

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2017

King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Funding Summary: Table 1 summarizes the 2017 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2017 allocation from the King County Flood Control District plus funds returned from past grant rounds and carryover funding from 2016.

2017 CWM Funding Requested	\$4,461,191
2017 CWM Allocation	\$1,646,361
Returned & Carryover Funds	\$732,984
Total Funding Available	\$2,379,345
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$2,081,846)</i>

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. Eligible activities include habitat restoration (including planning and design), acquisition, monitoring, and public outreach and education. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged. Proposed activities must be reflected on the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan.

Project Subcommittee Process: The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (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 visits project sites and hears in-office 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*.

Salmon Recovery Council Guidance for Allocating CWM Funds: Consistent with past years, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council approved funding guidance to apply to the Subcommittee’s allocation of CWM funds across eligible categories (November 2016 Council meeting). The maximum amount for monitoring was set at \$300,000, the maximum for outreach and education is \$96,000, and the balance is the amount for restoration and protection projects (with up to 15% of the project total as a guideline for riparian-only proposals). As part of the funding guidance, the Council grants the Subcommittee the flexibility to deviate from the funding targets where watershed priorities and the merits of the proposals justify doing so.

2017 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Protection and Restoration Projects

1. Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement – *Washington Department of Natural Resources*

Grant Request: \$616,247 Funding Recommended: \$583,142*

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes a shovel-ready project to restore shoreline and upland habitat on and along Bird Island, which is a small island adjacent to Gene Coulon Park in Renton. The project will remove over 300 cubic yards of rock and concrete debris from the shoreline, re-establish a gently sloping beach profile, place two large logjams along the shoreline, and restore riparian and upland vegetation. The project is intended to benefit juvenile Chinook salmon rearing and refuge habitat and will complement the DNR's recently completed shoreline enhancement work just to the west of this site, at Boeing.

* The request is for the full cost of construction, plantings, and educational signs. The Subcommittee recommends funding the full construction cost, while asking DNR to phase in the plantings or signage or use other resources for these elements.

2. Royal Arch Reach Acquisition – *Seattle Public Utilities*

Grant Request: \$362,700 Funding Recommended: \$362,700

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) currently owns 14 acres of floodplain habitat in the Royal Arch reach of the Cedar River, near Maple Valley. SPU's goal is to acquire property sufficient to enable a 55-acre floodplain reconnection project. The current proposal is to acquire in fee a 0.27 acre parcel that is within the channel migration zone and is integral to the future restoration effort. Funds will be used to acquire the property, demolish the structure, and treat invasive plants.

3. Bear Creek Doyle Restoration – *King County*

Grant Request: \$50,000 Funding Recommended: \$25,000*

The Doyle Restoration project will enhance fish habitat along 600 lineal feet of Bear Creek by adding wood to the channel, excavating side channels in the floodplain, and replanting the riparian area with native plantings. These actions are expected to increase spawning and rearing habitat and restore habitat-forming processes. King County is designing, constructing, and funding the project in a cooperative partnership with the City of Redmond, which shares jurisdiction over the project site.

* The grant request is for plants and crew time to do the planting. The Subcommittee recommends funding for the plants only, with the expectation that King County can obtain crew time elsewhere.

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

Grant Request: \$165,790 Funding Recommended: \$165,790

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust requests funding to complete preliminary design and initial permit planning and consultation for instream restoration and large woody debris installations along

the 6,600-foot length of Issaquah Creek within Lake Sammamish State Park. Instream restoration along this reach of Issaquah Creek will provide more complex habitat than exists there presently, benefitting adult and juvenile Chinook, coho, and kokanee. This proposal will build on the conceptual design produced under an earlier CWM grant.

5. Bear Creek Large Woody Debris at Keller Farm – *City of Redmond*

Grant Request: \$679,325 Funding Recommended: \$340,000*

The City of Redmond recently acquired the Keller Farm property along Bear Creek and is developing an 80-acre wetland mitigation bank on the site. The mitigation bank is most interested in enhancing wetlands and tributaries, yet Redmond wants to enhance instream complexity and habitat diversity throughout this important spawning, rearing, and migratory reach of Bear Creek. The city proposes to place up to 300 pieces of wood in the Bear Creek channel, which will not count toward the mitigation bank credit but will significantly improve habitat in nearly 4,000 feet of Bear Creek.

* The request would fully fund implementation of the wood placements, scheduled to take place in 2018. The Subcommittee recommends partial funding now and suggests either a phased approach to implementation or additional justification for the proposed wood levels.

6. Middle Bear Creek Natural Area Additions – *King County*

Grant Request: \$500,000 Funding Recommended: \$200,000*

King County proposes the acquisition of three parcels totaling 26.2 acres along Bear Creek. The properties include approximately 750 lineal feet of Bear Creek, on both banks. Some of the property is located far from the creek, so following purchase, up to 13 acres of the property may be resold, allowing King County to reimburse a portion of the grant funds. King County has an agreement with Forterra to buy and hold the property for two years to allow time to raise the needed funds.

* The Subcommittee recognizes securing both sides of Bear Creek is important, but partial funding is recommended due to the competitiveness of the grant round and the general lack of urgency due to the buy and hold agreement with Forterra.

7. Laughing Jacobs Creek Reroute Feasibility and Alternatives Analysis – *Trout Unlimited*

Grant Request: \$201,062 Funding Recommended: \$100,000*

Trout Unlimited proposes to evaluate restoration alternatives on lower Laughing Jacobs Creek and its confluence delta with Lake Sammamish, including 2,900 feet of stream channel and approximately 70 surrounding acres. Results of the work will be used as a basis for future restoration of juvenile Chinook rearing habitats in close proximity to Issaquah Creek. Habitat enhancements at this location will also benefit Lake Sammamish kokanee.

* The Subcommittee recommends partial funding to better understand the extent of the benefit that may result from work in this area and its potential contributions to Chinook recovery.

8. Wayne Sammamish Community Project – Forterra/City of Bothell

Grant Request: \$1,000,000 Funding Recommended: \$0

Forterra and the City of Bothell continue their fundraising to acquire in fee the 89-acre Wayne Golf Course along the Sammamish River. Forterra acquired the property in 2016 for the purpose of conservation and eventual habitat restoration, and grant funding is being sought to repay the acquisition loan and allow for the property to be transferred to public ownership. The total acquisition budget is approximately \$11,000,000.

To date, project partners have secured \$3,500,000 in grant funds (including a 2016 WRIA 8 CWM award of \$600,000). Pending requests are in place for over \$5,500,000 from local and state sources (including a 2016 WRIA 8 PSAR award of \$1,000,000—which looks likely to be awarded).

A primary point of concern for the Subcommittee is that it is unclear how the current request would combine with the funding awarded in 2016. While the entire property should be protected, some portions of the site are more appealing from a salmon recovery perspective—where the funding would go was not clear. The Subcommittee also acknowledged the substantial investment made by WRIA 8 already, and with the competition for limited resources this year, the Subcommittee recommends that scarce funds be applied to other proposals.

9. Bear Creek Watershed Instream Restoration Feasibility and Conceptual Design Development – Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Grant Request: \$60,658 Funding Recommended: \$0*

Mid-Sound proposes a coordinated effort with Forterra, King County, and other partners working in the Bear Creek basin to identify private properties along specific segments of Bear Creek and Cottage Lake Creek as sites for future instream habitat restoration projects. Once interested landowners are identified, the proposal calls for developing two to four conceptual designs for projects focused on increasing instream complexity and habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon.

* The Subcommittee views this effort as worthwhile but notes that it needs more time to develop. While no CWM funding is recommended, the Subcommittee requests that WRIA 8 provide the sponsor with some funding that is set aside in the WRIA 8 Lead Entity contract for project development, which will enable Mid-Sound to initiate landowner outreach.

2017 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects

1. Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Renton – Forterra

Grant Request: \$71,220 Funding Recommended: \$71,220

In 2014, Forterra and the City of Renton expanded the successful Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action program (a partnership between Forterra, Seattle Public Utilities, and King County’s Noxious Weeds Control Program) throughout Renton’s jurisdiction. The goal of the Renton work is to expand to the

mouth of the Cedar the effort to control knotweed and restore riparian habitat on private and public land and to provide education and technical assistance to riverfront landowners and the recreational community. Funding will support outreach, invasive plant treatment, and riparian plantings through fall 2019.

2. Bear Creek Watershed Riparian Improvement – Forterra

Grant Request: \$124,095 Funding Recommended: \$81,312*

Using the Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action program as a model, Forterra initiated outreach and knotweed surveys along Bear Creek in 2016. The current proposal is to expand survey to tributaries, initiate knotweed treatment on public and private lands, and restore native plant communities to benefit Chinook salmon and other instream resources. A component of this effort will be to develop community outreach tools focused on stream stewardship, as well as fostering partnerships with other nonprofits and natural resource managers engaged in habitat restoration in the watershed.

* The funding request would support two field seasons of noxious weed control and planting, as well as ongoing landowner outreach. Given the competition for funds and that this type of work can be relatively easily scaled to match available funding, the Subcommittee recommends a partial award.

3. Holder Creek Riparian Restoration – King County

Grant Request: \$165,000 Funding Recommended: \$57,000*

King County proposes to construct livestock exclusion fencing along 1,750 feet of Holder Creek (Issaquah Creek headwaters) on a property that is actively used for livestock grazing. Following the fence installation, the County will restore approximately 6 acres of riparian vegetation between the fence and Holder Creek, with a variable buffer averaging 150 feet. The area is an important Chinook spawning and rearing area, and the buffers (agreed to by the King County Agriculture Program) are the result extended conversations about balancing restoration and active agriculture.

* The Subcommittee recommends funding for the fencing and encourages King County to seek other sources of funds for the planting component of the project. The fence cost is acknowledged as high, but the Subcommittee finds value in supporting this agriculture/restoration partnership.

4. Redhook Brewery Sammamish River Riparian Restoration – Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

Grant Request: \$71,913 Funding Recommended: \$0

Mid-Sound proposes to remove invasive blackberry and plant the riparian corridor along 800 feet of the Sammamish River at Redhook Brewery, on land owned by King County Parks. This goal of the project is to establish riparian canopy along the Sammamish to address issues of high water temperatures, benefitting multiple Chinook life stages.

The Subcommittee agrees this project involves extensive coordination with multiple agencies (King County Parks, King County River and Floodplain Management, Corps of Engineers). Even so, the cost is high for the anticipated benefit and funding is limited, which together led to the recommendation.

2017 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Monitoring/Investigations

1. Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring – King County

Grant Request: \$55,072 Funding Recommended: \$55,072

The purpose of this effort is to monitor spawning Chinook in WRIA 8 through redd and carcass surveys. These data are used in concert with juvenile monitoring data to evaluate viable salmonid population (VSP) parameters and thus the success of implementing the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

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

Grant Request: \$244,900 Funding Recommended: \$244,900

The proposal will continue the monitoring of VSP parameters of Chinook in WRIA 8 by trapping and tagging juvenile fish. The resulting abundance, productivity, survival, and life-history diversity data are used to evaluate the success of implementing the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

2017 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Outreach and Education

1. Beach Naturalists – Seattle Aquarium

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

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 they connect these habitats to the needs of salmon.

2. Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Project – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Grant Request: \$16,000 Funding Recommended: \$16,000

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Program teaches inquiry-based science curricula to 4th – 12th grade students, combining classroom learning and onsite restoration work to teach ways 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.

3. Cedar River Salmon Journey – Seattle Aquarium

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

This program provides opportunities for people to see salmon and learn how individual choices affect them, and in so doing supports and promotes salmon recovery in WRIA 8. Since 1998, the Salmon Journey program has educated over 118,000 citizens about Cedar River salmon, watershed health, and the actions citizens can take to help salmon recovery efforts.

4. Salmon Heroes: Improving Stewardship Behaviors through Science-Based Field Studies –
Environmental Science Center

Grant Request: \$10,000 Funding Recommended: \$10,000

The Salmon Heroes program delivers a 3-part, 5-hour field study program to students in grades 4 – 12, focusing on everyday citizen actions to reduce polluted stormwater runoff and improve native vegetation. Students visit the Cedar River, learn about limiting factors to salmon survival (especially stormwater), and collect water quality data to be analyzed in the classroom. This proposal will support reaching students primarily in Renton schools, targeting schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families and providing subsidies to ensure equity.

5. Salmon-Safe Accelerator for the Sammamish Valley – Stewardship Partners

Grant Request: \$15,509 Funding Recommended: \$15,509

This proposal will support training programs and technical sessions related to low impact development and land management methods that target zero sediment runoff to protect water quality and salmon habitat in the Sammamish Valley. Target audiences include developers, municipalities, and farmers. The trainings seek to accelerate the adoption of Salmon-Safe practices across the Sammamish Valley, the goal of which is “beyond compliance” stormwater management.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2017 CWM Grant Funds

Table 2: Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Project Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Leverage</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Bird Island Shoreline Enhancement <i>Washington Department of Natural Resources</i>	\$616,247	\$500,000	\$1,116,247	\$583,142
Royal Arch Reach Acquisition <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i>	\$362,700	\$3,300,000	\$3,662,700	\$362,700
Bear Creek Doyle Restoration <i>King County</i>	\$50,000	\$254,000	\$304,000	\$25,000
Issaquah Creek Instream Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$165,790	\$15,000	\$180,790	\$165,790
Bear Creek Large Woody Debris at Keller Farm <i>City of Redmond</i>	\$679,325	\$101,898	\$781,223	\$340,000
Middle Bear Creek Natural Area Additions <i>King County</i>	\$500,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$200,000
Laughing Jacobs Creek Reroute Feasibility and Alternatives Analysis – Trout Unlimited	\$201,062	\$45,000	\$246,062	\$100,000
Wayne Sammamish Community Project <i>Forterra</i>	\$1,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$11,000,000	\$0
Bear Creek Watershed Instream Restoration Feasibility and Conceptual Design Development – Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$60,658	\$0	\$60,658	\$0
Totals	\$3,635,782	\$16,215,898	\$19,851,680	\$1,776,632

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2017 CWM Grant Funds

Table 3: Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Project Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Leverage</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action: Renton <i>Forterra</i>	\$71,220	\$37,000	\$108,220	\$71,220
Bear Creek Watershed Riparian Improvement <i>Forterra</i>	\$124,095	\$24,000	\$148,095	\$81,312
Holder Creek Riparian Restoration <i>King County</i>	\$165,000	\$0	\$165,000	\$57,000
Redhook Brewery Sammamish River Riparian Restoration <i>Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group</i>	\$71,913	\$2,250	\$74,163	\$0
Totals	\$432,228	\$63,250	\$495,478	\$209,532

Table 4: Monitoring Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Leverage</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring <i>King County</i>	\$55,072	\$0	\$55,072	\$55,072
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$244,900	\$85,800	\$330,700	\$244,900
Totals	\$299,972	\$85,800	\$385,772	\$299,972

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2017 CWM Grant Funds

Table 5: Outreach and Education Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Beach Naturalists <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$13,200	\$122,265	\$135,465	\$13,200
Mountains to Sound Greenway Forest and Fins Education Program – <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$16,000	\$13,500	\$29,500	\$16,000
Cedar River Salmon Journey <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$38,500	\$65,602	\$104,102	\$38,500
Salmon Heroes: Improving Stewardship Behaviors through Science-Based Field Studies – <i>Environmental Science Center</i>	\$10,000	\$27,898	\$37,898	\$10,000
Salmon-Safe Accelerator for the Sammamish Valley <i>Stewardship Partners</i>	\$15,509	\$22,750	\$38,259	\$15,509
Totals	\$93,209	\$252,015	\$345,224	\$93,209

Attachment 2

2017 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Round

1. Tor Bell – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*
2. Jim Bower – King County
3. Diane Buckshnis – City of Edmonds*
4. Casey Costello – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
5. Peter Holte – City of Redmond
6. Kathy Minsch – Seattle Public Utilities
7. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
8. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
9. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member