

22 POPULATIONS OF CHINOOK SALMON ARE SUPPORTED BY PSAR BASE FUNDING

In 1999, the Puget Sound Technical Recovery Team determined that all 22 populations of Puget Sound Chinook salmon were at high risk of extinction. The National Marine Fisheries Service endorsed this finding, which led to listing all 22 populations as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. For Puget Sound Chinook salmon to be removed from the list, all 22 populations must improve over time.



Chinook Salmon, photo credit: Ron DeCloux

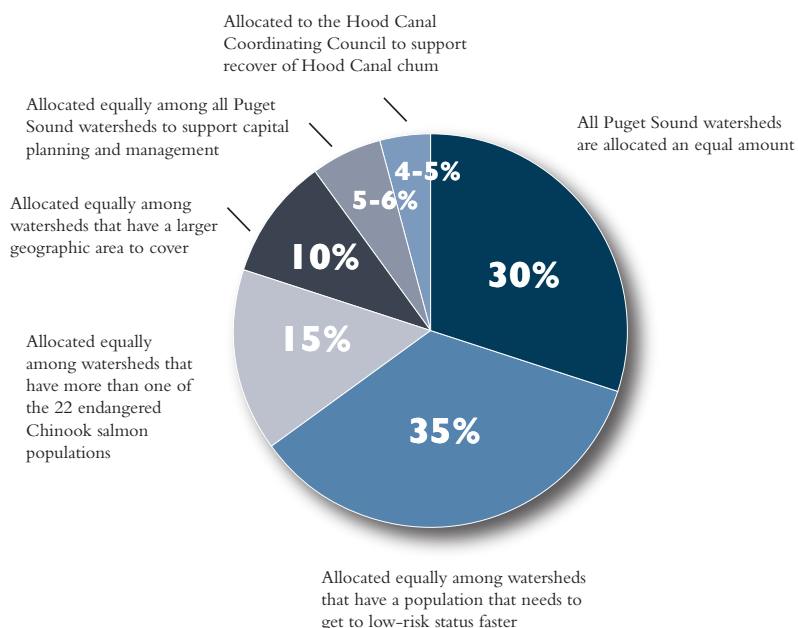
PSAR FUNDS SCIENCE-BASED INVESTMENT IN SALMON RECOVERY

PSAR helps to fund critical habitat projects necessary for the recovery of Puget Sound Chinook salmon. The Legislature approves the biennial allocation for PSAR grants in odd-numbered years. The total allocation may vary from year to year, but bipartisan support for fully funding the base grant of \$30 million has always ensured that watershed groups in Puget Sound can continue their local PSAR projects.

HOW DOES PSAR BASE FUNDING ENSURE THAT ALL 22 POPULATIONS OF PUGET SOUND CHINOOK GET HELP?

The formula for allocating PSAR funds to Puget Sound watershed groups is based on salmon recovery criteria adopted by NOAA Fisheries in the Federal Recovery Plan for Puget Sound Chinook. Under this formula, all Puget Sound watersheds are allocated an equal amount of base funding. This accounts for 30 percent of the total each watershed receives. The remaining 70 percent of the money is allocated based on a variety of factors. See chart to right:

HOW IS THE PSAR BASE GRANT ALLOCATED?



KEY ATTRIBUTES OF THE PSAR PROGRAM ENSURE MAXIMUM BENEFITS TO PEOPLE AND TO NATURE

- Is a voluntary, non-regulatory tool that can be used to enable and sustain the habitat restoration needed for salmon recovery. Without this tool, the federal government could place more reliance on a non-voluntary, regulatory approach to salmon recovery. Damaged parties could also sue to achieve the same result.
- Protects critical salmon habitat threatened by incompatible land uses, such as residential and commercial development.
- Takes advantage of opportunities to acquire valuable habitat from willing landowners.
- Provides the state match required to leverage other sources of funding.
- Enables several adjacent parcels of land to be assembled to collectively provide greater benefit from habitat restoration.
- Enables reconnection of rivers and side channels to floodplains, the highest priority action in the salmon recovery strategies of many watersheds.
- Provides crucial links within larger wildlife corridors.



Chinook Salmon, photo credit: Dan Cox, USFWS