



SNOHOMISH  
BASIN  
SALMON  
RECOVERY  
FORUM

# DRAFT 2019 Legislative Priorities for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery

*Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Partners*

Updated: October 30, 2018

## Federal Priorities

### **Support a Fiscal Year 2019 appropriations request of \$70 million for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.**

These funds allow NOAA to award grants to Washington State, tribes, and local watershed partners to implement salmon recovery priorities through the annual Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round process. Federal PCSRF funds are matched by state funds in the Recreation and Conservation Office budget.

### **Support the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act” (PUGET SOS Act). Sept 2015**

This effort would establish a Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide for the coordination of federal Puget Sound recovery efforts with state, local and tribal recovery efforts. The bill enhances the federal government’s role and investment in Puget Sound by amending the Clean Water Act to add a new section dedicated to Puget Sound recovery, providing lasting and structural recognition of the Puget Sound as a waterbody of national.

Replace with new – not yet dropped, legislation - <https://kilmer.house.gov/news/press-releases/kilmer-heck-highlight-new-gao-recommendations-on-puget-sound-recovery>

In 2016, the Caucus worked with the White House and federal agencies to establish the Puget Sound Federal Task Force, which coordinates federal actions to improve the Puget Sound watershed. In 2015, Heck and Kilmer also introduced the PUGET SOS Act to strengthen coordination among federal agencies on Puget Sound recovery. The Members of Congress plan to use GAO’s recommendations to make updates to and reintroduce the PUGET SOS legislation.

### **Support National Estuary Program (NEP) funding for the Environmental Protection Agency.**

NEP funding supports local entities to recover salmon, clean up polluted water, and support the other priorities of the Puget Sound Action Agenda’s three Strategic Initiatives: Habitat, Stormwater, and Shellfish. NEP projects help us implement the right salmon projects in the right places, and increase public knowledge about these efforts.

### **~~Support proposed federal legislation that seeks to increase funding and incentives for green stormwater infrastructure. Feb 2016~~**

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Gretchen Glaub, Lead Entity Coordinator, Snohomish Basin

[gretchen.glaub@snoco.org](mailto:gretchen.glaub@snoco.org) • (425) 388-6403 • <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/844/Salmon>

~~Introduced legislation titled, “Green Stormwater Infrastructure Investment Act” (H.R. 4648), which would expand eligibility criteria in transportation grants to include green stormwater components, thereby creating incentives for states and local governments to adopt green stormwater practices. For states like Washington that already have high standards, this legislation would prioritize projects from a scoring standpoint and direct more federal funding to the state.~~

~~Draft bill amending Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that would provide a 30 percent tax credit for green stormwater expenditures from private businesses and individuals.~~

Replace with – H.R. 7041 the Preventing Pollution through Partnership (P3) Act,

<https://dennyheck.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/kilmer-heck-stormwater-P3-legislation%20Oct%202018>

Preventing Pollution through Partnership (P3) Act, legislation that would help communities and businesses do their part to slow, filter and catch stormwater, the leading cause of pollution in Puget Sound.

## State Priorities

**Regular Session: January 14 – April 29, 2019**

### **Orca Recovery – *recommendations released mid November***

In response to Governor Jay Inslee’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Executive Order, the Orca Task Force will submit a report with recommendations for their recovery. Chinook and other salmon are vital to recovering the Orcas, and freshwater habitat is one of the main elements limiting salmon productivity. Without shallow, wide rivers with plenty of wood and complexity, young salmon, whether from the wild or a hatchery, will not have a good chance of surviving to adulthood. Increased investments in salmon recovery actions are needed, including:

- Pilchuck Dam removal on the Pilchuck River will open up 30 miles of salmon habitat that has been blocked for decades.

### **Capital Programs**

#### **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) - \$79.6 Million (Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO))**

PSAR funds support implementation of the highest priority habitat protection and restoration projects throughout Puget Sound. Funds are derived from State general obligation bonds (RCW 77.85).

#### **State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) - \$88.904M (RCO)**

SRFB funds consist of federal PCSRF dollars and state capital funds that serve as the required match to federal funds. Together, these dollars support annual grant rounds for salmon habitat protection and restoration projects in watersheds around the state. This funding is a cornerstone of WRIA 7’s annual grant round, administered by the Snohomish Forum.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Gretchen Glaub, Lead Entity Coordinator, Snohomish Basin

[gretchen.glaub@snoco.org](mailto:gretchen.glaub@snoco.org) • (425) 388-6403 • <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/844/Salmon>

## **Floodplains by Design –\$70M requested (Washington Department of Ecology)**

In the past two biennial legislative sessions, the legislature allocated funding to Ecology to support a list of multiple benefit floodplain restoration and management projects. Current WRIA 7 priorities include:

- City of North Bend’s South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback project
- City of Snoqualmie’s Riverfront Acquisition and Bank Stabilization project
- Snohomish County’s Advancing Sustainable Land Strategies in the Snohomish Basin project

## **Fish Barrier Removal Board –\$50M (RCO)**

Funding for projects to remove barriers to fish passage, opening up habitat that salmon formerly occupied.

## **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program –\$20M (RCO)**

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program provides funding to support projects in our estuaries, which are critical nurseries for juvenile salmon.

## **Stormwater Financial Assistance Program –\$60M (Washington Department of Ecology)**

The Stormwater Financial Assistance Program provides important funding to local communities to prevent pollution of water bodies from stormwater and run-off from urbanized areas. These funds are distributed via various grant programs including the Capacity Grants, Grants of Regional or Statewide Significance, and capital construction grants. Stormwater funding comes from a combination of state bond and hazardous substance tax dollars.

## **Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) –\$130M (RCO)**

For nearly 30 years, the WWRP has supported habitat conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. The program has played a significant role in our state’s landscape and quality of life, investing over \$1.4 billion into state and local parks, trails, wildlife habitat, working lands, and more. It is nationally recognized for its fair, objective, and independent funding process. Funding the WWRP will help address our state’s rapid population growth, the need to preserve our shrinking green spaces, and the strong demand for outdoor recreational opportunities.

## **Washington State Conservation Commission –\$39M**

## **Operating Budgets?**

### **➤ Support specific requests of agencies?**

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Gretchen Glaub, Lead Entity Coordinator, Snohomish Basin

[gretchen.glaub@snoco.org](mailto:gretchen.glaub@snoco.org) • (425) 388-6403 • <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/844/Salmon>

- **Support state agency budget requests for monitoring salmon populations, and studies that evaluate marine survival, habitat condition, and other issues that affect Snohomish basin salmon populations.**

## **Policy Legislation**

- **Include reference to likely legislation that will be brought forward?**
- **Track and support legislation that seeks to improve regulatory protections for areas that are important for salmon habitat.**

As WRIA 7 partners, consider supporting proposed legislation that improves regulatory protections that seek to benefit salmon habitat, including riparian areas, streams and rivers, marine shorelines, etc.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

Gretchen Glaub, Lead Entity Coordinator, Snohomish Basin

[gretchen.glaub@snoco.org](mailto:gretchen.glaub@snoco.org) • (425) 388-6403 • <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/844/Salmon>