

Alliance for a Healthy South Sound
December 12, 2014

2015 Legislative Proposals (under development)

Topics	Description	Proponents
Water Infrastructure Funding	<p>Provide three billion dollars over the next ten years for competitive grants to public water infrastructure projects with a dedicated new funding source to support the state appropriations. The new money would be spent equally among three types of projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguard water quality by reducing the amount of toxics and other pollutants that result from stormwater runoff. 2. Prevent and reduce the risk of flooding in areas that have had devastating floods and restore natural areas where floods occur. A priority would be given to the Chehalis River basin flood strategy. 3. Secure adequate water supplies where it is needed for both people and crops. Protect critical habitat for fish and wildlife dependent on having enough water. A priority would be given to the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan for water supply and restoration. <p>The funding sources are yet to be determined by the legislative leaders but there is an acknowledgement that the people of the state will benefit from the water infrastructure projects and a broad based revenue source is needed along with a water usage based fee structure.</p>	Sens. Braun, Honeyford, Reps. DeBolt, Dunshee; The Nature Conservancy; other stakeholders
WA Coast Restoration Initiative	<p>Seek \$15M in capital funding for prioritized projects that will conduct critical restoration work and provide good-paying restoration and sustainable natural resource jobs, as the work helps to ensure the resources remain healthy and abundant. The request would leverage more than \$6 million in existing federal, state and private resources and will significantly scale up restoration across a suite of diverse restoration projects. These projects enjoy. (attachment)</p>	The Nature Conservancy with support from local governments, the conservation community, fishing industry, tribes, watershed groups and state and federal agencies
On-Site Septic System Program	<p>A minimum fee (\$30) would be imposed on on-site systems on Puget Sound. The fee would fund an inventory of all septic systems, and programs to provide education on care and use of septic systems to owners, and system inspections and improvements.</p>	Department of Health; shellfish growers
Oil Transportation	<p>Recommendations are still being developed as part of a comprehensive study that was funded as a result of proposed legislation in 2014. The Study aims to understand the state's preparedness and response ability for oil transportation, both on land and in water, and identify the vulnerabilities types of resources that are needed.</p>	WA Environmental Council, local governments, tribes, conservation groups, fishing industry
Non-Point Toxics Reduction (fish consumption)	<p>Governor Inslee's proposal to address new water quality rules. Creates a more robust system for the Department of Ecology to identify chemicals of concern that are present in humans and environment of Washington, and, then undertake a series of processes to evaluate those toxics, and develop a chemical action plan. This chemical action plan would identify the toxic sources and potential ways to address that pollution which would ultimately result in a series of strategies to reduce contamination in the most cost effective way possible. This proposal is of interest to local governments because they are responsible</p>	Governor Inslee, Dept. of Ecology

	for treating many of the chemicals through stormwater or wastewater treatment plants that actually come from consumer products and other up-stream sources. Responsible and effective approaches that can get these chemicals out before they reach these systems, and become incredibly complex and expensive to treat is a critical message in these discussions.	
Puget Sound Recovery (policy)	Legislative Interest Statement (attachment)	Puget Sound Partnership
Puget Sound Recovery (budget)	\$2.7M Assessing Recovery for Effectiveness Investments \$1.7M Puget Sound Salmon Recovery \$855,000 Shoreline Property Owner Assistance (for bulkhead removal)	Puget Sound Partnership

Puget Sound Recovery Legislative Interest Statement

PURPOSE:

To provide a framework for Puget Sound Partnership legislative priorities and guide policy and budget development for the 2015 state legislative session.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

The Puget Sound Partnership connects and leverages the efforts of hundreds of organizations working to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound, the second largest estuary in the nation. The Partnership is a science-based, non-regulatory state agency that brings people together to establish goals, actions and a common framework to ensure success and accountability for results.

The Partnership supports:

- Legislation and investments to implement the Action Agenda, the regional plan to restore the health of Puget Sound.
- Policies, strategies and investments that advance Puget Sound recovery while simultaneously fostering job creation, public health, safety and the wellbeing of current and future generations (i.e. the “Integrated Investment” strategy).
- Technical changes to update the Partnership’s enabling legislation to align current practices and recommendations from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee or otherwise improve the Partnership’s ability to be efficient and effective in accomplishing its mission.
- Authority and resources for the Partnership to support and enable greater Puget Sound programs and projects led by other agencies, with an emphasis on increasing the implementation of high priority regional actions and evaluation and measurement of outcomes and the effectiveness of recovery efforts.
- Incentives and market-based mechanisms to help landowners, businesses and residents advance regional Puget Sound recovery goals through local actions.
- Policies and strategies that account for environmental externalities, recognizing the importance of allocating full and true costs and impacts when making policy choices.
- A comprehensive state transportation investment package that provides revenue for fixing fish passage barriers and blockages, significantly improving prevention and management of polluted runoff, and supporting on-going maintenance of infrastructure associated with those improvements.

- Policies, strategies and investments that recognize and support Tribal Treaty rights.

The Partnership does not support:

- Acts that result in unfunded mandates, weaken the intended protections of state and local permits, jeopardize Puget Sound state and federal funding, or re-direct dedicated accounts that are integral to Puget Sound water quality, habitat protection, and recovery.

TARGETED INVESTMENTS:

The Partnership established three strategic initiatives to focus on the highest priority investments for the limited resources being spent and to balance ecological, economic, and quality of life factors in considering those investments: prevent pollution from stormwater runoff; protect and restore habitat; and recover shellfish beds.

PREVENT POLLUTION FROM STORMWATER RUN-OFF

Stormwater run-off is the largest single source of pollution into Puget Sound, carrying pathogens, nutrients, sediment and a multitude of chemicals into the Sound. Nearly 550 streams, rivers, and lakes in the region are impaired by poor water quality. PCBs and other toxic chemical pollutants are now found throughout Puget Sound's food web. To advance regional recovery goals, we must reduce the overwhelming threat posed by polluted water runoff and its impact on our food supply, quality of life, and economic growth.

The Partnership supports:

- Providing financial and technical assistance and any other support necessary to help permittees meet National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) conditions to implement watershed protection priorities and establish low-impact development projects.
- Increasing coverage of municipal NPDES permits over the Puget Sound basin and consistency of requirements among phase I and II permits in Western Washington.
- Reducing stormwater pollution from existing development, including prioritization of needed retrofits at the watershed scale; increased funding for retrofit projects; and increased funding and assistance for system cleaning, street sweeping, and other effective maintenance techniques.
- Integrating planning, training, and funding to increase use of green stormwater infrastructure techniques - such as rain gardens, bio-retention, dispersion, and permeable pavement - that use natural drainage techniques to filter and reduce toxicity of stormwater runoff.
- Increasing focus on watershed-based stormwater management approaches, particularly for activities best achieved at the watershed-scale, such as retrofit planning and prioritization and monitoring.

- Empowering and enabling local governments to make improvements in aging and antiquated infrastructure.
- Ensuring fish are safe to eat through standards that accurately and adequately protect human health.

The Partnership does not support:

- Reducing funding assistance for local governments and communities to make stormwater infrastructure improvements, including diverting funding from the Public Works Assistance Account or Model Toxics Control Act.
- Weakening enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act and associated state regulations regarding clean water.

PROTECT AND RESTORE HABITAT

Population growth and development outside of urban growth areas is steadily reducing habitat and fragmenting wildlife corridors. One-quarter of our shorelines – nearly 800 miles – have been hardened with concrete bulkheads and other forms of armoring. Seventy percent of Puget Sound estuary near-shore habitat has been lost to development. To advance regional recovery goals, we must improve efforts to protect habitat and increase the pace of restoration, including supporting the recovery of salmonid species, in addition to identifying and addressing root causes for negative trends related to native species, such as starfish and forage fish.

The Partnership supports:

- Funding integrated investment proposals – those that take holistic and long term habitat protection and restoration approaches in the near shore and floodplains to enhance fish passage, spawning, floodplain management, water quality, transportation infrastructure, public safety, and economic prosperity.
- Funding, guidance and support to ensure Shoreline Master Programs, Critical Area Ordinances, and Comprehensive Plans are up-to-date and implemented, monitored and complied with in a way that supports Puget Sound recovery.
- Funding and support for regional and watershed salmon recovery partners to develop, update, implement, monitor and assess the effectiveness of science-based recovery plans for Endangered Species Act listed salmonids that are aligned with the Action Agenda.
- Ensuring implementation of revised Hydraulic Code Rules to prevent or mitigate impacts to fish life and habitat, increase compliance, and monitor effectiveness.

- Incorporating strategies to address sea level rise and increased flooding in habitat protection and restoration actions. Ensuring that habitat protection or enhancement is an integral part of essential infrastructure maintenance.
- Addressing the concerns of the Puget Sound tribes in the 'Treaty Rights at Risk' document.
- Strengthening jurisdictional support to promote increased residential and commercial densities within the Urban Growth Area.
- Ensuring oil facilities pay for environmental protection measures related to marine environmental priorities and habitat protection initiatives when oil is imported, refined, and exported out of our state.
- Cleaning up the 200+ contaminated sites within one-half mile of the Puget Sound shoreline.
- Preventing and rapidly responding to the introduction and spread of invasive species by supporting efforts to better manage, enforce, and control terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
- Preventing and expeditiously removing and disposing of derelict and abandoned vessels to support maritime activities, and commerce and to protect water quality.
- Ensuring state oil spill prevention and response programs have adequate and stable funding to fully and efficiently protect resources and have predictable staffing levels to coordinate spill prevention and response efforts consistently over time.

The Partnership does not support:

- Weakening enforcement of the federal Clean Water Act and state regulations regarding clean water.
- Weakening the Growth Management Act or allowing communities to opt out of the requirements of the Growth Management Act.
- Utilizing the state and local toxics reduction account for purposes other than the prevention and cleanup of toxics threats to Puget Sound.
- Weakening the state's ability to enforce regulations that protect Puget Sound from oil spills from any source.
- Establishing policies and procedures that would further restrict that ability of state agencies to acquire rights and interests in real property for conservation purposes.

RECOVER SHELLFISH BEDS

Multiple factors have combined to imperil the survival of shellfish on our coasts and endanger the health and safety of consumers, including agricultural runoff as well as changes resulting from ocean acidification. Changes in marine water acidity are occurring faster than a rate to which species can adapt. Acidification threatens the contribution of \$270m per year that shellfish farming represents to Washington's economy and indicates a much larger issue of long-term ecological harm. To advance regional recovery goals, we must increase local monitoring and research, address local impacts of ocean acidification, and improve marine water quality in ways that sustain the health and harvest worthiness of Puget Sound shellfish beds. Shellfish recovery investments represent a true "integrated investment" strategy: they support human health, ecological restoration, economic vitality and saving our PNW "way of life."

The Partnership supports:

- Addressing the local effects of ocean acidification through mitigation and/or adaptation measures.
- Helping landowners, farmers, and ranchers develop and implement dairy and livestock management plans to prevent contributions to water quality degradation from livestock, reduce sources of shellfish closures and meet water quality standards.
- Strengthening pollution identification and control programs in Puget Sound counties, including funding for long-term water quality monitoring.
- Funding for a more comprehensive program to fix failing septic or on-site sewage systems, a fully capitalized septic system loan program, and support for county septic management programs in all Puget Sound counties.
- Implementing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on ocean acidification.
- Reducing carbon pollution through market based mechanisms, utilization of renewable fuels, and clean-transportation options.
- Developing ocean acidification reduction strategies, including nutrient trading programs that are tailored to priority shellfish resource areas.

The Partnership does not support:

- Policies and funding that weaken implementation and enforcement of federal and state air quality regulations.
- Policies and funding proposals that weaken incentives for energy conservation.

WASHINGTON COAST RESTORATION INITIATIVE

OUR CHALLENGE

Healthy forests, rivers, and fish and wildlife on our Washington Pacific Coast are essential to our communities, ecosystems, and economies. Efforts to protect and restore them are severely underfunded. Coastal communities have worked tirelessly for decades with limited funding to improve the health of our lands and waters. Yet we've lacked consistent funding to address our diverse, ongoing restoration needs.

There is an equally urgent need to improve the economic health of our region. The Coast continues to experience the **highest unemployment in the state**. Given the urgency of both of these needs, **we need a proactive approach to restoration** that:

- Addresses the region's highest priority restoration needs;
- Leverages existing funding; *and*
- **Puts people to work on the coast**, restoring our lands and waters.



River restoration on the upper Quinault River is an example of one of the investments needs on the coast that will improve salmon habitat, reduce flood risks, protect homes, and create jobs.

Photo – Larry Workman

A PROACTIVE APPROACH

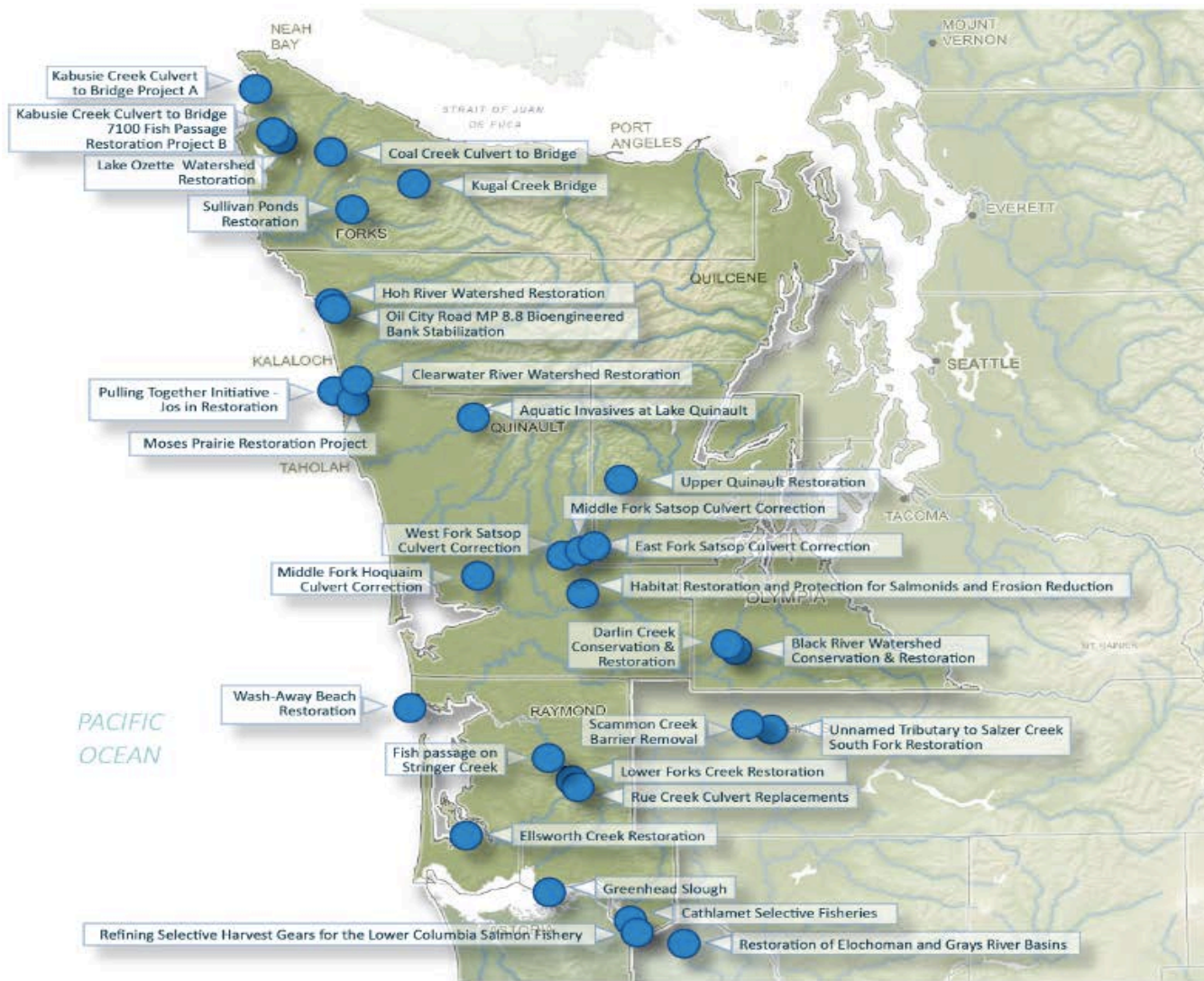
The goal of the **Washington Coast Restoration Initiative** is to restore forests, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat through the highest priority projects in the region. These projects will both provide restoration jobs to local people now and will ensure sustainable natural resource jobs in the future. A coalition of partners from across the Coast has developed a comprehensive database of restoration and sustainable job needs and seeks funding for prioritized projects that will conduct critical restoration work and provide good-paying restoration and sustainable natural resource jobs, as the work will help ensure the resources remain healthy and abundant.

The Capital Budget request for the Washington Coast Restoration Initiative would provide \$15 million to leverage more than \$6 million in existing federal, state and private resources and will significantly scale up restoration across a suite of diverse restoration projects. These projects enjoy support from local governments, the conservation community, the fishing industry, tribes, watershed groups and state and federal agencies.

WHY NOW

This is the right time to invest in the restoration of the lands and waters of the Coast and the people who depend on these natural resources for their livelihood. Investing now ensures the commercial, recreational, and ecological value of the lands and waters and protects both our best salmon runs and one of the most diverse economies of the state. It's clear that restoration is one of the best ways to invest in our local economies. Ninety cents of every dollar spent on restoration stays inside the state, and 80 cents of every dollar stays within the county where a project is located. Dollar for dollar, restoration projects create more jobs than other types of construction projects.

This budget request will help improve the economy of the Washington Coast while maintaining its diverse and healthy lands and waters. The Washington Coast Restoration Initiative will build a lasting foundation for healthy Coastal habitats and economies that benefits us all



Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

DRAFT

October 22, 2014