

Every Conservation District Contributes to Orca Recovery

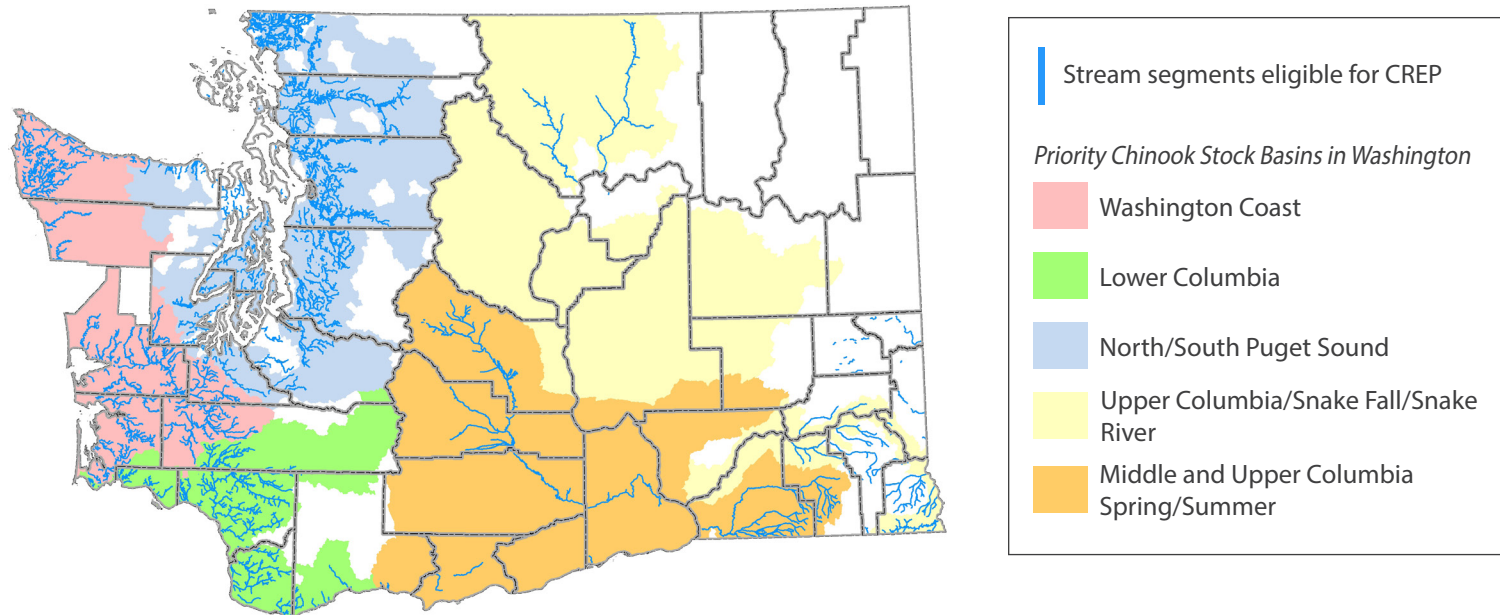
Basins that are home to priority Chinook stocks stretch across our state (identified by NOAA and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife¹). **Several SCC programs support salmon recovery projects, and every conservation district completes work that benefits salmon.**

Example: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - Good for Salmon, Good for Orca

- ▶ CREP is an incentive-based program that has helped farmers voluntarily restore habitat along hundreds of miles of salmon-bearing streams.
- ▶ Nearly all stream segments eligible for CREP are in basins that are home to priority Chinook stocks for Southern Resident killer whales.
- ▶ In watersheds with high levels of participation in CREP, Chinook returns have increased and water temperatures have cooled.

CREP is cooperatively administered by the SCC, USDA Farm Service Agency, and conservation districts.

CREP-ELIGIBLE STREAMS AND PRIORITY CHINOOK STOCK BASINS



¹NOAA and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2018) Southern Resident Killer Whale Priority Chinook Stocks Report. Retrieved from: https://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/protected_species/marine_mammals/killer_whales/recovery/srkw_priority_chinook_stocks_conceptual_model_report__list_22june2018.pdf

Contact:

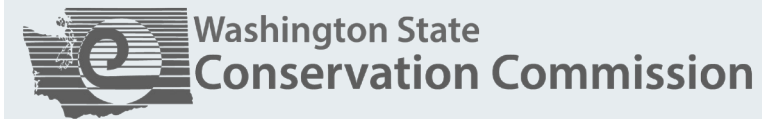
Ron Shultz, SCC Policy Director | rshultz@scc.wa.gov | 360-407-7507
scc.wa.gov | [facebook.com/WashingtonStateConservationCommission](https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonStateConservationCommission)



Thanks to NOAA Fisheries West Coast for use of orca and salmon photos.
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Taking action to address our state's critical resource issues



ORCA RECOVERY

Conservation districts are uniquely positioned to respond to our orca crisis and mobilize people to take action.

- ▶ In 2018, Governor Inslee created the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force. Also known as the Orca Task Force, this group is developing recommendations for orca recovery.
- ▶ Orca recovery is linked to recovery of their primary prey — Chinook salmon. Chinook stocks originate from all areas of our state, making stream habitat restoration a priority in both eastern and western Washington.
- ▶ Conservation districts are ready to expand their voluntary services that will mobilize people to take action and help recover salmon and our critically endangered killer whales.

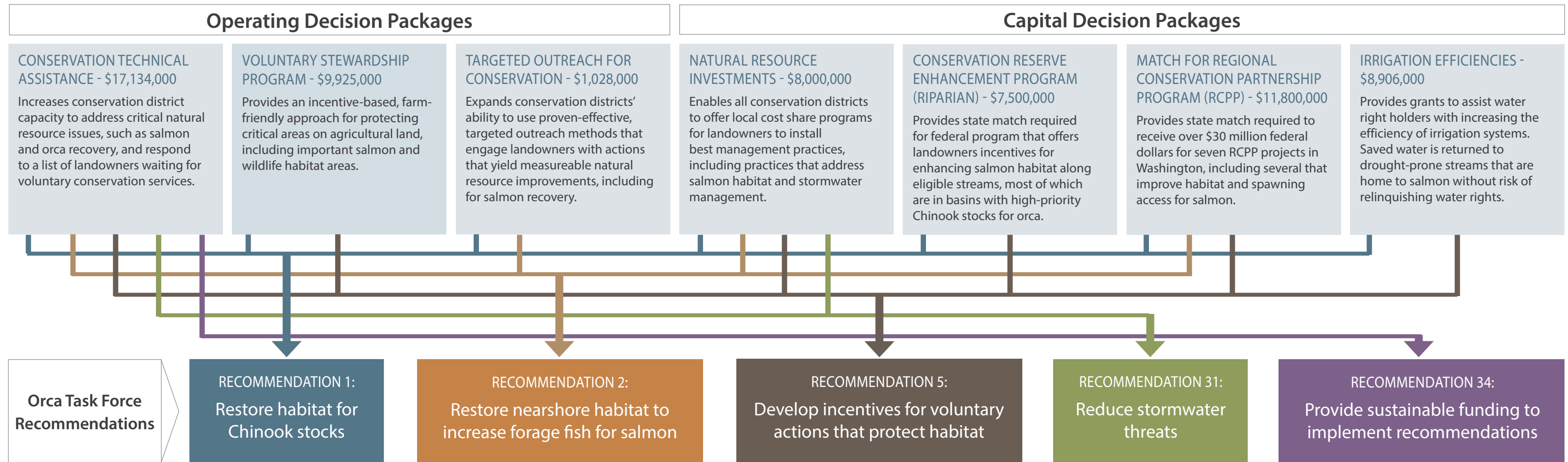


The Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) 2019-21 budget request supports this work.

SCC Budget Request Provides Course of Action for Orca Recovery

Several SCC decision packages support programs and conservation district services that will engage all Washington communities in efforts that protect orca. They also directly relate to draft recommendations developed by the Orca Task Force.

Together these proposals provide a bridge for turning state recommendations for orca recovery into feasible, on the ground action.



What Will the SCC and Conservation Districts Do with the Funding?



- ▶ Plant trees/shrubs along salmon streams
- ▶ Remove fish barriers
- ▶ Install instream habitat
- ▶ Construct livestock exclusion fencing



- ▶ Remove bulkheads
- ▶ Restore natural shorelines
- ▶ Stabilize shorelines
- ▶ Restore estuaries



- ▶ Install fish screens on pump intakes
- ▶ Improve efficiency of irrigation systems
- ▶ Offer affordable no-till drills for rent/lease
- ▶ Plant drought-tolerant, native landscaping



- ▶ Replace paved urban areas with green space
- ▶ Install rain gardens
- ▶ Construct storm ponds and swales
- ▶ Install cisterns and rain barrels



- ▶ Conduct targeted outreach to engage landowners with conservation projects in priority areas
- ▶ Host events that mobilize communities to take actions that protect orcas