

A photograph of two salmon leaping from the water in a stream. The fish are captured mid-air, with water splashing around them. The background is a blurred green forest. The image is used as a background for a report cover.

2021

Governor's salmon strategy update

Securing a future for people and
salmon in Washington

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Pathways of Engagement

- Tribes and Tribal Organizations
- State & Federal Agencies
- Regional Recovery Organizations
- Stakeholders and Partners
- Washington State Academy of Sciences

Strategic Priorities

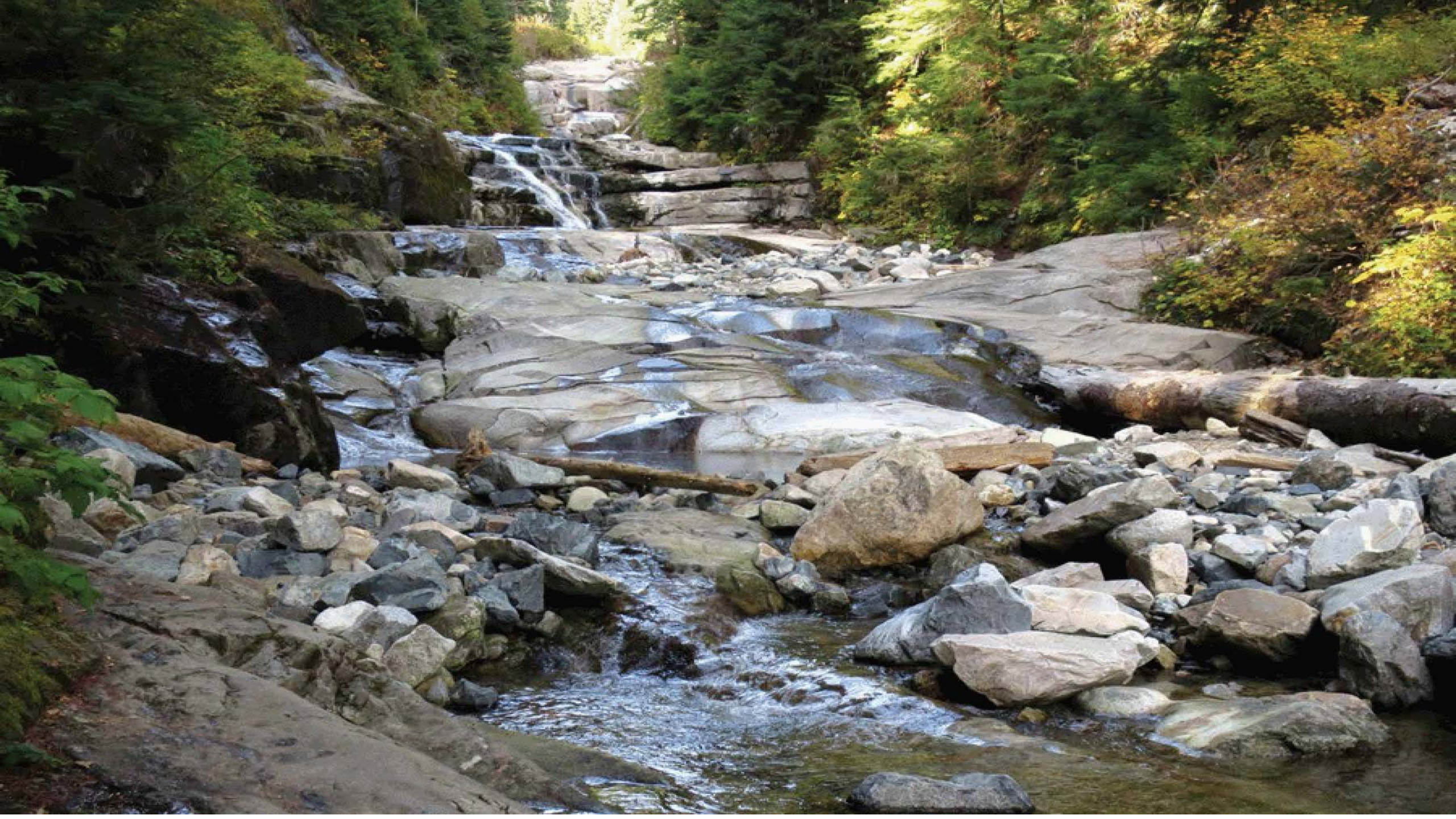
- Protect and restore vital salmon habitat
- Invest in clean water infrastructure for salmon and people
- Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat
- Build climate resiliency
- Align harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery
- Address predation and food web issues for salmon
- Enhance commitments and coordination across agencies and programs
- Strengthen science, monitoring, and accountability

Commitments for Salmon and People

- Honor commitments to tribes
- Assure federal commitments and funding for salmon recovery
- Prioritize commitments to environmental justice, diversity, equity and inclusion

Questions







WASHINGTON GOVERNOR

JAY INSLEE

POLICY BRIEF
December 2021

In Washington and across the Pacific Northwest, salmon populations are struggling. Climate change, habitat loss, pollution and other factors are hampering salmon recovery efforts. Gov. Jay Inslee is proposing an updated strategy and additional investments to protect and restore salmon, steelhead and trout populations across the state.

Saving our struggling salmon

Governor proposes new strategy and major investments to protect and restore salmon populations across the state

More than 30 years ago, the Snake River's Chinook salmon was declared endangered. Since then, the federal government has listed 13 additional salmon species in Washington as endangered or threatened. Dwindling Chinook salmon populations, meanwhile, are pushing Southern Resident orcas closer to extinction.

People across the region have been working tirelessly to bring salmon back from the brink, and those efforts have restored thousands of acres of fish habitat. Still, salmon and other species are losing more habitat than they are gaining. Over 70% of our endangered or threatened salmon and steelhead populations are not keeping pace with recovery goals, are still in crisis or require immediate action.

Climate change has increased wildfires and droughts, worsened ocean conditions, warmed streams, shifted food webs, intensified pollutants, thrown predator populations out of balance, and brought ecosystems that support salmon and people to a tipping point.

Drawing from decades of work by numerous experts, stakeholders and tribes, Inslee has put forward an [update to the state's salmon recovery strategy](#). It builds on the work of the [State of Salmon in Watersheds](#) report that the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office completes every two years.



Questions

A scenic landscape photograph of a calm lake. The foreground is a wide, rocky shoreline covered in small, dark stones and patches of green moss. The water is still, reflecting the sky and the forest on the right. The right side of the image shows a dense line of green trees along the shore. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. The word "Questions" is written in a large, bold, black font in the center of the image.