

Natural resources

Department of Agriculture

Gypsy moths

Monitor and eradicate nonnative European, Asian and Hokkaido gypsy moths, which threaten forests and the timber, nursery and Christmas tree industries. (\$176,000 General Fund-State; \$518,000 General Fund-Federal)

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Fishing and hunting opportunities

Maintain programs that provide fishing and hunting opportunities across the state; restore fishing and hunting license customer service on evenings and weekends; continue a mobile licensing application; monitor fisheries to meet obligations in the North of Falcon agreement; and support the Skagit River catch-and-release fishery. This item is partially supported through a proposed increase in hunting and fishing license fees. (\$1.1 million GF-S; \$6.9 million State Wildlife Account)

Department of Ecology

Clean up and study PFAS contamination

Address the emergent issue of environmental contamination by per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substance chemical compounds by testing soil and water samples; sampling three municipal wastewater facilities receiving industrial discharges, which often contain PFAS; and providing cleanup technical assistance to communities affected by PFAS contamination in their water supply systems. (\$1 million Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

Yakima groundwater monitoring

Monitor groundwater nitrate contamination in the Lower Yakima Valley aquifer. The Department of Ecology will monitor 170 groundwater wells. This monitoring will establish baseline conditions to measure how improved management practices affect groundwater quality and help communities make better decisions about how to protect their drinking water supplies. (\$378,000 Model Toxics Control Operating Account)

State Parks and Recreation Commission

Protect and maintain state parks

Hire more staff at state parks during the spring, summer and fall to improve park visitors' experience and satisfaction, as suggested by recent visitor surveys. Also contract with the Washington Conservation Corps to provide more crews to increase park maintenance. (\$1.4 million GF-S; \$910,000 Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account)

No Child Left Inside

Provide additional No Child Left Inside grants for outdoor education and recreation programs so youth are able to experience Washington's natural, cultural, ethnic and artistic heritage. (\$500,000 Outdoor Education and Recreation Program Account)

Climate action budget highlights will be released Dec. 19

Governor proposes new investments to boost orca, salmon recovery efforts

In 2018, Gov. Inslee formed the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force to identify, prioritize and support the implementation of a long-term action plan for the recovery of Southern Resident orcas.

The task force issued its initial 36 recommendations in November 2018. That report addresses three primary threats to these marine mammals: prey abundance, toxic contaminants, and disturbance from noise and vessel traffic.

In the 2019 legislative session, lawmakers approved many of the bold investments the governor proposed to support recovery efforts for salmon and critically endangered Southern Residents. These included major legislation to make oil transportation safer in Puget Sound, boost protection of salmon habitat, lessen noise and disturbance from whale-watching and recreational vessels, and reduce toxic pollution. In addition, the operating, capital and transportation budgets included \$1.1 billion for a wide range of programs and projects that will help restore habitat, reduce barriers to salmon migration, enhance salmon hatchery production, and expand pollution prevention and cleanup efforts as well as offer significant benefits for the region's entire ecosystem and complement efforts to tackle climate change, improve water quality and more.

In November 2019, the task force submitted 13 additional recommendations to the governor and Legislature to tackle emergent threats and enable sustained and successful long-term recovery. Five of these recommendations address contaminants, including three that concern human sources of nutrients. The task force also considered two systemic threats to Southern Resident orcas that undermine recovery efforts: (1) climate change and ocean acidification, and (2) rapid human population growth and development.

The Department of Ecology's 2019 Salish Sea Modeling Report found that excess nutrients from human

sources are causing or contributing to low dissolved oxygen levels in many sensitive inlets and bays in Puget Sound, increasing ocean acidification and stressing the marine food web that supports shellfish, marine fish and salmon, the primary food source for Southern Residents. The governor's supplemental operating budget provides \$1.3 million to set new permit standards to reduce nutrients from wastewater treatment plants and to monitor freshwater inputs in the seven largest river systems in Puget Sound. The Department of Ecology will also use \$1.2 million to bolster efforts to keep toxics from consumer products from entering the environment.

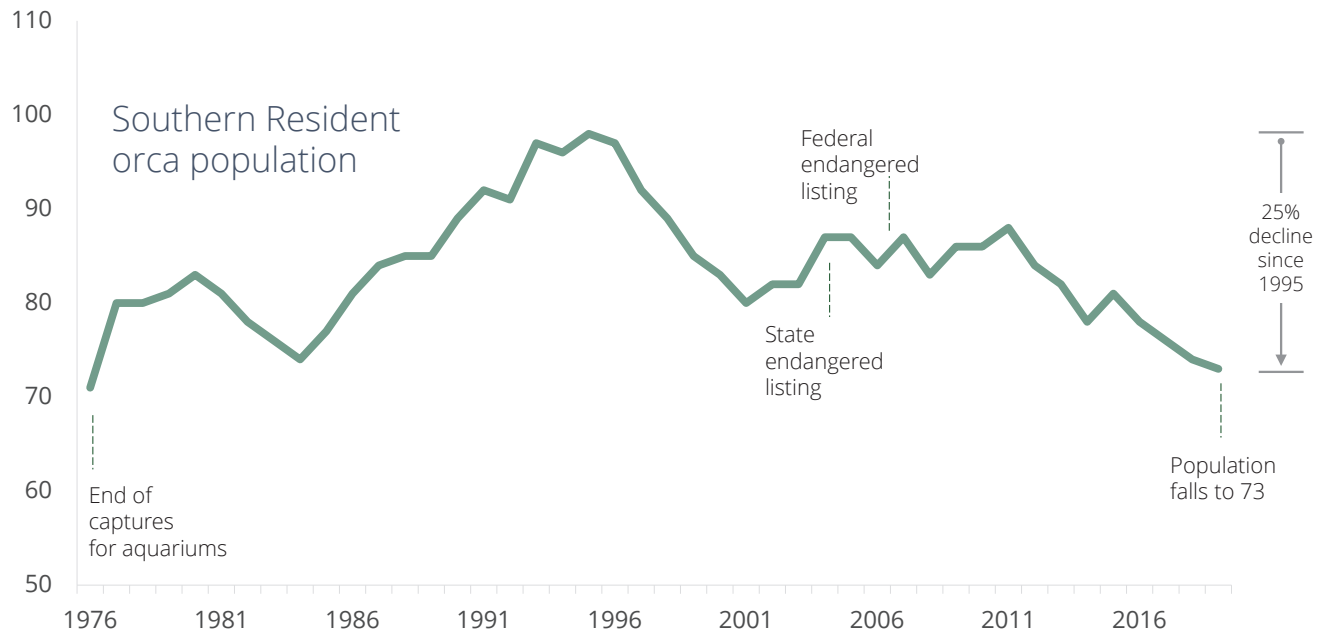
To support the initial recommendations of the task force, an additional \$29.3 million in the supplemental capital budget will fund toxics cleanup, habitat protection, prey abundance and hatchery improvements.

The task force's additional recommendations call for expanding efforts to manage salmon predators. A total of \$1.3 million is provided in the supplemental operating budget to reduce populations of Northern pike, a voracious predatory fish, in the upper Columbia River and to manage sea lion populations in the lower Columbia River.

Toxic contaminants in water and sediments are harmful to the marine food web that supports Southern Resident orcas. Besides reducing the survival of salmon and other forage fish, these toxics are also absorbed by orcas, potentially disrupting reproduction and suppressing immune systems. To mitigate this threat, the supplemental capital budget contains \$21.9 million to clean up toxic sites that impact Southern Resident habitat.

Productive and protected habitat is critical to support sustainable populations of both naturally spawning salmon as well as young hatchery salmon, which are the main source of food for Southern Resident orcas. In this vein, Gov. Inslee provides \$3.2 million in the

Southern Resident orca population fell to 73 in 2019, lowest count in 40 years



Source: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nov. 2018

supplemental capital budget for fish barrier removal and habitat protection projects. This builds on the \$221 million in habitat funding provided in the biennial capital budget.

Salmon hatcheries increase prey abundance for Southern Resident orcas. Capital investments totaling \$4.1 million are provided to make improvements to keep the state's hatchery system operating and to meet water quality standards. This funding includes a master planning process that will assess the ability of

Department of Fish and Wildlife hatchery infrastructure to support orca recovery, including consideration of the impacts of climate change.

Recovering Southern Resident orcas will be a long-term process. To coordinate recovery work and monitor progress toward implementation of the task force's recommendations, \$140,000 is provided in the supplemental operating budget for an orca recovery coordinator in the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

Summary of Orca Investments

Focus Areas	Items	Agency	Budget	Amount
Contaminants	Nutrient Controls for Puget Sound	Ecology	Operating	\$535,000
	Puget Sound Freshwater Monitoring	Ecology	Operating	\$748,000
	Local Source Control Programs	Ecology	Operating	\$750,000
	Safer Products Washington	Ecology	Operating	\$479,000
	Whitmarsh (March Point) Landfill	Ecology	Capital	\$2,500,000
	Whitmarsh (March Point) Landfill - DNR Match	DNR	Capital	\$3,063,000
	Harris Avenue Shipyard	Ecology	Capital	\$1,248,000
	Parcel 15 Remediation (Portac Inc)	Ecology	Capital	\$1,00,000
	Western Port Angeles Harbor & MTCA Design & Cleanup Construction	Ecology	Capital	\$2,250,000
	Lora Lake Apartments	Ecology	Capital	\$3,340,000
	Alexander Avenue Petroleum Tank Facilities	Ecology	Capital	\$1,294,000
	Dakota Creek Industries Shipyard	Ecology	Capital	\$810,000
	Lower Duwamish Waterway	Ecology	Capital	\$720,000
	Lower Duwamish Superfund	Ecology	Capital	\$3,991,000
	North Boeing Field/Georgetown Steam Plant RI/FS	Ecology	Capital	\$175,000
	Earley Business Center	Ecology	Capital	\$1,548,000
	Contaminants Total			
Prey	Columbia River Pinniped Predation	WDFW	Operating	\$924,000
	Northern Pike Suppression	WDFW	Operating	\$357,000
	Orca Vessel Patrols	WDFW	Operating	\$225,000
	Orca Vessels Grant Match	WDFW	Operating	\$278,000
	Soos Creek Hatchery Renovation	WDFW	Capital	\$2,936,000
	Beaver Creek Hatchery - Renovation	WDFW	Capital	\$150,000
	Infrastructure Master Plan for SRKW Recovery	WDFW	Capital	\$1,000,000
Prey Total				\$5,870,000
Habitat	2019-21 Match for Federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program	Conservation Commission	Capital	\$2,249,000
	Forest Riparian Easement Program	DNR	Capital	\$1,000,000
Habitat Total				\$3,249,000
Life after the Task Force	Orca Recovery Coordinator	RCO	Operating	\$140,000
Grand Total				\$33,710,000

Source: OFM, Dec. 2019