

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

June 12-13, 2024

Hybrid



Meeting Day Location In-Person: Hemlock Forest Conference Room, Olympic Natural Resource Center, 1455 S Fork Avenue, Forks, WA 98331. 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.

Location Virtually: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1-FuTNh1Qc6wXZgGBVyKTO

Phone Option: (669) 900-6833 – **Webinar ID:** 812 0373 0109

Tour Day Location: In-person only; See details below or use this link for directions:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/x3cugNhoARVLjYJ9>

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

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a staff presentation, 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. Comment for these items will be limited to three minutes per person.

COVID Precautions: Masks and hand sanitizer will be made available. If you are feeling ill, the Zoom webinar format is a reliable resource for home viewing.

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.

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

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**)

- Approval of March Meeting Minutes (**Decision**)
- Remarks by the Chair

9:15 a.m.	1. Director’s Report	
	A. Director’s Report	<i>Megan Duffy</i>
	B. Legislative and Policy Update (written only)	<i>Brock Milliern</i>
	C. Fiscal Update (written only)	<i>Mark Jarasitis</i>
	D. Performance Report (written only)	<i>Bart Lynch</i>

9:45 a.m.	2. Salmon Recovery Management Report	
	A. Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office Report	<i>Erik Neatherlin</i>
		<i>Tara Galuska</i>
		<i>Jeannie Abbott</i>
	B. Salmon Section Report	<i>Marc Duboiski</i>

10:15 a.m. General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda:
Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

10:25 a.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

10:40 a.m.	3. Spokane Lead Entity Project Funding	<i>Jeannie Abbott</i>
-------------------	---	-----------------------

11:15 a.m.	4. 2025-2027 Budget Request	<i>Brock Milliern</i>
	A. Salmon Recovery Funding Board	
	B. Large Projects	
	C. Riparian	

12:15 p.m. LUNCH

MANAGING REPORT: BRIEFING

1:15 p.m.	5. Partner Reports	
	• Council of Regions	<i>Alex Conley</i>
	• Washington Salmon Coalition	<i>Aundrea McBride</i>
	• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	<i>Lance Winecka</i>

BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION

1:45p.m.	6. Board Monitoring: The Path Forward	<i>Greer Maier</i>
	A. Intensively Monitored Watersheds	<i>Erik Neatherlin</i>
	B. Integrated Monitoring Grant Program	
	C. Monitoring Carryover Funds (<i>decision</i>)	

2:45 p.m. BREAK

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION

3:00 p.m.	7. Allocate Funding for Board Programs	<i>Marc Duboiski</i>
	• 2024 Grant Round Amount	<i>Jeannie Abbott</i>
	• Cost Increases	<i>Greer Maier</i>
	• Regional Organization Capacity Funding	

- Lead Entity Capacity Funding
- Monitoring Contracts

Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution.

Please limit comments to three minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING

3:35 p.m.	8. Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative Overview	Mara Zimmerman Alissa Ferrell
4:05 p.m.	9. Partner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Commission • Department of Ecology (<i>written</i>) • Department of Natural Resources • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Department of Transportation (<i>written</i>) 	Levi Keesecker Annette Hoffmann Tom Gorman Jeremy Cram Susan Kanzler
4:25 p.m.	RECESS	

Thursday, June 13, 2024

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Meet at Olympic Natural Resource Center 47.932778, -124.394995	Chair Breckel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call and Determination of Quorum 	
9:05 a.m.	Project Overviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Hoquiam Tidal Restoration • Coldwater Connection Campaign • Depart to Next Destination at 10AM 	Grays Harbor Conservation District, Chehalis River Basin Lands Trust, Coast Salmon Partnership
10:35 a.m.	Wisem Creek Fish Passage Correction 48.063810, -124.161250	Trout Unlimited and Clallam County
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Overview • Depart to Next Destination at 11:20AM 	
11:40 a.m.	Tillicum Park 47.955311, -124.384873	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch • Depart to Next Destination 12:30 	

1:10 p.m.

Rayonier 5050 Road Crossing Restoration

48.006923, -124.637958

*Quileute Tribe and
Rayonier*

- Project overview
- Depart to Final Destination at 2:05

3:10 p.m.

Olympic Natural Resource Center

47.932778, -124.394995

Chair Breckel

- Close Meeting

3:15 p.m.

ADJOURN

Next Meeting: August 7, 2024, Room 172 Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501 and Online

DRAFT

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: March 6, 2024

Place: Hybrid - Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE; Olympia, WA and online via Zoom

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members:

Jeff Breckel, Chair	Stevenson	Annette Hoffmann	Designee, Washington Department of Ecology
Kaleen Cottingham	Olympia	Tom Gorman	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Chris Endresen-Scott	Conconully	Levi Keesecker	Designee, Washington State Conservation Commission
Joe Maroney	Spokane	Jeremy Cram	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Vacant		Susan Kanzler	Designee, Washington Department of Transportation

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

Call to Order:

Chair Jeff Breckel called the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) meeting to order at 9:00 AM. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Board Liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. **Member Jeremy Cram** was present online.

Motion: Move to approve the **March 13, 2024, Agenda.**

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**

Seconded by: Member **Endresen-Scott**

Approved: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve the **December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes.**

Moved by: Member **Endresen-Scott**

Seconded by: Member **Maroney**

Approved: **Approved**

Item 1: Director's Report

Director Megan Duffy shared that the legislature appropriated \$25 million from the Natural Climate Solutions Account to the board to fund additional projects.

Director Duffy highlighted staff and structural changes at RCO in both the salmon and recreation and conservation sections; specifically, the addition of two assistant managers to each section as outlined in the meeting [materials](#). Not included in the materials was Sarah Johnson-Humphries' promotion to Cultural Resources Unit Manager.

The June meeting will be in Forks with briefings on the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI), and updates on the Spokane lead entity, monitoring, and potential budgeting decisions. The September meeting is September 24 and 25 and Chair Breckel requested the board spend a half day discussing climate change. Additionally in September, the board will approve a project, targeted investment, riparian, and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) lists; hear updates on the monitoring modernization efforts; and more regional presentations.

Legislative and Policy Update

Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director, gave an overview of the supplemental legislative session, and will provide a full brief of outcomes at the next meeting after session ends on March 7.

Washington State voters will decide in November if the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) will be repealed or not, which could impact funding for many programs related to salmon recovery. There is a clause in Climate Commitment Act funded budget items clarifying that if the CCA is repealed, the appropriation provisions are null and void.

Mr. Milliern identified the RCO budget items the received funding generated by the Climate Commitment Act:

- \$25 million for board funded large projects
- \$5.7 million for Community Forests
- \$7.9 million for WCRRI
- \$22 million for the Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board (BAFBRB)
- \$11.1 million for ESRP

Member Cottingham asked if previously appropriated CCA funding would be impacted and both Director Duffy and Mr. Milliern answered that it would not.

Mr. Milliern highlighted two House Bills (HB) of importance to the board:

- [HB 2293](#) would require Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to develop a workgroup and report on avian predation.
- [HB 2045](#) would create an adopt a fish barrier program, allowing funding to be donated to fish barrier removal projects and for groups that donate to be recognized. RCO would be responsible for keeping a list of eligible projects and designing and providing a sign at the project site.

At the June meeting, Mr. Milliern will provide budget options for board direction. There will be a short budget meeting in August for the board to decide what level of funding to request for the 2025-2027 biennium as state agency budget requests are due to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in September. Of note, budget and planning work will be challenging given the uncertainties related to the outcome of the CCA initiative.

Chair Breckel asked how staff plan to approach regions and lead entities to address the uncertainty of CCA funding, specifically the \$25 million appropriated to the board in the 2024 supplemental session. Mr. Milliern replied that the large project list being generated will be funded with the \$25 million if it is available and that the list will also support a capital budget request for the 2025-2027 biennium, pending the board's budget decisions. **Director Duffy** emphasized that the board previously decided to create a large project list in addition to regular board funding and the development of that list will be relevant regardless of whether there is CCA funding. **Member Cottingham** noted the large project list request could be like previous years when the Legislature would decide the source of the funding. Mr. Milliern added that a large project list would likely be ready for OFM to include in the budget submission.

2024 policy items will generally be lighter this year, although there will likely be a water rights acquisition discussion, possible recommendations from the riparian round table towards the end of the year, and refinements to [Manual 18](#).

Noting a 2023 policy issue around water planning, **Member Cottingham** asked how the board direction to Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) was received. **Director Duffy** had not heard anything from Ecology, but RCO staff have coordinated with Ecology during report development.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Erik Neatherlin, GSRO Director, provided an update on the Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC), a process that was part of an agreement between the four

governors of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. GSRO sits as an alternate for Washington on the Columbia Basin Partnership policy board (called the Intergovernmental Resource Group), which has been meeting to discuss policy and carry forward the vision of the Columbia Basin Partnership.

In February, GSRO attended a two-day event celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the [Boldt Decision](#) which reaffirmed Tribal treaty rights and sovereignty.

Washington is the lead on Congressional letters of support for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF). Each year RCO and GSRO work with the Governor's Office in DC to coordinate a five-state Governor's letter of support and Congressional letters of support for PCSRF from the Senator Cantwell's office and Congressional Members Larsen's and Strickland's offices. These letters of support processes are in process.

GSRO is working with state agencies to develop a salmon budget and policy workplan for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Chair Breckel recognized the anniversary and importance of the Boldt Decision.

Member Cottingham asked if a recent White House event celebrating four Columbia River states was related to Columbia Basin Collaborative (CBC). Mr. Neatherlin answered that the celebration event was not formally related to the CBC, rather an event to commemorate the ten-year stay of litigation in the longstanding Columbia River lawsuit and the historic agreement between the White House and the Six Sovereigns (four Lower Columbia River Treaty Tribes and the states of Washington and Oregon) to advance the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative. The CBC is a 4-state Governor's agreement (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana) that supports broader collaborative efforts across the Basin. There are ongoing discussions to determine how the CBC will support this historic Six Sovereigns agreement and broader Columbia River Restoration Initiative.

Jeannie Abbott, GSRO Program Coordinator, provided a brief update on the new lead entity, Spokane Salmon Restoration Collaborative (SSRC). RCO staff is working to develop GIS layers for SSRC and will return to the board in June for direction on funding options in the 2026 grant round.

The Salmon Recovery Conference will be April 28-30, 2025, at the Yakima Convention Center. This two and a half day in-person event will include additional plenary sessions, time for networking, and more time for questions and answers in both plenary and breakout sessions. Potentially, there will be field visits the morning of April 28.

Tara Galuska, GSRO Orca Recovery Coordinator, reported the official census indicates that there are seventy-five southern resident killer whales (SRKW).

In January, Ms. Galuska presented to the Canadian [Indigenous and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Body](#) (IMAB) which is moving toward more formal measures on fishing closures, sanctuary areas closed to boating in Canada, and business law. GSRO will collaborate with Canada to see where their long-term issues are for 2025-2026.

During a ceremony on February 21, the United State Coast Guard (USCG) formally opened their [cetacean desk](#) pilot program that alerts vessels of the presence of large whales in the Salish Sea.

Quiet Sound successfully implemented their second slow-down for large ships in the Salish Sea with funding through the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP).

Puget Sound Day on the Hill will request funding from NOAA and USCG to run the cetacean desk and request support for a \$10 million national grant to work with non-government organizations, Tribes, and other partners on quieting waters and reducing vessel interaction nationally.

In February, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission successfully petitioned the federal government to approve listing SRKWs on the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in Oregon and GSRO collaborating and sharing information on the work done in Washington.

Ms. Galuska expected the research paper [Revised taxonomy of eastern Northern Pacific killer whales \(*Orcinus orca*\): Bigg's and resident ecotypes deserve species status](#) to be published in March that proposed new species for SRKWs and transient killer whales in the Puget Sound. Researchers are working with Washington Tribes for a name for resident killer whales.

Chair Breckel asked if Washington has anything like the long-term measures Canada is working to put in place. Ms. Galuska explained that Washington does have comparable measures including [NOAA's Amendment 21](#) and [Senate Bill \(SB\) 5371](#) which will go into effect on January 1, 2025, and increases the distance required distance of vessels to SRKWs to 1,000 yards.

Finally, Ms. Galuska noted that an Oil Spill Taskforce met in the San Juan Islands in December where they considered methods to deter whales around oil spills.

Salmon Section Report

Marc Duboiski, Salmon Recovery Grants Section Manager, highlighted recent staff changes including the addition of two Assistant Section Manager positions. Kat Moore

was promoted as the assistant manager for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and board programs, and Christy Rains was hired as the assistant manager for office programs. Recently, Alissa Ferell was promoted to the Senior Grants Manager position on the PSAR/board side. Recruitment for a Grants Manager on the office programs side will begin soon to fill Alissa's prior role.

Mr. Duboiski provided a brief update on projects funded in 2022 and 2023. There were still a few outstanding 2022 projects. Staff are working on Tribal agreements that have different terms and conditions. There are around twelve non-active agreements from 2023 and staff are working hard to problem solve ahead of the 2024 grant cycle and are already making application site visits.

The review panel met on February 1, simultaneously with the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) meeting and staff were able to share information with WSC about the new riparian program, targeted investments, and answer questions.

Staff held an application webinar on February 13 for the grant round. The webinar was well attended, and Mr. Duboiski noted that many sponsors had new staff attend to learn about board policies and programs.

Mr. Duboiski highlighted that the BAFBRB, ESRP, and WCRRI are accepting applications. The ESRP and WCRRI programs will be featured at the June meeting.

Lastly, Mr. Duboiski referred the board to the closed projects in Attachment A and cost increases in Attachment B in the meeting [materials](#).

Member Cottingham asked if the board was on track with the amount of money needed for cost increases. Mr. Duboiski answered that the board and RCO are on track and the board will reset the cost increase fund in June.

Noting Mr. Duboiski's comment about new sponsor staff attending the application webinar, **Chair Breckel** asked why there was so much turnover. Mr. Duboiski clarified that there is not sponsor turnover, but rather turnover within agencies and sponsor organizations. RCO staff have been emphasizing the importance of sponsors working with their lead entity coordinators. Mr. Duboiski noted that staff have been fielding questions about the riparian program.

BREAK: 9:59 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

General Public Comment

None.

Item 3: Partner Reports

Council of Regions

Alex Conley, Council of Regions (COR) Chair, shared that COR will meet WDFW, Ecology, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Washington Conservation Commission (WCC) in March to discuss budget and policy priorities ahead of the 2025 Legislative session.

COR was joined by Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) and lead entities at the Salmon Day on the Hill to meet with legislators to highlight salmon recovery projects.

COR and partners have been working to coordinate projects, ensuring there is enough match to secure federal infrastructure funds, which has been challenging while developing the next suite of projects.

COR continues to meet monthly and perform other regular duties. Mr. Conley expressed appreciation for the quarterly calls with Director Duffy and Erik Neatherlin, and to Member Cram for coordinating calls with WDFW leadership. Discussions with the Columbia River regions continue, and Mr. Conley noted that the settlement agreement mentioned by Mr. Neatherlin creates new funding programs and gives direction to existing programs.

Regarding Item Four of the agenda, COR had reviewed and generally supports what is included in the meeting [materials](#) and looks forward to continuing to help develop more detailed proposals. Mr. Conley expressed his appreciation for allowing time on the agenda for regional presentations in Item Five and looks forward to more regions presenting throughout the year.

Chair Breckel asked if Mr. Conley and COR would provide an update of the policy and budget discussion occurring in March between COR and state agencies. Mr. Conley agreed to present the outcome of that meeting to the board at a later meeting.

Washington Salmon Coalition

Aundrea McBride, Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) Chair, highlighted the opportunity for WSC to meet with Legislators in Olympia followed by the February 1 Washington Salmon Coalition meeting at the Natural Resources Building (NRB). WSC would like to meet with Legislators again next year.

Some lead entities are beginning their grant rounds and have submitted letters of intent. In Skagit Valley alone, there is \$18 million in requests, including \$1.5 million for riparian projects.

Ms. McBride directed the board to the reports from three lead entities in the meeting [materials](#), noting that these reports highlight the size of projects that demonstrate collaboration with other salmon programs.

Regarding the agenda items for this meeting, WSC is excited to see that the monitoring program is being discussed in Item Four and lead entities look forward to contributing to the process through the regions.

Regional Fisheries Coalition

Lance Winecka, Regional Fisheries Coalition (RFC), highlighted the meetings with Legislators and RFC's support for the supplemental Governor's Budget for salmon recovery. Mr. Winecka noted support from Legislators regarding the board decision to change the match policy.

COR, lead entities, and RFEGs have been working for the past six months to coordinate a permit sponsor meeting that is scheduled for May 6 via Zoom. Permitting agencies such as Ecology, WDFW, United States Corps of Engineers (Army Corps), and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are anticipated to attend. GSRO and RCO are working with sponsors and permitting agencies on how to implement current and changing permitting tools to streamline the permit process to get projects completed quicker.

RFC would like to be involved in the process of updating the match modernization strategy in Manual 18.

Regarding cost increases, Mr. Winecka noted that it is difficult to make cost predictions ahead of time and highlighted the need for a flexible cost increase mechanism that is predictable for project sponsors.

Mr. Winecka highlighted DNR's Kennedy Creek Salmon Trails ([RCO #23-1436](#)). Two weeks ago, Mr. Winecka visited the trails with Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and Squaxin Island Tribe Chairman Kris Peters to tour the new informational signs along the trails. Mr. Winecka offered to conduct a tour with the board to showcase the new projects to replace the viewing platforms and a bridge over the logging road. The project at Whiteman Cove ([RCO #13-1142](#)) was funded and Mr. Winecka highlighted that this was a fifteen-year project that is finally being implemented.

All RFEs are due for insurance renewal in June; however, insurance rates have increased significantly since last year and professional liability insurance is limited.

Members and Mr. Winecka discussed cost increases and **Member Cottingham** noted that one cost increase could use up the entire cost increase allowance and asked if there is a contingency for cost increases in board policy and whether that is a policy the board should consider. **Marc Duboiski** answered that a contingency as a line-item is not allowed; however, sponsors tend to build it into other task items. RCO tries to allow for flexibility, but it depends on the allocation. **Director Duffy** emphasized that money for cost increases is limited to what is available. **Chair Breckel** added that the remaining alternative would be to limit the overall funding to save a larger pot for cost increases.

Item 4: Board Monitoring: The Path Forward

Erik Neatherlin thanked the monitoring subcommittee that has met with regional directors, lead entity representatives, and the Science Advisory Panel, formerly known as the Monitoring Panel. Mr. Neatherlin specified that GSRO is looking for direction from the board.

Greer Maier, GSRO Science Coordinator, provided an overview of board monitoring beginning with a brief history of the monitoring programs as outlined in the meeting [materials](#). Previously, the board developed four questions to help guide monitoring projects:

- What is the status and health of fish populations?
- What is the status and health of the habitat?
- What are the key factors limiting recovery?
- Are we making progress towards recovery?

Since 2003, around \$2.35 million has been received annually through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) get the majority of this, around \$1.5-2 million each year and since 2017, the regions get \$350,000 per year. Effectiveness monitoring went from being funded at \$350,000 annually to \$45,000 annually and will end in 2024. Fish in Fish Out (FIFO) stopped receiving \$208,000 annually from the board in 2022 when WDFW was able to secure funding for that program. Funding changes to these programs have created the need and opportunity to modernize existing monitoring programs to better meet board and regional needs.

Last fall, Ms. Maier conducted a series of interviews with the Science Advisory Panel, regions, and board members; gathering feedback on the existing programs; determining

where data gaps exist; and what information needs there are, while receiving input on future direction. The overall feedback on existing monitoring programs was:

- They should be better integrated and less siloed.
- Results need to be more accessible and shared effectively to better inform decision making.
- There should be better alignment with recovery efforts.
- Should be focused more on timely and relevant questions, as some are dated.
- Should better address regional needs and progress towards recovery.

In the future, these groups would like to see monitoring focus on supporting regional prioritization; fish and habitat status and trends; limiting factors; project effectiveness; salmon life-cycle monitoring; and regionally specific needs. Ms. Maier outlined the potential next steps for this process:

1. A focused discussion about the future of IMWs – a workshop was held on February 20.
2. Collaboration and support of WDFW for FIFO work for the benefit of recovery efforts.
3. Explore ways to support regional decision making and improve the funding process.
4. Engage the board to provide direction on adaptive management.

Ms. Maier suggested an integrated monitoring program as a path forward that would inform board, region, and sponsor decisions. There is currently funding available for a monitoring grant program and as some IMWs transition from the research phase over the next ten years, more funding will become available.

Ms. Maier gave a brief overview of the five-board funded IMWs currently in transition, highlighting the [2023 results synthesis](#) created by the Science Advisory Panel, and information gained from a recent IMW workshop convened by GSRO on February 20. The board IMW model is to monitor before restoration treatments, conduct the restoration treatments, and then monitor afterwards and compare results in the treatment watersheds to a control. Some IMWs experienced delays in beginning the restoration treatments, and as a result they are behind in the post-treatment monitoring and still figuring out post project monitoring completion timelines. GSRO is looking at developing a timeline for future funding and research in the IMWs and will revisit the topic at a future board meeting. Ms. Maier requested board direction on what information should be provided when discussing IMWs in the future.

While in the process of determining the future of IMWs, Ms. Maier would like to discuss the development of a board monitoring grant program using existing funds. Ms. Maier has identified the following issues based on feedback:

- The level of guidance and direction that would be provided.
- Ability to use information gathered at different scales to ensure compatibility of data sets across agencies.
- Equity in funding, bearing in mind there is only around \$700,000 available statewide.
- Sponsor capacity.

Ms. Maier requested board direction on whether staff should move forward with developing an integrated monitoring grant program using the available monitoring funds and what other considerations are important to add to the list above.

Member Maroney asked if there was any insight from the IMW meeting on February 20, noting that PNAMP plans to meet later this year. Member Maroney wanted clarity on how IMW data can be compared and used, noting that there seemed to be big differences between IMWs. Ms. Maier gathered some information from the workshop about next steps and consistency across IMWs, but it depends on the individual IMW and what phase it is in, making data difficult to compare. Ms. Maier hopes to present the board with more information on each IMW, including what information they are collecting and for what purpose.

Member Hoffmann, Member Cottingham, and Member Endresen-Scott agreed that if the board is going to continue investing in IMWs, it is important to look at the original questions and decide if they can be addressed, and if not, they should be revised to reflect the evolution of monitoring over the past twenty years. Member Hoffmann noted that the synthesis report was high-level and would like to see a deeper synthesis.

Member Cottingham added that a lot has been learned from IMWs and now it is time to decide whether the board needs to continue funding them. Ms. Maier noted that it is time to act on what has been learned as part of adaptive management and was looking for direction on how IMWs fit into future planning.

Member Endresen-Scott expressed concern about the capacity of regions to participate in an additional grant round process and whether a monitoring grant program would ease or increase sponsor burden. Additionally, Member Endresen-Scott and Member Cram shared concern for splitting up the small pot of funding via a regional allocation.

Member Keesecker noted that the WCC's Science Hub is interested in integrating data from local to regional scales, encouraged more discussions about IMWs, and wants to highlight the potential synergies between organizations.

Member Cram highlighted that while a lot has been learned from IMWs, they are just one piece of a large information gathering effort occurring in the Pacific Northwest, adding that some of the dissatisfaction over IMWs could be from them being siloed. Member Cram would like IMWs to be modernized and more inclusive of other monitoring programs.

Chair Breckel would like to see the board work more comprehensively with other agencies to clarify existing IMW information and a clear plan on how IMWs intend to wrap up before agreeing to continue board investment.

Members and staff discussed the scientific value of IMWs and how technology has changed in recent years to improve monitoring in a less expensive way.

Member Hoffmann suggested a strategic plan exercise to provide expectations and clarity for a sense of when IMWs can end. Member Endresen-Scott would like a clear timeframe of IMWs and more information before funding. Ms. Maier noted that all necessary and available information will be shared with the board.

Member Cottingham asked if rather than calling the funding a grant program, it could be a request for proposals. Ms. Maier shared that this option is being considered.

General Public Comment

Kieth Dublanica, Board Member of Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team and the South Puget Sound Enhancement Group, noted opportunities outlined in the memo that highlight the discussions and dissemination of information during the workshops and continued interaction with the board, Science Advisory Panel, and principal investigators. Mr. Dublanica thought Option 1 in the meeting [materials](#) was admirable. The Deschutes Estuary Restoration Team will host a community vision committee later in the year and welcomes collaboration with the board and staff.

Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), commented on an IMW in the Lower Columbia at Abernathy Creek. The study was set up to evaluate whether there will be a population-scale response to the restoration work. LCFRB has a much clearer understanding of population dynamics and life history of coho but needs monitoring to continue through 2031. Mr. Manlow encouraged the board to think in terms of fish lifecycles when considering changes to IMWs.

Alex Conley, representing his own views, noted that there seems to be broad support for finishing IMWs through their known endpoints, and shared concern for extending or expanding investments past the endpoint. By knowing IMW timelines, there will be a better understanding of what funding is available, and then whether IMWs should be expanded could be addressed. In general, Mr. Conley felt that a regional monitoring program would be the best way to use the additional funds.

Director Duffy summarized the overarching themes and questions from the conversation:

Board:

- Are the original monitoring questions still the same or do they need to change?
- What is the timeline and what are the pieces of information the board needs to decide on IMWs?

Individual IMWs:

- What were the original questions being asked?
- Are there new questions that have come up over time?
- What actions were taken to answer those questions?
- What treatments and types of monitoring are being done?
- What was learned and what still needs to be learned, how is it relevant to the board's original questions, and how much time and funding will that require?

Monitoring Grant Program:

- Figure out what this would look like and what questions it would be answering.
- What is happening statewide? Tribes and agencies are also conducting monitoring and collecting data and information.

LUNCH: 12:41 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Item 5: Regional Presentations

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Steve Manlow, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (LCFRB), provided an overview of the recently completed viability update on ESA listed salmon and steelhead in the Lower Columbia River (LCR) region. Mr. Manlow emphasized the importance of recognizing timeframes, noting it takes time to improve over 100 years of impacts and detect responses through monitoring programs.

The Viability Status Update was done as part of the Lower Columbia Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries Plan 2023 Progress Report, a joint effort with WDFW and Fish Science Solutions, Incorporated. This report was largely funded through increased capacity dollars from the board and has not yet been published in full.

Viability Status

Species/Run Type	Baseline Viability	Current Viability	Goal Viability
Chum Salmon	Very Low	Low	High or Greater Within Each Strata
Spring Chinook Salmon	Very Low	Very Low	High or Greater Within Each Strata
Falle (Tule) Chinook Salmon	Very Low	Low	High or Greater Within Each Strata
Late Fall (Bright) Chinook Salmon	Very High	Very High	High or Greater Within Each Strata
Coho Salmon	Very Low	Low	High or Greater Within Each Strata
Summer Steelhead	Low	Medium	High or Greater Within Each Strata
Winter Steelhead	Low	Medium	High or Greater Within Each Strata

Most run types or species improved at least one viability status level since baseline assessments were completed, except for Spring Chinook. Notably, no species have achieved high or greater viability. There are seventy-two ESA listed populations in the Lower Columbia region and 35 percent have shown viability improvements, 32 percent are achieving viability targets, 19 percent are at high or very high viability, but 64 percent of populations are at low or very low viability. Viability varies by each species, which can be found in more detail in the report.

Watersheds with hydroelectric facilities tend to have populations that struggle more. Watersheds that are doing better are closer to the Interstate-Five corridor and habitat investments need to be protected as the human populations grow.

Overall, there is more natural abundance across populations, and the viability status has improved for most species and runs, while population declines have stopped, and recovery efforts are improving the harvest rate. [All-H](#) (habitat, hatcheries, hydropower, and harvest) recovery actions continue to support improving salmon and steelhead runs,

and steelhead are likely to be the priority species when it comes to a delisting petition, although none of the species or populations are ready for delisting consideration. There is a need for a better understanding of bottlenecks and update strategies for an All-H recovery.

Mr. Manlow highlighted the [Lower Columbia Resource Map](#) tool that includes results from the viability report.

LCFRB used the viability update to shape targeted investment solicitations and helped determine which watersheds to focus on. LCFRB is updating their habitat strategy to ensure there is a recovery scenario that makes sense and is achievable. Of note, there is a shared habitat strategy plan with Oregon.

Member Cottingham asked if a viability analysis was done with Oregon. Mr. Manlow explained that this viability analysis was for Washington only, but Oregon is doing a parallel analysis.

Member Hoffmann asked if the IMW monitoring work would be useful and Mr. Manlow explained that some preliminary IMW results are being used to determine where coho can be helped.

Chair Breckel noted the importance of highlighting these projects to show how adaptive management can be supported through monitoring.

Puget Sound Partnership

Melissa Speeg, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Salmon Recovery Manager, emphasized that PSP is a state agency which is different from other regions. Ms. Speeg described the complexity of the Puget Sound region which has over 4 million people across twelve counties and 110 cities. There are twenty-two Chinook populations, plus summer chum, bull trout, and steelhead. Additionally, there are twenty Treaty Tribes, sixteen watershed chapters, fifteen lead entities, fourteen recovery planning areas, twelve conservation districts, and seven RFEs.

PSP is comprised of four boards that fall under the direction of the Leadership Council, including the Salmon Recovery Council, Ecosystem Coordination Board, and Science Panel, which all work toward local recovery planning and implementation throughout the Puget Sound. In addition to the four main boards, there are ten other affiliated boards' groups and networks that PSP oversees to advance policy, science, and implementation.

PSP is responsible for several plans, primarily the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, ESA Recovery Plan for the Puget sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment, Action Agenda for Puget Sound, and the Chinook Slamon Implementation Strategy.

The [Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan](#) includes sixteen different watersheds that sit under fifteen different lead entities, along with a regional chapter. In this system, the lead entities and watersheds are supported by the region. There are twenty-two Chinook populations across five biogeographical areas.

PSP's approach to Chinook viability recovery includes improving the viability status of all populations from current conditions with a focus on at least two to four populations in each biogeographical area. Ms. Speeg emphasized that even in watersheds where Chinook are not present, PSP is charged with supporting the overall system.

Ms. Speeg highlighted the different areas PSP is focusing on to advance salmon recovery including environmental justice; removing barriers to recovery; policy development and advocating for state policy priorities; participating in the Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington, D.C.; providing watershed chapter planning assistance; and supporting lead entities.

In 2020, PSP started a process to update the regional chapter of the Puget Sound Recovery Plan and they expect to complete the update by 2024 and implement it with regional monitoring and an adaptive management framework. Additionally, PSP helps partners implement their projects; aligns recovery across Puget Sound; and works with the Federal Leadership Taskforce.

PSP uses progress and salmon habitat indicators and targets to ensure they are on track toward salmon recovery. PSP is working to develop a Regional Adaptive Management Framework (RAMF) to evaluate implementation and outcomes from the Salmon Recovery Plan Addendum strategies, apply indicators and best available science to inform actions, and share learning through regular reporting.

PSP coordinates raising awareness about the need for sustained federal funding for Puget Sound recovery, including working with partners to organize the Puget Sound Day on the Hill on May 13-17. At the state level, PSP works to ensure a strong salmon recovery budget through meeting with partners and prioritizing investments to inform the Governor and Legislative budgets. PSP also manages PSAR funds for priority salmon habitat projects.

PSP recently put together a strategic funding team to strategically direct federal funding to support, accelerate, and scale the implementation of Puget Sound recovery.

Member Cottingham asked how many of the sixteen watershed chapters had been updated. Ms. Speeg was unsure of a specific number but thought that there were between six and eight complete with two to three nearly complete. The goal is to get each chapter on a ten-year rotation for updates.

BREAK: 2:39 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.

Item 6: Fish Passage Coordination: Department of Fish and Wildlife and Department of Transportation

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tom Jameson, WDFW Fish Passage and Screening Division Manager and BAFBRB member, provided an overview of fish passage in Washington, noting that fish barriers and passages fall under “habitat” in the All-H approach of salmon recovery. Fish passage barriers (FPB) exist across ownership, with around 17,579 confirmed barriers that affect salmon and/or steelhead. WDFW has a [public facing database](#) showing the location and ownership of known FBPs.

Mr. Jameson explained how the state is approaching fish passage and each agency’s responsibility.

- WDFW is responsible for co-managing the fish with Tribes and has regulatory authority, and is responsible for research, establishing design and assessment standards, providing technical assistance, and maintaining the Fish Passage Diversion and Screening (FPDSI) database. Additionally, WDFW is one of the four co-defendants in the Culvert Case Injunction (injunction). WDFW chairs the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB), is a member of the fish team on the Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), is involved in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and provides inventory and assessments to State Parks.
- WSDOT is the largest entity involved in fish passage in Washington State. WSDOT is a co-defendant in the injunction and completes FPB projects as part of larger transportation projects that are unrelated to the injunction. Since the injunction, WSDOT has become the leader in designing fish passage projects.
- DNR has regulatory authority, is a co-defendant in the injunction, leads the FFFPP, and is working on their own FPB prioritization strategy in their Watershed Plan.
- State Parks’ role in fish passage is primarily their injunction obligation that is supported by WDFW.

- RCO and GSRO provide grant management and is responsible for the [Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy](#).
- PSP leads the collective effort to restore and protect the Puget Sound
- The State Legislature provides funding, guidance, and direction.

The major fish passage programs in the state include Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans (RMAP), Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP), Chehalis Basin Aquatic Species Restoration Plan, the Culvert Case Injunction, the BAFBRB, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), cities and counties, WCRRI, and the board.

Mr. Jameson briefly summarized the injunction that is a 2013 ruling requiring the state to remove state-owned culverts blocking habitat for salmon and steelhead by 2030 and maintain and monitor culverts for fish passage in perpetuity. The injunction applies to WSDOT, DNR, State Parks, and WDFW. Nearly all DNR, State Parks, and WDFW projects are complete.

The Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board was established in 2014 following the injunction to restore salmon and steelhead to healthy and harvestable level statewide through the coordinated and strategic removal of barriers to fish passage. There are two pathways for funding from BAFBRB: 1) the watershed pathway, which maximizes benefits to salmon at a population scale; and 2) the partnership pathway, which leverages previous fish passage investments. Projects are scored by staff-scored criteria and team-scored criteria. WDFW originally requested funding for 102 projects from the 2023-2025 capital budget totaling over \$150 million in requests.

Member Cottingham asked if the \$150 million would fund all 102 projects. Mr. Jameson answered that fifty-four projects have been funded but if CCA funding goes through, all 102 projects would likely be funded.

Dr. Jane Atha, WDFW Fish Passage Specialist, provided an overview of the Statewide Fish Passage Prioritization Strategy (strategy) established through 2020 Legislative provisions with the intention of funding a scientifically sound and widely supported strategy. The strategy was not intended to be a list of barriers but rather will offer multiple tactics and strategies while maintaining flexibility within the program.

Even though hundreds of millions of dollars are allocated to FPB removal, salmon continue to struggle. Although there are several distinct remediation plans and programs operating simultaneously within the state, the strategy will focus funding on ESA listed salmon and steelhead stocks, SRKWs, and constraining fisheries.

The state will use the strategy to focus efforts on culvert correction programs into a single strategy to maximize public investment in salmon and orca recovery, guide finding recommendations of BAFBRB and other state FPB programs and could be used to help direct limited compliance and enforcement resources.

Development of the strategy began in Spring 2023, with Tribal and stakeholder engagement. In Summer 2023, the science panel convened and began a technical review and development continued through the fall and winter. WDFW expects to have a draft strategy complete to begin review by the end of 2024.

Member Maroney asked if ESA listed bull trout are included in the strategy. Mr. Jameson noted that salmon and steelhead were named in the proviso, but the science panel is looking at all ESA listed species.

Matthew Curtis, WDFW Protection Division Manager, explained Hydraulic Project Approvals (HPAs) that specifically allows hydraulic projects for the protection of fish life, meaning all fish species, including but not limited to food fish, shellfish, game fish, and other non-classified fish species and at all stages of development of those species. Water crossing structures are one of the many types of permitted activities. More information on HPAs can be found under [Revised Code of Washington \(RCW\) 77.57](#).

Most relevant to the board is the Fish Habitat Enhancement Project (FHEP), which is a streamlined permit that allows certain hydraulic project types to be exempt from certain local government regulations. Only certain project types can receive FHEP permits, including those that eliminate human-made or human-caused FPBs such as culvert repair and replacement and FPB removals that comply with forest practice rules as defined by [RCW 76.09.020](#). Additionally, the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP) is available for potential projects that do not fall under FHEP.

New rulemaking recommendations for Hydraulic Code RCW 77.57 would codify current standards used by WDFW for instream structures, screening and diversions, and climate adapted water crossings structures. Additionally, rulemaking will address compliance issues for instream structures and screening. Next steps for Hydraulic Code RCW 77.57 would address climate adaptive culverts and marine shoreline armoring against climate change and sea-level rise.

Member Kanzler asked how complete the statewide inventory of barriers is, noting that the bulk of inventory is in Western Washington. Mr. Jameson explained that Western Washington is more complete, primarily due to the Culvert Injunction because the Association of Cities and Association of Counties contracted with WDFW to complete the inventory. Much of Eastern Washington remains unknown as much of it is privately

owned. Additionally, WDFW received funding from the United States Forest Service (USFS) to inventory FPBs on and downstream of USFS property. Member Kanzler asked if the USFS effort was a statewide effort. Mr. Jameson answered that the USFS effort has been focused on Western Washington and in the Lower Columbia.

Chair Breckel asked what the strategy meant for projects using board funding. Dr. Atha answered that there are still unknowns, but board funded projects might have a status within the statewide strategy that includes regional priorities. Chair Breckel asked how projects around the state will be compared. Dr. Atha answered that the statewide approach needs statewide datasets that would compare things like habitat types and then filter to the regional level. Mr. Jameson noted that there are existing models under consideration to assist in developing the strategy, like the optimization model used by DNR for timber harvests.

Washington State Department of Transportation

Erin Matthews, WDOT Fish Passage Coordinator, provided an overview of fish passage coordination. WSDOT works with WDFW to identify and complete fish passage projects; extensively coordinates with Tribes; partners with local enhancement groups, local governments, Tribes, private landowners, and other entities; and is an active member of BAFBRB.

Ms. Matthews explained how WDFW provides fish passage project support by verifying barrier status, fish use, and habitat potential. Additionally, WDFW verifies anadromous fish presence and an appropriate work window, is involved in the bank-full width agreement, issues HPAs, and provides construction support.

WSDOT coordinates their FPB efforts with other BAFBRB members by working collaboratively to coordinate FPB corrections across the state. Planned WSDOT projects are used in grant proposal ranking and improve the scores of nearby proposals. Part of WSDOT's role on the BAFBRB is to be a part of the grant application assessment process and communicate planned WSDOT projects for use in proposal ranking. Ms. Matthews highlighted FBP removals on Chico Creek in Kitsap County that Tribes and partners were able to leverage for their own adjacent restoration projects.

Ms. Matthews explained Washington State's coordination with Tribes beginning in the 1800's with the Stevens Treaties through the Boldt Decision of 1974 that established the co-manager system used today. The Culvert Injunction found that the State of Washington has a treaty-based duty to preserve fish runs, which barrier culverts violate. The injunction required that WSDOT open 90 percent of significant gain barriers (barriers with 200 or more meters of upstream habitat) by 2030 and open the remaining

10 percent of deferred habitat at the end of the structure’s useful life or as part of another project. Limited gain barriers (barriers with less than 200 meters of upstream habitat) need to be corrected at the end of the structure’s useful life or as part of another project. Barriers identified after 2013 need to be corrected within a reasonable period. As of June 2023, the following barriers have been identified:

Significant Gain	Limited Gain	Newly Identified
754 Barriers	151 Barriers	198 Barriers
1,135 miles of blocked habitat	11 miles of blocked habitat	214 miles of blocked habitat

The injunction required that WSDOT develop an assessment of the salmon habitat upstream of each WSDOT barrier. The length of salmon habitat gain is measured from the fish barrier of interest upstream to the natural barriers and does not include other barriers owned by other entities, which assumes the other barriers will be fixed at some point. WSDOT seeks partnerships in watersheds with many barriers and many owners as often as possible.

The injunction set barrier correction standards preferring that WSDOT first remove or abandon unnecessary crossings, install full channel spanning bridges to facilitate habitat connection for fish and wildlife, and lastly, install stream simulation culverts that mimic the natural stream channel process throughout the culvert.

WSDOT organized their FPB work into a 2030 Delivery Plan that restores access to 90 percent of blocked habitat by 2030 and corrects some high-value newly identified barriers, and a Beyond 2030 Delivery Plan that will restore access to 10 percent of the deferred blocked habitat significant gain barriers, limited gain barriers, and the remaining newly identified barriers.

WSDOT uses a variety of prioritization principles to plan and deliver their program with an emphasis on Tribal input and habitat gain. As of June 2023, 114 injunction barriers have been corrected, improving over 500 miles of anadromous fish habitat. An additional thirty-two FPBs were corrected over the summer, which opened another sixty miles of habitat. There are 198 projects under construction contract as of January 2024, and another 171 projects are currently in design or scoping. Together, these projects account for around 90 percent of the 2030 deadline. Beyond 2030, there are 339 significant gain habitat barriers, 124 limited gain habitat barriers, and 115 newly identified barriers.

For more information on WSDOT FPB efforts, please visit their [Fish Passage webpage](#). Here you can find links to habitat restoration partnerships, contracting and training for fish passage, WSDOT's injunction delivery plan, and WSDOT's culvert map. Ms. Matthews noted the similarities to the WDFW map and that both maps synchronize every week to ensure accurate information on both.

Member Cottingham asked if Interstate-Five over the Nisqually River is considered a FPB. **Member Kanzler** noted that the interstate is complicated, and the injunction is only applicable to culverts and does not include other FPBs on the landscape.

Chair Breckel asked how population priority fits into WSDOT's priority FPBs. Ms. Matthews answered that with the 2030 deadline, WSDOT is focused on lineal gain opened by projects that benefit all anadromous fish. The Beyond 2030 plan allows for more flexibility since there is not a hard deadline and population priorities will be factored in.

Channing Syms, WSDOT Passage Design Manager, described the preliminary hydraulic design (PHD) process outlined in more detail in [WSDOT Design Manual M](#). WSDOT is designing with seismic and scour risk and climate change in mind and updating guidance and policy direction with the best available science and research. By building more resilient designs, WSDOT fish passage designs require less maintenance and are less susceptible to catastrophic failures. Additionally, structures are better suited for a changing climate.

WSDOT is moving toward using both large and small woody debris along with slash in their design process to provide proper scour protection and has developed a wood policy for wood inside structures. Risk assessments are conducted to determine downstream risks, and risks to stream navigation and infrastructure. Additionally, scour countermeasures are used to prevent scouring along passages.

Mr. Syms highlighted recent projects including Carpenter Creek and Squalicum Creek. WSDOT continues to innovate using lessons learned from past projects like creating meander bars and using enough fine sediments. There is little to no guidance on how to create step-pools and WSDOT is working on a design that will be sustainable and long lasting. WSDOT offers [Fish Passage and Stream Restoration training](#), available online.

Chair Breckel asked how stable small materials are in stream beds. Mr. Syms explained that small materials need to be buried and if small woody materials are mixed with fifty percent stream materials, it is stable.

Item 7: Board 2023 Grant Process Survey Results

Marc Duboiski provided an overview of the 2023 Grant Round Process Applicant Survey Results. There were 541 project contacts and RCO received sixty responses. Local governments and nonprofits provided the most responses, followed by Tribes, RFEs, state agencies, and "other".

Survey questions were ranked in six categories: strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree, and not applicable (N/A). Mr. Duboiski noted that many responses were N/A and that seemed to skew the results. A detailed breakdown of results can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

Given feedback, staff are trying to ensure that there are backups for support when staff are out of the office and unavailable. Staff continue working on key action items, including an [application webinar](#) offered on February 13; offering specialized workshops for lead entities and regions; improving communication with lead entities; and clarifying eligibility. Based on feedback, the application due date will be moved from Friday to Monday to allow a final weekend for applications to be refined. Staff are making enhancements to PRISM to increase character limits on certain questions and have made the cultural resource mapping training more available. Lead entity site visits are being reworked for a more even distribution between Track One that runs from late-February to mid-March and Track Two that runs from late-March to mid-May.

Member Endresen-Scott suggested excluding the N/A responses from the overall percentages next time.

Chair Breckel asked if there were any other action items not listed. Mr. Duboiski noted that staff worked to clarify Appendix D. In 2025, match modernization will likely be a challenge.

Item 8: State Agency Partner Reports

This agenda item was presented after Item 3.

Department of Ecology

Member Annette Hoffmann, Ecology, highlighted the ongoing work to understand 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q) that includes coordinating with partners to conduct sampling and reduce sources of 6PPD-q. Ecology held their first [6PPD-q Action Plan](#) advisory committee meeting in January. Ecology has over \$3 million available for best management practices work on 6PPD-q and is seeking proposals for interagency agreements (IAA) to partner with public organizations. Ecology will also publish a

request for proposals (RFP) for best management practice effectiveness research in early 2024 open to all applicant types. Because the interagency agreement process is non-competitive, Ecology recommends that public organizations prioritize the IAA option over the RFP. More information can be found on Ecology's [6PPD-q web page](#).

[SB 5931](#) passed, amending the Safer Products for Washington law to add 6PPD-q as a priority chemical; add tires as priority consumer products; and clarifies that tires are not subject to the statutory exception for motor vehicles.

Washington State Conservation Commission

Member Levi Keesecker, SCC, provided an update on the SCC's Riparian Grant Program. Interim guidelines for the program were adopted in March by commissioners for a one-year period to allow work to begin and additional outreach for Tribes. The guidelines can be found on the [Riparian Grant Program web page](#).

The [Science Hub](#) for agriculture and ecosystems was previously funded by the Legislature but had been unstaffed until last month when Member Keesecker took on the role of Science Educator and Ecosystem Manager. The Science Hub exists to generate and amplify approaches that protect and enhance natural resources, agriculture liability, advance climate resiliency outcomes within SCC's programs, cultivate collaborative partnerships with stakeholders, and two pilot watershed projects.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Tom Gorman, DNR, noted that [Whiteman Cove restoration](#) was funded and permits will be finalized soon.

DNR had a few supplemental budget requests related to European green crab (EGC) and mapping and surveying kelp and eelgrass, primarily floating kelp. DNR is optimistic that funding will be approved for recreation and conservation work crews that do work in aquatic reserves, debris removal in marine environments, and invasive species treatments through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA).

[SB 6043](#) and [HB 2165](#) both passed, allowing DNR to determine recreational-use fees on DNR lands.

Member Endresen-Scott asked if mapping the floating kelp is related to how sargassum is being tracked in other parts of the world. Member Gorman was not familiar with sargassum mapping, but bull kelp is regularly monitored in Washington.

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Jeremy Cram, WDFW, shared that WDFW is tracking bills related to avian predation, the Adopt a Fish Barrier program, and coastal monitoring.

WDFW has started developing budget and policy priorities for the next biennium and will begin discussions with partners in upcoming months.

There will be workshops and meetings with partners and Tribes related to the Net Ecological Gain process before the June board meeting. Similarly, WDFW is expanding awareness of the riparian assessment tool's capabilities and relevance for riparian policy, as well as how it is used by the board and SCC.

WDFW has many monitoring priorities including IMWs; population viability monitoring; hatchery monitoring and evaluation; and expanded hydrological systems.

Washington State Department of Transportation

Member Susan Kanzler, WSDOT, shared that WSDOT is expecting increased funding for fish passage and stormwater retrofits in the supplemental budget. The Congress Transportation budget was released during today's meeting and Member Kanzler has not had a chance to review it.

WSDOT is also following [HB 2045](#), the Adopt a Fish Barrier program that includes an amendment that would authorize WSDOT to participate in the program to receive private donations for fish passage projects.

In partnership with Ecology and WDFW, WSDOT received notice of funding for the 2023 National Coastal Resiliency Fund for a community habitat infrastructure funding project that includes a coastal highway mobility study and integrates and supports habitat restoration to restore coastal processes, and functions to build resilience and address coastal hazard threats to transportation infrastructure.

ADJOURN: 4:22 P.M.

Motion: Move to adjourn early.
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Endresen-Scott**
Approved: **Approved**

Approved by:

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: Director's Report

Prepared By: Megan Duffy, Recreation and Conservation Office Director; Susan Zemek, Communications Manager; Brock Milliern, Policy Director; Mark Jarasitis, Fiscal Manager; and Bart Lynch, 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 other Recreation and Conservation Office boards, and fiscal and performance updates.

Board Action Requested

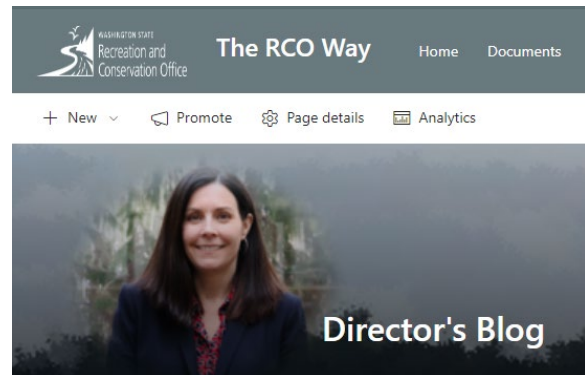
This item will be a:

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

Agency Update

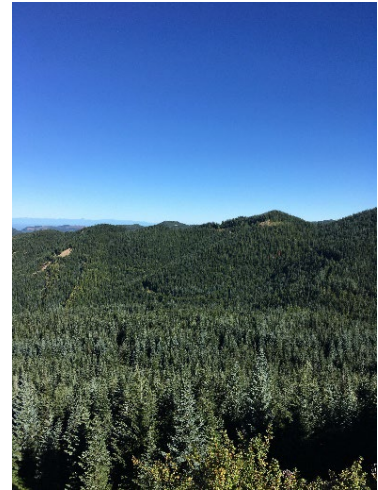
Modernizing the Director's Blog

The Director's Blog got a makeover in March to be outward-facing and share the agency's work. Previously, the blog was distributed only to agency, Governor's Office and Office of Financial Management staff. With a goal to better inform customers and partners of the work being done and the issues that affect them, staff have updated the look, featured fewer but longer articles with more external focus, and converted the blog to an electronic newsletter. The newsletter is distributed to all grant recipients and partners and soon will be posted on the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) websites. Some of the current blog's features such as the news clip roundup were either dropped or moved to other places.



Reaching Out to Encourage Community Forest Applications

RCO staff made a special effort to promote the Community Forests Program, resulting in tripling the number of applications received. The program was established by legislative proviso in 2020 and funds land acquisition, restoration, and development of recreation facilities to create and expand community forests across the state. A competitive project list in the first year of the program illustrated the latent need for the program and led to a high-water mark of \$16 million in funding for the program. In 2022, RCO received fewer project applications for a variety of factors, including the impacts of COVID-19 and the high cost of acquiring land. In the intervening years, RCO staff have joined the Executive Committee of the Northwest Community Forest Coalition, engaged in educational efforts with the Washington Association of Land Trusts, developed a new program [fact sheet](#), and conducted direct outreach to community forests groups to generate a robust list of fifteen projects to submit to the Legislature this year, compared to only five in 2022



Climate Commitment Act Funding to Support Salmon Recovery

New funding from the Climate Commitment Act is slated to boost salmon recovery projects in Washington.

In 2021, Governor Jay Inslee signed the Climate Commitment Act. The act created a program that requires the state's largest polluters to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. Greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, trap the sun's heat and are raising the temperature of the earth.

The act is the centerpiece of the state's climate action efforts. Money from the program does and will support many programs and thousands of projects that reduce pollution and improve the environment.



At RCO, this funding will be used to support six different salmon recovery grant programs that fund projects designed to improve waterways for salmon, which also benefit people and help mitigate climate change. Visit RCO's website to see [initial project applications](#) in these programs.

Orca Website on Trading Cards

RCO's orca website is making it onto a new calf orca trading card! The Seattle Aquarium is updating its trading cards to add new calves. The cards are sold at the aquarium, the Whale Museum, and other locations, as well as handed out at school programs. The cards contain facts and suggestions on how people can help the endangered orcas.



Ways of Whales

Tara Galuska, orca recovery coordinator, presented at the annual Ways of Whales Hybrid Workshop, hosted by the Orca Network. The workshop was well-attended in Coupeville, site of the infamous Penn Cove capture of Southern Resident orcas for aquariums. Organizations from all aspects of marine recovery hosted tables and information on marine mammals. The event brought together researchers, advocates, educators, professionals, and whale lovers for networking and continuing education. Tara spoke on a panel about the Southern Residents and salmon. Presenters included Brad Hansen, a leading federal biologist, discussing the seasonal diet of Southern Residents; Darren Croft, executive director of the Center for Whale Research, presenting on the evolving size of Chinook and possible behavior shifts in orca foraging; Kayeloni Scott, from the Nez Perce Tribe, who recently coproduced the movie, [Covenant of the Salmon People](#); and Tara, who spoke about the orca task force, recommendations for improving prey availability, the *Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy 2021*, and the state's efforts to increase prey.



Orcas Receive Extra Protections

Washington is preparing for boating season with a pilot program, education, and new laws aimed at keeping endangered Southern Resident orcas safer.

Tara Galuska, the Governor's orca recovery coordinator and RCO staffer, helped educate the public about the plight of Southern Resident orcas at the Seattle Boat Show this winter. The Southern Resident population is down to seventy-four individuals from a high of ninety-eight in 1995. They are suffering from a lack of food, vessel noise that disrupts their ability to find food, and polluted waterways.



Tara and natural resource agencies, organizations, and volunteers hosted the Be Whale Wise Booth to educate people about a [new law](#), which will take effect next year, requiring boaters to stay one thousand yards away from Southern Resident orcas. The buffer will make it easier for whales to find food using echolocation. To further aid in the protection of the orcas, the U.S. Coast Guard launched a four-year pilot program in December to alert ships when whales are swimming in Puget Sound. The goal of the "cetacean desk" is to reduce the number of whales that get hit by boats and reduce underwater noise. The new whale desk uses sightings from boaters and the public on whale-watching apps and data from underwater listening devices to determine where the whales are and then send out alerts through a mobile app to commercial vessels and ferries (not recreational boats). Boats can slow down and avoid the whales when safely possible, to quiet the waters and allow the whales safe passage.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, the Salish Sea hosted nearly three hundred thousand vessels in 2023, not including private boats, and that number only is expected to increase.

Poets Get Creative for Invasive Species Contest

The creative juices were flowing for participants in the Washington Invasive Species Council's poetry contest. Contestants had to write a haiku, limerick, acrostic, or free verse about one of the council's priority species. How do you write a haiku on spongy moth or free verse about invasive mussels? Check out this submission from a member of the Nez Perce Tribe.



Summer storm rolls over the hills through the Columbia River valley,
warm winds kiss the crests of river waves
as they mask the storm brewing beneath the chaotic surface.
Mussels upon mussels choking life from the water,
elongated shadows treating salmonids like fodder.
Rows of razor sharp teeth lurk behind thick mats
of invading pointed leaves whirling towards the river's sky,
as viruses and hitchhikers cling on for the ride.
Bilge pumps, live wells, anchors, they're all vectors.
Clean them off quick, here come the inspectors!
Protect all you can see, known by fin, wing, and car.
Efforts to treat them may not get you far.
Call all your scientists, both citizen and doctor, they're friends.
Spread awareness beyond the campaign week's end

-Kúulkul Cimúuxcimux

The winners received swag and had their works posted on social media during Washington's Invasive Species Awareness Week webinars. Additionally, winning poems were displayed at the council's March meeting. Visit the council's [Facebook page](#) to see all the winners.

Employee News

Karen Edwards joined RCO in April as the assistant section manager for the Recreation and Conservation Section. She came to us from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she was the Real Estate Services manager and led a team of fourteen real estate professionals. Previously, she spent thirteen years with the Department of Natural Resources, where she gained experience with land use and land management activities. She also worked as a property specialist with the Department of Transportation and at the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, where she acquired land and easements for public purposes. She also previously worked for three years at RCO as an outdoor grants manger.



Sarah Johnson Humphries was promoted to Cultural Resources Unit manager. She joined RCO in 2021 as our first archaeologist. She is responsible for review, preparation, and administration of the agency's cultural resources compliance process. Sarah is a Secretary of Interior-qualified archaeologist with more than fifteen years of experience. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Western Washington University and a master of arts degree from Simon Fraser University in British Columbia. Before joining RCO, she was a senior archaeologist at Equinox Research and Consulting International and worked on numerous RCO-funded projects throughout western Washington. She has conducted cultural resources training for construction crews and land managers, helped train dozens of new archaeological technicians, and completed hundreds of archaeological surveys and investigations.



Karl Jacobs (aka KJ), a senior outdoor grants manager with the Recreation and Conservation Section, has been promoted to assistant section manager. Karl started as an outdoor grants manager and was promoted to a senior grants manager about eight years ago. He is responsible for leading daily grants administration for a team of ten grants managers. Karl previously worked for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for more than eight years, first on environmental permitting for capital projects and then on a variety of real estate transactions. Before coming to



RCO, he spent two years at the Department of Enterprise Services handling commercial leasing and long-range facility planning on behalf of tenant state agencies. Karl has received a Washington State Parks Division Merit Award and is the recipient of both the RCO's Director's Achievement Award and Director's Award for Excellence

Rachel Lim began in May as an outdoor grants manager with the parks team in the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section. She has experience in multi-partner collaboration in both the biotech and nonprofit sectors, working on a range of projects from strengthening global health systems to biofuels research and development. Most recently, she worked as a project manager for a nonprofit urban forest carbon registry.



There, she supported land trusts, local governments, and nonprofits in leveraging carbon crediting to fund tree planting and preservation in and near urban areas across the country. She received her master of science degree in oceanography from the University of Washington and her bachelor of science degree in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is working towards a master of natural resources degree from Oregon State University. She will be working from her home office in Seattle.

Teresa Miskovic will start in June as a salmon grants manager for the office salmon programs. Teresa is a native Washingtonian who has spent her career in natural resources, largely in western Washington. Most of her career has been working for the Department of Natural Resources, where most recently she was a grant manager with the Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead program. There, she managed Environmental Protection Agency funds for projects focused on Puget



Sound recovery. Before that she was a project manager in the department's Adaptive Management Program, where she managed forestry research projects that evaluated forest practices rule effectiveness. She also served as a forester, focusing on timber sale and logging road layout, compliance, and wildland firefighting. Outside the department, she worked with the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group managing salmon habitat restoration projects largely in the Nisqually River watershed and with the Thurston Conservation District conducting stream habitat assessment surveys. Teresa received a bachelor degree in environment science from The Evergreen State College.

Kat Moore, who has spent thirteen years at RCO and ten as the senior grants manager for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, has been promoted to an assistant section manager for the salmon team. She has led the team in resolving project issues, developing policies, updating manuals, training new staff, refreshing experienced staff, and improving the PRISM database. Kat also has coordinated the board's technical review panel.



Christy Rains joined RCO in February as the assistant salmon section manager for office programs. She spent the past nine years at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Program doing fish passage work. She began her state career as a technician on the fish passage barrier inventory and assessment crew and most recently filled the Fish Passage Section manager roles for both the Inventory and Assessment and Project Scoping sections.



Christy received her bachelor's degree in environmental science from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Then she joined Virginia Tech's Stream Team, where she earned a master's degree in stream ecology. Before realizing streams were her passion, she thought she'd be a herpetologist, participating in a nesting ecology study of leatherback sea turtles in Costa Rica, a population dynamics study of the Nile crocodile in Botswana, and the effects of a crude oil spill on turtles in Philadelphia. When she first moved to Washington in 2013, she volunteered as a Green Kent park steward, leading community events to remove invasive plants and replanting with natives, which helped her learn our native flora.

Elizabeth Spaulding joined RCO in April as the habitat policy specialist in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office. This new position will help the state natural resources agencies align and advance priorities for riparian areas and other habitats across the state. Elizabeth came from the Department of Natural Resources where she served as a policy lead and the habitat strategic initiative lead. Before that, she spent ten years as a public policy facilitator and project manager, leading collaborative decision-making and stakeholder engagement processes for complex environment issues across the western United States.



Elizabeth has a law degree in environment and natural resources

law, a master of science degree in conflict and dispute resolution, and a bachelor of arts degree in journalism, all from the University of Oregon.

Nicole Tjoa joined RCO in April as the web and geographic information system specialist with our Information Technology Section. She came to us from Meta, where she was the senior quality analyst and participated in all phases of development of both hardware and software for mobile mapping equipment. She also coordinated large, international data collection projects. Before that, Nicole worked for Apple, where she was a maps analyst and the production lead for a large-scale internal Apple Maps project. She also developed software and an ArcGIS Online application for scientific and technical internal use. Nicole holds a bachelor of science degree in geology from Western Washington University, where her focus was on planetary geology, geophysics, and geomorphology.



Troy Wilson joined RCO in February as a cultural resource specialist. He previously worked for Archaeological and Historical Services at Eastern Washington University. Troy also taught a wide range of anthropology courses at Washington State University, Lewis-Clark State College, Whitman College, and University of South Carolina-Aiken. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Carroll College and a master's degree and doctorate from Washington State University.



News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** met in April and discussed the recreation impact study recently funded by the Legislature, heard an update on the Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Program, and discussed its forecast and monitoring reports.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met in March and heard updates on European green crab communications, the Prioritization Assessment Tool, a new Volunteer Recognition Program, and the invasives species awareness week events. The council discussed the Don't Pack a Pest Campaign and the next phase of the Department of Natural Resources' Urban Forest Pest Readiness efforts. The council also heard about fifty years of spongy moth management.

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met in April and discussed possible changes to its backcountry trails program and compliance policies. The board also heard a review of its farmland preservation grant program.

Fiscal Report

The fiscal report reflects Salmon Recovery Funding Board activities as of July 18, 2023.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board

For July 1, 2023-June 30, 2025, actuals through April 16, 2024 (FM 09). 37.0 percent of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET New and Re- appropriation 2023-2025	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
		Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
State Funded							
2015-17	\$1,293,510	\$1,293,510	100%	\$0	0%	\$24,931	2%
2017-19	\$2,293,410	\$2,293,410	100%	\$0	0%	\$945,722	41%
2019-21	\$5,838,000	\$3,773,107	65%	\$2,064,893	35%	\$1,890,932	50%
2021-23	\$19,755,655	\$19,737,678	100%	\$17,977	0%	\$5,147,482	26%
2021-23 Supplemental	\$94,937,180	\$93,894,381	99%	\$1,042,799	1%	\$8,895,508	9%
2023-25	\$16,168,606	\$6,784,121	42%	\$9,384,485	58%	\$3,716,202	55%
Total	\$140,286,361	\$127,776,207	91%	\$12,510,154	9%	\$20,620,777	16%
Federal Funded							
2018	\$2,924,445	\$2,924,445	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,924,445	100%
2019	\$4,858,324	\$4,648,627	96%	\$209,697	4%	\$2,925,246	63%
2020	\$6,405,342	\$4,918,095	77%	\$1,487,247	23%	\$1,101,469	22%
2021	\$11,047,938	\$8,588,447	78%	\$2,459,491	22%	\$2,798,736	33%
2022	\$21,108,947	\$18,136,383	86%	\$2,972,564	14%	\$2,183,673	12%
2023	\$24,735,000	\$23,116,254	93%	\$1,618,746	7%	\$666,030	3%
Total	\$71,079,996	\$62,332,251	88%	\$8,747,745	12%	\$12,599,599	20%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$9,781,880	\$7,456,008	76%	\$2,325,872	24%	\$3,076,462	41%

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2023-2025	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Committed
PSAR	\$122,127,986	\$117,174,923	96%	\$4,953,063	4%	\$22,170,108	19%
Subtotal	\$131,909,866	\$124,630,931	94%	\$7,278,935	6%	\$25,246,570	20%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	\$10,523,884	\$10,523,884	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,083,798	10%
Subtotal	\$10,523,884	\$10,523,884	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,083,798	10%
GRAND TOTAL	\$353,800,107	\$325,263,273	92%	\$28,536,834	8%	\$59,550,744	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 displays grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2024. Data included is specific to projects funded by the board and current as of May 6, 2024.

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the board in fiscal year 2024. 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, Chehalis Basin Strategy, Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, and the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program are not included in these totals.

So far, twenty salmon blockages were removed this fiscal year (July 1, 2023, to May 6, 2024), and six passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 15.45 miles of stream (Table 2).

Measure	FY 2024 Performance
Blockages Removed	20
Bridges Installed	2
Culverts Installed	4
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Table 1: Blockage Removal and Passage-way Installation projects

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Funding Program	Stream Miles
20-1207	Jungle Creek Culvert(s) replacement	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Salmon State Projects	2.30
19-1522	Lower Clearwater Tributaries Restoration	The Nature Conservancy	Salmon Federal Projects	0.81
21-1035	MF Newaukum at C. Alpha Fish Passage Const (SRFB)	Lewis County Public Works	Salmon State Projects	3.51

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Funding Program	Stream Miles
21-1005	Cougar Creek Fish Passage Restoration	Asotin Co Conservation Dist	Salmon State Projects	2.25
18-1979	LT Murray Teanaway Valley Unit Restoration	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	WWRP - State Lands Restoration	0.58
21-1342	RFEG 21-23 DFW Funding	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	Salmon State Activities	6.00
				15.45




Table 2: Stream Miles Opened

Grant Management Performance Measures

The table below summarizes fiscal year 2024 operational performance measures as of May 6, 2024

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2024 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	42%	●	170 agreements for board-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff issued seventy-one agreements within 120 days, averaging fifty-five days.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	87%	●	597 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for board-funded projects. Staff responded to 519 in fifteen days or less. On average, staff responded within eight days.

Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	100%		During this fiscal year to date, 1502 bills were due for board-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	85%		109 SRFB-funded projects were scheduled to close. So far, this fiscal year ninety-three of them closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	6		Six board-funded projects are in the backlog and need to be closed out.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12, 2024

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Director
Marc Duboiski, Salmon Grants Section Manager

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report

Federal Affairs and Partner Activities

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) attended the annual Puget Sound Day on the Hill in Washington, DC in May.

GSRO led the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) letters of support with Governor Inslee's DC Office for the 5-state Governor's PCSRF letter and the Congressional letters from Senator Cantwell's Office and Congressman Larsen's Office.

GSRO attended the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board meeting and field tour in Olympia in April. The tour visited two projects in Thurston County.

RCO and GSRO continued to participate in the Governor's Office Riparian Roundtable discussions and the Riparian Working Group meetings.

GSRO attended the 23rd annual Salmon Ocean Ecology Meeting hosted by Long Live the Kings in Olympia.

GSRO continued its quarterly meetings with Tribal policy leadership from Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Upper Columbia United Tribes. These meetings continue to be important venues to strengthen relationships and understand Tribal salmon and orca priorities. The recent quarterly meetings have focused on the work GSRO is doing to develop the Governor's Salmon Strategy 2025-27 biennial salmon work plan.

GSRO also set up and facilitated meetings with leadership from each of the key natural resource state agencies and the regional salmon recovery organization directors. These were the first meetings of this kind for most of the agencies in quite some time and focused on the budget and policy priorities associated with the Governor's salmon strategy 2025-27 biennial work plan. These agency meetings mirrored the quarterly meetings that GSRO has helped facilitate between the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the regional salmon recovery directors over the last couple of years.

Governor's Statewide Salmon Strategy

GSRO is developing the 2025-2027 biennial work plan to implement the [governor's salmon strategy](#). It will include state agency legislative and policy priorities with a recommended budget for salmon recovery that aligns with Tribal priorities and salmon recovery plans. The work plan is due to the Governor's Office in October.

To aid the work plan, GSRO meets frequently with the natural resource agencies to discuss salmon policy, coordinates meetings between the natural resource agencies and regional recovery directors to discuss implementation of federally approved recovery plans, works with the Tribal consortiums to understand their salmon recovery policy and budget priorities, and provides recommendations to the agencies to guide budget and policy requests.

GSRO also convenes the Natural Resources Subcabinet in coordination with the Governor's Office. The Subcabinet met in May to discuss and set the course for the legislative priorities for the 2025-27 biennial work plan, and to plan for pending transitions in the coming year. The Subcabinet will meet again in November.

State of Salmon Report

GSRO publishes the biennial State of Salmon in Watersheds report as required by [RCW 77.85.020](#). The report consolidates information from state agencies on salmon recovery, watershed planning, and related efforts. The 2020 and 2022 reports consisted of a printed executive summary and a comprehensive website (www.stateofsalmon.wa.gov). The 2024 report will be similar but more streamlined and focused. The report will be published near the end of the 2024 calendar year.

GSRO staff met with Tribal organizations across the state in April and May to initiate Tribal engagement for the 2024 report. GSRO staff continued collaborating with state agencies to identify key reporting themes, discuss monitoring and capital project outcomes, and determine the nature of agency contributions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

GSRO continued to coordinate with the Science Advisory Panel monthly, the Council of Regions, partners, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) monitoring subcommittee to set a path forward for the board's monitoring program. Item 6 on the agenda covers the current progress made on monitoring.

In addition, GSRO continued to meet with key science organizations from across the state to build relationships and improve understanding and coordination around science priorities. GSRO has met with directors and deputy directors from the Washington State Academy of Sciences, NOAA Northwest Science Center, University of Washington SeaGrant Program, and is in process of scheduling meetings with US Geological Survey Western Fisheries Research Center and Puget Sound Partnership science panel later this summer. GSRO has also started to work with the British Columbia Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Pacific Salmon Foundation to develop cross-boundary science initiatives.

GSRO will also meet with Tribes and Tribal organizations over the summer and into the fall to continue to understand Tribal science priorities and how we may constructively engage in conversations around traditional ecological knowledge.

Riparian Coordination

GSRO hired a new Habitat Policy Specialist, Elizabeth Spaulding, to provide coordination support to the state family on riparian restoration programming, monitoring, and data management.

GSRO reinitiated policy coordination meetings with natural resource agency riparian policy leads to begin aligning around agency authorities, priorities, and programs that will advance riparian conservation, particularly, what may come out of the riparian roundtable discussions and recommendations. RCO and GSRO continue to participate in the riparian roundtable and workgroup processes being led by the Governor's Office.

GSRO is also engaged in several additional riparian management initiatives, including the Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force riparian working group, Department of Ecology's Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Core Team, and the Lead Entity/Local Integrating Organization riparian workshops. This participation will help GSRO in its role to coordinate state agency riparian programs, priorities, and activities.

Orca Recovery

The Center for Whale Research completes an annual census of the population. The most recent report showed a population of seventy-five. However, they noted that K34, a 22-year-old male, has not been seen in the last three encounters with his family, thus the population could be seventy-four whales.

GSRO staff were invited to the grand opening celebration of the Cetacean Desk in the Coast Guard's Puget Sound sector. This desk was created through the National Defense Act and is a four-year pilot program to situate a whale desk in Puget Sound that will collect whale sighting data and get it to commercial mariners in real time through the Whale Report Alert System, a computer application that shows the location of whales so that ships can navigate around them and/or slow down if safe to do so. GSRO staff also attended a Northern Right Whale Vessel Strike Risk Reduction Technology Workshop in hopes to learn the latest technological advancements that could apply here in Washington State with SRKW and other whales.

Canada recently published their annual 2024 fisheries [management measures](#). Part of it reads: "Consistent with 2023, beginning May 1, 2024, the area surrounding the Southern Gulf Islands will be monitored for Southern Resident Killer Whale presence by Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Whale Tracking Network and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Enhancing Cetacean and Observation (ECHO) program in collaboration with local partners. Fishing closures will be implemented for recreational and commercial salmon harvesters in the Southern Gulf Islands following first confirmed presence of Southern Resident Killer Whales in the area and will be in place until November 30, 2024. Confirmation of the closures will be provided to this group via email, as well as communicated to harvesters through a Notice to Fish Harvesters and other communications products." Next, they will announce their annual vessel measures for 2024/25.

In April 2024, the Department of Fisheries Oceans Canada sent notification on the amendment of the Marine Mammal Regulations under the fisheries Act and will be seeking feedback to inform potential adjustments to Pacific Killer Whale approach distances under the regulations. This will be a longer-term approach, rather than adjusting the measures annually. GSRO will engage in this process.

New [research](#) has been published on the diversity of killer whales and the potential for two new species on the Pacific Coast. The paper will be presented to the Society for Marine Mammalogy taxonomy committee this spring, and there could be a total of three species of killer whales, if approved. You can learn about selecting names for the newly identified killer whale species [here](#).

Agencies and many partners are preparing for the 2024 boating season. While the new law of boats needing to stay back 1,000 yards from Southern Resident killer whales does not go into effect until January 1, 2025, there is still preparation for this season as well as messaging for next year. A new [Be Whale Wise](#) brochure was printed and GSRO participated in educating the public at the Seattle Boat Show.

GSRO's Orca Recovery Coordinator reviewed projects for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) killer whale program. NFWF [announced](#) more than \$1.8 million in grants under the [Killer Whale Conservation Program](#). See the complete 2024 project list [here](#). NFWF's Killer Whale Conservation Program is a partnership with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, the U.S. Navy, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA. Some of the funds are directed toward salmon recovery and may match non-federal Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds.

In May 2024, GSRO staff joined partners for Puget Sound Day on the Hill to discuss the importance of salmon recovery and support for funding of PCSRF, funding for the cetacean desk in Puget Sound, and for a \$10 million for a grant program that would reduce threats to marine mammals from vessel traffic.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

Salmon Section Reorganization Continues - New Office Programs Grant Manager

Due to RCO's recent hirings and promotions, the salmon section is filling their final vacate outdoor grants manager position. Teresa Miskovic is our newest staff member and starts in June under Christy Rains. Teresa comes to us from the Department of Natural Resources. The team of eighteen is now set!

2022 Grant Cycle

RCO staff and grant recipients are wrapping up the execution of agreements for the 160 salmon projects funded in 2022. As of May 7, 156 are active grant agreements.

2023 Grant Cycle

RCO staff and grant recipients are working on executing agreements for the ninety-five salmon projects funded by the board last September. As of May 7, eighty-eight are active grant agreements.

2024 Grant Cycle

As of May 7, salmon section staff are reviewing and evaluating 223 applications statewide. The grant process is near the mid-point for the year. The early application site visits were completed by staff and the review panel on May 10. Salmon staff hosted the Track 2 full review panel meeting to finalize their early comments to applicants May 15-

17. Staff also hosted optional review panel phone calls with lead entities seeking clarification on technical comments or questions.

The next step for applicants is to use feedback from the review panel and their local technical advisory groups to update their applications in PRISM by the final application due date June 24. The review panel will be meeting in mid-July to conduct final evaluations.

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 May 6, 2024. This table does not include projects funded through the Fish Barrier Removal Board, Family Forest Fish Passage Program, the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, or Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. 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
Salmon Projects to Date	14	481	3,139	3,634
Percentage of Total	0%	13%	86%	

Attachments

- A. **Close Projects:** lists projects that closed between March 6, 2024, and May 6, 2024. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g., designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out 24 projects or contracts during this time.
- B. **Approved Amendments:** shows the major amendments approved between March 6, 2024, and May 6, 2024. Staff processed 7 cost change amendments during this period.
- C. **Five State Letter:** Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund letter of support

Attachment A

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from March 6, 2024-May 6, 2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1483</u>	Mason County Conservation District	Lower Mainstem Skokomish LWD - RM 5	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	04/19/2024
<u>16-1574</u>	Tulalip Tribes	Snohomish Watershed Restoration Using Beaver	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	04/25/2024
<u>16-1638</u>	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Stillaguamish Floodplain Acquisitions	Salmon State Projects	04/10/2024
<u>18-1368</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	Lower Ohop Protection and Stewardship - 2018	Salmon State Projects	04/12/2024
<u>18-1406</u>	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Elochoman River Community Riparian Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	04/03/2024
<u>18-1491</u>	Skagit County Public Works	Sauk Tributary Culvert Replacement Final Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	04/30/2024
<u>18-1509</u>	Snohomish Conservation District	Stillaguamish Confluence Riparian Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	04/24/2024
<u>18-1837</u>	Kitsap County	Kitsap Nearshore Armor Removal Design & Readiness	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	03/15/2024
<u>19-1118</u>	Forterra NW	South Prairie Creek RM 4.8 Right Bank	Salmon Federal Projects	03/15/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>19-1214</u>	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Washougal River and Timber Creek Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	04/05/2024
<u>19-1285</u>	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Big Quilcene Moon Valley Acquisition	Salmon State Projects	04/11/2024
<u>19-1446</u>	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Ahtanum Village Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	04/10/2024
<u>19-1786</u>	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Skagit Basin Riparian Stewardship	Salmon Federal Projects	04/03/2024
<u>20-1057</u>	King County Water & Land Resources	Lower Rutledge-Johnson Levee Removal Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	04/03/2024
<u>20-1203</u>	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Upper Yakima River Floodplain Acquisition	Salmon Federal Projects	04/30/2024
<u>20-1207</u>	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Jungle Creek Culvert(s) replacement	Salmon State Projects	03/18/2024
<u>20-1350</u>	Department of Transportation	O'Brian Reach Floodplain Reconnection Feasibility	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	03/26/2024
<u>20-1470</u>	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Juvenile Life History Strategies Spring Chinook	Salmon Federal Activities	03/21/2024
<u>20-2439</u>	Bob Bilby	PERS SRV SRFB Monitoring Panel Bilby 2021	Salmon Federal Activities	03/11/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>21-1010</u>	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc	Mill Creek Passage - Gose St Conceptual Design	Salmon State Projects	03/15/2024
<u>21-1032</u>	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Mashel River Habitat Designs RM 0-3	Salmon Federal Projects	04/12/2024
<u>21-1034</u>	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Riparian Enhancement and Knotweed Control 2021	Salmon State Projects	04/24/2024
<u>21-1139</u>	Wahkiakum Conservation District	Ervest Tide Gate Project	Salmon Federal Projects	05/01/2024
<u>21-1179</u>	Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Restore Lower Peshastin Creek Ph 2 Final Design	Salmon Federal Projects	03/19/2024

Attachment B

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>19-1346</u>	Lower Horn Creek Fish Passage	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	04/30/2024	Increase project cost by \$108,000. Add 15-17 PSAR \$28,341 Add 19-21 PSAR \$9,470 Add 21-23 Nisqually LE PSAR \$54,639 Sponsor match increases to \$71,550 New project total \$477,000

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>22-1031</u>	Jim Creek Construction	Snohomish County Surface Water Management	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	04/30/2024	Per Sponsor's request the project costs are increased to \$882,975 with an increase of \$288,875 in additional match associated with a Floodplains by Design grant from Department of Ecology that covered more than half of the restoration costs and brings the Sponsor Match to \$378,000. The AA&E cap is increased to \$150,000 (20.46% of construction costs) to afford these project expenses.
<u>22-1093</u>	Skokomish SF LWD Phase 6 Design	Mason County Conservation District	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	03/28/2024	This cost increase adds \$50,000 sponsor match to show full project costs that will allow a time extension of the project agreement beyond 18 months. RCO grant funding amount does not change, new agreement total is \$249,650.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>22-1094</u>	South Fork Skokomish Fish Passage Design	Mason County Conservation District	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	03/28/2024	This cost increase adds \$49,999 sponsor match to show full project costs that will allow a time extension of the project agreement beyond 18 months. RCO grant funding amount does not change, new agreement total is \$176,499. This amendment includes addition (via internal amendment) the following special condition: South Fork Skokomish Fish Passage Design project is conditioned to include the Hood Canal Coordinating Council Technical Advisory Group in interest groups and bring the outcome of the stakeholder process to the CAG and TAG for review prior to further developing designs.
<u>22-1191</u>	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Habitat Enhancement	Seattle Public Utilities	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	05/02/2024	Reduce match from 45% at 1,548,912 to \$378,368.47 the 15% required for the program.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>23-1114</u>	Elwha Acquisition - Priority #2	North Olympic Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	03/06/2024	The budget will be reduced by \$742,170 in PSAR Rapid Response funds due to time limitation and delays in acquiring the property. Funds will go back to the program. The match is also reduced by \$247,389 to maintain the required 25%.
<u>23-1220</u>	Gold Creek Restoration RM 2 - 3	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	04/30/2024	In response to the sponsor's request for a 10% project cost increase to fill a gap in the 25% match required for a \$2,200,000 Bureau of Reclamation grant that will fund 75% of the Gold Creek restoration project, \$60,000 Salmon State funding is added to bring the total SRFB funding amount to \$560,000 and match is increased by \$12,000 to maintain the 16.67% sponsor share of \$112,000, bringing the total project cost to \$672,000; and the project description is updated to reflect the BOR funding was secured.

Attachment C



April 1, 2024

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

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

We are writing to express our support for robust federal investment in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in fiscal year 2025 (FY25). PCSRF is a critically important program aimed at recovering salmon and steelhead populations in Western states, and the economically and culturally-important commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries that are dependent upon them. We have appreciated your subcommittees' past support for this program, and we request that you appropriate at least \$70 million for PCSRF in FY25.

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

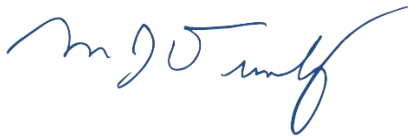
Pacific salmon populations, however, continue to face tremendous pressures. Today, 28 salmon and steelhead stocks face the threat of extinction on the West Coast. PCSRF was created to support the conservation and recovery of salmon across rivers, watersheds, and coastal habitats in Western states. Since 2000, this program has compelled effective, collaborative approaches to salmon recovery across federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector partners. In Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, California, and Nevada, PCSRF investments have contributed to over 15,942 projects, and have helped restore more than 12,043 miles of streams and over 1.2 million acres of fish habitat.

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

We are greatly appreciative of the additional funding you provided for PCSRF in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. However, a consistent and continued baseline federal investment of \$70 million is crucial to maintaining this progress, and to achieving the goal of full recovery and a healthy, sustainable Pacific salmon fishery.

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

Sincerely,



Governor Mike Dunleavy
State of Alaska



Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California



Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho



Governor Tina Kotek
State of Oregon



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington

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

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024
Title: Spokane Lead Entity Project Funding
Prepared By: Jeannie Abbott, GSRO Program Coordinator

Summary

This memo summarizes options for funding projects within the Spokane Lead Entity.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction/Background

The Spokane Tribe received funding in the 2022 supplemental budget to establish a lead entity and habitat restoration strategy for the Spokane River watershed in northeast Washington. This lead entity will focus on habitat protection and restoration priorities to support reintroduction of non-Endangered Species Act listed spring and summer/fall Chinook salmon in the Spokane River watershed and improving habitat conditions for native Redband trout habitat in the blocked area above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. This is an exciting and monumental achievement that will aid the Tribes, state, and partners with the reintroduction efforts, which is a statewide priority for salmon. The Spokane lead entity is the first new lead entity to be proposed or established in over 20 years.

Spokane Salmon Restoration Collaborative was recognized as a lead entity in February 2024. Long-term permanent funding for Spokane lead entity operations was secured in the 2023-25 biennial budget when the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) requested a funding increase for lead entity operations statewide. To secure project restoration funding, the Spokane lead entity anticipates participating in the board grant round beginning in 2026.

For the Spokane lead entity to participate in the 2026 grant round, the board needs to establish project funding levels for all regions and lead entities, including the new Spokane lead entity at or before the June 2025 board meeting. There are a variety of ways that the board could choose to fund projects in the Spokane lead entity. RCO staff are requesting direction from the board on the project funding options below in preparation for their June 2025 decision.

Because the Spokane lead entity is above the blocked area similar to Kalispel Tribe, project funding will need to come from the state Salmon Recovery Funds or priority 3 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), not priority 1 PCSRF funds. This information is important when considering the options below.

Project Funding Options

Staff propose six potential funding options to pursue for further development and consideration. Work needs to begin right away to ensure the Spokane lead entity can participate in the 2026 grant round. Staff are seeking guidance on which (or all) of the below options to further develop over the next year.

- Revise current allocation formula
- Establish a percentage of the state portion of salmon recovery funds
- Establish a set amount of the state portion of salmon recovery funds
- Create a line item in RCO state capital budget
- Request priority 3 funds in RCO Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) application
- Assist Spokane Tribe with submitting a Tribal PCSRF application for priority 3 funds

Revise Current Allocation Formula

This option involves adding the Spokane lead entity to the current allocation and updating the current project allocation formula to include the Spokane lead entity. The current allocation formula is based on the metrics below. The process would include revisiting and revising the metrics, recalculating the formulas, and then determining the appropriate allocation. In the past, this has been both a technical and policy process with a negotiated outcome. This process will require the full year and involve several meetings and perhaps some consultant assistance to ensure full vetting with regions and lead entities.

- Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA)

- Salmon miles, including Saltwater Shoreline
- Non-listed species
- Non-listed stocks
- Listed Salmon/Steelhead Populations
- Listed evolutionary significant unit/distinct population segment evolutionary significant unit/distinct population unit (ESU/DPS)
- Listed bull trout

Percentage of State Funds

This option involves setting aside a set *percentage* amount for the Spokane lead entity from state salmon project funds. This funding would vary each year based on the total amount of state funding available. To implement this, the percentage would be set aside first and then remaining funding would be distributed using the existing allocation formula.

Set Amount of State Funds

This option involves setting aside a set *amount* for the Spokane lead entity from the state salmon project funds. This funding would *not* vary from year to year. The board would determine a set dollar amount of state funds to provide to Spokane lead entity for projects. This amount would be allocated first and then the remaining funding would be distributed using the existing allocation formula.

Line Item in RCO Capital Budget

This option involves creating a line item for the Spokane lead entity reintroduction restoration projects in the RCO biennial Capital budget request. This would be like the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative funding.

Request in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund

This option involves RCO including a request in the annual PCSRF application for reintroduction restoration project funding. This would begin in the 2026 application. Staff would seek guidance from the board to set the annual amount of funding. Projects would be funded under priority 3.

Assist Spokane Tribe with Separate Tribal PCSRF application

This option involves the Spokane Tribe submitting its own PCSRF application to fund the projects in Spokane lead entity. RCO staff could assist Spokane Tribe staff with submitting their first PCSRF application. Projects would be funded under priority 3.

Next Steps

Based on direction and input from the board at the June 2024 meeting, RCO staff will explore the options including pros and cons, implications, and implementation feasibility or logistics. Staff will periodically report back to the board throughout the rest of 2024 and early 2025 as needed, so that the board is prepared for a preliminary funding decision by June 2025 and a final funding decision by September 2025.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Direction Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: 2025-2027 Budget Requests

Prepared By: Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative Director

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office will submit its 2025-27 biennial budget request to the Office of Financial Management in September 2024. The request will include the funding levels selected by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at its upcoming August 2024 meeting. This memo provides an overview and information for consideration in setting the budget request.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction/Background

In August of even years, both the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board determine the appropriate funding level to request for programs under their respective authorities. These requests are submitted in September, with other Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) budget requests, which are then assessed by the Governor's Office and the Legislature to be implemented in the 2025-27 biennium.

In previous biennia, the board was asked to decide on the level of salmon-state funding and offer support to agency partner programs funding levels. This year, the board will be asked to consider whether and at what level to request funding for targeted investments and riparian protection?

Agency Operating Budget

Funding to support RCO administration comes primarily from the administrative rate of capital appropriations and dedicated accounts. The limited general funds RCO receives

primarily fund the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO), the Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC), and capacity funds for lead entities, regional fish enhancement groups, and salmon regions.

In the 2023 legislative session, RCO made a successful request to increase capacity funds for salmon regions and lead entities which resulted in an increase of \$3.4 million in capacity funds.

RCO is not contemplating a salmon related operating budget request for the 2025 legislative session.

Agency Capital Budget

State Capital Budget - Bond Funding Capacity

The capital budget outlook is currently stable. Bond capacity, a major component of the capital budget, is estimated at \$4.6 billion for the 2025-27 biennium. The state will update this number before the August board meeting. Although bond capacity is strong, the pending November vote concerning the Climate Commitment Act will create uncertainty for natural resource capital budgets.

Previous Funding Levels

Table 1. Historic Funding Levels for Salmon Projects (all figures shown in millions)

Biennium	Agency Request	Agency Appropriation	Federal Award	State Match Required
05-07	\$30.0	\$18.0	\$47.9	\$15.8
07-09	\$42.0	\$18.0	\$46.9	\$15.5
09-11	\$24.0	\$10.0	\$54.0	\$17.8
11-13	\$19.8	\$10.0	\$50.0	\$16.5
13-15	\$40.0	\$15.0	\$40.5	\$13.4
15-17	\$40.0	\$16.5	\$38.5	\$12.7
17-19	\$55.3	\$16.5	\$37.4	\$12.4
19-21	\$88.9	\$25.0	\$36.9	\$12.18
21-23	\$60.0	\$30.0	\$48.0	\$15.84
23-25	\$82.0	\$20.0	\$51.5	\$17.0
Average	\$48.2	\$17.9.22	\$45.16	\$14.91

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Program

Factors influencing the amount of capital funding RCO requests for the state portion of the Board's grant program include:

- The amount needed to match federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).
- The number of project applications and their requested funding amounts.

Federal Pacific Coastal Recovery Funds Match

RCO receives annual federal PCSRF awards administered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). PCSRF provides a significant portion of the funds necessary for salmon recovery in Washington and requires a minimum 33 percent match from the state. State funds appropriated for the Board grant program are used for match. In years when the legislature has appropriated less than the full 33 percent, RCO has relied on a portion of the bonds appropriated for the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) to meet the PCSRF requirement. However, this is a risk as the Puget Sound Partnership may need to use PSAR as match for federal funding it receives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The 2023 PCSRF award was \$25.5 million and we expect the 2024 award to be \$26 million. This is likely the high-water mark, as the Inflation Reduction Act funding is set to expire at the end of 2025. However, if Washington receives similar amounts in 2025 and 2026, a minimum of \$17 million in state matching funds will be needed. For context, table 1 lists historic funding levels of both state and federal funds since 2005.

RCO requested authorization to spend \$75 million in PCSRF and other federal awards for the 2023-2025 biennium. While the funding comes from the federal government, that legislature is still required to give agencies spending authority. Given the slight increases in federal funding, the Board will be asked to consider federal spending authority at \$80 million for the next biennium.

Request for Grant Funding

At the September 2019 board meeting, the board directed staff to develop a project list for salmon recovery. The planned project forecast list (PPFL) was developed to provide an overview of projects that lead entities estimate could be completed in a two-year work window. The PPFL, which was created by the lead entities, is used as a basis for budget requests and a tool to clearly outline the need for salmon recovery funding. The 2024 project list is not complete but will be available at the August board meeting. The current biennium list totals \$453.4 million.

A question was added this year that addresses readiness of projects to proceed. Staff plan to share the total request, as well as the readiness of projects at the August board meeting.

The capital funding categories include:

- \$2.4 million for lead entity capacity
- \$640,000 for Regional Fish Enhancement Group project planning costs
- Projects
- RCO Administration

The board will be asked to set a funding level for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board program in August.

Targeted Investment:

In 2023, the board revised its Targeted Investment (TI) policy and directed staff to build a targeted investment list, to be used for a supplemental budget ask and to build a list of projects for 2025-2027 budget requests. While the full number of projects and value is still being compiled, the funding requests are expected to exceed \$60 million. If the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) is retained, \$23.9 million in projects will be funded through the supplemental allotment. This will leave more than \$35 million to build into the 2025-2027 biennium budget request, and if CCA is repealed, the amount will be over \$60 million.

Staff will know prior to the August meeting the full request for TI projects. The board will be asked to set a funding request level for TI separate from the regular board grant round.

Riparian Grants

In the 2023 legislative session, the legislature directed the board to create a riparian grant program and provided \$25 million for riparian grants. In late 2023, the board completed policy adoption and initiated a grant round. The legislature indicated the program would be ongoing by flagging \$125 million in future projected costs associated with the new program.

The first riparian grants are being assessed and the requested amount should be available by the June meeting. The board will be asked to set a funding level for the riparian grant program in August.

RCO Managed Grant Programs

Five of the eight salmon grant programs administered by RCO are managed jointly with other agencies or organizations:

Grant Program	Partner Organization
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	Puget Sound Partnership
Family Forest Fish Passage Program	Department of Natural Resources Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative	Coast Salmon Partnership

The board has exclusive authority over the board grant program and shares authority of the PSAR program with the Puget Sound Partnership.

The board, in addition to being asked to set funding requests for programs under its authority, will also be asked to support the funding requests in these other grant programs.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs)

Prepared By: Greer Maier, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator
Science Advisory Panel members Bob Bilby, Pete, Bisson, Ken Currens, Tracy Hillman, Jeanette Smith, Micah Wait

Summary

This memo provides an overview of Science Panel and staff progress to outline a path forward for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Intensively Monitored Watershed program, laying the groundwork for monitoring funding decisions moving forward.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

In the Fall of 2023, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff completed an assessment to obtain feedback on current Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) funded monitoring programs, including engaging in one-on-one conversations about the program's future based on need. The assessment included interviews with all seven Science Advisory Panel members, each of the regional entities, and six board members. The assessment resulted in key recommendations around increased funding and support for regional monitoring and the need for a focused conversation around the future of board funded Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW).

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires 10 percent of the annual award be designated for monitoring. For the past twenty years, the board has been implementing several large-scale, state-funded monitoring programs. The board currently uses approximately \$1.5-\$2 million of the \$2.35 million received for monitoring to implement

IMWs, which are part of a larger network of IMWs throughout the Northwest that focus on answering questions about long-term trends in fish, habitat and response to restoration. The amount allocated for IMWs has remained static since its inception.

The board's IMW program started in 2004 and includes four complexes: Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJF), and Skagit River Estuary. The Asotin IMW is also funded by PCSRF but through the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Council, not the board. The IMWs are large, long-term, complex studies that leverage additional funding and in-kind support from state agencies, federal partners, and Tribes. The scope and purpose of this program was to detect fish response to restoration actions implemented at the 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 smolt production, parr abundance, and adult spawning abundance or returns. Habitat responses include the in-stream and channel habitat conditions at a reach and watershed scale, associated with habitat restoration efforts.

In the late 2000s, it became clear that restoration actions were not being implemented at a pace consistent with the study designs. To help address this issue, in 2012, the board allocated \$6 million over three 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 board funded IMWs.

Several synthesis reports over the past two years have provided information about how and why restoration is or is not working, fish abundance and life history characteristics, and the scale of restoration that is effective. A summary of each of the board funded IMWs and key findings to date from the [2023 Review of Results to Date \(Anderson et al. 2023\)](#) are included in Attachment A.

After 20 years restoring and monitoring IMWs, there is a need for more certainty around IMW timelines, funding, and expectations. At the March 2024 meeting, the board requested more clarity on individual IMWs and potential timelines for future monitoring.

Intensively Monitored Watershed - A Path Forward

Most IMWs are in the final phases of collecting post-restoration data on fish and habitat. In all the IMWs, this post-restoration phase of monitoring has been delayed due to delays in restoration implementation timelines. After twenty years of study, IMWs have largely completed the first and second phases of research, pre-project monitoring

phase and restoration implementation. Most IMWs are well into Phase 3, post-project monitoring. The options for IMW monitoring presented below reflect the trade-offs between the need to continue data collection in some areas to fully capture the effects of restoration treatments and the need to complete IMW research and shift funding to other high priority monitoring. Some of the proposed timelines present the possibility to end certain aspects of the IMW monitoring program based on costs, results to date, and potential future findings.

Funding for IMWs has remained static and board funding is not supporting the full cost of monitoring. As costs and inflation increased, sponsors have been contributing up to 50 percent of the costs associated with IMW monitoring. There is a tradeoff between how long the board funds IMWs and the risk of stranding investments and having less certainty around the results. Table 1 shows a summary of costs associated with IMW monitoring.

Table 1. Annual IMW investments by Salmon Recovery Funding Board based on 2024 contract amounts.

Straits IMW – Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe, NOAA, and WDFW Habitat	\$441,193
Hood Canal IMW – WDFW Habitat and Fish Programs	\$429,113
Lower Columbia IMW – WDFW Fish and Habitat	\$429,113
Skagit IMW – NOAA & Skagit River Systems Cooperative	\$333,232
TOTAL	\$1,632,651

Note: The IMW program has significant cost-share and this table does not capture the full cost to implement IMWs.

The options presented below were developed after a workshop on IMWs in February and subsequent discussions that took place with IMW principal investigators, regions, partners, and the board monitoring subcommittee. GSRO staff are requesting board input on which options to pursue.

Table 2. Options for future monitoring in board-funded IMWs.

Options	IMW Funding End Dates	Proposed Changes to IMW Monitoring	Potential Outcomes
Option 1: Fully Intact IMWs	2031-2036	None	Risk of stranded investments is very low and highest level of certainty with results of all the options. Cost would be

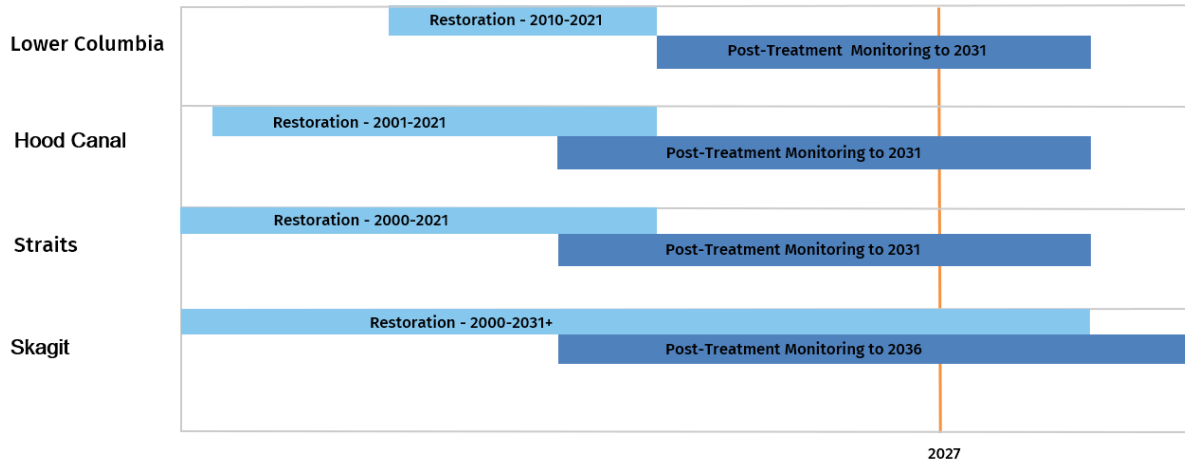
			\$13.1 million after 12 years.
Option 2: Staged IMW Sunset	2027-2036	End some IMWs in 2027 and change monitoring approach for remaining IMWs after 2027.	Risk of stranded investments is low but some lost certainty with results due to reduced effort. Cost would be \$7.4 million after 12 years.
Option 3: Long-Term IMW Monitoring	None	Change monitoring approach after 2027	Risk of stranded investments is low and higher certainty with results with long-term monitoring. Cost would be \$9.6 million plus \$100,000-300,000 per year after 2027.
Option 4: 2027 IMW Sunset	2027	End monitoring in 2027	Risk of stranded investments is considerable and lowest certainty with results of all the options. Estimated cost would be \$4.9 million total after three years.

Option 1: Fully Intact IMW Timeline

Option 1 would fund all IMW monitoring research activities at current levels through to the end of the requested ten or more years of post-treatment monitoring. For Hood Canal, Straits, and Lower Columbia, that would mean an IMW sunset in 2031. For the Skagit IMW, that end date is pushed out to 2036 based on restoration project timelines. This option recognizes that restoration continues in some IMWs but establishes an end date based on the completion of major restoration efforts implemented as part of the updated IMW study designs.

IMW ROADMAP- OPTION 1

Fully Intact IMW Timeline



Predicted Outcomes:

- Risk of stranded investments is **very low**
- Highest certainty around results.

Cost:

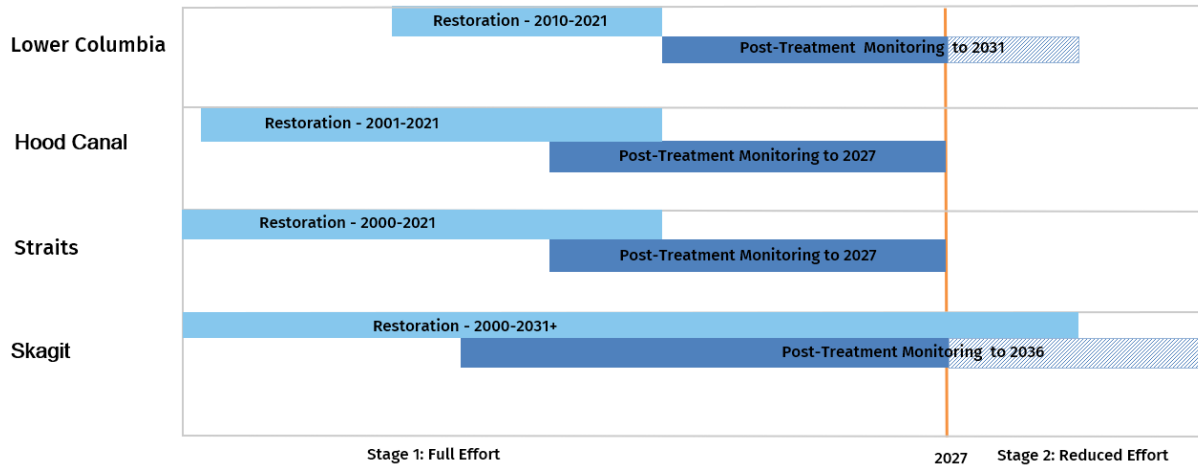
- Estimated cost is **\$13.1 million total** (\$1.6M per year 2025-2031 and \$333k per year 2032-2036).

Option 2: Staged IMW Sunset

Option 2 considers the unique aspects of each IMW and proposes scaling back the approach to IMW monitoring in a way that maintains the integrity of the results but reduces costs over time. Under this option monitoring would continue as usual until 2027. After 2027, Hood Canal and Straits IMWs would end, providing most of the necessary post-project monitoring data to complete those studies. In the Lower Columbia IMW, where restoration treatments in Abernathy Creek have occurred more recently and there is less post-treatment monitoring, the study would continue for four more years, but using a scaled-back approach. Continuing data collection would be focused on the parameters that have been found to be the most informative about fish and habitat response to restoration. Under this option, monitoring at the Skagit IMW would continue until 2036, but in a similar scaled-back approach after 2027. This would allow for data collection after the 2025-2030 restoration effort that is planned.

IMW ROADMAP- OPTION 2

Staged IMW Sunset



Predicted Outcomes:

- Risk of stranded investments is **low**
- Some lost certainty around results.

Cost:

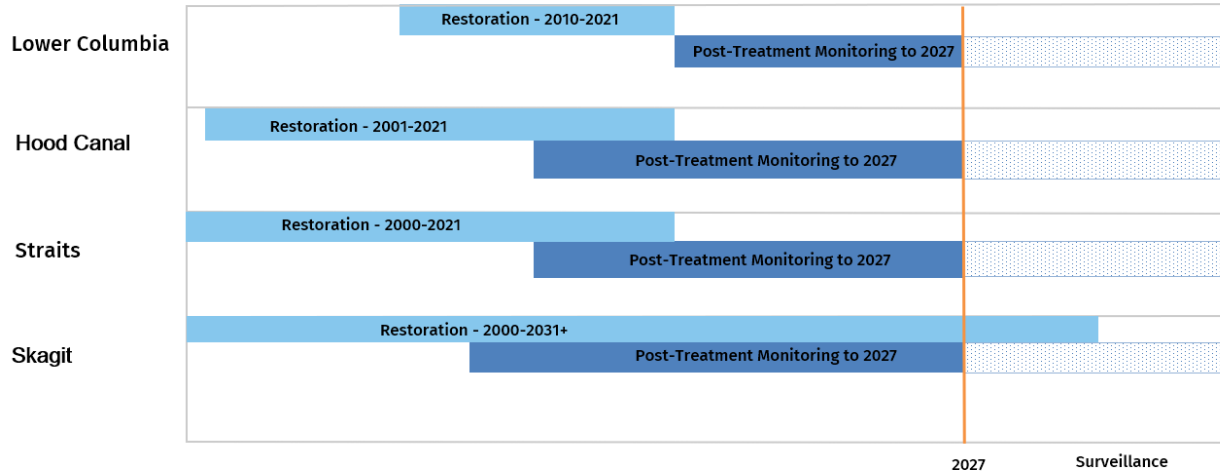
- Estimated cost is **\$7.4 million total** (\$1.6M per year 2025- 2027 then \$381k per year 2028-2031 and \$167k per year 2032-2036).

Option 3: IMW Surveillance

Option 3 recognizes that many interested parties would like continued monitoring in IMWs without a set end date. This option is based on the value of long-term data sets and the recognition that restoration can take decades to mature and multiple generations to detect fish response. Because the current rates of spending on IMWs are unsustainable on that timescale, this option proposes that in 2027, monitoring of all IMWs would shift to long-term “surveillance” monitoring to track fish and habitat response to ongoing or completed restoration over time. Monitoring protocols would be based on the questions the board is interested in funding.

IMW ROADMAP- OPTION 3

Long-Term IMW Monitoring



Predicted Outcomes:

- Risk of stranded investments is **low**
- Higher certainty around results.

Cost:

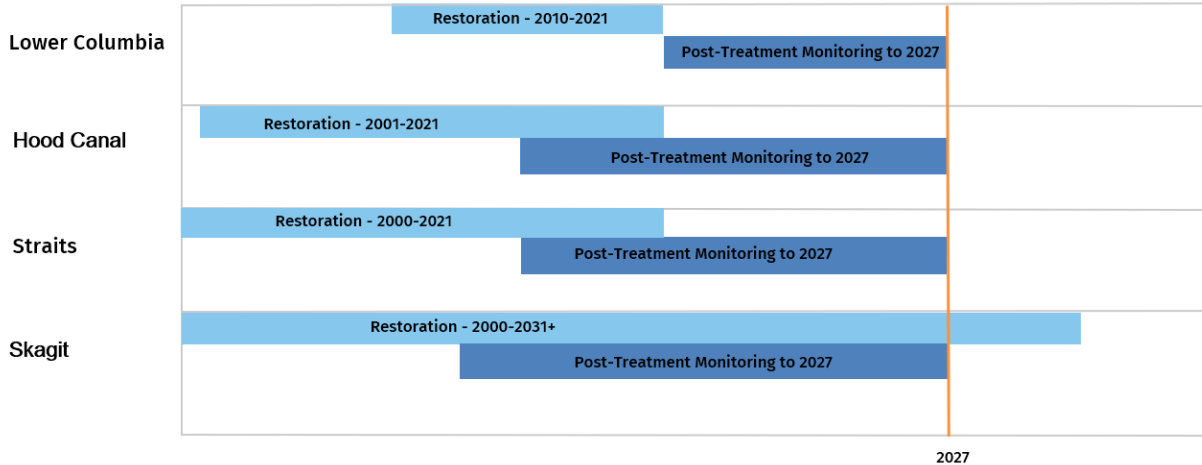
- Estimated cost is **\$9.6 million total** (\$1.6M per year 2025-2027) + estimated \$100k - \$300k per year for surveillance monitoring.

Option 4: 2027 IMW Sunset

Option 4 recognizes the need to increase monitoring funding to high priority regional and local information needs as soon as possible. After more than twenty years of funding, some believe that the conclusions from IMWs monitoring to date are adequate or will be adequate by 2027, and additional monitoring data will not add meaningful insights into the effectiveness of board funded restoration work. In the case of Hood Canal and Straits IMW, the end date would capture most post-project monitoring needed. In the case of Lower Columbia and Skagit, this would end monitoring prematurely. This option does not specifically address if and how outside funding could be used to complete post-project monitoring in the Lower Columbia and Skagit IMWs, but this is likely an option and the board and Science Advisory Panel could help partners secure that funding.

IMW ROADMAP- OPTION 4

2027 IMW Sunset



Predicted Outcomes:

- Risk of stranded investments is **moderate**
- Lowest certainty around results.

Cost:

- Estimated cost is **\$4.9 million total** (\$1.6M per year 2025-2027)

Strategic Plan Connection

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Strategic Plan has three goals:

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.

Goal 3: Build understanding, acceptance, and support of salmon recovery efforts.

The IMW monitoring program contributes to all three of these goals by guiding salmon recovery decision making (Goal 1), providing accountability on board investments (Goal 2) and generating information in support of recovery efforts (Goal 3).

Attachment

- A. Summary of IMWs

Attachment A – Summary of IMWs

Straits IMW

- Sites = Deep Creek, East Twin River, West Twin River (reference)
- Species = Coho and steelhead
- Restoration = Restoration actions (primarily large wood placement) occurred in two main efforts - 2000-2012 and 2019-2022.
- Results = Repeated wood additions to sections resulted in observable and quantified habitat changes in some treated reaches. Treatment effects occurred at the reach-scale (kilometers). Significant trends in other habitat attributes were not detected at the scale of the entire watershed. Parr-smolt survival for Coho Salmon and steelhead has been greater in Deep Creek than the control watershed. No improvement in parr-smolt survival has been observed at the other treated watershed, East Twin River. No other fish responses have been detected over the course of twelve years, including two years of data collection following the most recent restoration treatment.

Hood Canal

- Sites = Little Anderson, Big Beef, Seabeck, Stavis (reference) creeks
- Species = Coho
- Restoration = Restoration actions (large wood, floodplain, and culverts) occurred primarily between 2010-2017, although a culvert project was recently completed in Seabeck.
- Results = Because of the lack of density dependence in the treatment watersheds, increasing habitat quantity will likely only have modest effects on fish survival and production until escapement to these systems increases. Habitat conditions in treated watersheds have not changed as much as anticipated by restoration, and interannual habitat variability is high. Improving floodplain connectivity in Big Beef Creek appears to have caused an increase in parr-smolt survival of Coho salmon but more data is required to statistically validate that result. No other fish population or watershed-level response has been detected to date after six years of post-restoration monitoring (but only three years from a recent culvert project in Seabeck). Additional monitoring is required to validate these findings.

Lower Columbia

- Sites = Abernathy, Germany, and Mill (reference) creeks
- Species = Coho, steelhead, and Chinook

- Restoration = Restoration actions (nutrients, large wood, floodplain, riparian, and bridge/roads) occurred between 2011-2021, although restoration work continues in Germany Creek through 2025.
- Results = Large-scale wood additions (2015-2021) appear to be having a positive effect on parr-smolt survival and smolt production of juvenile Coho Salmon in Abernathy Creek. Steelhead populations have not responded to treatments. Removal of a passage barrier led to an immediate use of the blocked area by spawning Coho Salmon. There is strong evidence of density dependence for Coho Salmon suggesting that, over time, this species should continue to benefit from habitat improvements. There is also evidence of density dependence for Chinook salmon, but restoration has not targeted this species and therefore no response is expected. Nutrient enhancement (2010-2015) in Germany Creek did not result in any improvement in Coho parr survival or smolt production. No other fish responses have been shown to date but only two years of post-restoration monitoring has been completed following the most recent projects. Additional monitoring is expected to expand and validate fish population-level findings in Abernathy Creek.

Skagit

- Sites = Skagit Estuary
- Species = Chinook
- Restoration = Restoration actions (estuary connectivity and capacity) have been ongoing since 2000. Work is expected to continue in the estuary with a large effort planned over the next 10 years.
- Results = Three fish population responses have been observed. 1) Reduced fry density in areas of restored habitat, reducing density-dependent constraints on rearing and growth; 2) increased length of delta residence in restored areas, reducing density dependent displacement of fry into Skagit Bay; and 3) increases in smolt to adult returns following a five-to-nine-year lag after large estuary restoration projects. Additional monitoring is expected to expand and validate these findings with new projects being implemented focused on large improvements to capacity and connectivity.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: Integrated Monitoring Grant Program

Prepared By: Greer Maier, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator
Science Advisory Panel members Bob Bilby, Pete Bisson, Ken Currens, Tracy Hillman, Jeanette Smith, Micah Wait

Summary

This memo provides a proposal for creating a new integrated monitoring grant program for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. This monitoring program will be designed to inform board monitoring and funding decisions, and more effectively contribute to regional recovery information gaps. This new integrated monitoring program would run adjacent to the regular board grant round.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) award from National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requires 10 percent of the annual award be designated for monitoring. For the past twenty years, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) has been implementing a monitoring program around Fish in/Fish out monitoring, project effectiveness, and Intensively Monitored Watersheds. While the board's programs have served the board and the state well, the current programs are winding down or have already sunset. The board sunset its Fish In/Fish Out program when long-term funding was secured by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the state-led Project Effectiveness Program, which recently completed the reach-scale effectiveness pilot. After twenty years of restoration and monitoring, the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program is also in a transition (see memo 6a).

In 2015, the board added “Regional Monitoring” as an eligible project type for the Salmon Recovery grants to address regional monitoring needs. Funding for regional monitoring projects comes from the PCSRF application. While important to meet specific regional recovery monitoring needs, this program has never fully developed nor been fully integrated into the board’s overall monitoring program, in part because these projects compete with restoration projects for allocated funds.

With these transitions underway, there is opportunity, strong interest, and widespread support to set a new course for the board’s monitoring program, one that retains what is working, while also moving from a more static three-legged approach to one that is more agile, integrated, and adaptable to better meet the modern needs of the board, regions, lead entities, and practitioners.

This memo provides a proposal to create a new integrated monitoring grant program that informs board monitoring and funding decisions and contributes to regional recovery information gaps.

The concept for this integrated monitoring grant program is informed by conversations and discussions that have occurred over the last year with board members, the monitoring subcommittee, regions, lead entities, and partners, such as the Science Advisory Panel, Council of Region, and Washington Salmon Coalition.

The integrated monitoring grant program would be informed by the broad-scale questions below that have historically guided the board’s monitoring efforts. The program, however, would also be designed to accommodate more specific questions, new information, and developing modern technologies and/or methodologies to better inform statewide and regionally specific recovery information needs.

- What is the status and health of fish populations?
- What is the status and health of the habitat?
- What are the key factors limiting recovery?
- Are we making progress towards recovery?

Staff are seeking direction on two main fronts. First, direction on whether to proceed with developing a grant program. If the answer is yes, then staff seek direction and guidance on what kinds of information or questions the board would need to best inform a decision at the September meeting.

Integrated Monitoring Program Overview

The proposed Salmon Recovery Funding Board Integrated Monitoring Grant Program would operate as a state-wide competitive grant round with core focus area(s). The draft goals for the grant program are:

1. Generate strategically **consistent** information **applicable** to state, regional, and local decision makers.
2. **Guide** habitat restoration and protection and inform recovery plan implementation.
3. Support and implement an **adaptive approach** to focus on the most timely and relevant questions and monitoring needs, and provide timely information on the status and trends of fish populations and their habitats where restoration has occurred.
4. **Communicate** data, information, and knowledge in a meaningful way.
5. **Collaborate** with partners to leverage programs and results.

Given the limited funding available annually statewide, the monitoring grant program would focus on a narrow scope of project types and the grant process would be streamlined and simplified. The \$350,000 currently allocated to monitoring through the existing grant round would be available for projects along with annual PCSRF monitoring funds that are not currently allocated to IMWs and the Science Advisory Panel (approximately \$354,000 – see Memo 7 Table 6 for 2025). Additional unobligated carryover monitoring funds from previous years could also be added to the program at the discretions of the board. Monitoring would no longer be eligible for funding under the salmon recovery grant round nor be added to the annual grant round. The Integrated Monitoring Grant Program would be introduced in late 2024 to coincide with the annual grant round timeline beginning in 2025.

Eligible Sponsors: Regions would be eligible to submit projects to the Monitoring Grant Program. In some cases, regions may designate another entity (e.g., Tribal partner, state or federal entity, non-governmental organization) to apply on their behalf. It is important that the regions are in a leadership position in crafting, administering, and managing the monitoring work. This ensures the right information is collected in the right places and with the right partners and stakeholder involvement. It also ensures information can be adapted to and communicated both up to the state level (via the Science Advisory Panel) and down to the practitioner level (via already established regional methods and networks). Monitoring information is intended to inform decision-making at all levels of recovery implementation (Figure 1).

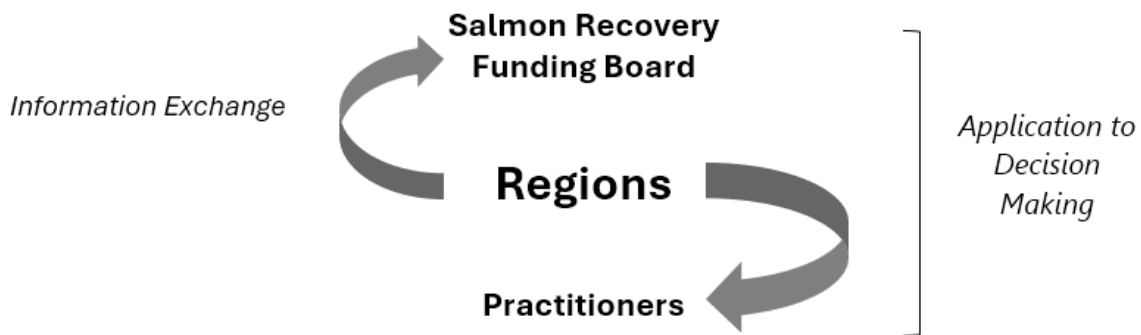


Figure 1. Conceptual framework for communication and application of monitoring program data and information from regions up to the Salmon Recovery Board and from regions down to practitioners.

Eligible Project Types: Eligibility would be based largely on federal PCSRF eligibility requirements as well as program-specific eligibility requirements. PCSRF defines monitoring projects as projects that monitor effectiveness of restoration projects, salmonid abundance, biological or physical indices, salmonid harvests, or water quality and quantity (flow). Monitoring projects collect fish abundance or habitat condition data, usually over multiple years, to assess trends or effectiveness of restoration actions (see the [Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund data dictionary](#)). Eligible projects are funded for three years and intended to inform the development of restoration or acquisition projects or programs. Funds must be used to collect data and analyze that data; they cannot be used for assessments or research. Consistent with current regional monitoring eligibility requirements, monitoring projects must:

- Address high-priority information needs or data gaps identified in a recovery plan or an associated regional research, monitoring, and evaluation plan.
- Complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.
- Be consistent or compatible with data collection, analysis, and management methods and protocols being used in the region, and shall, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent or compatible with methods and protocols in common use throughout the state. Projects must be conducted in a way that data can be rolled up to the state level to inform decision making and reporting at that scale.

Focal Areas and Decision-Making Process: Eligible monitoring projects will focus on specific topics to maximize the potential for learning and application at different scales. For the initial 2025-2030 grant rounds, the focal areas would be centered around decision making for selecting and designing projects. Based on what has been learned to date from the board IMWs and other published studies, it is clear that restoration

project outcomes are highly dependent on the extent that they address life stage bottlenecks (survival and capacity) and the limiting factors that cause those bottlenecks. The Science Advisory Panel developed a conceptual framework for a restoration decision-making process that was used to develop the monitoring grant program focal areas. The framework includes steps to 1) identify survival bottlenecks, 2) evaluate limiting factors associated with those bottlenecks, 3) develop restoration and recovery actions to address those limiting factors, and 4) monitor results and adapt based on the results (Figure 2).

Steps

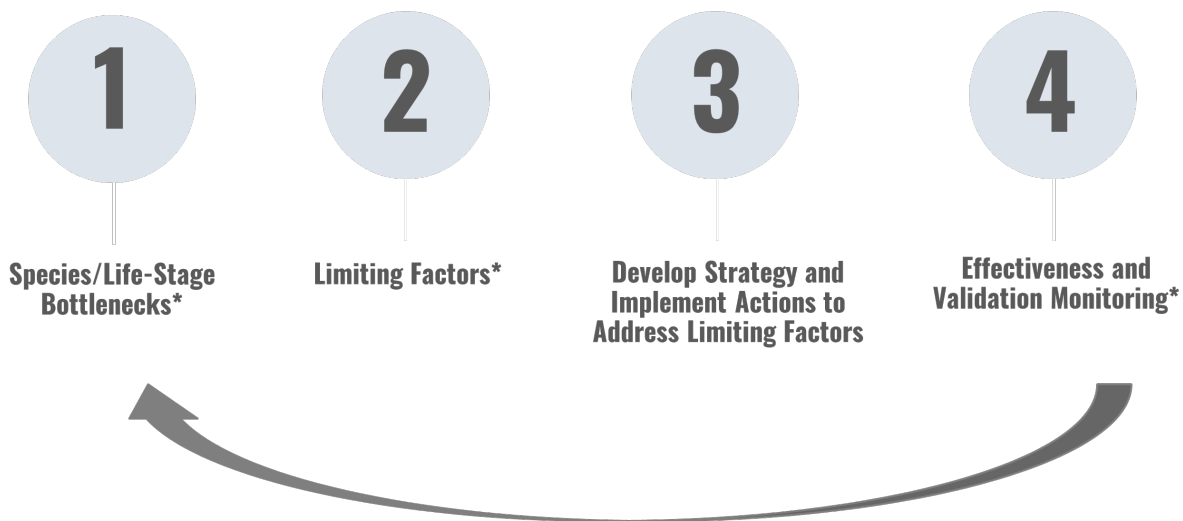


Figure 2. Conceptual decision-making framework used in developing focal areas for the Integrated Monitoring Program.

Eligible projects would focus on the following areas to help inform this process:

- Life stage bottlenecks
- Limiting factors (e.g. habitat quality and quantity, food webs, and biological interactions such as competition and predation)
- Project effectiveness

A life stage bottleneck is a specific stage in the life cycle that experiences high mortality or capacity limitations, resulting in a sharp population decline, ultimately limiting future production. The limiting factor(s) is the event or series of events that causes the bottleneck to occur. Monitoring survival bottlenecks helps understand what the causes of decline are, whether we are effective at addressing them, and if and how these change over time. Regions will be encouraged to follow this stepwise process in their monitoring but could submit proposals for monitoring at any stage depending on their

needs. As more funding becomes available and/or priorities change, these focal areas could be updated in future grant rounds.

Grant Process:

The board Monitoring Grant program would be a statewide competitive program running adjacent to the regular board grant round. This would streamline the process for regional sponsors and focus on the specific program needs. The basic steps in the process would be:

1. **Request for Proposals** – FALL/WINTER - Request for proposals (RFP) sent to the regions based on current focal areas and available funding.
2. **Applications from Regions** – WINTER - Regions submit projects or partner with another entity to submit a proposal on behalf of the region.
3. **Science Advisory Panel Review** – SPRING/SUMMER - The Science Advisory Panel hears presentations and reviews applications based on criteria related to scientific integrity, regional priority, and alignment with focal areas. Projects must be consistent with program standards and opportunity to apply results. Science Panel summarizes comments and recommends projects for funding to the board.
4. **Board Decision** – SUMMER/FALL - Board awards funding.

There will be no allocation of monitoring funding to each region but instead an expectation that the Science Advisory Panel and board would consider equitable distribution over time and across the regions in their scoring and decision making. During the adaptive management cycle, their success at meeting this expectation would be evaluated (see below).

Adaptive Management:

To ensure the program is focusing on the most timely and relevant questions, monitoring needs, and adequately meeting its goals, the Science Advisory Panel is proposing an adaptive approach to managing this grant program. The process would be based on the regular evaluation of the stated goals of the program and rely on regular communication and engagement among the board, Science Advisory Panel, regions, lead entities, and partners. The Science Advisory Panel would annually evaluate the program process and outcomes, with an in-depth program evaluation every five years. Annual evaluations would consist of surveys, presentations, and meetings. Five-year evaluations would consist of data analysis and reporting of findings from projects implemented, presentations, and meetings. The evaluation outcomes could lead to changes to the program to better meet the goals.

Strategic Plan Connection

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Strategic Plan has three goals:

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.

Goal 3: Build understanding, acceptance, and support of salmon recovery efforts.

This monitoring grant program contributes to all three of these goals by guiding salmon recovery decision making (Goal 1), providing information that leads to more effective projects (Goal 2) and generating information and facilitating communication of science in support of recovery efforts (Goal 3).

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: Monitoring Carryover Funds

Prepared By: Greer Maier, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator
Science Advisory Panel members Bob Bilby, Pete, Bisson, Ken Currens, Tracy Hillman, Jeanette Smith, Micah Wait

Summary

This memo provides a proposal for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to use carryover monitoring funds from 2020-2023 to implement a state-wide monitoring inventory and assessment project. This project would be guided by the Science Advisory Panel through collaboration with regional recovery regions and lead entities.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) is actively engaged in setting a path forward for their monitoring program. Investments in Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Fish In/Fish Out monitoring ended in 2022 and funding for the board's Project Effectiveness Program ends in 2024. These changes and unused regional monitoring funds resulted in unobligated funds for monitoring as detailed below. The Science Advisory Panel, Council of Regions, and partners have discussed various approaches for how to use these funds and potential projects that are appropriate and timely for use of these funds.

Unobligated Carryover Monitoring Funds **\$708,855**

This memo provides a proposal for using the 2020-2022 unobligated funds to support a monitoring assessment project that addresses an important regional and state need.

These funds are part of the budget set aside in the board’s Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant funding specifically for monitoring.

Table 1: Monitoring Carryover Funds

PCSRF Award Year	Amount
2020	\$45,424
2021	\$20,725
2022	\$288,705
2023	\$354,000*
TOTAL	\$708,855

*As mentioned in memo 6B, this funding could be used for the monitoring grant program.

The project below has been identified as a need through interviews with regions and board members. The Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) staff is seeking a decision from the board on whether to pursue this project. If approved, staff will work with the Science Advisory Panel and the regions to create a Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) for this project.

The project supports the continued development of the board’s monitoring program, which began in 2020 and came to be referred to as ‘the pivot’. The board has been exploring different types of monitoring to answer key questions and this project will continue that effort and provide information to identify areas of focus.

Proposed Project

Monitoring Inventory and Assessment \$30,000 - \$85,000

One of the key needs identified by regions is an assessment of current monitoring across the state. This assessment will identify data gaps and prioritize efforts. A large disparity exists across the state, with some areas having a large amount of funding and fish and habitat monitoring, while other areas lack even the most basic information on the presence, status, and distribution of salmon and steelhead. This disparity leads to a related disparity of information available for planning and prioritization.

Similar efforts by the state to assess monitoring were done in the past and proved useful to monitoring efforts. Several potential frameworks for monitoring priorities could be considered for assessing the status of monitoring including salmon recovery High-Level Indicators (HLIs) and viable salmonid population parameters (VSP). If this project moves forward, the Science Advisory Panel will develop the appropriate framework for the assessment through collaboration with Regions, Tribes and Tribal

organizations, and state agencies such as WDFW, who perform most of the monitoring being assessed.

Although carryover funds were originally allocated to monitoring, in this case the board has the option of reallocating those funds toward an assessment. Given the link to future monitoring efforts and coordination of monitoring, such a reallocation is appropriate.

Estimated Cost: \$30,000-\$85,000. The specific cost of the project will need to be determined through the Request for Qualifications and Quotations (RFQQ) solicitation process.

Staff Recommendations on Monitoring

Staff recommends that the board delegate authority to the RCO director to enter into a contract for Monitoring Inventory and Assessment using no more than \$85,000 of the unobligated monitoring funds.

Remaining carryover funds from 2022 (approximately \$269,854) and 2023 (\$354,000) will be obligated based on future funding decisions by the board. The Science Advisory Panel is currently discussing options for the board to consider on how best to use these remaining funds to meet board priorities for monitoring. Staff will bring options to the board at the September meeting.

Motions for Funding Decisions

Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director to enter into a contract for Monitoring Inventory and Assessment using up to \$85,000 of monitoring carryover funds in Table 1 of Memo 6 from the June 2024 meeting materials.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: Allocate Funding for Board Programs

Prepared By: Marc Duboiski, Salmon Section Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office
Jeannie Abbott, Program Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Greer Maier, Science Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Summary

This memo provides information about the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's 2024 funding decisions, including projects, capacity and monitoring, and the available funding to support those decisions.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Background

Every year, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) must allocate funding for elements of the board's overall program. Allocation decisions are required for the following:

- Grant round project funding level;
- Technical Review Panel support;
- Resources for potential project cost increases;
- Lead entity and regional organization capacity funding; and,
- Board Monitoring program efforts.

The funding available to support the board's efforts is a mix of state and federal resources. State funding is appropriated every two years at the beginning of the state biennium and federal funds are awarded on an annual basis through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) submission of a single Washington State application to the

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

The board will be making funding decisions based on the 2024 PCSRF award, state funding appropriated in 2023, and funds that have been returned from prior grant rounds due to projects finishing under budget, scope changes or factors impacting implementation.

Available Funds

Federal Funding:

RCO requests funding on behalf of the state annually through NOAA's PCSRF program. The PCSRF request includes funding for:

- Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) hatchery reform and monitoring projects
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) hatchery reform and monitoring projects
- Board approved habitat projects
- Board Technical Review Panel
- Regional organization capacity
- Board monitoring projects and Science Advisory Panel (SAP)
- Board sponsored Salmon Recovery Conference
- Board communications and Salmon Recovery Network (SRNet) facilitation
- RCO supporting functions including cultural resources staff/review and PCSRF database and metrics updates
- RCO administrative support

The maximum grant amount allowed for PCSRF 2024 requests was \$30 million. NOAA informed RCO the amount of Washington state's 2024 PCSRF award is \$26 million (\$20 million PCSRF funding, \$6 million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding). RCO coordinated with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to reduce the state's original \$30 million request by \$4 million. An updated application totaling \$26 million was submitted on May 21, 2024.

State Funding:

The Washington State Legislature's adopted operating and capital budgets for the 2023-2025 biennium included the following funding for board program elements:

- Salmon recovery projects:
 - \$16,168,605

- Capacity support:
 - \$4,402,000 for lead entities and regions
 - \$2,400,000 for lead entities
 - \$640,000 to the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) for project development. *(This funding is provided to lead entities and RFEGs only to develop projects – any other capacity costs are not eligible to be covered with these capital funds)*
- Administrative support:
 - \$791,394 (4.12 percent) to RCO to administer grants and contracts

Portions of these funds were obligated by the board in 2023 for fiscal year one of the biennium. Table 1 below specifies funds available for fiscal year two.

Returned Funds

“Returned funds” refers to money allocated to projects/activities in previous biennia that is returned to RCO when projects/activities either close under budget or are not completed. These dollars return to the overall budget for board allocation. These funds have historically been used for cost increases and to increase the funding available for projects in the upcoming grant round, provided the Legislature re-appropriates the funds as part of either the regular capital budget or a stand-alone re-appropriation bill.

Currently there is \$4,750,000 in returned funds; however, at its September 2023 meeting, the board determined that \$4 million of these returned funds would be included in the 2024 grant round for project funding, leaving \$750,000 to be allocated by the board.

In addition to these returned funds, there is \$708,855 of unobligated monitoring funds. (Item 6 on the board’s agenda addresses key monitoring issues.)

Projected Funding Available for Year 2 of the 2023-2025 Biennium (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

Table 1 displays the projected funding available for board decisions in year two of the biennium (Fiscal Year 2025 or FY2025). This includes the remainder of the unobligated state appropriation, the NOAA PCSRF award to Washington State, and returned funds.

Table 1: Available Funding for Year 2 of the 2023-2025 Biennium

Funding Available for the Year 2 of 2023-2025 Biennium	State Fiscal Year 2025
State General Funds for regional and lead entity capacity	\$2,201,000
State Bond Funds Lead Entity capacity	\$1,200,000

Unobligated Project Funds Available (state)	\$8,084,303
Unobligated monitoring funds	\$708,855
Returned funds	\$4,750,000*
PCSRF 2024	\$21,624,258
Admin (state and federal)	\$1,541,792
<i>Total Funds Available</i>	\$40,110,208

*In its September 2023 meeting, the board determined that \$4 million of returned funds would be included in the 2024 grant round for project funding, leaving \$750,000 to be allocated by the board

Table 2 breaks down funding uses and projected allocations for those uses in year two of the biennium. The project funding displayed depicts the total project funding available for FY2025.

Table 2: Funding Uses and Projected Allocations for Year 2 of 23-25 Biennium

State Fiscal Year 2025	
FUND USES	
Grant Round Projects	
State Bonds for projects	\$8,084,303
Returned funds (PCSRF and state funds)	\$4,000,000
PCSRF for grant round	\$15,717,221
Regional Monitoring Projects (PCSRF funds)	\$350,000
Subtotal	\$28,151,524
Cost Increases	
Cost Increases for Projects	\$750,000
Capacity (Lead Entities and Regional Organizations)	
State General funds (Lead Entities and Regions)	\$2,201,000
State Bonds (Lead Entities)	\$1,200,000
PCSRF (Regional Organizations)	\$2,878,685
Subtotal	\$6,279,685
PCSRF Activities	
Monitoring and Science Advisory Panel	\$2,000,000
Monitoring unobligated	\$708,855
Communications Strategy, SRNet facilitation	\$70,000
SRFB Review Panel	\$200,000
Salmon Recovery Conference	\$70,000
Cultural Resources Staff	\$236,352
PCSRF Database and Metrics update	\$102,000
Subtotal	\$3,387,207
RCO Administration (State 4.12% and Federal 3.0%)	\$1,541,792
Total Uses Year 2 of 2023-25 Biennium	\$40,110,208

*In its September 2023 meeting the board determined that \$4 million of returned funds would be included in the 2024 grant round for project funding

2024 Grant Round (FY2025)

The board allocations for the grant round includes the following elements:

Salmon Projects

The board funds salmon projects with state and federal money. Funding is determined annually based on Washington’s annual PCSRF grant award and the state dollars appropriated by the legislature each biennium as shown in Table 1. The board determines grant round amounts for year two of the biennium, using the regional allocation to determine distribution. Table 3 below details the distribution of the total funds available for project funding. A total of \$28.1 million is available including state funds, 2024 PCSRF award amounts, and \$4 million in returned funds.

Table 3. Regional Allocations for Project Funding

Regional Salmon Area Allocation	Percent	\$28.1M allocation
Hood Canal Coordinating Council (2.4%)	2.4%	\$674,400
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.00%	\$5,620,000
Northeast Washington	1.90%	\$533,900
Puget Sound Partnership (38%)	38%	\$10,678,000
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.44%	\$2,371,640
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.31%	\$2,897,110
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.57%	\$2,689,170
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.38%	\$2,635,780
TOTAL	100.00%	\$28,100,000

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

Technical Review Panel

To ensure that every project funded by the board is technically sound, the board's technical review panel evaluates projects, assessing whether they have a high benefit to salmon, a high likelihood of success, and that project costs do not outweigh the

anticipated project benefits. There is \$200,000 specified in the PCSRF application to support the technical review panel for 2025.

Cost Increases

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

The total cost increase fund decision is made during the second quarter board meeting and the funds are available during the fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Table 4: Previous Cost Increase Amounts

Year	Available	Expended	Carry Forward
July 2021-June 2022	\$1,000,000	\$265,492	\$734,508
July 2022-May 2023	\$734,508	\$201,497	\$533,011
May 2023-June 2024	\$533,011	\$484,200	\$48,811
July 2024-June 2025	\$798,811 <i>requested</i> (\$750 K new + \$48,811 <i>carry forward</i>)		

Staff are requesting that the cost increase fund be set at \$798,811 for the year two of the biennium (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025).

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the board use the interim project allocation formula (Table 3) approved at the March 2, 2017, meeting to determine regional grant round amounts, which includes \$350,000 for funding for regional monitoring projects.

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

Staff recommends that the board provide \$798,811 for cost increases through June 2025.

Regional Organization and Lead Entity Capacity Contracts

The board approves lead entity and region capacity annually. Most of the funding provides capacity for lead entity coordinators to coordinate their citizen and technical committees. A small portion of these funds are used for training, a stipend for the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) chair, and a facilitator for WSC activities.

RCO requested additional capacity funds for lead entities in the 23-25 operating (\$3.186 million) and capital (\$2.4 million) budgets. In addition, RCO requested capacity funds (\$1.286 million) for regions in the 23-25 operating budget. RCO received \$2.4 million in capital funds for lead entity capacity and an increase of \$3.4 million in operating funds for lead entity and region capacity, bringing the total amount of operating funds to \$4.4 million and a grand total of \$6.8 million for the biennium. At the May 2023 meeting, the board approved the distribution of funds to the lead entities. These amounts were based on a percentage increase of the lead entity’s current amount. The regions received the amounts requested in the RCO decision package to the legislature.

RCO requested \$2,818,685 for Regional Organizations in the 2024 PCSRF award. (Table 5)

Staff Recommendations for Capacity Funding Options

Based on the previously approved distribution amounts, staff recommends the board approve the state capacity funds as presented in table 5. This includes funding for all the lead entities, capacity for regional organizations, funding for WSC training, and funding for a WSC facilitator.

Table 5. Lead Entity and Regional Organization State Funding for Fiscal Year 2025

Organization	Capacity Funding FY25
Chehalis Basin LE	\$86,852
Hood Canal LE	\$115,802
Island County LE	\$86,852
Klickitat LE	\$86,852
Lower Columbia LE	\$194,579
Nisqually LE	\$90,470
N. Olympic Pen LE	\$115,802
North Pacific Coast LE	\$86,852
Willapa LE	\$86,852
Pend Oreille LE	\$86,852
Pierce County LE	\$86,852
Quinault LE	\$86,852
San Juan LE	\$86,852
Skagit LE	\$115,802

Snake River LE	\$170,120
Snohomish LE	\$90,402
Stillaguamish LE	\$89,747
Upper Columbia LE	\$186,456
West Sound LE	\$86,852
WRIA 1 LE	\$94,089
WRIA 13 LE	\$86,852
WRIA 14 LE	\$86,852
WRIA 8 LE	\$86,852
WRIA 9 LE	\$86,852
Yakima Basin LE	\$170,120
Spokane LE	\$96,200
Lead Entity Chair	\$4,500
Lead Entity Training	\$8,000
WSC Facilitator	\$24,000
Lower Columbia Region	\$145,262
Snake Region	\$125,060
Yakima Region	\$153,920
Upper Columbia Region	\$141,414
Coast Region	\$52,910
TOTAL	\$3,400,583

Staff recommends Regional Organizations receive funding for FY2025 at \$2,878,685 (Table 6), plus any returned funds from previous PCSRF awards.

Table 6. Salmon Recovery Regions PCSRF Capacity Funding for Fiscal Year 25

Regional Organization	Board approved FY2024 PCSRF Funding	Proposed Funding FY2025 PCSRF Funding
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	\$456,850	\$456,850
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	\$375,000	\$375,000
Puget Sound Partnership	\$689,162	\$689,162
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	\$333,588	\$333,588
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	\$435,000	\$435,000
Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	\$304,085	\$304,085

Yakima Valley Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board	\$285,000	\$285,000
Total	\$2,878,685	\$2,878,685

Monitoring Contracts for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 – PCSRF Monitoring Allocation

Board-Funded Monitoring Efforts \$2,000,000

The following decisions are specific to the ongoing board-funded monitoring efforts included in the 2024 PCSRF application. These board-funded monitoring efforts have been reviewed and assessed by the Science Advisory Panel and are addressed in its recommendations. As noted in memo 6, the future of board funded monitoring efforts will continue to be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Additionally, continued support is requested for the Science Advisory Panel (SAP). The SAP objectively assesses the board’s monitoring program for its scientific validity, provides recommendations to the board on its monitoring investments and other science topics, and provides review of regional monitoring project proposals.

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

Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW) \$1,546,000

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

- NOAA, the Skagit River Systems Cooperative and the Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe. \$607,000
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife for habitat monitoring in IMW worksites. \$450,000
- WA Department of Fish and Wildlife for fish monitoring in IMW worksites. \$489,000

Note: The Snake and Lower Columbia Salmon Recovery regions have access to IMW monitoring funds from an annual Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) allocation to RCO, not captured in this total. Currently, PSMFC supports funding through at least 2025.

Science Advisory Panel \$100,000

The Science Advisory Panel (SAP) advises the board and recovery regions on monitoring and adaptive management practices. They solicit and review regional monitoring proposals. The panel also provides direction and recommendations for state board funded monitoring programs, such as the Intensively Monitored Watershed program and the Regional Monitoring program. Funding will support SAP members through December 2027.

Table 7: 2025 Board-Funded Monitoring Efforts

Intensively Monitored Watersheds – NOAA, Skagit River Systems Cooperative, and Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribe	\$607,000
Intensively Monitored Watersheds - WDFW (fish)	\$489,000
Intensively Monitored Watersheds - WDFW (habitat)	\$450,000
Science Advisory Panel	\$100,000
Unobligated monitoring funds (PCSRF 2024)	\$354,000
TOTAL	\$2,000,000

Motions for Funding Decisions

Motions for Projects:

Move to use the interim project allocation formula approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at the March 2, 2017, board meeting to determine regional grant round amounts, which includes \$350,000 for regional monitoring projects.

Move to approve \$200,000 for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel.

Move to carryover remainder of funds from current fiscal year (FY) 2024 and add \$750,000 of new funds for FY 2025 for a total of \$798,811 available for cost increases.

Motions for Capacity:

Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director to amend contracts with the Lead Entities and Regional Organizations to fund capacity utilizing the funding amounts outlined in Table 5 of Item 7 of the June 2024 meeting materials.

Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director to amend contracts with the Regional Organizations for fiscal year 2025 utilizing the funding amounts in Table 6 of Item 7 of the June 2024 meeting materials.

Motions for Monitoring:

Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director to enter into contracts for the monitoring efforts displayed in Table 7 of Item 7 of the June 2024 meeting materials. The contracts shall not exceed \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: June 12-13, 2024

Title: Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative Overview

Prepared By: Alissa Ferrell, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager and
Mara Zimmerman, Executive Director Coast Salmon Partnership

Summary

This memo summarizes the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative grant program administered jointly by the Recreation and Conservation Office and the Coast Salmon Partnership.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction/Background

The mission of the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WCRRI) is to protect and restore ecosystems of the Washington Coast while promoting the resilience of coastal communities through job creation and hazard reduction.

In 2015, Governor Jay Inslee and the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$11.5 million in state capital funds to Washington Coast Restoration Initiative for habitat protection and restoration projects throughout Washington's Pacific Coast region. In 2019, the grant program's name was changed to Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative to reflect an expanded mission that recognized the need for coastal resiliency and the close connection between restoration and resiliency. This program has consistently received \$10 - \$12 million each biennium since inception.

Developed by a consortium of planners, grant managers, and restoration practitioners, WCRRI is a grassroots initiative jointly administered by the WCRRI Steering Committee and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), which functions as the program administrator and fiscal agent. The Coast Salmon Partnership manages the grant round,

including oversight of the WCRRI Technical Review Panel, project presentations and site visits, and project scoring and ranking. The WCRRI Steering Committee adopts governing policies, approves project evaluation criteria, reviews project ranking from the WCRRI Technical Review Panel, and approves a prioritized list of projects to be submitted to the Governor's Office and the Washington State Legislature for funding consideration.

Program Strategy

WCRRI supports projects of regional importance that: 1) address the region's highest priority ecological protection and restoration needs while stimulating economic growth and creating jobs in coastal communities; and 2) use cost-effective methods to substantially protect and restore ecosystem functions, goods, and services. Additional objectives of the program are to advance the skills and tools used for coastal restoration and to foster ecological and community resilience by reducing hazards and risk, providing guidance for land-use planners, and improving coastal infrastructure.

The most competitive grant proposals will achieve the following:

- Fully address the restoration need, hazard or risk, and community benefit.
- Identify process-based solutions.
- Take protection and/or restoration actions.
- Communicate the effectiveness of their actions at increasing the resiliency of the ecosystem.
- Provide employment opportunities for coastal communities.

Each biennial grant round is a new, open solicitation. Applicants with projects from previous grant rounds that were submitted to the state Legislature for funding but were not funded must reapply to be considered for funding. The maximum grant request is \$2 million and matching contributions are not required.

Participation on the WCRRI Technical Review Panel is solicited by a Request for Qualifications at the beginning of each grant round. A total of ten to twelve panel members typically include habitat biologists, restoration ecologists, environmental engineers, foresters, economists, marine resources specialists, and local stakeholders.

Draft proposals are submitted through PRISM and in-person project site visits and/or virtual presentations are held with the WCRRI Technical Review Panel. The panel provides comments and sponsors are asked to respond to and provide full application submittal for review and ranking.

Projects are evaluated and scored by the WCRRI Technical Review Panel. Project evaluation criteria include restoration benefits, community benefits, likelihood to succeed, best use of public funds, and local support. The ranked list of projects is approved by the WCRRI Steering Committee, and RCO submits a WCRRI investment plan to the Legislature prior to the upcoming budget session. Allotted funds are distributed down the list to sponsors and projects are managed by RCO staff.

The focus of restoration efforts funded by WCRRI includes any priority species and habitat needs in the region, including salmon and steelhead. Except for the species focus, the types of activities eligible for WCRRI are similar to the Salmon Recovery Fund Board (board) and include planning, acquisition, assessment, and restoration projects.

While most funding has supported salmon habitat restoration for the Pacific Coast Region, the program has also funded prairie restoration efforts in collaboration with rotational grazing and prescribed burns that revive native plants, butterflies, and birds in the Chehalis Basin. Other projects have acquired or restored property with sensitive wetland habitat for Oregon Spotted Frog or tidal marshlands for permanent protection and reconnection, and designed plans to reduce coastal erosion in Neah Bay.

Since 2015, WCRRI projects have supported more than 467 full-time jobs that have removed thirty-three fish passage barriers, opened eighty-three miles of stream, and restored more than 10,069 acres of upland and riparian habitat. The program provides a reliable fund source opportunity for large, complex restoration projects with budget needs that cannot be met by annual SRFB Lead Entity allocations for the coast region. Funds provided by the WCRRI grant are often leveraged with other state and federal funding sources to fully fund a project or phase. For example, an initial WCRRI investment in the Quillayute River Restoration Project has resulted in more than \$11 million in state and federal funds for subsequent stages of this large restoration program.

June 2024

ECY Partner Report

The US Senate Committee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight requested Ecology to provide testimony on 6ppd-q on June 6, 2024.

Ecology has been busy presenting status updates to a number of forums, including the NW Environmental Business Council, Ecology's Water Quality Partnership, the Green Infrastructure Summit of the Salish Sea, the Spokane River Toxics Advisory Board, the Inland NW Chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association, WSU's Extension Beach Naturalist Program, Central National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Coordinators Forum, and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO).

Ecology published a [Tire Contaminant Story Map](#) that includes an interactive mapping tool. This tool visualizes biological effects to salmonid ecosystems. The intended use of the tool is to support consistent science and monitoring in salmonid ecosystems across urban and traffic gradients.

Ecology has also published the [tire contaminant quality assurance project plan](#) to evaluate and develop study designs with toxics and salmonid recovery partners. These studies will help us understand the transport, persistence, occurrence, and fate of 6PPD-quinone. The project plan emphasizes the functions and limitations of different sampling methods and why active (automated) and passive sampling are most effective. It also emphasizes the need to co-locate 6PPD-quinone sampling with ongoing statewide biological assessments. Exploratory sampling, site reconnaissance, and coordination with partners is in progress.

Ecology has held 6PPD Action Plan advisory committee meetings and will incorporate recommendations into a Legislative report that is due in December 2024. Information about Phase 1 of the 6PPD Action Plan can be found [on our project webpage](#).

Ecology has proposed the first quantitative 6PPD-q water quality standard in the nation through draft [Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria](#). This rulemaking process aims to limit the concentration of chemicals in water and to protect the most sensitive species during their most sensitive life stages. This freshwater acute mortality criterion would limit 6PPD-q to eight nanograms (0.008 µg) per liter and is based on toxicity to coho salmon. There is currently not enough information to develop this criterion for saltwater or chronic effects.

Ecology recently received direction from the Legislature to perform a tire recycling study scheduled for completion by June 30, 2025. The study will:

- Evaluate the disposal, distribution, and management of waste tires and their potential to contribute to 6PPD-quinone pollution.
- Document disposal, repurposing, reuse, recycling, handling, and management of waste tires in the state.
- Identify alternatives to using tire derived rubber.

Other Best Management Practice Studies include effectiveness of floating treatment wetlands and native vegetation, characterize stormwater from a high-use parking lot and upstream development,



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Restoring Salmon for Future Generations

THE MAGIC SKAGIT

The Skagit River flows for 150 spectacular miles from the peaks of the North Cascade Mountain Range to rich fertile land of the Skagit Delta. Once you add up all of the Skagit's tributaries and sloughs, there are over 3,000 miles of waterways in the Skagit Watershed. It is truly an incredible place where there is a vast array of fish and wildlife occupying the diversity of habitat this large watershed has to provide. We are so fortunate that much of Skagit's ecosystem remains intact thanks to many before us that recognized its natural wonders and sought to ensure their protection. All of this spectacular habitat has helped to ensure that the Skagit remains a stronghold for salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

We are grateful to all of you who have volunteered your time, your land, or your resources to help ensure that the Skagit remains a healthy place for salmon, wildlife and our community. This last year we did incredible things! We planted nearly 40,000 native plants and trees along waterways in the Skagit watershed. This is no small feat accomplished by our Restoration Technicians, Washington Conservation Corps crew, EarthCorps crew, com-

munity volunteers, and local students. This coming year, we plan to plant just as many so be sure to look for community planting parties and how you can be part of this great success.

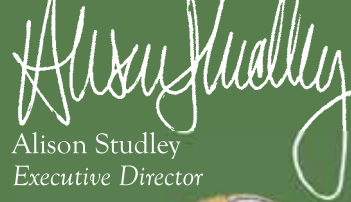
Our education programs continue to flourish, having surpassed engaging over 20,000 local students in watershed education programs! In particular we are excited about the growth of the Salmon in the Schools program. This program has received statewide attention, and we now work with Washington State's Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction and Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups around the state to offer this program to schools throughout Washington. This is an exciting opportunity to collaborate with other groups and expand the number of students we get to engage in the Skagit Valley.

Fish passage remains a high priority, and we are now nearing 100 miles of habitat opened for salmon and steelhead in our creeks and sloughs around the Skagit. We completed 4 more projects this past year and have many more projects in the works. Much of this work is due to collaborative partnership with local tribes and county governments over the past decade to

inventory and prioritize clusters of fish passage projects to fix in the basin. We are excited about the partnerships this has formed with local landowners and the City of Mount Vernon in the Carpenter Creek watershed for the coming year.

This conservation work would not be possible without our volunteers, members, landowners, project partners, and businesses investing in the Skagit's future. We are thrilled to have such a diverse group of stakeholders invested in helping to make the Skagit Valley a healthy place for all of us.

Gratefully,



Alison Studley
Executive Director



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

Skagit Fisheries
PO Box 2497
1202 S. 2nd St., Suite C
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: 360-336-0172
www.SkagitFisheries.org

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

Photo credit Drew Fleshman and SFE Group Staff and Volunteers



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Riparian Plantings: **39,021 Native plants**
over 90 acres of streams and shorelines revegetated with native plants

Habitat Opened: **3.05 Miles**
of habitat reconnected by removing 4 fish passage barriers

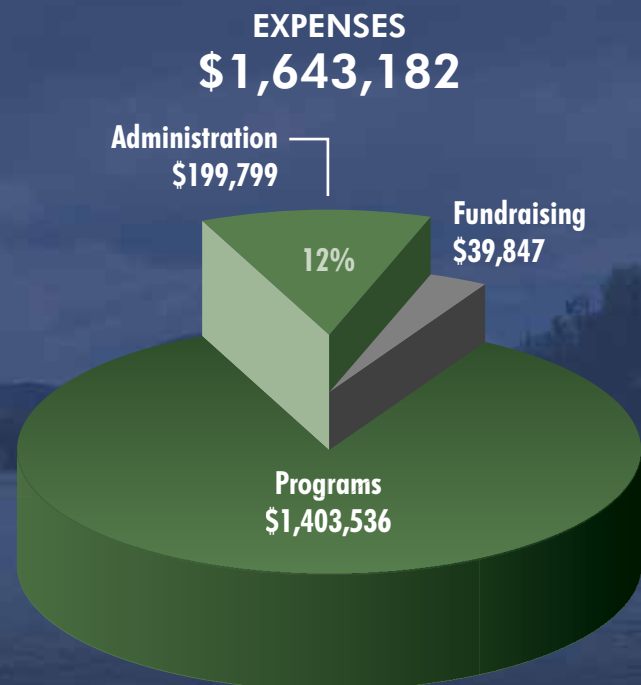
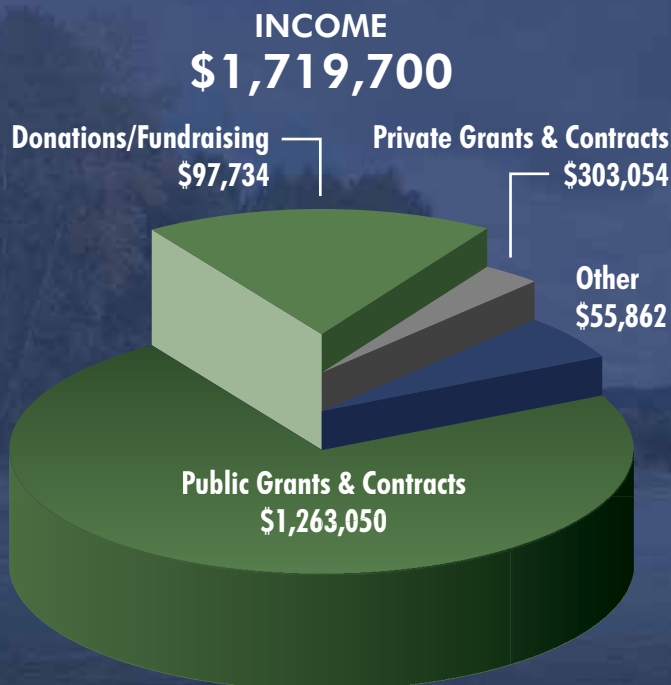
Community Outreach: **4,450 Individuals**
reached through community engagement programs

Volunteer Involvement: **7,861 Hours**
donated by community volunteers

Kids Educated: **1,359 Students**
engaged in environmental science education programs

Knotweed Surveyed: **34 Miles**
of river surveyed for invasive knotweed

2023 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



IMPROVING FISH PASSAGE

Lower Day Slough

Skagit Fisheries worked with two private landowners to improve fish passage on Lower Day Slough by installing bridges at two undersized road crossings. Improving these crossings immediately improved access to about a quarter of a mile of high-quality, groundwater-fed channel rearing habitat connected to the Middle Skagit River. These projects build on the successful upgrade of a site located approximately 1000 feet downstream, where a 60-foot bridge was installed as part of past fish passage improvement project in 2014. Providing access at these two additional sites restores unimpeded access to almost one mile of off-channel habitat known to be used by coho, steelhead, chum, and Chinook salmon, as well as bull trout and lamprey. Now complete, the bridges allow juvenile and adult fish to travel up and downstream freely. Currently, Skagit Fisheries is working with an additional landowner along this slough to help them remove an upstream blocking culvert and replace it with a bridge similar to their neighbors. Due to cost efficiencies, Skagit Fisheries is expecting to do this additional project this summer, using funds remaining from the previous grants. Many thanks to the private landowners who make this work possible as well as to the funding entities Puget Sound Energy and Salmon Recovery Funding Board.



Culverts on Lower Day Slough blocking salmon migration to important off channel habitat.



New bridge on Lower Day Slough allows unimpeded access to adult and juvenile salmon.

Riverfront Park

Riverfront Park is located along the Middle Skagit River in Sedro-Woolley with an unnamed seasonal tributary along the eastern portion of the park. Skagit Fisheries and the City of Sedro-Woolley have been working to restore habitat at Riverfront Park since 2018. Initial efforts focused on clearing invasive weeds and planting more than 3,000 native trees and shrubs to create a 100-foot forested buffer along this stream. A newly created nature trail crosses the stream via an old stream crossing that was identified as having an undersized culvert that created a salmon passage barrier. Skagit Fisheries secured funds from several sources including the Trout and Salmon Foundation, WDFW's Volunteer Cooperative Funds, and Puget Sound Energy to replace this undersized culvert with a 40-foot pedestrian bridge. The completed project provides adult and juvenile coho, chum and steelhead unimpeded access to 1.2 miles of habitat upstream of the new bridge. Skagit Fisheries contracted with a local trail building professional who led the effort to design and construct the new bridge structure. They were assisted by Skagit Fisheries volunteers, AmeriCorps, interns, and staff. A structural engineer was hired to ensure the design met all engineering criteria for a pedestrian bridge in a city owned park. Many thanks to the City of Sedro-Woolley for all their donated labor to make this project possible.



Culverts at Riverfront Park block salmon access in an unnamed creek under a walking trail.



Showing the size of one of the removed culverts with the newly completed bridge that allows salmon to migrate upstream and downstream while also providing park visitors better trail access.

Thompson Creek

Skagit Fisheries worked with a private landowner to remove and replace a fish blocking culvert on Thompson Creek to restore access to multiple species of salmon and steelhead. Thompson Creek is a small tributary to the Skagit River which crosses under Highway 20 between Concrete and Rockport. During the summer of 2022, WSDOT replaced a fish blocking culvert on Thompson Creek under Highway 20. The SFEG's project removed the privately owned barrier culvert immediately downstream of Highway 20 and replaced it with a fish friendly crossing. The new 16-foot span aluminum box culvert allows improved fish access to three quarters of a mile of diverse, forested stream habitat. Post-construction, the Washington Conservation Corps crew members planted the disturbed area with native trees and shrubs to jumpstart the recreation of healthy riparian habitat along the stream.



Culvert on Thompson Creek near Rockport creating a passage problem for salmon.



New large culvert reestablishes fish passage on Thompson Creek for salmon and steelhead.





PARTNERSHIPS FOR SALMON

Native Plant Restoration

Planting native trees and shrubs adjacent to rivers, streams, wetlands, and other waterbodies is what is called “riparian restoration”. Restoring riparian areas has been an important element of salmon restoration in the Skagit watershed for many years, however Washington State has more recently recognized the importance for this activity for salmon and has increased funding opportunities statewide. This is excellent news for Skagit Fisheries, as we work with many landowners and partners to plant tens of thousands of native trees and shrubs to restore riparian areas each year. Revegetating these waterways with native plants, not only helps to restore habitat for salmon, it also helps to filter pollutants and keep our waterways clean and healthy for shellfish, wildlife, and our community. This past year, Skagit Fisheries worked with many private landowners and public partners to plant over 39,000 native plants. Community members, students, staff, AmeriCorps, and Washington Conservation Corps members made this massive number of trees planted possible. Skagit Fisheries is thrilled to provide more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to be a part of tree planting events. In addition to planting trees at restoration sites throughout the Skagit Valley, volunteers also help grow trees for future restoration projects at our native plant nursery. We expect to complete over a half a million dollars of riparian restoration projects in 2024. We hope to see you at an upcoming community planting party.



AmeriCorps members Myrriah and Kenzie potting plants alongside other volunteers at our native plant nursery.

Controlling Knotweed

The Upper Skagit Knotweed Control Program is a highly successful program recognized throughout Washington State for its accomplishment of controlling the spread of invasive knotweeds in the Skagit watershed. This program’s success is due to its multi-year comprehensive approach of surveying for knotweed starting in the upper most reaches of the watershed in order to stop the spread of knotweed downstream. Knotweed, if left untreated, can outcompete native vegetation and create monocultures of knotweed along waterways damaging critical riparian habitat in our watersheds. Recently, thanks to additional funding from a new America the Beautiful grant, Skagit Fisheries has been able to expand its survey area all the way to the Baker River confluence to continue to slow the spread of knotweed in the Skagit watershed. Skagit Fisheries partners with various organizations throughout the watershed to ensure any knotweed that we have access to is found and treated. In 2023 Skagit Fisheries and our Washington Conservation Corps AmeriCorps Crew traversed 4,651 acres along 34 miles of mainstem river and important tributaries throughout the Skagit watershed. Only 331 knotweed patches were treated throughout this area which if aggregated into one location would cover less than one-half acre. This is a true testament to the success of this knotweed control program.



Washington Conservation Corps members survey for the invasive species knotweed in riparian areas along the Skagit and Sauk Rivers.

Spawner Surveys

The Spawner Survey program is almost entirely made up of volunteers, with help from our AmeriCorps members and interns. During the 2023-2024 season, 40 volunteers have been going out weekly to survey 19 streams in both the Samish and Skagit watersheds. To start the season, Skagit Fisheries held a Spawner Survey Volunteer Workshop in October to train volunteers in identifying specific species of salmon and their ideal habitat. During surveys, data is collected for live fish as well as carcasses and redds (salmon nests). Coho are the most widely observed salmon across all the streams, but chum and pink salmon were recorded this season. Mud and Finnegan Creeks, tributaries to Lake Samish, are an exception to this generalization; these creeks have each seen hundreds of kokanee salmon (small landlocked sockeye salmon) this year. East Fork Walker Creek in the Nookachamps watershed has boasted the highest number of coho this season, with a total of over 200 live fish.

Skagit Fisheries board members planting trees at Earth Day 2023.



AmeriCorps member, Connor Garrod, and spawner survey intern Adam Martinez surveying Ennis Creek in the Samish watershed.

Folks at our Salmon Sightings event at Oyster Creek saw plenty of chum (with help from anti-glare salmon glasses!).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Salmon Sightings

Skagit Fisheries' 'Salmon Sightings' events bring the public up close to salmon, finding locations and times when people can safely view spawning salmon in the Skagit and Samish watersheds. This year Salmon Sightings events were held at Pressentin Park in Marblemount, as well as at Mud Creek along Lake Samish and Oyster Creek along Samish Bay. During these events, community members were able to catch glimpses of spawning pink, chum, and kokanee salmon, as well as even Chinook carcasses if they looked closely at Pressentin Park. These events are very important in showing off Skagit Fisheries restoration efforts and helping people get more connected to the ecosystems flourishing all around them. At these events, there is always something new for folks of any age to learn.

Salmon in Schools

Salmon in Schools works with 11 area elementary schools to study the salmon life cycle, both in the classroom and in the field. In this unique program, students receive 200 coho eggs from a state hatchery in January and watch them transition through 3 life stages over the course of 3 months. Upon release into local water bodies, students connect the concept of the importance of healthy habitat to the salmon they've raised for several months.

Internships

Skagit Fisheries strives to engage the community in all aspects of salmon habitat restoration. One way we do this is by providing internships to local college students offering them opportunities to learn career building skills while earning their college degrees. To expand the applicant pool beyond those who can afford to work for free, we continued to offer paid internships in 2023. Local college students have interned in our education and monitoring programs, expanding our ability to complete restoration and community engagement projects. We hope to continue growing this program as we expand our ability to provide learning opportunities for students of all backgrounds in career building internships.



Kids with the stuffed rainbow trout they won as a prize for completing the scavenger hunt activity at Oyster Creek.



Kids from 11 local elementary schools had fun last spring releasing salmon fry.



Education Intern Abbie Niskanen teaching students how to measure water quality.



Students in the Salmon in Schools program from Westview Elementary planting a tree.



(Left to right) Abbie Niskanen, Connor Garrod, Clare Spain, and Adam Martinez.



PEOPLE OF SKAGIT FISHERIES

2023 Board of Directors

**Bob Everitt,
President**

Retired WDFW
Regional Manager,
Kenmore

**Pat Stevenson, Vice
President**

Retired Stillaguamish
Tribe Natural Re-
source Director, Bel-
lingham

**Rick Haley,
Treasurer**

Retired Fish Biologist
and Water Quality
Specialist, Mount
Vernon

Shirley Solomon

Retired Environmental
Management Profes-
sional, Anacortes

Austin Rose

Natural Resources
Professional,
Mount Vernon

**Doug Davidson,
Past President**

Retired Boeing CFO,
Anacortes

**Erik Young,
Secretary**

Research Scientist,
Edmonds

Steve Ranten

Retired Dept. of
Natural Resources,
Burlington

Matt DesVoigne

Accountant/CPA,
Sedro-Woolley

Kimberly Cauvel

Environmental
Journalist,
Sedro-Woolley

Our Staff

Lucy DeGrace

Outreach Manager

Yuki Reiss

Restoration Ecologist

Washington Service
Corps AmeriCorps
2023-24

**Washington
Conservation**

Corps AmeriCorps
Crew 2023-24

Bridget Dopp

Sydney Mederos

Kelin Doner

Restoration Technician

Alison Studley

Executive Director

Clare Spain

Education Associate

Mitch Biggs

Supervisor

Alex Studyvin

Holly Henderson

Communications
and Development
Coordinator

Muriel Troka

Restoration
Technician – Crew
Lead

Connor Garrod

Restoration Associate

PJ Heusted

Assistant Supervisor

Grace Trimborn

Melody Meyers

Finance and
Operations Manager

Nathan White

Riparian Restoration
Manager

Bengt Miller

Stewardship
Coordinator

Our Supporters

We are very grateful to our community who continues to care so deeply for our natural environment. Our donors, supporters, and restoration partners understand that having healthy waterways for salmon also means having clean water and healthy communities for all of us. We are thankful for your investment of time, energy, and funding to support our work. Please show your appreciation for those entities that support our work by patronizing those businesses that contribute to our healthy watershed. A complete list of this year's generous donors, businesses, schools, grantors, partners, landowners, tribes, and members is available in the online version of our 2023 Annual Report at SkagitFisheries.org.

Important partnership support
for Skagit Fisheries comes from





**SKAGIT FISHERIES
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP**

PO Box 2497
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MT. VERNON, WA
PERMIT #26

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Healthy Waterways, Healthy Salmon, Healthy Communities



SKAGIT FISHERIES
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP

2023 DONORS

192 Brewery
Brian Adams
Scott Adams
Carlos & Barb Agüero
Jeanne & Chris Allen
Edward & Bonnie Alm
Deene Almvig
Christina Anderson
Ellen Anderson
Allison Andrews & Anderson Beebe
Anonymous
Nancy Applegate & Jim Palmer
Steve Applegate
Terry R Armstrong
Dan & Linda Ballard
Danny & Jeannette Beatty
Dave Beatty
Ken Beekman
Bellingham Bells Baseball
Joline Bettendorf
Heather Bickford
Jean & James Birdsall
Cindy Bjorklund
Melanie & Dave Bloom
Blue Kingdom Tours
Doris Brevoort
Richard Brocksmith
Laurelynn Brooks
Christopher Brown
Kurt & Janice Buchanan
Coleman Byrnes
Hugh Campbell & Dianne Dalton
Betty Carteret & Eric Shen
Linda Castell
Kimberly Cauvel
Skagit River Brewery
MaryLee Chamberlain
Barry Christensen
Chuckanut Brewery
Robert Cole
Wendy Cole
Les Conway
Tony Cook
Al Craney
Rob Crawford
Steve Crider
Ned Currence & Dennese Kennedy
Doug Davidson & Lynne Wenberg-
Davidson
Madeline Dehia
Mark DesVoigne

Matthew DesVoigne
Janet & Mike Dillard
District Brewing
Lance Douglas
David Downey
DRYFT Fishing
Karen DuBose
Eclipse Books
Jerry & Marilyn Eisner
Rob & Julita Eleveld
John & Marie Erbstoeszner
Bob Everitt
Kelly Fahlman
Fair Isle Brewing
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Christine Farrow
Amy Fenlon
Judy Fisher
Fisheries Engineers Inc
Fleshman Construction Inspectors
Maury Folsy
Bruce Freet
Philip & Brenda Garrod
Robert Gentz
Erin Gless
Jeanne Glick
Oscar & Pat Graham
Lincoln Theatre
Chris Grieve
Sally Grube
Tim Grube
Peter Haase
Suzanne Hahn
Richard Haley
Jeraldine Hallberg
Heidi Hansen
Jennifer Harrington
Betty Harris
Richard Harris & Tricia Chisum
Dan Heimbigner
Jill Henderson
William Hetherington III
HF Sinclair Puget Sound Refinery
Rick & Veronica Hinkes
Kristina Holley
RTI Fabrication Inc
Robert Huet
Paul & Marie Hunter
Mari Imaizumi
Derek & Melissa Isenhardt
Island Adventures

Ollie Iversen
Peter & Susan Janicki
Ryan & Christina Jepperson
Jim Johnson and Marilyn Kenney
Melissa Kalles
Chad W. Keck
Martin Kenzer
Jay Kidder
Linda Kinsel and William Brugman
Frank Lacey & Jeraldine Hallberg
LaFeens Donuts
Elaine Lease
Elizabeth Leavens
John & Elaine Leighton
Lincoln Theatre
Bjorn Lunde
Leslie MacDonald
Tim Manns & Brenda Cunningham
Marathon Petroleum Anacortes
Refinery
Nancy & Jeff Quivey
Eric Martinez
Dwayne & Carolee Massey
John & Vicki May
James McDonald
Michael & Mary McFetridge
Faith McKeen
Jack & Anne Middleton
Ryan Mielke
Curtis Miller
Bob & Karen Mottram
Virginia Naef
Mark Nihart
North Sound Brewing Co.
Levi Nyberg
Dennis Parent
Murry & Shelley Park
Peter James Photography Studio
Dena Petersen & Ann Buzaitis
Scott Petersen
Dave Pflug
Charlotte Pitt
Jess Plier
Scott Railton
Steve Ranten
Red Apple
Reichhardt and Ebe
Paul Reiss
Britta Reyier
Rob Richey & Jeanne Brovold
D E Rieper

Robert Rosenfeld
Samish Tyee
San Juan Excursions
Wendy Scherrer
Schuh Farms
Marcus Schumacher
Charles Schweizer
Dean & Calista Scott
Patricia Sepulveda
Lori Shapiro
Rich Shaughnessy
Joseph Shea
Skagit River Brewery
Skagit Valley Food Co-op
Marlies Slostad
Richard L & Gloria J Smeal
Shirley Solomon & Curt Miller
Starbucks
Eileen Stauss
Pat Stevenson
Nora Strothman
Mark & Diane Studley
Terramar Brewstillery
George Thelen
Dean Tilles
Sheila Tomas
Barb Trask & Ger Van den Eng
Christine Tripp
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Dean Van Vleet
Jon Vanderheyden & Kathy
Kilcoyne
Chris Varela
Monica Vickers
George & Laura Jane Viverette
Duff & Pinky Walker
David Waterman
Wayne & Rebecca Watne
Rowena Watson
Kyle Weeks
Ron Wesen
Whidbey Coffee
Charlie & Susan Wilson
Anne Winkes
Fritz E Wollett
Jim Wright
Erik Young
Stan Zyskowski

LANDOWNERS

Chris and Jean Allen
Janice Bakke
Charmaine and Curtis Bruns
Andrea Burlough
City of Mount Vernon
City of Sedro-Woolley
Dike District #3
Forterra
Celeste Frisbee
Loren Fuell
Richard "Tiny" Furman
Gordie and Eileen Harang
Island County Public Works
Cort and Megan Kinman
Frankie Krupa-Vahdani
Jennifer and Nick Lewis
Auriemma Louis
Billie Morelli
Lois Nersten
Lisa and Erik Noste
Riley O'Brien
Sara Perry
Jesalyn Pettigrew
Puget Sound Energy
John and Renee Remeny
Brian Rietman
Samish Indian Nation
Daniel and Cecilia Sargent
Seattle City Light
Skagit County Parks and Recreation
Skagit Land Trust
Eric Spandl
Swinomish Tribe
The Nature Conservancy
Ruth Thomas
Town of Hamilton
U.S. Forest Service
WA State Parks
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

RESTORATION PARTNERS

501 Commons
ALEA Volunteer Cooperative Grants
Allen Elementary School
Anacortes High School
Bay View Elementary School
Burlington-Edison High School
Burlington-Edison School District
City of Sedro-Woolley
Concrete Elementary School
Conway Elementary School
Earth Corps
Edison Elementary School
ESRI
Family Forest Fish Passage Program
Fidalgo Fly Fishers
Forterra
Fourth Corner Fly Fishers
Glacier Peak Institute
Harriet Rowley Elementary School
Immaculate Conception Regional School
Island County Public Works
La Conner Elementary School
Leif Erikson Recreation Association
Lucille Umbarger Elementary School
Marblemount Hatchery
Mount Baker Middle School
Mount Vernon City Parks
Mount Vernon High School
Mount Vernon Public Works
Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Natural Resource Conservation Service
NOAA Restoration Center
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
North Cascades National Park
Northwest Straits Foundation
Promise the Pod
Puget Sound Energy
Puget Sound Partnership Recreation and Conservation Office
Rose Foundation
Salmon Recovery Funding Board
Samish Hatchery
Samish Indian Nation
Samish Water District
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
Seattle City Light
Sedro-Woolley High School
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit Coop Weed Management Area
Skagit County Marine Resources Committee
Skagit County Parks and Recreation
Skagit County Public Works
Skagit Land Trust
Skagit River Salmon Festival
Skagit River System Cooperative
Skagit Watershed Council
Swinomish Tribal Community
Taylor Shellfish Farms
The Nature Conservancy
Town of Hamilton
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
WA Department of Agriculture
WA Department of Ecology
WA Department of Fish & Wildlife
WA Department of Natural Resources
Washington Conservation Corps
Washington Service Corps
Washington State Parks
West View Elementary School

