

Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program (PSAR)

Agency	Grant program administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office and the Puget Sound Partnership, with grants to state agencies, local governments, conservation districts, tribes, non-profits and others.
Year Established	2007
Relevant Statute	Capital Budget 1216-S.SL (p. 105)
Program Goal	To recover self-sustaining, harvestable salmon runs in a manner that contributes to the overall health of Puget Sound and its watersheds and allows us to enjoy and use this precious resource in concert with our region's economic vitality and prosperity levels.
Agency Summary	<p>PSAR is a grant program supports salmon recovery by funding projects. Projects are approved through the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). Funds are administered through RCO. PSAR projects address high priority need salmon habitat protection and restoration needs identified in a watershed or regional recovery plan chapter or a regional recovery plan or other strategy to benefit Treaty rights populations or listed species populations.</p> <p>PSAR's target priorities for salmon recovery include: estuary restoration, stream bank improvements, fish passage, nearshore protection, shoreline armoring removal, and floodplain function.</p>
Existing Outcome Measures	<p>The 2016 SRFB <i>Washington Making a Difference to Salmon</i> report concluded that the combined federal, tribal, state, and local resources invested in salmon recovery are improving salmon populations.</p> <p>Reports on outcomes of salmon recovery efforts in general are available in scientific reports sponsored by the state, including the 2016 GSRO State of the Salmon in Watersheds report, the PSP <i>State of the Sound</i> report, and the 2015 SRFB Project Effectiveness Monitoring Program. SRFB's Project Effectiveness Monitoring Program includes PSAR projects.</p> <p>RCO's PRISM database records project outputs, including dollars spent, acres acquired/restored, and number of stream miles treated. This information is used to track achievements and outcomes at both the project level and the program level.</p>
Other benefits identified by agencies	<p>Community: increased shoreline access, increased opportunities for wildlife viewing, educational opportunities, citizen involvement in grant process, recreation, fishing, human health, quality of life</p> <p>Economy: job creation, ecotourism, fishing, recreation</p> <p>Environment: improved water quality, erosion reduction, protected and restored habitat, species and food web benefit</p> <p>Safety: flood risk reduction</p>