Funding Strategy

The strategy for WRIA 9 salmon recovery, per Management Strategy-1 (Policy MS-1), is to allocate funding and implementation actions as follows:

- 40% to the Duwamish Estuary Transition Zone (River Mile 3-9);
- 30% to rearing habitats (Middle Green, Lower Green, Duwamish Estuary, Marine Nearshore); and
- 30% for spawning habitats (Middle Green and upper Lower Green River).

NOTE: The funding strategy defers, for the first ten years, to actions taken by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) in the Upper Green River Subwatershed to improve habitat conditions and restore connectivity.

The upstream fish passage facility, and several instream habitat projects undertaken by the ACOE and TPU have been completed and are highlighted on page 16.

Funding Progress

Since Plan adoption, WRIA 9 and its partners secured over $101 million from all funding sources to implement Chinook salmon recovery projects and programs. The Habitat Plan originally estimated the implementation cost of priority projects over the first 10 years to be between $198 million and $291 million, and implementation cost of all projects recommended in the Habitat Plan to be $389 million or more.

Forum directed funding for salmon habitat protection and restoration projects are provided from three major sources:

- Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grants;
- King Conservation District (KCD) grants; and
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grants.

Additional sources that leverage salmon recovery funding for habitat projects include: Conservation Futures Tax (CFT); Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA); Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP); Ecosystem Recovery Program (ERP); ACOE; regional grants; local Surface Water Management fees; KCD; Community Salmon Fund; and King County Flood Control District funds.

Historic Funding: Prior to Plan implementation (1999-2005), SRFB awarded nearly $7 million and KCD awarded over $2 million to WRIA 9 salmon recovery, funding 17 acquisition and restoration projects. Funds leveraged by SRFB and KCD funding total over $5 million.

Current Funding: Since Plan adoption, SRFB and PSAR have awarded approximately $8.5 million and KCD nearly $3.8 million to WRIA 9 salmon recovery. Leveraged funds from other sources have totaled over $89.4 million since 2005. Total funds secured since 2005 amount to over $101 million, an average of approximately $14 million per year. A major portion of this total, $36 million, went toward the acquisition of the South Maury Island gravel mine, which protects 250 acres from future development. This average is well under the anticipated cost needed annually to implement all recommended projects.
Figures 1-3 show how funding has been allocated pursuant to Policy MS-1 of the Habitat Plan, since 2005.

Figure 1 shows how all funding sources have been allocated, providing an overall perspective of how funding has been used over the past 5 years to implement salmon recovery actions in WRIA 9.

Figures 2 and 3 portray funding levels toward salmon recovery actions pursuant to Policy MS-1. Figure 3 shows funding allocations in accordance to Policy MS-1 by subwatershed.

In addition to the funding amounts shown in Figures 1-3, there have been projects implemented by other entities that contribute to salmon recovery.