



SNOHOMISH BASIN SALMON RECOVERY FORUM

The Honorable «Role» «First» «Legislator»
«District» Legislative District of the State of Washington
«Address»
«PO_Box»
Olympia, WA 98504

February 2, 2017

RE: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum State Legislative Priorities

Dear «Role» «Legislator»:

On behalf of the Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum, Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA 7), I am writing to share our support for salmon recovery funding programs being considered during the 2017 State legislative session. Because a portion of your district is located within WRIA 7, your leadership is critical to ensuring that we can continue our efforts—and Washington State's commitment—to protect and restore habitat for salmon listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The state's investment in salmon recovery and Puget Sound ecosystem restoration for the 2015-2017 biennium is currently supporting watersheds and the region to make significant progress on our highest priorities. Legislative support for the **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, Estuary Salmon and Restoration Program**, and the **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** programs enhances our science-based salmon recovery efforts and supports implementation of the highest priority habitat protection and restoration projects. Support of the **Floodplains by Design** program advances the implementation of multiple benefit floodplain management projects that restore critical salmon habitat, reduce flood hazards, and improve water quality. Thank you for supporting these programs.

While we are making progress, salmon continue to be in trouble. For the 2017-2019 biennium, we encourage the Legislature to build on the progress and momentum for salmon recovery and improved watershed health in Puget Sound and statewide. Specifically, we request your support for the following:

- \$80 million for the **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration** program in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which will fund a prioritized list of major salmon recovery projects around the Puget Sound region and provides funding to each Puget Sound watershed to run a competitive grant process for implementing additional critically important habitat projects. Moreover, for every \$1 million dollars invested in PSAR creates 17 jobs and generates \$3 million in economic activity. This is not the time to reduce this allocation.

- \$55.3 million in general obligation bonds for the **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget, which funds habitat protection and restoration projects statewide.
- \$20 million for the **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program** in the Department of Fish and Wildlife budget, which provides funding and technical assistance for nearshore restoration and protection efforts in Puget Sound.
- \$70 million for the **Floodplains by Design** capital budget request through the Department of Ecology, which will support a prioritized list of multi-benefit floodplain management projects around the state that protect public health and safety while also enhancing salmon habitat.

Thank you again for your work to continue Washington State's commitment to salmon recovery, tribal treaty rights, and to restoring the health of Puget Sound in addition to creating jobs and stimulating our local economy.

If you have any questions about projects funded in WRIA 7 or how these priorities advance our salmon recovery objectives, please feel free to contact Gretchen Glaub, Snohomish Basin Lead Entity Coordinator at 425-388-3464, x6403 or gretchen.glaub@snoco.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Terry Williams
Chair, Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum

cc: Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Members
Gretchen Glaub, Lead Entity Coordinator, Snohomish Basin