

Topic: State funding for salmon recovery programs in the 2017-2019 biennium

REQUEST: The Policy and Development Committee requested that the Forum send a letter to the Governor and legislators who represent all or a portion of WRIA 7 supporting state funding for the SRFB, PSAR, ESRP and FbD programs. See attached draft letter

Background:

In September, state agencies submitted their 2017-2019 budget requests. On Dec. 14th, Governor Inslee released his proposed budget for the 2017-2019 biennium.

Below is an abbreviated summary of the proposed funding levels for programs related to salmon recovery. The proposed Governor’s budget is available [here](#). Agency budget requests can be found [here](#).

Program	Agency Request	Governor	Senate - TBA	House - TBA	Final Budget - TBA
Salmon Recovery (SRFB-State)	\$55,300,000	\$30,000,000			
Salmon Recovery - Federal	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000			
Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration	\$80,000,000	\$50,000,000			
Estuary and Salmon Restoration	\$20,000,000	\$10,000,000			
Floodplains by Design	\$70,000,000	\$20,300,000			
Fish Barrier Removal Board Grants	\$51,400,000	\$19,747,000			

PSAR – A funding level of at least \$30 million supports Puget Sound watershed allocation (Snohomish Basin receives ~\$1.9 million). Funds above \$30million support the “large cap” program. While Snohomish Basin does not have large cap projects proposed for the 17-19 biennium, we do expect to propose projects in the future.

ESRP – A funding level of \$10 million supports implementation of Snohomish Beach Nourishment project (ranked #2) and possibly the Snohomish CD’s Snohomish Restoration Feasibility for Sea Level Rise and Agricultural Production project (ranked #19). Funding at \$20 million would support additional projects in the Snohomish Basin. Link: [ESRP 2017-2019 project list](#)

Floodplains by Design – A funding level of \$61.6 million would be needed to implement the Snohomish County’s Lower Sky and Snohomish River Reach Scale Project Pipeline project. Link: [Ranked FbD 2017-2019 project list](#) *Note that in November 2016, the Forum signed a letter supporting the \$70 million agency request.*

Fish Passage Removal Board – A funding level of \$19.7 million supports one project (Sound Salmon Solutions) on Catherine Creek. A higher funding level would support an additional project on Catherine Creek (\$24.3 million) and culverts on Little Pilchuck and tributaries (up to 5 projects if funding reaches \$48.8 million). Link: [2017-2019 FPRB Funding Proposal](#)