WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery
Funding Board

Salmon Recovery Funding Board Meeting Agenda

September 16, 2025

Hybrid

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

Location Virtually: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_U24hAeOESTKVxxeov_3Ddw

Phone Option: (669) 900-6833 – **Webinar ID:** 875 2249 6392

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

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

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Public comment on agenda items is also permitted. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail your request or written comments to Julia.McNamara@rco.wa.gov. Comment for these items will be limited to three minutes per person.

Health 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 and participation.

Special Accommodations: People with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact Megan Montgomery at megan.montgomery@rco.wa.gov or (360) 902-3079

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
9:00 a.m.	**Call to Order** •Roll Call and Determination of Quorum •Review and Approval of Agenda ***(Decision)*** •Approval of June Meeting Minutes ***(Decision)*** •Remarks by the Chair	*Chair Breckel*
9:10 a.m.	**1. Director's Report**	
	A. Director's Report	*Megan Duffy*
	B. Legislative and Policy Update	*Brock Milliern*
	C. Fiscal Update (written only)	*Mark Jarasitis*
	D. Performance Report (written only)	*Bart Lynch*
9:30 a.m.	**2. Salmon Recovery Management Report**	
	A. Salmon Section Report	*Kat Moore*
	B. Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report	*Erik Neatherlin* *Tara Galuska*
9:50 a.m.	**General Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda:** *Please limit comments to three minutes.*	
9:55 a.m.	**Break**	
10:10 a.m.	**3. Partner Reports**	
	• Council of Regions	*Amanda Ward*
	• Washington Salmon Coalition	*Aundrea McBride*
	• Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	*Lance Winecka*
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
10:40 a.m.	**4. Manual 18 2026 Calendar** ***Public comment** will occur prior to adoption of the motion. Please limit comment to three minutes	*Christy Rains*
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
10:45 a.m.	**5. 2025 Grant Round**	
	A. Overview	*Christy Rains*
	B. Featured Projects from each Region	*Alissa Ferrell* *Grant Managers*
12:15 p.m.	**Lunch**	
1:00 p.m.	**6. 2025 Grant Round**	*Steve Toth*
	C. Review Panel Comments	*Jen O'Neal*
	• General Observations	
	• Noteworthy Projects	

1:30 p.m.	**7. 2025 Grant Round Overview by Regions** • Hood Canal Coordinating Council • Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board • Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region • Puget Sound Partnership • Snake River Salmon Recovery Board • Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board • Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership • Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	 *Alicia Olivas* *Steve Manlow* *Mike Lithgow* *Melissa Speeg* *Steve Martin* *Ariel Edwards* *Jane Atha* *Chayne Mayer*
2:45 p.m.	**8. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Discussion**	*Megan Duffy* *Kat Moore*
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
3:30 p.m.	**9. 2025 Grant Round Funding Decision** • Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board • Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership • Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board • Snake River Salmon Recovery Board • Puget Sound Partnership • Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region • Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board • Hood Canal Coordinating Council ***Public comment** will occur prior to adoption of the motion. Please limit comment to three minutes	*Kat Moore*
3:45 p.m.	**Break**	
4:00 p.m.	**10. 2025 Monitoring Grant Round** C. Overview D. Funding Decision ***Public comment** will occur prior to adoption of the motion. Please limit comment to three minutes	*Greer Maier* *Pete Bisson* *Jeanette Smith*
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING		
4:30 p.m.	**11. Partner Reports** • Conservation Commission • Department of Ecology	 *Levi Keesecker* *Annette Hoffmann*

	• Department of Natural Resources	*Tom Gorman*
	• Department of Fish and Wildlife	*Jeremy Cram*
	• Department of Transportation	*Susan Kanzler*
5:00 p.m.	**Adjourn**	

Next Meeting: December 9-10, 2025, virtual and in-person in Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street, SE, Olympia, WA, 98501

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: June 3, 2025

Place: Tour – DoubleTree Hotel, 415 Capitol Way, Olympia, Washington 98501, Seattle Public Utilities, King County Water and Land Resources, City of Sumner, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Site Locations

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 8:30 a.m. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) board liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. **Member Chris Endresen Scott** was absent.

Motion:	Move to approve the **June 3 and 4, 2025**, agenda.
Moved by:	Member **Kaleen Cottingham**
Seconded by:	Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Approved:	Approved

Items 1-4: Tour

Members of the board and staff completed a tour hosted by Seattle Public Utilities, King County Water and Land Resources, City of Sumner, and King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks with stops at board-funded projects throughout King

County. Site locations and project details are included in the Board Tour Overview in the meeting materials.

Member Levi Keesecker left the tour at 12:15 p.m.

RECESS: 3:45 P.M.

Motion:	Move to recess.
Moved by:	Member **Joe Maroney**
Seconded by:	Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Approved:	Approved

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: June 4, 2025

Place: Tour – 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 back to order at 9:00 a.m. **Julia McNamara**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) board liaison, performed roll call and determined quorum. **Member Chris Endresen-Scott** was present online.

Motion:	Move to approve the **March 11, 2025** Meeting Minutes.
Moved by:	Member **Kaleen Cottingham**
Seconded by:	Member **Joe Maroney**
Approved:	Approved

Item 5: Tour Debrief

Kat Moore, Salmon Grants Section manager, provided a debrief of the tour which included the Cedar River Royal Arch Habitat Enhancement (RCO #22-1191) in Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) Eight; Flaming Geyser Riparian Restoration (RCO #21-1002) and Whitney Bridge (RCO #22-1044) in WRIA Nine; County Line (RCO #20-1102) in WRIA Ten; and White River Restoration (RCO #07-1910) in WRIA Twelve.

Ms. Moore summarized each stop, noting lessons learned in riparian management, communication with neighbors, and the difference in riparian planting approaches at each stop.

Chair Breckel highlighted the importance of seeing the variety of approaches to riparian planting and management on the tour.

Item 6: Director's Report

Director Megan Duffy highlighted staff changes, including the retirements of Kathleen Barkis, administrative assistant, and DeAnn Beck, senior outdoor grants manager. Kat Moore was promoted to Salmon Section manager and Christy Rains moved into the Board Program assistant manager position. RCO will recruit internally to fill the Office Program assistant manager position. Leslie Frank retired at the end of May, and Anita Macpherson filled the Administrative Services manager position. The new Cultural Resources unit manager is Stephanie Jolivette, who comes to RCO from the Department of Archaeology and Historical Preservation.

Recently, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service explained that RCO will not receive funding for the Salmon Recovery Portal. RCO is required in statute to have a habitat work schedule and the Salmon Recovery Portal meets the requirement. RCO has funding for a couple of years and will strategize how best to meet the statutory requirement and needs of stakeholders and regions. Additionally, Regional Fisheries Enhancement groups, which are critical sponsors of board projects, found out they will not receive Federal Fiscal Year 2025 funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

RCO will meet with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration next week to learn about the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which is zeroed out in the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Presidential Budget. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, along with Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and California, works hard to educate the federal congressional delegation and others on the value and importance of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. A special meeting may be necessary later this summer depending on what happens to federal funding.

Member Cottingham asked if any federal funds from 2023 or 2024 had been pulled back. **Director Duffy** answered that 2023 and 2024 funding is still accessible.

Policy and Legislative Update

Brock Milliern, Policy and Legislative director, shared that this Legislative session was difficult with many budget cuts, noting natural resources took significant cuts especially compared to the last few biennia when the budget for natural resources grew. There

were fewer policy bills related to salmon, likely due to the increased focus on the budget. One complication during the session was dealing with a $30 million proposed reduction in the Salmon Recovery Account. The agency and salmon recovery community both expressed concerns about this potential reduction. The legislature did not end up taking the $30m.

Many capital budget investments were intended to be close to the initial investments made in the 2023-2025 budget. This was true for the regular board and board riparian funding. Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration received $60.5 million, slightly more than in 2023-2025. Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board received $32.5 million, less than in 2023-2025. Other programs received within a million dollars from the 2023-2025 biennium. It is unknown whether there will be capacity in the supplemental budget to request more and will likely be determined by how much Climate Commitment Act funding becomes available.

There were four line-item vetoes by the Governor's Office out of RCO's budget including funding for the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program. While the statutory authority for the program had expired, the legislature retained the funding in agency budgets. In his veto letter, Governor Ferguson encouraged agencies to return with request legislation for the program. This is something RCO, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Puget Sound Partnership will work on outside of session.

Mr. Milliern highlighted bills that passed in session and impact work with salmon:

- Senate Bill 5157 – allows direct sale of wood from the Department of Natural Resources for salmon recovery.
- Senate Bill 5281 – raises permit fees for non-resident vessels, establishes a new program at RCO for swimming lessons in underserved communities, and provides protections for orcas in the Puget Sound.
- Senate Bill 5583 – increases the cost of hunting and fishing licenses at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and changes the dedicated funding to Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups from a set dollar amount to 2.3 percent.
- Senate Bill 2003 – establishes a Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishing endorsement, increasing the amount of revenue to the state.

Noting the deliberate board decision to submit a Targeted Investment project list in hopes of increasing the amount of funding, **Chair Breckel** asked if there was feedback or interest on the Targeted Investment list. Mr. Milliern answered that there was a

general appreciation for the list, but he could not tell if legislative members connected the list with the overall pot of funding.

Member Maroney shared that he recreates in multiple states in the west and the 38 percent increase for hunting and fishing licenses in Washington barely keeps pace with fees in other states, noting Utah just passed a 100 percent increase. **Member Maroney** asked if the money generated from the increase in fees would go specifically to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, noting he had heard there was a net gain of zero because the department's budget had been reduced. **Member Cram** answered, explaining that although there was a license fee increase, there was a corresponding decrease in general state fund operating dollars. Mr. Milliern added this was typical in other programs as well. The Discover Pass fee increased 50 percent, but the general state funds decreased. Importantly, while fees are increasing, there will not be a corresponding increase in service, which raises concerns for meeting the expectations of the public.

Item 7: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Erik Neatherlin, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office director, explained that following Eli Asher's departure from RCO in early 2025, that permanent position was offered as part of RCO's operating budget reduction. The current Governor's Salmon Recovery Office staff will conduct the work in that position. Mr. Neatherlin provided the board with a hard copy of the 2024 State of Salmon in Watersheds report which he presented at the March meeting.

In April, Mr. Neatherlin attended the Puget Sound Day on The Hill in Washington, D.C. The event is hosted by the Puget Sound Partnership and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. Mr. Neatherlin highlighted the importance of this event for the Congressional delegation to hear directly from a wide array of partners and interests, including sovereign tribes, in Puget Sound about the importance of Puget Sound and salmon recovery. This helps set the stage for subsequent communication and issues, like the reduction in Federal Fiscal Year 2025 for the Regional Fish Enhancement Groups. In addition to meeting with the Washington Congressional delegation, this year the Puget Sound Day on the Hill group met with different states, including Idaho, Alaska, Texas, Florida, and the District of Queens, New York. Mr. Neatherlin noted the uncertainty in the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

Mr. Neatherlin thanked the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for leading a state letter on the Endangered Species Act No Harm Rule, which was signed by multiple state agencies.

The Monitoring Grant Program had nine pre-applications submitted, requesting a total of $2.5 million for $974,000 available funds. The request illustrates the need for monitoring funds. Final applications are due at the end of June and recommendations will be made at the September meeting for the board decision.

Katie Knight Pruit, Salmon Recovery coordinator, provided an overview of the Salmon Strategy 2025-2027 Biennial Budget. The overall request to implement the strategy for all natural resource agency requests was $1.2 billion and the outcome was $690 million. By comparison, the 2023-2025 total budget for implementing the strategy was $1.1 billion, with similar requests. Many of the reductions in the 2025-2027 budget were partial reductions across categories. Some items in 2023-2025 were funded one time and specific to the strategy. Additionally, in the 2025-2027 budget, there were one-time cuts to ongoing base funding. Ms. Pruit summarized requests and appropriations received.

Category	Funding Requested	Funding Received	Funding For
Habitat	$637 million	$348 million	Reporting and riparian data and mapping.
Clean Water	$165 million	$95 million	Toxics reduction and 6PPD-quinone research.
Fish Barriers	$120 million	$54 million	Programs like the Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board.
Climate	$211 million	$166 million	Columbia River water supply, Yakima Basin Integrated Plan and streamflow restorations.
Hatcheries	$54 million	$19 million	Does not include investments in Harvest this biennium.
Food Web	$11 million	$8 million	Invasive species management: European Green Crab and zebra and quagga mussels were fully funded.
Science	$18 million	$1 million	Washington Conservation Commission's Science Hub.

Requests from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for fish passage screening capacity did not receive any funding; however, there was some funding for Upper Columbia reintroduction allocated to the Department of Commerce.

Ms. Pruit provided a summary of the statewide salmon grants that implement the regional recovery plans, including RCO programs, Floodplains by Design, and others. Since the 2017-2019 biennium, bond funds for these programs steadily increased until the 2021-2023 biennium when there was a significant funding increase. In the 2023-2025 biennium, Climate Commitment Act Funding was added which increased overall funding. The 2025-2027 biennium includes less funding overall, but that is mainly due to a decrease in Climate Commitment Act funding. There is a slight increase in bond funds compared to the previous biennium.

Member Cottingham recently learned that the Climate Commitment Act funding is intended to peak and drop off by design and asked if that was correct. Ms. Pruit answered this is her understanding as well, and it is not something that can be relied on in the long term.

Tara Galuska, Orca Recovery coordinator, communicated that since the Orca Task Force recommendations release, $700 million went to orca recovery in the 2019-2021 biennium, $1.2 billion in the 2021-2023 biennium, $1.3 billion in the 2023-2025 biennium, and $712 million in the 2025-2027 biennium.

Ms. Galuska highlighted the gap in enforcement funding this biennium. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife submitted a large enforcement package, some of which was tied to the new 1,000-yard distance law. The package was not funded.

The Southern Resident Killer Whale population is holding steady at seventy-three whales after some births and deaths. There are currently eleven young whales.

A new thermal imaging camera, the first in the state, was installed on a United States Coast Guard radio tower at Point Wilson, near Port Townsend. The camera looks across Admiralty Inlet and can track whale sightings in bad weather and evenings where data gaps exist. The data goes directly to the Whale Report Alert System, which alerts mariners of incoming whales. Funding for the camera is provided to Quiet Sound from Puget Sound Partnership. Quiet Sound is a new organization formed after the taskforce to quiet the waters in the Puget Sound and help with whale sightings and reduce ship strikes.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's 1,000-yard distance initiative has a Boater Ambassador Program, which is training volunteers to have eyes on the water and potentially educate other boaters on the new distance law in Washington State.

Canada goes through an annual process to announce whale protections. This year, they decided not to make an emergency order and instead may add whale protections, such as the 1,000-yard distance. An official announcement is expected later in June.

June is Orca Action Month. There will be many regional activities available on the Orca Action Month website. Orca Recovery Day was just announced and will be on October 18.

Finally, Ms. Galuska highlighted a celebration for Lynne Barre, who retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ms. Berre served on the Orca Task Force. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration should continue having an active role in orca recovery; however, the Big Beautiful Bill moves orca recovery from The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Kat Moore, Salmon Grants Section manager, highlighted that assistant section manager Christy Rains moved over to take on board grant program and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration team, and recruitment is underway for the Salmon Section Office Programs assistant section manager. Outdoor Grants manager Sandy Dotts retired, and her position will not be filled at this time.

All the initial applications for the 2025 grant round were submitted and comments from tracks one and two were released last week. Staff will soon begin working with lead entity coordinators, review panel members, and project sponsors to answer questions from comments on projects that need more information, projects of concern, or conditioned projects. Final applications are due June 23, and the final review panel meeting will be in mid-July.

There were approximately 100 applications in the Regular Salmon Grant Program and about fifty applications in the Riparian Program. The applications total $37 million for salmon and $20 million for riparian. Comparatively, last year there were 200 applications in the Regular Salmon Program and seventy-four for riparian. Ms. Moore noted that while there are typically about 140 applications in past years, this is not a Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration year, and fewer applications are to be expected. Of note, match modernization was added to the application this year. Staff will provide an update at the September meeting, which will include how many projects still provide match and how many projects are showing “other funding” or leveraged funds. Currently, around half of the projects are providing other funding and twenty-three projects are still providing match. Grants managers are working with sponsors to make sure they understand that other funds are expected to be reported. Match

modernization will be reviewed in two years to see if sponsors are documenting the full project cost.

General Public Comment

None.

BREAK 10:06 A.M. – 10:22 A.M.

Item 8: Partner Reports

Council of Regions

David Dicks, Hood Canal Coordinating Council executive director, on behalf of the Council of Regions expressed gratitude to RCO staff for their hard work throughout the Legislative session, particularly on the proposed $30 million reductions in the Salmon Recovery Account. The reduction would have been problematic for the council and lead entities. The collaborative work to maintain that funding is a good example of regions coming together in a statewide presence with the Legislature.

Mr. Dicks highlighted the unknown funding capacity for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), which funds a significant portion of regions' capacity. For example, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council receives $375,000 each year from the PCSRF. If this funding disappeared, it would create a significant problem for all the regions and additional implications to the state budget.

Member Cottingham asked what percentage of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council's budget is for administrative work. Mr. Dicks answered that it is roughly one-third of the total budget.

Chair Breckel asked if the council is discussing what the regions would do if capacity funding were not available, and how to deal with funding shortages and still maintain a viable organization that appropriates money for projects. Mr. Dicks noted the council is working together and with RCO to solve the problem. They are coming up with innovative solutions, like moving unspent funds from one region into another region. The regions recognize that everyone is in this together and the infrastructure to execute salmon recovery projects is critical. Mr. Dicks commended the Legislature for their continued support of salmon recovery in the capital budget but noted the projects will not happen if there is not capacity from operating funds.

Member Cottingham asked if the supplemental session is an alternative being considered. **Director Duffy** noted that all options are on the table, including the supplemental session, adding federal actions may put significant pressure on state

budgets. There is concern that there may be initiatives that challenge revenue-generating packages, and a challenging supplemental session is anticipated.

Washington Salmon Coalition

Renee Johnson, vice chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition, commented on the importance of the board visiting the project sites yesterday, noting tours reconnect people to the "why" of salmon recovery.

The coalition's all-hands meeting in March included peer-supported problem-solving training, a riparian discussion with Nick Norton, and acquisition guidance from Kat Moore. During the training, the coalition determined it could develop new tools and resources to help coordinators strengthen committee engagement. Mr. Norton led a riparian funding discussion about improving the grant program with flexible and stable funding. The discussion highlighted the need for rapid funding for urgent acquisition requests and traditional grant cycles for ongoing programmatic requests. Ms. Moore explained the acquisition process in the salmon program highlighting how riparian versus upland acres affect sponsor's eligibility, the importance of match and due diligence, and shared that RCO's acquisition team meets monthly and is a resource for lead entity coordinators.

The coalition's training committee is planning a burnout prevention session for the October all-hands meeting. The learning and sharing committee host monthly peer sessions on practical topics such as riparian planning, file sharing tools, and committee engagement. At their July 8 meeting, the coalition will have training on the Salmon Recovery Portal from RCO staff Chantell Krider and Jessica Fish. Additionally, there will be a presentation on the Align Program, which helps improve coordination, efficiency, and impact across funding programs.

Lead entity coordinators continue to support committees in ranking projects, helping sponsors navigate permitting and cost increases, coordinated a response to the $30 million proposed reduction of salmon funding, and prepared a letter to Legislators and the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. Johnson highlighted the Stillaguamish Riparian Practitioners Workgroup, formed by the Stillaguamish Lead Entity and partners, and whose collaborative effort resulted in $2.1million from the Riparian Systems Lead Grant program. The East Fork Lewis River Reconnection Project is a culmination of thirty years of work and a great example of partnership in local-led salmon recovery resulting in large projects. This is a $24.5 million project with $8 million in RCO support and will provide employment for many.

Details on these projects are included in the Lead Entity Happenings Report found in the meeting materials.

Chair Breckel asked if lead entities are having the same conversations as the Council of Regions regarding funding for capacity. Ms. Johnson answered that lead entities are preparing to move ahead as if funding were in place while maintaining flexibility and keeping local sponsors and communities aware of the uncertainties.

Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group

Jason Lundgren, Cascade Fisheries executive director, noted the strong statewide collaboration on display in preventing the $30 million reduction in salmon funding that included $750,000 for the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group. The group was disappointed that the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's funding for Salmon in Schools were not funded but was happy Climate Commitment Act funding is retained.

Mr. Lundgren noted the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group learned that funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to the enhancement groups is going away. This would remove around 50 percent of Cascade Fisheries' base funding, which is some of their most important funding. Mr. Lundgren will speak with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday for the first time since receiving the news to explain the importance of the funding.

Mr. Lundgren hopes that the salmon recovery community can be more proactive and less reactive to state and federal politics and budget challenges, noting there is not enough money to go around to fund important needs. Mr. Lundgren noted that private sector funding could and should play a key role in the future of salmon recovery funding to increase certainty of funding levels and weather difficult federal and state budget years.

Chair Breckel commented on the creativity and dedication of RCO staff, regions, lead entities, and sponsors who are all working together to continue this important work during this time of uncertainty. **David Dicks** commented on Mr. Lundgren's report noting the funding allocation may need to be reformulated for stability of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups.

Item 9: Skagit River Intensively Monitored Watershed

Mike LeMoine and Correigh Greene, Skagit River System Cooperative, and **Josh Chamberlin**, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, provided an overview of the Skagit River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) and the work underway to complete the

study plan. Joe Anderson from the Washington Department Fish and Wildlife has also been an active participant in executing the study plan.

Correigh Greene explained how the Skagit IMW was created after recognizing that the Chinook salmon populations were under threat. Many species rely on estuaries such as the Puget Sound, which has been highly modified and has lost 50-99 percent of habitat. Extensive restoration efforts of the tidal footprint have been ongoing since the 1990s. Early monitoring of the effects of the restoration efforts began to answer whether Chinook populations were responding to the restoration efforts and led to the inception of the Skagit River's "estuary IMW."

The Skagit River estuary was a logical location because the recovery plan integrated estuary restoration; there was a large, wild population of Chinook salmon within the tidal delta; a comprehensive monitoring program already existed; and extensive restoration had already been completed or planned.

The Skagit River System Cooperative works to put elements of the Skagit IMW in place. The board funds around 25 percent of the total IMW cost. While there are many monitoring tasks in the IMW, the board funds delta and nearshore sampling, while other sources fund adult monitoring, smolt trapping, nearshore sampling, and habitat mapping and analysis.

The Skagit IMW study plan was conceived in 2011 and created a conceptual model of how restoration would affect the fish population and tied it to actual restoration projects that were either planned or already existed. The conceptual model illustrates how Chinook salmon were constrained by two factors: limited capacity within the tidal delta and restricted connectivity throughout the Skagit delta. The conceptual model also shows the potential impacts of restoration to restore pathways for fish throughout the tidal delta to improve capacity along shorelines and connectivity through the Swinomish Channel to Padilla Bay and to the north. The study plan aimed at examining population benefits of increasing capacity and landscape connectivity and the local effectiveness of different types of restoration projects.

Connectivity has not had a chance to be fully studied yet; however, the study plan targets additional projects to better understand the benefits of connectivity to juvenile outmigrants and adult returns.

Twenty years of the IMW has confirmed that density dependence within the tidal delta limits productivity, contributing to lower juvenile productivity and constraining adult returns. Estuary restoration is working and has increased prime rearing habitat and capacity by allowing fish to spread out more, reduced spillover of fry into the Skagit Bay

nearshore, and increased smolt-adult return rates. Effectiveness monitoring has shown that some types of estuary restoration are better than others at restoring capacity.

Mike LeMoine shared that the Skagit IMW data is informative to the Whidbey Basin and Puget Sound and although the Skagit River System Cooperative is focused on the Skagit River delta, they have developed design guidelines for capacity projects throughout the Puget Sound. Connectivity projects build distributary habitats, and while these projects can be more complicated, they can have positive impacts within and across to neighboring sites. Building distributary habitat changes the conveyance of fish across the landscape resulting in fish using the habitats differently. The hope is to spread the fish throughout the landscape to reduce the overflow of juveniles into Skagit Bay and increase survival potential.

Mr. LeMoine highlighted the McGlinn Island jetty project, which blocks access to the Swinomish Channel and Padilla Bay wetlands. The jetty restoration project is in the recovery plan. The jetty is maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It is porous, which has directly caused mortality of fish through entrainment and injury or predation, on top of being a barrier to connectivity. Interest by the Army Corps to limit the need to dredge led to discussions with the Tribe and Skagit River Systems Cooperative on how to address impacts. It is estimated that between three to 13 percent of outmigrants from the Skagit River encounter the jetty and a survey has not been conducted without finding dead fish along the jetty.

There are two planned connectivity projects for the McGlinn Island jetty, the McGlinn Causeway, led by the Army Corps, and the Dunlap Causeway (RCO #25-1159), led by the Skagit River Systems Cooperative and the Swinomish Tribe. The McGlinn Causeway project will create additional openings within the jetty that would create a section of a distributary for salmon and add connectivity between the North Fork Skagit River and the Swinomish Channel. The Dunlap Causeway will allow connectivity to the north of McGlinn Island. Both projects are moving forward to feasibility and design phases. Most of the land where the work will take place is on the Swinomish Tribe's treaty trust land. The Swinomish Tribe and Sauk-Suiattle Tribe support and are committed to these projects. The Army Corps has a budget proposal in Congress.

There are numerous connectivity projects throughout the Puget Sound and Hood Canal, and the Skagit IMW can help inform these other projects. Additionally, the Skagit IMW can inform how the Army Corps' large navigation structures directly impact salmon by disrupting connectivity and outmigration. Mr. LeMoine noted several recent publications, shared with staff, that relied on data from the Skagit IMW (see links below).

- Population responses of Chinook salmon on two decades of estuary nursery habitat
- Estimating estuary habitat change and functional trajectory of restoration projects over two decades in Puget Sound, WA
- Assessing the cumulative effects of nearshore habitat restoration actions for multiple populations of juvenile salmon in Whidbey Basin, Washington: Foundation and Approach for synthesis and evaluation
- Juvenile salmonids traverse coastal meta-nurseries that connect rivers via the sea
- Landscape determinants of aquatic estuarine habitat use by juvenile Chinook salmon
- Differential use of tidal delta, shoreline, and neritic habitats by natural- and hatchery-origin juvenile Chinook Salmon
- Population responses of Chinook salmon to two decades of restoration of estuary nursery habitat

Member Cottingham asked if the two causeway projects are mutually exclusive or could occur together. Mr. LaMoine answered that these are independent projects moving forward with the goal of completion. The McGlinn Causeway project would be funded through Congress and implemented by the Army Corps, whereas the Dunlap Causeway project would follow a more typical board-funded project process.

Member Hoffmann asked if the IMW definitively answered whether there was a population response to habitat restoration. Mr. Greene clarified it has answered the capacity question, adding that at the population level, cumulative restoration allowed fish to spread out more and reduced the overflow of juvenile fish into Skagit Bay.

Member Cram asked about a new manuscript that was going to link estuary restoration to increased smolt-to-adult returns. Mr. Greene answered the manuscript was completed and produced an analysis that looked at smolt-to-adult return rates across different estuaries in Puget Sound. The analysis leveraged multiple years of tracking of smolt outmigration and adult returns across eight systems with varying levels of restoration and outmigrant abundance to build an understanding about population-specific adult returns as a function of change in the local habitat. There is about a seven-year lag-time between restoration efforts and seeing a positive effect and, it is conceivable that with even longer lag-times, there may be even more benefit. **Member Cram** noted that the Skagit and Nisqually estuaries have had considerable amounts of restoration and asked if there was a narrative in the data about the different systems and how much estuary restoration each has had relative to one another. **Josh Chamberlin** answered that there are differences in the amount of estuary restoration

completed in each system. Mr. Greene added that without the restoration signal, other factors affect smolt-to-adult returns, but with larger cumulative restoration projects underway they see a larger fish response. **Member Hoffmann** asked how much estuary restoration is needed to see a population response. Mr. Greene did not have a direct answer but said the data can be used to answer questions like that. **Mr. LaMoine** noted the board wanted the Skagit IMW to look at adult returns. The Skagit IMW is currently seeing a juvenile response with only 25 percent of the projects in the recovery plan implemented.

Mr. LaMoine highlighted an analysis of restoration project types that compares population densities at restoration sites with a dike breach, dike setback, fill removal, enhancement, and tide gates to nearby reference marshes. Dike setback and fill removal restoration sites had higher population densities than the reference marshes. The analysis shows that some restoration types are better than others at increasing population densities.

LUNCH: 11:56 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Item 10: Intensively Monitored Watershed Program: The Path Forward

Greer Maier, science coordinator, highlighted the contributions made to the IMW studies and decades of work from IMW partners, the Science Advisory Panel, and the Monitoring Subcommittee.

Two IMW timeline options came out of the June 2024 board meeting:

- Option 1 – Full Implementation: Continue to implement the IMW approach without change through to the end of a defined post-treatment period that captures all major restoration.
- Option 2 – Modified Implementation: Modify fish and/or habitat monitoring based on results to date and remaining data and information needs without significantly compromising the integrity of the IMW.

The goals of the IMW studies are:

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 improvement caused the increased production or lack thereof.
3) Determine whether the beneficial effects of habitat improvement are maintained overtime.

Ms. Maier noted the difficulty in achieving some of these goals, particularly whether restoration can affect juvenile production, which depends on multiple factors. Staff are looking back at the restoration work in each of the treatment watersheds and evaluating where enough was done to expect a fish response.

Ms. Maier provided a brief overview and recommendations for each watershed. Details on recommendations, rationale, and the budget for each IMW are included in the meeting materials.

- **Lower Columbia IMW:** End funding for fish monitoring and smolt and adult monitoring in 2032. End funding for habitat monitoring in 2025 (Option 2).
- **Hood Canal IMW:** End funding for fish monitoring for smolt and adult monitoring in 2028. Habitat monitoring funding ended in 2024 (Option 2).
- **Straits IMW:** End funding for fish monitoring for smolt and adult monitoring in 2028. Habitat monitoring funding ended in 2024 (Option 2).
- **Skagit IMW:** Fish and habitat monitoring continued in the Skagit IMW until 2041. There is no change in the funding, methodology, or approach under this option (Option 1).

Member Cottingham asked if staff had discussed what would happen if there was no PCSRF funding. Ms. Maier answered that they have to an extent; however, if there is no PCSRF funding, staff will need to convene with each IMW partner to discuss options.

Chair Breckel and **Member Hoffmann** shared their longstanding involvement in the IMW work and support for the recommendations.

Chair Breckel noted that all monitoring funding is funded through PCSRF.

Public Comment

None.

Motion: Move to adopt the recommendations of the Science Advisory Panel and Monitoring Subcommittee which: ends funding for Intensively Monitored Watershed habitat monitoring in all watersheds in 2025; ends funding for the Lower Columbia Intensively Monitored Watershed study in 2032; ends funding for the Hood Canal Intensively Monitored Watershed study in 2028; ends funding for the Straits Intensively Monitored Watershed in 2028; and ends funding for the Skagit Intensively Monitored Watershed study in 2041.

Moved by: Member **Kaleen Cottingham**

Seconded by: Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Approved: Approved

Chair Breckel asked how the Skagit IMW fits into the first part of the motion that ends funding for IMW habitat monitoring in all watersheds in 2025. Ms. Maier clarified the board does not fund habitat monitoring for the Skagit IMW.

Ms. Maier explained a second motion regarding the IMWs.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Program does not have enough money to do habitat data collection in all three watersheds this summer and has decided to do habitat data collection only in the Lower Columbia IMW. There is approximately $100,000 remaining from the 2024 PCSRF for data analysis. The department needs an additional $50,000. The second motion would allocate $50,000 in unobligated PCSRF dollars to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Program for a total of $150,000 to finish the analysis.

Member Cottingham asked for clarification on the unobligated funds. Ms. Maier noted the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife needs $150,000 in total. Since the department is unable to do data collection on all three watersheds, they decided to do it only in the Lower Columbia IMW, particularly on Abernathy Creek because of the recent restoration work completed there. The department had $330,000 left over in 2024 PCSRF funds, and needed $200,000 for data collection, leaving around $100,000 to put towards the analysis.

Ms. Maier noted that as fish data collection ends in each IMW, additional funding to support analysis will be required and worked into future budgets.

Motion: Move to allocate $50,000 of unobligated Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund monitoring funds to complete habitat data analysis for Lower Columbia, Hood Canal, and Straits.
Moved by: Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Seconded by: Member **Joe Maroney**
Approved: Approved

Next steps for the IMWs include modifying contracts, convening analysis teams, completing habitat analysis and reporting by 2027, and completing IMW analysis and reporting by end of fish monitoring contract periods.

Item 11: Acquisition Policy Changes

Nick Norton, policy and planning specialist, provided a briefing on acquisition policy changes approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board at their April

2025 meeting. The approved policy changes to Manual 3: Acquisition Projects have a nexus with the board and are related to existing public property, earnest money, and combination project timelines. The policy changes are detailed in the meeting materials.

- Existing Public Property – the approved change removed consideration of previous or current management status to look at the underlying protections for recreation and conservation or salmon recovery.
- Earnest Money – the approved change now allows earnest or option payments to be defined as an eligible pre-agreement incidental cost only if they are applied to the reviewed, appraised value of the property at closing during the grant performance period.
- Combination Projects – requires the acquisition component of a recreation conservation combination project be closed or executed within eighteen months of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting. Previously the timeline was ninety days. This change aligns with salmon recovery projects, which allow eighteen months.

Member Cram asked for clarification on the Existing Public Property policy, noting an acquisition of established outdoor recreation areas developed under ownership of a public agency is prohibited unless the property was originally not acquired for recreation or conservation. Mr. Norton noted the policy is correct. This is to ensure funding is not paid twice for the same public purposes. **Member Cram** asked how this policy reconciles with the threat of selling off federal lands. Mr. Norton noted this is a possibility and would need to be examined on a case-by-case basis.

Item 12: Future Riparian Approaches

Nick Norton gave a brief overview of the board's Riparian Program discussion in December 2024, which is included in the meeting materials. The desired outcomes of the program include stable, dedicated funding; flexible, strategic scope; and quick, effective oversight.

Discussions about the Riparian Program with different interest groups agreed the program was headed in the right direction. Staff also heard that different riparian project types have different needs in terms of what is most helpful. For example, flexibility is important for stewardship work, while being able to respond quickly to certain opportunities is valuable with acquisitions. Similarly, different water resource inventory areas will focus on different desired outcomes depending on capacity and how many people are implementing riparian projects within the watershed. Sponsors noted support for a stepwise approach where RCO considers opportunities within our

current constraints and system, while also progressing on riparian strategies. RCO may need to be proactive in assisting lead entities and sponsors who may lack capacity or funding to have a refined riparian-based strategy for their watershed. Lastly, interest groups encouraged deliberate collaboration of RCO with the Washington State Conservation Commission on riparian strategies.

Member Cottingham noted the sponsors at Flaming Geyser State Park mentioned their riparian strategy is based on Washington Department of Ecology's total maximum daily load and asked if Ecology should be more involved. Mr. Norton answered yes.

Member Maroney asked how money for acquisitions could be accessed in a timelier way, noting land in Eastern Washington is becoming more available, but sellers want to close quickly. Mr. Norton explained that it is possible to have acquisitions outside of a grant round through local review of priority parcels, rolling state technical review of proposed acquisitions, and delegating authority to the director to approve a project.

Member Gorman wanted to ensure that this funding is filling the gaps and not duplicating efforts regarding invasive species work.

Member Endresen-Scott emphasized that the board should fund the highest priorities that will have the most impact versus projects that need to get the money spent. Mr. Norton noted the conversations around riparian are in the context of how flexibility may increase without sacrificing technical review and oversight to ensure projects that maximize salmon benefit are funded. Additionally, **Member Endresen-Scott** asked if there had been conversations with the Tribes on riparian funding. **Director Duffy** noted there will be separate conversations with Tribes but heard at the Riparian Roundtable that Tribes want to ensure that buffers are maintained and highlighted the importance of addressing riparian buffers in a timely way. **Member Bizyayeva** has heard similar sentiments in discussions on Tribal riparian priorities, adding there is an accountability aspect that must be addressed while not being duplicative.

Members discussed the examples seen of riparian plantings on the tour, their varied success, and cost. **Member Kanzler** would like guidelines around plantings and long-term stewardship. **Member Bizyayeva** suggested using natural processes to eliminate some of the ongoing cost of riparian plantings. **Member Cottingham** suggested that RCO could look at providing stewardship capacity contracts such that a sponsor could provide riparian stewardship across many sites owned by other entities.

Chair Breckel noted one of the goals of the Riparian Program was to be flexible and asked if staff had given thought on how to account for differences between riparian strategies and riparian projects. Mr. Norton noted that making it equitable between

each watershed and RCO being proactive and meeting people where they are is part of being flexible and equitable.

Mr. Norton provided project examples that highlighted the desired outcomes of the Riparian Program. The Hood Canal Knotweed Control has consistent funding through the annual ranking process. The knotweed control strategy allows for an expanded geographic scope, maintaining flexibility, and the local and state technical review during the annual grant round provides quick, effective oversight. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Focused Investment Partnerships has ongoing funding over three biennia to regional partnerships. The strategic action plan allows for rolling project approval by the agency director and the strategy allows for a streamlined technical review on a rolling basis.

Chair Breckel noted implementing something like Oregon's strategy, which allows a rolling review, could lessen the need for a rigorous technical review process. If this was the direction the program went in, **Member Cottingham** wanted to ensure there were side bars that linked the strategy to the regional recovery plan, watersheds, and is related directly to salmon riparian. **Director Duffy** noted that the Riparian Roundtable discussed riparian strategies at the watershed level and who approves the plans and measures whether a local entity is achieving the plan.

Mr. Norton shared additional near-term options for further consideration: a Riparian Panel, delegating funding authority, and an automatic funding renewal. Long-term options for consideration include strategy components, block grants, and funding riparian strategies.

Member Cottingham was intrigued by the block grant, but wanted to ensure it would be narrow, such as block grants for planting and stewardship, but not open ended. **Member Cram** suggested that an existing sub-committee could take on the role of the Riparian Panel to inform longer-term issues. **Chair Breckel** noted the Review Panel has their own set of review criteria, which could be helpful in developing criteria for a riparian strategy to maintain consistency. Additionally, he asked if there was a process similar to but different than a block grant program that would preserve flexibility, suggesting a phased award to a lead entity for riparian projects that is subject to submitting individual proposals. Mr. Norton noted this is similar to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's structure, which maintains oversight and accountability but allows for local autonomy and flexibility.

Regarding acquisitions, **Member Cottingham** asked if it was possible to provide an advance in funding that could be approved but comes out of the future allocation. **Kat**

Moore explained the workings of the Puget Sound Rapid Response fund, which takes requests quarterly. Lead Entities need to approve the use of it and funding comes out of the next allocation or returned Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funds. **Chair Breckel** suggested an approach used previously in Lower Columbia where reach level projects are submitted with different phases.

BREAK 2:38 P.M. – 2:55 P.M.

Item 13: Funding Allocation for Board Programs

Kat Moore shared the 2025-2027 proposed funding allocations for board programs which are included in the meeting materials. These allocations include the state general funds, state capital bond funds – riparian and salmon, and projected PCSRF funding. The 2025 Federal PCSRF is included as an assumption of $18.4 million. Typically, the PCSRF award would be known by May but is unknown as of the meeting. This funding goes to projects based on applications to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, regional capacity, Review Panel, monitoring, RCO administration, and activities including funding to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Salmon Recovery Conference, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, PRISM, and cultural resources staff.

Member Cottingham asked if there was a way to hold returned funds until the board knows whether there will be funding for the regions in 2025. Ms. Moore noted this had been considered, but the returned funds are returned project funds, not capacity funds. Returned capacity funds were not being considered.

Ms. Moore provided a breakdown of funding that will remain static in two proposed funding scenarios. The Review Panel will receive $100,000 from Riparian funds, $250,000 from the Salmon State fund, $250,000 from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration fund, and a projected $200,000 from PCSRF; $500,000 from the 2025-2027 state funds will go to cost increases; and $250,000 will go to the Spokane Lead Entity for projects in 2026.

Scenario One assumes 2025 PCSRF, and some PCSRF in 2026.

Project Funding	Type	2025 Grant Round	2026 Grant Round
Salmon Projects	Bond	$9,965,000	$9,965,000
PCSRF Projects	Federal	$8,800,260	To be determined
Return Funds	Mix	$5,149,560	Unknown
	Total	$23,914,820	$9,965,000

Scenario Two assumes 2025 PCSRF, but no PCSRF in 2026.

Project Funding	Type	2025 Grant Round	2026 Grant Round
Salmon Projects	Bond	$9,965,000	$9,965,000
PCSRF Projects	Federal	$8,800,260	$0
Return Funds	Mix	$0	$5,149,560
	Total	$18,765,260	$15,114,560

Ms. Moore ensured the board that under "Return Funds" in both scenarios the oldest money will be used first.

Member Maroney expressed hesitancy choosing a scenario with the uncertainty of PCSRF funding and suggested delaying a decision until a special meeting in August. Ms. Moore noted that these scenarios assume 2025 PCSRF is available; if it is not, the board will reconvene for a special meeting in August if more information is available. Additionally, 2026 PCSRF will not be known anytime soon. **Director Duffy** noted the main consideration should be the Return Funds and whether they are all allocated to 2025, to 2026 or split in half.

Member Cottingham stated funding in previous years was around $20 million and suggested balancing the return funds so that there is $20 million in the 2025 grant round, and the remainder in 2026.

Chair Breckel highlighted the impact to project, monitoring, and regional funding if there is no PCSRF in 2026 and suggested using the federal portion of return funds and holding the remainder for 2026. **Director Duffy** noted monitoring is priority two, and capacity is priority three, and the dollars in these scenarios are all for priority one projects.

Chair Breckel wanted an even grant round for 2025 and 2026 for sponsors, lead entities, and regional organizations' operations and continuity. **Member Cottingham** agreed with this but highlighted the unknowns for 2026, which could result in backloading an even split. Members were comfortable including a contingency for PCSRF funding.

2025 Grant Round

Motion: Move to use the interim project allocation formula approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at the March 2, 2017, board meeting to determine regional grant round amounts. The 2025 grant round shall be $20 million contingent on

receiving the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding award.

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

Review Panel Funding

Motion: Move to provide up to $550,000 in funding for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel contingent upon receiving the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding award.
Moved by: Member **Joe Maroney**
Seconded by: Member **Kaleen Cottingham**
Approved: Approved

Cost Increases

Motion: Move to retain balance of $500,000 for Salmon Recovery Funding Board project cost increases.
Moved by: Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Seconded by: Member **Joe Maroney**
Approved: Approved

Lead Entity and Regional Organization Capacity Funding

Jeannie Abbott, program coordinator, provided an overview of capacity funding available for lead entities and regional organizations, detailed in the meeting materials, for State Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027. These funds include the new Spokane Lead Entity.

Motion: Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office director to enter contracts with the Lead Entities and Regional Organizations to fund capacity for the 2025-27 biennium utilizing the funding amounts in Table 5 and Table 6, Item thirteen memorandum of the June 2025 meeting materials contingent upon receiving 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.
Moved by: Member **Joe Maroney**
Seconded by: Member **Kaleen Cottingham**
Approved: Approved

Monitoring Contracts

Greer Maier provided an overview of available monitoring funding, which comes exclusively from PCSRF through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the IMWs. Details are included in the meeting materials.

Motion:	Move to approve delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office director to enter contracts for the monitoring efforts displayed in Table 7 of item thirteen in the June 2025 meeting materials. The contracts shall not exceed $2,350,000 for fiscal year 2026 contingent upon receiving the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.
Moved by:	Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Seconded by:	Member **Chris Endresen-Scott**
Approved:	Approved as amended.

The fiscal year was amended from 2025 to 2026 in the original motion.

Member Endresen-Scott noted language in the memorandum that says "2025 grant round (fiscal year 2026)" and thanked the author of the memorandum for that clarification.

Item 14: Partner Reports

This item was presented after Item 9: Skagit River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Department of Ecology

Annette Hoffmann provided a brief budget update, noting that funding was provided to continue work on the impacts of emerging toxic chemicals, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and 6PPD-quinone. The latest update on 6PPD-quinone can be found on the Department of Ecology's website. Funding was also provided to continue effectively implementing enacted climate policy legislation aimed at reducing carbon pollution and responding to climate change, including Washington's Clean Fuel Standard and Climate Resilience Strategy, and to meet obligations related to Hanford cleanup and respond to federal changes impacting the aquaculture industry.

The Puget Sound Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead was established in 2023 and is an Environmental Protection Agency grant program that Ecology is administering. The program established a coalition of partners, which includes the State Conservation Commission and Bonneville Environmental Foundation and is supported by the Snohomish Conservation District and Puget Sound Institute. Ecology has primary responsibility for soliciting and administering the sub-awards to be funded under the

Puget Sound Climate Resilient Riparian Systems Lead. So far, Ecology has received three of the four anticipated increments of funding but is uncertain about the last increment of funding; however, Ecology has obligated about $12 million for projects ranging throughout the Puget Sound, including Chimacum Creek and the Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, and Puyallup River systems.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jeremy Cram shared the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will be losing staff involved in habitat restoration through the biodiversity package, which includes salmon. The department is working to figure out the fallout from the budget decisions ahead of July 1.

State Conservation Commission

Levi Keesecker shared the State Conservation Commission received $25 million for their Riparian Program, which includes $2 million for outreach and education with conservation districts, continuing the work started in the previous biennium. There were budget reductions in the community wildfire and engineering programs related to irrigation efficiencies, leaving uncertainty about how the budget cuts will affect water use in the program. The Riparian Plant Propagation program was funded at $3.4 million, and funding was maintained for the Science Hub. The commission initiated four pilot watersheds in Whatcom, Mason, Columbia, and Spokane Counties.

Member Keesecker provided an update on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which as of mid-April had all but fifty of the 169 contacts in Whatcom County disenrolled from the program. As of May 9, $572,000 was awarded to assist those who had lost Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program contracts. The Natural Resource Conservation Service is expected to complete revisions to the conservation plan for the rest of the state by July 1. After that, owners will have a chance to accept or reject the plans. The final contract payment for the reductions will be October 1 when assistance from the commission can begin to provide assistance for one year.

Member Keesecker thanked partner agencies for providing comments on the commission's updated Riparian Program guidelines.

Department of Natural Resources

Tom Gorman shared that the Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the budget from Legislature and working through its cuts.

Senate Bill 5157 allows the department to sell up to $250,000 of valuable materials (trees) for salmon recovery and they are working with partners to develop guidance to implement this new authority.

Member Gorman attended Puget Sound Day on the Hill and despite the uncertainty and chaos in Washington, D.C., the event was effective. **Member Gorman** met with congressional members from other states that align with what Washington State is trying to do for salmon recovery.

Finally, the department's Aquatic Resources division is working with the Wildland Fire division, in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to remove fourteen derelict vessels from Squaxin Island, using wildland fire helicopters.

Department of Transportation

Susan Kanzler gave a brief budget update, noting Washington State Department of Transportation had some of their program budget reduced and transportation projects delayed. The department did not receive additional funding needed to bring the transportation system back to a state of good repair, particularly in maintenance and preservation.

During the 2025 Legislative Session, Washington State Department of Transportation communicated the need for approximately $5 billion in additional funding to meet the deadline and associated habitat percentages laid out in the culvert injunction. The Legislature proposed, and Governor Ferguson signed, a Transportation Budget that included an additional $1.1 billion spread over six years for the department's fish passage work. This allows efforts to continue while department staff work with state leaders, Tribes, and partners on the long-term funding need to fulfill the court injunction.

To date, the Legislature has authorized a total of $5.2 billion for fish passage since the injunction was issued in 2013. The Washington State Department of Transportation is working to refine the current fish passage delivery plan to best align with the additional funding over the next several biennia, with a focus on continuing to deliver the plan while keeping the program structure and expertise in place to prepare for future funding. Until more is known, the department will continue to deliver the program under current injunction requirements to the best of its ability within the legislatively appropriated budget.

ADJOURN: 3:37 P.M.

Motion:	Move to adjourn.
Moved by:	Member **Kadi Bizyayeva**
Seconded by:	Member **Kaleen Cottingham**
Approved:	Approved

The next regular meeting is September 16-17, in-person in Room 172, Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, Washington, 98501 and online via Zoom.

Item 1: Director's Report

Action Requested: Briefing

Summary

This is a summary of work happening around the Recreation and Conservation Office and includes an update on staffing, budget, and performance measures.

Agency Update

Celebrating the Life and Stewardship of Billy Frank Jr.

The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, with assistance from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, hosted a booth at the Billy Frank Jr. Celebration in March to share information about the state's salmon and orca recovery efforts. The booth featured a replica of an orca skull and orca trading cards, favorites amongst visitors.

Each year, North Thurston Public Schools and the Nisqually Indian Tribe collaborate to celebrate the life and legacy of Billy Frank Jr. by hosting this family-friendly event filled with learning, fun, and even some food.

Students from every school in the district presented activities and displays that highlighted learning that focused on four themes: treaty rights advocacy, environmental stewardship, service, and civil disobedience. Various businesses, agencies, and other community partners also shared displays connecting these themes.

The Washington State Arts Commission displayed a model of the bronze statue of Billy Frank Jr. that will be one of the two statues in the National Statuary Hall representing Washington State in Washington D.C.

The end of the evening had presentations from the Nisqually Canoe Family and guest speaker, David Troutt, former Salmon Recovery Funding Boardchair and current director of the Nisqually Indian Tribe's Department of Natural Resources. Troutt shared details on the work being done to protect and enhance the salmon run on the Nisqually River and highlighted the return of the king salmon, a significant and important win for environmental stewardship in alignment with Billy Frank Jr.'s life and legacy.

Progress Made on European Green Crab Removal

European green crab continues to be a problem in Washington, but the collaboration among state agencies, Tribes, and others have resulted in removing record numbers of them–240,010–as of June 30!

European green crab is an invasive marine crab found in estuaries and intertidal zones along the Pacific Coast. Though only about four inches wide, they are voracious and opportunistic predators that compete with and prey upon native crabs and shellfish, while destroying salmon habitat in the process. They are one of the world's worst invasive species.

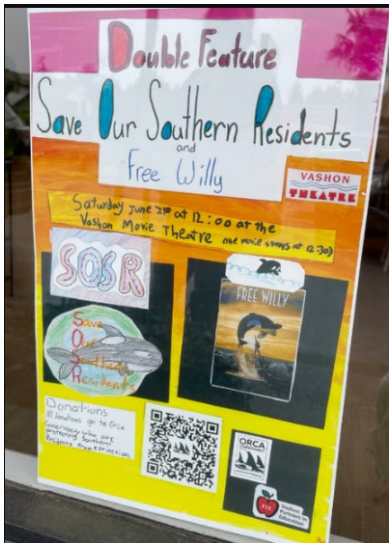
First detected in Washington waters in 1998, European green crab populations skyrocketed by 2022, resulting in former Governor Jay Inslee declaring a statewide emergency that directed the Department of Fish and Wildlife to respond to the problem.

As a result, the department and the Washington Invasive Species Council staff (housed within RCO) developed and executed interagency agreements of more than $1 million annually to support rapid response, research, and removal of the green crabs.

Since the partnership between department and the Recreation and Conservation Office began, the number of European green crab removed continues to increase yearly. In 2022, more than 286,000 crabs were removed, in 2023, more than 360,000 crabs were removed, and in 2024 more than one million crabs were removed. The teams are on track to beat that number in 2025.

Students Take Action to Protect Orca

In June, Vashon Island third graders debuted their self-made documentary, *Save Our Southern Residents*, to educate others about the challenges facing endangered Southern Resident orcas.



The documentary was this year's big project for the 3rd Grade Action Network, a social studies unit that has students working together to drive meaningful action on a topic affecting their lives.

Orca recovery coordinator Tara Galuska, as well as other orca specialists, spoke to the class and shared insights about the challenges facing orcas and what is being done to protect them.

The students took what they learned from these presentations to make the documentary and then worked with Vashon Theatre to organize a special screening fundraiser, which they promoted with posters designed and made by them. Proceeds earned from the viewing were donated to the Orca Conservancy.

State Awards Grants to Improve Salmon Migration

The Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board announced the award of $30 million in grants to remove fish-blocking road culverts and correct other barriers to open salmon migration routes. Streams often are routed into culverts, which are pipes or other structures that carry water under roads. Culverts can block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that at least 20,000 barriers either partially or fully block salmon from reaching their spawning grounds in Washington. The Legislature established the grant program in 2014. It is administered jointly by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Recreation and Conservation Office. The next grant round is expected to open in October.

State Awards $9 Million in Grants to Improve Wildlife Habitat on Washington's Coast

In July, RCO announced the award of $9.2 million in grants for projects that will restore habitat, create jobs and improve the resilience of Washington's Coastal communities. Grants were awarded to eight projects including those that will remove invasive plants, restore rivers, work with landowners on conservation grazing practices and create habitat for salmon by placing logjams in streams. The grants are from the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, which was created by the Legislature in 2015 to protect and restore ecological systems of the Coast while creating jobs and reducing hazards, such as flooding and infrastructure damage. The initiative is jointly administered by RCO and the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative Steering Committee. Since 2015, the initiative has invested nearly $71 million in coastal communities. In 2024, twenty-two grant applications were submitted, requesting more than $27 million–with just more than one-third of the projects being funded.

Employee Updates

Amee Bahr was promoted to senior outdoor grants manager, focusing on the non-board salmon grant programs such as the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative.

Alice Rubin was promoted to assistant section manager for the Salmon Section. She manages the team overseeing non-Salmon Recovery Funding Board programs.

Henry Smith, grants manager for the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section, left the agency in June to join Parks Tacoma as a capital project manager for regional and waterfront parks.

Lauren Burnes, special assistant to the director, left RCO in June to work for the Office of Insurance Commissioner.

News from the Boards

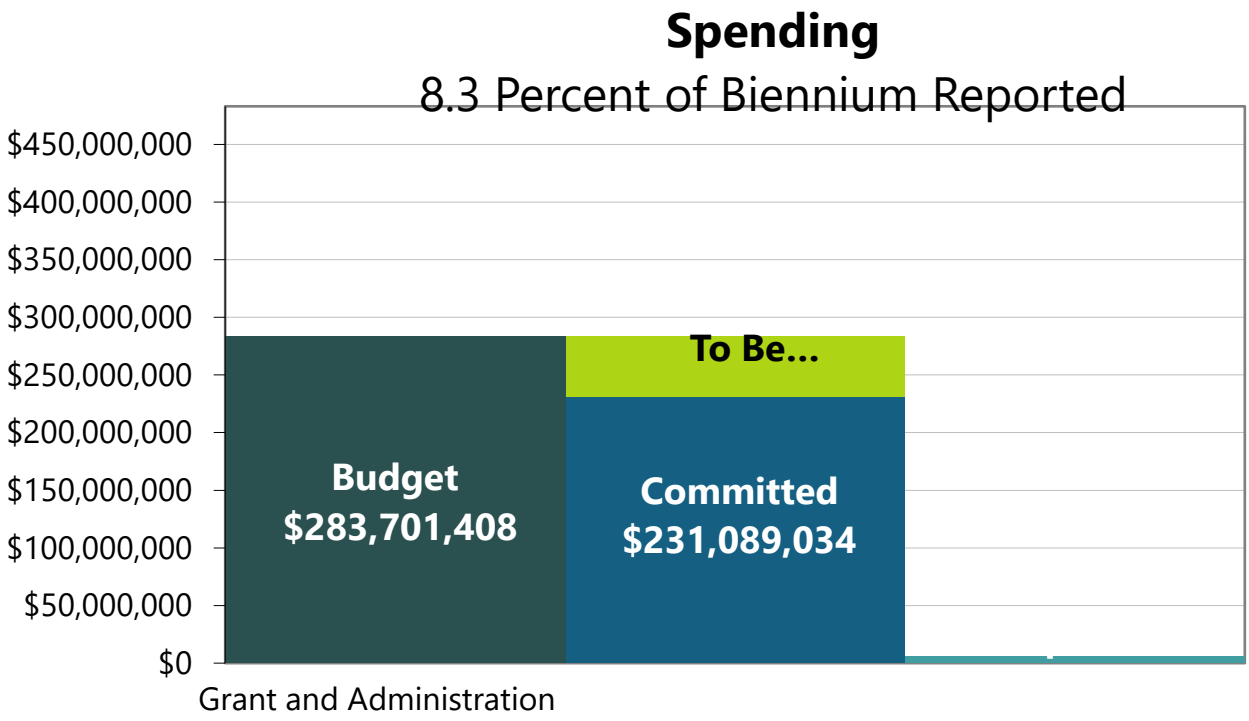
The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met on July 17 for a combination field trip and meeting. At its meeting, the council worked on updating its strategic plan and heard an update on priority aquatic invasive species from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The **Recreation and Conservation Funding Board** met June 24-25 for a combination retreat and meeting. At the meeting, the board approved more than $148 million in grants for projects statewide to build and improve parks and trails, conserve irreplaceable wildlife habitat and maintain land for farming and forestry. The board also discussed possible policy changes to two of its habitat conservation grant programs that have not been significantly updated in nearly twenty years and gave staff input on how to change grant programs to increase outdoor access for people with disabilities.

Policy Update

Staff will provide an update on RCO's preparation for the 2026 legislative session. This will include revenue forecast and budget process updates—including federal budget updates.

Fiscal Update



Performance Update

The following data displays grant management and project impact performance measures for fiscal year 2026. Data included is specific to projects funded by the board and current as of August 11, 2025.

Project Impact Performance Measures

The following tables provide an overview of the fish passage accomplishments funded by the board in fiscal year 2026. 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, seven salmon blockages were removed this fiscal year (July 1, 2025, to August 11, 2025), and one passageway installed (Table 1). These projects have cumulatively opened 3.68 miles of stream (Table 2).

Table 1: Blockage Removal and Passage-way Installation projects

Measure	Fiscal Year 2026 Performance
Blockages Removed	7
Bridges Installed	1
Culverts Installed	0
Fish Ladders Installed	0
Fishway Chutes Installed	0

Table 2: Projects with Stream Miles Opened

Project Number	Project Name	Primary Sponsor	Funding Program	Stream Miles
19-1421	Barnaby Reach Restoration, Phase 1	Skagit River System Cooperative	Salmon State Projects	1.30
22-1229	Clear Creek Reconnection	Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce	Salmon Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Projects	2.16
23-1093	Fennel Creek Restoration Phase 3 - Construction	Pierce County Public Works and Utilities	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	0.22
			Total	**3.68**

The table below summarizes fiscal year 2026 operational performance measures as of August 11, 2025

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Percent of Salmon Projects Issued Agreement within 120 Days of Board Funding	90%		●	Zero agreements for board-funded projects were due to be mailed this fiscal year to date. Staff issued zero agreements within 120 days, averaging zero days.
Percent of Salmon Progress Reports Responded to On Time (fifteen days or less)	90%	90%	●	Ninety-seven progress reports were due this fiscal year to date for board-funded projects. Staff responded to eighty-seven 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, 156 bills were due for board-funded projects. All were paid on time.
Percent of Projects Closed on Time	85%	80%	●	Five board-funded projects were scheduled to close. So far, this fiscal year four of them closed on time.
Number of Projects in Project Backlog	5	9	●	Nine board-funded projects are in the backlog and need to be closed out.

Item 2: Salmon Recovery Management Report

Action Requested: Briefing

Summary

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

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Report

Partner Activities

Federal Affairs

In June, Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) Director Erik Neatherlin and Recreation and Conservation Office Director Megan Duffy attended a site tour at the Duwamish People's Park hosted by the Port of Seattle. The visit was part of a week-long tour for newly appointed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) assistant administrator, Eugenio Pineiro-Soler. The tour focused on salmon recovery and NOAA activities in Washington. The week-long visit was coordinated by NOAA regional administrator, Jennifer Quan, the NOAA Northwest Science Center, and partners in Puget Sound.

GSRO continued coordination to secure federal fiscal years 2025 and 2026 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds with the Governor's Office in DC, Washington Congressional staff, Tribes, and Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and California. As of August, the 2025 funding is in process but has not been released. There are ongoing communication and pressure to release funding. The 2026 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund funding was zeroed out in the President's budget but is included in the Senate and House budgets at $65 million. The 2026 budget negotiations are ongoing.

GSRO continued its quarterly calls with the five Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund states. Washington, Oregon, and Idaho will travel to represent all five states in Washington DC in November.

In August, GSRO met with the Coast Guard on implementation of the cetacean desk. Staff would like to see continued support of the desk, as it is a four-year pilot program without any federal appropriations.

Presentations and Meetings

In June, GSRO spoke about salmon recovery in Washington at the annual Nisqually Environmental Summit held at the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually Wildlife Refuge. In July, GSRO and RCO Tribal Affairs Director met in person with the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission at their headquarters in Portland, Oregon to discuss federal and state priorities for salmon. This meeting was part of a series of quarterly meetings between Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and GSRO.

GSRO continued attending the regional salmon recovery board meetings monthly, making the rotation through each. Knowledge Exchange Workshops

GSRO staff continues to partner with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Pacific Salmon Foundation to convene the virtual Knowledge Exchange Workshop Series. The most recent workshop will be on September 10th and focuses on tide gates. The upcoming November workshop will discuss floodplain restoration. These workshops regularly attract upward of 800 participants involved in salmon recovery and expert panels and presentations cover lessons learned and the latest restoration science.

Governor's Salmon Strategy

GSRO will convene the Natural Resources Subcabinet in late September to discuss progress implementing the strategy, as well as potential federal impacts and critical funding gaps to recover salmon.

GSRO will also convene the Salmon Recovery Network in early September to discuss federal budgets and impacts to statewide recovery efforts.

Riparian

The Riparian Task Force has been funded for another eighteen months and will reconvene meetings in early fall. Participants will continue developing the recommendations submitted in 2025. GSRO continues to provide coordination across agency programs.

Orca Recovery

There are currently seventy-four Southern Resident killer whales. The Center for Whale Research has reported four new calves born into the population in the last twelve months. Unfortunately, two are deceased.

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission listed Southern Resident killer whales as Endangered under Oregon law in February 2024. They adopted guidelines to direct relevant state agencies to address threats of pollution, noise, and prey to Southern Resident Killer Whales.

Multiple papers and reports were published this summer. Whales Without Borders: Aligning Environmental Policies to Enhance Whale Conservation addresses transboundary policies and coordination GSRO staff are meeting with the authors and others on the identified topics. Another report, d Strengthening Recovery Actions for Southern Resident killer whales, identifies twenty-six recommendations to recover Southern Resident Killer whales many of which align with the task force recommendations. GSRO staff are reviewing the report, which also include science recommendations.

Quiet Sound completed their 2024-25 voluntary commercial vessel slow down program. The slowdown has demonstrated significant improvement in the underwater ecosystem for the endangered Southern Resident killer whales by reducing underwater noise in the frequencies these whales use to communicate and hunt. Here is the 2024-25 Voluntary Vessel Slowdown report. GSRO received a certificate of appreciation for participation in the program administration.

Salmon Recovery Grants Section Report

Staffing Update

In August, the salmon team welcomed Amee Bahr as the new Senior Outdoor Grants Manager. Amee's primary focus is the office programs – Fish Barrier Removal Board, Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. RCO is recruiting a new Outdoor Grants Manager to fill Amee's previous position.

Project Agreements

RCO staff and grant recipients are executing agreements for the ninety-five salmon projects and fifty-seven riparian projects funded by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board last September. As of August, eighty-seven salmon projects and fifty-three riparian projects have active grant agreements. Staff also executed agreements for three out of the seven Targeted Investment projects funded in January 2025. Most of the projects that are not under agreement yet are "merged" projects, indicating that they include funding from additional sources (like Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, or Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding), which just received funding in July 2025.

Staff are also working on putting projects under agreement for other salmon section programs like the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board, the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and the Washington Coast Restoration and Resiliency Initiative, all of which received funding in the 2025-2027 biennial budget.

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 August 11, 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
Salmon Projects to Date	47	495	3,285	3,827
Percentage of Total	1%	13%	86%	

Attachments

A. **Closed Projects:** lists projects that closed between May 1, 2025, and August 11, 2025. Each project number includes a link to information about the project (e.g., designs, photos, maps, reports, etc.). Staff closed out thirty-five projects or contracts during this time.
B. **Approved Amendments:** shows the major amendments approved between May 1, 2025, and August 11, 2025. Staff processed eleven cost change amendments during this period.

Attachment A: Closed Projects

Salmon Projects Completed and Closed from February 3, 2025-May 1, 2025

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
16-1372	Clallam County Community Development	Lower Dungeness Floodplain Restoration	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Large Capital Projects	05/14/2025
18-1227	Jefferson County Public Health	Lower Big Quilcene Floodplain Acquisitions 2018	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Projects	06/11/2025
18-1720	Tulalip Tribes	Snohomish Confluence Acquisition	Salmon State Projects	07/18/2025
18-1737	Tulalip Tribes	Reiner Farm Riparian Property Conservation	Salmon State Projects	05/20/2025
19-1151	Snohomish County Public Works	Knotweed Control & Restoration in the Stilly	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	05/05/2025

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
19-1221	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Cispus-Yellowjacket Restoration Phase III	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	05/14/2025
19-1421	Skagit River System Cooperative	Barnaby Reach Restoration, Phase 1	Salmon State Projects	07/08/2025
20-1034	Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition	SSHEAR Legacy Fishway Resolution	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	06/12/2025
20-1095	Pierce Conservation District	South Prairie Creek RM 4.0-4.5 Floodplain Planting	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Projects	08/08/2025
20-1118	Hood Canal Coordinating Council	Lower Snow Creek Restoration Alternatives Analysis	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Projects	05/09/2025
20-1119	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Snow Creek Uncas Preserve Restoration	Salmon State Projects	06/11/2025
20-1140	Tulalip Tribes	Haskel Slough Connectivity	Salmon State Projects	05/27/2025
20-1386	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	IMW-Swinomish Channel Ph 3 Tidal Marsh Restoration	Salmon State Projects	08/01/2025
20-1401	Benton Conservation District	Lower Yakima River Thermal Refuge Habitat Design	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	05/28/2025

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
20-2110	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commision	NWIFC Hatchery Reform 2020	Salmon Federal Activities - Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund	06/25/2025
21-1012	Columbia Conservation District	Mainstem Touchet Project Area 15 Design	Salmon State Projects	06/11/2025
21-1153	Lummi Nation	SF Nooksack Skookum Edfro Ph 3 Design	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	07/15/2025
21-1191	Skagit River System Cooperative	RegM - IMW - Skagit Estuary Restoration Monitoring	Salmon Federal Activities - Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund	07/25/2025
21-1339	Ross & Associates Environmental Consulting, Limited	SRNet Administrative Support	Salmon Federal Activities - Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund	07/17/2025
22-1009	Asotin County Conservation District	Asotin Creek PA 3.2 Design	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	06/11/2025
22-1042	Chehalis Basin Fisheries Task Force	Newskah Trib at Newskah Road 2 Fish Passage Const	Salmon State Supplemental Small	05/14/2025
22-1076	Columbia Land Trust	Wind River Double Bend Conservation	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	05/14/2025

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
22-1191	Seattle Public Utilities	Cedar River Upper Royal Arch Habitat Enhancement	Salmon State Projects	06/10/2025
22-1212	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Lower Columbia Barrier Assessment	Salmon State Supplemental Small	08/07/2025
22-1229	Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce	Clear Creek Reconnection	Salmon Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Projects	07/02/2025
22-1439	San Juan Preservation Trust	North Shore Conservation Easement	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Large Capital Projects	08/05/2025
22-1567	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cabin Creek Restoration Assessment	Salmon State Supplemental Small	06/25/2025
22-1631	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Whiskey Creek Barriers Design	Salmon State Supplemental Small	06/17/2025
23-1093	Pierce County Public Works and Utilities	Fennel Creek Restoration Phase 3 - Construction	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	07/09/2025
23-1235	Island County Department of Natural Resources	Island County LE BN 23-25	Salmon State Lead Entity Contracts	08/05/2025
23-1243	Mason County Conservation District	Kennedy Goldsborough LE BN 23-25	Salmon State Lead Entity Contracts	07/22/2025
23-1244	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually LE BN 23-25	Salmon State Lead Entity Contracts	08/06/2025

Project Number	Sponsor	Project Name	Primary Program	Closed Completed Date
23-1245	Pacific County	Willapa Bay LE BN 23-25	Salmon State Lead Entity Contracts	07/17/2025
23-1252	Snohomish County	Stillaguamish Co-LE County BN 23-25	Salmon State Lead Entity Contracts	07/17/2025
23-1255	Tulalip Tribes	Snohomish LE PSAR Capacity BN 23-25	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Lead Entity Contracts	07/31/2025

Attachment B: Approved Amendments

Project Amendments Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Office Director

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
20-1125	Horseshoe Falls	Columbia Land Trust	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Cost Change	06/16/2025	This amendment request is to increase the allowable administration costs for this project to 10 percent from the current 4.02 percent. Administration costs ended up being higher than anticipated because the timeline was significantly extended due to drawn-out negotiations with the sellers and multiple changed transaction approaches based on seller requirements.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
20-1379	Nookachamps Forks Phase 2 Restoration	Skagit River System Cooperative	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Projects	Cost Change	06/05/2025	Adding $29,866 of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration returned 2021-2023 funding. The sponsor will add $5,271 as match to maintain the 15 percent minimum requirement. This cost increase will be used to encourage growth that was stymied from recent flooding by spraying around the plantings to reduce reed canarygrass competition.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
22-1063	Port Susan Bay Restoration for Resiliency 2022	The Nature Conservancy	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Large Capital Projects	Cost Change	06/12/2025	In response to the request from the Project Sponsor in the April 2025 Progress Report, the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Large Cap Funding amount is reduced by $165,000 to transfer funds to 22-1068 zis a ba II Construction in order to efficiently facilitate connecting the two projects along the shared property boundary line, as the channels on the Port Susan Bay Preserve property need further excavation to meet elevations on the zis a ba II property. The Nature Conservancy will enter into a Landowner Agreement to provide necessary site control to the Stillaguamish Tribe for this work, and the zis a ba II contractor will complete this work with funding from the zis a ba II Construction Project Agreement.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
22-1084	Johnson Ck Triple Culvert Restoration 2022	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	05/12/2025	Add $205,141 in returned 2021-2023 Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board funds to contribute to overruns due to requirement for preload and phased construction requirements. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board approved this on 4/15/25. Match is provided by board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration funding in this agreement in addition to sponsor contributions.
22-1161	Percival Creek Fish Passage Barrier Removal	City of Tumwater	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Projects	Cost Change	05/19/2025	Decreasing match from 85 percent ($1,459,450) to 15 percent ($45,450) due to a change in match source. The change will not affect deliverables or timeline of project.

22-1421	Neck Point Pocket Beach Habitat Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration - Projects	Cost Change	08/07/2025	In response to the Sponsor's cost increase request justified in the May 2025 Progress Report, and reviewed and approved by Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel members, Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, San Juan Lead Entity, and Puget Sound Partnership, this amendment adds $15,835 of returned fiscal year 2021-2022 Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funds bringing the total Estuary and Salmon Resotration Program amount to $150,000; and adds $128,163 of Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration return funds from Puget Sound Partnership raising the Puget Sound and Acquisition amount to $187,163 for a Project Agreement total of $347,736. Sponsor Match remains the same as the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding amounts exceed program match requirements.
22-1465	IMW - Similk Estuary	Skagit River System	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	05/19/2025	To ease grant administration, the Project Agreement Award amount

Restoration Final Design	Cooperative	is increased by $231,000 of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program Climate Commitment Act funding awarded to project 22-1208 "Similk Estuary Restoration-Final Design", which is identical in scope to this active agreement. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Pacific Salmon Treaty Orcagrant funding in this Project Agreement meet and exceed the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program match requirements, and the total agreement amount is increased to $1,026,000. Special Condition #1 "Partial Funding Awarded" is deleted since it no longer applies. Special Condition #2 "Design Deliverables" is amended to remove "as-built designs" as a project deliverable since they are not relevant to this final design project. Special Condition #7 is added to reflect the terms and conditions of the Climate Commitment Act funding.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
22-1513	Upper Wenatchee Acquisition	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	06/04/2025	Add $40,000 to the project of Salmon State Funds to allow for the increased appraised value cost of the property. This cost increase is strictly related to the appraiser's conclusion of fair-market-value, which determined that both parcels combined should cost $90,000 for fee title acquisition.

23-1036	Asotin IMW Low Tech Design and Restoration	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Salmon Federal Projects - Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	Cost Change	07/03/2025	This amendment increases the budget by $37,630 in Salmon Recovery Funding Board State funding, 8.2 percent of the current project cost, bringing the total project budget to $541,602. The 2024 summer wildfires closures caused major complications in the permitting process and shifted the work to a truncated timeframe. Additionally, United State Fish and Wildlife Service determined that, with presumed Bull Trout presence, the sponsor was required to complete a Biological Assessment to complete any work in the North Fork Asotin. The BA is completed and has been approved by United State Fisha and Wildlife Service. Trout Unlimited had to submit two separate Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Applications separating the permitting process of the projects into two phases, which was not anticipated, leading to increased project costs. .
24-1159	Finn Creek Estuary	Wild Fish Conservancy	Salmon Federal Projects -	Cost Change	05/21/2025	To ease grant administration, the Project Agreement Award amount

	Restoration - Design	Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund	is increased by $190,500 of Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program Climate Commitment Act funding. This amount includes the $180,000 identified in the Supplemental – Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program Capital Document No. RCO-4-2024 awarded to project 22-1189 "Finn Creek Estuary Restoration Project", which is identical in scope to this active agreement, plus an additional $10,500 of unallocated Climate Commitment Act funds to support the cost increase approved by Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Sponsor match is reduced from $24,764 to $0. The federal Salmon Recovery Funding grant funding in this Project Agreement meets and exceeds the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program match requirements. Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funding meets and exceeds the

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Program	Type	Date	Amendment Descriptions
						Salmon Recovery Funding Board match requirements. Special Condition titled "CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT FUNDING" is added to reflect the terms and conditions of the Climate Commitment Act funding.
24-1743	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisitin 2024 SCL	Seattle City Light	Salmon State Projects	Cost Change	07/21/2025	Increase $1,000,000 Salmon Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding from 23-1183. These funds are added to 24-1743 to acquire Whitmore property. The match will be increased per grant requirements.

Item 4: Manual 18 2026 Calendar

Action Requested: Request for Decision

Summary

This memo summarizes the 2026 grant round schedule.

Background

Salmon Recovery Grants Manual 18 contains the instructions and policies needed for completing a grant application submission to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) and managing a funded project. The board approves significant policy proposals contained in Manual 18; the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director has authority to approve administrative changes and minor policy clarifications.

The board is briefed on the manual in September, to finalize it in advance of the upcoming 2026 grant round. The administrative revisions incorporate changes suggested by lead entities via their progress reports, suggestions from the board's Review Panel, and clarifications and updates from RCO staff.

Staff is requesting a decision to approve the 2026 grant round calendar.

Strategic Plan Connection

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

Briefing the board on administrative changes and proposed policy changes in Manual 18 supports **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.

By sharing information about Manual 18, the board and partners are aware of how projects proceed through the grant round process for funding.

Motion

Move to approve the 2026 Grant Calendar as shown in Attachment A

Attachment

A. 2026 Grant Calendar

2026 Grant Calendar

Applicants are required to follow local deadlines as set by the lead entity.

Date	Action	Description
January–April	Complete project application materials submitted at least 2 weeks before site visit **(required)**	**At least 2 weeks before the site visit,** applicants for all projects must submit a complete application in PRISM (See Application Checklist). The lead entity provides applicants with a project number **before** work can begin in PRISM.
Track 1 February 2–March 13 Or **Track 2** April 2–May 13	Site visits **(required)**	RCO screens all applications for completeness and eligibility. The SRFB Review Panel evaluates projects using Manual 18, Appendix F criteria. RCO staff and review panel members attend lead entity-organized site visits.
March 18 & March 19	SRFB Review Panel meeting	Track 1: SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in February and March.
March 27	**First comment form** For February and March site visits	Track 1: Applicants receive SRFB Review Panel comments identifying projects as "Clear", "Conditioned", "Needs More Information", or "Project of Concern." RCO staff accepts "Clear" applications and returns all other so applicants may update and respond to comments.
April 8 & April 9	Conference call (Optional)	Track 1: Lead entities may schedule a 1-hour conference call with the applicants, RCO staff, and one SRFB Review Panel member to discuss a "Needs More Information", "Project of Concern", or "Conditioned" project.
May 20 & 21	SRFB Review Panel meeting	Track 2: SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in April and May.
May 29	**First comment form** For April and May site visits	Track 2: The applicant receives SRFB Review Panel comments identifying the project as "Clear", "Conditioned", "Needs More Information", or "Project of Concern." RCO staff accepts "Clear" applications and returns all others so applicants may update and respond to comments.
June 8 & June 9	Conference call (Optional)	Track 2: The lead entity may schedule a one-hour conference call with the project

Date	Action	Description
		applicant, RCO staff, and one SRFB Review Panel member to discuss "Needs More Information", "Project of Concern", or "Conditioned" project.
June 22, Noon	**Due Date:** Applications due	The applicant submits final revised application materials via PRISM. All projects, including must be submitted by this date. See Application Checklist.
July 15 & 16	SRFB Review Panel meeting	SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comments.
July 24	**Final comment form**	The applicant receives the final SRFB Review Panel comments, identifying projects as "Clear", "Conditioned", or "Project of Concern."
August 6	**Due Date**: Accept SRFB Review Panel condition	An applicant with a "Conditioned" project must indicate whether they accept the conditions or withdraw their project.
August 7	**Due Date**: Lead entity ranked list	Lead entities submit ranked lists via PRISM.
August 12	**Due Date:** Regional submittal	Regional organizations submit their Regional Area Summary and Project Matrix.
September 1	Final grant report available for public review	The final funding recommendation report is available online for SRFB members and public review.
September 15 & 16	Board funding meeting	SRFB awards grants. Public comment period available.

Salmon Recovery Grant Funding Report

Item 5: Grant Round Overview

Table of Contents

Cover Photograph: Josh Lambert, Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region, Dosewallips River

September 2025

Part 1: Introduction

Since 1999, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board has distributed state and federal money to protect and restore salmon habitat. Honoring the "Washington Way" of ground-up salmon recovery decision-making, the board works closely with local watershed groups known as lead entities[1] to identify projects for funding and regional organizations[2] to prioritize funding.

Lead entities and regional organizations rely on their National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-approved recovery plans to select projects. The partnership's goal is to bring salmon back from the brink of extinction.

This report presents information on the process used to review applications and develop funding recommendations for the board to consider.

Grant Programs

This year, the grant round included review of applications for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Program and Riparian Grant Program. These grant programs followed the same schedule and general process of application submittal, lead entity site visits, technical review, lead entity or regional ranking, and funding approval at the September board meeting. *Manual 18: Salmon Recovery Grants* is the guidance document for entities applying for funding through the board.

SRFB Grant Program

The SRFB Grant Program, is often referred to as "SRFB grants" or projects that go through the "regular grant round." Funding for these grants is available yearly. The board allocates the annual funds using a formula based on objective parameters of physical and biological factors in a region. The regional allocations are included in Attachment 1. In each regional allocation, funding is further allocated to lead entities. The lead entity allocations are shown in Attachment 2. The SRFB Grant Program grants are reviewed and ranked for funding by each lead entity and included in their

[1]Lead entity groups, authorized under Revised Code of Washington 77.85, are established in a local area by agreement between the county, cities, and Tribes, who choose a coordinating organization for the lead entity. Each lead entity has a citizen committee to rank projects after its technical advisory committee evaluates the scientific and technical merits of projects. Consistent with state law and board policies, all projects seeking funding must be reviewed and prioritized by a lead entity to be considered by the board.

[2]Defined in Revised Code of Washington 77.85.90 (2), a regional recovery organization is an entity that is recognized in statute or by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to plan, coordinate, and monitor the implementation of a regional salmon recovery plan.

ranked lists, Attachment 4.

Funding for SRFB Grant Program is a combination of state capital bonds and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, which is a federal award to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Upon SRFB approval, RCO will initiate contracts. SRFB Grant Program Funding is expected to be **$20 million** this year.

Riparian Grant Program

This year is the second round of the Riparian Grant Program. Program funding is a combination of funds from the Climate Commitment Act and state capital bonds. The riparian program purpose is to enhance salmon recovery through the protection and restoration of fully functioning riparian ecosystems. RCO provides detailed information on this program in manual 18 *Appendix M: Riparian Funding Policies and Guidelines*.

Funding for the Riparian Grant Program is allocated to regional organizations using the regional allocation formula. Regions may distribute their funding to the lead entities, provided that no lead entity is given less than $300,000. Because of this, the lead entity allocation formulas differ slightly from the board's salmon recovery grant program allocations. The regional riparian allocations are in Attachment 1 and the lead entity riparian allocations are in Attachment 2. Riparian projects are reviewed and ranked by each lead entity and included in the ranked lists found in Attachment 4.

For this grant round, the Riparian Grant Program was funded by state capital bonds. **$21,879,072** is available for funding. This includes the 2025-27 legislative appropriation and carryover funding from 2024. The 2024 grant round was funded by the Climate Commitment Act's Natural Climate Solutions Account. Upon board approval, RCO will initiate contracts.

Funding Programs

Funding Program	Amount	Availability
Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Grant Program	$20,000,000	Pending September 2025
Riparian Grant Program	$21,879,072	September 2025

Section 2: Grant Review Process

In the spring, project sponsors submitted 153 applications. Between February and May, the lead entities coordinated project site visits with the SRFB Review Panel and

RCO staff. Site visits allowed the SRFB Review Panel to see project sites, acquire project details, and provide feedback to the sponsors to improve the projects.

The SRFB Review Panel is contracted by RCO and comprised of ten members with a broad range of knowledge and experience in salmon habitat restoration and protection approaches, watershed processes, ecosystem approaches to habitat restoration and protection, and project development and management. Members' expertise covers a range of issues faced by lead entities and sponsors of board projects. Review panel biographies are on RCO's website.

The SRFB Review Panel allows the agency to meet the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund's technical review process requirements. The panel reviews all grant applications to ensure each project is: (1) technically sound, meaning that a proposed project provides a benefit to salmon, (2) is likely to be successful, and (3) does not have costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits.

Project Review

The SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff reviewed projects both before and after the application deadline. This review helps lead entities and sponsors improve each project's benefit to fish and certainty of successful implementation. The benefit and certainty criteria used by the review panel in its evaluation of projects is in manual 18's appendix G. The review panel based its evaluations and comments on the following:

- Complete applications due two weeks before the early project site visits and consultations, called "Initial review."
- Calls with lead entities and sponsors for project statuses of *Needs More Information* and *Project of Concern*.
- Final application materials submitted by sponsors, lead entities, and regional organizations.
- "Final review" completed after application deadline.

Projects with complete applications received a status of *Clear*, requiring no further revisions for those applications. Thirteen percent of applications (20 out of 153) were *cleared* at the initial review stage.

Some applications lacked information to complete the technical review and received a status of *Needs More Information*. Eighty percent of applications (122 out of 153) at the initial review stage received this status.

After initial project reviews, a team of two review panel members conducted one-

hour phone calls with each lead entity to clarify comments. Final applications that were not cleared were submitted by the end of June for funding consideration. The review panel reviewed all remaining final applications and responses to early comments. The panel then met in mid-July to discuss final project proposals and responses to applications. The review panel updated project comment forms with post-application comments by the end of July. Projects at that time received a status of either *Clear*, *Conditioned*, or *Project of Concern*.

The interaction with the review panel and the feedback to sponsors improves projects and ensures a clear benefit to salmonids in each watershed. The goal of this thorough review process is to have top-priority, technically sound projects submitted to the board for funding consideration.

Projects of Concern

The panel identified ten *Projects of Concern* at the final review meeting. All ten applications have been withdrawn from funding consideration by the lead entities and will not be presented to the board.

Conditioned Projects

The review panel labeled thirty-two projects as *Conditioned* because the projects needed to meet specific conditions to satisfy the board's benefit, certainty, and cost-effectiveness criteria. This represents 23.8 percent of all projects. In 2024, 21.3 percent of all projects were conditioned; in 2023 there were 13.9 percent, in 2022 there were 17.2 percent, and in 2021 there were 17.1 percent conditioned. Attachment 3 contains a list of the *Conditioned* projects.

The review panel continues to use "conditioning" of projects as a tool for strengthening project design and ensuring proposals that may contain elements of uncertainty but otherwise meet the board's evaluation criteria, may proceed to an RCO grant agreement. A typical project condition assigns an intermediate review between the selection of a preferred project alternative and the preliminary design. RCO staff works with the review panel to track *Conditioned* projects.

Ranked Lists

Lead entities submit their ranked lists for funding by mid-August. Each lead entity has a criteria and local ranking process. This was the second year lead entities had riparian projects included in their ranking process. Some lead entities ranked the riparian projects along with their regular salmon recovery projects and some ranked them separately. The ranked lists are in Attachment 4.

If a lead entity does not have enough projects to fully obligate its entire allocation, it

may contribute funding to projects from other lead entities. The project receiving the contribution must be included on the project lists of both the lead entity receiving the funding and the lead entity providing the funding. This ensures funding goes to those areas in need as a response to the yearly variations in project lists. RCO does not adjust a lead entity's allocation based on these contributions to other lead entities. Out of the 153 applications, 19 were withdrawn and 134 are on the funding lists.

Several lead entities also identified alternate projects on their lists. These projects must go through the entire lead entity, region, and review process. Project alternates may receive funding within one year of the original board funding decision only if another project that was designated to be funded cannot be completed or is funded by an entity other than RCO.

In addition to funded projects and alternates, lead entities also may include funded projects on their lists to either provide full funding to a partially funded project or a cost increase to an active project. This year, there are five cost increases receiving funding via the ranked lists.

Match Modernization

In 2023, the SRFB approved a new way to identify outside contributions to a project. Beginning with the 2025 grant round, SRFB no longer requires the standard 15 percent match for most projects. Although match is not required in a grant agreement, the sponsor is asked to identify outside funding sources used to complete the project on a dedicated page in the PRISM application called "Other Funding". The option to account for match the traditional way is still available to sponsors, as it is a requirement for some acquisition and riparian projects.

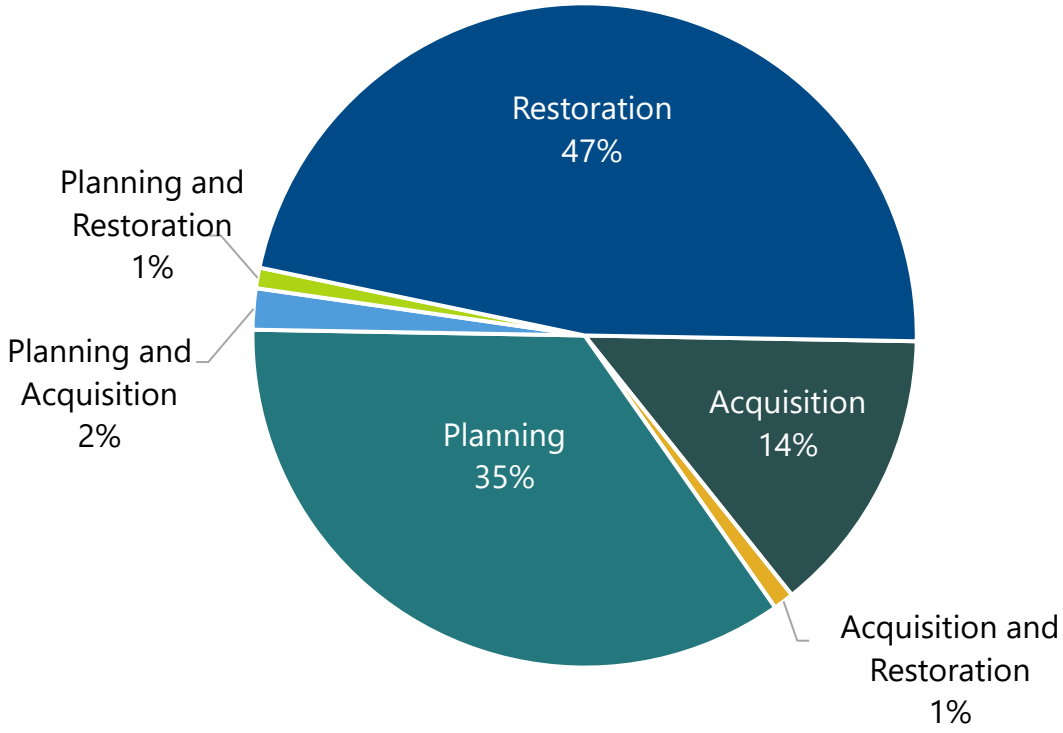
The 2025 application data were queried to obtain a snapshot of the current match and/or other funding accounted for at this time. Of the 129 new project applications (not including cost increases), twenty projects reported match (or 15.5% of new projects). There were a small number of projects (4) that required match, indicating some sponsors are opting to account for match even when not required.

Seventy-nine projects (or 61.2%) included "other funding" in their application. The total request for funding from the 129 new projects is $48,170,444. The total documented "other funding" from those same projects is $42,721,755. So, although not all the projects included "other funding" in their applications, the total amount of "other funding" documented is well over the previous 15% minimum match requirement.

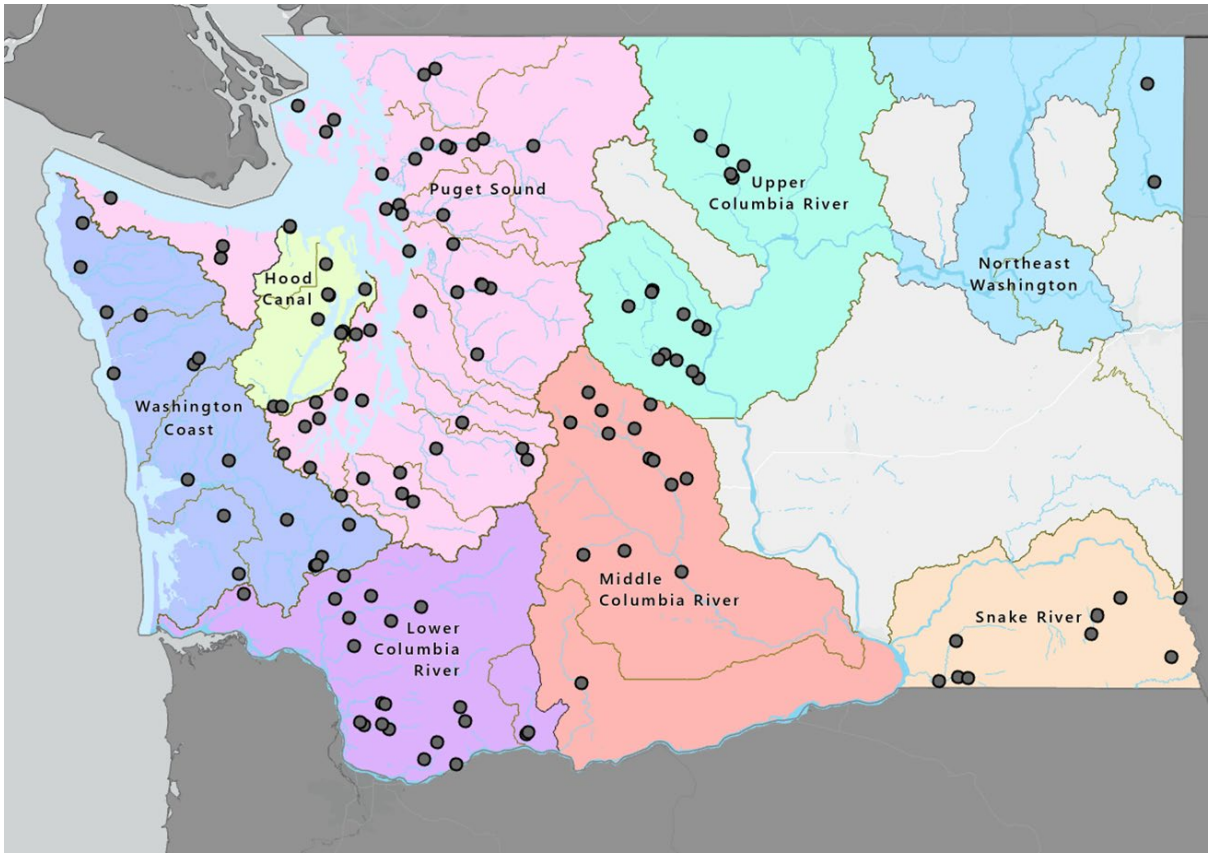
Project Review History

Process Step	Number of Projects
Initial Review	153
Projects Withdrawn after Review	19
Projects Submitted on Ranked Lists	134
Cost Increases for Projects	5
Projects of Concern at Final Review	10
Final *Projects of Concern* Submitted to Board	0
Conditioned Projects on Ranked List	32

Grant Applications by Project Type



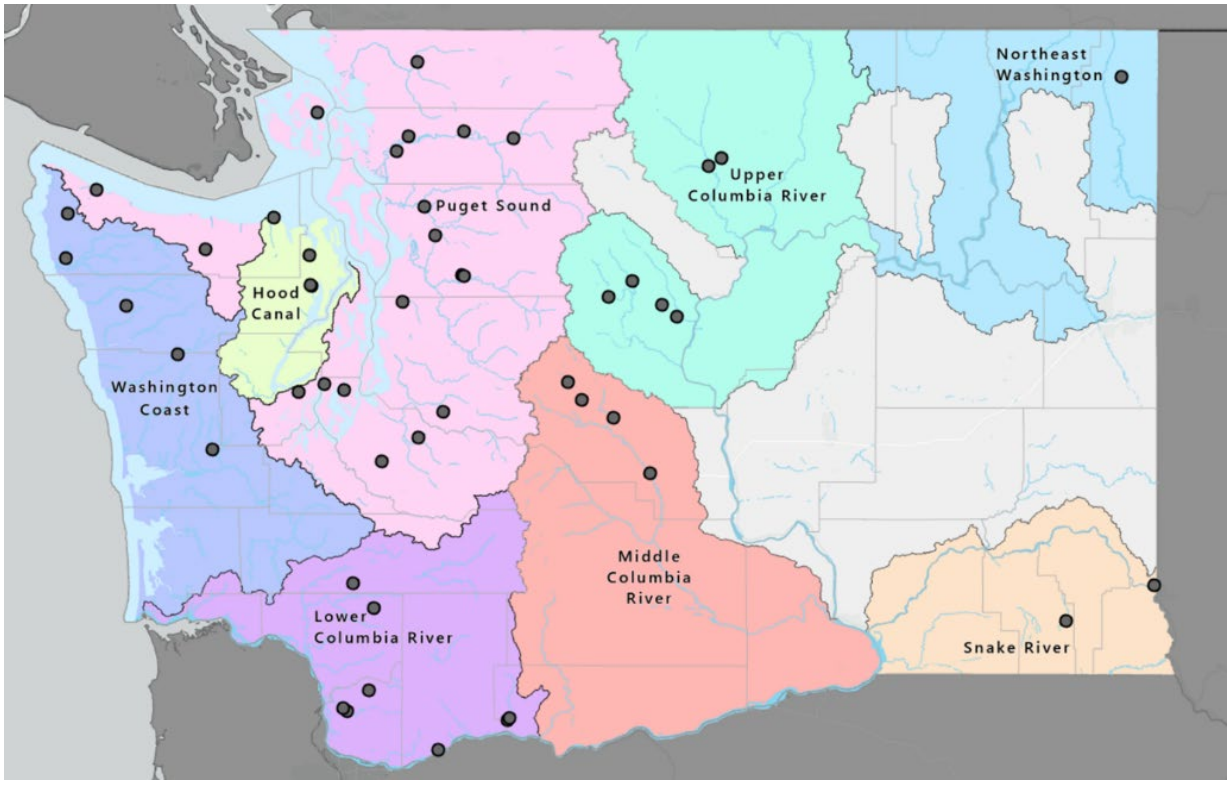
All Grant Applications by Location



Riparian Program Data

2025 was the second year for the Riparian Grant Program. Forty-nine applications were submitted and are included on the ranked lists. Most (thirty-seven) applications were for restoration projects, eight were for acquisition, one was a combination acquisition and restoration project, one was a combination acquisition and planning project, one was a combination planning and restoration project, and one was a planning (assessment) project.

Riparian Grant Program Applications by Location



Part 2: SRFB Review Panel Comments

2025 Grant Round Observations

The review panel supports RCO grants managers and the board by reviewing each grant application for consistency with the board's minimum criteria for salmon recovery benefit, certainty of success, and cost-effectiveness. This year, the panel reviewed 153 projects, which was a 38 percent decrease from the past year because there were no Targeted Investment or Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects.

Teams of two panel members completed the initial application review process for each lead entity's portfolio of projects. All lead entities had field-based reviews of various project types, with most of the projects reviewed in the field by at least two panel members. Before returning initial evaluations to sponsors, the two-person teams sought input from the entire review panel for selected projects warranting more in-depth discussion. Some projects receiving initial *Project of Concern* designations were withdrawn before the final application deadline.

The final application reviews were completed in July and resulted in ten Project of Concer*n* designations, all of which have been withdrawn from consideration. The Projects of Concern included the following issues:

- Replacing a broken tide gate, which would not restore natural processes and potentially could have negative impacts on fish populations
- Providing inadequate designs or being out of sequence with overall planning and implementation
- Having a low benefit to fish recovery or low certainty of success because the proposed work is above the upper extent of anadromy, in a lower priority area, or impacted by site constraints
- Having high costs for project implementation relative to the anticipated benefits to fish

Project Observations

The review panel identified the following topics to highlight: 1) an update on evaluating the potential benefits and constraints of tide gates, and 2) ideas for improving riparian restoration grants.

Tide Gates–An Update on What Has Been Learned

Since the 2024 presentation on this topic to the board, additional tide gate projects

were proposed, and the review panel identified a few themes around implementation including the need for clear operational agreements, increased benefit with larger accessible habitat, and variation across state agencies in evaluation and funding of these structures. Tide gates are structures fitted to culverts designed to open and drain freshwater on ebbing tides while blocking tidal flow above a certain elevation during flooding tides. They typically are used in tidal areas where land uses upstream of the culvert encroach on the natural estuary extent and are incompatible with inundation by tidal waters (often agricultural fields). Generally, they are operated to allow water exchange for a period, while limiting the peak impacts of tidal flows. Traditional flap-style tide gates close whenever the tide rises, dramatically reducing tidal exchange and fish access to upstream habitats. In recent years, "fish-friendly" or self-regulating tide gates have been implemented to improve tidal connectivity and fish passage while still providing flood protection. These typically use buoyant or mechanical devices to hold gate doors open under certain conditions, allowing partial tidal flow and improved fish movement upstream until water levels trigger closure.

As the review panel gets more familiar with research on the effectiveness of tide gates to support evaluation of tide gate proposals, it has become abundantly evident that these structures require diligent maintenance and operational adaptive management to ensure that access for salmon is provided as intended. The review panel has identified that operation and maintenance agreements can be critical in terms of getting agreement across stakeholders as to how the tide gate will be managed (e.g., minimum opening levels, minimum flow levels, minimum passage timing requirements) and clarify responsibilities in terms of making the physical adjustments needed and tracking those adjustments. How tide gates are managed, and who manages them can be complicated based on site conditions, access, and jurisdictions. Clear operation and maintenance agreements are essential to ensure maximum benefit for salmon.

Studies such as the one at Fisher Slough indicate that increasing the available estuary habitat upstream of the tide gate is another important factor in achieving a level of juvenile use similar to naturally open estuary habitats whereas simply installing a tide gate on a small, diked channel likely would yield minimal benefits to salmon. Inclusion of large areas of restored or functional habitat upstream from the tide gate should be another factor in evaluating these structures.

State agencies have different approaches for using tide gates. The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program funds replacement of tide gates as part of setback dikes but does not fund stand-alone tide gate projects because they are not in line with the program's focus on process-based restoration. The Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board has not funded tide gate projects to date, although there have been a few proposed. According to RCO's manual 22, corrections proposed to the barrier removal board must meet the fish passage design criteria in the *Water Crossing*

Design Guidelines (Washington Administrative Code 220-660-190), and the requirements of the barrier removal board's grant program, meaning projects must provide full passage. Correction approaches identified in the manual are abandonment, installation of a bridge, or culvert designed using the stream simulation approach, listed in order of preference. Alternate design approaches, such as tide gates, will be considered in rare occasions." In general, performance of tide gates as seen by the barrier removal board does not align with its project eligibility criteria. Current policy proposed for the next biennium states "Tide gate removal is eligible for funding, but tide gate replacement is not."

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is updating guidelines for tide gates as part of a larger update to the Aquatic Habitat Guidelines. These guidelines likely will include design features and practices that can affect how well tide gates function such as door size, hinge orientation, float mechanism, sill height, and how they are managed through the seasons.

The review panel evaluates tide gates case-by-case. Panel members try to ensure that a clear operations and maintenance agreement exists to maximize fish passage opportunities and access to large areas of estuary habitat is provided. Input from the board is welcomed in terms of keeping the current flexible evaluation process for the review panel to balance landowner and salmon recovery needs or aligning policies to create consistency between multiple state agency approaches and guidelines.

Riparian Project Improvements

Following are observations from the review panel concerning the Riparian Grant Program.

- Riparian Enhancement Plans are required for all Riparian Grant Program projects, and manual 18's appendix M outlines the requirements for the plan development before and following site visits with the review panel. Unfortunately, many of the enhancement plans did not meet the minimum requirements before the site visits, making it difficult to evaluate these projects. RCO grants managers are planning to emphasize this requirement to project sponsors applying for riparian funding in upcoming grant rounds.
    - Most riparian restoration projects are opportunistic efforts on public lands or with willing private landowners. Riparian projects rarely link together along an entire stream reach or provide a continuous corridor of canopy shading to maintain cooler stream temperatures. To have project sponsors consider their projects in a broader context, riparian enhancement plans could include an additional question about how the project contributes towards providing continuity in riparian corridors across the entire stream reach or whether a plan has been developed prioritizing riparian actions in a particular area.

- Many riparian projects are being implemented by conservation districts who generally have experience and guidance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and other planting programs. The guidance and plant lists from the Natural Resources Conservation Service however, are not necessarily aligned with the highest priority needs for salmon recovery. Riparian enhancement plans may need to be modified from traditional Natural Resources Conservation Service planting programs to better support salmon habitat recovery.

- Project sponsors and the review panel members are uncertain how to interpret the guidance for funding riparian restoration projects that include in-stream wood structures or other woody materials placement. About 25 percent of riparian grants in 2024 and 2025 went towards the construction of in-stream structures.

  The guidance for including in-stream wood structures as part of riparian restoration projects is outlined in manual 18's appendix M. This project type is eligible for funding only under the following circumstances (*emphasis added*):

  - The primary goal of the in-stream and floodplain elements directly supports and is necessary to attain riparian function, native plant survival, and/or natural generation.

  - Application and existing designs clearly demonstrate why current conditions or site constraints are not suitable for a planting-only project, why in-stream and floodplain work are necessary for the success of the riparian habitat elements of a project, and, if applicable, how natural regeneration represents a more efficient and effective approach to meeting plant establishment goals.

  A review of riparian grant funding in 2024 and 2025 highlights circumstances where in-stream wood structures are needed to directly support riparian restoration, such as the following situations:

  - Incised streams in eastern Washington with lowered groundwater tables

  - Dry lahar/floodplain terraces, such as in the Toutle River basin, where woody material improves drought tolerance by increasing the moisture-holding capacity of the substrate

  The review panel had challenges with determining the eligibility of certain projects under the instream policy framework. Ultimately, the review panel cleared the projects for riparian funding after the applicants sufficiently

responded to questions and comments in the initial review. The challenge for the panel is determining when in-stream work is necessary to support riparian function, native plant survival, and/or natural generation. Example projects include:

- Projects where the majority of work and cost is in-stream habitat improvement but include significant riparian planting components.
- Projects with engineered logjams or low-tech wood structures on western Washington streams. Many western Washington riparian corridors can support the planting of multiple tree and shrub species important to salmon recovery and typically are not dependent on in-stream structures to water plants in the floodplain area unless the channel is severely incised or disconnected from the floodplain.
- A project involving beaver relocation and construction of low-tech wood structures to combat incision and raise the water table. The project will initially rely on natural seedbank for revegetation and monitor over the life of the agreement to determine if planting is necessary to restore riparian habitat.

The review panel would value any input from the board on whether funding these project types through riparian grants is appropriate or raises any concerns. The review panel plans to discuss these project types before the 2026 grant round to make sure that we are reviewing them in a consistent manner across the state.

Noteworthy Projects

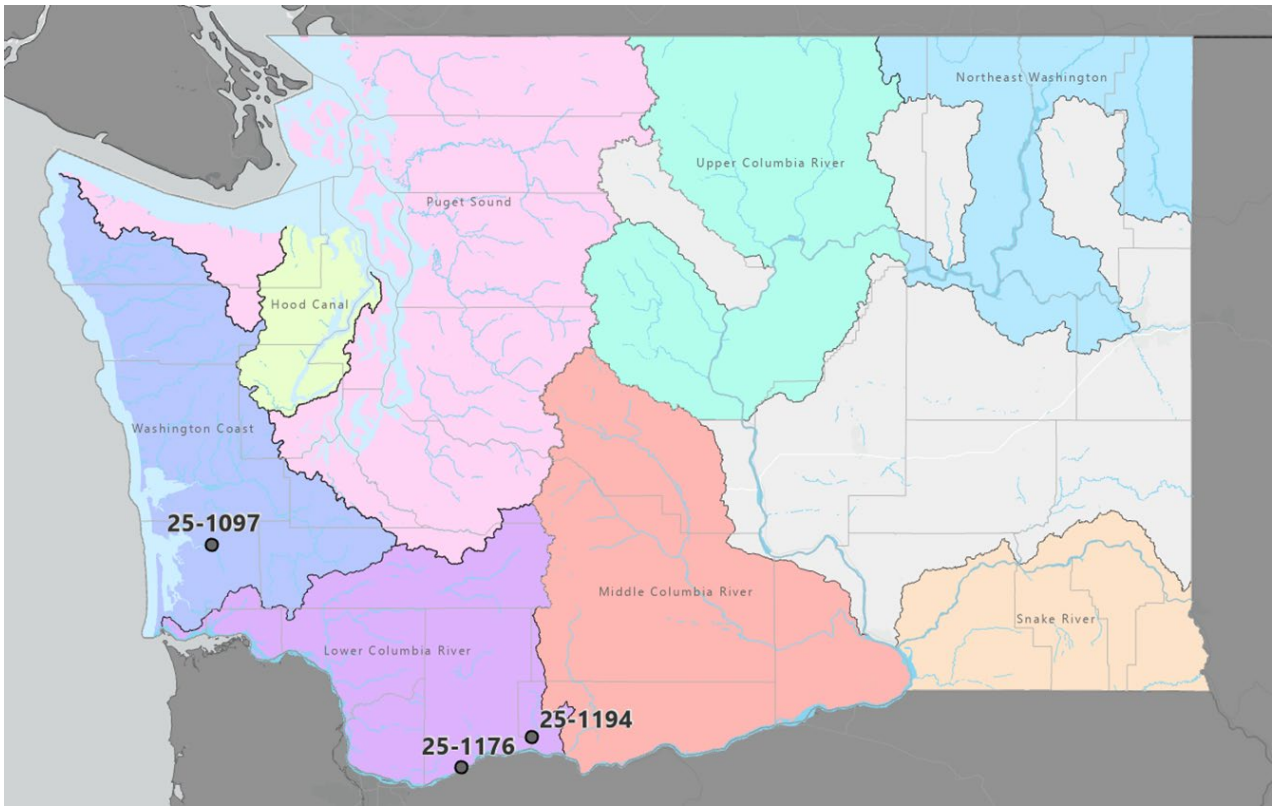
Three projects were identified as noteworthy. Two of the projects included protection of large areas of undisturbed or intact functional habitat. The third project involved extensive coordination with a Burlington Northern Santa Fe project to remove a culvert and includes exceptional planted riparian buffers, supported by abundant in-stream habitat structures.

- Lower White Salmon River Conservation Acquisition River Mile 3.3-5.6: This project includes acquisition of 2.3 miles of the lower White Salmon River corridor in Skamania and Klickitat Counties upstream from the former Condit Dam. The project protects 170.5 acres of undeveloped riparian and uplands, protecting large tracts of functional contiguous habitat. The project will benefit Endangered Species Act-listed coho, spring and fall Chinook, and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout by protecting an excellent cold-water refuge. This property would have high potential for development if not purchased for conservation and represents a significant contribution to a protected corridor in this area. (25-1194)

- Willapa River Wetlands: This is a significant acquisition of 393 acres of relatively intact salt marsh and transition habitat in the Willapa River estuary and wetlands. There is a strong partnership between Western Rivers Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, and the Chinook Indian Nation to protect and conserve this estuary for all salmonid species that use the estuary. Protecting this estuary will help maintain healthy conditions for downstream shellfish beds, birds, other wildlife, and native vegetation. (25-1097)

- Hardy Creek Reach 5 Floodplain Reconnection: This project in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pierce National Wildlife Refuge along the Columbia River involves restoring floodplain function to 4.25 acres of riparian habitat and 2,500 feet of Hardy Creek. The project will install hundreds of logs and piles in a depositional alluvial fan to recharge ground water storage, increase sediment sorting, and provide floodplain refugia to fish. Riparian function also will be restored by planting 4,500 native trees, shrubs, and additional live stakes. This project has an ambitious scale, exceptional buffer widths, and multi-species benefits. The coordination of this project with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe culvert removal contributed to this being identified as a noteworthy project. (25-1176)

Map of Noteworthy Projects



Part 3: Region Summaries

Introduction

The board continues to allocate funding regionally rather than to individual lead entities. The following section of the report provides links to the RCO website to the region annual summaries about their grant processes. The responses are direct submittals from the regions.

Region Summaries

Hood Canal

Lower Columbia River

Middle Columbia River

Puget Sound

Snake River

Upper Columbia River

Washington Coast

Northeast Region

Attachment 1: 2025 Regional Allocations

Regional Allocations

Regional Organization	Percent	SRFB Allocation	Riparian Allocation
Hood Canal Coordinating Council[3]	2.40	$480,000	$457,824
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	20.00	$4,000,000	$3,815,200
Northeast Washington[4]	1.90	$380,000	$362,444
Puget Sound Partnership[5]	38.00	$7,600,000	$7,248,880
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board	8.44	$1,688,000	$1,610,014
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	10.31	$2,062,000	$1,966,736
Washington Coast Sustainable Salmon Partnership	9.57	$1,914,000	$1,825,573
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	9.38	$1,876,000	$1,789,329
Total	**100**	**$20,000,000**	$19,076,000

[3]Hood Canal is in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout but is a separate salmon recovery region for summer chum salmon. Hood Canal's allocation is 2.4 percent of the total, but it also will receive 10.2 percent of the Puget Sound Partnership's regional SRFB allocation for Chinook and steelhead

[4]The Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region does not have a regional organization.

[5]Hood Canal is in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout but is a separate salmon recovery region for summer chum salmon. Hood Canal's allocation is 2.4 percent of the total, but it also will receive 10.2 percent of the Puget Sound Partnership's regional SRFB allocation for Chinook and steelhead

Attachment 2: Lead Entity Allocations

SRFB Allocation by Lead Entity

Lead Entity	SRFB Allocation	Riparian Allocation	Riparian Carry-Over
Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat	$746,406	$712,892	
Green/Duwamish, and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) Lead Entity	$328,772	$350,000	
Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity	$1,255,512	$1,123,543	
Island County Lead Entity	$241,828	$350,000	
Kennedy-Goldsborough (WRIA 14) Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	$233,952	$350,000	
Klickitat Lead Entity[6]	$500,170	$1,200,000	
Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity	$435,234	$373,977	
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity	$4,000,000	$3,447,603	$968,016
Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	$418,610	$359,619	
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon	$719,010	$617,422	
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	$387,918	$369,738	
Pend Oreille Lead Entity	$380,000	$362,444	$453,530
Puyallup and Chambers Watershed Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	$564,452	$484,931	
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	$377,499	$360,326	

[6]The Klickitat County Lead Entity's SRFB allocation is entirely from Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board. Klickitat's riparian allocation includes $832,403 from the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and $367,597 from the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board.

Lead Entity	SRFB Allocation	Riparian Allocation	Riparian Carry-Over
San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	$308,602	$350,000	
Skagit Watershed Lead Entity	$1,245,197	$1,069,066	
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	$1,688,000	$1,610,014	
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	$568,219	$488,194	
Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	$554,522	$476,446	
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	$2,062,000	$1,966,736	$279,300
West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery	$295,932	$350,000	
Willapa Bay Lead Entity	$402,177	$382,617	
WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board	$714,559	$613,506	$15,951
WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity	$195,599	$350,000	
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity	$1,375,830	$956,926	$1,086,275
Total	**$20,000,000**	**$19,076,000**	**$2,803,072**

Attachment 3: Conditioned Projects List

Salmon State Projects

Conditioned Projects=32
Project of Concern=0

Lead Entity	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name
Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat	25-1074 Planning	Lewis County Public Works Department	Ripple Creek at Haywire Fish Passage Design
Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat	25-1078 Planning	Thurston Conservation District	Thompson Creek at River Mile 3.5 Habitat Design
Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat	25-1107 Restoration	Lewis County Public Works Department	Berwick Creek at Bishop Fish Passage Construction
Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity	25-1010 Planning	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Lower Big Beef Restoration Feasibility
Kennedy-Goldsborough (WRIA 14) Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	25-1076 Planning and Restoration	Mason Conservation District	WRIA 14 Riparian Restoration
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1113 Restoration	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Dyer Creek Phase 2 Restoration
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1120 Restoration	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Camp Singing Wind Implementation
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1122 Restoration	Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Goble, Mulholland, and Coweeman 1.1-Mulholland Helicopter

Lead Entity	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1157 Restoration	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Dry Creek Habitat Restoration
Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1170 Restoration	Cascade Forest Conservancy	Riparian Restoration in the Salmon Creek Watershed
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon	25-1004 Planning	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Elwha Floodplain Restoration Design McDonald Gauge
North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon	25-1205 Planning	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Dungeness River Planning and Design
North Pacific Coast Lead Entity	25-1138 Restoration	10,000 Years Institute	Lower Dickey Riparian Restoration Project
Puyallup and Chambers Watershed Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	25-1203 Planning	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Snoquera Low-tech Process-based Restoration Planning and Design Project
Puyallup and Chambers Watershed Salmon Recovery Lead Entity	25-1204 Planning	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Fish Passage Design in the Snoquera Landscape
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	25-1099 Restoration	Wild Salmon Center	Raft River Tributary Fish Passage Project Phase 3
Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity	25-1101 Planning	Quinault Indian Nation	Upper Quinault Sustainable Floodplains Management Design
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1021 Restoration	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Walla Walla River-River Mile 32.5 Restoration
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1022 Planning	Walla Walla County Conservation District	Walla Walla River Mile 20 Design

Lead Entity	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1037 Restoration	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Tuusi Wana Phase 2 Restoration
Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1038 Restoration	Pomeroy Conservation District	Tumalum Creek Restoration Phase 5
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	25-1062 Restoration	Sound Salmon Solutions	Reed Sultan River Riparian Restoration
Snohomish Basin Lead Entity	25-1068 Restoration	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Winters Creek Riparian Enhancement Partnership
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1213 Restoration	Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Goodwin Side Channel Implementation
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1214 Planning	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Project Phase 2
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1217 Restoration	Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Coordinated Resource Management's Riparian Stewardship Package
Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1232 Restoration	Cascadia Conservation District	Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection Project
Willapa Bay Lead Entity	25-1116 Planning	Pacific Conservation District	Willapa River Elk Prairie Stream Habitat Design
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1179 Planning	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Hutchinson Ranch Floodplain Conceptual Design
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1181 Planning	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Creek Fish Passage Prelim Design

Lead Entity	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1182 Planning	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Swauk and Hurley Creeks Confluence Preliminary Design
Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity	25-1186 Planning	Yakima County	Blue Slough Causeway Removal Conceptual Design

Attachment 4: Lead Entity Ranked Project Lists

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1008 Restoration	Mason Conservation District	Skokomish River Mile 5 Side Channel Reconnection[7]	$457,050	$0	$257,050	$0	$257,050	Partially Funded
2	25-1015 Planning	Jefferson County	Dosewallips Powerlines Final Design	$223,450	$0	$223,450	$0	$223,450	
3	25-1006 Planning and Acquisition	Jefferson Land Trust	Lower Snow Creek Protection and Planning	$376,916	$0	$187,812	$189,104	$376,916	
4	25-1033 Restoration	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Hood Canal Summer Chum Riparian Stewardship	$83,300	$0	$0	$83,300	$83,300	

[7]This project will receive $222,900 in 2023-2025 PSAR funds and is fully funded.

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
5	25-1032 Restoration	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Riparian Enhancement and Knotweed Control	$292,250	$0	$0	$292,250	$292,250	
6	25-1007 Planning	Mason Conservation District	Skokomish Confluence Reach Preliminary Design[8]	$339,250	$0	$200,000	$0	$200,000	Partially Funded
7	25-1010 Planning	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	Lower Big Beef Restoration Feasibility[9]	$413,886	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
8	25-1014 Planning	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Johnson Creek Estuary Design	$387,200	$0	$387,200	$0	$387,200	
			Total	**$2,573,302**	**$0**	**$1,255,512**	**$564,654**	**$1,820,166**	

[8]This project will receive $50,000 in 2023-2025 PSAR funding and $66,350 of 2025-2027 PSAR funding to fully fund project.

[9]This project is funded partially with $159,858 of unallocated 2025-2027 PSAR funding and $54,428 of returned 2023-2025 PSAR funding.

Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Klickitat Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
2	25-1105 Restoration	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Schoolhouse Creek Riparian Revival	$200,000	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000	
3	25-1194 Acquisition	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Lower White Salmon River Conservation Acquisition River Mile 3.3-5.6	$1,000,000	$0	$0	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	
			Total	**$1,200,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$1,200,000**	**$1,200,000**	

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1110 Planning	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Lower Columbia Barrier Inventory Phase 2	$142,636	$0	$142,636	$0	$142,636	

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
2	25-1119 Planning	Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Green River (North Fork Toutle River)-Shultz to Falls Design	$499,295	$0	$499,295	$0	$499,295	
3	25-1176 Restoration	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Hardy Creek Reach 5 Floodplain Reconnection	$1,444,842	$0	$0	$1,444,842	$1,444,842	
4	25-1192 Planning	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Wildboy Creek Phase 2 Design	$122,037	$0	$122,037	$0	$122,037	
5	25-1121 Restoration	Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	North Fork Toutle Old Beaver Creek Restoration	$278,152	$0	$0	$278,152	$278,152	
7	25-1157 Restoration	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Dry Creek Habitat Restoration	$944,450	$0	$944,450	$0	$944,450	
8	25-1147 Planning	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Washougal Headwaters Reconnection Design	$323,689	$0	$323,689	$0	$323,689	

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
9	25-1122 Restoration	Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Goble Mullholland Coweeman 1.1-Mulholland Helicopter	$1,812,666	$0	$1,812,666	$0	$1,812,666	
10	25-1143 Planning	Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cedar Creek Resilience[10]	$214,120	$0	$155,227	$0	$155,227	Partially Funded
11	25-1113 Restoration	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Dyer Creek Phase 2 Restoration	$295,903	$0	$0	$295,903	$295,903	
12	25-1112 Restoration	Clark Public Utilities	Schaefer Restoration 3	$854,358	$31,141	$0	$854,358	$854,358	
13	25-1155 Restoration	Underwood Conservation District	Hollis Creek Fish Passage Project	$995,085	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate 1
14	25-1154 Planning	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Upper Lacamas Creek Barrier Correction	$349,900	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate 2

[10]This project is partially funded with remaining standard allocation

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
15	25-1170 Restoration	Cascade Forest Conservancy	Riparian Restoration in the Salmon Creek Watershed	$334,413	$8,084	$0	$334,413	$334,413	
16	25-1120 Restoration	Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Camp Singing Wind Implementation	$950,413	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate 3
17	25-1149 Restoration	Lower Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Cedar Creek Riparian Collaborative	$296,570	$0	$0	$296,570	$296,570	
18	25-1111 Planning	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Middle East Fork Lewis River Feasibility and Design	$280,866	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate 4
			Total	**$10,139,395**	**$39,225**	**$4,000,000**	**$3,504,238**	**$7,504,238**	

Middle Columbia Salmon Recovery Region

Klickitat Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1104 Restoration	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	White Creek Large Woody Debris Enhancement Phase 3	$500,170	$0	$500,170	$0	$500,170	
			Total	**$500,170**	**$0**	**$500,170**	**$0**	**$500,170**	

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1187 Restoration	Yakima County	South Fork Tieton Fish Passage at Rimrock Reservoir	$500,000	$0	$500,000	$0	$500,000	
2	25-1186 Planning	Yakima County	Blue Slough Causeway Removal Conceptual Design	$190,000	$0	$190,000	$0	$190,000	

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
3	25-1179 Planning	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Hutchinson Ranch Floodplain Conceptual Design	$332,363	$0	$332,363	$0	$332,363	
4	25-1182 Planning	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Swauk and Hurley Creek Confluence Preliminary Design	$255,586	$0	$255,586	$0	$255,586	
5	25-1189 Planning	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	South Fork Cowiche Creek River Mile 9.6-10.3 Preliminary Design	$101,955	$0	$97,881	$0	$97,881	Partial
6	23-1220 Restoration	Kittitas Conservation Trust	Gold Creek Restoration River Mile 2-3	$500,000	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
7	25-1181 Planning	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Salmon Creek Fish Passage Preliminary Design	$178,358	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
8	25-1173 Restoration	Kittitas County Conservation District	Cooke Creek River Mile 4.25 Passage and Screening	$482,648	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
9	25-1183 Restoration	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Lower Kittitas Floodplain Restoration Early Action[11]	$780,041	$0	$0	$780,041	$780,041	
10	25-1188 Restoration	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Upper Cle Elum River Riparian Restoration[12]	$424,670	$0	$0	$424,670	$424,670	
11	25-1184 Restoration	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	West Fork Teanaway River Mile 7.2-8 Reforestation[13]	$134,000	$0	$0	$134,000	$134,000	
12	25-1185 Restoration	Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Teanaway River Mile 5 Reforestation[14]	$205,847	$0	$0	$205,847	$205,847	
			Total	**$4,085,468**	**$100,000**	**$1,375,830**	**$1,544,558**	**$2,920,388**	

[11]#1 ranked riparian project.

[12]#2 ranked riparian project.

[13]#3 ranked riparian project.

[14]#4 ranked riparian project.

Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1202 Restoration	Pend Oreille Conservation District	Skookum Creek Headgate and Fish Screen[15]	$342,000	$0	$342,000	$0	$342,000	
2	25-1245 Acquisition	Kalispel Tribe of Indians	Lower Harvey Riparian Acquisition[16]	$227,450	$0	$0	$227,450	$227,450	
			Total	**$569,450**	**$0**	**$342,000**	**$227,450**	**$569,450**	

[15]#1 ranked project for regular SRFB.

[16]#1 ranked project for riparian.

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	24-1108 Restoration	King County Water and Land Resources Division	Northeast Auburn Creek Rehabilitation Lower Green 5[17]	$6,750,000	$2,477,703	$328,772	$0	$328,772	Partially Funded
2	25-1030 Restoration	King County Water and Land Resources Division	Green River Watershed Riparian Restoration	$1,100,000	$0	$0	$350,000	$350,000	Partially Funded
			Total	**$7,850,000**	**$2,477,703**	**$328,772**	**$350,000**	**$678,772**	

[17]This will provide additional funding to a previously partially funded project. The project still is partially funded.

Island County Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1080 Acquisition	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	Kristoferson Creek Beaver Marsh protection	$201,000	$150,000	$201,000	$0	$201,000	
2	25-1151 Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Upright Head Habitat Restoration[18]	$483,516	$0	$13,600	$0	$13,600	Partially Funded
3	25-1166 Planning and Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition-Skagit Land Trust[19]	$500,000	$0	$0	$248,720	$248,720	Partially Funded
			Total	**$1,184,516**	**$150,000**	**$214,600**	**$248,720**	**$463,320**	

[18]This project is in the San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

[19]This project is in the Skagit Watershed Lead Entity.

Kennedy-Goldsborough (WRIA 14) Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	24-1241 Restoration	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Skookum Ranch Restoration Phase 1[20]	$1,184,000	$1,000,000	$233,952	$0	$233,952	Partially Funded
2	25-1053 Acquisition	Capitol Land Trust	Chapman Cove Protection	$175,875	$175,875	$0	$175,875	$175,875	
3	25-1076 Planning and Restoration	Mason Conservation District	Water Resource Inventory Area 14 Riparian Restoration	$224,956	$0	$0	$174,125	$174,125	Partially Funded
4	25-1064 Planning	Mason Conservation District	Jones Creek Fish Passage Design Project	$126,684	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
5	25-1092 Planning	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Skookum Tributary River Mile 5.9 Reconnection	$50,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
			Total	**$1,761,515**	**$1,175,875**	**$233,952**	**$350,000**	**$583,952**	

[20]This is a request to fund a partially funded project from 2024.

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	23-1103 Restoration	Mountains to Sound Greenway	Issaquah Creek In-stream Restoration Phase 2[21]	$1,094,854	$200,000	$435,234	$0	$435,234	Partially Funded
2	25-1066 Restoration	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Wildcliffe Shores Riparian Stewardship	$178,497	$0	$0	$178,497	$178,497	
			Total	**$1,273,351**	**$200,000**	**$435,234**	**$178,497**	**$613,731**	

[21]This is a cost increase for a previously funded project. The cost increase also will include $57,173 in WRIA 8's 2025-2027 unobligated PSAR funds.

Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1031 Planning	Long Live the Kings	Lower Nisqually Oxbow Wetlands Re-Activation	$190,406	$0	$190,406	$0	$190,406	
2	25-1012 Acquisition	Nisqually Land Trust	Muck Creek Protection[22]	$774,500	$0	$158,303	$359,619	$517,922	Partially Funded
3	25-1013 Acquisition	Nisqually Land Trust	Middle Ohop Floodplain Protection	$603,476	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
4	25-1028 Acquisition	Nisqually Land Trust	Tanwax Creek Protection	$561,046	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
	25-1060 Planning	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Middle Deschutes Project Development and Outreach[23]	$120,500	$0	$69,901	$0	$69,901	Partially Funded
			Total	**$2,249,928**	**$0**	**$418,610**	**$359,619**	**$778,229**	

[22]This project is receiving $69,901 in 2025-2027 riparian funding from the WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Committee Lead Entity and is partially funded.

[23]This project is in the WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Committee Lead Entity.

North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1079 Restoration	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Elwha Riparian Revegetation and Noxious Weed Control	$430,000	$0	$0	$430,000	$430,000	
2	25-1082 Acquisition	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Dungeness River Riparian Acquisition	$107,788	$0	$0	$107,788	$107,788	
3	25-1004 Planning	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Elwha Floodplain Restoration Design McDonald Gauge	$350,000	$0	$350,000	$0	$350,000	
4	25-1205 Planning	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	Dungeness River Planning and Design[24]	$120,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
5	25-1077 Restoration	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	Hoko River Watershed Riparian Restoration[25]	$663,977	$0	$65,676	$79,634	$145,310	Partially Funded
	25-1159 Planning	Skagit River Systems Cooperative	Intensively Monitored Watershed Dunlap Causeway Reconnection Preliminary Design[26]	$600,000	$0	$303,334	$0	$303,334	Partially Funded
			Total	**$2,271,765**	**$0**	**$719,010**	**$617,422**	**$1,336,432**	

[24]This project is being funded with $120,000 unallocated 2025-2027 PSAR funds.

[25]This project is partially funded with $30,064 in unallocated 2025-2027 PSAR funds for a total award of $175,374.

[26]This project is in the Skagit Watershed Lead Entity.

Puyallup and Chambers Watershed Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1195 Restoration	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	South Prairie Creek Restoration River Mile 2.6-3.2[27]	$895,000	$0	$13,041	$400,466	$413,507	Partially Funded
3	25-1203 Planning	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Snoquera Low-Tech, Process-Based Restoration Planning and Design	$264,410	$13,000	$264,410	$0	$264,410	
4	25-1204 Planning	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Fish Passage Design in the Snoquera Landscape	$335,489	$14,000	$287,001	$0	$287,001	Partially Funded
	24-1396 Restoration	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	South Prairie Creek Restoration River Mile 4.5-5.0[28]	$2,302,025	$414,000	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
			Total	**$3,796,924**	**$441,000**	**$564,452**	**$400,466**	**$964,918**	

[27]This project will receive $481,493 in returned 2023-2025 PSAR funds.

[28]This project was partially funded in 2024 and will receive $108,678 in 2023-2025 returned PSAR funds and is fully funded.

San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1087 Acquisition	San Juan County Conservation Land Bank	Cascade Creek Coho Preserve Addition	$521,500	$0	$171,500	$350,000	$521,500	
2	25-1151 Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Upright Head Habitat Restoration[29]	$483,516	$0	$137,102	$0	$137,102	Partially Funded
3	25-1088 Planning	San Juan Preservation Trust	San Juan County Outer Islands Landowner Willingness[30]	$85,300	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
			Total	**$1,090,316**	**$0**	**$308,602**	**$350,000**	**$658,602**	

[29]This project will receive $80,850 in 2025 SRFB funds from the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board, $31,600 in 2025 SRFB funds from the Island County Lead Entity, $41,269 in 2025 SRFB funds from the Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity, and $210,695 in 2025-2027 returned PSAR funds from the San Juan County Samon Recovery Lead Entity. The project is fully funded.

[30]This project will receive $85,300 in San Juan County lead entity's returned 2025-2027 PSAR funds. The project is fully funded.

Skagit Watershed Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1167 Acquisition	Seattle City Light	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition	$500,000	$0	$250,707	$179,258	$429,965	Partially Funded
2	25-1166 Planning and Acquisition	Skagit Land Trust	Skagit Watershed Habitat Acquisition[31]	$500,000	$0	$0	$181,244	$181,244	Partially Funded
3	25-1159 Planning	Skagit River Systems Cooperative	Intensively Monitored Watershed Dunlap Causeway Reconnection Preliminary Design[32]	$600,000	$0	$218,770	$0	$218,770	Partially Funded
4	23-1182 Planning	Skagit County	Mill Creek at South Skagit Highway Phase 1 Design[33]	$458,263	$81,213	$527,000	$0	$527,000	
5	25-1165 Restoration	Skagit County	Lower Day Slough Culvert GN31 Construction	$375,000	$0	$248,720	$0	$248,720	Partially Funded

[31]This project will receive $248,720 in 2025-2027 riparian funding from the Island County Lead Entity. This project is partially funded.

[32]This project will receive $303,334 in 2025 SRFB funding from the North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon and $77,895 in the Skagit Watershed Lead Entity's 2025-2027 unobligated PSAR funds. This project is fully funded.

[33]This is a cost increase for a project funded in 2023.

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
6	25-1161 Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Collaborative Riparian Maintenance and Plant Skagit Sloughs	$448,305	$0	$0	$372,183	$372,183	Partially Funded
7	25-1160 Restoration	Skagit River Systems Cooperative	Riparian Maintenance-Nookachamps Skiyou Savage	$228,400	$0	$0	$91,334	$91,334	Partially Funded
8	25-1168 Restoration	Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group	Riparian Maintenance Marblemount and Day Creek	$95,047	$0	$0	$95,047	$95,047	
9	25-1169 Restoration	Skagit River Systems Cooperative	Collaborative Riparian Stewardship-Hansen	$150,000	$0	$0	$150,000	$150,000	
			Total	**$3,355,015**	**$81,213**	**$1,245,197**	**$1,069,066**	**$2,314,263**	

Snohomish Basin Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1055 Acquisition	Tulalip Tribes	Snohomish Floodplain Acquisitions Phase 3[34]	$598,054	$0	$568,219	$0	$568,219	Partially Funded
2	25-1050 Planning	King County	Southeast Fish Hatchery Road Habitat Preliminary Design[35]	$400,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
3	25-1056 Restoration	Tulalip Tribes	Pilchuck Riparian Enhancement	$190,386	$0	$0	$190,386	$190,386	
4	25-1057 Planning	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Cadman Site Conceptual Design[36]	$256,890	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
5	25-1068 Restoration	Adopt A Stream Foundation	Winters Creek Riparian Enhancement Partnership	$484,932	$0	$0	$297,808	$297,808	Partially Funded

[34]This project is receiving $29,835 in 2025-2027 PSAR funds from the Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

[35]This project will receive $400,000 in 2025-2027 PSAR funds from the Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

[36]This project will receive $196,865 of 2025-2027 PSAR funds from the Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity and is partially funded.

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
6	25-1062 Restoration	Sound Salmon Solutions	Reed-Sultan River Riparian Restoration	$282,799	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
			Total	**$2,213,061**	**$0**	**$568,219**	**$488,194**	**$1,056,413**	

Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1252 Restoration	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Leque Island Enhancements Phase 1[37]	$349,999	$0	$349,999	$0	$349,999	
2	25-1040 Planning	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Leque Island Tidal Channel Enhancement Feasibility[38]	$417,780	$0	$0	$0	$417,780	
3	25-1042 Restoration	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Lower South Fork Stillaguamish Riparian Stewardship[39]	$428,226	$0	$163,254	$0	$428,226	
4	25-1055 Acquisition	Tulalip Tribes	Snohomish Floodplain Acquisitions Phase 3[40]	$598,054	$0	$0	$0	$29,835	Partially Funded
5	25-1050 Planning	King County	Southeast Fish Hatchery Road Habitat Preliminary Design[41]	$400,000	$0	$0	$0	$400,000	
6	25-1057 Planning	Washington Department of	Cadman Site Conceptual Design[42]	$256,890	$0	$0	$0	$196,865	Partially Funded

[37]This project will receive $417,780 in Stillaguamish's unobligated 2025-2027 PSAR funds and is fully funded.

[38]This project will receive $264,972 in Stillaguamish's unobligated 2025-2027 PSAR funds and is fully funded.

[39]This project is in the Snohomish Basin Lead Entity and will receive $29,835 in Stillaguamish's unobligated 2025-2027 PSAR funds.

[40]This project is in the Snohomish Basin Lead Entity and will receive $400,000 in Stillaguamish's unobligated 2025-2027 PSAR funds.

[41]This project is in the Snohomish Basin Lead Entity and will receive $196,865 in Stillaguamish's unobligated 2025-2027 PSAR funds.

[42]This project is in the San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
		Natural Resources							
7	25-1151 Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Upright Head Habitat Restoration	$483,516	$0	$41,269	$0	$41,269	Partially Funded
			Total	**$2,934,465**	**$0**	**$554,522**	**$0**	**$1,863,974**	

West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1084 Acquisition	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Rocky Creek Estuary and Riparian Protection Phase 3	$257,377	$0	$0	$257,377	$257,377	
2	25-1089 Restoration	Kitsap County	Dyes Inlet Lagoon Bulkhead Removal	$297,440	$0	$295,932	$0	$295,932	Partially Funded
3	25-1085 Acquisition	Great Peninsula Conservancy	Nelyaly Creek Protection	$273,500	$0	$0	$92,623	$92,623	Partially Funded
4	25-1039 Restoration	Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	Smith Bulkhead Removal and Restoration	$163,596	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
			Total	**$991,913**	**$0**	**$295,932**	**$350,000**	**$645,932**	

WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1145 Planning	Nooksack Indian Tribe	Lower Nooksack Conceptual Restoration Design Phase 1	$500,000	$0	$500,000	$0	$500,000	
2	22-1364 Restoration	Lummi Nation	South Fork Nooksack River Cavanaugh Island Phase 2 Restoration[43]	$950,771	$167,800	$133,709	$0	$133,709	Partially Funded
3	25-1146 Acquisition and Restoration	Whatcom Land Trust	Lower Kenney Creek Addition	$539,200	$0	$0	$539,200	$539,200	
	25-1151 Restoration	Friends of the San Juans	Upright Head Habitat Restoration[44]	$483,516	$0	$80,850	$0	$80,850	Partially Funded
			Total	**$2,473,487**	**$167,800**	**$714,559**	**$539,200**	**$1,253,759**	

[43]This is a cost increase for a project funded in 2022.

[44]This project is in San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1051 Acquisition	Capitol Land Trust	Rainbow Ranch Conservation Easement	$145,000	$742,775	$145,000	$0	$145,000	
2	25-1060 Planning	South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group	Middle Deschutes Project Development and Outreach[45]	$120,500	$0	$50,599	$0	$50,599	Partially Funded
	25-1012 Acquisition	Nisqually Land Trust	Muck Creek Protection[46]	$774,500	$0	$0	$69,901	$69,901	Partially Funded
			Total	**$1,040,000**	**$742,775**	**$195,599**	**$69,901**	**$265,500**	

[45]This project is receiving $69 901 in regular SRFB funding from the Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

[46]This project is in the Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1021 Restoration	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Walla Walla River Mile 32.5 Restoration	$750,000	$112,500	$750,000	$0	$750,000	
2	25-1024 Restoration	Tri-State Steelheaders Inc.	Walla Walla River Bridge 2 Bridge Phase 3B Restoration	$397,432	$0	$397,432	$0	$397,432	
3	25-1026 Restoration	Pomeroy Conservation District	Pataha Creek Beaver Dam Analogs	$146,575	$5,000	$146,575	$0	$146,575	
4	25-1038 Restoration	Pomeroy Conservation District	Tumalum Creek Restoration Phase 5	$109,997	$20,000	$109,997	$0	$109,997	
5	25-1019 Restoration	Asotin County Conservation District	Mill Creek (Anatone) Project Area 74 Restoration	$150,000	$28,000	$150,000	$0	$150,000	
6	25-1037 Restoration	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Tuusi Wana Phase 2 Restoration	$650,000	$112,125	$133,996	$0	$133,996	Partially Funded

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
7	25-1022 Planning	Walla Walla County Conservation District	Walla Walla River Mile 20 Design	$150,574	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
8	25-1096 Planning	Asotin County Conservation District	Asotin County Riparian Assessment[47]	$161,000	$0	$0	$161,000	$161,000	
9	25-1095 Restoration	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Tucannon Big Four Riparian[48]	$644,007	$0	$0	$644,007	$644,007	
			Total	**$3,159,585**	**$277,625**	**$1,688,000**	**$805,007**	**$2,493,007**	

[47] #1 riparian project

[48] #2 riparian project

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Board Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1231 Planning	Cascadia Conservation District	Wenatchee and Okanogan Thermal Infrared Surveys	$200,000	$258,000	$200,000	$0	$200,000	
2	25-1219 Planning and Restoration	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation	Upper Methow Salmon Cassel Final Design and Implementation	$464,825	$0	$464,825	$0	$464,825	
3	25-1224 Acquisition	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Lower Peshastin Creek Protection River Mile 2.5-3.5	$445,000	$436,000	$445,000	$0	$445,000	
4	25-1216 Planning	Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Lower Chiwawa Area D Final Design	$56,084	$0	$56,084	$0	$56,084	
5	25-1214 Planning	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Fulton Ditch Irrigation Efficiency Phase 2	$225,000	$0	$225,000	$0	$225,000	

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
6	25-1213 Restoration	Cascade Columbia Fish Enhancement Group	Goodwin Side Channel Implementation	$500,000	$0	$500,000	$0	$500,000	
7	25-1215 Planning	Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Entiat 1D Habitat Enhancement Final Design	$260,345	$0	$171,091	$0	$171,091	Partially Funded
8	25-1212 Planning	Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	Wenatchee River Mile 2.75-4.5 Feasibility and Conceptual Design	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
9	25-1232 Restoration	Cascadia Conservation District	Roaring Creek Floodplain Reconnection	$470,000	$550,000	$0	$470,000	$470,000	
10	25-1218 Restoration	Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation	Sugar Reach Riparian Restoration	$360,000	$0	$0	$360,000	$360,000	

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
11	25-1210 Acquisition	Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Nason Creek River Mile 10-10.5 Acquisition	$783,296	$0	$0	$783,296	$783,296	
12	25-1225 Restoration	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Beaver Creek Low-Tech Restoration	$100,000	$0	$0	$100,000	$100,000	
13	25-1228 Restoration	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Wenatchee Entiat Beaver Project Low-Tech Restoration	$349,916	$0	$0	$349,916	$349,916	
14	25-1217 Restoration	Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group	CRM Riparian Stewardship Package	$600,000	$0	$0	$182,824	$182,824	Partially Funded
			Total	**$4,964,466**	**$1,244,000**	**$2,062,000**	**$2,246,036**	**$4,308,036**	

Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region

Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1078 Planning	Thurston Conservation District	Thompson Creek at River Mile 3.5 Habitat Design	$253,000	$12,000	$253,000	$0	$253,000	
2	25-1075 Restoration	Lewis Conservation District	Ripple Creek at Romerman Fish Passage Design-Build	$185,556	$0	$185,556	$0	$185,556	
3	25-1074 Planning	Lewis County Public Works Department	Ripple Creek at Haywire Fish Passage Design	$159,632	$638,528	$159,632	$0	$159,632	
4	25-1107 Restoration	Lewis County Public Works Department	Berwick Creek at Bishop Fish Passage Construction	$314,192	$1,306,213	$148,218	$0	$148,218	Partially Funded
5	25-1086 Planning	Thurston County Public Works Department	Independence Creek Tributary at Backman Road Fish Passage Design	$135,000	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
	25-1115 Restoration	Grays Harbor Conservation District	West Fork Satsop River Mile 3 Riparian Restoration	$356,192	$0	$0	$356,192	$356,192	
			Total	**$1,403,572**	**$1,956,741**	**$746,406**	**$356,192**	**$1,102,598**	

North Pacific Coast Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	23-1148 Restoration	Wild Salmon Center	Goodman Creek Large Woody Material Placement Phase 2[49]	$317,537	$56,037	$350,104	$0	$350,104	
2	25-1129 Planning	Hoh Indian Tribe	Ruby Creek (Oil City Road Mile Post 8.73)[50]	$195,000	$0	$37,814	$0	$37,814	Partially Funded

[49]This is a cost increase for a project funded in 2023.

[50]This project will receive $102,177 in 2025 SRFB funds from the Willapa Bay Lead Entity and will be partially funded.

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
3	24-1607 Restoration	10 000 Years Institute	Calawah Prioritized Watershed Restoration Riparian Protection and Restoration[51]	$339,978	$47,200	$0	$50,658	$50,658	Partially Funded
4	24-1608 Restoration	Clallam Conservation District	Quillayute River Watershed Riparian Restoration[52]	$260,786	$0	$0	$50,658	$50,658	Partially Funded
5	25-1137 Restoration	Clallam Conservation District	Big River Watershed Riparian Restoration	$303,551	$0	$0	$268,423	$268,423	Partially Funded
6	25-1138 Restoration	10 000 Years Institute	Lower Dickey Riparian Restoration Project	$183,471	$0	$0	$0	$0	Alternate
			Total	**$1,600,323**	**$103,237**	**$387,918**	**$369,738**	**$757,656**	

[51]This request is to fully fund to a project partially funded in 2024.

[52]This request is to fully fund to a project partially funded in 2024.

Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1102 Restoration	Quinault Indian Nation	Upper Quinault River Riparian Restoration	$235,955	$0	$0	$235,955	$235,955	
2	25-1103 Restoration	10 000 Years Institute	Snahapish River Invasive Plant Control Phase 4	$86,060	$0	$0	$86,060	$86,060	
3	25-1101 Planning	Quinault Indian Nation	Upper Quinault Sustainable Floodplains Management Design	$358,816	$0	$127,897	$0	$127,897	Partially Funded
4	25-1099 Restoration	Wild Salmon Center	Raft River Tributary Fish Passage Project Phase 3	$509,532	$0	$249,602	$0	$249,602	Partially Funded
			Total	**$1,190,363**	**$0**	**$377,499**	**$322,015**	**$699,514**	

Willapa Bay Lead Entity

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
1	25-1116 Planning	Pacific Conservation District	Willapa River Elk Prairie Stream Habitat Design	$300,000	$0	$300,000	$0	$300,000	

Rank	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Proposed Salmon Funding	Proposed Riparian Funding	Total Proposed Award	Alternate or Partially Funded
2	24-1769 Restoration	Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	Rue Creek Riparian Habitat Restoration[53]	$214,253	$0	$0	$77,450	$77,450	Partially Funded
3	25-1129 Planning	Hoh Indian Tribe	Ruby Creek (Oil City Road Mile Post 8.73)[54]	$195,000	$0	$102,177	$0	$102,177	Partially Funded
			Total	**$709,253**	**$0**	**$402,177**	**$77,450**	**$479,627**	

[53]This is a cost increase for a project funded in 2024.

[54]This project is in the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity.

Attachment 5: Project Descriptions

Hood Canal Salmon Recovery Region

Hood Canal Coordinating Council Lead Entity

Mason Conservation District **Grant Requested: $257,050**
Reconnecting Skokomish River Side Channel

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to reconnect 1.7 miles of abandoned side channel to the Skokomish River, creating forty-five acres of high-quality habitat. Reconnecting the historic side channel will increase the habitat available to rearing salmon species, provide a place to rest during floods, decrease flood impacts, improve floodplain functions, and reduce fish stranding potential. The project builds on several completed projects including side channel construction, creation of overflow channels in the floodplain, and placement of large woody materials to slow the river. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon, and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1008.

Jefferson County **Grant Requested: $223,450**
Completing Dosewallips Powerlines Final Design

The Jefferson County Public Health Department will use this grant to complete a final design for a project to restore part of the Powerlines Reach in the lower Dosewallips River. The goal of the project is to restore floodplain functions and increase the quantity, complexity, and diversity of spawning and rearing habitat for salmon. The project would place logjams and shoreline plants on twenty-nine acres and more than a half-mile of river and side channels. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a

federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project (25-1015).

Jefferson Land Trust **Grant Requested: $376,916**
Conserving Lower Snow Creek

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy 6.7 acres south of Discovery Bay in the Snow Creek watershed in Jefferson County. In addition, the land trust will reach out to eight nearby landowners along Snow Creek just west of U.S. Route 101 to gage their interest and willingness to protect their land permanently and restore their section of Snow Creek. The land trust will work with regional partners to identify the most beneficial acquisitions and restoration plans to fit with restoration efforts planned for the entire watershed. The creek is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1006.

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $83,300**
Maintaining Plantings Along Summer Chum Streams

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to maintain plantings along streams with summer chum salmon. The enhancement group also will add to the plantings and manage weeds there. Planting trees and bushes along streams shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1033.

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $292,250**
Controlling Knotweed and Planting the Banks of Summer Chum Streams

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to replant the banks of nine streams used by summer chum salmon, emphasizing planting conifers and fast-growing, shade-producing trees and shrubs. The enhancement group also will survey and treat invasive knotweed. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which

provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The streams are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook and chum salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1032.

Mason Conservation District **Grant Requested: $200,000**
Designing Restoration of the Skokomish River Confluence Reach

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to develop permit-ready designs for a project to restore the Confluence Reach of the Skokomish River. Previously, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers identified five high-priority restoration projects that include improving fish passage, connecting floodplains, and improving habitat quality. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1007.

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $413,886**
Studying Restoration Projects for Lower Big Beef Creek and Estuary

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to study the feasibility of restoration actions in Big Beef Creek's lower mile and estuary. The actions are meant to increase spawning and rearing habitat. The group will look at four elements limiting habitat: the fill and armor associated with the Seabeck Highway causeway and bridge, a channel-spanning weir in the Big Beef Creek estuary, a spawning channel that is ten feet below Big Beef Creek, and a remnant University of Washington research facility, hatchery buildings, and access roads in the estuary floodplain. Addressing these elements could recreate the historic opening to Hood Canal and allow restoration of the estuary and lower river channel. The creek is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1010.

Great Peninsula Conservancy **Grant Requested: $387,200**
Designing Restoration of Johnson Creek Estuary

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to complete a preliminary design for a project to restore an important pocket estuary at the mouth of Johnson Creek. The non-functioning estuary is behind a rock bulkhead and has been altered into a series of

freshwater ponds fed by Johnson Creek and artesian wells. The restored site will provide rearing and feeding habitat for juvenile fish. The creek is used by Chinook and chum salmon, which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1014.

Lower Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Klickitat Lead Entity

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Grant Requested: $200,000
Planting the Banks of Schoolhouse Creek

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to improve the habitat along nearly a quarter-mile and 1.5 acres of Schoolhouse Creek, a fish-bearing tributary of the White Salmon River. The Yakama Nation will place beaver dam analogs and unanchored wood structures in the stream to realign the valley and stream channel and increase connectivity across the valley bottom. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams. The dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Adding wood structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. In addition, The Yakama Nation will manage invasive reed canary grass, Himalayan blackberry, and Scotch broom infestations and replant the area with more than four thousand native plants. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The work will encourage the reestablishment of native shrubs, trees, plants, and grasses. This project will improve the quality and quantity of habitat for steelhead and bull trout and Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1105.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Conserving the Lower White Salmon River **Grant Requested: $1,000,000**

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to buy 2.3 miles of the lower White Salmon River in Skamania and Klickitat Counties, upstream of the former Condit Dam. The purchase will protect intact, high-quality habitat critical for salmon, steelhead, and other species. The Yakama Nation will buy 170.5 acres of undeveloped land and 4.6 miles of streambank. Condit Dam was removed in 2012, restoring up to thirty-three miles of habitat. The White Salmon River provides cold-water refuge for fish. The land primarily is rural but experiencing significant development pressure. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook and chum, salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1194.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership **Grant Requested: $142,636**
Inventorying Barriers to Fish Passage in the Lower Columbia River

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to continue its work to inventory barriers on the lower Columbia River. The partnership will assess barriers onsite to reduce uncertainties and adjust data to improve the effectiveness of a modeling tool at prioritizing barriers for correction. The river is used by steelhead trout and coho, chum, and Chinook salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1110.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $499,295**
Designing Restoration of the Green River

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to design restoration projects in the upper Green River and the Toutle River subbasin of the lower Columbia River. The projects are meant to increase spawning and winter rearing habitat in the headwater reaches of the Green River. The river is a gene bank for wild steelhead trout. It is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. This grant is from the state salmon grant program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1119.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe — Grant Requested: $1,444,842
Reconnecting the Hardy Creek Floodplain

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to restore floodplain function to 4.25 acres and nearly a half-mile of Reach 5 of Hardy Creek, in the Pierce National Wildlife Refuge in Skamania County. The Tribe will install hundreds of logs and piles in the alluvial fan and more than forty-five hundred native trees and shrubs in the Hardy Creek floodplain. Adding logs to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and shrubs along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout, and by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1176.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe — Grant Requested: $122,037
Designing Restoration of Wildboy Creek

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to create a preliminary design for a project to place logjams in one mile of Wildboy Creek, a tributary to the West Fork Washougal River, to increase floodplain connectivity, rebuild incised channels, and restore habitat complexity The project area is near the Texas Creek confluence. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by coho salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1192.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $278,152
Restoring Old Beaver Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to expand a current project by restoring 1.5 miles of Old Beaver Creek a neighboring tributary of Bear Creek. The enhancement group has been installing habitat structures and planting plants along

Bear Creek to improve habitat. The creek is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1121.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Requested: $944,450
Designing Restoration of Dry Creek

Yakama Nation Fisheries will use this grant to develop a preliminary design for two miles of Dry Creek. The design calls for the placement of wood structures in the creek and along its banks and removal of a spoil pile in the floodplain. Adding wood structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1157.

Cowlitz Indian Tribe — Grant Requested: $323,689
Designing Steelhead Access in the Washougal River

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to create a preliminary design for a project to restore historic steelhead access over Punchbowl Falls and increase habitat complexity in 6.5 miles of the Washougal River in Skamania County. The catastrophic Yacolt Burn (1902) and the Rock Creek Fire (1927), followed by thirty years of extensive logging, splash damming, and stream cleaning efforts resulted in simplified, degraded, and incised stream channels in the Washougal River watershed and a recent loss of an historic logjam that helped steelhead pass over Punchbowl Falls. The Tribe will evaluate historic photos and documentation to design a logjam that mimics the previous natural logjam and will allow water to collect behind the falls and re-establish passage. The project also calls for placing logjams upstream of the falls to reduce the flow of sediment, reconnect floodplains, bury exposed bedrock channels, and increase the quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat. This project will restore fish passage and enhance spawning and rearing conditions in the headwaters of the Washougal River. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1147.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $1,812,666
Placing Logs by Helicopter in Mulholland Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to place logs in 1.2 miles of Mulholland Creek using helicopters. Adding logs to the water slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. This project is part of a larger, watershed-scale restoration strategy in the Coweeman River watershed. The river is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as by sea-run cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and beaver. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1122.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $214,120
Designing Restoration of Cedar Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to produce permit-ready designs for a project to improve rearing habitat in Cedar Creek. The project would restore 2.7 miles of Cedar Creek and a half-mile of tributaries. Additionally, the enhancement group will design fish passage improvements in John and Doty Creeks. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1143.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership — Grant Requested: $295,903
Continuing Restoration of Dyer Creek

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to plant about one thousand feet of Dyer Creek and place large woody materials in 4.2 acres of adjacent wetland. Dyer Creek is a tributary to the East Fork Lewis River. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The work will rehabilitate degraded conditions along Dyer Creek in the valley bottom. The creek is an incised, single thread channel

with little woody material in the floodplain and dominated by reed canary grass. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, as well as by Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1113.

Clark Public Utilities **Grant Requested: $854,358**
Restoring the East Fork Lewis River Floodplain

Clark Public Utilities will use this grant to remove invasive weeds and plant fifty thousand native trees and shrubs in a wetland complex in the lower East Fork Lewis River floodplain. The site has water that is too warm for salmon, few shade-providing trees, abundant invasive weeds, and pollution from run-off. The work will be done on forty-three acres along nearly one mile of stream and off-channel of the East Fork Lewis River, a few miles from La Center. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This effort fills a gap between restoration completed upstream recently by Clark Public Utilities and downstream by Clark County and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership. The land is owned by Clark County and preserved by its Legacy Lands program. The area is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1112.

Underwood Conservation District **Grant Requested: $995,085**
Restoring Fish Passage in Hollis Creek

The Underwood Conservation District will use this grant to remove a culvert blocking fish passage in Hollis Creek, a tributary of the Wind River, in Skamania County. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The culvert will be replaced with a larger one. The work will restore access to 1.2 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat. The Wind River is the only watershed in the Columbia River basin managed specifically for wild steelhead, making any restoration efforts there critical for maintaining and increasing healthy steelhead populations. Steelhead is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1155.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership — Grant Requested: $349,900
Designing Fish Passage in Upper Lacamas Creek

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to produce preliminary designs for correcting two barriers to fish passage in Lacamas Creek in Lewis County. The barriers block access to about seven miles of habitat. The completed preliminary design package will include engineering designs, a design report, a cost estimate, wetland delineations, a cultural assessment, geotechnical surveys, baseline surveys, a hydraulic analysis, and design alternatives. The information will be used by Lewis County to apply for construction and final design funding. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1154.

Cascade Forest Conservancy — Grant Requested: $334,413
Restoring the Salmon Creek Watershed

The Cascade Forest Conservancy will use this grant to restore sixteen miles of streams in four areas in the Salmon Creek watershed. Salmon Creek, a tributary of the Cowlitz River, is a drinking water source for Vader and Castle Rock and supports significant fish populations. Land use impacts, including logging, farming, and residential development, have led to degradation of streambanks, increased erosion, impaired water quality, and disconnected waterways from their wider floodplains and therefore less likely to retain water into the dry season when wildfire threats increase. The restoration work will focus on replanting streambanks, reconnecting floodplains, reducing erosion, and creating more varied habitat types. The conservancy will place structures to replicate beaver dams and post-assisted log structures in the streams and fall trees into the stream. Adding wood structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. It also changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Finally, it can stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. The conservancy also will plant the streambanks. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The area is used by coho salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1170.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $950,413
Restoring Camp Singing Wind

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore Camp Singing Wind, which contains about one mile of Salmon Creek, four spring-fed tributaries, and a large connected wetland. Salmon Creek is one of the largest tributaries of the Cowlitz River downstream of the reservoirs. A history of logging, farming, and increasing residential development has stripped the river of its large logs, reduce the water quality, and degraded spawning and rearing habitat. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1120.

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $296,570
Planting the Banks of Cedar Creek

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to control invasive plants and plant native plants on eleven acres along Cedar Creek in the North Fork Lewis River basin. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon, and by steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1149.

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership — Grant Requested: $280,866
Assessing and Designing Restoration of the East Fork Lewis River

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will use this grant to assess the East Fork Lewis River and develop conception designs for two restoration projects. The partnership will assess physical and biological conditions on the East Fork Lewis River and its tributary, Rock Creek. The partnership also will look at water temperatures and existing reports to target eight sites for surveys. Then, the partnership will assess those eight sites and develop conceptual design plans for restoration of the top two sites. Additionally, the partnership will provide updated descriptions of habitat conditions in the basin and create a list of potential projects for other organizations to use. The river is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1111.

Middle Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Klickitat County Lead Entity

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation **Grant Requested: $500,170**
Enhancing White Creek with Large Woody Debris

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to place wood via helicopter, restoring channel complexity and habitat diversity in White Creek. This project will complete a multi-year effort to replenish wood along nine miles of the creek, tributary of the Klickitat River, which provides essential spawning and rearing habitat. Adding wood, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. This grant is from the state salmon grant program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1104.

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Yakima County **Grant Requested: $500,000**
Restoring Fish Passage in the South Fork Tieton River at Rimrock Reservoir

Yakima County, in partnership with state and federal agencies, will use this grant to restore year-round fish passage between Rimrock Reservoir and the South Fork Tieton River. The County will excavate a channel to provide access to the river while the reservoir is low and correct a human-made forty-foot waterfall that blocks bull trout, kokanee salmon, and rainbow trout from accessing spawning grounds in the river. The river and reservoir are used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1187.

Yakima County **Grant Requested: $190,000**
Designing a Causeway Removal on Blue Slough

Yakima County, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, will use this grant to create a conceptual

design for a project that will excavate causeways along Blue Slough, a 5.6-mile side channel of the Yakima River in Yakima to improve habitat and fish passage. Work will include establishing restoration criteria, conducting a cultural resources survey and wetland delineations, prioritizing barriers, identifying up to four projects, and designing the preferred project. Currently, a number of causeways separate water from Sportsman State Park to its confluence near Union Gap at Thorp Road. The goal of the project is to make progress towards a future floodplain restoration project that will reduce the severity of floods and help maintain consistent water flow through the side channel year-round, making Blue Slough a more suitable habitat for rearing and spawning. The river is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1186.

Kittitas Conservation Trust **Grant Requested: $332,363**
Designing Restoration at Hutchinson Ranch

The Kittitas Conservation Trust will use this grant to assess habitat and develop conceptual designs and a plan for improving the Yakima River floodplain at the newly acquired Hutchinson Ranch River Conservancy. The trust will determine the feasibility of connecting the Yakima River with its historic floodplain, creating side-channel habitat, improving riverbank habitat, and reducing flood risk to the community of Thorp. The future restoration project will improve habitat for steelhead and bull trout, which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for coho and Chinook salmon, native trout, and lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1179.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $255,586**
Designing Restoration of the Confluence of Swauk and Hurley Creeks

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete an assessment of restoration projects and a preliminary design of a preferred project to restore the confluence of Hurley and Swauk Creeks and their floodplains. The future restoration likely will involve moving Forest Service Road 9711, placing wood in the creeks, grading and changing the creek channels to reconnect floodplains, and planting the creek banks. The long-term restoration goal is to improve spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and for rainbow and cutthroat trout, and Chinook and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1182.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Grant Requested: $101,955
Designing Floodplain Reconnection of South Fork Cowiche Creek

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to complete preliminary designs for a floodplain reconnection project in South Fork Cowiche Creek in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. This portion of the creek has simplified and incised channels and is disconnected from its floodplain and side channels. The goal of the restoration project is to add woody materials to increase connectivity and open access to new habitats for rearing and spawning. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1189.

Kittitas Conservation Trust Grant Awarded: $500,000
Restoring Gold Creek

The Kittitas Conservation Trust will use this grant to place twenty-eight logjams in Gold Creek, east of Snoqualmie Pass. Adding logjams to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion. Finally, logjams change the flow of the water, creating pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. This project is part of a larger restoration effort to restore habitat complexity in the creek to that found in the historic old-growth forest of the Gold Creek Valley. The larger project is aimed at reducing the duration and extent of summer dewatering and improving fish access to spawning and rearing habitats upstream. The creek is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1220.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group Grant Requested: $178,358
Designing Fish Passage on Salmon Creek

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete preliminary designs of a critical fish passage project on Salmon Creek in the upper Yakima River watershed. The design will include a culvert replacement and removal or replacement of a partially passable culvert to restore access to forty acres of cold-water habitat upstream of the project. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams

under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The enhancement group will begin the permitting process by performing a cultural resources review. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1181.

Kittitas County Conservation District — Grant Requested: $482,648
Improving Fish Passage on Cooke Creek

The Kittitas County Conservation District will use this grant to install a fish screen for diverted irrigation water, removing barriers to fish passage in Cooke Creek. The conservation district also will upgrade farm irrigation and restore access to upstream habitat. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1173.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $780,041
Planting the Lower Kittitas River Floodplain

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant plant trees on 16.4 acres of new Kittitas River floodplain, five miles south of Ellensburg. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon; by rainbow trout; and by Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1183.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation — Grant Requested: $424,670
Planting the Banks of the Upper Cle Elum River

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to plant and place large woody materials in the Cle Elum River floodplain, in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, upstream of Cle Elum Reservoir. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and

hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by sockeye salmon. The work also will benefit bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, steelhead trout, and Chinook and coho salmon upon their reintroduction to the watershed. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1188.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $134,000
Planting Trees along the West Fork Teanaway River

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees along about a half-mile of the West Fork Teanaway River, where it was burned in the Jolly Mountain Fire. This stretch of the river suffers from water that is too warm for salmon. Planting trees along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The enhancement group will plant five thousand saplings on twenty acres of riverbanks and 1,250 saplings on five acres of upper slopes. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by resident rainbow and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1184.

Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $205,847
Reestablishing a Forest Along the Teanaway River

The Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees on 2.4 acres on the left bank of the Teanaway River, northeast of Cle Elum. A significant tributary to the upper Yakima River, the Teanaway is an important producer of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, yet suffers from high water temperatures. The enhancement group will plant 1,800 native trees and maintain them for two years. Planting trees along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1185.

Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region

Pend Oreille Lead Entity

Pend Oreille Conservation District **Grant Requested: $342,000**
Screening Fish From the Skookum Creek Irrigation Ditch

The Pend Orielle Conservation District will use this grant to design and build a fish-safe diversion structure for the Skookum Creek irrigation ditch and modernize a section of the ditch that is leaking and wasting water. The one-hundred-year-old irrigation ditch provides water to at least eight properties. Its headgate is severely outdated with no fish screening, resulting in significant wasted water and fish stranding. The creek is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by west slope cutthroat trout and mountain whitefish. This grant is from the state salmon grant program Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1202.

Kalispel Tribe of Indians **Grant Requested: $227,450**
Conserving the Banks of Harvey Creek

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians will use this grant to buy about thirty-seven acres along Harvey Creek, a large tributary to Sullivan Lake in the northeastern corner of Washington. The creek is in a remote location dominated by public land and dense forest, making it resilient to climate change and an important source of cold water for the Sullivan Lake and Sullivan Creek watersheds. A 1.5-mile reach flows along Sullivan Lake Road into Sullivan Lake and is mostly privately owned. Buying this piece of timber company property will preserve the intact forest and allow restoration of the portion of creek habitat that has been degraded. The river is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by westslope cutthroat trout. This grant is from the state riparian program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1245.

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Region

Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) Lead Entity

King County **Grant Awarded: $6,750,000**
Rehabilitating Northeast Auburn Creek

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to improve fish passage, create off-channel areas for young salmon, and restore the banks of Northeast Auburn Creek. The County will replace a poorly functioning flap gate and culvert that are barriers to fish passage in the creek. A flap gate in a creek channel opens only one way, and closes automatically when the flow of the creek reverses. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The County will create a newly oriented tributary channel between the new flap gate and the Green River and connect a wetland to the creek. The work will give salmon access to nearly four miles of off-channel habitat. Off-channel habitat is crucial for salmon because it gives them a place to rest out of the fast-flowing river, feed, hide from predators, and grow larger. Finally, the Couty will place large woody materials in the new channel and plant the banks of the channel and the Green River. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting native trees and shrubs along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep sediment from entering the water, where it can smother spawning gravel and reduce the flow of oxygenated water. The creek and river are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. This project previously was funded partially and this grant provides more funding, but the project still is not fully funded. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1108.

King County **Grant Requested: $1,100,000**
Replanting the Banks of Stonequarry and North Fork Newaukum Creeks

The King County Water and Land Resources Division will use this grant to plant 150,000

trees and shrubs on forty-nine acres along Stonequarry and North Fork Newaukum Creeks, tributaries of Newaukum Creek. These waterbodies are devoid of trees and shrubs, which has allowed too much sunlight to reach the water, warming the water to levels that exceed state water quality standards and are deadly for salmon. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1030.

Island County Lead Entity

Whidbey Camano Land Trust **Grant Requested: $201,000**
Conserving the Kristoferson Creek Beaver Marsh

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement (also called a conservation easement) for seventy-three acres, including a portion of Kristoferson Creek and nearly a half-mile of the creek's tributaries. The purchase will prevent development and logging along the creek. Kristoferson Creek is Camano Island's largest salmon bearing stream, and is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. This grant is from the state salmon grant program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1080.

Kennedy-Goldsborough Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $1,184,000**
Beginning Restoration of Skookum Ranch

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to begin restoring Skookum Creek. The salmon enhancement group will improve up to a quarter-mile of stream channel in a thirty-acre area, remove a barrier to fish passage, place woody materials in the creek, realign and enhance incised stream channels, plant the creek banks, and increase side channels. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the

bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by coho and chum salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1241.

Capitol Land Trust **Grant Requested: $175,875**
Buying Land in Chapman Cove for Protection

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy nearly thirty acres of undeveloped shoreline on the Campbell Creek-Uncle John Creek estuary in Chapman Cove in Oakland Bay. The purchase includes a mile of shoreline, 23.4 acres of wetlands, and 6.5 acres of uplands. This small estuary serves as a nursery for Chinook salmon and other salmon species. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1053.

Mason Conservation District **Grant Requested: $224,956**
Removing Knotweed Along Mason County Creeks

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to treat knotweed on 10.6 acres in the watersheds of Cranberry, Deer, Goldsborough, Mill, and Skookum Creeks and survey seventy-one miles of Schumacher and Sherwood Creeks for knotweed infestations. Knotweed is a highly invasive species that alters native plant communities, prohibits forest establishment, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging streams. In addition, the conservation district will maintain trees and plants on another 11.6 acres. Maintenance includes clearing competing vegetation from around the plants, removing plant protectors, adding plants where needed, and controlling invasive plants. The creeks are used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1076.

Mason Conservation District **Grant Requested: $126,684**
Designing Fish Passage on Jones Creek

The Mason Conservation District will use this grant to design three projects to improve

fish passage in the Jones Creek watershed. This watershed has high-quality habitat and several culverts blocking or limiting passage to more than three miles of spawning and rearing habitat. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The conservation district will work with landowners, assess undocumented culverts, determine the replacement priorities, and design three replacement projects with the goal of restoring fish access to spawning and rearing areas and improving creekbank habitat. The creek is used by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1064.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $50,000**
Designing Fish Passage in Skookum Creek Tributary

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to design fish access to more than a half-mile of habitat in the Skookum Creek watershed. There are no Endangered Species Act listed species in this reach; however, reconnections may result in increased rearing habitat for steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1092.

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Lead Entity

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust **Grant Requested: $1,094,854**
Continuing Restoration of Issaquah Creek in Lake Sammamish State Park

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will use this grant to complete designs and restore about 1.25 miles of Issaquah Creek in Lake Sammamish State Park. The creek is incised and has a single channel and no places for fish to rest during high water flows. The restoration project is meant to restore natural habitat-forming processes by connecting the creek to its floodplain, increasing off-channel habitat, placing large woody materials in the stream to improve habitat diversity, and plant the creek banks and a wetland. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the

plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This project continues the work underway between the Greenway Trust, the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and other partners, and builds upon more than fifteen years of habitat restoration in the park The creek is used by Chinook salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1103.

Adopt A Stream Foundation **Grant Requested: $178,497**
Expanding Planting on the Banks of the Sammamish River

The Adopt A Stream Foundation will use this grant to plant trees along the Sammamish River and maintain recently restored areas. The foundation has restored more than nine hundred feet of Sammamish River bank in Kenmore since 2018. The foundation will plant an additional 2.4 acres, monitor plant health, and control invasive species. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The grant will support the volunteers who regularly work at the site as well as ongoing outreach to residents about restoration efforts. The riverbanks have been dominated by reed canary grass and other invasives and the river exceeded state standards for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and bacteria. With the expansion, the foundation will have restored 7.6 acres of forest along the Sammamish River. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by sockeye salmon and resident cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1066.

Nisqually River Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

Long Live the Kings **Grant Requested: $190,406**
Studying Reconnecting Off-Channel Habitats to the Nisqually Rive

Long Live the Kings, in partnership with Joint Base Lewis McChord and the Nisqually Indian Tribe, will use this grant to complete a feasibility study and cost analysis to better understand how best to restore two sites along the lower Nisqually River between north Yelm and the Nisqually Indian Reservation. The area is home to historic off-channel oxbow wetlands with potentially valuable habitat for juvenile salmon but has been harmed by roads and development. The feasibility study and cost analysis will assess potential restoration impacts on re-connectivity and fish passage at each project site and develop design concepts for restoration. This project represents the first step

toward restoring high-quality habitat at these two sites. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1031.

Nisqually Land Trust **Grant Requested: $774,500**
Conserving Muck Creek

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy seventy acres of forested wetlands in the Muck Creek floodplain and one-third mile of seasonal tributaries that drain into Muck Creek. The creek is one stream in a system with limited flow and the land is one of three properties with forested wetlands that drain to this part of the creek. The land is for sale for residential development. Conserving this land will ensure future use of the land for fish and other wildlife habitat. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1012.

Nisqually Land Trust **Grant Requested: $603,476**
Protecting the Middle Ohop Floodplain

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to buy 5.6 acres in the Ohop Valley containing about a quarter-mile of seasonal Ohop Creek tributaries. Runoff from State Route 161 and drainage from upstream in the Ohop Valley travel across this property and empty into Ohop Creek through pipes under a county road, routinely flooding the field on this property. Buying the land will allow future restoration projects. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1013.

Nisqually Land Trust **Grant Requested: $561,046**
Conserving Tanwax Creek

The Nisqually Land Trust will use this grant to conserve more than one mile of Tanwax Creek shoreline using voluntary land preservation agreements, also called conservation easements, which eliminate development rights. One easement will conserve more than thirty-eight acres along the creek, including nearly one mile of shoreline, creek banks, and a three-acre wetland. The other will conserve thirteen acres including shorelines and three acres of forested wetlands. Securing these easements will allow restoration of the

creek banks. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern, and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1028.

North Olympic Peninsula Lead Entity for Salmon

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe **Grant Requested: $430,000**
Controlling Noxious Weeds in the Elwha River Watershed

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to continue planting trees and shrubs in the former Mills and Aldwell reservoirs on the Elwha River. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The Tribe also will control noxious weeds along seventy miles of river in the lower Elwha River watershed and up to 3,176 acres of floodplains in the lower and middle Elwha River and adjacent tributaries. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon and Pacific lamprey. This grant is funded by the state riparian program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1079.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe **Grant Requested: $107,788**
Conserving the Dungeness River

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to buy up to thirty-two acres along the lower Dungeness River next to other Tribal land. The land includes the river and its forested channel networks. Purchasing the land would bring the total area of conserved land along the lower Dungeness River to two hundred acres. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. This grant is from the state riparian program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1082.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe — Grant Requested: $350,000
Designing Floodplain Restoration on the Elwha River

The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to conduct geomorphic, hydrologic, and hydraulic analyses on nearly two miles of the Elwha River and its floodplain. The analysis will support engineering designs for restoration of a reach that runs upstream of the State Route 101 bridge to the boundary of Olympic National Park. This reach suffers from a lack of woody materials, channel incision, and a dike protecting a county road. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. This grant is from the state salmon grant program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1004.

Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe — Grant Requested: $120,000
Designing Restoration of the Dungeness River

The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to evaluate ways to increase the flow of water in the lower three miles of the Dungeness River and develop a preliminary design to implement a restoration project. The degraded habitat throughout this reach of the river is worsened by increasingly low flows during drought years, requiring manual efforts to move fish passage through the reach. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1205.

North Olympic Salmon Coalition — Grant Requested: $663,977
Restoring the Hoko River Watershed

The North Olympic Salmon Coalition will use this grant to plant trees and shrubs on thirty-seven acres of abandoned pastureland next to the lower Hoko River and estuary and the lower reaches of the Little Hoko River. Historic land uses have led to simplified channel systems that lack large woody materials and water that is too warm for salmon. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The North Olympic Salmon Coalition is partnering with the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Makah Tribe, and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on this project. The river is used by Chinook,

coho, and chum salmon; steelhead and cutthroat trout; and Pacific lamprey. This grant is funded by the state riparian program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1077.

Puyallup and Chambers Watershed Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $895,000**
Placing Wood and Plants in South Prairie Creek

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to place five wood structures in South Prairie Creek. Adding wood structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The enhancement group also will remove invasive plants and replant thirty-seven acres along the creek. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1195.

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: $264,410**
Planning Restoration of the Snoquera Landscape

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to produce design plans for at least eight projects along seven miles of high-priority salmon habitat in the upper White River in the Snoquera Landscape near Mount Rainier in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The department will analyze existing data, conduct field surveys to categorize site conditions, and produce design plans. When implemented, the projects will improve habitat, increase floodplain connectivity, and promote cool-water and resting areas for salmon. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon and resident trout species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1203.

Trout Unlimited Incorporated — Grant Requested: $335,489
Designing Fish Passage in the Snoquera Landscape

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to address four barriers to fish passage, restoring access to more than two miles of habitat in tributaries to the Greenwater River and Huckleberry Creek. This project is part of a larger overall effort to restore habitat across the 191,000-acre Snoquera Landscape near Mount Rainier in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Trout Unlimited will develop conceptual designs and complete geotechnical and cultural resource site investigations to replace four culverts in Twenty-eight Mile Creek, George Creek, and an unnamed tributary to Huckleberry Creek. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The creeks are used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1204.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group — Grant Awarded: $2,302,025
Restoring South Prairie Creek

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore South Prairie Creek. The salmon enhancement group will remove floodplain fill from a former horse track, excavate side channels to restore a multi-threaded channel network in a relic channel, place wood structures in the creek and its side channel and floodplain to increase habitat complexity and floodplain engagement, and plant trees and shrubs on thirty acres of creek banks and wetlands. The work will reconnect the creek to its floodplain and increase the types of habitat in the creek. Adding wood structures, such as tree root wads and logs, to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along the creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum and pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1396.

San Juan County Salmon Recovery Lead Entity

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank **Grant Requested: $521,500**
Expanding the Coho Preserve

The San Juan Conservation Land Bank will use this grant to buy seven acres to expand the Coho Preserve by six acres and extend protection to the eastern banks of lower Cascade Creek, a significant salmon-bearing stream in San Juan County. The purchase will protect critical salmon habitat on Orcas Island and ensure that high-quality habitat along a quarter-mile of creek, marine shoreline, and an acre of tidelands in Buck Bay stays intact and protected from residential development. The creek is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1087.

Friends of the San Juans **Grant Requested: $483,516**
Removing Shoreline Armor on Lopez Island

The Friends of the San Juans, in partnership with the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank and the Washington State Department of Transportation, will use this grant to remove eighty-five feet of rock revetment on the beach, a derelict concrete boat ramp, and most of the revetment along a decommissioned road at Upright Head on Lopez Island. The friends group also will move infrastructure, regrade and replant the slope, and add sand to the beach. The work will restore spawning habitat for forage fish, a key food for imperiled salmon species. The friends group also will install interpretive signs to educate visitors on the ecological importance of the site and restoration efforts. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1151.

San Juan Preservation Trust **Grant Requested: $85,300**
Finding San Juan Outer Islands for Conservation

San Juan Preservation Trust will use this grant to reach out to eight landowners who own high-priority beach habitat to see if they are willing to move forward with selling their land or the development rights. The land trust will focus on islands without ferry service. The land trust will create maps, complete title review, and conduct field assessments. In addition, the Friends of the San Juans will survey seasonal spawning

areas at four of the properties with pocket beaches. The area is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1088.

Skagit Watershed Council

Seattle City Light **Grant Requested: $500,000**
Conserving Skagit River Watershed Habitat

Seattle City Light will use this grant to conserve twenty acres of high-quality habitat for Chinook salmon in the Skagit River watershed through cooperative land acquisition. Seattle City Light will focus on the floodplains of the Cascade, Sauk, and Skagit Rivers, and their major tributaries. The watershed is used by Chinook salmon and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1167.

Skagit Land Trust **Grant Requested: $500,000**
Conserving Skagit River Watershed Habitat

The Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to protect about twenty acres of high-quality habitat for Chinook salmon by buying land or land preservation agreements (also called conservation easements) from willing sellers. The land trust will follow the 2023 Skagit Watershed Council Protection Strategy Update. The watershed is used by Chinook salmon and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1166.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Requested: $600,000**
Designing the Dunlap Causeway Reconnection

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to develop preliminary designs for a distributary channel that will reconnect the North Fork Skagit River and Swinomish Navigation Channel via Dunlap Bay. The new channel will create a safe route for juvenile Chinook and other salmon to move past the McGlinn jetty. It also will improve access to more than six thousand acres of estuarine habitat in the Swinomish Navigation Channel and Padilla Bay to the north. The area is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit

RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1159.

Skagit County **Grant Request: $458,263**
Mill Creek at South Skagit Highway Phase 1 Design

Skagit County will use this grant to complete preliminary designs for a channel alignment for Mill Creek and conceptual designs for crossing structures on South Skagit Highway at Mill and Savage Creeks. South Skagit Highway at Mill Creek and Savage Slough disconnect the Skagit River from sixty-two acres of its floodplain, isolate more than five acres of wetlands, and impair nearly twenty-two acres of slough and wetland habitat. Conditions have resulted in sediment filling in crossings. This design work will look at solutions beyond dredging, including moving the road out of the floodplain. This work will include engagement with landowners and a funding analysis. The creeks and slough are used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1182.

Skagit County **Grant Requested: $375,000**
Replacing Fish-Blocking Culverts in Lower Day Slough

Skagit County will use this grant to replace four culverts on Lower Day Slough with a bridge to open fish migration routes. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The County also will install streambed sediment and replant the area. This work completes the last significant barrier on Lower Day Slough, completing years of work that the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group began in 2014. The slough is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1165.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $500,000**
Planting and Maintaining Skagit River Sloughs

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore the banks of sloughs along the Skagit River. The goal is to target challenges that have hampered the progress of restoration or natural succession so the native plant communities can become self-sustaining. Altogether, the enhancement group will control weeds on 101 acres and plant up to sixty-six acres. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the

water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. At House Slough, the enhancement group will clear blackberries and plant native shrubs and trees to enhance the twenty-two-year-old buffer. At Pressentin Park, the enhancement group will manage a Scotch broom infestation and replant. At Youngs Slough, the enhancement group will plant trees in the forest to accelerate succession of this previously logged forest, where massive red cedar once stood. Finally, at both House Slough and Youngs Slough, the enhancement group will install fencing to keep elk out of the water. The waterways are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1161.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Requested: $228,400**
Controlling Weeds Along Nookachamps Creek

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to control competing plants and invasive species on 107 acres along Nookachamps Creek. The cooperative also will plant a half-acre between the existing planting and Nookachamps Creek. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1160.

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $95,047**
Controlling Weeds Along Marblemount and Day Creek

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to control weeds at restoration sites at Marblemount and along Day Creek. The enhancement group will maintain 44.5 acres in four years to diminish the impact of invasive plants on native plant communities. Plantings along waterways shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The enhancement group will control weeds on the thirty-seven acres at Marblemount and on 7.5 acres along Day Creek. In addition,

the enhancement group will plant twelve hundred plants at Day Creek in open areas and areas where weeds are removed. The areas are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1168.

Skagit River System Cooperative **Grant Requested: $150,000**
Maintaining Plantings Along Hansen Creek

The Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to remove competing plants and control invasive species on seventy-five acres along Hansen Creek. Plantings along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1169.

Snohomish Basin Lead Entity

Tulalip Tribes **Grant Requested: $598,054**
Conserving Snohomish River Floodplain

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to buy 214 acres in the Pilchuck, Skykomish, Snohomish, and Snoqualmie River watersheds. The long-term goal is to create a corridor of protected lands along the Snohomish River and its major tributaries, where floodplain and river processes are allowed to function naturally. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1055.

King County **Grant Requested: $400,000**
Designing Restoration of Southeast Fish Hatchery Road Habitat

King County will use this grant to complete a conceptual design and begin a preliminary design for a project that will increase floodplain connection, naturalize the riverbank, and restore the right bank of the Snoqualmie River, 1.5 miles downstream from Snoqualmie Falls. The design will focus on removal of human-made constraints such as

abandoned bridge abutments and a paved road, installation of large woody materials at the river's confluence to slow the river and create new habitat, removal of non-native plants, and movement of earth to increase access to a wetland-pond complex. The work will create a mosaic of connected habitats for young fish to use as they grow. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1050.

Tulalip Tribes **Grant Requested: $190,386**

Improving the Banks and Floodplain of the Pilchuck River

The Tulalip Tribes will use this grant to control invasive plants, such as knotweed, and plant native trees and shrubs along ten acres of the banks and floodplain of the Pilchuck River next to the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lochslo. Knotweed is a highly invasive plant that displaces native plant communities, accelerates bank erosion, and degrades salmon spawning habitat by clogging the stream. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The Tribes acquired the land recently and a large levee removal and channel enhancement project is being planned for the site. The river is used by bull trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead trout and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1056.

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: $256,890**

Designing Restoration of the Lower Skykomish River

The Department of Natural Resources and the City of Monroe will use this grant to complete a conceptual design for the 224-acre Cadman site in the lower Skykomish River. This site includes 1.5 miles of the Skykomish River, 1.7 miles of side channels, and nearly fifty-two acres of waterbodies, making it an ideal area for rearing and spawning. The partners will assess baseline habitat conditions, water quality, fish use, riverbank and floodplain condition, and potential restoration actions, and develop conceptual designs for at least three projects. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1057.

Adopt A Stream Foundation **Grant Requested: $484,932**
Planting a Wetland Fed by Winters Creek

The Adopt A Stream Foundation will use this grant to remove invasive plants and replant a wetland fed by Winters Creek. The foundation will plant native plants on 5.4 acres of reed canary grass-choked oxbow wetland. The foundation also will control invasive plants and replant an additional nearly fifteen acres of forested area surrounding the wetland. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The wetland, which connects to the Sultan River, is important off-channel habitat for the numerous salmon species. The area is used by bull trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1068.

Sound Salmon Solutions **Grant Requested: $282,799**
Replanting the Banks of the Sultan River

Sound Salmon will use this grant to control invasive plants, such as blackberry and other noxious weeds, and replant nearly six acres along the Sultan River and its side channel. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. Sound Salmon also will monitor the plantings for three years. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon and rainbow trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1062.

Stillaguamish River Salmon Recovery Co-Lead Entity

Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians **Grant Requested: $349,999**
Enhancing Tidal Channels on Leque Island

The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians will use this grant to excavate tidal channels on Leque Island at the north end of Port Susan Bay. The Tribe will place the channel spoils in mounds and berms to encourage establishment of native marsh plants. This project

builds upon previous restoration work where levees were removed, tidal channels excavated, a berm and walking trail were built. However, after five years, juvenile Chinook salmon numbers are lower than expected, and native marsh plants have grown on only 20 percent of the site. The river is used by bull trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1252.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: $417,780**
Assessing Leque Island Tidal Channel Enhancements

The Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Skagit River System Cooperative will use this grant to develop a hydraulic model and assess alternatives to improve estuary habitat at Leque Island in Port Susan Bay. In 2019, the Department of Fish and Wildlife removed dikes surrounding the island to allow tides to restore the marsh habitat. It also built a spur dike to protect infrastructure. After five years, juvenile salmon accessing the area is lower than expected and native marsh plants grew on only 20 percent of the site. The partners are exploring three locations to widen the channel outlets to more closely reflect a natural system. They will examine alternative breach design impacts and seek a preferred alternative to improve marsh access for juvenile salmon and drainage within the site. Leque Island is a unique location with juvenile Chinook salmon originating from Skagit, Snohomish, and Stillaguamish Rivers. The area is used by Chinook salmon and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by Pacific herring and surf smelt. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1040.

West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery

Great Peninsula Conservancy **Grant Requested: $257,377**
Conserving the Rocky Creek Estuary

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy about seven acres of a coastal inlet estuary at the head of Rocky Bay in Pierce County. The purchase will protect an intact shoreline, estuary, and stream channel processes, which provide critical areas for fish to grow, rest, hide from predators, and transition to and from saltwater. The site includes an active channel migration zone for Rocky Creek, a stream and wetland complex that has seen a significant investment in restoration projects in past decades. The creek is used by steelhead trout and Chinook, coho, and chum salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species

Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1084.

Kitsap County **Grant Requested: $297,440**
Restoring Dyes Inlet Lagoon through Bulkhead Removal

Kitsap County will use this grant to remove a bulkhead and restore part of the Dyes Inlet embayment. Bulkheads are built on shorelines to prevent erosion. They damage salmon habitat by disrupting the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and the animals they eat live. The County also will replace a lawn with plants. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This project will increase tidal inundation and cross-shore connectivity, ultimately increasing embayment habitat for salmon and trout. The inlet is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1089.

Great Peninsula Conservancy **Grant Requested: $273,500**
Conserving Nelyaly Creek

The Great Peninsula Conservancy will use this grant to buy twenty-one acres of undeveloped land in the lower reaches of Nelyaly Creek on the Gig Harbor peninsula. The project will protect nearly a half-mile of stream, including a quarter-mile of Nelyaly Creek, along with the creekbank, wetlands, and floodplains. The creek is used by coho and chum salmon, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1085.

Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $163,596**
Removing a Bainbridge Island Bulkhead

The Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to complete a design and remove armoring, a patio, and a boat ramp from a private waterfront home on Bainbridge Island. Armor is a barrier, such as seawalls, large boulders, or riprap, placed on shorelines to prevent erosion. It damages salmon habitat because it disrupts the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and the animals they eat live. The area is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act,

and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1039.

WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board

Nooksack Indian Tribe **Grant Requested: $500,000**
Designing and Planning Restoration for the Lower Nooksack

This Nooksack Indian Tribe will use this grant to complete planning for restoration of thirty miles of the Nooksack River from Deming to Ferndale in Whatcom County, and develop a conceptual design for a project reach in that area. The overall goal of the work is to restore upstream migration, holding, and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon in the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Nooksack River. The river lacks habitat diversity. The river is used by Chinook salmon steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by sockeye salmon and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1145.

Lummi Nation **Grant Requested: $950,771**
Continuing Restoration of the South Fork Nooksack River at Cavanaugh Island

The Lummi Nation will use this grant to place logjams in the South Fork Nooksack River and its side channel, west of State Route 9, in Skagit County. The Tribe will place fourteen logjams and four habitat structures in the river. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The Tribe also will plant more than seven acres of riverbank. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; by bull trout; and by chum, pink, and sockeye salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 22-1364.

Whatcom Land Trust **Grant Requested: $539,200**
Conserving Lower Kenney Creek

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 2.7 acres including about 215 feet of shoreline along lower Kenney Creek, a salmon-bearing tributary of the North Fork Nooksack River. Additionally, the land trust will remove all structures within one hundred feet of the creek. This project is part of a greater effort to restore fish passage at the mouth of the creek The creek is used by Chinook, coho, and chum salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1146.

WRIA 13 Salmon Habitat Recovery Lead Entity

Capitol Land Trust **Grant Requested: $145,000**
Conserving Rainbow Ranch on Eld Inlet

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement (also called a conservation easement) to conserve nearly thirty-six acres of Eld Inlet shoreline, McLane Creek banks, wetlands, and uplands. The property is at the mouth of McLane Creek in Olympia. The protection of this property will expand the land conserved by the land trust in Eld Inlet to nearly 450 acres. Permanent protection of this property will protect prime soils and soils of statewide importance, open space, as well as nearly a half-mile of shoreline along McLane Creek and its estuary. Large numbers of juvenile fish born in McLane Creek use the area for feeding and transitioning to life at sea. Adult salmon use the site as a holding area until the nearby McLane Creek flows are high enough for them to swim upstream to spawn. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by chum salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1051.

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $120,500**
Connecting with Landowners to Restore the Middle Deschutes River Basin

The South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to reach out to landowners interested in restoration in the middle Deschutes River basin. The goal is to improve river habitat, floodplain connection, and riverbank buffers. The enhancement group will begin with a comprehensive river survey and an evaluation of streamside buffers, parcel size, stream mileage, floodplain potential area, potential for water storage

and fine sediment reduction, and proximity to other priority land. Then the enhancement group will reach out to landowners and develop a list of prioritized landowners, a report, a web mapping tool, and a preliminary design for one property. In 2024, the enhancement group received many inquiries from landowners who lost land from erosion. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1060.

Snake River Salmon Recovery Region

Snake River Salmon Recovery Board

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Restoring the Walla Walla River **Grant Requested: $750,000**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will use this grant to remove armoring and replant the banks of the Walla Walla River, near the Frenchtown historic site. Armor is a barrier, such as seawalls, large boulders, or riprap, placed on shorelines to prevent erosion. It damages salmon habitat because it disrupts the natural erosion that supplies sand and gravel to beaches, where salmon and the animals they eat live. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1021.

Tri-State Steelheaders Incorporated **Grant Requested: $397,432**
Placing Logs in the Walla Walla River

The Tri-State Steelheaders will use this grant to continue to place logs and log structures along 1,000 feet of the Walla Walla River near Lowden. Adding logs to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The group also will plant the riverbanks. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The

plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This project is part of a larger project to restore nearly two miles of the river. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act,; and by margined sculpin, leopard dace, and river lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1024.

Pomeroy Conservation District **Grant Requested: $146,575**
Adding Wood Structures in Pataha Creek

The Pomeroy Conservation District will use this grant to enhance existing wood structures and add up to thirty more along 2.6 miles of Pataha Creek to improve fish habitat. Pataha Creek suffers from channel instability, not enough water and water that is too warm, has too much sediment, and doesn't have enough habitat diversity. In 2015 and 2020, post-assisted log structures and beaver dam analogs were installed on private property in the upper creek to encourage beavers to build dams. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams. The dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Adding log structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Recently, the landowner acquired more than a mile of stream and is interested in restoring the area. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1026.

Pomeroy Conservation District **Grant Requested: $109,997**
Continuing Restoration of Tumalum Creek

The Pomeroy Conservation District will use this grant to add wood structures to Tumalum Creek, a tributary to the Tucannon River in southeastern Washington. The creek historically provided critical habitat for steelhead trout. However, past land uses, such as grazing on the creek banks and the removal of beaver, degraded the creek's habitat. Since 2019, the conservation district has installed beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures to improve habitat. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams. The dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river.

Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Adding post-assisted log structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. With this grant, the conservation district will adapt the existing structures and add new ones to expand floodplain connectivity and further enhance habitat complexity. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1038.

Asotin County Conservation District **Grant Requested: $150,000**
Restoring Mill Creek

The Asotin County Conservation District will use this grant to install wood habitat structures in 1.1 miles of Mill Creek, south of Anatone, along State Route 129. Adding wood structures to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1019.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Restoring the Touchet River **Grant Requested: $650,000**

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will use this grant to place log structures in a half mile of the Touchet River and plant its banks. Habitat conditions have been degraded by bare riverbanks, nearby agriculture, and erosion. Adding logs to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online

Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1037.

Walla Walla County Conservation District — Grant Requested: $150,574
Designing Restoration of the Walla Walla River

The Walla Walla County Conservation District will use this grant to create a preliminary design for a project that will place logjams and possibly set back levees along just more than a mile of the Walla Walla River, below its confluence with the Touchet River. Adding logjams to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1022.

Asotin County Conservation District — Grant Requested: $161,000
Developing Restoration Plans for Asotin County Shorelines

The Asotin County Conservation District will use this grant to assess shoreline habitat conditions of tributaries to the Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers in Asotin County and develop restoration plans. The conservation district will evaluate Snake River tributaries including Alpowa, Asotin, Couse, George, and Tenmile Creeks, and Grande Ronde River tributaries including Buford, Cottonwood, Cougar, Joseph, Rattlesnake, Shumaker, and Wenatchee Creeks. The conservation district will develop restoration plans for each project area that will identify the actions needed. The tributaries are used by steelhead and bull trout and Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1096.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $644,007
Restoring Habitat Along the Tucannon River

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will coordinate with the Nez Perce Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to use this grant to restore shoreline habitat along 2.5 miles of the Tucannon River, focusing on reconnecting the floodplain and improving river function to increase spawning and rearing habitat. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1095.

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Region

Upper Columbia River Salmon Recovery Board

Cascadia Conservation District **Grant Requested: $200,000**
Mapping Water Temperatures in Wenatchee and Okanogan River Watersheds

The Cascadia Conservation District will use this grant to survey and map water temperatures in the watersheds of the Wenatchee and Okanogan Rivers. The conservation district will identify and map all cold- and warm-water features and the river's temperature profile and provide a detailed geospatial thermal infrared mosaic map, along with color photographs for public use. Information about the water temperatures will help scientist decide where projects are most needed, which will have the most benefit, where unique cold-water resting places are, where warm water is being introduced into streams, and where proposed projects might inadvertently mix cold and warm water. The watersheds are used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1231.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation **Grant Requested: $464,825**
Enhancing Cold-Water Refuges in the Upper Methow River's Fawn Reach

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use this grant to build nine to scour pools and provide complex cover next to an area fed by cold groundwater and create two alcoves along seasonally connected floodplain channels. The project will improve cold-water areas in the upper Methow River's Fawn Reach by creating stable pools and backwater habitats to give fish a place to rest and hide from predators. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. This grant is from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Grant Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1219.

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust **Grant Requested: $445,000**
Conserving Lower Peshastin Creek

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to conserve more than thirty-seven acres along lower Peshastin Creek. The land trust will buy the fee interest in the 22.2-

acre Snider property, with a full half-mile on each side of Peshastin Creek, and a voluntary land preservation agreement (also called a conservation easement) for fifteen acres of the Mountain Valley property with another half-mile of one side of the creek just downstream. The land includes forested floodplains with high ecological integrity. The purchase will prevent degradation and facilitate restoration in this important reach. The creek is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1224.

Chelan County **Grant Requested: $56,084**
Completing Designs for Restoration of the Lower Chiwawa River

Chelan County will use this grant to prepare construction-ready designs, complete environmental compliance tasks, and prepare bid documents for a project to improve to improve about 1.4 miles of the lower Chiwawa River area. The future restoration project will create up to a quarter-mile of side channel habitat, enhance habitats near two cold-water tributary confluences, reduce dispersed camping sites, decommission about 1,000 feet of forest roads, and enhance vegetation along fifteen acres of streambank. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1216.

Trout Unlimited Incorporated **Grant Requested: $225,000**
Planning Upgrades to Fulton Ditch Irrigation

Trout Unlimited, along with the Fulton Ditch Company, will use this grant to continue designing and get permits for a project to convert an open-air irrigation system to one that runs in pipes. The current system has the potential to divert about twenty-two cubic feet per second of water from the Chewuch River, nearly half the river's flow, if the tarped sections of the ditch continue to degrade. The project would move the diversion four miles downstream to the Methow River and pump water to customers on-demand. This will keep more water in the river for fish. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1214.

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $500,000
Restoring the Wenatchee River's Goodwin Side Channel

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to restore the Goodwin side channel of the Wenatchee River. The enhancement group will connect the floodplain to the side channel and plant the floodplain. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act; and by coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1213.

Chelan County — Grant Requested: $260,345
Completing Designs for Restoration of the Entiat River

Chelan County will use this grant to create a final design and complete hydraulic modeling, a wetland delineation survey, and cultural resource surveys for a project on the lower Entiat River. Because of the confined river channel and limited floodplain habitats, this section of the river lacks the ability to create habitat through natural processes alone. The future restoration project will improve side channel connectivity, habitat quality and complexity, riverbank plantings, and water temperatures. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1215.

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $150,000
Designing Restoration of the Lower Wenatchee River

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to create a conceptual design that will provide a blueprint for habitat restoration of nearly two miles of the lower Wenatchee River. U.S. Route 2 borders the river and bisects the floodplain in this area. The enhancement group will investigate the feasibility and cost effectiveness of providing water and fish access to the disconnected floodplain. The enhancement group will collect groundwater and topographic data, conduct a geotechnical analysis and a feasibility and alternatives study, and work on a reach-scale conceptual design and a project-scale conceptual design. The restoration project is

expected to address riverbank plantings, floodplain connectivity, and side-channel habitat. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1212.

Cascadia Conservation District **Grant Requested: $470,000**
Reconnecting Roaring Creek Floodplain

The Cascadia Conservation District will use this grant to reconnect 1.4 miles of Roaring Creek to its forty-acre floodplain. Historic grazing, logging, fires, and loss of beavers have resulted in an eroded channel, floodplain disconnection, reduced water flows, and simplification of the creek network. The conservation district plans to recover the streambed, reconnect the floodplain, raise the groundwater tables, and add woody material to the system to increase habitat complexity and off-channel habitat. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, and boulders to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1232.

Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation **Grant Requested: $360,000**
Planting the Banks of the Methow River

The Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will use this grant to plant 17.6 acres of native trees and shrubs along the Sugar Reach of the Methow River, just north of the river's confluence with the Twisp River. Planting trees and bushes along a river shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The foundation will maintain the plantings for up to five years until established and self-sufficient. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1218.

Chelan County **Grant Requested: $783,296**
Conserving Nason Creek

The Chelan County Natural Resources Department and Chelan Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy fifteen acres of waterfront along Nason Creek and plant its banks. The partners will treat noxious weeds on a half-acre and plant trees and shrubs on nearly 2.5 acres. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The purchase is the first step in an extensive restoration project aimed at reversing the trend of dramatic warming of the creek. The creek is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1210.

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation **Grant Requested: $100,000**
Reconnecting Beaver Creek Floodplain

The Yakama Nation will use this grant to restore habitat and reconnect the floodplain along nearly one mile of Beaver Creek. The creek has an incised channel and has disconnected from its floodplain due to a history of cattle grazing, logging, fires, construction, and recreation use. The Tribe will place two hundred root wads and log structures in the creek and plant trees along its banks to improve habitat for fish. Adding wood, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, wood changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the tree roots keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1225.

Trout Unlimited Incorporated **Grant Requested: $349,916**
Helping Beavers in Chelan and Douglas Counties

Trout Unlimited will use this grant to work with landowners to allow beavers and the

habitat they create to remain in place on twenty properties in Chelan and Douglas County watersheds. In addition, Trout Unlimited will use low-tech restoration to improve habitat. The work will restore up to 21 miles of stream. Beaver dams can help deep, cool pools form by slowing the river. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. The dams also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead and bull trout, which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1228.

Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group **Grant Requested: $600,000**
Maintaining Upper Columbia River Habitat

The Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group, in partnership with the Cascadia Conservation District and Trout Unlimited, will use this grant to restore habitat at twenty-six restoration sites in the watersheds of the Wenatchee and Entiat Rivers and in two tributaries of the Columbia River. The group will manage invasive plant species and noxious weeds, replace unsuccessful plantings, place wood structures in streams, and water plants. Additionally, they will maintain beaver dam analogs and post-assisted log structures in the waterways and will remove nuisance beavers. Beaver dam analogs are wood structures that mimic beaver dams and post-assisted log structures are structures made of posts that simulate logjams. Both slow the water, allowing deep, cool pools to form, reducing erosion, and allowing small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Young salmon can rest, eat, and grow in those pools, getting larger and healthier before continuing their migration. They also help stabilize water levels, which helps during droughts. Finally, they change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The river is used by steelhead and bull trout and by Chinook salmon, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1217.

Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region

Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat

Thurston Conservation District — Grant Requested: $253,000
Designing Restoration of Thompson Creek

The Thurston Conservation District will use this grant to complete designs for a project to restore Thompson Creek, near the border of Thurston and Lewis Counties. The restoration includes controlling weeds and planting eleven acres along the creek's banks, placing large woody materials in more than one-third mile of the creek, and reconnecting the floodplain. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The project is aimed at restoring rearing and spawning habitat for steelhead trout and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1078.

Lewis Conservation District — Grant Requested: $185,556
Designing and Building Fish Passage in Ripple Creek

The Lewis Conservation District will use this grant to design and then replace a fish-blocking culvert with a bridge to open habitat for coho salmon and steelhead trout. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The culvert is under Romerman Road in Ripple Creek in Chehalis. Lewis County is working on replacing the downstream barriers and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation are working with landowners upstream to replace the remaining barriers. This is part of a larger effort to replace culverts in the Stearns Creek basin. The creek is used by steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1075.

Lewis County — Grant Requested: $159,632
Designing Corrections to Barriers Blocking Fish in Ripple Creek

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant to complete designs for a project to replace two fish passage barriers in Ripple Creek under Haywire Road. The new fish passage structures will restore access to more than one mile of habitat for coho salmon and winter steelhead trout and improve access to 7.8 miles of potential habitat for coho and 6.6 miles of potential habitat for steelhead. The project also calls for

installation of large woody material, streambed material, meander bars, and meandering low flow notches as well as the removal of constrictions that will increase floodplain connections. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to the water creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1074.

Lewis County **Grant Requested: $314,192**
Restoring Fish Passage in Berwick Creek

The Lewis County Public Works Department will use this grant improve fish passage, control invasive plants, and replant the banks of Berwick Creek. The department will replace two undersized culverts in the creek that are restricting fish passage. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Replacing the culverts would improve access to 8.3 miles of habitat for coho salmon and 6.6 miles of potential habitat for steelhead trout. The County also will place large woody material and streambed gravels in the creek. Adding woody materials, such as tree root wads and logs, to a creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, it changes the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. Finally, the County will remove invasive plants and replant about eight hundred feet of the creek's banks. Planting trees and bushes along a creek shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1107.

Thurston County **Grant Requested: $135,000**
Designing a Fish Passage Project in Independence Creek

The Thurston County Public Works Department will use this grant to complete pre-design studies and identify a preferred alternative to removing a culvert and restoring fish passage in unnamed tributary of Independence Creek. Installed under Backman Road in 1970, the culvert is too high and partially blocks some fish from reaching upstream habitat. In addition, fine sediments are building up on both ends of the culvert

and a large plunge pool is forming on the downstream end because of the high velocity of water rushing through. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. Pre-design work may include hydrology and hydraulics analysis, geotechnical investigations, wetland delineation, and critical areas surveys. The creek is used by coho salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by sea-run cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1086.

Grays Harbor Conservation District **Grant Requested: $356,192**
Restoring the Banks of the West Fork Satsop River

The Grays Harbor Conservation District will use this grant to restore and maintain nearly one mile of habitat along the banks of the West Fork Satsop River. The conservation district will mow grasses and apply mulch to reduce weeds and promote tree and shrub establishment on 12.6 acres. The conservation district also will install 2,350 native trees and shrubs on 5.6 acres of pasture grasses, reed canary grass, and blackberry. This work will be followed up with stewardship mowing and mulching. Currently the area lacks trees and shrubs along the riverbanks. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead and bull trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1115.

North Pacific Coast Lead Entity

Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition **Grant Requested: $317,537**
Placing Logjams in Goodman Creek

The Pacific Coast Salmon Coalition will use this grant to design and implement a project to place logjams and large pieces of wood in about 1.5 miles of Goodman Creek, on the west Olympic Peninsula. Adding wood and logjams to the creek creates places for fish to rest, feed, and hide from predators. It also slows the water, which reduces erosion and allows small rocks to settle to the bottom, creating areas for salmon to spawn. Finally, logjams change the flow of the water, creating riffles and pools, which give salmon more varied habitat. The salmon coalition also will plant trees along the creek banks. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop

branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, tree roots keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The creek is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 23-1148.

Hoh Indian Tribe **Grant Requested: $195,000**
Designing Restoration of Fish Passage in Ruby Creek

The Hoh Indian Tribe will use this grant to develop preliminary designs to remove a fish-blocking culvert in Ruby Creek, a tributary of the Hoh River. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The culvert was installed in 2021 as an emergency repair when Oil City Road washed out in a flood. The culvert completely blocks fish because it is too high. It has not been fish-passable since before 1998 when it was installed. Replacing the culvert will restore fish access to more than one mile of habitat and reduce the chances of the road washing out again. The creek is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1129.

10,000 Years Institute **Grant Requested: $339,978**
Clearing Harmful Weeds Along Calawah Riverbanks

The 10,000 Years Institute will use this grant to treat invasive plants along forty-six miles of road along the Calawah River, along 128 miles of the river, along the lower end of its large tributaries, and on about four hundred acres of its floodplain. In addition, the institute will map and assess floodplain forests for thinning and planting needs. Working along the roads, the institute can target sources of seeds, which drop from cars and trucks and spread to the rivers via ditch water, wind, humans, and animals. The invasive plants increase erosion, clog waterways, and prevent native species from growing. This project will partner with another to plant native species including trees in the treated areas. Trees shade the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the trees keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. This project is the beginning of a coordinated, watershed-scale effort to protect and restore salmon and steelhead habitat in the Calawah River watershed. The larger effort will include placement of woody materials in the stream, addressing road drainage, and improving fish passage. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1607.

Clallam Conservation District — Grant Requested: $260,786
Planting the Banks of Waterways in the Quillayute River Watershed

The Clallam Conservation District will use this grant to plant the banks of waterways in the Quillayute River watershed and caretake previous plantings. The conservation district will plant more than forty-eight acres and maintain plants on another twelve acres at multiple sites throughout the watershed. Many of the plantings will be in areas either lacking trees or infested with invasive weeds such as reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry. Planting trees along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The trees also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the trees keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1608.

Clallam Conservation District — Grant Requested: $303,551
Restoring Riverbanks in the Big River Watershed

The Clallam Conservation District will use this grant to restore and maintain riverbank habitat in the Big River watershed and provide outreach to landowners. The conservation district will target areas that lack trees along its waterways and those dominated by reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry, which inhibit properly functioning habitat for fish. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The watershed is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum and sockeye salmon, and cutthroat trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1137.

10,000 Years Institute — Grant Requested: $183,471
Restoring the Banks of the Dickey River

The 10,000 Years Institute will use this grant to treat invasive plants along the lower five miles of the Dickey River. The river once was known for Chinook, coho and chum salmon and steelhead trout, but in recent decades, those fish populations have decreased in numbers because of water that is too warm, has too little dissolved oxygen, not enough large woody material, and too much sediment. The Quileute Tribe removed the worst reported knotweed population there recently, but the area since has been overrun by

invasive reed canarygrass and recently introduced spotted jewelweed. The institute will treat knotweed, reed canarygrass, Scotch broom, spotted jewelweed, and twenty-one other plant species and then replant the area with willow trees. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by chum salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1138.

Quinault Indian Nation Lead Entity

Quinault Indian Nation **Grant Requested: $235,955**
Restoring the Banks of the Upper Quinault River

The Quinault Indian Nation will use this grant to remove invasive plants and maintain more than 925 acres along the upper Quinault River for the next three years. Crews will add plants where needed and plant an additional nearly 139 acres, Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1102.

10,000 Years Institute **Grant Requested: $86,060**
Continuing to Control Invasive Plants on the Banks of the Snahapish River

The 10,000 Years Institute will use this grant to control reed canarygrass and other non-native plants along the banks of the Snahapish River to protect rare, high-quality fish habitat and restore natural river processes. The river is used by Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout, all of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1103.

Quinault Indian Nation **Grant Requested: $358,816**
Designing Fixes to Road Failures in the Upper Quinault River Floodplain

The Quinault Indian Nation will use this grant to develop conceptual designs for projects to fix road failures in the upper Quinault River floodplain. In the past two years alone, the South Shore Road was washed out, the North Shore Road culvert failed, and Big Creek washed out a highway. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. These road failures impact the Tribe's goals for salmon recovery and comprehensive alternatives need to be developed. The Tribe will coordinate with landowners, seek public input, and deliver conceptual designs to road managers. The river is used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by Chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1101.

Wild Salmon Center **Grant Requested: $509,532**
Opening Fish Passage in a Raft River Tributary

The Wild Salmon Center will use this grant to replace an undersized culvert that blocks fish passage in an unnamed tributary to the Raft River, opening access to nearly a quarter-mile of spawning and rearing habitat, including seventeen acres of forested wetlands. Culverts are pipes or other structures that carry streams under roads and block fish passage when they are too small or too high. The tributary and river are used by bull trout, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by steelhead, resident, and sea-run cutthroat trout, and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1099.

Willapa Bay Lead Entity

Pacific Conservation District **Grant Requested: $300,000**
Designing Improvements to Habitat in the Upper Willapa River

The Pacific Conservation District will use this grant to conduct analysis, complete designs, and prepare permit applications for a project to restore habitat in at least two miles of the upper Willapa River. Multiple landowners have expressed interest in improving the river and its banks for the long-term health of the river and alignment with their land-use practices. The district already is working with landowners to plant trees and shrubs along the banks and to install livestock exclusion fencing. The creek is used by Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as

threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1116.

Willapa Bay Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group — Grant Requested: $214,253
Planting Trees and Shrubs in the Rue Creek Watershed

The Willapa Bay Fisheries Enhancement Group will use this grant to plant trees and shrubs in the Rue Creek watershed, south of Rue Creek Road in Raymond. Logging has left the banks of Rue Creek dominated by a single type if tree-alder. The valley floor along West Fork Rue Creek was a spruce-dominated forest until the mid-1990s, when logging and storms left few trees standing. Now, the valley floor is dominated by beaver dams and extensive reed canary grass. The fisheries enhancement group will plant forty-eight acres with different types of trees and shrubs to diversify the habitat. Planting trees and bushes along a waterway shades the water, keeping it cool for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects that salmon eat. Finally, the roots of the plants keep soil from entering the water, where it can smother fish spawning gravel. The river is used by Chinook and chum salmon and steelhead trout. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 24-1769.

Item 8: 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds

Action Requested: Decision

Summary:

As of the drafting of this memo, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has not yet received official notice of the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) award. This funding contributes to the 2025 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant round and provides Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) and regional capacity funding. If 2025 PCSRF funding is not obligated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to RCO, the SRFB will need to determine the 2025 grant round funding level, the sources of funding and how to address other funding gaps such as monitoring and capacity. Not receiving 2025 PCSRF funding could have implications for both the SRFB's 2025 and 2026 grant rounds.

Background:

At its June 4, 2025, meeting, the SRFB passed the following motions related to funding:

1. Move to use the interim project allocation formula approved by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board at the March 2, 2017, board meeting to determine regional grant round amounts. The 2025 grant round shall be $20 million contingent on receiving the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding award.

2. Move to approve delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office director to enter contracts for the monitoring efforts displayed in Table 7 of item thirteen in the June 2025 meeting materials. The contracts shall not

exceed $2,350,000 for fiscal year 2026 contingent upon receiving the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.

3. Move to delegate authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office director to enter contracts with the Lead Entities and Regional Organizations to fund capacity for the 2025-27 biennium utilizing the funding amounts in Table 5 and Table 6, Item thirteen memorandum of the June 2025 meeting materials contingent upon receiving 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds.

4. Move to provide up to $550,000 in funding for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board Technical Review Panel contingent upon receiving the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding award.

The following table includes available funding and expected federal funding at the time the board's June decisions. The highlighted column identifies PCSRF funding not yet received.

Fund Uses	2025-2027 State General Funds	2025-2027 State Capital Bond Funds (Salmon)	2025 Federal PCSRF* (*projected*)	Total
Projects		$19,930,000	*$8,800,260*	$28,730,260
Spokane Projects		$250,000		$250,000
Cost Increases		$500,000		$500,000
Lead Entity Capacity	$3,164,888	$2,400,000		$5,564,888
Region Capacity	$1,217,112		*$2,878,685*	$4,095,797
Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups		$640,000		$640,000
Review Panel		$250,000	*$200,000*	$450,000
Monitoring			*$2,350,000*	$2,350,000

Activities *			*$3,643,743*	$3,643,743
RCO Administration		$1,030,000	*$527,312*	$1,557,312
Total New Funding	$4,382,000	$25,000,000	*$18,400,000*	$47,782,000
Returned Funds		$1,720,849	*$3,428,711*	$5,149,560
Total Funds Available	$4,382,000	$26,720,849	*$21,828,711*	$52,931,560

*Activities include funding for hatchery reform projects and monitoring by Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Salmon Recovery Network, Salmon Recovery Conference, database updates, and cultural resources staff.

In June 2025, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries notified the Recreation and Conservation Office that Washington State could receive up to $22 million in Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds for federal fiscal year 2025. Federal staff have had briefings with the Director of NOAA Fisheries and staff from the Department of Commerce. However, NOAA Fisheries staff have not yet been authorized to distribute funds to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) or other Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds recipients.

Significant process remains for federal fiscal year 2026 budget. While PCSRF was zeroed out in the President's proposed FFY 2026 budget, both the Senate and the House budgets have Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund listed at $65 million. At this time, it is unknown what the disposition of 2026 PCSRF funds might be.

Agency requests for funding through the Washington State Legislature Supplemental 2026 session must be submitted to the Washington State Office of Financial Management by September 15, 2025. The Governor may choose to include or not include these budget requests in developing his budget. After the 2026 supplemental session, the next opportunity to submit a budget request will be September 2026 for the 2027-2029 biennium.

Current Condition:

Potential Loss of Funds

NOAA Fisheries must distribute the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds by September 30, 2025, or they may be returned to the Department of Treasury.

If RCO does not receive notice from NOAA regarding the 2025 PCSRF, the following gaps will exist:

Category	Amount
2025 projects	$8,800,260
Regional capacity	$2,878,685
IMW monitoring	$1,164,000
Technical review panel	$200,000
Cultural Resources review	$295,618
RCO activities, including database updates, salmon recovery communications, Columbia Basin facilitation, and salmon recovery workshops	$222,000

Options and Recommended Approaches

Each of the following are addressed individually below as all options do not apply to all fund uses:

- Regional capacity
- Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMW)
- Technical review panel
- Cultural resources review
- Projects

At this time, we are not proposing to address the RCO activities item. The agency will address these on an as needed basis when funding is available.

Regional Capacity

PCSRF provides most capacity funding for the recovery regional organizations. This $2,878,685 in federal funding, is necessary to keep regional organizations operating.

Given the lack of other funding options, the significant portion of regional work and operations supported by PCSRF, the critical role of regions to SRFB investments and overall salmon recovery, staff recommends a request for state supplemental funding in

the 2026 session. Staff is also working with regions to identify potential budget savings and any potential unspent funds that might be available.

Intensively Monitored Watersheds

PCSRF funds the IMWs throughout the state. Each year, $1.164 million of PCSRF funding supports IMW implementation. At its June meeting, the SRFB made decisions regarding the path forward for each of the IMWs. This included the following end dates for funding:

- Lower Columbia – June 30, 2032
- Hood Canal – June 30, 2028
- Strait of Juan de Fuca – June 30, 2028
- Skagit – June 30, 2041

Options to address lack of federal funding for the IMW studies include:

1. Do not fund the IMW monitoring for one year. Potential implications include loss of IMW partner capacity and trust, reduced data for analyses, and a delay and disruption in the ability to reach biologically meaningful and statistically significant results.
2. Delay funding the 2025 monitoring grant round until 2026 and use prior PCSRF award grant funds to fund the IMWs. Potential implications include lost sponsor time and resources associated with preparing this year's proposals, potential loss of momentum or trust in this new monitoring grant program, and loss of data to inform restoration actions.
3. Submit a supplemental budget request to fund the IMWs.

To maintain the timelines approved by the board and support the continuation of the past 22 years of monitoring, staff recommend a request for state supplemental funding for the board monitoring program.

Technical Review Panel

The SRFB Technical Review Panel is critical to the SRFB process by ensuring that projects are technically sound. The panel evaluates each project for its benefit to salmon, likelihood of success, and balance of costs and benefits. The panel provides feedback and recommendations to the SRFB that guide funding decisions.

The Technical review panel is funded through the following sources:

- PSAR - $250,000 per biennium

- State SRFB - $250,000 per biennium
- PCSRF - $200,000 annually
- State riparian - $100,000

All sources of funding reflect the various project funding sources. Options to address a funding shortfall include:

- Reducing overall technical review panel funding by $200,000. Implications include reducing the number of panel members, re-evaluating the way reviews are completed, and potential increase of virtual attendance (reduced travel costs).
- Increasing technical review panel funding from PSAR, State SRFB and/or State riparian. The largest implication is reduced funding for projects in each of those funding sources.
- Submit a supplemental budget request for the PCSRF funded amount.

Given the critical role of the Technical review panel in SRFB investments, the number of projects reviewed on an annual basis, the level of expertise required to do so, and an overall goal of funding as many projects as possible with funding received, staff recommend that the board request $200,000 in funding for the review panel from legislature.

Cultural Resources Review

PCSRF provides $295,618 toward the cost of RCO's cultural resources review work. This includes required Federal Section 106 review of federally funded projects. RCO cultural resources review includes all board projects, about 140 per year, to section 106 standards because funding type is not known at the time of application. The work includes developing special contract conditions, monitoring and reviewing reports, and addressing issues that pop up along the way.

Staff recommend that the board request $295,618 in funding for cultural resources review from legislature to ensure that cultural resources obligations are being met.

Projects

RCO receives PCSRF funding in the amount of approximately $8-9 million each year, depending upon the award level. There are various options for responding to this funding gap, though some of those options result in grant round amounts that are suboptimal. Options are included below in a table format as each option also has potential implications for the 2026 project grant round.

2025 Grant Round	2026 Grant Round	Risks
OPTION 1 - Maintain a $20M grant round. Use $13,650,000 in state funds plus all available return funds $6,365,000 to achieve $20M.	Use remaining state funds of approximately $6.3M plus any 2026 return funds (amount unknown) plus 2026 PCSRF funds (if available) AND Submit a 2026 supplemental budget request to fill state fund shift gap and potentially cover PCSRF 2026 gaps, if not awarded	Uncertainty of receiving 2026 PCSRF funding Uncertainty of receiving supplemental funding Uncertainty of the amount of return funds Not enough funding to adequately fund a 2026 SRFB grant round
OPTION 2 - Maintain split of state funds across the biennium. Approximately $9.9M in state funds plus all available return funds $6,365,000. Grant round of approximately $16.3M.	Use remaining state funds of approximately $9.9M plus any 2026 return funds (amount unknown); plus 2026 PCSRF funds (if available)	Smaller 2025 grant round Uncertainty of receiving 2026 PCSRF funding Uncertainty of the amount of return funds Small or not enough funding to adequately fund a 2026 SRFB grant round
OPTION 3 - Maintain split of state funds across the biennium. Approximately $9.9M in state funds plus split available return funds $3,182,500. Grant round of approximately $13.1M	Maintain split of state funds across the biennium. Approximately $9.9M in state funds plus the split of available return funds $3,182,500. Add 2026 return funds (amount unknown) and	Smaller 2025 grant round Uncertainty of receiving 2026 PCSRF funding Uncertainty of the amount of return funds Small 2026 SRFB grant round or not enough

	2026 PCSRF funds (if available)	funding to adequately fund 2026 grant round
OPTION 4 - Use all state grant funds for grant round. Approximately $19.9M.	Use 2025 return funds of approximately $6,365,000, plus 2026 return funds (amount unknown) plus 2026 PCSRF funds (if available) Make a 2026 supplemental budget request to backfill funds used in 2025.	Uncertainty of receiving 2026 PCSRF Uncertainty of receiving supplemental funding Uncertainty of the amount of return funds Not enough funding to adequately fund a 2026 SRFB grant round

Recommendation

The board approved a $20 million grant round at its June meeting, conditioned upon receiving 2025 PCSRF funds. If 2025 PCSRF funds are not awarded to Washington State, staff recommend that the board use all unobligated funds ($6,365,000) and enough 2025-2027 salmon state funds ($13,650,000) to maintain the 2025 grant round at $20 million. This would leave approximately $6.2 million in state bond funds for the 2026 grant round, which is insufficient for a meaningful grant round.

Staff recommend a 2026 supplemental request to help ensure an adequate 2026 SRFB grant round next year.

Staff makes this recommendation because:

- Project lists have already been developed for a $20M grant round.
- Lead entities have ranked and funded projects with current allocations in mind. If allocations are reduced, there may be situations where lead entities may want to reconsider funding decisions or may need to alter the scope of partially funded projects if they cannot be fully implemented.
- Some lead entities may choose not to solicit new projects in 2026, as they already have ranked and reviewed alternates because of reduced allocations. Those projects will be delayed by a year by not funding them with the funding we have available now.

- It ensures at least one robust grant round in the biennium with potential opportunities for an adequate 2026 grant round through three potential paths – return funds, 2026 PCSRF, and state supplemental funding.

Staff Recommendations

To preserve all options including a supplemental budget request, RCO has submitted a budget request to the Office of Financial Management. Requests needed to be submitted by September 15, 2025. Should the SRFB elect options that do not include a supplemental request, RCO will work with OFM to withdraw the submittal.

Move to adopt [enter option number] as outlined above in Memo 8.

Move that if the 2025 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds are not obligated to the Recreation and Conservation Office, to request supplemental funding from the legislature for projects, monitoring, review panel, cultural resources staff and regional recovery organization capacity.

Item 10: 2025 Monitoring Grant Round

Action Requested: Decision

Summary

This memorandum identifies projects for funding consideration under the Salmon Recovery Funding Board's 2025 Salmon Monitoring grant round. The board will be asked to award grants based on reviews from the Science Advisory Panel and a recommendation from Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff.

Background

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) decided in December 2024 to create the Salmon Monitoring Grant Program (see manual 18M). This approach to monitoring funding was a shift from the board's previous use of the regular grant round to fund monitoring projects. The intent of the grant program is to inform restoration investments, provide accountability, and expand understanding of restoration and recovery needs. The Monitoring Grant Program is a statewide, competitive grant program offered in odd-numbered years, running adjacent to the board's regular grant program. The grants are open to regional recovery organizations and their designated project partners. The grant program is guided by strategic priorities and the resulting data is intended to inform decision-making at all levels of recovery implementation. Projects should be of regional importance, directly inform recovery actions, and have strong technical merit.

For the 2025 grant round, the board's Science Advisory Panel developed a conceptual framework for restoration decision-making and used it to develop the grant round's strategic priorities. The framework includes steps to identify survival bottlenecks, evaluate limiting factors associated with those bottlenecks, develop restoration and recovery actions to address those limiting factors, and monitor results and adapt based on the results. To maximize the potential for learning and application at different scales, the board adopted the following strategic priorities for the 2025 and 2027 grant rounds:

- Monitor **survival bottlenecks** (species and life stage)

- Monitor **limiting factors**
- Monitor **project effectiveness**

In spring 2025, project sponsors submitted nine applications for consideration. Four salmon recovery regions (Coast Salmon Foundation, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Puget Sound Partnership, and Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board) submitted two applications, and one region (Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board) submitted one application. The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and Hood Canal Coordinating Council did not submit an application and, the Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region is ineligible for this funding. Each project aligned with the strategic priorities for the grant round with two project effectiveness proposals, four studies aimed at identifying survival bottlenecks, two proposals that dealt with limiting factors, and one project that addressed both survival bottlenecks and limiting factors. A full report detailing the grant round is in attachment B.

Science Advisory Panel Evaluation

In July, the Science Advisory Panel scored and ranked the projects using the criteria found in manual 18M's appendix C. The science panel's criteria were based on the project's importance to recovery, scientific merit, transferability, and consistency with and leveraging of other monitoring efforts.

Based on science panel members' individual scores and resulting ranks, the science panel developed a ranked project list to fully obligate the allocation for the grant cycle (attachment A).

Funding and Recommendation

The board approved funding for the grant program at its September 2024 meeting of $973,855 from unobligated Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund money from 2022, 2023, and 2024. Additional unobligated monitoring funds from 2024 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds are available and could be allocated to this grant round at the board's discretion. This funding for the regional monitoring projects is available, and the Recreation and Conservation Office will initiate contracts after the board approves the lists.

Staff Recommendations

- Move to approve the monitoring project ranked list as shown in attachment A.
- Funding Options:

- Option 1: If funding is available, move to allocate $973,855 to **fully fund the top three** projects and partially fund the fourth project.
- Option 2: If funding is available, move to allocate an additional $167,156 of unobligated 2024 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund money to **fully fund the top four** ranked projects of the 2025 monitoring grant round at $1,141,011.

Attachments

A. Science Advisory Panel monitoring project scores and ranks

B. 2025 Salmon Monitoring Grant Funding Report

Attachment A: SRFB Science Advisory Panel Monitoring Project Scores and Ranks

Table 1: Science Advisory Panel Project Scores and Ranks

Final Rank	Regional Recovery Organization	Project Number	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Average Weighted Score (0-10)	Average Rank (0-9)	Cost	Running Total Cost
1	Puget Sound Partnership	25-1198	The Nature Conservancy	Port Susan Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring	8.0	2.0	$300,000	$300,000
2	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	25-1240	Cowlitz Indian Tribe	Lower East Fork Grays Sediment Transport	7.7	2.8	$241,046	$541,046
3	Puget Sound Partnership	25-1197	Tulalip Tribes	Puget Sound Juvenile Salmon Offshore Monitoring	7.8	3.0	$299,978	$841,024
4	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	25-1199	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Yakima River Mobile Passive Integrated Transponder Tag Detection Surveys	6.9	4.8	$299,987	$1,141,011

Final Rank	Regional Recovery Organization	Project Number	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Average Weighted Score (0-10)	Average Rank (0-9)	Cost	Running Total Cost
5	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	25-1241	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Spawning Survey and Escapement in Lower Columbia	7.1	5.0	$199,735	$1,340,746
6	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	25-1237	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Life Stage Survival of Juvenile Steelhead in Wenatchee	6.9	5.8	$294,290	$1,635,036
7	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	25-1236	Cascade Fisheries	Methow Subbasin Habitat Status and Trend Monitoring	6.8	6.0	$270,000	$1,905,036
8	Coast Salmon Foundation	25-1206	Coast Salmon Partnership	Smolt Residency Time and Survival Through Grays Harbor Estuary	6.6	6.0	$300,000	$2,205,036
9	Coast Salmon Foundation	25-1207	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Species Distributions for Willapa Bay Tributaries	5.7	8.3	$299,987	$2,505,023

Attachment B: 2025 Salmon Monitoring Grant Funding Report

Salmon Monitoring Grant Funding Report

September 2025

WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Salmon Recovery
Funding Board

Table of Contents

Cover Photograph: Emily Howe, The Nature Conservancy, Port Susan Bay vegetation sampling

Part 1: Introduction

The board revised its monitoring program in 2024 to answer more specific questions, provide new information, and support modern technologies and methodologies to meet statewide and regionally specific information needs. The board will use information from the new Monitoring Grant Program to direct restoration investments, provide accountability, and build understanding. The Monitoring Grant Program is a statewide, competitive grant round offered in odd-numbered years. The grants are open to regional recovery organizations and their designated project partners. The grant program is guided by strategic priorities for funding, and the resulting information is intended to inform decision-making at all levels of recovery implementation. Projects are intended to be of regional importance, directly inform recovery actions, and have strong technical merit. The grant program is described in manual 18m. This report presents information on the process used to review and score the current monitoring applications and develop funding recommendations for the board to consider.

For the 2025 grant round, the Science Advisory Panel developed a conceptual framework for restoration decision-making and used it to develop the monitoring grant round strategic priorities. The framework includes steps to identify survival bottlenecks, evaluate limiting factors associated with those bottlenecks, develop restoration and recovery actions to address those limiting factors, and monitor results and adapt based on the results. To maximize the potential for learning and application at different scales, the board adopted the following strategic priorities for the 2025 and 2027 grant rounds:

- Monitor **survival bottlenecks** (species and life stage)
- Monitor **limiting factors**
- Monitor **project effectiveness**

Funding for this year includes **$973,855** in federal funding from 2024 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. Funding for the projects is available, and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will initiate contracts upon the board's list approvals.

Part 2: Grant Process

The board's Monitoring Grant Program runs adjacent to the annual Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round but opposite the Targeted Investment Program grant round. In the spring, project sponsors submit applications in PRISM, RCO's project database. Regions may submit up to two applications and each region has a different process for selecting the final submitted projects. There is a funding cap of $300,000 per project.

RCO staff review projects initially for eligibility. In May, the board's Science Advisory Panel convenes presentations from sponsors on each project. Presentations allow the science panel to learn about project details and provide feedback to the sponsors for project improvement. Final applications are due in June and science panel review, scoring, and ranking takes place in July.

The Science Advisory Panel is contracted by RCO and comprised of six members with a broad range of knowledge and experience in monitoring and research, salmon recovery, salmon habitat restoration and protection approaches, and watershed and ecosystem processes. Science panel biographies are on RCO's website.

The advisory panel allows the agency to meet the requirements of the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund's technical review process. The panel reviews all grant applications to ensure each project is: (1) technically sound, meaning that a proposed project provides a benefit to salmon, (2) is likely to be successful, and (3) does not have costs that outweigh the anticipated benefits.

Projects Submitted

In the spring, project sponsors submitted nine applications in PRISM, four regional organizations (Coast Salmon Foundation, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Puget Sound Partnership, and Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board) submitted two applications each, and one region (Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board) submitted one application. The Snake River Salmon Recovery Board and the Hood Canal Coordinating Council did not submit applications, and the Northeast Washington Salmon Recovery Region is ineligible. Projects aligned with the strategic priorities for the grant round to some degree with two project effectiveness proposals, four studies aimed at identifying survival bottlenecks, two proposals that dealt with limiting factors, and one project that addressed both survival bottlenecks and limiting factors.

Project Review

The science panel and RCO staff reviewed the nine submitted projects in both the initial and final application stages during the summer. This review helps sponsors improve each project and increases certainty of success. The criteria used by the science panel in its evaluation of projects is in manual 18m's appendix C. Science panel criteria were based on the project's 1) importance to recovery, 2) scientific merit, 3) transferability, and 4) consistency with and leveraging of other monitoring efforts.

The science panel based its evaluations and comments on the following information:

- Complete applications materials due May 1, called "initial review"

- Presentations from sponsors on May 15.
- Final application materials submitted by June 23.
- "Final review" completed after application deadline

After initial letters of intent and eligibility screening, projects were submitted in PRISM in early May. After project reviews, science panel members called sponsors needing clarification on comments. Sponsors submitted final applications by the end of June for funding consideration. The science panel reviewed all remaining applications and responses to early comments. The panel then met in mid-July to discuss final project proposals. The science panel scored and ranked projects and developed final comments at the end of July. Projects at that time received a status of either *Clear*, *Conditioned*, or *Project of Concern*.

The interaction between regions, sponsors, and the science panel, and the feedback to sponsors improves projects. The goal of this thorough review process is to have top-priority, technically sound projects submitted to the board for funding consideration.

Projects of Concern

The panel identified one *Project of Concern* at the final review meeting, 25-1207 Species Distributions for Willapa Bay Tributaries. According to manual 18M, the board may or may not choose to fund *Projects of Concern*. It should be noted that this project ranked nine out of nine and is below the funding line.

Conditioned Projects

The science panel labeled two projects as *Conditioned* because the projects needed to meet specific conditions to satisfy the board's benefit, certainty, and cost-effectiveness criteria.

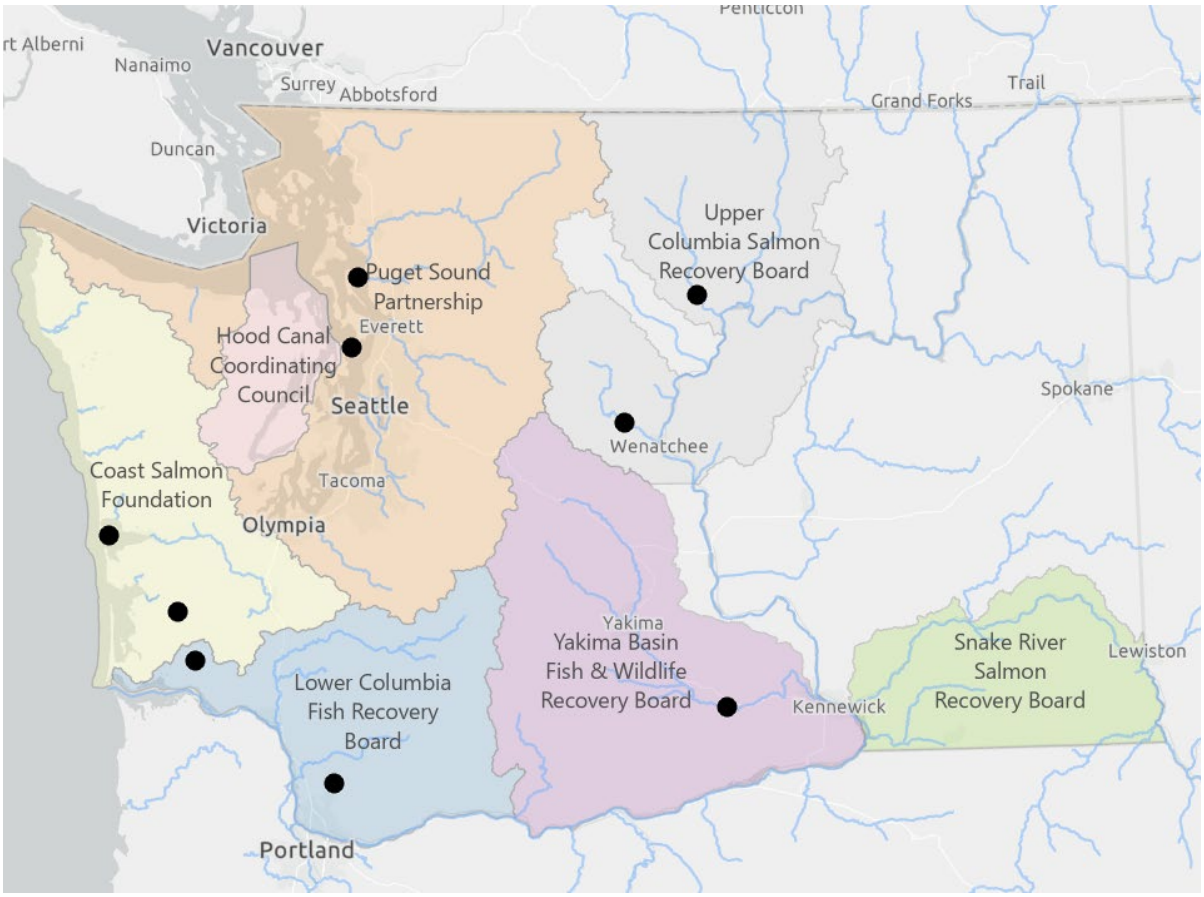
The science panel continues to use "conditioning" of projects as a tool for strengthening project design and ensuring proposals that may contain elements of uncertainty but otherwise meet the board's evaluation criteria, may proceed to an RCO grant agreement. A typical project condition assigns an intermediate review step. RCO staff works with the science panel to track *Conditioned* projects.

Ranked Lists

Based on the science panel members individual scores and resulting ranks, the science panel developed an overall list of ranked projects to fully obligate the grant program's

allocation for the grant cycle (attachment 1).

Monitoring Grant Applications by Region



Part 3: SRFB Science Advisory Panel Comments

Grant Round Process Comments

The science panel supports RCO grants managers and the board by reviewing, scoring, and ranking each grant proposal for consistency with the board's minimum criteria for salmon recovery benefit, certainty of success, and cost-effectiveness, and generating a final ranked list for the board to consider in funding decisions. Science panel members reviewed the nine projects. One member recused himself from reviewing two projects due to a conflict of interest.

Final application reviews were completed in July and resulted in one *Project of Concern*. The *Projects of Concern* included the following issues:

- Unclear project will achieve goals or objectives
- Value of study for recovery was not explicit

- Methods are technically flawed

Project Observations

The science panel identified the topics below as needs going into the 2027 grant round.

Data Gap Prioritization

Given this was the first monitoring grant round and a short lead time, regions worked quickly to develop a project selection process. The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund requires that monitoring funding be used to address "high-priority regional information needs or data gaps." The regions had to justify they met these criteria and develop a fair and equitable project selection process. This process often involved using regional technical committees for development and/or review of projects. Although some regions have monitoring plans or prioritized lists of data gaps, others do not. Those without monitoring plans or prioritized data gap lists developed other justifications for project eligibility. In some cases, regions are in the process of developing regional monitoring strategies or data gap and will rely on those in future grant rounds.

The science panel recommends the development of regional monitoring plans or prioritized data gap lists so that it can be confident that regions are submitting their highest priority monitoring needs and meeting this eligibility criteria for monitoring funding. The importance of being explicit about regional importance and the application of findings to other watersheds with similar conditions should be stressed in future grant rounds. This can include the transferability of information or the transferability of methodologies if the project is testing novel approaches to monitoring.

Regional Coordination and Leadership

The science panel observed variability in the regional organizations' leadership and the amount of coordination across project sponsors' agencies and organizations. This was somewhat surprising given that regions were asked to submit or co-sponsor projects. Moving forward, the science panel would like to see more leadership from regions. Involvement of lead entities is also critical in developing and prioritizing projects. This leadership helps further ensure that the information being generated will be regionally important, widely communicated, and used in directing recovery efforts and developing restoration projects or programs.

Another surprising observation was limited coordination and communication within some sponsor organizations. In some cases, proposals would have benefited from more coordination developing study plan, exploring transferability across regions, and

addressing science panel comments. In the future, the science panel would like to see more internal coordination within agencies submitting multiple projects.

Aligning Projects with Strategic Priorities and Decision-Making

The science panel and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office had difficulty assessing some projects' eligibility. This included both alignment with strategic priorities and informing restoration or acquisition projects or programs. While certain projects clearly addressed survival bottlenecks, limiting factors, or project effectiveness, others were less clearly tied to these priorities. It was also less clear that the results of some projects would directly inform decisions about restoration or recovery in the future. In the 2027 grant round, the science panel recommends the following:

- Regions and sponsors should refer to manual 18M and the process laid out there for using monitoring information to develop robust restoration and recovery actions (see page 13). This process helps ensure projects have the highest likelihood of success.
- Proposal should describe in detail how project results will help improve site selection, design, and execution of restoration projects. This is crucial for evaluating the connection between project results and on-the-ground actions.
- Add an evaluation criterion for how well the proposed project aligns with the strategic priorities (see below).

Scoring Criteria

Most science panel members felt the scoring criteria for projects could be improved. Currently, the science panel provides four scores, one for each of the four major criterion. However, each criterion includes several sub-criteria that are considered when coming up with an overall score for the major criterion. The science panel will be considering a scoring system for each of the sub-criteria in the next grant round to help tighten up scores among reviewers. They also will consider a criterion for how well the proposed project aligns with the strategic priorities. Science panel members agreed that discussion early in the review process, after project presentations, is critical to understanding projects and highlighting potential concerns.

Funding and Timelines

Funding caps limited sponsors. To work within funding restrictions ($300,000 per funding request), several projects were proposed as the first phase to meet a data gap or determine causative factors for a survival bottleneck. Although not necessarily a

drawback to projects and scoring, creating phased projects across funding years is a challenge for sponsors given the uncertainty of future funding. This grant program could be valuable as a kick-starter rather than a source for long-term program support. This warrants further discussion between the science panel, board, and regions for the next grant round. The current strategic priorities are intended to lay out a step-wise process for generating information to inform projects, but this process may not work in every situation to address regional needs over longer time periods.

Big Picture Observations

This was the first year of the Monitoring Grant Program. Overall, the science panel was pleased with the quality of the applications and hopes that the projects receiving funding will achieve the goals and objectives set forth by regions and sponsors. All the projects had considerable merit even if some technical difficulties or methodological approaches could be improved to meet project objectives more effectively. Some of the proposals that did not receive funding are still worthy of consideration and the hope is that sponsors will consider submitting revised proposals in future grant rounds.

The science panel hopes that consideration will be given by the board to funding long-term monitoring that can track the success of restoration efforts in achieving target salmon and steelhead population recovery over time. There were several projects in the set of proposals that would fit well in a long-term monitoring program, and maintaining some long-term projects in the board's monitoring portfolio will assist with adaptive management and provide a balanced approach to salmon restoration.

Attachment 1: Ranked Monitoring Project List

Rank	Project Number	Regional Organization	Project Name	Grant Request	Match	Request Running Total
1	25-1198	Puget Sound Partnership	Port Susan Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring	$300,000	$1,369,557	$300,000
2	25-1240	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Lower East Fork Grays Sediment Transport	$241,046	$52,500	$541,046
3	25-1197	Puget Sound Partnership	Puget Sound Juvenile Salmon Offshore Monitoring	$299,978	$0	$841,024
4	25-1199	Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board	Yakima River Mobile Passive Integrated Transponder Tag Detection Surveys	$299,987	$768,000	$1,141,011
5	25-1241	Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board	Spawning Survey and Escapement in Lower Columbia	$199,735	$0	$1,340,746
6	25-1237	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	Life Stage Survival of Juvenile Steelhead in the Wenatchee	$294,290	$95,277	$1,635,036
7	25-1236	Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board	Methow Subbasin Habitat Status and Trend Monitoring	$270,000	$320,000	$1,905,036
8	25-1206	Coast Salmon Foundation	Smolt Residency Rime and Survival Through Grays Harbor Estuary	$300,000	$0	$2,205,036
9	25-1207	Coast Salmon Foundation	Species Distributions for Willapa Bay Tributaries	$299,987	$768,000	$2,505,023

Coast Salmon Foundation

Coast Salmon Partnership **Grant Requested: $300,000**
Studying Smolt Residency Time and Survival Through Grays Harbor Estuary

The Coast Salmon Partnership will use this grant to conduct a monitoring project in Grays Harbor in conjunction with a project in the Chehalis River. Collectively, the two projects will evaluate migration behavior, how long juvenile fish stay in specific reaches, and their survival rates there. The Grays Harbor study will focus on steelhead trout and Chinook salmon. Coupled with in-river survival estimates from the companion study, the partnership hopes to determine the magnitude of survival bottlenecks in the estuary and the relative importance of estuary (versus freshwater) habitat on survival when salmon are migrating to the ocean. This monitoring project is the first step in a process to identify limiting factors and establish strategic estuary restoration priorities for the Chehalis River basin. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for .

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: $299,987**
Assessing Species Distribution in Willapa Bay Tributaries

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to study if chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout use Willapa Bay tributaries. Results from the study will help habitat restoration practitioners plan which areas to restore. In addition, the study will identify barriers to fish migration that may not have been included in the department's Fish Passage and Diversion Screening Inventory database. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for .

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board

Cowlitz Indian Tribe **Grant Requested: $241,046**
Studying Sediment Movement in the Lower East Fork Grays River

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe will use this grant to study the collection of sediment, creation of habitat, fish use, and entire stream changes following restoration in the lower East Fork Grays River. The Tribe will look at more than four miles of restored habitat in Pacific County. This project provides an unprecedented opportunity to learn from the effects of intensive and extensive restoration efforts. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for .

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $199,735
Studying the Number of Spawning Chinook Salmon in the Lower Columbia River

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to expand the survey of Chinook salmon spawning grounds in the Salmon Creek and the Toutle River basins to fill in major data gaps. The department will collect baseline data for estimates of spawner distribution, abundance, timing, age, and the proportion of hatchery-origin spawners. In addition, the department will build a model that produces estimates and can integrate habitat data with abundance monitoring. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for .

Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $299,987
Yakima River Mobile Passive Integrated Transponder Tag Detection Surveys

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in partnership with the Yakima Basin Fish and Wildlife Recovery Board and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, will use this grant to evaluate overwinter and downstream survival of at-risk salmonids in the Yakima River basin. The primary goal of the project is to identify and track habitat use patterns in areas where a large number of juveniles die. The data collected also will be used to refine and improve survival estimates of steelhead trout, which are a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by spring Chinook salmon, and resident rainbow trout. The data collected will inform habitat and river management decisions in the Yakima basin by identifying the location and possible mechanisms of survival bottlenecks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1199.

Puget Sound Partnership

The Nature Conservancy — Grant Requested: $300,000
Monitoring the Effectiveness of Port Susan Bay Restoration

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to measure the response of restored channel connectivity in the Stillaguamish River delta. The Nature Conservancy collected data following its restoration project at Port Susan Bay. The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians has two future restoration projects on more than seven hundred acres next-door. The three restoration projects allow a great opportunity to learn how an estuarine system responds to successive increases in marsh habitat and channel connections. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1198.

Tulalip Tribes — Grant Requested: $299,978
Puget Sound Juvenile Salmon Offshore Monitoring

The Tulalip Tribes and partners will use this grant to conduct comprehensive juvenile salmon monitoring surveys in offshore marine waters in northern Washington and all basins of Puget Sound for two years. The partners will analyze sample collections from these surveys, compile trends from annual surveys conducted since 2021, compare observed factors limiting marine survival rates, and report on this information to help salmon management decision makers improve salmon return forecasting and habitat restoration effectiveness. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1197.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

Cascade Fisheries — Grant Requested: $270,000
Monitoring Status and Trends of Salmon in the Methow River Subbasin

Cascade Fisheries will use this grant to collect data on the status and trends of salmon species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act in the Methow River subbasin. Cascade Fisheries will monitor the change in habitat characteristics over time and evaluate how these changes impact important target fish species, determine changes of habitat-limiting factors and survival bottlenecks at the reach scale, and establish methods for collecting data to support restoration prioritization and ecosystem models at the reach, subwatershed, and subbasin scales. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1236.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife — Grant Requested: $294,290
Expanding Tagging of Steelhead Trout in the Wenatchee River Basin

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to expand its Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging efforts of juvenile steelhead trout in the Wenatchee River basin. PIT tags are microchips implanted in fish. When a fish passes a scanner, the tag transmits its identification number so scientists can record the fish's identity and when it passed the scanner, allowing them to track the movement of individual fish. The department tags about two thousand juvenile steelhead annually in the Wenatchee River basin. This effort would increase that number to ten thousand annually for three years. The information collected is expected to fill data gaps about the effect of different life history strategies on adult escapement and productivity, factors affecting the timing of when juveniles migrate to the ocean, pre-spawn mortality levels and mechanisms, and juvenile fish use and survival in the reservoirs along with the timing and extent of

their use. It will also provide much needed data for newly developed life-cycle models. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for more information and photographs of project 25-1237.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum,

We write to express our deep concern regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) elimination of $1,285,000 of Fiscal Year 2025 funding for Washington state's Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEGs). This widely supported program is a critical component of community-driven salmon recovery efforts, creating thousands of jobs and spurring millions of dollars in economic development across all corners of our state. Your decision to cut funding undermines longstanding partnerships and progress that have been built over many years. As members of the Washington state Congressional Delegation, we urge you to disburse this previously appropriated funding immediately to prevent disruption to critical recovery and restoration projects.

RFEGs represent a unique model, rooted in local knowledge and leadership, to engage local communities in salmon recovery through hands-on habitat restoration, public outreach, and partnerships with tribal, federal, state, and private entities. Operating as fourteen independent entities across our state, these groups sponsor some of the largest, most complex habitat projects focused on specific geographic regions, allowing them to tailor projects to local needs while contributing to a statewide coordinated salmon recovery strategy.

Salmon recovery brings clear benefits to communities, including cleaner water, reduced flooding, more productive farmland, healthier forests and shorelines, and access to fishing and outdoor recreation. Over the last 30 years, RFEGs have completed nearly 5,000 salmon restoration projects in Washington state. These efforts include removing 1,071 barriers to fish passage, reopening 1,520 miles of stream, and restoring 2,457 miles of habitat. This work spurs critical economic development across our state by creating engineering, contracting, and construction jobs which in turn support a strong and sustainable fishing industry that generates significant economic benefits in rural communities. For example, in Washington state recreational salmon harvesting is responsible for nearly 23,000 jobs and more than $1 billion is spent on recreational fishing equipment and trips annually.

Elimination of federal RFEGs funding has had immediate consequences for salmon recovery efforts throughout Washington state. Without this support, dozens of active habitat restoration projects will be delayed, scaled back, or abandoned entirely, jeopardizing critical work to reopen

fish passage, improve spawning and rearing habitat, and restore degraded stream systems. The loss of federal funding also threatens to destabilize longstanding partnerships between tribes, private landowners, and state agencies that have been central to the program's success. RFEGs rely on federal funds as core operational support that enable them to leverage additional resources, often achieving an eight to one match. Without this foundation, the capacity to plan, coordinate and execute complex restoration projects will be drastically diminished.

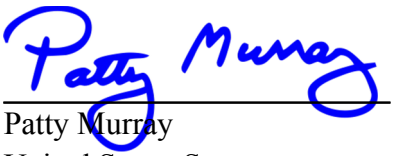
Moreover, the decision undermines federal government trust responsibilities to tribes, which include honoring treaty rights and supporting the recovery of culturally and ecologically significant species like salmon. These responsibilities require sustained, science-based efforts to restore salmon populations and their habitats. Fulfilling these obligations also aligns with compliance under the Endangered Species Act. Beyond restoration, RFEGs provide invaluable hands-on education opportunities for local schools, youth organizations, and community members. These experiences not only engage the next generation of conservation leaders but foster broad-based public support for habitat protection. Community-driven conservation efforts are among the most effective to achieve durable, sustainable outcomes because they are rooted in local expertise, reduce administrative overhead, and allow projects to move forward quickly and efficiently.

Given the consequences of your department's decision, we request additional information, provided no later than August 8, 2025, regarding the elimination of this funding.

1. Which tribes were consulted prior to the decision to eliminate funding for the RFEG program?
2. Which stakeholders, including state agencies, and local partners were consulted prior to the decision to eliminate funding for the RFEG program?
3. What analysis was conducted to assess the potential economic impacts to local communities, including rural economies that depend on salmon recovery efforts, before making this funding decision?
4. What consideration was given to federal obligations under the Endangered Species Act prior to eliminating this funding?
5. Are similar habitat restoration programs or comparable community-driven conservation efforts in other states continuing to receive federal funding? If so, what criteria were used to determine which programs to sustain and which to eliminate?
6. How does your department plan to ensure the continuity of salmon recovery efforts currently supported by RFEGs?

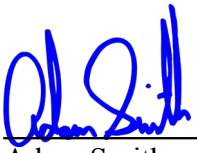
We urge you to immediately reverse the decision to terminate funding for the RFEG Program and ensure continued federal support. We stand ready to work with you to identify solutions that uphold federal commitments and preserve Washington's iconic salmon culture and economy for future generations.

Sincerely,



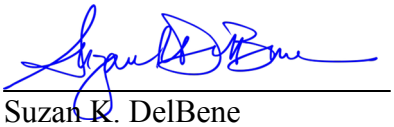
Patty Murray
United States Senator

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Marie Gluesenkamp Perez
Member of Congress



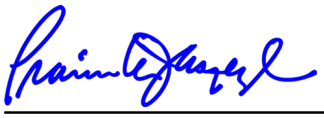
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

Emily Randall
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON SALMON COALITION
Community-Based Salmon Recovery

August 26, 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 communicate the interests of Lead Entities and their communities statewide, provide a forum for discussing emerging Lead Entity issues, develop strategies for addressing these issues, and share best practices amongst colleagues to provide educational opportunities for the 26 Lead Entities in Washington State.

Since we last met, the Washington Salmon Coalition convened for our third All Hands Meeting of the year virtually on July 8th. We will be meeting in person in October for our final All Hands meeting of the year.

Our Communications & Outreach Committee is planning for Salmon Day in Olympia scheduled for February 4th, followed by our first All Hands meeting of the year on the 5th.

We also, as you know, completed out grant rounds. It was another successful process, identifying many good projects for funding. In our post-round debrief we identified that projects will build stronger support if sponsors document local businesses patronized during a project. We will emphasize project sponsors effectively incorporate more economic benefits into their project descriptions for community outreach.

We have discussed the following issues and share our consensus with you.

- Following a briefing by Kat Moore, WSC supports the staff recommendation for a $20 million grant round in 2025. We have projects ready to go and would like to put that money to work.
- We submitted a joint letter to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board in support of their match modernization efforts and no match being required.
- We support efforts to reinvigorate the HRPP for a new bill.

Thank you for your continued work toward salmon recovery.

Kind Regards,

Aundrea McBride
Chair of the Washington Salmon Coalition

LEAD ENTITY HAPPENINGS

The Resiliency of Nisqually Chinook Provides Hope for Recovery

Submitted by Ashley Von Essen, Salmon Recovery Coordinator, Nisqually Indian Tribe

Nisqually Fall Chinook, along with all Chinook in Puget Sound, were listed as 'threatened' under the federal Endangered Species Act 25 years ago. At the time, it was presumed that the historic population of Chinook in the Nisqually River was wiped out by habitat degradation, overfishing, dam construction, and other impacts. Additionally, genetic testing in the Nisqually in the late 1990s and early 2000s showed that the Chinook that remained were part of the hatchery population originally from the Green River.

Harvest Program technician, Rene Bracero, holds up a Nisqually Chinook. *Photo Credit: Walker Duval*

Though the native Nisqually Chinook was presumed to be lost, the Nisqually Indian Tribe's goal has been to recover naturally producing Chinook to restore the Treaty Right fishery on Chinook and support regional recovery of the species. The Tribe developed the Nisqually Chinook Recovery Plan (2001) under the premise of restoring habitat throughout the watershed and the Nisqually Reach nearshore to provide a home for a naturally reproducing Chinook population.

Over the last 25 years, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, which serves as the Niqually River Lead Entity, alongside several non-profit and governmental partners, have worked to restore and protect tens of thousands of acres of habitat, while also working with co-managers at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to monitor the abundance, distribution, and ecology of Chinook for decades. They recently made an amazing discovery. While collecting biological and genetics data, the Tribe's Natural Resources Department and WDFW discovered that wild, self-sustaining Nisqually Chinook have recovered from near extinction to persist as a highly productive and incredibly diverse population. This discovery is quite remarkable and represents a watershed moment in Nisqually Chinook recovery. Large-scale habitat restoration in the Nisqually River, Estuary, and tributaries has allowed these fish to reverse their slide toward extinction and to reassert themselves as the "Kings" of Nisqually salmon within just five generations. These Chinook are significantly larger in body size than the hatchery population, have a much longer run time, and utilize the entire Nisqually River for spawning and rearing.

The Tribe has revered, protected, managed, and depended on Nisqually salmon stocks for countless generations. The rapid industrialization of the Salish Sea post-colonization and the resulting impacts on salmon populations has threatened the cultural connection to salmon with severe restrictions on fishing

seasons to protect depressed stocks. This finding is a true turning point away from the era of degradation and loss, towards restoration and recovery of not only Chinook salmon in the Nisqually River, but also Puget Sound Chinook as a whole.

Thanks to the following Nisqually Indian Tribe staff who contributed to this article: Salmon Recovery Program Manager Christopher Ellings, Research Biologist Sayre Hodgson, Harvest Program Manager Craig Smith, Natural Resources Director David Troutt and Natural Resources Manager James Slape Jr.

The full article on this discovery can be found in the Tribe's Salmon Recovery Program newsletter, Yil Me Hu: http://www.nisqually-nsn.gov/index.php/administration/tribal-services/natural-resources/

Nisqually Natural Resources staff take biological samples from spawned Chinook carcasses. *Photo Credit: Craig Smith*

Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat News

Submitted by Kristen Harma, Watershed Coordinator, Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat

New Name, New Logo

In the Chehalis Basin, our salmon recovery work is now officially recognized for what it is - a collaboration. Comments from the public, stakeholders, and even those involved in the work of the "lead entity" for many years expressed confusion about what a "lead entity" is. In 2024, we changed our name to Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat. Our citizens' group felt that the word "collaborative" best describes our work towards salmon habitat recovery. A bonus of the new name is our acronym – pronounced "CBC-fish"!

Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat

New Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat Logo

Engaging College Class in SRFB Project Ranking

The Chehalis Basin Collaborative for Salmon Habitat engaged the Restoration Techniques class at Grays Harbor College in the 2025 SRFB grant round. College professor Patrick Mahoney felt that his forestry students could benefit from understanding the steps needed to apply for and secure grant funding for projects as this is a necessary skill for their careers. So, we used the SRFB ranking process to help develop these skills. We provided the students with a condensed set of the sponsors' application materials, and had the students rank the projects on their own. For the final step, Lead Entity Coordinator Kirsten Harma and citizen volunteer Martin McCallum joined the class where small groups discussed individual scores and developed their own ranked list of projects. McCallum noted "I was impressed with the fact that the college students took a hard look at the budgets and evaluated the cost and benefit of the projects for salmon." A surprising outcome was that the students' ranked list closely mirrored the list produced by the Local Review Team.

Grays Harbor College Forestry Students participating in SRFB Project Ranking