

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)
Project Subcommittee Report
Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Program
2014 Grant Round

Executive Summary

For the 2014 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant round, WRIA 8 received 15 proposals with a final request of \$1,505,598. Total funding available is \$1,520,273, which includes \$11,427 in returned funds from 2013. The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee recommends funding eight habitat protection and restoration projects, five outreach and education proposals, and one monitoring proposal. The total amount of funding recommended for 2014 is \$1,285,840; the \$234,433 balance is recommended as carryover to the 2015 CWM grant round.

Project Subcommittee Members

Tor Bell (Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council)
Hans Berge (King County)
Councilmember Diane Buckshnis (City of Edmonds, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council)
Christa Heller (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Cyndy Holtz (City of Seattle)
Kerry Ritland (City of Issaquah)
Scott Stolnack (WRIA 8 Technical Committee Chair)
Jason Wilkinson (Subcommittee Chair, WRIA 8 Actions and Funding Coordinator)

2014 Funds and WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Funding Guidance

The King County Flood Control District is providing \$1,508,846 to WRIA 8 for the 2014 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Program. A project funded in the 2013 CWM grant round completed under budget, resulting in returned funds of \$11,427. Therefore, the total funding available to allocate in 2014 is \$1,520,273.

WRIA 8 received 15 proposals requesting a total of \$1,505,598 (Table 1). At the March 20 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, the SRC approved allocating CWM funds as follows:

- 1) Site-specific restoration and acquisition: at least \$1,112,846 (~74% of total available)
- 2) Monitoring: \$300,000 (~20% of total available)
- 3) Education and public outreach: \$96,000 (~6% of total available)

Table 1. Summary of 2014 WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Funds			
		Match	Total Cost
2014 CWM Grant Funding Requested	\$1,505,598	\$888,571	\$2,394,169
2014 CWM Funds Available	\$1,508,846		
2013 CWM Returned Funds	\$11,427		
<i>Available Funds Exceeding Requested Funds</i>	<i>\$14,675</i>		

Project Eligibility and Matching Funds

For CWM funding, projects must be within King County and be on the WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan or be consistent with priorities identified in the monitoring chapter. Proposals for site-specific habitat acquisition and restoration projects are evaluated using criteria that assess relative benefit to Chinook and certainty of success. Priority is given to projects in areas of the watershed identified as being most important for the watershed's Chinook populations, including the Cedar River, migratory shorelines and corridors, and spawning areas for the Sammamish Chinook population.

Monitoring proposals are evaluated according to criteria that assess consistency with WRIA 8 monitoring priorities, scale of usefulness, and value of data. Outreach and education proposals are evaluated using criteria that assess consistency with WRIA 8 Start List outreach and education priorities, clarity of scope and objectives, extent and quality of the outreach and/or education, and the target audience. The CWM program does not require project sponsors to provide matching funds.

WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Process

The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (or Subcommittee) is charged with reviewing project proposals and developing funding recommendations for Salmon Recovery Council consideration. To conduct their review, the Project Subcommittee received the following: 1) copies of each of the CWM grant proposals, 2) WRIA 8's grant criteria, narrative guidance for applying the criteria, and scoring sheets, and 3) a conflict of interest statement. Project Subcommittee members visited seven project sites and heard three presentations on April 29 and heard five presentations on May 5.

On May 5 the Subcommittee conducted the scoring and ranking of proposals and developed funding recommendations. The Project Subcommittee developed a single, consensus-based score for all proposals, which served as the foundation for Subcommittee discussion in developing funding recommendations.

Summaries of the Subcommittee's funding recommendations are provided in Tables 2 - 5 for site-specific projects, public outreach and education, and monitoring, respectively. Following each table are brief descriptions and highlights from the Subcommittee discussions.

Table 2. Summary of 2014 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for Site-Specific Projects

Rank	Proposal Name, WRIA 8 Plan #, Sponsor	Total Cost of Current Phase	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Recommendations
1	Issaquah Basin Knotweed Control and Reforestation, Phase II Plan Project #: I028A Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
2	Calkins Point Shoreline Restoration Plan Project #: C288C City of Mercer Island	\$327,250	\$150,000	\$177,250	\$150,000
3	Little Bear Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation, Phase II Plan Project #: N079A, N400, N403 Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
4	Juniper Street Park – Issaquah Creek Restoration Design Plan Project #: I209/I210 City of Issaquah	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$0	\$130,000
5	Issaquah Creek Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park Plan Project #: I202 Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$66,500	\$50,000	\$16,500	\$50,000
6	Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration, Phase III Plan Project #: C288B Western Academy of Beaux Arts	\$161,000	\$161,000	\$0	\$161,000
7	Issaquah Creek Conservation Plan Project #: I249 King County	\$520,000	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$260,000
8	Sammamish River Corridor Enhancement Plan Project #: N346 Snoqualmie Tribe	\$101,533	\$58,875	\$42,658	\$58,875
9	Swamp Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration, Phase I Plan Project #: N335A Sno-King Watershed Council	\$249,400	\$211,040	\$38,360	\$0
	Totals	\$1,695,683	\$1,100,915	\$594,768	\$889,875

Table 3. Site-Specific Project Funding Summary		
		Project Subcommittee Recommendations
Recommended project allocation target	\$1,112,846	
Returned funds from 2013	\$11,427	
Total available for 2104 allocation	\$1,124,273	
Difference between requested and available funds	\$23,358	
Project Subcommittee recommended funding		\$889,875
Recommended carryover to 2015		\$234,398

Site-Specific Project Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

Note: Projects listed in rank order

1. *Issaquah Basin Knotweed Control and Reforestation, Phase II (Plan #: I028A)* *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

This project will continue a multi-year effort to remove knotweed and reforest the riparian zone of Issaquah Creek and its tributaries. The work will take place primarily on private land, and in addition to direct habitat improvement, will educate landowners on the importance of healthy waterways for salmon habitat.

Discussion

The Subcommittee scoring for this project reflects the high priority location of the work, the spatial scale over which the work will take place, the applicability of the control approach, and the overall readiness of the project to proceed. This particular effort is working in a coordinated fashion to systematically address the knotweed infestation in the Issaquah Creek system. This work also involves a significant amount of landowner engagement and directly supports the WRIA 8 riparian restoration and stewardship strategy.

Recommend \$50,000 (100% of request)

2. *Calkins Point Shoreline Restoration (Plan #: C288C)* *City of Mercer Island*

This project will restore 300 linear feet of shoreline at Calkins Point, which is at the northernmost tip of Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island. The point is currently an eroding cut-bank, and this project will create a recessed pocket beach with a gentle slope, anchored large woody debris, and riparian plantings in order to enhance juvenile Chinook rearing habitat. This is the second phase of a three-phase project within the park. Phase I (1,200 lineal feet) was completed in 2008, and Phase III (900 lineal feet) is scheduled for 2017.

Discussion

The Subcommittee discussed the importance of continuing to advance shoreline restoration projects along Lake Washington. The cost effectiveness of the project (by the land being in public ownership and significant amount of match), the connectivity to a previously-restored site, and the visibility of the site and associated educational opportunities make this a valuable restoration opportunity.

Recommend \$150,000 (100% of request)

3. *Little Bear Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation (Plan #: N079A, N400, N403)* *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

This project involves noxious weed survey and control and planting native vegetation along the lower two miles of Little Bear Creek. Included in the scope of this effort is coordination with industrial property owners, the City of Woodinville, and Snohomish County.

Discussion

Successful knotweed control requires working in a coordinated fashion from upstream to downstream. The project sponsor is coordinating their effort in King County with knotweed control efforts upstream in Snohomish County. The sponsor also intends to conduct control efforts on other invasive plants in the project area. The Subcommittee acknowledged potential benefits to salmon recovery that extend beyond the focus of this project due to the variety of landowners that will be engaged.

Recommend \$30,000 (100% of request)

4. *Juniper Street Park – Issaquah Creek Restoration Design (Plan #: I209/I210)*

City of Issaquah

This project will improve aquatic and riparian habitat for Chinook and other salmon species within the City of Issaquah at the newly-acquired Juniper Street Park. The current project phase is for design and permitting of 1.4 acres of riparian and floodplain restoration, 450 lineal feet of instream habitat improvements, and 275 lineal feet of bank stabilization.

Discussion

Issaquah Creek is a Tier 1 area, and this project will directly address the habitat limiting factors identified in the WRIA 8 Plan for this area (floodplain connectivity, channel complexity, refuge and rearing habitat). The City of Issaquah completed restoration just upstream in 2010 and has another large project scheduled for construction in 2015. This project will provide downstream connectivity to those areas for Chinook, coho, sockeye, and kokanee salmon.

Recommend \$130,000 (100% of request)

5. *Issaquah Creek Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park (Plan #: I202)*

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

In partnership with Washington State Parks and community volunteers, this project will restore 3.5 acres of riparian habitat along 1,000 feet of Issaquah Creek within Lake Sammamish State Park. The riparian zone is dominated by invasive plants in the project area, and this project will restore native vegetation with an average 150-foot buffer.

Discussion

This project is a complement to invasive species work occurring farther upstream within the Issaquah Creek basin and is an important area for riparian enhancement due to the degraded habitat conditions. The partnership with State Parks is an important foundation for more extensive future restoration efforts, and this project involves a substantial volunteer and public involvement component, raising the visibility of habitat restoration.

Recommend \$50,000 (100% of request)

6. *Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration, Phase III (Plan #: C288B)*
Western Academy of Beaux Arts

This three-phase project seeks to restore a total of 405 linear feet of shoreline on Lake Washington for juvenile Chinook salmon use. The current phase will set back 105 feet of an existing bulkhead to create shallow water beach habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. The slope of the shoreline will be improved, lateral logs will be installed, and native riparian vegetation will be planted.

Discussion

Restoring Lake Washington's shoreline is a high priority in WRIA 8. This project builds on several WRIA 8 grants for design and restoration of adjacent areas. The Subcommittee recognizes the importance of this project as a demonstration site highlighting the results of smaller scale shoreline restoration and the potential to illustrate to private property owners that green shoreline methods are effective alternatives to hard armored shorelines.

Recommend \$161,000 (100% of request)

7. *Issaquah Creek Conservation (Plan #: I249)*
King County

This project will purchase an 11-acre property along Reach 12 of Issaquah Creek with 900 feet of creek frontage. Purchase of the property will allow for future riparian enhancements and provide connectivity to protected parcels both upstream and downstream. Additionally, a portion of the property will be sub-divided and sold following the acquisition, with proceeds being returned to the granting programs.

Discussion

King County has been acquiring property in the upper Issaquah Creek/Holder Creek/Carey Creek area for many years, and this project will expand the amount of protected lands. Approximately 9,500 linear feet of stream buffer is currently protected, and King County is negotiating the purchase of a 29-acre parcel immediately upstream that offers an additional 1,750 linear feet of creek frontage. This acquisition complements these protected lands in an area of Chinook spawning and rearing and also offers future restoration potential.

Recommend \$260,000 (100% of request)

8. *Sammamish River Corridor Enhancement (Plan #: N346)*
Snoqualmie Tribe

This project will work along the Sammamish River to enhance 1.5 acres of wetland/marsh habitat, control 5 acres of invasive plants, and establish at least 3.5 acres of riparian vegetation.

Discussion

This project will work in a Tier 1 migratory area to enhance what is presently a highly degraded riparian buffer dominated by invasive species and lacking overhanging vegetation.

Improving riparian conditions along the Sammamish River is important as a way to moderate summer water temperatures, which regularly exceed levels healthy for salmon.

Recommend \$58,875

**9. *Swamp Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration, Phase I (Plan #: N335A)*
*Sno-King Watershed Council***

This proposal is for data collection and analysis and design work focused on a degraded wetland complex along Swamp Creek just upstream of SR 522 in the City of Kenmore. The project sponsor is proposing to perform data collection to support site analysis and to initiate restoration designs up to 30% in order to begin the permit process for the eventual restoration implementation.

Discussion

The Project Subcommittee expressed concern regarding scope, sequencing, and coordination. The proposal lacked an appropriate process-based restoration focus and is out of sequence with the steps needed to ensure a successful restoration project. Swamp Creek and the associated wetland complex at the project location have a highly modified hydrologic regime. The sponsor's proposal discusses the need to improve the existing condition in the wetland complex and describes solutions that do not address the underlying cause of the current hydrologic condition, which is a lack of effective stormwater and flow controls upstream in the substantially-developed upper reaches of the Swamp Creek basin. Without addressing upstream problems first, the project appears to have little likelihood of long-term improvement at the project site. Beyond the sequencing concerns, the Project Subcommittee questions the extent to which Chinook salmon will use this location. The Subcommittee believes that juvenile Chinook are unlikely to venture this far upstream from the Sammamish River for rearing, and the habitat is not conducive to Chinook spawning.

After significant discussion, the Project Subcommittee recommended no funding for this project. The sponsor will be asked to more fully explore opportunities to improve and mitigate the watershed processes that have impacted the wetland prior to submitting a subsequent grant application. The Subcommittee believes convening relevant jurisdictions and stakeholders within the Swamp Creek basin for the purpose of discussing current stormwater management is of critical importance prior to initiating any restoration designs at the proposed location (potentially through an Interlocal Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, thus formalizing the needed cooperation). A feasibility study examining these issues as well as identifying the potential for Chinook salmon use of the reach would be appropriate in a future grant round and would ensure the project has a firm basis before proceeding into design.

Recommend \$0

Table 4. Summary of 2014 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for Public Outreach and Education

Rank	Program and Applicant	Total Project Cost	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations
1	<i>Beach Naturalist Program</i> Seattle Aquarium	\$81,196	\$13,200	\$67,996	\$13,200
1	<i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Program</i> Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$10,000	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$7,500
3	<i>Cedar River Salmon Journey</i> Friends of the Cedar River Watershed	\$113,828	\$38,422	\$75,406	\$38,422
4	<i>Salmon-Safe Puget Sound Urban Initiative</i> Stewardship Partners	\$31,369	\$16,000	\$15,369	\$16,000
5	<i>Salmon Watchers</i> King County	\$65,128	\$29,596	\$35,532	\$20,878*
Total Education and Outreach Requests		\$301,521	\$104,718	\$196,803	\$96,000**
Recommended Allocation Target			\$96,000		
Difference between requested and available funds			(\$8,718)		

* This funding level results in an unmet need of \$8,718. The Project Subcommittee asks the Salmon Recovery Council to consider making this proposal whole with unallocated funds from the project category.

** Should the Salmon Recovery Council elect to exceed the recommended allocation target to cover the unmet need of \$8,718, the total amount allocated to outreach and education programs would equal \$104,718.

Public Outreach and Education – Program Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

Note: Programs listed in rank order

1. *Beach Naturalist Program*

Seattle Aquarium

The Beach Naturalist Program educates Puget Sound citizens about the vital role the nearshore plays as habitat for salmon rearing and migration and presents ways to protect and conserve the marine and nearshore environment. The program trains volunteer naturalist interpreters, who in turn work on local beaches interacting with the public during the spring and summer.

Discussion

Beach Naturalists has proven to be effective in communicating to the public the importance of the marine nearshore to salmon. This message is especially important along WRIA 8's highly developed shoreline, where advancing priority restoration actions has been challenging. Coordination with the Cedar River Salmon Journey enhances the effectiveness of outreach at the Locks. The Beach Naturalist Program is adding ocean acidification to their educational curriculum, showing willingness to adapt the program to emerging issues.

Recommend \$13,200 (100% of request)

1. *Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Program*

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Program is one of a suite of educational programs offered by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, who is a new sponsor in the outreach and education category. This particular program teaches a science-based curriculum to 4th – 12th grade students with an emphasis on improving ecosystems for salmon. In addition to classroom education, students are engaged in on-site restoration work at Greenway Trust restoration sites.

Discussion

This program targets a priority WRIA 8 audience and engages them through both classroom and field settings. The program has been in existence for 17 years and has demonstrated an ability to reach a large number of students across a wide spectrum of backgrounds. The program has existing partnerships with several schools within WRIA 8 and continues to bring new schools into the program.

Recommend \$7,500 (100% of request)

3. *Cedar River Salmon Journey*

Friends of the Cedar River Watershed

The Cedar River Salmon Journey educates watershed residents about salmon ecology and watershed health. Trained community volunteers make family-friendly riverside

presentations to the public at several locations on the Cedar River in the fall and at the Hiram Chittenden Locks in the summer.

Discussion

The Cedar River Salmon Journey effectively educates a large number of citizens and watershed residents and demonstrates good outreach and education metrics to evaluate its effectiveness over time. The program effectively communicates watershed salmon recovery messages and increases awareness of habitat restoration and protection efforts in the Cedar River basin.

Recommend \$38,422 (100% of request)

4. *Salmon-Safe Urban Outreach Eastside Stewardship Partners*

Salmon-Safe is a certification program that awards the “Salmon-Safe” eco-label to entities meeting a defined set of certification standards related to protecting and restoring salmon habitat. This proposal seeks to engage the City of Redmond Planning Department, Built Green, and the Regional Code Collaboration to promote and implement the Salmon-Safe program within the Bear Creek sub-basin in the City of Redmond.

Discussion

Compared with a similar 2013 proposal, the sponsor articulated a more refined scope, demonstrated support from key partners, and better articulated a vision for implementing the program. The Subcommittee acknowledged that land developers are an important audience for salmon recovery messaging, and the Subcommittee determined this proposal offers a good opportunity to initiate efforts to engage this high priority audience.

Recommend \$16,000 (100% of request)

5. *Salmon Watcher Program King County*

The Salmon Watcher Program educates watershed residents about salmon presence in their local streams and ways daily choices can impact stream and salmon health. The program uses citizen volunteers to collect data on salmon presence in streams, and these volunteers also provide ad hoc outreach and education messages to interested citizens.

Discussion

In an effort to respond to past feedback that the Salmon Watcher Program should shift more toward public outreach and education, the sponsor initiated a partnership with the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed (FCRW) in order to capitalize on their public outreach and coordination expertise. Through this partnership, Salmon Watchers seeks to reach a broader audience and enhance opportunities for public education and involvement.

The ranking of Salmon Watcher reflects the fairly small number of contacts made by the program in comparison to the other proposals and the fairly high cost associated with those limited contacts. At the same time, the program has a long track record of engaging a devoted group of citizens, and the Subcommittee is interested in the outcome of the partnership with the FCRW. Given that the work funded in 2013 will not be implemented until later in 2014, the Subcommittee recommends funding for Salmon Watcher in 2015 so that the program has an opportunity to evolve as its partnership with the FCRW develops.

Recommend \$20,878 (70% of request)*

*Note: In recognition of the Salmon Recovery Council’s funding allocation guidance, the Project Subcommittee recommendation shown above ensures that the total outreach and education funding does not exceed the \$96,000 funding cap for this category. The Salmon Recovery Council is asked to consider whether \$8,718 of the \$11,427 in 2013 returned funds could be used to make this program whole in this funding round.

Table 5. Summary of 2014 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for Monitoring Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program					
Rank	Proposal Name	Total Project Cost	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendation
1	WRIA 8 Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring King County	\$396,965	\$299,965	\$97,000	\$299,965
	Total Monitoring Request	\$396,965	\$299,965	\$97,000	\$299,965
	Recommended Allocation Target		\$300,000		
	Difference between requested and available funds		\$35		

Monitoring – Proposal Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

1. WRIA 8 Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring *King County*

This effort will continue tracking the number of Chinook salmon on the spawning grounds and trapping juvenile Chinook migrating out of the Cedar River to assess the viable salmonid population parameters of Chinook salmon in WRIA 8. This project continues to expand knowledge of the reproductive life history, geographic and temporal distributions, spawning abundance, and hatchery stray rates for Chinook salmon in WRIA 8. These data are provided to stakeholders annually to help understand if the recovery goals outlined in the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Plan are being met.

Discussion

This project is the continuation of a long-running monitoring program in WRIA 8 that enables the watershed to track adult returns and juvenile numbers. The Subcommittee agreed it is important to continue to gather this information, as it is the data used to assess the status of WRIA 8 Chinook populations. Multiple years of data are important due to the high natural variability of salmon populations, and a data gap of even one year can reduce the usefulness of the data. Important to consider is that costs for conducting this data collection continue to grow and funding amounts remain the same, which could affect the level of service in future years.

Recommend - \$299,965 (100% of request)

Conclusion

The Project Subcommittee's funding recommendations are based on the potential of a given project to offer significant benefit to Chinook salmon with a high degree of certainty the project will be implemented, as reflected by the WRIA 8 grant review criteria. Several of the projects recommended for funding will be implemented on-the-ground in 2014, resulting in direct improvements to salmon habitat. One of the funding recommendations will lead to project designs, with construction to follow as early as fall of 2015. Ultimately, the actions recommended for funding represent important steps in the Chinook salmon recovery effort in WRIA 8 and build on work done to-date to protect and restore habitat, gather important data on salmon status and trends, and educate the citizens of the watershed.

The Project Subcommittee wrestled with several challenging issues, most notably the decision to recommend carrying funds over to the 2015 grant round. Several projects are expected to be ripe for funding in 2015, and the Subcommittee's perspective is that fiscal responsibility now will ensure that funds are available to advance the highest priority work for salmon recovery in the watershed.