

## Funding Need

### An Example

The Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed (WRIA 9) Salmon Habitat Plan is based on years of study. With the best available science, priority projects were identified and implementation began, though momentum has been impeded by lack of funding. Still, WRIA 9 has implemented flagship restoration projects, such as the North Wind's Weir estuary restoration. **Though this project was identified as being critical for saving salmon, it took 10 years to patch together sufficient funding to complete the project.** The recovery process is jeopardized, the chance of success is diminished, and Federal regulation more likely when mission critical projects such as this cannot move forward due to lack of funding. Persistence in finding funding for the North Wind's Weir estuary restoration has paid off.



Figure 1: The North Wind's Weir Estuary Restoration Project increased the watershed's ecological value by as much as \$6 for every \$1 invested (Earth Economics 2005).

### Current Funding Mechanisms

Today, there are three primary funding sources to implement the Salmon Habitat Plan:

- **Interlocal agreement** among the 16 cities of the watershed and King County provide annual operating support.
- **King Conservation District** grant program provides operating and capital project funding.
- **Grants** from local, state and federal agencies provide operating and capital projects funding.

### Issues with Current Funding Mechanisms

These sources have brought us this far. Yet, they are uncertain and insufficient for funding implementation of our Salmon Habitat Plan.

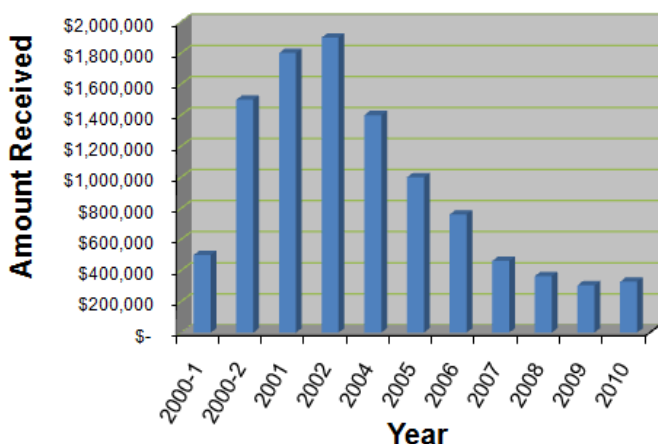


Figure 2: Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants received by WRIA 9 partners.

- **Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)** grant funding to WRIA 9 has declined overall by 84% in ten years to \$327,000 in 2010.
- **Green/Duwamish Ecosystem Restoration Project (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)** and several grant sources will provide operating and project funding around \$5 million in 2010, including stimulus grants. Future grant funding is highly uncertain, however.
- **King Conservation District** funding will provide \$1.2 million to WRIA 9 in 2010. Long-term funding from this source is uncertain, however.

In short, current grant funding is far less than the amount needed to implement the \$300 million Salmon Habitat Plan over the next 10 years.

## Putting Funding Needs into Perspective

To raise \$30 million per year, all of which would be invested in this watershed, would cost each person within WRIA 9 about \$30 per year or 58 cents per week.



Restoring salmon habitat restores the health our watershed. The watershed provides clean drinking water, flood protection, waste assimilation, aesthetic and recreational benefits and other ecosystem services. As these services are lost, benefits are reduced and costs to residents increase. **As the watershed is restored to health, our quality of life rises and the costs of watershed degradation decline.**

## Watershed Restoration Requires a Dependable, Sufficient Funding Source

A funding mechanism providing \$30 million per year for 10 years would enable operating capacity and implementation of capital projects. It would provide matching funds for grants from outside the watershed. These funds would be spent in WRIA 9, providing jobs and economic development. Staff time in grant writing and uncertainty in funding and project implementation would be eliminated. Chinook salmon could be restored for present and future generations, creating a healthy watershed that would be enjoyed by all.

The WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum has advanced from study, planning, project identification and prioritization to implementation.

**It is critical to establish a funding mechanism sufficient to get the job done . . . Now. The salmon – and all who depend on the health of this watershed – cannot wait.**

