

# Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda



**June 1, 2022**  
Retreat

**Location In-person:** DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, 415 Capitol Way North, SE, Olympia, WA.

**Location Virtually:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tHvwot\\_RKGQAINCwWxmMA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tHvwot_RKGQAINCwWxmMA)

**Phone Option:** (669) 900-6833 – **Webinar ID:** 890 9000 9034

**Order of Presentation:** In general, each agenda item will include a short staff presentation and followed by board discussion.

**Public Comment:** As no decisions are being made at the retreat portion of the two-day meeting, no public comment will be taken.

**COVID Precautions:** Masking is not required at this meeting, as the mask mandates have recently been updated by the Governor and local public health departments. If mask mandates change, there will be notification. However, masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. The meeting rooms will be set to allow for as much social distancing as possible and air purifiers will be placed throughout.

## **Retreat Expectations:**

- Clarify roles and responsibilities of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB).
- Understand key, current stressors on the SRFB project delivery system and possible implications.
- Discuss options to address stressors – how might pieces and support of the system look different?
- Provide staff direction on possible options to further research and consider.

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## Wednesday, June 1

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### SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD RETREAT

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9:00 a.m.

#### Opening

- Welcome, introduction, and determination of Quorum
- Review Retreat Objectives and Approval of Agenda
- Agree on ground rules

*Chair Breckel  
Jim Reid (Facilitator)*

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9:15 a.m.

#### 1. Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities of Board

*Marc Duboiski  
Erik Neatherlin*

- A. History of key authorities and policy decisions resulting in current SRFB role
- B. Consideration of expanding board role to influence and/or leverage other salmon recovery efforts

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10:45 am

#### BREAK

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11:00 a.m.

#### 2. Issues Impacting Development and Implementation of SRFB-Funded Projects

*Kat Moore*

- A. Cost Increases
  - Background on relevant policies and processes
  - Impact to SRFB projects
  - Possible options to address impact

Are there any questions of clarification?

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12:00 p.m.

#### LUNCH

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1:00 p.m.

#### 3. Issues Impacting Development and Implementation of SRFB-Funded Projects–Continued

*Marc Duboiski  
Jeannie Abbott*

- A. Lead Entity Capacity
  - Background on capacity funding – PCSRF, State Capital and General Fund State

- Impact to SRFB projects
- Possible options to address impact

#### **B. Sponsor Capacity**

- Background on sponsor capacity
- Impact to SRFB projects
- Possible options to address impact

#### **C. Project Development**

- Background on policies and processes associated with project development including, project development grants, preliminary design, monitoring funding, grant timeline
- Impact to SRFB projects
- Possible options to address impact

Are there any questions of clarification?

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**3:00 p.m.      BREAK**

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**3:15 p.m.      4. Issues Impacting Development and Implementation of SRFB-Funded Projects–Continued**

*Kat Moore*

#### **A. Match**

- Background on relevant policies and processes
- Impact to SRFB projects
- Possible options to address impact

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**4:15 p.m.      5. Revisit Role of Board**

*Chair Breckel  
Jim Reid (Facilitator)*

**A.** Revisit role of board in light of conversations throughout the day. Have they had any implications for how the board perceives its role in broader salmon recovery efforts.

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**5:00 p.m.      RECESS**

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**Next meeting:** September 21-22, 2022 – Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501 -

**Subject to change considering COVID restrictions**

# Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda



**June 2, 2022**  
**Updated 5/20/2022**  
Meeting and Retreat

**Location In-Person:** Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location will allow for the public to provide comment and listen to the meeting as required by the Open Public Meeting Act. This requirement can be waived via [HB 1329](#) if there is declaration of emergency or if an agency determines that a public meeting cannot safely be held. If an emergency occurs, remote technology will be used instead.

Please note that if you join in-person, visitors must first check in with the Natural Resources Building [iLobby device](#), which is located on the first floor.

**Location Virtually:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_F1iXvK-fRrODYZYWJguigg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_F1iXvK-fRrODYZYWJguigg)

**Phone Option:** (669)900-6833 – **Webinar ID:** 899 8869 7413

*\*Additionally, RCO will record this meeting and would be happy to assist you after the meeting to gain access to the information.*

**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 [Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov](mailto:Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov). Comment for these items will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

**COVID Precautions:** Masking is not required at this meeting, as the mask mandates have recently be updated by the Governor and local public health departments. If mask mandates change, there will be notification. However, masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. The meeting rooms will be set to allow for as much social distancing as possible and air purifiers will be placed throughout.

**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](mailto:Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov); accommodation requests should be received by May 18, 2022, to ensure availability.

## Thursday, June 2

### OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.

#### Call to Order

Chair Breckel

- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review and Approval of Agenda (**Decision**)
- Remarks by the chair
  - Retreat Recap

9:15 a.m.

#### 1. Director's Report

- A. Director's Report
- B. Legislative and Policy Update
- C. Fiscal Update (written only)
- D. Performance Report (written only)

Megan Duffy  
Brock Milliern  
Mark Jarasitis  
Brent Hedden

9:30 a.m.

#### 2. Salmon Recovery Management Report

- A. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report
- B. Salmon Section Report

Erik Neatherlin  
Jeannie Abbott  
Tara Galuska  
Marc Dubowski

9:45 a.m.

**General Public Comment for items not on the agenda:** Please limit comments to 3 minutes. (10minutes)

9:55 am

**BREAK**

### BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

10:10 a.m.

#### 3. Partner Reports (10 Minutes per Partner)

- Council of Regions
- WA Salmon Coalition
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups

Alex Conley  
Mike Lithgow  
Lance Winecka

### BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

10:40 a.m.

#### 4. 2022 Supplemental Funding Decision

Brock Milliern

\* **Public comment** will occur prior to adopting the motion. Please limit comments to three minutes.

12:15 p.m.

**LUNCH**

<b>1:15 p.m.</b>	<b>5. Decision on Allocating More Funding to Cost Increases</b> * <b>Public comment</b> will occur prior to adopting the motion. Please limit comments to three minutes.	<i>Marc Duboiski</i>
<b>1:45 p.m.</b>	<b>6. Board Monitoring Program Funding Decision</b> * <b>Public comment</b> will occur prior to adopting the motion. Please limit comments to three minutes.	<i>Erik Neatherlin, Keith Dublanica, and Pete Bisson</i>
<b>BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING</b>		
<b>2:45 p.m.</b>	<b>BREAK</b>	
<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>7. Region Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coast Salmon Partnership and Foundation</b></li> <li>• <b>Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board</b></li> </ul>	<i>Mara Zimmerman Steve Manlow</i>
<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>8. State Partner Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Department of Fish and Wildlife</b></li> <li>• <b>Conservation Commission</b></li> <li>• <b>Department of Ecology</b></li> <li>• <b>Department of Natural Resources</b></li> <li>• <b>Department of Transportation</b></li> </ul>	<i>Jeremy Cram Brian Cochrane Annette Hoffmann Tom Gorman Susan Kanzler</i>
<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	<b>ADJOURN</b>	<i>Chair Breckel</i>

**Next meeting:** September 21-22, 2022 – Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA, 98501 -

**Subject to change considering COVID restrictions**

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

**Meeting Date:** June 2, 2022

**Title:** Director's Report

**Prepared By:** Megan Duffy, RCO Director; Susan Zemek, Communications Manager, Brock Milliern, Policy Director, Mark Jarasitis, Fiscal Manager, and Brent Hedden, Performance and Data Specialist

#### Summary

This briefing memo describes staff and Director's activities and key agency updates, including: a Legislative update, new staff profiles, news from the other RCO boards, and a fiscal update.

#### 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

### Executive Team Takes Retreat to Plan for Next Year

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Executive Team spent a day and a half on Olympia's waterfront hearing from section managers on their upcoming needs and making plans for handling legislative assignments. The team heard from Erik Neatherlin, who outlined the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office's (GSRO) short- and long-term work and from the Salmon Section's Kat Moore, who talked about preparing for the \$75 million in additional funding awarded by the Legislature, rising construction costs, and the need to take a watershed-level look at projects. After hearing from section managers, the Executive Team discussed other policy and budget needs; implementation of diversity, equity, and





inclusion reviews; results of the employee engagement survey; support for big projects; an all-staff event in the fall; ways to make board prep and management more efficient; and next year's salmon recovery conference.

### **Legislature Awards RCO a Healthy Budget**

The Legislature finished its work on time in March and passed a supplemental budget favorable to salmon recovery. Traditionally, the largest share of funding for the agency comes from the capital budget, but this year, most new funding was provided in the operating budget, largely via the Salmon Recovery Account. The Legislature authorized \$25 million for salmon projects under \$5 million in value and \$50 million for salmon projects greater than \$5 million. In addition, RCO received \$139,000 to guide implementation of the Governor's salmon recovery strategy, with an ongoing \$270,000 each biennium. That funding will allow RCO to hire a salmon recovery strategy coordinator to be housed in the GSRO.



Other salmon related items included: \$25 million to restore the Duckabush Estuary, \$1 million fish barrier removal projects in Skagit County, and \$200,000 for the Spokane Tribe to establish a lead entity.

In addition, salmon recovery and natural resource investments were well supported in other agency budgets, including Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Washington State Conservation Commission (Conservation Commission), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). A few examples include:

- Conservation Commission: \$10 million for riparian restoration projects
- DNR: \$5 million for salmon habitat improvement
- Ecology: \$4 million for local stormwater grants
- WDFW: \$1.3 million for salmon recovery and growth management act integration

RCO also received funding for recreation and conservation work, specifically for a pier design in Tacoma and to address boating safety on Lake Union.

There were a typical volume of policy bills this year, and RCO closely tracked approximately 65 bills potentially impacting RCO programs, including salmon. However, salmon related legislation struggled to make it through to final passage. Most work for

salmon recovery this session was embedded into the budget. Some bills related to the work of RCO that passed include:

Bill	Relation to RCO
<a href="#">HB 1329 Concerning the Open Public Meetings Act</a>	RCO is assessing the continuance of remote board meeting options.
<a href="#">HB 2078 Outdoor School for All Program</a>	The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction may choose to work with RCO on implementing the new program.
<a href="#">HB 5793 Stipends for board and committee participation targeting eligible members</a>	RCO is working with the Office of Equity to participate in their implementation process.

Overall, it was a historic supplemental session that saw unprecedented levels of funding in general, and particularly for natural resources.

### **Grant Applications Submitted for the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative**

RCO just finished accepting grant applications for one of its newest grant programs—the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative. This program differs from other grant programs in one way — one of its three purposes focuses on supporting jobs. Created in 2015, the biennial grant program aims to restore and protect species and habitat, improve resilience to climate change, and support local green jobs on the Coast. Projects must be within watersheds from the Columbia River estuary to Cape Flattery. Projects can improve or protect habitats, implement innovative restoration techniques, or protect coastal communities from impacts to climate change. This program does not require match and applicants may request up to \$2 million. The program is supported by a steering committee with representatives from the Coast Salmon Partnership, Wild Salmon Center, The Nature Conservancy, and Washington Sea Grant. This program first received funds in the 2015-17 capital budget and has been awarded funding every biennium since. Unlike most RCO grant programs, this program was not created by statute and is funded only



through budget appropriations. To date, the program has awarded more than \$49 million in grants to 76 projects. When the grant application deadline closed in March, 22 new grant applications requesting more than \$22 million had been submitted.

### Salmon Recovery Strategy Featured at Way of Whales Workshop

Erik Neatherlin, executive director of the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, presented the newly updated statewide salmon strategy at a Way of Whales workshop hosted by the Orca Network in January. The orca community is very interested in the strategy and recognizes the implications and connections to orca recovery.



### New Salmon Recovery Portal Project Launched

Data staff have been busy working on what's called an "umbrella enhancement and reporting module" for the Salmon Recovery Portal, which tracks salmon recovery projects both planned and funded by grants from RCO outside entities. The umbrella enhancement, which launched in February, provides a tool for tracking large-scale projects composed of multiple smaller projects. The reporting module provides greater access to portal data, including access to one-click reports and data filters.



### RCO Employee News

**Wendy Kovach** joined RCO March 1 as a contract specialist in the Grant Services Section. Wendy has more than 20 years of grant and contract management experience. For the past 6 years, she has worked as a contract specialist for several state agencies including the WDFW, State Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Department of Health.



**Chelsea Krimme** joined the Washington Invasive Species Council staff as the community outreach and environmental education specialist in March. Chelsea comes to RCO from the Washington State Department of Ecology where she was a Washington Conservation Corps crew supervisor for 6 years. During that time, she trained staff on invasive species recognition and management, and deployed to numerous national emergencies.



**Nick Norton** joined RCO in May as a planning and policy specialist. Nick spent the past 4 years as the executive director of the Washington Association of Land Trusts. While there, he served on multiple RCO advisory committees, engaged on the State Policy Committee at the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, and worked with RCO staff on various projects. Before the land trust association, Nick served in multiple roles at the Palouse Land Trust.



## News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group**'s February meeting was cancelled. The group plans to meet next on August 24.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met online March 10. Topics included an update on the European green crab emergency and research, a discussion of invasive species common names, an update on the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, a discussion of invasive species impacts to transportation infrastructure, and a wrap up of the Asian giant hornet issues, including a 2022 forecast.



The council will meet next on June 16. Topics will include European green crab emergency response, Bureau of Indian Affairs funding to tribal nations, and a flowering rush cost-share program update.

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met April 26. The board made temporary changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Farm and Forest Account to use written review and evaluation processes, eliminate the 10 percent non-state, non-federal match requirement, and allow cost increases during the 2022 and 2024 grant cycles. The board also heard updates on a new grant program for community outdoor athletic facilities, the state's recreation and trails plans under development, and the equity review of RCO grant programs.

## Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of January 18, 2022.

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023, actuals through January 18, 2022 (FM 06). 25.0% of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2021-2023	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2015-17	\$1,746,440	\$1,746,440	100%	\$0	0%	\$86,606	5%
2017-19	\$6,230,576	\$6,230,576	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,867,246	30%
2019-21	\$14,669,777	\$14,403,891	98%	\$265,886	2%	\$4,689,514	33%
2021-23	\$25,724,000	\$11,831,063	46%	\$13,892,937	54%	\$1,035,446	9%
Total	\$48,370,793	\$34,211,970	71%	\$14,158,823	29%	\$7,678,812	22%
Federal Funded							
2016	\$389,018	\$388,018	99%	\$1,000	1%	\$205,504	53%
2017	\$4,159,679	\$3,991,114	96%	\$168,565	4%	\$1,355,137	34%
2018	\$7,627,453	\$6,189,765	81%	\$1,437,688	19%	\$1,335,916	22%
2019	\$10,867,938	\$10,860,425	99%	\$7,513	1%	\$2,669,418	25%
2020	\$16,530,979	\$14,322,461	87%	\$2,208,518	13%	\$3,786,596	26%
2021	\$17,848,000	\$15,568,309	87%	\$2,279,691	13%	\$1,664,940	11%
Total	\$57,423,067	\$51,320,092	89%	\$6,102,975	11%	\$11,017,511	21%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$6,926,576	\$5,239,576	76%	\$1,687,000	24%	\$1,570,198	30%
PSAR	\$107,036,152	\$100,272,797	94%	\$6,763,355	6%	\$12,815,254	13%
Subtotal	\$219,756,588	\$191,044,435	87%	\$28,712,153	13%	\$33,081,775	17%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	\$8,117,810	\$8,117,810	100%	0	0%	\$2,237,481	28%
Subtotal	\$8,117,810	\$8,117,810	100%	0	0%	\$2,237,481	28%
GRAND TOTAL	\$227,874,398	\$199,162,245	87%	\$28,712,153	13%	\$35,319,256	18%

*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 2022. Data included are specific to projects funded by the board and current as of April 25, 2022.

### Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the board in fiscal year 2022. 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.

So far, thirty-six salmon blockages were removed this fiscal year (July 1, 2021, to April 25, 2022), with twenty-nine passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 60.75 miles of stream (Table 2).

Measure	FY 2022 Performance
Blockages Removed	36
Bridges Installed	13
Culverts Installed	16
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Stream Miles
<a href="#">14-1267</a>	Scammon Creek (RM 1.15) Barrier Removal	Lewis County Public Works	1.48
<a href="#">14-1366</a>	Kilisut Harbor Restoration - Construction Phase	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	0.40
<a href="#">16-1462</a>	Huge Creek Fish Passage Construction @ 160th St	Pierce County Planning	2.50
<a href="#">16-1608</a>	Woods Creek Culvert Replacements Cooperative	Snohomish Conservation District	3.10
<a href="#">17-1179</a>	Yakima River Side Channel at Bull Canal Diversion	Mid-Columbia RFEG	0.00
<a href="#">17-1228</a>	Lower Derby Creek Fish Passage	Cascade Col Fish Enhancement Group	1.77
<a href="#">17-1417</a>	Chico Cr Fish Passage_Golf Club Hill Rd	Kitsap County of	16.00



<a href="#">17-1424</a>	Coffee Cr Fish Passage Restoration	Mason County Public Works	4.20
<a href="#">17-1425</a>	Johnson Cr Fish Passage_Site ID 114JC001	Trout Unlimited-WA Water Proj	0.17
<a href="#">18-1194</a>	Hoh-Clearwater Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	0.50
<a href="#">18-1200</a>	Hungry Harbor Passage	CREST	1.20
<a href="#">18-1627</a>	Newskah Road Fish Barrier Correction Construction	Chehalis Basin FTF	1.50
<a href="#">18-1824</a>	Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement	Chelan Co Natural Resource	2.20
<a href="#">18-1830</a>	Wenas Watershed Enhancement	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	0.00
<a href="#">19-1550</a>	Forest Road 80 x-ing of Piscoe Creek	Yakama Nation	5.50
<a href="#">19-1575</a>	Railroad Creek Culvert Removal, Clallam County	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	0.15
<a href="#">19-1591</a>	Scammon Creek-Hamilton	Lewis Conservation District	1.29
<a href="#">19-1601</a>	Squalicum Creek Fish Passage (Ph 3 & 4) Bellingham	Bellingham City of	8.90
<a href="#">19-1629</a>	Dickerson Creek Passage & Restoration Construction	Kitsap Conservation District	1.00
<a href="#">19-1630</a>	Cottonwood Creek Barrier Correction	Asotin Co Conservation Dist	2.54
<a href="#">19-1636</a>	Coleman Creek at Vantage Hwy Passage Restoration	Kittitas County Public Works	0.35
<a href="#">19-1711</a>	RFEG 19-21 DFW Funding	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	6.00
<b>Total Miles</b>			<b>60.75</b>

## Grant Management Performance Measures

Table 3 summarizes fiscal year 2022 operational performance measures as of April 25, 2022.

Measure	FY Target	FY 2022 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	<b>80%</b>	●	181 agreements for SRFB-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	<b>90%</b>	●	459 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for SRFB-funded projects. Staff responded to 415 in 15 days or less. On average, staff responded within 8 days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	<b>100%</b>	●	During this fiscal year to date, 1,170 bills were due for SRFB-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	<b>83%</b>	●	Ninety-eight SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close. So far, this fiscal year. 81 of them closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	<b>7</b>	●	Seven SRFB-funded projects are in the backlog.
Number of Compliance Inspections Completed	125	<b>30</b>	●	Staff have inspected 30 worksites this fiscal year to date. They have until June 30, 2022, to reach the target.



## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

**Meeting Date:** June 2, 2022

**Title:** Salmon Recovery Management Report

**Prepared By:** Erik Neatherlin, Governor Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Director  
Jeannie Abbott, GSRO Program Coordinator  
Tara Galuska, GSRO Orca Recovery Coordinator  
Marc Duboiski, Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Section Manager

#### Summary

This briefing memo summarizes the recent work completed by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and the Recreation and Conservation Office's Salmon Recovery Section, including Puget Sound Day on the Hill, work with regional salmon recovery boards, planning for the Salmon Recovery Conference, and an update on salmon grant programs.

#### 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

### Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

#### Legislative and Partner Activities

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) is working with tribes and state agencies as they begin preparing for salmon recovery priorities funded in the state's supplemental budget.

GSRO received funding for a permanent position to coordinate the implementation of the Governor's Salmon Strategy Update with state agencies, tribes, and regional recovery organizations. The recruitment process began in April and GSRO anticipates having a new staff person begin on or before July 1, 2022. GSRO is also coordinating with the Spokane Tribe as they explore options to establish a lead entity in Northeast

Washington in the Upper Columbia to support reintroduction and habitat restoration efforts above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. GSRO participated in an in-person introduction meeting hosted by the Spokane Tribe in Spokane on April 12-13. Many key partners attended and participated in the event as well. Additional meetings are scheduled through the spring and summer to move this process forward.

GSRO is continuing to coordinate with the Governor's Office in Washington DC (DC) on the 5-state Governor's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) letter and anticipates that letter being finalized in May or June. GSRO is also working with agencies and tribes as federal spend plans are finalized and funding becomes available associated with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

GSRO attended the Puget Sound Day on the Hill (PSDOTH) event in DC the week of May 9. The PSDOTH has been virtual for two years and this was the first in-person trip to DC for many agencies and partners. GSRO and the attendees met with Congressional Members and federal agency leadership to talk about PCSRF, Puget Sound Geographic Program, National Estuary Program, federal infrastructure funding priorities, and other salmon recovery priorities.

GSRO continued meeting with regional salmon recovery organizations and partners from around the state including an in-person meeting with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board in Omak and Wenatchee, and a virtual meeting with the Coast Salmon Partnership. The visit to the Upper Columbia from April 19-21 included extended site visits to restoration projects with key partners and Congressional in-district staff.

Several GSRO staff presented or chaired sessions at the Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference, which was held virtually April 26-28. Topics included orca recovery, the Governor's Salmon Strategy, and monitoring. RCO and GSRO contributed financially to the conference and Tara Galuska, GSRO Orca Recovery Coordinator, was a member of the steering committee that organized the conference.

GSRO was an opening speaker, with David Troutt from the Nisqually Indian Tribe, at the [Pacific Salmon Action Dialogue Series](#) hosted virtually April 27. This event was part of a four-part dialogue series hosted by the First Nations Fishery Council of British Columbia and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Named the Pacific Salmon Action Dialogue Series, this thematic series explored several topics including an examination of the present salmon system, an overview of the work being done at various scales, and an exploration of collaborative governance models that may help address this crisis holistically and collectively.

GSRO established quarterly meetings with the senior executive Sarah Murdoch and staff from the [Pacific Salmon Strategy Initiative](#) to continue with early transboundary coordination efforts around salmon and orca recovery as this initiative is established.

GSRO continued with its individual monthly and quarterly coordination meetings with Upper Columbia United Tribes, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC). The purpose of these meetings is to ensure communication and collaboration on federal and state affairs, and key policy and budget issues.

### **State of Salmon Report**

The coordination and development of the 2022 State of Salmon Report is underway with state agency and tribal partners. The report captures the status and trend of salmon, their habitat, the needs and gaps, and progress of statewide salmon recovery efforts. GSRO is updating statewide salmon and watershed data and working with the regional directors to report progress and challenges. The report is due to the legislature in December 2022.

### **Salmon Recovery Network**

The Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) continued to meet virtually in March and spent time reviewing the previous legislative session and passed budgets. SRNet will meet next on June 17, 2022.

### **Salmon Recovery Conference**

The salmon recovery conference will be April 18-19, 2023, in Vancouver, WA. The Steering Committee met in late April to discuss a conference theme, potential keynote speakers, and session topics.

### **Pacific Coast Salmon Restoration Fund (PCSRF)**

Washington State's PCSRF initial application was submitted on March 21, 2022. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is coordinating with the NWIFC and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) on the application. RCO requested \$25 million to support salmon recovery in Washington State. NOAA will respond to RCO's initial application and provide comments, which will be incorporated into the final application to be submitted in June.

### **Southern Resident Orca Recovery**

June is [Orca Action Month](#) in the Pacific Northwest. With the recent news of new calves born in J Pod and K pod, Orca Action Month is a chance to celebrate and take action to protect one of our region's iconic species. This year's theme is "Stream to Sea:

Celebrating the Orca/Salmon Connection” to draw attention to the critical connection between watersheds, river systems, the Salish Sea and the Pacific Ocean, and show how the connections support both salmon and Southern Resident orcas. Organizers plan to highlight and focus on important river systems that are critical to salmon and orca recovery and provide ways for people to take action. SRnet has been informed of the action month and members are urged to participate and connect with their own event. Stream to Sea is open to all people and an opportunity to raise awareness, inspire, and connect communities with recovery efforts in hopes that people will take action to protect these magnificent creatures.

As part of celebrating Orca Action Month, RCO and GSRO will unveil a new orca website in late May ([orca.wa.gov](http://orca.wa.gov)) where we will share information on the state’s Southern Resident orca recovery efforts, including news and events, task force recommendation updates, and partner information and resources. The RCO communications team has been busy helping with this effort.

The WDFW is working on their [Periodic Status Review for the Killer Whale](#). The report will be presented to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in August 2022. With state and grant funding, WDFW is funding several monitoring efforts to report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the commercial licensing program and associated rules, and possible recommendations to vessel approach distance regulations. The first report is due in fall of 2022. See WDFW’s website for information on the [Commercial Whale Watching Licensing Program](#).

In April 2022, the GSRO provided comments to the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) on the [2022-2026 Puget Sound Action Agenda Update](#). The Action Agenda includes a vital sign indicator for Southern Resident Orcas and helps tell the story about the progress being made on Puget Sound recovery. The GSRO is coordinating with PSP on recovery strategies and vital sign indicators for Southern Resident recovery.

The population of the Southern Residents is currently 74 individuals. There were three documented pregnancies this past winter, but only one successful birth. Unfortunately, this is in line with recent survival rates, and the population continues to be in crisis. Salmon recovery is critical to the ongoing SRKW recovery efforts.

## **Salmon Recovery Section Report**

### **Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant (PSAR) Program**

### 2020 Grant Round

In September 2020, 129 projects were funded by the board. These projects were funded with both board and PSAR funding. The PSAR funds were not available for distribution until July 1, 2021, which is the start of the new biennium.

As of April 25th, 2022:

Total Projects Funded	Projects Active	Board Funded
<b>129</b>	126	3

### 2021 Grant Round

In September 2021, 105 projects were funded by the board: 95 new projects and 10 cost increases of previously funded projects.

As of April 25, 2022:

Total Projects Funded	Projects Active	Board Funded
<b>95</b>	71	24

Cost Increases Funded	Amendments Executed	Remaining Amendments
<b>10</b>	10	0

### 2022 Grant Round

As of April 25, 2022, there are 217 grant applications entered into PRISM. Seven of these are for the new Targeted Investment (TI) program: one in the Snake region, three in the Puget Sound region, one in the Upper Columbia region and two in the Lower Columbia region. Each region can submit one TI application by the June 27 PRISM deadline.

On March 22 and 23, staff facilitated the Track 1 board review panel initial evaluations of the application site visits that took place in February and March. On April 12-13, the Lead Entity coordinators of these site visits facilitated conference calls with review panel members to get clarification of their initial comments and requests for additional information.

From May 18- 19, staff facilitated the Track 2 board review panel initial evaluations of the application site visits that took place in April and May. On June 7 and 8, the Lead Entity coordinators of these site visits will facilitate conference calls with review panel members to get clarification of their initial comments and requests for additional information.

All lead entities have completed their application site visits and received their initial board review panel evaluation and comments. Sponsors are updating their applications to address technical concerns and answer additional questions by the June 27 application deadline.

The full review panel will conduct their final evaluations on July 13 and 14.

### [Watershed Plan Review](#)

The board review panel has been expanded to include five new members. The new member contracts begin July 1. The review panel will conduct technical review of five watershed restoration and enhancement plans in the Puget Sound – Watershed Resource Inventory Areas (WRIA) 7 (Snohomish), WRIA 8 (Cedar-Sammamish), WRIA 13 (Deschutes), WRIA 14 (Kennedy-Goldsborough), and WRIA 15 (Kitsap).

*Background:* The streamflow restoration law ([RCW 90.94](#)), codified in 2018, required planning groups in fifteen watersheds, or WRIsAs, to develop new watershed plans or update existing plans that offset impacts from new domestic permit-exempt wells and achieve a net ecological benefit within the watershed. The law set deadlines for plans to be locally approved and adopted by the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology).

Only plans that were approved by all members of the local committee could be approved by Ecology. If the local committee approved the WRIA plan, then Ecology was required to determine that actions identified in the plan, after accounting for new projected uses of water over the subsequent twenty years, will result in a net ecological benefit to instream resources within the WRIA. Ecology determines net ecological benefit by verifying that the plan's implementation of projects and actions yield offsets that exceed impacts within: a) the planning horizon; and, b) the relevant WRIA boundary.

The local planning phase is complete in all watersheds. Ecology adopted nine watershed plans and one rule.

For those five WRIsAs whose watershed planning committees did not approve a plan, the streamflow restoration law requires Ecology to submit the final draft plan to the board. The Review Panel, on the board's behalf, will complete the statutorily mandated

watershed plan review and will report to the board. The board will provide any recommendations to the Director of Ecology to amend the final draft plans. The Director of Ecology will then consider the recommendations and may amend the plan without committee approval prior to adoption.

## **Other Salmon Programs**

### [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program \(ESRP\)](#)

ESRP staff (RCO & WDFW) and reviewers completed application site visits and presentations. Applicants submitted final applications for all four sub-programs, which are under review. ESRP received 52 final applications: 7 for the Small Grants Program, 9 for the Learning Grant Program, 6 for the Shore Friendly Program, and 30 for the Restoration and Protection Grant Program. Ranking meetings are scheduled for June and July, and the ESRP investment plan that integrates the ranked lists from all four grant programs will be available in August.

### [Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative \(WCRRI\)](#)

Draft applications were due March 10. Twenty-five applications met the criteria and virtual presentations will be held April 25-29 with May 2-3 reserved to conduct field visits if the reviewers deem necessary. Staff worked to develop the PRISM evaluation module and scoring criteria and are working on a tutorial to provide to the team of 11 technical reviewers. Final applications are due June 9.

### [Chehalis Basin Strategy \(CBS\)](#)

Since March, staff have been working on various Interagency Agreements (IAAs) and amendments. These include contracts for pump station installation to help abate flood damage, a study to examine hyporheic flow, and others. Additionally, RCO is working with WDFW to contract the first grant agreements funding projects out of the 2021 Aquatic Species Restoration Plan sponsor solicitation. This represents the first funded projects through WDFW's new "Regional Implementation Team" strategy.

### [Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board \(BAFBRB\)](#)

The salmon grant managers completed initial review of this year's BAFBRB grant applications and have provided feedback to the project sponsors. Sponsors had until May 2 to update their applications and resubmit them for consideration for funding. The board received 113 applications this year, which is a new high for the program.

Following final submittal, WDFW will start its review and scoring of applications. Once scoring is completed WDFW provides a prioritized list of projects to be submitted to the legislature for funding consideration. The total funding amount being requested is

\$81,931,022 with sponsors bringing \$23,482,928 in match for a total project cost of \$105,413,950.

Currently, there are 50 active planning and restoration projects, with several of the restoration projects scheduled for completion during the 2022 construction season.

#### Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP)

A new FFFPP program manager was hired by DNR. Chris Dwight joined the Fish Team on May 1 after many years of working in WDFW's fish passage program.

Laura Till, WDFW's Fish Team representative, retires on June 1 and the recruitment for her replacement will follow.

Twenty-three FFFPP projects are planned for construction this summer.

Four new fish passage projects have been approved for funding and construction in 2023.

#### Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST) - Orca

NOAA invited RCO to coordinate proposal development for an additional increment (3<sup>rd</sup> year, Fiscal Year 2022) of the PST - Orca Recovery funding for two prey production projects and six habitat projects. Proposals will be finalized this summer.

#### Yakima Basin Integration Plan (YBIP)

We are working to amend the RCO – Ecology IAAs to incorporate 2021-23 YBIP funding to extend projects and fund new phases.

Our quarterly report to Ecology was submitted in April.

### 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 25, 2022. This table does not include projects funded through the BAFBRB, FFFPP, the WCRRI, or ESRP. Although RCO staff support these programs through grant and contract administration, the board does not review or approve projects under these programs.

**Table 1. Board-Funded Projects**

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
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Salmon Projects to Date	27	469	2,834	3,330
Percentage of Total	0.8%	14.1%	85.1%	

## Strategic Plan Connection

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 29, 2022, and April 25, 2022. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g., designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out 29 projects or contracts during this time.

### Approved Amendments

**Attachment B** shows the major amendments approved between January 29, 2022, and April 25, 2022. Staff processed 14 cost change amendments during this period.

### Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from January 29, 2022-April 25, 2022

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<a href="#"><u>16-1213</u></a>	Seattle Public Utilities	Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Project - Design	Salmon State Projects	4/11/2022
<a href="#"><u>16-1545</u></a>	Pierce County Planning	Carbon Bridge Street Setback Feasibility	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/17/2022
<a href="#"><u>16-1577</u></a>	South Puget Sound SEG	South Prairie Creek (RM 4.0-4.6) Phase 2	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	4/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>16-1608</u></a>	Snohomish Conservation Dist	Woods Creek Culvert Replacements Cooperative	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/31/2022
<a href="#"><u>17-1052</u></a>	Jefferson County of	Big Quilcene Riparian Protection	Salmon Federal Projects	3/4/2022
<a href="#"><u>17-1055</u></a>	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Snow Creek Riparian Recovery Project	Salmon Federal Projects	2/15/2022
<a href="#"><u>17-1177</u></a>	Mid-Columbia RFEG	North Fork Teanaway Large Wood Trapping	Salmon Federal Projects	3/22/2022
<a href="#"><u>17-1179</u></a>	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Yakima River Side Channel at Bull Canal Diversion	Salmon Federal Projects	3/17/2022

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Primary Program</b>	<b>Closed Completed Date</b>
<a href="#"><u>17-1226</u></a>	Methow Salmon Recovery Found	Methow Bull Trout Population Assessment	Salmon State Projects	3/21/2022
<a href="#"><u>17-1239</u></a>	Mid-Columbia RFEG	Swauk Cr Floodplain Reconnection	Salmon State Projects	3/25/2022
<a href="#"><u>17-1304</u></a>	Asotin Co Conservation Dist	Asotin IMW Monitoring 2017	Salmon Federal Activities	2/14/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1230</u></a>	Jefferson Land Trust	Duckabush River Protection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/4/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1233</u></a>	Mason Conservation Dist	Lower Skokomish R Mainstem LWD Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/15/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1288</u></a>	Snohomish County Public Works	Jim Creek LWD Restoration & Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/29/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1298</u></a>	Coastal Watershed Institute	Elwha Estuary Conservation and Restoration Phase I	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	3/11/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1338</u></a>	Capitol Land Trust	Holm Farm Phase II	Salmon State Projects	3/9/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1367</u></a>	Nisqually Land Trust	Lackamas Creek Protection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	2/11/2022

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Primary Program</b>	<b>Closed Completed Date</b>
<a href="#"><u>18-1408</u></a>	Lower Columbia FEG	Coweeman River and Baird Creek Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	2/7/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1414</u></a>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Elochoman LWD and Floodplain Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	2/22/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1443</u></a>	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Stillaguamish Floodplain Acq. & Rest.	Salmon State Projects	3/29/2022
<a href="#"><u>18-1659</u></a>	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Lost Creek Fish Passage Design	Salmon Federal Projects	3/16/2022
<a href="#"><u>19-1184</u></a>	Chehalis Basin FTF	Kirkpatrick Road Fish Barrier Correction Design	Salmon Federal Projects	2/9/2022
<a href="#"><u>19-1185</u></a>	Chehalis Basin FTF	Newskah Road #2 Fish Barrier Correction Design	Salmon Federal Projects	3/16/2022
<a href="#"><u>19-1216</u></a>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	West Fork Grays Design	Salmon Federal Projects	2/17/2022
<a href="#"><u>19-1332</u></a>	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon Point Community Beach Shoreline Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	4/6/2022
<a href="#"><u>19-1366</u></a>	Wild Fish Conservancy	Grant Creek Construction	Salmon State Projects	3/1/2022
<a href="#"><u>19-1472</u></a>	Cascade Col Fish Enhance Group	Lower Chiwaukum Crk Preliminary Design - Phase 1	Salmon State Projects	2/11/2022

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<a href="#">19-1477</a>	Chelan Co Natural Resource	Peshastin RM 4.3 Side Channel Preliminary Design	Salmon Federal Projects	3/18/2022
<a href="#">19-1550</a>	Yakama Nation	Forest Road 80 x-ing of Piscoe Creek	Salmon State Projects	3/30/2022

## Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment Descriptions</b>
<a href="#"><u>17-1143</u></a>	Mud Bay Salt Marsh Restoration Sucia Island	Friends of the San Juans	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	3/2/2022	Adding \$6,650 of returned 2015-2017 ESRP funds to complete adaptive management actions for the site.
<a href="#"><u>18-1484</u></a>	IMW - Smokehouse Tidal Marsh Preliminary Design	Swinomish Tribe	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	4/13/2022	Eliminating match since not required for restoration projects located in an IMW.
<a href="#"><u>18-1499</u></a>	Sauk River Habitat Protection & Restoration Plan	Skagit Watershed Council	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	3/18/2022	Adding in \$21,200 returned 2013-2015 PSAR funds. PSP letter of approval 12/2/2021.
<a href="#"><u>18-1532</u></a>	Gold Basin Landslide Restoration	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	4/18/2022	Per SRFB approval on March 2, 2022, the project costs are increased by \$845,053. This total is made up of \$683,000 of unallocated 2021-2023 PSAR funds from the Stillaguamish lead entity and \$162,053 of returned 2015-2017 PSAR funds from the Puget Sound Partnership.

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment Descriptions</b>
<a href="#"><u>18-1972</u></a>	Ruby Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Enhancement	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	2/11/2022	The project sponsor is asking for a decrease in match from 24% to 16%. They are unable to provide the original match amount because of personnel changes in their offices. Match remains above minimum 15% requirement.
<a href="#"><u>19-1116</u></a>	Pacific Pointbar - Acquisition #2	Sumner City of	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	4/6/2022	During the 2020 grant round, the sponsor, in agreement with the Pierce Lead Entity and the Puget Sound Partnership requested the remaining PSAR funds (\$1,082,941) to be added to their existing agreement 19-1116. This allows more priority parcels to be acquired along the White River.
<a href="#"><u>19-1402</u></a>	San Juan Islands Eelgrass Recovery Pilot	San Juan Island Cons.Dist	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	2/2/2022	Increasing AA&E to 30%

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment Descriptions</b>
<a href="#"><u>20-1139</u></a>	Snohomish Floodplain Acquisitions Phase I	Tulalip Tribes	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	3/18/2022	Increase the project funding by \$507,700. 2021 NOAA Pacific Salmon Treaty Orca Recovery award NA21NMF4380436, reduce match to \$0, bringing the total Project Agreement Amount to \$1,124,577. This allows an additional 20 acres of floodplain habitat to be protected along the Snoqualmie River.
<a href="#"><u>20-1146</u></a>	Polnell Point Road Armor Removal Feasibility & Des	NW Straits Marine Cons Found	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	2/7/2022	Adding \$14,958 of 2021-2023 PSAR funds, from the Island County LE allocation, to make partially funded project whole. Sponsor is adding \$18,437 in additional match to bring their share up to the 15% minimum.
<a href="#"><u>20-1188</u></a>	Talbot Dam Removal Design	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	2/15/2022	Increase grant amount by \$33,002 of unallocated 2020 Willapa LE funds.
<a href="#"><u>20-1204</u></a>	Mill Creek Design	The Lands Council	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	3/3/2022	This amendment adds the SRFB 15% match requirement into the agreement as the project was extended past the 18 month agreement end date which allowed for no match.



<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment Descriptions</b>
<a href="#"><u>20-1386</u></a>	IMW-Swinomish Channel Ph 3 Tidal Marsh Restoration	Swinomish Tribe	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	4/21/2022	This amendment is to 1) amend in \$164,999 of 2021-2023 PSAR - Skagit LE that was approved through the 2020 grant round, 2) amend in \$197,275 of 2021-2023 ESRP funds approved through project 20-1568 in the 2020 grant round, and 3) reduce match to 0 since ESRP matches SRFB/PSAR.
<a href="#"><u>21-1032</u></a>	Mashel River Habitat Designs RM 0-3	South Puget Sound SEG	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	2/7/2022	Add \$18,000 2019-2021 PSAR (Nisqually LE). Add \$38,1118 match. New agreement total is \$254,118.
<a href="#"><u>21-1127</u></a>	Ridgefield Pits-Final Design	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	4/4/2022	Add \$75,000 SRFB funds and \$25,000 of match to complete the CLOMR review and approval.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

**Meeting Date:** June 2, 2022

**Title:** 2022 Supplemental Funding Decision

**Prepared By:** Brock Milliern, Recreation and Conservation Office Policy Director

#### Summary

This is a decision memorandum for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, identifying options for allocation of the \$75 million in supplemental budget funding for salmon recovery projects. Staff is requesting decisions from the board on how to allocate \$25 million designated for projects under \$5 million and for \$50 million for projects greater than \$5 million.

#### 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

In the 2022 supplemental session, the legislature appropriated \$75 million in new funding for salmon recovery to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board). The legislative language from the operating budget states:

*\$25,000,000 of the salmon recovery account—state appropriation is provided solely for the salmon recovery board to provide grants for watershed projects typically valued at less than \$5,000,000 each that will benefit salmon recovery*

*\$50,000,000 of the salmon recovery account—state appropriation is provided solely for the salmon recovery board to provide grants for projects valued at greater than \$5,000,000 each that will benefit salmon recovery.*

The two distinct portions of funding will require two separate decisions from the board in determining the appropriate way to invest the additional \$75 million.

### **Salmon Recovery Funding Board current distribution:**

Currently, most board investments are made using the regional allocation formula, which assures each of the eight regions receive a pre-determined portion of funding to implement projects. The pre-determined portions are set by objective parameters of physical and biological factors within a region.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Regional Allocation Percentage</b>
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.57%
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	2.4%
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.00%
Northeast Washington	1.90%
Puget Sound Partnership	38.00%
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.44%
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.31%
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.38%

In addition to regional allocation the board adopted a funding policy to formalize “Targeted Investments” on September 16, 2020. A Targeted Investment project addresses a board identified priority to accelerate progress towards achieving salmon recovery. The Targeted Investments funding policy was further formalized through a series of board decisions in 2021 that dealt with funding allocations, evaluation process, criteria, priority setting, and manual 18 updates.

In those series of decisions, the board adopted criteria for five different priorities, or target areas, and for 2022, chose Orca Recovery. 2022 is the first-year targeted investments will be used for the grant cycle. For more information, see [December 2021 SRFB meeting materials](#).

### **Options for Investing: \$25 Million**

Parameters for investing the \$25 million funding allotment:

- Total value of the project needs to be \$5 million or less, regardless of the funding source.
- Funding cannot be applied to capacity for regions or lead entities
- Funding cannot be applied to monitoring
- Manual 18 applies to projects under this source of funding unless specific exceptions to manual 18 are made by the board.
- This funding can be applied to cost increases of current projects.

**Option 1: Regional Allocation:** Utilizing the existing regional allocation would allow regions to invest in projects vetted locally, through the lead entity process. In anticipation of an increase in federal funding, lead entities recruited sponsors to submit projects that were over the normal allocation amount. This resulted in robust project lists from the lead entities for the current grant round. Based on the current number of applications to the 2022 grant round, if all projects were funded, there would be approximately \$4 million of the \$25 million unallocated that could then be used in the 2023 grant round. The unallocated funds will change as projects are reviewed, ranked, and pulled from the project list and as funds are used to cover cost increases.

**Option 2: Modified Regional Allocation:** This slight modification provides the Northeast Region (NE) additional funding from the \$25 million portion of the funds, and requires NE forgo any funding under the \$50 million portion of the funds. Under the current allocation formula NE would have difficulty funding a project over \$5 million in value and therefore NE does not have larger projects planned. Staff propose taking an additional 1.9% of the \$25 million portion (\$455,430) and providing it to NE region. The remaining funding would be allotted using the current allocation formula, with NE receiving their regular portion, in addition to the 1.9% off the top, for a total of \$902,206.

Region	Regional Allocation Percent	Option 1: Regional Allocation	Modified Regional Allocation	Option 2: Modified Allocation
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.57%	\$2,293,929	9.39%	\$2,250,344
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	2.4%	\$575,280	2.35%	\$564,350

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.00%	\$4,794,000	19.62%	\$4,702,914
Northeast Washington	1.90%	\$455,430	3.76%	\$902,207
Puget Sound Partnership	38.00%	\$9,108,600	37.28%	\$8,935,536
S Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.44%	\$2,023,068	8.28%	\$1,984,630
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.31%	\$2,471,307	10.11%	\$2,424,352
Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.38%	\$2,248,386	9.2%	\$2,205,667
RCO Admin (4.12%)		\$1,030,000		\$1,030,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$25,000,000</b>		<b>\$25,000,000</b>

Regardless of whether the board selects option one or two above, staff asks that the board also consider making the following changes:

- Lift the current \$200,000 cap on assessments
- Allow the Puget Sound region to utilize board funding for assessments. Currently, Puget Sound lead entities may only use Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding for assessments. Investing in assessment is critical to sponsor capacity.

### Options for Investing: \$50 Million

Parameters for spending \$50 million portion of funding:

- Total value of the project needs to be \$5 million or greater, but the board portion may be less than \$5 million.
- Manual 18 applies to projects under this source of funding unless specific exceptions are made by the board.
- Funds in this portion may not be used for the following:
  - Cost increases

- Assessments
- Monitoring
- Capacity

For the \$50 million portion, staff put forward 5 different options:

**Option 1: Regional Allocation:** Utilize the standard allocation to each region, with NE funding distributed proportionally to the other regions. Regions would then be required to develop priority lists through their processes and submit a ranked list of projects by October 1, 2022. Project lists would be subject to approval at the December 2022 board meeting.

**Option 2: Regional Even Split:** Provide each region an even share of the funding, except for NE. This would provide the remaining seven regions approximately \$6.85 million in funding. Regions would then be required to develop priority lists through their processes and submit a ranked list of projects by October 1, 2022. Project lists would be subject to approval at the December 2022 board meeting.

**Option 3: Increments of 10%:** Provide each region, except NE, a percentage of the funding. Loosely based on the allocation formula, percentages would be rounded so that each regions receive 10%, 20%, or 30%. Any region receiving near 10% or less of the regional allocation would receive 10%, Lower Columbia receives 20% and Puget Sound Partnership receives 30%. Regions would then be required to develop priority lists through their processes and submit a ranked list of projects by October 1, 2022. Project lists would be subject to approval at the December 2022 board meeting.

Region	Regional Allocation Percent	Option 1: Regional Allocation	Option 2: Even Split	Option 3: 10% Increments
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.76%	\$4,678,944	\$6,848,571	\$4,794,000
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	2.45%	\$1,174,530	\$6,848,571	\$4,794,000
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.39%	\$9,774,966	\$6,848,571	\$9,588,000

Northeast Washington			\$0	\$0
Puget Sound Partnership	38.73%	\$18,567,162	\$6,848,571	\$14,382,000
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.60%	\$4,122,840	\$6,848,571	\$4,794,000
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.51%	\$5,038,494	\$6,848,571	\$4,794,000
Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.56%	\$4,583,064	\$6,848,571	\$4,794,000
RCO Admin (4.12%)		\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,000,000</b>	<b>\$50,000,000</b>	<b>\$50,000,000</b>

**Option 4: Targeted Investment:** Select a targeted investment priority(ies) and alter existing targeted investment approach by allowing regions to submit more than one project. In addition, allow regions to submit 2022 Targeted Investment orca recovery projects that are not successful in the current targeted investment round. Criteria was approved by the board for four other areas (at risk, approaching recovery, threat reduction, or emergency response).

The targeted investment grant round would open on July 1, close on October 1, and projects would be ranked in October by the review panel. A project lists would be brought to the board in December 2022 for approval.

**Option 5: Hybrid:** Fund the current targeted investment set of projects and provide the remainder equally to each region, excluding NE.

The following regions have Targeted Investment (TI) orca recovery applications: Puget Sound, Lower Columbia, Snake, Yakima, and Upper Columbia. Some of these regions submitted more than one project. The regions will be selecting their top project after June 10, 2022. If all projects were funded, the total cost would be between \$9.1 million to \$19.2 million. The board previously approved up to \$8.7 million for targeted investment, depending upon the final PCSRF award. Once that is subtracted from the

total, that leaves each region receiving between \$4.6 million to \$6.8 million for a large project.

	Funding Source	Amount
Board Approved TI	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds + state (2021 decision)	\$3.7 - 8.7M
TI Application Cost Estimates	2022 Supplemental	\$9.1M - \$19.2M
Regions – distributed equally	2022 Supplemental	\$4.6M - \$6.79M

Regardless of the option selected above, staff asks that the board also consider making the following changes:

- Eligible projects must have preliminary design complete, per Manual 18, Appendix D-2 requirements, by the December 7, 2022, board meeting where projects will be approved.
- Waive match requirements, except for targeted investment projects in option 5.

## Motions

### \$25 Million

Move to approve Option 1 Regional Allocation for the \$25 million. Increase assessment cap to \$300,000 and allow Puget Sound lead entities to utilize SRFB funding for assessments.

### **OR**

Move to approve Option 2 Modified Regional Allocation for the \$25 million. Increase assessment cap to \$300,000 and allow Puget Sound lead entities to utilize SRFB funding for assessments.

### \$50 Million

Move to approve Option 1 Regional Allocation for the \$50 million. Eligible projects must have preliminary design completed by December 7. SRFB will approve projects at the December 2022 board meeting. All match is waived for these projects.



**OR**

Move to approve Option 2 Regional Even Split for the \$50 million. Eligible projects must have preliminary design completed by December 7. SRFB will approve projects at the December 2022 board meeting. All match is waived for these projects.

**OR**

Move to approve Option 3 10% Increments for the \$50 million. Eligible projects must have preliminary design completed by December 7. SRFB will approve projects at the December 2022 board meeting. All match is waived for these projects.

**OR**

Move to approve Option 4 Targeted Investment for the \$50 million. Eligible projects must have preliminary design completed by December 7. SRFB will approve projects at the December 2022 board meeting. All match is waived for these projects.

**OR**

Move to approve Option 5 Hybrid for the \$50 million. Eligible projects must have preliminary design completed by December 7. SRFB will approve projects at the December 2022 board meeting. All match is waived for new projects and required for targeted investment projects.

**Strategic Plan Connection**

[https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB\\_Strategic\\_Plan.pdf](https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf)

**Attachments**

Attachment A: Targeted Investment Priorities List

Attachment B: Criteria for Targeted Investment - June 2, 2021

Attachment C: Late Arriving Funding Distribution Table

## Attachment A: Targeted Investment Priority List

Targeted investment priorities:

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.
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.

## Attachment B: Criteria for Targeted Investment June 2, 2021

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"> <li>1. Address a board-selected targeted investment priority.</li> <li>2. Improve long-term habitat quality and productivity, and therefore resiliency, of salmonids.</li> <li>3. Advance a project that cannot be funded by the current sub-allocation to lead entities or the current regional allocation*.</li> <li>4. Leverage additional funds (not including federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund).</li> <li>5. Restore and/or acquire habitat (may include design if the project leverages other funds).</li> <li>6. Letter of support from the lead entity where the project is located.</li> <li>7. The only project selected by a salmon recovery region for funding.</li> </ol> <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"> <li>• Proposals that benefit ESA species nearest to the recovery goal will receive the highest score.</li> <li>• Project addresses most important limiting factor(s) identified in recovery plan for species nearest delisting.</li> <li>• Project addresses an outstanding habitat restoration and/or protection issue or threat that, if corrected, moves species closer to recovery goal.</li> </ul> <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>

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.																																																		
		<table><tr><th colspan="3">Chinook ESU/Stock Group</th><th>Score</th></tr><tr><td>Northern Puget Sound</td><td>Fall</td><td>Nooksack, Elwha, Dungeness, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Southern Puget Sound</td><td>Fall</td><td>Nisqually, Puyallup, Green, Duwamish, Deschutes, Hood Canal systems</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Lower Columbia</td><td>Fall</td><td>Fall Tules and Fall Brights (Cowlitz, Kalama, Clackamas, Lewis, others)</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Upper Columbia &amp; Snake Fall</td><td>Fall</td><td>Upriver Brights</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Lower Columbia</td><td>Spring</td><td>Lewis, Cowlitz, Kalama, Big White Salmon</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Middle Columbia</td><td>Fall</td><td>Fall Brights</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Snake River</td><td>Spring-Summer</td><td>Snake, Salmon, Clearwater</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Puget Sound</td><td>Spring</td><td>Nooksack, Elwha, Dungeness, Skagit (Stillaguamish, Snohomish)</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>Washington Coast</td><td>Spring</td><td>Hoh, Queets, Quillayute, Grays Harbor</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Washington Coast</td><td>Fall</td><td>Hoh, Queets, Quillayute, Grays Harbor</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>Middle &amp; Upper Columbia Spring</td><td>Spring</td><td>Columbia, Yakima, Wenatchee, Methow, Okanagan</td><td>7</td></tr></table>			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
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Southern Puget Sound	Spring	Nisqually, Puyallup, Green, Duwamish, Deschutes, Hood Canal systems	5				
<b>At-risk population benefit</b>	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"> <li>• Fishery has been recently closed or severely limited</li> <li>• State of Salmon statewide status consideration</li> <li>• Populations furthest from recovery goals</li> <li>• Population petitioned for listing</li> <li>• Number of times below escapement goal over last five years</li> <li>• Identified risk in most recent NOAA five-year status review</li> </ul> <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>					
<b>Threat reduction</b>	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"> <li>• The project removes or substantially abates a documented threat to a listed species.</li> <li>• The project improves habitat resilience to a potential or current chronic threat.</li> <li>• The project provides a long-term and proven strategy to abate a future threat.</li> <li>• The project addresses the threat in a way that promotes ecosystem resiliency.</li> </ul> <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>					

<b>Emergency response</b>	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"> <li>• The project with the most obvious near-term threat to a listed species will receive the highest score.</li> <li>• The project describes near-term impact to a listed species.</li> <li>• The project documents the magnitude and extent of the emergency.</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Species and Habitat Benefits 20 points (All Projects)</b>		
<b>Species</b>	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>
<b>Ecological Processes and Features</b>	0-10	<p>Projects that recover habitat through process-based solutions will receive the highest scores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project identifies limiting factor and life history stage</li> <li>• Project results in a high functioning site that restores or protects ecosystem processes.</li> <li>• Surrounding conditions support the project.</li> <li>• The site is resilient to future degradation.</li> <li>• The project is designed to be resilient to climate change.</li> <li>• Sustainable over time, self-sustaining, or naturally increasing benefit; temporary fixes will score lower.</li> <li>• Hardened infrastructure solutions are acceptable but will score lower.</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Scale of benefit</b>	0-5	<p>A higher amount of quantified benefits and measurable restoration benchmarks will receive the highest score.</p>

		<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"> <li>• Salmon habitat gain in miles</li> <li>• Salmon habitat improved in acres</li> <li>• Salmon habitat Protected in acres</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Likelihood to Succeed – 20 Points (All projects)</b>		
<b>Appropriate Scope w/ Clear Goals and Objectives</b>	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"> <li>• Project addresses root cause of problem identified</li> <li>• Objectives support and refine biological goals.</li> <li>• Objectives are specific quantifiable actions to achieve stated goal (See Manual 18).</li> <li>• Proposals that demonstrate the project is in the correct sequence and is independent of other actions being taken first will receive the highest score.</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Logical Approach and Schedule</b>	0-5	<p>Proposals that demonstrate readiness to proceed will receive the highest score.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An appropriate and achievable time frame and order of events to complete the project.</li> <li>• Level of design complete</li> <li>• Permit stage</li> </ul> <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>

<b>Landowner Support</b>	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>
<b>Sponsor/ Participants Experience</b>	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>
<b>Cost - 10 Points (All Projects)</b>		
<b>Best Use of Public Funds</b>	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>
<b>Leverage additional funds</b>	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>



## Targeted 2022

Region	Project	Request	Match	Total
Lower Columbia	Ridgefield Pits Floodplain	\$8,700,000	\$4,747,500	\$13,447,500
Snake	Tucannon PA 26	\$792,000	\$141,455	\$933,455
Yakima	Gap to Gap	\$1,200,000	\$16,966,997	\$18,166,997
Puget Sound	Zis a Ba	\$2,791,634	\$4,492,650	\$7,284,284
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$13,483,634		
<b>TI Funding</b>		\$8,200,000		
<b>Remainder</b>		\$5,283,634		

Region	Project	Request	Match	Total
Lower Columbia	Ridgefield Pits Floodplain	\$8,700,000	\$4,747,500	\$13,447,500
Snake	Tucannon PA 26	\$792,000	\$141,455	\$933,455
Yakima	Gap to Gap	\$1,200,000	\$16,966,997	\$18,166,997
Puget Sound	SF Nooksack	\$7,871,245	\$1,556,349	\$7,284,284
<b>TOTAL</b>		\$18,563,245		
<b>TI Funding</b>		\$8,200,000		
<b>Remainder</b>		\$10,363,245		

Region	Regional Allocation Percent	Option 1: Regional Allocation	Option 2: Even Split	Option 3: 10% Increments	Option 5: Hybrid low \$10,363,245	Option 5: Hybrid high \$5,283,634
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.8%	\$4,680,000	\$6,848,571	\$4,790,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	2.45%	\$1,170,000	\$6,848,571	\$4,790,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20%	\$9,770,000	\$6,848,571	\$9,590,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
Northeast Washington	1.90%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Puget Sound Partnership	39%	\$18,570,000	\$6,848,571	\$14,380,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.60%	\$4,120,000	\$6,848,571	\$4,790,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.51%	\$5,040,000	\$6,848,571	\$4,790,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
Yakima Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.56%	\$4,580,000	\$6,848,571	\$4,790,000	\$5,368,107	\$6,093,766
RCO Admin	4.12%	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000	\$2,060,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$50,000,000</b>	<b>\$50,000,000</b>	<b>\$50,000,000</b>		

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

**Meeting Date:** June 2, 2022

**Title:** Decision on Allocating More Funding to Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Cost Increases

**Prepared By:** Marc Duboiski, Salmon Recovery Section Manager

#### Summary

This item is a follow-up, at the board's request, from the March 2022 meeting and provides an update on the 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) cost increase fund balance and a recommendation to provide the RCO director authority to add an additional \$250,000 for cost increases should the need arise.

#### 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

All Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grant programs are experiencing inflation impacts due to outdated cost estimates and project delays, and there is a new and pressing need for additional funds to achieve implementation of previously funded grant projects. Currently RCO has approved numerous active design, restoration and acquisition grants that were funded between 2016-2021.

At the March board meeting, staff presented the current costs increase policies for both Salmon Recovery and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds. The presentation included specific reasons for statewide construction cost increases; recommendations by an external cost increase subcommittee consisting of sponsor, lead entity and regional representatives; and highlighted the current remaining balance of \$154,636 within the 2021 cost increase fund, which was originally \$500,000. Additional information on this topic can be found in Item 5 of the March 2022 meeting materials.

The board approved increasing the annual cost increase fund from \$500,000 to \$750,000. They also asked staff to monitor the cost increase requests and fund balance,

and report back at the June board meeting. If necessary, the board may consider additional adjustments to the cost increase fund.

## Update

As of March 2, the board's cost increase fund balance was \$904,636, which includes the 2021 remaining balance and the board approved \$750,000.

Through May 20, two cost increases have been approved by the director, totaling \$215,000, and leaving a balance of \$689,636.

To re-emphasize from the March meeting:

- Project engineers around the state are doing their best estimating at the 100 percent design level, including contingencies, but we do not truly know the final restoration project costs until the construction bid is accepted.
- For example, one of the approved cost increases was estimated to cost \$170,000, but the accepted construction bid came in lower at \$140,000, so the sponsor was able to "return" the difference.
- Federal permitting, specifically the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) takes a year or more to be issued. These large delays impact the construction timelines, bidding and costs. It's difficult to bid projects ahead of receiving all permits. Construction contractors shy away from that type of uncertainty.

## Recommendations

1. Do nothing now. Leave the cost increase fund at \$750,000. Continue to monitor and track the incoming cost increase requests through summer 2022, and report back at September 2022 meeting.
2. Add an additional \$250,000 to the cost increase fund in anticipation of increased requests as we enter the construction season.

## Motion

**Move** to give the RCO director authority to allocate up to an additional \$250,000 for cost increases, either from the current state allocation or the 2022 PCSRF award, as needed.

## Strategic Plan Connection

Goal 1: Fund the best possible salmon recovery activities and projects through a fair process that considers science, community values and priorities, and coordination of efforts.

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.

## Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

### APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

**Meeting Date:** June 2, 2022

**Title:** Board Monitoring Program Funding Decisions

**Prepared By:** Erik Neatherlin Director, GSRO  
Keith Dublanica Science Coordinator, GSRO  
Pete Bisson Monitoring Panel co-chair

#### Summary

This briefing is a report out on the monitoring subcommittee's recommendations for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's (board) monitoring program funding.

The monitoring subcommittee has met over the last year to evaluate the board's monitoring program. This process has resulted in a draft framework to inform future monitoring decisions, an Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) lessons learned report, and overall monitoring program recommendations.

At the board's March 2022 meeting, monitoring subcommittee representatives reported out on progress on the draft framework and initial findings from the IMW lessons learned report. At that meeting the subcommittee also requested board guidance and direction on a suite of conceptual funding options. The board's direction informed the subcommittee's ongoing deliberations and development of recommendations.

This memo summarizes the work of the subcommittee, provides pertinent background information for the current monitoring programs, evaluates the conceptual options, and provides a monitoring funding recommendation for board consideration.

#### Board Action Requested

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

## Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) monitoring subcommittee met over the last year to evaluate the board's monitoring program and to provide funding recommendations for board consideration. The subcommittee is comprised of board members and representatives from the Council of Regions (COR), Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), the board's monitoring panel, the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

In its deliberations, the monitoring subcommittee relied on key documents such as the board's strategic plan, the [Washington State Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy](#), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries [Monitoring Guidance](#), and the 2013 [Stillwater Sciences Monitoring Investment Strategy for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board](#). This earlier work led to the board's current monitoring program, which focuses on implementing a long-term IMW study, filling key gaps in statewide adult and juvenile fish population monitoring (Fish in/Fish out), and funding project and reach-scale habitat restoration effectiveness studies or programs.

In developing its recommendations, the subcommittee also relied on the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership's (PNAMP) regionwide summary, practitioner questionnaires, and the scientific and policy expertise of its members and of the scientists working on a variety of monitoring programs.

## Subcommittee Timeline and Process

The subcommittee has been meeting monthly since July 2021 and developed a work plan focused on three main objectives to meet board needs:

1. Developing a framework to guide and inform future monitoring programs
2. Guiding development of an IMW lessons learned report, and
3. Developing monitoring program recommendations.

The subcommittee presented the framework and IMW lessons learned report at the March 2022 meeting. At that time the board was also asked to provide direction on several conceptual funding options. The monitoring panel, IMW scientists, and subcommittee then spent March through June developing funding options and recommendations. In May, the subcommittee agreed on a single recommendation for board consideration.

## Subcommittee Conclusions

The subcommittee's deliberations over the last year have resulted in several key conclusions, identified below.

### Overall Monitoring Strategy and Adaptive Management

There is inherent value to continuing the board funded IMW studies and in bringing them to conclusion. To fully leverage the information and data from the IMWs, there needs to be a parallel process to establish an overall monitoring strategy and adaptive management plan so the board can apply what is being learned from all of its monitoring programs to their decision-making on a regular basis.

To support this approach, a summary synthesis should be developed at a minimum of every 5 years. The initial summary should build upon the PNAMP lessons learned report and focus on IMWs. Subsequent summaries should incorporate all monitoring efforts. This evaluation should occur at a minimum every 5 years. There was general support to continue the IMW studies so the board could fully leverage the data that has been collected, but also a recognition that there is a strong need to do a summary synthesis and adaptively manage the IMWs moving forward to better convey what's being learned and how it can inform restoration actions and board investments.

### A Summary Synthesis Needs to Begin Immediately to Inform a Board Monitoring Strategy

There was agreement that the summary synthesis needs to begin immediately and that a delay compromises the practical applicability of the board's monitoring programs for its decisions. This led to discussions ahead of the March 2022 board meeting about possible options to fund this synthesis analysis. The monitoring panel has already begun work on a technical scoping document for the IMW synthesis analysis.

### It is Premature to Explore New Monitoring Programs

Ahead of the March 2022 board meeting, the subcommittee was wrestling with an option to explore or pursue new monitoring programs. However, since that time, the subcommittee has concluded that it is premature to begin any new monitoring programs before fully exhausting data and results from its current programs, especially the IMWs. In addition, the development of a monitoring strategy is critical to laying the technical foundation for any new monitoring program.

### Need to Close the Fish in/Fish out Funding Gap

Regarding the Fish in/Fish out monitoring, the subcommittee recognized the importance of this program for evaluating freshwater productivity. However, the subcommittee also highlighted the need for WDFW to make an active effort to secure a permanent, long-term funding source to close this gap. There was general agreement that the board should continue to fund this gap and the monitoring panel should coordinate with WDFW while they seek a permanent funding solution.



## There is Existing Funding to Initiate the Summary Synthesis

In discussing the level of effort and data required to develop a summary synthesis, a path was identified that would leverage existing resources without impacting the on-the-ground data collection efforts of the board's programs. Through the use of in-kind support by agencies, a change in focus of the annual IMW reporting requirements, and the use of unallocated project effectiveness funds, the board could fund a summary synthesis and begin work on its monitoring strategy while maintaining its current monitoring program.

The remainder of this memo provides background information on the board's monitoring programs, provides a summary of the trade-offs dialogue about the funding options, and summarizes the funding recommendation for board consideration.

### **Background on Board Monitoring Programs**

The board sets aside approximately 10% of its funding for monitoring activities per requirements outlined in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant. This has resulted in a recent consistent funding level of \$2,000,000 annually for monitoring. The categories for monitoring have been Intensively Monitored Watersheds, Fish In/Fish Out, and Effectiveness Monitoring.

The board also sets aside \$350,000 to be used for regional monitoring priorities as determined through the local lead entity and regional salmon recovery process. Since this program is driven primarily by local priorities and processes, the subcommittee effort has not evaluated the regional monitoring program funds.

### **Intensively Monitored Watersheds**

#### **Background**

The IMW program was originally funded in 2004 and included four complexes: Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJF), and Skagit River Estuary. The scope and purpose of this program was to detect fish response to implemented restoration actions at the watershed scale. The Asotin complex in the Snake Region was added to the board's IMW program in 2012, resulting in five Washington state IMWs. This effort is funded by the board and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC). The PSMFC funds only Columbia Basin IMWs, which include the Snake and Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery regions.

The IMWs are large, long-term, complex studies that leverage additional funding and in-kind support from state agencies, federal partners, and tribes.

#### **Original Purpose and Scope**

The intent of the IMW program is to assess whether habitat restoration can successfully lead to detectable fish and habitat responses at a watershed scale. The IMWs examined a series of fish and habitat responses considered to be watershed-scale responses (i.e., measures more than local fish response, attempting to determine if the restoration has a population-scale impact for fish). Fish responses include but are not limited to a change in juvenile abundance (freshwater productivity) and adult spawning abundance or returns. Habitat responses include the in-stream and channel habitat conditions at a reach and watershed or population scale, associated with habitat restoration efforts. The IMWs are intended to be one of the key monitoring tools the board can use to inform its restoration activities and demonstrate the value of restoration broadly to external funding entities.

To keep restoration costs down, the monitored watersheds needed to be relatively small in size. It was not feasible to conduct the studies on the mainstems of larger rivers. The studies focus primarily on smaller streams, important for coho or steelhead, rather than Chinook, which tend to spawn in larger mainstem rivers. The one exception is the Skagit estuary study which benefits all species.

In the late 2000's, it became clear that restoration actions were not being implemented at a pace that the study designs intended or required. To help address this issue, in 2012 the board allocated \$6 million over 3 years to fund additional restoration projects in the IMW complexes. This funding reinforced the board's commitment to complete the IMWs and has enabled the implementation of restoration actions across Washington's 5 IMWs.

### **What Have We Learned?**

From the PNAMP IMW summary and associated analyses, information has been developed that informs us of:

- how and why restoration is or is not working,
- fish abundance and life history characteristics that can directly inform restoration priorities, and;
- the scale and location of restoration that will help us improve the effectiveness or efficiency of restoration.

### **Some Initial Key Findings** (for detailed findings see attachment A)

#### *Barrier Removal*

Barrier removal has consistently been associated with a positive fish response. At the Hood Canal IMW, replacing 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 IMW watersheds provided access to new spawning habitat used by salmon the season after the barrier was removed.

### Large Woody Debris

Fish response to large woody debris (LWD) treatments has varied for different reasons in different studies. An increase in parr-to-smolt survival of coho and steelhead was observed in one of the SJF watersheds, whereas 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 and in other assessments of wood placement indicate that more study is needed to understand where and why this restoration technique would be beneficial. Additional monitoring of the IMW sites should provide this important information.

### Life History

The IMW studies are revealing and reinforcing the importance of life history strategies and variation. This will become increasingly important in the face of changing conditions due to climate change. For example, results from the SJF IMW indicate that coho salmon that smolt in the spring after spending a full year in freshwater, have higher adult survival rates than the smolts that emigrate to fresh water 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 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.

### Estuaries

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 identify project designs that best achieve this objective.

## **Current Status and Timeline**

The IMW monitoring studies have been behind schedule due to the restoration treatment delays identified above. These delays will add an additional 5-10 years depending on the specifics of the IMW (highlighted below).

## **Timelines for IMW Completion**

Skagit IMW: Has not yet completed restoration actions. However, certain monitoring continues to take place during restoration implementation. This estuarine IMW is not among the freshwater complexes.

Lower Columbia IMW: Completed restoration actions in 2019 and the post-treatment monitoring study is anticipated to end by 2029-2031.

Juan de Fuca Straits IMW: Completed restoration using tribal and NOAA funds and post-treatment monitoring is expected to be complete by 2027-2028.

Hood Canal IMW: Completed the most recent and largest restoration projects in 2018 and 2021. Completion of post-treatment monitoring is anticipated in 9-12 years (by 2030-2032).

Asotin IMW: Completed all restoration actions. Completion of the post-treatment monitoring is anticipated in 3-4 years (by 2025-2026). This IMW is also tracking landscape recovery following wildfires in 2018 and 2019.

## **Fish in / Fish out Monitoring**

### **Background**

The original goal of the board's Fish in/Fish out program was to address funding gaps in statewide fish population monitoring. This effort directly informs freshwater habitat productivity. Based on monitoring recommendations from key statewide monitoring guidance documents – Comprehensive Monitoring Strategy and NOAA Fisheries Monitoring Guidance – the state needed to have a minimum number of salmon populations across the state monitored to assess freshwater productivity (fish in/fish out) for recovery. This minimum standard was established as at least one population (e.g., Skagit River) per major populations group (e.g., Northern Puget Sound MPG) per region or evolutionary significant units (e.g., Puget Sound). This was the minimum threshold set by NOAA and the Monitoring Forum.

### **Board Gap Funding**

The board first provided funding for juvenile fish monitoring in 2001 and the board's fish in/fish out program evolved to its current state in 2007, providing gap funding for 5 streams across the state. The board currently provides \$208,000 annually in gap funding for WDFW's fish in/fish out program to support the five index streams.

WDFW provides an annual report to the board and regularly uses these data to publish peer-review journal articles supporting restoration and salmon recovery science. WDFW also provides an annual summary of the index streams monitored with this funding.

## Floodplain Effectiveness Pilot

### Floodplain Effectiveness Monitoring Pilot

The board provided \$145,000 in 2021 for the floodplain effectiveness monitoring pilot study focused on evaluating the utility of using remote sensing technology (Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) to evaluate habitat. If effective, this approach will be an important tool as collecting LiDAR data is much less expensive and can be more informative at a reach or landscape scale than collecting individual habitat transect data.

The floodplain pilot replaced the project scale effectiveness study that concluded in 2016, with final report and subsequent reports in following years.

The pilot work is funded for one year and will conclude by the end of the calendar year 2022. The effort requires no additional funding.

## Board Options for Consideration

The board will make monitoring funding decisions at its June meeting. To prepare for that decision, the board asked the subcommittee to consider whether the efforts described above should continue and continue at current pace and scope. To better inform its deliberations, the subcommittee asked the board to consider five conceptual options. Specifically, the subcommittee asked the board to consider which of the options should be explored further and brought back for a decision. Of the five options presented below, the board asked the subcommittee to explore options 2, 3 and 4, and to exclude options 1 and 5:

**Option 1:** Status Quo – No Change in Funding or Work Priorities

**Option 2:** Redistribute Funds within IMWs for Synthesis/Analyses

**Option 3:** Reduce Other Board Monitoring Funds to fund Synthesis/Analysis (e.g., Fish in/Fish out or Floodplain Effectiveness)

**Option 4:** Reduce Funding for IMWs and Shift Investment to Existing or New Monitoring Programs

**Option 5:** Wholly Divest IMW Funding and Shift Investment to New or Existing Board

## Importance of a Summary Synthesis and Monitoring Strategy

Underpinning the options is the conclusion by the subcommittee that an overall summary synthesis and monitoring strategy is critically important to inform, guide, interpret and apply monitoring findings. Work to scope this summary synthesis has already begun by the monitoring panel. The major work of the subcommittee over the

last several months was spent exploring what options existed to fund the technical work of a synthesis and monitoring strategy.

As mentioned previously in the conclusions section above, it became apparent through the subcommittee process that existing resources can be leveraged to complete the technical work of a synthesis and monitoring strategy without compromising or financially impacting the board's current monitoring programs.

The below summary of options captures, briefly some of the subcommittee and technical lead discussions about the implications of shifting funding from the existing programs to fund the technical work of a synthesis and monitoring strategy.

### **Subcommittee Summary of Options 2, 3 and 4**

#### **Option 2: Redistribute Funds within IMWs for Synthesis/Analyses**

The technical leads for the IMWs identified many issues with shifting funds from the IMW data collection to fund a synthesis, even for one year.

- A 10-15 percent reduction in any single complex would result in the loss of an entire monitoring element (e.g., fish population, estuary monitoring, in-stream habitat monitoring, etc.).
- The funding reduction would result in delays in the findings by at least several years for any of the major categories (fish abundance, life history, or habitat).
- If the reduction was consolidated into one IMW rather than spreading evenly across all five IMWs, it would result in the loss of an entire complex. It would not be possible to restart an entire program for at least a few years after shutting it down.
- In many cases, WDFW, the Department of Ecology (ECY), or NOAA provides specialized in-kind support such as electrofishing, fish trapping, and fish tagging to support IMW monitoring. For example, WDFW provides the smolt trap in many IMW projects. Reducing funding would result in losing the ability to leverage this in-kind support.
- All the IMW programs receive funding from multiple sources. Reducing funding for monitoring would impact each of the monitoring program's ability to leverage the other funding sources, such as those contributed by tribes or PST.
- Reducing funding for one year would result in the loss of permanent seasonal technicians. A one-year reduction in staffing could result in several years of lost data due to the need to hire new technicians with the expertise to run a smolt trap, do adult sampling, or conduct field habitat monitoring.

The subcommittee recommended not pursuing option 2.

#### **Option 3: Reduce Other Board Monitoring Funds (Fish in/Fish out or Floodplain Pilot) to Fund Synthesis/Analysis**

##### **Fish in/Fish out**

SRFB funds provide partial gap funding for five separate WDFW fish in/fish out programs. Cutting the \$208,000 annual funding would end monitoring at all five of the WDFW sites, while a partial cut would result in reductions to specific WDFW programs. Below are the index streams and approximate costs for each:

- |                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| • Duckabush River             | \$80,000 |
| • Grays River                 | \$15,000 |
| • Touchet River               | \$58,000 |
| • Salmon Creek and Snow Creek | \$42,500 |
| • Wind River                  | \$12,500 |

Similar to the implications for IMW programs, shifting funding for fish monitoring for one year would eliminate the monitoring activity for several years, as it would take time to gear back up with equipment and the technical staff required to run smolt traps or conduct adult salmon spawning sampling.

This means that one year of reduced or eliminated funding would likely impact the ability to estimate freshwater productivity for several years. Fish population data and freshwater productivity is one of the primary tools scientists use to understand the factors or bottlenecks limiting recovery, based on salmon abundance, survival, or life history diversity, and how these characteristics relate to habitat conditions. This information is increasingly important as stream temperatures rise, stream flow becomes more extreme, and drought conditions increase. Having a 2-to-3-year gap in data collection could impact an entire salmon generation's worth of data analysis. Maintaining this annual data collection is important for understanding how freshwater habitat relates to fish population characteristics (abundance, survival, life history), and ocean conditions.

Given the importance of fish in/fish out for salmon population status and limiting factors analyses, there was general subcommittee agreement that the amount of savings from this shift in funding was not worth the cost of the lost data.

There were discussions among the subcommittee to explore other sources of funding to close this WDFW funding gap.

### **Floodplain Effectiveness Pilot / Floodplain proof-of-concept**

There are no negative implications of repurposing funding from the floodplain pilot program to provide partial funding for a more in-depth IMW synthesis because there is no funding earmarked for this work in the coming year. The field staff are still completing work with their original funding, and the pilot is expected to conclude at the end of calendar year 2022. Any funding available at the completion of this effort could be used to help support the summary synthesis and other technical work.

The subcommittee recommended pursuing a modified option 3 to use floodplain effectiveness monitoring funds. This modified option 3 is outlined below in the subcommittee recommendation section.



## **Option 4: Reduce Funding for IMWs and Shift Investment to Existing or New Monitoring Programs**

The implications for the IMW reductions are outlined above in Option 2.

Discussions among the subcommittee quickly concluded that a summary of what's been learned (a synthesis) and developing a monitoring strategy are both needed before any reasonable or substantial investments should be made in a starting an entirely new monitoring program.

The subcommittee recommended not pursuing option 4.

### **Subcommittee Recommendation and Motion Language**

#### **Subcommittee Recommendation for Modified Option 3: Use Effectiveness Monitoring Funds to Fund Synthesis/Analysis**

The subcommittee recommends that the board set aside up to \$75,000 from effectiveness monitoring funding to contribute to a summary synthesis and monitoring strategy. This funding and technical work will be augmented by in-kind support of the agency scientists and monitoring panel members. This synthesis will be fully scoped by the monitoring panel and provided to the board and technical leads at the September 2022 meeting.

The subcommittee recommends the board fund its current monitoring program of \$1,638,000 for IMWs and \$208,000 for fish in/fish out monitoring. Department of Ecology and WDFW will provide in-kind support and contribute to the summary synthesis.

The subcommittee recommends funding the monitoring panel at \$79,000.

The subcommittee recommends the board set aside up to \$350,000 for regional monitoring.

#### **Motions**

- Move to approve the allocation of \$1,638,000 to support the IMWs at their current levels and condition the contract agreement with ECY and WDFW to reflect a change in reporting requirements. The new condition requires the IMW principal investigators to participate in a summary synthesis, forgoing the need to submit 2022 annual reports for review.
- Move to fund the fish in / fish out program at its current level of \$208,000 and request that WDFW evaluate its funding programs to determine if it can fill this funding gap using internal funds.



- Move to approve the allocation of \$75,000 in effectiveness monitoring funding to complete a summary synthesis and scope the development of the monitoring strategy to guide the board's monitoring program.
- Move to approve the allocation of an additional \$79,000 for monitoring panel support.
- Move to approve the allocation of \$350,000 for regional monitoring.

## 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](https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/SRFB_Strategic_Plan.pdf)

## Attachments

Attachment A – IMW Synthesis Proposal

Attachment B -Executive Summary of the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program (PNAMP)

Attachment C – Strengthening the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Strategic Plan for Monitoring

Attachment D – Monitoring Panel Review of 2021 Annual Reports

## Attachment A

### Initial Scoping for a IMW Synthesis

(Developed by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Panel)

This document briefly highlights the need and outlines initial steps to scope an IMW synthesis. The SRFB IMWs (Hood Canal, Straits of Juan de Fuca, Lower Columbia) were established nearly 20 years ago to evaluate the extent to which habitat restoration could contribute to salmon recovery. Although these IMWs still require several additional years to fully evaluate ecosystem response to restoration treatments, enough information has been collected to support a preliminary synthesis of results to help inform restoration management and policy.

A recent region-wide evaluation of IMW results (PNAMP IMW Synthesis) demonstrated that many of the restoration treatments we are applying have a positive effect on habitat and fish. However, this review also identified some areas where our understanding of the linkages between restoration action, habitat modification, and fish response is incomplete. These areas of uncertainty could be further investigated using the data collected at the SRFB IMWs.

Two areas of uncertainty identified in the PNAMP IMW evaluation were fish and habitat response to wood addition and factors responsible for the density-dependence reported at many IMWs. The reason for variable habitat and fish population responses to wood addition, one of the most common habitat restoration treatments, is unclear. An improved understanding of the factors governing ecosystem response to wood placement could be gained through a more in-depth analysis of the responses seen at SRFB IMWs. Many of the SRFB IMWs have reported evidence of density-dependence. However, it is not clear what habitat features are primarily responsible for constraining fish production. The proposed IMW synthesis will include an evaluation of the habitat factors responsible for density-dependence, hopefully, improving the processes used to identify limiting factors. Improved understanding of ecosystem response to wood and enhanced ability to identify factors limiting fish production will both support more effective salmon and steelhead recovery strategies and enable us to establish more realistic expectations about the contribution freshwater habitat restoration can make to salmon recovery.

#### **Proposed Process**

The IMW synthesis will be conducted by the scientists leading the SRFB IMW evaluations (Hood-Canal-Joe Anderson; Straits of Juan de Fuca – George Pess, Lower Columbia-Marisa Litz) and the IMW coordinating panel (Bill Ehinger, Tim Quinn, Bob Bilby). This team will coordinate with the SRFB Monitoring Panel to ensure the synthesis is addressing SRFB priorities. Existing IMW and Monitoring Panel budgets will be sufficient to cover this effort. A final report will be completed by early 2023.

*Supplemental response from the Straits IMW complex as key findings*

**At the Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW complex we have learned the following:**

Wood placement as a restoration action in the SJF IMW over the last two decades has altered watershed-scale stream habitat characteristics. These changes have translated to increases in survival relative to control sites during the freshwater life stage for coho salmon and steelhead for the last decade. The signal would not have been seen if there was no study design and a control and treatment watershed.

PIT tag efforts over the last two decades in SJF watersheds have identified multiple life history strategies employed by coho salmon and steelhead. The proportion of fall coho salmon migrants to subsequent spring smolt migrants can be nearly equal in years of low numbers of juveniles, or up to 2-3 times the number of spring smolt migrants in years of high numbers. Fall migrants contribute to the adult coho salmon return and comprise nearly 1/3 of the adult escapement. 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, therefore, be an especially effective restoration objective.

Low adult returns, due to low marine survival and other factors, produce too few juveniles to utilize available habitat. This means that chronic, low adult returns lead to under-seeding of available stream or estuarine habitat, i.e., too few juvenile fish to utilize available habitat. As a result, increasing habitat availability has little effect on fish abundance.

From a technology standpoint, at the start of the IMW project, our PIT tag arrays were periodically rendered inoperable by high levels of electromagnetic interference, aka "noise," at seemingly random times. As we learned, many PIT tag antenna sites across the Pacific Northwest were experiencing the same phenomenon. Our sites have provided a testing platform for the FE Electronics Shop staff to track down the source of the noise. They were able to determine that the Canadian Navy was broadcasting on the same frequency that the PIT tag transceivers use to detect tags. When the Canadian Navy transmitted, our sites were blanked out. This knowledge led to research and development efforts to "harden" the sites to the interference and maintain continuous detection ability. In addition, the streams we work in are prone to very large, channel-changing events with bed-load movement and high amounts of debris. We have learned anchoring and deflecting techniques that are applicable to other installations subject to similar conditions.

Associated papers which these results come from include the following:

Bennett, T.R., Wissmar, R.C. and Roni, P., 2011. Fall and spring emigration timing of juvenile coho salmon from East Twin River, Washington. Northwest Science, 85(4), pp.562-570.

Roni, P., Bennett, T., Holland, R., Pess, G., Hanson, K., Moses, R., McHenry, M., Ehinger, W. and Walter, J., 2012. Factors affecting migration timing, growth, and survival of juvenile coho salmon in two coastal Washington watersheds. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 141(4), pp.890-906.

Bennett, T.R., Roni, P., Denton, K., McHenry, M. and Moses, R., 2015. Nomads no more: early juvenile coho salmon migrants contribute to the adult return. *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*, 24(2), pp.264-275.

Hall, J., Roni, P., Bennett, T., McMillan, J., Hanson, K., Moses, R., McHenry, M., Pess, G. and Ehinger, W., 2016. Life history diversity of steelhead in two coastal Washington watersheds. *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, 145(5), pp.990-1005.

Pess, G, M. McHenry, M. Liermann, and T. Beechie. To be submitted. How does over two decades of active wood reintroduction result in changes to aquatic habitats of a forested river system? *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*.

## Attachment B

### PNAMP Executive Summary



pacific northwest aquatic  
monitoring partnership

## Management Implications from Pacific Northwest Intensively Monitored Watersheds

Robert Bilby<sup>a</sup>, Amelia Johnson<sup>b</sup>, and John R. Foltz<sup>c</sup>

a – Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (contractor), Olympia, WA 98504

b – Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Vancouver, WA 98682

c – Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, Dayton, WA 99328

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## Executive Summary

Many salmon and steelhead populations in the Pacific Northwest have been assigned protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act over the last 30 years. A considerable investment in the restoration of freshwater and estuarine habitat has been made to address this problem. However, there is a desire to provide better quantification and evidence that these efforts lead to improvements in watershed processes, habitat conditions and therefore salmon and steelhead viability. This information gap led to the establishment of Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs) in the early 2000s. An intensively monitored watershed is an experiment in one or more catchments with a well-developed, long-term monitoring program to determine watershed-scale fish and habitat responses to restoration actions. The IMW approach is still considered an effective experimental design for evaluating watershed-scale salmon and steelhead responses to habitat restoration.

This report compiles general results to date from 13 IMWs across the Pacific Northwest and provides an initial indication of the management implications of these studies. The IMWs included in this report are evaluating a wide range of restoration actions; all but one IMW has implemented two or more different treatment types. The most common restoration types evaluated by the IMWs are large wood addition, riparian restoration, and barrier removal. Fish species included in the IMW evaluations include steelhead, Chinook and Coho salmon, Bull Trout, and Pacific Lamprey. Eleven of the IMWs indicated they are targeting more than one anadromous species.

This synthesis of IMW results is in no way intended to imply that these studies have completed data collection and analysis. All IMWs have applied restoration treatments and are engaged in post-treatment monitoring; however, only two IMWs have completed their assessment of habitat and fish response to restoration.

## Core Messages

This synthesis project identified a set of core messages that reflect collective findings across the IMWs from results reported by the IMWs. The core messages are segregated into three categories: Habitat and Fish Responses, Management and Coordination of Restoration Implementation, and Current Research Priorities and Future Opportunities. These messages can be used to help identify future research opportunities and be used to improve the effectiveness of habitat restoration and salmon recovery programs.

The 12 fish and habitat response core messages indicate that many of the implemented restoration methods improve aquatic habitat and elicit a positive fish response (Executive Summary Table 1). Habitat responses to treatments reported by the IMWs indicate that 76% showed a positive response, 2% a negative response, and 22% no change. Fish responses reported by the IMWs included 52% identifying a positive response, 3% a negative response, and 45% no change. Several treatment types appeared to be consistently effective. Removal of fish passage impediments, such as dams and culverts, were consistently associated with increased access to habitat and a positive fish response across IMWs. This result is consistent with previous studies done at a reach or project scale. Similarly, enhancing fish access to floodplain or tidal delta habitat by removing barriers or encouraging beaver colonization increased abundance and growth of salmon and steelhead at most IMWs where this treatment type was evaluated. Preliminary results are less clear though for habitat and fish responses to large wood placement: some IMWs noted positive responses while others have yet to observe a response. The need to better understand how large wood restoration may support achieving watershed and population-scale goals is recommended given how common this treatment type is in restoration programs.

Positive fish responses were most commonly observed for smolt and juvenile life stages along with changes in distribution and life history diversity (Executive Summary Table 1). There were few IMWs that reported an increase in abundance of returning adult fish. Many IMWs noted that poor marine survival and factors impacting fish outside the area where habitat treatments were applied, such as harvest, hydropower, and hatchery programs, all could limit the capacity of adult fish to respond to improvements in freshwater and estuarine habitat conditions. One or more of these external factors affected fish at every IMW. The fact that some salmon

populations are impacted by factors other than habitat conditions does not imply that habitat restoration is not beneficial; high-quality freshwater and estuarine habitat can support population resiliency by enhancing fish capacity to persist in the face of climate change or severe disturbance events (e.g., major floods, wildfire).

Identifying the full suite of factors affecting salmon and steelhead should occur at project establishment and specific intervals following implementation. This process is essential for restoration and recovery programs to establish realistic expectations of fish response to habitat improvements.

This synthesis of IMW results is intended to provide a preliminary indication of the management-relevant information generated by the IMWs. It became abundantly clear during this synthesis process that further monitoring is necessary to fully evaluate habitat and fish response to restoration treatments. To address this knowledge gap, seven research priorities and opportunities are identified in this report. These core messages build on preliminary results and the wealth of data and information from the IMWs and may help habitat restoration and salmon recovery programs better adapt over time to changing conditions and threats, as well as better understand expectations of habitat and fish response. For instance, there is still uncertainty in how habitat restoration may influence marine survival or provide a resiliency buffer to climate change or out-of-basin impacts from harvest, hydropower facilities and other management programs. IMWs are well situated to help answer these types of questions because of their long-term data sets, wide range of targeted species, spatially diverse locations, and existing monitoring community and infrastructure support.

## Recommended Actions

To support application of core messages, ten actions are identified in the Recommended Management and Policy Actions section of this report. These actions are to:

1. Build restoration plans and strategies at watershed scales and within a context of all potential impacts to salmon and steelhead viability.
2. Prioritize restoration methods based on aspects of restoration technique effectiveness like cost and certainty of success.
3. Implement restoration actions at continuous, landscape scales.
4. Prioritize and support the development of formal adaptive management processes across recovery and restoration programs.
5. Regularly communicate among IMW monitoring leads and local stakeholders to refine habitat restoration programs based on study results, and to facilitate adaptive management.
6. Support and implement natural resource programs at watershed and salmon and steelhead species scales.
7. Provide stable, long-term support for fish and habitat monitoring.
8. Consider converting some of the IMWs to long-term research sites.
9. Provide support for restoration planning and permitting to accelerate implementation timeframes.
10. Communicate with stakeholders about their expectations of habitat restoration.

These actions are directed at salmon conservation and recovery program managers, watershed restoration program managers, and habitat project practitioners to provide guidance and support program effectiveness. **These recommendations reflect the importance of upfront**

**and broad coordination to build, maintain and adaptively manage watershed and population-scale restoration and monitoring programs.**

IMWs still remain one of the most promising tools to improve understanding of watershed-scale fish and habitat responses to habitat restoration actions. IMWs also provide opportunities to better understand other aspects of salmon ecology and watershed processes: multiple studies identified a diversity of life history strategies through the intensive, life-cycle monitoring that IMWs rely on, and monitoring activities have also captured climate change events, like drought and fires, that restoration programs must account for moving forward. This report illustrates the value of the information being produced by IMWs and

highlights the need for improved methods for incorporating future IMW findings into the processes for selecting restoration projects.

## How to Read This Report

We recommend that readers start their review with the twenty-six core messages in the report. Each core message includes supporting IMW examples and were discussed and reviewed with IMW monitoring program leads. The core messages inform the ten recommended actions in the following section. This part of the report can also be reviewed independently and most directly benefits the policy and management communities. To better understand how each individual IMW fits into the collective report messages, Appendix 1 contains summary tables with study design, results, and additional resources details and links for each IMW. Finally, Appendix 2 includes supporting information that informed the workshops and core message development with the participating IMW representatives.

**Executive Summary Table 1:** Summary of habitat and fish responses to restoration at the 13 IMWs included in this report. Percentages (in parentheses) reflect the proportion of IMWs in which a particular response was measured. The composite response metric is the average of the response measures that showed positive response, negative response, or no change after restoration. Positive and negative changes do not necessarily represent statistically significant changes. In many cases this summary table is based upon incomplete data and data collection and analysis are still ongoing.

Habitat Response	Positive	Negative	No Change
Riparian quality or quantity	7 (88%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)
Channel or channel units quality or quantity	11 (92%)	0 (0%)	1 (8%)
Floodplain or estuarine lateral connectivity	10 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Longitudinal connectivity	10 (91%)	0 (0%)	1 (9%)
Habitat complexity	9 (75%)	0 (0%)	3 (25%)
Sediment quality	7 (70%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)
Sinuosity	5 (83%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)
Stream width:depth	6 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Temperature improvements	4 (33%)	0 (0%)	8 (66%)
Flow improvements	4 (44%)	0 (0%)	5 (55%)
Water quality improvements	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	3 (60%)



## Attachment B

Primary and/or secondary production improvements	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>Composite Habitat Response Metric</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Fish Response</b>			
Marine survival	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (100%)
Adult abundance	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	6 (67%)
Redd numbers	2 (25%)	0 (0%)	6 (75%)
Smolt production	8 (67%)	0 (0%)	4 (33%)
Juvenile abundance	7 (70%)	0 (0%)	3 (30%)
Juvenile density	5 (56%)	0 (0%)	4 (44%)
Juvenile survival	7 (64%)	0 (0%)	4 (36%)
Juvenile growth or size	3 (27%)	1 (9%)	7 (64%)
Juvenile residence time	4 (67%)	1 (17%)	1 (17%)
Life history diversity	5 (83%)	0 (0%)	1 (17%)
Fish distribution	7 (88%)	0 (0%)	1 (13%)
<b>Composite Fish Response Metric</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>45%</b>

DRAFT

**Attachment C****Strengthening the Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
Strategic Plan for Monitoring**

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Strategic Plan identifies four desired goals for the SRFB monitoring strategy: 1) accounting for implementation of SRFB projects, 2) assessment of project effectiveness, 3) supporting and coordinating statewide monitoring projects, and 4) adaptively managing board funding policies based on monitoring results. The Strategic Plan provides no further elaboration.

The Monitoring Panel strongly recommends building on the Strategic Plan by providing additional guidance on specifying objectives, criteria for making decisions, the kinds of information needed to inform those criteria, how to communicate that information, and the roles of different SRFB groups in supporting these goals. This kind of guidance - which is often part of strategic plans - would greatly strengthen the SRFB's work and the value the Monitoring Panel and monitoring community can bring to that work. It would help the monitoring project investigators and the Monitoring Panel provide the kind of information and interpretation the SRFB needs for decisions. It would increase transparency. It would provide the continuity necessary to build a robust program as SRFB members, Monitoring Panel scientists, and RCO staff change. It would support many of the other SRFB values identified in the Strategic Plan.

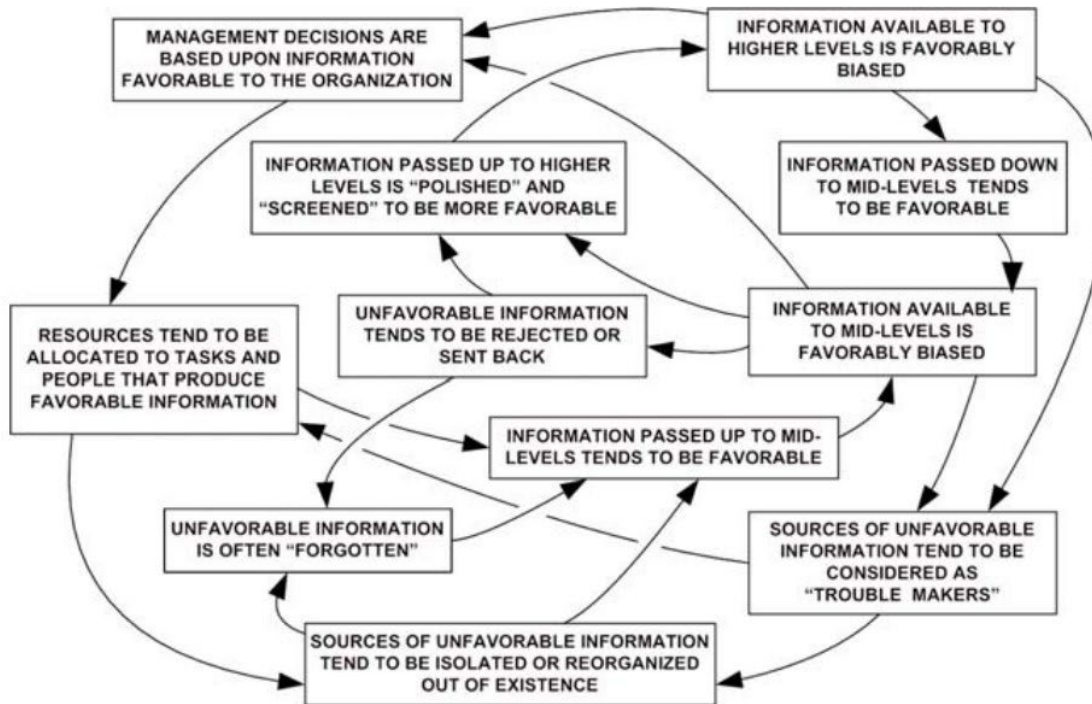
It is perhaps not surprising that much of the Monitoring Panel, SRFB Monitoring Subgroup, and staff efforts to inform monitoring funding strategies - most recently with a special interest in the SRFB's intensively monitored watersheds - has generated unanswered questions about these very same things. Although we are working to provide the information the SRFB needs, we know these same questions will come up again and again. It makes more sense to us for the SRFB to invest in building a guiding framework to achieve the goals and values described in the Strategic Plan rather than to reinvent a process each time. We are happy to help if the SRFB decides to pursue this.

***What is the risk of not following an objective, structured process for making monitoring decisions?***

Almost all management decisions are made with imperfect knowledge. i.e., less than complete certainty, but following a rigorous process for utilizing scientific information when weighing the pros and cons of different alternatives reduces the possibility of making misguided choices. A central question of the SRFB Strategic Plan for salmon

recovery is “Are we doing the right things, at the right places, and at the right times to recover fish populations and their freshwater and estuarine habitats?”. The current portfolio of projects supported by the SRFB includes long-term studies of intensively monitored watersheds (IMWs) in which multiple restoration actions have taken place, project effectiveness monitoring (individual project efficacy at the restoration site scale), reach-scale effectiveness monitoring (currently focusing on remote sensing of floodplain restoration), and regional monitoring (a diverse set of monitoring projects identified as regional priorities). Except for reach-scale effectiveness monitoring, now in a pilot testing phase, the other elements of the SRFB monitoring portfolio have been in place for more than a decade. How well are they providing information to answer the central question, and how well has the information from these projects been used to plan and implement better restoration actions?

Policy-makers need access to accurate information if they are to make the best funding decisions. However, there is a risk that if the information used to inform decisions is biased in some way, choices are likely to reflect this bias and management actions may result in unintended consequences. In many organizations there is a systemic tendency to pass along “good news” and suppress “bad news”, and this tendency can be especially harmful to monitoring efforts. An example is the failure of the O-rings that led to the explosion of the Challenger space shuttle solid rocket booster in 1986. Preliminary monitoring had shown that the O-rings were vulnerable to failure at low temperatures, but the evidence for this risk had not been convincingly transferred to the command authorities. Bella (1987) reviewed the circumstances behind the Challenger disaster and attempted to show in the following general diagram how favorable information can be passed along to decision-makers and unfavorable information can be suppressed.



Start anywhere on this diagram. A forward direction on an arrow means "therefore" and backward on an arrow means "because". From Bella (1987)<sup>1</sup>.

In order to guard against the tendency to reward good news and de-emphasize disappointing news it important that information from monitoring programs be treated objectively and consistently as it is communicated to policy-makers as well as project managers and practitioners.

This is why, as stated above, the Monitoring Panel recommends that the SRFB develop additional guidance on specifying objectives, criteria for making decisions, the kinds of information needed to inform those criteria, how to communicate that information, and the roles of different SRFB groups in supporting these goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Bella, D. A. 1987. Organizations and systematic distortion of information. Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering 113(4):360-370.

## Attachment D

### Monitoring Panel Compilation of 2021 Annual Report reviews

**From:** [Gorman, Thomas \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Subject:** DNR partner update  
**Date:** Sunday, June 5, 2022 12:44:53 PM

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Hi Julia,

Below is an update from DNR. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks!

Tom

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DNR had two pieces of legislation pass the 2022 supplemental session.

- HB 1700 – DVRP bill will deposit 25% of the watercraft excise tax into the Derelict Vessel Removal Account each biennium. This will create consistent funding, so DVRP can remove more vessels each year.
  - HB 1700 = \$4.284M added to DVRA in FY23
- SB 5619 – Kelp and eelgrass conservation bill will develop a collaborative planning process to assess and prioritize areas for conservation and restoration of kelp and eelgrass throughout Puget Sound and the outer coast. This bill also includes funding to take the next steps highlighted in the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan and the Puget Sound Eelgrass Recovery Strategy.
  - SB 5619 = \$1.149M of GF-S in FY23

Also, DNR had several other funding developments. Here are some of the highlights:

- Puget Sound Corps received \$2M from the Salmon Recovery Account for FY23 operations.
- DNR received \$5M of GFS for FY2023 and it is provided solely for a pilot project to improve salmon habitat across the department's aquatic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural lands.
  - \$2M is provided solely to improve nearshore habitat by accelerating restoration of state-owned aquatic lands.
  - \$3M is provided solely to improve riparian function, including riparian planting and riparian set-asides on state-owned lands.

Lastly, in recent months, DNR finalized a Watershed Resilience Action Plan for the Snohomish Watershed (WRIA 7) – this is a cross-program effort and the development included many partners. DNR has a dashboard available and one particular outcome that was recently completed was the development of the Snohomish Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone. Commissioner Franz used a Commissioner's withdrawal order to remove ~2,300 acres from the aquatic land leasing program.

**From:** [Cram, Jeremy \(DFW\)](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Written State Partner Reports  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 4:37:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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WDFW received approximately \$250k to evaluate the removal of Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River, \$8.6M to fight European green crab invasion, \$2.3M to improve harvest monitoring on the coast, in Puget Sound, and in freshwater fisheries, \$721k to monitor forage fish that are important to salmon, \$2.4M for improved and expanded freshwater productivity monitoring, \$3M of passthrough funds to support reintroduction of salmon in the Columbia River upstream from Chief Joseph Dam, \$1.3M to begin the integration of salmon recovery into growth management, and \$4.28M to expand hatchery monitoring and evaluation programs statewide.

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**From:** [Hoffmann, Annette \(ECY\)](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Subject:** Ecology partner report  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 4:29:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Hi Julie

Here is what I would have reported:

.....

ECY Report: Focus on 6ppd-q in tire dust, lethal effects on salmon how ECY is urgently moving forward with diverse solutions to address 6PPD-quinone

In 2020, scientists at University of Washington (Tacoma) discovered 6PPD-quinone (6ppd-q), a chemical that is killing salmon in urban streams before they can spawn. 6PPD-q comes from 6PPD, which is a chemical preservative found in tires. When 6PPD reacts with ozone, it becomes 6PPD-q. When rain mixes with 6PPD-q, it is flushed into urban streams, becoming lethal to migrating coho salmon.

Looking toward the future means eliminating 6PPD in tires and we are collaborating with Washington State University and University of Washington – Tacoma to identify safer alternatives to use in tires.

In the meantime we are working to address stormwater infrastructure and management and have taken the following steps:

- 1) Conducted a hazard assessment of 6PPD and nine other antioxidants and anti-ozonants.
- 2) Doubled our funding to local governments to implement local stormwater management programs.
- 3) Continue our existing best management practices, such as bio-retention or rain gardens that act to prevent transporting pollution or providing stormwater treatment that can lessen the effects of 6PPD until source control is achieved. Bio-retention works by binding the 6PPD-q and/or removing tire particulates containing the parent chemical 6PPD.
- 4) Developed laboratory methods to identify 6PPDQ in water samples and are developing methods to identify 6PPD-quinone in sediment from rivers and lakes.
- 5) Collaborate with Tribal governments, federal and local agencies, and non-profit organizations to identify vulnerable aquatic habitats where roads and streams meet. Scientific collaboration is working to identify other data gaps and research needs.

We appreciate the legislative support we've received to do this important work. We were provided proviso funding in 2021-23 and supplemental funding through 2022. We will use what is learned on stormwater source control, best management practices and treatment devices to inform Ecology stormwater guidance and permits.

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**Annette Hoffmann, Ph.D.**  
Environmental Assessment Program Manager  
WA State Dept. of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey WA



PO Box 47710  
Olympia, WA 98504-7710  
Desk: 360-407-6699  
Cell: 360-972-6113  
[Annette.Hoffmann@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Annette.Hoffmann@ecy.wa.gov)

**EAP –science serving the environment**



Goal 1: Support and engage our communities, customers, and employees



Goal 2: Reduce and prepare for climate impacts



Goal 3: Prevent and reduce toxic threats and pollution



Goal 4: Protect and manage our state's waters



Goal 5: Protect and restore Puget Sound

**From:** [Kanzler, Susan](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Written Partner Report Update  
**Date:** Monday, June 6, 2022 3:25:29 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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### External Email

Hi, Julia.

Here are my updates:

The Washington Legislature passed a ten-year transportation revenue package called Move Ahead Washington, that includes \$2.4 billion in funding to fulfill the state's obligation to remove fish barriers through 2030. This summer, WSDOT plans on correcting 16 fish passage barriers, opening 32 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat.

I also want to highlight a shoreline [restoration project](#) our Ferries Program recently completed near the Tahlequah Ferry Terminal at the southern end of Vashon Island. This project was a partnership between WA State Ferries and King County. Last Fall we restored 700 feet of shoreline by removing a failing creosote and concrete bulkhead and used nature-based solutions such as planting native vegetation for soft-armoring. Soft shoreline stabilization projects balance the need to control erosion while maintaining and enhancing shoreline ecological functions. Options include using large wood or gravel berms to provide wave protection, and vegetation and improved drainage to stabilize slopes. The project also provided fish access to nearly 5,000 feet of stream through Tahlequah Creek, beach nourishment, and more habitat for forage fish. This work was done as part of our [2021-2023 Washington State Ferries Sustainability Action Plan \(SAP\)](#) (PDF 2MB). The plan includes goals related to reducing emissions with hybrid electric technology, incorporating the most current environmental practices into our terminal and vessel maintenance, and promoting biodiversity.

Thanks,  
Susan

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**Julia McNamara** (she/her)

Board Liaison

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

C 360-819-3345 | TDD call 711 | <https://rco.wa.gov>



**From:** [Mulvihill-Kuntz, Jason](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Abbott, Jeanne \(GSRO\)](#); [Byron, Carrie](#); [Nelson, Carla](#)  
**Subject:** WRIA 8 comment letter -- decision for allocating 2022 Supplemental Budget funding for salmon habitat restoration  
**Date:** Monday, May 16, 2022 4:39:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[WRIA8\\_SRFB\\_salmon\\_funding\\_comments.pdf](#)

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External Email

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Dear Chair Breckel,

Please find attached a letter from the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council to you as Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), to provide comments on the SRFB's consideration at the June 2 meeting of the approach for allocating the \$75 million legislative appropriation to the Recreation and Conservation Office for salmon habitat restoration projects.

WRIA 8 appreciates the opportunity to share our thinking and recognizes the challenges involved in determining how to allocate scarce resources. Thank you for your work and that of the SRFB to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon recovery. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best regards,  
Jason

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz  
Salmon Recovery Manager  
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)  
[jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov) | 206-477-4780

# WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL

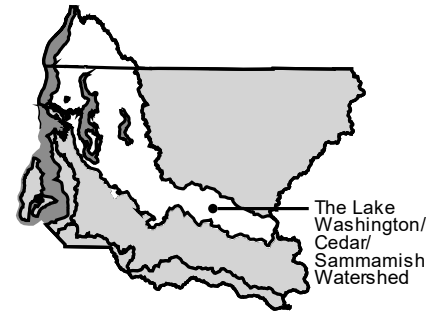


Beaux Arts Village  
Bellevue  
Bothell  
Clyde Hill  
Edmonds  
Everett  
Hunts Point  
Issaquah  
Kenmore  
Kent  
King County  
Kirkland  
Lake Forest Park  
Maple Valley  
Medina  
Mercer Island  
Mill Creek  
Mountlake Terrace  
Mukilteo  
Newcastle  
Redmond  
Renton  
Sammamish  
Seattle  
Shoreline  
Snohomish County  
Woodinville  
Woodway  
Yarrow Point

Alderwood Water and  
Wastewater District  
The Boeing Company  
Cedar River Council  
Forterra  
Friends of the Issaquah  
Salmon Hatchery  
Mid-Sound Fisheries  
Enhancement Group  
Mountains to Sound  
Greenway Trust  
National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
Sno-King Watershed Council  
Trout Unlimited  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Washington Departments:  
Ecology  
Fish and Wildlife  
Natural Resources  
Washington Association of  
Sewer and Water Districts  
Washington Policy Center  
Water Tenders

May 16, 2022

Jeff Breckel, Chair  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
c/o Recreation and Conservation Office  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917



RE: 2022 Supplemental funding decision – approach for allocating salmon habitat restoration funding

Dear Chair Breckel,

On behalf of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council (Council), we wish to share our input on the approach for distributing the recent \$75 million legislative appropriation to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for salmon habitat restoration projects. We understand the legislature intends for \$50 million of the funding to support large projects over \$5 million and \$25 million to support projects of any size. We thank all who worked hard to secure additional funding for salmon recovery. We understand the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) may decide on the allocation of these funds at its June 2 meeting, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on how this much-needed investment can be most effectively allocated to support salmon habitat protection and restoration.

As the local salmon recovery Lead Entity, WRIA 8 guides salmon recovery planning, prioritization, and implementation. Our membership is comprised of 29 local government partners, and representatives from state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders with an interest in salmon recovery and watershed health. The WRIA 8 Council recommends that the \$25 million for habitat restoration projects of any size be allocated based on the existing regional allocation percentages and Lead Entity process, and that these funds be available to projects included on the 2022 or 2023 project lists as recommended by the regions. Lead Entities would receive funding for projects based on each region's existing sub-allocation process. Regions would work with their constituent Lead Entities to identify the amounts to apply to each year's project list(s), with any funding a region does not utilize in 2022 available to that region for allocation in 2023.

This proposed approach appropriately utilizes the existing region/Lead Entity process and structure. It allows regions and Lead Entities to use some or all their portion of the \$25 million in 2022, in case they have robust project lists with funding needs beyond available funding amounts, but also allows regions and Lead Entities the flexibility to defer some funding for use next year if they determine that would result in better, more fully developed projects. WRIA 8 would likely take a hybrid approach, allocating some funding to projects on this year's list and holding some for a larger grant round next year when we anticipate significant funding requests for several priority projects.

Regarding the \$50 million intended for projects with funding requests greater than \$5 million, WRIA 8 understands the intention is to allocate some of this funding to unfunded projects on existing grant program project lists such as the PSAR Large Capital Program. We support this direction but also encourage the SRFB to consider allocating funding to other important projects not on existing project lists from previous grant rounds. The Puget Sound Partnership maintains a list of "legacy projects," which are large, complex, and beyond the scope of traditional grant funding programs and could be supported with this funding. In addition, a future round of the Targeted Investment program, if expanded to allow for more than one submission per region, could be an effective method of allocating this funding to priorities such as orca recovery. We encourage the SRFB to make this funding available for acquisition and design projects as well as restoration-only projects to support the pipeline of project development.

We urge the SRFB to decide on the process for using the \$25 million at its June 2 meeting, so that Lead Entities can finalize 2022 project lists accordingly and initiate 2023 project development work with project sponsors as soon as possible. To inform decision-making for how to most effectively allocate the \$50 million, we encourage the SRFB to share and provide an opportunity to comment on alternatives under consideration.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in determining how to allocate scarce resources. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon recovery. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-477-4780 or [jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov](mailto:jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John Stokes  
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
Councilmember, City of Bellevue



Vanessa Kritzer  
Vice-Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council  
Councilmember, City of Redmond

Cc: Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
Jeannie Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
Megan Duffy, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Scott Robinson, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Brock Milliern, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Marc Duboiski, Recreation and Conservation Office  
David Troutt, Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council  
Laura Blackmore, Puget Sound Partnership  
Amber Moore, Puget Sound Partnership  
Alex Conley, Chair, Council of Regions  
Mike Lithgow, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition  
WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members

# WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA 9 (WRIA 9) WATERSHED ECOSYSTEM FORUM



Algona  
Auburn  
Black Diamond  
Burien  
Covington  
Des Moines  
Enumclaw  
Federal Way  
Kent  
King County  
Maple Valley  
Normandy Park  
Renton  
SeaTac  
Seattle  
Tacoma  
Tukwila

American Rivers  
The Boeing Company  
Covington Water District  
Green/Duwamish Watershed Alliance  
Green River Coalition  
King Conservation District  
King County Flood Control District  
Master Builders Association  
Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group  
Port of Seattle  
Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands (SHADOW)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Green-Duwamish Urban Waters Partnership  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Natural Resources

May 13, 2022

Chair Jeff Breckel  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
c/o Recreation and Conservation Office  
PO Box 40917  
Olympia, WA 98504-0917



Re: 2022 Supplemental funding decision: \$75M Salmon Recovery Account Appropriation

Dear Chair Breckel,

As Lead Entity for the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9), the Watershed Ecosystem Forum (Forum) respectfully submits the following comments for your consideration on the recent legislative appropriation of \$75 million to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for salmon habitat restoration projects. It is our understanding the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) may decide on the allocation of these funds at its June 2 meeting. First and foremost, this funding is a big win for Washington salmon, and we want to congratulate everyone involved in securing this critically needed investment to advance recovery efforts.

RCO received \$25M to support watershed projects valued at less than \$5M. We strongly support the Washington Salmon Coalition's recommendation that this funding be provided to lead entities to support ongoing implementation of local watershed salmon recovery plans and associated prioritized project lists. The existing lead entity process and structure provide science-driven and resource appropriate allocation that recognizes the statewide lift necessary to achieve salmon recovery. Given the timing of the potential availability of funds, we also request that lead entities be provided enough flexibility to utilize these funds to support both 2022 and 2023 project lists, ensuring funding goes to the highest quality, most strategic projects.

RCO also received \$50 million to support projects valued at more than \$5 million. Although not specifically stated in the legislation, we assume that this funding was intended to fund larger, regionally significant projects expected to move the needle on recovery. While Targeted Investment could provide a mechanism to distribute these funds, the new program is untested and was not designed to accommodate this level of funding (i.e., limitation of one project per region). As such, we encourage the SRFB to consider distributing a significant portion of this funding via the existing regional allocation formula to allow the salmon recovery

Financial support provided by signers of Watershed Planning Interlocal Agreement for WRIA 9 including:  
Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Burien, Covington, Des Moines, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, Seattle, Tacoma, Tukwila

regions to work within their established frameworks (e.g., PSAR) to achieve the highest and best outcomes for salmon.

We request that the SRFB provide clarity on project eligibility for this level of funding, ensuring whole project costs – from acquisition to final construction - are accounted for when classifying projects that exceed the \$5M threshold. We are confident whole project accounting will deliver better project outcomes faster, matching the urgency facing salmon recovery. Expanding eligibility to include acquisition and design will also help ensure we continue to support a robust project development pipeline that helps position project sponsors for future influxes of funding.

WRIA 9 appreciates the challenges involved allocating scarce resources and the urgency behind moving forward with critically needed restoration work. Although we urge the SRFB to decide on the allocation of the \$25M in funding at the June 2 meeting, we urge you share and provide an adequate opportunity for the larger salmon recovery community to comment on the potential alternatives being considered for the \$50M before taking formal action.

Thank you for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon recovery. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Goehring, WRIA 9 Salmon Recovery Manager, at 206-263-6826 or [mgoehring@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mgoehring@kingcounty.gov)

Sincerely,



Lisa Herbold  
Councilmember, City of Seattle  
Co-Chair, WRIA 9  
Watershed Ecosystem Forum



Chris Stearns  
Councilmember, City of Auburn  
Co-Chair, WRIA 9  
Watershed Ecosystem Forum

cc: Megan Duffy, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
Jeannie Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office  
Brock Milliern, Recreation and Conservation Office  
David Troutt, Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council  
Laura Blackmore, Puget Sound Partnership  
Amber Moore, Puget Sound Partnership  
Mike Lithgow, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition  
WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum members





The mission of the Washington Salmon Coalition is to support and strengthen the 25 Lead Entities in Washington State in their endeavor to restore, enhance, and protect salmonids and their habitats in a scientifically-sound manner that engages local communities and supports our economy.

Washington Salmon Coalition  
Input on Discussion Topics for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Retreat  
April 22, 2022

### **Cost increases problem statement**

We are seeing unprecedented, across the board project cost increases. Approved project budgets change dramatically as real construction bids come in. Materials are more expensive and some important items, such as culverts, are in short supply. Supply chain issues are exacerbating the problem. Contractors are, in turn, raising their own rates. Real estate costs are also rising. Many of these cost increases are unpredictable, making developing proposal budgets challenging for project sponsors.

### **Existing Processes**

There are existing processes in place to address inevitable project cost increases, but they may not be adequate for the unusual cost increases we are experiencing now. RCO/SRFB do set aside funding for cost increases when available (this biennium \$500K/ fiscal year) and RCO/SRFB returned funds can be used for cost overruns. This requires a SRFB decision. Current ways we can accommodate cost increases for SRFB-funded projects include:

- PSAR and PSAR large cap uses returned funds to support cost increases
- PSAR large cap funds are set aside for other large cap projects. Other PSAR can go to other projects
- Reducing the scope of the project
- This year, some LEs are looking to allocate 2022 SRFB funds to previously funded projects with cost increases to ensure they are fully funded and implemented by putting those projects on a SRFB project list.
- Seeking additional grant funds through non-SRFB sources
- Apply a phased project approach and ask for smaller amounts of money each grant round
- Time extensions

### **Cost increases problem suggested solutions**

- Encourage sponsors to create budgets that includes a buffer for contingency (not a contingency line item, which isn't currently allowed by SRFB). Include justification for those costs.
- Develop a standard list of costs statewide or by region (materials, land, cultural resources, etc.).
- Educate review panel about project cost realities and RCO's guidance to include contingency in each budget
- RCO could hold a larger cost increase fund.

## **Matching funds problem statement**

Matching funds requirements continue to be a barrier to project implementation for many project sponsors, especially those working with private landowners who cannot typically provide cash match. Since the intent of grant programs asking sponsors to provide matching funds has been to show community support and project buy-in, it is ironic that landowner involvement is not adequately reflected in match accounting. Landowners are typically able to show their support through allowing access to their lands, providing upkeep and maintenance, providing a bargain sale, and even lending a hand to project implementation – these demonstrate support but do not provide cash to offset hard cost expenditures. For sponsors, if there is an increase in in-kind matching funds, it skews the A&E formula, but does not help pay for hard cost expenditures. In other words, in-kind match does not always help the project bottom line and rarely pays for hard costs. The RCO requirement to raise even more matching funds when whole project budgets increase is of particular concern to sponsors and Lead Entities in light of pervasive cost increases.

Managing the accounting of matching funds from different funding sources that are on different timelines is challenging and the administrative burden tracking matching funds can at times be excessive. This discourages smaller organizations from taking on larger projects, since large projects will require larger matching fund budgets and more tracking, reporting, etc.

Overall, we know that salmon recovery is woefully underfunded, and the funding available to projects is finite. SRFB requirements that projects scramble for limited hard money to match SRFB funds should be revisited.

## **Existing Processes**

Currently, many of the solutions project sponsors adopt to address the challenges of finding enough matching funds results in increased administration burden to sponsors, slowed down project implementation and smaller projects:

- Creative partnerships with tribes and other entities to share matching funds
- Documenting in-kind matching efforts
- Phasing projects to fit the amount of match acquired

## **Matching funds problem suggested solutions**

- Petition for waiver of match; expand conditions under which waiver might apply; waiver/reduction of match with projects working with small private landowners
- Greater alignment between funding programs so that sponsors can more easily apply for multiple sources at same time
- We need to move beyond the idea that local “buy in” = \$; in-kind, volunteer time/community involvement just doesn’t equate to enough dollars to hit that 15% required match
- Eliminate match requirement all together for riparian only projects and design only projects (Discussion with legislature about showing local buy-in other ways)
- Eliminate need to increase match when a cost increase is sought (SRFB)?

## **Capacity problem statement**

Project sponsors, lead entities and contractor capacity is a growing concern. If we want to increase our project implementation, we need to increase sponsor capacity. Project sponsor organizations are unable to increase staff unless there is a guarantee that funding for such will be available for several years. They do not want to hire people if they are unsure the additional funding needed to support them is not forthcoming. There are other sponsor issues resulting from the increased technical complexity of many current projects. These often require hiring outside consultants and contractors, who are also limited in capacity. Especially in some rural areas there are only a few contractors that can be called on.

For LEs, there are increasing demands to align and help advance projects and gain funding from other programs (GMA, FBRB, ESRP, FbD, etc.) yet LEs get no support from them. There is just too much to do for one FTE. The LE budget has been stagnant for most LE's despite the growing demands. It is also a challenge for some of the LE fiscal sponsors to attract staff to LE positions because of low pay scales relative to the workload and expertise required. And some fiscal sponsors, like project sponsors, hesitate to hire more staff unless they have guarantees that the funding will continue over multiple years.

## **Capacity problem suggested solutions:**

- LE Capacity grant should be for full time job competitive with state pay structure
- Get other programs to help support LE Capacity funding
- Fund Salmon Recovery Portal (Reduce workload for LE coordinators by funding SRP) data steward for the State which has been adopted by at least one Region
- More grant efficiencies. Projects that are well reviewed but just below a funding line in statewide competition should not have to go through the process all over again. (project alternates get funded in next grant round)
- Fund community outreach/education as project type, provide planning funding pot for each LE and sponsors that is separate from the competitive grant round
- Heavier focus on expedited project delivery. Starting this with permit streamlining but need to break down the major time hurdles that drain capacity. Increasing the cap on design/build projects would increase the pace of implementation by not forcing phasing of smaller projects.

## **Project development problem statement**

Effective salmon recovery projects require project development activities: advanced planning, scientific assessments, and landowner relationship building. Projects involving land acquisition, instream work, larger riparian buffers and private land ownership, are even more complex. Necessary project development components involve both staff time and technical expertise yet are rarely eligible for SRFB funding. Project sponsors sometimes abandon these more complex projects to pursue easier projects (such as barrier culverts) that are not as high priority. There is low or no funding for site assessments, monitoring, project prioritization, or outreach. Project prioritization is often done at the sponsor level with their own general funds and without LE input. Because of this, there is often a disconnect between the LE strategy and the projects sponsors put forth for funding.

Additionally, the annual grant round timeline results in longer feasibility stages than necessary because sponsors cannot apply for funding for subsequent stages until the feasibility is completed. Even when sponsors apply for project development and feasibility projects, they are not always viewed favorably by the review panel or the local committees, which tend to prefer on-the-ground projects. Because of this inflexibility with the grant source, sometimes sponsors put forth projects for design and construction funding before they are fully ready in order not to lose the opportunity for the funding during the current grant round. On the flip side of this, the cost ceiling for planning, assessment, survey/design and inventory projects, and design/build projects is too low. Especially for design/build projects, this lengthens the project implementation time for projects that could be completed sooner if the ceiling was higher than \$250,000.

As we continue more work with private landowners, the lack of compensation to landowners for loss of working lands is a challenge. Finally, as noted in the Capacity problem statement, sponsor groups are hesitant to bring on more staff to meet some of these challenges without long-term funding commitments.

## **Existing processes**

Some existing solutions exist but do not go far enough to address all the challenges to project development. Developing the PPFL has helped LEs and sponsors engage more in collaborative long-term thinking. Sponsors can apply for project development grants for feasibility (including scoping, landowner outreach, modeling, etc.) and preliminary designs from SRFB/ PSAR. In particular, PSAR capacity funds are very helpful. In the Chehalis basin, there is a project development grant program that has proved very successful (ASRP). There is a very small monitoring program at the regional level (\$50k projects, one per region) but even this small amount is not available to LEs that are not in a region. Some project sponsors have successfully engaged trained facilitators to help project sponsors and stakeholders work through complicated issues that otherwise would prevent projects from advancing

## **Project development problem suggested solutions**

- Planning grant bucket for each LE as resources for sponsors to access when needed without going through the competitive SRFB process.
- Allow LEs to “bank” money from year to year or other way out of the “use it or lose it” mindset.
- Promote feasibility/landowner outreach grant type among SRFB technical review panel and local committees.
- Provide funding to help project sponsors work on roadblocks to difficult projects, including supporting use of facilitators trained in conflict resolution.
- Provide or develop more options for landowner incentives
- Increase the allowable SRFB grant amount for planning, assessment, survey/design, and inventory projects, design/build projects

## Washington Salmon Coalition

On behalf of the Washington Salmon Coalition, I would like to thank the Board, Director Duffy and the RCO staff for allowing us to present to you this morning. The last two years have been incredibly challenging, and I am thankful for this bit of normalcy.

WSC has provided you with a summary of the most pressing challenges we are facing and some potential solutions to those problems. We appreciate you taking the time to work on these challenges at your recent in-person retreat.

WSC is also thankful for your advocacy at the State Legislature, which resulted in significant additional funding for salmon recovery. Without your hard work, we would not have the fortunate opportunity to debate the best way to allocate the 75 million that was appropriated in this last session. As you consider your options regarding the 75 million, we urge you to stay the course with the Washington Way of Salmon Recovery.

As we presented in our letter to you, the Washington Salmon Coalition supports allocating the \$25 million additional salmon funding for projects under \$5 million to the Regional Recovery Organization based on the existing allocation formula. We presume the Regions would then allocate this funding to lead entities to fund down their project lists. The majority of lead entities can allocate additional funding this grant round. There should be flexibility for the remainder to be allocated in next year's grant round.

For the \$50 million allocated to projects costing \$5 million or more, the majority of our members express support for options 1, 2, and 3, allocating the full amount to the Regions for funding projects on their lists, as their first choices. We unanimously oppose option 4, a second call for proposals for the Targeted Investment program this year. Running an additional community supported and vetted grant round with existing resources is not practical and sponsors will be hard pressed to develop large projects that meet Targeted Investment criteria in the short amount of time available. Furthermore, the criterion for Targeted Investment excludes many excellent projects that are ready to go and that are supported in recovery plans. Many of these projects were included on our Planned Project Forecast Lists, upon which we assume the legislature, in part, based its decision to allocate additional funds.

Lead Entities are made up of Counties, Conservation Districts, Tribes, Cities, NGOs and others that have their fingers on the pulse of their watersheds. They have strategies in place to develop and rank priority projects. Building projects from the bottom up makes for projects that have local support. Communities care about these projects and they are committed to the long-term success of the projects. These projects are durable. Building projects from the bottom up takes time and requires strong relationships built on trust. Relationships are expensive. They require compromise and patience. We need to fully fund the capacity aspect of Salmon Recovery and continue to support the Washington Way.

Thanks again for your time.

**From:** [Gerald I. James](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#); [Barbara J. Fisher](#); [Lisa A. Wilson](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Registration  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 2:53:11 PM

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External Email

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**From:** McNamara, Julia (RCO) <julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 8:50:30 AM  
**To:** Gerald I. James <GeraldJ@lummi-nsn.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Registration

My message is I cant help being disappointed in the boards decision to ignore our plea for funding for real salmon crisis and opt for some political reasoning of regional funding fairness rather than funding comprehensive salmon recovery based on actual outcomes verses project funding loosely conne ted to recovery someday when people are dependant on these resources now.

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External Email

**CAUTION:** This email has been received from outside the Lummi Indian Business Council – Think before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

**From:** [Moore, Amber \(PSP\)](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment for SRFB  
**Date:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 8:55:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Hi Julia,

Thanks for letting me know! Here is my written comment just in case (I unfortunately have a lot of other meetings today and won't be able to be there in person):

*Thank you for your time today. For the record, I am Amber Moore, Salmon Recovery Manager at the Puget Sound Partnership. I would like to reiterate the recommendations outlined in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council letter to the SRFB, which we sent earlier this week. For the \$50M piece, the Salmon Recovery Council recommends that the SRFB allocate the funding directly to the regions. Our lead entities have technically sound, large scale, high priority habitat restoration and acquisition projects that are ready to go, and this much needed funding opportunity will allow our watersheds to complete more large scale projects than our regular funding sources typically support. The regions and lead entities know what we need to do to recover salmon across the state. Therefore, we recommend that the SRFB allocate this supplemental funding to the regions to fund high priority projects linked to their recovery plans. Thank you again for your time and for all that you do for salmon recovery, we are excited to get to work with this funding opportunity.*

Thanks again, and good luck today!  
Amber

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## Public Comments to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 Meeting

Comments submitted by the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

2022-06-01

- Match
  - One of the primary factors in our ability to scale up projects is our ability to secure match. Without match requirements, we would be able to develop larger projects with more certainty about the timeline it would take to implement them.
  - Currently, we're scrapping to find multiple funding sources that align with each other in their scoring criteria to be competitive to both. For example, for the SF Toutle Headwaters Design, we're looking into securing Ecology funding through the Streamflow or Floodplains by Design funding sources to cover the cost share. Neither of these funding sources align with the goals of the project as well as Salmon Recovery funding; therefore, we're less competitive for these and are less likely to secure these funds. But, without them, we can't cover the cost share associated with the Salmon Recovery funds. We have 17 miles and 500 acres designed to the preliminary level that can't be implemented until we find a secondary funding source to cover cost share. In this case, finding cost share is the only thing slowing down recovery.
  - Our ability to secure \$3.5 million to implement 7 miles of contiguous habitat restoration in the upper Coweeman was only possible because we were able to use trees from the RMZ pulled from access routes as costs share; this strategy is sound and we would do it again, but not every landowner is as cooperative as Weyerhaeuser at allowing these activities and many projects are located on larger systems that require more wood than the tranquil Coweeman does. For example, we can't use this strategy to implement the SF Toutle Headwaters Design because the quantity of wood needed makes it cost preventative, we would need to mine more wood from the RMZ than is available.
  - We appreciate how the Floodplains by Design funding source allows cost share to be waived in areas that are economically distressed. Our ability to find cost share is more difficult in these areas.
- Sponsor Capacity
  - Project Development
    - Our ability to identify projects, establish landowner relationships, and gather information about the site to determine the projects legitimacy, all depends on project development funds. Without these funds, we would be required to spend our RFEG funds which we use for other administrative purposes. These funds increase our ability to identify and develop quality projects.
  - Implementation
    - Our ability to hire project managers and implement projects is strongly influenced by available funding.



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Thanks again for your time.

## **COUNCIL OF REGIONS UPDATE – June 2, 2022 SFRB Meeting**

Prepared by Steve Manlow, Acting Chair

The Council of Regions (COR) brings together the state's seven Salmon Recovery Regions and the Northeast Region to: 1) share information among the regions, GSRO & RCO; 2) provide input to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and others on statewide recovery initiatives; and, 3) coordinate activities that address shared needs of the regional recovery organizations. We would like to highlight the following activities we have been working on since the last SRFB meeting.

1. COR work with the GSRO and other state partners has shifted from the 2022 supplemental session, to providing input on agency 23/25 biennium budget and policy proposals. We worked with the GSRO to synthesize regional priorities for agencies to consider in budget and policy development, and to support preparation of 2- and 10-year salmon recovery work plans as called for in the updated Statewide Strategy for Salmon Recovery.
2. COR met for its quarterly meeting with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) leadership on May 24, to discuss how regions and WDFW can best collaborate on recovery efforts. Key topics included coordination on fish passage barrier efforts, land use initiatives, hatchery programs, predation and monitoring. We also discussed opportunities to improve engagement with the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) on policy initiatives, as well as increase awareness of regional organization roles and responsibilities. We agreed to work toward providing presentations to the FWC. COR directors are also working with WDFW regional staff on development and implementation of regional recovery initiatives.
3. COR has held monthly coordination calls and organized participation in groups such as SRNet, Fish Barrier Removal Board, and the multi-state Columbia Basin Collaborative. Thanks to Jeannie Abbott and Erik Neatherlin for helping with meeting coordination.
4. We wish to thank Katie Pruitt for reaching out to COR to help us prepare for the next State of the Salmon (SOS) report. Katie has also been meeting independently with each region to coordinate on logistics and reporting needs. We appreciate Katie's proactive engagement!
5. COR continues to engage with the SRFB monitoring subcommittee, and helped frame options for agenda Item 6. As part of a parallel effort, the Snake River and Lower Columbia Regions, in partnership with the GSRO, Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP), and IMW scientists, led an effort to synthesize lessons learned and key findings from IMW projects to apply to restoration efforts and inform future management.

### **Council of Regions Input for the June 2 Agenda:**

#### **Item #4: 2022 Supplemental Funding Decision**

We'd like to thank RCO staff for their engagement with COR and the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) in framing options for SRFB consideration. COR stands ready to work proactively to ensure the recently appropriated habitat restoration funds are used in the most effective and efficient manner possible, and target the highest priority recovery needs across the state. This level of funding has never before been available to the SRFB and it will take a coordinated team effort between the SRFB, RCO, project sponsors, lead entities, and the regions to effectively identify and implement large scale, high priority projects, in such a short timeframe. With regard to the various options under consideration, we offer the following.



Megan Duffy, RCO Director  
via email: [megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov](mailto:megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov)

May 31, 2022

Re: RCO Salmon Recovery Funding Board 2022 Supplemental Funding Decision

Dear Director Duffy,

Thank you for the good discussion last week regarding the urgent situation in the South Fork of the Nooksack River.

As we discussed, we are in crisis with over 2,500 ESA listed South Fork early chinook salmon perishing on the spawning grounds last fall and we are looking to State and Federal agencies to utilize their existing authorities to work with us to triage the situation and ensure that it does not happen again. This past session, the legislature appropriated significant additional funding to help restore and protect salmon habitat- critical resources necessary to fund the South Fork Chinook Disaster Package which includes a myriad of habitat protection and restoration actions to provide safe passage of cool water and sufficient flows needed by these precious salmon to return safely to the spawning grounds and the refuge of the Lummi Skookum Creek Hatchery. The effort is a multifaceted approach with a variety of project sponsors and is spearheaded by Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe with full WRIA 1 Board support.

It is our understanding that the RCO Salmon Funding Recovery Board will decide at its June 2 meeting on broad approaches to invest these additional \$75 million. We urge the Board to adopt a funding program that will help make a portion of these additional funds available to address the crisis we now face. Our *sche lang en*, or 'way of life' is dependent on the dwindling salmon resource and now more than ever we need bold measures to save our salmon for the next generations of tribal and non-tribal children and for ecosystems services including food webs for the imperiled Sothern Resident killer whale.

We respectfully request that at minimum the Board focus funding into the "Targeted Investment" approach, with an emphasis on emergency projects. This approach seems to provide the highest likelihood of help in the SF Nooksack. We also strongly urge the Board to also consider 'out of the box' thinking that will expedite triage funding to areas where such crisis have occurred or are on the precipice of occurring. The majority of the projects in the

Disaster funding package have been on projects list since 2018, and the slow rate of habitat restoration compounded with the added deleterious effects of climate change must be addresses in an expeditious manner, or else we risk more losses at a time where salmon resources are already dwindling.

Working together with our local WDFW Co-Managers and NOAA fisheries, we've managed to save the ESA listed SF early chinook from the brink of extirpation- from 13 returning adult fish in 2011 to more than 3,000 fish observed last year thanks to our joint hatchery captive brood program at Lummi Nation's Skookum Creek Hatchery. We must take swift action to ensure that our efforts of over 20 years of cooperative work, manpower, and resource investments are not lost because we failed to provide the necessary habitat for these returning salmon.

The returning adult salmon from the companion NF early chinook hatchery program at the WDFW Kendall Hatchery have allowed us to provide a limited and highly managed ceremonial and subsistence fishery for our tribal members, including a special fishery for our elders. These are the first salmon to return to our sacred river and provide the fish for our First Salmon Ceremonies, birthdays, funerals, and other important community gatherings. Salmon are good medicine for our people and because we are inextricably linked to them as the Salmon People- their health is an indicator of the health and wellbeing of our people. Our people are starving and sitting on the beach; swift action is needed.

Unless we address habitat conditions immediately, future mass mortality events will continue, jeopardizing the SF Chinook population, constraining local fishing opportunities and Chinook recovery and continue to undermine SRKW recovery. If another pre-spawn mortality event occurs in the next couple of years it could be a potentially devastating event that might take decades to recover from, if ever. The massive flooding in November 2021 also wiped out the redds resulting in initial observed juvenile salmon counts to be 4% of what we usually see in normal years. Climate change is clearly exacerbating poor habitat conditions and placing salmon in mortal danger on the SF Nooksack River.

There are several projects that will help significantly improve conditions in the SF Nooksack, but we must move quickly to save these runs. However, the existing process for developing projects, applying for and securing funds, and finally implementation can take four years or more. We simply do not have that kind of time, the impacts of waiting years to improve habitat in the SF Nooksack could be devastating. We know what needs to be done, we know it can be done, we just need the resources to do it.

Additionally, existing SRFB/PSAR funded projects are experiencing significant budget shortfalls due to inflation and supply shortages and after years of development, are at risk of not meeting project objectives in the final implementation stages. For example, the South Fork Upper and Lower Fobes Phase 2 Restoration project (RCO Agreement #20-1150), which will restore 1.3 miles of a high priority reach of the South Fork Nooksack, is currently \$700k over budget within months of project construction. The project will have to be significantly scaled back, reducing

habitat benefits to SF early chinook, unless additional funding is secured. These projects need to be made whole before allocating funds to new projects.

We urge the Board to make existing projects whole and adopt a funding program such as the "Targeted Investment" approach with an emphasis on emergency projects for these additional salmon recovery funds to provide the targeted focus on this dire situation so that we can save the ESA listed early Chinook in the SF Nooksack River.

Respectfully,



Lisa Wilson, LIBC council member



GI James, LIBC council member

(cc):

Erik Neatherland, GSRO

Laura Blackmore, PSP

Brendan Brokes, WDFW

Kelly Susewind, WDFW

JT Austin, GSRO; Office of the Governor

Scott Merriman, OFM

Peter Murchie, EPA

Elizabeth Babcock, NOAA

### **Options for Investing: \$25 Million**

The regional salmon recovery organizations are in consensus that Option 2 (Modified Regional Allocation) would best address habitat restoration needs across the State, for the reasons noted in the option description. We will also work collectively with the NE Region to ensure their project funding needs are met.

We also support staff's request that the \$200,000 cap on assessments be lifted, and that the Puget Sound region be allowed to utilize SRFB funding for assessments.

### **Options for Investing: \$50 Million**

The regional salmon recovery organizations are in consensus that the SRFB should use a regionally-based allocation approach for these funds, rather than a targeted investment approach. We believe a regionally-based allocation approach would allow us to proceed immediately, and in the most efficient and effective manner, when compared to Options 4 and 5.

With regard to the regional allocation Options 1, 2 and 3, we are also in consensus that Option 3 (Increments of 10%), should be approved. This Option provides all regions with sufficient funds for at least one large scale project.

The regional salmon recovery organizations do not support Option 4 (Targeted Investment) or Option 5 (Hybrid). The rationale varies by region, but is in general captured in the various letters regions submitted on this item. However, if the SRFB selects a Targeted Investment Option, we are in consensus that Option 5 would be preferred as it builds upon projects already in the queue, would not require establishing a new grant round in a short timeframe, and would still provide a portion of the funds through a regional allocation.

The regional salmon recovery organizations support staff's request that match requirements be waived for this funding.

### **Item #6: Board Monitoring Program Funding Decisions**

COR appreciates the opportunity to participate on the SRFB monitoring subcommittee, as well as the GSRO staff's work to ensure the full SRFB monitoring portfolio is considered in decision-making. COR supports the subcommittee recommendations. We also ask that the SRFB continue to work toward expanding funding for regional monitoring efforts.

### **Regional Presentations**

Thank you for inviting the Lower Columbia and Coast regions to present to the Board. We look forward to lively discussions!

- We have projects already designed and newer projects coming online that will take us 10-20 years to implement using the current funding mechanism. If larger funding pots were available—and cost share wasn't an issue—we could implement these projects sooner if more funding was available.
  - In order to encourage sponsors to create larger designs that can be implemented on a scalable manner,
- Lead Entity Capacity
  - We depend on our Lead Entity to track fish populations to help us as sponsors determine where to prioritize habitat restoration
  - We depend on our Lead Entity to identify all possible funding sources, not just the SRFB
  - We would like for our Lead Entity to be able to host more “small grant” programs to help fund opportunistic projects that would be inexpensive, low risk, and chip away at Recovery. They currently don't have the capacity or funding to do this.
- Budget limits
  - The \$200,000 maximum on design projects with zero match is a little low. For example, we bid out the 22-1072 Goble, Mulholland, and Upper Coweeman Design before submitting it for a SRFB grant. We received two competitive bids within \$5000 of each other that were both just under \$200,000. This would have left little available for sponsor capacity and we had to reduce the overall scope and budget to accommodate the budget limits. In this case, the size of the project was limited not by complexity or landowner constraints, but by the budget limits. If the budget was increased, we could get more work done sooner for salmon recovery.
  - The \$250,000 capacity on design-build projects is now obsolete. We've completed several smaller projects in the last few years and every one of them required finding an additional \$40-150,000 in alternative funding to complete the project. We would like to see this limit increased to \$350-400,000. Part of the premise of this type of project is that they are straight forward and low risk. If we have completed multiple more complex projects in a system, we've learned about how the river will respond to these projects, and the uncertainties typically associated with the design work becomes more predictable.

Thank you!



**Brice Crayne**

*Salmon Habitat Practitioner  
Project Manager  
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group  
11018 NE 51st Circle  
Vancouver, WA 98682  
C: 360-904-7922  
E: bricecrayne@outlook.com*



## PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL

May 31, 2022

**TO:** Jeff Breckel, Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board  
Salmon Recovery Funding Board members

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**SUBJECT: PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
2022 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING DECISION**

Dear Chair Breckel:

The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council (PSSRC) provides policy oversight for the implementation of our region's federally approved salmon recovery plans and advises the Puget Sound Leadership Council on decisions related to salmon recovery. Our members include representatives from federal and state agencies, local jurisdictions, Puget Sound tribes, Puget Sound watersheds, business and agricultural interests, and environmental advocates. Our recommendations help set priorities for the types of recovery work to conduct, determine what issues to focus on, and provide direction for future projects and funding. In that vein, **we recommend that the Salmon Recovery Funding Board allocate the \$50 million in supplemental funding for projects \$5 million or over directly to the salmon recovery regions through an allocation formula (specifically, Option 1 or 3 in your memo).**

We note and appreciate RCO's and SRFB's efforts to secure additional funding for salmon recovery in the 2022 legislative session. We also appreciate that RCO staff worked to solicit input from the Council of Regions and Washington Salmon Coalition when developing recommendations on how to allocate this funding.

Continued habitat destruction and degradation imperil water quality, climate stability, and the ecosystems that form the foundation for our region's culture, health, and economy. Puget Sound is a unique region and a large inland estuary, fed by more than 2,800 rivers and streams and home to over 1,300 shoreline miles; five salmon species; and a diversity of critical habitats where more than 4 million people live across multiple large population centers. Our salmon recovery lead entities have technically sound, large scale habitat restoration and acquisition projects that are ready to go and just need the funding to implement. This much needed funding opportunity will allow our lead entities across Puget Sound's watersheds to complete more large-scale projects than our regular funding sources typically support.





## PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL

The regions and lead entities know what we need to do to recover salmon across the state. Therefore, we recommend that the SRFB allocate this supplemental funding to the regions to fund high priority projects linked to their recovery plans.

The PSSRC is eager to collaborate with Puget Sound Partnership staff, RCO staff, the SRFB, and partners in the Washington state salmon recovery community to support getting these additional funds on the ground as soon as possible. We have invested time, leadership, and resources towards achieving recovery of Puget Sound both in board meetings to create plans, align interests, and prioritize actions and through our daily work to make recovery happen on the ground. This supplemental funding will help us all ensure progress towards thriving, resilient ecosystems in Washington state and healthy, harvestable salmon runs vital to preserving tribal traditions and quality of life for all Washingtonians. Thank you for all that you do for salmon recovery.

Let's get to work.

Sincerely,

David Troutt, Chair

cc: Dave Herrera, Co-Vice Chair, PSSRC  
Mindy Roberts, Co-Vice Chair, PSSRC  
Laura Blackmore, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership  
Kaleen Cottingham, SRFB  
Chris Endresen Scott, SRFB  
Jeromy Sullivan, SRFB  
Brian Cochrane, SRFB  
Jeremy Cram, SRFB  
Tom Gorman, SRFB  
Annette Hoffman, SRFB  
Susan Kanzler, SRFB

**From:** [Gorman, Thomas \(DNR\)](#)  
**To:** [McNamara, Julia \(RCO\)](#)  
**Subject:** DNR partner update  
**Date:** Sunday, June 5, 2022 12:44:53 PM

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Hi Julia,

Below is an update from DNR. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks!

Tom

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DNR had two pieces of legislation pass the 2022 supplemental session.

- HB 1700 – DVRP bill will deposit 25% of the watercraft excise tax into the Derelict Vessel Removal Account each biennium. This will create consistent funding, so DVRP can remove more vessels each year.
  - HB 1700 = \$4.284M added to DVRA in FY23
- SB 5619 – Kelp and eelgrass conservation bill will develop a collaborative planning process to assess and prioritize areas for conservation and restoration of kelp and eelgrass throughout Puget Sound and the outer coast. This bill also includes funding to take the next steps highlighted in the Puget Sound Kelp Conservation and Recovery Plan and the Puget Sound Eelgrass Recovery Strategy.
  - SB 5619 = \$1.149M of GF-S in FY23

Also, DNR had several other funding developments. Here are some of the highlights:

- Puget Sound Corps received \$2M from the Salmon Recovery Account for FY23 operations.
- DNR received \$5M of GFS for FY2023 and it is provided solely for a pilot project to improve salmon habitat across the department's aquatic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural lands.
  - \$2M is provided solely to improve nearshore habitat by accelerating restoration of state-owned aquatic lands.
  - \$3M is provided solely to improve riparian function, including riparian planting and riparian set-asides on state-owned lands.

Lastly, in recent months, DNR finalized a Watershed Resilience Action Plan for the Snohomish Watershed (WRIA 7) – this is a cross-program effort and the development included many partners. DNR has a dashboard available and one particular outcome that was recently completed was the development of the Snohomish Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone. Commissioner Franz used a Commissioner's withdrawal order to remove ~2,300 acres from the aquatic land leasing program.

# SUMMARY

## HIGHLIGHTING THE BOARD'S KEY DISCUSSIONS AND DIRECTION

06.06.22, Edition #1

**ATTENDEES:** *Board Members:* Jeff Breckel, Chair; Kaleen Cottingham, Citizen; Chris Endresen Scott, Citizen; Brian Cochrane, Washington State Conservation Commission (via Zoom); Jeremy Cram, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Tom Gorman, Washington Department of Natural Resources; Annette Hoffman, Washington Department of Ecology; and Susan Kanzler, Washington State Department of Transportation; *Recreation and Conservation Office Staff:* Megan Duffy, Scott Robinson, Erik Neatherlin, Tara Galuska, Josh Lambert, Jeannie Abbott, Amy Lyn Ribera, Julia McNamara, Kendall Barrameda, and Brock Milliern; and *Facilitator* Jim Reid.

The structure of this summary reflects that of the meeting agenda. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) discussed six major topics. The outcome of each discussion was direction from the Board to staff to further research and consider possible options, and then bring back the more fully developed options to the Board. This summary highlights the Board's direction to staff and provides the context for that direction.

### THE SRFB'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The retreat started and ended by the SRFB discussing its roles and responsibilities. At the conclusion of this discussion, Board members agreed with Annette Hoffman's synthesis of the Board's purpose and duties:

- The Board is interested in meaningful projects that promote salmon recovery with a high probability of success and accountability.
- For projects and issues that the salmon recovery program has control over, how does the Board reduce barriers to success? Key to this is leveraging resources to maximize the value of funds for which we are responsible.
  - Continue to strengthen the salmon recovery portal to ensure that it provides accurate information about projects, funding, and partners.
- For those for which we do not have control, help our partners who have control recognize and understand our interests, needs, and concerns. If we see something happening that impairs our ability to succeed in recovering salmon, comment on it and influence our partners to take actions that achieve our interests and theirs. In other words, lend our weight to the discussion. Collaborate to get projects across the finishing line.

- Work through the staff of the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) to raise issues for our partners and influence their actions. The GSRO does not need to take on the effort to resolve the issue by assigning staff. We can provide support, encouragement, and perspectives that will benefit our partners in leading the effort.

#### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION: COST INCREASES

To address issues related to the increasing costs of projects, the SRFB coalesced around education, outreach, and capacity building. The Board’s direction included:

- Provide information and guidance to Lead Entities and Sponsors on how to anticipate, forecast, and address cost increases in this time of rising inflation.
- Work with Lead Entities and Sponsors to ensure that their budgets and the contracts between RCO and them contain more accurate and reliable costs and cost estimates, including, for example of materials.
- Provide training and guidance to improve project management.
- Use the information above and other data to strengthen the prioritization of projects. This could include identifying projects that should be avoided because they are more expensive or because there appears to be greater uncertainty about projected costs.
- Allow for more flexibility in funding cost increases but ensure this flexibility is accompanied by accountability measures.
- Learn from other organizations how they are addressing rising costs.

#### PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION: CAPACITY AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The third, fourth, and fifth issues that the Board discussed were the capacity of Lead Entities, the capacity of Project Sponsors, and project development. The Board’s direction on these three issues was:

- Calculate the real costs to Lead Entities of what we need and want them to accomplish.
  - Jeannie Abbott offered to develop a survey of Lead Entities to ask questions such as: 1) What would it take to achieve our needs and expectations? 2) What would this translate into in terms of the number of required hours and FTEs? 3) What percent of your funding comes from other sources, and how is that funding used?
  - The results of this survey will be presented to the Board at a future meeting. The results should enable the Board to determine if funding to support the capacity of the Lead Entities and Sponsors and for project development needs to be increased.
- Provide a variable match to reflect the size and importance of projects and RCO’s needs and expectations.
- Lift the cap on design and assessment.
  - The survey that Jeannie will develop and distribute to Lead Entities should also obtain more data about the capacity of Sponsors and the costs of project development. It should help determine whether the cap on funding for design and assessment should be increased, and if there are risks to raising the cap.
- Identify the data needed and collect it. (The survey could be the starting point.)

- Encourage more projects on private properties by expanding access. This might be achieved by monetizing access to private lands short of giving RCO an easement.
- Increase the public's interest in, concern about, and understanding of salmon recovery.
- Strike a better balance between the elements of a project—planning, assessment, design, and implementation.

#### **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION: MATCH**

There is an expectation, almost an informal requirement, that projects contain a 15% local match. Yet it is not a statutory requirement. And there is a question about whether matches are truly “local.”

Historically, a local match was intended to reflect the communities' support for a project and give them “skin in the game.” Today match requirements appear to be stressing the system in terms of: 1) the ability to achieve equity by serving underserved communities and people of color; 2) administrative costs; 3) engineering costs; and 4) undervaluing or ignoring landowner support and involvement.

The Board expressed support for continuing to research and assess:

- The concept of a variable match. “Variable” was defined during the discussion as: 1) a sliding scale in the dollar amount of matches; 2) leveraging additional resources from other organizations and agencies; 3) support for projects considered equitable (location, census data, and income levels are criteria); and 4) support for projects that may have difficulty attracting matches (for example: restoration versus other kinds of projects).
- The impacts of eliminating match requirements on the projects of agencies that have done so. (For example, the Department of Ecology's non-point pollution program.)
- The idea to eliminate match requirements on salmon recovery projects, particularly restoration projects, for the next two years given the influx of \$50 million into the program.

## SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

**Date:** June 2, 2022

**Place:** Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

<b>Jeff Breckel, Chair</b>	Stevenson	<b>Annette Hoffman</b>	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
<b>Jeromy Sullivan</b>	Kingston	<b>Tom Gorman</b>	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
<b>Kaleen Cottingham</b>	Olympia	<b>Brian Cochrane</b>	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
<b>Chris Endresen-Scott</b>	Conconully	<b>Jeremy Cram</b>	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
<b>VACANT</b>	VACANT	<b>Susan Kanzler</b>	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.**

### Call to Order:

**Chair Breckel** called the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) meeting to order at 9 AM. He requested roll call, determining quorum.

### Decision

**Motion:** Move to Approve the June 2, 2022, Agenda

**Moved By:** Member Chris Endresen-Scott

**Seconded by:** Member Kaleen Cottingham

**Decision:** **Approved**

The March 2022 meeting minutes were inadvertently excluded from the public materials, so the board supported moving that decision to the September meeting.

### Item 1: Director's Report

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) **Director Megan Duffy** described key agency updates including new staff profiles and shared that the Athena group has been contracted to complete an organizational structure review, the recreation and

conservation grants equity review is still ongoing. Director Duffy stated that the agency will be receiving \$18 million in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funding and \$6 million in Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) funding for a total of \$24 million from NOAA.

**Brock Milliern**, RCO Policy Director, provided a legislative and policy update. He highlighted a few of the 65 bills the agency has been tracking including House bill [\(HB\) 1329](#) regarding ensuring accessibility to meetings, and [HB 2078](#), regarding the establishment of the Outdoor School for All program. Further details can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

## **Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report**

**Erik Neatherlin**, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Director, summarized the recent work completed by GSRO and the RCO's Salmon Recovery Section, including Puget Sound Day on the Hill, work with regional salmon recovery boards, coordinating the approval of the PCSRF 5-State letter, and an update on salmon grant programs. Lastly, Mr. Neatherlin mentioned that the Salmon Recovery Conference 2023, led by Jeannie Abbott, Lead Entity Coordinator, will be held in-person in Vancouver, WA on April 18-19, 2023.

**Tara Galuska**, GSRO Orca Recovery Coordinator, announced that June is Orca Action Month and introduced the new Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) [website](#). Ms. Galuska mentioned new scientific evidence that supports maintaining distance between boats and whales. She also confirmed that the Boater Safety Education included current whale research.

**Member Cochrane** asked if inbreeding is being considered or monitored. Ms. Galuska answered that inbreeding has been modeled to show a negative impact on the SRKW.

**Marc Duboiski**, RCO Salmon Recovery Section Manager, introduced new RCO salmon staff to the board and shared that the section will be hiring two additional grant managers. Mr. Duboiski also mentioned the Watershed Plan review process is being led by **Kathryn Moore** and **Katie Pruitt**.

Detailed information can be found in the [item 2 meeting materials](#).

### *General Public Comment:*

None.

**BREAK: 9:55 AM – 10:10 AM**

## Item 3: Partner Reports

### Council of Regions

**Steve Manlow**, Executive Director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, presented on behalf of the Council of Regions (COR). He reflected on the retreat discussions regarding sponsor capacity and landowner acknowledgment. Regarding the [options for item 4](#), Mr. Manlow shared the COR reached consensus for support of Option 2: modified regional allocation, for the \$25 million. For the \$50 million, the COR supported Option 3: regional allocation approach that provides regions with funds for at least one large scale project. Mr. Manlow stated that the COR did not support alternative Options 4 or 5, reasons for doing so are included in [regional letters](#). He expanded that the COR supports Option 3 largely due to the difficulty sponsors face in raising match and the challenges presented by establishing a new grant round in the shortened time frame. He also stated that regional salmon recovery organizations support RCO staff's request that match requirements be waived for this funding.

### WA Salmon Coalition

**Mike Lithgow**, Chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), presented the WSC's challenges and urged the SRFB to allocate the \$75 million award to regions through the regular allocation process. For the \$50 million award, the WSC supports Options 1, 2 and 3 and opposed Option 4 as shown in the [coalition correspondence](#).

### Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups

**Lance Winecka**, Executive Director of the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement group, expressed RFEG support for the positions put forth by the COR and the WA Salmon Coalition regarding the \$75 million appropriation. Mr. Winecka emphasized match reform with anecdotes of the inefficiencies of fulfilling match requirements, which is a requirement to provide a percentage of match funding towards projects. He also asked the board to consider architecture and engineering (design) costs, especially for smaller projects. In relation, Mr. Winecka stated that the 18-month timeframe for projects to complete the design phase before being required to offer additional match is not sufficient. He shared that agreement execution would be delayed due to the time it takes to be awarded a contract, finalize engineer negotiation, and get sponsor commitment.



#### **Item 4: 2022 Supplemental Funding Decision**

**Brock Milliern**, RCO Policy and Legislative Director, offered a decision memorandum to the SRFB.

The memorandum identified options for allocation of the \$75 million in supplemental budget funding for salmon recovery projects. Staff requested decisions from the board on how to allocate \$25 million designated for projects under \$5 million and for \$50 million for projects greater than \$5 million.

**Steve Manlow** expressed concern with Option 4: targeted investment, as this would require a new grant process and a tight timeline. Mr. Manlow stated that by using the existing process, regions would do a better job at targeting the highest priority projects compared to using narrow criteria of Option 4. Mr. Manlow questioned how to compare projects across regions effectively. Mr. Duboiski reminded the SRFB that the review panel process is currently ongoing so adding a new grant round would be difficult to adopt.

**Member Cram** expressed concern for the distribution of the \$25 million towards lead entities as this could lead to projects being funded that do not warrant funding, such as the alternate projects at the end of the lead entities approved project lists. Mr. Milliern reminded the group that funding may be used in the 2023 grant round. Mr. Duboiski emphasized Member Cram's point by saying the time constraint of a September deadline could bring the possibility of lower quality projects being funded. Mr. Manlow encouraged the SRFB to trust the regional process.

#### *Public Comment:*

**G.I. James**, Lummi Tribe Council Member, [expressed concerns](#) for equitable funding. Mr. James explained that salmon are in peril and the SRFB allocation is not addressing the crisis appropriately. The Lummi Tribe supports a targeted investment approach with an emphasis on emergency needs. Mr. James concluded by stating that the decline of salmon in the South Fork is an emergency scenario due to salmon die off and going through the grant process will take too long.

**Amber Moore**, Puget Sound Partnership Salmon Recovery Manager, recommended that the \$50 million be distributed to regional organizations because large scale projects are ready to receive funding. She stated that the lead entities and regions are ready to act if more funding is awarded.

**Brice Crayne**, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Project Manager, supported and restated Lance Winecka's comments regarding capacity and match, he also shared his support for Option 3. Mr. Crayne gave examples of scalable projects that could be rescoped if more funding was distributed to regions. Mr. Crayne finished by stating the \$200,000 cap on design projects is not enough due to cost increases and the preliminary design requirement should be raised from \$350,000 to \$400,000.

**Rudy Salakory**, Cowlitz Indian Tribe Habitat Restoration and Conservation Program Manager, said the current funding system is broken and asked the board to trust the regions. Mr. Salakory asked the board to support Option 3. He stated that this option would provide flexibility for lead entities to develop projects and to waive match.

**Amy Hatch Winecka**, Water Resource Inventory Area 13 Lead Entity Coordinator, reinforced Mr. Salakory's comments in support of Option 3. She also stated that increased costs prevent projects from reaching completion and raising match is causing a bigger delay in implementation.

**Ali Fitzgerald**, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Project Funding Coordinator, supported Option 2 for the \$25 million and Option 3 for the \$50 million, waiving match, and maximum flexibility to allow regions to get projects the on the ground.

#### **LUNCH: 12:12 PM – 1:15 PM**

**Chair Breckel** reconvened with Item 4.

**Member Hoffman** stated that the \$25 million seemed to have been focused to Option 2, but the \$50 million required further narrowing. She asked if there were projects that fit the category and enough resources to supplement them. Member Hoffman said local efforts deserve board support. She then highlighted Options 3 and 5 for comparison to consider which to approve.

**Member Gorman** supported Option 2 for the \$25 million and stated that removing match would remove an obstacle.

**Member Cottingham** offered a modified version of Option 5; allocate funding to regions and unspent funding would be allocated to targeted investments (TI) to ensure the following grant cycle is not negatively impacted. This modified version was supported by **Member Endresen-Scott**. She also asked if Director Duffy would have the ability to approve time extensions to keep projects within the projected time frame.

The board all voiced their support for Option 2 for the \$25 million and discussed the concerns with removing match requirements. Members Gorman, **Kanzler**, and Hoffman

supported removing the match requirements to remove barriers and encourage participation while Member Cochrane expressed hesitation in waiving match. He stated that match serves multiple purposes, including showing local support, furthering investments, and providing “skin in the game.” Member Cottingham suggested giving Director Duffy authority to waive match if “skin in the game” is demonstrated.

The board talked about the need to reconsider the targeted investment list option should the regions not provide enough projects to use the entire \$50 million. Any decision on this will be made in December, with the goal of obligating the entire appropriation in 2022.

Chair Breckel suggested moving the assessment requirement from \$200,000 to \$300,000. He supported the modified Option 5 proposed by Member Cottingham after considering regions that might be unable to fully spend the allocated \$5 million, to then make the additional funding available to other entities that also demonstrate need.

**Kathryn Moore**, Senior Outdoor Grant Manager, presented the calculations that were completed to determine the region allocations for [Option 5 Hybrid low and Hybrid high](#).

The board questioned if there was any way to know whether the regions would fall in the low or high category, to which **Marc Duboiski** stated that final costs are not known until project bids are finalized. Representatives from the regions shared their concerns regarding Option 5, largely because they felt this option does not disburse funding appropriately. **Amber Moore** expressed that the Puget Sound Partnership is not supporting Option 5 since the Puget Sound regional allocation would be reduced substantially.

**John Foltz**, **Melody Kreimes**, and **Alicia Olivas** also shared that their regions are in favor of Option 3 over Option 5 due to the flexibility, the quality process, as well as the feasibility due to the limited timeframe for targeted investment proposals.

## Decision

**Motion:** Move to Approve Option 2: Modified Regional Allocation for the \$25 Million, Increase assessment Cap to \$300,000 and Allow Puget Sound Lead Entities to Utilize SRFB Funding for Assessments

**Moved by:** Member Endresen-Scott

**Seconded by:** Member Cottingham

**Decision:** **Approved**

**Motion:** Move to Approve Option 3: 10 Percent Increments for the \$50 Million, Eligible Projects Must Have Preliminary Designs Completed by December 7, SRFB Will Approve Projects at the December 2022 Board Meeting, Match is Not Required but Total Project Cost and All Funding Sources Must be Identified in PRISM

**Moved by:** Member Endresen-Scott

**Seconded by:** Member Cottingham

**Decision:** **Approved**

Detailed information about the options can be found in the [item 4 meeting materials](#).

### **Item 5: Decision on Allocating More Funding to Cost Increases**

**Marc Duboiski**, RCO Salmon Recovery Section Manager, provided follow-up at the board's request from the March 2022 meeting on the SRFB cost increase fund balance. Mr. Duboiski offered a recommendation to provide the RCO director authority to add an additional \$250,000 for cost increases should the need arise, resulting in \$1,000,000 reserved for cost increases in the 2021-2023 biennium.

**Members Cram** and **Endresen-Scott** supported the \$250,000 increase.

#### *Public Comment:*

None.

#### **Decision**

**Motion:** Move to Give RCO Director Duffy Authority to Allocate Up to an Additional \$250,000 for Cost Increases

**Moved by:** Member Kaleen Cottingham

**Seconded by:** Member Chris Endresen-Scott

**Decision:** **Approved**

**BREAK: 2:15 – 2:30 PM**

### **Item 6: Board Monitoring Program Funding Decision**

**Erik Neatherlin**, GSRO Director, **Keith Dublanica**, GSRO Science Coordinator, **Pete Bisson**, Monitoring Panel Co-Chair, provided a briefing on the monitoring subcommittee's recommendations for the SRFB's monitoring program funding.

The monitoring subcommittee met over the last year to evaluate the board's monitoring program. This process has resulted in a draft framework to inform future monitoring decisions, an Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) lessons learned report, and overall monitoring program recommendations.

At the board's March 2022 meeting, the monitoring subcommittee requested board guidance and direction on a suite of conceptual funding options. The board's direction on those conceptual options was to focus on [Options 2, 3 and 4](#) and that direction informed the subcommittee's ongoing deliberations and development of recommendations.

Mr. Neatherlin and Mr. Dublanica reported the SRFB Monitoring Subcommittee's decision to support a modified version of Option 3: Reduce Other Board Monitoring Funds to fund Synthesis/Analysis. **Dr. Bob Bilby**, Monitoring Panel Member, joined to give an update on the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) IMW report and an analysis of the results.

Mr. Bisson shared the monitoring panel's annual report, which offered the status of the five SRFB funded IMW's and the status of the Floodplain Remote Sensing Pilot project. All five IMW's were reported to be clear, and the pilot project is underway in the Entiat River, the County line of the White River, and Upper and Lower Fobes of the Nooksak River.

#### *Public Comment:*

None.

#### **Decision**

**Motion:** Move to Approve Allocation of \$1,638,000 to Support IMWs and Condition the Contract Agreements with WECY and WDFW to Reflect a Change in Reporting Requirements. The new Condition Requires the IMW Principal Investigators (PIs) to Participate in a Summary Synthesis, Forgoing the Need to Submit 2022 Annual Reports for Review.

Move to Fund the Status and Trends (Fish In/ Fish Out) Program at its Current Level of \$208,000 and Request that WDFW Evaluate its Funding Programs to Determine How it can Fill this Funding Gap

Move to Approve the Allocation of \$75,000 in Effectiveness Monitoring Funding to Complete a Summary Synthesis and Scope

the Development of the Monitoring Strategy to Guide the Board's Monitoring Program. A Full Proposal for the Summary Synthesis Will be Presented to the Board at the September 2022 Meeting.

Move to Approve the Allocation of \$79,000 for Continued Monitoring Panel Support

Move to Approve the Allocation of up to \$350,000 for Regional Monitoring

**Moved by:** Member Kaleen Cottingham  
**Seconded by:** Member Chris Endresen-Scott  
**Decision:** **Approved**

Information about the IMWs and the presented options can be found in the [item 6 meeting materials](#).

**BREAK: 2:45 PM – 3:00 PM**

## **Item 7: Region Presentation**

### **Coast Salmon Partnership and Foundation**

**Mara Zimmerman**, Coast Salmon Partnership Executive Director, provided an update on the coastal region's fish statuses and discussed the working relationships focused on salmon recovery efforts. Ms. Zimmerman covered the region's unique geographical characteristics and ecosystem challenges, the region's Steelhead and salmon populations status and downward-facing trends, the partnership and foundation's organizational structures and their progress made with salmon sustainability. Part of this progress has been established with the creation of the Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Plan and launching of the Pilot Watershed Restoration program.

### **Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board**

**Steve Manlow**, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Executive Director, gave an update on the region's focused investments and recovery efforts. Mr. Manlow provided an overview of the board and their accomplishments, the status of the fish runs, current initiatives and future goals. He highlighted the board's work with hydropower, hatcheries and harvesting, and habitat.

### **Item 8: State Partner Reports**

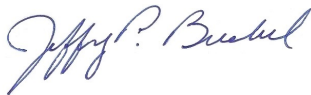
The partner reports were all written only due to limited meeting time. These reports included the [Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), the [Department of Ecology](#), the [Department of Natural Resources](#) and the [Department of Transportation](#).

### **ADJOURN 4:48 PM**

Next meeting: September 21 – 22, 2022. Natural Resources Building, Room 172, Olympia, WA 98501.

Subject to change considering COVID restrictions.

### **Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jeffery P. Breckel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Chair Breckel