

Conserving habitats and species & Helping property owners protect fish



Emergent Need

\$1.7 million to help property owners protect fish

At-Risk Services

\$743,000 for 19-21 biennium
\$3.4 million for 21-23 biennium, ongoing need



Persistent budget deficit and WDFW's work to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitats

Despite current efforts, salmon and steelhead populations continue to decline. This decrease negatively affects the commercial fishing industry, tribal and family traditions, and is a significant contributor to the plight of the Southern Resident Killer Whale.

The 2019 Legislature adopted the Chinook Abundance bill that grants WDFW new civil compliance tools to help landowners follow fish protection standards. It specifies that when there is a violation to the state Hydraulic Code, WDFW must first try to get voluntary civil compliance by providing expert assistance.

However, the Department has limited capacity to provide additional coordination to landowners and contractors for their construction activities.

To strengthen fish protection and increase fish populations in Washington, the Department is requesting \$1.7 million to implement a permittee assistance program and incorporate monitoring of impacts of suction dredge mining activities into the Department's Hydraulic Project Approval monitoring program.

The Department also has a budget shortfall to help landowners and local communities voluntarily sustain healthy habitat—one of the most cost-effective methods of wildlife and fish protections available. The Department is requesting \$743,000 to fill the funding gap for the 19-21 biennium, and \$3.4 million for the ongoing need.

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