

NW Salmon Restoration Campaign 2023 Legislative Priorities

Restoring the Snake River is vital to stop extinction and restore salmon abundance. By taking these actions during the 2023 legislative session, WA State can lead efforts to recover endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead, honor promises to Tribal Nations, feed hungry orcas, modernize transportation, irrigation, and clean energy infrastructure, address decades-long salmon recovery litigation, and enhance economic opportunities for every corner of our state – farmers and fishermen, Tribes, and local communities.

Transportation Study: Support Gov. Inslee's budget request for \$5 million in funding for a Washington State Department of Transportation study to determine transportation alternatives to barging on the lower Snake waterway. This should include a timeline of repairs, upgrades, and investments for rail and roads that minimizes disruption and offers cost effective options to grain and fertilizer transport while ensuring a timeline of completion that avoids extinction of salmon.

LSRD Energy Study: Support Gov. Inslee's budget request for \$5 million in funding to analyze new electrical generation and transmission for lower Snake River dam removal and develop a detailed replacement plan. This plan would lay out how to maintain the reliability and adequacy of the existing electrical power system, will be consistent with the Clean Energy Transformation Act, and can replace fossil fuels currently used in the transportation, industry and buildings sectors.

Irrigation Analysis: Secure at least \$500,000 in funding for the Washington State Department of Ecology to conduct an Irrigation Analysis focused on determining irrigation water availability during lower Snake River dam removal (drawdown), and the infrastructure needs of farms after drawdown is complete.

Tribal Justice and Coordination: Ensure that the priorities of Northwest Tribes and opportunities for them are reflected in energy siting proposals, salmon recovery management and investments, and all lower Snake River dam removal infrastructure replacement processes.

Salmon Habitat Campaign Priorities: Support increase investments in programs that protect and restore salmon habitat in the freshwaters and marine waters of Washington and to right-size habitat funding to protect and restore abundant salmon for future generations.

New Green Power from State Agency Customers: Secure at least \$150,000 for the Department of Commerce to conduct a survey of all state energy load served in part by utilities that purchase Columbia River System hydropower, to identify the size of the load and the utility provider. State government facilities, including campuses, are significant electric power users, and Washington State should use its purchasing power as a utility customer to call for "Green Power tariff" from the public power utilities that serve them, to develop new non-hydro renewable electricity and storage resources.

For more information please contact:

Tanya Riordan, Save Our wild Salmon, Policy and Advocacy Director, tanya@wildsalmon.org

An alliance of organizations working on the largest river restoration in history, investing in communities, and bringing everyone forward together!



NW Energy Coalition



SIERRA CLUB

