



SNOHOMISH
BASIN
SALMON
RECOVERY
FORUM

DRAFT 2019 Legislative Priorities for Watershed Health and Salmon Recovery

Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum Partners

Updated: January 17, 2019

State Priorities

Regular Session: January 14 – April 29, 2019

Orca Recovery – In response to Governor Jay Inslee’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Executive Order, the Orca Recovery Task Force has completed a report with recommendations for their recovery. Lack of prey, primarily Chinook salmon, has been identified as a one of the main drivers for the decline in the SRKW population. Recovering Chinook and other salmon are vital to recovering the orcas. Recommendation 1 of the Task Force is to - **Significantly increase investment in restoration and acquisition of Chinook salmon habitat.**

The Snohomish Basin Salmon Recovery Forum urges support for the following programs support salmon habitat restoration and protection.

Capital Programs

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) – Request for \$79.6M

(Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO))

PSAR funds support implementation of the highest priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects throughout Puget Sound. Example projects supported in the Snohomish Basin by PSAR funding in 2019-2021 include:

- **Removal of the Pilchuck Dam** on the Pilchuck River which will open access to 37 miles of intact salmon habitat that has been blocked for decades.
- Design for **levee setbacks and reconnection of floodplain** in a high priority reach of the **Snoqualmie River.**

State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) – Request for \$88.9M (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.

Floodplains by Design – Request for \$70M (Washington Department of Ecology)

Floodplains by Design supports implementation of multiple benefit projects in the floodplain that support flood risk reduction, salmon habitat restoration and agricultural viability. 2019-2021 projects supported in the Snohomish Basin by FbD funding include:

- **Snohomish County’s** Advancing Sustainable Land Strategies in the Snohomish Basin project
- **City of North Bend’s** South Fork Snoqualmie River Levee Setback project

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THESE PRIORITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program provides funding to support projects in Puget Sound estuaries, which are critical nurseries for juvenile Chinook salmon. The 2019-2021 ESRP funding would support a WDFW project focused on multi benefit planning for salmon habitat and agricultural use in the **Snohomish Delta**.

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

The Fish Barrier Removal Board supports projects to remove barriers to fish passage, opening up access to habitat that salmon formerly occupied.

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