

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2015

Salmon Recovery Funding Board & Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund

Funding Summary: Table 1 illustrates the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant funding WRIA 8 expects to receive in 2015, as well as the amount of funding requested. Neither the annual SRFB allocation nor the biennial PSAR allocation is certain until the state legislature adopts a 2015 – 2017 state budget. The Project Subcommittee’s recommendations presented in this report assume full funding will be available, but alternative scenarios were considered. Seven applications were submitted for SRFB/PSAR funding consideration.

<i>Table 1. Summary of 2015 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Grant Funds</i>	
2015 SRFB/PSAR Funding Requested	\$2,298,821
2015 SRFB Allocation (Anticipated)	\$433,356
2015-2017 PSAR Allocation (Anticipated)	\$1,457,542
Total Funding Available	\$1,890,898
<i>Requested Funds Exceeding Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$407,923)</i>

Grant Eligibility and Administration: Grants for both SRFB and PSAR are administered by the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and projects proposed for funding must meet the criteria and policies outlined in RCO’s Manual 18, including the requirement for 15% matching funds. Additionally, projects recommended for funding must be on the WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan and have a clear link to one or more of WRIA 8’s priority recovery strategies.

Project Subcommittee Process: The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (Subcommittee) reviews grant proposals and develops funding recommendations for WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council consideration (see Attachment 1 for Subcommittee participants). The Subcommittee visited project sites and heard in-office presentations from project sponsors on April 29, along with an RCO grant manager and two members of the SRFB Technical Review Panel. The Subcommittee then reconvened to apply the WRIA 8 grant criteria to the proposals to assess each in terms of the potential benefits to Chinook and the certainty of successful implementation.

The WRIA 8 grant review criteria are a tool designed to aid the evaluation of grant proposals, and proposal scores serve as a guide to inform the development of funding recommendations. While the criteria are helpful in comparing the benefits and feasibility of different projects in different locations, the Subcommittee ultimately prioritizes funding for the proposals that demonstrate the greatest capacity to successfully implement the objectives of the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

2015 SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendation Summary:

1. Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration – *City of Bothell*

Grant Request: \$602,324 Funding Recommended: \$602,324

Proposal: The City of Bothell seeks to reconnect a 1,080-foot relic side channel and adjacent floodplain to the Sammamish River for the purpose of providing off-channel rearing habitat for Chinook and coho salmon. In addition to constructing the side channel, the project will enhance five acres of floodplain wetlands and convert 1.5 acres of blackberry to native riparian vegetation.

2. Lower Bear Creek Natural Area Additions – *King County*

Grant Request: \$375,000 Funding Recommended: \$375,000

Proposal: King County proposes the acquisition of 7.9 acres on portions of two parcels, both of which are adjacent to existing public ownership along the main stem of Bear Creek near the City of Redmond. The two parcels proposed for acquisition are 2.8 acres and 5.1 acres, respectively, and the acquisitions will protect spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook salmon and allow for future restoration to enhance habitat for Chinook and other species.

3. Bear Creek Reach 6 Restoration, Phase II – *Adopt A Stream Foundation*

Grant Request: \$122,097 Funding Recommended: \$50,000*

Proposal: The Adopt A Stream Foundation seeks to restore juvenile Chinook rearing habitat along 330 feet of Bear Creek within the Friendly Village mobile home park in the City of Redmond. The goal is to enhance riparian and instream habitat for juvenile and adult Chinook salmon by installing large wood in the channel and converting one acre of lawn to a native riparian forest. This proposal expands on a project completed upstream in 2014.

*Reduced funding is recommended and is intended to support a more robust design process that will generate a design appropriate for the site and that better meets Chinook recovery objectives for this location.

4. Meadowdale Beach Park Barrier Removal Design – *Snohomish County*

Grant Request: \$250,000 Funding Recommended: \$250,000

Proposal: Snohomish County proposes to develop final designs for habitat improvements at Meadowdale Beach County Park on Puget Sound. The project will enhance rearing habitat for non-natal juvenile Chinook and other species by removing a portion of an armored railroad embankment and the undersized Lund's Gulch Creek culvert, installing a multi-span bridge, creating a one acre tidal marsh pocket estuary and freshwater wetlands, and restoring nearshore and stream riparian buffers.

5. Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Design – *King County*

Grant Request: \$200,000 Funding Recommended: \$200,000

Proposal: King County proposes to complete the design of the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project, which is located just downstream of Lake Sammamish on the Sammamish River. The future project seeks to reconnect the river to the adjacent left bank floodplain and wetlands (up to 40 acres) in order to enhance aquatic and riparian habitat, restore adjacent tributaries and improve their connectivity to the river, remove and control invasive vegetation, and improve water quality in the river (temperature and dissolved oxygen) via cold water supplementation.

6. Evans Creek Relocation – *City of Redmond*

Grant Request: \$674,000 Funding Recommended: \$338,174*

Proposal: Redmond proposes to relocate and restore a section of Evans Creek from an industrial area to adjacent open space for the benefit of Chinook and coho salmon. The project will construct 3,500 feet of creek channel, restore over 10 acres of riparian buffer, and enhance 12 acres of existing wooded wetland near the channel.

*Reduced funding recommended, which is to be applied to remaining design costs and a smaller portion of the construction activities than proposed. The sponsor is being asked to modify the locations of wood and use less imported substrate, as well as include more trees in the planting plan. Design check-ins with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee will be required.

7. Little Bear Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation – *Snohomish County*

Grant Request: \$75,400 Funding Recommended: \$75,400

Proposal: Snohomish County completed an intensive knotweed survey on the Snohomish County portion of Little Bear Creek in 2013-2014, identifying over 13 acres of knotweed in the riparian corridor. This grant will fund a four-year knotweed control strategy, with the goal to treat all 13 acres and to continue education of landowners on knotweed best management practices. In addition to four years of knotweed treatment, conifers and native shrub species will be planted.

Table 2: SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendations					
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Grant Conditions</i>
Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration <i>City of Bothell</i>	\$602,324	\$120,433	\$722,757	\$602,324	
Lower Bear Creek Natural Area Additions <i>King County</i>	\$375,000	\$75,000	\$450,000	\$375,000	
Bear Creek Reach 6 Restoration, Phase II <i>Adopt A Stream Foundation</i>	\$122,097	\$21,547	\$143,644	\$50,000	Sponsor asked to use funds to develop a design using outside/consultant support. Design check-ins with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee required.
Meadowdale Beach Park Barrier Removal Design <i>Snohomish County</i>	\$250,000	\$44,120	\$294,120	\$250,000	
Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Design <i>King County</i>	\$200,000	\$40,000	\$240,000	\$200,000	
Evans Creek Relocation <i>City of Redmond</i>	\$674,000	\$170,000	\$844,000	\$338,174	Funding for design and a smaller portion of construction activities than proposed. Must seek to reduce channel confinement by modifying wood placements and using less imported substrate. Include more large trees in the planting plan. Design check-ins with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee required.
Little Bear Creek Knotweed Control and Reforestation <i>Snohomish County</i>	\$75,400	\$14,000	\$89,400	\$75,400	
Totals	\$2,298,821	\$485,100	\$2,783,921	\$1,890,898	

Attachment 1

2015 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant Round

1. Tor Bell – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*
2. Christa Heller – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
3. Kollin Higgins – King County
4. Peter Holte – City of Redmond
5. Cyndy Holtz – Seattle Public Utilities
6. Frank Leonetti – Snohomish County
7. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
8. Kerry Ritland – City of Issaquah
9. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8
10. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member