

## Puget Sound Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP)

<b>Agency</b>	Grant program administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, with grants to state agencies, local governments, tribes, non-profits and others
<b>Year Established</b>	2006
<b>Relevant Statute</b>	Capital Budget 1216-S.SL (p. 106)
<b>Program Goal</b>	To protect and restore the natural processes that create and sustain the Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem.
<b>Agency Summary</b>	<p>The ESRP provides state/federal funding and technical assistance to organizations working to restore shoreline and nearshore habitat critical to salmon and other fish species in Puget Sound. Specific objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore size and quality of large river delta estuaries</li> <li>• Restore the number and quality of coastal embayments</li> <li>• Restore the size and quality of beaches and bluffs</li> <li>• Increase understanding of natural process restoration to improve effectiveness</li> </ul> <p>ESRP prefers projects that employ Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP)-developed tools that restore and protect nearshore ecosystem processes.</p>
<b>Existing Outcome Measures</b>	<p>The 2016 SRFB Washington Making a Difference to Salmon report concluded that the combined federal, tribal, state, and local resources invested in salmon recovery are improving salmon populations.</p> <p>The Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) has a monitoring framework that outlines 3 categories of monitoring (implementation, effectiveness, and validation) and specific metrics for assessing ESRP-funded projects. PSNERP identifies a number of indicators for monitoring strategies for 4 ecosystem types (river deltas, beaches, barrier embayments, and coastal inlets).</p> <p>RCO's PRISM database records project outputs, including dollars spent, acres acquired/restored, and number of stream miles treated.</p>
<b>Other benefits identified by agencies</b>	<p><b>Community:</b> public involvement</p> <p><b>Economy:</b> fishing, job creation</p> <p><b>Environment:</b> nearshore connectivity to watersheds</p> <p><b>Safety:</b> flood risk reduction</p>