

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2018

King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Funding Summary: Table 1 summarizes the 2018 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2018 allocation from the King County Flood Control District plus funds returned from past grant rounds.

2018 CWM Funding Requested	\$2,574,645
2018 CWM Allocation	\$1,695,197
Returned Funds	\$70,615
Total Funding Available	\$1,765,812
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$808,833)</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 WRIA 8 objectives and recovery strategies.

Salmon Recovery Council Guidance for Allocating CWM Funds: Consistent with past years, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council approved guidance to apply to the Subcommittee’s allocation of CWM funds across eligible categories (November 2017 Council meeting). The Council adopted status quo funding guidance, setting the maximum for monitoring at \$300,000 and the maximum for outreach and education at \$96,000. The remaining balance is the amount for restoration and acquisition projects (with up to 15% of this amount available for projects focused entirely on riparian restoration and stewardship). The Council also granted the Subcommittee the flexibility to deviate from the funding targets where watershed priorities and the merits of the proposals justify doing so.

2018 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Acquisition and Restoration Projects

1. Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Construction – King County

Grant Request: \$1,000,000 Funding Recommended: \$766,259*

The Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Project will reconnect approximately 52 acres of floodplain to the Cedar River and create new side channel and off channel habitat in the floodplain, primarily through removing approximately 3,000 feet of an existing levee and enhancing habitat within the currently-disconnected floodplain. By reconnecting the river to the floodplain, this project will improve the quality and quantity of habitat for salmonid spawning and rearing, with a particular emphasis on creating low velocity refuge habitat to benefit juvenile Chinook salmon. This project also provides flood risk reduction benefits by providing additional flood storage and conveyance capacity and alleviating pressure on at-risk infrastructure.

* The request is for a portion of construction funding, and King County is applying to other grant sources to fulfill the construction funding need. The Subcommittee’s recommendation for partial funding does not suggest a deficiency in the project but is rather a function of not having enough resources to fully fund this work while also supporting other priority projects in the watershed.

2. Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration Design – City of Issaquah

Grant Request: \$120,000 Funding Recommended: \$120,000

The City of Issaquah is initiating design on a project located along the main stem of Issaquah Creek that seeks to improve salmonid habitat through instream and riparian restoration and the creation of backwater channels in the floodplain. The concepts proposed include removing bank armoring to allow for greater floodplain/channel interactions and placing log structures in the expanded floodplain and in and along the backwater channels. The project area includes approximately 1,200 feet of Issaquah Creek and up to 7.5 acres of floodplain, and this funding will combine with city funds to produce a final project design.

3. Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Final Design and Permitting – Seattle Public Utilities

Grant Request: \$400,000 Funding Recommended: \$100,000*

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is currently designing 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 complete SPU’s series of juvenile Chinook “rest stops,” or refuge habitats along the south Lake Washington shoreline.

In the 2016 grant round, WRIA 8 provided significant funding toward the design phase of this project. This request for additional design funding is partly due to unforeseen permitting requirements. The Subcommittee’s recommendation reflects their perspective on the overall cost of design phase and the significant contributions already made from salmon recovery grants.

* The Subcommittee’s recommendation is to fund the permitting cost identified by the sponsor (\$80,000) and to advance additional salmon habitat-related elements of the remaining design.

4. NE 95th Street Restoration on Bear Creek – *City of Redmond*

Grant Request: \$143,490 Funding Recommended: \$143,490

The City of Redmond proposes to install four log jams with associated backwater alcoves on both banks of a 300-foot reach of Bear Creek, to be accompanied by 1.4 acres of riparian planting. This work expands on and connects to a mitigation project that will be completed just upstream, extending instream and riparian enhancements across the full extent of public ownership in this reach. The reach consistently sees Chinook and sockeye spawning, and the enhancements will benefit both spawning and rearing habitat. Redmond expects to construct the project in 2019.

5. Bear Creek Little Bit Restoration Design – *King County*

Grant Request: \$174,105 Funding Recommended: \$128,000*

King County is initiating design for a project that will enhance fish habitat on approximately 650 linear feet of Bear Creek adjacent to another recently-implemented restoration project funded in part by CWM. The goal is to increase the amount of off-channel habitat for juvenile salmonids and to increase overall habitat quality. The site of this project is on property acquired through a previous WRIA 8-funded grant, and the grant request will support design and permitting costs.

* This project includes a short length of road protection, and while the approach will be to use wood and be as fish-friendly as possible, it remains bank protection and isn’t purely habitat enhancement. The amount of funding recommended by the Subcommittee is proportional to the cost of design excluding the road protection component.

2018 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects

1. Lakeside Property Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park – *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

Grant Request: \$56,363 Funding Recommended: \$56,363

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will use this funding to conduct invasive weed survey and control along 1,100 linear feet of Issaquah Creek on a 5.32-acre parcel just upstream of Lake Sammamish State Park. The parcel is contiguous with other City of Issaquah-owned properties and offers the potential for additional enhancement (bank armoring removal) that will be explored during the course of this project.

2. Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action – *Forterra*

Grant Request: \$149,036 Funding Recommended: \$75,000*

Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action is a partnership between Forterra, Seattle Public Utilities, and King County’s Noxious Weeds Control Program and seeks to control knotweed and other invasive

plant species on the Cedar River downstream of Landsburg Dam. The partnership works upstream to downstream to control invasive plants, restore native plant communities, and engage landowners in stewardship of their riverfront properties. Knotweed control is moving into more of a maintenance phase, and the partners intend to use this funding to maintain control efforts while accelerating efforts to implement revegetation projects with private landowners.

* The proposed funding was for two years of program implementation, and the Subcommittee recommends one year of funding at this time to provide funding to other priority efforts.

3. Issaquah Creek Basin Riparian Restoration – *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

Grant Request: \$75,889 Funding Recommended: \$25,000*

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will improve salmon habitat by continuing a multi-year project to remove knotweed and other invasive plant species and reforest the riparian zone of Issaquah Creek and its tributaries with native trees and shrubs. This work will take place primarily on private land, and in addition to habitat improvement, will educate landowners on the importance of healthy waterways for salmon recovery and stewardship of their properties.

* The proposed funding was for three years of program implementation, and the Subcommittee recommends one year of funding at this time to provide funding to other priority efforts.

4. Sammamish River Riparian Restoration Coalition Strategy – *Forterra*

Grant Request: \$28,494 Funding Recommended: \$0*

The purpose of this effort is to form a coalition of cities, nonprofits, Tribes, and other stakeholders to coordinate, support, and accelerate riparian restoration efforts on the Sammamish River. The goal is to create pathways for coordinated riparian restoration actions by streamlining processes that have created barriers in the past. Anticipated deliverables are a strategy document identifying gaps in riparian restoration and outlining a prioritized project list for initial implementation, as well as an agreement between partners outlining their roles in the effort.

* The Subcommittee agreed this is an important effort and worthy of support, but the proposal lacked the clarity needed to provide grant funding. The Subcommittee asked that WRIA staff attempt to identify other mechanisms through which we can provide funding support to this work.

2018 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Monitoring/Studies

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

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

The purpose of this effort is to continue 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: \$244,928 Funding Recommended: \$244,928

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*.

3. Evaluating Floating Treatment Wetlands – University of Washington

Grant Request: \$75,568 Funding Recommended: \$0*

This proposal seeks to install floating treatment wetlands in the Sammamish River to study the invertebrates the installations attract, the species of fish that use them, and whether they provide water quality benefits related to temperature, turbidity, nutrients, and metals. Floating treatment wetlands have not been extensively studied, and the purpose of this work is to determine whether they could be beneficial in areas where riparian restoration is challenging.

* The proposed approach raised biological concerns (installations could harbor predators), as well as feasibility concerns (may be challenging to obtain permits for this work on the Sammamish). For these reasons, the Subcommittee did not recommend funding for this proposal.

2018 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. 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.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2018 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>
Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Construction <i>King County</i>	\$1,000,000	\$8,924,792	\$9,924,792	\$766,259
Lower Issaquah Creek Instream and Riparian Restoration Design – City of Issaquah	\$120,000	\$130,880	\$250,880	\$120,000
Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Final Design and Permitting <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i>	\$400,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,400,000	\$100,000
NE 95th Street Restoration on Bear Creek <i>City of Redmond</i>	\$143,490	\$51,510	\$195,000	\$143,490
Bear Creek Little Bit Restoration Design <i>King County</i>	\$174,105	\$40,000	\$214,105	\$128,000
Totals	\$1,837,595	\$11,147,182	\$12,984,777	\$1,257,749

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>
Lakeside Parcel Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$56,363	\$10,000	\$66,363	\$56,363
Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action <i>Forterra</i>	\$149,036	\$60,000	\$209,036	\$75,000
Issaquah Creek Basin Riparian Restoration <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$75,889	\$15,000	\$90,889	\$25,000
Sammamish River Riparian Restoration Coalition Strategy <i>Forterra</i>	\$28,494	\$0	\$28,494	\$0
Totals	\$309,782	\$85,000	\$394,782	\$156,363

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2018 CWM Grant Funds

Table 4: Monitoring/Studies 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	\$2,260	\$57,332	\$55,072
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$244,928	\$0	\$244,928	\$244,928
Evaluating Floating Treatment Wetlands <i>University of Washington</i>	\$75,568	\$0	\$75,568	\$0
Totals	\$375,568	\$2,260	\$377,828	\$300,000

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	\$134,492	\$147,692	\$13,200
Cedar River Salmon Journey <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$38,500	\$69,512	\$108,012	\$38,500
Totals	\$51,700	\$204,004	\$255,704	\$51,700

Attachment 2

2018 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. Peter Holte – City of Redmond
5. Kathy Minsch – Seattle Public Utilities
6. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
7. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
8. Elizabeth Torrey – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
9. Danielle Zitomer – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
10. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member