

# Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

## Project Subcommittee Report

### Cooperative Watershed Management Grant (CWMG) Program 2013 Grant Round

#### Project Subcommittee Members

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#### 2013 Funds and WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council Funding Guidance

The King County Flood Control District provided \$1,200,000 to WRIA 8 for the 2013 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant (CWMG) Program. WRIA 8 received 16 proposals requesting a total of \$2,143,443, which exceeds available grant funds by \$943,443 (Table 1). At the March 21 WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (SRC) meeting, the SRC approved allocating CWMG funds as follows:

- 1) Site-specific restoration and acquisition: 67% of total available
- 2) Monitoring: 25% of total available
- 3) Education and public outreach: 8% of total available

<b>Table 1. Summary of 2013 WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Funds</b>			
	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Amount of Request</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>
	\$11,981,778	\$2,143,443	\$9,905,435
2013 Total CWMG Funds		\$1,200,000	
Amount Requested Exceeding Available Funds		<b>(\$943,443)</b>	

#### Project Eligibility and Matching Funds

For CWMG 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. Proposals for monitoring are evaluated according to criteria that assess consistency with WRIA 8 monitoring priorities, scale of usefulness, and value of data. Programmatic 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 CWMG 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 review project proposals, the Project Subcommittee received the following: 1) copies of the CWMG proposals, 2) 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 two presentations on May 29 and on May 30 heard the remaining five presentations. On June 3 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 - 4 for site-specific projects, public outreach and education, and monitoring, respectively. Following each table are project descriptions, in rank order, with highlights from the Subcommittee discussions.

### **Allocation of Returned King Conservation District Funds**

Leading up to the development of funding recommendations for the CWMG Program, WRIA 8 staff was notified that \$255,553 in returned King Conservation District (KCD) funds are available from past grants that were completed under budget or were unable to be implemented. These funds are available for reallocation to high priority WRIA 8 projects, and per guidance from KCD staff, should be expended by the end of 2014.

Consistent with the process followed in the past when returned KCD funds became available in WRIA 8, the Project Subcommittee elected to forego a separate, competitive grant process for these funds. Since the timing of KCD's notification coincided with the 2013 CWMG Program grant round and given that CWMG requests far exceeded the amount of available funds, the Subcommittee decided to allocate the returned KCD funds through the CWMG scoring and ranking process.

As an outcome of the scoring of projects and programs, the Subcommittee recommended that all returned KCD funds be applied to site-specific projects. This resulted in \$255,553 in returned KCD funds being added to the \$804,000 in CWMG funds available for projects, bringing the total funding for site-specific project grants to \$1,059,553.

**Table 2. Summary of 2013 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for Site-Specific Projects  
Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program**

Rank	Proposal Name, WRIA 8 Plan #, Sponsor	Total Cost of Current Phase	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Recommended CWMG Funding	Recommended KCD Funding
1	<b>Confluence Parks/Issaquah Creek Restoration</b> Plan Project #: I211, I213, I282, I283 City of Issaquah	\$1,354,000	\$300,000	\$1,054,000	\$0 (Fully funded through SRFB/PSAR)	\$0
2	<b>Riverbend Acquisition - Relocation (Cedar River)</b> Plan Project #: C219 King County	\$7,749,900	\$360,000	\$7,389,900	\$298,893	\$0
3	<b>Issaquah Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation</b> Plan Project #: I028A Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$70,000	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$0
4	<b>Lower Lewis Creek Restoration</b> Plan Project #: I310 City of Issaquah	\$390,000	\$250,000	\$140,000	\$0	\$250,000
5	<b>Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration, Phase II</b> Plan Project #: C288B Western Academy of Beaux Arts	\$139,995	\$139,995	\$0	\$139,995	\$0
6	<b>Evans Creek Relocation Design</b> Plan Project #: N432A City of Redmond	\$1,020,868	\$228,300	\$792,568	\$228,300	\$0
7	<b>Derby Creek Enhancement, Phase I</b> Plan Project #: N342 King County	\$105,159	\$78,419	\$26,740	\$78,419	\$0
8	<b>Little Bear Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation</b> Plan Project #: N079A, N400, N403 Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$24,447	\$5,553
9	<b>Upper Bear Creek Conservation Easement</b> Plan Project #: N272 King County	\$350,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$0	\$0

Rank	Proposal Name, WRIA 8 Plan #, Sponsor	Total Cost of Current Phase	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Recommended CWMG Funding	Recommended KCD Funding
10	<i>Kelsey Creek Restoration Design, Phase II</i> Plan Project #: N485, N487 Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$67,500	\$67,500	\$0	\$0	\$0
11	<i>Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration, Phase II</i> Plan Project #: N338 City of Bothell	\$67,500	\$60,000	\$7,500	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Site-Specific Project Requests</b>		<b>\$11,354,922</b>	<b>\$1,739,214</b>	<b>\$9,683,208</b>	<b>\$820,054</b>	<b>\$255,553</b>
Recommended Allocation Target (67% of total)			<b>\$804,000</b>			
Difference between requested and available funds and variance from target allocation			<b>(\$935,214)</b>		\$16,054 (amount recommended over 67% target; carried over from outreach and education and monitoring)	

## Site-Specific Project Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

Note: Projects listed in rank order

### **1. *Confluence Parks/Issaquah Creek Restoration Project (Plan #: I211, I213, I282, I283)* *City of Issaquah***

This project will restore aquatic and riparian habitat at the confluence of Issaquah Creek and East Fork Issaquah Creek, where the city is currently constructing a public park. The grant proposal is for a portion of construction costs for restoration activities, which will include removal of bank armoring and floodplain fill, installation of large woody debris in the channel, removal of invasive vegetation, and planting native vegetation.

#### **Discussion**

The City of Issaquah submitted a companion grant application during this year's Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant round that requested the full amount of remaining construction funds. The Subcommittee recommended funding this project in full with SRFB/PSAR dollars, which makes this grant request unnecessary.

#### **Recommend \$0**

### **2. *Riverbend Acquisition – Relocation (Plan #: C219)* *King County***

In 2012, King County purchased the 18.6 acre parcel underlying the Riverbend Mobile Home Park along the Cedar River for future floodplain and salmon habitat restoration. The property offers the potential for setting back levees and restoring the natural functions of the floodplain and riparian area, yet prior to commencing with restoration activities, King County is required by law to relocate the mobile home park tenants. This activity is a continuation of the acquisition process and will simultaneously set the stage for a noteworthy restoration project and reduce flood risk to the mobile home park. This grant will provide a portion of the funding needed to relocate the residents; additional funding will be necessary to complete the relocation of residents and for future restoration.

#### **Discussion**

The Subcommittee acknowledged the tenant relocation effort will be costly and span multiple years, yet this necessary component of the acquisition process must be completed before restoration can begin. The Subcommittee expressed concern with the amount of funding that may be requested from WRIA 8 over the next several years (the expected cost of the full relocation effort is approximately \$7.75 million). However, multiple funding sources are expected to contribute to the relocation, and the project sponsor suggested funding sources outside of WRIA 8 may be available for restoration costs.

Given the significant benefits anticipated through the eventual restoration of the property and the importance of large-scale floodplain reconnection projects on the Cedar River, the Subcommittee determined that the project deserves CWMG funding in this grant round to

combine with other funding sources and jumpstart the relocation process. The Subcommittee decided against fully funding this project because of additional funds being recommended in the current SRFB/PSAR grant round.

**Recommend \$298,893 in CWMG funds** (83% of request)

**3. *Issaquah Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation (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 population in the Issaquah Creek system. The Subcommittee discussed the relative value of knotweed control projects as compared to in-stream habitat improvements and ultimately determined the value of the riparian enhancements justifies the expenditure of grant funds. Combined with the amount of landowner engagement that results from this work, which directly supports the WRIA 8 riparian restoration and stewardship strategy, the Subcommittee recommends fully funding this project.

**Recommend \$50,000 in CWMG funds** (100% of request)

**4. *Lower Lewis Creek Restoration (Plan #: I310)***  
***City of Issaquah***

This project will implement improvements along 1,800 linear feet of Lewis Creek to improve juvenile Chinook and kokanee salmon habitat. Work will include slope protection using bioengineering and large woody debris, in-stream boulder grade control structures to control erosion and sedimentation, and sediment removal at the creek delta in Lake Sammamish. In aggregate, these actions are intended to restore natural functions.

**Discussion**

The Lake Sammamish shoreline is a Tier 1 migratory area in the WRIA 8 Plan, and the Plan recommends restoring stream mouths in Lake Sammamish to improve migratory habitat for Chinook. This project also follows the recommendations of the Kokanee Work Group to improve Lake Sammamish kokanee stream habitat, and is a priority project identified by the Kokanee/Chinook Restoration Feasibility Assessment funded by WRIA 8. In 2011 the Subcommittee recommended an engineering study to ensure work focused on sedimentation issues in the lower portion of Lewis Creek is appropriate, sustainable, and will effectively address upstream sediment source issues. The proposed project design is

based on this study. Given the private property nexus and the readiness of this project, the Subcommittee recommends funding this work with returned KCD funds.

**Recommend \$250,000 in KCD funds** (100% of request)

**5. *Beaux Arts Shoreline Restoration, Phase II (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 200 feet of an existing bulkhead to allow for creation of two beach coves using native beach materials. The slope of the shoreline will be improved, lateral logs will be installed, and native riparian vegetation will be planted. Originally inspired by a WRIA 8 shoreline restoration workshop and City of Seattle Green Shorelines Handbook, this project will become a shoreline restoration “proof of concept” site for other lakefront property owners.

**Discussion**

Restoring Lake Washington’s shoreline is a high priority for recovering salmon in WRIA 8. This project is a direct result of recent efforts to advance the concept of green shorelines in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish and builds on several WRIA 8 grants for design and restoration of an adjacent beach area. Although shoreline restoration efforts have been implemented on public lands around the lake, there remains a large need for restoration of private shoreline property. 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 \$139,995 in CWMG funds** (100% of request)

**6. *Evans Creek Relocation Design (Plan #: N432A)***

***City of Redmond***

The Evans Creek Relocation project involves relocating over 3,000 feet of stream channel from an industrial area into adjacent open space. Doing so will reconnect the channel with floodplain wetlands and allow for restoring a meandering channel with in-stream complexity. The current grant request is for a portion of the funding necessary to conduct background studies and develop a preliminary design.

**Discussion**

The Evans Creek Relocation Study was identified in the WRIA 8 Plan as a means to determine the feasibility of relocating Evans Creek from its current alignment into adjacent open space. Completed by the City of Redmond in 2005, this effort confirmed the feasibility of relocating the channel. The project site is just upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek, and restoring this portion of Evans Creek offers the potential for significant benefits to Chinook. Extensive channel and buffer enhancements have already occurred upstream, and WSDOT is beginning construction of a 30-acre mitigation site just downstream. This

project—if implemented—would build on these restoration actions and would mark a significant improvement over the existing industrialized nature of the reach.

**Recommend \$228,300 in CWMG funds** (100% of request)

**7. Derby Creek Enhancement, Phase I (Plan #: N342)**

**King County**

The goal of this project is to improve juvenile Chinook habitat at the Derby Creek / Sammamish River confluence by removing a hanging culvert at the mouth of Derby Creek and enhancing the lower 762 feet of the Derby Creek channel. Currently, fish passage into Derby Creek is blocked. Removing the culvert and improving in-stream conditions will provide a cool water refuge for salmon migrating out of the Sammamish River system. Funding is being sought for a feasibility study and preliminary designs.

**Discussion**

The WRIA 8 Plan calls for enhancing the Sammamish River tributary confluences at Gold, Woodin, and Derby Creeks as a means to create cool water refuge for juvenile Chinook. Habitat improvements at the Gold and Woodin Creek confluences were implemented long ago, and this action will build on recent upstream enhancements on Derby Creek as well. The Subcommittee discussed that the value of this project for Chinook will be limited to the mouth of the channel and perhaps a short distance upstream due to low average summertime flows. Regardless, cool water refuge habitat is critically important along the Sammamish, and this project will build on previous restoration work in the reach.

**Recommend \$78,419 in CWMG funds** (100% of request)

**8. 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. Since knotweed farther upstream along Little Bear Creek in Snohomish County has not yet been completely controlled, the Subcommittee questioned the strategy of this proposal. However, numerous invasive species are present in the project area, and the sponsor intends to focus control efforts on these other invasive plants until the effort in Snohomish County advances to a point that allows for knotweed control in King County. Furthermore, the Subcommittee felt that engaging the landowners affected by this project will provide benefits to salmon recovery beyond the direct benefits of this project.

**Recommend \$24,447 in CWMG funds and \$5,553 in KCD funds** (100% of request)



**9. Upper Bear Creek Conservation Easement (Plan #: N272)**

**King County**

This project would purchase a 20-acre conservation easement at the headwaters of Bear Creek. The property owners own approximately 120 acres, and King County acquired a 20-acre conservation easement on a separate parcel in March 2013.

**Discussion**

The target parcel is part of the Stevens' holdings, which are identified by name in the WRIA 8 Plan as a high priority for acquisition. Even so, the Subcommittee determined this particular parcel did not have a strong benefit to Chinook. It is an entirely upland parcel and is far removed from the Bear Creek channel. Furthermore, the conservation easement would allow for active forestry under an approved forest management plan. The Subcommittee also felt the price for the conservation easement was quite high, and given these factors, the Subcommittee did not support funding for this acquisition.

**Recommend \$0**

**10. Kelsey Creek Restoration Design, Phase II (Plan #: N485, N487)**

**Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group**

This project seeks to restore approximately 300 linear feet of Chinook spawning and rearing habitat in Kelsey Creek by installing large woody debris as a means to create in-stream habitat complexity and reduce the effects of flashy stream flows. A previous restoration project would form the upstream extent of this project. The current request would fund the development of construction-ready designs.

**Discussion**

The WRIA 8 Plan provides numerous recommendations for improvements on Kelsey Creek, of which this project is one. However, by being a Tier 2 stream, this project ranked lower than many of the other projects in consideration. Additionally, the Subcommittee felt this proposal could have been strengthened by providing documentation of landowner willingness to participate in the project, documenting current Chinook usage in the reach, and reaching out to the City of Bellevue in an attempt to acquire their support for the project. Due to these concerns—and primarily due to the questionable benefit to Chinook of the project—the Subcommittee did not recommend funding this proposal.

**Recommend \$0**

**11. Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration, Phase II (Plan #: N338)**

**City of Bothell**

Building on a previously-funded feasibility study, this project seeks to reconnect and restore a relic side channel to the Sammamish River along 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE in the City of Bothell. This grant request would supplement funding sought from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board for project design but would largely focus on developing an education and outreach

component to the project, including scoping through public meetings and the development of education stations and public art for the project site.

**Discussion**

The proposal was submitted as a site-specific project, and while there is a small capital component associated with this request, the application is more targeted at outreach and education. The objectives of the proposal were unclear, the Subcommittee was not able to identify measurable deliverables, and the project did not rank well using the project criteria. As a result, the Subcommittee did not recommend funding this proposal.

**Recommend \$0**

**Table 3. Summary of 2013 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for Public Outreach and Education Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program**

Rank	Program and Applicant	Total Project Cost	Amount of Request	Matching Funds	Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations
1	<i>Cedar River Salmon Journey 2014</i> Friends of the Cedar River Watershed	\$105,825	\$36,000	\$69,825	\$36,000
1	<i>Beach Naturalist Program 2014</i> Seattle Aquarium	\$83,000	\$12,600	\$70,000	\$12,600
3	<i>Salmon Watcher Program 2014</i> King County	\$75,203	\$33,301	\$41,902	\$33,301
4	<i>Salmon-Safe Puget Sound Urban Initiative</i> Stewardship Partners	\$37,783	\$24,283	\$13,500	\$0
<b>Total Education and Outreach Requests</b>		<b>\$301,811</b>	<b>\$106,184</b>	<b>\$195,227</b>	<b>\$81,901</b>
Recommended Allocation Target (8% of total)			\$96,000		
Difference between requested and available funds and variance from target allocation			(\$10,184)		\$14,099 (amount under 8% target; this balance was carried over to site-specific project funding)

## Public Outreach and Education – Program Descriptions and Discussion Highlights

Note: Programs listed in rank order

### 1. *Cedar River Salmon Journey 2014*

#### *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. The Subcommittee noted the significant number of people contacted through this program as an important benefit of the program. The program continues to receive strong Subcommittee support.

**Recommend \$36,000** (100% of request)

### 1. *Beach Naturalist Program 2013*

#### *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.

**Recommend \$36,000** (100% of request)

### 3. *Salmon Watcher Program 2013 – 2014*

#### *King County*

The Salmon Watcher Program involves eight cities in WRIA 8 working together with King County to recruit and train watershed residents about local salmon and salmon conservation issues. The program collects data on salmon presence in streams and educates citizens and streamside residents about salmon and streams in their watershed.

## **Discussion**

In past grant rounds, the Subcommittee recommended the Salmon Watcher Program consider shifting the focus of the program to public outreach and education rather than on data collection. This year's proposal includes the addition of the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed as a partner who will assist the program by providing targeted public outreach and coordination in Renton and the Cedar River basin. Through this partnership, Salmon Watchers seeks to reach a broader audience and enhance opportunities for public education and involvement.

The Subcommittee believes the new partnership with the Friends of the Cedar River Watershed is a promising development that reflects the evolution toward increasing the emphasis on education and outreach. The Subcommittee does, however, remain concerned about the project management costs of the program and suggested that the sponsor continue to consider opportunities to reduce these costs, such as transitioning the program to a non-profit organization that could manage it at a lower cost.

**Recommend \$33,301** (100% of request)

#### **4. *Salmon-Safe Puget Sound Urban Initiative* *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. The Salmon-Safe Puget Sound Urban Initiative seeks to engage urban landowners in targeted watersheds about the relationship between land management practices and salmon habitat, with a particular focus on stormwater management and protection of aquatic and upland resources. This grant in particular focuses on targeted outreach to residential communities, parks, and campus settings within the Bear Creek sub-basin in the City of Redmond.

## **Discussion**

The Subcommittee acknowledged the value of the Salmon-Safe label and believes there is a great need to deliver messaging to urban audiences on the effects to salmon habitat from land management practices. The WRIA 8 grant review and scoring criteria identifies construction developers, which the proposed program would seek to engage, as a high priority target audience for outreach efforts. However, the Subcommittee felt that the proposal lacked a clear strategy and objectives, and as a result, the request did not score as well relative to other proposals. The application could have been enhanced by offering more detail about the deliverables, budget, and matching funds, as well as more clearly describing the level of support from the City of Redmond.

**Recommend \$0**

<b>Table 4. Summary of 2013 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for Monitoring Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program</b>					
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal Name</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>Amount of Request</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>Project Subcommittee Recommendations</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>WRIA 8 Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring 2014</b> King County	\$325,045	\$298,045	\$27,000	\$298,045
	<b>Total Monitoring Request</b>	<b>\$325,045</b>	<b>\$298,045</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>	<b>\$298,045</b>
	Recommended Allocation Target (25%)		<b>\$300,000</b>		
	Difference between requested and available funds and variance from target allocation		\$1,955		\$1,955 (amount under 25% target; this balance was carried over to site-specific project funding)

### **Monitoring – Proposal Descriptions and Discussion Highlights**

#### **1. WRIA 8 Fish In/Fish Out Monitoring 2014**

##### ***King County***

This monitoring 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 and trends 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. The proposal reflects a much lower amount of financial and in-kind contributions from partners than in recent years. The project manager indicated that additional revenue sources may be needed in future years to continue providing the same level of service if contributions from project partners remain low. The

Subcommittee discussed the potential implications of reduced support from partners on this monitoring program and identified this as an element to track moving forward.

***Recommend - \$298,045 (100% of request)***

### **Conclusion**

The Project Subcommittee was faced with grant requests exceeding available CWMG funds by nearly \$950,000, yet the challenge posed by this disparity was lessened somewhat by the availability of over \$250,000 in returned funds from closed WRIA 8 King Conservation District grants. As a result, the Subcommittee was able to fund several high priority habitat protection and restoration projects either fully or in part, as well as fund outreach and monitoring programs with a long track record of success.

Several of the projects recommended for funding will be implemented on-the-ground in 2014, resulting in direct improvements to salmon habitat. Some of the funding recommendations will lead to project designs, which set the stage for habitat improvements in the short-term. All 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. Ultimately, the actions recommended for funding represent important steps in the Chinook salmon recovery effort in WRIA 8 by building 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.