



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

December 18-19, 2024

Hybrid

Location In-Person: Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location allows 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_2m7ieHE0SWSfseZo742NvQ

Phone Option: (669) 900-6833 – **Webinar ID:** 842 6272 4283

**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.

Open Meeting Agreement: This open public meeting is webcasted on TVW and recorded. By attending this meeting, you are agreeing that your image, anything you say, and any materials you submit may be posted indefinitely on RCO's and TVW's websites.

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, December 18, 2024

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roll Call and Determination of Quorum• Review and Approval of Agenda (Decision)• Approval of September Meeting Minutes (Decision)• Remarks by the Chair	<i>Chair Breckel</i>
9:10 a.m.	1. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Director's ReportB. Legislative and Policy UpdateC. Fiscal Update (written only)D. Performance Report (written only)	<i>Megan Duffy Brock Milliern Mark Jarasitis Bart Lynch</i>
9:30 a.m.	2. Salmon Recovery Management Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Salmon Management ReportB. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report	<i>Kat Moore Erik Neatherlin Tara Galuska</i>
9:45 a.m.	General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda: <i>Please limit comments to three minutes.</i>	
10:00 a.m.	3. Partner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council of Regions• Washington Salmon Coalition• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	<i>Alex Conley Aundrea McBride Lance Winecka</i>
10:30 a.m.	Break	
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
10:45 a.m.	4. Salmon Strategy Biennial Workplan	<i>Katie Knight Pruitt</i>
BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION		
11:15 a.m.	5. Updates on Intensively Monitored Watershed Program	<i>Greer Maier</i>
12:15 p.m.	Lunch	
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION		
1:15 p.m.	6. Monitoring Grant Program Manual	<i>Greer Maier</i>
1:45 p.m.	7. City of Sumner Cost Increase	<i>Alissa Ferrell Kate McLaughlin Subcommittee</i>



A Resolution to Recognize

Marc Duboiski

WHEREAS, from November 8, 1999, through October 31, 2024, Marc Duboiski served the residents of Washington State while working for the Recreation and Conservation Office, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board; and

WHEREAS, Marc participated in the award of more than thirty-five hundred salmon recovery grants and contracts valued at more than \$1 billion and more than one hundred recreation projects valued at more than \$10 million; and

WHEREAS, Marc was never more at home than when he was out in the field, visiting project sites, helping project sponsors, and taking in the beauty of Washington State, returning to the office to share stories and photographs about his adventures; and

WHEREAS, Marc was never afraid to speak out and speak up, easily owned his mistakes, and confidently approached RCO executives to discuss everything from revising grant policies to getting rid of the dash in PRISM project numbers; and

WHEREAS, Marc showed his team the value of forming relationships with those we work with, of taking time to understand the issues that salmon and people face, of getting outside to appreciate the work we do, and of being thankful to have the best jobs in state government; and

WHEREAS, Marc was quick with a laugh, never met a stranger, welcomed every new staff member into the RCO family, and shared his enthusiasm for life and for RCO's work in particular, thus keeping staff morale high and the workplace productive and fun; and

WHEREAS, Marc always strived to get to "Yes" by working to find solutions for the challenges project sponsors faced, demonstrated teamwork by enthusiastically participating on many RCO and multi-agency teams, and solidified the agency's reputation as a trusted partner through his good work;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on behalf of the residents of Washington State and in recognition of Marc's can-do attitude, integrity, leadership, and dedication to salmon recovery and RCO, the board and its staff extend sincere appreciation and compliment him on a job well done and an important legacy.

Approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
on December 18, 2024

Jeff Breckel, Chair

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 24, 2024

Place: Hybrid – Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501 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
Kadi Bizyayeva	Stanwood	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 meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) board liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. Member Joe Maroney was present online. Member Chris Endresen-Scott was absent. Member Kadi Bizyayeva was absent at roll call, but joined at 9:03 a.m.

Motion: Move to approve the **September 24-25, 2024, Agenda**
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve the **June Meeting Minutes**
Moved by: Member **Maroney**
Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**
Approved: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve the **August Minutes**
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: *Approved*

Motion: Move to approve the **Standing Calendar**
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: *Approved*

Motion: Move to approve the **2025 Meeting Dates**
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: *Approved*

Item 1: Director's Report

Director Megan Duffy highlighted the addition of Tribal Affairs Director, Dawn Pullin, a new position at RCO.

The Riparian Roundtable meetings continue and a consultant report was submitted to the Office of Financial Management at the end of August. The Riparian Roundtable is in round two, an implementation phase. Meetings will continue through December and include another report. Director Duffy and Erik Neatherlin, Governor Salmon Recovery Office director, participate in the meetings and track how the decisions will impact RCO's Riparian Program.

Director Duffy congratulated the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board on celebrating twenty-five years as a board.

During the week of Nov 18, Director Duffy and Mr. Neatherlin will travel to Washington, D.C. to discuss the importance of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Restoration Funding to Washington State.

Director Duffy acknowledged staff's work orchestrating another successful grant round and expressed gratitude to the lead entities and regions for their work.

Chair Breckel asked about the timeline for Riparian Roundtable recommendations. Director Duffy believed the recommendations would be available by the end of the calendar year.

Policy and Legislative Update

Brock Milliern, policy and legislative director, noted budgets were due earlier in September, with submission to the Office of Financial Management on September 12.

At the August meeting, the board approved support for partner programs based on presented estimates. Mr. Milliern provided updated and final funding requests for the partner programs:

- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration – \$109.2 million, an increase of about \$45 million from the last biennium.
- Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative – \$16.7 million, a decrease of about \$1 million from the last biennium.
- Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board – \$76.8 million, a decrease of about \$18 million from the last biennium.
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program – \$27.5 million, an increase of about \$2 million from the last biennium.
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program – \$12 million, an increase of about \$2 million from the last biennium.

More information on budget requests will be available by mid-December.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office director, highlighted the upcoming Puget Sound Day on the Sound on October 17, hosted by Puget Sound Partnership and Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. Additionally, the [35th Centennial Accord](#) was the last Centennial Accord that the current governor will attend. Dawn Pullin and Brock Milliern attended, along with Governor's Salmon Recovery Office staff. Mr. Neatherlin emphasized the uniqueness of the Centennial Accord agreement between the State and Tribes.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office is finishing updates to the Governor's Salmon Strategy, and the 2025-2027 Biennial Work Plan is under development and due to the Governor's Office on October 31. Mr. Neatherlin expects the workplan will include combined agency requests of \$1.2 billion for salmon recovery. An update will be provided at the December meeting.

The State of the Salmon Report is due by the end of the year and an update will be provided at the December meeting.

Jeannie Abbott, program coordinator, noted the board will decide on funding for the Spokane Lead Entity at either the December or March meeting. Ms. Abbott met with the Spokane Tribe and their Lead Entity representatives and will aid them with their 2026 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund application.

Planning for the 2025 Salmon Recovery Conference continues. The conference will be April 28-30 at the Yakima Convention Center. The call for abstracts is open until October 25, 2024. Menus, hotel blocks, and plenary session speakers are being planned. Greer Maier will host a three-hour workshop on the first day of the conference on the life history of each species of salmon.

Member Kanzler asked if the capacity was able to increase for the upcoming conference and Ms. Abbott answered they are expecting 650 people.

Tara Galuska, orca recovery coordinator, highlighted the new L-Pod calf that was sighted last week, bringing the Southern Resident Killer Whale population to 75. The calf will be added to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's [vulnerable whale list](#). Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife held a recreational boater workshop to help implement the new law that goes into effect January 1, 2025, requiring a 1,000-yard distance for all vessels to Southern Resident Killer Whales. RCO, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Puget Sound Partnership, and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office will submit a multi-agency letter to Canada, which may amend their marine mammal regulations, encouraging a 1,000-yard distance from Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Species in the Spotlight health assessment workshops for cetaceans looked at what is needed to measure the health of individual Southern Resident Killer Whales, beluga whales, Cook Inlet whales, and North Atlantic right whales. This will be followed by another workshop on developing a database that would allow scientists to input and share individual whale data.

Finally, [Orca Recovery Day](#) is October 19.

Chair Breckel asked for Canada's current vessel distance. Ms. Galuska answered 300 meters. Please note, following the meeting Ms. Galuska clarified that the current buffer distance in Canada is 400 meters from orcas in Southern British Columbia waters and 200 meters from orcas in the rest of Canada.

General Public Comment

None.

Item 3: Partner Reports

Council of Regions

Alex Conley, Council of Regions chair, provided a written report, available in the [meeting materials](#), which highlighted the two new grant programs, amount of funding available this grant round, and expressed appreciation to RCO staff. On top of board funding, the Council of Regions continues to see significant federal funding for large projects.

The Council of Regions continues to hold their regular meetings, quarterly meetings with RCO staff, and quarterly meetings with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife leadership.

Mr. Conley noted that, until recently, the regions have not had the opportunity to provide input into the riparian roundtable process, convened by the Governor's office. He further noted that while excited to see Washington Department Fish and Wildlife's Fish Passage Strategy move forward, the Council of Regions cautioned that the new optimization model's credibility will depend on the quality of data input. The Council of Regions is working with a permit coordinating group on permit reform and streamlining proposals.

Council of Regions supports the proposal in Item 4: Proposed Monitoring Grant Program. Mr. Conley noted the newly approved board calendar will cause the Council of Regions to adjust when their meetings occur and would like to coordinate in the future on calendar changes. **Director Duffy** noted the approval of a permanent calendar will allow more consistency and certainty in the future.

Finally, Mr. Conley expressed excitement over the Targeted Investment and Riparian programs.

Member Cottingham asked when the fish passage prioritization strategy is expected to be complete. **Member Cram** believed it to be due to Legislature at the end of the year.

Washington Salmon Coalition

Aundrea McBride, Washington Salmon Coalition, shared that the Washington Salmon Coalition hosted a virtual all-hands meeting in July, with help from Greer Maier. Since then, Ms. Maier has worked on gathering data from lead entities to inform the statewide effort. At the meeting, the Washington Salmon Coalition learned how to contribute to the stormwater retrofit geospatial database from the Department of Transportation and were trained on the Salmon Recovery Portal and conducting legislative site visits to advocate for projects. The next all-hands meeting will be in Walla Walla this October.

The Salmon Day committee is preparing for Salmon Day on February 5, 2025. Representatives from Lead Entities, Recovery Regions, and Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups will convene in Olympia to meet with Legislators to discuss salmon recovery and shared group objectives.

The Permit Streamlining project continues with a coalition that includes Puget Sound Partnership and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Regarding Item 4: Proposed Monitoring Grant Program, the Washington Salmon Coalition supports a state-scale monitoring program.

Regarding Item 5: Manual 18 2025 Calendar, lead entities note that moving the due date to August 15 would be disruptive for some lead entities; giving them less time to develop local process materials and program guides; and the publication of the review panel's final determinations may be too late to be useful for some. Additionally, the timing of the Salmon Recovery Conference limits availability for site visits.

Ms. McBride highlighted results from the Skagit intensively monitored watershed, which show estuary restoration is working. The results are expected to be published within the next couple of months.

Regional Fisheries Coalition

Jason Lundgren, Cascade Fisheries Enhancement Group, is working on their 2025-27 biennium and Legislative priorities ahead of Salmon Day.

The Regional Fisheries Coalition continues to advocate for match modernization and is excited about the progress the board has made this year.

Streamlining permits are a priority for the Regional Fisheries Coalition. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is hosting a workshop in November, another effort to streamline permitting. While priorities are not new this year, they are urgent with a changing climate and warming ocean temperatures. The increase in funding this year is an opportunity to make big changes on the ground, while maintaining a streamlined process.

For years, the Regional Fisheries Coalition has been advocating for increased capacity funding. This year, the Senate passed a budget that proposes an increase to the fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's partner programs. An increase in base funding would greatly increase the ability to pursue and deliver habitat recovery projects. Over 300 entities signed a letter of support for this increased funding.

Item 4: Proposed Monitoring Grant Program

This item was presented after Item 8.

Greer Maier, Science Coordinator, reminded the board of their discussion to transition from a three-pronged monitoring approach that included intensively monitored watersheds, effectiveness monitoring, and Fish in Fish out, to a board monitoring program with two funding focuses: state level monitoring projects and a regionally focused grant program.

Goals for the proposed regionally focused grant program include generating strategically consistent information applicable to state, regional, and local decision makers; guiding habitat restoration, protection, and recovery plan implementation; supporting and implementing an adaptive approach to focus on the most timely and relevant questions and monitoring needs; communicating data, information, and knowledge in a meaningful way; and collaborating with partners to leverage programs and results. This new program will relay information from the regions to the board and sponsors for faster decision making and informing restoration and recovery. Details on eligible applicants, eligible project types, strategic priorities, grant process and schedule, evaluation and review criteria, and funding can be found in the [meeting materials](#). Staff are proposing \$973,855 for the 2025 grant round, comprised of existing regional monitoring funding, unallocated monitoring funds, and 2022 carry-over funds. The grant program would either be annual or biennial.

The next steps will be to finalize the development of the program manual (Manual 18M) and draft a request for proposals for the 2025 grant round.

Member Cottingham asked when the program would be funded if a decision is made to move to a biennial grant round. **Jeannie Abbott** answered the program would occur in off years, so if it begins in 2025, the next time would be in 2027. Ms. Maier added it would run opposite Targeted Investments.

Member Hoffmann suggested reporting information on status and trends monitoring as well as regional monitoring so that the board can understand where the greatest needs are. Ms. Maier agreed, noting that long-term monitoring will be discussed more in December.

Member Cram expressed concern about receiving a lot of one-time project effectiveness proposals and encouraged regions to consider creative ways to use the new program.

Member Kanzler wondered if existing monitoring data could be used in future restoration project design guidance and asked if existing monitoring results are being used for adaptive management. Ms. Maier answered that monitoring data is important in helping to develop and design projects, and the new grant program identifies steps for how to use monitoring results in adaptive management. Ms. Maier plans to work closely with the Science Advisory Panel to ensure that lessons learned are communicated and applied and was open to suggestions on how this information can be used in other board and partner guidance documents.

Member Keesecker noted the overlap with Washington Conservation Commission’s Volunteer Stewardship Program and asked how climate change fits into limiting factors and criteria. Ms. Maier answered that climate change was considered and is a reason behind the strategic priorities and adaptive management cycle. Member Hoffmann commented that when the Science Advisory Panel is reviewing projects, they should consider water quantity and quality and their tie to abundance and productivity.

Chair Breckel recommended changing “project effectiveness” to “restoration effectiveness” and Ms. Maier agreed that might be a better phrase.

Motion: Move to create a statewide competitive Salmon Recovery Monitoring Program with the goal of filling critical data gaps. Monitoring will be removed as an eligible project type in the regular salmon recovery grant program. The first grant round will occur in 2025 and \$973,855 will be available for projects.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**

Seconded by: Member **Maroney**

Approved: **Approved**

BREAK 10:01 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Public Comment

None.

Item 5: Manual 18 2025 Calendar

Kat Moore, assistant salmon section manager, noted Manual 18 changes which include minor administrative changes in December, changes to the Monitoring program, and updates to the Riparian program.

Ms. Moore explained the 2025 calendar changes, including changed due dates for the Lead Entity ranked lists, site visits and application submission. Factors in developing the 2025 calendar included the Salmon Recovery Conference dates (April 28-30) and the

September board meeting dates (September 16-17).. The full 2025 Grant Schedule is provided in Attachment A of Memo 5, included in the [meeting materials](#).

Members discussed changing the Salmon Recovery Conference date in the future. **Jeannie Abbott** and **Director Duffy** noted other times can be considered, and **Chair Breckel** added that spring was initially chosen because of the grant round, but fall may work too.

Motion: Move to approve the 2025 Grant Schedule as shown in Attachment A of Memo 5.
Moved by: Member **Maroney**
Seconded by: Member **Bizyayeva**
Approved: *Approved*

Public Comment

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, commented that while there could be room to adjust the Salmon Recovery Conference, April has been a generally agreed upon month.

LUNCH: 11:25 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Item 6: Targeted Investment Funding Decision

Marc Duboiski, salmon recovery grants section manager, provided a brief background of the Targeted Investment program as included in the [meeting materials](#). In the 2024 grant round there are fifteen restoration and four acquisition Targeted Investment project proposals, requesting \$66.3 million.

Member Cram asked why the acquisition projects all ranked higher than restoration projects. Mr. Duboiski noted that the acquisition projects received higher scores in a few specific evaluation criteria categories.

Josh Lambert, outdoor grants manager, presented the number one ranked Targeted Investment project: Dewatto Estuary and Mainstream Protection ([RCO #24-1103](#)) sponsored by the Great Peninsula Conservancy in the Hood Canal Region.

Kendall Kohler, outdoor grants manager, presented the Tucannon Big Four Floodplain Restoration project ([RCO #24-1069](#)) sponsored by the Nez Perce Tribe in the Snake River Recovery Region.

Elizabeth Butler, outdoor grants manager, presented Toppenish Creek River Mile Forty at Pom Pom Road (Phase II) ([RCO #24-1713](#)) sponsored by the Yakama Nation in the Mid-Columbia Salmon Recovery Region.

Amee Bahr, outdoor grants manager, presented Nason Creek and State Route 207 ([RCO #24-1861](#)) sponsored by the Yakama Nation in the Upper Columbia Region.

Item 7: Targeted Investment Funding Decision

Marc Duboiski introduced Jeanette Smith and Paul Schlenger from the Review Panel, noting Steve Toth and Jennifer O’Neil recused themselves from the Targeted Investment review process.

Review Panelists, **Jeanette Smith** and **Paul Schlenger**, provided an overview of the Review Panel’s observations from the Targeted Investment program, which directs funds at projects that drive significant population-scale benefits consistent with regional recovery priorities and accelerate on-the-ground pace and scale of project implementation.

The Review Panel evaluated and scored nineteen projects, with the top seven being above the funding line (as determined by the 2024 supplemental appropriation. This appropriation is subject to the outcome of Initiative 2117 related to the Climate Commitment Act). Final scores and ranking were determined by Review Panel scores, worth forty points, and regional rankings provided by each region, worth six points. The Review Panel criteria were scored on scale of benefit; ecological processes; limiting factors; funding impact; scope, goals, and objectives; readiness to proceed; sponsor experience; and the species benefiting from the project. If needed, cost benefit was provided as a tiebreaker criterion.

Acquisition projects scored high because of scale, process protection, funding impact, and immediate effect. Large scale acquisition and restoration projects are extensive and leverage or complete existing efforts. The regional ranking brings regional specific criteria into the mix. There was a minimal spread of points in the top ten projects, with a 5.167 spread with regional ranking scores included.

The most influential criteria were scale of benefit, readiness to proceed, ecological processes, and species. The least influential criteria were funding impact due to lack of consistent information, and sponsor or team experience, since most applicants have been working in salmon recovery for a long time. The Review Panel noted that some criteria could be collectively scored versus individually scored as reviewers had different approaches to scoring life stages.

The Review Panel recommended making changes to project eligibility and design-element due dates, and project presentations to ensure the Review Panel has more information for the next Targeted Investment round.

Member Cottingham asked if there were any complaints about the Review Panel's ranked list. Mr. Schlenger noted they did not have communication with the regions but imagined there could be concerns about the inconsistency of the regional ranking compared to the final ranked list.

Members discussed how the acquisition projects ranked high, despite some of their regional rankings. **Member Cram** suggested prioritizing Targeted Investment restoration projects when more funds are available and acquisition projects when there are less funds. Ms. Smith noted the criteria intended to minimize favoring acquisitions over restorations. This round could have been atypical for the number of acquisition projects.

Additionally, Member Cram noted the species scores, and Mr. Duboiski explained that the Targeted Investment criteria are specific to endangered species act listings, leaving the coast at a disadvantage as there are no listed species there. Members, staff, and review panelists discussed whether life stages and species should be pre-scored by staff.

Chair Breckel asked about match and Mr. Duboiski answered eight of the nineteen projects had match, which sponsors may have included as match has been used as a tiebreaker in the past. Chair Breckel commented that although match is not required for Targeted Investments, it would be nice to know other funding sources and fund amounts to better understand how the board funds contribute to the overall project.

Public Comment

Alex Conley, executive director of the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, appreciated the Review Panel's overview of the criteria and noted that since this is a biennial program, there is time to discuss changes before the next round. Mr. Conley suggested finding a more objective proxy for sponsor experience and that clarifying dollar amount information regarding match is not required but would be helpful for the board to know the full project cost. Mr. Conley disagreed with pre-scoring the species criteria.

Steve Manlow, executive director of the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, was comfortable with how the projects were ranked, which reflects the dynamic of a broad group performing technical reviews. Mr. Manlow noted that the Grays River Project is the last piece of property needed to be secured to protect around half the abundance of chum salmon in the region.

Member Cram asked how partial funding works for the Nason Creek project, ranked eight and under the funding line. Mr. Duboiski explained that Nason Creek is the first

alternate project and will be funded first if Legislature provides additional funding in the next session.

Members discussed having the ability to reorder the ranked list if they felt it was necessary, but decided it was not necessary based on the regional and review panel rankings. **Member Maroney** suggested revisiting the criteria before the next grant round.

Motion:	<u>Move to approve the Targeted Investments ranked list as shown in Table 1 of Memo 6.</u>
Moved by:	Member Maroney
Seconded by:	Member Bizyayeva
Approved:	Approved

Item 8: Partner Reports

This item was presented before Item 4.

Department of Transportation

Member Susan Kanzler, Washington State Department of Transportation, shared that the Washington State Department of Transportation [Annual Fish Passage Performance Report](#) is available now. The report includes thirty-two barrier corrections in 2023, post project monitoring results, and inventory and habitat assessment updates to the culvert injunction list. Forty-seven fish passage barrier projects were under construction in the summer of 2024 and a total of forty-four should be completed by the end of this year. Some are multi-season projects that are planned for completion next summer.

The 2025-27 biennium budget requests were submitted to the Office of Financial Management and the Governor's Office on September 10 and focuses on essential operations, highest priority needs, and critical investments to transportation systems infrastructure. Additionally, Washington State Department of Transportation requested \$5 billion for fish passage barrier removal to comply with the Federal Culvert Injunction to remove barriers and restore natural habitats.

Conservation Commission

Member Levi Keesecker, Conservation Commission, shared they have hired a Riparian Coordinator, Amy Martin. The Conservation Commission requested \$25 million for their riparian program. As of July 1, the program received seventy-two applications that have been funded for a total of \$13.8 million, representing twenty-nine conservation districts across the state. Additionally, the Conservation Commission requested \$1.4 million for the riparian plant propagation program and \$5 million to increase support for the

Science Hub. The Conservation Commission is increasing outreach and engagement with Tribes around the Riparian Program and Science Hub.

In the last Legislative session, the Riparian Communications Campaign was funded to focus on educating Washington residents about riparian areas, water quality, salmon recovery, and habitat conservation. The Conservation Commission has established focus groups and received feedback about community perceptions of riparian zones. This work will continue through December.

The Conservation Commission is updating their data management system and is engaged in the Riparian Roundtable.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Jeremy Cram, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, highlighted new and ongoing projects. The [State Wildlife Action Plan](#) is updated every ten years and has a [survey](#) open through November 15. Fish Passage Strategy public workshops are underway in western and eastern Washington. Work continues for the Net Ecological Gain proviso and Riparian Systems Assessment, related to the high-resolution change detection projects that help to inform the Riparian Roundtable. Lastly, the Fish in Fish out proviso team continues to develop a juvenile and smolt monitoring inventory, which will help to identify data gaps across the state.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's decision packages are ready for the next Legislative session and are included in their biennial work plan that includes twenty-five projects ranging from hatchery and harvest issues to traditional habitat restoration projects.

Department of Ecology

Member Annette Hoffmann, Washington Department of Ecology, provided an update focused on 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q). Member Hoffmann noted Ecology's testimony at a hearing of the United State Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight on the environmental impacts of 6PPD-q; recommended actions for the next biennium; toxicity research for alternative chemicals to 6PPD-q; communicating general research methods across entities; and updating stormwater manuals with best practices for rubber fields and street sweeping programs.

Chair Breckel asked what the limit for 6PPD-q is based on, and Member Hoffmann answered that studies do not allow for much concentration. More than one element

goes into setting a limit and more science is involved. Member Hoffmann offered to provide a presentation in a future meeting.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Tom Gorman, Department of Natural Resources, noted there are several projects underway including restoration in [Whiteman Cove](#) in the Puget Sound and derelict structure removal in Neah Bay in partnership with the Makah Tribe. The Makah Tribe is partnering with the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary to remove additional sunken vessels and a former bridge pontoon.

Related to tires, Department of Natural Resources is collecting preliminary data on artificial reefs or tire piles and is near the final stages to initiate the first removal of a tire reef near Tolmie State Park. This project will be used as a model for future work at four other sites that are currently permitted.

Department of Natural Resources continues to work with the Office of Financial Management on budget requests for items such as derelict structure and vessel removal, particularly formerly federal derelict vessels; stabilize funding for the Puget Sound Conservation Corps which has challenges with retaining funding; an aquatics request; and an uplands program request.

Member Cottingham asked if there is an inventory of known tire reefs in Washington. Member Gorman answered there is an inventory and around twenty-five tire reefs have been surveyed with about ten yet to be surveyed.

Chair Breckel asked about the federal obligation for the formerly federal derelict vessels. Member Gorman answered there is no federal obligation for removal, although some funding was received from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Washington Department of Natural Resources is working with Puget Sound Partnership on how to deal with the large, formerly federal vessels. As other states are experiencing the same issue, there has been some movement working with Congress and the United States Coast Guard to find a source of funding to help offset removal programs in coastal states.

RECESS: 2:25 P.M.

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: September 25, 2024

Place: Hybrid – Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington 98501 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
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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 a.m. Staff, partners, and guests introduced themselves. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) board liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. Members Joe Maroney and Kadi Bizayeva were present online. Member Chris Endresen-Scott was absent.

Item 9: Potential Policy Changes

Nick Norton, Policy Specialist, provided an overview of potential changes to [Manual 18](#), providing background information on the current policies for the regular board round, riparian funding round, and Targeted Investments grant round.

Regular Board Grant Round

General Board Acquisitions

The current policy for multi-site acquisitions requires a geographic envelope for scoping an acquisition. Increasingly, Lead Entities are completing watershed-scale acquisition

strategies, which have been allowed to function as the basis for an acquisition proposal; however, there is currently no policy guidance for when current scoping requirements can be waived in lieu of a watershed level strategy. **Kat Moore**, salmon section assistant manager, noted that while watershed strategies have been successful, there is no guidance for others to use to take advantage of this opportunity. Staff are considering two options:

- 1) Keep doing this informally on a case-by-case basis
- 2) Develop policy guidance.

Chair Breckel thought it worthwhile to continue addressing these on a case-by-case basis as there is overlap with other programs and issues. **Member Cottingham** noted staff should consider how well community outreach is done so that local officials are not surprised. **Member Hoffmann** wondered if this approach was prevalent enough to warrant a policy change. Ms. Moore answered it does happen frequently but there is no policy for guidance to provide others interested in adopting the approach. The geographic envelope criteria are based off a model that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) uses. Mr. Norton offered to provide a case study on the difference between a watershed strategy and geographic envelope. Additionally, the Riparian Roundtable recommends watershed-based implementation strategies. Chair Breckel suggested broadening the existing geographic envelope criteria. Member Cottingham suggested looking into the agriculture strategies in the RCFB policies to help determine how much flexibility to allow and under what conditions. Additionally, added flexibility may end up costing more.

Member Cram thought it made sense to add guidance for regional development but seems complicated to implement a statewide framework. Mr. Norton noted that RCO would not develop a top-down framework, but rather lay out the process for using a watershed strategy. Member Cottingham noted Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife informed RCFB's shift to using a geographic envelope to allow more flexibility.

Riparian Policy Alignment

There are four areas where general board funding and riparian specific funding do not align: buffer match, acquisition match, geographic envelope, and restoration design standards. Details on the differences can be found in the [meeting materials](#). It may be appropriate to align policies based on which would have a greater impact on salmon recovery and riparian function.

Member Hoffmann asked if there were any notable downsides to keeping the policies as is. **Kat Moore** explained some lead entities fund riparian and acquisition projects with both funding sources and the difference makes the process more challenging. It makes sense to apply the riparian standards to the general board funding for the geographic

envelope and restoration design standards. The reason for making any changes is that if the riparian funding ends, the standards still exist within Manual 18.

Chair Breckel expressed uncertainty in making changes to the general board funding match requirements, which currently can be viewed as an incentive to get to the full buffer width.

Member Cottingham and **Member Maroney** were supportive of aligning geographic envelope and restoration design standards but hesitant in making changes to buffer match and acquisition match. Members discussed how any changes to the match requirement on buffer width would need Tribal support. Additionally, any changes might be considered after the Riparian Roundtable completes its work.

Riparian-Specific Funding

Riparian Enhancement Plan

The current riparian enhancement plan policy strongly recommended applicants submit an enhancement plan with design expectations. This recommended enhancement plan can be burdensome, and without additional guidance, lacks information on the appropriate level of detail required. Possible changes include:

- 1) Delaying design requirements
- 2) Reducing design expectations
- 3) Increasing policy incentives

Mr. Norton summarized the board discussion noting members agreed a design standard is needed and there is a willingness to go back to partners and lead entities for a better understanding of how designs might look in future funding rounds.

In-Stream Elements

The current riparian in-stream policy limits eligible in-stream project types based on specific criteria that must be satisfied. In some instances, there is a lack of clarity about eligibility and lack of specificity about allowed structures. Considerations include:

- 1) Continue current policy for another grant round.
- 2) Shift toward more specific guidance that is less subject to interpretation.

Chair Breckel noted that internal guidance could be helpful for staff and the review panel.

Public Comment

Aundrea McBride, Interim Executive Director of the Skagit Watershed Council, provided an overview of how the Skagit Protection Strategy works for board consideration. The strategy defined an envelope that includes the entire watershed within the 100-year floodplain for the main stems of the Skagit, Cascade, and Sauk Rivers, plus floodplains of all major tributaries identified as priority Chinook habitat in the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan. A landscape analysis was performed on all parcels within the envelope to identify different habitat types, which were weighed on importance to Chinook with the goal of purchasing the most intact habitats. Priority parcels with landowners willing to sell were brought to the Protection Sub-committee who make a final decision on whether to proceed with acquiring the parcel. Additionally, thresholds for parcel degradation can trigger further review by a technical committee. There is also a process for collaboration that is triggered within the strategy between restoration practitioners and the protection strategy. **Marc Duboiski** noted the Skagit Watershed Council has been performing and refining this strategy since 2001 and recommended that the board visit the area to see the work that has been done in the last decades. **Bob Warinner** noted acquisition projects that make it to Skagit Watershed Council are well vetted. Additionally, the strategy expedites the process and saves capacity and time for purchasing organizations.

Member Cottingham asked where in the planning process landowner willingness comes into play. Mr. Duboiski answered that embedded in reach-level acquisitions is a small amount of funding available for outreach to target the top one-third of parcels explained by Ms. McBride.

Alex Conley, Executive Director Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, commented on how responsive and money saving watershed strategies can be. The clearer the board and staff can be in explaining that watershed strategies are not just an option but are being supported, the more people will invest in the upfront costs of a strategy.

Mr. Conley noted the Riparian Roundtable appears to be navigating among the different programs of the SRFB, the Washington Conservation Commission, and Washington Department of Ecology. Personally, Mr. Conley hopes to see a Legislative mandate for a more programmatic approach that reduces distinction between the three programs. Mr. Conley thought for how fast the Riparian Program was created, the first grant round went well and thinks there is room to keep improving it after the Riparian Roundtable completes its work.

Item 10: 2024 Grant Round

Kat Moore provided an overview of the 2024 grant round which began in February. Funding for programs and the regional allocations can be found in the [meeting materials](#). There were 219 projects initially submitted and nineteen withdrawn following review, leaving 200 on the ranked list. There are forty-three conditioned projects, and six projects are cost-increases for existing projects.

The majority of the projects, 58 percent, are restoration projects, followed by 27 percent planning, and 11 percent acquisition. The remaining 4 percent are acquisition and restoration, monitoring, planning and acquisition, and planning and restoration projects, at 1 percent each.

There are nine Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital projects, requesting over \$75 million in funding. Four of these projects are included on the Targeted Investment list. The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital ranked list can be found in Attachment 6 of the meeting materials.

There are two Regional Monitoring projects, one in the Upper Columbia ([RCO #24-1856](#)) and one in the Hood Canal ([RCO #24-1101](#)), funded through regional and lead entity allocations. Of note, this is the last year of regional monitoring funding that will go through the regular grant round.

There are sixty-eight riparian projects included in the ranked list, accounting for around \$28.8 million in funding requests and bringing \$3.5 million in match. Of the sixty-eight applications, sixty-five were funded and three are alternates. The alternate projects were partially funded leaving unmet need in Puget Sound, Snake River, and the Washington Coast regions. Details on carry-over funds and riparian allocation can be found in Attachment 2 of the materials. Of note, some lead entities ranked riparian projects separate from other projects, while other lead entities ranked projects all together.

BREAK: 10:39 A.M. – 10:50 A.M.

Item 10: 2024 Grant Round (Continued)

Bob Warinner provided an overview of South Fork Nooksack Skookum Edfro Phase III ([RCO #24-1387](#)), a restoration project submitted by the Lummi Indian Business Council in the Puget Sound Region. The project will place large woody debris, remove riprap and other floodplain infrastructure, widen the floodplain to increase channel complexity and create pools and side channels.

Mr. Warinner provided an overview of the Mid Grays River Conservation Area ([RCO #24-1755](#)), an acquisition project submitted by the Columbia Land Trust in the Lower

Columbia Region. Healthy forested riparian corridors that foster intact riverine processes and diverse upland forests that benefit salmon, people, and other species are the desired outcomes of the acquisition.

Alice Rubin, senior outdoor grants manager, provided an overview of the Bernier Creek Wood Placement Field-Fit ([RCO #24-1164](#)), a restoration project submitted by Trout Unlimited in the Coast Region. The project will produce final designs and use low-technology techniques to reactivate and improve the degraded habitat for the benefit of coho and chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Item 11: 2024 Grant Round Continues

Jennifer O'Neil and **Steve Toth**, Review Panel Co-Chairs, provided an overview of the Review Panel's observations of the 2024 grant round; further detail can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

At the project level, the Review Panel noted four main items that stood out during review and provided recommendations. This included integration of self-regulated tide gates, the cost of permits and related timeframes, adaptive management for closed projects that are facing degradation from natural resources, and assessment of stage-zero projects.

Members discussed the need for contingency funding for adaptive management. If a flood occurred at a closed project site, sponsors are currently unable to request a cost increase to repair damages as the contract is closed. Additionally, sponsors cannot apply for new funding at a previously funded site, despite the damage. **Member Hoffmann** felt that a site with damage could be prioritized for review by the Technical Review Panel to assess whether it is worth continuing with repairs. **Marc Duboiski** noted it is difficult at the local level to evaluate and rank project fixes against new projects. **Member Cottingham** expressed interest in funds for adaptive management for major damages caused by natural disasters. Ms. O'Neil suggested making stewardship eligible. There is local interest in reestablishing functionality of projects following a flood or other damage.

Ms. O'Neil moved on to share the big picture observations, including the need to understand true limiting factors of monitoring projects such as intensively monitored watershed; the need for developing riparian strategies, including planting strategies and functioning, buffer widths; and the need to increase project development capacity.

Member Hoffmann noted the intensively monitored watershed synthesis report focuses on the types of projects that are having the greatest impact on salmon and this role of monitoring is more about the longevity of the projects and whether they meet their specific goals and suggested that there be more coordination between the Science

Panel and the Technical Review Panel. **Director Duffy** noted this is in Greer Maier's workplan and is being actively worked on.

Member Maroney asked if narrower buffer widths would apply to both fish bearing and non-fish bearing or perennial streams. Mr. Toth answered yes, the goal is just to keep the water cool, regardless of where it comes from, and cool for as long as possible. Director Duffy noted existing board policy, adopted in 2021, addresses this by site, creating the standard buffer of 200-year site potential tree height, with exceptions and or less than 200-year site specific tree height if it can be proved that functions are being met.

Public Comment

Alex Conley, Executive Director Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, commented on the topic of stewardship and adaptive management, as the board had discussed projects that had failed. Mr. Conley noted there are projects that may need smaller tweaks that help put a project on the right trajectory and the current process does not necessarily support funding of those smaller project tweaks.

Mr. Conley agreed there is a need for a riparian strategy and highlighted there is integration beyond the board needed which could tie the Clean Water Program with total maximum daily loads program to improve existing models.

Mr. Toth continued, sharing the 2024 Noteworthy Projects which included:

- Intensively Monitored Watershed Island Unit Estuary Restoration Construction ([RCO #24-1696](#))
- Intensively Monitored Watershed Smokehouse Dike Setback Construction ([RCO #24-1740](#))
- Nason Creek and State Route 207 Phases 1 and 2 Project ([RCO #24-1861](#))
- Frog's Home Acquisition ([RCO #24-1714](#))
- Dewatto Estuary and Mainstem Protection ([RCO #24-1103](#))
- Double Bluff Acquisition ([RCO #24-1119](#))

BREAK: 12:15 P.M. – 12:20 P.M.

Item 12: 2024 Grant Round Overview by Regions

Member Cram provided follow up on Grays River Hatchery, noting Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is in the process of decommissioning it and if funding goes to plan, it will be removed by the end of the decade. Potentially, there are new hatchery plans that do not depend on this facility.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Scott Brewer, salmon policy and science advisor, provided an overview of priorities in the Hood Canal Region that focus on two population groups of summer chum. Hood Canal Coordinating council has conducted viability assessments on population abundance and special diversity and both populations are considered robust.

Priority projects include Discovery Bay Pederson Nearshores Restoration ([RCO #24-1090](#)), Big Quilcene Moon Valley Restoration ([RCO #24-1094](#)), and Dewatto Estuary Mainstream Protection ([RCO #24-1103](#)). The diversity of board funding this year helped to make these projects possible.

Chair Breckel asked what the plans are following the delisting of summer chum. Mr. Brewer answered that delisting has been the goal all along and the region plans to continue recovery efforts to maintain resiliency.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Amelia Johnson, salmon recovery specialist, provided an overview of the three grants programs managed in the region and lead entity: Targeted Investments, Riparian Program, and the regular board round. Many restoration and conservation strategies are proposed in the grant round that will treat over thirty miles of stream, 500 riparian acres, reconnect over sixty acres of off-channel and floodplain habitat, reconnect over forty miles of stream, and protect eight stream miles.

Following the grant round, the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board will be balancing virtual, office-based presentations with off-season completed project site tours for a well-rounded perspective.

Puget Sound Partnership

Melissa Speeg, salmon recovery manager, explained the complexities of the Puget Sound region, which is made up of fifteen lead entities, sixteen watershed chapters, twelve conservation districts, and seven regional fisheries enhancement groups, and has four listed species.

The regional chapter of the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan Addendum will be completed by December 2024, has been informed by Tribes and the Salmon Recovery Council, and supports watershed chapter updates. The 2025-2027 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program is requesting \$30.6 million for regular round projects and \$78.6 million in large capital projects for a total of \$109 million to protect or restore 1,000 acres and ten river miles.

Ms. Speeg highlighted six projects funded in this year's grant round: North Livingston Bay Acquisition ([RCO #24-1240](#)), Indian Creek Habitat Protection (RCO #24-1315),

Upper Deschutes River Restoration Phase One ([RCO #24-1188](#)), Stillwater Floodplain Restoration Preliminary Design ([RCO #24-1255](#)), Upper Skagit Riparian Restoration ([RCO #24-1849](#)), and Issaquah Creek Riparian Restoration ([RCO #24-1221](#)). These projects provide estuary protection, river flood plain acquisition, large wood placement, restoration design, rural riparian restoration, and urban riparian. Ms. Speeg also highlighted Big Quilcene Moon Valley Restoration ([RCO #24-1094](#)) and Big Gulch Stream Preliminary Design ([RCO #24-1223](#))

Member Hoffmann left the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Steve Martin, Executive Director of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board, provided an overview of the Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and Region. The Snake River region submitted eleven projects in the regular board round, of which seven were funded; four Riparian projects, all of which were funded; and four Targeted Investment projects, one of which was above the funding line. Mr. Martin highlighted the Targeted Investment projects: two restoration projects on in the Tucannon ([RCO #24-1068](#) and [#24-1069](#)) and two fish passage projects in Mill Creek ([RCO #24-1063](#) and [#24-1064](#)). Overall, nineteen projects will be funded.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Ariel Edwards, Lead Entity Coordinator Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, noted the Upper Columbia region is made up of the Wenatchee, Entiat, Methow, and Okanogan subbasins and has three listed species.

In 2024, the Upper Columbia region was allocated \$2.9 million in regular board funding and \$2.46 million in riparian funding. There were nineteen project proposals across the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee watersheds, requesting \$2.89 million in regular board funding and \$1.18 million in riparian funding, which meant all nineteen projects were funded. There is \$279,300 remaining in unallocated riparian funds.

Ms. Edwards highlighted riparian projects in the Upper Columbia region that included several acquisition and planting projects, a complex large-scale riparian and restoration on the Peshastin River, and a unique project with virtual livestock fencing.

Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership

Mara Zimmerman, Executive Director Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership, provided an overview of the 2024 grant round. The final list reflects priorities from each of the four lead entities that make up the Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region.

The North Pacific Coast lead entity approved three projects totaling \$547,000 for the regular board round and two projects totaling \$464,000 for the riparian round, including the Calawah Prioritized Watershed Restoration Riparian Protection and Restoration project ([RCO #24-1607](#)). The Quinault Indian Nation lead entity submitted two projects for \$528,000 in the regular board round, and one riparian project for \$449,000 and includes the July Creek Fish Passage project ([RCO #24-1570](#)). The Chehalis Basin lead entity approved five projects for \$1.04 million for regular board round and one riparian project for \$887,000 including the Mox Chehalis Creek Riparian Restoration project ([RCO #24-1366](#)). The Willapa Bay lead entity approved four projects for \$574,000 for the regular board round and two riparian projects for \$484,000, including the Smith Creek Tribal Restoration cost increase ([RCO #18-1193](#)).

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Chayne Mayer, Lead Entity Coordinator Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, provided an overview of the Mid-Columbia region, highlighting the steelhead and bull trout recovery plans in the Yakima Basin and the salmon recovery strategy for the Klickitat lead entity. In 2024, the Mid-Columbia region was allocated \$5 million of which the Yakima Basin Lead entity received 72 percent, and the Klickitat lead entity received 28 percent.

The Yakima Basin lead entity submitted eight projects, two of which were resubmitted projects, and one was submitted in all three grant rounds, the Frog's Home Acquisition ([RCO #24-1594](#), [#24-1714](#), and [#24-1951](#)), which is the highest priority. Five projects were submitted in the riparian round, one of which was deferred this year to take advantage of leftover funding in the next grant round. Four projects were submitted to the Targeted Investment program, all four of which are ranked for funding and two are above the funding line for the initial \$25 million. The Klickitat lead entity submitted two projects in the regular board round and one riparian project; all are expected to be funded. Of note, Klickitat is ineligible to apply for Targeted Investment funding. Overall, there are eighteen projects in the region this year, made possible by the regular board funding and the addition of the Targeted Investment and riparian programs.

Member Gorman left the meeting at 1:31 p.m.

Item 13: 2024 Grant Round Board Funding Decisions

Kat Moore shared the recommended funding language.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

Salmon Recovery Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$1,763,994 in SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region ranked list, shown as Attachment 7 (pages 37-39) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**

Seconded by: Member **Maroney**

Approved: **Approved**

Riparian Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$1,339,269 in Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 37-39) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Maroney**

Seconded by: Member **Bizyayeva**

Approved: **Approved**

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds

Motion: Move to approve the 2025-2027 list of PSAR projects and project alternates on the Hood Canal Region ranked list totaling \$4,007,227, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024 and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

Moved by: Member **Bizyayeva**

Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**

Approved: **Approved**

Member Keesecker left the room at 1:35 p.m.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Salmon Recovery Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$5,620,000 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Lower Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 40-43) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: **Approved**

Riparian Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$3,805,984 of Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Lower Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report, dated September 2024. This amount includes \$150,000 to the Klickitat lead entity.

Moved by: Member **Maroney**
Seconded by: Member **Bizyayeva**
Approved: **Approved**

Middle Columbia (Yakima) River Salmon Recovery Region

Salmon Recovery Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,635,780 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Middle Columbia Recovery Board Region's list shown in Attachment 7 (pages 44-46) of the 2024 Funding Report, dated September 2024. This amount includes \$732,214 of funding for projects in the Klickitat County lead entity.

Moved by: Member **Bizyayeva**
Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**
Approved: **Approved**

Member Keesecker returned, and Member Kanzler left the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Riparian Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$1,697,211 of Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Middle Columbia Recovery Board Region's list shown in Attachment 7 (pages 44-46) of the 2024 Funding Report, dated September 2024. This amount includes \$73,357 of funding for riparian projects in the Klickitat County lead entity.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: **Approved**

Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

Salmon Recovery Funds

- Motion:** Move to approve \$1,149,015 for projects on the Northeast Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (page 47) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.
- Moved by:** Member **Bizyayeva**
- Seconded by:** Member **Cottingham**
- Approved:** **Approved**

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Salmon Recovery Funds

- Motion:** Move to approve \$9,588,407 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Puget Sound Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 48-66) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.
- Moved by:** Member **Cottingham**
- Seconded by:** Member **Maroney**
- Approved:** **Approved**

Note: before Member Maroney seconded the motion, Member Cottingham corrected the original number she read from \$9,588,406 to \$9,588,407.

Riparian Funds

- Motion:** Move to approve \$8,288,260 of Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Puget Sound Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 48-66) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.
- Moved by:** Member **Maroney**
- Seconded by:** Member **Bizyayeva**
- Approved:** **Approved**

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds

- Motion:** Move to approve the 2025-2027 list of PSAR projects in the Puget Sound region, totaling \$22,853,758 as listed in Attachment 7 (pages 48-66) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024, and authorize

the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

Moved by: Member **Bizyayeva**
Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**
Approved: **Approved**

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Capital Funds

Motion: Move to approve the 2025-2027 PSAR Large Capital projects in the Puget Sound and Hood Canal regions, totaling \$77,455,482, as listed in Attachment 6 (pages 35-36) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024, and authorize the RCO Director to enter into project agreements once funding is approved by the Legislature.

Moved by: Member **Maroney**
Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**
Approved: **Approved**

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Salmon Recovery Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,371,640 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Snake River Region Ranked List, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 67-69) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: **Approved**

Riparian Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,014,628 of Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Snake River Region Ranked List, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 67-69) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Bizyayeva**
Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**
Approved: **Approved**

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Salmon Recovery Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,897,110 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Upper Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 70-72) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**

Seconded by: Member **Bizyayeva**

Approved: **Approved**

Riparian Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,181,697 of Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Upper Columbia Region ranked list, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 70-72) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Maroney**

Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**

Approved: **Approved**

Washington Coast Salmon Partnership Program

Salmon Recovery Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,689,169 of SRFB funds for projects and project alternates on the Coastal Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 73-76) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Bizyayeva**

Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**

Approved: **Approved**

Riparian Funds

Motion: Move to approve \$2,284,360 of Riparian funds for projects and project alternates on the Coastal Region ranked lists, as shown in Attachment 7 (pages 73-76) of the 2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report dated September 2024.

Moved by: Member **Cottingham**

Seconded by: Member **Maroney**

Approved: **Approved**

ADJOURN: 1:50 P.M.

Motion: Move to Adjourn
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Bizyayeva**
Approved: **Approved**

The next regular meeting will be held on December 18 and 19, at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501 and online via Zoom.

Approved by Chair Jeffery Breckel

DRAFT

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 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 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

Pets Take Part in Spreading Invasive Species Awareness

The Washington Invasive Species Council held its second annual [Halloween Invasive Species Pet Costume Contest](#), which helps raise awareness of the council's *Don't Let It Loose* campaign, a program that seeks to prevent the release of pets into the wild.



First-, second-, and third-place winners of the contest received a gift card to a pet supply company. First place went to Harmony C. and her dog Walter Smiles, dressed as a brown marmorated stink bug. Second place went to Rhiannon B. for her dog Rascal's yellow star-thistle costume. Third place went to Bonnie and Beth A. and their two adorable golden retrievers, Aladdin and Phoenix, dressed as American bullfrogs.

Working Together to Save Orcas

[Orca Recovery Day](#) was October 19, and people across Washington and Oregon hosted and attended events that built awareness and made a difference for Puget Sound's Southern Resident orcas. There were planting events, litter clean-up, educational family-fun events, and a couple of virtual events that highlighted the long road to orca recovery and the link between salmon and orca. A planting event at Squaxin Park in Olympia, was attended by the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) Kendall Kohler. She gave a short talk about the day's work and its impact on salmon and orca and then, along with about 150 others, planted native species like cedars and big leaf maples and removed invasive English ivy.



Congressional Staff Meet Eba, the Orca-Sniffing Dog, Get Firsthand Looks at Restoration Efforts

RCO and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office joined staff from other natural resource agencies on a tour for congressional staff to see current salmon and orca populations recovery work. The tour was put together to show congressional staff how federal and state funding is critical for on-the-ground restoration and research actions to protect and recover the endangered animals. The group toured the northern Puget Sound in August. Along the ride, they met Eba, a dog that can sniff out orca waste, which helps scientists learn more about the endangered Southern Resident killer whales and their diets. Watch a video about [Eba and the orcas](#).

Drones Help Collect Data from Endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales

The state orca recovery coordinator, Tara Galuska, who works at RCO, joined a team from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, and SeaDoc Society to learn about recent efforts to collect data on endangered Southern Resident killer whales. Veterinarians and scientists have been using drones to collect breath samples from whales for laboratory analyses and a directional microphone to collect breath sounds.



Photograph courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Scientists also are studying thermal imaging of the intranasal temperature and fecal sample analyses. These veterinarians and researchers, along with others from the Center for Whale Research, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and SR3 (SeaLife Response, Rehabilitation, and Research) are collaborating on a shared electronic medical record system for individual whales. Centralizing these data in near real-time will allow for more efficient recovery actions. Watch Sea Doc's video about their work: [Killer Whales: We're Gonna Need a Bigger Boat!](#)

Employee News



Blake Brady, an administrative assistant for the Grant Services Section, has taken a position at King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.



Marissa Dallaire joined the Invasive Species Council as an intern. She has a bachelor of arts in anthropology from Pacific Lutheran University and is working towards a master's degree in marine biology. In her down time, she enjoys taking care of her nearly one hundred tropical plants.



Marc Duboiski, manager of the Salmon Grants Section, retired after more than thirty-two years of state service, twenty-five of it at RCO.



Deena Resnick, administrative assistant for the Salmon Section, moved onto a new role at the Department of Ecology.

Legislative and Policy Updates

Staff will provide updates on the state budget and timeline, to include the most up-to-date revenue forecasts and budget outlook. Staff anticipate the governor's budget will be released just days prior to the December board meeting. Any new information pertaining to the release of the governor's budget and the process between administrations will be shared, if available, at the December meeting.

News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** met November 20. The group heard a report on ecological integrity assessments from the State Parks and Recreation Commission and discussed agency land purchases and sales forecasts for the next biennium.

The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met in September and heard updates on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's European green crab long-term management plan and prevention efforts for quagga and zebra mussels. The council also received reports on preparation efforts for the emerald ash borer, an overview of chronic wasting disease, poison hemlock control in King County, and the Safeguard our Shellfish campaign.

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met October 29-30 and approved the preliminary ranked lists of projects in four grant programs: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, Community Forests Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and Youth Athletic Facilities.

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 August 16, 2024 (FM 13). 54.2 percent of biennium reported.

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2023-2025	Dollars	Percent of Budget	Dollars	Percent of Budget	Dollars	Percent of Budget
State Funded							
2015-17	\$1,293,510	\$1,293,510	100%	\$0	0%	\$145,702	11%
2017-19	\$2,293,410	\$2,293,410	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,311,149	57%
2019-21	\$5,838,000	\$5,838,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$5,838,000	100%
2021-23	\$19,755,655	\$19,755,655	100%	\$0	0%	\$9,279,857	47%
2021-23 Supplemental	\$94,937,180	\$94,714,880	99%	\$222,300	1%	\$16,140,402	17%
2023-25 Riparian	\$23,970,000	\$21,114,052	88%	\$2,855,948	12%	90,000	.1%
2023-25	\$16,168,606	\$13,198,658	82%	\$2,969,948	18%	\$6,245,770	47%
Total	\$164,256,361	\$158,208,165	96%	\$6,048,196	4%	\$39,050,880	25%
Federal Funded							
2018	\$2,924,445	\$2,924,445	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,924,445	100%
2019	\$4,858,324	\$4,858,324	100%	\$0	0%	\$4,858,324	100%
2020	\$6,405,342	\$6,394,943	99.9%	\$10,399	.1%	\$3,090,176	48%
2021	\$11,047,938	\$9,661,034	87%	\$1,386,904	13%	\$3,664,285	38%
2022	\$21,108,947	\$18,337,869	87%	\$2,771,078	13%	\$6,792,004	37%
2023	\$24,435,000	\$23,864,923	98%	\$570,077	2%	\$2,846,207	12%
2024	\$25,013,250	\$18,887,284	76%	\$6,125,966	24%	\$0	0%
Total	\$95,793,246	\$84,928,822	89%	\$10,864,424	11%	\$24,175,441	28%
Grant Programs							
Lead Entities	\$10,919,297	\$10,613,993	97%	\$305,304	3%	\$5,805,149	55%
PSAR	\$122,127,986	\$117,160,825	96%	\$4,967,161	4%	\$36,304,453	31%
Subtotal	\$133,047,283	\$127,774,818	96%	\$5,272,465	4%	\$42,109,602	33%

PROGRAMS	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New and Re-appropriation 2023-2025	Dollars	Percent of Budget	Dollars	Percent of Budget	Dollars	Percent of Budget
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	\$10,523,884	\$10,523,884	100%	\$0	0%	\$6,762,092	64%
Subtotal	\$10,523,884	\$10,523,884	100%	\$0	0%	\$6,762,092	64%
GRAND TOTAL	\$403,620,774	\$381,435,689	95%	\$22,185,085	5%	\$112,098,015	29%

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 2025. Data included is specific to projects funded by the board and current as of November 12, 2024.

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the board in fiscal year 2025. 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, eleven salmon blockages were removed this fiscal year (July 1, 2024, to November 12, 2024), and seven passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 5.12 miles of stream (Table 2).

Measure	FY 2025 Performance
Blockages Removed	11
Bridges Installed	6
Culverts Installed	1
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
20-1463	2020 Little Squalicum Estuary Restoration	Bellingham City of	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Acct	0.40
18-1490	Cedar Grove Fish Passage Improvement	Skagit County Public Works	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	0.25
20-1374	Lower Day Slough Fish Passage Improvement	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	0.65

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Funding Program	Stream Miles
21-1203	Rattlesnake Gulch Fish Passage & Restoration 2021	Mid-Columbia Fisheries	Salmon State Projects	3.60
21-1052	Springbrook Cr Preserve Protection & Restoration	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Salmon State Projects	0.22
				5.12



Table 2: Stream Miles Opened

Grant Management Performance Measures

The table below summarizes fiscal year 2025 operational performance measures as of November 12, 2024

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	FY Target	FY 2025 Performance	Indicator	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%	100%	●	Three agreements for board-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff issued three agreements within 120 days, averaging twenty-two days.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	91%	●	Two hundred and sixty-five progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for board-funded projects. Staff responded to 242 in fifteen days or less. On average, staff responded within six days.
Percent of Salmon Bills Paid within 30 days	100%	100%	●	During this fiscal year to date, 699 bills were due for board-funded projects. All were paid on time.

Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	81%		Twenty-seven board-funded projects were scheduled to close. So far, this fiscal year twenty-two of them closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	5		Five 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: December 18-19, 2024

Title: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Prepared By: Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Director
Kat Moore, Salmon Assistant 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 Grants 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

Partner Activities

The annual five-state (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, and Alaska) delegation trip to Washington, DC, which was scheduled for November 18-22, was postponed until early in 2025 to focus on federal fiscal year 2026 appropriations.

GSRO co-hosted an all-day workshop on November 14 on "Restoring Watershed Resilience" with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. The workshop entailed technical presentations, case studies, and panel discussions and was attended by over 700 attendees, primarily from Washington and British Columbia.

GSRO staff were invited or requested to speak at several meetings and forums, including the Washington Department of Transportation's annual Environmental Services Program conference in November; Trout Unlimited's Washington staff annual meeting, Coast Salmon Partnership board meeting; the inaugural Pacific Salmon Foundation's Salmon Recovery and Resilience Conference held on December 3-4 in Vancouver, British

Columbia; and the Senate Agriculture, Water, and Natural Resources Legislative Committee on December 12. The legislative committee work session included a GSRO report on salmon recovery efforts in Washington generally and presentations by the Washington Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife on some salmon-specific programs.

GSRO continued quarterly meetings with Tribal policy leadership from Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and Upper Columbia United Tribes. The recent quarterly meetings have focused on GSRO's development of the Governor's Salmon Strategy 2025-27 biennial salmon work plan.

Governor's Salmon Strategy

GSRO convened the Natural Resources Subcabinet to discuss the 2025-2027 biennial work plan to implement the governor's salmon strategy. GSRO will brief the board on the work plan at the December meeting (Item 4).

2025 Salmon Recovery Conference

The conference is April 28-30, 2025, in Yakima. Abstract solicitation closed on October 25. 163 oral presentation abstracts, twenty poster abstracts, and eight film abstracts were received. Abstract reviewers finished evaluations on November 18. Approximately 100 oral presentations were accepted. Speakers are confirmed for the Emerging Threats and the Shifting Perspectives plenaries. Staff are working with the Northwest Indian Fish Commission and the Yakama Indian Nation on speakers for the opening plenary. Staff are also working with speakers for a Dam Removal plenary. There will be a salmon life stages workshop on April 28, prior to the opening of the conference.

Registration is tentatively set to open January 6, 2025.

Riparian

The Riparian Round Table meetings under the current contract concluded on December 13, 2024. A report outlining approaches for implementing the recommendations was developed by Plauche & Carr and submitted to the Governor's Office in November. GSRO continues to facilitate conversations with the state family and Council of Regions on how recommendations may be advanced to increase riparian protection.

Orca Recovery

There are currently 73 Southern Resident killer whales. The Center for Whale Research has not included the birth (or death) of the new calf spotted in September. It was last seen looking unhealthy and has not been seen since that time.,

The new state law increasing boating distance to 1000 yards will take effect January 1, 2025. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife established an advisory group to make recommendations on implementation of the law and a report is forthcoming.

GSRO co-presented with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to the Canadian Indigenous, Multi Agency Stakeholder group (IMAG), and to smaller working groups on progress on southern resident killer whale recovery in Washington state. These groups meet over the year to update annual protection measures for Southern Resident killer whales. Canada is also opening a public process to potentially amend their marine mammal regulations under the Fisheries Act with a new distance law for orcas in Southern British Columbia waters. A multi-agency letter was coordinated by GSRO to request a 1000 meter distance be considered, to be consistent with Washington State law.

In September, state agencies submitted their agency budget requests, and the Southern Resident killer whale state team reviewed a summary, which will be shared with stakeholders, and posted on the orca website, once budgets pass. The summary will be shared with the Intergovernmental Southern Resident killer whale workgroup in November.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

2024 Grant Cycle

RCO staff and grant recipients are executing agreements for the 135 salmon and riparian projects funded by the board in September. As of November 12, all the projects have been moved to “board funded” status, allowing the grant managers to work with sponsors to put them under agreement.

In September, the board also approved funding seven targeted investments projects pending the outcome of Initiative 2117. Since Initiative 2117 failed, RCO will receive \$25 million in funding from the Natural Climate Solutions Account of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) in January. Staff will work with sponsors to put these projects under agreement in 2025.

2025 Grant Cycle

Preparation for the 2025 grant cycle is underway. By the December board meeting, site visit dates will be set and updates to Manual 18 and PRISM will be implemented. Staff anticipate opening PRISM for the grant round the first week of January.

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 November 12, 2024. This table does not include projects funded through the FBRB, 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	135	431	3,200	3,766
Percentage of Total	4%	11%	85%	

Attachments

- A. **Closed Projects:** lists projects that closed between August 20, 2024, and November 12, 2024. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g., designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out twenty-eight projects or contracts during this time.
- B. **Approved Amendments:** shows the major amendments approved between August 20, 2024, and November 12, 2024. Staff processed seven cost change amendments during this period.

Attachment A

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from August 20, 2024 – November 12, 2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>16-1427</u>	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW Restoration Project	Salmon Federal Projects	09/04/2024
<u>18-1490</u>	Skagit County Public Works	Cedar Grove Fish Passage Improvement	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	09/24/2024
<u>18-1743</u>	Friends of the San Juans	Herring Spawning Habitat Protect, Rest and Design	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/10/2024
<u>19-1321</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	Middle Ohop Protection Phase 4	Salmon Federal Projects	08/30/2024
<u>19-1424</u>	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Tjossem Ditch -- Improving Salmonid Survival	Salmon Federal Projects	11/05/2024
<u>20-1022</u>	Ducks Unlimited Inc	2020 West Hoquiam Acquisitions	Salmon Federal Projects	10/08/2024
<u>20-1084</u>	Mason County Conservation District	Goldsborough and Mill Creek Riparian Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	10/31/2024
<u>20-1110</u>	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Hood Canal Summer Chum Riparian Stewardship	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	09/06/2024
<u>20-1374</u>	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Lower Day Slough Fish Passage Improvement	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/29/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>20-1378</u>	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Skagit Fish Passage Phase 2 Prioritization	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/09/2024
<u>20-1562</u>	Friends of the San Juans	Armor Removal at Shaw Island's Broken Point	Salmon Federal Projects	10/10/2024
<u>20-2121</u>	Seattle City Light	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition IVb	Salmon Federal Projects	10/17/2024
<u>21-1052</u>	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Springbrook Cr Preserve Protection & Restoration	Salmon State Projects	08/29/2024
<u>21-1054</u>	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Little Hoko River Restoration Design	Salmon State Projects	08/29/2024
<u>21-1058</u>	City of Bainbridge Island	Fletcher Bay Rd Culvert Removal Design	Salmon State Projects	10/25/2024
<u>21-1126</u>	Department of Fish and Wildlife	M-L. Columbia Winter Steelhead Escapement Analysis	Salmon Federal Activities	09/16/2024
<u>21-1137</u>	Wild Salmon Center	Low-Tech SSHEAR Site Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	11/01/2024
<u>21-1187</u>	Department of Fish and Wildlife	IMW Deepwater Ph 2-Island Unit Preliminary Design	Salmon State Projects	08/30/2024
<u>21-1203</u>	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Rattlesnake Gulch Fish Passage & Restoration 2021	Salmon State Projects	10/11/2024
<u>21-1204</u>	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Harvey Creek Design	Salmon State Projects	11/06/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>21-1244</u>	Underwood Conservation District	White Salmon River Conservation Assessment 2021	Salmon Federal Projects	10/18/2024
<u>22-1010</u>	Asotin County Conservation District	Asotin Creek PA 11.2 Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/07/2024
<u>22-1089</u>	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Race Lagoon Passage - Culverts #1893 & 1894	Salmon Federal Projects	10/08/2024
<u>22-1178</u>	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Shadow Valley Fish Passage Design	Salmon State Projects	09/11/2024
<u>22-1219</u>	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Blaney Creek Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/03/2024
<u>22-1334</u>	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Upper Wisen Creek Fish Passage Design- Phase 1	Salmon Federal Projects	09/25/2024
<u>22-1573</u>	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cowiche Creek Design & Rest at RM 0.7	Salmon State Supplemental Sm	11/08/2024
<u>23-1116</u>	Wild Fish Conservancy	Grant Creek Confluence Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/22/2024

Attachment B

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director from August 20, 2024 – November 12, 2024

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>19-1424</u>	Tjossem Ditch -- Improving Salmonid Survival	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/30/2024	The Sponsor Match amount is decreased from \$49,000 to \$23,289. In addition to this match the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funding included in this agreement is an eligible board match source and far exceeds the 15 percent requirement.
<u>20-1092</u>	zis a ba III Tidal Wetland Acquisition	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	PSAR Large Capital Projects	Cost Change	10/22/2024	To facilitate zis a ba II restoration (22-1068) Puget Sound Partnership approved increasing the funding amount by \$380,000 of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration return funding to afford relocation of displaces on zis a ba II property.
<u>21-1132</u>	SF (Nuxw7iyem) Homesteader Ph1 Restoration	Nooksack Indian Tribe	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	09/05/2024	Cost increase of \$55,513 PSAR return funds (15-17 & 17-19) and \$248,487 of 2022 Salmon Supplemental funds from WRIA 1. For cost overrun due to permitting issues.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>22-1018</u>	McNary National Wildlife Refuge Design	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	11/06/2024	The sponsor is increasing their match percentage to 15 percent so they can exceed the twenty-four-month design timeline. An additional three months is needed to incorporate comments from an upcoming public scoping meeting into the final iteration of design and basis of design report.
<u>23-1063</u>	Duckabush R Oxbow Final Design and Restoration	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	09/16/2024	<p>Reduce sponsor match to \$8,088 (5.6%). Grant funding remains the same, Administrative, Architectural & Engineering (AA&E) limit is increased to \$41,435 (40%).</p> <p>Due to a loss in match funding project sponsor requests a reduction in match to available sources (volunteer labor). With bids in hand, project sponsor can reduce overall project amount. AA&E costs however cannot be reduced and have increased incrementally due to value engineering exercises and to document partner match.</p>

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>23-1124</u>	Patton Crk- Willapa Passage and Restoration Design	Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	10/02/2024	Adding \$22,101 of board funds to complete cultural resources and designs. The new project total is \$243,115.
<u>23-1185</u>	2023 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Stewardship SFEG	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	10/10/2024	Adding in a total of \$13,921 made up of \$6,774 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration 21-23 returned funds approved by the Lead Entity Board, \$5,105 of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration returned funds approved by the Puget Sound Partnership, plus the Sponsor is adding in \$2,042 match. These funds will cover unanticipated RCO required Cultural Resources costs.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 2024

Title: Salmon Strategy Biennial Work Plan

Prepared By: Katie Knight Pruitt, Salmon Recovery Coordinator

Summary

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office will present the [2025-2027 Salmon Strategy Biennial Work Plan](#). The plan includes state agency work priorities with a \$1.2 billion recommended budget to implement the [Governor's Salmon Strategy](#). The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office maintains and implements the strategy, which was updated in 2021, strengthening the state's commitment to salmon recovery.

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 federal government listed the first salmon populations in Washington under the Endangered Species Act in the 1990s. Those listings set off a series of actions, including the creation of the first statewide strategy to recover salmon, "Extinction is Not an Option". Written in 1999, the strategy served as the foundation for the State's recovery efforts.

In 2021, Governor Jay Inslee updated the strategy to renew and strengthen the state's commitment to salmon recovery. The [Governor's Salmon Strategy](#) addresses known threats, honors commitments to tribes, is consistent with regional recovery plans, and expands priorities to include climate resiliency.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) is the lead organization to maintain and implement the strategy.¹ In a 2022 budget proviso, the Legislature provided additional

¹Revised Code of Washington 77.85.030

direction to implement the strategy by convening the Natural Resource Subcabinet and developing a biennial work plan.²

This 2025-2027 Biennial Work Plan is a summary of statewide priorities and a recommended budget for strategy implementation.³ GSRO works closely with state agencies and evaluates each need to include budget requests aligned with known tribal priorities and federally approved salmon recovery plans.

2025-2027 Work Plan

The [2025-2027 biennial work plan](#) builds on past investments, keeping the highest priority programs and initiatives funded to recover salmon. The total request this biennium is \$1.2 billion.

Highlights (see Appendix A) include investing in riparian grant programs and statewide habitat restoration programs to improve salmonid survival; reducing toxics and improving stormwater management to ensure clean water; guaranteeing passage for salmon to migrate; building climate resilience by maintaining cold water and improving streamflow; protecting salmon from predators; and evaluating salmon abundance to inform recovery actions and planning.

Work Plan Development

Engagement with Regional Recovery Organizations

This is the second biennial work plan developed by GSRO. Early on, GSRO met with the directors of each regional recovery organization to understand their budget and policy priorities for the coming biennium. Coordination meetings were then held between regional directors and natural resource state agencies to discuss agency specific priorities.

Engagement with Tribal Commissions

GSRO staff also provided a summary of known tribal priorities to each agency in advance of agency budget development. Known tribal priorities are based on tribal government comments on the Governor's salmon strategy 2021 update, tribal commission reports, and meetings with tribal commissions and Northwest Treaty Tribes.

²Section 305(14) of Chapter 297, Laws of 2022, supplemental operating budget (Engrossed Senate Substitute Bill 5693)

³Section 305(4) of Chapter 475, Laws of 2023, operating budget (Engrossed Senate Substitute Bill 5187)

Engagement with State Agencies

GSRO works with each natural resource agency to understand their policy proposals and budget requests. Each proposal included in the work plan meets the following criteria:

- Implements as a specific strategy action; and
- Urgent in the 2025-2027 biennium; and
- Aligned with a known tribal priority; and
- Aligned with a regional recovery plan.

Submittal to the Governor's Office

The final work plan was approved by the Office of Financial Management and submitted to the Governor's Office policy team to inform the Governor's budget.

Attachment

- A. [Salmon Strategy Work Plan Highlights](#)

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 2024

Title: Updates on Intensively Monitored Watershed Program

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

Summary

This memo provides an update on the progress to develop potential paths forward for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Intensively Monitored Watershed program. A decision on Intensively Monitored Watershed timelines is expected in March 2025. Staff is seeking board feedback on options that have been developed for each Intensively Monitored Watershed.

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 Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program has been funded by the Salmon Recover Funding Board since June 2003 to evaluate the efficacy of habitat restoration in increasing salmon production. The basic premise of the IMW program is that the complex relationships controlling salmon response to habitat conditions can best be understood by concentrating monitoring and research efforts at a few locations. Focusing efforts on fewer locations enables enough data on physical and biological attributes to be collected to develop a comprehensive understanding of the factors affecting salmon production in freshwater. The four board-funded IMWs are part of a larger network of IMWs throughout the Pacific Northwest focusing on a long-term trends in fish, habitat and response to restoration.

The board currently allocates approximately \$1.5-\$2 million of the \$2.35 million received from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund for monitoring to implement IMW studies. IMWs represent unique and important partnerships at the watershed scale where scientists, researchers, managers, and implementers are working to implement and monitor restoration efforts at a large scale and over a long period. The board relies heavily on the expertise and support of tribal, federal, and state partners to implement these studies and recognizes the importance of these long-standing partnerships for success. Funding for IMWs has remained static and board funding is not supporting the full cost of monitoring. The IMWs are large, long-term, complex studies that leverage additional funding and in-kind support from state agencies, federal partners, and tribes. As costs and inflation have increased, sponsors have continued to shoulder these increased costs associated with IMW monitoring.

The board’s IMW program includes four complexes: Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJF), and Skagit River Estuary. Table 1 shows a summary of board 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 IMWs were designed to examine a series of fish and habitat responses to restoration. In the late 2000s, it became clear that the restoration actions were not being implemented at the pace and scale outlined in 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 the IMWs and has enabled the implementation of restoration actions across board-funded IMWs.

Several synthesis reports over the past several years have provided information about restoration, fish abundance and life history characteristics, and the scale of restoration that is effective (linked here – [Salmon Recovery Portal Monitoring](#)). After twenty years restoring and monitoring IMWs, the board wanted more certainty around the IMW

timelines, funding, and expectations. At the March 2024 meeting, the board requested more clarity on individual IMWs and potential timelines for future monitoring. At the June 2024 meeting, the board considered four potential options for continuing the IMW program and settled on two of those options – Option 1 and Option 2 (described below).

Staff will be updating the board on the progress made to develop options for the future of each of the individual IMW studies and seeking board feedback for decisions at the March 2025 board meeting.

Intensively Monitored Watershed - A Path Forward

Monitoring in the four board-funded IMWs has been ongoing for more than twenty years and some are in the final phases of collecting post-restoration data on fish or habitat. As mentioned earlier, in all the IMWs, this post-restoration phase of monitoring has been delayed due to the lack of funding to implement the restoration. This has necessitated an extension of the post-restoration monitoring.

At the June meeting, the board narrowed the range of options and directed staff to prepare two separate options for each IMW complex:

Option 1:

Continue to fund the IMW monitoring research activities at current levels through to the end of a defined post-treatment period. Each IMW has a different proposed end date for the full study.

Option 2:

Explore options to scale back or reduce the fish and/or habitat monitoring in an individual IMW complex that does not significantly compromise the integrity of that IMW.

The GSRO developed preliminary options for each IMW through close coordination and collaboration with tribal partners, IMW researchers and policy-level leadership, the Science Advisory Panel, and the board monitoring subcommittee.

Below is an update on each of the options for board consideration and direction. Final options will be presented at the March 2025 board meeting for a decision.

Lower Columbia

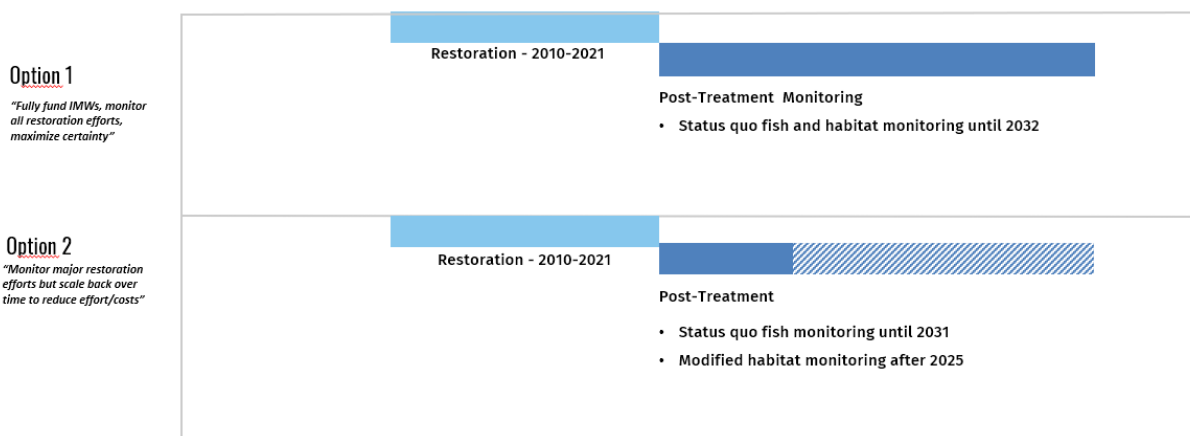
Summary of the Study:

- Treatment watersheds = Abernathy (primary), Germany, and Mill (reference) creeks
- Species = Coho (primary), 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.

Options for Direction:

- Option 1:
Continue funding for fish and habitat monitoring in all three watersheds until 2032 (Ten coho outmigration cohorts post-restoration of Abernathy Creek). There would be no change in the methodology or approach under this option.
- Option 2:
Continue funding **fish** monitoring in all three watersheds until 2031 (Ten years post-restoration in Abernathy Creek) using the same methods and approach. Exploring the feasibility of modifying funding and approach to the **habitat** monitoring after 2025 based on results to date from the habitat monitoring and the need for additional habitat data in this IMW.

Lower Columbia IMW



Hood Canal

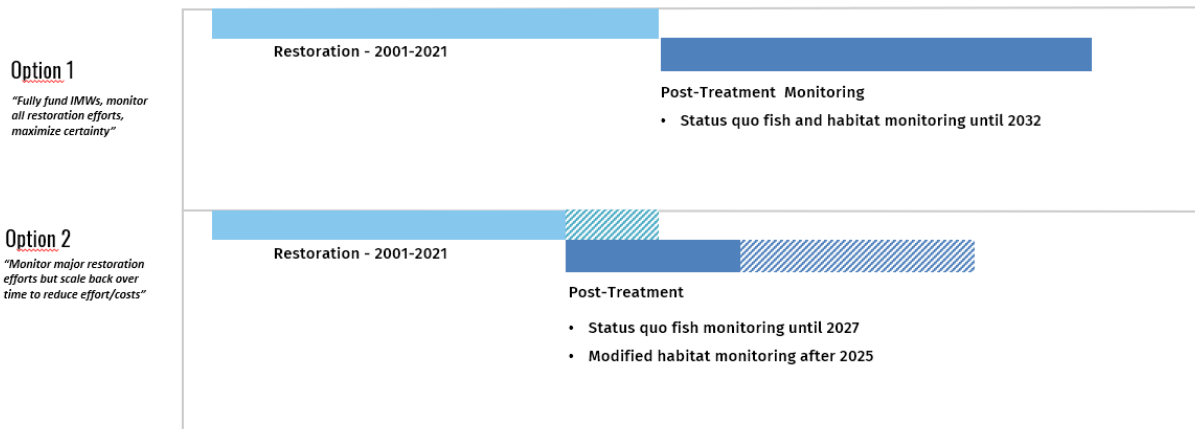
Summary of the Study:

- Sites = Little Anderson (primary), Big Beef (primary), Seabeck, Stavis (reference) creeks
- Species = Coho
- Restoration = Restoration actions (large wood, floodplain, and culverts) occurred primarily between 2010-2017. Two culvert projects were recently completed in Seabeck Creek in 2021 and Little Anderson Creek in 2024.

Options for Direction:

- Option 1:
Continue funding for fish and habitat monitoring in all four watersheds until 2032 (Ten coho outmigration cohorts post-restoration of Seabeck Creek culvert). There would be no change in the methodology or approach under this option.
- Option 2:
Continue funding for fish monitoring in all four watersheds using the same methods and approach but explore modifying the end date to 2027 (Ten years post-restoration of Big Beef Creek and most projects in Little Anderson Creek, six years post-restoration of Seabeck Creek, three years after latest culvert projects in Little Anderson Creek). Explore options to modify funding and approach to habitat monitoring after 2025 based on results to date from the habitat monitoring and the need for additional habitat data in this IMW.

Hood Canal IMW



Strait of Juan de Fuca IMW

Summary of Study:

- Sites = Deep Creek (primary), East Twin River (primary), West Twin River (reference)
- Species = Coho and steelhead (both primary)
- Restoration = Restoration actions (primarily large wood placement) occurred in two main efforts - 2000-2012 and 2019-2022.

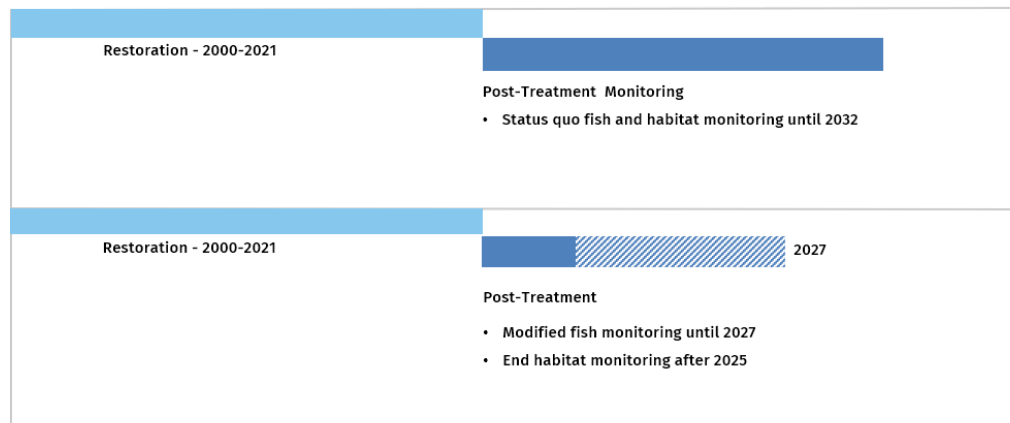
Options for Direction:

- Option 1:
Continue funding for fish and habitat monitoring in all three watersheds until 2031. No change in the methodology or approach proposed under this option.
- Option 2:
Explore options to scale back funding and implementation of fish monitoring in all three watersheds based on input from the IMW researchers. Explore ending habitat monitoring in 2025. The proposed end date for the IMW would be 2027 (greater than ten years post-restoration from the initial treatments).

Straits IMW

Option 1

"Fully fund IMWs, monitor all restoration efforts, maximize certainty"



Option 2

"Monitor major restoration efforts but scale back over time to reduce effort/costs"

Skagit IMW

Summary of the Study

- 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 ten years.

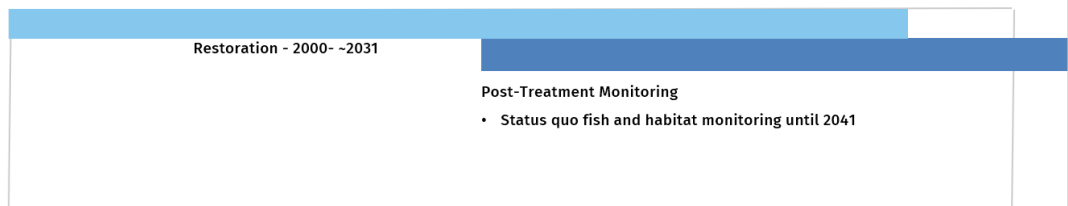
Options for Direction:

- Option 1:
Continue funding for fish and habitat monitoring in the estuary until 2041 (what is expected to be ten years after targeted restoration effort). No change in the methodology or approach under this option.
- Option 2:
No option 2 being proposed. After discussion with researchers, science panel, partners, and tribes, there was broad agreement not to pursue Option 2 for scaling back funding and effort in the Skagit IMW. It is believed that reducing funding would compromise the study at this point.

Skagit IMW

Option 1

"Fully fund IMWs, monitor all restoration efforts, maximize certainty"



Option 2

"Monitor major restoration efforts but scale back over time to reduce effort/costs"

No viable options for reducing effort or modifying study at this time.

Next Steps

Staff will take feedback from the board and continue engaging with the board monitoring subcommittee, researchers, partners, stakeholders, and tribes. Through this process, staff hope to better define each option and work toward an agreed-upon recommendation to the board in March 2025. If there is no agreement on what the

recommended path forward is, staff will present each option with areas of agreement and disagreement on each.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 2024
Title: Monitoring Grant Program Manual
Prepared By: Greer Maier, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Science Coordinator

Summary

This memo describes Manual 18M which was developed for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's new monitoring grant program. This new integrated monitoring program would run at the same time as the regular board grant round. If approved, this manual will guide potential sponsors through the new grant process.

Board Action Requested

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

Introduction/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. Funding for regional monitoring projects comes from the PCSRF award. Several years of discussion with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) members, the board's monitoring subcommittee, regions, lead entities, and partners has led to a new monitoring-focused grant program. This new grant program will be agile, integrated, and adaptable to meet the needs of the board, regions, lead entities, and practitioners.

Staff are seeking a decision on adoption of Manual 18M for use in the upcoming 2025 monitoring grant round.

Grant Program Overview

The proposed Salmon Recovery Monitoring Grant Program is intended to operate as a state-wide competitive grant round with strategic priorities for funding. The 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** that focuses on:
 - a. timely and relevant questions,
 - b. monitoring needs,
 - c. providing 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.

Manual 18M (linked here) was developed to provide information and guidance on the grant program. Below is a high-level summary of the major manual elements that should be considered by the board in their decision.

Eligible Applicants: It is important that the regional recovery organizations play a role in identifying, crafting, planning, and directing the monitoring work funded by this program. This will ensure that the projects have the necessary regional support and applicability, and that the right information is collected in the right places and with the right partner and stakeholder involvement. It also ensures information can be adapted to be communicated both up to the state level (via the Science Advisory Panel) and down to the practitioner level (via already established regional strategies and networks). For that reason, the monitoring grant program is only open to regional recovery organizations and to regional partners that are independently eligible to receive funding and apply on behalf of the regional organization(s). We anticipate that lead entities will work closely with their regional recovery organization to elevate monitoring needs and generate project applications.

Regional recovery organizations have individual processes for selecting which monitoring projects are submitted from each region. Each region can submit up to two projects per grant round and regions must rank proposals for the reviewers if more than one proposal is submitted. Regional ranks provide a regional context of importance and will be used by the Science Advisory Panel in their review and ranking.

Eligible Projects: Eligibility would be based largely on federal PCSRF eligibility requirements as well as program-specific eligibility requirements. Regional monitoring projects must address high priority information needs or data gaps identified within a recovery plan or associated regional research, monitoring, and evaluation plan. Monitoring projects must involve the ongoing and systematic collection and analysis of data in a standardized approach with the intent of repeating measurements over time (months, seasons, or years) for the purpose of detecting change and influencing decision making.

Applicants cannot request more than \$300,000 per grant round. Regional collaboration is encouraged on monitoring projects and projects that benefit multiple regions can exceed the regional funding cap on project requests. There is no match requirement. Monitoring projects will not exceed three years. Projects can be phased across grant rounds if they require more than three years and/or more than \$300,000.

Strategic Priorities: Eligible monitoring projects must align with the strategic priorities for the grant round in which they are submitted. Strategic priorities will focus on specific topics to maximize the potential for learning and application at different scales. For the 2025-2027 grant rounds, the strategic priorities would be centered around decision making for selecting and designing projects and recovery actions. The Science Advisory Panel developed strategic priorities based on a conceptual framework for decision making and adaptive management at the regional and population level. Strategic priorities for the first three grant rounds will be understanding survival bottlenecks, evaluating limiting factors associated with those bottlenecks, and monitoring results from actions.

Grant Process: The statewide Monitoring Grant Program will run biennially opposite the Targeted Investment program and adjacent to the regular grant round. The timeline will align with the grant round track 2 timeline. 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. The Science Panel will review their success at meeting this expectation on a regular basis (see below). The steps in the process would be:

1. **Request for Proposals** – WINTER - Request for proposals (RFP) sent to the regions based with grant round strategic priorities and available funding.
2. **Letter of Intent** – WINTER/SPRING - Potential sponsors (regions or their partners) submit a letter of intent prior to their application to determine initial eligibility for the program prior to the development of a full proposal.

3. **Applications from Regions** – SPRING - Regions submit projects or partner with another entity to submit a proposal on behalf of the region.
4. **Science Advisory Panel Review and Final Applications** – SPRING - The Science Advisory Panel hears presentations and reviews applications. Science Panel submits comments for sponsors and sponsors submit final proposals with response to comments.
5. **Science Advisory Panel Recommendations** – SUMMER - Science Advisory Panel reviews final applications, scores proposals, and recommends projects for funding to the board.
6. **Board Decision** – FALL - Board reviews ranked project list and Science Advisory Panel recommendations and awards funding.

Evaluation Criteria: The Science Advisory Panel created a list of five criteria to evaluate and score project proposals:

1. **Importance to Recovery Efforts** (40 percent weight): Project outcomes are clearly aligned with the type of information needed for restoration and/or broader recovery planning and decision making in the region. There is a clear path from project deliverables to regionally important decisions pertaining to restoration planning and/or regional recovery efforts.
2. **Scientific Merit** (30 percent weight): Projects should be clearly thought out and planned, scientifically rigorous, and produce a clear deliverable within a specific and disclosed time frame. The project should demonstrate that the approach and methods are appropriate for addressing the goals and objectives.
3. **Transferability of Results** (25 percent weight): Strong projects produce information that is generally important and broadly applicable to similar populations, species and life stages, and/or watersheds.
4. **Consistency and Leveraging** (5 percent weight): Projects that maximize the benefits of limited monitoring funding will receive more points. This includes leveraging partnerships and other monitoring efforts and information.

Funding: The board allocated \$973,855 to the 2025 grant round at their September meeting. This amount includes current PCSRF 2025 unobligated monitoring funds (\$354,000) and the regional monitoring set aside (\$350,000). This funding also includes remaining unobligated carryover monitoring funds from federal fiscal year PCSRF 2022.

Motions for Funding Decisions

Move to adopt Manual 18M as drafted for the 2025 grant round.

Strategic Plan Connection

The board's 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).

Attachments:

A. Manual 18M

Manual 18M

Salmon Monitoring Grants

January 2025



Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

Mission

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board provides funding for elements necessary to achieve overall salmon recovery, including habitat projects and activities that result in sustainable and measurable benefits for salmon and other fish species.

Board Members

Citizen Members

Jeff Breckel, chair, Stevenson
Kadi Bizyayeva, Stanwood
Kaleen Cottingham, Olympia
Chris Endresen Scott, Conconully
Joseph Maroney, Spokane

Agency Members

Conservation Commission
Department of Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources
Department of Transportation

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

Director

Megan Duffy
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street Southeast
Olympia, WA 98501

[Email](#)

Telephone: (360) 902-3000
Washington Relay: Dial 711
FAX: (360) 902-3026

[Website](#)

Mailing Address

PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

About this Manual

This manual was created under the authority granted to the SRFB. It reflects the requirements of Revised Code of Washington Chapters 77.85 and 79A.25.240; Title 420 Washington Administrative Code, updated in December 2019; and policies of the SRFB and RCO.

The SRFB may issue additional or modified rules, instructions, interpretations, and guides from time to time as it believes necessary for the effective conduct of the grant program. Such changes may apply to all projects. Whenever possible, sufficient lead time will be given between the announcement and the effective date to minimize impacts to projects already in process at the time of announcement.

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2025 Grant Schedule

Monitoring Grants

Date	Action	Description
January 2025	Request for Proposals	SRFB Science Advisory Panel and RCO release a Request for Proposals that identifies strategic priorities and available funding for grants.
February to March	Letter of Intent and Eligibility Screening	The applicant must email the monitoring grants manager a Letter of Intent between February 1 and March 31 to determine eligibility. RCO will respond within two weeks of receiving the letter with a determination of initial eligibility.
May 1	Due Date: Complete Project Application Materials Due	The applicant must submit a complete application in PRISM, including required attachments.
May (Date TBD)	Screening and Presentations	RCO screens the application for completeness. The science panel and RCO convene a virtual presentation meeting with the applicant. The applicant uploads the presentation to PRISM after the presentation.
May (date TBD)	Science Panel Meeting	The science panel and RCO meet to discuss the project. The science panel evaluates the project using the SRFB's evaluation criteria in appendix B and completes comment forms.
May 30	First Comment Form	The applicant receives the science panel's comments, which identify the project as "Clear," "Conditioned," "Needs More Information," or "Project of Concern." RCO accepts a "Clear" application and returns all others so the applicant may update and respond to comments.
June 9-10	Conference Calls (optional)	The applicant may email the science coordinator to schedule a conference call with the science panel to discuss the comments.

Date	Action	Description
June 23, Noon	Due Date: Final Applications Due and Regional Rankings Due	The applicant submits the final application materials in PRISM. Regions also must email a ranked list of monitoring projects to the science coordinator if more than one application is submitted.
July 16-17	Science Panel Review and Scoring	The science panel and RCO meet to discuss the project and complete comments. The science panel scores and ranks the project using the scoring criteria in appendix C .
July 25	Final Comment Form	The applicant receives the final science panel comments, which identify the project as "Clear," "Conditioned," or "Project of Concern."
August 7	Due Date: Accept Science Panel Condition	An applicant with a "Conditioned" project must indicate whether the condition will be accepted or the project withdrawn.
September 2	Final Grant Report Available for Public Review	The final funding recommendation report is available online for SRFB members and public review.
September 16-17	Board Funding Meeting	The SRFB reviews the ranked list of projects and awards grants. Public comment period available.

Section 1: The Monitoring Grant Program

This section covers the following:

- ✓ Important things to know
- ✓ About the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- ✓ Where to get information
- ✓ The Salmon Recovery Monitoring Grant Program
- ✓ The SRFB Science Advisory Panel
- ✓ The big picture of salmon recovery

Important Things to Know

First, some important things to know.

- Regional organizations or a regionally designated partner are the only eligible sponsors.
- A regional organization may not submit more than two applications.
- This year, \$973,855 will be available for monitoring projects.
- The strategic priorities for this year are life stage bottlenecks, limiting factors, and effectiveness monitoring.
- An applicant may request between \$5,000 and \$300,000.
- Regional organizations are encouraged to collaborate on projects. A project that benefits multiple regions may exceed \$300,000.
- No match is required.

- The monitoring project must be completed in three years. If work is not, the grant recipient, also called the project sponsor, may request a one-year, no-cost time extension or submit a new application to continue the project.
- An application must be submitted electronically through PRISM Online.

About the Salmon Recovery Funding Board

The Washington State Legislature established the SRFB in 1999¹ to administer state and federal funding and to assist with a broad range of salmon recovery-related activities. The primary goal is to recover salmonids (salmon and steelhead) by providing grants to local organizations.

The board is composed of five voting members, appointed by the governor, and five non-voting state agency directors. The SRFB believes that scientific information and local citizen review must develop projects. Projects must demonstrate, through an evaluation and a monitoring process, that effective implementation will provide sustained benefit to fish.

The SRFB funds riparian, freshwater, estuarine, nearshore, saltwater, and upland projects that protect existing, high-quality habitats for salmon. It also funds projects to restore degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity of the fish. Projects may include the actual habitat used by salmon and the land and water that support ecosystem functions and processes important to salmon. The SRFB also funds monitoring projects to track the status of salmonids and the success of projects.

The complete text of the [SRFB's strategic plan](#) is on its website.

SRFB Not a Hearings Board

The SRFB's role is to fund salmon habitat projects. It is not, and is not authorized to be, a hearings panel that resolves land-use or permitting issues. The SRFB expects all proposals to resolve land-use issues through the permitting process. Projects should be ready to implement when funded.

Where to Get Information

The Science Advisory Panel and the science coordinator in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office provide guidance for project development. RCO provides administrative support, including administering the grants.

¹Revised Code of Washington 77.85

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Contract and Billing Information

[Jeannie Abbott](#), monitoring grants manager
360-480-2701

Monitoring Program Information

[Greer Maier](#), science coordinator
360-890-0804

Washington Relay: Dial 711

Science Advisory Panel Members

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

[Ken Currens](#) and [Micah Wait](#)

Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

[Bob Bilby](#)

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

[Pete Bisson](#) and [Jeanette Smith](#)

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

[Ken Currens](#) and [Micah Wait](#)

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

[Tracy Hillman](#) and [Jeanette Smith](#)

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

[Tracy Hillman](#)

Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region

[Pete Bisson](#)

Other Grant Manuals Needed

SRFB uses the policy manuals below for the administration of grants. These contain information relevant to the monitoring grant program.

- [Manual 7: Long-Term Obligations](#)
- [Manual 8: Reimbursements](#)
- [Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants](#)

The Salmon Recovery Monitoring Grant Program

The SRFB was established in 1999 to provide funding for salmon recovery. The board's goals are the following:

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

- Be accountable for board investments by promoting public oversight, effective projects, and actions that result in the economical and efficient use of resources.
- Build understanding, acceptance, and support of salmon recovery efforts.

To help achieve these goals, the SRFB created a monitoring program in the early 2000s that focused on measuring fish abundance, project effectiveness, and restoration results in a handful of specific watersheds. The original monitoring program attempted to answer the following broad questions:

- 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?
- Is progress being made towards recovery?

Still guided by those broader questions, the SRFB revised its monitoring program in 2024 to answer more specific questions, provide new information, and develop modern technologies and methodologies to meet statewide and regionally specific information needs. The SRFB will use information from the new monitoring grant program to direct restoration investments, provide accountability, and build understanding.

The monitoring grant program is a statewide, competitive grant round offered in odd-numbered years. The grants are open to regional recovery organizations and their designated project partners. RCO will notify regional organizations of the amount of funding available before each grant round. Each project request may not exceed \$300,000, and all grant requests combined may not be more than the funding available for monitoring from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

The grant program is guided by strategic priorities for funding and the resulting information is intended to inform decision-making at all levels of recovery implementation.

Projects are intended to be of regional importance, to directly inform recovery actions, and to have strong technical merit. The goals for the grant program are as follows:

- Generate strategically **consistent** information **applicable** to state, regional, and local decision-makers.
- **Guide** habitat restoration and protection and inform recovery plan implementation.
- Support and implement an **adaptive approach** that focuses on the following:

- o Timely and relevant questions
- o Monitoring needs
- o Timely information on the status and trends of fish populations and their habitats
- **Communicate** data, information, and knowledge in a meaningful way.
- **Collaborate** with partners to leverage programs and results.

SRFB Science Advisory Panel

The [Salmon Recovery Funding Board's Science Advisory Panel](#), previously called the Monitoring Panel, helps guide the board's Monitoring Program. The science panel has been in place since 2013 and its members are experts in the fields of salmon recovery, natural resources management, and monitoring science. The SRFB uses the science panel to help coordinate and prioritize the ongoing assessment of habitat restoration efforts. The Monitoring Program goals are to address the following questions developed by the SRFB and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office:

- Are restoration treatments having the intended effects on local habitats and their use by salmon?
- Are some treatments more effective than others at achieving specific results?
- Can monitoring results be used to improve the design of future projects?

Recently funded monitoring efforts have included regional monitoring projects, intensively monitored watersheds, remote sensing, reach-scale project effectiveness, and other regional monitoring projects.

The science panel does not advocate for projects. Rather, it assesses the technical merits and applicability of proposed projects statewide. To do so, science panel members review applications, convene presentations, provide feedback to applicants on proposed projects, and score and rank project proposals. The science panel considers projects in light of regional recovery plans and other regional-level strategies where no regional recovery plans exist. The panel is independent in the sense that members do not represent an agency or constituency.

The Big Picture of Salmon Recovery

Salmon Recovery Regions

The Endangered Species Act requires the federal government to develop recovery plans for salmon species at risk of extinction. The federal government measures the health of fish populations based on Evolutionarily Significant Units or Distinct Population Segments, which are populations or groups of populations of salmon species that are substantially reproductively isolated from other populations and that contribute to the evolutionary legacy of the species. The federal government determined that each unit or segment listed as at risk of extinction under the Act should have a recovery plan. State law directed development of a statewide strategy to recover salmon on an evolutionarily significant basis.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, together with other state and federal agencies, defined eight geographical salmon recovery regions.

Regional Organizations

To coordinate the work of recovery planning and implementation, [seven regional organizations](#)² formed within the eight regional recovery areas. The Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region does not have a regional organization but is covered by the Pend Oreille Salmonid Recovery Team. In September 2001, the SRFB funded six regional groups to develop recovery plans. Each group developed a recovery plan that expanded on previous planning efforts and helped connect local social, cultural, and economic needs and desires with science and the Endangered Species Act goals. In addition, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed recovery plans for Puget Sound steelhead trout, bull trout, and Lake Ozette sockeye salmon.

Regional organizations have developed a series of actions necessary to recover salmon and other listed species and gained regional consensus on measurable fish recovery results and federal approval of their regional recovery plans.³ Today, the regional organizations implement those actions. A seventh regional organization, for the coastal area, which had no listed species at the time of formation, completed the [Washington Coastal Sustainability Plan](#). The hallmark of this plan protects the region's salmon habitats by bringing together partnerships aimed at safeguarding and enhancing the natural function of the regional ecosystems on which salmon depend.

Lead Entities

²Regional organizations must be recognized in statute (Revised Code of Washington 77.85.010) or by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

³Hood Canal, Puget Sound, and the lower, middle, and upper Columbia River regional organizations have final recovery plans accepted by the federal government.

Other key players in salmon recovery are [local watershed-based lead entities](#), authorized by the Legislature in 1998⁴ to develop habitat restoration and protection strategies and projects to meet those goals. Lead entities are essential partners in Washington’s salmon recovery efforts. Regional organizations incorporated the strategies of local watershed groups and lead entities when writing regional recovery plans.

To create a lead entity, cities, counties, and tribes within a geographic area comprised of one or more watersheds or Water Resource Inventory Areas, develop a mutual agreement. Lead entities establish and support citizen and technical committees, develop strategies, and garner community support for salmon recovery.

Nonprofit organizations, tribes, and local governments are eligible to provide the administrative duties of a lead entity. Together, the administrative body, citizen committee, and technical advisory group form a lead entity. The SRFB provides financial support to lead entities. For questions about the lead entity program, contact the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office program coordinator, (360) 480-2701 or Washington Relay, dial 711.

Lead entities use their strategies and regional plans to identify a sequence of habitat restoration and protection projects. Lead entities also work with their regional organization to develop monitoring projects. For this manual “recovery plans” may include federally recognized recovery plans under the Endangered Species Act or regional conservation plans for unlisted species that have been developed by the regional organization. Recovery plans form the basis of monitoring program grants. The grant applicant must demonstrate how the project addresses the actions defined in the regional recovery plans.

⁴Revised Code of Washington 77.85.050-77.85.060

Section 2: Eligible Applicants and Projects

This section covers the following:

- ✓ Eligible applicants
- ✓ Eligible projects

Eligible Applicants

The Salmon Recovery Monitoring Grant Program emphasizes and capitalizes on regional organizations in helping identify, craft, plan, and direct monitoring projects to ensure they have the necessary regional support and applicability to recovery and that the right information is collected in the right places and with the right partners and stakeholder involvement. Regional involvement also ensures information can be communicated effectively both up to the state level (via the science panel) and down to the practitioner level (via established regional strategies and networks).

Regional recovery organizations have their own processes for selecting which monitoring projects are submitted. Any organization wishing to do a project should contact its regional organization. The regional organizations are responsible for working with lead entities, monitoring partners, and tribes to identify specific monitoring projects.

Only the following are eligible to receive funding:

- Regional salmon recovery organizations: Note: The Pend Oreille Salmonid Recovery Team in the northeast region and the Spokane Lead Entity, both of which are not part of a regional organization, are not eligible for federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding and therefore cannot receive monitoring grant funding.
- A regional partner who is independently eligible to receive funding (see below) and submits an application on behalf of the regional organization. The partner must work closely with the region and be involved in the planning and

implementation of the project. The regional organization must complete a [Regional Monitoring Project Certification Form](#) and the applicant must submit it with the final application for each project from a partner agency or organization.

Only the following partners may receive monitoring funding:

- o Cities
 - o Counties
 - o Conservation districts
 - o Federally recognized Indian tribes⁵
 - o Nonprofit organizations registered with Washington’s Office of the Secretary of State
 - o Regional fisheries enhancement groups
 - o Special purpose districts
 - o State agencies
- Federal agencies: RCO must request approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide money from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund to a federal agency.

Eligible Projects

Only monitoring projects are eligible to receive funding through this grant program. The SRFB defines **monitoring** as the **ongoing and systematic** collection and analysis of data in a standardized approach with the intent of informing salmon recovery actions.

Monitoring projects, as defined under the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund,⁶ should contribute to the general understanding of watersheds and populations over time and space (status and trends monitoring) or the understanding of an action’s ability to affect change (effectiveness monitoring).

Each regional organization may submit up to two projects in a grant round and regions must rank proposals for the reviewers. Regional rankings indicate the importance of each project and will be used by the science panel in its ranking.

⁵Revised Code of Washington 77.85.010 (12)

⁶[Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund data dictionary](#)

Projects must meet the following criteria:

- Must collect and analyze new data. The analysis of existing data may be included if it is not the primary goal of the project.
- Address high-priority regional information needs or data gaps identified in a recovery plan or associated regional research, monitoring, and evaluation plan or be endorsed as a high priority by the region.
- Inform the development of restoration or acquisition projects or programs.
- Complement, enhance, or leverage ongoing monitoring efforts.
- Have a plan to communicate results in a way that supports the learning and adaptive management processes in regions and more broadly.
- Be submitted by a region or vetted by the region and submitted on the region's behalf by an eligible partner.
- Have a funding request between \$5,000 and \$300,000 unless submitted by multiple regions.
- Align with strategic priorities for the grant round as noted below.

Ineligible Projects

- **Assessments:** Assessments are a process for determining conditions at a site or reach scale to inform project development and design. This information is needed to identify gaps between current conditions and desired conditions and therefore provide the information needed to identify and scope potential habitat enhancement projects. It is sometimes referred to as status monitoring or an inventory. In some cases, assessments can contribute data and information to a larger monitoring program (e.g., reach assessments in the context of regional habitat status and trends monitoring). The sponsor is encouraged to complement assessments with regional monitoring programs to the extent possible. Assessments are funded through a separate [SRFB funding program](#).
- **Research:** Research is the esoteric pursuit of knowledge, aimed at uncovering new insights and a deeper understanding of a particular topic. Research often lacks a specific tie to management or decision-making and is not intended to be repeated over time.

Strategic Priorities

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 panel developed a conceptual framework (Figure 1) for a restoration decision-making process that is used to develop the monitoring grant program strategic priorities. The framework includes steps to identify survival bottlenecks, evaluate limiting factors associated with those bottlenecks, develop restoration and recovery actions to address those limiting factors, and monitor results and adapt based on the results.

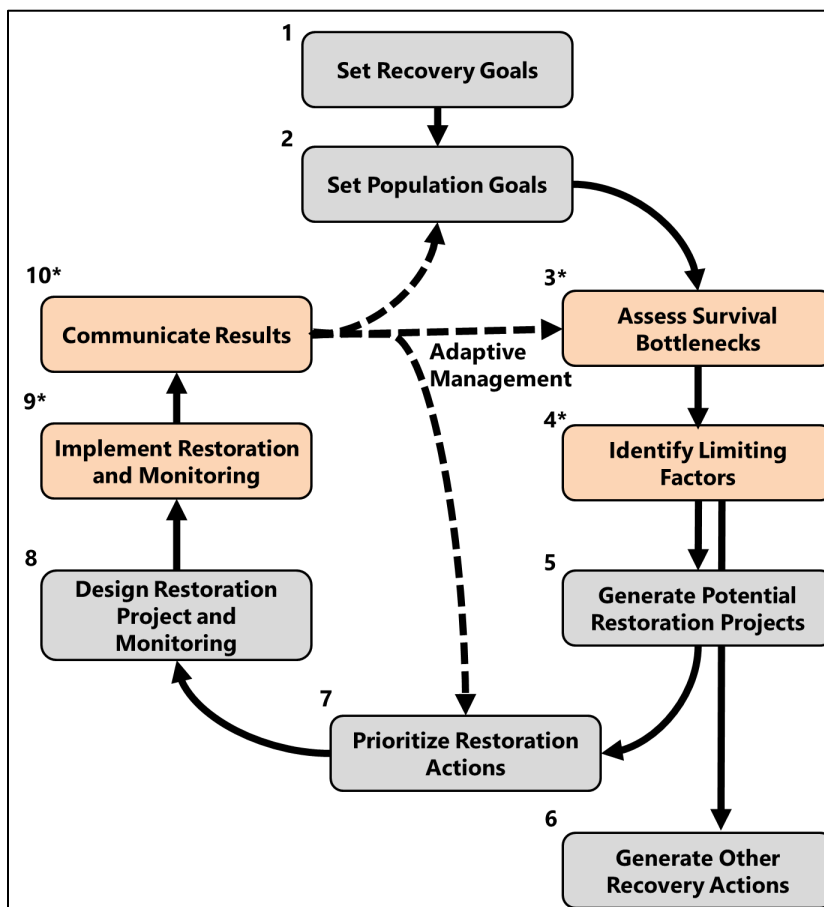


Figure 1. Conceptual decision-making framework used in developing strategic priorities for the 2025 SRFB Monitoring Grant Program. Steps 3, 4, 9, and 10 were identified as priorities for monitoring.

To maximize the potential for learning and application at different scales, the SRFB adopted the following strategic priorities for the 2025 and 2027 grant rounds:

- Monitor survival bottlenecks** (species and life stage): A survival bottleneck is a specific stage in the life cycle that experiences high mortality or habitat capacity limitations, ultimately limiting future production. Populations can experience more than one survival bottleneck.

- **Monitor limiting factors** (e.g., habitat quality and quantity, food webs, and biological interactions such as competition and predation): The limiting factor is the event, events, or conditions that cause the survival bottleneck to occur.
- **Monitor project effectiveness:** Effectiveness monitoring addresses whether habitat restoration projects are achieving their goals effectively by measuring environmental conditions, habitat characteristics, and biological indicators. The applicant is encouraged to explore questions about the effectiveness of novel restoration approaches or techniques and restoration programs specifically aimed at alleviating survival bottlenecks and limiting factors.

Monitoring these metrics helps practitioners understand what causes population decline, whether projects are addressing them effectively, and if and how fish and habitat change over time affects fish populations. These types of monitoring are especially important as the climate changes. Regional organizations are encouraged to follow this step-wise process in their monitoring and may submit proposals for monitoring at any stage depending on their needs. As more funding becomes available or priorities change, these strategic priorities could be updated in future grant rounds.

Other Considerations

Phased Projects

The science panel recognizes that some monitoring may be complex, require extensive data collection and analysis over a longer time period, or require substantial funding to be successful. In these cases, the science panel will consider the benefits of the larger-scale program in relation to individual project applications. Phased projects that are part of a regional monitoring program are subject to the following:

- Each phase must be submitted as a separate application with a vision for future phases whenever possible.
- Each phase should be able to stand alone in terms of its public benefits.
- Each phase must have a scope of work the applicant can afford and complete given the amount of SRFB funding requested.
- Funding approval of any single phase is limited to that phase. No endorsement or approval is given or implied toward future phases.
- The science panel may consider progress in earlier phases when reviewing current proposals, including review of deliverables from previously funded work.

Puget Sound Projects

State law⁷ requires the SRFB to align its grants with the [Action Agenda for Puget Sound](#) and to do the following:

- Give preference to projects referenced in the *Action Agenda for Puget Sound*.
- Give preference to Puget Sound partners without giving less preferential treatment to entities that are not eligible to be Puget Sound partners.

The Puget Sound Partnership defines the Puget Sound basin as the geographic areas within Water Resource Inventory Areas 1 through 19. The Partnership will certify whether projects submitted in those areas are consistent and not in conflict with the *Action Agenda for Puget Sound*. As with other project types, the Partnership will include a certification letter when submitting projects.

⁷Revised Codes of Washington 77.85.130 and 77.85.240

Section 3: The Application Process

This section covers the following:

- ✓ The application process

The Application Process

The following outlines the basic grant process.

Step 1: Work Collaboratively

Regional organizations are encouraged to work with tribes, tribal organizations, lead entities, state and federal agencies, and other science and monitoring entities to develop monitoring applications. Identifying the greatest areas of need and projects that address those needs is important to consider in this grant program. Each region has its own process for identifying and selecting projects. An organization should contact its [regional representatives](#) if it is interested in partnering on a monitoring application. An applicant submitting a project on behalf of a region must submit a [Regional Monitoring Project Certification Form](#) in the final application. See section 2 above for more information on eligible applicants and projects.

Step 2: Submit Letter of Intent

The grant applicant must email the [monitoring grants manager](#) a Letter of Intent before submitting an application. Regions may submit as many Letters of Intent as they would like. RCO will make an initial decision about whether the project is eligible and email the applicant within two weeks of submittal.

RCO's initial screen will review the following requirements:

- Sponsor eligibility

- Project eligibility
- Alignment with strategic priorities
- Project must address high-priority regional information needs or data gaps identified in a recovery plan or associated regional research, monitoring, and evaluation plan or is endorsed as a high priority by the region.
- Alignment with *Action Agenda for Puget Sound* (if applicable)

Final eligibility will be determined once a full proposal is submitted.

Step 3: Submit Complete Application Materials in PRISM Online

Start Application in PRISM

Each regional organization may submit up to two projects in a grant round. The applicant will follow similar application procedures and timeline as other SRFB applications. However, an applicant of a monitoring project must contact the [monitoring grants manager](#), before beginning so that RCO can create the project in PRISM, RCO's online database for grant management. To start an application in PRISM, provide RCO with the following information:

- Project name
- Start and end dates
- Project summary
- Total proposed project cost including match
- Project sponsor
- Project contact including email address

Once a PRISM project number is assigned, the applicant may use PRISM Online to complete the application. To use PRISM Online, visit RCO's website to [sign up for a username and password](#). Do not share a PRISM username and password with others in the applicant's organization. Multiple users may work on one application in PRISM, just add individuals to the "Project Contacts" list. Once a project is in PRISM, the applicant completes the online application and attaches the required documents for the project type.

Complete Application by May 1

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must submit a complete application in PRISM Online by May 1. In addition to the application itself, the applicant must include attachments shown in [appendix A](#).

The applicant should complete the required information on each screen and click the *Next* button. This process will take the applicant through the entire application page by page. Be sure to save work often. It is best not to have two people working in the application at the same time.

After completing all the application information and requirements, check the application for errors on the *Submit Application* screen. Pages indicated with a red exclamation mark (!) in the navigation table on the left of the screen require refinement.

Continue to check for errors after making corrections. If errors persist, reach out to the RCO grants manager for help. Once attachments are complete and all the pages are cleared of errors and show a green check mark (✓), submit the application.

Study Plan

Regional monitoring proposals should include a study plan with enough details to enable the science panel to review the proposal for technical merit. It is important that the proposal contains reasonably detailed technical information about the field methods, analytical techniques, information dissemination, and data archival and communication.

Study plans need to be based on clearly identified and sound scientific principles and valid assumptions and include technically sound methods and analytical techniques adequate to achieve the project goals and objectives. If the study plan has been reviewed by a qualified expert from an external organization, please so state. Attach supporting documentation that may include figures, tables, photographs, and citations. Clearly cite published papers and reports referenced in the study plan, and, if available, provide electronic links. If supporting documents are not publicly available, they should be uploaded to PRISM. Where appropriate, a brief literature review may be included in the study plan.

SRFB Applicant Resolution and Authorization

The applicant's governing body must pass a [resolution that authorizes submission](#) of the application for funding. This resolution will identify who may sign a contract and amendments on behalf of the organization. The format of the authorization may change, but the text may not change. Only one form is required for each applicant if each project name and number are included in the resolution. Forms filled out incorrectly or unsigned are not valid and will require revisions. For help, contact the [monitoring grants manager](#)

before signing the form. Secondary sponsors also must complete this form. Completed resolution and authorization forms should be uploaded to PRISM online as attachments.

Applicant Authorization Resolution Forms are not required from tribal sponsors at the time of application. However, RCO will need an organizationally drafted resolution from the tribal sponsor before signing the agreement. The tribal sponsor should work with the monitoring grants manager, to fulfill this requirement.

Working with Landowners

A [Landowner Acknowledgement Form](#) is required for all projects that require equipment installation or ingress/egress on property not owned by the applicant. It is important to know whether consent will be given if a project is funded. A project that requires ingress/egress on public land does not require a landowner acknowledgement form.

Permits and Consultations

The applicant must consider permitting requirements before submitting an application. Local, state, and federal permits likely will be required for any activity that takes place in or around waters of the state, including monitoring projects. The project sponsor must obtain all necessary local, state, and federal approvals and permits before payment. Similarly, if the monitoring project requires ground disturbance then [Governor's Executive Order 21-02: Archaeological and Cultural Resources](#), directs state agencies to review it to ensure that reasonable action is taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources. When needed, include permitting and cultural resources costs in the application. Select both permits and cultural resources as separate PRISM work type categories. More information on review and consultation requirements is in section 6 of [Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants](#).

Tips to Avoid Common Application Mistakes

- **Scope of the Project.** Be sure the project description, answers to questions, metrics, and other application materials are consistent and reflect the entire project. Include tasks covered by grants and sponsor match.
- **Contingency.** Do not include a line item for contingency in cost estimates. This is not an eligible grant expense. Ensure that each of the budget line items accounts for inflation and contingencies.
- **Indirect Costs.** RCO allows agency indirect costs only for projects that receive federal funding or are used by RCO or the Puget Sound Partnership as programmatic match to a federal grant. Before submitting the application, attach a RCO [Fiscal Data Collection Sheet](#), which indicates the indirect rate expected for the project. Start filling out this form early and work with accounting staff to

estimate the indirect costs. For indirect costs to be eligible, select the *Agency Indirect* work type on the metrics page and enter an associated cost.

- **Match Versus Other Funding.** Match is not required as a percentage of the total budget. Instead, report on outside sources of funding in the application on the *Other Funding* page of the application.

Step 4: SRFB Science Advisory Presentations and Application Review

Each applicant will give a presentation to the science panel in May. After the presentation, the applicant must upload the presentation to PRISM. The science panel then will meet to discuss the project and will provide the applicant with comments in PRISM Online and categorize the project as one of the following:

- **Clear:** approve the application as submitted for funding.
- **Conditioned:** approve funding with conditions.
- **Needs More Information:** request additional project details or clarification.
- **Project of Concern:** proposal does not align to the SRFB Review Panel Criteria ([appendix B](#)).

If the SRFB Review Panel indicates designates a project as "Clear," the applicant has completed the RCO grant process and does not need to update or resubmit the application unless there are comments that they would like to respond to. Comments are found on the *Review Comments* screen of the application. The applicant should respond directly in the *Review Comments* screen following each question or comment. If an applicant declines a project condition, the project becomes a "Project of Concern."

The grant applicant will have an opportunity, after the initial review, for a conference call with RCO and the science panel to ask for clarification or more information on the comments. Email the [science coordinator](#) to schedule a call by June 1. The calls will take place June 9-10.

Step 5: Use PRISM Online to Resubmit a Revised Application

RCO will return an application to the applicant either because 1) it was categorized as "Needs More Information," "Conditioned," or "Project of Concern;" or 2) the project was cleared for funding but has changed and must be updated and resubmitted. The final application must include a response to comments on the *Review Comments* screen.

An applicant must resubmit the updated, final application by noon, June 23, 2025. An incomplete application received by the application deadline will not advance. An

application submitted after this deadline will not advance. Regions also must rank projects and email the list to the [science coordinator](#) if more than one application is submitted. Regional ranking indicates the importance of each project and will be used by the science panel in its ranking.

Step 6: Project Evaluation

The science panel reviews updated proposals and responses to comments and scores each project according to criteria laid out in [appendix C](#). If a panel member is engaged in a specific project, the member must recuse him/herself/themselves from that project review. Next, the science panel discusses projects as a group and uses all available information and individual scores to rank projects. RCO may reach out to an applicant if a project ranks near the funding line to discuss options for funding the project. The outcome of this discussion is documented as an option in the final report to the SRFB.

From the discussion and scores, the science panel generates final comments on each project, assigns final categories (“Clear,” “Conditioned,” or “Project of Concern”), and summarizes discussions, scores, and ranking for the SRFB. During this step, RCO will review all projects for eligibility. When eligibility is questioned, the RCO director shall provide a final review.

RCO will return an application labeled “Conditioned” to allow the applicant to review the conditions in PRISM. An applicant with a “Conditioned” project must indicate whether the condition will be accepted or the project withdrawn. A project labeled “Project of Concern” may be required to address additional comments and answer questions from the SRFB during its consideration of applications.

Step 7: Receive Funding

The science panel will collate its rankings and comments in a final report submitted to staff. The report documents the process of the grant round and serves as a foundation for the board in making grant awards. The SRFB holds a public meeting to award funding in September. The SRFB will review the final report; project list; advisory panel scores, ranks, and comments; and public comments, including testimony at the funding meeting when making funding decisions. The SRFB may or may not choose to fund “Projects of Concern.”

Section 4:

Managing Monitoring Projects

This section covers the following:

- ✓ Grant agreements and administration
- ✓ Reporting and data sharing

Grant Agreements and Administration

After approving an application for funding, the SRFB will enter into a contract, called a grant agreement, implemented through RCO. Monitoring grant agreements have the same requirements and policies as other SRFB grants, except in the case of amendments (see below). Refer to [section 6 of manual 18](#) for information on SRFB contracting and managing SRFB projects. Additional information about monitoring grant agreements and administration is provided below. Sponsors may reach out to the monitoring grants manager with any questions about contracting and contract management.

Amendments

The grant agreement may change with an amendment. A sponsor must notify the monitoring grants manager and science coordinator if a scope change, time extension, or cost increase is needed to complete a project. RCO may authorize an amendment for minor changes in scope and time extensions. The RCO director or SRFB may authorize major changes in scope and cost. RCO has an [Amendment Request Template](#), which the sponsor should use. The sponsor must include documentation of regional approval of the amendment if the region is not the sponsor.

For cost increases, the sponsor also should submit an updated budget. Extension requests must be in writing and provided to RCO no less than sixty days before the project's completion date. The science panel and RCO will review the amendment request and determine the appropriate course of action.

Federal Program Requirements

Monitoring projects are funded with federal funds. Grant administration for these projects is governed by the Office of Management and Budget Part 200–Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards also called the “[omni-circular](#).” The applicant should review the omni-circular for detailed information on grant administration. The applicant may view trainings from RCO’s fiscal office on indirect costs and other omni-circular issues on RCO’s website under [Post Award Information](#).

Reporting and Data Sharing

Monitoring grant agreements have the same reporting and data sharing requirements and policies as other SRFB grants, except as noted below. Refer to [section 6 of manual 18](#) for more information on SRFB contracting and managing SRFB projects.

Progress Reporting

Each sponsor is required to enter two progress reports a year using the PRISM online progress reporting tool. Presentations to the science panel can be used to fulfill progress reporting requirements but presentations must be uploaded to PRISM. The monitoring grants manager will contact a sponsor if there is a request for such a presentation.

Final Reporting and Data Sharing

In addition to final reporting requirements in PRISM online, project sponsors must present and share data and information generated from the project in the following ways:

- Present results to the science panel
- Present results to regional or lead entity technical team and other regional groups
- Present results at a Salmon Recovery Conference
- Provide a spreadsheet of data or data layers and a report of results to the science panel, RCO, and appropriate lead entities, all of which can be done in PRISM.
- If applicable, upload data to appropriate databases and/or data managers (e.g., Coordinated Assessment database, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife PITAGIS)

Appendix A:

Required Attachments

PRISM Online Required Attachments	Template / Form Link
<p>Study Plan (required). RCO recommends using its template for development of a study plan. Attach in PRISM and label as "Study Plan." If using a different template, ensure it includes all the same elements.</p>	<p>Study Plan</p>
<p>Resumes of Project Personnel (required). Upload resumes of core project team members.</p>	<p>Applicant Creates</p>
<p>Project Cost Estimate (required). RCO recommends using its template or similar format. Attach in PRISM and clearly label "Cost Estimate." Include agency indirect in the estimate.</p>	<p>Spreadsheet</p>
<p>Other Materials (optional) graphs, maps, letters of support, etc.</p>	<p>Applicant Creates</p>
Required Attachments in Final Application	
<p>Landowner Acknowledgement Form is required for all projects that require equipment installation or ingress/egress on land not owned by the applicant. This form should be uploaded to PRISM. Projects that require ingress/egress on public lands do not require this form.</p>	<p>Form</p>
<p>Regional Monitoring Project Certification Form is required for all regional monitoring projects submitted by an applicant other than the region.</p>	<p>Form</p>
<p>SRFB Applicant Authorization Resolution Form is required for any non-tribal sponsor who will sign the grant agreement. Tribal sponsors will submit a resolution with a funded agreement.</p>	<p>Form</p>
<p>RCO Fiscal Data Collection Sheet (required). This form collects information about the applicant's organization's indirect rate and other financial information.</p>	<p>Form</p>
<p>Science Panel Presentation (required). After the presentation to the science panel, upload the presentation to PRISM.</p>	<p>Update PRISM</p>
<p>Response to Science Panel Application Comments (required). Respond to science panel comments by updating PRISM.</p>	<p>Update PRISM</p>

Appendix B:

SRFB Evaluation Criteria

To help ensure that every project funded by the SRFB is technically sound, the SRFB Review Panel will review and categorize projects. A project will receive a “Project of Concern” rating if it is not technically sound and cannot be significantly improved according to the following criteria:

1. Does not meet the definition of a monitoring project according to the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.
2. Does not have region-wide applicability.
3. Lacks a technically sound scientific study plan. The monitoring plan is based on inaccurate assumptions.
4. The monitoring methods are technically flawed.
5. Analytical techniques proposed are inadequate to achieve the project goals or objectives.
6. The value of the study for recovery of salmon populations or the application of the study for future recovery efforts is not explicit.
7. Information provided or current understanding of the system is not sufficient to determine the need for, or the benefit of, the project.
 - Incomplete application or proposal.
 - Project’s goal or objectives not clearly stated.
 - Project sponsor has not responded to SRFB Review Panel comments.
8. The project is dependent on addressing other key conditions or processes first.
9. The project has a high cost relative to the anticipated benefits and the project sponsor failed to justify the costs to the satisfaction of the SRFB Science Advisory Panel.

10. The project does not account for the conditions or processes in the watershed.
11. The project may be in the wrong sequence with other monitoring projects.
12. It is unclear how the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
13. It is unlikely that the project will achieve its stated goals or objectives.
14. The project is sited improperly.

Appendix C: Science Advisory Panel Scoring Criteria

SRFB Monitoring Project Evaluation Criteria

The SRFB Science Advisory Panel reviews and scores project proposals based on the following evaluation:

1. **Importance to Recovery Efforts (40 percent weight):** Project outcomes clearly are aligned with the information needed for restoration or broader recovery planning and decision-making in the region. There is a clear path from project deliverables to regionally important decisions pertaining to restoration planning or regional recovery efforts. Specifically, the highest scoring projects will have some or all the following attributes:
 - Fill an identified area of uncertainty in an established decision-making process.
 - Be identified as a priority information need in a recovery plan, science plan, monitoring plan, or other regionally important planning document.
 - Provide a rationale for why it is important to recovery efforts.
 - Identify stakeholders who would benefit from this information and describe how they would use the results.
- ▲ Point Range: 0-10 points based on importance of information to recovery efforts.
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 7-10 points | Greatly improves region's understanding of a critical uncertainty and clearly is tied to important recovery and/or restoration decisions. |
|-------------|---|

3-7 points Will influence recovery and/or restoration decision-making to some extent due to the scope of the project and its outcomes.

0-3 points Very little evidence that the project directly will affect important decisions related to recovery and/or restoration.

2. **Scientific Merit (30 percent weight):** The project should be thought out and planned clearly, be scientifically rigorous, and produce a clear deliverable within a specific and disclosed time frame. The project should demonstrate that the approach and methods are appropriate for addressing the goals and objectives. Specifically, the highest scoring projects will have some or all these attributes:

- Includes a study plan that is complete and clearly laid out. Includes a reasonable scope of work tied to the study plan.
- Demonstrates a high certainty of success based on approach, methods, and personnel.
- Demonstrates that identified techniques and methods are adequate to achieve project goals and objectives.
- Includes a sampling strategy that shows an understanding of the parameters and desired outcomes.
- Describes the representativeness of the study area within a population or region.
- Identifies a reasonable time frame and budget.
- Identifies roles and responsibilities.
- Describes a communications strategy that ensures data and information are readily available to the intended audiences.

▲ Point Range: 0-10 points based on scientific rigor and certainty of success.

7-10 points Clearly laid out study plan with reasonable goals, defensible approach, and scientifically rigorous methods. High likelihood the project will result in the desired outcomes (e.g., data, information, support for future decisions).

3-7 points Proposed project has some technical issues or deficiencies in its study plan (e.g., timeline, personnel, approach,

methods). Technical issues could result in outcomes that do not fulfill project objectives.

0-3 points Project is unlikely to generate new and impactful knowledge in the proposed time frame. The project has major deficiencies in its study plan, is based on inaccurate assumptions, or in some way is technically flawed.

3. **Transferability of Results (25 percent weight):** A strong project produces information that is generally important and broadly applicable to similar populations, species and life stages, or watersheds. Specifically, the highest scoring projects will have some or all the following attributes:

- Produces results that are clearly applicable beyond the scale of the project.
- Addresses information needs in other regions or at the state level (e.g., learning outcomes are meaningful beyond the project scale and would benefit stakeholders in other populations and regions).
- Indicates how questions being addressed are relatable across watersheds, populations, or regions.
- Describes how results could be used by decision-makers at the state scale (if applicable).

▲ Point Range: 0-10 points based on scale at which information is applicable and important.

7-10 points Clear outcomes fill important information gaps across multiple watersheds or regions and generate information that can be used at the state scale.

3-7 points Results are less clearly applicable to other regions and more specifically focus on information needs unique to that region. Issue is relatable across watersheds and learning outcomes will benefit multiple populations.

0-3 points Results and information are applicable at the site, reach, or watershed or population scale only. Questions of interest and outcomes are unique and not broadly applicable. Results are difficult to roll up or carry forward beyond the project scale.

4. **Consistency and Leveraging (5 percent weight):** A project that maximizes the benefits of limited monitoring funding will receive more points. This includes leveraging partnerships and other monitoring efforts and information.

Specifically, the highest scoring projects will do the following:

- Complement, enhance, or leverage larger monitoring efforts or existing information.
- Leverage partnerships and collaboration to achieve project goals and objectives.
- To the maximum extent practicable, be consistent or compatible with data collection, analysis, methods, and protocols used in the region and when possible, with methods and data collection in common use throughout the state.
- Describe complementary monitoring projects, programs, or data sets, and lays out a method for integrating data and information, if applicable.

▲ Point Range: 0-10 points based on the extent of consistency and leveraging.

7-10 points	Complements, enhances, or leverages other monitoring efforts, partnerships, data, or information to achieve project goals
3-7 points	Complements, enhances, or leverages existing monitoring efforts or partnerships to some extent but not to a large degree
0-3 points	Does little to complement, enhance, or leverage other monitoring efforts or lacks leveraging of partnerships

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 2024

Title: City Of Sumner Cost Increase, White River Restoration

Prepared By: Kate McLaughlin, Outdoor Grants Manager
Alissa Ferrell, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This cost increase request for the White River Restoration Project (20-1120) includes background information and recommendations from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board subcommittee, which recommends approving the \$2,636,035 request.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction/Background

Cost Increase Request

In May 2023, staff received a cost increase request from the City of Sumner for \$2,636,035 to help fund [project 20-1102](#), White River LB RM 2.5-4.2. Originally, this request was in response to anticipated costs associated with moving high voltage utility lines out of the floodplain. However, in the time since the City of Sumner submitted their cost increase request, two project partners (BNSF Railway and Cascade Water Alliance) withdrew from the project, increasing the funding gap even further.

As described in a letter from the City of Sumner (Attachment A) to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in May 2024, the requested cost increase funds will now help to cover approximately \$2.6 million of the total \$16 million of construction work that BNSF Railway had initially committed to and an increase in the cost of construction resulting from a necessary design change due to the loss of the partners.

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board Review Panel reviewed and approved the design change in August 2024.

RCO staff presented Sumner’s cost increase request to Director Duffy on August 27, 2024. The director recommended convening the board subcommittee, Members Hoffmann and Endresen-Scott, and seeking board decision in December.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Cost Increase Policies

The cost increase policies for projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) vary by project location and funding type. The board allocates up to \$500,000 annually for cost increases across the state. For projects located in the Puget Sound region, the Recreation and Conservation Office encourages use of returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds. In all cases, cost increase requests must adhere to the board amendment process using [Manual 18, Appendix I: SRFB Amendment Matrix Authority](#).

Cost Increases Using PSAR Funds

RCO and the Puget Sound Partnership co-manage the PSAR program, which is funded by the Legislature in the biennial capital budget. This program has two project funds: PSAR regular and PSAR large capital. The PSAR regular fund consists of \$30.6 million, which is divided between the lead entities according to the Puget Sound Partnership’s allocation formula and used for projects approved for funding through the grant round. If the program is appropriated more than \$30.6 million, then the additional money is used to fund PSAR large capital projects. Large capital projects are reviewed and ranked by the Puget Sound Partnership.

Manual 18, Appendix B: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund, details the process for cost increases using PSAR funds. Funding sources for Puget Sound lead entities requesting project cost increases come from the following sources in the following order:

1. Unobligated lead entity PSAR funds. If the lead entity does not have any unobligated funds, then,
2. Returned PSAR funds, which the Puget Sound Partnership controls. If the Puget Sound Partnership does not have any returned funds to disperse then,
3. Salmon cost increase funds, which RCO manages. If RCO does not have any cost increase funds to disperse, or does not approve the request due to its size, then,
4. The sponsor may wait until returned funds are available or request a cost increase through the regular grant round process.

The White River project originally received \$14,641,000 of PSAR large capital funding. The Puget Sound Partnership does not have returned large capital funds from the 21-23

biennium, so the sponsor is requesting PSAR regular returned funds for their cost increase (option #2 above).

Regardless of the funding type, all cost increase requests must adhere to the board amendment process using [Manual 18, Appendix I: SRFB Amendment Matrix Authority](#). Appendix I delegates the authority to approve cost increases to the RCO Director, who may either approve or recommend that amendments be reviewed by the board subcommittee and the board. Due to the significant size of the cost increase, and the change in scope of the design, the Director referred the request to the board subcommittee. For returned PSAR funds, Appendix I also requires the approval of the local lead entity and the Puget Sound Partnership.

Board Subcommittee Meeting

RCO staff convened the board subcommittee on October 22, 2024. Robby Wright and Doug Beagle from the City of Sumner presented, and Assistant Section Manager Kat Moore facilitated the discussion. The board subcommittee members asked clarifying questions.

During the meeting the subcommittee was briefed on the following issues, which led to the project cost increase request:

- BNSF Railway was originally a partner on this project and intended to contribute \$16,475,728 to this project through funds and services.
- BNSF withdrew from the project due to economic conditions.
- Cascade Water Alliance, an affected landowner and partner, also withdrew from the project because of BNSF Railway’s departure.
- Design changes were needed to realign side channels within the City of Sumner’s landownership.

Project funding changes (including cost increase request) are below.

20-1102, City of Sumner, White River Restoration (river mile 2.5-4.2, left bank)

Funding Source	Original Amount	Change	Updated Funding Amounts
PSAR large cap	\$14,641,000	N/A	\$14,641,000
Sumner Utility Funds	\$6,899,064	\$5,296,831	\$12,195,895
Sumner General Funds	N/A	\$6,200,000	\$6,200,000
Pierce Co Flood Control Zone District	\$15,399,701	\$2,342,862	\$17,742,563

BNSF	\$16,475,728	(-\$16,475,728)	N/A
Cost increase request (PSAR funds)	N/A	\$2,636,035	\$2,636,035
Total (90% Construction Estimate) \$53,415,493			

Board Subcommittee Recommendations

Based on the following, the board subcommittee recommends approval of the City of Sumner’s White River Restoration (river mile 2.5-4.2, left bank) project cost increase:

- The funding deficit resulted from an unknowable circumstance (departure of project partners).
- Despite the changes to the project, the benefit to salmon and stakeholders remains.
- The Review Panel has reviewed and approved the design scope changes.
- The City of Sumner significantly increased their contributions to project overruns and fundraised from sources other than the board.
- The project has continued support from affected Tribes and Pierce County through an ongoing dialogue group.
- PSAR funds are available to cover these costs.
- The Puget Sound Partnership and Puyallup-Chambers Lead Entity support this cost increase.

Motion

Approve the \$2,636,035 cost increase request for the City of Sumner’s project #20-1102, White River Restoration (Left Bank, River Mile 2.5-4.2). The cost increase would come from returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds from Puget Sound Partnership.

Strategic Plan Connection

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

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

Attachments

- A. Cost increase letter from City of Sumner
- B. Proposed design changes
- C. Letter of support from Lead Entity
- D. Letter of support from Puget Sound Partnership



1104 MAPLE STREET, SUMNER WA 98390

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Suite 260

253-299-5700 Fax: 253-299-5539

Kate McLaughlin
Outdoor Grants Manager
Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
RE: White River Restoration Cost Increase Request – 20-1102 R LB RM 2.5-4.2

Kate,

Thank you for continuing to work with us on the cost increase for our White River Restoration project. The City brought forward a 169-acre floodplain restoration which had a unique partnership between the BNSF Railway company and Cascade Water Alliance, where each party was providing something of benefit to the other. The project was funded in 2021 as a PSAR Large Capital Project. Several changes have occurred since then and this letter aims to describe those changes and justify the cost increase request.

The major delay we faced was related to permitting. The City had submitted an individual 404 permit in 2020, part of this permit process involved receiving written biological opinions from NOAA and USFWS. These opinions were not completed until September 2022 and 2023 respectively and were the primary delay on final permits (which were received October 2023). During the 3 years of waiting, BNSF railways had a shift in needs and funding availability. They chose to walk away from the project near the time of final permit approvals. With BNSF out, Cascade Water Alliance wanted to shift the benefit they were receiving to the City. The City could not accept this and chose to proceed with the project without Cascade.

These changes in partnership caused both an additional financial burden on the City and a large change in the design of the project.

The changes in design are outlined in the attached memo, which will also go to the USACE to approve a minor modification to the project permit. It is also shown on the 3 design summaries which visualize the changes from time of application to current. In summary, the changes are shifting the project boundary east 200+ lineal feet and changing the reformed tailrace channel into a new mainstem river side channel. The boundary shift will add over 30 acres of new restoration (bringing the total from 169 to 201 acres), while the new side channel will still double the length of instream habitat.

Cost implications of these changes are twofold, first BNSF railways was expected to contribute between \$10-15 million of in-kind work to the project as shown in the attached cost estimate. That work will shift to the City. Second, the new side channel will be larger and have more wood than the currently designed channel. This will increase the cost of construction in this area further.

The total cost of construction won't be known until the project is bid which will be done upon completion of the revised project design in late summer 2024. Currently, the funding shortage is a result of the BNSF in-kind work now being attributed to the City. The City has been working to increase funding sources to fill that gap. A remaining gap of \$2,636,035 is shown in the table below which will be

filled by the additional requested funding. If funding is not received, the City will attempt to acquire other grants or fill the gap with Utility funds, putting additional burden of this regionally important project onto Sumner’s citizens.

To maintain the schedule, the City is also working on doing an early earthwork package. This will do a portion of the earthwork for the project in Summer 2024, avoiding a full delay until 2025. The earthwork would be done to meet grading levels which are not changing in design.

I hope this letter describes the status of our White River Project and justifies the need of a cost increase request for this project. Please feel free to reach out to me on next steps and any questions or further information.

Thank you,

Robby Wright
 City of Sumner
 2532995708
 Robertw@sumnerwa.gov

Funding Source	Original Funding Sources	Change	Post BNSF Funding
Sumner Utility Funds	\$ 6,899,064.24	\$ 5,296,831.09	\$ 12,195,895.33
Sumner General Funds	\$ -	\$ 6,200,000.00	\$ 6,200,000.00
PC Flood Control Zone District	\$ 15,399,701.00	\$ 2,342,862.00	\$ 17,742,563.00
PSAR Grant	\$ 14,641,000.00	\$ -	\$ 14,641,000.00
BNSF	\$ 16,475,728.08	\$ 16,475,728.08	\$ -
PSAR Additional Request	\$ -	\$ 2,636,035.00	\$ 2,636,035.00
Sumner White River Restoration 90% Construction Estimate: \$53,415,493.33			



1104 MAPLE STREET, SUMNER WA 98390

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Suite 260

253-299-5700 Fax: 253-299-5539

MEMO: WRRP Design Changes

The 3 images attached to the project are visual summaries of the overall design concept and how it has changed over time. These were prepared by the City's consultant Natural Systems Design at the direction of the City. Each iteration was discussed during White River Dialogue group meetings.

The first image is from 2019. This version of the design is what was submitted with the USACE permit application and which was submitted as part of the 20-1102 REST PSAR Large Capital Grant. This design was brought to a bid-ready level and specifications were being written.

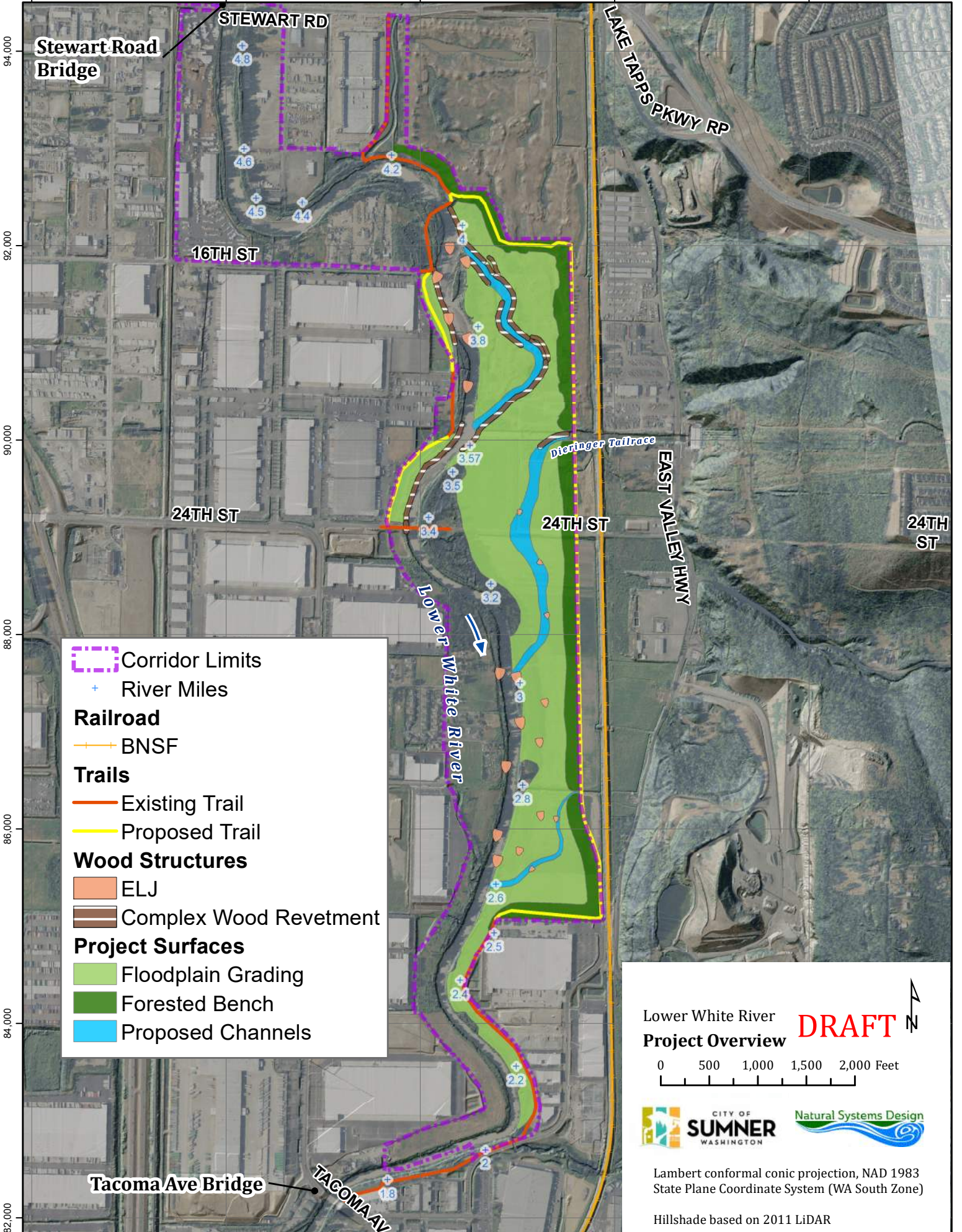
The second image is from Fall 2023. Following the withdrawal of BNSF Railways, the project boundary shifted east 200+ feet adding over 30 acres of new floodplain restoration. Several areas of mature forest had reduced grading allowing more retention of existing, mature vegetation. The overall design remained the same.

The third image was developed in March 2024. This is the current direction of the project which aims to also remove reliance on the Cascade Water Alliance tailrace. The majority of grading plans are the same as the previous iterations. A new channel from the river is being designed. It will be wider and contain more wood than the previous tailrace design. It will also reduce flooding to a greater extent as shown in the flood modeling to date. Design is expected to be complete in Fall 2024. Because grading above the level of channels isn't changing significantly, the City intends to construct a portion of this grading to maintain schedule.

The design around the third image is developing, and the attached image is draft, subject to change.

Robby Wright
253-230-5582
Robertw@sumnerwa.gov
City of Sumner

1,288,000 1,290,000 1,292,000 1,294,000 1,296,000



Stewart Road Bridge

STEWART RD

LAKE TAPS PKWY RP

16TH ST

92,000

Dieringer Tailrace

24TH ST

24TH ST

EAST VALLEY HWY

24TH ST

- Corridor Limits
- River Miles
- Railroad**
- BNSF
- Trails**
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Wood Structures**
- ELJ
- Complex Wood Revetment
- Project Surfaces**
- Floodplain Grading
- Forested Bench
- Proposed Channels

Lower White River

Lower White River Project Overview **DRAFT**

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet



Lambert conformal conic projection, NAD 1983 State Plane Coordinate System (WA South Zone)

Hillshade based on 2011 LiDAR

Tacoma Ave Bridge

TACOMA AV

82,000

84,000

86,000

88,000

90,000

92,000

94,000

1,290,000

1,292,000

1,294,000

1,296,000

92,000

16TH ST

90,000

Pieringer Tailrace

TH ST

EAST VALLEY HWY

88,000

Lower White River

86,000

84,000

100923_DRAFT_Post BNSF_ForestedBerm

100923_DRAFT_Post BNSF_Floodplain

Wood Structures

Batter Pile Complex Wood Revetments

Dolotimber Complex Wood Revetments

Engineered Log Jams

GradingAreas

feature

Floodplain

Forested Bench

Lower White River

DRAFT

Post BNSF Project Layout

0 250 500 750 1,000 Feet



Lambert conformal conic projection, NAD 1983 State Plane Coordinate System (WA South Zone)

Hillshade based on 2011 LiDAR

1,290,000

1,292,000

1,294,000

Staging and Fill Disposal Area

- Batter Pile Complex Woody Revetment
- Batter Pile Complex Woody Revetment - Potential Placements
- Dolotimber Complex Woody Revetment
- Engineered Log Jams
- New Channels
- Forested Berm
- Floodplains

Trails

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Proposed PSE Access
- Proposed Trail/PSE Access

92,000

90,000

88,000

86,000

24TH ST

Dieringer Tailrace

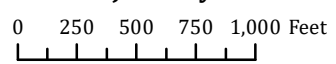
Potential Temp Bridge Location

EAST VALLEY HWY

Lower White River

Lower White River **DRAFT**

2024 Project Layout



Lambert conformal conic projection, NAD 1983 State Plane Coordinate System (WA South Zone)

Hillshade based on 2011 LiDAR



May 24, 2024

Melissa Speeg
Salmon Recovery Manager
Puget Sound Partnership
PO Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900

RE: PSAR Returned Funds/Cost Overrun and Scope Change for The White River Left Bank RM 2.5-4.2 Project, PRISM No. 20-1102

Dear Melissa:

The Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds Salmon Recovery Lead Entity would like to express our strong support for the City of Sumner's request for PSAR returned funds.

There has been a significant scope change and the City of Sumner and their consultants quickly pivoted in response to the dissolution of their partnerships with BNSF and Cascade Water Alliance. BNSF is not moving forward on their related project as they no longer have a business need for the siding tracks; they were originally going to use excavated material from the habitat project site for fill at their siding project. Losing these partnerships was a challenge but the Citizens Advisory Committee believes the City of Sumner adapted expertly and rapidly to the changes and during our April 4, 2024, Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting we agreed to provide another letter of support for the project.

The Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds Salmon Recovery Lead Entity Citizens Advisory Committee members have long-awaited this project and we look forward to the realization of City of Sumner's Project titled "White River LB RM 2.5-4.2", PRISM Project Number 20-1102. The project aligns with several of our Lead Entity strategies for salmon recovery, as described in [Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategy for Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds](#). The Strategies that directly link to the project are listed below:

- Reconnect Mainstem River Channels to Their Floodplains
- Remove Physical Barriers to Fish Movement and Migration.
- Restore Habitat in Highly Productive Tributaries and Mainstem Areas
- Restore and Maintain Hydrologic Regime, and
- Improve Water Quality

The Lead Entity committees have been looking for a restoration opportunity in this reach of the White River for many years and a restoration project in this location has been featured in our three- and four-year work plans even as the property was being used as a public golf course.

We would like to note the landscape scale restoration that is happening on the White River as well as its tributaries. There has been recent correction of downstream juvenile fish passage at Mud Mountain Dam, and the Buckley Diversion Dam was rebuilt by the Army Corps of Engineers, which will allow for more complete passage of fish above Mud Mountain Dam through a vastly improved trap and haul operation. Just upstream of this proposed project, King County's Countyline project reconnected approximately 150 acres of floodplain to the White River. Habitat has been restored on Boise Creek at its confluence with the White River. In the headwaters, projects on the Greenwater and Clearwater Rivers that have reconnected floodplain, removed roads, and added large wood structures will help form a mosaic of habitat for salmon.

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group is currently seeking design for restoration on the mainstem White River where they will find opportunities to protect juvenile fish from high flow events and stabilize conditions for fish habitat. Elements of the Snoquera Landscape project are getting underway, and closer to the proposed project footprint, King and Pierce Counties are currently pursuing additional levee setback projects immediately upstream of Sumner's Left Bank project (Government Ditch and Pacific Right Bank Project), and acquisitions for the upcoming Point Bar levee setback in Sumner are almost completed.

It is also important to note the significance of the White River Spring Chinook Salmon and their critical role in delisting criteria for Puget Sound Chinook. White River Spring Chinook is the only remaining spring Chinook salmon stock found in the South Puget Sound and several Spring Chinook stocks have gone extinct. The recovery guidelines listed in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan emphasizes the preservation of remaining spring Chinook stocks in five Puget Sound bio-geographical regions, including the Central/South Basin where White River Spring Chinook salmon are found. Spring Chinook have a unique life history and genetic traits that make them one of the most genetically distinctive stocks in central/south Puget Sound. Thank you for your support of this crucial project and other important salmon restoration projects in the Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds, and please feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Wright', with a large star-like flourish at the end.

Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds
Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

cc: Kate McLaughlin, RCO
Robert Wright, City of Sumner
Doug Beagle, City of Sumner
Lisa Spurrier, Puyallup and Chambers Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

November 15, 2024

Alissa Ferrell
Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

PSAR RETURN FUNDS

Allocation Request – White River Restoration – City of Sumner (#20-1102)

Background: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funded projects may close with unused funds returned to the regional organization, Puget Sound Partnership. According to Manual 18 policies, Lead Entities may then request these funds to support an active project. The scope of work for the cost change must be within the original scope of the project application reviewed by the SRFB Review Panel.

Action Request: The City of Sumner’s 201-acre White River Restoration project requires additional funding to cover cost increases, primarily due to 2-3 year delays related to permitting which also impacted the participation of key partners. BNSF Railways, originally a major contributor of in-kind work (\$10-\$15 million), had a shift in priorities, needs and available funding. Cascade Water Alliance shifted their goals with the project, which the City could not take on. These changes led to a change in aspects of the project design and also created an additional financial burden for the City. Much of the additional costs are being carried by the City, however an increase in funds from PSAR can alleviate some of that burden.

The Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds Citizens Advisory Committee approved the City of Sumner’s \$2,636,035 cost increase request at their April 4, 2024 meeting (see letter dated May 24, 2024). The project now will include a larger side channel with more wood and an increased forested buffer.

Puget Sound region staff have reviewed this request and determined that it meets the Return Funds policy and the following criteria:

- The project is on the Lead Entity’s current work plan and has been reviewed and approved by the SRFB. The SRFB Technical Committee and SRFB Cost Increase Subcommittee reviewed the design changes and approved the request moving forward to the full SRFB for December 2024.
- The Lead Entity and sponsor have submitted a detailed justification of the cost increase.
- The project is considered highly time sensitive.
- The cost increase request has the support of the Lead Entity – Watershed Council.

The PSAR program manager shared an overview of the request with the Partnership’s Executive Director, Deputy Director and Salmon Program Manager on November 4, 2024 and received confirmation that the Partnership approves the request.

Request to RCO: Consistent with policy described in Manual 18 and respecting the time-sensitive nature of this project, the Puget Sound region is requesting that RCO authorize the City of Sumner's request in the amount of **\$2,636,035** for the White River Restoration project.

Thank you,



Marlies Wierenga
PSAR Program Manager
marlies.wierenga@psp.wa.gov

CC: Lisa Spurrier, Puyallup & Chambers Watersheds – Pierce County
Kate McLaughlin, WA Recreation and Conservation Office
Kat Moore, WA Recreation and Conservation Office
Robby Wright, City of Sumner
Doug Beagle, City of Sumner

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 2024

Title: Riparian Programmatic Changes

Prepared By: Nicholas Norton, Policy and Planning Specialist
Kat Moore, Salmon Assistant Section Manager

Summary

Since the Recreation and Conservation Office received \$25 million in riparian specific funding in the 2023-2025 biennial budget, there has been continued focus on protecting and restoring riparian habitat. This focus includes the release of the Riparian Roundtable recommendations, continued Roundtable discussions, a series of workshops across Puget Sound, and the development of riparian funding programs at the Recreation and Conservation Office and other natural resource agencies. .

Collectively this work, and input received by staff in developing the board's 2024 riparian grant round, provides context and opportunity to think about how the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's delivery of riparian-specific funding might evolve in future biennia. Specifically staff recommends considering what a programmatic approach/es might look like to support characteristics such as, surety, flexibility, and efficiency for local salmon recovery practitioners). Staff are requesting board direction to help determine the scope and approach for such an effort.

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

Past Efforts and Input

In the 2023-2025 biennial budget, the legislature allocated \$25 million to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to support a grant category specific to riparian areas. The budget proviso intended for the riparian grant category to complement the board's existing salmon recovery efforts, and the board was directed to use "existing structures, processes, procedures, policies, and criteria developed pursuant to chapter 77.85 RCW."

To that end, staff developed targeted policies to administer this new funding, largely focused on which existing project types would be eligible.

During this process and subsequent outreach after completion of the 2024 grant round, staff received feedback that could not be incorporated in the grant round, either because of the limited timeline or because it fell outside the guidance in the budget proviso. In addition, there have been several other concurrent efforts or processes related to riparian funding in Washington state:

- In the 2023-2025 biennial budget, the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) received \$25 million to support riparian related restoration and protection efforts. WSCC has since developed interim guidelines for its Riparian Grant Program and is actively soliciting projects from conservation district partners.
- During 2024, a series of well-attended riparian workshops were hosted across Puget Sound by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). These workshops were designed to solicit local input on needs, barriers, and opportunities related to grant funding for riparian-specific efforts.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has awarded the Department of Ecology funds through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office to develop a grant program to improve the climate resiliency of riparian systems in Puget Sound. The development of this program during the summer and fall of 2024, in partnership with WSCC and BEF, involved significant engagement to highlight issues and opportunities that would inform the funding approach.

These efforts have produced constructive feedback from a diverse range of technical experts and funders that should be considered as part of an examination of the board's riparian-specific program.

Key Takeaways

Below are some examples of frequently noted input that is directly relevant to the board's riparian grant-making efforts:

- The use of board funding (non-riparian specific) for riparian work has traditionally been limited relative to other projects such as design and in-stream restoration. This may be in part because proposed riparian projects may not necessarily score well at the lead entity level.

- Riparian planting and stewardship work require different expertise and planning approaches than other types of projects (i.e., in-stream restoration work). Typically, these projects have a lower design threshold, with a standard approach and specifications within a particular region that is adapted in the field to the specific nature of the site.
- The most important opportunities for riparian restoration can often be on private land that has previously been converted for agricultural use or development. The nature of working with private landowners means opportunities can come and go quickly, placing a premium on the ability to secure funds quickly.
- Restoration and stewardship work often relies on the use of field crews working across many different sites at one time. Predictable, dedicated funding over multiple years helps to retain well-trained staff, which is important for project success and program efficiency.
- A critical component of successful riparian restoration is long-term maintenance and adaptive management. At least five to seven years may be needed to help ensure successful establishment of plantings, with variable capacity required across different sites and in different years.

Collectively, these unique features may indicate the need to think differently about how the board administers riparian-specific funding moving forward, and to consider approaches that differ from traditional policies and processes.

Statewide Context

In addition to these past efforts and input, there have been new developments relative to statewide policy and funding with relevance for the board's riparian-specific grant-making. In May of 2024, the Riparian Taskforce released its [final report and recommendations](#) for policy and spending to improve riparian habitat to support salmon and steelhead recovery. Among other things, these draft recommendations call for the adoption or amendment of riparian watershed-based implementation strategies; funding to develop these strategies; and "sufficient, flexible, reliable, and rapidly accessible long-term funding" to implement priority actions identified in the strategies.

In addition, the board's prior riparian-specific funding was allotted through the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which remains a possible funding source to support riparian projects and momentum around a watershed-based approach to prioritize riparian investments. As such, this may be an opportune time to look more deliberately at how

the board's policies and processes can best leverage this context, while incorporating the wealth of feedback and input that has been received to date.

Desired Outcomes

Given past efforts and input, as well as the current statewide context, staff would recommend examining the opportunity to support a more "programmatic" relationship between board funding and riparian-specific work at the local level. For the purposes of future discussion and policy development, this approach would be defined by the following desired outcomes:

- **Stable, dedicated funding (program level)** – Larger funding amount guaranteed across multiple biennia to maintain an effective riparian program at the watershed level.
- **Flexible, strategic scope (project level)** – More flexible application of funding across reaches, project types, and partners as guided by an implementation plan or strategy.
- **Quick, effective oversight (parcel level)** – More responsive internal agency reviews relative to emergent on-the-ground opportunities outside of the traditional grant round.

Timeline

Staff are proposing to take on this effort starting in 2025. This would involve a combination of external listening sessions, internal analysis and assessment, and multiple touch points with the board to receive direction on specific options and next steps.

Potential Areas of Inquiry

Given past efforts and input, the current statewide context, and proposed desired outcomes, staff would recommend focusing on the following areas of inquiry:

- **Riparian Strategies:** What should a riparian strategy include, both substantive components and scope? Would such a strategy allow sponsors to request programmatic/block grants for acquisition, riparian planting, and/or stewardship projects?
- **Technical Review:** Are there alternate options for technical review of acquisition, riparian planting, and stewardship proposals that would be more responsive, continue to ensure the likelihood of project success and provide accountability?

- **Contracting:** Are there possible mechanisms might allow for an increase in multi-year funding commitments for riparian efforts within the current regional allocation and annual grant round?

Board Direction

As we consider moving forward, staff have the following questions for the board to help inform the scope and approach for this effort:

- Do you perceive a similar opportunity to think differently and more long-term about riparian funding?
- Do you agree with the desired outcomes these changes should be trying to address?
- Do you have any concerns about the specific areas currently proposed for further examination?

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: December 18-19, 2024

Title: Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Overview & 2025-2027 Capital Budget Request

Prepared By: Catherine Buchalski Smith, ESRP Program Manager, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and Kay Caromile, Grants Manager, Recreation and Conservation Office

Summary

Staff will provide an overview of the Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program describing how the four program funding opportunities provide key investments to improve Puget Sound ecosystem health.

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

Since 2006, the [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program \(ESRP\)](#) has provided capital funding and technical assistance to protect and restore nearshore habitats across Puget Sound. Healthy and abundant nearshore habitats for eelgrass, shellfish, forage fish, Chinook and other salmon species are crucial to salmon recovery. A strong link to science, paired with an ecosystem-scale approach, ensures ESRP's investments are strategic, and the program's efforts translate into resilient estuaries, bays, and shorelines. To date, this program has invested over \$92.5 million to improve Puget Sound.

ESRP is a partnership between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Recreation and Conservation Office. It is comprised of four distinct grant programs:

- Restoration and Protection
- Small Grants
- Regional Pre-Design/Learning Grants

- Shore Friendly

Catherine Buchalski Smith, Jenna Jewett, and Dr. Tish Conway-Cranos from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Kay Caromile and Bob Warinner from the Recreation and Conservation Office, will give an overview of ESRP's four grant programs, with special emphasis on the Shore Friendly and Regional Pre-Design/Learning grants. They will discuss how these grant programs work cohesively to fund nearshore restoration, the approach to weaving the four programs into a single ranked list, how ESRP projects support and complement Salmon Recovery Funding Board investments, and share a snapshot of the program's \$27,532,663 capital request for the 2025-2027 state legislative session.

Attachment

- A. The 2025-2027 ESRP Preliminary Investment Plan, <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/ESRP-InvestPlan-2025.pdf>.



Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

2025-2027 Preliminary Investment Plan



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



Rank	PRISM Number	Program-Project Type ¹	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Award	Running Total Includes 10 percent requested administration	Legislative District	County
1	24-1250	Portfolio R&P-Restoration	DeMolay Sandspit Bulkhead Removal Implementation	Pierce County Conservation District	\$650,605	\$715,666	26	Pierce
2	24-1200	R&P-Acquisition	Double Bluff Acquisition	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	\$1,950,000	\$2,860,666	10	Island
3	23-1890	Small Grants–Restoration ²	Filucy Bay Shoreline Armor Removal	Pierce County Conservation District	\$150,000	\$3,025,666	26	Pierce
4	24-1916	RPD-Planning	Shoreline Armor Removal Planning Phase Two	Cramer Fish Sciences	\$390,780	\$3,455,524	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
5	24-1280	R&P-Acquisition	Dewatto Estuary Protection	Great Peninsula Conservancy	\$3,300,000	\$7,085,524	35	Mason
6	24-1903	RPD-Planning	Coastal Inlets and Estuaries Tidal Sizing Guidance Phase Two	Environmental Science Associates	\$174,600	\$7,277,584	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
7	23-1850	Small Grants–Restoration ²	Adelma Beach Bulkhead Removal and Restoration	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation	\$150,000	\$7,442,584	24	Jefferson
8	24-1227	R&P-Restoration	zis a ba Phase Two Restoration-Construction Supplemental	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	\$1,020,000	\$8,564,584	10	Snohomish
9	24-1901	RPD-Planning	Water Resource Inventory Area 10/12 Embayment Small Coastal Stream Restoration Planning	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	\$250,000	\$8,839,584	22, 26, 27, 28	Thurston, Pierce
10	23-1842	Small Grants–Restoration ²	Battle Point Smith Armor Removal and Riparian	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$148,911	\$9,003,386	23	Kitsap
11	24-1914	RPD-Planning	Restoration Guidelines for Natural Channel Levees	Skagit River System Cooperative	\$88,482	\$9,100,716	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
12	24-1205	R&P-Restoration	Still Harbor Phase Two-Armor Removal	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$406,011	\$9,547,328	28	Pierce

¹Program: R&P=Restoration and Protection, RPD= Regional Pre-design

²These projects were identified and developed into implementation-ready projects through the Shore Friendly Program project development pipeline.

Rank	PRISM Number	Program-Project Type ¹	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Award	Running Total	Legislative District	County
						Includes 10 percent requested administration		
13	24-1121	R&P-Acquisition and Restoration	California Creek Estuary East	Whatcom Land Trust	\$369,263	\$9,953,517	42	Whatcom
14	24-1182	R&P-Acquisition and Restoration	Maury Island Aquatic Reserve Armoring Removal Phase Four	King County Water and Land Resources Division	\$1,150,000	\$11,218,517	34	King
15	24-1902	RPD-Planning	Juvenile Chinook Non-natal Habitat Restoration Planning	King County Water and Land Resources Division	\$216,099	\$11,456,226	21,23, 26, 32, 30,33, 34, 36, 43	King, Kitsap, Snohomish
16	23-1900	R&P-Planning	Little Quilcene River Estuary Preliminary Design	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$272,160	\$11,755,602	24	Jefferson
17	24-1907	RPD-Planning	Beach Change Analysis for Restoration Planning	Washington Department of Ecology	\$119,982	\$11,887,582	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
18	24-1207	Shore Friendly-Planning	Shore Friendly South Sound Collaborative 2025-2027	Pierce County Conservation District	\$1,475,000	\$13,510,082	22, 26, 27, 28, 35	Mason, Thurston, Pierce
19	24-1144	Shore Friendly-Planning	Shore Friendly Kitsap 2025-2027	Kitsap County	\$700,000	\$14,280,082	23, 26, 35	Kitsap
20	24-1291	Shore Friendly-Planning	Shore Friendly-Northwest Straits 2025-2027	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation	\$1,775,000	\$16,232,582	10, 21, 24, 38, 40, 42	Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Jefferson, Clallam, Snohomish, Island
21	24-1183	Shore Friendly-Planning	Shore Friendly King County Program 2025-2027	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$450,000	\$16,727,582	30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 43, 46	King
22	24-1307	Shore Friendly-Planning	Swinomish Shore Friendly Program 2025-2027	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	\$300,000	\$17,057,582	10	Skagit
23	24-1300	Shore Friendly-Planning	Island County Shore Friendly Program 2025-2027	Island County	\$300,000	\$17,387,582	10	Island
24	24-1905	RPD-Planning	Avian Communities Informing Estuary Restoration	Ecostudies Institute	\$275,000	\$17,690,082	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
25	24-1912	RPD-Planning	Web-based Viewer of Beach Topographic Data	Washington Department of Ecology	\$86,914	\$17,785,688	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
26	24-1904	RPD-Planning	Bluff Recession Analysis for Restoration Planning	Herrera Environmental Consult	\$154,820	\$17,955,990	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
27	24-1030	R&P-Restoration	Spencer Island Estuary Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,500,000	\$19,605,990	38	Snohomish
28	24-1915	RPD-Planning	Guidelines for Large Wood in Low Tide Pool Habitat	Skagit River System Cooperative	\$174,962	\$19,798,448	10	Skagit
29	24-1185	R&P-Restoration	Twanoh State Park Shoreline Restoration Phase Two	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$1,227,569	\$21,148,774	35	Mason

Rank	PRISM Number	Program-Project Type ¹	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Award	Running Total	Legislative District	County
						Includes 10 percent requested administration		
30	24-1910	RPD-Planning	Shoreline Sediment Characteristics for Restoration	University of Washington	\$33,493	\$21,185,616	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
31	24-1023	R&P-Planning, Acquisition, and Restoration	Padilla and Samish Bays Protection and Planning Two	Skagit Land Trust	\$1,499,200	\$22,834,736	40	Skagit
32	24-1906	RPD-Planning	Beach Nourishment Design Considerations in Puget Sound	Natural Systems Design	\$210,281	\$23,066,045	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
33	24-1086	R&P-Planning	Tahuya Estuary Bridge Preliminary Design	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$724,472	\$23,862,964	35	Mason
34	24-1251	R&P-Acquisition	Enetai Shoreline Protection	Great Peninsula Conservancy	\$3,040,200	\$27,207,184	23	Kitsap
35	23-1868	R&P-Restoration ²	Dyes Inlet Lagoon Bulkhead Removal	Kitsap County Community Development	\$295,890	\$27,532,663	23	Kitsap
Total Request					\$25,029,694	\$27,532,663		
Alternate Projects Below								
36	24-1911	RPD-Planning	Coastal Stream Delta Evaluation for Restoration	Washington Department of Ecology	\$85,000	\$27,626,163	Puget Sound wide	Puget Sound wide
37	24-1127	R&P-Planning	Sound View Camp Nearshore Restoration	Nisqually Land Trust	\$220,000	\$27,868,163	26	Pierce
38	24-1137	R&P-Planning	Clayton Beach Nearshore Restoration	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation	\$100,000	\$27,978,163	40	Skagit
39	24-1011	R&P-Planning	Lilliwaup Creek Restoration Feasibility	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$150,000	\$28,143,163	35	Mason
40	24-1252	R&P-Restoration ²	Dewey Beach Armor Removal	Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation	\$427,208	\$28,613,092	10	Skagit
41	24-1089	R&P-Planning	Deschutes Estuary Restoration	Washington Department of Enterprise Services	\$400,000	\$28,613,092	22	Thurston

Notes:

This preliminary investment plan weaves together the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)'s four grant program offerings: Restoration and Protection (R&P), Regional Pre-design (RPD), Small Grants, and Shore Friendly.

The streamlined "portfolio" designation is reserved for projects that have completed feasibility design and ranked well in a previous ESRP investment plan. This designation allows high-performing project sponsors to request funding to complete the next phase of priority projects through a streamlined application process, and to be placed at the top of subsequent Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program investment plans.

Several of the Regional Pre-design projects will result in planning guidance applicable to restoration projects in any part of Puget Sound and are denoted as "Puget Sound wide" in the "Legislative District" and "County" columns.



November 6, 2024

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group. **Your support makes continuing efforts to restore salmon habitat, remove migration barriers, and engage our community possible.** We are grateful for your interest in and support of the successful habitat restoration work and education programs being done for salmon in the Skagit Valley.

As we near the end of another year, I am asking for your continued support by **becoming a member today.** Membership donations help fund valuable salmon education programs. Kids are getting out of the classroom and excited about learning through participation in our Salmon in the Schools and Kids in Creeks programs. **However, we need your support to help meet the growing demand for these education programs in our community.** Will you become a member or consider a donation to help raise \$40,000 to expand salmon education programs in our schools next year? Your gift to help meet this goal will enable the *Salmon in the Schools* program to engage more elementary students, continue the *Kids in Creeks* program for middle and high school students, and provide college students with paid internships at Skagit Fisheries to help further their conservation careers.

This year we are excited to start **new partnerships that expand our ability to reach a diversity of students.** For the first time, we will offer Salmon in the Schools to the Salish Sea Deaf School. We are thrilled to engage these new students in learning about salmon and exploring their watershed. We are also forging partnerships to pilot a new program "*A River Journey or Viaje Por El Rio*" with Mount Vernon students. We are working with a variety of other entities to expand our Kids in Creeks program, to get even more students out exploring and learning about the Skagit Watershed from the mountains to the sea. We greatly appreciate being able to offer these opportunities to a growing number of students in our community, however we need your support to ensure these programs are successful and continue.

Our staff, AmeriCorps members, student interns, and volunteers work tremendously hard to engage over **1,500 students annually** in education programs that are getting kids out of classrooms and exploring watersheds, testing water quality, raising salmon, and learning about how to be good stewards of salmon habitat. Getting future generations out exploring the wonders of the Skagit Valley is an incredibly valuable step to ensuring a healthy future for our salmon and our communities.

In addition to education programs, we have many habitat restoration projects planned for this coming year. These projects include removing 3 fish passage barriers on local creeks, conducting significant stream restoration at Little Carey's Creek near Hamilton, and planting over 35,000 native trees and shrubs to improve habitat along waterways.

We are thrilled to have so many new opportunities planned for next year and are grateful for your help to make these projects and programs possible. **However, funds are still needed** to help meet the growing demand for salmon education programs. **Your donation can enable us to say YES to more teachers requesting education programs.**

Please consider becoming a member today. Your gift is restoring habitat and enabling future generations to enjoy salmon, wildlife, and the scenic Skagit Valley you love.

Gratefully,



Alison Studley
Executive Director

P.S Visit www.SkagitFisheries.org/ways-to-give to make your donation or explore other ways you can give, including tax-smart gifts through an IRA, Donor Advised Fund, or even making a gift of stock.





The Outstanding Cascade River Gains Protection



SLT staff Kari Odden stands next to some of the larger trees on the new property.

Too silty, too warm, too stagnant – a lot can go wrong when it comes to salmon habitat, especially if you’re a mother salmon looking for just the right place to dig a “redd” (gravel nest) to lay her eggs. Although salmon may seem less maternal than bears or birds, these amazing fish have their own ways of protecting their offspring. Avoiding muddy or silty gravel keeps the eggs from getting smothered. Good water speed makes sure the eggs stay sufficiently cool and oxygenated. The right size and shape of gravel also matters for incubating and protecting the eggs.

Many of the Cascade River’s side channels and tributaries meet mother salmon’s strict criteria. This is one of many reasons that Skagit Land Trust (SLT or the Trust) has conserved 1.9 miles of Cascade River shoreline. Last month, we purchased over seven more acres of lovely, forested land in the river’s migration zone, near Marblemount.

Part of the property lies above the 100-year floodplain and features substantial conifers and a lush, ferny understory with relatively few invasive plants. The portion within the floodplain protects 285 feet of the north bank of the Cascade River and 450 feet of Lyric Creek, a salmon-bearing tributary that runs through the property.

Continued on page 3...

Board President's Letter to Members

Dear Friends and Supporters of Skagit Land Trust,

As we enter the season of joyful giving and gratitude, I am especially thankful to live in this beautiful place and be part of a community that values the protection of the special lands we have here in the Skagit. These gifts enabled me to travel with my granddaughter last summer up into the majestic North Cascade mountains and down to the magical shores of the San Juan Islands. I shared her delight in walking forest trails, finding huge trees, seeing moss-covered logs, learning about plants, playing in the sand, and spotting fish as we paddled over eelgrass beds. In thinking about her future, I am struck by the need to continue protecting and caring for these lovely places.

Skagit Land Trust members have helped to preserve thousands of acres of land and miles of shoreline since our beginnings 32 years ago, and those numbers grow each year. Since the Trust is also responsible for stewarding the land and resources that have been entrusted to us, our stewardship needs also grow as our conserved areas expand. There is continuing work to protect plants and wildlife, restore habitat, remove non-native plants, monitor for illegal uses such as dumping, check boundaries for encroachments, and help people learn about the land.

Stewardship can be defined as careful, responsible management. It is also a way to express our love and gratitude for the lands under our care. We must continue this work to ensure that future generations get to enjoy these special places as well. Perhaps the best gift I can give my granddaughter is not only a love of visiting these places, but also a sense of shared responsibility in stewarding them. In working with all of you, I find joy in knowing that our lands will be here for many generations to come. Thank you for doing this work with us.

~ Kathy Thornburgh, Board President



Engaging Future Stewards of These Lands

When kids in our youth programs visit a Trust property for the first time it can be much like Alice Through the Looking Glass. You watch their cautious steps into an unknown environment turn to bold exploration as they run to see what is around the corner of the trail. They are curious to learn more about the world around them.

Through monthly field trips with the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth program, spring visits to our Utopia Conservation Area by Sedro-Woolley second graders, and local high school students using Barney Lake to gather real data for classroom learning, we are working to connect youth with the natural landscape of the Skagit. These experiences build a sense of place for students. They also connect the dots between clean water in the river and clean water at their kitchen sink.

Nature has an extraordinary capacity to recharge us and connect us to a broader world. It reduces stress and anxiety and improves mental and physical health. When students help us plant trees or tug out ivy, the pride in their work shows on their faces. They also develop a sense of responsibility for the care of their environment. We see their gratitude in the thank you cards that arrive after these fieldtrips. These are just a few of the impressions we get each year. We wanted to share them to thank our members and partners for making these moments in nature possible. You are inspiring the next generation of stewards!



Continued from page 1...

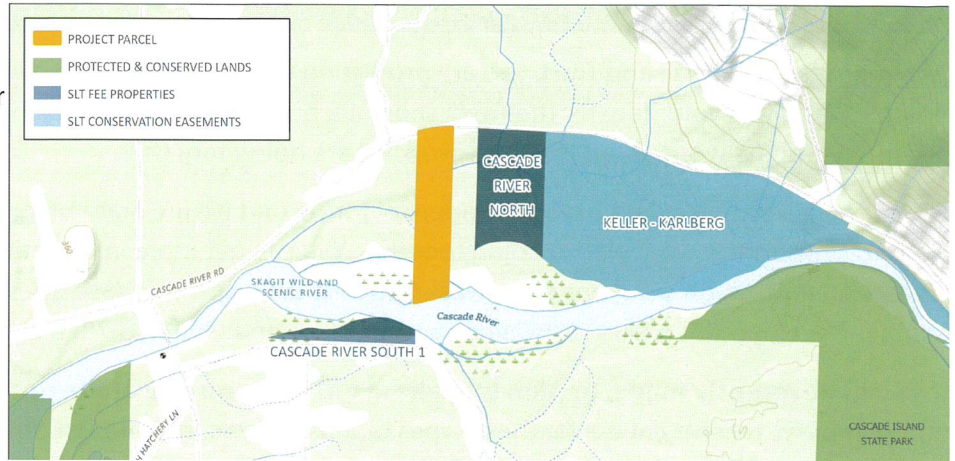
“It’s a very fishy place – all five species of salmon and steelhead can be found here,” says Conservation Project Manager Jessica Lange, who worked on the purchase. The Cascade River holds so much value for salmon that Washington State’s Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) prioritizes protection and stewardship of properties like this new acquisition.

The new acreage expands the Trust’s Cascade River Conservation Area and builds off the protection of the nearby privately-owned Cascade River–Keller/Karlberg Conservation Easement. With the addition of the new land, Skagit Land Trust now protects a total of 241 acres along this vital waterway.

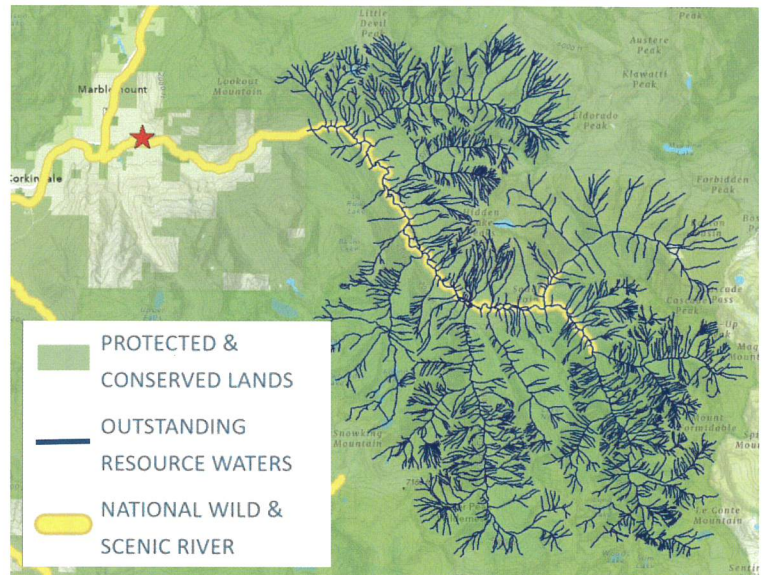
The Cascade River areas we protect connect with other conserved areas. This section of the Cascade River is part of the Skagit River’s Wild and Scenic River system. Last year, the headwaters area of the Cascade River above it earned further distinction and protection as the first Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) in Washington State. This ORW designation happened thanks to advocacy from Washington Wild and 53 other organizations, including Skagit Land Trust. The Cascade headwaters were awarded this significant designation due to the river’s excellent water quality, ecological significance, and recreational value.

Conserving land can feel like a long swim against a strong current, but we must continue our work if we want our waterways to retain the cool, clear characteristics that support salmon. Many thanks to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SFRB) and our members for funding the acquisition of this beautiful new stretch of shoreline and forest.

As with all of Skagit Land Trust’s acquisitions, purchasing the property is just the start of our work. The SLT community is now tasked with stewarding these lands in perpetuity. That can be a daunting task with site clean-up of structures needed and replanting of native trees desired. However, thanks to member and volunteer support, we look forward to caring for this bend of the river for years to come.



STATE AND FEDERAL CONSERVED LANDS



Sockeye salmon, close to spawning time.



Cascade River, on a sunny fall day - picture courtesy of Steve Philbrick.

Thank you for all the ways you support conservation here in the Skagit!

As a member of Skagit Land Trust, you are protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife habitat that make Skagit County special. When you volunteer for the Trust, shop at a business that supports the Trust, and share our posts online, you are spreading the word about the great work we are doing together.

Donations also come to the Trust in a variety of forms, and we are grateful for each of them. Below are a few popular ways to support the work we are doing together. You can get more information on all of these options by clicking on the donate button on our website, www.skagitlandtrust.org. If you have questions about donation options, please contact Development & Outreach Director Laura Hartner at 360-428-7878 or laurah@skagitlandtrust.org.

If you have recently made, or plan to make, a gift through one of the options below, please let us know.

Sometimes we receive checks for these types of gifts with no information on the donor or if the gift is intended for a specific project. This means we are unable to direct the gift to the desired project or send the donor a thank you letter acknowledging their gift. **If you recently made a gift to Skagit Land Trust but haven't received a thank you letter, please contact us** at 360-428-7878 or info@skagitlandtrust.org.



Make a QCD from your IRA

If you are 73, you can make a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA account** directly to the Trust. That gift counts towards your required minimum distribution. Studies show that gifting directly from your IRA is one of the most tax beneficial ways of giving to causes you care about. While donations can't be claimed as a charitable deduction, donors can realize substantial benefits by reducing their taxable income. You can make a one-time QCD gift, set up a recurring gift, or designate the Trust as a beneficiary of your IRA. **QCDs need to be received and deposited by SLT by 12/31/24 to count for 2024 taxes.**



Donor Advised Funds

For many donors, **DAF's are an excellent way to both simplify charitable giving** and facilitate strategic philanthropic goals. A donor may be able to itemize and thus take a tax deduction by making a larger gift to a DAF in one year, from which annual gifts can be made over several years.

DAFs can be funded through gifts of cash or securities. Contributing appreciated securities provides added tax savings as there are no taxes on the capital gains. The money you give is directed over the course of several grants to the charities you recommend.



Donate Stocks or Securities

Transferring appreciated stocks is one of the most powerful and tax-savvy ways to contribute to Skagit Land Trust. If you were to cash out your appreciated stocks and make a cash gift, you would have to pay capital gains taxes. However, **if you transfer the stocks directly to the Trust, you may avoid the tax and deduct the full amount of your stock as a charitable donation on your tax return!** Donating stocks, bonds, and mutual funds can be an easy way to give to the Trust. Many of our supporters choose to take advantage of this smart way to give. Please contact the Trust for forms you can give your broker.



Make a Recurring Gift

Skagit Sustainers give automatic monthly or quarterly donations rather than making one annual membership contribution. This minimizes our mailing costs and paper use, which allows us to do even more with your dollar. Knowing a steady source of revenue will be coming in helps us stretch. We can put a down payment on a property, plan for stewardship projects to restore habitat, connect more of our community with our lands and waters, and inspire the next generation to continue to conserve and care for the magical Skagit. Gifts can be set up online or by calling us at 360-428-7878.

Make Twice The Impact for Local Conservation on Giving Tuesday

Mark your calendars for December 3rd

On Giving Tuesday (December 3rd), you can make a difference in the protection and stewardship of the Skagit. Your gift will power the work we are doing together to conserve and care for our lands, waters, and wildlife. Our natural world is one of the things that makes living in this part of Washington so special. We need your help to keep these ecosystems healthy, thriving, and preserved.



Your donation for Giving Tuesday will go twice as far, thanks to a \$30,000 challenge fund from a group of generous members!

You can have a huge impact on local conservation in the coming year by making a gift during Giving Tuesday.



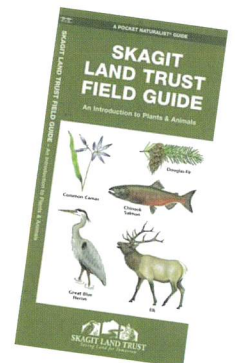
SLT's Volunteer and Educations Program Coordinator, Stacy Dahl, showing children a beaver skull at Barney Lake.

You can also plant the seed of a conservation ethic in the next generation.

Here at Skagit Land Trust, one of our goals is to inspire the next generation to care about the natural lands of the Skagit. We do this by bringing students out to learn on Trust lands, and by supporting partners with their efforts to connect the community to the outdoors. **This year Skagit Land Trust is partnering with the Mount Vernon Parks & Enrichment Department on their "Explore Outdoors" program.**

When you donate \$120 or more to Skagit Land Trust on Giving Tuesday, we'll donate a Skagit Land Trust field guide to the Explore Outdoors

program. Our goal is to have member support for 150 field guides to give to youth. This is a great opportunity to support two organizations working to connect and educate our community on the importance of natural spaces.



Want to make your Giving Tuesday gift help throughout the year? Rise to our Skagit Sustainer Challenge! We're looking for 50 members to become new Skagit Sustainers, who make a recurring monthly or quarterly gift to the Trust. Ongoing gifts from sustaining members allow the Trust to have funds on hand when the chance to save a special place arises.

Thanks to a generous match from a Trust board member, we have a dedicated \$6,000 match for all new Skagit Sustainers' gifts. Your recurring donation will be doubled for the value of your full year of giving and go twice as far to protect and care for lands in the Skagit in the year to come.



Children connecting with nature and each other at an SLT preserve on Samish Island.

Giving Tuesday is about looking for ways to support the issues you care about. Here at Skagit Land Trust, **we are grateful for your commitment to local conservation.** Thanks to your membership, critical natural lands in the Skagit will be here for generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.

Interested in making your Giving Tuesday donation through a gift of stock, IRA, or a Donor Advised Fund? Please contact Development & Outreach Director, Laura Hartner at laurah@skagitlandtrust.org.

Stewarding Barney Lake with Help from Beavers

Many of us have good meals on our minds as the holidays approach and the weather cools – and the beavers at our Barney Lake Conservation Area are no exception. In the fall, these industrious creatures prepare for winter by storing food underwater, near their lodges. While some of us may prefer holiday turkey or ham, beaver are strict vegetarians. They eat aquatic plants such as water lilies, sedges, rushes, and cattails, as well as the inner bark, twigs, and leaves of deciduous trees like willow, alder, cottonwood, aspen, maple, and birch.

Although they do not find coniferous trees as tasty, beavers do sometimes fell young conifers (as well as deciduous trees) when building dams.



Resourceful beavers incorporate past SLT plantings into their dam at Trumpeter Creek.

Unlike some deciduous species, young conifers do not usually survive being cut by beavers. This creates a conundrum at Barney Lake, where Skagit Land Trust's (SLT's or the Trust's) stewardship team and volunteers have been planting species such as spruce and cedar to grow a natural, treed shoreline that will cool and shade the water that salmon rely on. Thus we have been installing temporary fences to protect the young conifers we replanted along the edge of Trumpeter Creek, which feeds into Barney Lake.

These plantings are part of a larger effort to support a riparian zone

along Trumpeter Creek. Before the area came into the care of Skagit Land Trust, the creek had been pushed into a straight line and used as an agricultural drainage ditch. Several years ago, SLT and partners took the opportunity to re-meander the creek to restore water quality and fish habitat.

Since then, we also have replanted the area to create shade and habitat. At a recent work party in September of this year, two great teams of volunteers helped prepare fencing materials to protect our conifer plantings from those impressive beavers.

No need to worry, however – the Barney Lake beavers still have plenty of choices for snacking and dam-building. The area has some deciduous tree species like willow and dogwood, which often survive beaver activity by resprouting with multiple new stems. In fact, beaver activity in the fall often leads to greater growth the following spring as beaver-pruned trees can grow back bushier than before.



A dogwood that has survived beaver cutting and regrown.

Beavers are a keystone species that create wetlands – an especially important ability now when we have lost an estimated 80%-90% of historical wetlands in the low-elevation areas of Puget Sound. Beaver activity enhances watershed resiliency by adding complexity to rivers and streams, storing sediment, and increasing groundwater retention. By slowing down water movement, beaver dams serve as refuges where fish such as juvenile Coho salmon can forage while saving energy. The dams create pond habitat for plants and invertebrates that attract amphibians and fish, which then attract birds and mammals.



A beaver pauses for a moment of rest next to its dam.



Volunteers put protective fencing around young conifers at Barney Lake.

Continues on next page...

The Trust's stewardship team takes inspiration from the beaver and all the other wild beings who belong here in the Skagit. At Barney Lake and elsewhere, we do our best to work with beavers and other species and natural processes to create balanced ecosystems where all can thrive.

Stewardship work takes time and resources, but it is central to Skagit Land Trust's mission. We are grateful to care for this land for the benefit of all of the wildlife who live here and the people that benefit from these healthy natural resources.



Trumpeter Creek restoration plantings flourish along the creek bank with fencing in place.

Volunteer Spotlight: Phil McCloud

Like many of the members and volunteers drawn to the Skagit Land Trust (SLT) community, Phil McCloud has long seen the importance of conserving natural lands and wild areas. When he and his wife moved to Skagit County ten years ago, that focus turned to local action they could take. They became members of the Trust and attended events.

Soon Phil wanted to do more. "Kathy Thornburg helped me find a volunteer job with Skagit Land Trust that suited my talents," he says. "She got me assigned to the Facilities Committee and it has been a good fit for me."

Almost immediately, Phil was able to apply his carpentry skills to our buildings and structures because the facilities committee helps keep SLT's office in working order. During Phil's first summer volunteering with the Trust, the facilities committee replaced all the drafty office windows. This was the first big project Phil undertook for SLT, and it was much needed and appreciated by our staff as winter arrived!

Phil also brought with him 35 years of professional experience as an Agricultural Engineer for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. With a background in large wetland restoration, Phil has seen how restoring and preserving such areas has a positive effect on the environment and surrounding communities around them. This experience has helped him understand and appreciate the Skagit Land Trust's work.

"I admired the work of SLT from a distance, and getting more involved as a volunteer has deepened my appreciation," Phil says. "All of the people I've met through the Trust, whether staff or volunteers, have been great to work with." Needless to say, we feel the same way about Phil! We are extremely grateful to him for sharing his skills and experience with the Skagit Land Trust community.



Above: Phil (left), Hal Lee (center), and Paul Engels (right), installing new windows at the SLT office.

Skagit Land Trust's community is fueled by volunteers like Phil who bring their knowledge, talents, and time to support local conservation. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer? You are always welcome! Volunteering with SLT is a great way to connect with diverse lands and communities across Skagit County. You can visit our website to sign-up for a work party, or contact Stacy Dahl, our Volunteer & Education Programs Coordinator, to see how your skills can be used to further our mission of local conservation: stacyd@skagitlandtrust.org or call 360-428-7878 x212.

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Saving Land for Tomorrow

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Skagit Land Trust conserves wildlife habitat, agricultural and forest lands, scenic open space and shorelines for the benefit of our community and as a legacy for future generations.

PO Box 1017 • 1020 S Third Street
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RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE



*****3-DIGIT 985

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

S: 1265
T: 9
B: 3

Upcoming Events

#OPT OUTSIDE:

Family Friendly Nature Walk @10am, 11/29: This event will offer some family friendly nature activities at a special SLT preserve on Samish Island.

WORK PARTIES:

March Point Heronry Annual Maintenance Visit - Rare opportunity to visit the heronry
Saturday, November 23rd @ 10am - 12pm

Planting Trees at Minkler Lake
Friday, December 6th @ 9am - 12pm

Barney Lake Conservation Area Stewardship Maintenance
Thursday, December 12th @ 9am - 12pm

Live Willow Stake Planting at Barney Lake
Friday, December 13th @ 9am - 12pm

SAVE THE DATES:

lluminight 1/31/25

Swanrises and **Goodnight Swan Events** in January and February at our Barney Lake Conservation Area.



The lands conserved and protected by Skagit Land Trust have been inhabited and stewarded by numerous tribes and Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. We recognize and respect the inherent, indigenous, and treaty rights of the Coast Salish People who have deep and abiding connections to these places. We seek to partner with local tribes as we conserve and care for these lands and waters.



Samish Island Project Partnership Thrives

This summer Skagit Land Trust (the Trust) added 50 feet of shoreline on Padilla Bay to our Samish Island Conservation Area with help from a federal National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant as well as Trust reserve funds. This latest addition continues a decades-long effort to conserve the forested uplands and approach via an isthmus to Samish Island.

"This Conservation Area is a wonderfully diverse ecosystem with old growth forest, wetlands, and former salt marsh habitat. This addition protects more shoreline, expands beach access, and allows us to think even more broadly about how to best steward and restore habitat," says Kari Odden, one of the Trust's Conservation Project Managers.

The area, stewarded by the Coast Salish people for thousands of years, once contained extensive salt marsh habitat before dike construction in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A wide slough ran through the marsh near Samish Island and was used by the Samish people to reach their village, A7ts'iquen. According to the Samish Indian Nation historical timeline, the Samish left this village in the 1870's after the planks and beams of their longhouse were taken by settlers.

Todd Woodard, Infrastructure and Resources Executive Director for the Samish Indian Nation, emphasizes the cultural significance of habitat protection and restoration: "The protection and restoration of habitat is important to the Samish People because of their cultural connection to salmonids and all that they support."

The land at the entrance to the Island was managed by the Stewart/Murphy and Squires families for over a century. Skagit Land Trust worked with many generations of the two families to get this land conserved. Thanks to the families, community donations, project partners, as well as federal, state, and private grants, 156 acres and 1.4 miles of marine shoreline have been protected here.

A unique aspect of the conserved land is its tidal marsh. Of the 7,000 acres of historic tidal marsh and tidal swamp that buffered Padilla Bay, less than 3% remain. In 2022, Skagit Land Trust and the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research

Continued on page 3...

...Samish continued from page 1

Reserve (PBNERR) began a partnership to explore the possibility of restoring tidal marsh. Last year, PBNERR received grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to purchase 74.5 acres from the Skagit Land Trust just south of the Samish Island Conservation Area. Together, the Reserve and Skagit Land Trust are now exploring viability and options for salt marsh restoration on their properties. The two partners have hired Blue Coast Engineering to help them assess this.



“We’re excited to collaborate with Skagit Land Trust, Samish Indian Nation, dike & drainage districts, Skagit County, farmers, neighbors, shellfish growers, and the Samish Island community to restore salt marsh habitat on the Samish Isthmus,” says PBNERR Director Dr. Jude Apple.

“This habitat is vital for supporting a diverse range of ecologically and economically important species, including Dungeness crabs, juvenile salmon, and herons. We’re committed to working closely with our partners to develop a restoration plan that benefits and balances ecosystem, community, and cultural values.”

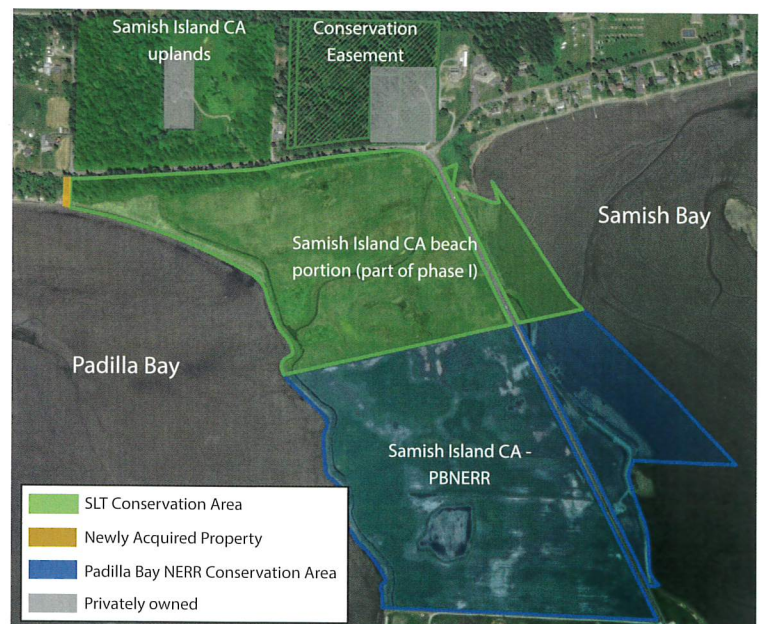
Marsh habitat provides critical wildlife habitat and helps protect developed land from coastal flooding. It is one of the most powerful storage systems for carbon and is vital for many at-risk and endangered species. The small amount of tidal marsh that remains in Padilla and Samish Bays is at risk from sea-level rise, storm surges, and armoring of shorelines. Restoring tidal wetlands and shallow nearshore areas on the Samish Isthmus will provide habitat for numerous marine species, native fish, birds, and native plants.

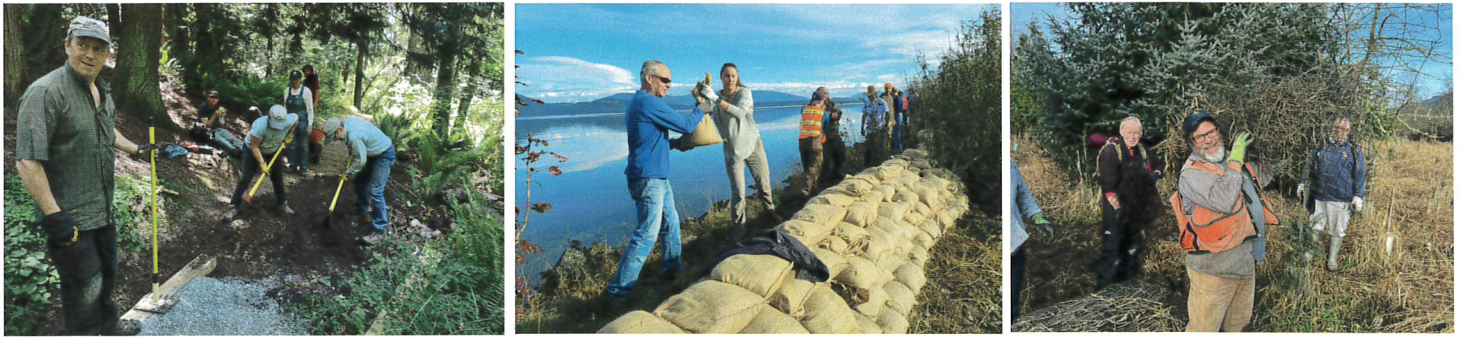
The restoration project can also help with community resilience. The dikes on this part of the isthmus were never systematically maintained and are in poor condition. Saltwater intrusion has caused concern for farmers. The road which serves Samish Island is below sea level and will flood more frequently with sea-level rise. Working with the community and partners including the Dike District and Skagit County, this project can assist in improving local resilience and reducing the threat of road closures due to coastal flooding. A restoration project may assist in elevating the road and/or improving dikes. Green infrastructure such as tidal marsh can reduce vulnerability to coastal flooding and sea level rise while offering a sanctuary for wildlife and providing educational opportunities to view nature. The project will ensure that local drainage is maintained or improved for the agricultural lands and residences to the south.

“During 2021 and 2022, our district experienced the most devastating coastal storms since its formation in 1890. Such incidents are likely to continue due to the threats posed by climate change and sea-level rise,” says Norm Hoffman, Dike District 5 Commissioner. “The feasibility and planning work is essential to protecting and restoring important natural systems in a way that ensures that critical infrastructure such as roads, dikes, and existing agriculture are protected.”

The restoration project, if determined to be viable, will take up to a decade to complete. The partners are currently in Phase I, which is Acquisition, Visioning, and Site Assessment. Skagit Land Trust, PBNERR, and Blue Coast Engineering have begun presenting their Phase I findings to partners and affected parties.

On October 10th, we will hold a presentation for the Samish Island Community. If you are not a Samish Island resident and would like to attend, please RSVP to laurah@skagitlandtrust.org. The Phase I findings slide presentation and report will also be available on Skagit Land Trust’s website by mid-October.





Above: Dedicated volunteers spreading gravel on the trail at Guemes Mountain & Valley Conservation Area, sandbagging the dike on Samish Island C.A., and removing beaver fencing at Tope Ryan Conservation Area.

Connecting Our Community

Skagit Land Trust lead a variety of events to connect our community with conservation efforts across the county. More than 200 people attended a swan walk at Barney Lake Conservation Area last year. Our Story Trail collaboration with the Upper Skagit Library continued at the Marblemount Conservation Area. The Trust also participated in community events such as Fidalgo Bay Day, Storming the Sound, Concrete Youth Activity Day, and Mount Vernon's Illuminight.



Board and staff members served on numerous local committees including Skagit Watershed Council, Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program, and Skagit Marine Resources Committee. The Trust's Public Policy Committee worked on educating on sea-level-rise needs in local plans, as well as the need for open space, interconnected trails on rural and urban interfaces, and wildlife corridors.

Over 1,000 local youth participated in our youth programs. These included Trusted Utopia Field Trips with students from seven local schools. Staff facilitated field trips for the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Youth Program to Cumberland Creek and Marblemount Conservation Areas (right). The group also visited James Island, Lake MacMurray, Woodland Park Zoo, and Museum of Northwest Art.



Our Community Science program continued its heron and amphibian monitoring projects. Volunteer heron monitors gave hundreds of hours studying nesting habits of the March Point herons via cameras in treetops. We also conducted an Active Tree Survey and Nest Count at March Point. Amphibian monitoring took place at Hurn Field, Tope Ryan, Utopia, and Green Road Marsh.

This work would not be possible without member support. We are so grateful to everyone who is part of the Skagit Land Trust community. Thank you for supporting conservation efforts here in the Skagit.



Skagit Land Trust staff Kari Odden using a beaver skull as a teaching tool.



Local second-graders learning about the importance of plants for soil filtration during a field trip to our Utopia property.



Volunteers Terry Armstrong and Sarah Zabel counting nests at the March Point heronry.

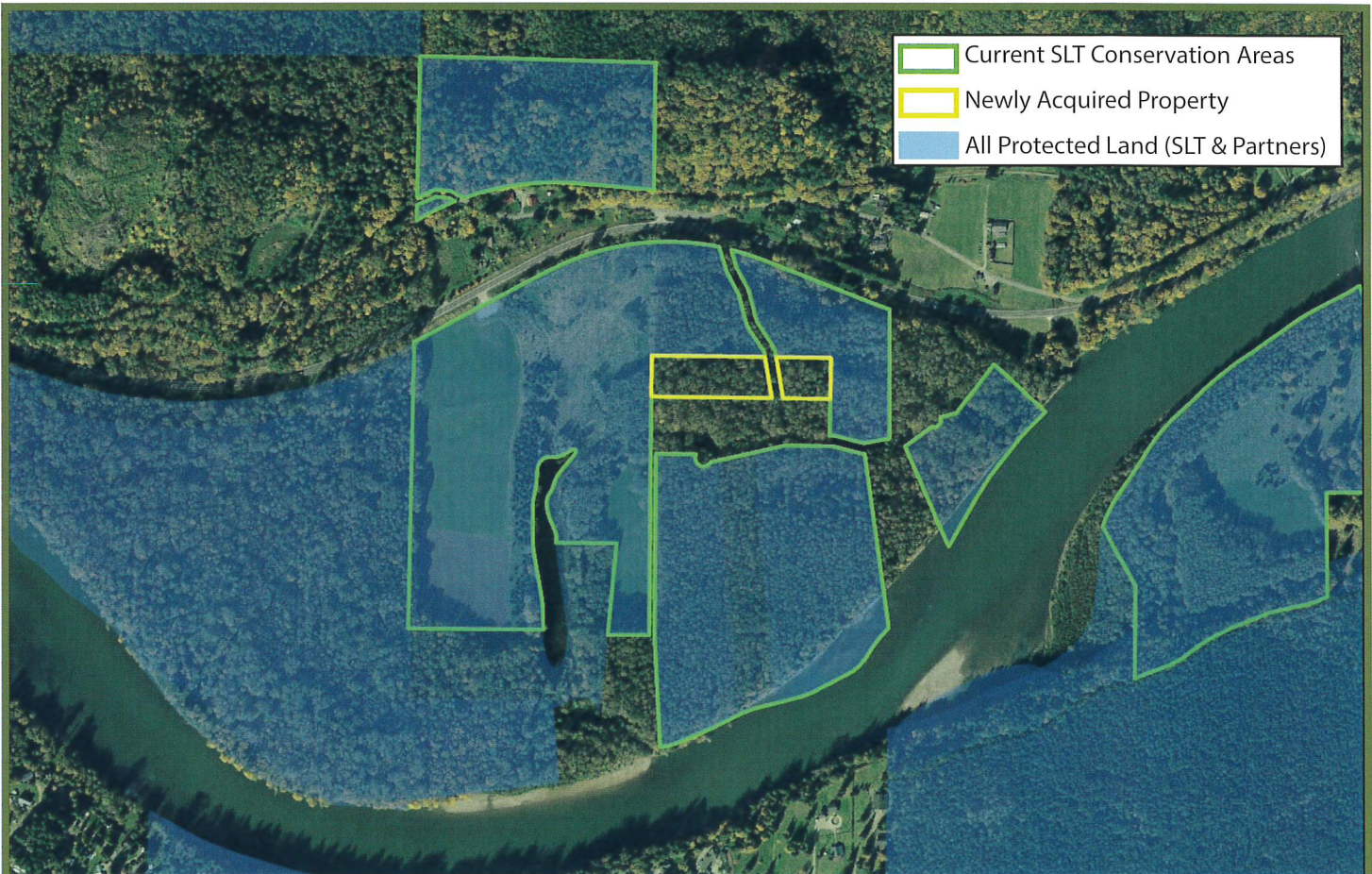
Financial Report for April 2023 - March 2024 Fiscal Year

Skagit Land Trust's (the Trust's) fiscal year ended on March 31, 2024. We received a clean audit opinion in September 2024. The auditors noted the strong and varied support the Trust receives from individuals and grants.

The Trust received over \$837,000 in donor-restricted gifts and grants to assist with specific projects including youth programs, stewardship needs, and the purchase of Big Rock. The Trust received \$311,731 in bequests and \$778,168 in unrestricted contributions and in-kind contributions. Two properties were gifted to the Trust.

Our total operating expenses, excluding land acquisitions, were \$1,368,199. Administration and fundraising expenses remained within best practice nonprofit standards at 15% of total operating expenses. If both asset and operating expenses are considered, administrative and fundraising costs drop to just 8% of total expenses.

This past year, we were able to repay \$900,000 in loans to The Conservation Fund taken out to purchase Samish Island land that was held and then sold to Padilla Bay NERR at cost. We also repaid a \$500,000 loan to the Washington Opportunity Fund taken out to purchase Big Rock land. Other liabilities increased due to a life estate received.



Adding Another Piece to the Hurn Field Conservation Puzzle

One of Skagit Land Trust's most beloved Conservation Areas, Hurn Field, just got bigger with the addition of five acres of floodplain salmon habitat! If slow and steady wins the conservation race, then Hurn Field is lapping the field. This parcel is the 11th separate acquisition at Hurn over the past 25 years, increasing the amount of land protected forever, from the original 68 acres saved in 1999 to 135 acres today. Beyond the elk habitat Hurn is known for, the pristine floodplain channels, wetlands, and forest at Hurn provide habitat for Chinook salmon and numerous other species of fish and wildlife. Many thanks to Washington State's Salmon Recovery Funding Board's grant assistance for this new addition.

- In memory of Robert Burden**
James Burden
- In memory of Heather Burke**
Phoebe Barnard & John Bowey
- In memory of John Burke**
Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter
- In memory of Pat Call**
Deborah Call
- In memory of Catherine Carter**
Gretchen Kraig-Turner
- In memory of Lois & Cleve Chase**
Rebecca Cannon
- In memory of Harold Christenson**
Karen & Doug Radcliffe
- In memory of Everett Chu**
Jim & Levy Scheltens
- In honor of Harold Clure**
Marjorie Kilbreath & Dean Townsend
- In honor of Ryan Cook**
Cody Cook-Winscher
- In memory of Scott Croll**
Jeff Muse & Paula Ogden-Muse
- In memory of Greg Crosby**
Paul Dinnel & Vicki McNeil
Phyllis Thoreson
- In memory of Alan Crowe**
Carol Steffy
- In memory of Bruce Daniel**
Malcolm Daniel & Darryl Morrison
Marcia Daniel
- In honor of Jon David Frazier**
Nadene Frazier-Westphall
- In honor of Norm Davis**
Marlene & Mark Schuck
- In memory of Kathleen Desvoigne**
Matthew Desvoigne
- In memory of Ann Dursch**
Harry Dursch & Kirsten Lemke
Stephen Panshin
- In memory of A. Elliott Johnson**
Margaret Neudorfer
Phyllis & Donald McKeehen
- In memory of Ben & Lois Englebright**
Annette Woolsey & Jim Shiflett
Larry & Alba Stevens
T.J. Stevens & Todd Rubano
- In memory of Bob Englund**
Klaudia Englund
- In memory of Maggie Estes**
Leslie Menard
- In memory of David Farrow**
Christine Farrow
- In honor of Philip Fenner**
David Brown
- In honor of Kyle Findley-Meier & Claire Poulos**
Liz Findley & John Meier
- In memory of Nancy Fox**
Sara Farr
Arthur Fox
Augusto Cardoso
Carol & Kit Harma
Elizabeth Esser
Leona De Rocco
Martha Tucker
- In memory of Arlene French**
Gene & Bette Huff
Judy Bown
- In honor of Jim Glackin**
Rachel Perlot
- In memory of Roz Glasser**
Guemes Island Planning Advisory
Committee
- In memory of Doug Hagaman**
Sharon Hagaman
- In memory of Betty Haldeman**
Stephanie Fohn
- In memory of Jeffrey Hale**
Jim Ciecko & Joanne Myers-Ciecko
Linda Korten & Jim Burnison
Mary Parker-Hale
- In memory of Shirley Haley**
Joyce Brown
- In honor of Kit & Carol Harma**
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Lisa & Paul Nissley
- In memory of Dr. Richard & Holley Hoag**
Richard Hoag
Maria Palensky
- In memory of Mildred L. Holtcamp**
Sue Sell
- In honor of Marcia Hunt**
Gabriel Moore-Cifuentes
James Hunt
Martha Wilson
Nathan Moore
- In memory of John & Linda Hunt**
Carolyn Moulton
David & Deborah Hall
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Rusty Kuntze & Libby Mills
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Steven Thompson
Janice Martin & Doug Robinson
Marcia Hunt
Martha Wilson
- In memory of Roger Johnson**
Barbara J. Johnson
- In honor of Andrew & Ross Jorgensen**
Patt & Neil Jorgensen
- In honor of Oskar & Ellis Jorgensen**
Patt & Neil Jorgensen
- In memory of EnSue Kapaakea Pung Puaa**
Barbara PaulMayer
- In memory of Sara & Samuel Kaplan**
Diane Kaplan
- In memory of Sean Keilty**
Conor Keilty
- In memory of Robert Keller**
Donna Keller
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- In honor of SunRay Kelley**
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- In memory of Roger G. Kelley**
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Martha Jordan
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- In memory of Jim Kline**
Barbara Kline
- In memory of Dr. Von Kuehn**
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Delberta Kyle
- In honor of Craig T. Lee**
Bruce Allen
- In honor of Hal & Hella Lee**
Regan Weeks & Scott Petersen
- In honor of Bonnie & Tod Lehecka**
Meris Lehecka
- In honor of Bill Lester & Hazel Tracy**
Jeff Muse & Paula Ogden-Muse
- In honor of Jim Loop**
Kelly Bush & Russ Dalton
- In honor of Deron Lord**
Elyse Lord
- In honor of Elyse Lord**
Carolyn Lord
Deron Lord
- In honor of Betty Lucas**
Monica Lowe
- In memory of John Malterner**
Irene Holroyd
- In honor of Tim Manns & Brenda Cunningham**
Jeffrey Osmundson & Colleen Shannon
- In memory of Claudia Maple**
Charles Maple
Melinda Friedman
Michael Hallett
Teresa & Leo Bodensteiner
Terri Wilde
- In honor of Janice Martin**
Jessie Robinson
- In memory of Judy Martin**
Robert & Victoria Bourns
- In memory of Predrag Martinovich**
Vera Martinovich
- In memory of Roland Matthews**
Doug Mills & Beverly Faxon
Linda Ballantine
- In memory of Anne McCracken**
Melita & Peter Townsend
- In honor of Nan McKay**
Robin Dearling
- In honor of Theresa & Doug McLean**
Daniel McLean
- In honor of Brooks & Kelly Middleton**
Anne & Jack Middleton
- In honor of Jack Middleton**
Kelly & Brooks Middleton
- In honor of Lynda Mills & Nancy Cornell**
Herbert Pearson
- In memory of Gene Murphy**
Ginny Murphy
Homer & Rosette Dawson
- In memory of JoAnn Nealy**
Chris & Jennifer Barker
- In honor of Kim Nelson**
Jodi Broughton
- In memory of Richard Nelson**
Linda Nelson
- In memory of George Newbury**
Ken & Anne Winkes
- In honor of Drew Norton**
Scott Magorien & Susan Hayton Magorien
- In memory of Dick Nowadnick**
Jim & Kay Zielinski
- In memory of Fran Odden**
Nikki Klinger
Jerilyn & Marc Hander
- In honor of Sue & Patrick O'Donnell**
Carol Steffy
- In memory of Dimity O'Neil**
Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter
- In memory of Simon Ottenberg**
Anne Douglas Williams
Anne Moldrem
Carol Ottenberg
- In memory of Richard Pagh**
Sally Pagh
- In honor of Eileen Paise**
Laura Paise
- In memory of Nadine & Hoppy Pearce**
Paul Pearce
- In memory of Esther Pearson**
Sina Pearson
- In memory of Ron Pera**
Sheila Pera

Individual Members (Sept 1, 2022 - March 31, 2024)

Every effort was made to ensure all members are listed correctly. If you discover any errors, please accept our apologies and contact us so that we can make a correction.

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Joanne Abelson & Chris Goelz | Sally Balmer | Cathryn & Graeme Blake | Henrik Brameus | Jennifer Bunke |
| David Adams & Greta Movassaghi | Eric & Amanda Baltazar | Mary Blanchard | Jane Brandt | Karen Bunney |
| Don & Sue Adams | Judy & Peter Bangs | Robert & Marie Blits & Family | Mariana Brandt | Sarah Burch |
| Evelyn Adams | Barbara Banks | Elizabeth Blosten & Tom Linder | Kalman Brauner & Amy Carlson | James Burden |
| Gordon Adams | Craig & Katryna Barber | Brian Bluhm | Phyllis Bravinder | Joseph Burdock |
| Robert Adler & Ruth Bachrach | Chris & Jennifer Barker | Steven & Kathryn Bluhm | Martha Bray & John Day | Phillip Burger |
| Kathleen & Thor Albro | Phoebe Barnard & John Bowey | Paul Blum & Alison Zak | Alan Breen | Cynthia Burica |
| Kathryn Alexandra | Dennis & Chris Barnes | Susan Bocek | Lee Brei | Jeffrey & Robin Burn |
| Eric Allan | Anne & Bob Barry | Djana Bock & Mark Shurtleff | Heather Brennan | Claire Burwash |
| Bruce Allen | Liz & Michael Bart | Teresa & Leo Bodensteiner | Lisa Brenskelle | Kelly Bush & Russ Dalton |
| Susan & Mike Allen | Claudia Basso | Ann Bodle Nash | Peggy Bridgman | Matt Butler |
| Tony Allison | Anne Basye | Margaret Boettcher & Lucia Enriquez | Rose & John Brierley | Richard L. Butler |
| Nick Allison | Birch Beaudet & David Wertheimer | Judith Bogataj | Barbara Brock | Coleman Byrnes |
| Glenda Alm & Richard Kent | Miles Becker | Janet Boge | Richard Brocksmith | Ann & Carl Cady |
| Frances Ambrose & Steve Hunter | Diane Bednarz & Peter Jepson | Kari Boge | Walter Brodie & Linda Versage | Laura Cailloux |
| Eileen Andersen | Lynn Beebe & Bill Halstenrud | John & Gail Boggs | Ann Brodie-Knope | Lauren Call |
| Kathy Anderson | Cookson Beecher | Robert Bohlin | Ethan Broga | Bonnie Campbell |
| Brie Anderson | Allison Beezer | Tim & Liz Bohlin | Jodi Broughton | Clayton & Nancy Campbell |
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| Linda Anderson | Richard Bergner | Noah Booker | Michael Brown & Michelle McEachern | Augusto Cardoso |
| Paul & Dianne Anderson | Frank Bettendorf | Annette & Pat Booth | Mildred Brown & Bob Salmons | Bob Carey & Kari Odden |
| Robert Anderson | Coizie & Dicken Bettinger | Teddie Bordner | David Brown | Janice & Alan Carle |
| M.J. Andrak | James & Loretta Betz | Brett Bossert | Gary & Susan Brown | Beth Carlyle-Askew |
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| Mike Antrim | Heather Bickford | David Boudinot | Patricia Brown | Tom Carpenter & Marina King |
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| Howard & Thais Armstrong | Greg & Sue Bishop | Robert & Victoria Bourns | Kathleen Brueger | Betty Carteret & Eric Shen |
| Terry Armstrong & Eileen Valdez Woods | Cindy Bjorklund | Ashley Bowie | Cath Brunner & Eric Riedel | Nichole Carubia & Caleb Reynolds |
| Casey Audette | Franklin Bjorseth | Bonnie Bowman | Paulette Brunner | Bea & Jim Cashetta |
| Jenny Baker | Hannah Black | Jon & Ann Bowman | Joe Bucek & Mary Heath | Linda Castell |
| Judy Baker | John Black & Jeanne Kleyn | Judy Bown | Janice & Kurt Buchanan | Janet Cater |
| Meredith Baker | Claude & Annie Blackburn | Janet & Tom Boyhan | John Buchanan | Kimberly Cauvel |
| Richard Baldwin | Cheryll Blair | Anne Braaten | William & Elisabeth Buchman | Mark & Penny Chapman |
| Linda Ballantine | David Blair | Ryan Bradley | Sidney Budd | Stuart & Arden Charles |
| | Ellen Blair | Lucy Bradshaw | Jennifer Bunke & Steve La Flam | Anne Chase-Stapleton |

Inspiring the Next Generation to Care for the Land

Since April, we have taken eight groups of Sedro Woolley 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders on several educational trips to our Utopia Conservation Area. On these trips, the students get to connect with the land and learn about the importance of restoration plantings to the health of the Skagit River and other waterways.

This year and every year, Skagit Land Trust utilizes our properties to educate the community and help future generations to appreciate and care for the lands we love.



Kathleen Ellsbury
 Craig Emery & Lynn Postler
 Catherine Endicott
 Carol & Jon Engels
 Klaudia Englund
 Dannon Engquist
 Walt Enquist
 Debbie Ensey
 Bill & Susanna Epler
 Heidi & Mark Epstein
 John & Marie Erbstoeszner
 Brian Errol
 Sarah Eskenazi
 Emilio Esparza Salazar
 Jessica Espy
 Elizabeth Esser
 Roger & Leslie Estep
 Susan & Alan Estep
 Doug & Cheryl Everhart
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 Susan Fahey
 John & Carol Farnsworth
 Sara Farr
 Christine Farrow
 Robert Feist
 Ron Feld & Lorna Klemanski
 Jeffrey Feld
 Corwin Ferguson
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 Cynthia G Ferrucci
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 Sheila Fiepe
 Kim & Brenan Filippini
 Liz Findley & John Meier
 Denise Fischer
 Cissy Fisher & Rish Pavelec
 Judy Fisher
 Bette Fitzgerald
 Thomas Flanagan &
 Kathleen Lorence-Flanagan
 Zachary Flanders
 Wendy & Joe Fleming
 Emma Fletcher-Frazier
 Jason Fly
 Stephanie Fohn
 Marcia Fort
 Alix Foster & Rick Shorten
 Art & Robyn Fournier
 Arthur Fox
 Vanessa Fox
 Glenda Frank
 Martha Frankel & Tom McFall
 Robert Frazier
 Nadene Frazier-Westphall
 Alex & Galina Free
 John Freeman
 Danielle Freiburger
 Eugenie Frerichs
 Melinda Friedman
 Denise Friend
 Arthur & Chris Fuhrmann
 Roger Fuller & Mary Silva
 Brad Furlong & Eileen Butler
 Joe & Terri Gaffney
 Judy Gamble & Todd Wood
 Jonathan Gamson
 Neha Gandhi
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 Ken & Joan Gard
 Karen Gardiner & Philip Brown
 Karla & Steve Garey
 Carolyn & Ed Gastellum
 Annie Geer
 Carly Geraci
 Randy & Lisa German
 Jessica Gigot & Dean Luce
 Linda Giles
 Stephen Giles
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 Tom Glade & Brenda Lavender
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 Jeanne Glick
 Steven Goldenberg &
 Mimi Simmons
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 Kris & Roger Goodan
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 Ellen Gray
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 H. Albert Green
 Kathy Green
 Chelsea Gudgeon
 Kristi & Brady Guinn
 Gerri & John Gunn
 Peter Haase
 Sharon Hagaman
 Wendy Hairfield
 David & Catherine Hall
 David & Deborah Hall
 Martha & Robert Hall
 Patty & Uli Haller
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 Eli Halpern
 John & Jane Halsey
 Jay Ham & Jan Hersey
 Ramona Hammerly
 Amy Han & Brian Berry
 Kristen & Bryan D. Hancock
 Ernie & Joan Handelsmann
 Marc Hander
 Jerilyn & Marc Hander
 Fred & Ellen Hanson
 Jana & James Hanson
 Mark & Rita Harbaugh
 Mike Harding
 Mary Mae Hardt &
 Scott Andrews
 Carol & Kit Harma
 Kelly Harper
 Merrilee Harrell
 Laura Harrigan
 Jennifer Harrington
 Louise Harris
 Deryl Hart & Pascale Michel
 George Thelen & Linda Hart
 Laura Hartner &
 Scott Weatherly
 Jack Hartt
 Joyce Harvey-Morgan
 Benjamin Haskell
 Dyvon Havens
 Jean Hawkins
 Bill Hayton &
 Laurence McCulloch
 Lief & Monica Hazelet
 Bill Hebner & Lora Leschner
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 Jeffrey Thorson
 Bill & Susan Henry & Family
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 Sara Hiemstra
 Robert & Judith Higgins
 Sherry Hill & Abby Jacobs

Emory Hill
 Eric Hinton
 John & Nancy Hinton
 Mark & Alison Hitchcock
 Heidi & Matt Hixson
 Bill Hlavacek &
 Gail Bohnhoff-Hlavacek
 Richard Hoag
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 Gay Hoffman
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 Mary Ruth & Phillip Holder
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 Darrell Hooper
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 Chuck Howell & Charlene Day
 Pam & James Hoyle
 Gloria Hubacker
 Robert Huet
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 Wayne Johnson
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 Patricia Lundgren
 Patrice Lundquist
 Mark & Teru Lundsten
 Esther Luttkhuizen &
 Brad Claypool
 David & Deborah Lycette
 MaryLynn Lyke
 Robert & Susan Lynch
 Pat & Mary Lyons
 Edith MacDonald
 Beau MacGregor & Ryan Castle
 Mac & Linda MacGregor
 Meredith & Richard Machin
 Martha Macri & Judy Alexander
 Mac Madenwald & Wendy Gray
 Maria Magana
 Keith & Joan Magee
 Ann Magnano & Sheri Boddy
 Father Paul Magnano
 Donald & Mary Magnus
 Keith Magnus
 Scott Magorien &
 Susan Hayton Magorien
 Glen & Kathryn Mahan
 Mary Maloney
 Timothy Manns &
 Brenda Cunningham
 Charles Maple
 Jacob Marcial
 Jean & Ed Markus
 Daniel Martin &
 Patsy Botsford-Martin
 Janice Martin & Doug Robinson
 Barbara Martin
 Carolyn & Peter Martin
 Robert Martin
 Shona Martin
 Teri Martine
 Vera Martinovich
 Angel Maturro
 Jeff & Ann May
 Renata & Darren Maybruck
 Nancy Maysen
 Sarah McCabe
 John McCallum
 Bill & Dana McCarthey
 Carolyn McCarthey &

Kris Studzinski
Linda & Stephen Summers
Taylor Supina
Patti Sutter & James Houston
Leigh Ann & R. Greg Sutton
Li Swan
Joyce Swanson
Andrew Swayne
Harley Swensson
Dan Symonds
Glenn Szerlong
Kate Szurek
Linda & Charles Talman
Ann Tanner
Ann & Kevin Tate
Carol Taylor & Thomas Carson
Dean Taylor
Diana Taylor
Ken & Linda Taylor
Margaret Taylor
Mary & Bob Taylor
N. Dennis & Mary Ann Taylor
Tamie Taylor
Martha Teigen
Bill & Ann Testerman
Bill & Joan Tezak
Cecile Thomas
Tamara Thomas
The Thompson Family
Rick & Reinhild Thompson
Steven Thompson
Phyllis Thoreson
Kathy Thornburgh
Jamie Throgmorton
Kate Tibbetts & Gary Henry
Craig Tilles
Dean & Allyson Tilles
Jan & Bob Tivel

Shirley Tjersland
Michelle Tolman
Mike Tong
Emily Towery
David & Christine Towne
Melita & Peter Townsend
Barbara Trask &
Ger van den Eng
Anne & Gil Traylor
Theresa Trebon
Richard & Carol Treston
Sarah Troxell
Martha Tucker
Finis & Pamela Tupper
Kent Turner & Ellen Anderson
Gerald Tuttle &
Kathleen Gorham
Carl Ullman
Charlie & Patty Urbick
Carrie Urling & Scott Price
Kathryn Utter
Konrad Utterback
Roger Vaara
Rachel Van Boven
Paul & Rene Vance
Andrew & Marie Vanderhoof
Michael Vanderlinde
Chris Varela
Gary & Karen Vassallo
Karen & Jim Vedder
John Verdoes & Beth Rosenstiel
Nicole Vernon
Linda Versage
Jane & Bruce Vilders
Jane Vincent & Erik Hulsey
George & Laura Jane Viverette
Gregg & Erin von Fempe
Lea von Pressentin

Jane Wagner & Bruce Bollert
Suzy & Jay Wakefield
Jim & Betsy Walker
Robert Walker
Wendy Wall & Jon Richardson
Gary & Joy Walter
Warren & Linda Walz
Regina Wandler & David Baer
Dederick Ward & Susan Parke
Andrea Warner
Wayne Watne
Holli Watne
Jim & Ranae Watson
Rowena Watson & Paul Troka
Ronald & Sharyan Watts
Charis Weathers
Regan Weeks & Scott Petersen
Alberta Weinberg
Julia Weinberg
Richard Weiss
Dave Weitzel &
Kayle Shulenberger
Rom Welborn
Sarah Welch & Jon Riedel
Jason & Tierney Wells & Family
Diane Welp
Ellen Wertheimer &
Mark Rahdert
Ron & Jan Wesen
Daniel West
Linda Whiddon
Nancy White
Peter White
Jerry & Carol Whitfield
Don Wick
Gary Wickman
Trent Wieburg
Judith Wiefels

Keith & Jan Wiggers
Cheryl & Terry Wiggin
Amy Wilcox
Clay Wilcox
Terri Wilde
John & Diane Wilkinson
Barbara Williams
Christa & John Williams Family
Owen Williams
Terry & Marci Williams
Cheryl Willis
Margaret A. Willmes
Susan Wilson & Eric Hall
Jan Wilson
Martha Wilson
Susan & Charlie Wilson
Ben & Sloane Winkes
Gus Winkes
Ken & Anne Winkes
Mary Winkes
Patricia & Thomas Winkler
Vickie Winters
Kari Wishingrad
Cathy Wissink
David & Joanne Witiak
Lynn Wohlers
Susan & Gregory Woiro
Denise Wolf
Chester Wood
Calen Woods
Ian Woofenden
Monica Woolner
Annette Woolsey & Jim Shiflett
Karen Wosilait
Jennifer & William Woyski
Phil & Carolynne Wright
Howard Wu
Rosann Wuebbels &

George Reeves
Robert & Kay Wuerth
Beth Wyatt
Andrea Xavier &
Elizabeth Stewart
Kathy & John Yaeger
Heidi & Dan Yantz
Louisa Yarmuth
John Yearsley
Neva Yorkston
Danielle & Mark Young
Sara Young
Sarah Zabel
Jim & Kay Zielinski
Jane Zillig & Paul Ingalls
Gloria Zillig
Marisue Zillig
Shelby Zimmerman
Barbara Zimmerman
Gerald & Mary Zyskowski
Stan Zyskowski

Hard Work Pays Off for Invasive Removal Teams

This spring, our Stewardship team continued efforts to control invasive species at some of our upriver properties. Invasive species removal is one way we steward the land because rapid-spreading invasive plants tend to take over the native vegetation in our forests and fields. The Scotch broom removal work that we began in the Diobsud Creek Conservation Area in 2021 has really started to pay off - a volunteer crew in May of 2024 was able to remove all the Scotch broom plants within two hours before moving on to pull other weeds, such as periwinkle.

In 2024, we utilized AmeriCorps crews and hosted volunteer work parties to hand-pull flowering plants in several garlic mustard patches that we had first discovered in the Pressentin Ranch Conservation Area in spring of 2023.

In June of 2024, we also removed spotted knapweed at Cascade River Conservation Area where we had previously worked to control both knapweed and Scotch broom. This year's volunteer crew found no Scotch broom and was able to thoroughly survey and pull spotted knapweed throughout the site! Although we aren't "out of the weeds" yet (we probably have another 2-3 years of continued monitoring to be sure that we've eradicated the population), this year's findings show how well a multi-year stewardship approach works to restore the places we love.



WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL

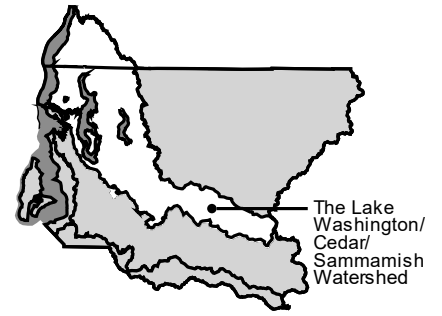


Beaux Arts Village
 Bellevue
 Bothell
 Clyde Hill
 Edmonds
 Everett
 Hunts Point
 Issaquah
 Kenmore
 Kent
 King County
 Kirkland
 Lake Forest Park
 Maple Valley
 Medina
 Mercer Island
 Mill Creek
 Mountlake Terrace
 Mukilteo
 Newcastle
 Redmond
 Renton
 Sammamish
 Seattle
 Shoreline
 Snohomish County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

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

November 5, 2024

The Honorable Jay Inslee
 Office of the Governor
 PO Box 40002
 Olympia, WA 98504-0002



RE: Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council State Legislative Priorities

Dear Governor Inslee:

Thank you for strong support and investment in salmon recovery during recent legislative sessions, which has been a critical boost to habitat restoration and scientific research. Your ongoing leadership is critical to ensuring we can continue our efforts—and Washington State’s commitment—to protect and restore habitat for salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. On behalf of the Lake Washington/ Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council, we urge you to build on these investments by supporting priority salmon funding programs and habitat restoration efforts, which improve fish passage in streams, support tribal treaty fishing rights, ensure adequate stream flows, protect public access to open space, and make our watersheds and communities resilient to a changing climate.

The state’s recent investment in salmon recovery is enabling local watershed groups and the Puget Sound region to make significant progress on our highest priority projects. However, our state’s salmon populations continue to decline. To reverse this trend, we need to build on and sustain the increased investment in salmon recovery you supported. During the upcoming legislative session, we encourage you to accelerate this progress and momentum for salmon recovery and watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide.

Attached are the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council’s priorities for the 2025-2027 biennium. We ask your support for the following:

Capital Budget Requests:

Funding Program	Amount	Agency	Description
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	\$110 million	Recreation and Conservation Office	Grants for salmon habitat projects in all Puget Sound watersheds and a prioritized list of large salmon recovery projects

Salmon Recovery Funding Board	\$125 million	Recreation and Conservation Office	Salmon habitat projects in watersheds around the state, and half the operating costs of the salmon recovery Lead Entity program to coordinate recovery
SRFB Riparian	\$25 million	Recreation and Conservation Office	Priority riparian protection and restoration projects/programs
Floodplains by Design	\$84 million	Department of Ecology	Multi-benefit floodplain projects that enhance salmon habitat and protect public health and safety
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	\$27.5 million	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Restore priority shoreline and nearshore habitats critical to salmon and other species
Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board	\$77 million	Recreation and Conservation Office	Removal of prioritized fish passage barriers
Stormwater Financial Assistance	\$80 million	Department of Ecology	Local governments stormwater retrofit projects that treat polluted stormwater in priority areas
Riparian Buffer Incentives	\$30 million	Department of Ecology	Riparian protection and restoration incentives to accelerate riparian buffer establishment
Streamflow Restoration	\$40 million	Department of Ecology	Local watershed planning and projects to improve instream flows
Community Forest Program	\$31 million	Recreation and Conservation Office	Protect and enhance important community forest lands, including stream headwaters and healthy stream conditions for salmon
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program - Habitat Conservation Account	\$67.5 million	Recreation and Conservation Office	Protect and restore priority salmon habitat

Operating Budget Requests:

Budget request	Amount	Agency	Description
Lake Washington predator suppression	\$1.4 million	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Continues important work to control predatory fish in Lake Washington basin to support salmon survival
Reduce toxic tire chemical exposure	\$8.9 million	Department of Ecology	Continue work to identify effective stormwater treatments, find safer alternatives, and monitoring
Accelerate floodplain resilience	\$1 million	Department of Ecology	Update flood risk maps, provide technical support to communities, and help move salmon recovery projects forward

Priority Policy and Legislative Issues:

Climate change and salmon recovery:

Address effects of climate change on salmon and salmon habitat, including continuing to guide revenues from the Natural Climate Solutions Account (RCW 70A.65.270) to support investments in existing grant programs supporting salmon habitat protection and restoration and climate resiliency

Regulatory, permitting, and land use planning improvements:

- Advance streamlining regulatory review and permitting to support habitat restoration project implementation. Build on the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the federal and state Multi-Agency Review Team to establish and support a coordinated and streamlined permitting process for ecologically beneficial projects.
- Increase funding to regulatory entities for permit enforcement of land use regulations. Lack of adequate regulatory permit enforcement enables continued unpermitted development and loss of habitat and critical areas.
- Improve regulatory protections for important salmon habitat, including riparian areas and lake and marine shorelines.
- Improve integration of salmon and Puget Sound recovery into land use planning and policies.

Stormwater management and salmon recovery:

- Promote and fund stormwater management planning, coordination, and implementation at a watershed scale, address critical data/information needs, and seek innovative solutions to achieve multiple benefits from integrating stormwater management and habitat protection and restoration.
 - Advance research, policy/product changes, and treatment actions to address impacts of the tire dust chemical 6PPD-quinone on salmon survival.
 - Fund implementation of low impact development, green stormwater infrastructure, and retrofits to older stormwater facilities. Seek a dedicated funding source for local government stormwater retrofits.
 - Create a new funding source or modify an existing one to support multiple benefit stormwater projects that integrate stormwater management and salmon habitat restoration.

Equity and environmental justice, outreach and education, and creative funding approaches:

- Align investments in equity and environmental justice with salmon recovery priorities to achieve multiple benefits for salmon populations and communities.
- Support outreach, education, and stewardship projects and programs that raise awareness, empower the next generation to continue salmon recovery and climate change mitigation work, and promote and engage private landowners in using best available science to guide their property management decisions.
- Increase investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound restoration priorities through existing funding authorities, and support innovative funding approaches, including new watershed-based and/or regional funding mechanisms and public-private partnerships that engage state agencies and private funding sources to support multiple-benefit projects.

WRIA 8 appreciates the challenges involved in making state budget decisions and applauds your leadership. Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon and orca recovery, restoring Puget Sound, and working to address effects of climate change. If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 8 or how these priorities advance salmon recovery objectives, please contact Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager for the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8), at 206-477-4780 or jason.mulvihill-kuntz@kingcounty.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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



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

cc: Laura Bradstreet, Executive Director, Puget Sound Partnership
Megan Duffy, Director, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
Hillary Franz, Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology
Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Rob Duff, Executive Director of Policy and Outreach, Office of the Governor
Ruth Musgrave, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Carrie Sessions, Environment and Water Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Pat Sullivan, Director, Office of Financial Management
Nona Snell, Budget Director, Office of Financial Management
Jim Cahill, Senior Budget Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
Matthew Hunter, Budget Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
Lisa Borkowski, Budget Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management
Jennifer Masterson, Senior Budget Advisor, Office of Financial Management
Shelly Willhoite, Capital Budget Assistant, Office of Financial Management
Jeff Breckel, Chair, Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board
David Troutt, Chair, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Mike Lithgow, Chair, Washington Salmon Coalition
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed Salmon Recovery Council members
Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager, Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed

November 4, 2024

To: Jeff Breckel
Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
jeff.breckel@gmail.com

Megan Duffy
Director at Recreation and Conservation Office
megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov

CC: Julia McNamara
Board Liaison, Recreation and Conservation Office
julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Breckel and Ms. Duffy,

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to express my strong support for the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program and to emphasize its critical role in advancing estuarine restoration and salmon recovery efforts in the region. The Skagit IMW Program has been instrumental in providing the scientific foundation needed to inform estuary restoration projects throughout the Salish Sea, offering invaluable insights into the complex relationships between estuarine ecosystems and salmon survival.

The Skagit IMW Program stands out as an essential resource, not only because it has provided the technical data required for strategic restoration planning, but also due to its contributions to our broader understanding of estuarine systems. This program has directly informed millions of dollars' worth of estuarine restoration designs, helping ensure that projects are both effective and aligned with the habitat needs of wild salmon populations.

In the Stillaguamish delta, we rely heavily on channel allometry predictions and landscape connectivity metrics developed under the Skagit IMW to inform our restoration designs. For example, TNC and the Stillaguamish Tribe will collectively restore over 900 acres of estuarine habitat using these scaling predictions to identify the number, size, location, and orientation of marsh channels. Compared with restoration sites that do not use these scaling relationships, well-scaled sites recover native vegetation faster, have fewer invasive plant species, and support better Chinook connectivity and use.

TNC has also benefitted from the Skagit IMW's research on self-regulating tide gates and juvenile Chinook passage in the design and operation of our Fisher Slough preserve, demonstrating that the Skagit IMW program has supported investigation into multiple types of restoration actions. As these examples demonstrate, the lessons learned and data gathered through the Skagit IMW have been shared widely, influencing restoration practices and shaping future projects across the region.

Beyond its technical contributions, the knowledge gained from the Skagit IMW Program also serves as a vital outreach tool. By providing clear, evidence-based information on estuarine restoration's effectiveness, the program plays a crucial role in engaging and educating stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and environmental groups, on the importance of restoration efforts. This outreach capacity helps build trust and commitment among those involved, creating a supportive foundation for future restoration projects and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for salmon recovery. Below, I want to highlight two key outreach products that the Skagit IMW has supported:

1. Using data from the Skagit IMW a local cumulative effects research team has- *for the first time*- demonstrated the collective positive impact of the Skagit delta restoration sites on Chinook salmon. When the team presented these results at the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation conference last year, there was a collective cheer, and people brought to tears. The teams had done it. Not only was there enough restored acreage on the land to change salmon population numbers, but there were enough data over enough years to detect the result. This rarity could not have happened without the consistent, long-term support of the Skagit IMW, and the patient dedication of those consistently collecting data year in and year out. To obtain this quality of evidence with which to engage stakeholders and legislators, consistent support for collecting the core data is critical. Those data can then be leveraged to answer more challenging research questions and to demonstrate the regional trends we seek to track.
2. Evidence built via the Skagit IMW has also reached another critical audience- the environmental consulting engineers who ultimately design each restoration project. The Skagit IMW has steadily built a recommendation toolbox for restoration practitioners in the Salish Sea, enabling design engineers to pull from local data rather than leaning on foundations developed in places like the Columbia River estuary or San Francisco Bay wherein the underlying estuarine geomorphology is fundamentally different.

Thanks to the Skagit IMW, we now have a more comprehensive picture of how estuarine environments support salmon recovery. The program's work has allowed for better-informed decision-making, enabling State, Federal, Tribal, and NGO partners to implement restoration strategies that enhance habitat capacity and resilience for salmon. By monitoring estuarine conditions over extended periods, the Skagit IMW has helped stakeholders make meaningful progress on the long timelines that salmon life cycles and habitat recovery require.

As our understanding of estuarine systems has grown through the Skagit IMW's research, we've been able to pursue more ambitious projects, such as those at Milltown, Island Unit, Port Susan Bay, sites 1, 2, and 3, and other critical sites. Continued support and funding for the Skagit IMW will allow us to further capitalize on this momentum, building on established Federal, State and Tribal partnerships and leveraging shared resources among agencies and communities invested in salmon recovery.

In closing, I encourage you to continue investing in the Skagit IMW Program. Its work is unique as one of the few long term research programs in Puget Sound and foundational component of our regional salmon recovery strategy, fostering collaboration and generating knowledge that benefits our shared estuarine environments and the salmon populations that depend on them.

Sincerely,

Emily Howe, PhD

Aquatic & Estuarine Ecologist

emily.howe@tnc.org

The Nature Conservancy – Washington Field Office

206-384-2059

COUNCIL OF REGIONS UPDATE for the SRFB's December 2024 Meeting

Prepared by Alex Conley, Chair

The Council of Regions (COR) brings together the state's seven Salmon Recovery Regions to 1) share information among the regions, GSRO & RCO, 2) provide input to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board & 3) coordinate activities that address shared needs of the regional organizations. Since the last SRFB meeting:

1. **Mara Zimmerman has announced that she is stepping down from her position as Executive Director of the Coast Salmon Partnership** in order to take on the role of science lead for the WDFW Fish Program.
2. **Alex Conley is stepping down as COR chair effective Jan 1**; David Dicks and Amanda Ward have stepped up to lead the group as we evaluate the structure and coordination needs of COR going forwards.
3. As always, COR has **held monthly COR calls and organized COR participation** in groups such as SRNet and the Fish Barrier Removal Board. Huge thanks to RCO Director Duffy for her quarterly check-in calls and to Erik Neatherlin and Jeremy Cram for organizing quarterly check-in calls with WDFW leadership.

Specific Council of Regions Input for the December SRFB Meeting:

ITEM 4: Salmon Strategy Biennial Work Plan

The Regional Organizations would like to congratulate GSRO on completing the Biennial Work Plan for the Governors Salmon Strategy. This is a substantive document that has helped drive productive discussions on state priorities. We thank Katie and other GSRO staff for their efforts to engage with Regional Organizations and incorporate our input into the process and look forward to seeing the statewide coordination process develop further each year.

ITEM 5: IMW Options

The regions with IMWs in their areas look forward to engaging in the upcoming discussions about next steps for the IMW.

ITEM 6: MONITORING PROGRAM POLICIES

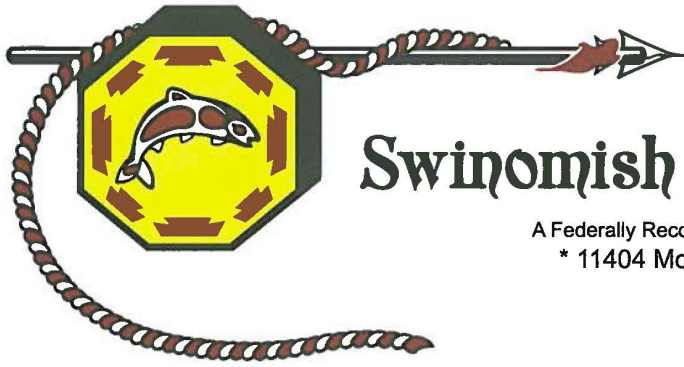
The Regions strongly support the new monitoring program and are working with their local partners to cue up promising monitoring project proposals that meet local and statewide priorities. We appreciate the chance to have provided multiple rounds of input as staff have developed the policies before you today and look forward to doing our part to implement the program.

ITEM 8: Riparian Programmatic Changes

The Regions concur with the general directions for riparian program development laid out in the staff memo, and look forward to actively engaging in upcoming discussions and development of alternatives for future consideration by the Board.

ITEM 12: REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Thank you for the invitation to present regional perspectives to the Board. We look forward to today's presentations by the Upper Columbia and Hood Canal Regions; the Mid-Columbia Board is excited to present at a subsequent meeting.



Main Office: 360.466.3163

Facsimile: 360.466.5309

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 476
* 11404 Moorage Way * La Conner, Washington 98257 *

December 10, 2024

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
WA State Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

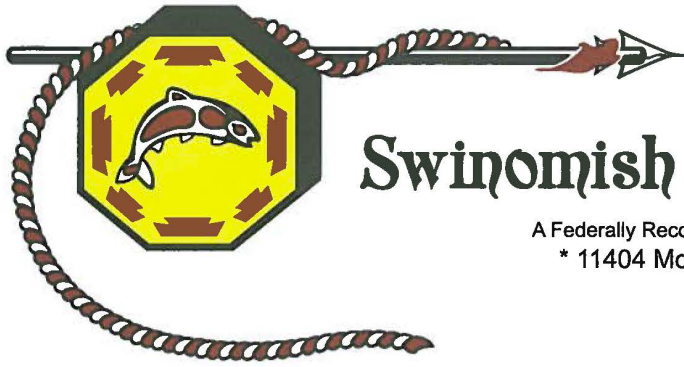
Dear Salmon Recovery Funding Board Members,

On behalf of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, I am writing to reaffirm our strong support to maintain, at a minimum, current funding levels for the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program through its agreed-upon completion date in 2041. As I wrote to you on May 10th, this unique program has been demonstrating that estuarine restoration is an essential, effective component of salmon recovery, especially for ESA-listed Chinook. Results from the Skagit IMW are vital to Swinomish, as we work with diverse stakeholders to restore salmon habitat and monitor its success overtime.

As a collaborative effort between State, Federal, and Tribal partners, the Skagit IMW is deeply integrated into the salmon recovery process with its information widely shared and utilized by Tribes, NGOs, and Washington State agencies. Although we may not have precise figures, Skagit IMW's research likely informs millions of dollars' worth of estuarine restoration projects each year. The knowledge produced by Skagit IMW has undoubtedly improved restoration practices, making them more effective in enhancing conditions for our salmon.

Funded by WDFW, Tribal, and SRFB contributions, the Skagit IMW is uniquely positioned to operate on generational timelines that align with both salmon life cycles and the Swinomish community's values. Long-term understanding, measured over decades rather than years, is crucial. While we are beginning to observe positive trends linked to increased capacity, numerous restoration projects await completion, including Milltown, Island Unit, and two critical projects on Swinomish land: Similk and Smokehouse. The McGlenn Jetty remains a shared priority and a central focus for the Skagit IMW since 2005.

This is why I am especially concerned that SRFB has been considering moving forward with a new Proposed Grant Monitoring Program without Board Members fully consulting



Main Office: 360.466.3163

Facsimile: 360.466.5309

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

A Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Organized Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 476
* 11404 Moorage Way * La Conner, Washington 98257 *

Swinomish regarding the future of the Skagit IMW. We need to commit to long-term work rather than introducing more of the same short-term initiatives. There is genuine concern among Federal and Swinomish scientists that SRFB decisions could disrupt a valuable long-term dataset, which would be a significant setback.

I respectfully urge you to continue funding the Skagit IMW at least at the current levels throughout the originally envisioned term. This will help maintain critical partnerships among State, Federal, and Tribal entities in a region where so much is at stake for salmon recovery. Recognizing the shared investment from WDFW, Swinomish, and Sauk-Suiattle, this program represents a highly leveraged opportunity for impactful knowledge.

Please consider this request to continue to fully fund the Skagit IMW program at your December meeting. Mike LeMoine, Director of Research and Recovery at the Skagit River System Cooperative, can provide additional details about the importance of continuing this work and how it contributes to evaluating Skagit Chinook salmon recovery.

Thank you for the consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Edwards, Chairman
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

December 9, 2024

To: Jeff Breckel, Chair, Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and Megan Duffy, Director,
Recreation and Conservation Office

CC: Julia McNamara, Board Liaison, Recreation and Conservation Office

Dear Mr. Breckel and Ms. Duffy,

For the past three years, I have been working with the Puget Sound Partnership to develop an evaluation of the cumulative effects of nearshore habitat restoration in the Whidbey basin. Such an evaluation is only as good as the underlying data and, fortunately, it is able to employ the incredibly valuable data produced by the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program. Therefore, I am writing to express my strong support for continuing the 2025 funding allotment.

Long-term monitoring that applies a statistically-based study design is surprisingly rare. The fact that the Skagit IMW does this, and has developed a rich data set to build on with continued monitoring, is a significant opportunity to advance restoration and ecological science in the Puget Sound. The Whidbey cumulative effects evaluation is one example. In a long-term data set, the knowledge advances per year generally increase with age. And, given the Skagit IMW's study design, finishing the planned duration of the study is essential for drawing valid conclusions from the analyses. Orphaning such rich timeseries of data by redirecting funding or coming up with new programs is a real risk and can be harmful to salmon recovery science in the Pacific Northwest.

Using the restoration effectiveness monitoring component of the Skagit IMW provides an example of the importance of long-term monitoring. Restoring ecosystem structure, processes, and functions, such as those benefiting juvenile Chinook salmon, require years, even decades, because it takes time for the restoring ecosystems to mature. Hence, monitoring should be conducted with a long-term commitment. For the restoration and management efforts the Skagit IMW supports, thinking long term is a key for their success.

In closing, it is my pleasure to write in support of the Skagit IMW. Thank you for your consideration of this important program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary E. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary E. Johnson
Senior Research Scientist - Retired
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Sequim, Washington

December 6, 2024

Jeff Breckel
Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
jeff.breckel@gmail.com

Megan Duffy
Director, Recreation and Conservation Office
megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov

SUBJECT: Support for Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed

Dear Mr. Breckel and Ms. Duffy:

I am writing on behalf of the Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) to express my strong support for the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program and to emphasize its critical role in advancing estuarine restoration and salmon recovery efforts in the Puget Sound region. The Skagit IMW Program has been instrumental in providing the scientific foundation needed to inform regional estuary restoration projects, offering invaluable insights into the complex relationships between estuarine ecosystems and salmon survival.

The Skagit IMW Program stands out as an essential resource, not only because it has provided the technical data required for strategic restoration planning, but also due to its contributions to our broader understanding of estuarine systems. This program has directly informed millions of dollars' worth of estuarine restoration design, helping ensure that projects are effective and support the needs of salmon populations. The Partnership's Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Fund invested millions of dollars in restoring 384 acres of habitat in the Skagit estuary. Both the PSAR Large Capital and PSAR Regular programs continue to fund Skagit estuary restoration projects. The designs of recently funded projects and projects on the current Large Capital ranked list were informed by results from the Skagit IMW program. The Partnership has an ongoing interest in understanding the effectiveness of these investments through continued monitoring provided by the Skagit IMW program.

As our understanding of estuarine systems has grown through the Skagit IMW's research, we've pursued more ambitious projects, such as PSAR Large Capital projects at Milltown, Island Unit and Port Susan Bay, as well as other critical sites. Continued support and funding for the Skagit IMW will allow us to further capitalize on this momentum, building upon established Federal, State and Tribal

partnerships and leveraging shared resources among agencies and communities invested in salmon recovery.

The lessons learned and data gathered through the Skagit IMW are shared widely, influencing restoration practices and shaping future projects across the region. Thanks to the Skagit IMW, we now have a more comprehensive picture of how estuarine environments support salmon recovery. The program's work has allowed for better-informed decision-making, enabling State, Federal, Tribal, and NGO partners to implement restoration strategies that enhance habitat capacity and resilience for salmon. By monitoring estuarine conditions over extended periods, the Skagit IMW has helped stakeholders make meaningful progress on the long timelines that salmon life cycles and habitat recovery require.

Findings from the Skagit IMW are also a key component of the Partnership's ongoing effectiveness study to evaluate the cumulative effects of nearshore habitat recovery actions on juvenile salmonids in the Whidbey basin. This study is developing novel methods to connect salmon recovery efforts to population outcomes, understand successes or failures, and guide future recovery work. This landscape-scale study is possible largely because of the wealth of data the Skagit IMW program provided from past monitoring efforts as well as new information that continues to be shared from current IMW studies. The results of the cumulative effects evaluation are anticipated to support estuary restoration planning, funding, implementation, and adaptive management efforts in the Whidbey basin and Puget Sound. Continued support for the Skagit IMW will support the cumulative effects evaluation effort as well as future large-scale effectiveness evaluations in Puget Sound.

In closing, I encourage you to continue investing in the Skagit IMW Program. Its work is unique as one of the few long-term research programs in Puget Sound and a foundational component of our regional salmon recovery strategy, fostering collaboration and generating knowledge that benefits our shared estuarine environments and the salmon populations that depend on them.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical program.

Sincerely,



Laura Bradstreet
Executive Director

C: Julie McNamara, Board Liaison, Recreation and Conservation Office

To: Jeff Breckel
Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
jeff.breckel@gmail.com

Megan Duffy
Director at Recreation and Conservation Office
megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov

CC: Julia McNamara
Board Liaison, Recreation and Conservation Office
julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Breckel and Ms. Duffy:

I am writing on behalf of [Cramer Fish Sciences](#) and the [Whidbey Basin Cumulative Effects Evaluation Team](#) to express my strong support for the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program and to emphasize its critical role in advancing estuarine restoration and salmon recovery efforts in the region. The Skagit IMW Program has been instrumental in providing the scientific foundation needed to inform estuary restoration projects, offering invaluable insights into the complex relationships between estuarine ecosystems and salmon survival.

The Skagit IMW Program stands out as an essential resource, not only because it has provided the technical data required for strategic restoration planning, but also due to its contributions to our broader understanding of estuarine systems. This program has directly informed millions of dollars' worth of estuarine restoration design, helping ensure that projects are both effective and aligned with the natural needs of salmon populations. The lessons learned and data gathered through the Skagit IMW have been shared widely, influencing restoration practices and shaping future projects across the region.

Beyond its technical contributions, the knowledge gained from the Skagit IMW Program also serves as a vital outreach tool. By providing clear, evidence-based information on estuarine restoration's effectiveness, the program plays a crucial role in engaging and educating stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and environmental groups, on the importance of restoration efforts. This outreach capacity helps build trust and commitment among those involved, creating a supportive foundation for future restoration projects and fostering a sense of shared responsibility for salmon recovery. In fact, the Whidbey Basin Cumulative Effects Evaluation would not be where it is today without the exceptional and long-term research and monitoring products that have been produced by programs like the Skagit IMW Program. This information has been key to developing our evidenced-based evaluations of restoration effectiveness, the outcomes of which will inform regional salmon recovery and restoration planning.


Thanks to the Skagit IMW, we now have a more comprehensive picture of how estuarine environments support salmon recovery. The program's work has allowed for better-informed decision-making, enabling State, Federal, Tribal, and NGO partners to implement restoration strategies that enhance habitat capacity and resilience for salmon. By monitoring estuarine conditions over extended periods, the Skagit IMW has helped stakeholders make meaningful progress on the long timelines that salmon life cycles and habitat recovery require.

As our understanding of estuarine systems has grown through the Skagit IMW's research, we've been able to pursue more ambitious projects, such as those at Milltown, Island Unit, Port Susan Bay and other critical sites. Continued support and funding for the Skagit IMW will allow us to further capitalize on this momentum, building on established Federal, State and Tribal partnerships and leveraging shared resources among agencies and communities invested in salmon recovery.

In closing, I encourage you to continue investing in the Skagit IMW Program. Its work is unique as one of the few long term research programs in Puget Sound and foundational component of our regional salmon recovery strategy, fostering collaboration and generating knowledge that benefits our shared estuarine environments and the salmon populations that depend on them. The value of this program and the knowledge it continues to generate are exemplified by the improvements in restoration designs and effectiveness that are a direct result of information learned by monitoring investments in programs like the Skagit IMW Program.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical program.

Sincerely,



Jason Hall
Program Manager
Cramer Fish Sciences
Email: Jason.Hall@fishsciences.net

To: Jeff Breckel
Chair of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board
jeff.breckel@gmail.com

Megan Duffy
Director at Recreation and Conservation Office
megan.duffy@rco.wa.gov

CC: Julia McNamara
Board Liaison, Recreation and Conservation Office
julia.mcnamara@rco.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Breckel and Ms. Duffy

I am writing on behalf of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program's Salmonid Work Group (SalmonidWG) to express support for the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program. The Skagit IMW is one of the most robust, long term restoration monitoring programs assessing restoration investment effectiveness and population response we have in the Puget Sound. The longevity of this project is critical in identifying long-term trends in a large and variable system. We concur with the monitoring community that accessing funding for long-term monitoring is difficult and losing or altering any currently existing reliable funding sources is detrimental to efficiencies in an already process-heavy monitoring funding framework.

The Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program has been a critical scientific resource in understanding and supporting salmon recovery in the Puget Sound. By monitoring estuarine conditions over extended periods, the Skagit IMW has helped stakeholders make meaningful progress on the long timelines that salmon life cycles and habitat recovery require. By providing comprehensive technical data and insights into ecosystems and ecosystem processes, the program has directly informed millions of dollars in restoration projects, ensuring that environmental interventions are strategically designed to meet the natural needs of salmon populations while making best use of restoration capital.

The proposed changes to the IMW funding will mean less certainty and predictability for the staff that work on the IMW efforts and for the information that is generated and shared. Maintaining the predictability of funding for IMWs serves several functions:

1. Allows for the continuation of an established monitoring program with already determined protocols by already trained staff to continue to learn about ongoing restoration responses,
2. Ensures that the benefits of the recent increase in funding that is just now resulting in even larger restoration projects will be measured into the future,
3. Captures climate change responses,
4. Reduces grant application capacity drain and match funding security for a staff that already manages over 70 grants a year.

Beyond its technical contributions, the Skagit IMW Program serves as a vital outreach tool, engaging stakeholders including local communities, government agencies, and environmental

groups. The Skagit IMW effort is led by the natural resource groups of two federally recognized tribes working together. By sharing evidence-based information on restoration effectiveness, the program builds trust, fosters collaborative understanding, and creates a supportive foundation for ongoing salmon recovery efforts in the region.

We respectfully request that the SRFB preserve the portion of the PCSRF monitoring funding currently allocated for IMWs, like the Skagit, which have not yet completed their work and allocate it through a non-competitive and predictable mechanism. There is still much to learn in the Skagit. And we at PSEMP think that time and effort is better spent on doing the monitoring work rather than applying for even more grants. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical program and the funding needs.

Sincerely,



Dawn Spilsbury
Salmonid Work Group Coordinator
Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
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