



STATE OF WASHINGTON
2017–2019 BUDGET REQUEST
FOR SALMON RECOVERY



Salmon Recovery

The Washington State Governor's Salmon Recovery Office has prepared a summary of salmon-related budget requests for the 2017-19 Biennium.

Salmon recovery is critical in Washington State, where nearly 75 percent of the state is affected by listings under the Endangered Species Act. Many communities in the state have been devastated by the loss of commercial and recreational fishing, and the State is facing lawsuits over the decimated salmon populations.

When salmon began to be listed as at-risk of extinction in 1999, the Washington State Legislature responded by creating the Salmon Recovery Act (Revised Code of Washington 77.85), which laid the foundation for the state's approach to recovery. The concept was simple: Locally-based, community salmon recovery would yield far better results than a top-down, federally-driven process. Seven regional recovery organizations and 25 watershed-based groups stepped up to coordinate the work of thousands of volunteers and professionals to implement locally-crafted and federally-approved recovery and sustainability plans. For more information on Washington's salmon recovery efforts, please visit our Web site at: <http://stateofsalmon.wa.gov/>.

This document provides a snapshot of state agency budget requests related to salmon recovery. Salmon recovery includes the following critical elements:

- Restoring damaged habitat in rivers and estuaries
- Providing flood relief while creating salmon habitat
- Maintaining clean and abundant water for fish
- Correcting fish passage barriers (on state, local, and private lands)
- Improving hatcheries to protect wild fish and provide more fishing opportunities
- Protecting the highest quality habitats and most abundant salmon populations along the coast
- Providing jobs in hard-hit communities
- Providing resources to benefit to farmers

The programs to address these critical elements are divided among multiple agencies. This document presents a list of the agencies and their requests by program (Table 1), as well as a summary of how these requests relate to elements in the state's strategy to recover salmon (Table 3). Please note: Table 1 will be updated when the Governor's budget comes out in December, when the Legislature develops its budgets in the early 2017, and when budgets are final in spring 2017.

Salmon are a symbol of resilience, strength, and survival in the dramatic and changing landscape of Washington State. The annual return of the salmon has been revered and celebrated not only by Native American tribes, but by most residents of our state. By treaty, Washington State citizens are honor-bound to restore salmon to abundance and support sustainable fisheries. By conscience, we are honor-bound to restore salmon for future generations. These requests represent investments not only for salmon recovery but a healthy environment for future generations.

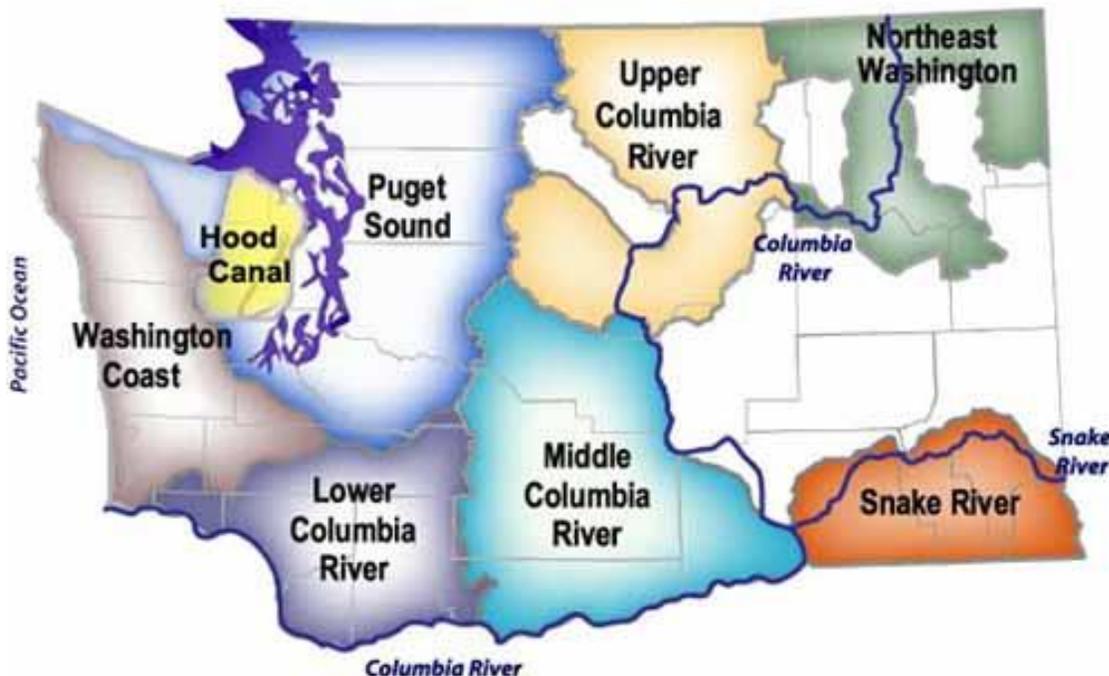
Salmon Recovery

**TABLE 1: WASHINGTON STATE NATURAL RESOURCE AGENCY
SALMON RECOVERY PRIORITIES**

Agency	Budget	2015-2017 Appropriation	2017-2019 Budget Request	2017-2019 Governor's Budget	Page
Conservation Commission					
Conservation Technical Assistance	Operating	\$2.59	\$2.51	\$	7
Natural Resource Investment	Capital	\$4.0	\$8.0	\$	8
CREP Program Support	Capital	\$2.6	\$4.007	\$	9
CREP State Match	Capital	\$2.3	\$3.5	\$	10
RCPP Puget Sound	Capital	\$2.0	\$3.0	\$	11
Department of Ecology					
Floodplain by Design	Capital	\$35.56	\$70.0	\$	12
Yakima River Basin Water Supply	Capital	\$30.0	\$31.1	\$	13
Watershed Plan Implementation and Flow Achievement	Capital	\$5.0	\$10.0	\$	14
Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program	Capital	\$4.0	\$6.13	\$	15
Columbia River Water Supply Development Program	Capital	\$19.0	\$35.0	\$	16
Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Water Conservation	Capital	\$3.055	\$4.68	\$	17
Centennial Clean Water Program	Capital	\$20.0	\$60.0	\$	18
Department of Fish and Wildlife					
Wild Future: Maintain Current Fishing Opportunities	Operating	\$--	\$5.78	\$	19
Wild Future: Increase Fishing Opportunities	Operating	\$--	\$2.72	\$	20
Wild Future: Improve HPA Outcomes	Operating	\$--	\$3.33	\$	21
Wild Future: Habitat Conservation Priorities	Operating	\$--	\$4.02	\$	22
Aquatic Invasive Species	Operating	\$--	\$5.2	\$	23
Capital Improvements	Capital	\$52.2	\$70.8	\$	24
Department of Natural Resources					
Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program	Capital	\$1.0	\$6.2	\$	25
Forestry Riparian Easement Program	Capital	\$11.2	\$10.0	\$	26
Small Forest Landowner Office Capacity	Operating	\$--	\$0.997	\$	27
Department of Transportation					
Fish Barrier Correction – State Highways	Trans.	\$88.7	\$97.5	\$	28
Puget Sound Partnership					
Accelerating Puget Sound Salmon Recovery	Operating	\$--	\$0.828	\$	29
Effective Governance of Puget S. Recovery	Operating	\$--	\$0.694	\$	30
Recreation and Conservation Office					
Salmon Recovery (SRFB-State)	Capital	\$16.5	\$55.3	\$	31
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	Capital	\$37.0	\$80.0	\$	32
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	Capital	\$8.0	\$20.0	\$	33
Family Forest Fish Passage Program*	Capital	\$5.0	\$10.0	\$	34
Washington Coastal Restoration Grants	Capital	\$11.185	\$12.5	\$	35
Fish Barrier Removal Board Grants	Capital	\$--	\$51.4	\$	36
Lead Entities (Carry Forward)	Operating	\$.907	\$.907	\$	37

*Family Forest Fish Passage Program is a three agency program (Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Office). For consistency with other barrier removal programs the funds are managed in RCO.

SALMON RECOVERY IN WASHINGTON



Salmon are a symbol of resilience, strength, and survival in the dramatic and changing landscape of Washington State. The annual return of the salmon has been revered and celebrated by Native American tribes. By treaty alone, Washington State citizens are honor-bound to restore salmon to abundance and support sustainable fisheries.

In 1999, the Joint Natural Resources Cabinet developed the *Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon – Extinction is Not an Option*. This document is the foundation on which salmon recovery programs have been built. The concept was simple: Locally based community salmon recovery will yield far better results than a top down federally driven process.

The federal government requires that recovery plans be based on an Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU). An ESU is a population, or group of populations of salmon that is substantially, reproductively isolated from other populations and contributes significantly to the evolutionary legacy of the biological species. When salmon were listed, Washington got organized. Seven regional recovery organizations and lead entities coordinate the work of thousands of volunteers and professionals to implement locally crafted recovery and sustainability plans. For more information on Washington’s salmon recovery efforts please visit our Web page at: <http://stateofsalmon.wa.gov/>.

The purpose of this document is to provide a snap shot of state agency budget requests related to salmon recovery that are relevant to community based salmon recovery. Table 2 provides a summary of how these requests relate to elements in the statewide strategy to recover salmon. The need for resources is far greater than the funds available. These requests represent investments not only for salmon recovery but a healthy environment for future generations.

Salmon Recovery

WASHINGTON WAY

TABLE 2: ROLES OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND HOW THIS EFFORT FITS TOGETHER

Network Partner	Role	Description
Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office	Statewide Policy, Strategy, Funding	The office is responsible for coordinating the statewide salmon recovery strategy. It works with the state’s regional recovery organizations to report on implementation progress and the status and trajectory of listed salmonids through the biennially produced <i>State of the Salmon in Watersheds</i> report. Additionally, it assists with securing funds for recovery efforts on the ground throughout the state. The office provides a facilitated venue for scientifically monitoring recovery efforts and watershed health.
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Fisheries Co-Manager and Habitat Specialists	The department and tribal nations co-manage to preserve, protect and perpetuate the state’s salmon and steelhead populations ensuring sustainable fisheries. They operate and manage hatcheries, and provide technical and scientific expertise that supports implementation of salmon recovery plans, fisheries management, and protection of fish habitat.
Regional Organizations	Recovery Plan Implementation, Monitoring, Facilitation, and Reporting	Washington State’s salmon recovery regions are responsible for working with local partners, the Governor’s Salmon Recovery Office, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop and implement federal salmon recovery plans. Regional organizations facilitate the multi-level, grass-roots effort to implement these plans through non-regulatory participation. The regions also facilitate the science, monitoring, outreach, and reporting associated with adaptively managing progress in implementing these recovery plans. Regional organizations work together as the Council of Regions to address statewide salmon recovery issues.
Lead Entities	Habitat Project Prioritizing	Lead entities are local, watershed-based organizations that work closely with citizens, non-profits, state agencies, tribes, and other governments to facilitate the creation and implementation of salmon recovery actions identified in recovery plans. A key responsibility of lead entities is to facilitate local technical and citizens’ committees that combine science and social values to prioritize funding to high-priority projects. Lead entities are collectively represented by the Washington Salmon Coalition.
Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups	Project Implementation and Landowner Outreach	Regional fisheries enhancement groups implement on-the-ground projects that restore salmon populations and habitat in their regions. Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups provide community outreach programs and education around restoration, salmon recovery, and monitoring projects.
Conservation Districts	Project Implementation and Landowner Outreach	Non-regulatory and supported by the State Conservation Commission, local districts provide technical and scientific assistance to land owners and other local partners to design, implement, and monitor on-the-ground recovery projects.
Washington Department of Ecology	Basin Strategies, Funding	The department provides significant grant funding to local projects that restore floodplain habitat, improve water quality and supply for fish and people, and implement irrigation efficiencies. In addition, Ecology is engaged with local, federal, tribal and NGO partners in designing and implementing water management strategies in watersheds throughout the state.
Counties, Cities, and Local Jurisdictions	Project Implementation	In addition to implementing local projects, local jurisdictions exercise their authorities on behalf of salmon recovery in response to citizen expectations and habitat protection obligations.

Salmon Recovery

TABLE 3: PROGRAMS RELATION TO STATEWIDE STRATEGY TO RECOVER SALMON

Program	Grant Programs with Specific Program Policies and Processes	2015-2017 Biennium (Millions)	2017-2019 Biennium (Millions)	Salmon Recovery Categories – Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon													
				Local Capacity	Freshwater Habitat	Estuary Restoration	Fish Passage	Agricultural Lands	In-stream Flow	Water Management	Forest and Fish	Harvest & Hatchery Reform	Research	Invasive Species	Technical Assistance		
Conservation Assistance Program	●	\$2.5	\$2.5	●													●
Natural Resource Investment	●	\$4.0	\$8.0	●				●									
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Support	●	\$2.6	\$4.0	●													●
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Implementation Contracts – State Match	●	\$2.3	\$3.5		●			●									
RCP Puget Sound		\$2.0	\$3.0		●			●									
Floodplain by Design	●	\$35.5	\$70		●	●	●	●	●	●							●
Yakima Basin Supply		\$30.0	\$31.1					●	●	●	●						
Watershed Plan	●	\$5	\$10					●	●	●							
Water Irrigation Efficiencies		\$4.0	\$6.1					●	●	●							
Columbia Water Supply		\$19.0	\$35					●	●	●							
Sunnyside Valley Water		\$3.0	\$4.6					●	●	●							
Centennial Clean Water Program	●	\$20	\$60	●	●	●		●									
Maintain Current Fishing Opportunities		\$--	\$5.7										●	●			
Increase Fishing Opportunities		\$--	\$2.7										●	●			
Improve HPA Outcomes		\$--	\$3.3														●
Habitat Conservation Priorities		\$--	\$4.0											●			●

Salmon Recovery

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$2.51 million (Operating)
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$2.59 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Incentive-based programs are currently implemented with willing landowners across the landscape. Although this approach is most effective in building landowner engagement and commitment to the practices, it may not address the natural resource concerns on a larger geographic scale. There is increasing concern that natural resource issues, such as water quality and habitat protection and restoration are not being addressed through incentive-based programs. Furthermore, research indicates that successful conservation outcomes depend on a long-term, trusting relationship between a landowner and a conservation specialist. These relationships take time to develop that the current program-based funding model doesn't support well. The current approach to implementing incentive programs by engaging willing landowners is not intended to change the entire watershed, but to address inputs on one specific parcel. This decision package requests additional resources for conservation districts to implement incentive-based programs in an approach where natural resource conditions of a geographic area are identified, and a targeted outreach strategy is developed. With this funding, conservation district staff will proactively provide outreach to landowners to build relationships in the area and offer incentive programs where needed.

WHY IMPORTANT

Agricultural lands comprise 37 percent of Washington. Re-establishing native vegetation along private lands with fish bearing streams is an essential component of the *Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon – Extinction is Not an Option*. This funding provides conservation districts the resources necessary to maintain qualified staff to work with landowners to increase participation and provide technical services to implement these projects.

FUND SOURCE

Operating

LOCAL MATCH

Technical assistance funds leverage other grants and local funding to implement project

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Conservation Commission
Ron Shultz, policy director, (360) 407-7507
RShultz@scc.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NATURAL RESOURCES INVESTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$8.0 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$ 4.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Agricultural activities, if not properly managed, can have negative impacts to our state's natural resources. These activities can input pollution into our water and air, impact habitat for species such as salmon and sage grouse, cause soil erosion, and other impacts affecting other resource priorities. In some instances regulatory enforcement is required to get landowner compliance with environmental protections. Regulatory agencies will use enforcement to address violations and egregious instances of landowner impacts to natural resources. But these agencies also recognize in many situations it's preferred to work with the landowner to change behavior for long-lasting improvements. As Governor Inslee stated in a Results Washington Goal Council meeting regarding these incentive programs, "regulatory approaches alone won't get us to our goal." Incentive-based programs are an alternative to regulatory approaches. The Conservation Commission and conservation districts work collaboratively with landowners to provide incentive-based programs that address these natural resource concerns.

WHY IMPORTANT

Many private landowners don't have the financial resources to install projects such as fish passage, irrigation ditch screening, stream side revegetation, instream restoration of fish habitat, and practices which prevent or control soil erosion. Because of this lack of money, many landowners simply don't address the problems, leading to continuing impacts to natural resources. By providing financial assistance through cost-share, we are able to achieve the installation of these projects which otherwise may not occur. "Cost-share" is the system by which conservation district provide 75% of the project cost while the landowner provides 25%. In this way the state and public achieves an environmental benefit while the landowner is committed to the success of the project.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Landowners provide a local or in-kind match or 25%

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Conservation Commission
Ron Shultz, policy director, (360) 407-7507
RShultz@scc.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CONSERVATION RESERVE AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORT

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$4.007 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This request will support Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract development and implementation for conservation district staff. This project provides funds for conducting landowner outreach, developing plans and managing project implementation to continue the work with private landowners. CREP is a program that was developed in Washington State to address important habitat for salmon listed under the Endangered Species Act. It plants native trees and shrubs while removing livestock and agricultural activities from the riparian area of streams. These riparian areas are among the most sensitive and important ecological areas within a watershed, supporting a wide variety of fish and wildlife species. Healthy riparian buffers also improve water quality for human uses, such as improved drinking water, recreational use, and cleaner water draining into shellfish beds. The buffers are preserved under 10-15 year renewable contracts with the federal government (Farm Service Agency or FSA). Because the federal government pays rental payments for these buffers, this program restores sensitive riparian areas without negative financial impacts to farmers and other private landowners. In the past decade, CREP has become the largest riparian restoration program in the state with over five million trees planted on over 11,000 acres of buffer installed along more than 600 miles of stream.

WHY IMPORTANT

Much of Washington State has ESA-listed salmonid species in its streams, and degraded riparian habitat is identified as a key limiting factor to salmon populations (Governor's Salmon Recovery Office 2006). In addition, 37% of salmon streams on private land pass through agricultural lands (NMFS and USFWS 2000). Shade from planted trees cool water temperatures; the leaf litter and plants provide nutrients and promote insect production which provides food; the trees that fall into the streams provide habitat and help shape streams to a more natural condition. For these reasons, it is important to improve riparian habitat on agricultural lands to make progress towards salmon recovery.

FUND SOURCE

Capital

LOCAL MATCH

Farm Service Agency (Federal) provides 80% of the funds. The state matches at 20% (this request)

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Conservation Commission
Ron Shultz, policy director, (360) 407-7507
RShultz@scc.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

CREP RIPARIAN COST SHARE – STATE MATCH

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$3.5 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$2.3 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a joint federal and state funded program that restores riparian (streamside) habitat for salmon and protects that habitat for 10-15 years. Most of the funding (80 percent) comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency with the remainder through the Washington State Conservation Commission. CREP provides funds to plant native trees and shrubs that improve riparian conditions and enhance wetlands along salmon streams. All of the costs for these improvements are paid by the program. In addition, the program provides oversight and maintenance for about 5 years after planting to assure success. The landowners are paid rent for allowing their land to be used for fish and wildlife improvements and receive a monetary bonus for signing up. Interested landowners should contact their local conservation district. This funding request provides a 20 percent match to federal funds to secure landowner contracts to complete the work.

WHY IMPORTANT

Agricultural lands comprise 37 percent of Washington. Re-establishing native vegetation along salmon bearing streams in agricultural production areas is an essential element for salmon recovery as outlined in the *Statewide Strategy to Recovery Salmon – Extinction is Not an Option*. Native streamside vegetation reduces summertime water temperature in small streams that provide locations for young salmon to rear and grow before migrating to the ocean. CREP is a very effective and cost-efficient program for riparian restoration on agricultural lands in Washington State. This program is a valuable for conservation districts to increase landowner participation on agricultural lands. This program is often coordinated with other salmon recovery efforts within the watershed and results in significant progress for salmon recovery and community awareness.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

This state funding is a 20 percent matching the 80 percent federal contribution

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Conservation Commission
Ron Shultz, policy director, (360) 407-7507
RShultz@scc.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUGET SOUND PRECISION CONSERVATION FOR SALMON RECOVERY AND WATER QUALITY

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$3.0 million (state match)
FY15-17 Appropriation Amount	\$2.0 million (state match)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was established in the 2014 Farm Bill. It's a new program intending to streamline four USDA programs while encouraging and promoting local coordination among various state, local, federal, tribal, and stakeholder interests for a conservation objective. The Puget Sound RCPP "Precision Conservation for Salmon Recovery and Water Quality" is a partnership between the WSCC, The Nature Conservancy, American Farmland Trust, and conservation districts. The goal of the program is to target conservation program implementation in a defined geographic area and link on-the-ground actions to the specific resource concerns of salmon recovery and water quality. In 2015 this Puget Sound RCPP was awarded \$9 million in federal USDA funding with a commitment of a state match of \$9 million over the 5-year life of the program.

WHY IMPORTANT

The Puget Sound RCPP is a new approach to on-the-ground conservation implementation. When USDA funding was first approved for this program, the Puget Sound RCPP was the most unique approach in the nation to implementation of the nationwide RCPP program. By focusing the work of multiple entities into a targeted geographic area, measurable natural resource improvements can be achieved. With limited financial resources for all entities involved in salmon recovery, the Puget Sound RCPP creates an opportunity for coordination of on-the-ground work to maximize efficiencies and effectiveness of limited program dollars. By focusing in a specific geographic area to address impacts to key natural resource function, system improvements can be measured and adaptively managed if goals are not being met. This approach is different from the traditional approach of individual projects across the landscape. The Puget Sound RCPP will provide valuable lessons learned on how this approach can be emulated elsewhere in the state.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Landowners provide a local or in-kind match or 25%

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Conservation Commission
Ron Shultz, policy director, (360) 407-7507
RShultz@scc.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

FLOODPLAIN BY DESIGN

FY-17-19 Governor’s Budget	\$xx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$70 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$35.56 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Floodplains by Design (FbD) is a new approach designed to integrate flood hazard reduction with ecosystem benefits, and help leverage investments from other funding sources. Flooding is the number one natural hazard in Washington State. It has caused more than \$2 billion in damages to the state since 1980, with the highly populated areas in western Washington most at risk. In the past, solutions to flooding problems were often out of sync with other ecosystem protection or restoration activities. Based on the pilot work funded by the Legislature in the 2013-15 Biennium, Ecology plans to coordinate flood hazard reduction and ecosystem benefits into larger scale, multiple benefit packages. This request will fund new projects that provide both flood hazard reduction and ecosystem benefits in communities prone to flooding.

WHY IMPORTANT

These multi-benefit flood management projects will result in reduced flood hazards and improved river habitat for salmon and other species. This includes improving habitat for salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act. It reduces long-term costs by creating more resilient approaches to reducing flood hazard through actions such as moving highly flood-prone development from floodplains and setting back levees to provide additional room for conveyance of floodwaters. These projects will reduce repeated losses due to flood damage. FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, estimates that \$3 are saved for every \$1 invested in flood hazard mitigation.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Up to 20 percent match required. Ecology anticipates taking into consideration economically disadvantaged communities and other factors in determining match requirements in the coming biennium.

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology
Scott McKinney, (360) 407-6131

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER SUPPLY

YAKIMA RIVER WATER SUPPLY AND FISH RECOVERY PROJECTS

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$31.1 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$30.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Current water infrastructure, programs, and policies in the Yakima River Basin have not been able to consistently meet the environmental and economic demands that support basin aquatic resources, fish and wildlife habitat, dry-year irrigation, and municipal water supplies. A diverse set of local stakeholders developed the *Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resources Management Plan* to provide a comprehensive, long-term water resources and habitat improvement program to address this situation. Ecology is requesting \$31.1 million to continue implementing this program in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and local stakeholders. This program will support the regional economy and protect the environment.

WHY IMPORTANT

For the past 30 years, several groups in the Yakima River Basin have been actively involved in storage modification, supplementation, and fish enhancement projects. Groups include the Yakama Nation, United States Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, county and municipal governments, local conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, and other landowners and managers. Requested funds will be used to continue financing assessments and constructing new water projects and water conservation measures.

This work will directly support salmon recovery efforts in the basin by funding infrastructure investments to expand the available water supply, allow new water rights to be issued, and enhance in-stream flows in the Yakima River and its tributaries.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology
Jim Skalski, (360) 407-6671

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

WATERSHED PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND FLOW ACHIEVEMENT

PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT WATERSHED PLANS

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$10 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$5 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In many areas of the state, uninterrupted water supplies are not available for new uses. This situation is especially acute in rural areas, where individuals rely on permit-exempt wells for their drinking water supply. Tools to provide water supply for new users include development of water banks, creating storage and re-timing runoff, and promoting conservation. Stream flows can be boosted by acquisition of water from senior water right holders and retiring the water right to provide temporary or permanent instream flow benefits using the trust water program. Significant water supply capital needs have been identified in 29 completed local watershed plans. These plans cover all or parts of 38 statewide Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) and non-planning basins. Needs include rehabilitating existing water systems; water conservation; and acquiring existing water rights for instream flow and other rural water supply needs. Ecology is requesting a new appropriation of \$10 million to finance capital projects and water acquisition to implement locally developed watershed plans. These projects and acquisitions will help the state, local governments, and other stakeholders meet future rural water supply needs and also achieve recommended instream flows.

WHY IMPORTANT

The Watershed Capital Implementation funding finances capital water storage, infrastructure, conservation, monitoring, efficiency improvement, and acquisition projects to implement locally developed watershed plans, supply and in-stream flow projects. To date, 29 completed plans that cover in part or in whole 38 WRIAs statewide as well local projects that respond to critical local in-stream flows for functional salmon habitat are eligible to receive funding for projects.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Variable depending on project

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology
Jim Skalski, (360) 407-6671

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

WATER IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY MEASURES

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$6.13 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$4.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program is a statewide effort to improve how water is delivered and applied on agricultural lands. Projects funded through the Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program provide improved on-farm water application so water use is more efficient, while still allowing the producer to grow crops. Program funding also is used to improve water conveyance to reduce loss of water through leakage and evaporation. Water saved in this program is placed into the state Trust Water Right Program for in-stream purposes. Ecology requests a new \$6.13 million appropriation (\$5.93 million as pass-through funds) for the Washington State Conservation Commission and conservation districts to help the agricultural community implement water conservation measures and irrigation efficiencies projects.

WHY IMPORTANT

The problem driving this request is a significant one: Finding sufficient water supplies to meet the needs of people, farms, and fish. There are several approaches to address this problem, one of which involves improving our water use efficiency. Irrigation for farm production uses significant amounts of water, mostly in the arid regions of the state. This water use impacts water needs for fish. This request addresses this problem by working with landowners who use irrigation to improve the water efficiency of their irrigation systems. A portion of the water saved through these projects is placed back in-stream to help the state meet other resource needs. With this funding, we will take advantage of the opportunity of the interested landowner to make the projects happen successfully.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Variable depending on project

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology
Jim Skalski, (360) 407-6671

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

COLUMBIA RIVER WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$35.0 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$19.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Ecology is requesting \$35 million in new appropriation to continue implementing the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program (chapter 90.90 RCW). This request will fund projects that are in various stages of completion and provide the Office of Columbia River with resources needed to achieve substantial progress in the 2017-19 biennium. Specifically, these funds will provide an alternative to groundwater for agricultural users in the Odessa Subarea aquifer; deliver new sources of water supply for pending water right applications; develop a new, uninterrupted water supply for those presently subject to interruption during times of drought or low flows; develop new municipal, domestic, industrial, and irrigation water throughout the Columbia River Basin; and place one-third of these new water supplies in-stream to meet the flow needs of fish. With this request, Ecology will deliver additional water supplies for agricultural purposes, meet the water needs for growing communities, make several existing water uses more efficient, and improve stream flow conditions for fish and wildlife.

WHY IMPORTANT

Before Revised Code of Washington 90.90 was enacted in 2006, it was very difficult to provide permanent new water rights in much of the Columbia River basin. Water managers, business leaders, agricultural interests, environmental and tribal leaders, and others were struggling to find a new way to deal with eastern Washington's critical water issues. The problems they faced were immense: Aquifers in the Odessa subarea were rapidly declining, endangering the state's most valuable crop, potatoes; low stream flows threatened salmon and steelhead; interruptible water right holders faced frequent curtailment during the height of the irrigation season; cities struggled to meet the demand for additional water as they grew; new water rights for agriculture, industry, and communities were subjected to years of litigation as various parties fought over the best use of this scarce resource. New water supplies that could be issued in an attempt to address these issues were and are required in nearly all cases to be interrupted during low-flow periods to protect in-stream flows for fish.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account, State Taxable Building Construction Account, Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Account, Columbia River Basin Water Supply Revenue Recovery Account

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology, Jim Skalsk, (360) 407-6671

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

SUNNYSIDE VALLEY IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER CONSERVATION

YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WATER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$4.68 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$3.06 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation manages conservation improvements required by the Sunnyside Division Water Rights Settlement Agreement in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication. (State of Washington, Department of Ecology vs. James J. Acquavella, et al.) These are multiyear projects, and Ecology is requesting additional funding to cover our required state match of 17.5 percent of total project costs for the next four or five biennia: Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) Phase 2B project cost estimated at \$80 million (\$14 million Ecology cost share) over a 15-year construction period; Roza project cost estimated at \$20 million (\$3.5 million Ecology cost share) over a six-year construction period. This request includes \$4.68 million to continue the construction schedule for the state's share of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project in the 2017-19 Biennium.

WHY IMPORTANT

The Yakima River below the Sunnyside Diversion Dam has suffered from chronic low stream flows in late summer and early fall. During the 1977 drought, the river below Sunnyside Dam was dry for a week because the entire flow of the river was diverted for irrigation. That year, a federal court ruling required the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to release water from storage to avoid dewatering salmon nests. After that, the Bureau committed to provide water from storage to keep flows of at least 200 cubic feet per second in the Yakima River below Sunnyside Dam. This request is required to meet the conservation and diversion reduction goals outlined in the settlement agreement of the Sunnyside division water right, and will improve stream flows in the lower Yakima River supporting salmon recovery.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology
Jim Skalski, (360) 407-6671

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Centennial Clean Water Program

PROJECTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Capital request	\$60.0 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$20.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This request for \$60 million for Ecology's Centennial Clean Water Program (CCWP) will provide grants to public entities to finance the construction of water pollution control facilities and to plan and implement nonpoint pollution control activities. At least one third of the available Centennial Clean Water Program funding is directed toward projects that address nonpoint pollution. Ecology distributes the funds through an integrated statewide competitive rating and ranking process. Grant recipients are public entities that use the funds to address high priority statewide water quality needs. The work done is an integral and essential part of the state's strategy to reduce pollution and protect our marine waters, estuaries, lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources.

WHY IMPORTANT

The CCWP funds that address nonpoint pollution help to protect, restore, and preserve surface waters of the state by implementing stream restoration, riparian habitat restoration and enhancement, buffer width setbacks for stream protection, and agriculture best management practices. Restoration and protection of stream habitat not only improves water quality, but are also critical elements for salmon recovery and protection, such as reduced temperature and sediment loading to fresh and marine waters.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL CONTACT

Washington State Department of Ecology
Pat Brommer, (360) 407-6566

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON'S WILD FUTURE (SALMON RECOVERY ELEMENTS)

MAINTAIN CURRENT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$5.78 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Washington's Wild Future is an ongoing initiative designed to solicit feedback on the outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation activities the public wants the Department to provide. This budget request was developed based on feedback the Department received during this ongoing process. Washington fisheries management is a complex, multifaceted task involving hatchery production, Endangered Species Act (ESA) permitting for salmon and steelhead production, and monitoring and sampling to set seasons and provide opportunities for recreational, commercial, and tribal fishing interests. The following programs are necessary to maintain current fishing opportunities and advance ESA recovery priorities.

- Monitor Ocean Fisheries to Meet Federal Permit and Pacific Salmon Treaty Requirements (\$831,700)
- Secure and Implement ESA Permits: US v. OR; PS Chinook Harvest Management Plan (\$603,200)
- Early Winter Steelhead Genetic Monitoring in Puget Sound (\$559,200)
- Monitor Early Winter Chinook Mark Selective Fisheries in Puget Sound (\$154,200)
- Maintain Snow Creek Trap Operations – Early Winter Steelhead Opportunities (\$121,200)
- Maintain Puget Sound, Coastal, and Columbia River Fisheries (\$1,968,400)
- Tribal Mass Marking and Puget Sound Selective Fishery Monitoring (\$676,000)
- Lower Columbia River Salmon Population Monitoring (\$870,000)

WHY IMPORTANT

Salmon and steelhead hatcheries and fisheries must be monitored adequately to ensure sustainable fisheries and compliance with ESA permits. However, federal funding for fishery hatchery and monitoring programs has been reduced, and cost increases have reduced the Department's ability to meet production targets and conservation goals. Hatchery production and fisheries will be curtailed or eliminated if funding is not secured to implement more stringent monitoring programs.

FUND SOURCE

Wildlife Account-State

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Erik Neatherlin, (360) 902-2259
Raquel Crosier, (360) 902-2226

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON'S WILD FUTURE (SALMON RECOVERY ELEMENTS)

INCREASE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$2.72 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Washington's Wild Future is an ongoing initiative designed to solicit feedback on the outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation activities the public wants the Department to provide. This budget request was developed based on feedback the Department received during this ongoing process. Recreational and commercial fisheries generate over \$540 million annually to local and state economies and support over 16,000 jobs. This package is linked to agency request legislation that proposes to increase fees on recreational and commercial fishing licenses and transfer the Enhanced Food Fish Excise Tax to the State Wildlife Account. The following programs are intended to increase fishing opportunities and advance ESA recovery in the face of growing ESA fisheries, cost increases, and management challenges.

- Lake Washington Sockeye and Chinook Conservation (\$290,700)
- Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding Shortfall (\$839,900)
- Increase Lower Columbia Commercial and Recreational Fishery Monitoring and Sampling (\$1,423,700)
- Lower Columbia River Commercial and Recreational Fishery Enforcement (\$173,600)

WHY IMPORTANT

These programs ensure that Washington State fishery and hatchery programs are operated in a manner that contributes to and supports ESA recovery. These programs ensure that Washington State can meet its federal, state, tribal, and international treaty and legal obligations to operate and execute fisheries, while at the same time contributing to ESA salmon recovery.

FUND SOURCE

Wildlife Account-State

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Erik Neatherlin, (360) 902-2559
Raquel Crosier, (360) 902-2226

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON'S WILD FUTURE (SALMON RECOVERY ELEMENTS)

IMPROVE HPA OUTCOMES

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$3.33 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Washington's Wild Future is an ongoing initiative designed to solicit feedback on the outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation activities the public wants the Department to provide. This budget request was developed in response to comments provided during listening sessions on improving Hydraulic Permit Approval Program outcomes. Construction or other work activities in or near water can kill or harm fish and shellfish by damaging their habitat. The Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit is the state's primary regulatory tool to protect fish habitat. Increasing population pressure and the continued ESA listing of salmon and steelhead populations require enhanced aquatic habitat protection. Funding requested in this package will increase HPA permit compliance and technical assistance which improves permit outcomes and regularly decreases construction costs for applicants.

- HPA Technical Support to Improve Fish Habitat and Project Outcomes (\$1,702,100)
- HPA Program Hydraulic Code Civil Compliance Program (\$743,600)
- Additional HPA Enforcement Officers to Protect Fish (\$888,700)

WHY IMPORTANT

WDFW has the primary responsibility to enforce the Hydraulic Code. With a limited number of habitat biologists to conduct site visits and limited officers to patrol Washington's vast shorelines, streams, rivers and creeks, the potential for illegal hydraulic activity or non-compliant HPA permitted activities is significant. Currently, less than 4 percent of HPA permitted projects are inspected. This low level of oversight and enforcement of the Hydraulic Code leads many to undertake construction projects illegally and causing long-term disruptions to aquatic ecosystems and fish life.

FUND SOURCE

Wildlife Account-State, General Fund-State

Hydraulic Project Approval Account

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Jeff Davis, (360) 902-2527

Raquel Crosier, (360) 902-2226

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

WASHINGTON'S WILD FUTURE (SALMON RECOVERY ELEMENTS)

HABITAT CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$4.02 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Washington's Wild Future is an ongoing initiative designed to solicit feedback on the outdoor recreational opportunities and conservation activities the public wants the Department to provide. Conservation is the foundation a healthy environment, enjoyable outdoor recreational opportunities, and healthy fisheries. The Department is working with federal and state agencies and local partners statewide to assure healthy native fish populations, protect and recover threatened and endangered wildlife, and keep common species common. 2016 legislation created a new steelhead background license plate, which will help fund updated monitoring techniques. The Department continues research to support survival of juvenile steelhead in Puget Sound, works with local and regional partners for salmon recovery and habitat restoration, and takes actions to protect species and habitats of concern.

- Puget Sound Steelhead Early Marine Survival (\$780,300)
- Increase RFEF Capacity to Conduct Salmon Habitat Recovery Projects (\$1,400,000)
- Steelhead Background License Plate Revenue for Steelhead Conservation (\$530,000)
- Increase Fish Friendly Land Uses and Restoration (\$1,317,800)

WHY IMPORTANT

These programs support critical information to address juvenile steelhead mortality and recover and prevent further ESA down listing of steelhead. These programs will result in more habitat restoration projects implemented by RFEFs to benefit salmon and other species. These programs will assist local governments in meeting their legally mandated updates to Growth Management Act and Shoreline Management Act Master Programs.

FUND SOURCE

Wildlife Account-State, General Fund-State
Regional Fisheries Enhancement Account

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jeff Davis, (360) 902-2527
Raquel Crosier, (360) 902-2226

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

CONTROLLING AND REDUCING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

FY17-19 Governor’s Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$5.20 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In 2015 the legislature directed the Department of Fish and Wildlife along with the Recreation and Conservation Office to convene a group of stakeholders to develop recommendations on long-term funding mechanisms for AIS management and prevention. The Department is advancing the recommendations of the AIS Funding Advisory Committee which include a combination of user fees, general funds and public private partnerships. This request would increase the department’s funding for AIS from \$800,000 annually to \$5.2 million along with funding a local management grant to help support local AIS prevention and management efforts.

WHY IMPORTANT

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are a serious threat to Washington State’s economy, native species and landscape. The Northwest is the last region in the United States that remains free of Zebra and Quagga mussels. An infestation here could devastate numerous water-dependent industries and cost us an estimated \$500 million annually to control. This request would prevent harmful invasives from getting to Washington and would help the department boost its management and monitoring of species like European green crab, African clawed frogs and New Zealand mud snail that are already here and are impacting native species.

FUND SOURCE

- Operating \$2.6 million
- User fees \$2.6 million

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Raquel Crosier, (360) 902-2226

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FOR SALMON RECOVERY

HARVEST & HATCHERY REFORM, FISH PASSAGE AND RESTORATION ON WDFW LANDS

FY17-19 Governor's Budget **\$xxx million (% support Salmon Recovery)***

FY17-19 Request \$70.8 million (% support Salmon Recovery)*

FY 15-17 Appropriation amount \$52.2 million

*reflects the percent of total funding that would apply to salmon recovery projects

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Fiscal Year 2017-19 Capital Budget request for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reflects the Department's dedication to conserving healthy fish and wildlife populations, sustainable outdoor experiences, supporting a strong economy and social values, and pursuing operation excellence. The department's request reflects a strong desire to reduce risks to native salmon and steelhead by requesting projects that reduce the impacts hatcheries have on native fish. The capital improvements in this request include: renovating hatchery water in-takes and improving fish handling facilities to improve fish survival rates; improving incubating facilities to support producing Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish – conservation programs; on department lands, correcting fish passage barriers, and restoring floodplain and estuary habitat to near natural conditions to support salmon spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed fish.

WHY IMPORTANT

The Department relies heavily on its infrastructure and structures to provide critical services benefiting the public and the environment. These assets are decaying and failing and need to be repaired or replace. Included in this category are projects that are legally mandated and need to be renovated or repaired to comply with federal and state laws such as Clean Water Act, Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) and fish passage barrier removals.

Other projects include renovating or repairing current assets which directly benefit the public and the environment. These projects, such as recreational access improvements and hatchery infrastructure improvements enable the Department to provide valuable services by improving recreational, hunting and fishing opportunities and results in increase revenue to the local economies. These projects also reduce the backlog reduction plan. Also included within this list of projects are Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) projects which increase protection to ESA listed fish.

FUND SOURCE

Capital

PROGRAM CONTACT

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Glenn Gerth, Capital and Assets Management, (360) 902-8387

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS CHANNEL MIGRATION ZONE

RIVERS AND OPEN SPACE PROGRAM (RHOSP)

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$6.2 million
FY13-15 Appropriation amount	\$1.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This is a funding request of \$6.2 million for the Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP). This program provides financial compensation to forest landowners for permanent conservation easements of: (1) essential riparian forests within protected channel migration zones (CMZs, riparian and refugia areas where a river channel could migrate within); and (2) forested critical habitat areas protected by the Forest Practices rules for state listed threatened or endangered species.

This request will fund the RHOSP during the 2017- 2019 biennium to:

- Purchase conservation easements on about 300 acres of eligible CMZs;
- Purchase conservation easements on 400-800 acres of critical habitat of T&E species;
- Fund 0.75 in DNR staff required to carry out the program.

WHY IMPORTANT

In 1999, the legislature added the Riparian Open Space Program (ROSP) to the Forest Practices Act. As directed in this law, the Forest Practices Board adopted rules in 2001 to implement ROSP. In 2009, the Legislature expanded ROSP to include forested lands in CMZs and state-designated critical habitat required to be protected under the forest practices rules for threatened and endangered species. The program was renamed to Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program (RHOSP). RHOSP fulfills a commitment of the Forests and Fish Report and associated Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan and Clean Water Act assurances. In addition, RHOSP can serve a significant role in the conservation of habitat for upland threatened or endangered species. Protecting channel migration zones are critical to maintaining healthy and productive salmon habitat.

FUND SOURCE

Capital

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Stephen Bernath, deputy supervisor of Forest Practices
(360) 902-1028
Stephen.Bernath@dnr.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

FORESTRY RIPARIAN EASEMENT PROGRAM (FREP)

PURCHASE 50-YEAR CONSERVATION EASEMENTS FROM SMALL FOREST LANDOWNERS

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$10.0 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$11.2 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This is a funding request of \$10 million for the Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP) to purchase 50-year conservation easements from willing small forest landowners along riparian areas and associated buffered unstable slopes affecting riparian areas.

FREP compensates eligible small forest landowners for timber they are required to leave un-harvested as a result of the 2001 forest practices riparian buffer rules adopted to protect Washington's forests and fish. These areas include riparian buffers and buffers on potentially unstable slopes that could affect riparian areas. FREP creates a 50-year easement on "qualifying timber" inside these buffers. Landowners cannot cut or remove the qualifying timber during the easement period. The landowner still owns the property and retains full access, but has "leased" the trees and their associated riparian function to Washington State.

WHY IMPORTANT

FREP was established to help offset the disproportionate impacts of increased riparian buffer regulatory requirements on small forest landowners. Small forest landowners, those who harvest less than 2 million board feet of timber a year, are eligible to apply for FREP funding and receive 50% or more of compensation for merchantable trees they are required to retain in riparian buffer areas. This landowner incentive program is important to small forest landowners allowing them to maintain working forests and high quality habitat for salmon. Similar to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, this funding provides small forest landowners incentives to maintain a healthy riparian forest buffer along salmon bearing streams. This funding request would begin to catch-up with the backlog of willing small forest landowners wanting to partake in the program.

FUND SOURCE

Capital

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Stephen Bernath, deputy supervisor of Forest Practices
(360) 902-1028
Stephen.Bernath@dnr.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

SMALL FOREST LANDOWNER OFFICE CAPACITY

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Request	\$0.997 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

This request will restore SFLO capacity lost over the past four biennia due to the state's economic downturn. Small forest landowners own and manage approximately 3.2 million acres of Washington's forest lands and exert a tremendous influence on public resources, particularly in low elevation areas that contain major fish bearing streams, rivers and important habitat. The SFLO program staff provide advice and assistance to these landowners to help them protect water quality, provide fish and wildlife habitat, improve forest health, reduce the risk of wildfire and otherwise accomplish their forest management objectives on an individualized basis.

WHY IMPORTANT

The Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO) was established in 2001 to fulfill requirements in [WAC 222-12-0402](#) and [RCW 76.13.110](#) by providing assistance to small forest landowners (SFL) to promote their economic and ecological viability and protect public resources. Small forest landowners own about one-half of the private forestland in the state. The portion of the SFLO funded with GF-State is currently comprised of two positions devoted to providing landowners with forestry advice and information they need to keep their land in forestry. As the focal point for information and advice, the SFLO guides small forest landowners in approaches to forest management and accessing publicly funded programs. The legislature has directed the office to develop educational guidance and alternate plan templates and to help small forest landowners prepare alternate harvest plans appropriate to small forest landowners (see RCW [76.13.100](#) and [76.13.110\(3\)](#)). In addition, the SFLO uses funding from sources other than GF-S to administer two conservation easement programs (Forest Riparian Easement Program; Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program) and the Family Forest Fish Passage Program, and administers federal forest stewardship grants to help small landowners manage their lands and preserve working forests.

FUND SOURCE

General Fund

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Stephen Bernath, deputy supervisor of Forest Practices
(360) 902-1028
Stephen.Bernath@dnr.wa.gov

Salmon Recovery

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FISH BARRIER CORRECTION PROGRAM

FY17-19 Transportation Budget \$97.5 million

FY15-17 Appropriation amount \$88.7 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

There are 1,530 barriers to fish passage in the highway system statewide that have significant fish habitat. Correcting fish passage barriers is an important part of the state's effort to restore salmon, steelhead, and trout populations to healthy and harvestable levels by making habitat accessible. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has been correcting fish passage barriers since the early 1990s. To date, WSDOT has completed a total of 301 fish passage projects and improved access to about 1,000 miles of potential upstream habitat. This funding specifically addresses barriers identified in the 2013 court-issued injunction that requires state agencies to correct barrier culverts. WSDOT is actively working with the new statewide Fish Barrier Removal Board and other partners to coordinate barrier projects to gain bigger benefits by opening entire streams.

WHY IMPORTANT

Fish passage barrier correction can deliver impressive benefits. When rivers and streams are connected, fish can better access important spawning and rearing habitat. This is an important component of protecting and restoring fish populations, which can turn in have multiple benefits – including benefits for tribal, commercial, and recreational fishing industries.

The State of Washington, the federal government and 21 tribes have been involved in litigation related to the 1974 Boldt Decision, involving the tribes' right to a "fair share" of anadromous fish harvest. In 2007, the U.S. District Court found in favor of the tribes and declared that the right secured to the tribes in the Stevens Treaties, imposes a duty upon the state to refrain from building and operating culverts under state-maintained roads that hinder fish passage and thereby diminish the number of fish that would otherwise be available for tribal harvest. In 2013, the court issued an injunction that requires state agencies to correct barrier culverts. More than 800 state highway culverts are subject to the injunction.

WSDOT is a member of the Fish Barrier Removal Board created by the Legislature in 2014. WSDOT is significantly ramping up efforts to meet the injunction commitments. This will bring many opportunities for partnerships and coordination, leveraging the benefits of fish passage improvement. 35% of the Fish Barrier Board funding request for 2017-19 are associated with WSDOT barriers.

FUND SOURCE

Transportation Budget

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Transportation
Paul Wagner, biology branch manager (360) 705-7406

Salmon Recovery

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

ACCELERATING PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY

ACCELERATING PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx
FY17-19 Request	\$828,540

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) requests resources to lead and support the region as it updates Chinook salmon recovery plans using the latest science. The total request of \$828,540 and 1.0 FTE funds a Salmon Recovery Manager and contractor support to ensure all watersheds have established measurable habitat goals as a baseline for their Chinook Salmon Recovery Plan chapter updates. With this funding, the Partnership will establish a consistent framework for evaluating and investing in habitat projects that are shown to support key Chinook salmon species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1999. This request is related to Puget Sound Action Agenda implementation.

WHY IMPORTANT

Recovering Puget Sound Chinook salmon is integrally connected to nearly every other aspect of Puget Sound recovery and protection. It is critical to protecting the ecosystem, supporting livelihoods, upholding tribal treaty rights, and defining the legacy we leave for future generations.

Puget Sound Chinook salmon were listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1999 and a regional recovery plan, which included 16 salmon recovery watershed chapters, was developed in 2005. Despite emerging technical and scientific information, this plan has not been fully updated in more than ten years due to inadequate funding from federal and state sources to support capacity to undertake this demanding task. Benefits of an updated plan include understanding of the progress made to date, identifying the most effective priority investments, and improving reporting on consistent goals.

The Partnership's Leadership Council is the regional organization for Puget Sound salmon recovery, thereby authorized to plan, coordinate and monitor the regional recovery plan (RCW 77.85.090). Until August 2016, the Partnership was able to deploy a full-time staff person to carry out the responsibilities of a regional salmon recovery organization in support of the Leadership Council. Due to reductions (more than \$350,000 in FY17) in the Partnership's federal funding, the Salmon Recovery Director position was eliminated. Having a lead staff person is critical to sufficiently represent Puget Sound – the most complex salmon recovery region in Washington – in the statewide effort to recover salmon populations.

FUND SOURCE

Operating

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Puget Sound Partnership
Jeff Parsons, (360) 464-1221

Salmon Recovery

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF PUGET SOUND RECOVERY

STRENGTHEN PARTNER RELATIONS

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx
FY17-19 Request	\$694,080

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Puget Sound Partnership (Partnership) requests resources to strengthen partner relations at the federal, tribal, and local levels through dedicated staff liaisons, strategic communication, and identification of system efficiencies. The total request of \$694,080 and 2.0 FTEs funds a Tribal/Federal Liaison, Strategic Communications Manager, and contractor support to collaborate with partners in identifying potentially overlapping structures and processes between local ecosystem recovery and watershed-level salmon recovery organizations. With this funding, the Partnership will identify opportunities to consolidate existing systems to streamline efforts and maximize utilization of available resources.

WHY IMPORTANT

Puget Sound recovery is multi-faceted, with numerous efforts that were ongoing long before the Partnership was created and many that have joined since. The Partnership was founded to take those many activities and guide them into a cohesive and effective Puget Sound recovery system.

In the Puget Sound region there are 17 treaty tribes with rights to resources directly tied to the work of the Partnership. The Centennial Accord commits state agencies to a government-to-government relationship with treaty tribes. While the Partnership works closely with tribal governments, to date, the agency's tribal liaison role has been inadequately staffed. The liaison position will foster the necessary dialogue to build and strengthen relationships with the Puget Sound tribal governments, which are critical partners in the success of Puget Sound and salmon recovery efforts.

This request also seeks to identify and address system efficiencies in Puget Sound Recovery efforts. In the FY 2014 supplemental budget, the Legislature included a proviso for the Partnership to evaluate the different groups convened at local scales that contribute to Puget Sound recovery. The evaluation considered Lead Entities (salmon recovery), Local Integrating Organizations (ecosystem recovery), Watershed Planning Groups, Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups and a number of others. That evaluation resulted in many recommendations, some of which related to group consolidation to improve efficiency (Ross 2014). Merging recovery efforts reduces monetary and time investments in parallel processes and creates an integrated system that is more effective and sustainable.

FUND SOURCE

Operating

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Puget Sound Partnership, Jeff Parsons, (360) 464-1221

Salmon Recovery

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

SALMON RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM

STATE SALMON CAPITAL

FY17-19 Governor's Budget \$xxx million

FY17-19 Budget Request \$55.3 million

FY15-17 Appropriation amount \$16.5 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Salmon recovery grants are awarded through a competitive process by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to protect and restore salmon habitat. This contributes to the recovery of wild salmon and steelhead populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, while also protecting healthy fish populations. State salmon capital funding is critical to implement the statewide recovery plan and is used as match for up to \$50 million of the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

WHY IMPORTANT

The board funds projects that protect existing, high quality habitats for salmon in freshwater and estuarine ecosystems and restores degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity. The board also awards grants for restoration design and engineering in preparation for future funding to assure the projects are implemented as soon as possible. The state salmon capital funding is the only state funding used to match the federal PCSRF funding available through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service. To make the PCSRF grant application more competitive there are three critical parts to this request: 1) \$52 million to match the PCSRF applications in 2017 & 18, 2) \$2.472 million for Lead Entity project development (no longer included in the PCSRF application), and 3) \$641,410 for the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group project development.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

15 percent local match required.

LEAD AGENCY

Recreation and Conservation Office

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, policy director, (360) 902-3021

Salmon Recovery

PUGET SOUND SALMON RECOVERY

PUGET SOUND ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

FY17-19 Governor's Budget **\$xxx million**

FY17-19 Budget Request **\$80 million**

FY15-17 Appropriation amount \$37 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program is to provide grants for capital projects that protect or restore salmon habitat. All projects must be identified as high priority in the Puget Sound salmon recovery plan. Projects are evaluated, locally and regionally, to assess whether they will implement the priorities addressed in the adopted salmon recovery plans. The evaluation process is the same as the Salmon Recovery Funding Board funding process with an additional step of sequencing regional and large capital projects by the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council through an additional level of review by regional experts. All Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration projects also are approved by the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership before being presented to the Salmon Recovery Funding board for approval.

WHY IMPORTANT

This funding program was created to accelerate the implementation of federally-approved Puget Sound salmon recovery plans and to assist in the recovery of Puget Sound. Projects identified through the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan as the highest priority projects are eligible for PSAR funding. Funding the PSAR program ensures that the most critical, timely, priority projects to implement the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan are implemented. In many cases, these projects give protection to critical areas at immediate risk of degradation. Projects work directly toward the goals set out in the federal recovery plan and toward the delisting of threatened salmon populations in the Puget Sound. Funds are distributed among all Puget Sound lead entities in such a way as to provide resources to all 22 listed salmon populations. The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are responsible for maintaining the integrity of this process. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board approves final prioritized project lists, and grants are administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Minimum 15 percent match provided by the sponsor

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, (360) 902-3021

Puget Sound Partnership
Jeff Parsons, (360) 464-1221

Salmon Recovery

ESTUARY AND SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM

ESTUARY AND SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM

FY17-19 Governor's Budget **\$xxx million**

FY17-19 Budget Request **\$20 million**

FY15-17 Capital request \$8.0 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program provides grants to protect and restore the Puget Sound nearshore. The program was created by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to support the emerging priorities of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project. The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program is identified as the Puget Sound Partnership's priority near-term action item for restoring ecosystem processes, structures, and functions in Puget Sound as part of the *Action Agenda*.

WHY IMPORTANT

As Puget Sound's nearshore has been altered, its ability to provide critical habitat elements to salmon and other species has significantly declined. By strategically restoring key ecosystem processes we can restore the nearshore to a more vibrant and resilient condition for all its inhabitants. The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program projects are identified by working closely with local communities and multiple stakeholders. The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program engages local citizens and creates jobs in local communities. It is estimated by the Office of Financial Management that for every \$1 million invested through the program's restoration program, 11 local construction jobs are created. Commercial, tribal, and recreational fishers depend on a healthy Puget Sound to cultivate a new generation of salmon advocates.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

33 percent match is required

LEAD AGENCY

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife administers the program. The Recreation and Conservation Office manages the funds and Puget Sound Partnership provides program support and oversight through the Leadership Council and the *Action Agenda*.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, (360) 902-3021

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Raquel Crosier, (360) 902-2226

Salmon Recovery

FOREST AND FISH FAMILY FOREST LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE – FISH BARRIERS

FAMILY FOREST FISH PASSAGE PROGRAM

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY17-19 Budget Request	\$10.0 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$5.0 million
FY13-15 Appropriation amount	\$2 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Family Forest Fish Passage Program provides cost-share funding and technical assistance to small forest landowners to help them repair or remove fish passage barriers. Small forest landowners own about 3.2 million acres of forests in Washington—about half the private forestland in the state. These family forests are home to thousands of miles of fish-bearing streams and play a key role in helping Washington restore its once thriving fish populations. A single barrier on a stream can keep fish from reaching many miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat. As part of Washington's salmon recovery efforts, all private forest owners are required to fix artificial, in-stream fish barriers. In May 2003, the state Legislature committed to helping small forest landowners pay for these repairs by creating the Family Forest Fish Passage Program. Landowners enrolled in the program will not be required to correct their fish passage barriers until the state can provide financial assistance. Landowners not enrolled in the program, must correct the barrier at their own expense when they choose to harvest.

WHY IMPORTANT

Implements the Forests and Fish law by providing cost-share resources to small family forest lands that otherwise would not be able to comply with the law and provides salmon access to high quality habitat. This program often is coordinated with other barrier removal efforts for a larger collective impact. This program has a backlog of over 900 barriers. Replacement of a barrier averages about \$100,000.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LOCAL MATCH

Landowner match required if harvesting

AGENCY PARTNERSHIP

Washington Department of Natural Resource, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Office

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, (360) 902-3021

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Stephen Bernath, (360) 902-1028

Salmon Recovery

WASHINGTON COASTAL RESTORATION GRANTS

COASTAL RESTORATION INITIATIVE

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY 17-19 Budget Request	\$12.5 million
FY15-17 Appropriation amount	\$11.185

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Washington Coast Restoration Initiative (WCRI) was newly created and funded in the 2015-2017 capital budget. This program was created not only to address the conservation needs of our state's coastal region but to provide jobs to people in counties with very high unemployment rates. The program leverages existing federal, state, and private resources from across the Coast and has contributed to a large scaling up of restoration efforts. Restoration efforts in the region will have significant benefits to salmon, given the strong hold of wild salmon populations along the coast, and provide sustainable jobs for local communities. Project awards are competitive, and projects are evaluated similarly to the lead entity technical advisory process.

WHY IMPORTANT

This program provides grants to restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat on the Washington Coast, which serves to protect the existing strong-hold of salmon populations there and provide jobs for local communities. Projects within the WCRI package will bring improvements to the communities through job creation, more work options for local contractors, flood control, access improvement, climate resiliency and more. The conservation benefits of WCRI projects are not limited by species or type.

WCRI proposes to enrich tidal habitat and forest ecosystems, reduce invasive species and promote native plant and seed production, reconnect wetlands and improve salmon access and rearing potential.

Eligible grant recipients include: cities, towns, counties, state agencies, nonprofit organizations; and

Tribal governments. Grant recipients are not required to provide match in this program, but bringing additional funds to the project is a positive factor in the evaluation process.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LEAD AGENCY

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, policy director, (360) 902-3021

Salmon Recovery

FISH BARRIER GRANT PROGRAM

FISH BARRIER REMOVAL BOARD

FY17-19 Governor's Budget	\$xxx million
FY 17-19 Budget Request	\$51.4 million

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

In 2014, the Washington State Legislature created the Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) to develop a coordinated barrier removal strategy and provide the framework for a fish barrier grant program (RCW 77.95). Salmon populations continue to decline, with 2016 among the worst years on record for population abundance and commercial, tribal, and recreational opportunity. While fish passage has been aggressively addressed by private forest landowners in the headwaters, most streams remain blocked due to fish passage barriers downstream. This request funds the fish barrier removal projects identified and prioritized by the Board.

WHY IMPORTANT

Over the past 15 years, a multitude of organizations, private citizens and governments have spent millions of dollars restoring habitat and improving fish and wildlife management across our state to bring back endangered salmon and steelhead to our rivers and streams. While thousands of fish passage barriers have been corrected on private forest lands in Washington under the Forests and Fish agreement (Family Forest Fish Passage Program), most of these barrier corrections still have other barriers up or downstream from them. An estimated 40,000 fish passage barriers still exist in Washington State, which in most cases stand in the way of salmon accessing prime habitat. The Fish Barrier Removal Board has developed a statewide strategy to repair barriers in a whole watershed and coordinated pathway. This request is to initiate barrier corrections throughout the state using the project lists developed under this strategy.

This request will fund the design, engineering and construction of 79 fish passage barriers throughout the state. Of the 79 projects, 59 would be design and construction, while 20 would be design only.

FUND SOURCE

State Building Construction Account

LEAD AGENCIES

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tom Jameson, (360) 902-2612

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, (360) 902-3021

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE PROGRAM: [FISH BARRIER REMOVAL BOARD](#)

Salmon Recovery

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

LEAD ENTITY SUPPORT

SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD LOCALLY BASED WATERSHED GROUPS

SUPPORT 25 LEAD ENTITIES

FY17-19 Carrier Forward Request \$0.907 (general fund)

FY 17-19 Budget Request \$2.472 (Part of State Salmon Capital Request)

FY15-17 Appropriation amount \$0.907

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

With the first federal Endangered Species Act listings of salmon in the late 1990s, Washington created an unprecedented approach to recovery: We decided to write and implement our own science-based, federally-approved recovery plans. Seven regional organizations are carrying out these plans. Within the seven regions, 25 watershed-based groups known as “lead entities” perform the essential work of recruiting, reviewing, and prioritizing habitat projects that implement the plans. They are responsible for making sure that these projects engage local communities and receive their support.

Established in law (Revised Code of Washington 77.85), lead entities consist of:

- A lead entity coordinator (staff person)
- A committee of local, technical experts (technical committee)
- A committee of local citizens representing a variety of interests (citizen committee)
- A lead entity grant administrator (the fiscal agent)

WHY IMPORTANT

This funding package enables lead entities to continue their important and statutorily-required work and ensures that Washington State can compete successfully for federal salmon recovery funds.

Lead entities are supported by a combination of state General Fund and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). When the Legislature created the lead entities in statute in 1999, the mix of funds supporting the work of the lead entities was about 50 percent state and 50 percent federal. Beginning in 2009, state funds were reduced, and more of the lead entity funding has been shifted to the federal funds. This shift has led to Washington State being less competitive for federal PCSRF funds.

With this package, Washington can regain its competitive edge for federal salmon recovery dollars and maintain our innovative, statutorily-required, and locally-driven work in salmon recovery.

FUND SOURCE

Operating budget

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wendy Brown, policy director, (360) 902-3021