



\$1,765,000 Operating Request (GF-S)

Watershed Resilience Initiatives

An innovative, place-based approach to advancing salmon recovery and watershed health to ensure that salmon endure in the face of climate change as an integral part of Washington's cultural and economic identity.

Funding will continue to support Watershed Resilience Initiatives, including:

- [Large Wood Supply Initiative](#)
- [Forest Landowner Fish Passage Initiative \(FloFish\)](#)
- [Acidification Nearshore Monitoring Network \(ANeMoNe\)](#)
- Planning and implementing restoration projects on DNR lands

CONTACT

Brian Considine

Legislative Director

Cell: 360-764-0013

brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov

Olgy Diaz

Deputy Legislative Director

Cell: 360-918-3555

olgy.diaz@dnr.wa.gov

Watershed Resilience Initiatives

Maintaining momentum for salmon recovery and watershed resilience

[DNR's Watershed Resilience Program \(WRP\)](#) is accelerating salmon recovery and watershed health through a place-based approach that is rooted in building strong relationships with Tribes and local salmon recovery partners. The WRP has garnered widespread support in the Snohomish and Nisqually watersheds. This dedicated capacity at DNR has improved coordination for habitat restoration and resilience projects, allowing the agency to pilot innovative approaches and to secure grants that further extends state funding.

This funding package for Watershed Resilience Initiatives would maintain funding levels from the 23-25 biennium.

Maintaining this funding is critical to sustain momentum and build upon successes that are strengthening and expanding salmon recovery and watershed resilience work across these three target watersheds. This important work benefits state-wide human and natural communities, including helping to maintain Tribal treaty rights.

WRP was established in 2022 to implement the following five goals to drive action toward salmon recovery outcomes that can be measured in the short and long-term:

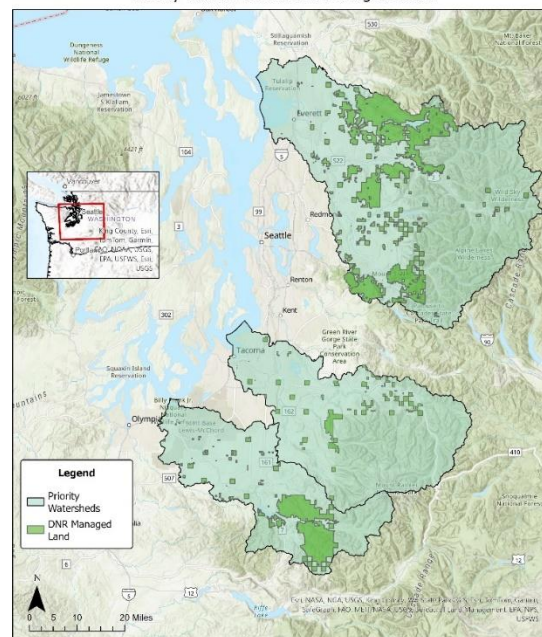
1. Protect and clean up aquatic habitat.
2. Restore, conserve and connect forests and riparian habitat.
3. Revitalize urban forests and streams.
4. Engage and invest in communities.
5. Reduce and combat climate impacts

Building partnerships, planning, and coordination to strengthen long-term watershed resilience and salmon recovery

Continued funding is needed to allow DNR to maintain strong relationships with salmon recovery partners and to explore additional opportunities to work at the watershed-scale to advance salmon recovery. Current program priorities include ensuring DNR is supporting habitat restoration through access to lands, large wood, and other natural resources vital to the restoration effort, building coordinated strategies for riparian restoration, improving fish passage on forested lands, and planning and implementing habitat restoration and resilience projects. This funding package continues support for program expansion to the Puyallup and Nisqually watersheds, and funds innovative Watershed Resilience Initiatives that:

- Advance and accelerate DNR actions to support salmon recovery and watershed resilience throughout target watersheds
- Effectively innovate to address known data gaps and capacity limitations

DNR's Watershed Resilience Program:
Priority Watersheds & DNR Managed Lands





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- Support capacity of Tribal and local partners to develop salmon recovery projects and funding proposals in collaboration with DNR
- Invest in critical research to inform salmon recovery and climate resilience
- Encourage improved stewardship of private lands through landowner outreach, education, and social marketing

Watershed Resilience Program delivers on salmon recovery

With state funding in the 2023-2025 biennium, DNR launched multiple Watershed Resilience Initiatives and supported coordinated salmon recovery actions across the three target watersheds. In the first two years of the program, the dedicated staff capacity enabled by state resources catalyzed an additional leverage of over \$850,000 in local, state, and federal funding to implement on-the-ground salmon habitat restoration projects identified through the Resilience Initiatives.

Ongoing funding is needed to maintain momentum on the following initiatives:

- [Large Wood Supply Initiative](#) – piloting a process to provide reliable large wood materials for engineered log jams and other wood placement elements of instream and floodplain habitat restoration projects
- [Forest Landowner Fish Passage Initiative \(FloFish\)](#) – outreach and engagement with small forest landowners to address critical data gaps by identifying and repairing fish passage barriers on private lands
- [Acidification Nearshore Monitoring Network \(ANeMoNe\)](#) - a statewide marine nearshore community climate science initiative, with a new monitoring station established with Snohomish watershed partners in 2024
- [Planning and implementing restoration projects on DNR lands](#) – Completing habitat assessment and restoration projects on DNR-managed lands that advance salmon recovery goals.

Accomplishments:

Snohomish Watershed:

- >70% of Snohomish Watershed Resilience Action Plan near-term implementation actions are underway
- Over 42,000 pounds of marine debris have been removed
- More than 5,457 urban trees have been planted
- Established the first of its kind Kelp and Eelgrass Protection Zone near the Snohomish delta
- Supported local nonprofits to survey and treat invasive knotweed and restore riparian habitat, including installing over 2,500 native plants
- Partnered with WDFW to remove a derelict barge structure that was damaging critical intertidal wetland habitat on the Spencer Island restoration project



The Skykomish River near Monroe on a sunny summer day. While beautiful to look at, much of the vegetation shown is invasive knotweed, which spreads aggressively and negatively impacts watershed health and salmon habitat.

Nisqually and Puyallup watersheds:

- Piloted removal and restoration effectiveness monitoring of a submerged tire pile consisting of over 2,000 tires in the Nisqually watershed marine waters
- Thermal infrared aerial survey of streams in partnership with Puyallup Tribe to inform habitat restoration project prioritization
- Treated invasive yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife across the 512 acres of Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve in the Puyallup watershed