

# **The Promoting United Government Efforts To Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act**

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## Section-By-Section Summary

### SECTION I – SHORT TITLE

This section creates the title “Promoting United Government Efforts To Save Our Sound (PUGET SOS) Act.”

### SECTION II – FINDINGS

This section lays out the bill’s problem statement, describing the declining health of Puget Sound and the threat posed to Tribal treaty rights, endangered species, water quality, and more.

### SECTION III – DECLARATION OF POLICY AND PURPOSE

This section asserts that the purpose of this Act is to ensure that the recovery and restoration programs undertaken by the Federal Government are actively coordinated with other Federal efforts, including the protection of Tribal treaty rights. The Federal Government will also coordinate its recovery actions with ongoing Tribal, State, and local efforts, as described in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

### SECTION IV – PUGET SOUND COORDINATED RECOVERY

#### *(a) Definitions*

This section defines various terms and organizations described throughout the Act.

#### *(b) Preservation of Existing Treaty Obligations and National Estuary Program Status*

This section asserts that nothing in this Act will undermine or alter Tribal treaty rights, nor will it change the status of the Puget Sound under the National Estuary Program.

#### *(c) Additional Requirements for the Puget Sound Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan*

This section requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to approve the Action Agenda as the Puget Sound Comprehensive Conservation Management Program (CCMP) only if the Action Agenda supports, proposes to carry out, and is consistent with:

- (1) the supremacy, protection, and restoration of Tribal Treaty Rights;
- (2) the Endangered Species Act and Washington’s Federally-approved Salmon Recovery Plans;
- (3) the Coastal Zone Management Act, its reauthorizing amendments, and Washington’s Federally approved Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program;
- (4) the Clean Water Act and Washington’s Federally-approved state water quality standards;
- (5) and other applicable federal requirements.

#### *(d) Federal Consistency with the Puget Sound Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan*

This section requires Federal agencies to act consistently with the objectives and priorities of the Action Agenda once it is approved as the Puget Sound CCMP. It provides a narrowly crafted exemption clause to accommodate national security concerns and federal projects that are already underway.

(e) *Puget Sound Recovery National Program Office*

This section provides for the establishment of a new office at EPA to coordinate Puget Sound recovery efforts within the agency, with other Federal agencies, and with State, local, and Tribal government partners.

(f) *Puget Sound Federal Leadership Task Force*

This section establishes a broad interagency task force that will provide a venue for dialogue and coordination amongst Federal agencies, cooperation with State and Tribal Advisory Committees, and raise national awareness of the significance of Puget Sound.

(g) *Tribal Advisory Committee*

This section establishes a Tribal Advisory Committee that will advise the Federal Leadership Task Force on progress and barriers to Puget Sound recovery, the consistency of Federal activities with the Action Agenda, and generally serve as a liaison between Tribal and Federal governments for Puget Sound restoration efforts. The Conference will be made up of the Chairperson of each federally recognized Indian Tribe with federally adjudicated treaty-reserved fishing rights in the Puget Sound region.

(h) *State Advisory Committee*

This section establishes a State Advisory Committee that will advise the Federal Leadership Task Force on progress and barriers to Puget Sound recovery, the consistency of Federal activities with the Action Agenda, and generally serve as a liaison between the State and Federal governments for Puget Sound restoration efforts. The Conference will be made up of the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the main committees of the Puget Sound Partnership, the Executive Director of the Puget Sound Partnership, and representatives from the Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Department of Natural Resources.

(i) *Task Force and Advisory Committees Procedures and Advice*

This section provides for biannual meetings between the Federal Leadership Task Force and the Tribal and State Advisory Committees, as well as for public participation, additional advisors, and language to ensure compliance with other Federal laws.

(j) *Donations*

This section establishes a fund within the Department of Treasury to which donations can be made and used by Federal agencies to promote and further Puget Sound recovery efforts. The section also provides for donations made specifically for the protection of Tribal treaty rights.

(k) *Biennial Report on Puget Sound Recovery Activities*

This section describes the report that must be submitted to the President, Congress, and the Governor of Washington every two years describing the progress made toward Puget Sound recovery and the protection of Tribal treaty rights.

(l) *Crosscut Budget Report*

This section describes the crosscut budget OMB will produce every five years that will account for the federal funds expended for the purpose of Puget Sound recovery.