

PCSRF Talking Points – May 2018

By now, you've probably heard that the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) is slated for elimination in the President's Budget in fiscal year 2019. What does this mean to Oregon?

- PCSRF has invested nearly \$222 million in Oregon to support salmon recovery efforts since 2000. Leveraged with the state's Lottery dollars, a total of \$570 million has been invested through this program to support habitat protection and restoration for salmon and steelhead species throughout the state.
- PCSRF helps support a robust fishing industry by working to ensure salmon have a home to come back to when they leave the ocean. Fishing is big business in Oregon. Recreational fishing generates about \$500 million annually, along with creating 16,500 jobs. Commercial salmon fishing creates over \$16 million in economic activity annually and produces more than 900 jobs, nearly all in largely rural areas.
- Salmon habitat recovery supports a strong 'restoration economy' as well. For every \$1 million spent on habitat restoration, 15-24 jobs are created in local economies. More than 90 cents of every dollar invested stays in those local – often rural – communities.
- 28 salmon and steelhead populations are listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA and need investments in habitat to speed their population growth. However, due to investments over the last 20 years such as the salmon recovery grants, Oregon Coast Coho Salmon are well on the way to recovery.
- In addition to benefitting salmon, these improvements help make our water drinkable and our rivers swimmable for all Oregonians. Watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, landowners and local communities plant trees, replace culverts with bridges, and restore estuaries and natural streambanks. This work improves water quality, and reduces flood risk for local communities. Irrigators use the program to reduce their water use, which can also reduce energy costs and put more water back in stream for fish. These examples are just a few of the many ways that salmon habitat restoration benefits our state.

Cuts to this program would be a devastating setback for a remarkable, citizen-led effort to restore healthy salmon runs in Oregon. While we're just at the beginning of a long process to determine the final 2018 budget, we hope you will show your support for salmon habitat recovery in Oregon.