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January 4, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Stacy Horton

SUBJECT: Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office Update on the 2022 State of Salmon in Watersheds Report

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Eli Asher, Policy Specialist, Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Summary: The biennially updated State of the Salmon in Watersheds report provides a statewide overview of abundance of ESA-listed Washington State salmon and steelhead populations, a summary of activities funded through the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and a high-level explanation of all-H salmon recovery in the state. The 2022 report includes updated relative population levels and summaries of recent recovery efforts.

Relevance: The protection, mitigation and recovery of fish and wildlife requires a regional commitment. The Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office has been a valuable partner in this effort.

Background: The Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program shares in the region's broader vision of natural-origin salmon and steelhead populations across the basin that are diverse, resilient, productive, and sufficiently

abundant to allow substantial opportunities for tribal and non-tribal harvest. The Washington Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GRSO) provides a productive partnership that works across social and ecological boundaries to inform and address issues that impact salmon and steelhead recovery. Since 2008, the GRSO has produced the State of Salmon in Watersheds Report to update, engage, and help set a path forward toward salmon recovery.

More Info: The State of the Salmon in Watersheds report is an interactive website hosted by the Recreation and Conservation Office: <https://stateofsalmon.wa.gov>. An executive summary is available for download from the website or in (limited) print version.



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Governor's Salmon
Recovery Office

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office and State of Salmon in Watersheds

Eli Asher
GSRO Policy Specialist

We are Here for the Salmon

- **Form the Fabric of the Pacific Northwest**
- **Tribal Nations Obligations**
- **Critical to Regional and Local Economies**
- **Indicators of Ecosystem Health**

Mounting Challenges

- Climate Change
- Population Growth
- Habitat Loss
- Streamflow and Temperature
- Pollution
- Predation
- Barriers
- Funding



Salmon Recovery in Washington: A Unique National Model

Federal Endangered Species Act (NOAA)

Statewide Salmon Strategy (Gov Office)

- 1999 Governor Locke Developed
- 2021 Governor Inslee Update and Modernized

State Salmon Recovery Act (Legislative) (RCW 77.85)



Role of GSRO

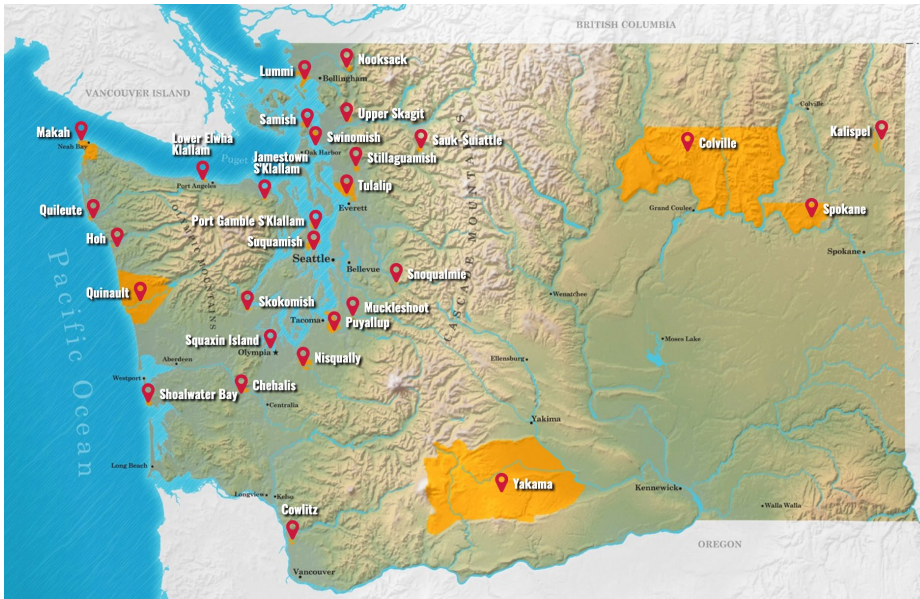


WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Governor's Salmon
Recovery Office

- **Policy Support and Coordination**
- **Coordinate Implementation of Statewide Salmon Strategy**
- **Biennial State of Salmon Report**
- **Federal and Congressional Affairs**
- **Agencies and Recovery Organizations**
- **Work with Tribes Across Washington**
- **Funding**
- **Operations**

Tribes and Salmon Recovery



- **Sovereign Tribes in Washington**
- **Treaty Tribes**
 - Western WA Treaty Tribes
 - Eastern WA Treaty Tribes
- **Tribal Organizations**
 - Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
 - Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission
 - Upper Columbia United Tribes

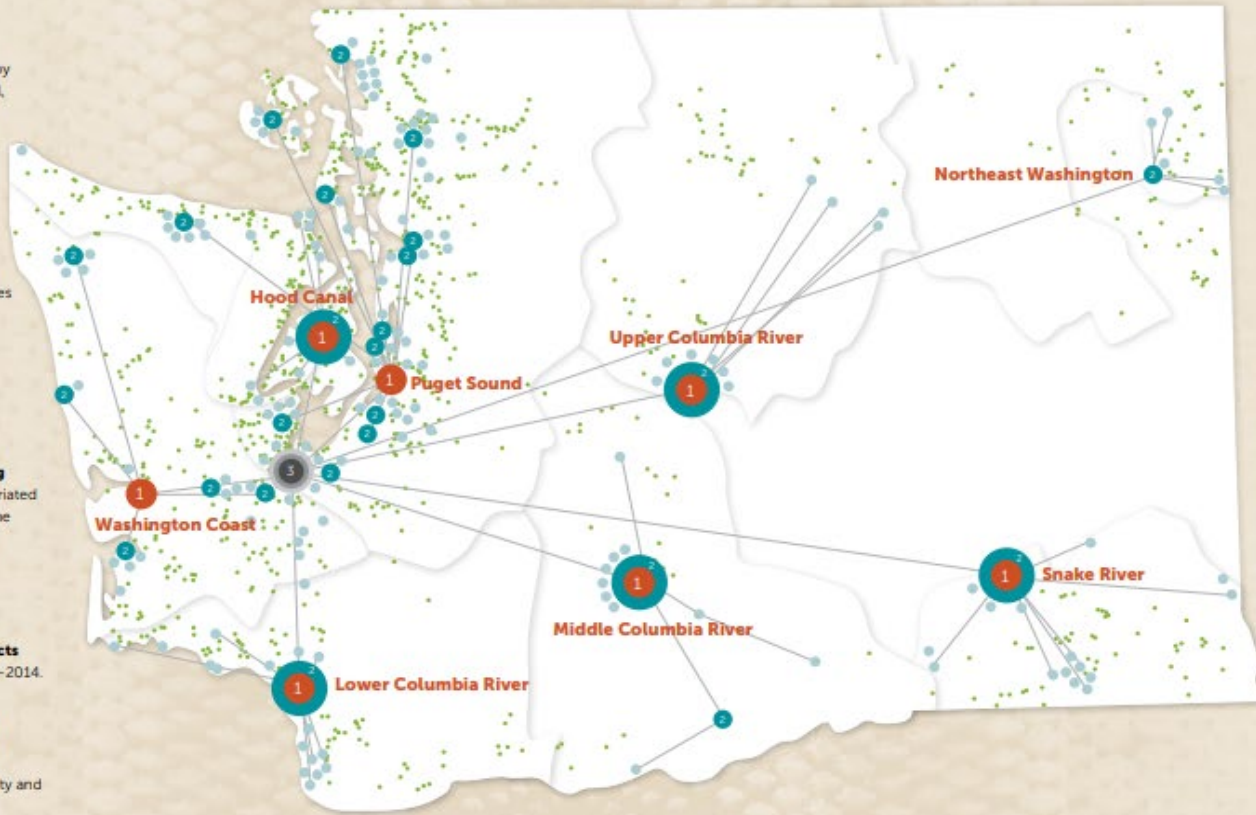
Broader Salmon Recovery Network

Salmon Connect Us

The Salmon Recovery Network is a coordinated and collaborative statewide network that empowers local communities to lead salmon recovery in their communities.



- 1 Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations** led by county and tribal leaders, and advised by scientists, citizens, state, federal, and tribal agency staff, develop and guide implementation of plans to recover and sustain salmon and the habitats upon which they depend.
- 2 Lead Entities** work at the local watershed scale with technical and citizen committees to prioritize funding to high priority projects.
- 1** Regional Salmon Recovery Organizations that are also Lead Entities
- 3** The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** distributes funds appropriated by Congress and matched by the State of Washington to project implementers across the state.
- 1** **Implementer** office location
- 1** On the ground **recovery projects** across Washington state, 2000–2014.
- 1** **Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office** and the **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office** ensure fiscal responsibility and statewide coordination.



4,793 JOBS
New or sustained jobs salmon recovery funding supports annually

\$713M
Total economic activity from salmon recovery

16,374 JOBS
Estimated jobs recreational and commercial fisheries support annually

\$540M
Personal income generated from recreational and commercial fisheries

80%
of grant funding is spent in the county where the project is located. For every \$1 million spent on restoration, 15-33 new or sustained jobs and \$2.2-\$2.5 million in total economic activity is generated.

(RCO 2012)

Washington's natural beauty and healthy ecosystems draw visitors and businesses, increasing economic prosperity across the state.

Governor's Salmon Strategy Update

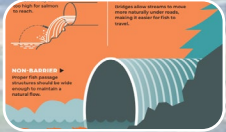
Securing a Future for People and Salmon in Washington



- Protect and restore vital salmon habitat



- Invest in clean water infrastructure for salmon and people



- Correct fish passage barriers and restore access to historical habitat



- Build climate resiliency



- Align harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery



- Address predation and food web issues for salmon



- Enhance coordination across agencies and programs



- Strengthen science, monitoring, and accountability

The Opportunity is Now



- Federal Funding
- State Funding and Focus on Salmon
- Strong and Resilient Partnerships
- Time is Running out

What is the State of Salmon Report?

- Statutorily required by the Salmon Recovery Act
 - Reporting on fish, watershed health, recovery progress
 - Printed executive summary
 - Website: stateofsalmon.wa.gov
 - Data hub with current information
-

Executive Summary



Why save salmon?

Salmon Status

Climate Change

Funding

Habitat

Water (quality, quantity)

Fish Passage

Harvest

Hydropower

Hatcheries

Food Web/Predation

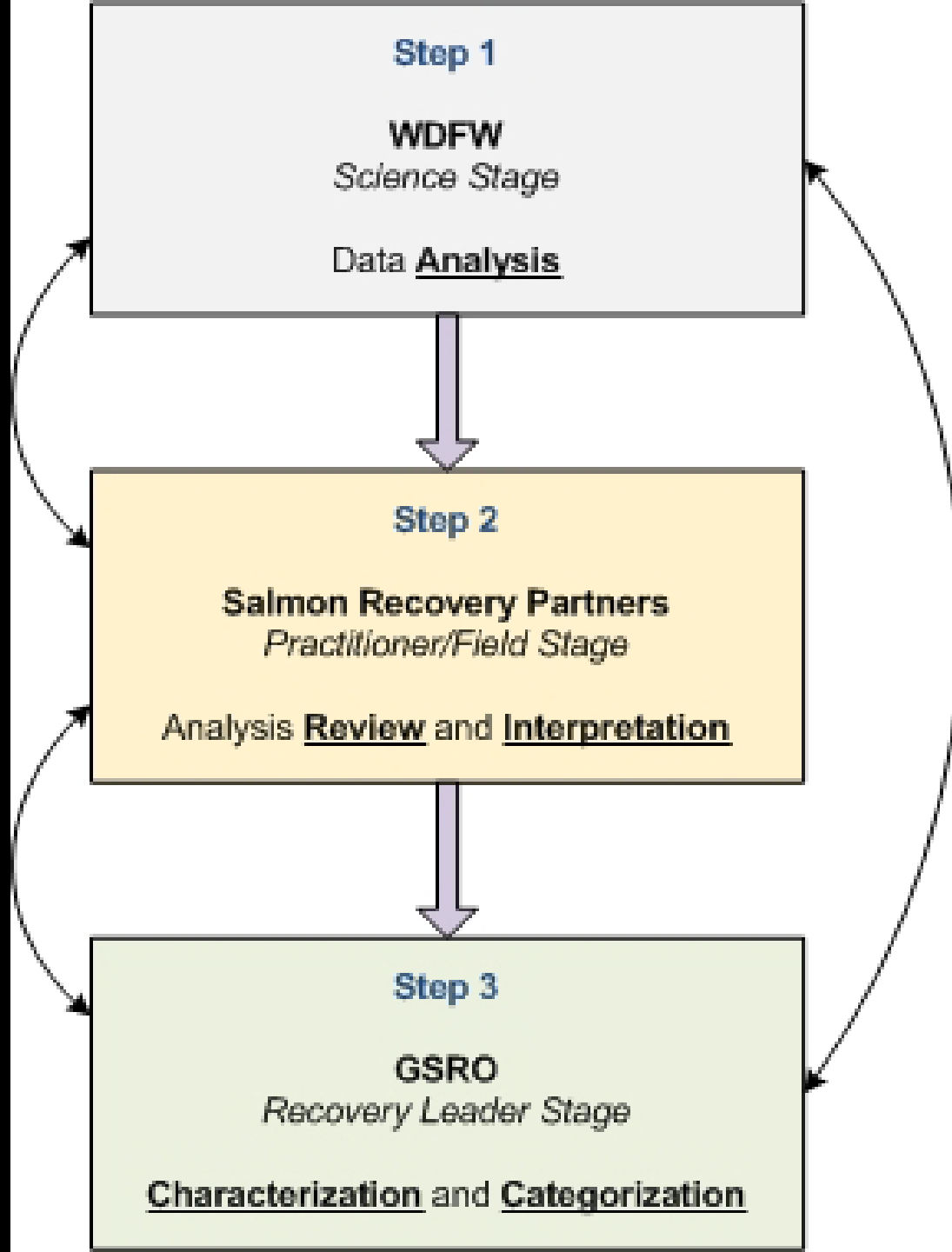
Highlighted projects

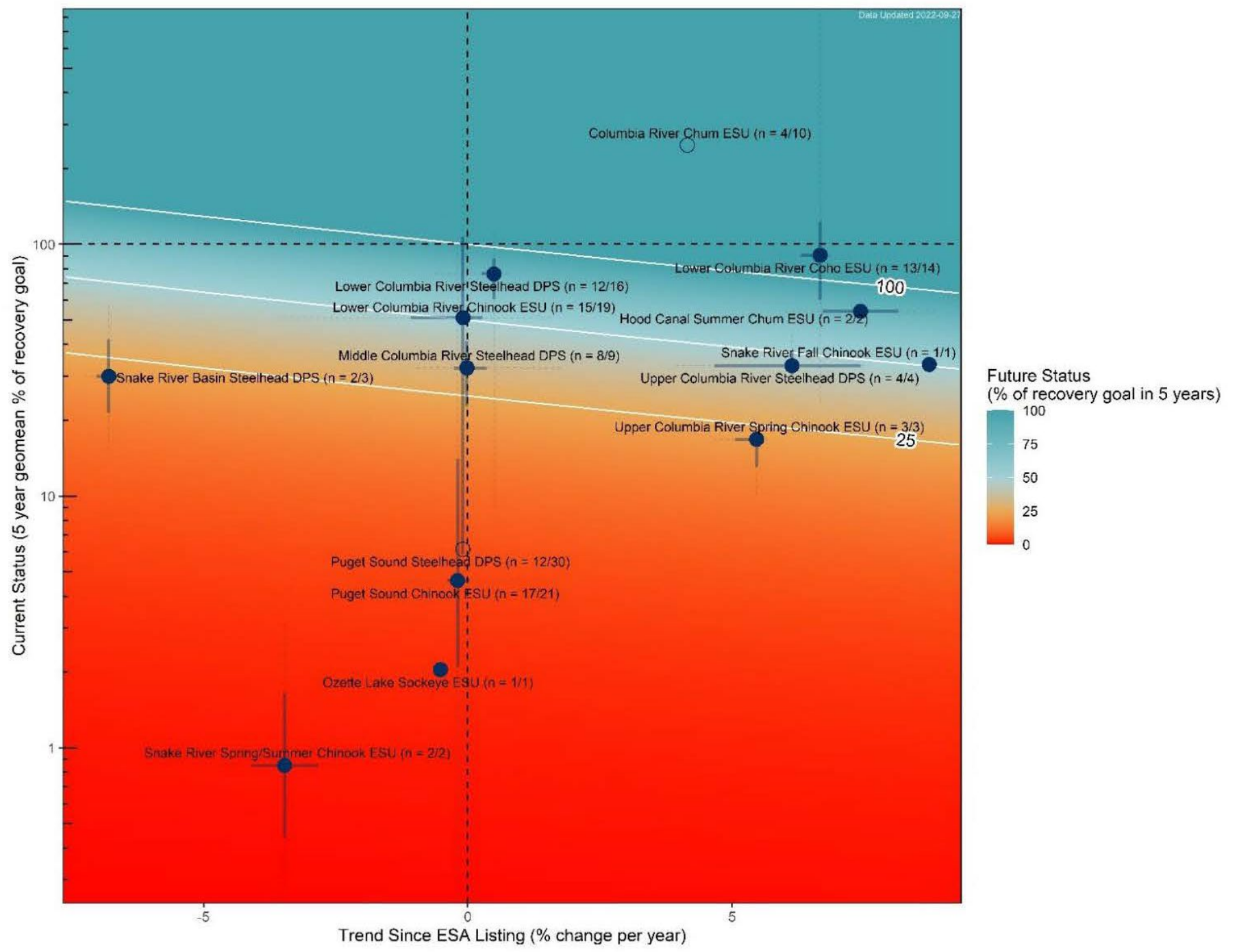
In Memoriam

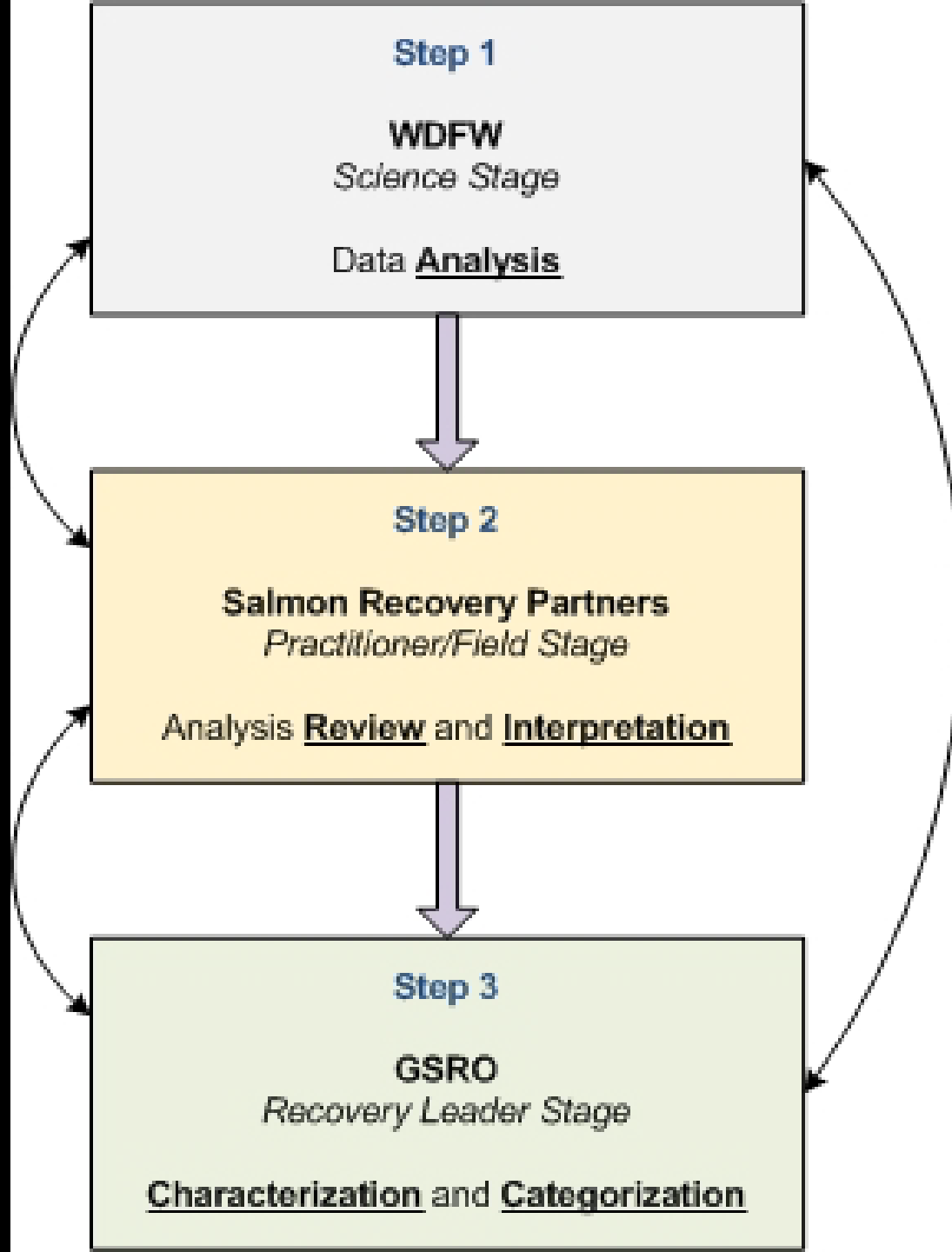


Abundance



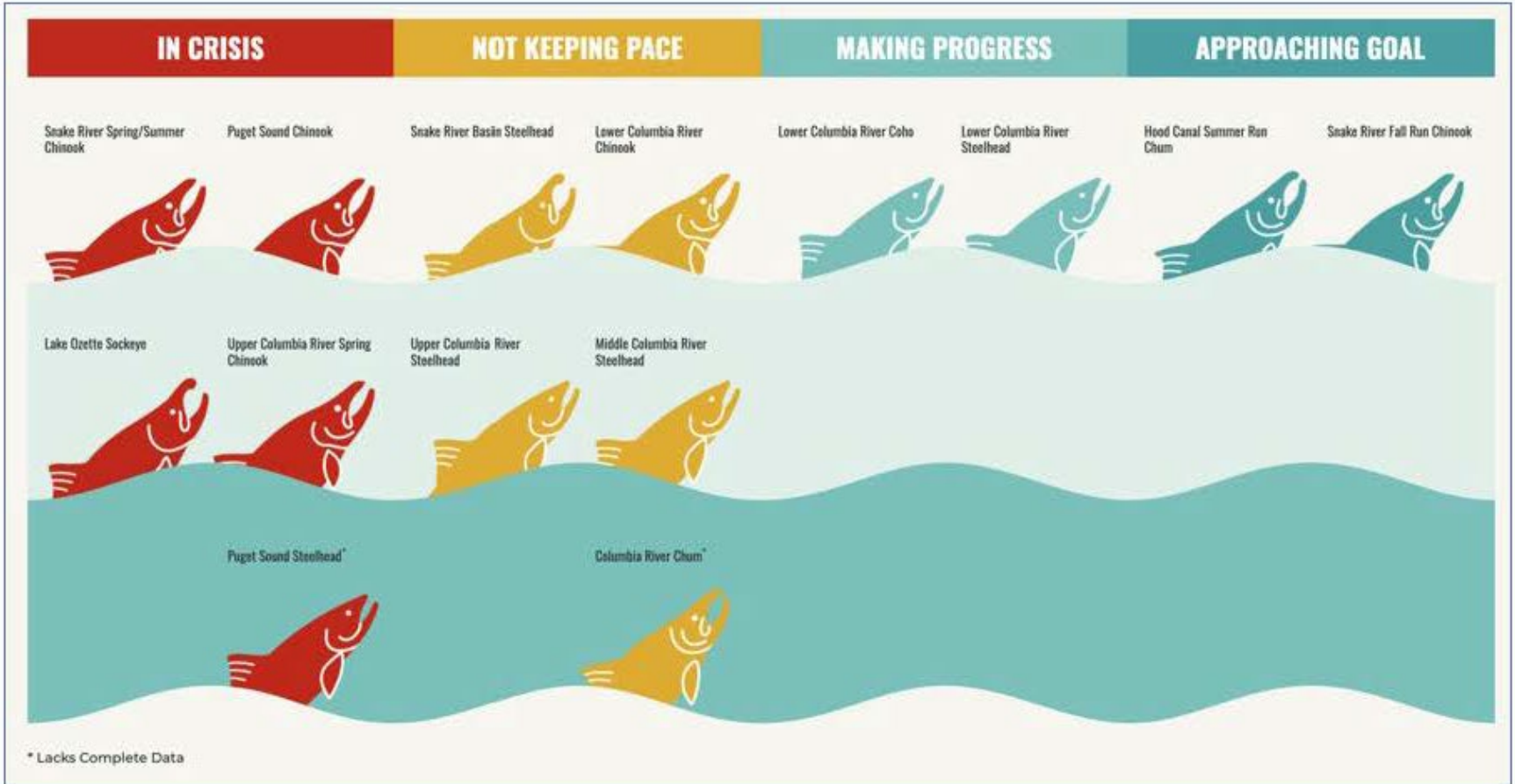






2022 State of Salmon in Watersheds Adult Abundance

12-21-2022





Climate Change

PARAMETERS

PEAK FLOW 

LOW FLOW 

SUMMER MAXIMUM WATER TEMPERATURE 

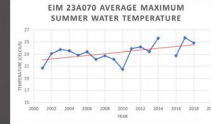
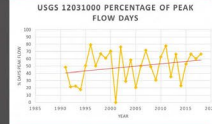
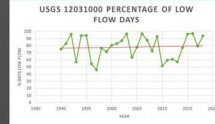
SYSTEM TYPE |
 REGULATED X
 GLACIAL XX
 MIXED RAIN/SNOW XXX

DISCHARGE (LOW FLOW)

DISCHARGE (PEAK FLOW)

WATER TEMPERATURE

★ Chehalis River at Porter, WA

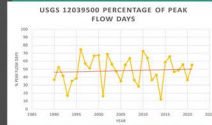
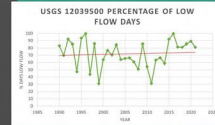


1991 : Trendline Value - 40.47% } Difference = +17.80%
 2018 : Trendline Value - 58.26%

1990 : Trendline Value - 76.11% } Difference = +3.33%
 2018 : Trendline Value - 79.44%

2001 : Trendline Value - 22.15 °C | 71.9 °F } Difference =
 2018 : Trendline Value - 24.62 °C | 76.3 °F +2.47 °C | 4.4 °F

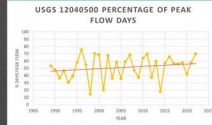
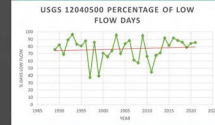
★ Quinalt River at Quinalt Lake, WA



1990 : Trendline Value - 46.12% } Difference = +3.99%
 2021 : Trendline Value - 50.11%

1990 : Trendline Value - 69.86% } Difference = +4.23%
 2021 : Trendline Value - 74.08%

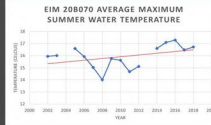
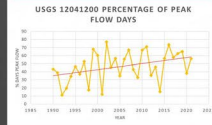
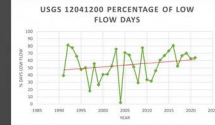
★ Queets River Near Clearwater, WA



1989 : Trendline Value - 45.83% } Difference = +10.70%
 2022 : Trendline Value - 56.53%

1989 : Trendline Value - 74.% } Difference = +5.24%
 2021 : Trendline Value - 79.24%

★ Hoh River at DNR Campground & US HWY 101 Near Forks, WA



1990 : Trendline Value - 35.20% } Difference = +23.25%
 2021 : Trendline Value - 58.45%

1990 : Trendline Value - 52.64% } Difference = +12.95%
 2021 : Trendline Value - 65.59%

2002 : Trendline Value - 15.23 °C | 59.4 °F } Difference =
 2018 : Trendline Value - 16.40 °C | 61.52 °F +1.18 °C | 2.12 °F

GAUGES

STATISTICS

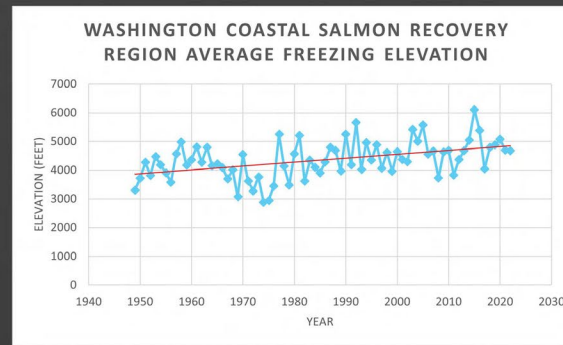
Freezing levels rising

Snowfall decreasing

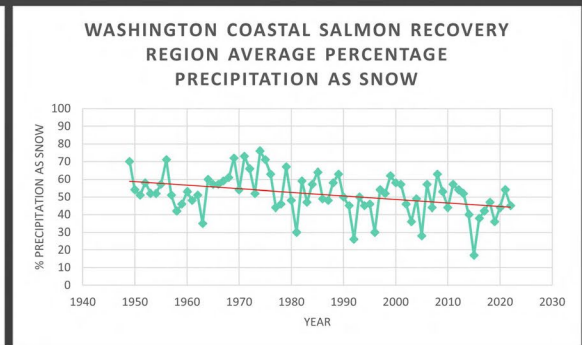
Peak flow days increasing

Water temperature increasing

FREEZING ELEVATION

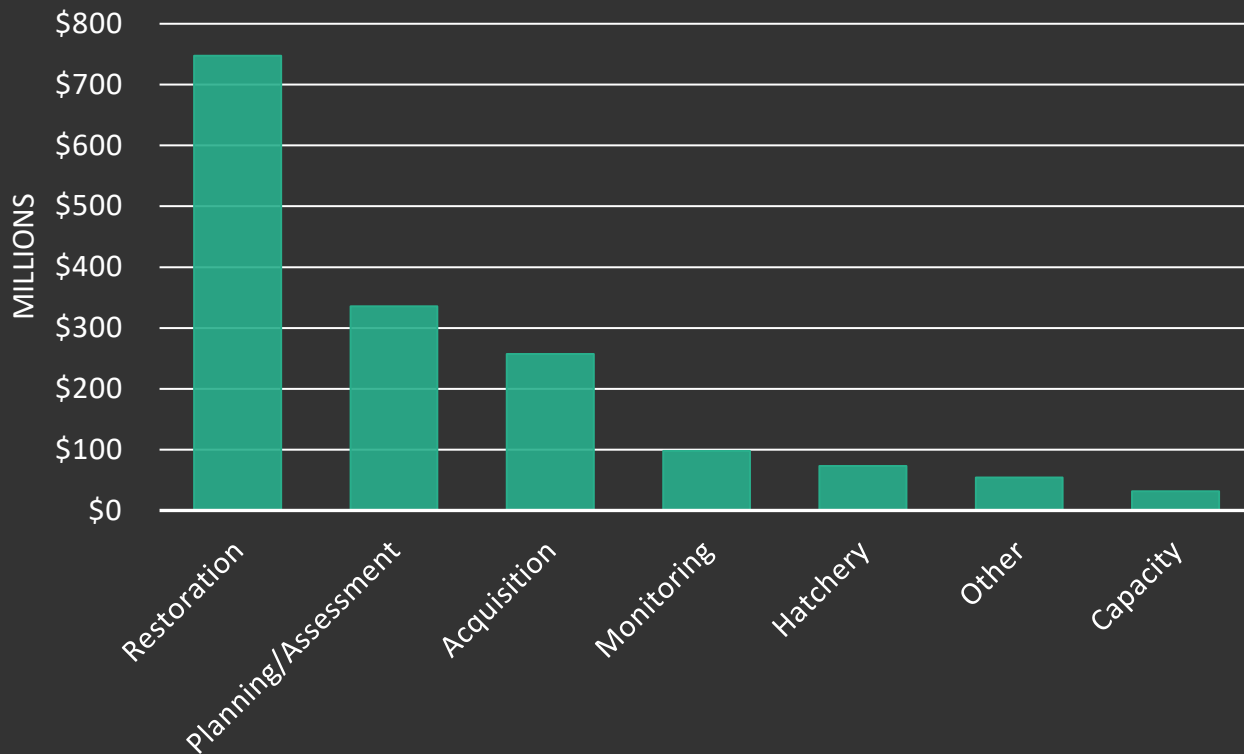


PRECIPITATION AS SNOW



Funding

RCO-Managed Salmon Recovery Funding
1999-2022



Web Resources

Recovery Around the State

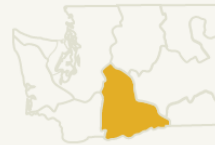
Salmon populations in Washington State are being restored through regionally specific, scientifically rigorous, and locally produced recovery strategies. See what's happening in your region.



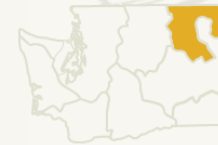
Hood Canal



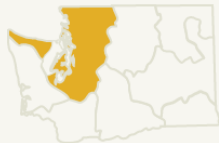
Lower Columbia River



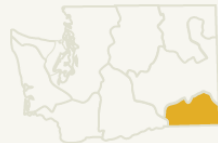
Middle Columbia River



Northeast Washington



Puget Sound



Snake River



Upper Columbia River

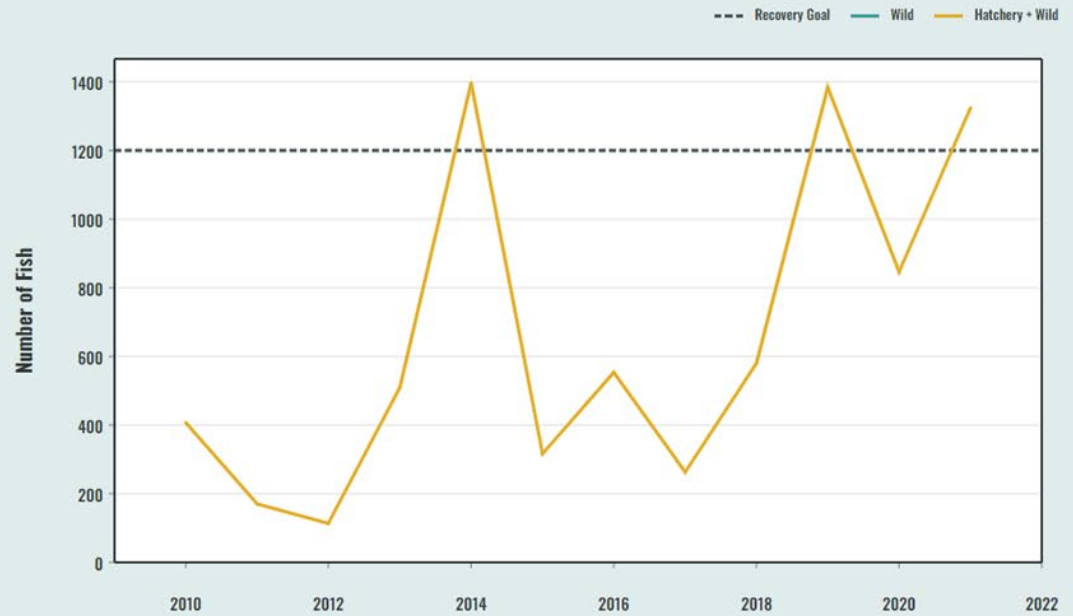


Washington Coast

Web Resources

Individual Populations

Coweeman Coho



[Learn More Information](#)

Web Resources

STATE OF SALMON
IN WATERSHEDS 2020

[Executive Summary](#)

[About](#)

[Statewide Data](#)

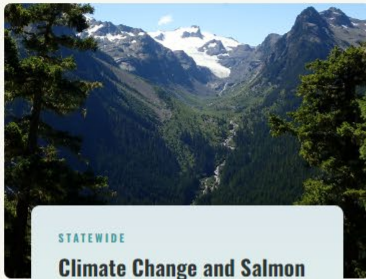
[Regions](#)

[Stories](#)

[How to Help](#)

Salmon Recovery Stories

Statewide



STATEWIDE

Climate Change and Salmon



STATEWIDE

Fish Passage: A Sense of Urgency



STATEWIDE

Salmon Recovery Done Locally



STATEWIDE

Working Forests Protect Salmon Habitat



STATEWIDE

How Invasive Species Threaten Salmon



STATEWIDE

What is Salmon Recovery?







"If your life's work can be accomplished in your lifetime, you're not thinking big enough."

-Wes Jackson



