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State gets $16.4M for coastal projects

SEATTLE (AP) — Washington state will receive about $16.4 million in federal stimulus money to restore damaged wetlands, reopen fish passages and improve habitat for threatened salmon.

The money announced Tuesday is part of $167 million distributed nationwide by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

There's $2 million to restore floodplain on the lower Elwha River, $4.5 million to remove derelict fishing gear in Puget Sound and $5.2 million to improve saltmarsh habitat at Fisher Slough in Burlington.

There's money to restore fish passage on the lower Snohomish River in Marysville, improve floodplain habitat on Hansen Creek in Milltown and improve habitat at Smuggler's Slough near Bellingham.