

2017 PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WORKING DRAFT - SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

The Legislature created the Puget Sound Partnership to coordinate and lead the efforts of hundreds of local, state, federal, tribal and non-governmental partners in restoring and protecting Puget Sound. To this end, the Partnership manages the region's Action Agenda, a science-based, shared tool that prioritizes actions and charts the course to recovery, and informs the Legislature of the funding needed to implement the Action Agenda and achieve recovery.

The 2017 Legislative Agenda supports implementation of the Puget Sound Action Agenda and reflects priorities that were established in collaboration with our partners.

To **PROTECT AND RESTORE HABITAT** needed for recovery and protection of Puget Sound, including the threatened Puget Sound Chinook salmon populations, the Partnership supports the following budget and policy requests:

- \$80 million in the Capital Budget for the **Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR)** fund, which provides grants to projects that protect and restore the most critical salmon habitats in Puget Sound
- \$20 million in the Capital Budget for the **Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)**, which provides grants to protect and restore the nearshore ecosystems of Puget Sound
- \$70 million in the Capital Budget for the statewide **Floodplains by Design** program, which provides grants for projects that improve flood protection, restore salmon habitat, improve water quality, and enhance outdoor recreation
- \$55.3 million in State Salmon Capital funding for statewide **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** programs
- \$51.4 million in the Capital Budget for Fish Barrier Removal Board projects and \$90 million in the Transportation Budget to **remove fish passage barriers**
- Enhancements to the Department of Fish & Wildlife's **Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA)** program to better protect critical nearshore habitat, especially habitat needed by salmon and steelhead; reduce General Fund needs by reauthorizing the collection of fees to support the HPA program; and eliminate loopholes that allow ongoing habitat loss.



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To **PREVENT WATER POLLUTION** and protect the water quality of Puget Sound, the Partnership supports the following budget and policy requests:

- \$90 million in the Capital Budget for the **Stormwater Financial Assistance Program** to provide grants to local governments for projects that help prevent stormwater pollution
- A substantial increase over the \$2.7 million allocated in the current Transportation Budget for stormwater retrofits that would help to **prevent stormwater pollution** caused by runoff from state roads and highways
- \$78 million in bonds to replace lost revenue from the **Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA)** and fill the funding gap for MTCA toxic site cleanups, pollution prevention, and Public Participation Grants
- Identify and establish dedicated sources of **revenue for water pollution prevention**, such as the Washington Waters Act or other water infrastructure proposals
- Provide ample funding in the **Public Works Trust Fund** for stormwater retrofits, culvert corrections, and water treatment

To **EXPEDITE AND IMPROVE THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PUGET SOUND RECOVERY ACTIONS**, the Partnership supports the following policy requests:

- Funding allocated in accordance with the ranked Puget Sound Action Agenda priorities
- Increased alignment and integration of state and local programs, policies, permitting, regulations, and enforcement actions with the Action Agenda and salmon recovery plans
- Legislation reducing the frequency of updates to the Action Agenda and Science Work Plan from once every two years to once every four years



To **RESTORE THE CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE PARTNERSHIP**, the Partnership will advocate for an agency operating budget request needed to offset reductions in federal funding and fulfill key statutory responsibilities.

To **MAINTAIN OR STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF THE STATE AND ITS PARTNERS TO RESTORE AND PROTECT PUGET SOUND**, the Partnership will monitor the introduction and consideration of bills to the Legislature, support bills that would help achieve this goal, and educate legislators about the consequences of bills that would hinder the achievement of this goal.



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