



The Puget Sound and its tributary waters are among the most beautiful and ecologically diverse ecosystems in North America. The Puget Sound serves as an economic driver for the entire Pacific Northwest region, supporting trade through our thriving ports, sustaining robust commercial and recreational fishing activities, and home to dozens of popular tourist destinations. More importantly, the Puget Sound is the cultural cornerstone of the entire region, particularly for Tribes with established treaty rights that depend on a healthy and productive watershed.

Unfortunately, water pollution, sediment contamination, habitat decline and reduced water flow are continuing to devastate marine life, threaten local economies, and put treaty rights at risk. Despite the measurable progress made by Federal, Tribal, State and local governments, cooperative partnerships, and concerned citizens toward repairing this environmental damage, the Puget Sound is still degrading faster than it is recovering.

In order to reverse this trend, Federal agencies must bring their efforts into line with ongoing local recovery work. This increased coordination will optimize current recovery efforts, ensure the Federal-Tribal trust responsibility is upheld, and prioritize Puget Sound recovery in a way that is commensurate with its national significance.



The Promoting United Government Efforts To Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act will integrate and align Federal restoration efforts with the ongoing efforts of State, local, and Tribal governments.

Specifically, the bill:

- **Amends the Clean Water Act** by adding a new section dedicated to Puget Sound recovery, providing lasting and structural recognition of the Puget Sound as a waterbody of national significance on par with the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes.
- **Establishes a Puget Sound Recovery Program Office** in EPA Region 10 to better coordinate recovery efforts within the EPA and between Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners.
- **Requires Federal agencies to ensure their activities are consistent with the Puget Sound Action Agenda** upon its adoption as the Federal Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) for Puget Sound. This consistency obligation includes permitting and regulatory activities.
- **Protects Tribal treaty rights** by reaffirming the supremacy of Federal treaty obligations and creating new requirements for the CCMP to support, propose to carry out, and be consistent with treaty rights.
- **Codifies the existing Puget Sound Federal Caucus** by creating an interagency Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force, which will coordinate recovery efforts amongst Federal agencies and between Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners.
- **Requires biennial reports to Congress, the President, and the Governor of Washington**, detailing the progress of Federal efforts to restore the Puget Sound.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the bill, please contact the Puget Sound Recovery Caucus at Seth.Dawson@mail.house.gov and Megan.Thompson@mail.house.gov.