancy	Port Susan Bay Adaptive Management Prelim Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/1/2021
<u>18-1628</u>	King Co Water & Land Res	Haffner-Barfuse Floodplain Restoration Design	Salmon State Projects	3/11/2021
<u>18-1750</u>	Nooksack Indian Tribe	SF (Nuxw7iyem) Homesteader Reach Final Design	Salmon State Projects	3/16/2021

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>18-1770</u>	Sumner City of	Pacific Pointbar - White River Acquisition	Salmon State Projects	2/24/2021
<u>18-1771</u>	San Juan County Public Works	MacKaye Harbor Beach Rest Design	Salmon Federal Projects	2/2/2021
<u>18-1797</u>	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Entiat Fish Passage & Screening Assessment	Salmon State Projects	2/8/2021
<u>18-1884</u>	Trout Unlimited - WA Coast	USFS Road 2952 Decommission	Salmon Federal Projects	2/1/2021
<u>18-2096</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Maximizing Natural Origin Recruitment 2017	Salmon Federal Activities	4/28/2021
<u>19-1315</u>	Quinault Indian Nation	Lower Quinault Invasive Project (Phase 7)	Salmon State Projects	3/10/2021
<u>19-1690</u>	Ecology Dept of	WECY IMW support 2020	Salmon Federal Activities	4/7/2021
<u>19-1710</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	WDFW Status and Trends Monitoring (Fi-Fo) 2020	Salmon Federal Activities	4/2/2021
<u>19-1780</u>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Fish Program IMW Monitoring 2020	Salmon Federal Activities	3/31/2021

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
18-1414	Elochoman LWD and Floodplain Restoration Design	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	3/8/2021	Adds \$4,850 SRFB to the project to allow for geotechnical and survey work, and completion of design and cultural resources.
16-1306	Seahorse Siesta Barge Removal	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	PSAR	Cost Change	3/12/2021	Adds \$10,000 of returned ESRP funds to help cover the project cost overrun for removal of barge.
16-1574	Snohomish Watershed Restoration Using Beaver	Tulalip Tribes	PSAR	Cost Change	3/30/2021	Adds \$58,715 to complete restoration work on USFS land in the Skykomish and Snoqualmie watersheds through June 30, 2021.
20-1159	Tree Fever Property Conservation Easements	Capitol Land Trust	Salmon - State	Cost Change	3/11/2021	Adds \$30,000 to cover the appraised value of the property.
19-1471	Okanogan Basin Barrier Assessment	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Salmon - State	Cost Change	3/25/2021	Adds \$28,950 of SRFB funds to refine the Upper Columbia Fish Passage Barrier Removal Prioritization Tool and update it with Okanogan Basin data.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amount/Notes
19-1475	Wenatchee River-Monitor Side Channel Construction	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Salmon - Federal	Cost Change	2/8/2021	Adds \$15,000 for the new FEMA no-rise hydraulic modelling and engineering certification permit process.
16-1651	Hansen Creek Reach 5 Restoration	Skagit River Sys Cooperative	PSAR	Cost Change	3/25/2021	Returned \$150,000 of PSAR funds to the Skagit Watershed Council for re-allocation to existing PSAR projects requiring cost increases.
16-2052	SF Nooksack Fish Camp (Ts'eq) Reach Design	Nooksack Indian Tribe	PSAR	Cost Change	2/10/2021	Adds \$27,897 with returned 17-19 WRIA 1 PSAR funds and increase match by \$4,923 to complete design work.



April 22, 2021

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
 Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
 Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 U.S. Senate
 S-128, U.S. Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
 Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
 Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 House of Representatives
 H-310 U.S. Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
 Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
 Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 U.S. Senate
 S-128, U.S. Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
 Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
 Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
 Committee on Appropriations
 House of Representatives
 H-310 U.S. Capitol Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Shaheen, Chair Cartwright, and Ranking Members Moran and Aderholt:

We are writing to express our support for robust federal investment in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in fiscal year 2022 (FY22). PCSRF is a critically important program aimed at recovering salmon and steelhead populations in Western states, and the economically and culturally-important commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries that are dependent upon them. We have appreciated your subcommittees' past support for this program, and we request that you appropriate at least \$70 million for PCSRF in FY22.

As you know, Pacific salmon play an essential role in the economy and habitat of Western states, dating back to long before the establishment of the United States of America. To this day, Pacific salmon fisheries provide jobs and support the livelihoods of thousands of Americans, and feed many more. Healthy salmon populations are essential to the health of these fisheries.

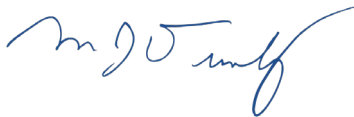
Pacific salmon populations, however, continue to face tremendous pressures. Today, 28 salmon and steelhead stocks face the threat of extinction on the West Coast. PCSRF was created to support the conservation and recovery of salmon across rivers, watersheds, and coastal habitats in Western states. Since 2000, this program has compelled effective, collaborative approaches to salmon recovery across federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector partners. In Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, California, and Nevada, PCSRF investments have contributed to over 14,080 projects, and have helped restore more than 11,200 miles of streams and over 1.12 million acres of fish habitat.

Furthermore, PCSRF directly supports economic activity and job creation, particularly in rural communities. Recent analysis shows that every \$1 million invested through PCSRF and state matching funds supports more than 16 jobs and generates about \$2.3 million in economic activity.

While important progress has been made, continued federal investment is crucial to maintaining this progress, and to achieving the goal of full recovery and a healthy, sustainable Pacific salmon fishery.

We thank your subcommittees for your past support and request your continued support for PCSRF. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy".

Governor Mike Dunleavy
State of Alaska

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Brown".

Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington

CC: Members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation
Members of the California Congressional Delegation
Members of the Idaho Congressional Delegation
Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation
Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

April 2, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senator
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Suzan DelBene
U.S. Representative
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
U.S. Representative
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
U.S. Representative
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
U.S. Representative
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
U.S. Representative
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. Representative
2059 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal
U.S. Representative
2346 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier
U.S. Representative
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
U.S. Representative
2264 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marilyn Strickland
U.S. Representative
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Washington Congressional Delegation Members:

Thank you for your swift action to pass the American Rescue Plan Act. As the implementation of this law proceeds, I am pleased to see attention turning to consideration of a wide-ranging, transformative package that comprehensively addresses America's unmet infrastructure needs. President Biden's "American Jobs Plan," to spur America's economic recovery, has provided a strong foundation for building Congressional legislation. I strongly agree that by closing the gap

between our infrastructure needs and investment, and taking an inclusive view of those needs, we can prepare our country to take advantage of the economic opportunities ahead of us.

I have asked my staff, our Cabinet, and executive branch agency leaders to identify strategic investment priorities to address unmet infrastructure needs in Washington State. They identified the following 13 areas as priorities:

- Broadband
- Building Construction and Retrofits
- Clean Water Infrastructure
- Climate and Clean Energy
- Communities and Housing
- Early Learning and Education Facilities
- Food Security
- Forest, Watershed Health and Water Resources
- Hazard Mitigation and Resilience
- Labor and Workforce
- Public and Behavioral Health
- Salmon and Orca Recovery
- Transportation

The need for an infrastructure and jobs package is clear – not only due to the extraordinary crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also decades of deferred investments and the increasingly devastating physical and health impacts of climate change. The latest quadrennial report from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) shows that, while America’s infrastructure has seen “incremental progress” since the last report, most measured categories earn a grade in the “D” range: “poor,” “of serious concern,” and posing a “strong risk of failure.”ⁱ Continued neglect of our nation’s infrastructure is estimated to cost us over 3 million new jobs by 2040 and trillions of dollars in potential gross domestic product (GDP) gains.ⁱⁱ

There are an estimated 706,000-777,000 direct and indirect jobs that can be created in Washington State through a national infrastructure package.ⁱⁱⁱ Preservation and maintenance of our roads, bridges, transit, and water systems represents a significant component of our infrastructure need. Yet, in addition to these traditional categories, our state faces new challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including decreased childcare provider capacity and deep setbacks to our workforce, particularly among women. The pandemic has also underlined the importance of correcting underinvestment in public health, resilience, and telecommunications infrastructure to ensure our country is as prepared as possible for the next emergency.

We must seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to take a transformative step to defeat climate change. The American Jobs Plan recognizes that this is our moment to make bold steps that are appropriately scaled to meet the climate crisis. I applaud the inclusion of a federal clean electricity standard and a goal of 500,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2030, alongside strong investment in clean buildings, clean water, a clean energy economy that

provides family-wage union jobs, and greater environmental justice. I am especially pleased that President Biden has recognized the interconnected nature of the challenges posed by climate change, emphasizing the opportunity for investment in climate and environmental justice solutions throughout. Washington State is a model for what this approach can accomplish, and I hope you will consider our analysis as a guide for building on state successes and implementing these concepts at the national level.

Our strategic priorities represent traditional infrastructure needs as well as those that would benefit strongly from renewed federal investment. In each area, we welcome one-time funding, and identify throughout where new or increased sustained funding for annual programs and policy reforms can contribute to economic recovery, provide public benefit, and help address persistent systemic inequities. We have highlighted areas where federal investment can accelerate near-term projects and advance worthwhile concepts towards construction through dozens of state capital programs. Each of these strategic priorities would benefit from resources to help communities of all sizes undertake pre-engineering work that sustainable infrastructure relies on.

Washington State is ready to act quickly upon the availability of federal dollars, and I urge your strong consideration of these strategic investment priorities as you shape legislation. These thirteen categories represent our highest priorities in this process, though they are not intended to diminish other worthy proposals you may receive in the months ahead. I am particularly pleased that President Biden will make additional proposals in the coming weeks to aid workers, families, and children, and strongly support their inclusion in infrastructure legislation. We also welcome the opportunity to discuss proposals you may be developing in areas of shared interest.

Enclosed with this letter, please find a detailed overview of each of these strategic priorities. Agency staff stand ready to provide specific, operational project data to assist you in crafting relevant legislative language. I have directed my Washington, D.C. Office to coordinate follow-up to this letter and to ensure your needs are met throughout this infrastructure process. They can be reached at Morgan.Wilson@Gov.Wa.Gov and Geoff.Potter@Gov.Wa.Gov.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written in a cursive style.

Jay Inslee
Governor

Enclosure

Strategic Investment Priorities on Infrastructure for Washington State

❖ BROADBAND

Congress has appropriated large sums for broadband connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and these funds have been essential during the public health emergency. But far too many people have weathered this last year with poor or non-existent access to the Internet, which has become one of the most basic infrastructure needs in the world today. Existing inequities and inefficiencies in broadband investment meant that the learning loss impacts of COVID-19 were spread inequitably, hitting already disadvantaged communities the hardest. An infrastructure package that seeks to effectively address broadband must include reforms that ensure broader access in addition to affordability, more complete adoption, and a more inclusive definition of who is unserved and underserved.

Continued federal funding is necessary, particularly through expansions of the E-Rate program, and Congress should consider ways to centralize and coordinate existing funding streams across agencies. But states must also be recognized as central conveners that provide technical assistance and can effectively coordinate with non-eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) like public utility districts (PUDs). Resources should be provided to fund planning and feasibility assessments, as well as accurate, granular data collection and evaluation tools to ensure investments support defined needs, provide the highest returns, and serve the most people. We also encourage Congress to establish block grants that provide discretionary allocations to states that can support reducing “last mile” costs, to transition loan programs that exclude participants towards grant-based models, reform outdated application processes, and waive matches for communities of need, including older Americans and tribes.

Congress should utilize investments to drive adoption and meaningful access for low-income communities and among those with economic, cultural, and linguistic barriers. Ensuring that broadband installations are integrated into transportation investments, new and retrofitted buildings, public health facilities, and electric transmission infrastructure is also a vital opportunity to expand coverage. Investments should support not just anchor institutions but their surrounding regions and provide future-proof systems that deliver the speeds necessary for access to modern devices. Remote work and learning will likely be incorporated into post-pandemic life and improving equity of access through investments for consumers and communities to schools, telemedicine, and government services is a necessity. Such an approach could include purchasing hardware for staff of public-facing agencies to improve service delivery.

❖ BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RETROFITS

America’s building stock deserves systemic attention in an infrastructure package. Clean building and energy standards lock in reduced emissions levels and operating cost savings for the life of newly constructed buildings, and strong federal investments now will help lay the groundwork for zero-emission new construction. We encourage Congress to provide not only funding for construction but also for resources like training and technical assistance, decarbonization strategy development, environmental justice planning tools and metrics, as well

as education tools and change management resources. Finally, rectifying the underfunding of staff positions relevant to building construction at the Department of Energy (DOE) will help to ensure effective implementation of clean building standards for new and existing buildings. Collectively, this approach can result in a rapid mobilization of the workforce across our state to fill demand for newly constructed and retrofitted buildings.

Federal dollars will offer substantial value to Washington State by filling gaps where state dollars cannot reach. Many of the needed modernization and retrofit projects require substantial up-front investment, and communities unable to secure local funding are disadvantaged in competing for limited state funds. Federal investment will act as a “booster” for many communities with significant needs so that they can realize the long-term benefits that offset initial investments. There are over fifty capital programs identified by Washington State’s Office of Financial Management that could benefit from flexible federal infrastructure dollars targeted to address this need, from state veterans’ homes to educational Skills Centers^{iv} to the Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP).^v

Healthcare buildings, community and technical schools, juvenile facilities, single and multi-family residential buildings, and other facilities are all candidates for retrofits, preservation, resilience, and decarbonization work. Newly constructed behavioral health facilities and residential habilitation centers can embrace decentralized care strategies as promoted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Nursing care experiences could be improved by pursuing a “Green House Model”, and Adult Family Homes (AFH) can benefit from technology improvements that would improve their suitability for potential residents who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing. State implementation of federal grants like the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program, as well as the state-operated Heritage Barn Grants^{vi} and Main Street Business Revitalization Program,^{vii} would also benefit from increased capitalization and increased resources to support permitting.

❖ CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2021, for the first time, the ASCE gave a grade to the state of America’s stormwater infrastructure. The result? A “disappointing D”.^{viii} This unacceptable result is echoed in the status of our country’s wastewater infrastructure (D+), inland waterways (D+), and drinking water systems.^{ix} The good news is that federal investment could make an enormous difference in all these areas. As of July 2020, there are nearly 500 wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water projects located everywhere from Adams to Yakima Counties that, with funds from a federal infrastructure package, would be candidates to advance to construction within a year.^x Many of these projects would help support small, rural, and vulnerable communities that often lack the rate base to absorb capital loans for projects to protect water quality and the environment. Paired with a sustained increase in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) as well as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), and funding for incentive programs to upgrade onsite sewage systems (OSS), one-time federal funds could materially reduce the existing backlog, put people to work, protect public health and the environment, and help prepare our state for our expected future population growth.

Federal investments that benefit the Public Works Board (PWB) could help evaluate where improvements to wastewater infrastructure can also be used to generate renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, and increase resilience. A new grant program that directs sustained federal investments to the state's Stormwater Financial Assistance Program^{xi} would benefit green stormwater infrastructure projects that will reduce stormwater pollution, enable economic development at our public ports, and assist the recovery of salmon and orca populations. Similarly, a grant program to support Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction^{xii} could work in tandem with CWSRF investments to incentivize and facilitate planning and operational efficiencies, to begin addressing the excess nutrients that are contributing to the decline of Puget Sound aquatic life. These investments are necessary not only to meet Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements triggered by wastewater treatment plants, but also the long-term goal of defending the health of Puget Sound.

Making an investment in overhauling our state's water drinking system infrastructure will also drive demand for skilled professionals in the field, renewing a dissipating workforce that has declined 5% in each of the last two years. The Department of Health estimates that over the next decade, 50% of existing waterworks operators will retire, a significant proportion of whom are in rural communities.^{xiii} Paid apprenticeship programs such as the one initiated by Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWoW) in 2019 are helping to address this enormous concern, but additional resources for both the capital projects themselves and for grants to expand apprenticeship spots in this high-demand field are critical to meeting this workforce crisis.

❖ CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Consistent with the recommendations of the 2021 Washington State Energy Strategy,^{xiv} new renewable power generation requires a stronger and smarter interstate power transmission system, which will allow our state to combine its hydropower and wind resources with other sources from throughout the West, such as concentrated solar power. Investment should benefit microgrids that enhance resilience by hardening grid infrastructure, large-scale and long-duration storage like pumped hydropower, and procurement of smart devices. We also encourage Congress to make progress on completing the Hanford cleanup by funding construction and startup of facilities needed to pre-treat and vitrify High-Level Waste (HLW) and continue tank waste retrievals.

A key element of the CLEAN Future Act – adoption of a national Clean Energy Standard (CES) – will require a corresponding commitment of federal investment in bulk power transmission capacity and grid modernization to be successful. These investments should be paired with requirements for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and DOE to support transmission planning, siting, and construction, including through the Rural Utility Service (RUS), ensuring federal investment in clean energy infrastructure also supports economic recovery. Existing mechanisms should also receive enhanced sustained funding, including new resources for the DOE Loan Program Office (LPO). Environmental remediation must also be a priority to support jobs restoring energy communities and redeveloping Brownfields.

Congress should also direct attention to new opportunities to build on investments like those that Washington State has made through its Clean Energy Fund. A “green bank” style-federal clean

energy accelerator would speed deployment across the country and enable our state to derive greater value from the benefits of distributed energy resources. There are several already proven, readily available technologies that could benefit from resources to speed deployment, especially Advanced Metering Infrastructure and submeters to enable demand response and energy efficiency solutions. Congress should consider establishing new grant and loan programs, such as a Climate Change State Revolving Fund, modeled after existing funds addressing water projects, to provide low-cost loans for projects that reduce GHGs.

Investments in clean energy deployment can, and must, improve health and safety for frontline communities, help rectify environmental injustices, and deliver on the promise of a just transition for workers traditionally employed in the fossil fuels industry. As we transition together to a clean energy economy, the benefits of that transition must also be experienced equitably. Creating annual sources of federal funding could help implement President Biden's goal of directing 40% of the benefits of federal climate action towards disadvantaged communities. Opportunities include creating robust environmental justice mapping tools with local granularity, investment in technical assistance and planning capacity for local governments, and the integration of environmental justice into racial equity training. The federal government should also fully fund the DOE's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.

❖ COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING

More than 128,000 extremely low-income households pay more than 50% of their income for housing in our state.^{xv} Federal investments, paired with incentives to improve zoning and reduce carbon use, would help to address the large unmet need for affordable housing in Washington State. Any infrastructure package should ensure that funding for new construction of affordable housing prioritizes energy-efficiency and weatherization improvements, as well as community facility investments that strengthen resiliency and center equity. Clean energy, clean buildings, and community-oriented development cannot be second-order considerations if we are to build back better in 2021, and these concepts must be implemented alongside, not on behalf of, frontline communities.

Flexible one-time investments and sustained increases in the State Energy Program (SEP), the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and the Community Energy Efficiency Program can simultaneously help address affordable housing shortages, climate goals, and resolve structural issues in implementation. Revisiting and simplifying the clean energy authority first provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will hasten the ability to engage in new affordable housing construction and retrofit existing inventory. The approach would encourage fuel-switching and could help address equity issues by expanding low-income programs, incorporating health measures and rehabilitation needs, as well as prioritizing households recovering from or at risk of COVID-19. Congress should also find ways to decouple utility payments from rent at properties funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and those built by the Department of Agriculture that have received publicly funded energy efficiency improvements and clean energy installations.^{xvi}

Connecting affordable housing development with community resilience is an essential step forward. Community resiliency centers, or "hubs",^{xvii} that are co-located with housing is one

approach that would simultaneously improve resilience, occupant health, and energy efficiency of essential neighborhood facilities, such as senior, cultural, and community centers, as well as libraries, shelters, and food banks. These could be funded, in part, through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, increased capitalization of the federal Housing Trust Fund, or through a new, dedicated block grant-type program. The state's Building Communities Fund^{xviii} and Youth Recreational Facilities^{xix} programs are well-positioned to leverage federal dollars towards capital projects across the state. One notable opportunity is to use federal funding to accelerate the transition of the National Guard Readiness Center to North Bend from Seattle.

Direct federal funding, increased Private Activity Bond (PAB) authority, and expanded low-income housing tax credits can expand housing opportunities while embracing community benefits frameworks, explore community stewardship models, and taking proactive steps to avoid displacement. In Washington State, our Housing Finance Commission (WSHFC) exercises nearly \$1 billion in bond capacity, loans, and grants annually. The programs these funds support include both multifamily rental housing development as well as down payment assistance for eligible homeowners. These activities, executed in partnership with local governments and non-profit organizations, are effective but constrained by limited resources.^{xx} With flexible federal funding for state capital programs such as the state Housing Trust Fund,^{xxi} the HRLP, and the Weatherization Plus Health Program,^{xxii} Washington State could make strides toward addressing inventory challenges by increasing statewide housing stock. We also encourage Congress to ensure that the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) continues to strongly incentivize Housing Credit investment.

❖ EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION FACILITIES

A federal infrastructure package offers an opportunity to invest at every level of education to make long-deferred strides in equity and improve outcomes for students and educators by providing safer, high quality environments to learn and work. Federal capital to supplement state project financing is badly needed, and investment would strengthen our state's workforce - not only through project construction, but by improving retention and recruitment of skilled educators and staff who will come to work in improved, healthier learning environments. Congress could also provide significant assistance by reinstating tax-exempt refunding bonds used by non-profit organizations and local governments to refinance existing debt at lower interest rates, as contemplated by the bipartisan Lifting Our Communities through Advanced Liquidity (LOCAL) Act, as well as increasing the maximum allowed bond issuance for "bank eligible" bonds to \$30 million.

Federal investments in support of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) could significantly strengthen early learning opportunities, which provide a vital foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing. Despite recent capacity expansions, as of December 2020, an estimated 4,054 more slots are needed by fall 2022 to serve all eligible children who are likely to participate. COVID-19 has worsened this situation, with providers representing 25% of total childcare capacity in the state closing temporarily or permanently since the start of the pandemic.^{xxiii} The Early Learning Facilities Program^{xxiv} is an example of programs ready to utilize federal funding to supplement state commitments so that we can make

up ground lost in the pandemic and make progress on closing pre-pandemic gaps. Additionally, innovative facilities investments that co-locate affordable housing with childcare facilities and ensure strong access to broadband and enabled devices, as well as sustained funding to improve childcare affordability and wages for childcare workers, can combine to help ensure every child has access to quality early learning.

Public educational buildings across the country, especially those overseen by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, have suffered from decades of deferred maintenance. In Washington State, federal funding to complement local state capital budget dollars can accelerate projects to address immediate needs like modernizing or replacing local K-12 schools, HVAC improvements and lighting retrofits as well as maintenance planning and implementation that extend equipment life and reduce costs. Additionally, our public 4-year and community technical colleges have an estimated deferred capital backlog of over \$4.5 billion,^{xxv} and improvements are needed at facilities like the Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss and the Washington State School for the Blind. Federal resources could help address common needs at each of these different types of facilities, from seismic shock resilience to vertical evacuation shelters that protect from tsunamis and enable physical relocation during emergencies, to removing lead from school drinking water systems.

❖ FOOD SECURITY

While food security has not been a traditional candidate for infrastructure funding, the increase in hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the need to think expansively. Flexible, sustained funding to expand the Emergency Food Assistance Program (E-FAP) can help strengthen state infrastructure by expanding emergency food streams and reducing overreliance on the non-profit system that has been pushed to the brink during the pandemic. Such investments could include expanded refrigeration and dry-storage capacity, especially at “dual-use” facilities like new and retrofitted affordable housing or community resilience hubs. This approach could help support access to nutritious food and health services in everyday life and flexible capacity in emergencies, as well as new and existing programs to alleviate food deserts. Other opportunities could include a federal version of Washington State’s new Sustainable Farms and Fields (SFF) program^{xxvi} that incentivizes agriculture practices that sequester emissions. Finally, an update is sorely needed to the calculations for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and the Thrifty Food Plan.

Additional investments in physical infrastructure to aid local recovery in the food service sector are also warranted. Financing physical improvements such as HVAC upgrades for food establishments as well as construction of shared commercial kitchens could help support economic development through construction projects as well as by backing entrepreneurs who are reentering the food service sector. Congress should consider providing federal assistance to help local governments, especially physically distant communities, obtain capital or conduct planning and design work for agriculture and food security projects they often lack resources for.

❖ FORESTS, WATERSHED HEALTH AND WATER RESOURCES

Washington State's forest lands, riparian areas, parks, and waterways are at the heart of our state's economic vitality, our recreational life, and our resilience against climate change. These areas also represent up to \$27 billion worth of unmet need for infrastructure investments in marine ports, fish and habitat, and water resources.^{xxviii} Additionally, the deferred maintenance backlog for Washington State Parks exceeds \$420 million. These areas are particularly vulnerable to climate change, which stresses availability of water, contributes to more catastrophic wildfires, and threatens ecosystems and species. Investing in their management and restoration builds climate resilience, creates and preserves jobs, and safeguards cultural traditions.

The Washington State Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office are poised to partner with federal agencies to invest infrastructure dollars. Our natural resources agencies oversee capital budget programs, grant programs, and other initiatives that offer hundreds of potential projects which, with federal funding to complement state investments, can advance to construction and would offer a plethora of benefits for Washingtonians and our iconic species. Investment categories like levee setbacks and specific projects, such as the Duckabush River Estuary Restoration Project and the Spencer Island restoration, are poised to move forward with additional investment and affirmation of the federal cost-share commitment. The Puget Sound Partnership is similarly situated to utilize federal funding to advance proposals to work with BNSF to fix fish passage barriers, and to work in tandem with our Department of Ecology to pursue new public-private partnerships and accelerate installation of riparian buffers.

Federal infrastructure investments can also play a vital role in meeting increasing demand for water resources for navigable waterways, agriculture, and human use. Many projects are singular but critical, such as urgent repairs at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks. Others are short-turnaround projects that support generational needs; the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (YBIP) will ensure adequate water supply for people, farms, and fish for decades to come – 87 projects are ready to receive investment, including 69 that are ready to begin by Fiscal Year 2023. Similar projects can be developed in support of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project, and throughout the Columbia and Snake River systems.

Significantly increased capitalization in existing programs like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) would support planning and implementation of estuary conservation and management, in addition to waste and stormwater benefits. But new funding streams are also called for. The Washington Conservation Corps, which includes subprograms that employ young adults and veterans, could administer a new grant program dedicated to riparian buffer installation. Passage of the key components of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would dedicate \$22 million to keeping common species common, conserving unique Washington State species, and restoring and protecting habitat for native species. And one-time investments in clearing the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) road deferred maintenance backlog could be paired with a sustained commitment to the Shared Stewardship Strategy,^{xxix} a joint agreement with USFS to defend both state and federal forest lands from increasing threats.

❖ HAZARD MITIGATION AND RESILIENCE

The price of underinvestment in our infrastructure is paid every day, but it is felt most acutely when an emergency is upon us. In Washington State, we know that we will eventually suffer a catastrophic earthquake, and as the 2012 Resilient Washington State^{xxx} report shows, it will cause significant infrastructure damage across our state, as well as tsunamis, landslides, and utility outages. Even before that day comes, our exposure to hazards is growing; in the decade from 2011 to 2020, the State received 13 major disaster declarations and 57 Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG), compared to 8 major disaster declarations and 26 FMAG grants in the preceding decade.^{xxxi} Cyberattacks are also an increasingly persistent threat to the safety and security of our people. The time has come for an “all-hazards” resilience strategy, paired with significant investments in hazard mitigation, and a rethinking of the programs that support it.

Multiple public goods can be addressed by these types of investments. For example, Washington State’s transportation infrastructure will suffer severe damage in a catastrophic seismic event, and federal investment in that sector will speed the provision of aid in the response phase and accelerate recovery. Over 15,000 known or suspected unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings,^{xxxii} including emergency facilities, heritage sites, and especially schools, are prone to partial or total collapse. Federal investments in our state’s URM “dashboard” and grant program can help further identify and validate vulnerable buildings. Retrofits to many of these facilities could embrace a “resilience hub” model of dual-use facilities that offer critical backup resources and shelter in an emergency, particularly for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities and physically distant rural communities.

It is also vital that we review how we plan for, fund, and organize our response when emergencies begin, especially as climate change exacerbates natural hazards. We strongly encourage the establishment of separate funding streams for priorities like cybersecurity and emergency communications, so that existing grant programs do not become starved of funds for baseline emergency preparedness work. Similarly, new and existing federal investments must be scoped to match practical construction schedules, since major state capital projects often assume extended timelines. Additionally, even where we have innovative state programs like Floodplains by Design,^{xxxiii} local communities often struggle to develop, plan, and finance projects needed to prevent coastal erosion and reduce flood damages. Federal investments could help prioritize coastal shoreline and soft-shoreline projects that manage sediment for beneficial uses, unlock local projects, and partner with existing state grant programs to reduce or eliminate certain local cost shares. They could also underwrite planning, providing technical assistance and mapping, and support updates to climate resilience strategies that account for more severe climate risks.

❖ LABOR AND WORKFORCE

Infrastructure investment, crafted with intention, has the power to lift families into the middle class by providing good jobs with strong labor standards. Washington State has been a leader in this regard, particularly through building a clean energy economy, and our replicable approach should be considered as a model for national planning. Between 2009 and 2019, Washington State reduced the carbon intensity of its economy by 22% while increasing per capita personal

income by 54%.^{xxxiv} And as of April 2019, our state's clean-tech sector boasted over 900 companies, employing nearly 58,000 employees, and generating an estimated \$4 billion in wages.^{xxxv} Our state's experience demonstrates how investments in clean energy can create good, family-wage jobs in an economy built for the 21st Century.

One example is Washington State's Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), which uses tiered tax incentives to encourage developers to build projects under community workforce and project labor agreements. Community workforce agreements bring together building trades unions and local trades councils with project users and owners, general contractors, and community organizations to jointly develop the terms of the project. Incentives are also offered based on the developer's history of compliance with state and federal wage and hour laws and compensating workers at prevailing wage rates.

Federal investment would provide an immediate multiplying effect through high-road employment opportunities and job creation in local communities. Federal funds to help establish a statewide workforce pipeline for building battery-electric bus fleets would also support jobs in maintenance, safety and dispatching, operator training, and more. The state's Smart Buildings Center and Buildings Performance Center, two cutting-edge training facilities vital to decarbonizing the buildings that are the fastest-growing source of emissions in Washington State,^{xxxvi} could expand their curriculum and reach underrepresented communities with federal assistance. And identifying opportunities to support construction of innovative sustainable buildings, exemplified by the South Landing eco-district in Spokane, would help ensure consistent labor demand for workers in possession of new skills.

It is vitally important that we seize the chance to renew our workforce pipeline. Washington State is investing in the creation and expansion of meaningful, paid, on-the-job training aligned with relevant classroom education across sectors, which we call "Career Launch"^{xxxvii} programs. These on-the-job training opportunities place participants in real jobs or job pathways through registered apprenticeship and other education-based programs, prepare qualified candidates for employment opportunities, and result in either a valuable credential or significant progress towards a college education. Federal investments in these "Career Launch" programs within the K-12, community and technical college and four-year university systems could simultaneously strengthen workforce in growing fields like healthcare and improve outcomes for underserved youth and displaced workers. Federal resources can also help augment and expand the state's existing Centers of Excellence so that they can help students graduate ready to meet the state's needs for a clean energy workforce.

Though an infrastructure package is traditionally focused on one-time project investments, we also encourage Congress to consider assistance for permitting and engineering work that would allow local governments to advance projects nearly ready for construction. Improving permitting process certainty will provide benefits in every strategic priority area, but it is especially needed to achieve clean energy, clean buildings, and clean transportation goals. State and local governments should be positioned to quickly build supportive infrastructure, such as EV charging capacity, to support the implementation of national standards so that the economic benefits of the transition to clean energy can be quickly realized. Resources for planning,

management, and pre-development, as President Biden has called for, are also necessary to ensure robust stakeholder engagement, especially cross-governmental tribal consultation.

❖ PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

There is no avoiding the fact that America has underinvested in its foundational public health infrastructure. Between 1980 and 2019 per capita expenditures on personal health grew by almost \$9,000 while governmental public health activities only increased by \$270.^{xxxviii} The costs of that underinvestment have been starkly illustrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when stockpile shortages, insufficient testing, and inadequate surveillance left frontline healthcare workers and patients without the treatment and tools to fight the disease. Washington State has committed to improving care in recent years, including by working to integrate behavioral and mental health with physical health. The federal government can help expand these efforts with one-time capital investments as well as predictable, sustained increases in funding for priorities like home-based care. The result will be to modernize care, improve outcomes, especially for disproportionately impacted communities, and prepare our society for the next pandemic.

State capital budget programs associated with our agencies can use federal funding to undertake projects ready for near-term implementation to address harms to the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) and simultaneously create and protect jobs. Physical facilities upgrades would increase the overall quality of medical services as well as strengthen infection control in public health buildings. Resources to accelerate construction of new and retrofitted behavioral health facilities can accelerate a transition to community-based care while achieving related improvements in energy-efficiency and modernized care. HVAC improvements in nursing facilities could improve respiratory outcomes. Funding could support pilot projects and a larger pass-through program to abate polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in existing buildings, which would improve health and reduce stormwater pollution.

Strengthening public health data management is also vital in Washington State and across the country. Investments are needed to improve health outcomes through disease surveillance, environmental exposure monitoring of drinking water systems and pesticides, and X-Ray safety databases. Program data management investments will also create efficiencies by enabling a transition to electronic filings for vital records and permits and improved database interoperability. We must also invest in the skilled workforce needed to operate improved public health infrastructure, and Congress should prioritize investments in training and retraining health care workers at all levels, particularly in childcare, behavioral health and long-term care.

❖ SALMON AND ORCA RECOVERY

Since 2011, when the ten-year funding projection to recover salmon was calculated at \$5.5 billion, only 22% of the projected need has been funded.^{xxxix} Salmon and orca are vital to Washington State's economy and quality of life, but they are struggling to survive. Further degradation of these populations endangers commercial and recreational salmon fisheries that support thousands of jobs in a billion-dollar industry on the west coast, many of which are in rural areas. Economic measures alone, however, do not fully capture the value of intact

ecosystems. Transformative investments that make a difference for salmon and orca will help fulfill federal treaty tribal obligations and Endangered Species Act requirements.

Our state agencies have identified a wide range of projects associated with statewide salmon recovery that could be candidates for federal investment. Hundreds of planned projects are currently on a two-year list that could quickly utilize federal funding, and that historically have generated up to \$2.5 million in economic activity for every \$1 million invested in restoration programs. WDFW has identified \$76 million worth of immediate hatchery infrastructure projects ready to advance to construction, with significant additional deferred maintenance and capital upgrade needs. Federal funding could help implement the Quiet Sound Program as recommended by the Southern Resident Orca Task Force.

Many of the salmon recovery projects also have multiple benefits, including upgrades to roads and bridges and improving climate resilience through reduced flood risk. Federal investment could advance as many as 230 projects over the next five years in our court-mandated program to repair and replace culverts on the state highway system to remove fish passage barriers. This would strengthen our salmon and orca populations and support the fishing rights guaranteed in treaties between Northwest tribes and the federal government. One such example includes elevating the I-5 causeway currently crossing the Nisqually Delta.

Pursuing the recommended strategies to achieve salmon and orca recovery goals will also require a substantial investment in the human infrastructure needed to get these projects off the ground quickly. It is vital to support administrative and personnel investments to get the maximum value out of capital investments. Federal agencies, particularly the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, need substantial increases in staffing levels to process the permits that project investments will need. The speed at which the Corps processes permits under current investment levels has been a substantial barrier to progress.

❖ TRANSPORTATION

Significant deferred preservation and maintenance needs are ready for federal investment in the 2021-2025 timeframe and would spur job creation in every corner of our state. These projects represent a large proportion of our unmet transportation infrastructure need: according to a 2020 assessment, across all levels of government and modes of transportation, there is a nearly \$200 billion backlog of investment need over the next ten years.^{xl} Washington State has committed resources to addressing preservation and maintenance while preparing our transportation infrastructure for the future, but building truly sustainable, resilient infrastructure requires a national commitment. Federal investment can help accelerate these efforts while also advancing well-known priorities such as replacing the I-5 Columbia River Bridge, transportation and transit expansion in Eastern Washington, and developing ultra-high-speed rail. These federal investments would also help mitigate project delays due to COVID-related revenue loss.

Large-scale initiatives in electrification are particularly ripe for investment. Meeting the requirements of Washington State's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) standard, electrifying our ferry fleet by 2040, electrification of our public highway corridors, freight trucking, transit buses, airport and seaport infrastructure, and decarbonizing commercial fleets – all of these require a

sizeable investment to supplement resources already being dedicated by the Washington State Legislature. Progress in these areas would expand the availability of affordable, clean, green transportation options and systems to better serve frontline and rural communities, including by expanding the availability of EV supply equipment. This must occur across all modes, including maritime and aviation, but especially to improve EV ownership attainability for low-income and BIPOC communities as well as those without dedicated parking capacity. Strategies should include subsidies for passenger EVs and E-bikes for income-eligible households and grants for small, BIPOC-owned businesses to transition fleets and purchase electric trucks.

Smart innovations in multimodal transportation infrastructure are key to expanding economic opportunity, advancing environmental justice, and improving our affordable housing stock. Significant investment in active transportation is needed to address health, equity, and critical safety concerns when biking or walking, particularly in BIPOC neighborhoods with high traffic fatality rates, within and between Washington State communities. Expanding and connecting trail networks such as The Leafline network in central Puget Sound, TREAD in Wenatchee Valley, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Tahoma to Tacoma Trail Network, the Olympic Discovery Trail, and the Great American Rail Trail – which includes the Palouse to Cascades Trail, would enhance mobility and put people to work quickly across the state. Federal programs such as Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) are also critical to this effort.

Federal support for transit is critical. Funding for transit-oriented development will encourage livable, walkable communities and reduce vehicle miles traveled. These investments enhance the benefits of new construction and retrofitting of existing housing, office, and commercial stock as energy-efficient, and transit-oriented affordable communities, helping to address the burdens of significantly longer commute times and housing scarcity near employment centers that are disproportionately borne by BIPOC communities.

Washington State’s priorities focus on accelerating investment in clean, multimodal transportation that enhance economic growth, protect the environment, and promote community resilience. We accomplish this through strong partnerships with local governments to deliver projects that meet the needs of all Washingtonians. Congress can strengthen these partnerships by prioritizing project investments that address climate change and equity. Recent improvements to the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program will make progress in this direction, and the creation of new formula and grant programs that center climate change and equity should be considered as well as community benefit programs that empower communities to help prioritize the benefits and outcomes that are right for them.

ⁱ “A Comprehensive Assessment of America’s Infrastructure”, American Society of Civil Engineers, March 2021

ⁱⁱ “Failure” to Act, American Society of Civil Engineers

ⁱⁱⁱ Letter from the Association of Washington Business, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Ports, and Washington Association of Counties, 2/15/21

^{iv} Skill Centers, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

^v New Home Rehabilitation Loan Program (HRLP) for Rural Low-Income Households, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed March 21, 2021](#)

^{vi} Heritage Barn Grants, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

^{vii} Main Street Program, *ibid.*, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

^{viii} “A Comprehensive Assessment of America’s Infrastructure”, American Society of Civil Engineers, March 2021

ix “Ibid.

x Washington State Public Works Board (PWB) estimate

xi Water Quality Grants and Loans, Washington State Department of Ecology, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xii Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Project, Washington State Department of Ecology, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xiii Treatment Plant Operator, [8/13/18](#)

xiv 2021 State energy Strategy, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xv 2017 U.S. Census Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) via Washington State Department of Commerce

xvi We support maintaining fixed monthly payments for HUD tenants generally to ensure increased utility usage does not result in housing insecurity for HUD tenants. However, if public funds are used for retrofit and clean energy projects (including community solar) at HUD properties, tenants should also share the financial benefits.

xvii “Resiliency Hubs”, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xviii Building Communities Fund, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xix Youth Recreational Facilities, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xx Pg. 20, Bond Cap Allocation Program Biennial Report, Washington State Department of Commerce, [6/30/20](#)

xxi Housing Trust Fund, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxii Weatherization Plus Health (Wx+H), Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxiii “Early Learning Facilities Report”, Washington State Department of Commerce, [December 2020](#)

xxiv “Early Learning Facilities Program”, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/30/21](#)

xxv Office of Financial Management (OFM) estimate

xxvi RCW 89.08.615, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxvii Building the Economy: Infrastructure Needs in Washington”, April 2019 Update, Association of Washington Business, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Ports, and Washington State Association of Counties,

xxviii 2021-2023 Capital Budget Request, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxix Shared Stewardship, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxx “Resilient Washington State”, [November 2012](#)

xxxi “Declarations 1956-2020”, Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

xxxii Unreinforced Masonry Building Inventory, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxxiii Floodplains by Design, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxxiv U.S. Energy Information Administration System, [accessed 3/21/21](#); U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxxv Building the Economy: Infrastructure Needs in Washington”, April 2019 Update, Association of Washington Business, Association of Washington Cities, Washington Ports, and Washington State Association of Counties,

xxxvi “Clean Building Standards”, Washington State Department of Commerce, [accessed 3/30/21](#)

xxxvii Career Launch, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xxxviii [Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#)

xxxix “State of Salmon in Watersheds 2020”, Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office, [accessed 3/21/21](#)

xl Statewide Transportation Needs Assessment Phase I Report, July 2020, Washington State Legislature Joint Transportation Committee

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021
Title: Monitoring Updates and Reports
Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, Science Coordinator, and Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator

Summary

This briefing will provide background for board monitoring funding decisions to come later in the meeting.

- 1) Background, context, and future directions for the monitoring program
- 2) Monitoring program summaries
- 3) Summary of IMW findings

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☐ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☒ Briefing

Background

At the November 19, 2020 and the March 3, 2021 meeting of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), staff provided effectiveness monitoring presentations. The presentations focused on current and new options being explored and deliberated by the monitoring sub-committee, which included board members, Council of Regions (COR), Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), monitoring panel, GSRO and RCO staff.

Subsequent communications with these groups revealed the need to provide additional background and context for the board's monitoring program, including a brief history, and overview of current program, and perspectives on future directions.

Context

The board's monitoring program is anchored in the [Washington State Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy](#) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Fisheries [Monitoring Guidance](#) for recovery and delisting. These guidance documents emphasize the importance of monitoring measures of fish population abundance and productivity, as well as monitoring the factors that have contributed to federal Endangered Species Act listings or continue to limit recovery. Consistent with the guidance, the board's program consists of status and trends of fish population monitoring (Fish in/Fish out), effectiveness monitoring (project effectiveness and restoration effectiveness), and validation monitoring (Intensively Monitored Watersheds). A 2013 [Stillwater Sciences Monitoring Investment Strategy for the SRFB](#) affirmed the board's monitoring investments were robust and informed by current science.

Additionally, the board's monitoring efforts are supported by the Monitoring Panel, which provides monitoring recommendations, based on their collective and objective expertise, knowledge, and utilizing multiple tools, including but not limited to, the monitoring framework. This monitoring framework helps organize monitoring activities and discussions. It's primary goal is to identify and organize knowledge gaps, key questions and uncertainties, and recommend monitoring actions to address those gaps/uncertainties. The framework will inform board deliberations and its decisions selecting the highest priority monitoring activities for funding. The framework is an iterative document that guides monitoring efforts and assists in the pursuit of leveraging additional federal funds (Attachment A).

Board Monitoring Programs

Overview

The board's monitoring efforts have consisted of compliance or implementation monitoring, project effectiveness monitoring, intensively monitored watersheds (or validation monitoring), and status and trends monitoring. Compliance monitoring informs whether projects are being implemented according to plan. Project effectiveness informs whether the projects are achieving their site-specific objectives (e.g., is wood placement creating pools, is riparian cover decreasing temperature). Intensively monitored watersheds monitoring (sometimes referred to as validation monitoring) confirms the outcomes of restoration at watershed or population scale (e.g., are projects leading to basin-wide habitat or fish response?). Status and trends for fish population monitoring informs the viable salmonid parameters (VSP) in the categories of salmon abundance, productivity, spatial structure, or diversity.

Board Funded Monitoring Efforts

Fish in/Fish out (fish population status and trends monitoring).

The board first provided funding for some juvenile fish monitoring in 2001 and the board's fish in/fish out program matured to its current state in 2007. This program began as an effort to fill gaps in funding due to budget shortfalls within the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and helps ensure consistency with the Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and NOAA Fisheries guidance to have at least one population per major population group per region or evolutionary significant unit to assess freshwater productivity. To do this there must be data for adult abundance (fish in) and juvenile abundance (fish out) to assess number of juveniles per adult (freshwater productivity).

The board supports about 7% of WDFW's fish-in/fish out monitoring program. Currently, funding goes specifically to fund a portion of monitoring in the following rivers: Duckabush River, Salmon Creek, and Snow Creek in Hood Canal region; Grays River and Wind River in the Lower Columbia Region; and Touchet River in the Snake Region. WDFW provides an annual report to the monitoring panel and regularly uses the data to publish peer-reviewed journal articles.

Highlights

Fish in/fish out monitoring allows the state and tribes to assess annual adult abundance which directly informs trends in abundance and is summarized biennially in the State of Salmon report. The Recent State of Salmon report highlights that five of the fourteen ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in Washington are in crisis. Fish in/fish out data have also revealed rearing habitats, especially floodplains and nearshore habitats, are limiting recovery in many parts of the state, and need to continue to be an area of emphasis for restoration and protection actions.

Project-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring (Note this program has been completed.)

From 2004 through early 2017, the board funded a contractor (Tetra Tech, LLC) to conduct a project effectiveness monitoring program. The RCO then contracted with Cramer Fish Sciences (CFS) to complete the last two years of reach-scale sampling and perform an independent review and synthesis of this program. The CFS contract also included performing livestock monitoring, conducted in collaboration with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Following a review of annual final reports and key findings provided by Tetra Tech, Cramer Fish Sciences issued their final report in 2018 (Roni et al. 2018) with recommendations for future monitoring. The report identified only a few restoration project categories, from the original ten categories, that warranted future project effectiveness monitoring. Those categories included: riparian planting, floodplain enhancement and nearshore conditions.

Highlights

Simple actions such as diversion screening and livestock exclusion projects should be evaluated as compliance rather than effectiveness monitoring since these actions are highly effective when implemented properly. Fish barrier corrections should be monitored but are also highly effective when implemented properly. More complex restoration actions such as floodplain enhancements, nearshore restoration, or riparian plantings require much more rigorous designs and active management to ensure they are successful. Additional reach-scale project effectiveness monitoring is warranted for floodplain, nearshore, and riparian planting projects. However, design and monitoring protocols for each of these project types should consider project complexity and diversity, and should be monitored at the watershed, estuary, or floodplain scale to capture landscape changes. Overall, restoration actions that attempt to modify underlying riverine processes or functions need to be monitoring on a commensurate spatial and temporal scale.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) Monitoring.

The IMW program was first funded in 2004 across four complexes, Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and Skagit River Estuary. The purpose of these programs was to detect changes in fish response at the watershed scale from restoration actions across the watershed. These annually funded efforts include a continuation of IMW program oversight through an agreement with the WA Department of Ecology, and two related IMW agreements with WDFW, fish monitoring and habitat monitoring, respectively.

In assessing the current status of this program and to determine a path forward, staff worked with the IMW Principal Investigators and Monitoring Panel members on a series of questions concerning what has been learned, current management implications, and a revised future program. This is a first step in a longer process to begin to summarize what has been learned from the IMW studies, and to establish what the program will look like moving forward.

Although more time is required to fully evaluate fish response to the restoration projects implemented within the IMWs, certain results to date are relevant to setting restoration priorities. Details of responses at each location may be found in the latest progress (annual) reports for each of the IMWs. These documents summarize the key responses that have been observed at each IMW and offer management implications. To fully capitalize on the investment that has been made at the IMW sites over the last 17 years, continued monitoring is strongly recommended at all sites, as each site has unique characteristics.

Highlights and Management Implications

The results from the IMWs, although incomplete, have provided information relevant to the selection of restoration projects.

Barrier removal has consistently been associated with a positive response by fish. For instance, at the Hood Canal IMW, replacement of a partially impassable culvert with a bridge was associated with a large increase in Coho smolt production. Barrier removal in one of the Lower Columbia watersheds provided access to new spawning habitat that was used by salmon the season after the barrier was removed (however, there has been no indication at this site that barrier removal has been associated with a positive response in smolt production).

Fish response to large woody debris (LWD) treatments has varied. An increase in parr-to-smolt survival of Coho and steelhead has been seen in one of the San Juan de Fuca (SJF) watersheds. In contrast, wood placement in one of the Hood Canal watersheds generated no detectable fish response. The variability in fish responses to wood placement at the IMW sites to date, and in other assessments of wood placement, indicate that better identification of the factors that lead to a positive outcome from this restoration technique, would help refine project site selection and design in the future. Additional monitoring of the IMW sites should provide this important information.

The variety of freshwater life history options exhibited by the fish also may help identify new restoration objectives. Results from the SJF IMW indicate that Coho salmon that smolt in the spring, after spending a full year in freshwater, enjoy much higher smolt-to-adult survival rates than do smolts that emigrate in the fall. Designing restoration actions that will retain a higher proportion of parr in freshwater through the winter may be an especially effective restoration objective. A restoration project designed to accomplish this goal was recently implemented at one of the Hood Canal watersheds (Big Beef Creek). Monitoring response to this project over the next several years should provide an indication of the potential for this type of project.

The results from the Skagit IMW clearly indicate the value of estuary restoration. Increasing available estuary habitat enables fish to disperse more widely, reducing density-dependent impacts on growth and survival. Future monitoring of this IMW should help to identify project designs that best achieve this objective.

Future Direction for IMWs

Because of the long history of monitoring and the high quality of the monitoring conducted as part of the IMWs, the future direction for IMWs will likely serve as long term research sites or opportunities for restoration learning. While the current IMWs

programs are beginning to focus on analysis and synthesis study phase to summarize what's been learned, there will likely be shorter term studies that can be proposed and funded to continue to build on what's been learned.

Newer and Pending Monitoring Programs

Floodplain Restoration Pilot Studies.

In 2019, the board supported an RFP for the development of a monitoring study plan utilizing remote sensing. In March 2021, the board approved funding for a restoration scale effectiveness pilot study to evaluate the efficacy of remote sensing tools and techniques. While the focus of this study plan was primarily the Entiat River in Eastern Washington, it is scalable to other sites. The time frame for this study is 3-5 years. Since that meeting additional work has been conducted to evaluate and select a Western Washington site. \$145,000 is being requested to select a vendor that will lead to the selection of the site(s), conduct the monitoring by remote sensing and subsequent analysis, for up to three additional sites. This work will occur in consultation with the monitoring panel. The outcome will be a Western Washington analog to the Eastern Washington Entiat site.

The use of remote sensing and other innovative techniques in broad-scale floodplain tracking appears to be an appropriate utilization of the newer technology. Using remote sensing to monitor floodplain change following flood events and debris flows, may prove to be a more economical and cost-efficient process to denote changes over time. These pilot projects will provide information to help verify how effective remote sensing is for accurately assessing the habitat changes in floodplains. If remote sensing proves accurate and cost-effective for quantifying habitat change following floodplain restoration, it may be used more widely to track habitat improvements throughout river systems state-wide.

Regional monitoring projects.

In 2013, the board approved funding dedicated to regional monitoring projects that are selected and vetted through the regional and lead entity project grant round process and reviewed by the monitoring panel. Regional monitoring projects are designed to address priority data gaps in the regional specific recovery plans. These projects must meet the criteria as identified in Manual 18 and be regionally certified to be eligible for funding. Within the annual PCSRF application to NOAA, the board has identified up to \$350,000 per year be available for regional monitoring activities. Regions need to certify that proposals address or identify recovery plan data gaps and analyses, among other

criteria. The proposals are required to have a CLEAR status from the monitoring panel, who may include “conditions” for sponsors to accept, prior to board funding approved.

Strategic Plan Reference

Goal 2: Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources.

- Monitoring Strategy: Provide accountability for board funding by ensuring the implementation of board-funded projects and assessing their effectiveness, participate with other entities in supporting and coordinating statewide monitoring efforts, and use monitoring results to adaptively manage board funding policies.

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Attachments

Attachment A – Monitoring Framework

Attachment A: Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Framework

Goal of this document

We provide a conceptual framework to assist the SRFB in identifying monitoring priorities that address critical uncertainties in the effectiveness of salmon recovery actions. The need to prioritize monitoring is underscored by importance of focusing on habitat restoration activities that are cost-effective and can help lead to improvements in salmon populations and the habitats they occupy. The foundation includes a table containing uncertainty categories, key questions, relevance to the SRFB, potential monitoring remedies, regional needs, and funding considerations. The monitoring panel emphasizes that the primary goal of this document is to offer a list of key questions and uncertainties, and to suggest monitoring actions that can move us toward resolving them. Final selection of highest priority monitoring topics for funding will be carried out by the SRFB.

The framework is presented in two parts. The first table summarizes critical knowledge topics, how these topics relate to the SRFB mission, the reasons why knowledge is incomplete, and potential monitoring actions that could fill knowledge gaps. The second tables summarize specific needs of salmon recovery regions in Washington State by connecting different monitoring activities with regional data gaps, organizational constraints and partnering opportunities, and estimated costs.

Monitoring Framework and Critical Knowledge Gaps

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
Fish population status and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish in / Fish out Intensively Monitored Watersheds – 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are key fish population measures changing? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps assess freshwater productivity (juveniles per adult) and restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish population assessments are time-consuming and expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult abundance Juvenile abundance

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
	IMWs (adults and juveniles) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some regional monitoring projects (e.g., smolt trapping) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abundance, Productivity, Spatial Structure, Diversity 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marking or tracking programs (to identify migration patterns or changes in life stage survival) Evaluation of new or novel technologies to reduce costs (e.g., new tagging methods, Didson sonar enumeration) Monitoring for spatial structure, life history diversity, or genetic diversity
Habitat status and trends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMW habitat monitoring Large reach-scale monitoring (e.g., floodplain systems) Project-scale monitoring (e.g., project effectiveness monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is habitat increasing or decreasing generally across the landscape? Is habitat quality improving or being degraded (broadly or site specific)? Is instream habitat improving or being degraded? Habitat status and trends can be linked to fish population measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informs restoration investments by quantifying habitat improvements in different geographic settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large-scale freshwater habitat metrics are often poorly defined and may show little relationship to fish populations Large-scale metrics may be difficult or expensive to measure Effects of climate change on habitat can be unclear Knowledge of salmon life histories is incomplete There is an imperfect understanding of locations with high productive potential for salmon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect on-the-ground data through sampling monitoring (time consuming and expensive) Using remote sensing or novel technologies to reduce costs (less expensive, less precise) Compilation and synthesis of existing habitat data in a common data base for broad scale analyses Combining multiple types of data, e.g., obtain habitat or water quality data to inform climate change models
Limiting factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensively Monitored Watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are restoration actions leading to a population response? What factors may be most limiting fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate determination of the most important limiting factors for different salmon species is critical to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems are dynamic and conditions that limit fish recovery are continually changing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct time intensive life cycle monitoring and modeling exercises Update analyses of available data on a regular basis to determine if limiting factors have changed

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
		<p>populations at a watershed scale?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are restoration actions targeting the most important or limiting factors? • Can monitoring determine how are key limiting factors changing over time on a regional scale, considering new emerging threats, critical data gaps, and climate change? • Can monitoring determine if there are limiting factors constraining salmon production that currently are not being considered? 	<p>formulating appropriate restoration projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some questions may be one-time or periodic assessments or studies, as opposed to routine monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is imprecise - field data used to diagnose limiting factors may not always represent actual conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct meta analyses and data syntheses by combining multiple data sources and information. • Coordinate existing fish monitoring data with monitoring information on habitat condition
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensively Monitored Watersheds • Fish in / Fish out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are stream flow and stream temperature trends consistent with predictive climate change models? • What monitoring is needed to refine and parameterize existing climate change models to be more regional specific and accurate for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to know if stream flow or temperature are changing in accordance with predicted models as this may influence where and how restoration occurs • Acting proactively to monitor climate impacts may improve the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific projections of climate change models on flow (annual hydrograph patterns) and temperature regimes are rarely available for smaller watersheds • Frequency and duration of severe weather events (floods and droughts) is impossible to predict • Restoration projects may be designed around hydrologic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine and down-scale climate change models so they can be applied to small watersheds. Test the models with monitoring at select locations • Assess the vulnerability of existing and future habitat restoration projects to extreme weather-related conditions. However, this may not involve routine monitoring • Design restoration projects that are resilient to future climate events, and that will respond to channel mobilizing flows in desirable ways.

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
		<p>restoration practitioners?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can monitoring help determine what the key mechanisms are through which climate change will affect fish habitat, diversity and abundance? • Can monitoring determine what habitat characteristics are associated with sites that have high resilience to the changes anticipated from climate change? 	<p>effectiveness of restoration projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying sites with high resilience to climate change impacts would be useful for prioritizing restoration efforts 	<p>regimes that exist now, but may not exist in the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased frequency and severity of wildfires can affect the efficacy of many types of habitat improvements 	<p>Test the restoration approaches with monitoring at select locations in watersheds that are prone to severe disturbances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a better understanding of the characteristics of riparian zones that makes them resistant to fire intrusion. Test the assumptions with monitoring at select locations
<p>Fish distribution and access to historical spawning, rearing, and migration habitats</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish in / Fish out • Intensively Monitored Watersheds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can periodic monitoring help determine the distribution of fish on a watershed basis across the state? • Do fish have sufficient access to remaining nodes of high-quality habitats? • How does fish distribution, abundance and diversity on a watershed basis change over time? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized maps of salmon location exist for most river basins, but access to locally productive sites (e.g., floodplains, temperature refugia) is important • Many restoration actions such as floodplain reconnection and replacing impassable road crossings have been identified as high priority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of fish distribution surveys year-round hampers identifying locations of critical habitats • Existing distribution maps are often based on outdated information • Distribution and impact of non-native fishes and other aquatic species are incompletely known • New barriers to fish movements may not yet be identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically update fish surveys, including surveys in seasons that are infrequently sampled. Commit to periodic monitoring (e.g, every 5 years) to verify fish distribution within river basins • Use novel techniques such as eDNA to document fish presence in hard-to-sample areas • Increase funding for monitoring invasive species that could affect distribution and abundance • Develop and regularly update a central and publicly available

<i>Critical Knowledge Gap</i>	<i>SRFB Monitoring Program</i>	<i>Key Questions</i>	<i>Relevance or Importance for SRFB</i>	<i>Reasons for Uncertainty</i>	<i>Potential Monitoring Actions</i>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does fish distribution and access to productive habitats change after habitat restoration actions? 			clearinghouse for known fish locations and barriers to movement
Continuing and emerging threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensively Monitored Watersheds • Some regional monitoring projects (e.g., invasive species assessments) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the trends in number or amounts of water withdrawals? • Can monitoring help determine if previously unknown factors are contributing to declines in populations (e.g., recent finding that chemicals from tires causes pre-spawning mortality)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerging threats affect where and how restoration should be focused, and how effective that restoration may be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water withdrawals are incompletely known • New barriers to fish movements are not documented • Loss of healthy riparian areas has not been quantified • Pollution (e.g., elevated levels of pharmaceuticals in nearshore waters) is incompletely known • Introduced fish diseases and predators are poorly studied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved monitoring of irrigation, industrial, and drinking water withdrawals • More complete periodic inventories of culverts in streams with anadromous species • Broad-scale monitoring of riparian areas, including mapping of expansion of unwanted invasive plant species • Expanded monitoring programs for newly identified pollutants • Regular toxicological and non-native fish predator surveys

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Funding Projection for the 2021-2023 Biennium and Funding Recommendations

Prepared By: Tara Galuska, Salmon Section Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office
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Summary

Item 5 provides information about the actual and projected funding for the 2021-23 biennium and provides information about specific activities and funding decisions that will advance the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (board) strategic plan.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background:

The Legislature recently approved the 2021-2023 biennial state budget that includes funding for salmon recovery. The '21-'23 biennium starts July 1, 2021. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) distributes the funding via an annual grant round for habitat projects and for project development by lead entities.

Each year, RCO submits a single Washington State application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant funding. The application is prepared on behalf of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC).

The board portion of the PCSRF application includes funding for habitat projects, monitoring (required by NOAA), administration, and capacity. Capacity is described as the established organizational foundation that allows salmon recovery to take place at the grassroots level by maintaining a network of regional organizations and lead entities, and in past years, has included direct funding for both regional organizations and lead entities. PCSRF funding is no longer used to fund lead entities and instead funding for lead entities is included as part of the RCO state capital budget request. By

removing capacity funding from the PCSRF application, a larger percentage of funds shifted into Priority 1 habitat projects, improving Washington's competitiveness in the federal application process.

Available Funds

Budget for the Biennium

Federal Funding: NOAA has informed the RCO that Washington state's 2021 PCSRF award will be \$18.4 million. This memo is based on receiving \$18.4 million for 2021 and projecting an \$18.5 million award in 2022. The 2022 federal award will not be known until approximately June 2022 and therefore assumptions are used to project the funding likely available for the entire biennium.

State Funding: The Legislature's adopted budgets for the 2021-23 biennium include:

- \$974,000 in general state funds for lead entities, the same amount provided in the 2019-21 budget.
- \$30 million in capital funds for salmon recovery, which includes:
 - \$2,400,000 million in lead entity capacity funding;
 - \$640,000 to the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) for project development. (It is important to note that the funding provided to lead entities and RFEGs is only to develop projects – any other capacity costs are not eligible to be covered with these capital funds);
 - \$25,724,000 for salmon recovery projects; and
 - \$1,236,000 (4.12%) to RCO to administer these grants and contracts.

Returned Funds

"Returned funds" refers to money allocated to projects/activities in previous biennia that is returned to RCO when projects/activities either close under budget or are not completed. These dollars return to the overall budget. These returned funds have been available for cost increases and to increase the funding available for projects in the upcoming grant round provided the Legislature re-appropriates the funds as part of either the regular capital budget or a stand-alone re-appropriation bill. The legislature has re-appropriated these unspent funds from earlier biennia.

In past years, the board made up the difference between the PCSRF award and the amount needed for region and lead entity capacity with returned PCSRF funds. Currently, due to reduced federal funding, specific federal grant requirements on "priorities", and the board's recent strategy to remove lead entities from the PCSRF award, utilizing returned PCSRF funds for lead entity capacity funding is no longer a feasible strategy.

Currently \$107,000 in returned project funds are available for the 2021 grant round and \$53,000 from lead entity capacity state funds for Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) facilitation and Snohomish Basin Lead Entity.

Funding Scenario

Table 1 displays the amount of funding available for board decisions for the biennium. This scenario includes the state appropriation of \$30 million and the \$18.4 million award for 2021 and projected 2022 \$18.5 million NOAA award to Washington State.

Table 2 outlines the obligation of funding for each year of the biennium. The project funding displayed depicts the total project funding available split almost evenly between year 1 and year 2. The board must determine how much funding to use for each grant round, 2021 and 2022 and whether to include Targeted Investments. Project funding alternatives are provided in the memo below the table and include scenarios with and without a Targeted Investment Option.

Table 1. Available and Projected Funding for the Biennium

Funding for the 21-23 Biennium	State General Bond Funds	State Capital Bond Funds	Federal PCSRF (projected)	Total
State (Lead Entities)	\$974,000	\$2,400,000		\$3,374,000
State Bond Funds (RFEG)		\$640,000		\$640,000
Capacity Return Funds Available		\$53,000		\$53,000
State Bond funds		\$25,724,000		\$25,724,000
State Bond Funds Admin		\$1,236,000		\$1,236,000
PCSRF* 2021 Projects			\$9,037,815	\$9,037,815
PCSRF* 2021 Activities and Regions			\$8,810,185	\$8,810,185
PCSRF* 2021 Admin			\$552,000	\$552,000
PCSRF* 2022 Projects			\$9,200,000	\$9,200,000
PCSRF* 2022 Activities and Regions			\$8,745,000	\$8,745,000
PCSRF* 2022 Admin			\$555,000	\$555,000
Project Return Funds Used/Available	-	-	\$107,000	\$107,000

PCSRF Unobligated Monitoring Funds			\$236,000	\$236,000
Total Funds Available	\$974,000	\$30,053,000	\$37,243,000	\$68,270,000

Table 2: Potential Fund Uses for the 21-23 Biennium

	State Fiscal Year 2022	State Fiscal Year 2023
FUND USES		
Capacity (Lead Entities and Regional Organizations)		
State General funds (Lead Entities)	\$487,000	\$487,000
State Bonds (Lead Entities)	\$1,202,500	\$1,202,500
State Bonds WSC Facilitator	\$24,000	\$24,000
State Bonds (Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups)	\$320,000	\$320,000
PCSRF (Regional Organizations)	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685
Subtotal	\$4,912,185	\$4,912,185
PCSRF Activities		
Monitoring and Monitoring Panel	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Monitoring Carryover (2018 PCSRF)	\$236,000	N/A
Communications Strategy SRNet facilitation	\$60,000	\$60,000
SRFB Review Panel	\$200,000	\$200,000
PCSRF Activities - Other	\$3,321,500	\$3,256,315
Subtotal	\$5,817,500	\$5,516,315
Projects		
State Bonds for projects	\$12,362,000	\$12,362,000
State Bonds Potential Targeted Investment Funding		TBD
Unobligated PCSRF projects funds	\$107,000	
PCSRF for grant round	\$9,037,815	\$9,200,000
Cost Increases for Projects	\$500,000	\$500,000
Regional Monitoring Projects	\$350,000	\$350,000
Subtotal	\$22,356,815	\$22,412,000
RCO Administration (State and Federal)	\$1,170,000	\$1,173,000

	State Fiscal Year 2022	State Fiscal Year 2023
Total Uses for 2019-21 Biennium	\$34,256,500	\$34,013,500
TOTAL YEAR 1 and YEAR 2	\$68,270,000	

2021 Grant Round Target (FY 2022)

Salmon Projects

The board funds salmon projects with state and federal money. The vast majority of funds received are dedicated to projects, capacity and monitoring. Funding is determined annually based on Washington State's annual PCSRF grant award and the state dollars appropriated by the Washington State Legislature each biennium as shown in Table 1. The board will be making decisions today to determine grant round amounts for year 1 and 2 of the biennium and whether to include Targeted Investments.

Technical Review Panel

To ensure that every project funded by the board is technically sound, the board's technical review panel evaluates projects to assess whether they have a high benefit to salmon, a high likelihood of success, and that project costs do not outweigh the anticipated benefits of the project. There is \$200,000 specified in the PCSRF application to support the technical review panel for 2021. In addition, \$250,000 will be used from PSAR funds to support the review panel.

Cost Increases

Each year, the board reserves \$500,000 in addition to the grant round target for cost increase amendments requested by project sponsors for SRFB projects. These funds are available on a first come, first served basis to sponsors seeking additional funds for essential cost increases to accomplish their existing scopes of work. The RCO director has authority to approve cost increases or to request review and approval by the board. Amendments are reported to the board at each meeting.

Grant Round and Targeted Investment Alternatives

Alternatives for 2021 and 2022 Grant Rounds and Targeted Investments

There may be up to \$43.7 million available for projects in the 21-23 biennium, including state funds and the 2021 and projected 2022 PCSRF award amounts. Today the board is asked to set the amount for the current 2021 Grant Round which is underway and for the 2022 Grant Round. Alternatives 1-4 include funding for the Targeted Investment policy that was approved by the SRFB in September 2020. Alternative 5 does not include funding for Targeted Investments, and the next opportunity to implement the policy would be in the 23-

25 biennium. Funding is based on the approved state capital budget and projected PCSRF funding for 2021 and 2022. The amount available could also increase with returned funds later in the biennium.

Below are the various alternatives (not in prioritized order) for board consideration in allocating the project funding. The goal of any option is to increase the grant round amount in year 1 or 2 or both. The grant round has been at \$18 million for over a decade (since 2010). This biennium, in preparation for the legislative session, the lead entites were asked to input planned projects for the biennium into the Salmon Recovery Portal to create a Planned Project Forecast list. The list was provided to the legislature with RCO's budget request. Salmon funding increased from \$25 million last biennium to \$30 million this biennium. Currently there are 143 applications in PRISM this 2021 grant round asking for \$36 million in funding. Projects are currently under review.

Targeted Investments

The board approved a Targeted Investment policy in September 2020 and staff will present implementation options in Memo 6. Alternatives 1 through 4 include Targeted Investments and Alternative 5 does not include Targeted Investments.

Funding Scenario Alternatives

Alternative 1: Status Quo of \$18 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$22 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$3.7 million in 2022.

2021 Grant Round	2022 Grant Round	2022 Targeted Investment
\$18 million	\$22 million	\$3.7 million

Alternative 2: Allocate \$19 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$20 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$4.7 million in 2022.

2021 Grant Round	2022 Grant Round	2022 Targeted Investment
\$19 million	\$20 million	\$ 4.7 million

Alternative 3: Allocate \$20 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$20 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$3.7 million in 2022.

2021 Grant Round	2022 Grant Round	2022 Targeted Investment
\$20 million	\$20 million	\$ 3.7 million

Alternative 4: Allocate \$20 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$21 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$2.7 million in 2022.

2021 Grant Round	2022 Grant Round	2022 Targeted Investment
\$20 million	\$21 million	\$2.7 million

Alternative 5: Allocate \$21 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$22.7 million for 2022 Grant Round and do no Targeted Investment in 2022.

2021 Grant Round	2022 Grant Round	2022 Targeted Investment
\$21 million	\$22.7 million	none

The following table shows the regional allocations and different funding levels for the grant round.

Table 3. Regional Allocations for Project Funding at different grant round levels

Regional Salmon Area Allocation	Percent	Allocation Based on \$18 million	Allocation Based on \$19 million	Allocation Based on \$20 million	Allocation Based on \$21 million	Allocation Based on \$22 million
Hood Canal Coordinating Council (2.4%)	2.4%	\$432,000	\$456,000	\$480,000	\$504,000	\$528,000
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.00%	\$3,600,000	\$3,800,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,200,000	\$4,400,000
Northeast Washington	1.90%	\$342,000	\$361,000	\$ 380,000	\$399,000	\$418,000
Puget Sound Partnership (38%)	38%	\$6,840,000	\$7,220,000	\$7,600,000	\$7,980,000	\$8,360,000
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.44%	\$1,519,200	\$1,603,600	\$1,688,000	\$1,772,400	\$1,856,800
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.31%	\$1,855,800	\$1,958,900	\$2,062,000	\$2,165,100	\$2,268,200
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.57%	\$1,722,600	\$1,818,300	\$1,914,000	\$2,009,700	\$2,105,400
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.38%	\$1,688,400	\$1,782,200	\$1,876,000	\$1,969,800	\$2,063,600
TOTAL	100.00%	\$18,000,000	\$19,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$21,000,000	\$22,000,000

*Note that Puget Sound's allocation is 38% but they give 10% of their allocation to Hood Canal which makes the amount for Puget Sound 34.12% and the amount for Hood Canal 6.28%.

1 Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award for 2021 of \$18.4 million and projected 2022 of \$18.5 million.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the board select an Alternative for the grant round amounts, which includes \$350,000 for funding for regional monitoring projects.

Staff recommends that the board approve \$200,000 for the Technical Review Panel.

Staff recommends that the board reserve \$500,000 for cost increases.

The interim project allocation formula approved by the board at the March 2, 2017 meeting will be utilized to allocate project funding to regions, as no revisions have been proposed following the board decision in 2017. The board will approve ranked project lists at its September 2021 board meeting.

Regional Organization and Lead Entity Capacity Contracts

Existing Lead Entity capacity grants will end on June 30, 2021. Most of the funding provides capacity for lead entity coordinators to coordinate their citizen and technical committees. A small portion of these funds are used for training and a stipend for the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) chair.

RCO proposes a funding mechanism for a WSC facilitator from return funds from the previous fiscal year. Additionally, RCO proposes allocating \$5,000 in return funds to the Snohomish Basin Lead Entity. This request is to correct a calculation error made when RCO switched funding from PCSRF to state funds for lead entity capacity. This error left capacity funding \$5,000 short the last two biennium.

Due to the timing of receiving the PCSRF allocation, RCO extended the regional organization grants until August 31, 2021.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends the board fund capacity for Lead Entities for the entire 2021-23 biennium at \$3,379,000 and for Regional Organizations for fiscal year 2022 at \$2,818,685 plus any return funds from previous PCSRF awards. Table 4 summarizes the recommendation; Tables 5 and 6 detail the funding recommendations for Regions and Lead Entities, respectively.

Staff also recommends that RCO allow lead entities to exchange allocated general funds for returned bond funds to hire a Washington Salmon Coalition facilitator.

Table 4. Proposed Lead Entity and Regional Organization Funding for Fiscal Years (FY) 2021-23

Purpose	Current Funding FY 2021	Proposed Funding FY 2022	Proposed Funding FY 2023
Lead Entities	\$1,689,500	\$1,689,500*	\$1,689,500*
Regions	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685**
Projects	\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000**	\$18,000,000**
WSC Facilitator (return bond funds)	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000

*Includes return bond funds for Snohomish LE

**Projected PCSRF funding

Table 5. Capacity Funding for Salmon Recovery Regions

Regional Organization	Board Funding Adopted FY 2021	Proposed 2022 PCSRF Funding	Proposed Funding FY 2023
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	\$456,850	\$456,850	456,850
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	\$375,000	\$375,000	375,000
Puget Sound Partnership	\$689,162	\$689,162	689,162
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	\$333,588	\$333,588	333,588
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	\$435,000	\$435,000	435,000
Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	\$304,085	\$304,085	304,085
Yakima Valley Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board	\$285,000	\$285,000	285,000
Total	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685

Table 6. Capacity Funding for Lead Entities for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020-21

Lead Entity	Board Funding Adopted FY 2021	Proposed Funding FY 2022	Proposed Funding FY 2023
WRIA 1 Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
San Juan County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Stillaguamish Lead Entity	\$62,000	\$62,000	\$62,000
Island County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	\$62,500	\$62,500	\$62,500
Lake WA/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Green/Duwamish & Central PS Watershed Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Pierce County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	\$62,500	\$62,500	\$62,500
Thurston Conservation District Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Mason Conservation District Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
West Sound Watersheds Council Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Grays Harbor County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Pacific County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Klickitat County Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Pend Oreille Lead Entity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000
Upper Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000
Yakima Basin Regional Salmon Recovery	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000
Snake River Regional Salmon Recovery	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$65,000

Lead Entity	Board Funding Adopted FY 2021	Proposed Funding FY 2022	Proposed Funding FY 2023
Lower Columbia Regional Salmon Recovery	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Hood Canal Regional Salmon Recovery	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Lead Entity Chair	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Lead Entity Training	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
WSC Facilitator (return bond swap)	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000
Total	\$1,713,500	\$1,713,500	\$1,713,500

Monitoring Contracts for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021

Board-Funded Monitoring Efforts

The following decisions are specific to the ongoing board-funded monitoring efforts included in the 2021 PCSRF application. These board-funded monitoring efforts have been reviewed and assessed by the monitoring panel, and are addressed in its recommendations for funding in Attachment A. (see also Item 7). The efforts include the intensively monitored watersheds program, status and trends monitoring, and the pilot / proof-of-concept transition to remote sensing of floodplains. If approved by the board, the new or renewed contracts will have an expected start date of October 1, 2021 (or sooner) and end December 31, 2022. A request for qualifications (RFQQ) for a westside floodplain proof-of-concept will be presented to the board for consideration.

Additionally, continued support is requested for the monitoring panel, which is entering its seventh (7th) year of objectively assessing the board's monitoring program for its scientific validity, and providing recommendations to the board on its monitoring investments and other issues. The monitoring panel also provides review of regional monitoring project proposals and is addressing an appropriate structure for adaptive management. Most of the current contracts for the monitoring panel members terminate on December 31, 2022. The panel is co-chaired by Pete Bisson and Jeanette Smith, on behalf of their colleagues.

The total amount available for board-funded monitoring and related costs is \$2,236,000.

Status and Trends monitoring (Fish In/Fish Out) - Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) **\$208,000**

This contract with WDFW continues the annual support provided for state-wide status and trends monitoring. This funding supports certain index stream monitoring (five streams), which is approximately 7% of the total WDFW Fish In/Fish Out monitoring.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW)

\$1,538,639

The IMW program continues to provide comprehensive validation monitoring for the four IMWs in western WA, as well as support for one IMW in eastern WA. These IMWs include the Straits, Skagit, and Hood Canal IMWs in the Puget Sound region, the Abernathy IMW in the Lower Columbia, and the Asotin IMW in the Snake region.

- WA Department of Ecology to be contracted to provide sub-contracting and project oversight for four worksites. \$699,650
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to be contracted for habitat monitoring in three IMW worksites. \$350,000
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife to be contracted for fish monitoring in two IMW worksites. \$489,000

Note: The Snake and Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery regions have access to IMW monitoring funds from an annual Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) allocation to RCO, not captured in this total.

Monitoring Panel

\$100,000

The monitoring panel is entering its fifth year of operation, implementing their objective review and assessment of all the board-supported monitoring efforts: Status and Trends; Intensively Monitored Watersheds; and the anticipated “pivot” from reach-scale Project Effectiveness. In addition, the monitoring panel reviews regional monitoring projects, which are included in the regional funding allocation that the board will consider at the December 2021 meeting. Project sponsors must submit an application that meets the criteria established in Manual 18 and provide certification from the region.

The seven monitoring panel members provide subject matter expertise in a collegial and respectful environment. The panel meetings include web-based meetings and conference calls, in-person reviews and interactions, and follow-up with monitoring principal investigators. The draft recommendations presented for board consideration also include any conditions the monitoring panel deems appropriate to be included in the monitoring contracts with project sponsors.

This funding request supports the monitoring panel through September 30, 2022 and would use 2021 PCSRF award funds.

Western Washington Floodplain “Proof-of-Concept”

\$153,350

The monitoring panel supports a proposal (RFQQ) this year (2021) for a study design for the collection of geospatial data (Green LiDAR), in Western Washington. This includes analytical approaches and proposed metrics for measuring habitat complexity. The panel has also sought input on additional data (i.e. King County) needed to evaluate

floodplain project performance in Western Washington, which is presented in Item 5. The proposed RFQQ being brought forth to the board is for “analysis only”, not-to-exceed \$145,000, to be advertised through WEBS in mid-June, and allocated from the anticipated 2021 PCSRF award. Additional floodplain studies with pre-and post-monitoring are anticipated.

Staff Recommendations on Monitoring

Staff recommends that the board delegate authority to the RCO director to enter contracts for approved board-funded monitoring efforts: based on the response and results from request for proposals, as well as subsequent discussions about emerging gaps in existing monitoring programs (i.e., fish in/fish out, IMW).

Monitoring Contracts for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021

Board-Funded Monitoring Efforts

	\$208,000
Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) WECY	\$699,650
Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) WDFW (fish)	\$489,000
Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) WDFW (habitat)	\$350,000
Monitoring Panel	\$100,000
Western Washington Floodplain “Proof of Concept”	\$153,350
TOTAL FOR 2021 GRANT ROUND	\$2,000,000

Motions for Funding Decisions

Motions for Projects:

Move to approve one of the following Alternatives:

- Alternative 1: Status Quo of \$18 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$22 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$3.7 million in 2022.
- Alternative 2: Allocate \$19 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$20 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$4.7 million in 2022.

- Alternative 3: Allocate \$20 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$20 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$3.7 million in 2022.
- Alternative 4: Allocate \$20 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$21 million for 2022 Grant Round. Targeted Investment is funded at \$2.7 million in 2022.
- Alternative 5: Allocate \$21 million for 2021 (current Grant Round underway) and \$22.7 million for 2022 Grant Round and do no Targeted Investment in 2022.

Move to approve \$200,000 for the SRFB Technical Review Panel.

Move to reserve \$500,000 for SRFB project cost increases.

Motions for Capacity:

Move to delegate authority to the Director to enter contracts with the Lead Entities to fund capacity for the 2021-23 biennium at \$3,379,000, including up to \$48,000 in return capacity funds for the biennium for Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) facilitation, if swapped for general fund.

Move to delegate authority to the Director to enter contracts with the Regional Organizations for fiscal year 2022 at \$2,818,685 plus any return funds from previous PCSRF awards.

Motions for Monitoring:

Move to delegate authority to the RCO director to enter contracts for the following monitoring efforts that total \$2,000,000 for Federal Fiscal Year 2021:

- \$208,000 for status and trends monitoring with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 1,538,650 for IMW monitoring contracts
- \$100,000 for the monitoring panel contracts
- \$153,350 for Western Washington Floodplains "Proof of Concept"

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Targeted Investments Implementation and Priority Setting for 2021-23

Prepared By: Katie Pruitt, Planning and Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the proposed implementation process for targeted investments. The policy adopted at the September 16, 2020 board meeting set the policy intent, priorities, and eligibility criteria. The implementation process includes two decision points: 1) approving the evaluation process and criteria, and 2) establishing a 2021-23 targeted investment priority.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Introduction/Background

The board adopted a policy at the September 16, 2020 meeting to formalize the funding of targeted investments. A targeted investment is a project that addresses a board-identified priority to accelerate progress towards achieving salmon recovery. The general parameters of the policy are to fund targeted investments if: 1) the annual regional status quo allocation has been met¹, 2) the project addresses one or more strategic priorities as determined by the board, and 3) the project cannot be funded within the current allocation, or sub-allocation to lead entities. Proposals are submitted by the salmon recovery region but must also be endorsed by the lead entity.

The Targeted Investment policy was developed in 2020 over several months with lead entity and regional recovery organization input. Comments were carefully considered, relayed to the board, and incorporated in the final policy.

¹ The policy allows for targeted investments if more funds are available than the status quo regional allocation of \$18 million.

In 2021 staff turned attention to implementing the policy (i.e., how projects will be recruited, evaluated, and funded). Staff agreed to work with the lead entities and regional recovery organizations to develop the evaluation criteria and review process as described below.

Evaluation Criteria

To implement the targeted investments policy, staff drafted evaluation criteria for stakeholder consideration (Attachment B). Staff presented a draft to the Review Panel, Washington Salmon Coalition, and the Regional Recovery Organizations. Several comments were received and used to create well-defined evaluation criteria for scoring targeted investment proposals.

Scoring criteria when the board establishes **one** policy priority:

Category	Description	Points
Priority benefit	The proposal will select one targeted investment priority (as identified by the board each biennium). Each priority has scoring specific to its focus (e.g., orca recovery is scored based on Chinook ESU/Stock Group).	10
Species and Habitat Benefits	The project considers life stage benefits, process-based habitat solutions, and quantifiable and measurable restoration benchmarks.	20
Likelihood to Succeed	The project is well-scoped with a demonstrated readiness to proceed, including landowner support, and a sponsor with a proven track record.	20
Cost	Associated with the project is a well justified funding request that demonstrates good use of funds and leverages additional funds.	10
TOTAL POSSIBLE		60

As described above, there are four categories for scoring targeted investments. The first category, priority benefit is evaluated for criteria that is unique to each priority (Attachment B) and cannot be compared to different policy priorities. For example, "emergency response" is evaluated and scored for near-term threat of a listed species,

whereas “orca recovery” is evaluated and scored for benefit to natural origin salmon populations identified as a high priority by the southern resident orca task force.

Therefore, the scoring criteria to evaluate **one or more** policy priorities will not include points for priority benefit. Each proposal will be evaluated and scored in the following categories:

Category	Description	Points
Species and Habitat Benefits	The project considers life stage benefits, process-based habitat solutions, and quantifiable and measurable restoration benchmarks.	20
Likelihood to Succeed	The project is well-scoped with a demonstrated readiness to proceed, including landowner support, and a sponsor with a proven track record.	20
Cost	Associated with the project is a well justified funding request that demonstrates good use of funds and leverages additional funds.	10
TOTAL POSSIBLE		50

Review Process

Policy implementation includes establishing a review process. If funding is determined, projects will be accepted during the regular grant round of the second year of the biennium. Therefore, each salmon recovery region, including Northeast, may promote one project application, according to the 2022 SRFB grant schedule timeline. Project applications are to be submitted by the applicant and must meet all regular salmon recovery project application requirements.

Proposals will follow the review process established in Section 4 of *Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants*. This includes review of projects by the Review Panel. In addition, each Targeted Investment project will be scored by the Review Panel using the criteria in

Attachment B. As described above, the priority benefit score will not be used in the total score when the board accepts proposals for more than one priority.²

The board will receive a scored list of targeted investments proposals. In the event of a scoring tie, the project that leverages the greatest investment of non-state funds for salmon recovery will rise to the top. The board will make the final decision on which project or projects to fund.

A new appendix will be added to Manual 18. It will describe the complete process and include the evaluation (scoring) criteria described in Attachment B. Changes to Manual 18 must be in place no later than November 2021.

Policy Priority

One final step to implementation is establishing the biennial policy priority. Each biennium, the board will have the opportunity to 1) determine if targeted investment funds are available, and 2) establish one or more priorities to focus investments. The board may choose one or more priority each biennium, but each region may only submit one project.

If the board chooses to fund targeted investments in the 2021-23 biennium, one or more of the following priorities may be selected. These include:

- 1. Approaching recovery:** The project improves habitat for an Endangered Species Act listed species nearing recovery goals, as set by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) status reviews.
- 2. Orca recovery benefit:** The project focuses on habitat actions that benefit Endangered Species Act listed, natural origin salmon populations that are a high priority in the southern resident orca task force recommendations. Proposals that protect salmonid production in areas determined critical to successful feeding will receive the highest score. Scores are based on NOAA Fisheries and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW 2018) SRKW Priority Chinook Stocks Report.
- 3. At-risk population benefit:** The project will improve habitat for endangered, threatened, or non-listed populations in decline or at risk of extinction.

² The Review Panel will evaluate the priority benefit criteria, but it will not be used in the final score.

4. **Threat reduction:** The project will remove or dramatically abate a threat that will significantly reduce recovery efforts. Examples include flooding, erosion, invasive species, fire, climate change, and other threats, including predation.
5. **Emergency response:** The project focuses on advancing salmon habitat protection and restoration in watersheds that have experienced disasters, whether natural or anthropogenic, that have or will result in significant adverse impact on a population.

Staff Recommendation

Should the board choose to move forward with funding targeted investments in the 2021-23 biennium, it is within the board's authority to establish a priority focus (one or more) at this time, or defer the decision to the September 2021 board meeting. Postponing the decision to September would allow for a stakeholder recommendation; however, it would allow less time for proposal preparation.

Staff recommend the board consider the following motions:

Proposed Motions

- 1) **Move** to approve the evaluation process and scoring criteria for targeted investments and direct staff to update Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants.
- 2) **Move** to approve [one priority or more] as the 2021-23 biennial targeted investment.

Strategic Plan Connection

The draft policy supports **Goal 1** of the board's strategic plan: Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Attachments

Attachment A – Targeted Investments Policy

Attachment B – Evaluation Criteria

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.

Proposal Eligibility		
Recommend to Review	Yes	<p>Proposal meets minimum requirements for review. Proposals not recommended for review will not be considered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address a board-selected 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 sub-allocation to lead entities or the current regional allocation*. 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. Letter of support from the lead entity where the project is located. 7. The only project selected by a salmon recovery region for funding. <p>* If the proposal is under the regional allocation, a letter of justification from the region must be included in the application.</p>
Evaluation Criteria		
	Score	Higher Score Reflects...
Priority Benefit – 10 points (choose the one for the selected Targeted Investment priority)		
Approaching Recovery	0-10	<p>Project improves habitat for an Endangered Species Act listed species nearing recovery goals, as set by NOAA status reviews.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals that benefit ESA species nearest to the recovery goal will receive the highest score. • Project addresses most important limiting factor(s) identified in recovery plan for species nearest delisting. • Project addresses an outstanding habitat restoration and/or protection issue or threat that, if corrected, moves species closer to recovery goal. <p>8-10 – A well-documented analysis that the Distinct Population Segment (DPS) is at or near (e.g., within 10%) of achieving 2 or more Viable Salmon Population (VSP) parameters.</p> <p>5-7 – A well-documented analysis that the DPS is at or near (e.g., within 10%) of achieving 1 VSP parameter.</p> <p>0-4 – The DPS is not very close (e.g., within 10%) of achieving a VSP parameter.</p>

Targeted Investment Evaluation Criteria

Orca recovery benefit	0-10 based on ESU	The project focuses on habitat actions that benefit Endangered Species Act listed, natural origin salmon populations that are a high priority in the southern resident orca task force recommendations. Proposals that protect and restore salmonid production in areas determined critical to successful feeding will receive the highest score. Scores based on NOAA Fisheries and WDFW (2018) SRKW Priority Chinook Stocks Report.			
		Chinook ESU/Stock Group			Score
		Northern Puget Sound	Fall	Nooksack, Elwha, Dungeness, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish	10
		Southern Puget Sound	Fall	Nisqually, Puyallup, Green, Duwamish, Deschutes, Hood Canal systems	10
		Lower Columbia	Fall	Fall Tules and Fall Brights (Cowlitz, Kalama, Clackamas, Lewis, others)	10
		Upper Columbia & Snake Fall	Fall	Upriver Brights	8
		Lower Columbia	Spring	Lewis, Cowlitz, Kalama, Big White Salmon	8
		Middle Columbia	Fall	Fall Brights	8
		Snake River	Spring-Summer	Snake, Salmon, Clearwater	8
		Northern Puget Sound	Spring	Nooksack, Elwha, Dungeness, Skagit (Stillaguamish, Snohomish)	8
		Washington Coast	Spring	Hoh, Queets, Quillayute, Grays Harbor	7
		Washington Coast	Fall	Hoh, Queets, Quillayute, Grays Harbor	7
		Middle & Upper Columbia Spring	Spring	Columbia, Yakima, Wenatchee, Methow, Okanagan	7
		Southern Puget Sound	Spring	Nisqually, Puyallup, Green, Duwamish, Deschutes, Hood Canal systems	5

Targeted Investment Evaluation Criteria

At-risk population benefit	0-10	<p>The project will improve habitat for endangered, threatened, or non-listed populations in decline or at risk of extinction. The bulleted list below includes possible information sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery has been recently closed or severely limited • State of Salmon statewide status consideration • Populations furthest from recovery goals • Population petitioned for listing • Number of times below escapement goal over last five years • Identified risk in most recent NOAA five-year status review <p>8-10 – A well-documented analysis that a non-listed population is very close to needing to be listed or that a listed population is continuing to decline and at increased risk of extinction.</p> <p>5-7 – There are some indications that a non-listed population is very close to needing to be listed or that a listed population is continuing to decline and at increased risk of extinction.</p> <p>0-4 – There are minimal indications that a non-listed population is very close to needing to be listed or that a listed population is continuing to decline and at increased risk of extinction.</p>
Threat reduction	0-10	<p>The project will remove or dramatically abate a threat that will significantly reduce recovery efforts. Example threats include flooding, erosion, invasive species, fire, climate change, and other threats, including predation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project removes or substantially abates a documented threat to a listed species. • The project improves habitat resilience to a potential or current chronic threat. • The project provides a long-term and proven strategy to abate a future threat. • The project addresses the threat in a way that promotes ecosystem resiliency. <p>8-10 = The proposal clearly meets criteria.</p> <p>5-7 = The proposal somewhat meets criteria.</p> <p>0-4 = The proposal minimally meets criteria.</p>

Targeted Investment Evaluation Criteria

Emergency response	0-10	<p>The project focuses on advancing salmon habitat protection and restoration in watersheds that have experienced disasters, whether natural or anthropogenic, that have or will result in significant adverse impact on a population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project with the most obvious near-term threat to a listed species will receive the highest score. • The project describes near-term impact to a listed species. • The project documents the magnitude and extent of the emergency. <p>8-10 = The proposal clearly meets criteria.</p> <p>5-7 = The proposal somewhat meets criteria.</p> <p>0-4 = The proposal minimally meets criteria.</p>
Species and Habitat Benefits 20 points (All Projects)		
Species	0-5	<p>Proposal addresses multiple listed species and multiple life history stages for one or more species will receive the highest score.</p> <p>5= multiple life stages of a single listed population or multiple populations</p> <p>3= single life stage of a single listed population</p> <p>0= no listed population</p>
Ecological Processes and Features	0-10	<p>Projects that recover habitat through process-based solutions will receive the highest scores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project identifies limiting factor and life history stage • Project results in a high functioning site that restores or protects ecosystem processes. • Surrounding conditions support the project. • The site is resilient to future degradation. • The project is designed to be resilient to climate change. • Sustainable over time, self-sustaining, or naturally increasing benefit; temporary fixes will score lower. • Hardened infrastructure solutions are acceptable but will score lower. <p>8-10 = The project restores all the natural processes to the site and addresses limiting factors.</p> <p>5-7 = The project restores most of the natural processes and addresses most limiting factors.</p> <p>0-4 = The project has limited restoration of natural processes or doesn't adequately address limiting factors</p>
Scale of benefit	0-5	<p>A higher amount of quantified benefits and measurable restoration benchmarks will receive the highest score.</p>

Targeted Investment Evaluation Criteria

		<p>Restores access to or improves juvenile and/or adult high quality, functional habitat (structural/flow/temp) measured by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salmon habitat gain in miles • Salmon habitat improved in acres • Salmon habitat Protected in acres <p>5 = A significant gain in salmon access or habitat from restoration or protection measures.</p> <p>3 = A moderate gain in salmon access or habitat from restoration or protection measures.</p> <p>0 = Little or no gain in salmon access or habitat from restoration or protection measures.</p>
Likelihood to Succeed – 20 Points (All projects)		
Appropriate Scope w/ Clear Goals and Objectives	0-5	<p>Goals and objectives of the project have been clearly communicated within a scope that is achievable and fitting for the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project addresses root cause of problem identified • Objectives support and refine biological goals. • Objectives are specific quantifiable actions to achieve stated goal (See Manual 18). • Proposals that demonstrate the project is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first will receive the highest score. <p>5 = Goals and objectives are clearly communicated and achievable with implementation of the proposed project</p> <p>3 = Goals and objectives are not entirely clear or may not all be achievable with implementation of the proposed project</p> <p>0 = Project does not address root causes of identified problems or unlikely to meet objectives</p>
Logical Approach and Schedule	0-5	<p>Proposals that demonstrate readiness to proceed will receive the highest score.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An appropriate and achievable time frame and order of events to complete the project. • Level of design complete • Permit stage <p>4-5 = Project is ready to proceed with an appropriate level of design completed and most permitting requirements completed.</p> <p>0-3 = Project must still complete important design elements or still requires significant permit review.</p>

Targeted Investment Evaluation Criteria

Landowner Support	0-5	<p>Evidence of project support from directly impacted landowners (written or verbal during site visit) will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project has evidence of support from impacted landowners (letter of support, landowner acknowledgement).</p> <p>0-3 = Project does not have strong evidence of landowner support.</p>
Sponsor/ Participants Experience	0-5	<p>Past experience with restoration and/or acquisition projects reflects a higher likelihood of future success. Proposal sponsors that have successfully implemented salmon restoration projects will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project sponsor has demonstrable experience with successful project implementation.</p> <p>0-3 = Project sponsor has little or no demonstrated experience with project implementation.</p>
Cost - 10 Points (All Projects)		
Best Use of Public Funds	0-5	<p>A well justified funding request that demonstrates good use of funds, availability of matching funds, and a clear and complete budget will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project has a clear budget and justified costs.</p> <p>0-3 = Project has a less clear budget and justification of costs.</p>
Leverage additional funds	0-5	<p>The proposal leverages additional funds (not including federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund). Any project that leverages a 50% or more match will receive the highest score.</p> <p>4-5 = Project leverages 50% or more in matching funds.</p> <p>0-3 = Project leverages less than 50% in matching funds.</p>

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Requests for Unobligated Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Funds

Prepared By: Keith Dublanica, GSRO Science Coordinator
Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Executive Coordinator

Summary

The Purpose of this memo is to summarize two additional funding requests that utilize unobligated Federal Fiscal Year 2020 Funds.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Additional Requests for Remaining Unobligated FFY 2020 Funding

Regional Monitoring

Regional monitoring has been allocated \$350,000 for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021 grant round from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). On March 3, 2021, the board approved a motion that provided an additional \$133,000. Using unobligated funds, for a total of \$483,000. Regional proposals (Attachment A) have come in at \$502,827. Leaving a difference of \$19,827. The regions are requesting the additional \$19,827 from FFY 2020 unobligated funds, to fully support regional proposals.

PNAMP Funding

An additional request for funding within the 2021 grant round, includes support for the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership, specific to their endeavors regarding the IMW forums and workshops. These collaborative efforts are currently in process with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The PSMFC is providing \$25,000 for the associated scope of work, including facilitation and reporting on the workshops addressing IMW management implications. This funding request of \$25,000

provides a match to the PSMFC support. It should be noted PSMFC is preparing a new four (4) year agreement commencing July 1, 2021, with NOAA for supporting the Columbia Basin IMWs in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Subsequent agreements are expected mid-summer from the PSMFC with each of the three states.

Additional Requests

Remaining Unobligated FFY 2020 Monitoring Amount	\$236,000
Additional Request for Regional Monitoring	\$19,827
Additional Request for PNAMP Funding	\$25,000
Total Remaining Unobligated FFY 2020 Monitoring Amount	\$174,523

Motions for Monitoring:

Move to approve funding for additional requests to come from FFY 2020 unobligated funds:

- \$19,827 from allocated but unobligated monitoring funds to supplement the total regional monitoring request as shown in Attachment A.
- \$25,000 to support the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) in its planning and implementation of a series of in-depth and comprehensive IMW workshops and follow-ups specific to broad-scale management implications throughout the Pacific NW.

Strategic Plan Connection

The monitoring panel work is guided by both the allocation and monitoring strategies identified in Goals 1 and 2 of the board's strategic plan. The monitoring panel offers independent and objective reviews of monitoring efforts, in a transparent and proactive forum, of the scientific merit of the proposals, and how they address the varied salmon recovery plans. Goals 1 and 2 of the board's strategic plan focus on prioritization and accountability for investments and projects that best advance salmon recovery efforts.

https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf

Attachments

Attachment A – Regional Monitoring project list for the 2021 grant round

Table of Regional Monitoring Proposals submitted, (but not yet reviewed for status by Panel)

Region	Sponsor	PRISM #	River Basin	Short Descrip.	Request
Upper Columbia	Chelan County	21-1184	Entiat	Fish Response	\$100,000
Lower Columbia	WDFW	21-1126	Lower Col tribs.	Steelhead abundance	\$100,000
Puget Sound	Puyallup Tribe	21-1041	Puyallup	Smolt trap	\$51,000
Puget Sound	Stillaguamish Tribe	21-1019	Stillaguamish	Smolt trap	\$49,907
Snake	WDFW	21-1017	Touchet	VSP monitoring	\$151,920
Puget Sound	Skagit Co-op	21-1191	Skagit	Estuary monitoring	\$50,000
				Total Proposal Request	\$502,827
				Current funding (PCSRF 2021 \$350,000 and March 3 approval \$133,000)	\$483,000
				Difference	-\$19,827
				Additional Unobligated Regional Request	\$19,827

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 2, 2021

Title: Climate Change Subcommittee Recommendations

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Summary

In November 2020, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board formed a climate change subcommittee. The subcommittee was charged with developing recommendations on opportunities for the board to address climate change risks to salmon recovery. This memo summarizes the work of the subcommittee and their recommendations.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Introduction

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) is concerned with climate change and the risk to long-term success of salmon recovery investments. Since 2015, the board has engaged in learning opportunities and high-level discussions outlining their concerns. In 2019, the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group presented a summary of the current state of knowledge about climate change at the board's retreat and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) policy staff led a discussion of climate impacts to salmon recovery with the board at the [November 2020](#) board meeting. These prompted a renewed interest in finding ways to bring a consideration of climate change risks and impacts into the board's work.

At the November 2020 meeting, the board formed a climate change subcommittee and instructed it to review the climate-related actions taken by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) and return with a list of recommendations. The subcommittee met three times between January and May 2021. This memo summarizes the subcommittee's work and consensus recommendations.

Climate Change Subcommittee

The climate subcommittee included three board members, RCO policy and program staff, and one representative each from the Council of Regions and the Washington Salmon Coalition.

The subcommittee first created an outcome vision by recognizing three high-level goals:

- The SRFB invests in projects that are designed to be resilient to future watershed conditions at the appropriate temporal and geographic scale
- SRFB, RCO, and partners have the resources and capacity they need to consider future habitat conditions and the climate-related risks posed to listed species in updates to recovery plans, implementation strategies, and the project planning, development, and solicitation processes
- SRFB, RCO, and partners can communicate the contribution of salmon recovery investments to species, community, and watershed resiliency

The subcommittee then reviewed the actions previously taken by the RCFB and developed a series of conceptual, high-level recommended actions.

Summary of Recommendations

These recommendations represent opportunities identified by the subcommittee for how the board could consider climate change in salmon recovery funding efforts. A summary table of the recommended actions is included as Attachment A.

Collectively these recommendations progress from less to more actively engaged initiatives. The first recommendation is to develop a position statement, similar to the statement developed by the RCFB, that formally acknowledges the climate change impact to salmon recovery. Other recommendations result in actions or policies that support partnerships and increase the collective capacity of the salmon recovery community to address and mitigate climate risks. Initiatives highlighted below offer opportunities to engage in carbon and ecosystem service markets, communicate the salmon recovery contribution towards community and watershed resiliency, and facilitate collaboration across agencies and organizations.

Given that not every opportunity outlined here can be accomplished simultaneously and within existing staff capacity, the subcommittee categorized each item in a near-term, mid-term, or long-term opportunity matrix. Three near-term actions set the stage for the remaining actions and could be completed within the next three to six months. The remaining mid- and long-term actions are conceptual outlines of unique work products and, together, encompass a range of opportunities for the board to consider. Some

could be done with existing capacity while others would likely require an investment in coalition building and may require securing additional financial support. All provide an opportunity for the board to play an organizing, convening or participatory role. As any singular item is pursued, staff will conduct scoping, draft options, and provide board updates and include opportunities for stakeholder and public involvement.

A brief explanation is provided as context for each recommendation below.

Near term (3-6 months)

1. Climate Change Position Statement

As a first step, the subcommittee strongly recommends the board adopt a position statement on climate change. A statement similar to the RCFB climate change statement sets up the board and RCO staff to pursue other recommendations. The subcommittee developed a draft statement for the board to consider (included as Attachment B). It should be noted that while the board's mission does not directly include orca recovery, the subcommittee felt that the fundamental link between salmonids and Puget Sound orca warranted their inclusion in the statement. Also, prior to adopting a statement, RCO staff will coordinate with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to ensure alignment with the updated statewide recovery strategy's position on climate change.

2. Carbon Credits and Payments for Ecosystem Services Policy

As a second step, the board should consider adopting the Carbon Credits and Payments for Ecosystem Services policy adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board in January 2021. Adopting this policy will create consistent policy across the agency and provide greater opportunities for grant sponsors to leverage their efforts. The policy is included as Attachment C and a [policy brief](#) is available on RCO's website.

3. Invite Future Learning Opportunities

Should the board be interested in pursuing one or more of the long-term actions, it will be helpful to become familiar with the resources and data visualization tools that are currently available for adaptation planners and project developers. The board should invite the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group to provide a presentation of climate data visualization tools and how these tools and adaptation planning resources could be used to benefit salmon recovery.

4. Continued Interagency Coordination

RCO staff currently participate in several forums for interagency coordination including the "Align" capital grants workgroup, the Interagency Climate Adaptation Network (ICAN), the Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative, and others. These interagency

networks provide valuable opportunities for resource sharing, peer-to-peer learning, and incubation of ideas for leveraging agencies' collective efforts. Staff should continue participating in these networks and bring forward partnership and learning opportunities for the board to consider as they emerge.

Mid-Term (6-18 months)

5. Metrics and Indicators to Aid Communication

Salmon recovery is an investment in climate resiliency but often this link is not clearly communicated. The activities the board funds not only help to secure a future for wild salmonids but also contribute to broader watershed and community resiliency. Restoring riparian habitat, for example, provides high-quality spawning and rearing habitat for endangered salmon but also provides equally valuable co-benefits like buffering communities against floodwaters and providing for groundwater recharge. Clearly identifying metrics to quantify and communicate these co-benefits could help leverage and increase support for salmon recovery funding.

6 & 7. Resource Toolkit and Technical Guidance

Recommendations 6 and 7 are so closely aligned that they are presented together here. Over the past several years, members of ICAN, Align, and other interagency coordination efforts, have discussed the need for a centralized resource toolkit to support the grantmaking community. This resource kit would compile authoritative climate data, visualization tools, and develop trainings and technical guidance with a salmon recovery focus. Resources could be housed on a shared platform which could assist grantees, strategic planners, and project developers. Certainly, this project would require significant investment in coalition building, staff time, and funding/fundraising, but also presents an opportunity for the board to play a leadership role. Similar action was recently recommended in a report by Washington Sea Grant, [Sea Level Rise Considerations in Washington State Capital Grant Programs](#) (pgs. 8-9).

Long-Term (18+ months)

8. Potential Climate Change Criteria Development

Explore opportunities to include climate change criteria in review panel and project selection guidance. The subcommittee recognizes that ultimately recovery funding is allocated to projects that both score well in the lead entity project evaluation criteria and are considered technically sound by the review panel. The subcommittee also recognizes that each lead entity establishes evaluation criteria to fulfill the goals of their implementation strategy. While some lead entities have started adopting climate change related guidance and criteria, the subcommittee sees an opportunity to work with the both the review panel and the lead entities to develop consistent guidance and technical criteria to incentivize using climate projections and impact assessments in planning and project design.

9. Increase Support to Regions, Lead Entities, and Project Sponsors

Support may mean technical assistance, data resources and visualization tools, end user guidance, knowledge sharing opportunities, staff capacity, financial capacity, or a host of other services. By collaboratively working through the ideas outlined above, regions, lead entities and project sponsors will gain support in addressing climate change risks to salmon recovery efforts. If additional funding becomes available that could be used towards climate resilience work, the board should consider how best to partner with regions, lead entities, and project sponsors to prioritize and distribute funds equitably.

10. Focus *Targeted Investments* on Climate Resiliency

The board recently adopted a *Targeted Investments* policy which enables a portion of salmon recovery funding to concentrate on projects that meet one or more strategic priorities. The subcommittee recognized this as an opportunity to include climate change adaptation or resilience as a possible future strategic priority. By doing so, the board could choose to target projects that lead to greater resilience to climate change.

11. Capitalize on Carbon Credits and other Ecosystem Service Credits.

Explore partnerships to leverage salmon recovery by capitalizing on carbon credits and other payments for ecosystem services. Beyond enabling individual projects (and project sponsors) to participate in carbon and ecosystem services markets by adopting the policy described above, the board should pursue opportunities to aggregate and leverage the state's investment in land protection and restoration. Creative public-private partnerships may emerge in the carbon and ecosystem service marketplace, especially as a regulated offset market is established in Washington as a result of [The Climate Commitment Act](#) (SB 5126). The board should explore public-private partnership opportunities as they become available.

Strategic Plan Connection

These recommendations support **Goal 1** of the board's [strategic plan](#): Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

Next steps

Based on the board's discussion, RCO staff will incorporate adopted recommendations in updates to the board and agency future workplans.

Attachments

Attachment A: Table of Recommendations

Attachment B: DRAFT Climate Change Statement

Attachment C: Carbon Credits and Payments for Ecosystem Services Policy

Attachment A: Table of Recommendations

	Recommendations for action	Near-term (3-6 months)	Mid-term (6-18 months)	Long-Term (18+ months)
1	Develop a climate change position statement similar to the RCFB statement	X		
2	Adopt the <i>Carbon Credit and Payments for Ecosystem Services</i> policy adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.	X		
3	Invite the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (CIG) to brief the board on latest available climate data resources, adaptation innovations, and exemplary watershed restoration and salmon recovery projects.	X		
4	Staff continue participating in interagency coordination to increase effectiveness of state agency capital grant programs and climate adaptation knowledge	X	X	X
5	Develop suite of metrics and indicators to help communicate how SRFB investments contribute to watershed and salmon population resiliency		X	
6	Explore partnership opportunities to create a resource toolkit and trainings for project sponsors, lead entities, and regions to use in refining or developing recovery plans, implementation strategies, and project designs.		X	X
7	Explore partnership with CIG and/or other consultants to develop salmon recovery specific climate adaptation recommendations		X	X
8	Include climate criteria in review panel and project evaluation guidance			X
9	Increase support (e.g. resources, capacity, technical assistance) to regions, lead entities, and sponsors to utilize existing and future data, tools and resources in planning and project design.			X
10	Consider using the targeted investments policy to focus on large projects that improve climate resiliency			X
11	Explore partnerships with private entities to get carbon credits for cost-sharing projects with SRFB that address climate change impacts.			X

Attachment B: DRAFT Climate Change Statement

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) invests public funds in elements necessary to recover endangered salmonids and orca in Washington State by restoring habitat and protecting healthy watersheds. Through its investments, the board helps increase the resiliency of Washington's watersheds and the ability of salmon and other aquatic species to adapt to future habitat conditions. However, climate change is expected to profoundly affect Washington's watersheds and complicate recovery efforts. The board must consider these impacts to ensure investments in recovery are responsible and durable into the future.

In our region, changes will likely include fluctuating precipitation patterns and timing of stream flows, increased intensity and frequency of flooding and extreme low flow events, reduced snowpack and water supplies, increased water temperatures, shifts in species ranges and distribution, sea level rise, risk of wildfire, and many other risks to watershed health. These impacts are expected to accelerate in coming years against the backdrop of a rapidly increasing human population, and taken together, will fundamentally strain the state's efforts to recover salmon and orca.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board acknowledges the risks a changing climate pose to their investments and the opportunity for their investments to continue building adaptive capacity among salmon and orca, mitigating greenhouse gasses, and providing Washington residents with a high quality of life. The board encourages project sponsors to consider future climate conditions in the projects they propose for funding through climate-smart planning and design. The board also commits to supporting partnerships that develop and amplify creative solutions to address the myriad challenges climate change poses to Washington's watersheds, salmonids, and human populations.

Attachment C: Carbon Credits and Payments for Ecosystem Services Policy

Carbon and ecosystem service credits

Properties acquired or encumbered with state funding assistance from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board may be enrolled in carbon credit and other payments for ecosystem service market programs to the extent that activities generating the credits or payments do not conflict or interfere with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) funding purpose. Through such markets, funded properties may be used to leverage the state's investment to secure a source of income for stewardship and maintenance of conserved properties or future property acquisitions in accordance with RCO's income use policy and Washington Administrative Code 286-13-110.

If the sponsor secures the activity generating the carbon or ecosystem service credits with a restriction on the title of the RCO funded property or properties, the restriction may not:

- Subordinate RCO's deed of right or assignment of right;
- Conflict or interfere with RCO's funding purpose and ability to enforce the terms of RCO's project agreement;
- Reduce or diminish RCO's ability to pursue a remedy in the event RCO issues a determination of non-compliance or conversion for the project area.

If the activities generating carbon or ecosystem services credits are found to be incompatible or conflict with RCO's funding purpose, the RCO funded project area may be subject to a determination of non-compliance or conversion. See *RCO Manual 7: Long-Term Obligations* for more information on compliance, non-compliance and conversion policies and procedures.

Procedure and delegation of authority

Prior to committing to a carbon finance or other payment for ecosystem services project, the sponsor must provide RCO with written notice. The notice must include:

- Which RCO funded properties will be included in the project;
- The crediting or payment terms and anticipated time commitment of the project;
- Acknowledgement of RCO's income use policy.

Prior to recording any deed restriction, the sponsor must provide RCO the opportunity to review it for compatibility with RCO's funding terms and conditions. RCO may approve the deed restriction under the complimentary covenants policy, suggest modifications to receive approval, or deny based on the above provisions. The RCO Director or their designee is responsible for approval of the deed restriction.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*Celebrating 30 years of Community Based
Salmon Restoration*

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Thirty years of restoring habitat in the Skagit Valley is a significant milestone worthy of celebrating! These accomplishments over the last 30 years would not be possible without you. We are so grateful to you and our community who cares so immensely for our natural environment. You as volunteers, landowners, partners, and supporters understand that having healthy waterways for salmon also means having clean water and healthy communities for all of us.

And while we have much to celebrate as we compile the impressive list of achievements over the last 30 years, there is no doubt that the last year has been a challenging one for everyone. During this unprecedented part of history, I have been repeatedly impressed by our staff, board, AmeriCorps, and volunteers who are willing to rise above and conquer the challenges of continuing to get great work done through this pandemic. Throughout the last year, these dedicated individuals have been reinventing and adapting all that we do to keep habitat restoration happening safely in the Skagit Watershed.

While this pandemic has been difficult for everyone, it has shown me the power of solid leadership provided by our board

of directors, the creativity of our outreach staff to develop new virtual programs for students and our community, the enthusiasm of volunteers to help ensure restoration efforts continue, and the resiliency of our field staff to continue to work no matter what the obstacles.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, last year SFEG's accomplishments continued to grow. Nearly **15,000 native plants** were planted along rivers, streams, and sloughs; two culvert crossings were removed and replaced with bridges to open nearly **3 miles of healthy stream habitat** to migrating salmon; and over **1,000 students** continued to participate in environmental education programs.

We are confident these watershed restoration efforts and community education programs are keys to having healthier populations of salmon. We understand that healthy habitat for salmon also means clean water to drink, more habitat for birds and wildlife, more salmon for orcas to eat, and more scenic places to recreate in our communities. The impact of habitat restoration stretches beyond salmon and our community. Throughout the last 30 years you have helped plant over **350,000 native trees** for watershed restoration. These trees

are absorbing over 1.7 billion pounds of carbon dioxide throughout their life span and helping to reduce the impacts of climate change not just in the Skagit Valley, but far beyond.

At a time when we are all seeking more natural spaces in the great outdoors to enjoy, we are so grateful to have you helping to keep the Skagit Valley a healthy beautiful place for salmon and our community. Thank you for your investment of time, energy, and enthusiasm for conservation over the last 30 years. Your continued support will help ensure a healthy vibrant community and salmon rich waterways for future generations to enjoy.



Alison Studley
ALISON STUDLEY
Executive Director



Our mission is to educate and engage the community in habitat restoration and watershed stewardship to enhance salmon.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
PO Box 2497
1202 South 2nd Street, Suite C
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: 360-336-0172
www.skagitfisheries.org

SFEG is an independent nonprofit 501 c(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent that the law allows. Tax ID# 94-3165939

30 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

RIPARIAN PLANTINGS | **350,000 NATIVE PLANTS**
Over 58 miles of streams and shorelines revegetated

FISH PASSAGE PROJECTS | **66 BARRIERS** removed to restore fish access to 84 miles of habitat.

HABITAT OPENED | **84 MILES** of stream opened by removing fish passage barriers

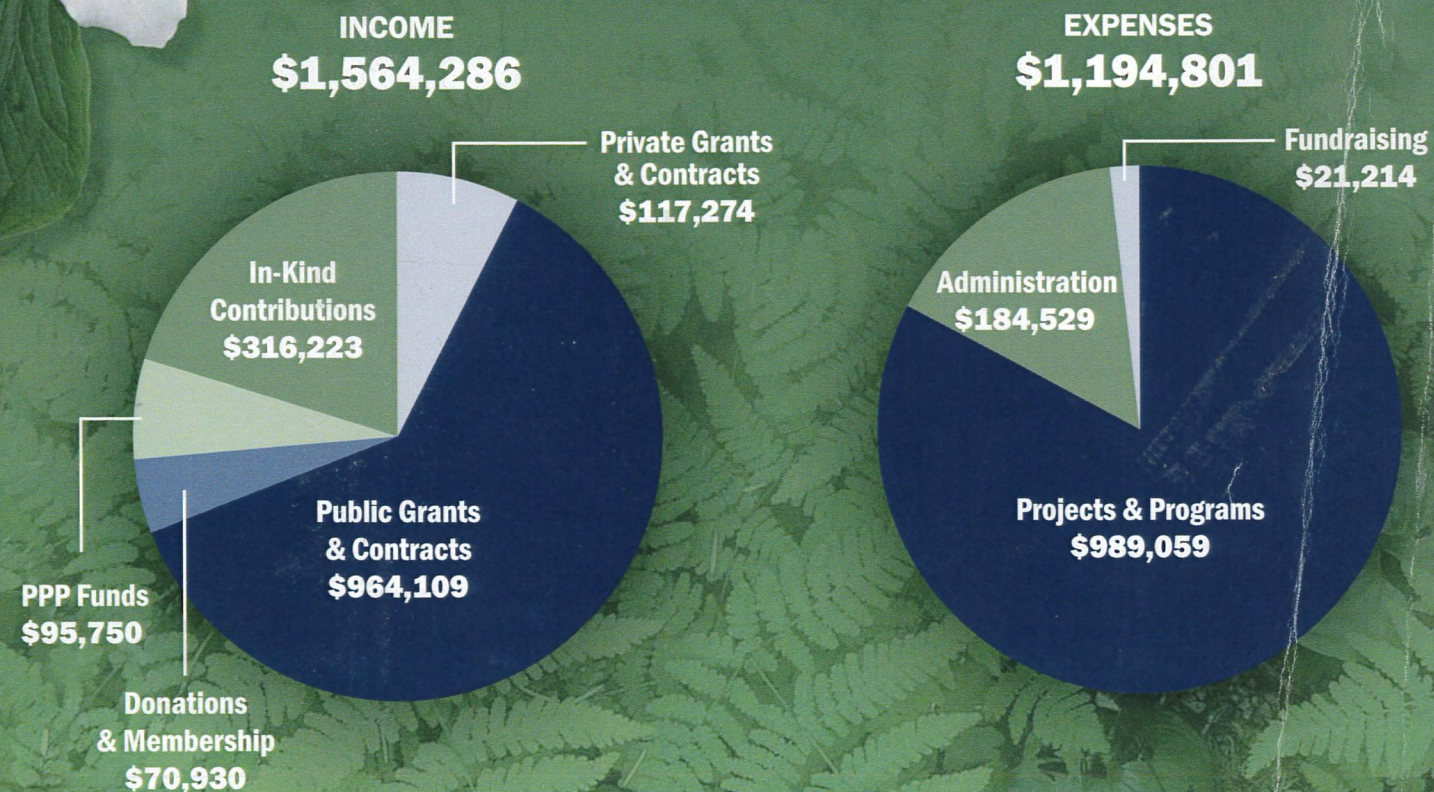
HABITAT ENHANCED | **21 MILES** of stream habitat enhanced for salmon

COMMUNITY OUTREACH | **123,000 INDIVIDUALS** reached through community engagement programs

VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT | **192,000 HOURS** donated by community volunteers

KIDS EDUCATED | **19,000 STUDENTS** engaged in environmental science education programs

2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



IMPROVING FISH PASSAGE

CAREY'S CREEK FISH PASSAGE IMPROVEMENT

SFEG worked with a private landowner to restore habitat connectivity by removing two undersized culverts at a private stream crossing on Carey's Creek near the town of Hamilton. This undersized culvert was identified during a culvert survey as the highest priority private culvert in the Middle Skagit area that had not yet been fixed. These culverts were undersized and frequently plugging with debris causing an impediment to salmon migration. Funding for construction came via grants from Puget Sound Energy and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mocer, Inc was hired as the contractor to remove the undersized culverts and place a 50 foot pre-fabricated steel bridge, built by RTI in place of where the blocking culverts were. During construction, SFEG staff conducted three fish rescues where fish were moved in order to not be harmed during construction. Over 150 juvenile salmon, rainbow trout/steelhead, and cutthroat as well as approximately 12 brook lampreys, 70 crayfish, and a large pacific lamprey were saved and relocated away from the construction work.

The project objective was to restore hydrologic and aquatic habitat connectivity within Carey's Creek and Carey's Lake including 1.5 miles of stream, a 6.5 acre lake and 7.5 acre wetland complex totaling 14 acres of rearing habitat for juvenile coho, Chinook, steelhead, and resident trout. After the bridge was set, SFEG staff observed large schools of 30-50 juvenile salmonids swimming just upstream and under the new bridge. Within 18 hours of construction work being completed, SFEG staff observed brook lamprey spawning in the newly placed gravel. These fish immediately benefited from the restored connectivity this project created.

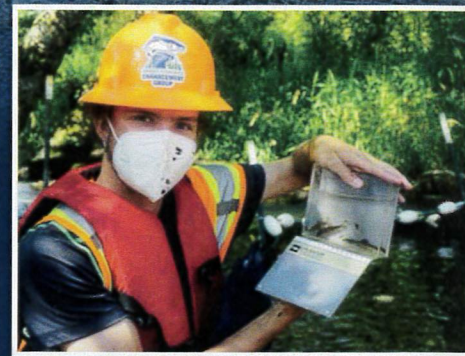


SFEG staff rescues and moves young salmon out of harm's way during construction activity at Carey's Creek

CARPENTER CREEK

SFEG is working on repairing multiple stream crossings that impede salmon passage on Carpenter and English Creeks just south of Mount Vernon. This 2020 project worked with private landowners, Chinook Engineering, and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program to remove an undersized culvert on Carpenter Creek and replace it with a 50 foot bridge in order to improve salmon migration. Replacing this culvert with a bridge at this stream crossing opens 1.4 miles of stream habitat to migrating coho salmon, as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout. This is the second fish passage improvement project SFEG has completed along Carpenter Creek and is contributing to a long-term goal of removing all 7 fish passage barriers in the Carpenter Creek Watershed.

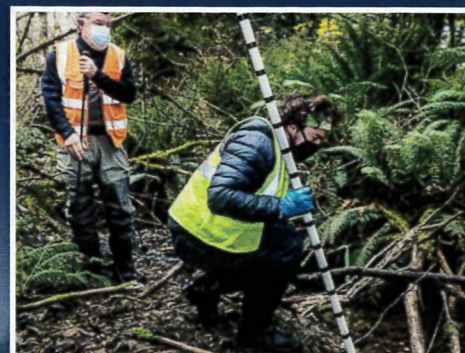
Fish passage improvement projects are a collaborative endeavor made possible by the joint effort of local governments, tribes, non-profits, local businesses, and most importantly, community members who are open to working with these groups to improve fish habitat. The benefits to these projects are immediately felt by the local business that are paid to build them, the landowners whose properties are improved, and the many aquatic species who depend on these waterways.



SFEG Restoration Technician, Ian Horning, holds up a coho salmon being moved away from construction activity at Carey's Creek

SPAWNER SURVEYS

SFEG was excited to invite volunteers back to the Spawner Survey Program during the COVID-19 pandemic. Teams of two volunteers walked selected creeks (6 feet apart) to track the number and species of salmon returning to spawn. SFEG is especially interested in documenting salmon use upstream of where fish passage improvement projects have occurred. Volunteers are trained to identify salmon species and their redds (nests) and then walk their chosen creek each and every week throughout the fall and winter spawning season. Volunteers were thrilled to have the opportunity to get out safely and share news of salmon returning to their sites. SFEG has been training volunteers to count returning salmon for the last 22 years and providing valuable data to the fisheries co-managers at Washington State and the Tribes.



Spawner survey volunteers survey for salmon upstream of a recent fish passage improvement project at Carpenter Creek

RESTORING RIPARIAN HABITAT

KNOTWEED CONTROL

The Upper Skagit Knotweed Control Program works with partners throughout the Skagit Watershed to control knotweed along the upper Skagit River and its tributaries. SFEG has been a leader in controlling knotweed in the Upper Skagit Watershed since we inherited the program from The Nature Conservancy in 2010. The original project area was upstream from the Skagit-Sauk River confluence in Rockport. In 2018, after many years of intense effort and continued success year after year of finding less and less knotweed in these upper most reaches of the Skagit, SFEG thought that enough progress had been made to expand the program downstream of Rockport to Concrete. In 2020, SFEG surveyed 3,000 acres along 25.5 miles of the Skagit River and its tributaries from Concrete upstream. The incredible part about this program is that it has made a tremendous difference in controlling knotweed. In 2010 SFEG found over 600 patches of knotweed in the Upper Skagit Watershed, while in 2020 we found only 21 patches of knotweed. It's a tremendous accomplishment to see walk, float, or drive along the upper Skagit River and not see huge patches of knotweed like one does along rivers throughout the Puget Sound.



Surveying, documenting and controlling invasive knotweed in the Upper Skagit Watershed



AmeriCorps member Molly VanDam weeding at the nursery

NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

Since 2001 SFEG has had a volunteer based native plant nursery operation. In 2012 we moved this operation to a piece of land owned by the Samish Indian Nation along Thomas Creek in the Samish Watershed. This has been a very productive partnership, as the tribe has been very generous, enabling us to grow 10,000 native plants annually for riparian restoration projects. Each year we purchase thousands of seedlings from local nurseries, and volunteers and students pot them up, and then care for them. After a year or two in pots, these seedlings have grown to a larger size better suited to survive at habitat restoration sites. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our volunteer and student "potting parties" were cut short. Thanks to a PPP loan, we were able to pay our staff to pot the remaining 3,000 plants, something that would normally have been done by community members. Our AmeriCorps members played a large role in caring for the plants in the summer, until we believed it was safe to have one volunteer at time come and water and care for nursery plants. Thanks to the Leadership Skagit Team "Age of Aquarius", we are better prepared for volunteer and student nursery activities in 2021. This team of volunteers took on a large project to ensure all students are properly equipped for field trips with us, as well as improving many aspects of the nursery including building 8 new potting benches enabling volunteers to be safely distanced.

EDUCATION CONTINUES DURING COVID-19

JUNIOR STREAM STEWARDS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic sending all Skagit County schools home in March 2020, SFEG continued to offer this STEAM based education program to over 500 middle school students. While we were able to squeeze in a few field trips in early Spring, as local students were sent home to do school virtually, SFEG quickly pivoted to continue to provide virtual lessons to students. Staff brought innovative videos from the stream to students' homes teaching them concepts about salmon, healthy watersheds, and their own role in being stewards of healthy habitat for the future. That are usually taught through hands-on activities in the classroom and field trips. While its disappointing to not be offering hands-on lessons and field trips, we were thrilled to continue engaging these students while school buildings remained closed.



Olivia and Annika prepare a virtual lesson from the stream for local students



Westview Elementary student placing salmon eggs in the Salmon in the Classroom fish tank

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the Salmon in the Classroom program in 2020. Students at 8 elementary schools received eggs, watched their eggs hatch into alevin, and started to feed their young salmon fry. However, when students were sent home in March 2020, SFEG staff had to quickly scramble to ensure all these young salmon were quickly released into streams before the schools closed and no one was there to feed the young salmon. As the pandemic continued on, in the fall of 2020 SFEG formed a partnership with the Children's Museum of Skagit County to host a Salmon in the Classroom tank for the 2020-21 school year. SFEG staff is using this tank to film salmon as they hatch and grow and teach lessons to elementary students about the fascinating life cycle of salmon and their habitat needs. We look forward to returning tanks filled with young salmon for students to care for next school year.



Concrete Junior Stream Stewards planting trees at Skiyou Slough

SALMON SIGHTINGS

Salmon Sighting events went virtual this year amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Salmon Sighting events enable our community to have the awe-inspiring experience of observing wild salmon spawning in local creeks. During the COVID-19 pandemic when hosting community events was not possible, SFEG created a web-based interactive Salmon Sightings Map. This online map had interactive, up-to-date information where community members could go observe salmon spawning in publicly accessible locations, as well as great interviews with salmon experts that could inform visitors what to look for at these locations. Additionally, SFEG created "Salmon Discovery Kits" to distribute to community members. These Discovery Kits contained a wealth of information about Pacific Salmon, the Skagit Watershed, and of course your very own polarized salmon viewing glasses! Next fall we hope to return to live Salmon Sighting events where community members can observe live salmon spawning in creeks led by docents. However the online Salmon Sightings map is likely here to stay as a way to enable community members to view salmon throughout the watershed if they can't make one of our events.



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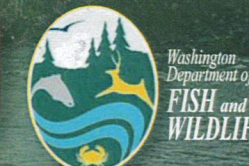
BRYAN SOLIS

OUR SUPPORTERS

We are very grateful to our community who (even during a pandemic) continues to care so deeply for our natural environment. Our donors, partners, and supporters understand that having healthy waterways for salmon also means having clean water and healthy communities for all of us. We are thankful for your investment of time, energy, and funding to support our work. Please show your appreciation for those entities that support our work by patronizing those businesses that contribute to our healthy watershed. A complete list of this year's generous donors, businesses, schools, grantors, partners, landowners, tribes, and members is available in the online version of our **2020 Annual Report** at SkagitFisheries.org.



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May 19, 2021

Mr. Jeff Breckel, Chair
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia WA 98504-0917

Subject: Snake River and Lower Columbia Intensively Monitoring Watershed (IMW) Projects

Dear Chair Breckel:

The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (Boards), as partners sharing collective IMW monitoring resources, are writing in response to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (SRFB) recent inquiry regarding the status of our respective IMW projects. We understand that this inquiry is part of a broader effort to re-evaluate the SRFB's investments in their broader monitoring portfolio. Accordingly, we offer the following comments and thoughts for your consideration, with the belief continued support as we near completion provides value and perspective to our collective recovery efforts.

Our Boards have been collectively engaging in salmon recovery work since 1998. In our dual roles as salmon recovery organizations and lead entities, we have facilitated both development and implementation of federally adopted recovery plans, and have jointly been responsible for allocating more than \$180 million in SRFB funds toward the highest priority recovery projects in our respective watersheds. We have also strongly supported the development and implementation of the IMW projects, as we view them as foundational in weighing whether our collective SRFB investments are producing the desired effects of bolstering recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA) salmon and steelhead populations. It should also be noted that a key goal of the IMWs was to provide guidance on restoration actions to other watersheds where IMWs have not been implemented, thus with effective communication, the benefits of our IMWs will be far reaching.

We acknowledge that implementation of IMW programs has indeed been challenging and adaptive responses have been required. Limited funding and capacity have slowed the pace of restoration actions, and we have had to balance IMW project needs with broader recovery needs across our regions. These and other factors have affected timeliness of implementation. However, in both of our regions, the IMW programs are comprised of highly collaborative, well qualified teams consisting of many local, state, tribal and federal agencies and organizations. These teams have been persistent and diligent in moving the IMW projects forward with available resources, have completed all primary habitat treatments, and have now transitioned to monitoring to determine whether our hypothesis regarding fish response to treatments hold true. As noted in our principle investigator responses to the recent SRFB inquiry, both of our IMWs are on a clear pathway toward completion and are expected to be able to answer key study questions. In the

interim, our staff and IMW teams have been collaborating to translate preliminary study results to guidance for future project implementation, as evidenced by the recent Asotin IMW workshop and joint effort to expand this work to the Lower Columbia.

We view the benefits of the funding the Asotin and Lower Columbia IMW programs as a high priority as we are relying upon them to answer questions regarding fish response to habitat work, as well as effectiveness of different treatment approaches. We view this work as strongly supporting regional monitoring projects, which we also view as a high priority investment for the SRFB. We have not yet seen viable, alternative approaches for answering key management questions relating to habitat investments, and believe the dividends from completing the Asotin and Lower Columbia projects far outweigh savings from truncating work and stranding our considerable investments to date. We therefore respectfully ask that you continue to support completion of these programs and would be glad to respond to questions or provide additional detail.

The current discussion regarding the status and future of IMW projects needs to be considered within the broader context of the monitoring portfolio managed by the SRFB, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), including regional monitoring projects. Conversations and funding decisions to date have been somewhat disconnected and without policy level coordination. Simultaneously, there is an emerging need for a more comprehensive discussion about how the various monitoring programs relate to each other, priorities across and within those programs, and the roles and responsibilities of participants in ongoing monitoring discussions. To address these gaps, we recommend a meeting between SRFB and COR representatives, the GSRO Science Coordinator and Executive Director, and RCO policy-level staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and recommendations. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact LCFRB Executive Director Steve Manlow at (360) 425-1553, or SRSRB Executive Director John Foltz at (509) 382-4115.

Sincerely,



Chair Todd Olson
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board



Chair Bill Bowles
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

cc: Erik Neatherlin, GSRO
Keith Dublanica, GSRO
Council of Regions