

The Coastal Resolution Project's 10 Demands

A List of Actions Recommended for the Washington State Government

The Coastal Resolution Project believes that there is little time to save many of the coastal ecosystems in Washington state, before it is too late. If we want to protect the culture of Coast Salish people, and the environment for future generations, we need to do something now! That is why we need a rapid and decisive call to action. Politicians have failed us all, and continue to do so to this day. Below, the Coastal Resolution Project outlines its top 10 most important demands for the government. This document is not here claiming these issues are not being addressed. This document demands that more attention and focus is put on these issues. We urge local representatives to do their job and represent the people!

- 1. We demand that dams on the lower Snake, Columbia, and other rivers be taken down or breached, and replaced with other alternative energy sources.**

Dozens of dams on the Columbia and Snake river have cut off vast areas of critical habitat for Chinook salmon. For example, the Chief Joseph dam on the Columbia, is impassible, and blocks salmon from 1,100 miles of spawning ground. Even dams with fish ladders and other bypass systems may still claim 50% of Chinook smolt depending on environmental conditions. Removing the Elwha dams on the Olympic Peninsula proved that salmon do return when dams come down. High-quality Columbia Basin salmon habitat awaits if we begin removing dams in the Columbia, Snake, and other river systems. If we intend on saving the Southern Resident Killer Whale, we need to bring back their food supply, and removing dams may be one of the only ways we can effectively achieve that. Also, according to recent research, if we were to take down 4 lower Snake river dams, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite, it would be feasible to “replace the power they provide with a portfolio of conservation

and renewable energy resources while maintaining grid and transmission reliability at levels equal to or better than the current system and with little or no increase in greenhouse gas emissions.”.

2. We demand that the Washington state government rapidly tackles the Puget Sound pollution problem.

Every day, 140,000 pounds of toxic chemicals enter the Puget Sound. Sources of pollution include stormwater runoff, agricultural runoff, wastewater release, boat runoff, and more. This has led to a significant decrease in water quality. It has also negatively affected many species including Coho salmon and orca whales. Pollution in Washington coastal ecosystems has led to the closure of 30% of shellfish growing areas. Exposure to toxins and pollutants also threatens the state's \$147 million a year commercial and recreational fish industry as well as the state's \$9.5 billion tourism industry - both built around the Sound. The Coastal Resolution Project demands the government to take pollution more seriously than it does currently. Pollution threatens the entire Salish Sea ecosystem.

3. We demand that the Washington state government works with the tribes to increase marine protected areas.

According to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Between 1 to 5% of the Puget Sound and coastal region (excluding the greater San-Juan Island area and North Olympic Coast) is covered by a marine protected area. The largest marine protected area (Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary) covers 309,112 acres. We demand that the state government works with the tribes to find ways to increase marine protected areas. Coastal ecosystems need the opportunity to recover, but that can only happen if we create areas where ecosystems can be left unharmed from human activity. The culture of the Coast Salish people depends on healthy ecosystems, that is why the state and tribal nations must work together.

4. We demand that funding for the recovery of the Salish Sea be increased.

Currently in Washington state, less than 3% of state funding goes towards the environment. If Washington state wants to save coastal ecosystems before it is too late, they will need to find a way to provide more funding for the environment. The Coastal Resolution Project believes that saving the environment should be one of the top priorities for Washington, as well as the whole world. What good is a dead planet?

5. We demand a statewide ban on plastic bags and straws.

The Coastal Resolution Project demands that the government works more to create plastic straw and bag bans. We fully support bills like SB 5323 2019-2020. It is crucially important that we work on reducing plastic pollution. The ultimate goal is creating a community that can live without single use plastics. But that can not be achieved overnight. We need to take the right steps, and we need to begin the transition away from single use plastics.

6. We demand that the Washington state government provides more funds for research and education on coastal ecosystems.

Education is 21% of the Washington state budget, and research is below 3%. Funding for more environmental units in the classroom should not be difficult to attain. Research is also a very important aspect of saving coastal ecosystems. We need to study and learn what is happening, and then find new ways to solve problems. We demand that the Washington state government finds ways to increase spending on education and research on the environment.

7. We demand that the Washington state government puts up more of a fight with the Canadian government over the Trans Mountain Pipeline.

It is NOT ok to expand fossil fuels, and increase the amount of oil tankers traveling through the Salish Sea by 700%. This will threaten all coastal ecosystems, and raise the risk of a catastrophic oil spill. Not to mention the extreme increase in boat noise that will severely damage the Orcas ability to find their food. The Coastal Resolution Project demands that the Washington state government fights for the rights of tribal nations, and

the environment, and lets the Canadian government know that we are not okay with this decision!

8. We demand that the Washington state government creates a “Puget Sound Awareness Day” to remind people every year why the Puget Sound environment is important.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a day where the whole state could come together and reflect on the pure beauty and meaning of the Puget Sound? If we educate the public on why the Puget Sound is important, and how we can save it, it will make many good changes. The only problem is, these issues are not being discussed anywhere near where they should be. We demand that the Washington state government alots a day to the conservation, protection, and admiration of all coastal ecosystems, and call it ...Puget Sound Awareness Day. We recommend this Washington day be created on July 24th, in memory of the Southern resident killer whale Tahlequah, who went through unthinkable pain in the summer of 2018.

9. We demand that big corporations and industries pay for environmental crimes that they have enacted upon Washington coastal ecosystems.

The Washington state government needs to increase the price of fines for corporations, industries, and any other body that pollute Washington coastal ecosystems. The Coastal Resolution Project believes that ALL water is sacred. There must be heavy penalties to anyone who pollutes our waters. Accidents do happen, and if the cause of a large release of pollution is determined to be “accidental”, the state government must find the money to upgrade infrastructure, or fix the cause of the accident so that it doesn't happen again.

10. We demand a rapid transition to green energy and infrastructure.

The Coastal Resolution Project supports bills such as SB 5116 - 2019-20, which will transition Washington to 100% renewable energy by 2045, and H.R. 3906 (Stormwater Infrastructure Act), which aims to address the issue of stormwater in America with greener infrastructure. The Coastal Resolution Project demands a rapid transition to cleaner energy and infrastructure.