

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

King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Funding Summary: Table 1 illustrates the 2015 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding available to WRIA 8 for priority projects and programs, as well as the funding requested. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2015 allocation from the King County Flood Control District plus 2014 grant funds carried forward to this year. Sixteen proposals were submitted for funding consideration.

<i>Table 1. Summary of 2015 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Funds</i>	
2015 CWM Funding Requested	\$1,973,592
2015 CWM Allocation	\$1,585,227
Carryover CWM Funds From 2014	\$229,257
Total Funding Available	\$1,814,484
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$159,108)</i>

Salmon Recovery Council Funding Guidance for 2015: At its January 15 meeting, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council confirmed the allocation of 2015 CWM funds presented in Table 2 (which includes the 2014 carryover shown above). The Council also approved a riparian habitat/stewardship category eligible to receive up to 15% of the funding set aside for habitat protection and restoration projects.

<i>Table 2. Approved CWM Funding Guidance for 2015</i>	
Site-specific projects and acquisitions (minimum)	\$1,205,711
Riparian habitat/stewardship (maximum)	\$212,773
Monitoring (maximum)	\$300,000
Education and outreach (maximum)	\$96,000
Total	\$1,814,484

Grant Eligibility and Administration: Activities proposed for CWM funding must occur within King County, and the proposed scope and budget must meet the guidelines and policies outlined by King County, who administers CWM grants. There is no matching requirement, although match is encouraged. Additionally, proposed activities must be reflected on the WRIA 8 Three-Year Work Plan.

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 May 4 and later met to assess each proposal using the WRIA 8 grant criteria to determine alignment with WRIA 8 recovery objectives and priorities. The criteria aid the Subcommittee’s evaluation of proposals and the development of funding recommendations, and funding is prioritized for those proposals that demonstrate the greatest capacity to successfully implement objectives from the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

2015 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Protection and Restoration Projects

1. Salmon Run Nature Park Stream Restoration – *City of Issaquah*

Grant Request: \$525,000 Funding Recommended: \$525,000

Proposal: This project will improve instream and riparian habitat for Chinook salmon and other species on the main stem of Issaquah Creek at the recently-acquired Salmon Run Nature Park. Construction of the project will include stream channel and floodplain widening and restoration, large wood placement, invasive species removal, and re-vegetation with native plants.

2. Klapp Restoration – *King County*

Grant Request: \$60,000 Funding Recommended: \$60,000

Proposal: King County seeks to restore the confluence of Mackey and Bear Creeks and the adjacent floodplain. The lower 270 feet of Mackey Creek and approximately 150 feet of Bear Creek will be enhanced by removing armor, grading the banks, adding large wood, and planting native vegetation. The primary objective of the project is to improve juvenile Chinook rearing habitat.

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

Grant Request: \$315,114 Funding Recommended: \$315,114

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.

4. Issaquah Creek Instream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park – *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

Grant Request: \$45,000 Funding Recommended: \$45,000

Proposal: The Greenway Trust proposes planning and design for instream restoration and large wood installations along the 6,600-foot reach of Issaquah Creek within Lake Sammamish State Park. Instream restoration will provide structural diversity and more functional and complex habitat, which is currently lacking in this area.

5. Evans Creek Relocation – *City of Redmond*

Grant Request: \$410,000 Funding Recommended: \$335,061*

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 channel, restore over 10 acres of riparian buffer, and enhance 12 acres of existing wooded wetland near the channel.

*Reduced funding recommended, to be applied to remaining design costs. 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.

2015 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects

1. **Issaquah Creek Public Land Restoration Maintenance – *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust***

Grant Request: \$45,000 Funding Recommended: \$45,000

Proposal: This proposal will support previous efforts to restore riparian habitat along Issaquah Creek within Lake Sammamish State Park and will maintain restoration plantings at the former Issaquah Hatchery Dam site. Funds will be used to conduct follow-up invasive plant treatment and infill plantings to ensure the success of previous restoration investments.

2. **Cottage Lake Creek Riparian Planting – *King County***

Grant Request: \$75,000 Funding Recommended: \$75,000

Proposal: Working with private property owners, King County seeks to restore riparian buffers along Cottage Lake Creek. Grant funds will be used to treat invasive species, remove bank armor (where applicable), and replant the riparian area.

3. **Bear Creek Riparian Restoration – *Wild Fish Conservancy***

Grant Request: \$72,000 Funding Recommended: \$20,000*

Proposal: Wild Fish Conservancy requests funds to identify and prioritize riparian restoration opportunities and enhance riparian areas to support habitat for Chinook salmon and other species. Invasive species management and/or planting of native vegetation and restoration monitoring are proposed as landowner access and funding allows, starting with the highest priority project.

*Reduced funding is recommended, with the funding to be used for data compilation and analysis and landowner outreach only. The sponsor will also be asked to come to a WRIA 8 Technical Committee meeting to share their progress and further discuss their implementation approach.

2015 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Monitoring

1. **Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring – *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife***

Grant Request: \$241,146 Funding Recommended: \$241,146

Proposal: The purpose of this work is to monitor viable salmonid population (VSP) parameters of Chinook salmon in WRIA 8 by trapping and tagging juvenile fish. The resulting abundance, productivity, survival, and life-history diversity data will be used to evaluate the success of implementing the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

2. **Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring – King County**

Grant Request: \$57,163 Funding Recommended: \$57,163

Proposal: The purpose of this project is to monitor spawning Chinook salmon in WRIA 8. These data will be used to evaluate the success of implementing the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

2015 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Outreach and Education

1. **Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Program – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust**

Grant Request: \$15,000 Funding Recommended: \$15,000

Proposal: The Mountains to Sound Greenway Education Program teaches inquiry-based science curricula to 4th – 12th grade students. Through a combination of classroom learning and onsite restoration work, students learn how to take action to improve the health of ecosystems. This particular program emphasizes the interconnectivity between healthy forests and streams and their importance to the salmon life cycle.

2. **Beach Naturalists – Seattle Aquarium**

Grant Request: \$13,200 Funding Recommended: \$13,200

Proposal: The Beach Naturalist program is a public education and outreach campaign designed to engage citizens in learning how to protect and conserve the nearshore environment. Trained naturalists motivate behavioral change by raising public understanding of the value of the intertidal ecosystem, the nearshore, and Puget Sound—and connect these habitats to the needs of salmon.

3. **Cedar River Salmon Journey – Seattle Aquarium**

Grant Request: \$38,500 Funding Recommended: \$38,500

Proposal: By providing opportunities for people to see salmon and learn how individual choices affect them, the Cedar River Salmon Journey supports and promotes salmon recovery in WRIA 8. Since 1998, the Salmon Journey program has educated over 98,000 citizens about Cedar River salmon, watershed health, and the actions citizens can take to help salmon recovery efforts.

4. **Watershed Education for Decision-Makers – Sound Salmon Solutions**

Grant Request: \$14,997 Funding Recommended: \$14,997

Proposal: This program aims to improve elected officials' knowledge and understanding of natural resource management issues and solutions through a science-based, politically neutral, summary level, field-based education program. The goal is to improve natural resource protection by connecting elected officials with resources to provide them with a better understanding of how their decisions impact water quality and salmon recovery.

5. **Salmon Watcher – King County**

Grant Request: \$26,748 Funding Recommended: \$14,303*

Proposal: The Salmon Watcher Program educates watershed residents about the salmon present in their local streams and the ways their daily choices can impact stream and salmon health. Eight cities in WRIA 8 work together with King County and Cedar River Salmon Journey (CRSJ) to recruit and train watershed residents about salmon and salmon conservation issues, and data on salmon presence are collected by volunteers and used by jurisdictions and for further education.

*Reduced funding recommended for this program. Salmon Watcher continues to evolve to address Subcommittee feedback, but the program was not as competitive as the other outreach activities recommended for funding. The Subcommittee developed recommendations for the sponsor aimed at trimming costs while still potentially allowing the work to move forward in a productive way.

6. **Salmon-Safe Urban Outreach – Stewardship Partners**

Grant Request: \$19,724 Funding Recommended: \$0*

Proposal: Stewardship Partners proposes to conduct direct outreach, hold education events, and conduct communications campaigns to address stormwater pollution prevention and protection of stream habitat. This work would target the development community and be conducted in coordination with local jurisdictions and private landowners.

*Funding not recommended for this program. While the program targets a priority audience, the proposal did not articulate a clear vision for implementing the program’s objectives, and a portion of the proposal’s scope is ineligible for this funding source.

Reallocation of Returned King Conservation District Grant Funds

During the CWM grant review process, WRIA 8 staff was notified of \$115,056 being returned to the King Conservation District (KCD) from a past WRIA 8 KCD grant. This amount is available for reallocation to priority WRIA 8 projects. When returned grant funds have been available to WRIA 8 in the past, the funds have been allocated to known priorities without a separate, competitive grant process. The Project Subcommittee proposes allocating these funds to the following projects.

1. **Lower Lewis Creek Restoration – City of Issaquah Funding Recommended: \$75,292**

WRIA 8 awarded this project a grant for construction in 2013, and the City recently became aware of a cost overrun due to a long permitting process resulting in higher design and materials costs than originally forecast. This funding would allow the project to proceed to construction this summer.

2. **Sammamish River Side Channel – City of Bothell Funding Recommended: \$39,764**

This project is recommended for 2015 grant funding to support construction. Additional funds will allow the City to redirect some of their local match to understanding the effects of the project while ensuring the project has sufficient funding for all capital activities. As the first project of this kind on the Sammamish, this knowledge will inform future work at the site and at other sites on the river.

Table 3: Habitat Protection and Restoration Project 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>
Salmon Run Nature Park Stream Restoration <i>City of Issaquah</i>	\$525,000	\$150,000	\$675,000	\$525,000	
Klapp Restoration <i>King County</i>	\$60,000	\$67,089	\$127,089	\$60,000	
Sammamish River Side Channel Restoration <i>City of Bothell</i>	\$315,114	\$772,408	\$1,087,522	\$315,114	
Issaquah Creek Instream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$45,000	\$10,000	\$55,000	\$45,000	
Evans Creek Relocation <i>City of Redmond</i>	\$410,000	\$84,000	\$494,000	\$335,061	Funding for design. 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.
Totals	\$1,355,114	\$1,083,497	\$2,438,611	\$1,280,175	
				\$1,205,711	<i>Minimum Project Allocation</i>

Table 4: Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Project 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>
Issaquah Creek Public Land Restoration Maintenance <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$45,000	\$25,000	\$70,000	\$45,000	
Cottage Lake Creek Riparian Planting <i>King County</i>	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$75,000	
Bear Creek Riparian Restoration <i>Wild Fish Conservancy</i>	\$72,000	\$500	\$72,500	\$20,000	Funding for assessment only. Share results as they become available with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee.
Totals	\$192,000	\$50,500	\$242,500	\$140,000	
				\$212,773	<i>Maximum Riparian Allocation</i>

Table 5: Monitoring 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>
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$241,146	\$110,000	\$351,146	\$241,146	
Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring <i>King County</i>	\$57,163	\$0	\$57,163	\$57,163	
Totals	\$298,309	\$110,000	\$408,309	\$298,309	
				\$300,000	<i>Maximum Monitoring Allocation</i>

Table 6: Outreach and Education 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>
Forests and Fins Education Program <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	
Beach Naturalists <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$13,200	\$68,125	\$81,325	\$13,200	
Cedar River Salmon Journey <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$38,500	\$74,038	\$112,538	\$38,500	
Watershed Education for Decision-Makers <i>Sound Salmon Solutions</i>	\$14,997	\$0	\$14,997	\$14,997	
Salmon Watcher <i>King County</i>	\$26,748	\$35,532	\$62,180	\$14,303	
Salmon-Safe Urban Outreach <i>Stewardship Partners</i>	\$19,724	\$12,500	\$32,224	\$0	
Totals	\$128,169	\$195,195	\$323,264	\$96,000	
				\$96,000	<i>Maximum Outreach & Education Allocation</i>

Attachment 1

2015 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – Cooperative Watershed Management 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. Kathy Minsch – Seattle Public Utilities
6. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
7. Kerry Ritland – City of Issaquah
8. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8
9. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member