

# Real Facts on the State of the State's Environment in 2024

## Salmon Crisis

- ✗ More than **70%** of Washington's endangered or threatened **salmon species** are not **keeping pace with recovery goals** or are considered "in crisis." ([RCO, 2022 State of Salmon in Watersheds Report](#))
- ✗ Over the past decade, funding for **habitat restoration** was short by about **\$4 billion**. ([Northwest Public Broadcasting](#))

## Forest Health Crisis

- ✗ Washington has **2.7 million acres** of **unhealthy forest**. ([DNR](#))

## Water Quality Crisis

- ✗ Nearly **50%** of Washington's **freshwater** and **20%** of its **marine water** is **polluted** – listed for violating federal Clean Water Act standards for at least one pollutant. ([Ecology](#))
- ✗ Thanks to tainted wastewater, "**Puget Sound salmon are on drugs**—Prozac, Advil, Benadryl, Lipitor, even cocaine... with **levels** detected among the **highest in the nation**." ([Seattle Times](#))
- ✗ **For over a decade** Washington has **failed** to meet **federal requirements** that help prioritize cleanup efforts in Puget Sound that **help salmon and steelhead**. ([Tri-City Herald](#))
- ✗ **Toxic chemicals** have been detected above state action levels at **public drinking water** systems that **serve 570,000 people** or **7.4%** of the state population. ([Seattle Times](#))

## Litter Crisis

- ✗ Washington's **litter** per mile of urban roadway is **three times the national average**, and this *excludes* litter associated with homeless encampments. ([Ecology Litter Study, Figure 88](#))
- ✗ Nearly **38 million pounds** of **garbage** and debris were strewn across roads, rest areas and state lands in 2022. ([Washington State Standard](#))

## Wildlife & Biodiversity Crisis

- ✗ Washington's list of **Species of Greatest Conservation Need** grew **30%** from 2005 to 2015, from 186 species to 268. ([WDFW, 2015 State Wildlife Action Plan](#))
- ✗ The state is **funding only 5%** of what is needed to achieve **the goals of the State Wildlife Action Plan**. ([Seattle Times Op-Ed by Director of WDFW](#))