



# CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

**Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

**Meeting Location: In Person and Virtual / Zoom  
17425 Ballinger Way NE Lake Forest Park, WA 98155**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING THIS MEETING VIRTUALLY:**

**Join Zoom Webinar:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81266972044>  
**Call into Webinar:** 253-215-8782 | **Webinar ID:** 812 6697 2044

The City Council is providing opportunities for public comment by submitting a written comment or by attending in person to provide oral public comment.

### **HOW TO PARTICIPATE WITH ORAL COMMENTS:**

If you are attending the meeting in person, there is a sign in sheet located near the entrance to the Council Chambers. Simply fill the form out and the Mayor will call your name at the appropriate time. Oral comments are limited to 3:00 minutes per speaker. Oral comments are not being accepted via Zoom.

The meeting is being recorded.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS:**

Written comments will be submitted to Council if received by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting; otherwise, they will be provided to the City Council the next day. The City Clerk will read your name and subject matter into the record during Public Comments.

As allowed by law, the Council may add and take action on items not listed on the agenda. For up-to-date information on agendas, please visit the City's website at [www.cityoflfp.gov](http://www.cityoflfp.gov)

Meetings are shown on the city's website and on Comcast channel 21 for subscribers within the Lake Forest Park city limits.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*The Committee is not accepting online public comments. This portion of the agenda is set aside for the public to address the Council on agenda items or any other topic the Council might have purview or control over. However, the Committee may not respond to comments from the public. If the comments are of a nature that the Council does not have influence or control over, then the Deputy Mayor or presiding officer may request the speaker suspend their comments. The*

Council may direct staff to follow up on items brought up by the public. **Comments are limited to a three (3) minute time limit.**

### 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A.** Presentation regarding WRIA 8 (Water Resource Inventory Area), Chinook Conservation Plan, and possible Interlocal Agreement
- B.** Presentation regarding the Public Benefit Rating System

### 4. ADJOURN

#### FUTURE SCHEDULE

- Thursday, March 27, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, April 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m. City Council Work Session – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, April 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Monday, April 21, 2025, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*
- Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7:00 p.m. City Council Regular Meeting – *hybrid meeting (City Hall and via Zoom)*

*Any person requiring a disability accommodation should contact city hall at 206-368-5440 by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting for more information.*

# Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery

Section 3, Item A.



Interlocal Agreement Briefing

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Mgr.

March 24, 2025



# Presentation Outline

Goal: Provide Council context for consideration of 2026-2035  
Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Renewal

- I. Salmon Recovery Context
- II. WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan
- III. ILA Overview
- IV. Funding & Accomplishments
- V. Looking Forward



# Salmon Recovery Timeline

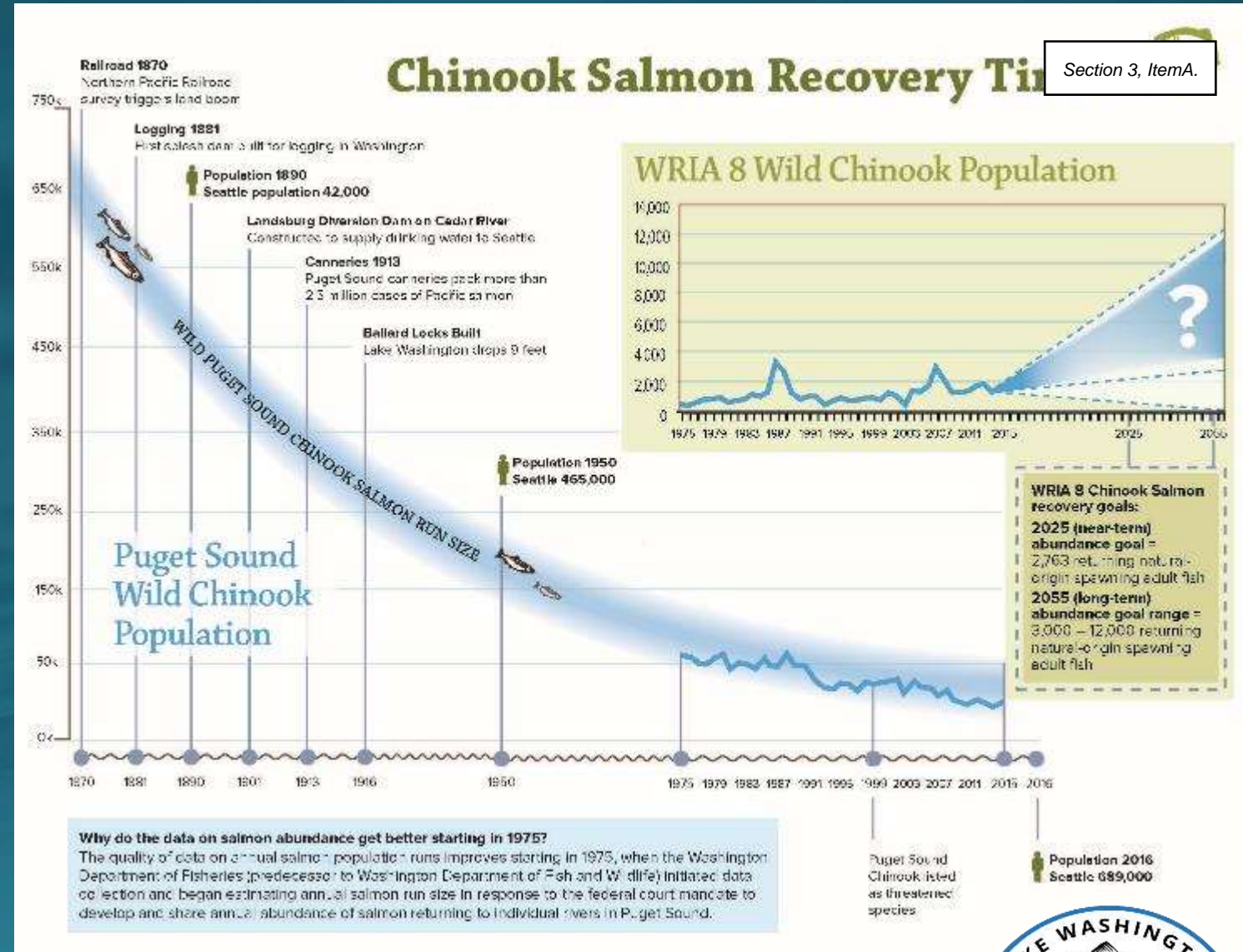
1998 WA State Salmon Recovery Act

1999 Chinook salmon ESA listed

2005 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan

2007 Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan

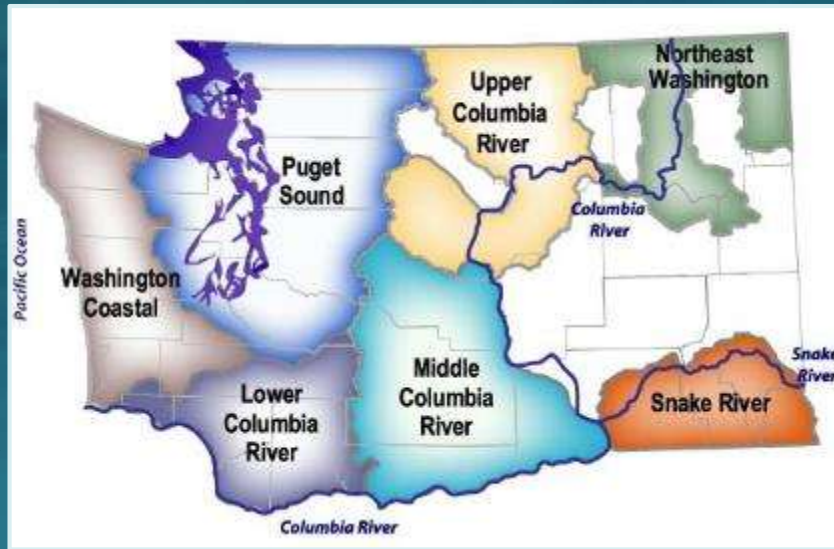
2017 WRIA 8 Plan Update



# Salmon Recovery Framework

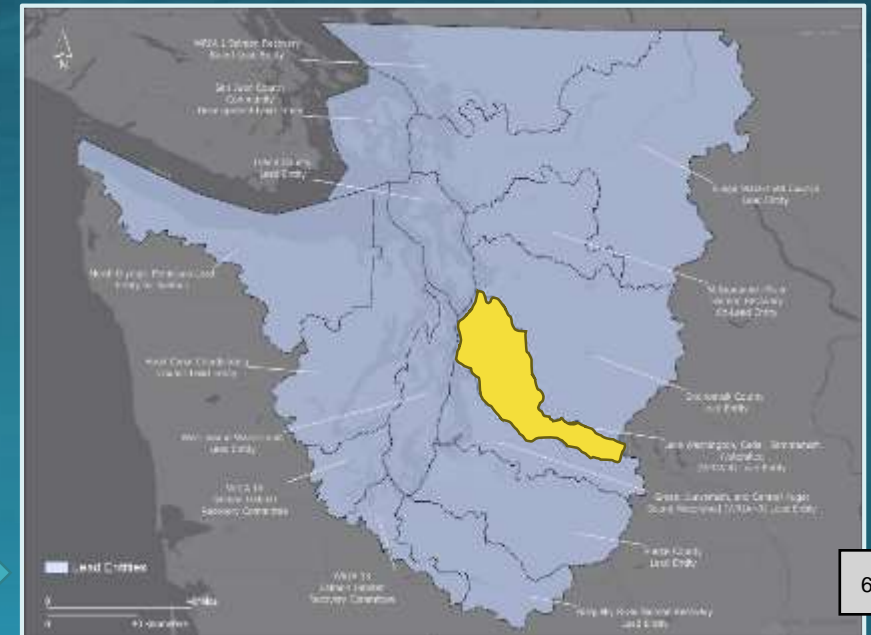


8 Regions  
Puget Sound Partnership

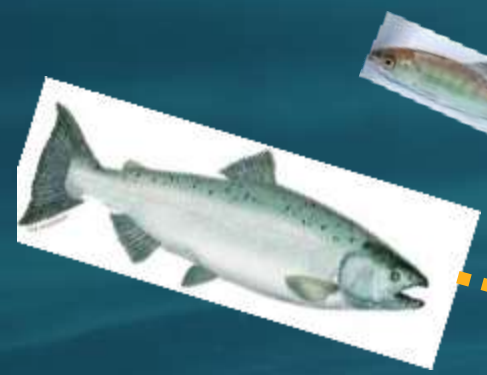


NOAA Fisheries  
(Fed. Gov't)

15 Lead Entities  
WRIA 8



# WRIA 8 - Watershed-Based Approach



# WRIA 8 Plan

Chinook salmon status assessment

Best available science

Habitat goals

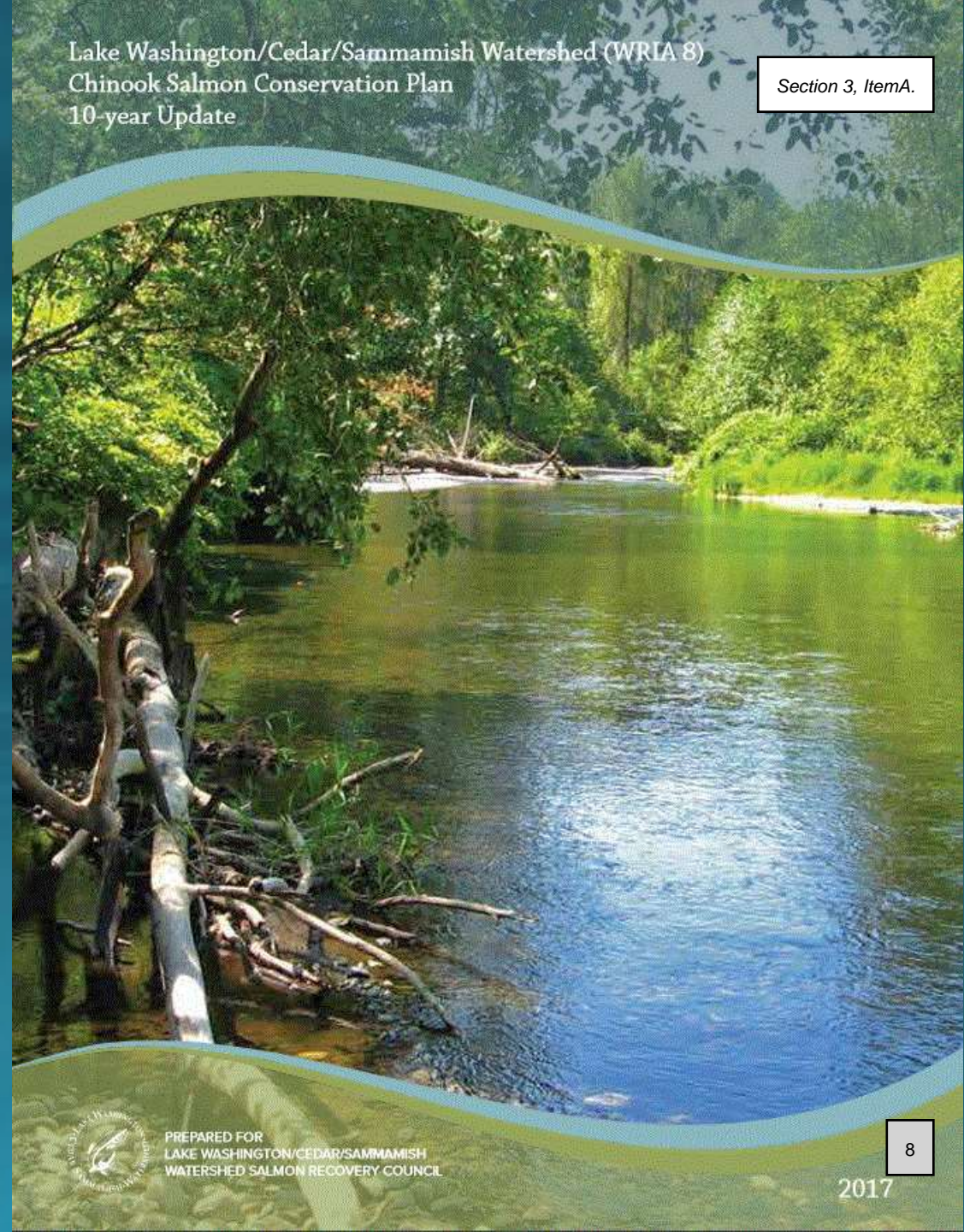
Recovery strategies

Capital project list

Land use recommendations

Outreach and education

Monitoring & adaptive management







# WRIA 8 ILA

# 2026-2035

- ✓ Implementation & adaptive management of WRIA 8 Plan
- ✓ Governance structure – Salmon Recovery Council
- ✓ Funding mechanism
- ✓ Annual work plan & budget
- ✓ Technical & regional coordination
- ✓ Previous ILAs: 2001-2006, 2007-2015, 2016-2025



# 2025 WRIA 8 Work Plan

## Watershed coordination & policy decisions

- Salmon Recovery Council

## Project coordination & implementation

- Project development, funding strategy & annual grant round

## Monitoring & adaptive management

- Implementation Technical Committee

## Telling the salmon recovery story

- Coordinated communications & legislative outreach



Doyle Project – Bear Creek

# 2025 Funding

## ILA Funding – WRIA 8 program

- \$760,366 (incl. \$5,409 Lake Forest Park's cost share)
- Cost Share = Average (% Population + % Assessed value + % Area)

## Grant Funding – Pass through to partners

- \$4.2 Million Cooperative Watershed Management (King County Flood Control District)
- \$1.45 Million Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration (state)
- \$526,634 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (state & federal)



Section 3, Item A.



# Accomplishments 2016-2024

- Over \$38 million awarded in grants
- 200 projects with 22 project sponsors
  - 1.2 miles of levees removed or setback
  - 70.3 acres floodplain reconnected
  - 45.3 miles streamside revegetated
  - 4,228 pieces of large wood installed
- 53 outreach & education grants with 13 sponsors
- 48 monitoring grants with 10 sponsors



# Looking Forward

- Habitat protection & restoration
- Lake Washington Ship Canal
- Addressing key survival issues – predation, elevated water temperature, artificial light at night, disease
- Improving integration – habitat restoration & stormwater management
- Supporting equity and inclusion in salmon recovery
- Monitoring and best available science



# Questions?

## WRIA 8 Staff Team

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz, Salmon Recovery Manager  
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Carrie Byron, Projects and Funding Coordinator



Mary Ramirez, Technical Coordinator



Renee Leichter, Administrative Coordinator





# Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

2024 FACTSHEET

## Making our watershed a place where people and salmon can live together – ten years of progress in WRIA 8

The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (also referred to as the Water Resource Inventory Area, or WRIA, 8) partnership has actively worked to protect and restore habitat for threatened Chinook salmon and improve watershed health since 2000. The partnership is comprised of 29 local governments, state and federal agencies, community organizations, businesses, and special purpose districts.

### WRIA 8 partners are working together for maximum impact

- Guiding implementation of the watershed’s salmon recovery plan and identifying the highest priority activities for local, state, and federal grant funding.
- Ensuring partners are knowledgeable about key issues and policies affecting salmon and the most current science informing recovery efforts.
- Providing opportunities for cross-jurisdictional collaboration on high priority restoration activities and legislative outreach.

### What's been accomplished in the last 10 years?

#### Protecting and restoring habitat

**200** Grants with **22** Project sponsors

**163** Acres planted in riparian

**45.3** Total miles riparian treated

**4,228** Pieces of wood installed

**70.3** Acres of floodplain reconnected

**10** Acres of channel/off-channel connected or added

**1.2** Miles of levee removed or set back

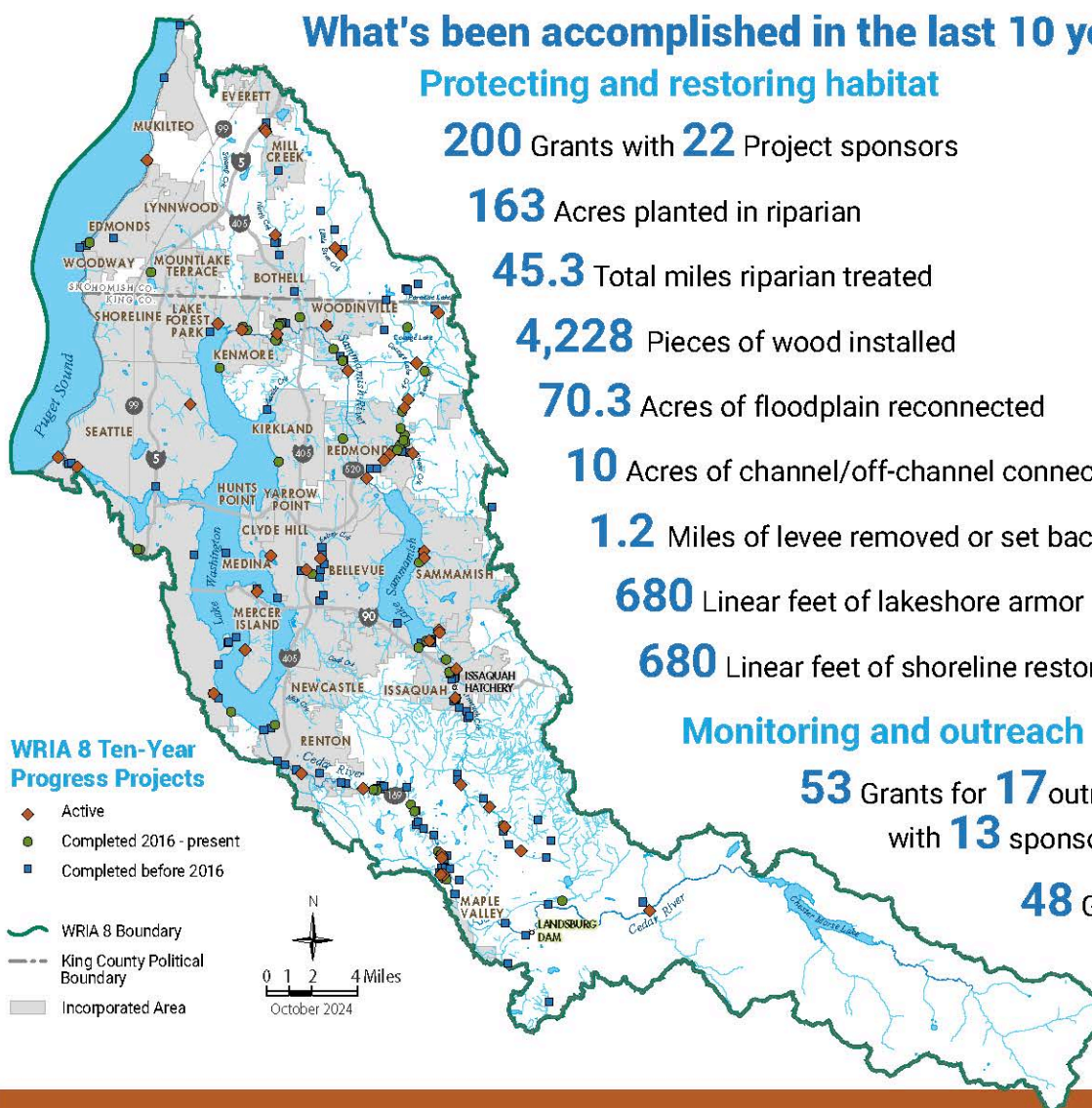
**680** Linear feet of lakeshore armor removed

**680** Linear feet of shoreline restored

#### Monitoring and outreach

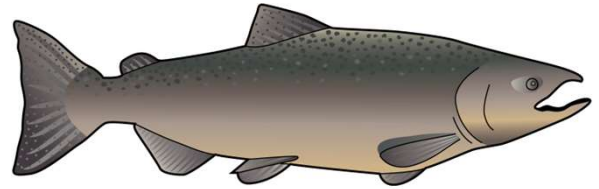
**53** Grants for **17** outreach programs with **13** sponsors

**48** Grants for **26** monitoring activities and studies with **10** sponsors



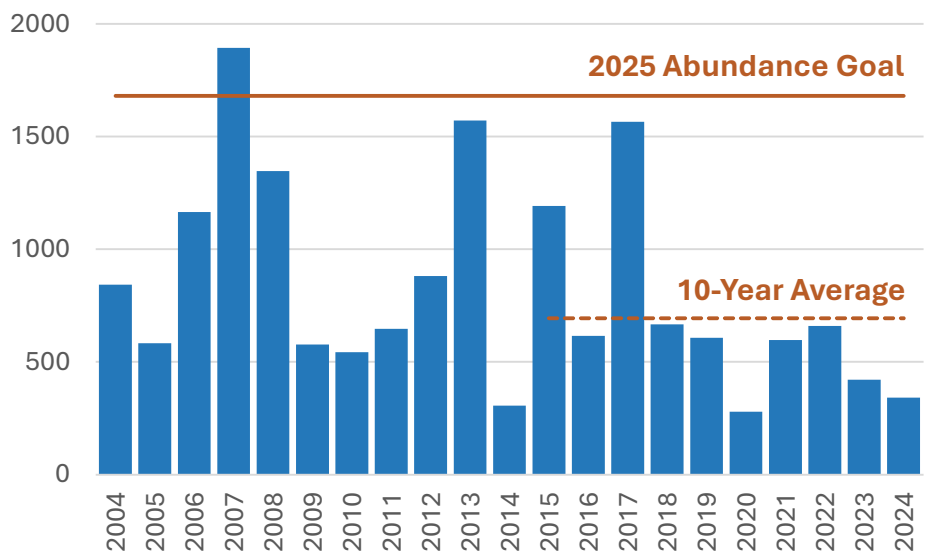
## Status of Chinook in the Watershed

WRIA 8 tracks the status and trends of the Cedar River and Sammamish River Chinook salmon populations. Cedar River Chinook are not meeting our adult abundance goal for wild, natural-origin spawners. However, in recent years Chinook returning to the Sammamish Basin consistently meet and exceed the abundance goal for total spawners. Most of the naturally spawning Sammamish Chinook are hatchery salmon.



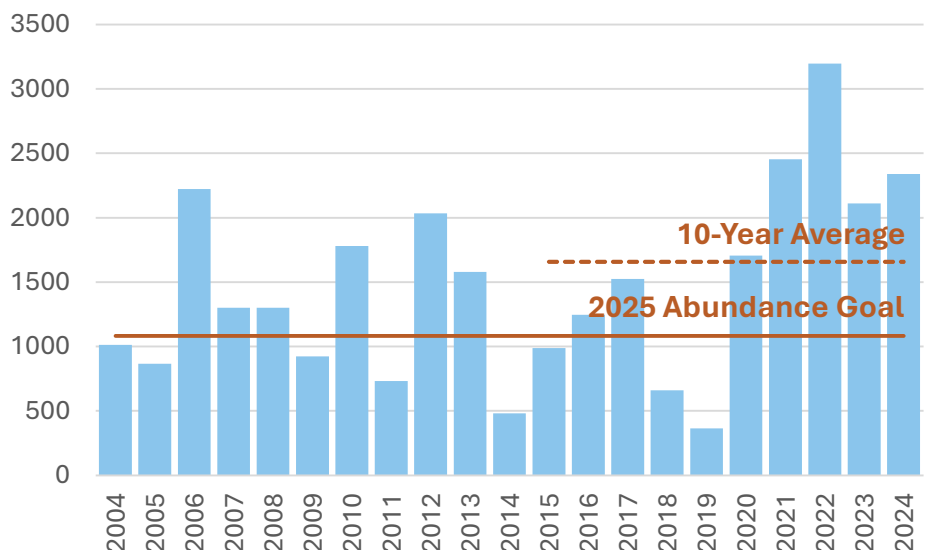
### Cedar Population Adult Spawner Abundance

341\* natural-origin Chinook salmon returned to the Cedar River mainstem to spawn in 2024. Only half of the total Cedar spawners were natural-origin in 2024 (53% in 2024; 73% average since 2004).



### Sammamish Population Adult Spawner Abundance

2,340\* total Chinook salmon returned to the Sammamish basin to spawn in 2024. Most Sammamish spawners are hatchery-origin (93% in 2024; 88% average since 2004).



\*Annual escapement estimates from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2024 estimates are preliminary and subject to review.



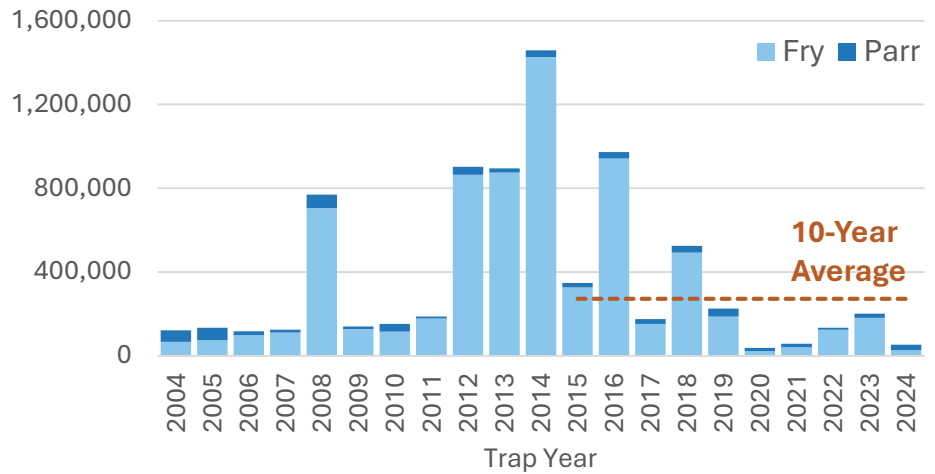
## Status of Chinook in the Watershed

The number of young Chinook migrating down the Cedar River and Bear Creek (offspring of the previous year's spawning run) declined in 2024. Our goal is to increase the number and proportion of parr (late-season) outmigrants as an indicator of instream rearing capacity.

### Cedar

#### Juvenile Abundance

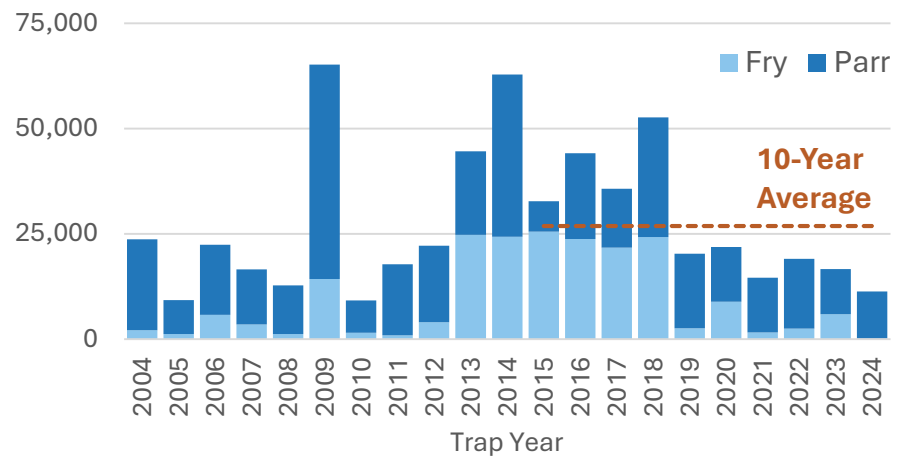
About 52,400\* wild juvenile Chinook migrated down the Cedar River in 2024. While the abundance estimate is low and below average, nearly half (49%) of the juveniles were parr migrants, meeting the instream rearing goal for the first time since 2000.



### Bear Creek

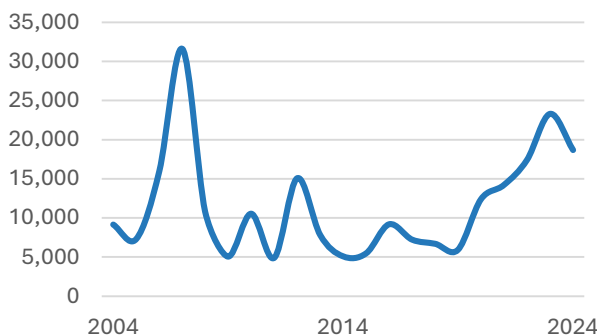
#### Juvenile Abundance

About 11,300\* wild juvenile Chinook migrated down Bear Creek in 2024. Nearly all (99%) were parr migrants.



\*Wild juvenile salmon abundance estimates from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2024 estimates are preliminary and subject to review.

## Adult Chinook Return: Count at the Ballard Locks



Each year WDFW and Muckleshoot Indian Tribe biologists count Lake Washington salmon as they enter freshwater at the Ballard Locks. 18,717 Chinook were counted at the Locks in 2024, the third highest count in 20 years. However, we have seen a growing discrepancy between salmon counted at the Locks and those making it to spawning grounds or the hatchery.

## Science Foundation of the WRIA 8 Chinook Conservation Plan

A set of clear strategies based on the best available science guides salmon recovery in WRIA 8. Implementation of strategies should result in measurable improvements in key habitat elements such as: floodplain connectivity, wood in rivers and streams, natural lake shorelines, and areas of cool water refuge. The Technical Committee identifies priority research and monitoring needed to address the greatest stresses and constraints on Chinook salmon and to support key life stages.



Scientist conducts a snorkel survey of juvenile salmon.

## Key Constraints to Salmon Recovery in WRIA 8

- Lack of quality floodplain and side channel habitat for instream rearing and refuge.
- Predation by native and non-native fish in lakes Washington and Sammamish and the Ship Canal, with impacts exacerbated by habitat degradation and artificial light at night.
- Physical passage through the Ballard Locks and lethal and sublethal temperatures in the Ship Canal and Sammamish River during adult migration.

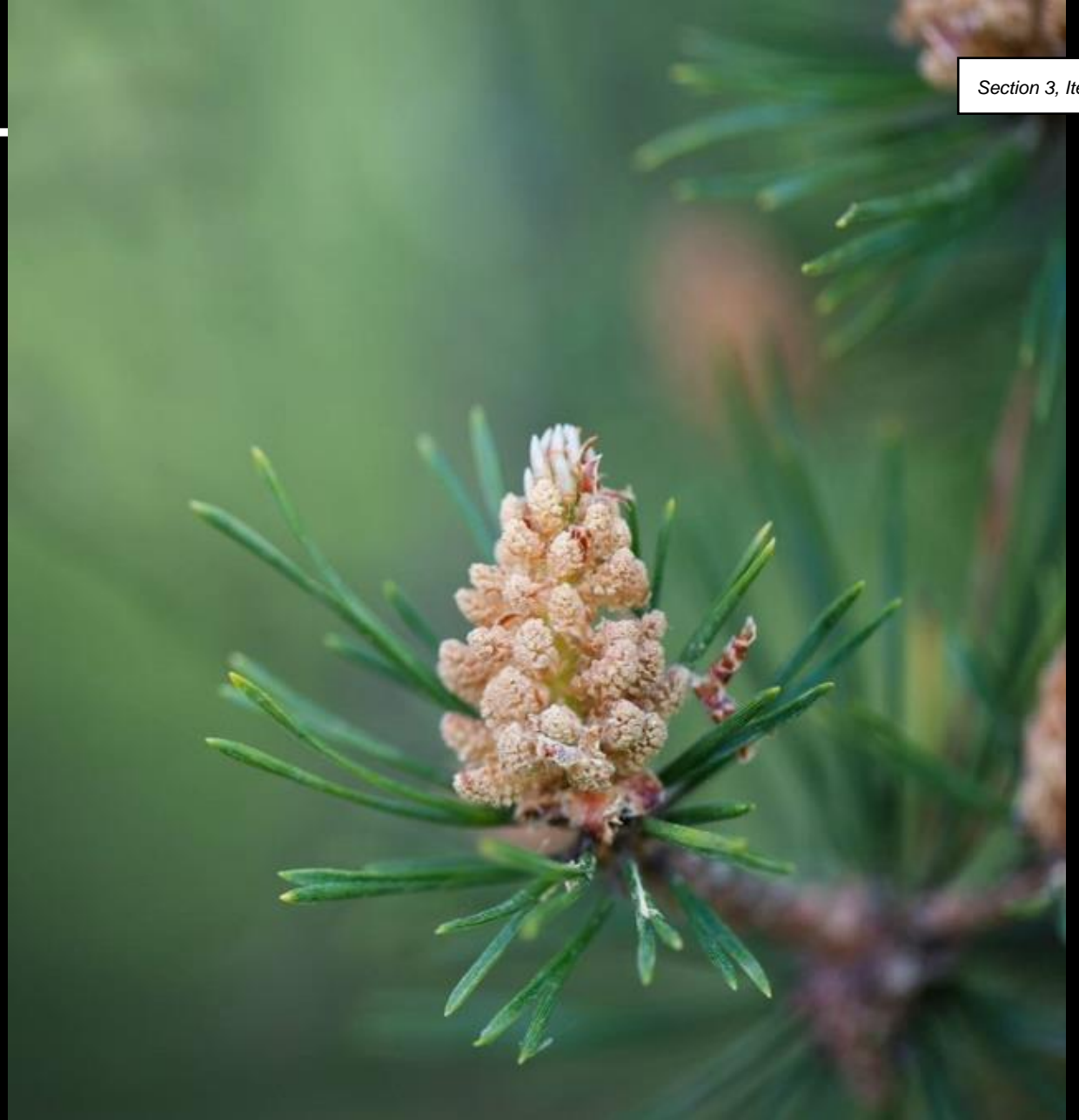
## WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Strategies

- **Protect and restore floodplain connectivity**
- **Protect and restore functional riparian vegetation**
- **Protect and restore channel complexity**
- **Restore shallow-water rearing and refuge habitat**
- **Reconnect and enhance creek mouths**
- **Protect and restore cold-water sources and reduce thermal barriers to migration**
- **Improve juvenile and adult survival at the Ballard Locks**
- **Reduce predation on juvenile migrants and lake-rearing fry**
- Remove or reduce impacts of overwater structures
- Remove fish passage barriers
- Protect and restore forest cover and headwater areas
- Provide adequate streamflow
- Restore sediment processes necessary for key life stages
- Restore natural marine shorelines
- Reconnect backshore areas and pocket estuaries
- Protect and restore marine water and sediment quality
- Improve water quality
- Integrate salmon recovery priorities into local and regional planning, regulations, and permitting
- Continue existing and conduct new research, monitoring, and adaptive management on key issues
- Increase awareness of and support for salmon recovery

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# PUBLIC BENEFIT RATING SYSTEM (KCC 20.36)

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MARCH 24, 2025



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# OVERVIEW

- Open Space Taxation Act, RCW 84.34 and WAC 458-30
- King County Public Benefit Rating System (“PBRs”), KCC 20.36
- City and County councils consider applications
- If approved
  - Property assessed as open space
  - Lower taxable property value = revenue loss
  - Increased open space protection = public benefit



# NEXT STEPS

- April/May 2025: Review Hudson application
- County anticipates additional applications



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# THANK YOU

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