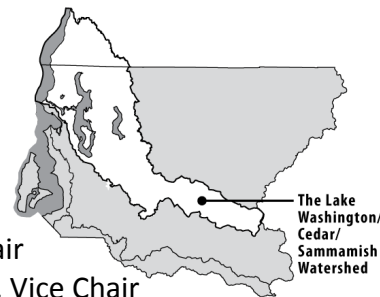


WATER RESOURCE INVENTORY AREA (WRIA 8) SALMON RECOVERY COUNCIL



May 10, 2017



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Cedar River Council
Friends of the Cedar River Watershed
Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Long Live the Kings
Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Northwest Marine Trade Association
Sno-King Watershed Council
Trout Unlimited
Water Tenders

Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
US Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Departments:
Ecology
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Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
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King County Flood Control Board Supervisor Joe McDermott
King County Flood Control Board Supervisor Pete von Reichbauer

RE: WRIA 8 Chinook salmon recovery goals and Cedar River Corridor Plan Capital Investment Strategy

Dear King County Flood Control District Board of Supervisors:

The Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council (Council) appreciated the opportunity to participate on the Flood Control District (District) Cedar River Corridor Plan Advisory Committee. Our understanding is that the District's Board of Supervisors (Board) will soon consider the draft Cedar River Corridor Plan Capital Investment Strategy (CIS). To a great extent, there is strong overlap between priority flood risk reduction areas included in the draft CIS and WRIA 8 priority habitat restoration project areas. These areas offer opportunities to achieve multiple benefits, form partnerships, and leverage District funding. The WRIA 8 Council encourages the Board to give due consideration to potential multiple benefits and to support project alternatives that fully integrate flood risk reduction and habitat restoration objectives.

WRIA 8 is currently updating the 2005 WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (Plan), which will guide future salmon recovery efforts in the watershed. As an important step in this process, the Council recently adopted habitat restoration goals. The goals are intended to outline the habitat restoration direction that is needed to achieve salmon recovery, provide targets for some of the most important Chinook salmon habitat elements in the watershed, and allow us to better measure progress towards salmon recovery.

Included in WRIA 8's habitat goals are goals pertaining to the Cedar River (see below). The goals are scientifically-based and focus on improving the survival of juvenile salmon by reconnecting the river to its floodplain and increasing the amount of wood in the river

WRIA 8 Cedar River Chinook salmon habitat recovery goals:

- Floodplain reconnection – By 2025, a total of 1,170 acres of floodplain will be connected between Lake Washington and Landsburg Dam. This represents an increase of 130 acres from current conditions.
- Wood volume – By 2025, average wood volume will increase to nearly the 25th percentile of the wood volume standard for rivers like the Cedar. This represents increasing the wood volume from 10.4m³/100m to 42m³/100m.

While these goals are ambitious, they are also intended to be achievable. To that end, the opportunity to partner and to leverage funding to implement projects that can achieve multiple benefits—including integrated flood risk reduction and habitat restoration—is very important to us.

Regarding specific CIS projects, the Council also encourages the Board to consider elevating strategic acquisitions from a medium-term action to a near-term action. In many cases, land acquisition can allow for implementation of projects that are self-sustaining and do not require much, if any, future maintenance. Such projects also allow natural processes to occur, which provides benefits to salmon habitat. Land acquisitions often occur opportunistically, so it is important to have funds available in the near-term in order to respond when property owners become willing to sell.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate on the Corridor Plan Advisory Committee and for considering these comments. As you move toward implementation of the Cedar River CIS, we look forward to opportunities to work with you to implement projects that help achieve Cedar River salmon habitat goals while simultaneously reducing risk to people and property. Please let me know if you have any questions (Andy.Rheaume@ci.bothell.wa.us or 206-999-8835)

Sincerely,



Andy Rheaume
Chair, WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council
Mayor, City of Bothell

cc: WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council members
King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee members
Michelle Clark, Executive Director, King County Flood Control District
Josh Baldi, Director, King County Water and Land Resources Division