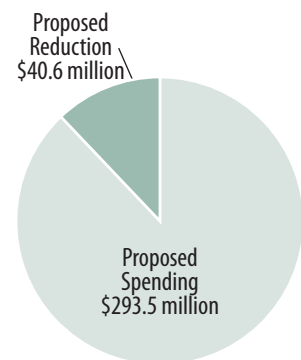


# Natural Resources

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Washington state's natural resources are among the most precious gifts we leave to our children. The diversity of our natural resources is unique. Our mountains, forests, deserts, rivers, coastal waters, farms and prairies — and the species they support — are irreplaceable assets for all to enjoy.

Governor Gregoire has launched initiatives to protect and preserve the health of our natural resources. With the creation of the Puget Sound Partnership, development of a biofuels industry, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and emphasis given to the creation of green jobs, the Governor has set the state on a path that will ensure a healthier resource base for all Washingtonians to cherish now and into the future. The primary aims of her proposed budget are water quality protection, habitat restoration and climate change mitigation.



## Goals

- » Preserve, maintain and restore the state's natural systems and landscapes.
- » Establish safeguards and standards to prevent harm to the state's natural resources.
- » Improve the state's air, water, land, habitat and population of fish and wildlife.
- » Achieve sustainable use of public resources.
- » Provide access to cultural and recreational opportunities.

## What We Invest In

### Puget Sound

The Puget Sound Action Agenda outlines strategies needed to recover the Sound. The Governor's proposed budget funds key activities in the Action Agenda's four priority areas: protect functioning ecosystems, restore habitat, prevent contamination, and align state, federal, local and tribal agency actions. (*\$284.7 million total fund sources: \$16.6 million operating, \$268.1 million capital*). Portions of the first three items below are part of the Puget Sound Partnership funding package:

#### Hatchery production

Fishing opportunities are managed differently to protect wild salmon and maintain fish production at 81 hatcheries, based on recommendations of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group. Capital funding is also provided to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for hatchery modifications to improve wild fish passage and water quality. (*\$17.0 million General Fund-State, \$28.3 million other fund sources, \$13.9 million capital*)

#### Water quality protection

The quality of Washington's waters is protected and preserved through regulation of single-point and diffuse-source water pollution and storm water. Other funded strategies at the Department of Ecology and Washington State Conservation Commission include providing technical and financial assistance to local governments and private landowners; protecting wetlands, watersheds, coastal areas and shorelines; and developing water quality cleanup plans.

(*\$27.2 million GF-S, \$58.9 million other fund sources, \$159 million capital*)

### **Toxics prevention and cleanup**

The state protects human health and the environment through prevention, management and cleanup of toxins. These efforts by the Department of Ecology include cleaning up legacy toxic waste sites, managing radioactive waste at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and preventing and responding to oil spills. (*\$92,000 GF-S, \$135.6 million other fund sources, \$62.2 million capital*)

### **Climate change commitment**

Washington is leading the nation in creating 21st century green-collar jobs. We invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy and harness the market to limit carbon emissions. We also provide transportation choices to reduce dependence on foreign oil. With these investments, Washington is laying the foundation to reduce our emissions, create jobs and thrive in a low-carbon economy. (*\$1.6 million GF-S, \$1.7 million other fund sources, \$11.5 million transportation, \$10.0 million capital*)

### **Air quality protection**

Emission regulation, planning and technical assistance by the Department of Ecology will protect air quality. (*\$18.7 million GF-S, \$12.4 million other fund sources, \$1.0 million capital*)

### **Water rights management**

Funding is provided to the Department of Ecology to manage water resources through allocating water rights (though at a lower funding level during 2009–11), setting stream flows and supporting local governments as they manage water quantity issues. (*\$34.9 million GF-S, \$6.6 million other fund sources, \$14.6 million capital*)

### **Safe food supply and growing environment**

The Department of Agriculture inspects and monitors food processing and storage facilities to protect human health against threats such as mad cow disease and crop diseases. Certifying the quality of Washington's produce promotes access to markets around the world. (*\$17.9 million GF-S, \$59.2 million other fund sources*)

### **Public recreation opportunities**

State park operations are funded at the Parks and Recreation Commission. (*\$92.5 million GF-S, \$64.6 million Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account, \$6.7 million capital*)

## **How We Achieve Savings**

**Closure of state fish hatcheries** that are inefficient, redundant with nearby hatcheries or inconsistent with scientific recommendations. (*\$6.6 million GF-S, \$1.7 million other fund sources*)

**Closure of 13 state parks** that no longer fit the mission of the Parks system and one environmental learning center in poor condition. Closure of other state parks during off-peak winter months. (*\$5.2 million GF-S*)

**Reduction of local watershed** management technical and financial assistance. (*\$2.3 million GF-S, \$2.9 million other fund sources*)

**Elimination of funding for geologic hazard studies** on slope stability, tsunami evacuation routes and other hazards. (*\$2.4 million GF-S*)

**Reduction in funding for water resource management**, including processing of water rights permits. (*\$2.2 million GF-S*)

**Other reductions including pension changes.** (*\$21.9 million GF-S and other funds*)