



The Lorraine Loomis Act

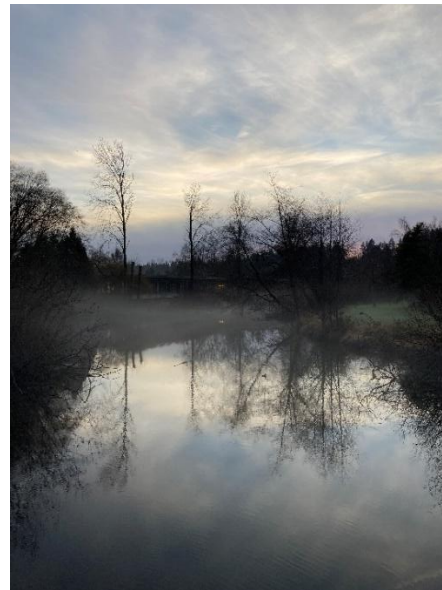
Across the state, salmon are on the brink of extinction. Protecting and restoring riparian lands – the land next to rivers and streams - is our best hope and bringing them back!

Summary

The Lorraine Loomis Act ([SB 5727](#) and [HB 1838](#)) would require green corridors, which means trees tall and wide enough to shade rivers and streams. The Act also requires us to shift to a new standard of improving ecological conditions, rather than mitigating damage to salmon habitat after its done.

Requiring green corridors for riparian lands will

- **Protect salmon and clean and abundant water,**
- **Protect indigenous and Tribal Treaty rights to fish, and**
- **Ensure more healthy and resilient ecosystems that will better withstand the effects of our changing climate.**



Background

Some Puget Sound salmon species have declined by 90% compared to historical populations. In the Columbia River basin, returns are as little as 2% of historical levels. Despite decades of efforts and billions of dollars, our Southern Resident Orca whales, Chinook salmon, and other salmon species are losing more habitat than they are gaining. Climate change has increased wildfires and droughts, worsened ocean conditions, warmed streams, shifted food webs, intensified pollutants, thrown predator populations out of balance, and brought ecosystems that support salmon and people to a tipping point. Salmon need cold, clean water to survive – and to ensure enough cold, clean water, we need to protect and restore riparian habitat.

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Additional Bill Details

Titled the Lorraine Loomis Act — after a prominent salmon advocate and Swinomish tribal elder — this legislation sets a ‘measurement standard’ based on the height of trees that grow in that area to create the right size of riparian zone. This will protect riparian corridors from development, incorporate the standard in local land use plans, and provide landowners with financial assistance to help them meet the new requirement. The new standard implements recommendations from the State-Tribal Riparian Protection and Restoration Work Group that the governor and tribes established at the 2019 Centennial Accord. (The work group based its recommendations on the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Riparian Ecosystem Guidance Volumes [1](#) and [2](#), which recommends we need a minimum tree height in forested riparian zones to achieve broad salmon recovery and water quality objectives, and safeguard waterbodies against a changing climate.)

To implement this new protection for salmon riparian habitat, the Governor has proposed these steps:

- **Establish riparian standard legislation.**
- **Create a new Riparian Habitat Conservation Grant program.**
- **Use Centennial Clean Water program for riparian protection.**

It is in all of our best interests to protect and restore riparian lands. The Lorraine Loomis Act will assure reduced water temperature, climate resiliency, carbon sequestration, and the health of fish, wildlife and ecosystems for the economic and social well-being of all Washingtonians.

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