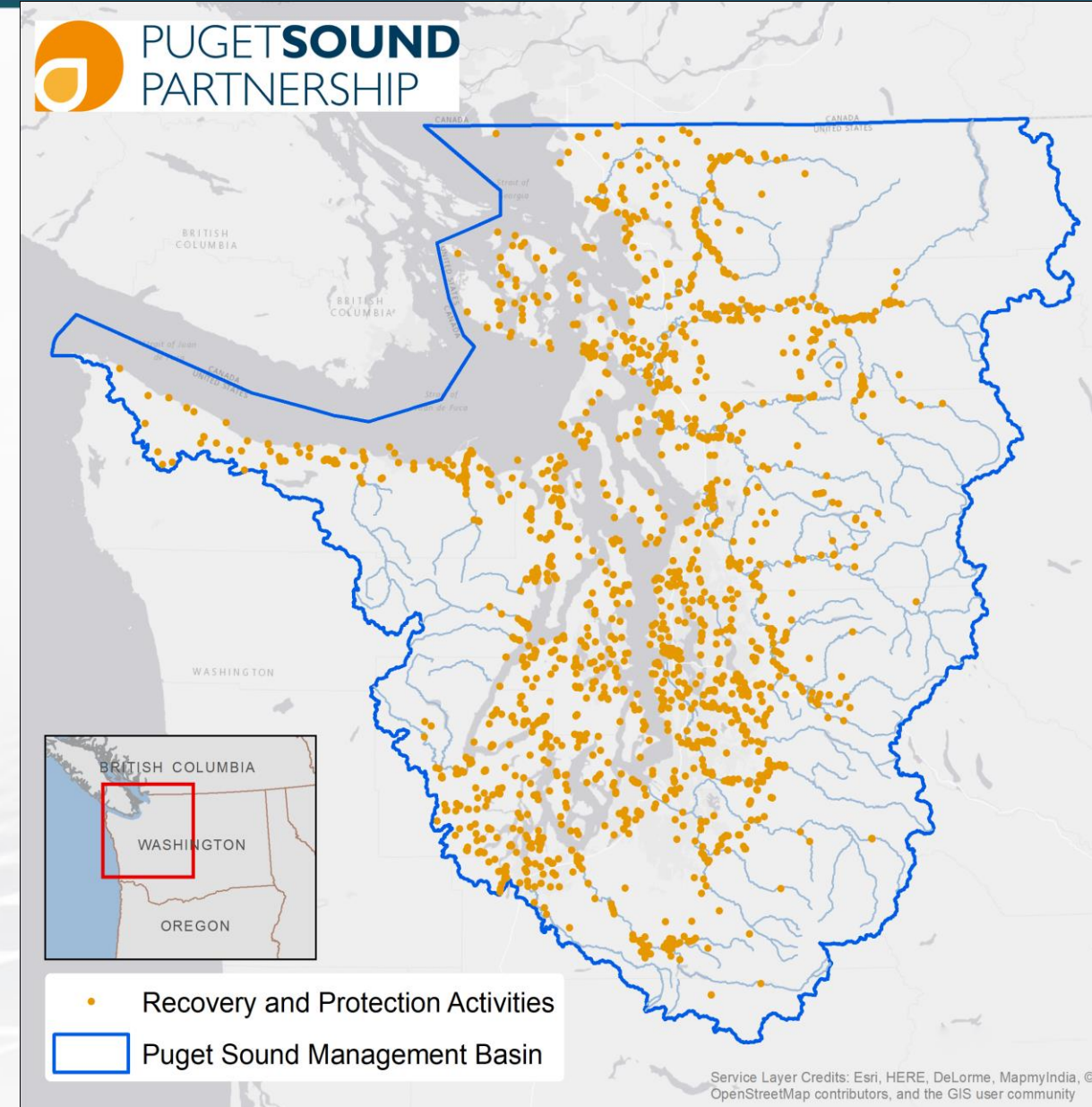






# Puget Sound – Icecaps to White Caps

- 2007: Created in response to decline in the health of Puget Sound and its salmon
- State agency focused on Puget Sound recovery
- Regional recovery organization for Puget Sound salmon
- Puget Sound National Estuary Program (federal Clean Water Act)



# Vision and mission



## VISION

**Vibrant, enduring natural  
systems and communities**



## MISSION

**Accelerate the collective  
effort to recover and sustain  
Puget Sound**



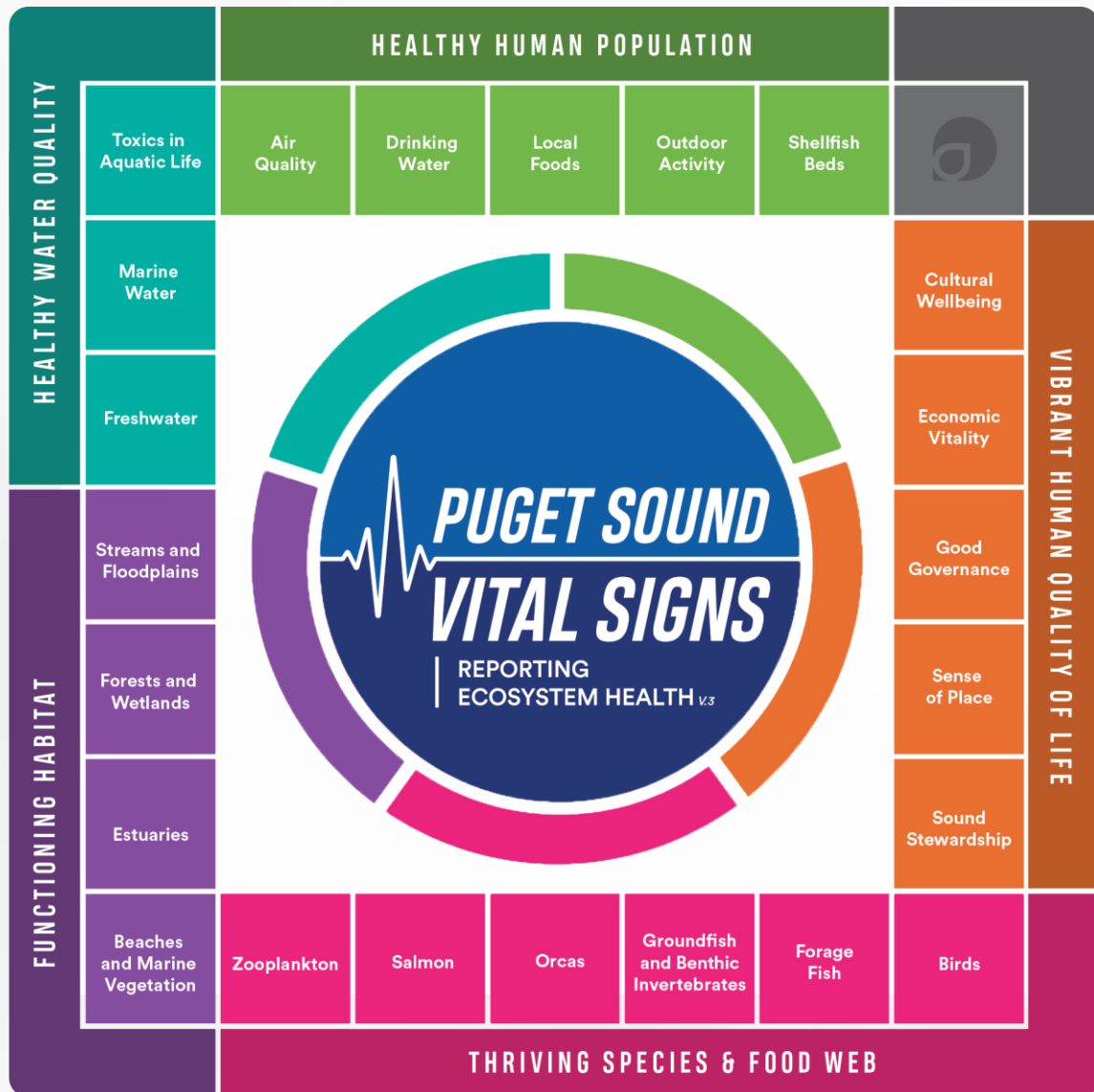
# Planning and Accelerating Puget Sound Recovery

We bring together hundreds of partners together to develop and adaptively manage a common vision for Puget Sound recovery.



# 2023 State of the Sound

- The Puget Sound ecosystem is not doing well, but with collective effort, we can restore it to health and make sure it can adapt to climate change and other pressures.
- Many of the indicators we use to gauge the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem are not making progress toward recovery.
- However, we have seen big changes in the last two years that make us optimistic. New funding from the federal government and policy changes. We need to take advantage of this moment to set ourselves on the right course for recovery, to restore this beautiful place for ourselves and future generations.



## Summary



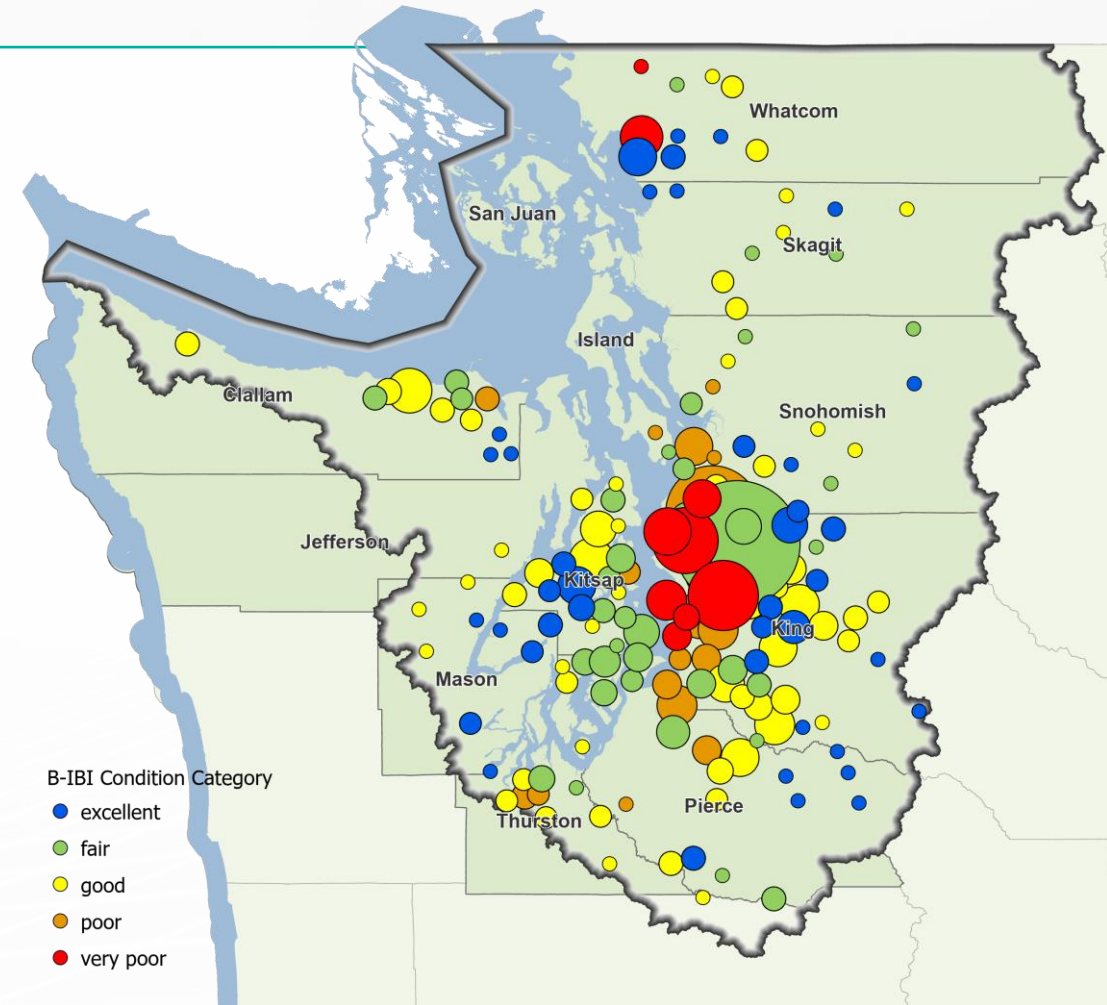
More indicators will be developed over time. We will work with recovery partners to compile and report data in the future.

# Freshwater Quality

*Freshwater quality is mixed across Puget Sound; however, over time Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (B-IBI) scores have generally improved or remained stable.*

GETTING  
BETTER

- While development has increased in the region, stream health (as measured by the diversity and abundance of insects and other invertebrates) has improved at 22% of sites and declined at only 2% of sites.

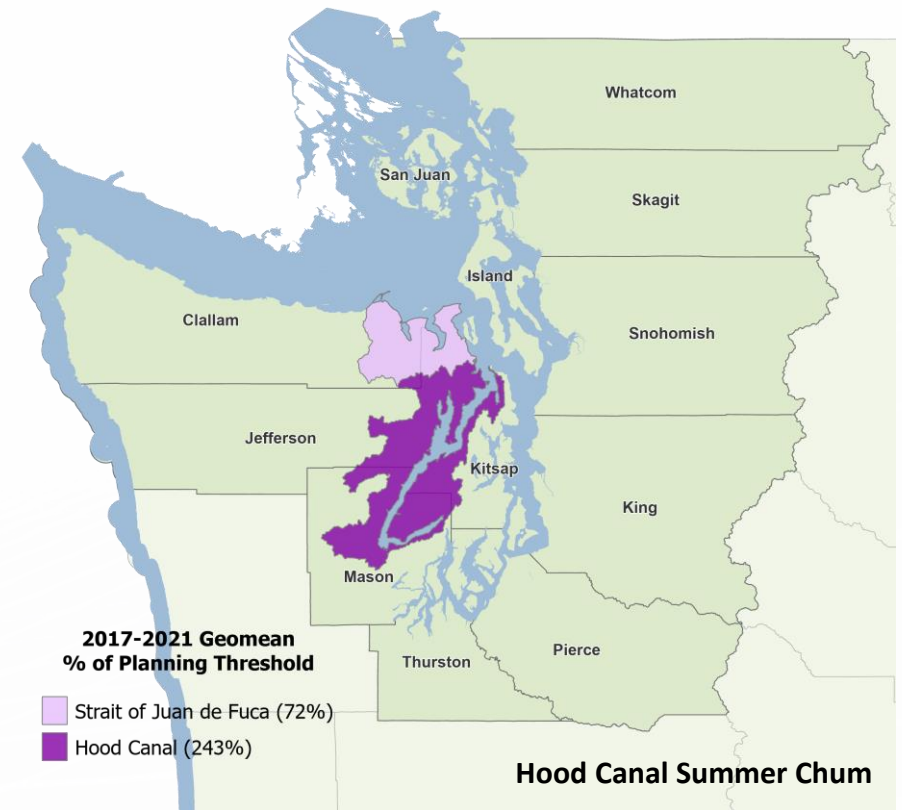


# Summer Chum Salmon

*Hood Canal summer chum salmon have increased since ESA listing in 1999.*



- This good news reflects decades of targeted actions and investments and points to a possible breakthrough for the recovery of this Threatened species.



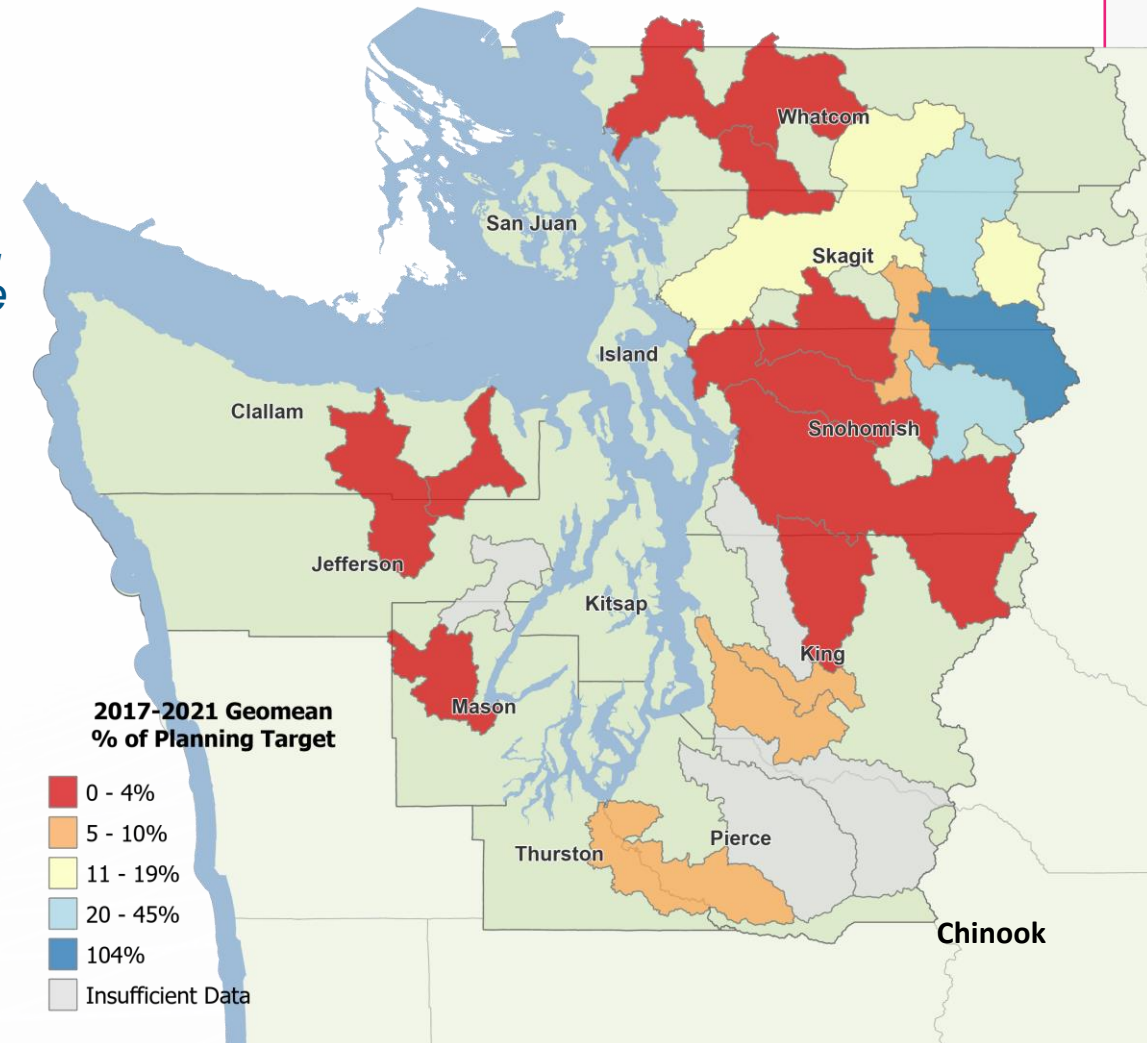


# Chinook Salmon

*Chinook salmon and Puget Sound steelhead are stable, but population numbers are far too low, and we see little to no sign of recovery for these Threatened species.*

NO  
TREND

- We are challenged to provide the conditions necessary to sustain populations, including sufficient functional habitat, clean water free of contaminants, and robust prey resources.

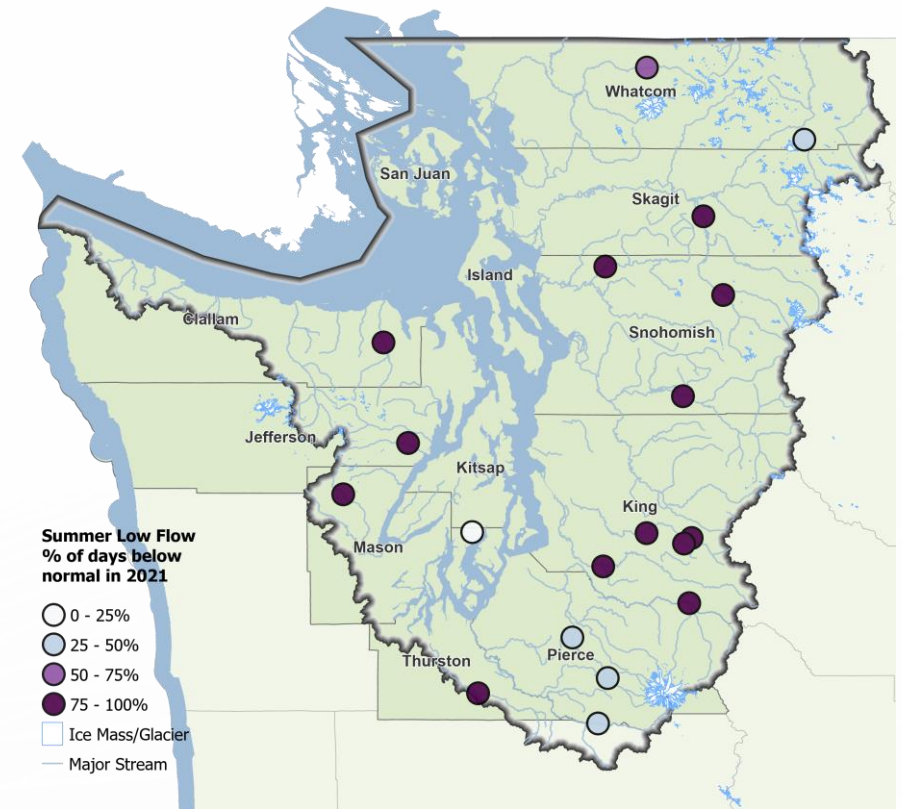


# Stream flows

*The occurrence of below normal summer flows is increasing in unregulated streams and rivers across Puget Sound relative to a 50-year baseline.*



- Climate change is exacerbating seasonal anomalies in streamflows. With rising snow elevations and less snowpack, summer low flows are becoming lower and longer lasting throughout the region.

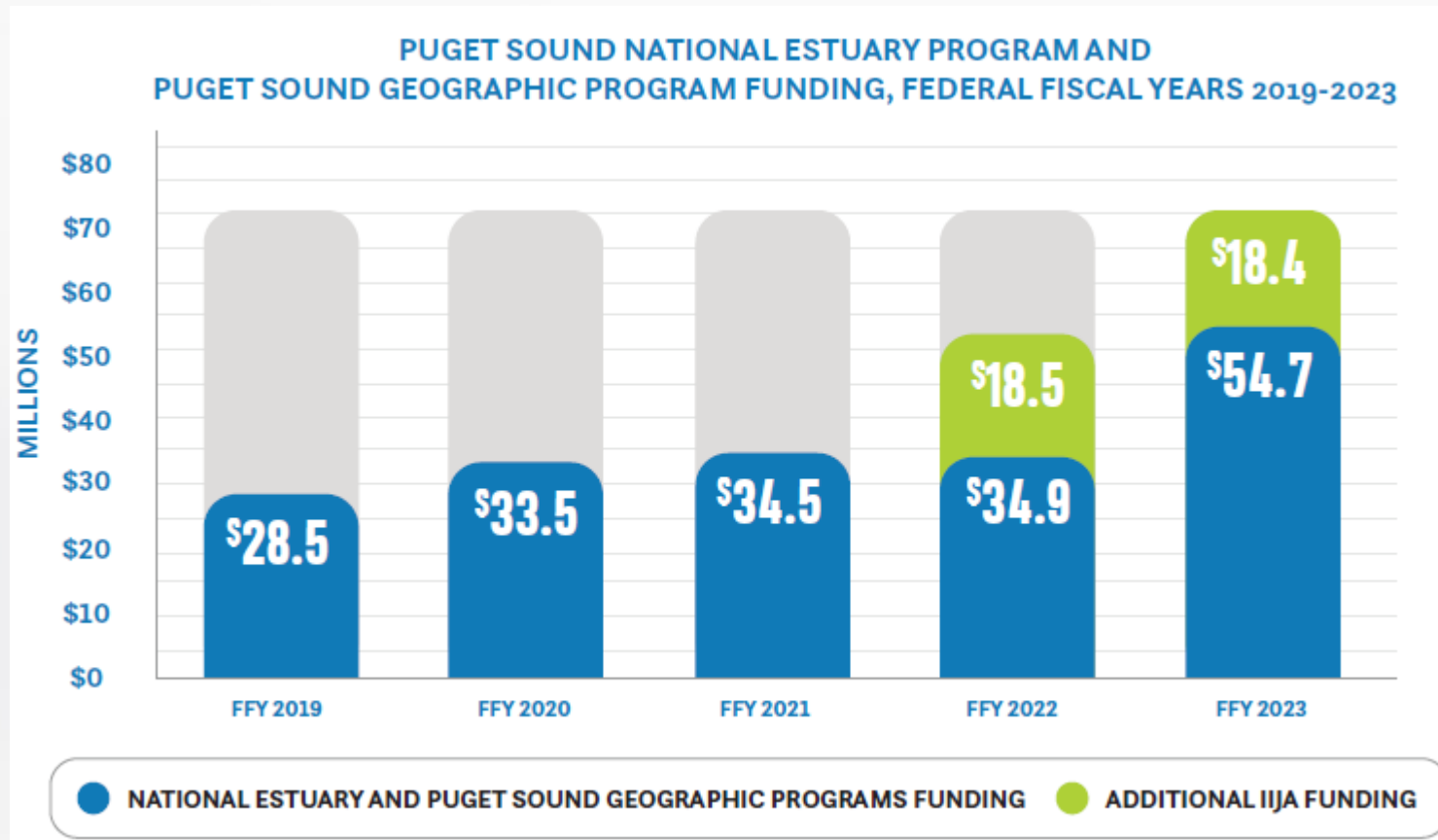




# **Sustained Funding for Puget Sound Recovery**

# Federal planning, funding and implementation

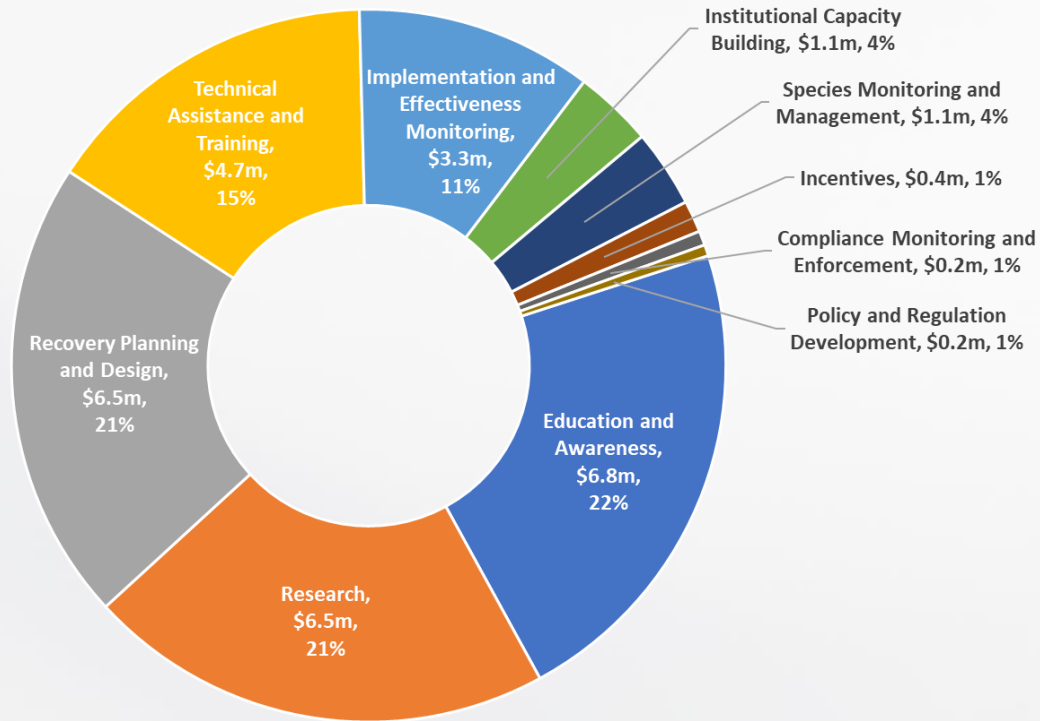
We are already seeing the effects of this suite of federal legislation in supporting Action Agenda implementation



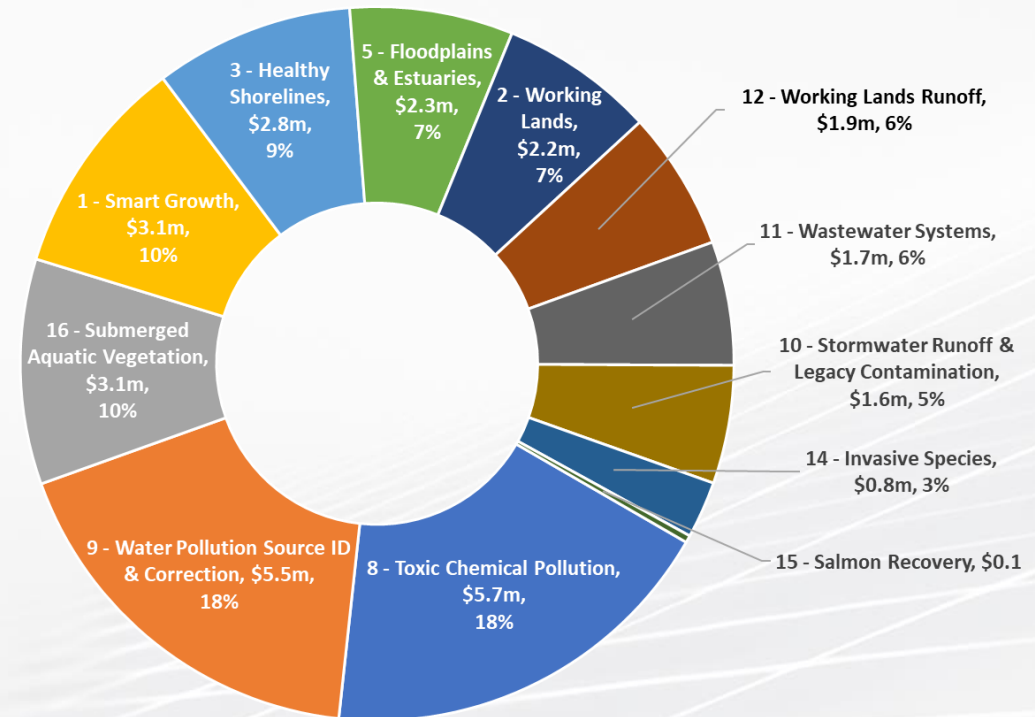


# Federal planning, funding and implementation

Projects by primary type of activity



Projects by primary Action Agenda strategy







# Advocating for state policy priorities



Work with partners to develop/refine ideas



Set legislative priorities



Communicate with Legislators

Bill #	Short Title	House	
		Passed comm	Passed fiscal
<a href="#">HB 1181</a> (Duerr) <a href="#">SB 5203</a> (Lovelett)	Climate change / GMA (Gov)	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
<a href="#">HB 1735</a> (Lekanoff)	Net ecological gain	✓	X
<a href="#">HB 1215</a> (Chapman) <a href="#">SB 5266</a> (Shewmake)	Protect and restore riparian areas (Gov)	X	X
<a href="#">HB 1378</a> (Reeves) <a href="#">SB 5433</a> (Muzall)	Derelict aquatic structures (DNR)	✓ ✓	✓ ✓
<a href="#">SB 5104</a> (Salomon)	Monitor Puget Sound shorelines	✓	✓

Track and report on progress and outcomes

STRATEGY 1

Smart Growth



HB 1181 – incorporating climate change into land use plans, **PASSED**

STRATEGY 3

Healthy Shorelines



SB 5433 – Derelict Structure Removal Program, **PASSED**

SB 5104 – Baseline Survey of Puget Sound Marine Shoreline Habitat, **PASSED**

# Support Local Implementation

# Local Partners Influence Board Priorities

- ✓ Impacting grant system alignment
- ✓ Influencing permitting policy to facilitate implementation of habitat restoration projects
- ✓ Integrating salmon and ecosystem recovery priorities into local jurisdiction planning



# Strategically directing federal funding

- Partnership's Strategic Funding Team
  - Accelerate and scale the implementation of Puget Sound recovery
  - Support the recovery community to plan and act across sectors and geographies
  - Help partners respond to rapid funding availability so that projects can be scaled up quickly and successfully
  - Puget Sound Recovery Acceleration Tool (PS RAFT)
  - Beginning to strategize how to align restoration and transportation

# Federal planning, funding and implementation

## National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program, AOP) – Federal Highway Administration

- Created by the IIJA
- Annual competitive fish passage restoration grant
- Year one grants (FY 2022) awarded \$45 million to 14 different fish barrier removal projects located in Puget Sound.

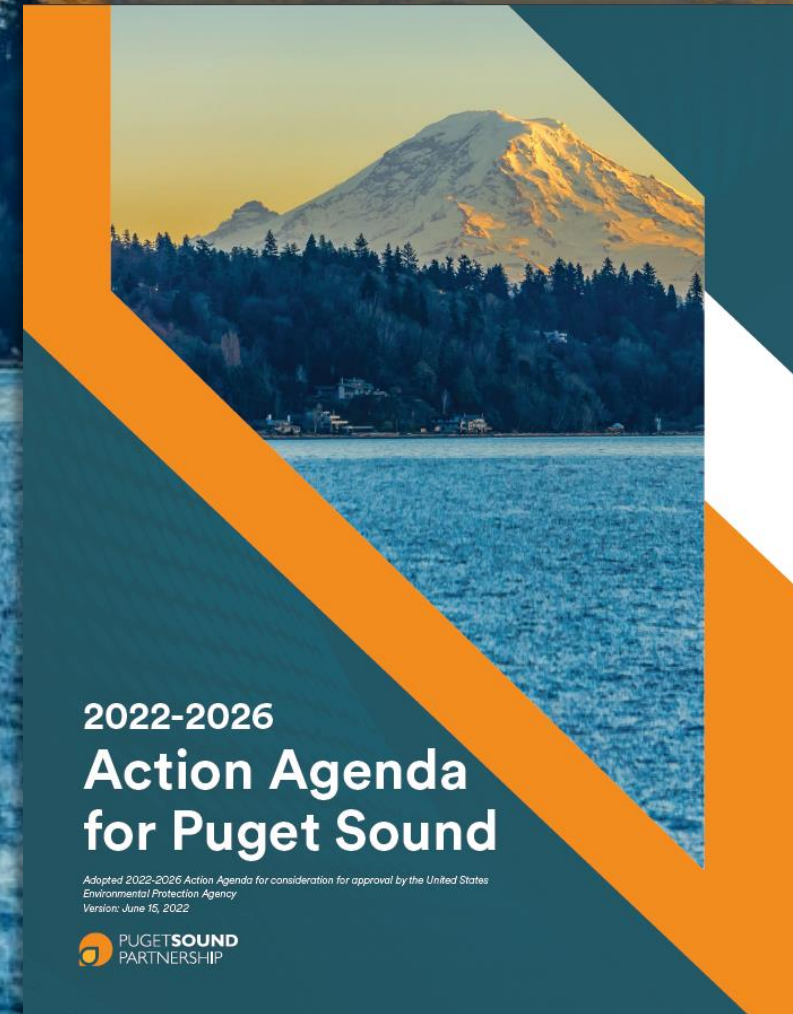




# Action Agenda Strategy - Smart Growth

**Goal: Ensure smart development and protect intact habitats and processes by channeling population growth into attractive, transit-oriented urban growth areas (UGAs) with easy access to natural spaces**

- **Build Puget Sound-wide support to prevent conversion of forests, farms, and natural areas and increase funding for conservation incentives.**
- **Reduce barriers to infill and redevelopment in high-growth areas.**
- **Improve the Growth Management Act and local land use planning to effectively channel growth and prevent conversion of ecologically important lands.**





# Leadership Council Initiative

## Sound Safe Infrastructure

Identify mechanisms to encourage the influx of transportation dollars to be used to create transportation projects with strong environmental and human wellbeing benefits

- Determining better coordination opportunities at the state level and local level
- Identify, coordinate funding efforts to support Sound Safe Infrastructure goals with local project implementation
- Advocate for additional support, including direct Federal Highways funding, changes to competitive grants evaluation criteria

# Smart Growth

## ECB Land Use subcommittee

Identify tools to engage counties undergoing comprehensive plan updates

WDFW's checklists and outreach efforts

Provide input during development of Sound Choices checklist

Convene panel discussion with local planners to identify how ECB and PS recovery system can support

Bold land use planning workshop

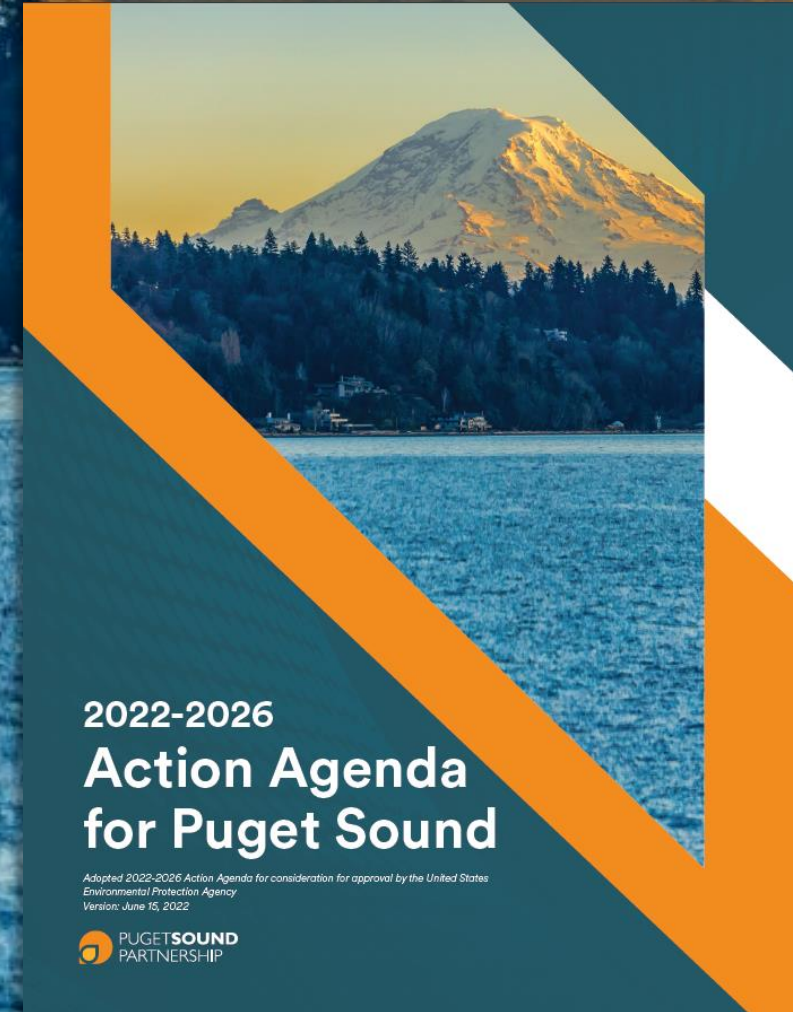




# Action Agenda Strategy - Stormwater

**Goal: Manage stormwater runoff and legacy contamination by improving regulatory frameworks and incentives, including using a comprehensive approach at the site and landscape scales**

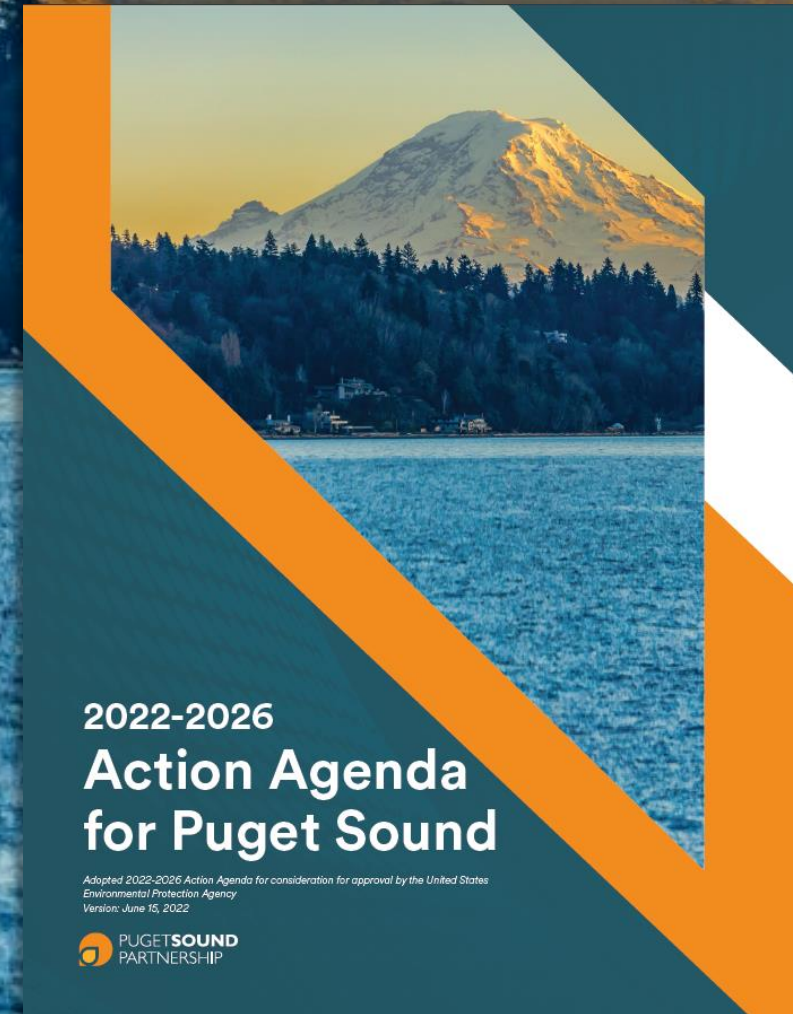
- **Conduct watershed-scale planning and land use planning to protect and restore water quality.**
- **Encourage retrofits and restoration through education and incentives.**
- **Incentivize redevelopment in areas associated with high loads of toxic chemicals.**
- **Increase and stabilize funding that supports actions, incentives, and local capacity to reduce nutrient loads.**





# Action Agenda Strategy - Stormwater

- Develop and implement education and outreach and behavior change campaigns and fund projects to reduce nutrient impacts from residential, stormwater, and agriculture
- Adjust stormwater permitting requirements or other local government programs to address nutrients in stormwater from residential and commercial runoff.
- Find and fix toxic hotspots (information, planning, education, funding, and implementation).
- Increase the streamlining of legal processes and the pace of clean-up of priority contaminated sites (information, planning, funding, implementation, and monitoring).





# Federal Leadership Task Force – Stormwater Coordination Group

Three-pronged approach:

- Identify and implement “high return, low risk” retrofits
- Define and identify large outfalls with inadequate stormwater treatment
- Identify science and monitoring gaps (and make recommendations on how to fill those gaps)

There is a draft priority list under development of the “high return, low risk” retrofit sites which need funding to implement.

# 6PPD and Stormwater Management

Private, Local, State (ECY, DFW, WSDOT, DOH), Tribal, and Federal (EPA) implementation partners

## Partnership coordinating support:

Federal task force and state interagency work groups

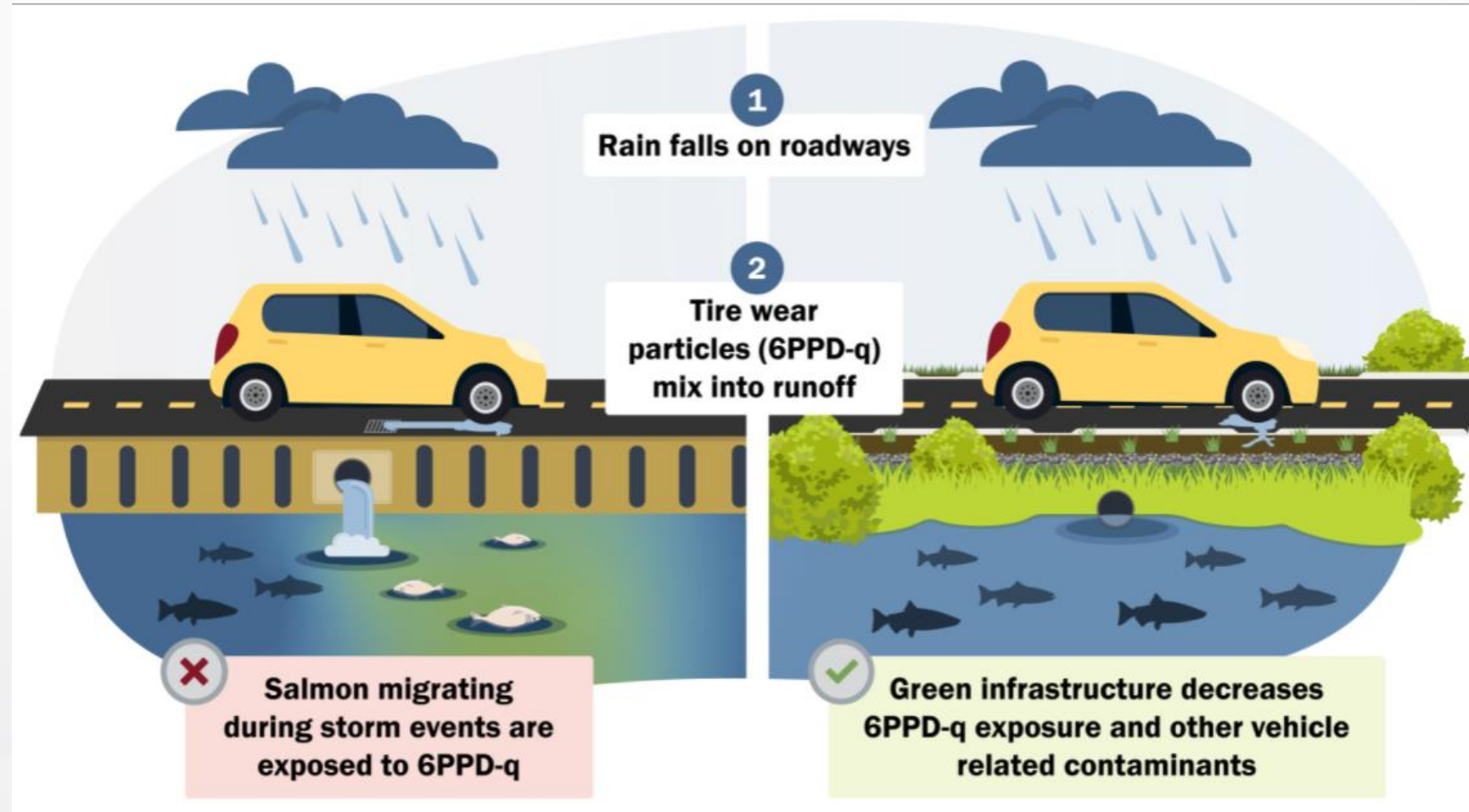
ECB policy statement

South Central local forum conversation with ECB

State budget investments

Federal investments

Communications - Making Waves article



Credit: ECY



**What assistance and resources can the Puget Sound Partnership and PSRC provide to local governments to help them implement planning and projects to improve the health of Puget Sound?**