

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery
Board

2025 Annual Meeting

Statewide Salmon Strategy

Katie Knight Pruitt

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office



Why Recover Salmon

**Tribal Sovereignty and
Treaty Rights**

Health of Our Ecosystems

**Support Regional and
Local Economies**

**Legally Obligated Under
Federal ESA**





Tribes and Salmon Recovery

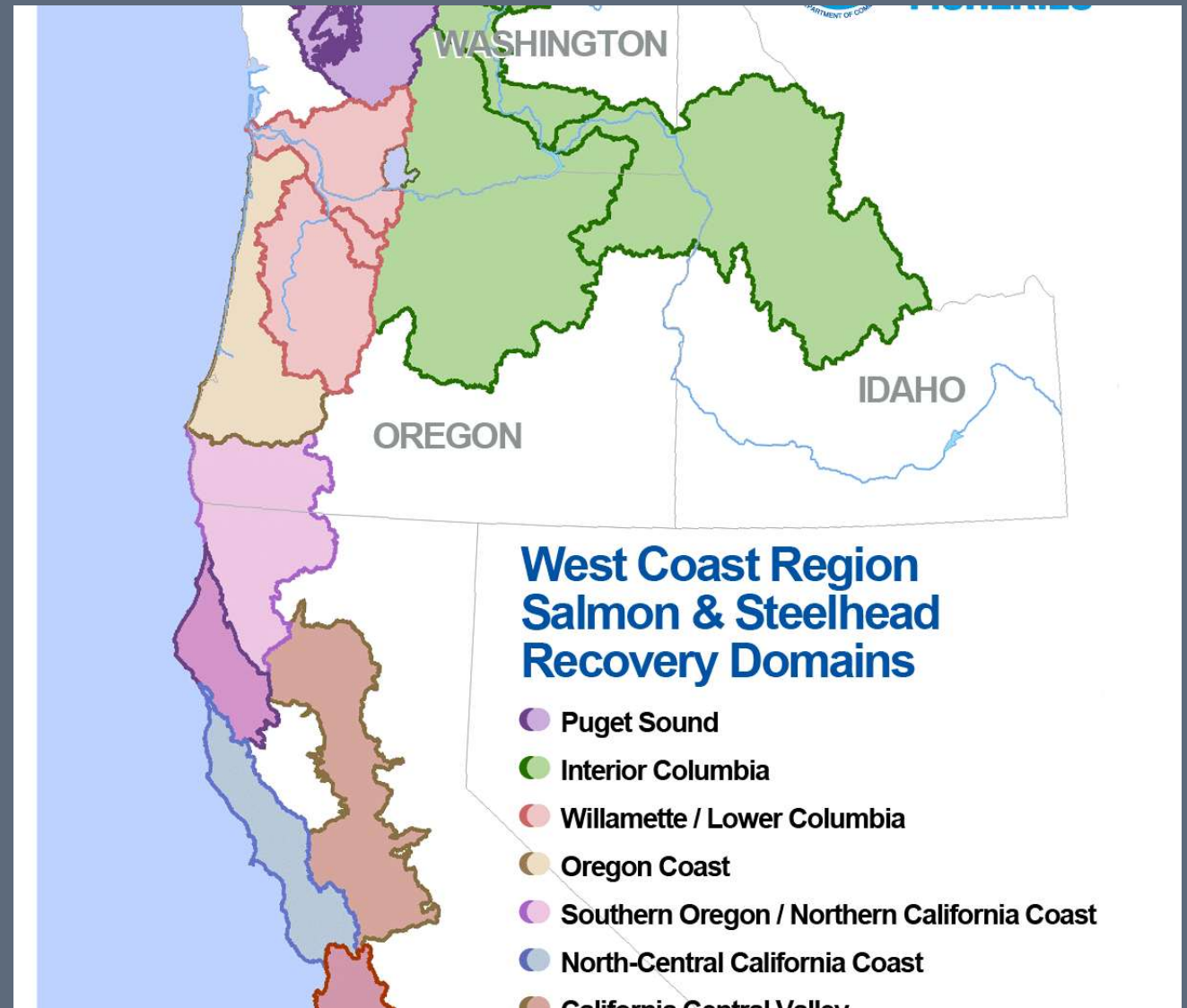
- Sovereign Nations
- Federally and Non-Federally Recognized Tribes
- Tribal Treaty Rights
- Engage in recovery planning and implementation
- Science and technical expertise
- Cultural history and traditional ecological knowledge

Salmon and Steelhead Federally ESA Listed

First ESA listing in 1991
(Snake River Sockeye)

By late 1990's 28 species
salmon and steelhead ESA
listed across the West Coast

Currently 16 ESA listed
salmonids in Washington



Washington's Unique Response to Salmon Recovery

Federal Endangered Species Act (Federal/NOAA)

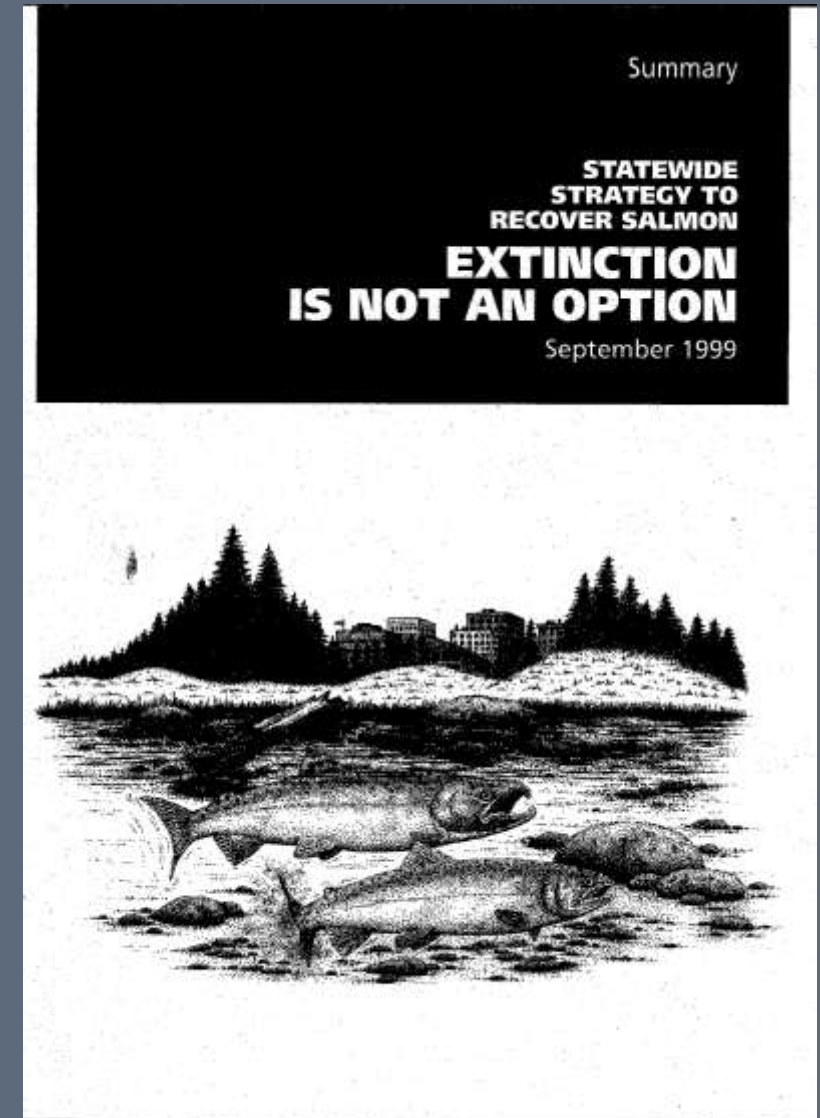
Statewide Salmon Strategy (Executive)

1999 Extinction not an Option

2021 Governor Inslee Update

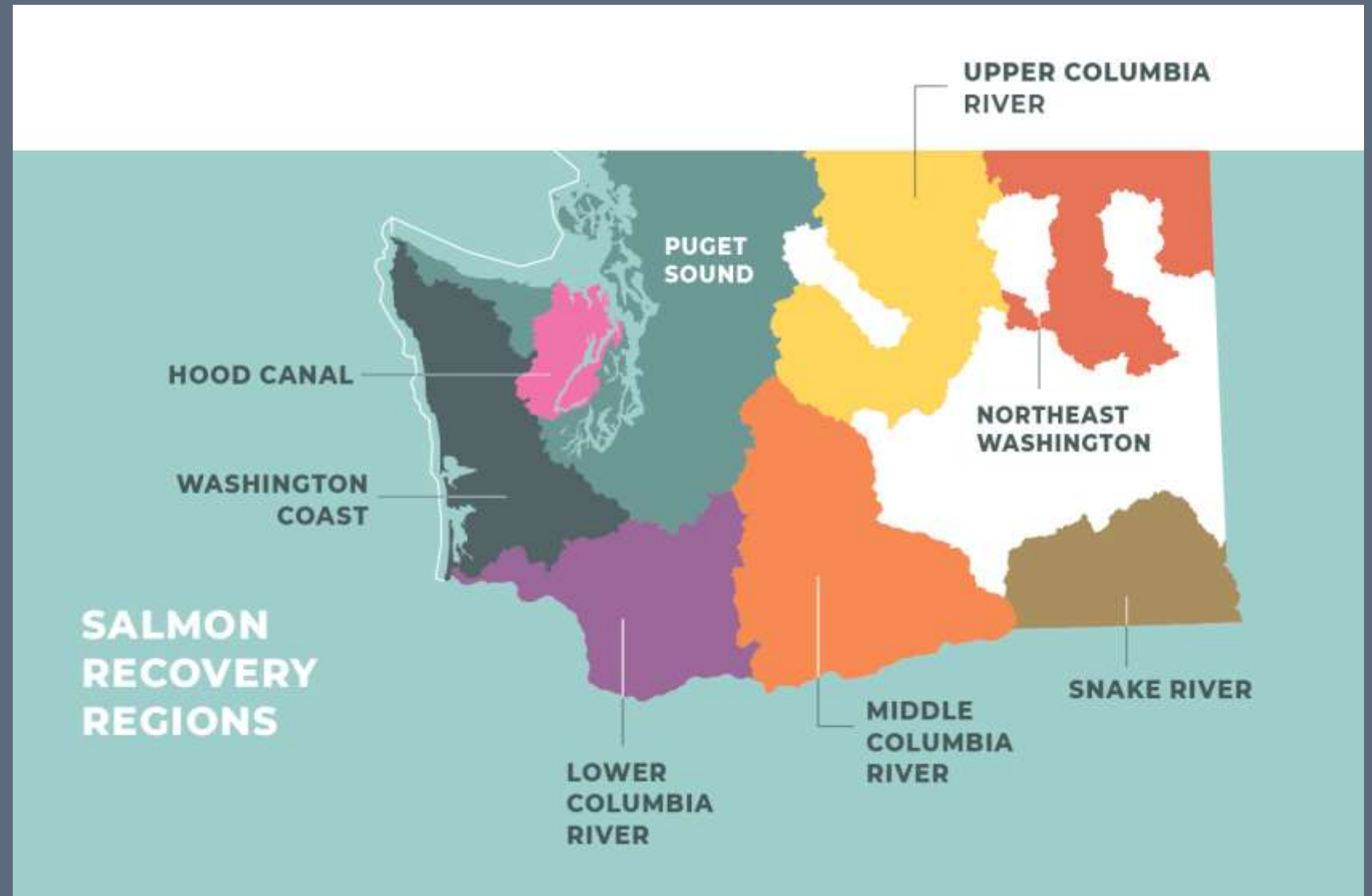
Salmon Recovery Act (Legislative)

RCW 77.85



Federally-approved
regional salmon
recovery plans

Guide Lead Entity
watershed scale
recovery plans





Lead Entities and Salmon Recovery

- **Lead Entities**
 - Develop watershed scale recovery actions
 - Build partnerships and trust
 - Combine local science and community priorities
 - Prioritize projects to maximize public's investment
- **Project Sponsors**
 - Develop projects, apply for funding, implementation
 - Conservation Districts
 - Regional Fish Enhancement Groups (RFEs)
 - Land Trusts
 - Environmental and Community Groups
 - Local Governments
 - Tribal Governments
 - State Agencies



Salmon Recovery Funding Board

- Backbone of salmon recovery
- Funds voluntary habitat restoration projects
- Federal & state funding



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office

Our Role

Coordinate with agencies, tribes, and partners to advance salmon and orca recovery

Areas of Focus

- Federal and Legislative Affairs
- **Governor's Salmon Strategy**
- Southern Resident Orca Recovery
- Regional Federal Recovery Plans
- Biennial State of Salmon Report
- Riparian Conservation
- Science and Monitoring
- Tribal Relations

Strategy Proposes:

A future with healthy and resilient salmon, steelhead and trout runs that are restored to harvestable levels across the state

2021

Governor's salmon strategy update

Securing a future for people and salmon in Washington



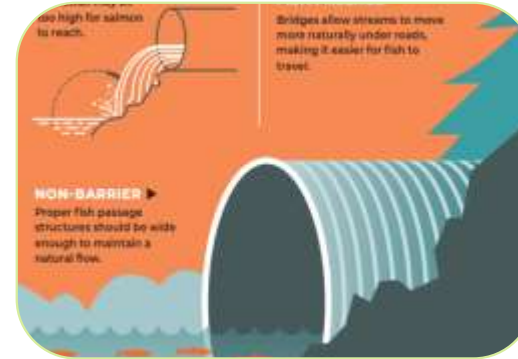
SALMON STRATEGY RECOMMENDATIONS



Protect & restore vital salmon habitat



Invest in clean water infrastructure



Correct fish passage barriers & restore access



Build climate resiliency



Align harvest, hatcheries, & hydropower



Address predation & food web issues



Enhance commitments & coordination across programs



Strengthen science, monitoring, & accountability



Gov. Inslee's 2023-25 operating, capital and transportation budgets prioritize investments in housing and homelessness, behavioral health, climate change, salmon protection and public safety.

Protect and restore vital salmon habitat

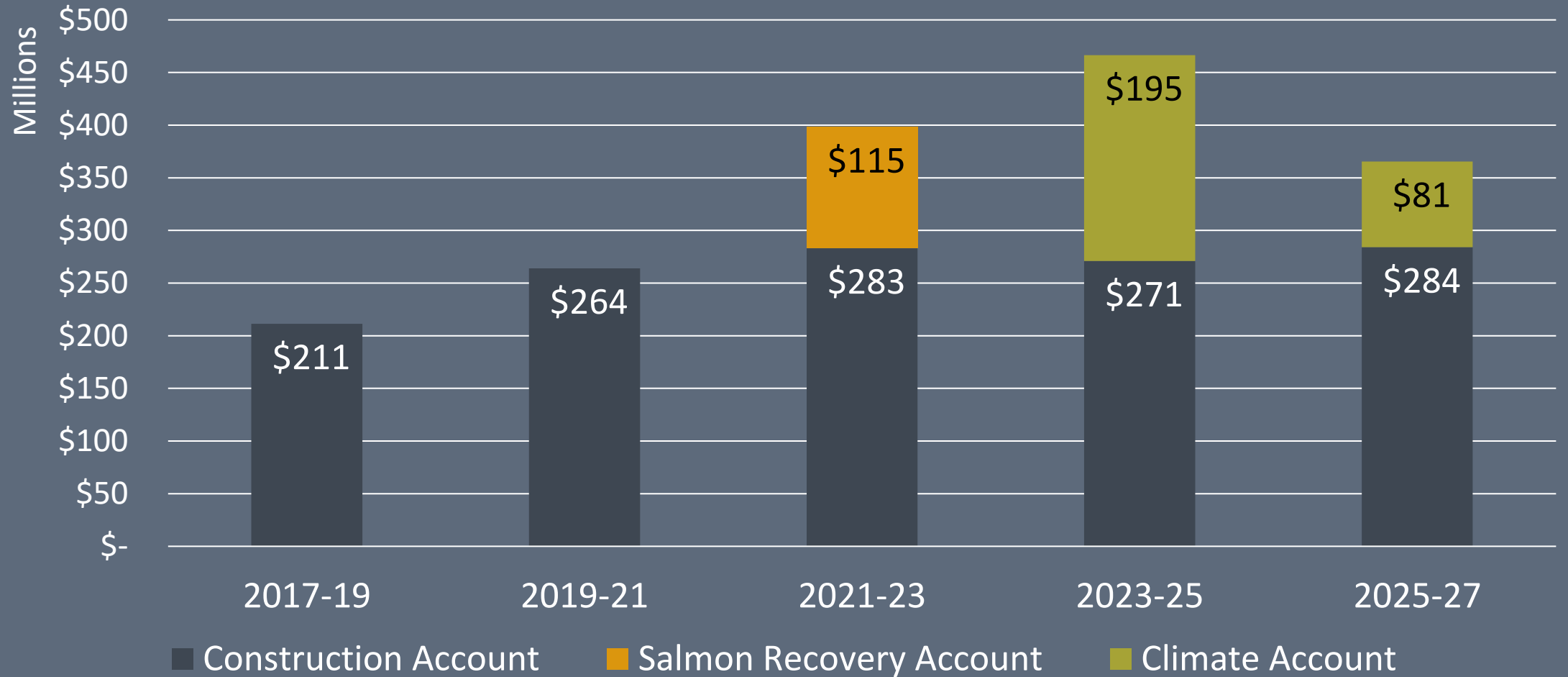
New riparian restoration funding

New local planning grants

Increase in salmon recovery funding



Salmon Recovery Grant Programs





**Invest in clean water
infrastructure**

Reduce toxics

Improve stormwater infrastructure

Fish Passage

Brian Abbott Fish
Barrier Removal Board

Compliance with the
culvert injunction

Reintroduction in the
Upper Columbia



Build Climate Resiliency

Restore streamflow

Water supply and drought response in the Columbia River

Climate resilience strategy





Align hatcheries and harvest with salmon recovery



Address predation & food web issues

Avian salmon
predation work group

Pinniped management

European green crab
research &
management

Quagga & zebra
mussel prevention





Strengthening science, monitoring, and accountability

State of Salmon in Watersheds

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2024



Modest Progress but Challenges Remain

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Salmon have shaped the Pacific Northwest for millions of years. They are vital to the economy, Tribes and Treaty Rights, the health of waterways, orcas and other wildlife, and Washington's way of life. Few other species are so deeply embedded in the culture, so connected to the land and water, or invoke such inspiration through their long-distance migrations from mountain streams to the Pacific Ocean and back again.

Salmon are resilient creatures. They have endured through a century and a half of obstacles from habitat loss, blocked migration, overharvest, and polluted waterways. Today, salmon continue to persist in the face of past and current challenges including climate change and population growth. Their resiliency has given them a chance at recovery.

While far too many salmon species still are in crisis or struggling across the state, there are signs of modest improvements for some salmon species. This is good news and suggests that progress is possible. The question is whether these modest improvements can be sustained and whether progress is possible elsewhere in the state.

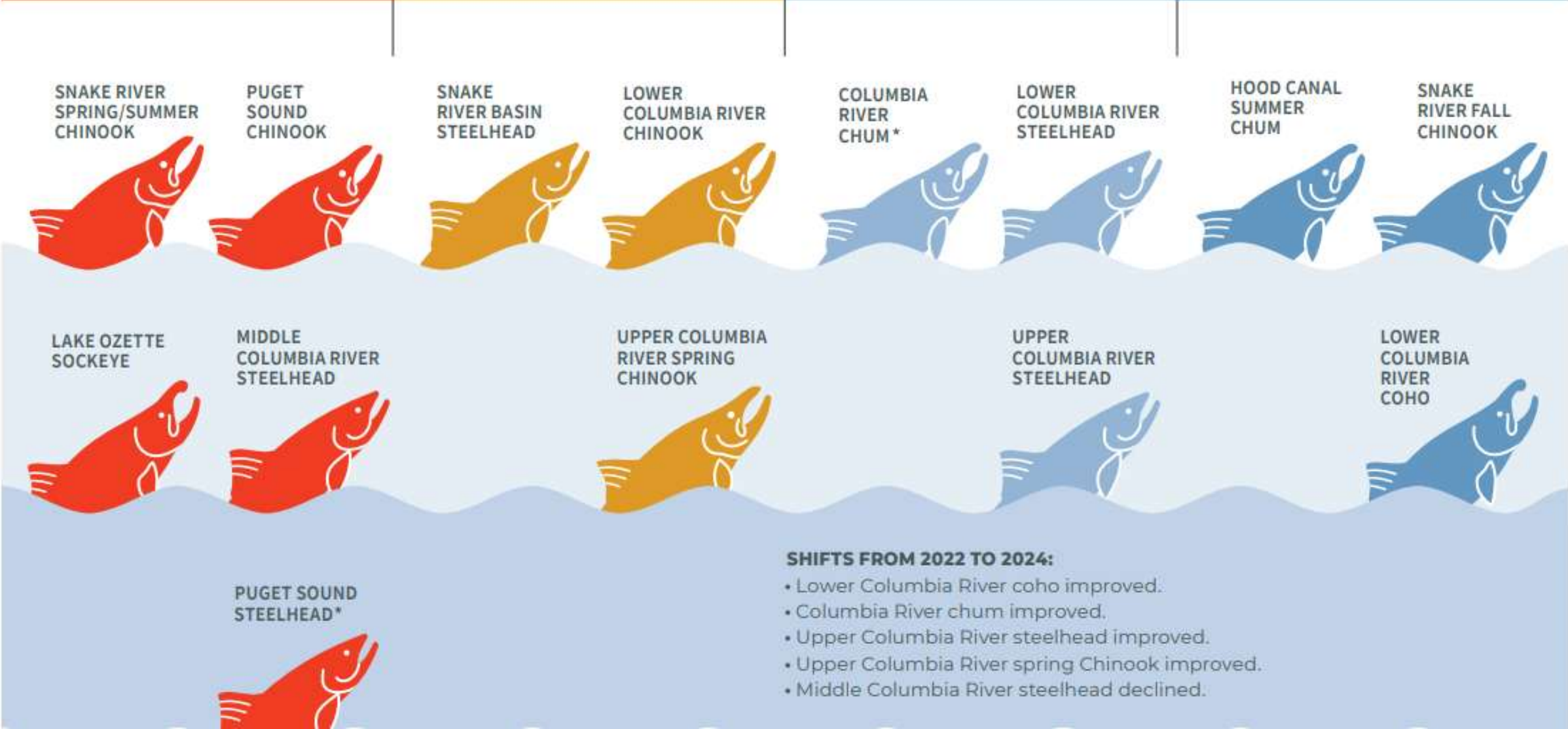


Why Recover Salmon?

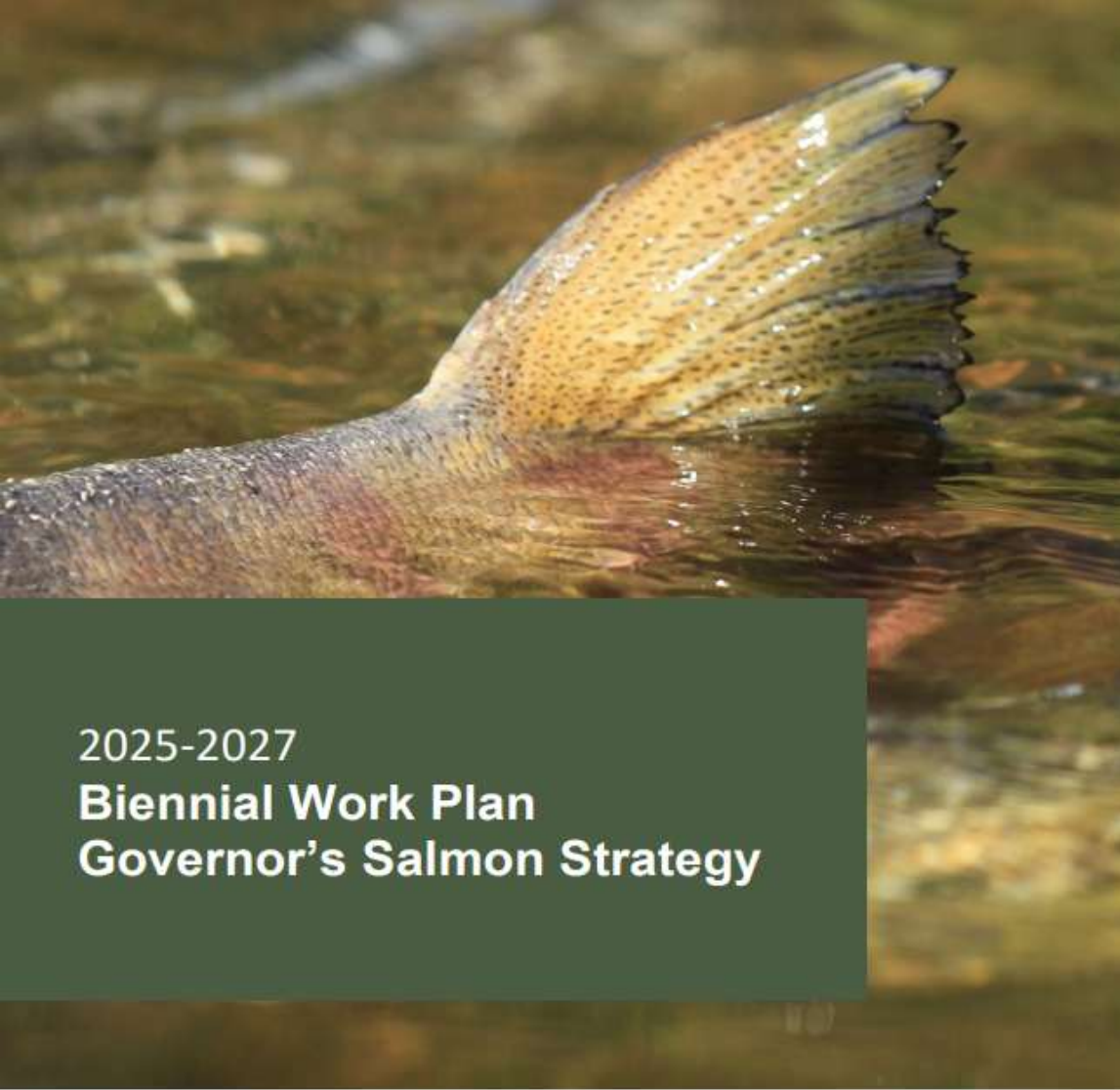
Recovering salmon is important because Washingtonians rely on healthy populations of salmon to support a robust economy, feed iconic orcas, enrich a cultural heritage and way of life, and fulfill obligations to Tribes.

In addition, the Endangered Species Act requires the federal government to protect animals that are in danger of extinction or likely to become so. Since 1991, the federal government has declared twenty-eight salmon species across the West including fourteen species of salmon.

Salmon Abundance | 2024



- SHIFTS FROM 2022 TO 2024:**
- Lower Columbia River coho improved.
 - Columbia River chum improved.
 - Upper Columbia River steelhead improved.
 - Upper Columbia River spring Chinook improved.
 - Middle Columbia River steelhead declined.

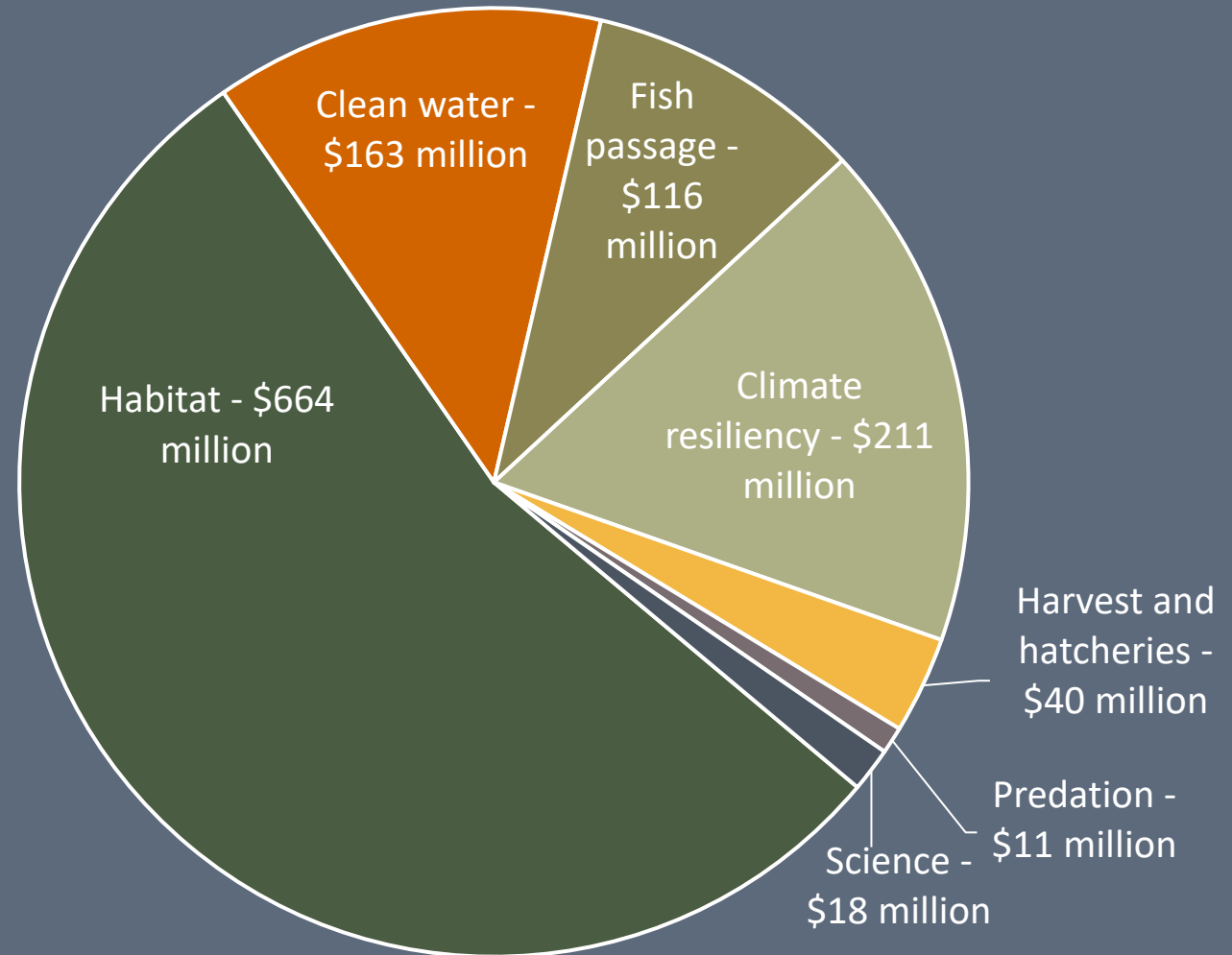


2025-2027
Biennial Work Plan
Governor's Salmon Strategy

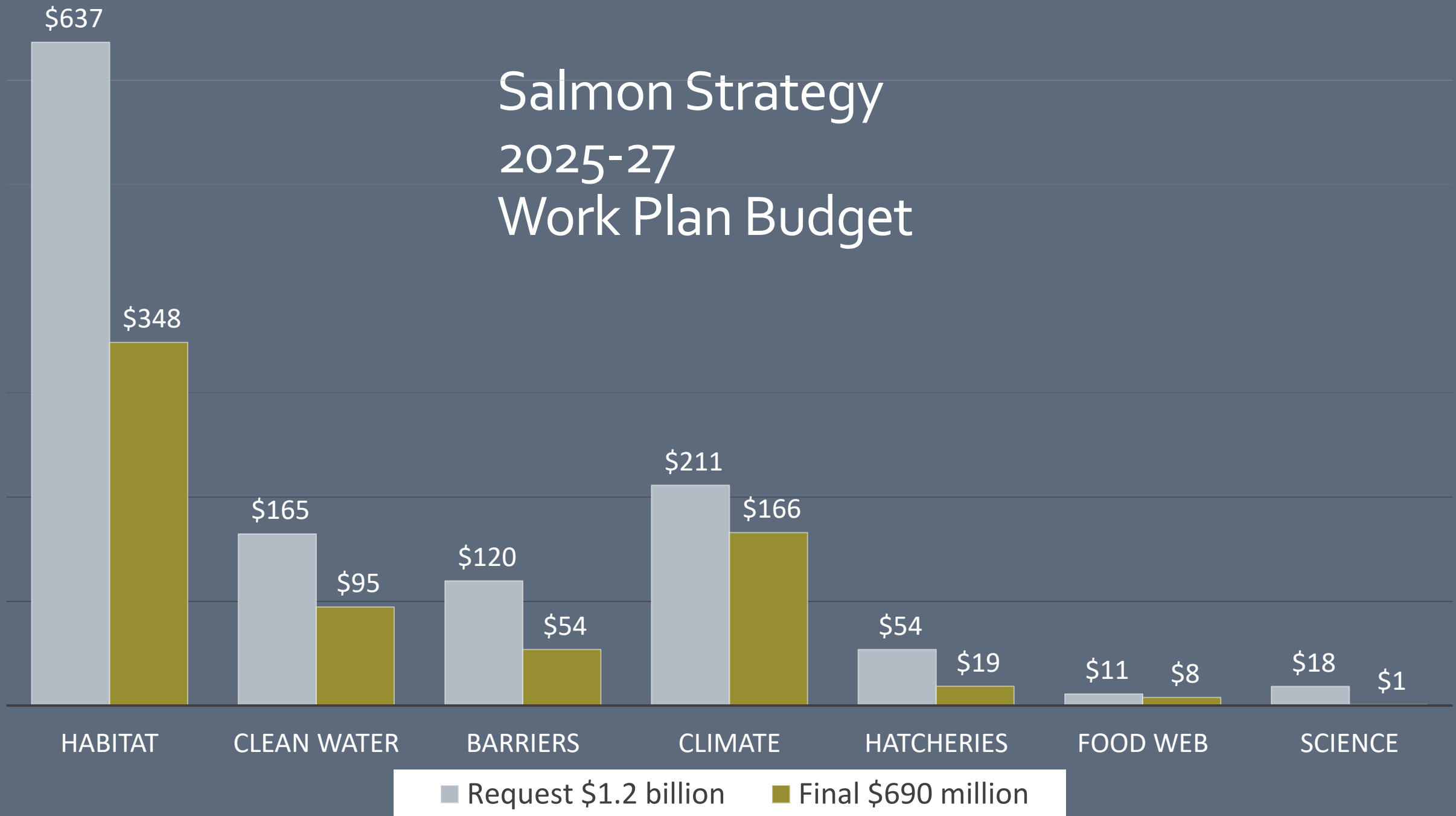
Governor's Salmon Recovery Office
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington ST SE
Olympia, Washington 98501



Total requests = \$1.2 billion



Salmon Strategy 2025-27 Work Plan Budget



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.

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Implementer office location

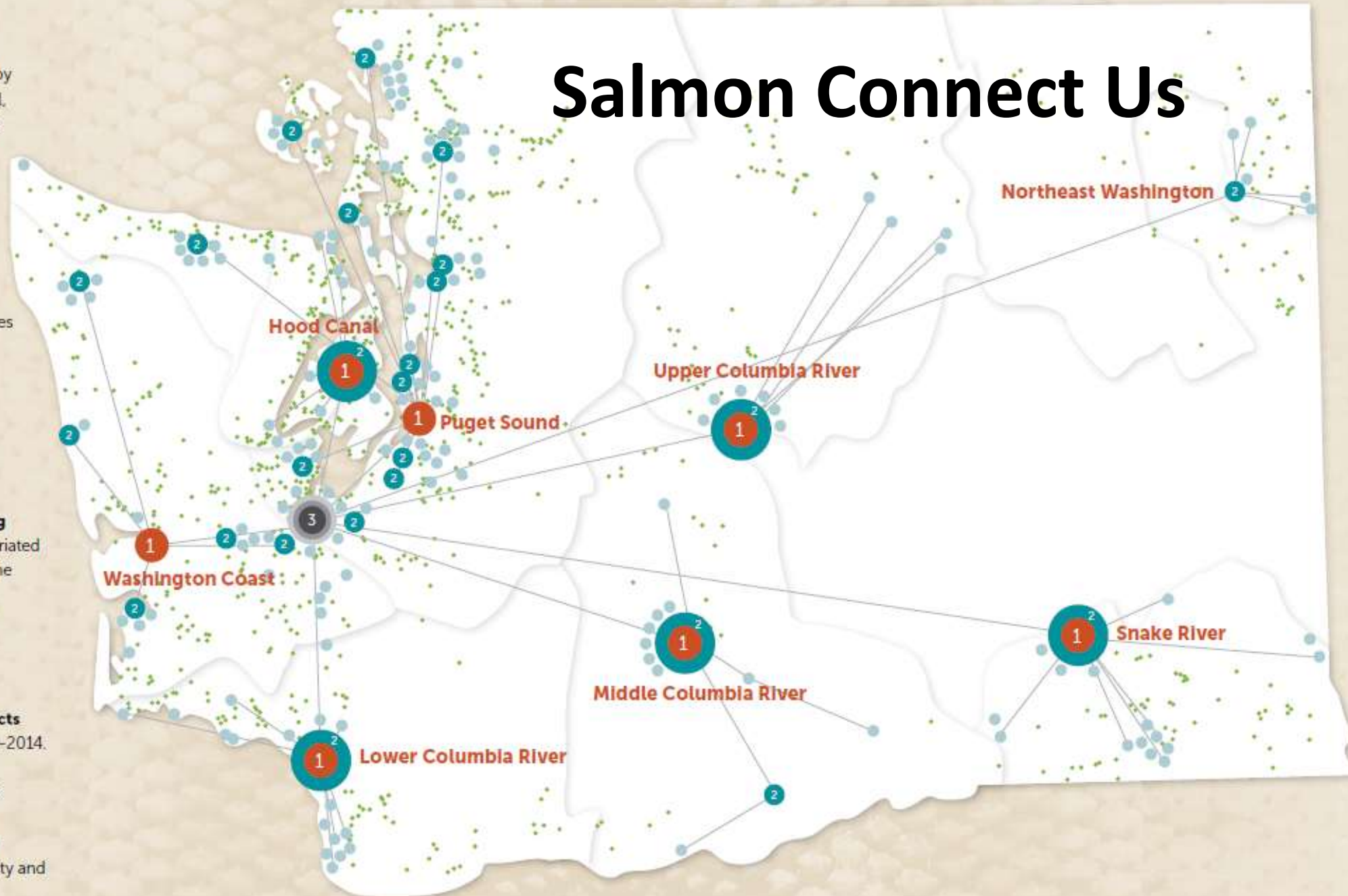
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On the ground **recovery projects** across Washington state, 2000–2014.

●

Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office and the **Governor's Salmon Recovery Office** ensure fiscal responsibility and statewide coordination.

Salmon Connect Us



Questions

