

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM. I'm Jim Burke, with local news and commentary for Port Townsend and vicinity on Tuesday, September 27, 2022.

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The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board today announced the award of nearly \$76 million in grants across the state to help ensure the survival of salmon in Washington, according to a press release from the Recreation and Conservation Office of the Washington State Department Of Natural Resources. The board also approved an additional \$58 million in grant requests for 55 projects through the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program once funding is approved by the Legislature in 2023. If approved, the combined funding would be the largest amount of money directed at salmon recovery in a single year since the board was created 23 years ago: a total of nearly \$134 million.

The grants that were funded today went to 138 projects in 30 of the state's 39 counties. The grants will pay for work to restore salmon habitat, including repairing degraded habitat in rivers, removing barriers blocking salmon migration, and conserving pristine habitat. On the transcript of this newscast we've included the amounts of the grants for all counties in Washington state, which includes descriptions of the grants in a clickable format. Grants were awarded in the counties below. Click for descriptions of each project.

[Asotin County](#)..... \$683,100  
[Chelan County](#)..... \$2,389,987  
[Clallam County](#)..... \$1,257,022  
[Clark County](#)..... \$7,735,106  
[Columbia County](#)..... \$1,046,849  
[Cowlitz County](#)..... \$5,705,003  
[Garfield County](#)..... \$116,325  
[Grays Harbor County](#)..... \$976,820  
[Island County](#)..... \$506,002  
[Jefferson County](#)..... \$20,057,474  
[King County](#)..... \$2,815,750  
[Kitsap County](#)..... \$643,868  
[Kittitas County](#)..... \$1,452,801  
[Klickitat County](#)..... \$725,367  
[Lewis County](#)..... \$1,261,347  
[Mason County](#)..... \$2,082,781  
[Okanogan County](#)..... \$552,254  
[Pacific County](#)..... \$2,583,077  
[Pend Oreille County](#)..... \$354,000  
[Pierce County](#)..... \$985,395  
[San Juan County](#)..... \$671,434  
[Skagit County](#)..... \$2,491,016

<a href="#"><u>Skamania County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$1,555,778</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Snohomish County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$7,368,896</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Thurston County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$553,599</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Wahkiakum County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$1,118,645</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Walla Walla County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$729,504</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Whatcom County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$817,895</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Whitman County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$294,000</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Yakima County</u></a> .....	<a href="#"><u>\$6,446,340</u></a>

Jefferson County will receive the largest amount of money from these grants, over \$20 million. The largest grant was won by the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group that will use a grant of over \$19 million to restore the Duckabush estuary, located primarily in the Duckabush Unit of the North Olympia Wildlife Area. The estuary has been degraded for almost 100 years by a wall of highway fill that nearly severs the estuary from tidelands. The project would reconnect the river to its floodplain and wetlands by removing highway fill across the estuary, modifying local roads, elevating U.S. Route 101 onto an estuary-spanning bridge, and reconnecting historical channels. Construction will bring to fruition 20 years of collaboration and investment by a consortium of partners that formed the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project to identify opportunities for shoreline habitat restoration. The project is a partnership between the Enhancement Group, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The estuary is used by chum salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by coho salmon, which is a federal species of concern; and by pink salmon.

Funding for the grants comes from the sale of state bonds, a federal grant from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The grant recipients also invest in salmon recovery and will be contributing more than nearly \$59 million in matching resources, such as materials, staff labor, and donations.

Salmon are a keystone species upon which many other animals rely. One report documented 138 species of wildlife, from whales to flies, that depend on salmon for their food. In addition, salmon fishing is important to Washington's economy. Commercial and recreational fishing in Washington is estimated to support 16,000 jobs and \$540 million in personal income. Investing in salmon recovery projects also helps local businesses. Every \$1 million spent on forest and watershed restoration generates between 15 and 24 jobs. About 80% of that funding stays in the county where the project is located, helping many rural communities. Finally, salmon recovery projects help Washington State uphold treaty-reserved fishing rights for Indian tribes and ensure salmon are present and available for harvest.

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The Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Meeting was yesterday, and Dr. Allison Berry, Public Health Officer for Jefferson and Clallam Counties and Willie Bence, Director of Emergency Management spoke to the commissioners during the Public Health Briefing. In Jefferson County, the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 370 per hundred thousand. Two people are currently hospitalized. 68 new cases were added this week for a total of 5,853 cases. Jefferson County's total count of COVID-19-related deaths is still 31. There are still NO cases of MPV (monkeypox) in Jefferson County.

In Clallam County the two-week COVID-19 case-rate is 170 per hundred thousand, 128 new cases for a total of 15,577 cases since the pandemic began. One person is hospitalized at this time. 124 people have died in Clallam County from COVID-19 since the pandemic began. There has been only one detected case of MPV in Clallam County.

The Jefferson County vaccination clinics for the new bivalent boosters have been busy, and Willie Bence was glad to get right to work after his return from Alaska. Dr. Berry said that supplies of the vaccine are picking up, although the Pfizer booster is in greater supply than the Moderna. So now, even if you are not in a high-risk group, you can and should seek out the bivalent booster. You can listen to Dr. Allison Berry's full remarks at <https://kptz.org/2022/09/26/county-public-health-report-9-26-22/>.

(You can still order COVID-19 quick tests from Washington State at: <https://www.sayescovidhometest.org>)

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KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon and five Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through [news@kptz.org](mailto:news@kptz.org). This is Jim Burke. Thanks for listening.