

RECOVERY OF 22 POPULATIONS OF THREATENED CHINOOK SALMON IS 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

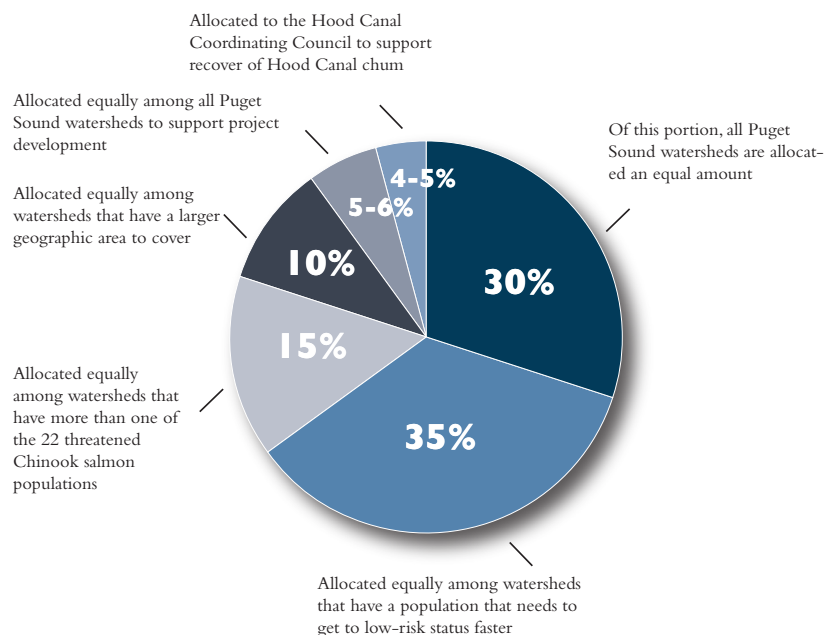
PSAR FUNDS SCIENCE-BASED INVESTMENT IN SALMON RECOVERY

PSAR helps to fund critical habitat projects scientifically determined to be 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 enables watershed groups in Puget Sound to continue to implement salmon recovery plans.

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 PSAR BASE FUNDING ALLOCATED?



2017 PSAR BASE FUNDING WOULD SUPPORT 94 LOCAL PROJECTS

The PSAR base funding level of \$30 million for 2017-19 would fund 59 projects, of which 31 are restoration projects, 19 are acquisition projects, and the remainder are planning and/or design projects.

Of the 19 acquisition projects, 10 are sponsored by land trusts, two by Conservation Districts, two are by cities, one is by a county, one is by a Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group, and one is by another type of non-governmental organization.

Any funding beyond the \$30 million level will support regionally significant, large capital projects. (See the list of proposed projects on the back panel of the main PSAR brochure.)

PEOPLE AND NATURE BENEFIT FROM THE PSAR PROGRAM

Several key attributes of the PSAR program help to ensure maximum benefits to people and to nature. These attributes include the following:

- As a voluntary, non-regulatory tool, PSAR enables and sustains 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.
- Protection of 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.
- Provision of the state match required to leverage other sources of funding, including federal, local, tribal, and non-governmental sources.
- Enabling of several adjacent parcels of land to be assembled to collectively provide greater benefit from habitat restoration.
- Enabling of reconnection of rivers and side channels to floodplains, the highest priority action in the salmon recovery strategies of many watersheds.
- Provisioning of crucial links within larger wildlife corridors.



Chinook Salmon, photo credit: Dan Cox, USFWS

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