

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2018

Salmon Recovery Funding Board & Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grants

Funding Summary: Table 1 summarizes the 2018 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant funding in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2018 allocation from the SRFB plus anticipated PSAR funds for the next state biennium (2019 – 2021).

2018 SRFB/PSAR Funding Requested	\$1,000,000
2018 SRFB Allocation	\$391,711
2019 – 2021 PSAR Allocation	\$1,457,509
Total Anticipated Funding Available	\$1,849,220
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>\$849,220</i>

Grant Eligibility and Administration: Grants for both SRFB and PSAR are administered by the Washington State 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. All activities proposed for these funds must be on the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan and have a clear link to one or more of WRIA 8’s recovery strategies.

Project Subcommittee Process: The Project 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 to meet with project sponsors and evaluates each proposal using the WRIA 8 grant criteria. Funding is prioritized for proposals that demonstrate an ability to successfully implement the recovery strategies in the *WRIA 8 Ten-Year Plan Update*.

PSAR, PSAR Large Capital, and Unallocated Funds: Funds for PSAR come from the state capital budget, and each watershed in Puget Sound receives a grant round allocation derived from the first \$30 million appropriated by the legislature to the program. At the direction of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, watersheds are to obligate as much of their anticipated biennial allocation as possible in the grant round prior to the biennial legislative budget session (i.e., even-year grant rounds). If a watershed is unable to obligate its full allocation as part of the even-year grant round, PSP encourages watersheds to trade funds in an effort to fully obligate dollars prior to the state agencies submitting budget decision packages.

As shown in Attachment 1, the amount of SRFB/PSAR recommended for funding in the current cycle falls short of fully obligating the 2019 – 2021 PSAR allocation by \$849,220. Given funding needs elsewhere, WRIA 8 was able to secure trades with WRIA 7 and WRIA 14 totaling \$721,954. This swap involves sending PSAR in exchange for 2019 SRFB, which will be returned to WRIA 8 for the 2019 grant round.

The swap is predicated on the state legislature allocating at least \$30 million to the PSAR program for 2019 – 2021. The trades leave an unobligated balance of \$127,266, and WRIA 8 will request that the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council authorize this as a direct carry-forward to the 2019 grant round.

Funding appropriated for the PSAR program beyond \$30 million is applied toward a ranked list of large capital projects (see Attachment 3). In this PSAR cycle, King County submitted the Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Project on the Cedar River for the regionally-competitive PSAR large capital program and was ranked third out of 11 projects. King County is requesting \$5.9 million from PSAR, meaning the legislature will need to appropriate approximately \$50 million for the PSAR program to fully fund the Riverbend project.

2018 SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendation Summary

1. Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration – *Snohomish County*

Grant Request: \$800,000 Funding Recommended: \$800,000

Snohomish County Parks seeks funding to implement a Puget Sound nearshore restoration project at Meadowdale Beach, which is located on Browns Bay north of the City of Edmonds. Lunds Gulch Creek flows through the park and enters Puget Sound through an undersized (six-foot) culvert under the BNSF rail line. The project seeks to re-establish the pre-railroad pocket estuary and reconnect juvenile salmon non-natal rearing habitat by removing shoreline and streambank armoring and installing a 90-foot railroad bridge, the opening of which will restore natural channel migration and sediment delivery to the nearshore. The BNSF railroad presents a significant barrier to implementing projects along the WRIA 8 nearshore, and the sponsor has made considerable progress in securing BNSF support for implementing this project.

2. Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration – *King County*

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

King County proposes to continue the design process for the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project, which is located just downstream of Lake Sammamish on the Sammamish River. The future project seeks to reconnect the river to the adjacent left bank floodplain and wetlands (up to 40 acres) in order to enhance aquatic and riparian habitat, restore adjacent tributaries and improve their connectivity to the river, remove and control invasive vegetation, and improve water quality in the river (temperature and dissolved oxygen) via cold water supplementation. This funding will be used to advance the design of the preferred project alternative, as well as continue to explore options for cold water supplementation.

PSAR Large Capital Project Summary

1. Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Project – *King County*

The Riverbend project intends to reduce channel confinement and reconnect the Cedar River to its floodplain by removing approximately 3,000 linear feet of an existing levee and constructing several thousand feet of pilot channels across the floodplain. In so doing, the project will restore over 50 acres of currently disconnected floodplain, achieving 40% of WRIA 8's ten-year habitat goal for floodplain connectivity. The project is designed to maximize benefits for juvenile salmonid rearing and refuge habitat, yet habitat for all salmon life stages is expected to improve. Species that will benefit from the project are Chinook, coho, sockeye, steelhead, and cutthroat trout. The project is intended to restore natural riverine processes and function while at the same time accommodating future public use and providing flood risk reduction benefits to surrounding properties and infrastructure.

King County is seeking \$5.9 million in regionally-competitive PSAR large capital funding for this work.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2018 SRFB/PSAR Grant Funds

Table 2: 2018 SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration <i>Snohomish County</i>	\$800,000	\$158,176	\$958,176	\$800,000
Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration <i>King County</i>	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$250,000	\$200,000
Totals	\$1,000,000	\$208,176	\$1,208,176	\$1,000,000
Funding Available				\$1,849,220
Difference b/t Funding Available and Funding Recommended				\$849,220

Attachment 2

2018 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – SRFB/PSAR 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. Cyndy Holtz – Seattle Public Utilities
6. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
7. Robert Plotnikoff – Snohomish County
8. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
9. Elizabeth Torrey – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
10. Danielle Zitomer – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
11. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Coordinator

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member

Attachment 3: PSAR Large Capital Project Ranked List

Rank	Project Name	Project Sponsor	PSAR Request
1	Middle Fork Nooksack Diversion Dam Removal	City of Bellingham	\$10,560,250
2	Dungeness River Floodplain Restoration	Clallam County	\$3,046,868
3	Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Construction	King County	\$5,900,000
4	Skokomish R USACE Project Implementation	Mason Conservation District	\$7,175,486
5	Pearson Shoreline Protection	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	\$800,000
6	Skookum Creek Conservation	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$3,117,509
7	Downey Farmstead Side Channel Restoration Phase II	City of Kent	\$5,307,492
8	Lower Big Beef Creek Acquisitions	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$1,695,100
9	Stillaguamish Estuary Acquisition and Design	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	\$2,500,000
10	Shelton Harbor Estuary Restoration	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$2,518,790
11	Harper Estuary Bridge Construction 2018	Kitsap County	\$3,585,719
		PSAR Large Cap Funding Total	\$46,207,214