

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP ACCELERATING PUGET SOUND RECOVERY



Puget Sound recovery is complex and continuously evolving. It can be achieved only through the collective effort of diverse partners across many sectors of society. That's why the Washington State Legislature created the Puget Sound Partnership—to be the state agency charged with mobilizing, guiding, and accelerating Puget Sound recovery and protection efforts.

THE CHALLENGE

Trends include:

- ▶ In 2013, the percentage of monitored swimming beaches that met EPA's water quality criteria had fallen below the 2004 baseline.
- ▶ Shoreline armoring affects more than a quarter of all the shoreline habitat around Puget Sound.
- ▶ Summer low-flow rates in the Issaquah Creek and North Fork Stillaguamish, Snohomish and Deschutes rivers have been getting worse since 1975.
- ▶ In 2014, 36,000 acres of shellfish beds were closed due to pollution.
- ▶ The total number of marine birds in the region have declined by 47 percent since the 1970s.

A SHARED RESOURCE

- ▶ More than 10,000 rivers and streams flow into Puget Sound, the nation's largest estuary by water volume. These waters are home to more than 200 species of marine fish.
- ▶ Puget Sound, home to the second-largest U.S. port (combined), supports 71 percent of the jobs in Washington State and a marine industry that grosses approximately \$30 billion per year. 80 percent of statewide tourism and recreation revenues are generated from the Puget Sound region.
- ▶ 19 federally recognized tribal governments, 17 of which have treaty rights, rely on Puget Sound's natural resources for cultural traditions and economic sustainability.
- ▶ Approximately 4.5 million people call the 12-county Puget Sound region home—by 2025 that number is expected to exceed 5.5 million.



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OUR CORE WORK

COORDINATING PARTNER ACTION AROUND A COMMON AGENDA

The Partnership coordinates with more hundreds of partners to create a common agenda and shared measures to advance local and regional recovery work.

- ▶ The **Action Agenda** charts the course for recovery efforts and identifies the local and regional actions most supportive of Puget Sound recovery. The agenda relies on other regionally prioritized plans, such as:
 - » The **Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan** includes regional, watershed-specific nearshore recovery strategies and actions.
 - » The **Biennial Science Work Plan** identifies science-related actions to be accomplished in 2 years and recommends improvements to ongoing science that supports Puget Sound recovery and long-term protection.



MOBILIZING SOUND INVESTMENTS

The Partnership rallies and supports the coordinated and focused work of governments, tribes, universities, scientists, businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

- ▶ Under the Puget Sound National Estuary Program, Washington state agencies and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission work together to develop strategies that implement the Action Agenda.
- ▶ **Local Integrating Organizations** enable communities to guide the implementation of the Action Agenda and investment in local actions.
- ▶ The **Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program** is a collaboration of organizations focused on monitoring environmental conditions in Puget Sound to identify the actions that are most effective.

TRACKING PROGRESS TO OPTIMIZE RECOVERY

The Partnership tracks environmental indicators and communicates the results so that partners can innovate, adapt, and invest in actions that best accelerate recovery.

- ▶ The **Action Agenda Report Card** tracks the status of actions and funding.
- ▶ The **State of the Sound** is a biennial report on the regional effort to recover Puget Sound.
- ▶ The **Puget Sound Vital Signs** track the status of the ecosystem through 25 key indicators.



**LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE TO RESTORE
AND PROTECT PUGET SOUND: www.psp.wa.gov**