

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2016

Salmon Recovery Funding Board & Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grants

Funding Summary: Table 1 summarizes the funding for the 2016 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant cycle in WRIA 8. In past funding cycles we requested proposals for biennial PSAR funding in spring of the year the state budget was issued. This year, however, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council encouraged watersheds to request proposals a year earlier than usual, in order to deliver a funding package to the legislature identifying the projects that would be funded by PSAR. The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (Subcommittee) used a PSAR planning target provided by the Puget Sound Partnership, but the amount of 2017 – 2019 PSAR will not be known until the state legislature adopts the biennial budget next year.

| <i>Table 1. Summary of SRFB/PSAR Funds for 2016 Grant Cycle – WRIA 8</i> | |
|--|--------------------|
| 2015 – 2017 PSAR Carryover | \$75,400 |
| 2016 SRFB Allocation (Projected) | \$315,146 |
| 2017 – 2019 PSAR (Projected) | \$1,457,542 |
| <i>Total Funding Considered Available</i> | <i>\$1,848,088</i> |
| 2016 SRFB/PSAR Funding Requested | \$1,786,500 |
| <i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i> | <i>\$61,588</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. Eligible activities are primarily limited to acquisition and habitat restoration (including project design and planning activities that relate to project development), and a 15% match is required. Proposed activities must be reflected on the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan and have a clear link to one or more of WRIA 8’s priority recovery strategies.

Project Subcommittee Process: The Subcommittee (participants listed in Attachment 2) reviews grant proposals and develops funding recommendations for consideration by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (Council). The Subcommittee—along with an RCO grant manager and two members of the SRFB Technical Review Panel—visits project sites and hears presentations from project sponsors and subsequently assesses each proposal using the WRIA 8 grant criteria. The criteria are a tool to evaluate the degree to which proposals align with WRIA 8 recovery objectives, and funding is prioritized for proposals that demonstrate the greatest capacity to successfully implement objectives from the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

2016 SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendation Summary

1. Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Design – *Seattle Public Utilities*

Grant Request: \$350,000 Funding Recommended: \$350,000 (PSAR Carryover/SRFB)

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) requests funding for final design of a project that will improve instream, lakeshore, and delta habitat for Chinook salmon and other species on Taylor Creek, which flows into south Lake Washington. The stream channel is currently tightly confined by bank armoring, and past property acquisitions will allow SPU to meander the channel and dramatically improve habitat for juvenile Chinook migrating to Puget Sound. The project will also complete SPU's series of juvenile Chinook "rest stops," or refuge habitats along the south Lake Washington shoreline.

2. Wayne Sammamish Community Project – *Forterra/City of Bothell*

Grant Request: \$1,000,000 Funding Recommended: \$1,000,000 (PSAR)

The 89-acre Wayne Golf Course along the Sammamish River was recently acquired by Forterra for the purpose of conservation and future habitat restoration, and Forterra is seeking grant funding to repay the acquisition loan and allow for the property to be transferred to public ownership. This funding request is focused specifically on the "Back Nine," which contains 1,000 linear feet of Sammamish River shoreline and the downstream portion and mouth of Waynita Creek.

From a salmon recovery perspective, the most significant value of the acquisition is in the future restoration of the site. The Subcommittee spent considerable time discussing the project and how much funding to commit now given that the project partners (City of Bothell, King County, Forterra, and One Bothell) have three years to assemble the funding needed to repay the acquisition loan and allow for the transfer the property to public ownership. The timing of the PSAR cycle means the sponsor is unlikely to have another opportunity to apply for PSAR funding, and given the priority of the acquisition and funding timelines, the Subcommittee supported fully funding this request.

3. Willow Creek Daylighting Final Design – *City of Edmonds*

Grant Request: \$266,500 Funding Recommended: \$266,500 (PSAR)

The City of Edmonds seeks to continue the design process to daylight Willow Creek, which is the outlet of Edmonds Marsh to Puget Sound. Daylighting the creek from its current piped alignment will restore access for juvenile salmon into Edmonds Marsh, which will provide over 30 acres of tidally-influenced marsh habitat for rearing.

Various elements of uncertainty will need to be resolved before this project is implemented, which are intended to be addressed through the remainder of the design process. While significant uncertainty exists, there also exists significant potential to provide access to a sizeable backshore area for juvenile rearing. The sponsor will be asked to engage in check-in meetings with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee throughout the remainder of the design process to ensure the project is developing in a way to maximize Chinook benefit within the site's constraints.

4. **Bear Creek Reach 6 Restoration, Phase II Construction – Adopt a Stream Foundation**

Grant Request: \$170,000 Funding Recommended: \$170,000 (SRFB/PSAR)

The Adopt a Stream Foundation proposes to implement designs it is currently developing under a 2015 SRFB grant. The project is intended 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 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 and will connect to downstream mitigation sites that contain restored features.

The sponsor is currently very early in the design process, and the Subcommittee wants to see more aggressive wood placement to support natural processes, and they are also interested in seeing a better mix of native plants arranged more densely and strategically than done in the 2014 project. As such, the Subcommittee recommends a condition on this grant that the sponsor be required to receive Technical Committee approval for both preliminary and final design prior to the construction funds being released.

PSAR Carryover to 2017

As described on page one, watersheds were asked to solicit proposals for 2017 – 2019 PSAR funding much earlier than done in previous PSAR cycles. This presented readiness challenges for some projects and resulted in less funding being requested than was considered to be available to allocate. The Subcommittee submits to the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council a set of funding recommendations that allocates the PSAR planning target to the extent possible. We will request to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council and Puget Sound Partnership that we be able to carry forward the balance of \$61,588 to the 2017 SRFB grant round.

PSAR Large Capital Funding

In addition to each Puget Sound watershed’s PSAR funding allocation, PSP solicited large capital projects in the 2016 grant round, which will be used to develop a regionally-ranked list of projects for PSAR funding in the 2017 – 2019 biennium. These projects are intended to be ready to go as soon as funding is available and cost more than what could be funded through the typical watershed PSAR funding allocation. All large capital projects submitted to the region must be approved through the local SRFB/PSAR funding process, and ranking will take place at the regional level.

Given the criteria for large capital projects and the readiness of projects in WRIA 8, we received one large capital project submittal in 2016—the Wayne Sammamish Community Project. The sponsor is requesting \$2,000,000 in PSAR large capital funding to support the property acquisition costs of the Wayne Golf Course, and the Subcommittee recommends approving this submittal for regional evaluation and consideration.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for the 2016 SRFB/PSAR Grant Cycle

| Table 2: SRFB/PSAR Grant Funding Recommendations | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------------------|---|---|
| <i>Project Name and Sponsor</i> | <i>Request</i> | <i>Match</i> | <i>Project Total</i> | <i>Recommendation</i> | <i>Grant Conditions</i> |
| Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Design <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i> | \$350,000 | \$87,500 | \$437,500 | \$350,000 (PSAR Carryover/SRFB) | |
| Wayne Sammamish Community Project <i>Forterra/City of Bothell</i> | \$1,000,000 | \$200,000 | \$1,200,000 | \$1,000,000 (PSAR) | |
| Willow Creek Daylighting Final Design <i>City of Edmonds</i> | \$266,500 | \$48,000 | \$314,500 | \$266,500 (PSAR) | Sponsor will need to check-in with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee as the design progresses. |
| Bear Creek Reach 6 Restoration, Phase II Construction <i>Adopt a Stream Foundation</i> | \$170,000 | \$30,000 | \$200,000 | \$170,000 (SRFB/PSAR) | Sponsor will be required to obtain WRIA 8 Technical Committee approval for preliminary and final design prior to grant agreement. |
| Totals | \$1,786,500 | \$365,500 | \$2,152,000 | \$1,786,500 | |

| Table 3: 2016 SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendation Summary | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Projected Total Funding Available</i> | <i>Total Funding Recommended</i> | <i>Requested Carryover to 2017</i> |
| \$1,848,088 | \$1,786,500 | \$61,588 |

| Table 4: 2017 – 2019 PSAR Large Capital Project Summary | |
|---|---|
| <i>Project Name and Sponsor</i> | <i>Funding Request Submitted for Regional Consideration</i> |
| Wayne Sammamish Community Project <i>Forterra/City of Bothell</i> | \$2,000,000 |

Attachment 2

2016 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – Salmon Recovery Funding Board/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant Round

1. Tor Bell – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*
2. Jim Bower – King County
3. Diane Buckshnis – City of Edmonds*
4. Brett Gaddis – Snohomish County
5. Christa Heller – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
6. Cyndy Holtz – Seattle Public Utilities
7. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
8. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8
9. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member