



Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

March 11, 2025

Hybrid

Location In-Person: Room 172, First Floor, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA. This public meeting location allows 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_YOj2IAWJTLiAgyHGGZ7Nvg

Phone Option: (669) 900-6833 – **Webinar ID:** 828 1883 1641

*Additionally, the Recreation and Conservation Office 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 webcast on Television Washington and recorded. By attending this meeting, you agree that your image, anything you say, and any materials you submit may be posted indefinitely on Recreation and Conservation Office's and Television Washington'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.

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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 December 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 Jeannie Abbott Tara Galuska</i>
9:45 a.m.	General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda: <i>Please limit comments to three minutes.</i>	
9:55 a.m.	3. Partner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council of Regions• Washington Salmon Coalition• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	<i>Amanda Ward Aundrea McBride Morgan Morris</i>
10:25 a.m.	Break	
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
10:40 a.m.	4. Intensively Monitored Watershed Program: The Path Forward	<i>Greer Maier</i>
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISION		
11:30 a.m.	5. Spokane Lead Entity Project Funding Amount	<i>Jeannie Abbott</i>
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	6. Possible Riparian Funding Options	<i>Kat Moore</i>
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
1:45 p.m.	7. Mid-Columbia Regional Presentation	<i>Alex Conley</i>
2:30 p.m.	Break	

2:45 p.m. **8. State of the Salmon Report Update** *Erik Neatherlin*

3:15 p.m. **9. Completed Projects** *Grant Managers*

4:00 p.m. **10. Partner Reports**

- Conservation Commission *Levi Keesecker*
- Department of Ecology *Annette Hoffmann*
- Department of Natural Resources *Tom Gorman*
- Department of Fish and Wildlife *Jeremy Cram*
- Department of Transportation *Susan Kanzler*

4:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: June 3-4, 2024, Virtual and/or In person in Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA, 98501

DRAFT

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 18, 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. Members Kadi Bizyayeva and Annette Hoffmann were present online. Members Susan Kanzler and Levi Keesecker were absent.

Motion: Move to approve the **December 18 and 19, 2024, Agenda**
Moved by: Member **Endresen-Scott**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: **Approved**

Motion: Move to approve the **September 2024 Meeting Minutes**
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Maroney**
Approved: **Approved**

Chair Breckel provided an overview of board activities, accomplishments, and decisions in 2024, highlighting the travel meeting and tour of projects in Forks; the work staff

does for salmon recovery across the state, and the retirement of salmon section manager Marc Duboiski. Chair Breckel read the resolution recognizing Mr. Duboiski.

Motion: Move to approve the resolution.
Moved by: Member **Endresen-Scott**
Seconded by: Member **Cottingham**
Approved: **Approved**

Item 1: Director's Report

Director Megan Duffy introduced new staff Mollie Lavelle, salmon section administrative assistant, and Hailee Taylor, grant services administrative assistant. Recruitment for a new salmon section manager will begin after the new year.

The Legislative session starts January 13 and the new governor will be sworn in on January 15. The five watershed plans that the board provided technical review and comment on to Washington Department of Ecology were adopted December 17. Governor Inslee signed [Executive Order 24-06](#) on salmon recovery through riparian protection and restoration and advancing the [Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative and Agreement](#). The Riparian Roundtable submitted a second report to the Office of Financial Management on November 15. Director Duffy suggested looking at Recommendation Two and Four of the report.

There will be budgetary challenges this biennium with a \$10-12 billion shortfall in the operating budget, as well as stressors on the capital budget and Climate Commitment Act funding. As a result, RCO has been directed to freeze any hiring, contracting, and travel spending. This includes the 2025 Salmon Recovery Conference, which has been postponed until there is more information from the 2025 Legislative Session.

Policy and Legislative Update

Brock Milliern, policy and legislative director, noted the Governor's Budget December 17 update. The board's budget did well in the Governor's proposal, although not all programs were well funded. The Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative is about half what it was two years ago, and other programs were also funded at about that the same level from two years ago.

With the start of the Legislative Session, there will be new committee membership and leadership among many of the committees RCO and the board works with. This includes the Senate Capital chair, House and Senate agricultural and natural resource chairs, and around twenty-five new legislators. This is an important time for Mr. Milliern to provide

as much engagement and education as possible to ensure new and existing members know what RCO is and what the agency supports.

In the Governor's Budget, there was a slight reduction in RCO's operating funds. The only proposed reduction in the Governor's Budget is related to the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, which is due to sunset in 2025. Capacity funds that were added for regions and lead entities are now part of the base budget and were not proposed to be reduced.

The regular board and Targeted Investment request received \$45 million in the 2023-2025 biennium between both the regular and supplemental Legislative Sessions, and the full \$45 million was proposed in the 2025-2027 Governor's budget. In August, the board decided that 60 percent of funding would go to the regular board round and 40 percent would go to Targeted Investments, with a minimum of \$30 million to the regular board round. If this is funded at the proposed \$45 million, then \$15 million will be available for Targeted Investments. **Member Cottingham** asked what the source of the funding is. Mr. Milliern answered that for regular board and Targeted Investment, \$20 million is from Climate Commitment Act and \$25 million is from bonds; however, the board Riparian comes from bond funding only, a change from the current biennium. Other programs like Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration are all a mix of bond and Climate Commitment Act funding. The Family Forest Fish Passage program is fully funded by the Climate Commitment Act. Mr. Milliern noted that most programs were proposed at the level they had been in the 2023-2025 biennium, and while the board was hoping to increase funding levels, no change is good considering the difficult budget situation. Some of the proposed numbers went up a little demonstrating support for the board, RCO, and everyone who works to implement these programs. Mr. Milliern expressed concern for the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, which saw the biggest cut from the last biennium.

The new governor may propose edits to this budget or propose a new one. The House and Senate will begin to propose budgets in early April. Mr. Milliern will provide bi-monthly updates. There was a work session in the Senate last week that Erik Neatherlin and Eli Asher attended and provided an overview of salmon recovery in Washington, challenges, and how those challenges are being met. Staff from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented on beaver management and the Washington Department of Natural Resources presented on wood supply for restoration projects.

Chair Breckel asked if any of the new key committee leadership changes were important to note. Mr. Milliern explained that Senator Trudeau is replacing Senator Mullet in the Senate for the capital budget. The Senate Republican Caucus does not have their final membership available yet, but Senator Warnick is stepping off this committee and Senator Schoesler is stepping onto the committee. Senator Warnick has also been on the Capital Budget Committee and understands the board's programs and concerns with restoration and recovery. Representative Reeves will be the new chair of the House Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office director, highlighted staff activities including the postponement of a November trip to Washington, D.C. until after the new year due to budget directives. Travel plans may change to a smaller delegation from Washington traveling to D.C.

As mentioned in the Director's Report, Governor Inslee signed [Executive Order 24-06](#).

Mr. Neatherlin shared that Canada looks to Washington as an example of implementing salmon recovery, and non-profit organizations (Pacific Salmon Foundation) and some in the government are looking to Washington's locally based model in terms of a local approach versus their current federal approach. Pacific Salmon Foundation in Canada held a conference modeled after the Salmon Recovery Conference, called the British Columbia Salmon and Climate Resiliency conference.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office hosted a virtual knowledge exchange workshop with partners in Canada including the Pacific Salmon Foundation, First Nations, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans; presented to the Senate Agriculture committee; and continues to help coordinate meetings between regional recovery directors and state agencies, such as the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In 2024, the board approved moving some funding for a fish monitoring assessment which is underway. A contract has been signed with Four Peaks Environmental, and work will continue into the new year.

Tara Galuska, Orca Recovery coordinator, noted that agency budget requests are posted on www.orca.wa.gov. The new law that increases the protective distance vessels must stay from southern resident killer whales to 1,000 yards goes into effect on January 1, 2025. The official population census is 73 southern resident killer whales; however, one pod member is missing.

Ms. Galuska recently attended [Quiet Sound](#) event, an organization modeled after Canada's [ECHO Program](#). Quiet Sound is conducting a large commercial ship slow-down effort in Harrow Strait each year, providing a quieter environment for orcas. Quiet Sound helps report whale sightings to the new [United States Coast Guard Cetacean Desk](#), which provides information to commercial mariners. Additionally, Quiet Sound is working with Puget Sound Partnership to get a camera mounted in a location to be determined (entrance to Salish Sea) to provide whale sightings at night and in bad weather and are installing an additional hydrophone which looks at the soundscape and provides notifications of whales traveling through the Puget Sound.

Lastly, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada assessed that there is an imminent threat to southern resident killer whales and have filed an emergency order petition to elevate recovery to the federal level.

Kat Moore, assistant salmon section manager, provided an overview of the 2024 grant round that funded 135 projects. An additional forty-five projects are awaiting Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding. Climate Commitment Act funding is providing \$11.11 million to Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program for twenty-two projects, \$7.92 million to Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative for seven projects, \$22.19 million to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board for thirty-two to thirty-four projects, and \$25 million to Targeted Investments for seven projects.

Work started on the 2025 grant round with site visits being scheduled. PRISM was updated to document match modernization in the application and final report as other funding sponsors use to complete their projects, rather than including the other funding as match in grant contracts. The changes to PRISM and Manual 18 should be completed and available by January 13, and an application workshop will be held on January 30.

Member Maroney asked if there is a document showing the modernized match at the project, region, and state level. Ms. Moore answered that it can be queried in PRISM.

General Public Comment

None.

Item 3: Partner Reports

Council of Regions

Mara Zimmerman provided input on several agenda items. The Council of Regions appreciated being able to provide input on the Salmon Strategy Biennial Workplan in Item 4. Regions with Intensively Monitored Watersheds included in Item 5 will provide

specific feedback during that item. The Council of Regions appreciates that the Monitoring Grant Program in Item 6 supports regional monitoring. The Council of Regions concurs with the direction of Item 8: Riparian Programmatic Changes, additional comments will be provided during the item.

The Council of Regions continues to meet monthly as a group and regularly with Director Duffy and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife executive leadership team.

The leadership of the Council of Regions is changing. Alex Conley is stepping down as Chair and David Dicks and Amanda Ward will co-chair going forward. This is the last board meeting Ms. Zimmerman will be representing the Coastal Salmon Partnership as she is starting a new position at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in January.

Washington Salmon Coalition

Aundrea McBride, Washington Salmon Coalition chair, met for an all-hands meeting in Walla Walla from October 7-9 and completed a review and refinement of their mission and structure, including expanded language regarding the consensus decision-making process, approved the 2025 work plan, and elected Cheyne Mayer from Yakima to the executive committee. As part of the work planning for 2025, the Washington Salmon Coalition assessed the training needs for the twenty-six lead entities and participated in interactive training about storytelling and its place in outreach efforts. In addition to the all-hands meeting, the Washington Salmon Coalition continues monthly learning and sharing sessions and holds executive committee meetings.

The executive committee worked on the Salmon Day project with Legislators on February 5. The Washington Salmon Coalition, Council of Regions and Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group will meet with legislators to discuss support for monitoring for conservation districts and the Habitat Restoration Pilot Project. Salmon Day will be followed with the next all-hands meeting in Olympia. The executive committee began discussing funding scenarios for the Spokane lead entity as proposed by Jeannie Abbot and received input from Caleb McGivney, lead entity coordinator from Spokane. Lead entities are divided on how funding will be allocated for the regional monitoring program. Some would like the funding pot kept whole for large projects in a region, while others prefer the funding caps as proposed in the [meeting materials](#).

Lastly, the Skagit Land Trust purchased one of the last blocks in the Hurn Field Conservation Area along the Skagit River. The Hurn Field Conservation Area can now be the site for a large restoration project in a large portion of the floodplain.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Alison Studley, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group executive director, shared the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group has been a grant recipient since the board's first year in 1999 and in the last board round received five additional grants awarded through the new Riparian funds for a total of sixty grants. Collectively, the fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups are a significant force in receiving board grants and helping landowners conduct important salmon recovery work.

Ms. Studley expressed excitement about Salmon Day and the opportunity to provide a unified message to Legislators, ensuring the board is significantly funded to continue habitat restoration for the success of salmon around the state.

While enhancement groups have been successful in receiving funds, there are risks to current founding sources. The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups have received \$1 million through the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for implementing the successful Salmon in the Schools program in elementary schools around the state, but feels this funding is at risk. Additionally, the contract that provides around \$500,000 from the sale of eggs and carcasses from state hatcheries is also at risk. Typically, the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group receives a collective \$1.2 million from the federal government, but the funding outlook is unclear. The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group will advocate for increasing funds and diversifying where funds come from to ensure groups do not fail due to lack of funding.

The Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group's Annual Report will be shared soon.

BREAK 10:11 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Item 4: Salmon Strategy Biennial Workplan

Katie Knight Pruitt, salmon recovery coordinator, provided an overview of the Salmon Strategy Biennial Work Plan as outlined in the [meeting materials](#). Highlights of the [2025-2027 biennial work plan](#) include protecting and restoring vital salmon habitat; investing in clean water infrastructure; correcting fish passage barriers and restoring access; building climate resiliency; aligning harvest, hatcheries, and hydropower; addressing predation and food web issues; enhancing commitments and coordinating across programs; and strengthening science, monitoring, and accountability.

To develop the work plan, staff met with agencies and salmon recovery regions to develop a list of priorities. Only items identified as high priority for each region were included in the work plan. Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Upper Columbia

United Tribes, and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission were involved in reviewing an early draft of the work plan.

Regarding the predation and food web issues priority, **Member Maroney** noted Representative Mary Dye worked to increase funding through Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for zebra and quagga mussel monitoring and detection and asked about northern pike suppression. Ms. Pruitt noted that northern pike suppression is an agency request but was not in the Governor's Budget.

Ms. Pruitt noted that under Governor Inslee's administration there has been a steady increase in funding across salmon recovery programs and many strong environmental policies were put in place. In the new year there will be subcabinet changes, but there is a strong system in place with interagency coordination and work with regions and Tribal organizations that will continue.

Member Maroney asked if there was a way to show how specific legislation impacts different levels of funding. Ms. Pruitt will provide that information.

Chair Breckel expressed concern about the decrease in funding for programs in the operating budget. **Director Duffy** noted everyone is working to maintain operating dollars, and it will be a long Legislative Session dedicated to education and talking about salmon recovery.

General Public Comment

None.

Item 5: Updates on Intensively Monitored Watershed Program

Greer Maier, science coordinator, provided an overview of the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program. In June, the board narrowed options for future funding of this program. Option 1: continue to fund the IMW monitoring research activities at current levels through 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. As included in the [meeting materials](#), Ms. Maier presented an overview of monitoring efforts, the treatment watershed, species, and restoration activities over the monitoring timeline for the Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Staits, and Skagit IMWs, and what both options would look like for each. There are no viable options for reducing effort or modifying monitoring for the Skagit IMW under Option 2.

Member Cottingham asked if habitat monitoring is more costly than fish monitoring. Ms. Maier noted the cost for fish and habitat monitoring are about the same and the contract is for the entire IMW to detect a response for the whole watershed. **Member Cram** added that the funding components in the presentation are just the board's and there is more funding from other sources, making it difficult to compare the costs of fish and habitat monitoring.

Member Maroney noted that technology has changed and asked if different techniques would be captured for the habitat monitoring category. Ms. Maier noted new monitoring efforts would not be initiated, but the new technology would be leveraged to answer whether a response at a smaller scale could be detected.

Next steps include continuing to refine options with partners and incorporate board feedback, working toward a recommendation on each IMW, and possibly a board decision in March.

Member Cottingham would like to know if budget cuts to partners will affect the recommendations. **Members Hoffmann** and **Endresen-Scott** would like the pros and cons characterized for each IMW to better understand what will be learned and what is at risk.

Public Comment

Marlies Wierenga, Puget Sound Partnership Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program manager, highlighted support for the Skagit IMW as outlined in a letter from the Puget Sound Partnership director included in the [meeting materials](#). Findings from the Skagit IMW are a key component in Puget Sound Partnership's ongoing effectiveness study to evaluate cumulative efforts. The Puget Sound Partnership encourages continued board investment in the Skagit IMW program.

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, noted the pro for Option 2 is that it reduces the spending level and enables that money to go to other priorities to implement the pivot to new monitoring programs. Mr. Conley supported the further development of Option 2 to fully quantify the savings.

Mike Lemoine, director of research at the Skagit River Systems Cooperative, and **Correigh Greene**, co-principal investigator for the Skagit IMW, highlighted the fifty-five reports and twelve peer-reviewed publications from the Skagit IMW that are used to inform estuary restoration and work throughout the watershed.

Chair Breckel noted there is not enough money to support all the monitoring needs that partners have. Member Cottingham would like more information on what the board gets from habitat monitoring.

Member Cram noted many monitoring approaches have been tried over the years and across the monitoring spectrum. Action effectiveness monitoring was designed to inform habitat restoration approaches and the effects on fish at small spatial scales compared to IMWs which were decades long experiments. Asking the principal investigators to analyze and summarize while still being in the middle of the experiment is challenging from a scientific perspective. There is much to be learned in both habitat and fish monitoring, and the habitat data informs the fish response.

Member Maroney noted additional treatments in an IMW will continue to extend the end of monitoring and suggested a cut off for ending treatment may be necessary.

Members discussed the difficulties of defining the final outcomes from IMWs and noted the importance of continuing monitoring but maybe not as a defined program. Member Cram noted that because of the work in IMWs, other types of restoration have been done.

Ms. Maier will bring more complete information for each IMW to the March meeting and provide the intention for each. Chair Breckel would like to see what partners are doing to implement the work.

LUNCH: 11:46 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Item 6: Monitoring Grant Program Manual

Greer Maier provided an overview of the Monitoring Grant Program and Manual 18M. Key program elements include eligible sponsors, eligible projects, strategic priorities, grant process, evaluation criteria, and funding, and are explained in more details in the [meeting materials](#).

While explaining the eligible projects, **Chair Breckel** noted that the cap is \$300,000 per project unless multiple regions submit the same project. He asked if three Columbia Basin regions submitted a single proposal, would the cap be \$900,000? Ms. Maier answered there would be no cap in that case. **Member Cottingham** asked if two regions come together for a proposal, would that count as one or two projects for the region? Ms. Maier answered it would only count as one project, and each region could still submit one additional project.

Continuing, Ms. Maier explained the biennial grant schedule will be similar to the regular board grant schedule with requests for proposals going out in January. Initial applications are due May 1, with final applications due at the end of June for funding decisions in September.

Chair Breckel clarified that the board will decide which specific projects are funded based on the scores and ranks provided by the science panel.

Member Cram noted a tight turnaround schedule for application review. The science panel has a difficult task evaluating the proposals and comparing them to other data. He suggested reevaluating the timeline after the first round. Additionally, Member Cram expressed concern for the \$300,000 funding cap, noting there are other ways to manipulate scope or budget without having a cap.

Member Cottingham asked if one-time funding had been considered or if sponsors could come back year after year for funding, and if a region could bring habitat monitoring as a strategic priority. Ms. Maier explained a phased process is allowed, so sponsors could apply for each phase, but they will all be evaluated separately. A region would need to explain their reasoning for including habitat monitoring as a strategic priority.

Member Maroney asked if the evaluation criteria had changed from when the science panel reviewed projects in the regular grant round. Ms. Maier answered yes, because the strategic priorities changed and the proposed evaluation criteria were evaluated by the science panel and Council of Regions.

Member Endresen-Scott asked if the three-year contract limit was long enough for a monitoring project. Ms. Maier noted this is where phasing could come into play, but it depends on the project and how long monitoring is needed. It would be difficult for a broader geographical region monitoring project.

Chair Breckel asked if applicants planning a phased approach should include that information when applying for the first phase. Ms. Maier noted the sponsor will need to have a clear vision of how to accomplish all the phases over time.

Member Hoffmann would like applicants to explain the data gap the project is filling and provide the purpose of how the project fits into the bigger salmon recovery narrative in a clear and digestible way. Ms. Maier noted there are key questions in the proposal that ask for how the project will inform decision making.

Public Comment

Marlies Wierenga, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program Manager with Puget Sound Partnership, explained the Puget Sound Partnership and Puget Sound Lead Entities believe this shift will improve the ability to develop meaningful regional monitoring priorities which will help to impact projects. Ms. Wierenga discouraged the board's \$300,000 cap, which may limit the ability of Puget Sound to develop meaningful projects that answer regional questions and may not be sufficient funds to provide capacity and fund monitoring across multiple lead entities in the region. Instead, Ms. Wierenga asked the board to consider requiring projects over \$300,000 to detail how the project can be phased so the science advisory panel has the option to phase projects without restricting the overall program. This would open the door for sponsors to consider developing larger projects, while providing the science advisory panel with the ability to distribute funding in an equitable manner and weigh the overall monitoring needs of the state.

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, noted keeping a cap creates fair and reasonable odds, ensuring that at least three projects are funded. This is fair as there is a significant local cost to apply, and people need to know there is a high enough chance of being awarded funds. Mr. Conley noted that as written, the manual gives more leeway for people to bring a project of concern to the board than the regular grant round does, putting more work on the board to decide whether to fund a project of concern. **Member Cottingham** noted the board already has the role of making decisions on projects of concern. Ms. Maier noted the science panel is not comfortable removing projects of concern from the list.

Director Duffy reiterated that the \$973,855 available for this round includes \$354,000 from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund unobligated monitoring funds, \$350,000 from regional monitoring, and unobligated carryover monitoring funds. Ms. Maier expects \$1.4 million to be available next year, if appropriations are similar.

Motion: Move to adopt Manual 18M as drafted for the 2025 grant round.
Moved by: Member **Cottingham**
Seconded by: Member **Endresen-Scott**
Approved: **Approved**

Item 7: City of Sumner Cost Increase

Kate McLaughlin, outdoor grants manager, explained that Appendix I of Manual 18 requires the approval of the local lead entity and the Puget Sound Partnership, and

delegates authority to approve cost increase to the RCO director who may approve or recommend amendments be reviewed by the board subcommittee and the board. Due to the significant cost increase request and changes to the design, the director referred the request to the board subcommittee.

The White River Restoration ([RCO #20-1102](#)), a City of Sumner project, is requesting a cost increase of \$2,636,035. The original project would have restored 180 acres, featured a new side channel, a blind channel fed by runoff from Lake Tapps, and restored former golf course grounds and agriculture fields to reconnected floodplain. The City of Sumner [included a video](#) providing an overview of the importance of this project.

Due to permitting delays and economic conditions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, two project partners, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Cascade Water Alliance, withdrew from the project resulting in an increased budget gap and the opportunity to expand the restoration to 200 acres. Additionally, the new designs remove the blind channel and add a second side channel. The increased restoration area came from extending the forested berm further east to the limits of the adjacent railroad.

In October, the City of Sumner and staff presented this cost increase request to the board subcommittee. The board subcommittee recommends approving the cost increase due to the deficit being an unknowable circumstance; the benefit to salmon and stakeholders remaining the same; the design scope changes having been reviewed and approved by the review panel; the City of Sumner significantly increasing their contributions and fundraising from other sources; continued support from affected Tribes and Pierce County; available Puget Sound Acquisition and Recovery funds; and the support from the Puget Sound Partnership and the Puyallup Chambers Lead Entity for the cost increase.

Member Cottingham asked why Cascade Water Alliance withdrew support. Ms. McLaughlin explained it was due to financial circumstances and not because they did not like the project.

Member Endresen-Scott, as a member of the subcommittee, explained this was a long process to get to this point in the project with over fifty-five meetings with partners and Tribes. Ultimately this project is good for salmon, the economy, and jobs. **Member Hoffmann**, as a member of the subcommittee, noted that the success of the project is important, and the subcommittee agreed the merits of the project should warrant the cost increase adding the funds are available.

Member Cram was impressed by the City of Sumner stepping up to provide additional support and would like to see Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway involved in more conversations as they have a disproportionate impact on salmon recovery across the state. **Member Maroney** echoed Crams comments, and thought the change in design will add impact. Member Endresen-Scott suggested this project as a site visit once it is complete.

Motion: Move to 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 the Puget Sound Partnership.

Moved by: Member **Endresen-Scott**

Seconded by: Member **Maroney**

Approved: **Approved**

BREAK 2:09 P.M. – 2:25 P.M.

Item 8: Riparian Programmatic Changes

Nick Norton, planning and policy specialist, provided a briefing on possibilities for future changes to the Riparian Program. Mr. Norton highlighted past riparian efforts and input and key takeaways as outlined in the [meeting materials](#). In 2025, staff would like to examine the possibility of a more programmatic relationship between board funding and riparian-specific work at the local level through a series of listening sessions, analysis and assessment, and board discussion.

The Riparian Taskforce released their [Final Report and Recommendations](#) in summer 2024, and will provide updates on recommendations one and three in December. Recommendation two of the report relates to voluntary funding for riparian related work and calls to develop watershed scale riparian implementation strategies, funding to develop the strategies, and rapidly available funding to implement priority actions.

Mr. Norton highlighted the opportunity to consider priorities and new funding sources for the Riparian Program and utilize the current momentum and wealth of available feedback.

Member Maroney asked with the possibility of long-term funding, if there was potential to revise Manual 18 or create new guidelines specific to riparian projects. Mr. Norton noted this process may result in policy and operational changes and could include a different way of delivering funding. **Director Duffy** added that it would be valuable to discuss what could be done differently to meet characteristics that are

beneficial for riparian types of projects over the next year. **Chair Breckel** noted there are enough unique attributes to the program to consider reevaluating.

Based on the recommendations from the Riparian Taskforce, **Member Cottingham** thought this could be an opportunity to consider which principles or philosophies make the board's work valued, such as accountability, and maintain those values regardless of changes to the process. Member Cottingham also noted an existing process at the Department of Commerce that prequalifies candidates. This approach could fast-track getting money out to organizations while maintaining accountability. **Member Cram** noted these ideas are potentially relevant to many types of restoration work the board does beyond riparian projects.

Member Gorman thought it made sense to look at developing a programmatic approach but wondered if the work was worthwhile with current budget uncertainty. Mr. Norton noted the timing made sense because of the statewide context, and this would be a longer-term project beyond the scope of the current funding freeze. Director Duffy noted that this is a time to think creatively, and staff might be able to apply some vetted concepts and results of the work in other programs if there is not additional funding for riparian.

Members discussed wanting to better understand why riparian does not compete well in the annual SRFB grant round. **Member Bizyayeva** agreed with the desired outcomes included in the [meeting materials](#).

Mr. Norton highlighted the potential areas of inquiry including riparian strategies, technical review, and contracting.

Member Endresen-Scott liked the idea of expediting funding but shared concern for some regions and lead entities having the capacity to develop and implement a riparian strategy and wanted to ensure the process is fair regardless of access to resources. Chair Breckel noted the board should consider how to make riparian projects more attractive to agricultural and industrial landowners through using policies like landowner incentives.

Member Cram noted the value of knowing the financial impact. Director Duffy clarified the funding source, noting that money obligated in 2024 is from the Natural Climate Solutions Account under the Climate Commitment Act and the money in the 2025-2027 Governor Inslee's Budget is identified as bond funding. Member Cottingham noted there may have more flexibility in how the Climate Commitment Act funding is spent.

Chair Breckel suggested getting feedback from regions and lead entities. Director Duffy suggested Mr. Norton conduct a literature review to see if there is a way to meet the characteristics and objectives within current funding structures and authorities to move towards achieving the characteristics before having conversations with the regions and lead entities.

Public Comment

Alex Conley, Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board, was excited to explore programmatic ideas due to broad interest in programmatic approaches and thinking about what the program is accountable to and what the transaction costs are. While the Riparian Program worked the first time, it may not be the most effective way to fund riparian projects in the long run. There are many ways to set up strategies to work with the opportunities that fit what people are willing to work on.

Item 9: Completed Projects

Kay Caromile, outdoor grants manager, provided an overview of the Rose Point Embayment Restoration ([RCO #20-1525](#)), sponsored by Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group and funded through multiple board and partner programs.

Member Cram asked if the removed fill-material was used to build the spits. Ms. Caromile noted some material was imported, which led to a cost increase request but was not sure if the removed fill-material was used on site. **Chair Breckel** asked if the spits were self-sustaining. Ms. Caromile answered the processes that maintained the historic spits are still intact so the spits will be self-sustaining.

Member Cram asked if there were any easements put in place. Ms. Caromile noted there were not any easements and that putting the bulkhead back would be difficult to permit.

Bob Warinner, outdoor grants manager, highlighted Baird Creek Liberation: Dam Removal ([RCO #20-1080](#)), just upstream of where the Cowlitz River enters the Columbia River, sponsored by the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group. This project is a part of a series of projects in the Coweeman Headwaters Habitat Enhancement Strategy.

Member Cram asked about the conversations that led to explosives being used as the removal process, and if it decreased the cost. Mr. Warinner noted he was not around for the conversations, but explosives made the removal cheaper.

Kendall Kohler, outdoor grants manager, presented the Smith Creek Tidal Restoration project ([RCO #18-1193](#)) sponsored by the Pacific Conservation District, which required

coordinating with multiple landowners to replace two tide gates with a bridge over Smith Creek.

Item 10: Partner Reports

Department of Transportation

Member Susan Kanzler was absent and did not provide a written report.

Conservation Commission

Member Levi Keesecker was absent and did not provide a written report.

Department of Ecology

Member Annette Hoffmann noted the new director, Casey Sixkiller, will take office on January 15. Member Hoffmann highlighted ongoing efforts to address the impacts of 6PPD-quinone, including outreach and education; [publishing documents](#) to support standardizing sampling efforts and considerations for sampling 6PPD-quinone; and sampling over different storm events to understand transportation, mechanisms, and mass loadings of 6PPD-quinone to be compared across watersheds. The [6PPD Action Plan and Alternative Assessment](#) is available and includes updates about the action plan and recommendations for the 2025-2027 biennium.

The [Stormwater Strategic Initiative](#) has \$8.6 million available for stormwater projects to address toxics, climate resilience, and multi-benefit facilities, with a request for proposals that is open until December 31. The Washington Department of Ecology reissued the [Industrial Stormwater General Permit](#) on December 2 and requires transportation, waste management, and hazardous waste facilities to sample for 6PPD beginning in 2028. Funding is available for over twenty research projects to assess the effectiveness of stormwater management practices.

Department of Natural Resources

Member Tom Gorman, Department of Natural Resources, noted the new commissioner, Dave Uptegrove, will take office on January 15.

The Derelict Structure Removal program had a successful season, completing a large pier removal in Neah Bay and the near completion of piling removal in Commencement Bay. The first artificial tire reef removal project was completed near Tolmie State Park, removing around 4,800 tires from the Puget Sound. This project helped to refine cost estimation, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources is seeking additional funding to continue the Derelict Structure Removal program. This work will be ongoing until all tire reefs are removed.

A tide gate removal project is underway at Whiteman Cove. This project included the installation of a 120-foot bridge. The plug is set to be removed at the end of December, completing the last project from a 2013 lawsuit.

Internally, the Watershed Resilience Program and Upland Team are working to find solutions for wood supply for restoration projects.

Chair Breckel asked what happened to the creosote pilings that were removed. Member Gorman answered they are taken to a special landfill facility in Oregon.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Member Jeremy Cram, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, noted the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is analyzing the implications for current and new work with the recent budget release.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released the [Biological Status of the Olympic Peninsula Steelhead Population report](#), determining the fish population is at moderate risk of extinction. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is awaiting policy decisions regarding this status change.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is increasing involvement in the [Six-Sovereigns Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative](#) work and is inspired after working with other people and organizations dedicated to this effort. Lists for the needs of the mid-Columbia and Columbia basin-wide were sent to federal delegations to document the broad needs facing fish in the Columbia basin.

The [Fish Passage Strategy](#) will continue to develop and release products in the coming months and is in the process of transitioning between science and implementation. The Riparian Systems Assessment tool will help develop riparian strategies across the state and will be rolled out throughout 2025.

Member Cram had a more in-depth role on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Net Gain Proviso](#) report and is working to highlight the environmental improvements as a result of human uses on the landscape to incentivize private landowners to do environmental good on their property. This work is related to the Riparian Roundtable, which the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is also engaged in.

Lastly, internal IMW conversations and conversations with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office continue to leverage all the data collected.

RECESS: 4:06 P.M.

DRAFT

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: December 19, 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 board liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. Members Annette Hoffmann and Levi Keesecker were present online. Members Tom Gorman, Susan Kanzler, and Kadi Bizyayeva were absent.

Item 11: Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

Catherine Buchalski Smith, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided an overview of the [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program](#) (ESRP). WDFW is charged with providing the overall framework, setting priorities, and providing scientific underpinnings and technical assistance. RCO is responsible for contract management, fiscal and billing, PRISM support, and serves as a connection between ESRP and work that can be served through the board and the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program. Together the two agencies make policy and management decisions for the program.

Member Gorman joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

ESRP originated from the [Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project](#), a sixteen-year, \$22 million scientific investigation to define problems in the nearshore and develop process-based solutions to propose large-scale United States Army Corps of Engineers and WDFW projects. The project allowed the Puget Sound to become eligible for federal aquatic ecosystem restoration and in 2006, the State Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million to WDFW to begin the ESRP. The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project remains an ongoing partnership between the federal government and the state through the United States Army Corps of Engineers and WDFW.

The geographic focus of the ESRP is the Puget Sound nearshore, which includes around 2,500 miles of the narrow ribbon of land and water that surrounds the Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and San Juan Islands. The nearshore includes subtidal and intertidal areas and can include upland and riparian habitats up to 200 meters above the tidal influence. This complex system of habitat types is necessary for a healthy and robust Puget Sound. Within the nearshore environment, the primary strategy for habitat restoration and protection is process-based restoration, which recognizes that the need for ecological restoration occurs in places where humans have interfered with the natural processes and understands that habitat restoration must address the processes to be successful.

The ESRP is an umbrella program with four programs: Restoration and Protection, Learning, Shore Friendly, and Small Grants. Every other year, each program creates a ranked list, which is then merged to create one overall list that is provided to Legislature for funding requests. The 2025-2027 biennium had thirty-one projects and six regional shore friendly programs for a total request of \$27.5 million, 63 percent of which was for restoration and protection. This program is ranked as the number one program in the Puget Sound Partnership's 2025-2027 combined budget request.

Shore Friendly Program

Bob Warinner, outdoor grants manager, provided an overview of the Shore Friendly program that is run by six shore friendly lead organizations throughout the Puget Sound: Shore Friendly South Sound, Island County Shore Friendly, Northwest Straits Foundation, Shore Friendly King, Shore Friendly Kitsap, and the Swinomish Tribe. This program helps landowners understand the biological value of restoration or armor prevention on the habitat and the aesthetic and lifestyle value of a natural shoreline. Shore Friendly is primarily funded through the ESRP but partners other funding sources like Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead funding.

Mr. Warinner highlighted the Zangle Cove Bulkhead Removal ([RCO #20-1517](#)) sponsored by the Thurston Conservation District, which is used as an example during the outreach step.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead, facilitated by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and WDFW, provides outreach funding and expands outreach through social media. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation program recently provided a grant to WDFW to develop a Shore Loan program that provides landowners with low interest loans to complete projects.

Member Endresen-Scott asked if staff work with bulkhead builders. Mr. Warinner answered no, but The Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead program is intended to work with industry leaders to determine better ways to protect the shoreline.

Chair Breckel asked for details on the WDFW Shore Loans program. Mr. Warinner shared WDFW received around \$1 million for a pilot program to see how small loans will help shoreline projects be completed.

Learning Program

Dr. Tish Conway-Cranos, WDFW, explained the programmatic objectives of ESRP and the Learning Program (regional pre-design projects) including restoring connectivity and size of large river deltas; restoring sediment input, transport, and accretion processes; restoring shoreline complexity and length; and increasing understanding of natural process restoration to improve effectiveness of project actions. Rather than considering only specific species needs, process-based restoration considers the needs at a landscape scale and seeks to alleviate the source of impairment to the processes through restoration. The processes include sediment input, sediment transport, tidal flow, erosion, accretion, channel migration and formation, freshwater input, detritus input and export, exchange of aquatic organisms, and solar incidence as raw material for nearshore restoration.

Within ESRP, 90 percent of the funding goes toward process-based restoration and the Shore Friendly Program and 10 percent goes towards the Learning Program for scientific investigations to inform restoration. Learning projects include spatial data and planning tools, predictive modeling, design guidance, analyses to inform maximizing benefits, and ecosystem response to restoration actions which feed into planning, feasibility, design, and implementation restoration actions.

Dr. Conway-Cranos provided examples of Learning Program projects, highlighting the foundational work of [Strategies for Nearshore Protection and Restoration in Puget Sound](#), as well as the more recent [Beach Strategies Project \(RCO #14-2308\)](#) which provides data and recommendations for individual drift cells and feeder bluffs in an

[interactive map](#); [scaling tidal geometry with marsh island area for the Puget Sound](#); and density-dependent rearing of Chinook salmon in tidal wetlands ([RCO #13-1508](#)).

The 2025-2027 project list includes beach projects that look at maximizing benefits of shoreline armor removal ([RCO #24-1916](#)); evaluating beach service change for restoration ([RCO #24-1907](#)); embayment projects that provide coastal inlet sizing guidance ([RCO #24-1903](#)); south and central Puget Sound habitat fish use assessment ([RCO #24-1901](#)); look at central and north Puget Sound non-natal Chinook use of small streams ([RCO #24-1902](#)) and delta projects that explore spatial variation in natural channel levees ([RCO #24-1914](#)).

Dr. Conway-Cranos highlighted communication efforts to connect restoration science and practice including Learning Project webinars, the [Salish Sea Restoration platform](#), and the 2021 [Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Summit and Proceedings](#).

Kay Caromile, outdoor grants manager, explained how ESRP compliments the board's mission, and how the two programs support each other through match, leverage, and complimentary funding. Of the projects included in the ESRP's 2025-2027 investment plan, 59 percent had a direct tie to past or present board or Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration investments. The remaining 41 percent are new projects that further nearshore restoration and protection in the Puget Sound. This allows the combined list of projects to be greater than either program could fund on its own.

This complimentary support is critical to large scale projects like the Double Bluff Acquisition ([RCO #24-1200](#)) on Whidbey Island, which is ranked highly on three different RCO grant programs including the board's Targeted Investment program, Community Forest Program, and ESRP and is expected to cost over \$7 million. Even with the removal of match requirements, these projects still require multiple sources of funding.

ESRP helps identify viable projects to the board. In the first four years of the Shore Friendly Program, sponsors submitted thirty applications to the board and ESRP for projects that were first identified through the Shore Friendly Program, including Armor Removal at Shaw Island Broken Point ([RCO #20-1561](#)) and Dyes Inlet Lagoon Bulkhead Removal Project ([RCO #24-1148](#)).

ESRP provides funding to support applied research and adaptive management efforts that inform restoration in the Puget Sound. The Nearshore Tidal Barrier and Riparian Mapping ([RCO #20-1941](#)) and Fine Scale Movement of Juvenile Slamon to Inform Tidal Fish Passage ([RCO #16-2282](#)) are examples of the applied research the Learning Program funds. Lastly, Ms. Caromile re-highlighted the Rose Point Embayment Restoration project ([RCO #20-1525](#)) as a successful example of the partnership between ESRP and the board.

In 2025, ESRP will finally have a policy manual and begin working on a twenty-year program synthesis and planning celebrations for the collective impact seen around the Puget Sound.

Member Endresen-Scott asked if ESRP works with local government shoreline managers to help educate the public on the different options for shoreline protection to prevent armoring. Mr. Warinner answered that one of the key objectives of the Habitat Strategic Initiative Lead program is to inform contractors and planners about the options on the beach. Additionally, staff are creating a curriculum for workshops that will start in January.

Member Keesecker asked if there was social science involved in outreach to private landowners and if outreach strategy stood out as more helpful than others. Mr. Warinner noted there has not yet been an evaluation of which strategies have worked best but noted beach walks with the landowners and in-person interaction seems to be the most effective method. Dr. Conway-Cranos noted there was a social marketing analysis of shoreline landowners completed in the Shore Friendly Program in 2014 and is in the process of being redone.

Member Cram asked if there was the ability to quantify the net change in armoring or overall estuary condition accounting for the work ESRP and other programs have done along with development and degradation. Dr. Conway-Cranos answered this is easier done at the programmatic level than at the Puget Sound level; however, there is data on armor that is being looked at. Member Cram asked if there was a partner program in Canada. Dr. Conway-Cranos answered there is not, but she was recently invited to a workshop that is co-led by Western Washington University, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Simon Fraser University in British Columbia to start making connections for estuary, tidal, and wetland habitats. Mr. Warinner noted there is a program in Canada similar to Shore Friendly, but outreach needs to be done to figure out how the programs can cooperate.

BREAK 10:05 A.M. – 10:11 A.M.

Item 12: Regional Presentations

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Amanda Ward, executive director of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, provided an overview of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board whose board of directors represents a coalition of two Tribes and three counties. The Upper Columbia Region consists of the Methow, Okanogan, Entiat, and Wenatchee sub-basins, covering 10,000 square miles and 1,050 miles of fish-bearing streams. The species of concern are

Endangered Species Act listed upper Columbia Spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.

Since the formation of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board in 1999, there have been 1,120 projects funded, with 693 completed to date totaling \$190 million. There are 146 active projects for a total of \$225 million and 139 planned projects for a total of \$158 million.

In 2024, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board celebrated twenty-five years of salmon recovery efforts in the Upper Columbia region and hosted a permitting workshop in November to address the needs of sponsors related to permitting inefficiencies that pose challenges to salmon recovery efforts. This conversation is expected to continue with a series of virtual workshops. There were nineteen projects across Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee watersheds, all of which were funded with \$2.89 million from regular board funding, and \$2.18 million from the Riparian program.

The Upper Columbia Technical Team is made up of regional technical experts whose experienced leadership guides regional science and scores projects. The technical team collaborated with regional practitioners to develop log jams protocols, which were used in reach assessments by the Yakama Nation throughout the summer who then shared the results back to the technical team to further refine the protocols.

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board has two Citizen's Advisory Committees, one in Okanogan County and one in Chelan County, each made up of seven citizens from diverse backgrounds who provide the final ranking of board projects. The process is managed by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board lead entity coordinator.

The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board uses a biological strategy tool developed by the technical team to prioritize habitat actions and locations based on limiting factors, life stages, habitat quality, and reach function. Priorities are ranked separately for Spring Chinook and steelhead, and available on the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board [website](#). The strategy is used to evaluate where projects will have the greatest impacts on populations and what types of restoration actions will have the greatest biological benefits. Another part of the tool includes barrier prioritization information. Cascade Fisheries completed a nearly full inventory of artificial barriers in the region in 2021. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board also coordinates with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to identify barriers completed and assess actions to address the remaining barriers.

The 2022 State of Salmon Report indicated that Spring Chinook is in crisis and Upper Columbia River Steelhead are not keeping pace. Unfortunately, the region has had some

of the worst smolt to adult return rates, due to the 60 percent juvenile mortality during downstream migration, 50 percent loss to avian predation, poor ocean conditions, 20 percent loss to sea lion predation upon returning upriver, and traveling the longest distance, up to 1,500 miles round trip and some crossing seventy-nine dams. The latest data on Upper Columbia fish species indicate numbers for Upper Columbia Spring Chinook and steelhead are well below the de-listing abundance. Bull trout populations are relatively stable; however, some data indicates that juvenile numbers are in decline in the Entiat watershed.

Ms. Ward highlighted future challenges salmon recovery is facing, including salmonid's complex life stages and limiting factors, habitat degradation, ocean conditions, climate change, invasive species like zebra and quagga mussels, predation, funding, and time. In 2022 and 2023, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board facilitated a strategic planning process and identified four key priorities: recovery, engagement, leadership, and sustainability. The plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary to ensure workplans align with the recovery plan. The overarching priority is recovery, and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board will work with sponsors and partners to determine how best to provide support to complete successful projects that benefit habitat and reverse the decline of species in the region.

In 2025, the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board will work with the original twenty-four voting members of the implementation team to reinvigorate, reframe, and clarify the focus and responsibilities of the team. The implementation team can provide upper-level guidance and encourage collaboration and coordination on larger projects. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board will help engage harvest, hydro, and hatcheries in the "All-H's" of salmon recovery as habitat is covered already; research and monitoring; and coordinate the original adaptive management and monitoring program.

A consultant was recently hired to compile an Adaptive Management Synthesis Report in 2025. The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is organizing a steering committee to evaluate and provide recommendations to help drive future actions. There will be an adaptive management session at the next Science Conference in 2026. The five key areas of the report include fish population status and trends, implementation, limiting factors and threats, habitat action effectiveness, and addressing data gaps and research needs.

Member Maroney asked if the recovery plan will address All-H's or just habitat even though there are other limiting factors contributing to population decline in the upper Columbia. Ms. Ward clarified that the region is concerned with restoring habitat, but the

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board should be engaging with the other three Hs for a better understanding of what is going on in those areas. All-H's are listed in the plan, but the priority on the ground is habitat. Member Maroney asked how the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board engages on a local and regional level on broader issues like climate, predation, and exotic species. Ms. Ward answered these topics will be put in the plan and the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board is aware of the issues but cannot solve them as an organization alone. **Chair Breckel** asked how the region is responding to climate change. Ms. Ward answered climate change is a huge challenge and noted it is a global issue. **Member Hoffmann** supports more conversations around climate change, noting a lot of recovery is focused on water quantity but water quality has impacts too. Member Maroney noted the fires in the Methow are compounding impacts and suggested the Methow watershed as a future travel meeting location.

Hood Canal Coordinating Council

David Dicks, executive director of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council, noted that the council will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2025. Mr. Dicks noted the Hood Canal Coordinating Council is unique with three local governments and two tribes, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Skokomish Tribe, that recognizes all parties coordinating is imperative to the work being done; is held as a regional recovery organization for Hood Canal summer chum salmon; is the lead entity for all species of salmon in the Hood Canal; and has a strong volunteer science group and a citizen advisory group that provides guidance and support for the lead entity.

The council, as directed by [Revised Code of Washington 9088](#), acts as a local management board for aquatic rehabilitation, in partnership with the Puget Sound Partnership, to coordinate and resolve water quality issues. The council is petitioning to reinstate funding for this in 2025.

The council is the local integrating organization for the Puget Sound Partnership and receives resources to coordinate local action in the broader recovery of the Puget sound. Additionally, the council runs a compensatory mitigation in lieu fee program, which generates conservation credits through buying and protecting habitat and restoring areas. The credits can be used by entities such as the Washington Department of Transportation or the United States Navy in projects that will impact the Hood Canal area. This program provides the council with the ability to acquire key sites that relate to other projects in salmon recovery or water quality.

Mr. Dicks expressed gratitude to RCO, Director Duffy, and Jeannie Abbott for facilitating the funding process, noting the system relies on many small entities doing a lot of

volunteer work with small budgets. Mr. Dicks encouraged continued support for capacity building for these entities, lead entities, and salmon enhancement groups.

[Long Live the Kings](#), along with the United States Navy and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe have conducted studies of the Hood Canal Bridge and found the mile-long barrier to be highly detrimental to juvenile steelhead, contributing to high mortality and impacting all salmon species in the Hood Canal.

The council is close petitioning the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to delist the Hood Canal Summer Chum from the Endangered Species Act. There are some scientific questions on spatial diversity and other topics that need to be addressed, but there is a lot of support to de-list. This would be a conservation success story for the salmon community, showing that success is possible. Work will need to continue to ensure the species success continues, and the council is hoping to develop a mechanism that will allow for continued funding to protect species after they have been de-listed.

Member Cottingham asked what role the Hood Canal Bridge plays in the plans for de-listing. Mr. Dicks noted the most significant impacts of the bridge are on steelhead; however, it still acts as a barrier and impacts all salmonid species. Mr. Dicks did not think the bridge would be an impediment to de-listing in the short term.

Mr. Dicks noted that Targeted Investment projects are complicated and involve many parties and funding sources and suggested that regions take on the role of coordinating between areas to integrate projects. It is the hope of the council to provide answers on the health of the Hood Canal, what success looks like, and to create connectivity between projects.

Chair Breckel highlighted integration as a key, noting that multiple funding sources are easier to sustain overtime but do not guarantee coordination on the ground. Mr. Dicks suggested having one entity in charge of the overall plan to lessen the gap in connectivity.

ADJOURN: 11:19 A.M.

Motion:	<u>Move to Adjourn.</u>
Moved by:	Member Cottingham
Seconded by:	Member Endresen Scott
Approved:	Approved

The next regular meeting will be held on March 11 and 12, 2025, in Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501 and online via Zoom.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: March 11, 2025

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

Adopt a Fish Passage

The Legislature tasked the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to help with a new [Adopt-a-Fish-Passage program](#), aimed at increasing the pace and scale at which barriers to fish passage on waterways are removed.

The new program enables the Washington State Department of Transportation and county, city, and town governments to accept donations to

help remove fish passage barriers. Donations can be money or land and will be recognized with a sign at the fish passage site after the project completion.

Governments are encouraged to use these donations to match state grants such as the [Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board](#) grants. RCO will create signs for the new program. See more details about the [Adopt-a-Fish-Passage program](#) on RCO's website.



Employee News



Eli Asher, a policy specialist in the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office, left RCO January 21 to become a senior environmental project manager with Jacobs Solutions, an international technical professional services firm.



Myra Barker, manager of the Compliance Unit, retired January 31 after a twenty-five-year career at RCO. She served nearly fourteen years as a grants manager in the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section before moving into compliance, where she spent eleven years building that program.



Mollie Lavelle joined RCO in December as an administrative assistant in the Salmon Grants Section. Mollie worked for several years as a kindergarten teacher and then pivoted to a role at an educational literacy company in Colorado. She earned her bachelor of arts degree from Saint Mary’s College in South Bend, Indiana, and her master of education degree from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. She enjoys hiking, camping, and kayaking. Her husband and two dogs join her on her adventures.



Hailee Taylor joined RCO in December as an administrative assistant for the Grant Services Section. Hailee spent the past seven years as a lead medical assistant doing all things necessary to keep the front and the back of a medical clinic functioning smoothly. She grew up in Thurston County and lives in Rochester, just south of Olympia, with her husband and fifteen-month-old child.

Legislative and Policy Updates

Staff will provide an update on legislative happenings, including current bills of interest, budget related items, and next steps for the session and the budgeting process.

News from the Boards

The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** will meet April 30.

The Washington **Invasive Species Council** met in September and December. The council heard briefings on the European green crab long-term management plan, emerald ash borer preparedness efforts, chronic wasting disease detection, poison hemlock control in King County, and the Safeguard our Shellfish campaign. The council heard year-end reports on the effort to provide boot brushes to protect sagebrush and boat inspections to guard against quagga and zebra mussel. The council also looked to

the future and brainstormed ideas for Invasive Species Awareness Week in 2025, elected a new chair, and began planning to update the council's strategic plan. Finally, the council celebrated eradication of the northern giant hornet in Whatcom County and hosted a ceremony to recognize invasive species heroes.

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met in January for a retreat and a business meeting. During the business meeting, the board reviewed policy changes for the Farmland Preservation, Forestland Preservation, and the Urban Wildlife Habitat Categories in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The board also heard the annual compliance report and considered changes to its land acquisition policy.

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%	\$245,077	19%
2017-19	\$2,293,410	\$2,293,410	100%	\$0	0%	\$1,314,386	57%
2019-21	\$5,838,000	\$5,838,000	100%	\$0	0%	\$2,698,181	46%
2021-23	\$19,755,655	\$19,755,655	100%	\$0	0%	\$7,783,227	39%
2021-23 Supplemental	\$94,937,180	\$94,608,912	99%	\$328,268	1%	\$18,710,511	20%
2023-25 Riparian	\$23,970,000	\$21,233,437	89%	\$2,736,563	11%	\$130,000	.1%
2023-25 Targeted	\$24,010,757	\$23,586,890	98%	423,867	2%	\$0	0%
2023-25	\$16,168,606	\$13,297,831	82%	\$2,870,774	18%	\$2,756,502	21%
Total	\$188,267,118	\$181,907,645	97%	\$6,359,473	3%	\$33,637,884	18%
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%	\$4,849,645	99%
2020	\$6,405,342	\$6,323,030	99%	\$82,312	1%	\$4,673,421	74%
2021	\$11,047,938	\$9,496,050	86%	\$1,551,888	14%	\$4,375,744	46%
2022	\$21,108,947	\$18,008,701	85%	\$3,100,246	15%	\$7,768,903	43%
2023	\$24,435,000	\$24,231,371	99%	\$203,629	1%	\$5,601,926	23%
2024	\$25,013,250	\$21,999,407	88%	\$3,013,843	12%	\$21,742	0.1%
Total	\$95,793,246	\$87,841,327	92%	\$7,951,919	8%	\$30,215,826	34%
Grant Programs							

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
Lead Entities	\$11,099,092	\$10,811,953	97%	\$287,139	3%	\$6,137,407	57%
PSAR	\$122,127,986	\$120,940,789	99%	\$1,187,197	1%	\$36,304,454	30%
Subtotal	\$133,227,078	\$131,752,742	99%	\$1,474,336	1%	\$42,441,861	32%
Administration							
Admin/ Staff	\$11,397,884	\$11,397,884	100%	\$0	0%	\$8,196,881	72%
Subtotal	\$11,397,884	\$11,397,884	100%	\$0	0%	\$8,196,881	72%
GRAND TOTAL	\$428,685,326	\$412,899,598	96%	\$15,785,728	4%	\$114,492,452	28%

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 Salmon Recovery Funding Board and current as of February 3, 2025.

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, twelve salmon blockages were removed this fiscal year (July 1, 2024, to February 3, 2025), and eight passageways installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 5.18 miles of stream (Table 2).

Measure	FY 2025 Performance
Blockages Removed	12
Bridges Installed	6
Culverts Installed	1
Fish Ladders Installed	1
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
21-1205	Duncan Springs Thermal Refugia Project	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Salmon State Projects	0.06



Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Funding Program	Stream Miles
20-1374	Lower Day Slough Fish Passage Improvement	Skagit Fish Enhancement Group	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	0.65
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
				5.18




Table 2: Stream Miles Opened

Grant Management Performance Measures

The table below summarizes fiscal year 2025 operational performance measures as of February 3, 2025

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%	56%		135 agreements for Salmon Recovery Funding Board-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff issued seventy-six agreements within 120 days, averaging eighty-six days.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (15 days or less)	90%	93%		440 progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for Salmon Recovery Funding Board-funded projects. Staff responded to 407 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, 1072 bills were due for Salmon Recovery Funding Board-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	85%		Forty-eight Salmon Recovery Funding Board-funded projects were scheduled to close. So far, this fiscal year forty-one of them closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	6		Six Salmon Recovery Funding 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: March 11, 2025

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

Partner Activities The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) presented to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee with the Puget Sound Partnership and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on January 28. The topic was Introduction to Salmon Recovery. The agenda and presentation can found here. GSRO continued coordination for the five-state Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Washington DC fly-in scheduled for the week of March 3. The trip will focus on meetings with Congressional Offices. GSRO coordinated the Salmon Recovery Network meeting in January. The agenda was focused primarily on state budget and policy updates from SRNet partners ahead of the state legislative session. GSRO continued regular meetings with regional salmon recovery boards and directors and Council of Regions.

GSRO will continue meetings with the tribal organizations throughout the spring and summer.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Application

Staff coordinated with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to submit a request on behalf of Washington State for \$25 million.

Riparian

The Riparian Round Table meetings continued to be led by the Governor's Office with Plauche & Carr. There are three more meetings scheduled for this fiscal year. GSRO continues to facilitate conversations with the state natural resource agencies and Council of Regions on how recommendations may be advanced to increase riparian protection.

Orca Recovery

There are currently seventy-three Southern Resident killer whales. The Center for Whale Research shared the birth of two new calves in J Pod in December 2024. One calf was born to Tahlequah and died within a week. She once again carried her deceased calf on her nose for over a week; the deaths of her calves made international news, bringing attention to the plight of the Southern Resident killer whales. There are multiple related news stories, some of which have been posted to the [orca website](#).

The new law requiring boats to stay back 1000 yards from Southern Resident orcas launched January 1, 2025. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted an adaptive management [report](#) on vessel regulations to protect southern resident killer whales to the legislature in November 2024. The report also discusses an advisory group that makes recommendations on outreach and education strategies to implement the new 1000-yard distance law. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is also updating the Commercial Whale Watching Rules (WAC 220-460) to simplify or remove several sections unapplicable under the new 1000-yard rule. In Canada, public comments are being reviewed concerning potential amendments to their Marine Mammal Regulations, including distance law changes in Southern British Columbia waters. Canada has had annual protection measures for southern resident killer whales since 2019. This year, Canadians are in the process of collecting data to set measures this spring for 2025 and 2026. Protection measures include vessel management, protected areas, and fishery closures. Both countries include their rules in a campaign and materials for boaters called [Be Whale Wise](#). Those materials will be highlighted at the Seattle Boat Show's Whale Wise booth in February 2025.

In Canada, the government has found that the southern resident killer whales are at imminent risk of extinction, a step in the process of establishing an emergency order to better protect the whales. Environmental non-profit organizations in British Columbia filed a suit in January 2025, asking the government to issue the emergency order.

Salmon Recovery Section Report

2024 Grant Cycle

Recreation and Conservation Office staff and grant recipients are working on executing agreements for the 135 salmon and riparian projects funded by the board last September. As of February, seventy are active grant agreements.

In September, the board also approved funding seven targeted investments projects pending the outcome of Initiative 2117. This funding was appropriated by the legislature in 2024, but was not available until January 2025 depending upon the outcome of the Initiative 2117 vote. The Recreation and Conservation Office received \$25 million in funding from the Natural Climate Solutions Account of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) in January. Staff are working with sponsors to put these projects under agreement.

The Recreation and Conservation Office also received CCA funding for an additional thirty-two Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board projects, twenty-two Estuary and Salmon Recovery Program projects, and seven Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative project. Staff are working with sponsors to put these projects under agreement.

2025 Grant Cycle is Underway!

The new 2025 Salmon Recovery Funding Board manual was published in January. Lead entities are soliciting projects for both regular salmon funding and riparian funding. Site visits began the last week of February, and March has been full of visits to the Puget Sound, including visits the week of the board meeting.

The board review panel kickoff was held virtually on February 12. The salmon team also conducted the annual statewide application workshop webinar on January 30.

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 February 3, 2025. This table does not include projects funded through the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, Family Forest Fish Passage Program, the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, or Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Although Recreation and Conservation Office staff support these programs through grant and contract administration, the board does not review or approve projects under these programs.

Table 1. Board-Funded Projects

	Pending Projects	Active Projects	Completed Projects	Total Funded Projects
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Salmon Projects to Date	85	474	3,216	3,775
Percentage of Total	2%	13%	85%	

Attachments

- A. **Closed Projects:** lists projects that closed between August 20, 2024, and February 3, 2025. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g., designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out forty-five projects or contracts during this time.
- B. **Approved Amendments:** shows the major amendments approved between August 20, 2024, and February 3, 2025. Staff processed fourteen cost change amendments during this period.

Attachment A

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from August 20, 2024-February 3, 2025

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>19-1116</u>	City of Sumner	Pacific Pointbar - Acquisition #2	Salmon Federal Projects	01/07/2025
<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>20-1025</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	McKenna Reach and Brighton Creek Protection	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	01/29/2025
<u>20-1029</u>	Nisqually Land Trust	Middle Ohop Protection Phase 5	Salmon Federal Projects	12/11/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<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
<u>20-1378</u>	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Skagit Fish Passage Phase 2 Prioritization	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	10/09/2024
<u>20-1469</u>	Okanogan Conservation District	Loup Loup Creek Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	01/21/2025
<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>21-1070</u>	Wild Fish Conservancy	Snoqualmie Large Wood Placement Concept Design	Salmon Federal Projects	11/26/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>21-1117</u>	10,000 Years Institute	Snahapish River Invasive Plant Control (Phase 3)	Salmon Federal Projects	01/10/2025
<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>21-1148</u>	San Juan Preservation Trust	McArdle Bay Shoreline Conservation Easement	Salmon Federal Projects	12/13/2024
<u>21-1187</u>	Department of Fish and Wildlife	IMW Deepwater Ph 2-Island Unit Preliminary Design	Salmon State Projects	08/30/2024
<u>21-1202</u>	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Lower Snyder Creek Restoration Design	Salmon Federal Projects	01/06/2025
<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
<u>21-1205</u>	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Duncan Springs Thermal Refugia Project	Salmon State Projects	01/14/2025
<u>21-1244</u>	Underwood Conservation District	White Salmon River Conservation Assessment 2021	Salmon Federal Projects	10/18/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>21-1406</u>	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	2021 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Stewardship 2	Salmon State Projects	11/27/2024
<u>22-1010</u>	Asotin County Conservation District	Asotin Creek PA 11.2 Design	Salmon Federal Projects	10/07/2024
<u>22-1011</u>	Asotin County Conservation District	Kelly Creek PA 45 Restoration	Salmon State Supplemental Sm	12/11/2024
<u>22-1045</u>	King County Water & Land Resources	Hamakami Levee Restoration Conceptual Design	Salmon State Supplemental Sm	01/23/2025
<u>22-1054</u>	Lewis Conservation District	MF Newaukum Trib - Alpha Fish Passage Design	Salmon Federal Projects	12/13/2024
<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>22-1336</u>	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Cassel Creek Derelict Culvert Removal	Salmon Federal Projects	12/23/2024

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
<u>22-1501</u>	Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Upper Peshastin Stream and Road Restoration	Salmon Federal Projects	11/22/2024
<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
<u>23-1675</u>	Western Washington University - Conference Services	Salmon Recovery Conference 2025	Salmon Federal Activities	01/29/2025
<u>24-1745</u>	Cramer Fish Sciences	PSP PSAR Review Panel CFS	PSAR-Lead Entity Contracts	11/13/2024

Attachment B

Project Amendments Approved by the RCO Director from August 20, 2024-February 3, 2025

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>18-1737</u>	Reiner Farm Riparian Property Conservation	Tulalip Tribes	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	01/23/2025	NOAA approved an Action Award Request to move \$377,198 of the remaining NA20NMF4380243-T1-01 ORCA funds from 18-1737 into 20-1139 to complete the purchase of the Riss property.
<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 \$23,289.51, which is equal to the construction cost match reported in Billing #8. .

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<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 (PSP) approved increasing this acquisition Project Agreement amount by \$380,000 of Puget Sound and Acquisition Restoration program return funding to afford relocation of displaces on zis a ba II property and the project description is updated to reflect this additional work.
<u>20-1139</u>	Snohomish Floodplain Acquisitions Phase I	Tulalip Tribes	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	01/13/2025	NOAA approved an Action Award Request to move \$377,198 of the remaining NA20NMF4380243-T1-01 ORCA funds from 18-1737 into 20-1139 to complete the purchase of additional properties.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>20-1386</u>	IMW-Swinomish Channel Ph 3 Tidal Marsh Restoration	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	01/16/2025	This amendment is for a cost increase of \$118,381, which consists of \$62,727 of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program fiscal year 21-23 returned funds and \$55,654 of Puget Sound Partnership fiscal year 19-21 unobligated Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds. This cost increase is due to delays from COVID, log-yard environmental site assessments, and Port Authority planning.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>21-1077</u>	Kachess River Restoration - Phases I + 2	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	11/18/2024	As agreed to in Amendment 6 to the IAA 19-15 C190001, Ecology will be administering the remaining project tasks using the remaining balance of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funding in this agreement through a new Ecology issued agreement with Kittitas Conservation Trust. Therefore, the unbilled balance of Yakima Basin Integrated Plan funding in this agreement is being unobligated to be made available for the new Ecology agreement, and the Project Description is updated to accurately reflect the scope of work.
<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 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration return funds (15-17 & 17-19) and \$248,487 of 2022 Salmon Supplemental funds from WRIA 1. Cost overrun is due to permitting issues.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>21-1205</u>	Duncan Springs Thermal Refugia Project	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	12/17/2024	The amendment reduces the match requirement from 19.42 percent to the standard 15 percent for board agreements. The total project cost was less than expected.
<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 24-month design timeline. To incorporate comments from an upcoming public scoping meeting into the final iteration of design and basis of design report, the sponsor requests an additional three months to complete this project. The project agreement total increases to \$176,500.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>22-1131</u>	Crabapple-Carpenter Creek Est Protection	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Puget Sound Acq. & Restoration	Cost Change	12/02/2024	This amendment adds \$304,321 of fiscal year 23-25 Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funds to the project for a total Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program award of \$1,049,200. The project straddled the Estuary and Salmon Restoration funding line, so it was only partially funded at agreement; this amendment provides the remainder of funds approved during the 2022 Estuary and Salmon Restoration grant round.
<u>23-1063</u>	Duckabush R Oxbow Final Design and Restoration	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	09/16/2024	Reduce sponsor match to \$8,088. Grant funding remains the same, engineering costs increase to \$41,435 (40 percent). New Project agreement total is \$144,860.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
						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. Engineering costs cannot be reduced and have increased incrementally due to value engineering exercises and to document partner match.
23-1124	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 Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds to complete cultural resources and designs. The new project total is \$243,115.
23-1124	Patton Crk- Willapa Passage and Restoration Design	Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Federal Projects	Cost Change	12/02/2024	This amendment adds \$1,984 of Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds awarded in the 2024 grant round. The project total increases to \$245,099. Match contribution and scope remain the same.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
<u>23-1185</u>	2023 Collaborative Skagit Riparian Stewardshp 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 PSAR 21-23 returned funds approved by the Lead Entity , \$5,105 of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration returned funds approved by Puget Sound Partnership, plus the Sponsor is adding in \$2,042 match. These funds will cover unanticipated Recreation and Conservation Office required cost reduction costs.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: March 11, 2025

Title: Intensively Monitored Watershed – The Path Forward

Prepared By: Greer Maier, Science Coordinator - Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office

Summary

This memo provides an update on work that has been done with our partners, the Science Advisory Panel, and Salmon Recovery Funding Board Monitoring Subcommittee to develop options for the future of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board’s Intensively Monitored Watershed program.

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

Background

The Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) program has been funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board since June 2003 to evaluate the success of habitat restoration in increasing salmon production. The IMW program goals are to:

1. Determine whether freshwater habitat restoration can effect a change in production of outmigrant salmon and steelhead trout;
2. Determine what features or processes influenced by the habitat improvements caused the increased production or lack thereof;
3. Determine whether the beneficial effects of habitat improvement are maintained over time.

The board currently allocates approximately \$1.5 million of the \$2.35 million monitoring funding received from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund to implement IMW studies. This funding supports four IMW complexes: Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, Strait

of Juan de Fuca, and Skagit River Estuary. 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.

Over the last few years, the board has been in the process of reviewing the IMW monitoring program. 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 directed staff to explore the following two options:

Option 1- Continue IMW monitoring program implementation without change.

Option 2- Modify fish and/or habitat monitoring based on results to date. Determine remaining data and information needs without significantly compromising the integrity of the IMW study.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) developed draft 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. At the December 2024 meeting, the board provided direction on these options. The board supported further development of Option 2 for the Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, and Straits IMW and supported dropping Option 2 for the Skagit IMW. Option 1 for each IMW is moving forward as drafted.

Since December, staff have engaged in conversations with partners and researchers to better understand 1) the original questions posed by the board and detailed in the study plan; 2) the history of the IMW watersheds in terms of restoration implemented and results of the monitoring to date; and 3) the need for continued monitoring to achieve the intended objectives. This improved understanding and dialogue resulted in developing a more refined Option 2 for board consideration.

In March, staff will present an update on the discussions that developed IMW Option 2 and seek further direction.

Progress Toward IMW Option 2 Development

The discussion resulted in the following foundational elements being carried forward into Option 2 development.

- As discussed at the December 2024 meeting, the **Skagit IMW** will not have an Option 2 proposed for the following reasons.

- **More Restoration Planned.** The Skagit is the only board-funded IMW with restoration yet to be implemented as part of the study plan. Results from these projects will provide valuable insight into the importance of estuary restoration to Chinook salmon recovery.
 - **Broad Support.** There is broad support from tribes and salmon recovery partners to continue the Skagit IMW study as planned ([see letters of support from December board meeting](#)).
 - **Integrity of the Study.** The Skagit IMW does not meet the criteria for option 2 because board funding cannot be reduced without compromising the integrity of the IMW study. The board funds juvenile fish monitoring, which is a critical component of evaluating the effects of the restoration. The board does not fund fish in/fish out or habitat monitoring.
- For remaining IMWs:
- **Monitoring elements.** Monitoring elements will be described under Option 2 with specific timelines for each element. These elements can be discussed separately and can inform each other.
 - **Fish in/Fish Out Monitoring.** Monitors freshwater productivity based on number of adults returning to spawn and number of juveniles leaving the watershed. This is the core response variable for IMWs.
 - **Juvenile In-River Monitoring.** Monitors juvenile in-river metrics such as seasonal parr growth and survival. This information links juvenile rearing in-river response to population response.
 - **Restoration Scale Habitat Monitoring.** Monitors the habitat (e.g., pools, riffles, woody debris, etc.) within the areas influenced by the habitat restoration projects. This information links habitat response to fish population response.
 - **Watershed Scale Habitat Monitoring.** Monitors habitat throughout the watershed including areas not influenced by restoration actions. This information is used to characterize the condition of the watershed over time and in some cases can be linked to fish population response.
 - **Study geography.** Each IMW has distinct watersheds (e.g., Abernathy Creek within Lower Columbia IMW) that will be discussed separately based on how much restoration occurred in that individual watershed.

- **Study timelines.** Each IMW and/or watershed will have a unique timeline for monitoring described in Option 2 based on when restoration was completed and how many years of data are needed to answer the study questions with certainty.

Ongoing Discussions to Inform Board Decision

Below is a list of questions that the partners, Tribes, researchers, science panel, and the monitoring subcommittee feel need further discussion and refinement to get to a final recommendation concerning option 2.

- **Fish in/Fish Out and Juvenile In-River Monitoring.** Many of the questions and discussions are centered around the current rationale and past analyses that help inform how much time is required or expected to see a population level fish response. Juvenile in-river monitoring will likely continue on the same timeline as fish in/fish out monitoring.
- **Restoration Scale Monitoring.** There has been extensive discussion focused on the scale, expected outcomes, methods, and timelines associated with restoration project monitoring, fish response, and habitat measures, and the likelihood of being able to detect a response, trends, and relationship between these factors. For example, how much and what type of data needs to be collected, compiled, and analyzed to see and link habitat response to fish metrics.
- **Watershed Condition Monitoring.** Another key discussion topic has been focused on how much has been learned from current watershed scale monitoring, what is the value added of continuing data collection, and what approach to watershed-scale monitoring is needed to meet the study objectives.

Next Steps

GSRO staff and the science panel will be meeting regularly with IMW partners to continue to develop Option 2 and make a recommendation to the board in June for a final decision.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: March 11, 2025

Title: Spokane Lead Entity Project Funding Amount

Prepared By: Jeannie Abbott, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, Program Coordinator

Summary

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

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction/Background

The Spokane Lead Entity was officially recognized in 2024 by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The lead entity consists of approximately 475 miles of potential salmon habitat in Water Resource Inventory Areas 54, 55, 56, and 57, in Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties, and includes the Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation and a portion of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Reservation in Idaho.

The lead entity's focus is preparation for the reintroduction of non-Endangered Species Act-listed spring and summer/fall Chinook salmon in the Spokane River watershed and improving habitat conditions for native redband trout, which ancestrally links to extinct steelhead trout populations. Redband trout are listed as a species of concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

At the June 2024 Salmon Recovery Funding Board meeting, RCO staff presented several options, and the board chose the following to investigate further:

- Establish a set amount of the state portion of salmon recovery funds (Option 1)
- Establish a percentage of the state portion of salmon recovery funds (Option 2))

- Assist Spokane Tribe with submitting a Tribal PCSRF application for priority 3 funds (staff working with Spokane Tribe on this)

To provide options, staff anticipate that the Legislature’s capital budget for 2025-27 will match the 2023-25 biennium budget:

- \$20 million in capital funds for salmon recovery, which includes:
 - \$2,400,000 million in lead entity capacity funding
 - \$640,000 to the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups for project development only
 - \$16,136,072 for salmon recovery projects
 - \$769,927 (4.15 percent) to RCO for grants and contracts administration

Fund Uses	Amount
State Bond funds	\$20,000,000
Lead Entity capacity	(\$ 2,400,000)
RFEG	(\$ 640,000)
RCO Admin	(\$ 769,927)
Total biennial project amount	\$16,163,072
State Funds Per Grant Round	\$ 8,081,536

Spokane Lead Entity Project Amount Options

Options 1a and 1b: Reduce grant round by an established amount of state funds

Set Amount for Spokane Lead Entity	Grant Round Amount
\$300,000	\$19,700,000
\$400,000	\$19,600,000

Option 2a and 2b: An established percent multiplied by \$8,081,536 of state funds

Percent	Spokane Lead Entity Amount	Grant Round Amount
2%	\$161,630	\$19,838,369
3%	\$242,446	\$19,757,554

Option Examples

The following tables indicate the amount the regions receive with a \$20 million grant round with \$8 million in state funds and \$12 million in federal funds. These figures are for example purposes only. Allocation amount will be determined based on the amount received from the state capital budget and the amount the board determines the Spokane Lead Entity will receive.

Option 1a: Spokane Lead Entity receives \$300,000 established amount

Region	\$20M allocation	New allocation	Difference
Hood Canal Coordinating Council (2.4%)	\$480,000	\$472,800	(\$7,200)
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (20%)	\$4,000,000	\$3,940,000	(\$60,000)
Northeast Washington (1.9%)	\$380,000	\$374,300	(\$5,700)
Puget Sound Partnership (38%)	\$7,600,000	\$7,486,000	(\$114,000)
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (8.44%)	\$1,688,000	\$1,662,680	(\$25,320)
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (10.31%)	\$2,062,000	\$2,031,070	(\$30,930)
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (9.57%)	\$1,914,000	\$1,885,290	(\$28,710)
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (9.38%)	\$1,876,000	\$1,847,860	(\$28,140)

Option 1b: Spokane Lead Entity receives \$400,000 established amount

Region	\$20M allocation	New allocation	Difference
Hood Canal Coordinating Council (2.4%)	\$480,000	\$470,400	(\$9,600)
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (20%)	\$4,000,000	\$3,920,000	(\$80,000)
Northeast Washington (1.9%)	\$380,000	\$372,400	(\$7,600)
Puget Sound Partnership (38%)	\$7,600,000	\$7,448,000	(\$152,000)
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (8.44%)	\$1,688,000	\$1,654,240	(\$33,760)
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (10.31%)	\$2,062,000	\$2,020,760	(\$41,240)
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (9.57%)	\$1,914,000	\$1,875,720	(\$38,280)
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (9.38%)	\$1,876,000	\$1,838,480	(\$37,520)

Option 2a: Spokane Lead Entity receives 2 percent of state funds (\$161,630)

Region	\$20M allocation	New allocation	Difference
Hood Canal Coordinating Council (2.4%)	\$480,000	\$476,127	(\$3,873)
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (20%)	\$4,000,000	\$3,967,728	(\$32,272)
Northeast Washington (1.9%)	\$380,000	\$376,934	(\$3,066)
Puget Sound Partnership (38%)	\$7,600,000	\$7,538,683	(\$61,317)
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (8.44%)	\$1,688,000	\$1,674,381	(\$13,619)
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (10.31%)	\$2,062,000	\$2,045,364	(\$16,636)
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (9.57%)	\$1,914,000	\$1,898,558	(\$15,442)
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (9.38%)	\$1,876,000	\$1,860,864	(\$15,136)

Option 2b: Spokane Lead Entity receives 3 percent of state funds (\$242,246)

Region	\$20M allocation	New allocation	Difference
Hood Canal Coordinating Council (2.4%)	\$480,000	of	(\$5,809)
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board (20%)	\$4,000,000	\$3,951,592	(\$48,408)
Northeast Washington (1.9%)	\$380,000	\$375,401	(\$4,599)
Puget Sound Partnership (38%)	\$7,600,000	\$7,508,025	(\$91,975)
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board (8.44%)	\$1,688,000	\$1,667,572	(\$20,428)
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (10.31%)	\$2,062,000	\$2,037,046	(\$24,954)
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership (9.57%)	\$1,914,000	\$1,890,837	(\$23,163)
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board (9.38%)	\$1,876,000	\$1,853,297	(\$22,703)

Staff relayed the various options to Recovery Regions and Lead Entities, who support Option 2.

Motion

Move to approve that the Spokane Lead Entity receives _____ of state funds in each grant round.

Strategic Plan Connection

The addition of the Spokane lead entity project funding meets the mission, goals, and strategies of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SRFB-StrategicPlan.pdf>

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Decision Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR MEGAN DUFFY

Meeting Date: March 11, 2025

Title: Possible Riparian Funding Options

Prepared By: Kat Moore, Salmon I Assistant Section Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes options for obligating any funding received for the riparian grant program for the 2025-27 biennium.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

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

Introduction/Background

In 2023, the legislature directed the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to create a riparian grant program and provided \$25 million for riparian projects. In late 2023, the board completed policy adoption and initiated a grant round. The legislature indicated in the budget bill that the program would be ongoing by flagging \$125 million in future projected funding associated with the new program.

For the 2023-25 biennium, the board determined funding would be allocated to regional salmon recovery organizations according to the regional allocation formula, provided that no lead entity was allocated less than \$300,000. Most of the riparian funding was awarded to projects during the 2024 grant round, however some regions are carrying funds into the 2025 grant round (*Attachment A*).

While the board requested \$25 million for the riparian program for the 2025-27 biennium and outgoing Governor Inslee included that amount in the Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) budget in his budget proposal released in December, neither Governor Ferguson, the House of Representatives, nor the Senate have released budget proposals at this time.

The 2025 grant round started January 2025 when PRISM opened for applications and staff held an application workshop. Lead entities have released their requests for proposals, soliciting applications for salmon recovery and riparian grant funding.

Although lead entities and regions understand that funding levels are uncertain until the state budget is approved and RCO receives notice of their federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award, they have twenty-five years of grant rounds as reference for historical funding levels and trends. Lead entities and sponsors feel much more certain that funding will be available when they apply for regular salmon recovery funding than they do for a less established grant program like the riparian program. For this reason, lead entities and regions have stressed the importance of flexibility for allocating riparian funding.

Options for Riparian Funding in 2025

The following are options for the board to consider for riparian fund allocation for the 2025-27 biennium, should funding be appropriated by the legislature. Attachment B shows the potential full and half allocations for each region if RCO receives \$25 million in riparian funding for the 2025-27 biennium.

Option 1: Split regional allocations evenly between 2025 and 2026; require that annual amounts are obligated.

- Option 1a: If a region does not use their entire 2025 allocation, the board may shift the remaining allocation to another region which has alternates that could be funded.
- Option 1b: Adjust grant timeline to allow approval by the board in either September and/or December.

Option 2: Allow and encourage regions to use their entire biennial allocation in 2025, and if there are remaining funds, they can roll forward to 2026 providing the roll forward amount is not more than half of the region's riparian funding.

- Option 2a: Adjust grant timeline to allow approval by board in either September and/or December.
- Option 2b: Allow regions to shift unused funding to meet riparian needs in other regions. This could be voluntary *or board* directed.

Strategic Plan Connection

<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/SRFB-StrategicPlan.pdf>

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.

Attachment

- A. 2023-25 Riparian program amounts and carry-over for the 2025 grant round
- B. Full allocation and half allocation if riparian funding for 2025-27 is \$25 million.

Attachment A: 2023-25 Riparian program amounts and carry-over for the 2025 grant round

Regional Recovery Organization	2023-2025 Riparian Allocation	Percent	2025 Carry-Over
Coast Salmon Partnership	\$2,284,359	9.57 %	\$0
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	\$572,880	2.40 %	\$0
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	\$4,774,000	20.00 %	\$968,016
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	\$453,530	1.90 %	\$453,530
Puget Sound Partnership	\$9,070,600	38.00 %	\$15,951
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	\$2,014,628	8.44 %	\$0
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	\$2,460,997	10.31 %	\$279,300
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	\$2,239,006	9.38 %	\$1,086,275
	Total: \$23,870,000	100 %	\$2,803,072

Attachment B: Full allocation and half allocation if riparian funding for 2025-27 is \$25 million.

Regional Recovery Organization	Riparian Allocation (full)	Annual Option (half)
Coast Salmon Partnership	\$2,284,359	\$1,142,180
Hood Canal Coordinating Council	\$572,880	\$286,440
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	\$4,774,000	\$2,387,000
Kalispel Tribe of Indians	\$453,530	\$226,765
Puget Sound Partnership	\$9,070,600	\$4,535,300
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	\$2,014,628	\$1,007,314
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	\$2,460,997	\$1,230,499
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	\$2,239,006	\$1,119,503
	Total: \$23,870,000	\$11,935,000



REGIONAL FISHERIES COALITION

March 11, 2025

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD PARTNERS UPDATE

Brian Burns, President

Tri-State Steelheaders

Jason Lundgren, Vice President

Cascade Fisheries

Antonia Jindrich, Secretary

Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Alison Studley, Treasurer

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group

Gary Ranz

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Mary Brueggeman

Sound Salmon Solutions

Dick Wallace

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Jeanne Robinson

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Sarah Doyle

North Olympic Salmon Coalition

Chad Wilkins

Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition

Maria Cerdena

Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force

David Lewis

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Morgan Morris

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group

Margaret Neuman

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Kaylee Galloway

RFC Strategic Coordinator

Brynn Brady

RFC Legislative Advocate

Dear Salmon Recovery Funding Board,

The Regional Fisheries Coalition remains grateful for the opportunity to provide you a partner update. I am Jason Lundgren, the Regional Fisheries Coalition Vice President and Executive Director of Cascade Fisheries, one of Washington's fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs).

A lot has happened since our last partners update. RFEs continue to grapple with federal and state budget uncertainties. We fear further funding cuts will severely threaten the livelihood of our fourteen independent nonprofit organizations and our ability to carry out the salmon recovery work necessary to honor and uphold tribal treaties and keep pace with the goals and timelines prescribed in state and federal salmon recovery plans.

We are humbled by the state and federal funding we do receive and are excited to share out some 2024 highlights! The [2024 Regional Fisheries Coalition Annual Report](https://2023-24.regionalfisheriescoalition.org/) is now complete. This year's annual report features incredible projects from each RFE including projects that demonstrate work in habitat, education, enhancement, and monitoring as well as leveraging public investment, engaging a new generation, restoring natural processes, and measuring our impact. The full online report can be accessed here: <https://2023-24.regionalfisheriescoalition.org/>. Report summary can be found on pages 4-5 of this update.

We are also excited to share the 2nd Annual Salmon Day was a huge success! We continue to monitor the budget situation and advocate for increased salmon recovery funding as outlined in the Governor's Salmon Strategy 2025-27 Biennial Work Plan, including \$125 million for the SRFB. RFC is also actively working to secure a legislative sponsor for a proviso that would retain critical funding for our Salmon in the Schools program. More info below:

2ND ANNUAL SALMON DAY

On February 5th, around 65 individuals from across the state representing the Regional Fisheries Coalition, Washington Salmon Coalition, and the Council of Regions convened in Olympia for the Second Annual Salmon Day. Cumulatively, participants attended over 90 meetings with legislators and their staff, advocating and educating around our shared salmon recovery priorities (our legislative agenda is pages 6-7 of this update).



Group picture of Salmon Day participants enduring active snowfall!



Representatives from Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, and Skagit Watershed Council meet with Rep. Debra Lekanoff (40th Legislative District)



Representatives from Mid-Columbia Fisheries, Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board, Klickitat Lead Entity, and Benton County meet with Senator Curtis King (14th Legislative District)



Representatives from Cascade Fisheries, Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, and Pend Oreille Lead Entity meet with Rep. Andrew Engell (7th Legislative District)

SALMON IN THE SCHOOLS

One of the funding priorities focused on during Salmon Day was Salmon in the Schools, a program initiated in 2021 through grant funding from OSPI. The program was renewed in 2023 for the biennium. Sixteen partners around the state install aquariums and bring salmon eggs to classrooms. Students observe young salmon grow while being taught lessons about the salmon lifecycle, the local ecosystem, the connection between salmon and our community, biology, salmon anatomy, the significance of salmon to local tribes, and beyond. At the end of the program, students bring their classroom's salmon fry to local rivers for a culminating release field trip. This event brings students outside to connect what they have learned in the classroom to the natural world, and often includes visits to local hatcheries, presentations by tribal members and community partners, and hands-on activities to learn more about salmon habitat. In 2023-24, Salmon in the Schools program served 150 high poverty elementary schools in 73 school districts, and engaged over 11,000 students across the state. The program is also incredibly popular to both the educators and the students. Additional resources brought by the RFEGs allows for expanded programming to schools and allows the program to reach additional elementary schools around the state. We were hopeful to see the program expand in the 2025-27 biennium. Unfortunately, despite the success of the program, OSPI forgot to include this program in their decision package and it was therefore not included in the Governor's proposed budget. Without state funding and OSPI support, this program will not continue in the next biennium to serve the vast majority of high-poverty schools currently served. The RFC is actively working to find a legislative sponsor for a budget proviso to maintain funding. RFC also recently circulated a letter of support that received over 430 signatures from partners and supporters across the state.

STREAMLINING SALMON RECOVERY PROJECTS

Over the years, the Regional Fisheries Coalition has advocated for and supported efforts to streamline permitting processes at both the state and federal levels. Another shared priority focused on during Salmon Day was supporting [HB 1208/SB 5155](#), to extend and improve the [Habitat Recovery Pilot Program \(HRPP\)](#). HRPP has helped RFEs as project sponsors streamline permitting processes by improving coordination between local, state, and federal agencies, which has increased efficiency, reduced costs, and ensure timely project completion.

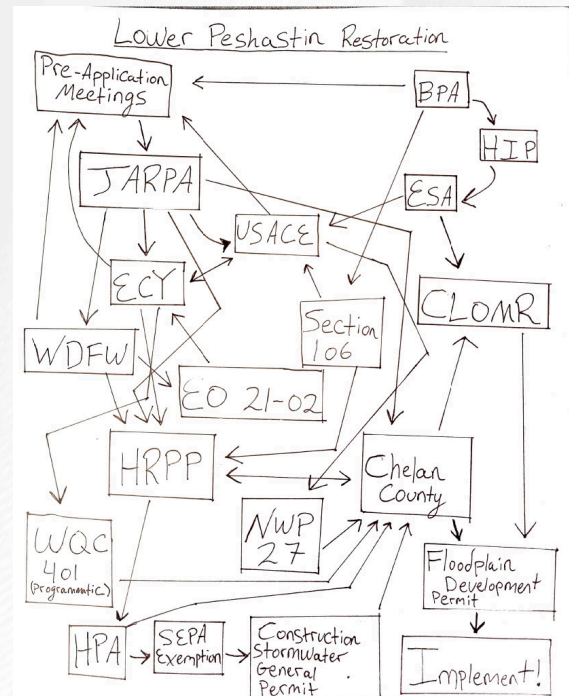
HRPP saves project sponsors both time and money - saving up to a year in administrative permitting delays and saving up to \$80,000 in staff time and fees. Projects across the state have benefited from using HRPP, including, but not limited to, several RFEs projects.

On January 23rd, representatives from three RFEs participated in the Senate Local Government Committee public hearing on [SB 5155](#) each sharing the benefits their group has seen using HRPP on projects.

Morgan Morris, Executive Director at Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, shared about [SF Toutle Lower Brownell Reach Restoration](#).

Aaron Rosenblum, Project Manager at Cascade Fisheries, shared about [Lower Peshastin Creek Restoration](#). Aaron's flow chart to the right shows just how complex salmon recovery permitting processes are.

Kevin Long, Project Manager at North Olympic Salmon Coalition, shared about [Snow Creek Uncas Preserve Restoration](#).



ABOUT THE REGIONAL FISHERIES COALITION

The Regional Fisheries Coalition (RFC) is the unified voice advocating for the common mission of the fourteen Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEs) that were established in 1990 by RCW 77.95, to protect and restore salmon populations in Washington State. Each RFE is a separate, local, nonprofit organization with its own board of directors and is supported by its members and community.



RFEs sponsor and complete large scale habitat restoration and fish passage barrier removal projects by leveraging state and federal funding. They coordinate robust education, outreach, and volunteer programs to engage communities in salmon recovery. RFEs partner with landowners, tribes, local governments, volunteers, state and federal agencies, and many non-governmental organizations to lead their communities in successful restoration, education, and monitoring projects. Each RFE has one representative on the RFC Board of Directors.

Read the 2024 RFC Annual Report at 2023-24.regionalfisheriescoalition.org

RFC Contact: Kaylee Galloway, kaylee@alloftheaboveconsulting.com, (360) 489-9192



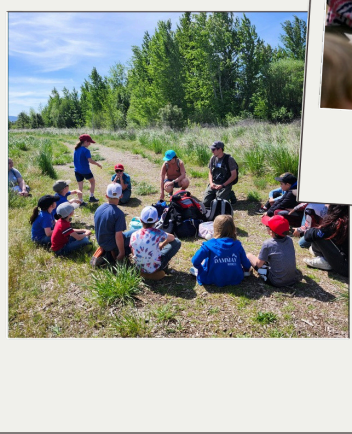
REGIONAL FISHERIES
COALITION

From Classroom to Creek

Empowering Tomorrow's
Watershed Stewards Today



"Little salmon off you go, it's been so fun to watch you grow, to the river then the sea, and hopefully someday back to me."
HARPER B., SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM PARTICIPANT



Regional Fisheries Coalition Annual Report 2023-24

Since 1990, the 14 Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs) that comprise the Regional Fisheries Coalition (RFC) have collaborated with communities to achieve results greater than the sum of our parts. Our long-term approach spans immediate habitat improvements to decades-long investments in both our watersheds and our youth.

We know that when we plant streamside trees today, they'll benefit generations of salmon and people well into the future. Similarly, when we educate students from our classrooms to our creeks, we empower tomorrow's watershed stewards to carry this work forward. Learn more about this year's achievements in our *2023-24 Annual Report*: www.2023-24.regionalfisheriescoalition.org

Addressing the most critical issues in salmon recovery:

- ✓ HABITAT
- ✓ EDUCATION
- ✓ ENHANCEMENT
- ✓ MONITORING

30+ YEARS OF IMPACT
FOR SALMON



95,102,592
Fish Released



1,071
Fish Passage Projects Completed



1,520
Miles of Stream Opened



2,006,605
Volunteer Hours



4,950
Salmon Projects Completed



2,457
Miles of Restoration



“Our waterways and fish populations are vital to our region’s economy, culture, and way of life. Partnerships with Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups are critical to ensuring community voices are heard as we work toward a healthier future for our environment and iconic species.” - Representative Derek Kilmer (WA-06)

2023-2024 Project Themes

ENGAGING A NEW GENERATION: Through hands-on education, we are cultivating tomorrow’s environmental stewards, equipping them with the knowledge and passion to champion salmon recovery for years to come.

RESTORING NATURAL PROCESSES: By shifting from engineered to nature-based approaches, we’re allowing rivers to reclaim their natural rhythms, creating resilient ecosystems that benefit both salmon and communities.

MEASURING OUR IMPACT: With rigorous monitoring and innovative research, we’re tracking our progress and adapting our strategies, ensuring that each restoration effort brings us closer to thriving salmon populations.

2023-24 Funding: State & Federal Dollars Matched 1:8

Habitat restoration projects are intricate and often demand diverse funding sources. Initial funding from state and federal grants, such as from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Office, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, acts as the seed money. RFEGs then leverage each dollar, turning it into an additional \$8, significantly magnifying the original investment.

2023-24 By the Numbers



2,343,000
Fish Released



68
Miles of Restoration



44
Miles of Habitat Opened



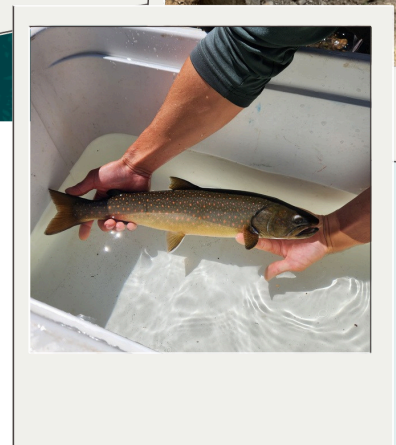
68,000
Volunteer Hours



28
Fish Passage Projects



29,000
Carcasses Distributed



Visit our complete 2023-24 Annual Report online for:

- ✓ IMPACT MAP
- ✓ FINANCIALS
- ✓ PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
- ✓ PHOTO GALLERY

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Our 2023-24 Annual Report
www.2023-24.regionalfisheriescoalition.org

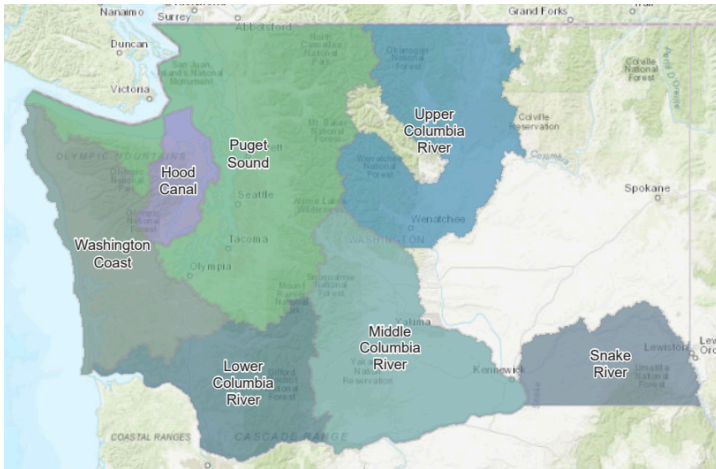


RFC website
www.regionalfisheriescoalition.org

Funding for the RFEGs comes from the US Fish & Wildlife Service’s *Partners for Fish and Wildlife* program, a portion of fishing license fees, excess egg and carcass sales from State-funded hatcheries, and general funds from WDFW.

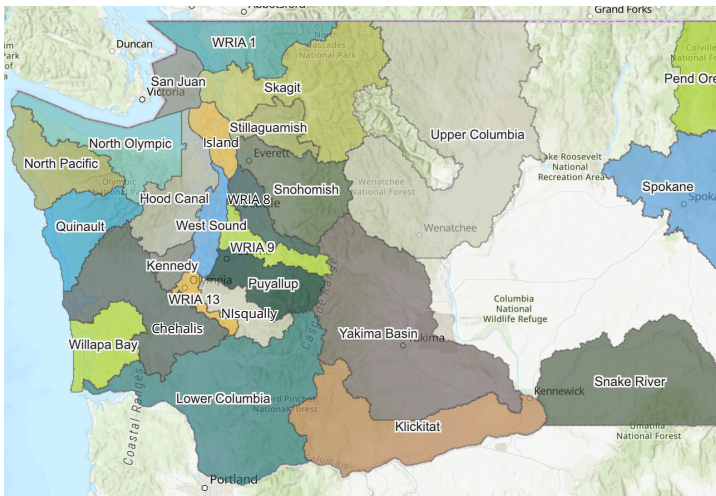
Working Together for Salmon Recovery

WHO WE ARE



The **Council of Regions** brings together Washington's seven salmon recovery regional organizations. Local and tribal governments created the regions in partnership with the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to:

- Give local communities a powerful voice in salmon recovery.
- Work with the federal government to implement regional recovery plans for at-risk fish.
- Coordinate with lead entities to oversee state and federal funding for recovery plan implementation.



The **Washington Salmon Coalition** supports Washington's twenty-six salmon recovery lead entities, established by RCW 77.85 to:

- Coordinate implementation of habitat restoration and protection projects.
- Bring together tribes, federal and state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, businesses, technical experts, and community members.
- Steward scientifically-sound decision making to recover salmon and support local economies.



The **Regional Fisheries Coalition** represents Washington's fourteen regional fisheries enhancement groups, established by RCW 77.95 to:

- Complete large habitat restoration and fish passage barrier removal projects by leveraging state and federal funding.
- Coordinate robust education, outreach, and volunteer programs to engage communities in salmon recovery.
- The 2024 RFC Annual Report is now available at: 2023-24.regionalfisheriescoalition.org.

Our Shared Priorities

SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S SALMON STRATEGY 2025-2027 BIENNIAL WORK PLAN

✓ RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

- \$125 million for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. *Capital Budget*
- \$76.8 million for the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board. *Capital Budget*
- \$27.5 million for the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. *Capital Budget*
- \$16.7 million for the Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative. *Capital Budget*
- \$25 million for Riparian Funding. *Capital Budget*
- \$109.2 million for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration. *Capital Budget*
- \$12.1 million for Family Forest Fish Passage Program. *Capital Budget*
- \$2.4 million to maintain the lead entity program as described in RCW 77.85. *Capital Budget*
- \$640,000 for regional fisheries enhancement groups established by RCW 77.95. *Capital Budget*

✓ STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- \$25 million for Riparian Grant Program. *Capital Budget*
- \$20 million for conservation technical assistance. *Operating Budget*

✓ DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

- \$84 million for Floodplains by Design. *Capital Budget*

✓ OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- \$1.56 million ongoing to continue the Salmon in the Schools program, teaching students in Washington the importance of salmon to our state and communities. *Operating Budget*

✓ DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

- \$200,733 to study the future of the Surplus Egg & Carcass Contract. *Operating Budget*
 - This contract ensures removal of fish from WDFW hatcheries and provides critical funding to regional fisheries enhancement groups.

STREAMLINE SALMON RECOVERY PROJECTS

- Support extending and improving the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP). This will streamline permitting by improving coordination between local, state, and federal agencies, which increases efficiency, reduces costs, and ensures timely project completion.
- Support continued removal of match requirements for grant programs to reduce financial barriers and administrative burdens that increase costs and delay projects.

Council of Regions

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Washington Salmon Coalition

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Regional Fisheries Coalition

Brynn Brady
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Executive Committee

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Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board
Lead Entity

Aundrea McBride, Chair
Skagit Watershed Council

Denise Smee
Lower Columbia Lead Entity

Kirsten Harma
Chehalis Basin Lead Entity

Lisa Spurrier
Puyallup and Chambers Watersheds Salmon
Recovery Lead Entity

Mike Lithgow, Past Chair
Kalispel-Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Renee Johnson, Chair Elect
West Sound Partners for Ecosystem
Recovery

Members

Ali Fitzgerald
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Alicia Olivas
Hood Canal Lead Entity

Amy Hatch-Winecka
Deschutes WRIA 13 Salmon Recovery Lead
Entity

Anna Gelfre
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity

Ashley Von Essen
Nisqually Lead Entity

Becky Peterson
WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board

Caleb McGivney
Spokane Lead Entity

Cheryl Baumann
N. Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

Cheyne Mayer
Yakima Basin Fish & Wildlife Recovery Board
Lead Entity

Dani Driscoll
Stillaguamish Watershed Lead Entity

Gretchen Glaub
Snohomish Lead Entity

Carrie Byron
Lake Washington, Cedar, Sammamish
Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity

Jason Murray
WRIA 14 Lead Entity

Jessica Reed
Island County Lead Entity WRIA 6

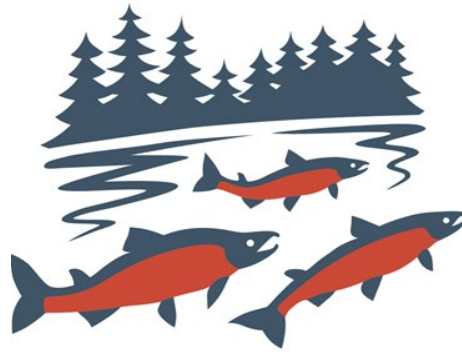
Keaton Curtice
Klickitat County Lead Entity

Richard Brocksmith
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity

Sam Whitridge
San Juan Lead Entity

Suzanna Smith
WRIA 9 Green/Duwamish and Central Puget
Sound Watershed

Tom Kollasch
Pacific County Lead Entity



WASHINGTON
SALMON
COALITION
Community-Based Salmon Recovery

March 11, 2025

Dear Chair Breckel, Salmon Recovery Funding Board members and Director Duffy,

On behalf of the Washington Salmon Coalition, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide this Partner Report. The Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC) seeks to effectively communicate, as a unified voice, the interests of Lead Entities and their communities statewide, provide a communication forum for discussing emerging Lead Entity issues, develop strategies for addressing these issues, and foster relationships and share best practices amongst colleagues to provide educational opportunities for the 26 Lead Entities in Washington State.

The Washington Salmon Coalition convened for Salmon Day in Olympia on February 5th. WSC members along with members of the Council of Regions and Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups visited 94 legislators. In our debrief we heard that many legislators asked good questions and were interested in project tours. All WSC members agreed we would like to keep the Salmon Day tradition going. Photos and more information about Salmon Day 2025 are included in the LE Happenings section of this report. On the topic of LE Happenings, I would like to shout out to Cheryl Bauman from North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity, who has been gathering stories and putting them together for you. This year Cheryl and Dani Driscoll of the Stillaguamish Lead Entity will be working together to develop our LE Happenings reports.

Immediately following Salmon Day, WSC met for an All Hands meeting. We welcomed Megan Corbiere from the Skagit Watershed Council Lead Entity. We heard from Greer Maier about a fish passage survey report she has been working on and provided her with feedback on the process and results. Each lead entity is at a different point in compiling their culvert inventories. All agree a better hydrology data layer is needed and more information about tidal barriers and how to prioritize them is needed. Following our discussion with Greer, we had the honor and pleasure of welcoming Cecilia Gobin (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission), Willie Frank III (Nisqually Tribe), and Glenda Breiler (Washington Dept. of Natural Resources) for a screening of *Fish War*, followed by discussion. I highly recommend the film if you have not seen it.

Thank you for your continued work toward salmon recovery the Washington Way.

Kind Regards,

Aundrea McBride
Chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition
Executive Director, Skagit Watershed Council

Lead Entity Happenings

Salmon Day 2025

Submitted by Mike Lithgow, Pend Oreille Lead Entity



Salmon Day 2025 participants from the Washington Salmon Coalition, the Regional Fisheries Coalition, and the Council of Regions, February 5, 2025

On February 5, 2025, representatives from the Washington Salmon Coalition (WSC), the Regional Fisheries Coalition (RFC), and the Council of Regions (COR) collaborated to educate state legislators about the importance of salmon recovery during a second annual “Salmon Day at the Capitol” in Olympia, Washington. The event focused individual meetings with legislators to educate them about funding needs and other programmatic priorities to advance salmon recovery.

More than 70 representatives from the partnering organizations met with over 90 legislators throughout the day. The event was coordinated by the three organizations, but meetings also included other salmon recovery partners and local elected officials.

The shared messaging included:

- Support for funding for habitat restoration funding programs;
- Support for extending and improving the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program (HRPP); and
- Support for continued reform of match requirements for habitat restoration grant programs.

Special thanks to the Salmon Day Planning Team: Suzan Zemek (RCO), Jeannie Abbott (GSRO), Jason Lundgren, Lance Winecka, & Kaylee Galloway (RFC), Gabby Vermeire (COR), Renee Johnson, Ariel Edwards, Amy Hatch-Winecka, Mike Lithgow and Suzanna Smith (WSC).

Planning is underway for next year's Salmon Day. If you have any questions or would like to participate, please contact Mike Lithgow from the Pend Oreille Lead Entity. mlithgow@kalispeltribe.com



Salmon Day meeting with Senator Bill Ramos. In photo left to right: Tim Ostrom, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group Board, Lisa Reynolds, Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group staff, Senator Bill Ramos (LD 5), and Carrie Byron, Lake Washington/Cedar Sammamish Watershed Projects and Funding Coordinator.



Salmon Day meeting with Representative Andrew Engell. In photo left to right: Jason Lundgren (Cascade Fisheries RFE), Ariel Edwards (Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board), Gabby Vermeire (UCSRB), Amanda Ward (UCSRB), Representative Andrew Engell, Mike Lithgow (Kalispel Natural Resources Department), and Alexa Whipple (Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation - Methow Beaver Project). Photo Credit: Nora Halbert

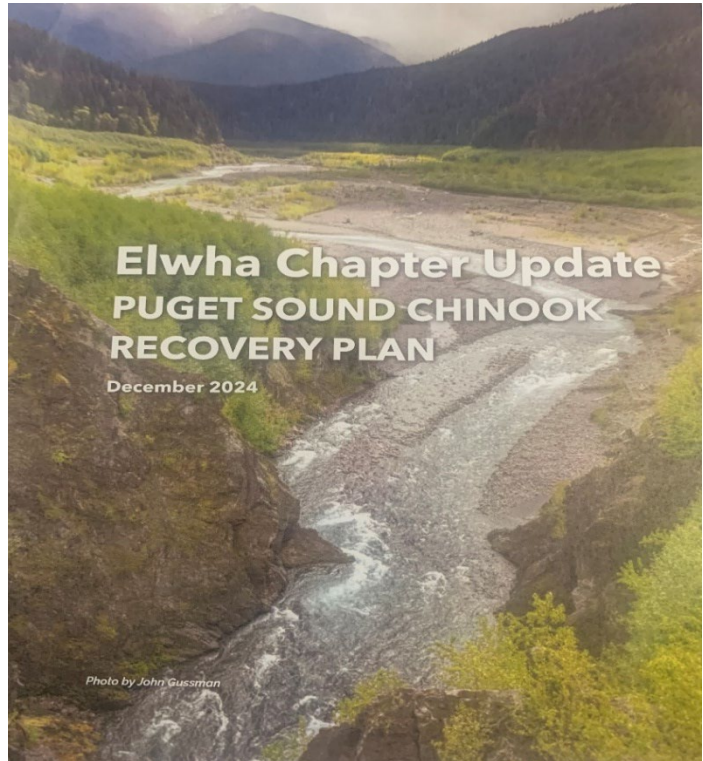
Salmon Day meeting with Representative Deb Lekanoff. In photo left to right: Rose Anne Featherston (Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA), Representative Deb Lekanoff, Gary Ranz (NSEA), Alison Studley (Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group Executive Director), Tim Seaton (NSEA), Aundrea McBride (Skagit Watershed Council Executive Director)



Elwha Chinook Chapter Update of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan Completed

Submitted by: Cheryl Baumann, North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon

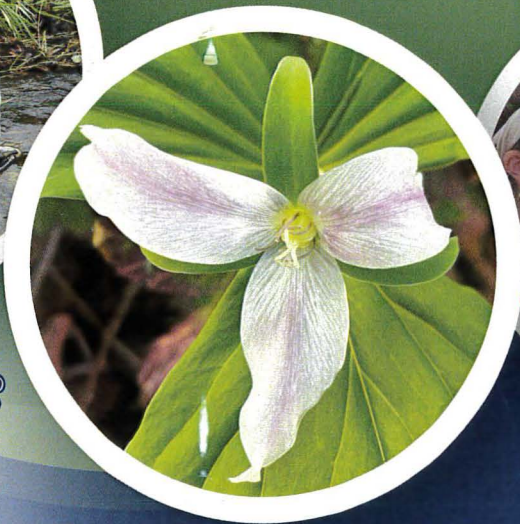
The North Olympic Lead Entity for Salmon is pleased to announce the completion an update of the original 2006 Elwha Chinook Chapter of the Puget Sound Chinook Recovery Plan. Puget Sound Chinook cannot be delisted without recovery of Elwha Chinook. Lead by the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon, this was a lengthy and collaborative effort with significant support from ESA & Associates and numerous representatives from the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, Olympic National Park, Clallam County, University of Washington Sea Grant, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Fish & Wildlife Service, the City of Port Angeles, and US Geological Survey with additional expertise from six other specialists.



Following the removal of two large dams on the Elwha and other significant, large-scale restoration projects along the Elwha, the update provides a roadmap for future efforts. It includes updated strategies and actions, targeted restoration goals, a plan for incorporating adaptive management, and information about climate change impacts. The update can be found here:

<https://restoringolympicpeninsulasalmon.org/2025/02/19/elwha-chapter-update-puget-sound-chinook-recovery-plan-december-2024/>

Annual Meeting and Salmon BBQ



SEDRO-WOOLLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
Thursday February 6th, 2025 | 5:30-8:00 PM

Reserve your space by January 30th!

To pay online scan the QR code or visit www.skagitfisheries.org/event/am2025/



Or pay by mail by sending this card and check payable to SFEG to

PO Box 2497

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Names of attendees:

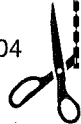
Dinner Donation \$25.00 per person
Number attending ____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

Red dot by your address indicates your membership is not current, why not renew now?

Annual Membership

Individual	\$20.00
Family/Household	\$35.00
Supporter	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$500.00
Steward	\$1,000.00
Other	\$ _____
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Questions? Call: 360-336-0172 ex. 304



Please return your payments and this card to reserve your space.



**SKAGIT FISHERIES
ENHANCEMENT
GROUP**

PO Box 2497
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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SFEG Members, Volunteers, Project Partners, and Guests please join us for a Salmon Dinner, Volunteer Awards, and Board Elections!

Thursday, February 6th 2025 – 5:30-8:00 PM
Sedro-Woolley Community Center
703 Pacific Street, Sedro-Woolley

Directions: From I-5 take Exit 232 to Sedro-Woolley. At Hwy 20 intersection, proceed straight through light to Ferry Street. Go 0.6 miles, turn right on Central Ave, first left to Pacific Street.

RECEIVED

JAN - 9 2025

WA STATE

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

● S R F Board
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

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