

2024 Legislative Session Re-cap

Tom McBride, Legislative Director
May 23, 2024



Items funded as maintenance level

Name	Conference Final
Capital Project Operating Costs	1,512
County and Other Assessments	300
Equipment Maintenance and Software	0
Equipment Replacement Costs	801
Federal Funding Adjustment	13,140
Hatchery Fish Food Increases	482
Hatchery Wage Adjustments	308
Post-Wildfire Habitat Recovery	1,657
Reclassified IT Positions	0
Utility Rate Adjustments	260
WCC contract increase from ECY	35
Total	18,495



Items funded as policy level

Name	Conference Final
Additional PRR Capacity	0
Coastal Salmonids Management	0
Critical Infrastructure Maintenance	1,476
Deer and Elk Ag Damage Compensation	834
Fish Health and Marking	445
Forest Health and Fuel Reduction	2,000
Non-lethal Wolf Deterrence	404
Safety & Training Program Expansion	7,038
Salmon ESA Regulatory Compliance	1,927
Salmon Reporting Tool Replacement	0
Secure Cloud-Based Data Migration	0
Total	13,995



Other Funded Provisos:

- **Avian Predation/Salmon: \$222K** - Funding is provided for Substitute House Bill 2293, which creates an avian salmon predation work group.
- **Bear Wise: \$224K** - Funding is provided to conduct bear hazard assessments in communities with historically high levels of human-bear conflict.
- **Invasive Mussels: \$3,620K** - Funding is provided for monitoring and response efforts for invasive quagga mussels, including coordination with other entities, inspections, decontamination, equipment, training, monitoring, and outreach. Matching federal funds are anticipated from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- **Orca Monitoring and Research: \$100K** - Funding is provided for a grant to an orca research organization in Friday Harbor for monitoring and researching Southern Resident killer whales.
- **Ruckelshaus FY Shift:** In the 2023-25 operating budget, \$300K was provided to the Ruckelshaus Center for a review of WDFW in FY 2024. This item shifts \$95K of that funding from FY 2024 to FY 2025 – report due date moved from June to December.
- **Skagit Elk Management: \$100K** - Funding is provided for elk management in the Skagit Valley in cooperation with affected tribes and landowners, including fencing, replacement seed and fertilizer, and elk deterrent equipment.



Supplemental Capital Items

Federal authority was provided in both versions of the Capital budget for these projects:

- Mitchell Act BiOp Implementation \$536k
- Ringold Hatchery Replace Ponds \$10.8M
- Washougal Intake Replacement \$14.2M



Supplemental Capital Items – cont.

Two capital bonds requests were funded:

- Sekiu Boat Ramp Acquisition, \$2.7M.
- Minor Works Preservation - Domestic Water Systems and Piping, \$275k.

These increases show up in the capital budget of the Recreation and Conservation Office:

- Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board \$22M
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program \$11M
- Washington Coastal Restoration and Resiliency Initiative \$8M



Specific issues from last session to pursue jointly with Tribes

Ongoing support for SRKW prey production – specifics like production in partnership with the Squaxin Island Tribe.

Coordinating ungulate survey flights and wolf collaring with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

