



Snoqualmie Watershed Forum's
Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Program
Funded by the King County Flood Control District

CWM Grant Funding Priorities and Guidance (2023-2024)

The King County Flood Control District allocates funding each year for projects recommended by the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum (Forum). The following are the Forum's grant funding priorities, which help guide the selection criteria for the Cooperative Watershed Management grant program.

CWM Grant Funding Priorities

- **Alignment with strategy:** Projects and programs that are consistent with and/or implement recommendations and opportunities from strategic planning efforts:
 - [2005 Snohomish River Basin Salmon Conservation Plan](#) (the Salmon Plan; see sections 9-11 for recommended actions)
 - [2009 Snoqualmie Watershed Water Quality Synthesis Report](#)
 - [2015 Snohomish Basin Protection Plan](#) (see Table 3 for list of opportunities, page 3-11 of document/page 47 of PDF)
 - [2017 Climate Change Impacts to Salmon Issue Paper](#) (see Table 2 for list of strategies and actions, page 22 of document/page 24 of PDF)
 - [2023 Monitoring Prioritization Project](#) (details in [spreadsheet](#)) (Monitoring and Assessment project proposal guidance)

While it will vary from year to year, the Forum aims for a geographic balance of funded projects across the Snoqualmie and South Fork Skykomish Watersheds.

- **Priority project types:**
 - **Habitat restoration projects** with an emphasis on ESA-listed species (Chinook salmon, Steelhead Trout, Bull Trout), with consideration of other species of concern. Projects should include 3–5-year plan of maintenance and monitoring.
 - **Habitat protection** via fee simple acquisition, conservation easements, programs, regulations, or incentives that are consistent with existing watershed plans.
 - Implementation of watershed protection measures through important **stewardship, incentives, landowner assistance, planning, outreach, and education efforts.**
 - Projects responding to the **monitoring and assessment prioritization** project (2023)
 - Implementation of **regional flood hazard reduction projects unable to secure adequate King County Flood District or FEMA funding**, with an emphasis on projects that have multiple watershed benefits (e.g. acquisition of undeveloped flood prone properties that provide habitat benefit)

- **Leverage funding:** Leveraging local, state, and federal funding, including Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Department of Ecology grants.
- **Partner effectively:** Projects that create or foster partnerships between government entities, private businesses, non-profit organizations and private landowners. Note: significant capacity challenges exist throughout Snoqualmie Valley. If you are seeking to partner with a city, you should have engaged with relevant city staff about your project idea at least 3 weeks in advance of the Notice of Intent to Apply submission (unless you can show confirmation that a city partner is waiving this requirement).
- **Incorporate equity and social justice (including environmental justice) (ESJ):** While habitat limiting factors drive the design and implementation of salmon recovery activities, restoration also offers opportunities to advance equity and social justice. The Forum considers this a vital component of working in this watershed and encourages project sponsors to make every effort to ensure equitable outcomes during project design and implementation. Project sponsors are encouraged to carefully review [2-page ESJ support](#) document throughout project development.
- **Adaptively manage and maintain your project site:** Applying for restoration project maintenance more than 3 years after project installation due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. flood damage, invasive weeds) is encouraged.

Funding Allocation Guidance

The Forum's Project Review Committee has faced challenges associated with ranking various project types (capital, planning, monitoring, etc.) and the lack of guidance regarding allocations across these project types. For example, committee members have regularly ranked education and monitoring grants alongside of large capital grants leading to inconsistent scoring. For this reason, separate scoring for each major project type was created. The committee will utilize funding allocation guidance in the CWM grant round to provide the committee with some general direction.

The committee will use the following funding allocation guidance by project type:

- **Site-specific restoration and acquisition capital projects** (feasibility through maintenance) – approximately **60-80%** (**includes riparian restoration; ~7% may go towards supporting the Forum-Cities Snoqualmie Project Assistance*)
- **Monitoring and Assessments** – approximately **15-20%**
- **Education and Outreach** – approximately **5-20%**

The Project Review Committee will use their discretion to balance funding recommendations based on the Forum's guidance, scoring criteria and actual applications submitted.

Use of Criteria in Ranking Process

These criteria are simply an evaluation tool. The Project Review Committee will fully evaluate projects based on all provided information and will use group consensus to develop the final prioritized grant list.

- Notice of Intent (pre-applications) will be sent to the project review committee for initial screening. The committee may request a project be deferred to future grant rounds or other funding sources based on the following: [Notice of Intent Screening Tool \(2024\)](#). All other projects will receive an invitation to submit a final application.
- Final grant applications will be sent to reviewers to evaluate. Reviewers should score grants individually before the ranking meeting.
- Scores are draft and to be used for discussion purposes during the project review committee scoring meeting. Scoring as a group will help share technical knowledge of projects and limit geographic biases.
- The Committee's final ranked list of grants will be forwarded to the Snoqualmie Watershed Forum for the final grant allocation decision.
- *Conflict of Interest*: all committee members are required to complete a *Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure* before the evaluation process begins. Reviewers will be recused from scoring, ranking, or discussing any applications where a conflict has been identified.

Scoring Guidance

- *Benefit to Salmon and Watershed Health* and *Certainty of Success* categories will be scored based on the definitions explained in each respective scoring criteria. There are 4 sets of scoring criteria: (1) Restoration and Protection, (2) Riparian Restoration, (3) Monitoring and Assessments, and (4) Education and Outreach.
- Projects will be scored by category on a **whole number** scale (e.g., a project must receive a score of 1, 3, 5, not 3.5).
- For *Restoration and Protection*, *Riparian Restoration*, and *Monitoring and Assessments* project proposals, each project will have two scores (one benefit, one certainty, not a combined score).
- All categories will be given a multiplier based on their relative importance as listed in the scoring criteria.

Scores are draft and to be used for discussion during the committee's scoring meeting.