

PUGET SOUND RECOVERY & SALMON STRATEGY REQUIREMENTS

Puget Sound recovery

Additional budget submittal and reporting requirements to OFM and Puget Sound Partnership. RCW [90.71.320](#) requires state agencies that are responsible for implementing elements of the [Action Agenda](#) to provide to the Partnership their estimates of the actions and budget resources needed for the forthcoming biennium to implement their portion of the Action Agenda. The statute also requires agencies to seek the concurrence of the Partnership in the proposed funding levels and sources included in this proposed budget.

Per section 309 of the 2023-25 enacted operating (ESSB 5187), “the Puget Sound partnership shall provide the governor and appropriate legislative fiscal committees a single, prioritized list of state agency 2025-2027 capital and operating budget requests related to Puget Sound recovery and restoration” by October 15, 2024.

The Partnership will send detailed instructions to affected agencies by mid-July for submitting Puget Sound-related budget requests, including the criteria the Partnership will use to prioritize requests. In accordance with RCW [90.71.320](#), and to facilitate the Partnership’s mandated budget request prioritization process, all agencies requesting budget changes related to Action Agenda implementation must provide information and engage with OFM and the Partnership as described below. These requirements apply to both operating decision packages and capital project requests.

Submittal to OFM

- In the RecSum text (for operating) and agency summary (for capital), include the statement, “Related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation.”
- In the narrative justification, under “Other important connections or impacts” (for operating) and the project description, under question 9 (for capital), include the following:
 - » A response to the question, “Is the request related to Puget Sound recovery?”
 - » An explanation of how the budget request relates to Action Agenda strategies, actions, and program targets; Science Work Plan actions; and the Puget Sound Vital Signs. Budget requests that include multiple Action Agenda or Science Work Plan components must provide information to distinguish each component, including dollar amounts, FTEs, and fund source by fiscal year. This includes Puget Sound-related monitoring and program evaluation requests.
 - » An estimate of the amount of the budget request that impacts Puget Sound, including dollar amounts, FTEs, fund source by fiscal year and an explanation of the methodology used to determine the Puget Sound portion. This is particularly important for programs and requests that cover multiple geographic areas, such as shoreline master program updates and forest practices regulation. See the Puget Sound reference [map](#).
- Send an email with copies of all Puget Sound budget requests to OFM by your designated budget submittal due date. OFM contact information is provided later in this section.

Submittal to the Partnership

In addition to the above submittal to OFM, the Partnership requires the following:

- Complete a cloud-based template (Smartsheet®) summarizing all your agency's Puget Sound-related budget requests submitted to OFM for prioritization. The Partnership will email a link to the Smartsheet® template and instructions to affected agencies by mid-July.
- To ensure Puget Sound budget requests align with the Action Agenda, all agencies requesting operating and capital budget changes that implement the Action Agenda or affect Puget Sound recovery are required to consult with the Partnership prior to submitting their budget requests to OFM. Partnership staff will contact agencies to schedule meetings to discuss the budget process and proposed budget requests during the summer of 2024.

Action Agenda implementation financial reporting requirements to the Partnership for Ongoing Programs. The Puget Sound Partnership engages with agencies responsible for administering ongoing programs recognized in the Action Agenda to provide budget information related to the inventory of recovery actions. The Partnership will contact agencies in early 2025 to provide information for final budgeted amounts for the 2023-2025 biennium.

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Governor's salmon strategy

New Additional budget submittal and reporting requirements to OFM and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

In 2021, Governor Inslee updated the [statewide salmon strategy](#) (strategy) to renew and strengthen the State's commitment to salmon recovery. The updated strategy expands priorities to include climate resiliency, addresses known threats, honors commitments to tribes, and is broadly consistent with regional recovery plans. The Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) is identified in statute ([RCW 77.85.030](#)) and in the strategy as the lead agency to maintain and implement the strategy.

Section 305(4) of the 2023-25 enacted operating budget (ESSB 5187) provides additional direction to implement the strategy by convening the natural resource subcabinet and developing a biennial workplan. The workplan is a summary of statewide priorities with a recommended budget for salmon recovery that aligns with tribal priorities and federally approved salmon recovery plans.

Additional budget submittal and reporting requirements to the GSRO

The GSRO will send detailed instructions to agency subcabinet leads by mid-June for submitting salmon recovery related budget requests. Agency subcabinet leads will submit proposed budget requests to GSRO mid-July. GSRO staff will work with subcabinet leads to review and determine which proposals are implementing the strategy by mid-August.

GSRO will use the following criteria to determine which agency requests are a near-term priority to implement the salmon strategy:

- Identified as a specific salmon strategy action
- Urgent in this coming biennium to advance salmon recovery
- Aligned with a known tribal priority
- Aligned with the federally approved salmon recovery plan

Submittal to OFM

Please confirm which budget requests have been determined to implement the strategy with the agency subcabinet lead before submitting to OFM. These requirements apply to operating, capital, and transportation budget requests. Agencies are encouraged to understand and ensure congruity with Tribal priorities for salmon recovery budget and policy requests.

Operating budget

- In the RecSum text include the statement, “Related to implementing the Governor's Salmon Strategy.”
- In the “Other collateral connections”, under the “Intergovernmental” subsection, include an explanation of how the budget request relates to a salmon strategy action, is urgent in the coming biennium to advance salmon recovery, is aligned with a federally approved salmon recovery plan, and/or advances a known tribal priority.

Transportation budget

- In the Program RecSum text, include the statement for any requests with one or more projects identified as supporting the salmon strategy, “Related to implementing the Governor’s Salmon Strategy.”
- Include an attachment for the decision package that identifies all the Program(s) strategy-related projects with the following information:
 - » Project Number, Title, & Scope
 - » An explanation of how the budget request relates to a salmon strategy action, is urgent in the coming biennium to advance salmon recovery, is aligned with a federally approved salmon recovery plan, and/or advances a known tribal priority.

Capital budget

As identified in part 2, capital budget instructions, [Chapters 2.3](#) and [3.3.3](#)

- In the agency summary, include the statement, “Related to implementing the Governor’s Salmon Strategy.”
- In the “Project Description”, in addition to answering the identified CBS questions, include an explanation of how the budget request relates to a salmon strategy action, is urgent in the coming biennium to advance salmon recovery, is aligned with a federally approved salmon recovery plan, and/or advances a known tribal priority.

The GSRO will provide a summary of all Governor’s salmon strategy budget requests in the final work plan submitted to OFM by October 31, 2024.

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Governor's Salmon Strategy update and Puget Sound Action Agenda connection

It is appropriate for budget requests to be associated with both the Puget Sound Action Agenda and the Governor’s Salmon Strategy. Agencies are encouraged to ensure there is internal consistency with the Action Agenda on salmon recovery budget and policy requests in the Puget Sound.