



Governor
Chris Gregoire

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MAKING CHANGES FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

POLICY BRIEF

PUGET SOUND: PROTECTING OUR HEALTH & SAFETY

Growing up in Auburn, some of Governor Gregoire's favorite childhood memories are of fishing and boating on Puget Sound. She is one of millions of Washingtonians who has enjoyed our beaches, waters, fresh fish and shellfish, but there is no guarantee that our children will be able to share these experiences or to earn their living from the Sound. Beneath its blue waters, Puget Sound is sick.

Governor Gregoire's plan speeds up the cleanup of toxic chemicals, restores waterways and salmon habitat and helps replace old septic systems and overflowing sewers. While these changes are significant, government alone cannot fix Puget Sound. All of us – families, businesses and communities – must do our part to save and protect the Sound.



For thousands of years, people have enjoyed the bounty and beauty of Puget Sound. But the fish and wildlife, such as orca whales, rockfish, marine birds and salmon, that were once abundant are now sharply declining. More people living around the Sound are straining its capacity, and toxic pollution is poisoning the water. Governor Gregoire is determined to take action to save the Sound for future generations, so that we can swim in it, fish in it, and eat the shellfish that come from it.

Governor Gregoire is working with local and federal partners to restore the health of Puget Sound. To help make the Sound safe for the industry and recreation that relies on it, she brought together business, government and community leaders to form the Puget Sound Partnership to develop recommendations to improve the health and vitality of Puget Sound by 2020.

Many people are hard at work to restore Puget Sound by fixing failing septic systems and cleaning up toxic sediments, and we are starting to see some results. But it's not enough. Puget Sound is still in trouble. Based on the priorities of the Puget Sound Partnership, Governor Gregoire will strengthen policies and target investments to protect and restore essential Puget Sound fish and wildlife habitat, speed up control and cleanup of pervasive toxics and areas with immediate septic problems, and reduce polluted stormwater runoff.

CLEAN UP & PREVENT TOXIC POLLUTION

Despite clean up efforts, persistent toxic substances that were banned decades ago remain in Puget Sound sediments, particularly in urban bays. Governor Gregoire will work with ports and local governments to cleanup over 60 contaminated sites within a half-mile of Puget Sound. To prevent future contamination, we will phase out use of toxic flame retardants, which are rapidly contaminating sediments and finding their way into fish and people.

RESTORE DAMAGED SHORELINES

Governor Gregoire, like many Washingtonians, misses seeing clean beaches and abundant salmon runs. Working with community and watershed groups, tribes, and local and state agencies, she will restore salmon habitat and shorelines to more natural conditions, remove creosote logs and remove abandoned vessels.



by rock, cement walls and bulkheads that displace plants growing, shorebirds hunting, fish laying eggs and young salmon developing. Governor Gregoire will protect riparian areas, floodplains, forested habitats and marine shorelines and enforce state and local protection laws.

REDUCE STORMWATER RUNOFF

Rain flushes pollution from our houses, gardens, factories and streets straight into the Sound. This “stormwater runoff” mixes pollution from a wide variety of sources with our rivers and marine waters. Governor Gregoire will help cities and counties meet new standards to improve stormwater management, retrofit old stormwater systems and pilot low impact development techniques that reduce the amount of toxic stormwater runoff.



CITIZEN PARTNERSHIP

Twenty years of personal experience has taught Governor Gregoire that government alone cannot safeguard the health and beauty of Puget Sound. Everyone, including citizens, business, governments and tribes, must be engaged in shared stewardship of this

precious resource. We will work with local community organizations to promote environmental activities, outreach and education.

CLEAN UP SEPTIC POLLUTION

Governor Gregoire does not want waste to contaminate our waters. She is investing in a public-private partnership to help homeowners upgrade failing septic systems, and help local governments improve septic system programs. Wastewater treatment will be improved along with water reuse projects. And she will make sure shellfish protection plans are implemented and reopen shellfish beds that have been closed due to failing septics.

PROTECTING & RESTORING PUGET SOUND

Puget Sound is a national treasure; like the Columbia River and Mount Rainier it is a recognizable symbol of our state. A healthy Puget Sound will support jobs and recreation for every Washingtonian. Governor Gregoire is investing \$220 million to restore the health of Puget Sound, and the majority of that investment goes directly to cleanup action.

PROTECT ESSENTIAL HABITAT

Many landscape features of the Sound, such as salt marshes and fertile estuaries at river mouths, have been lost to past growth and development. One-third of the entire Puget Sound marine shoreline has been covered

Clean Up & Prevent Toxics	\$54.7 million
Restore Damaged Shorelines	\$37.4million
Reduce Stormwater Runoff	\$25.3 million
Clean Up Septic Pollution	\$56.3 million
Protect Essential Habitat	\$40.7 million
Citizen Partnership	\$5.8 million
Total: GF-State & Other Funds	\$220.2 million