

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2019

King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Summary of Available Funding: Table 1 summarizes the 2019 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2019 allocation from the King County Flood Control District plus funds returned from past grant rounds.

2019 CWM Funding Requested	\$2,005,144
2019 CWM Allocation	\$1,756,563
Returned Funds	\$220,901
Total Funding Available	\$1,977,464
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$27,680)</i>

Summary of Funding Recommendations: The recommendations outlined in this report allocate funds across eligible categories as follows (for a list of all proposals see Attachment 1):

- Habitat protection and restoration projects - \$965,000
- Riparian habitat and stewardship projects - \$496,366
- Monitoring and studies - \$300,000
- Outreach and education - \$90,818

The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (Subcommittee) recommends grant awards totaling \$1,852,184. Leading up to the grant deadline, WRIA 8 was informed of \$220,901 in returned funds. The Subcommittee’s recommendations obligate the 2019 CWM allocation and \$95,261 of the returned fund balance. The remainder (\$125,280) is proposed to be carried forward to the 2020 grant round.

Also of note, the amount allocated to riparian habitat projects exceeds the 15% project funding target established by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (Council). The Subcommittee determined these to be strong proposals that align with a high priority WRIA 8 recovery strategy, and given the availability of funds, the Subcommittee recommends these proposals be fully funded rather than carrying the funds forward to the next grant cycle.

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 Subcommittee (participants listed in Attachment 3) reviews grant proposals and develops funding recommendations for consideration by the Council. The Subcommittee visits project sites and receives in-office presentations from project sponsors and 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 Council approved guidance to apply to the Subcommittee’s allocation of CWM funds across eligible categories (November 2018 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 as a target 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.

1 Million Trees Assistance Program

In addition to evaluating CWM grants, all King County WRIAs were asked to help prioritize one-time funds specifically set aside to support King County’s 1 Million Trees Initiative. King County looked to the WRIAs because the existing grant review process is highly effective and science-based.

WRIA 8 requested proposals for both CWM and 1 Million Trees in the same announcement, and the Subcommittee reviewed proposals for both funding sources during their evaluation meetings. A brief summary and list of proposals is provided in Attachment 2.

2019 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Acquisition and Restoration Projects

1. Issaquah Creek Headwaters Protection – *King County*

Grant Request: \$250,000 Funding Recommended: \$250,000

The Issaquah Creek Headwaters Protection project will acquire, in fee, 125 acres at the confluence of Carey and Holder Creeks, which come together to form Issaquah Creek. The property is currently under a conservation easement, and fee acquisition will provide much greater certainty over the extent of restoration that can occur in the future. This confluence area is highly valuable for salmon spawning and rearing, and full ownership of this site will enable future process-based restoration efforts consistent with the WRIA 8 Plan and habitat restoration goals.

2. Scheuerman Creek Marine Shoreline and Riparian Restoration Feasibility Study – *City of Seattle*

Grant Request: \$75,000 Funding Recommended: \$75,000

Scheuerman Creek flows from Discovery Park and enters Puget Sound through a perched culvert located among a rip-rapped shoreline. The City of Seattle is proposing to undertake a feasibility study to assess options for restoring fish passage to the creek and restoring the adjacent shoreline. The creek is the closest freshwater stream to the Ballard Locks, and restoration here will offer refuge and rearing opportunities for juvenile salmon soon after they pass through the Locks. Grant funding will support the feasibility study and development of conceptual designs and cost estimates.

3. Holder Creek Restoration – *King County*

Grant Request: \$240,000 Funding Recommended: \$240,000

Located adjacent to the acquisition referenced in #1 above, this project involves placing large wood in a 1,700-foot segment of Holder Creek on property recently acquired by King County from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. The property has been used for grazing for over a century, and wood placements are intended to enhance channel complexity to improve spawning and rearing habitat for Chinook and other salmon species. Grant funding will support design and construction of this restoration project, proposed to be implemented as soon as the summer of 2020. The award is conditioned for Technical Committee design review.

4. Derby Creek Habitat Enhancement – *King County*

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

Derby Creek is a tributary to the Sammamish River located between Redmond and Woodinville. The creek's water volume is small, but it is a source of cold water, which is critically important along the Sammamish. The current connection of the creek to the river is through a perched culvert. This project will reconstruct the confluence of the creek and river, replace two fish barrier culverts with box culverts, and restore riparian habitat along the lower creek. Doing so will create a cool-water refuge area for salmon and provide fish access to the currently disconnected stream. Given the project type and location, the sponsor will be asked to perform effectiveness monitoring.

2019 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects

1. Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action – Forterra

Grant Request: \$281,269 Funding Recommended: \$281,269

Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action is a long-standing partnership between Forterra, Seattle Public Utilities, and King County's Noxious Weeds Control Program, the focus of which is to control knotweed and other invasive plant species and revegetate the riparian corridor along the Cedar River downstream of Landsburg Dam. This effort has reduced the knotweed footprint along the Cedar by 95% since 2008, and with that success, the program is pivoting toward more extensive riparian revegetation. Grant funding will support continued invasive plant surveys and weed control efforts, as well as increased landowner outreach and private property planting projects.

2. Lake Sammamish State Park Riparian and Floodplain Restoration and Planting – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Grant Request: \$42,680 Funding Recommended: \$42,680

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust seeks to continue their restoration efforts within Lake Sammamish State Park by removing non-native vegetation and planting native shrubs and trees to enhance the riparian corridor along Issaquah Creek. This segment of stream is used by numerous salmon species, and the project will involve volunteer planting events to engage the community and expand awareness about the importance of functional habitat for salmon.

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

Grant Request: \$72,424 Funding Recommended: \$72,424

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, the project will educate landowners on the importance of healthy waterways for salmon recovery and stewardship of their properties.

4. Bear Creek Riparian Enhancement Project – Forterra

Grant Request: \$99,993 Funding Recommended: \$99,993

Following the model of Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action, Forterra recently initiated comprehensive knotweed control efforts on public and private properties along Bear Creek, accompanied by revegetation of riparian buffers. This grant will be used to expand knotweed control efforts throughout the watershed and will replant native vegetation on sites where knotweed has been successfully controlled.

2019 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Monitoring/Studies

The WRIA 8 Technical Committee received presentations on all proposals submitted under the monitoring/studies category. The Technical Committee identified the highest priorities for funding consistent with their work in 2018 to prioritize monitoring and assessment needs. The Subcommittee used the Technical Committee’s prioritization in their development of funding recommendations and adhered to the Technical Committee’s prioritization in the recommendations that follow.

1. Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: Cedar River – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Request: \$157,330 Funding Recommended: \$157,330

Estimate the abundance of juvenile salmon migrating from the Cedar River through operation of a rotary screw trap. This data is used to assess survival at various life stages and allows for measuring progress toward Chinook recovery goals.

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

Grant Request: \$55,072 Funding Recommended: \$21,908

Conduct surveys of spawning adult salmon returning to the watershed to support the evaluation of progress toward Chinook recovery goals. The full grant request supports monitoring on the Cedar River and on North Creek, Little Bear Creek, and May Creek. The amount recommended will fund the work on the Cedar River only, consistent with the Technical Committee recommendation.

The Technical Committee wants the Salmon Recovery Council to understand the policy implications of no longer collecting adult spawner data on the two Tier 2 streams in particular (North and Little Bear). Collecting this information provides a definitive data point about Chinook use in these streams. Without this information, ongoing Chinook use is not backed by data. This is important in the context of changing land use. From a purely technical standpoint, this data is a lower priority.

3. Salmonid Parasite Detection in the Sammamish Watershed – Trout Unlimited

Grant Request: \$93,000 Funding Recommended: \$93,000

This proposal will survey Lake Sammamish, all major tributaries to Lake Sammamish, the Sammamish River, and all major tributaries to the Sammamish River to determine the presence of three parasites known to cause disease and mortality of Chinook and other salmonids. The study will identify parasite presence, locate potential “hot spots,” and will develop management actions to address hot spots and support Chinook conservation.

4. Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: PIT Tagging – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Request: \$52,990 Funding Recommended: \$27,762

PIT tagging juvenile salmon allows for an assessment of their migratory survival through the watershed to the Locks (tags inserted at the Cedar River and Bear Creek traps and the Issaquah Hatchery).

The Technical Committee identified the Cedar River PIT tag work as a priority but cited it as a lower priority than the three preceding items. WDFW's estimate to fund the Cedar River PIT tagging is \$48,270. The Subcommittee's partial funding recommendation stays true to the \$300,000 funding guidance target for monitoring/studies approved by the Council in November 2018.

Note: The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council could, at its discretion, increase funding to this proposal to make it whole without taking away from other proposals (due to unobligated returned funds proposed to be carried forward to 2020).

5. Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: Bear Creek – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Grant Request: \$94,568 Funding Recommended: \$0

Estimate the abundance of juvenile salmon migrating from Bear Creek through operation of a rotary screw trap. This data is used to assess survival at various life stages and allows for measuring progress toward Chinook recovery goals.

The Technical Committee assigned a lower priority to the Bear Creek trap relative to the other proposals, and this work is not recommended for funding. The four recommendations listed above fully obligate the \$300,000 funding target for monitoring/studies.

2019 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.

3. Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Program – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Grant Request: \$26,868 Funding Recommended: \$26,868

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.

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

Grant Request: \$12,250 Funding Recommended: \$12,250

The Salmon Heroes program delivers a 3-part, 5-hour field study program to students in grades 4 – 12 to educate students, teachers, and parents/guardians on watershed health and salmon recovery so that they become responsible stewards of salmon habitat. Students learn about limiting factors to salmon survival and engage in field-based activities to expand their understanding of salmon habitat.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2019 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>
Issaquah Creek Headwaters Protection <i>King County</i>	\$250,000	\$1,460,000	\$1,710,000	\$250,000
Scheurman Creek Marine Shoreline and Riparian Restoration Feasibility Study <i>City of Seattle</i>	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000	\$75,000
Holder Creek Restoration <i>King County</i>	\$240,000	\$100,000	\$340,000	\$240,000
Derby Creek Habitat Enhancement Project <i>King County</i>	\$400,000	\$800,000	\$1,200,000	\$400,000
Totals	\$965,000	\$2,360,000	\$3,325,000	\$965,000

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 <i>Forterra</i>	\$281,269	\$61,000	\$342,269	\$281,269
Lake Sammamish State Park Riparian and Floodplain Restoration and Planting <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$42,680	\$37,500	\$80,180	\$42,680
Issaquah Creek Basin Riparian Restoration <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$72,424	\$5,000	\$77,424	\$72,424
Bear Creek Riparian Enhancement Project <i>Forterra</i>	\$99,993	\$0	\$99,993	\$99,993
Totals	\$496,366	\$103,500	\$599,866	\$496,366

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2019 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>
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: Cedar River <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$157,330	\$36,000	\$193,330	\$157,330
Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring <i>King County</i>	\$55,072	\$2,160	\$57,232	\$21,908
Salmonid Parasite Detection in the Sammamish Watershed <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	\$93,000	\$9,000	\$102,000	\$93,000
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: PIT Tagging <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$52,990	\$300,000	\$352,990	\$27,762
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring: Bear Creek <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$94,568	\$0	\$94,568	\$0
Totals	\$452,960	\$347,160	\$800,120	\$300,000

Table 5: Outreach and Education Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Leverage</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Beach Naturalists <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$13,200	\$120,933	\$134,133	\$13,200
Cedar River Salmon Journey <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$38,500	\$61,045	\$99,545	\$38,500
Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests and Fins Education Program – <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$26,868	\$10,000	\$36,868	\$26,868
Salmon Heroes – <i>Environmental Science Center</i>	\$12,250	\$12,293	\$24,543	\$12,250
Totals	\$90,818	\$204,271	\$295,089	\$90,818

Attachment 2: 1 Million Trees Funding Recommendations

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) 1 Million Trees Assistance Program Funding Recommendations

King County launched the 1 Million Trees Initiative following the County's adoption of its Strategic Climate Action Plan in 2015. The goal is to plant 1 million trees by 2020 as a way to support carbon sequestration and healthy forests, streams, and neighborhoods.

To support the initiative for planting large numbers of trees by the end of 2020, each WRIA in King County was allocated \$175,000 to support tree planting. These grants were solicited alongside CWM grants as they complement CWM riparian habitat funding, yet the funding is also eligible for areas not identified as high priorities for salmon recovery (e.g., upland areas).

A King County team conducted an initial screening of all 1 Million Trees Proposals to identify the best fits for the funding source. The Project Subcommittee used the results of that evaluation and overlaid salmon recovery priorities to develop the following funding recommendations.

<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Cedar River Future Forests <i>Forterra</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
Issaquah Urban Forest Trees Enhancement <i>City of Issaquah</i>	\$79,800	\$75,000
Lake Sammamish State Park Planting <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sammamish River Restoration at Wildcliffe Shores <i>Adopt A Stream Foundation</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
Green Seattle Partnership <i>City of Seattle</i>	\$50,000	\$25,000
Monticello Riparian Planting <i>City of Redmond</i>	\$25,114	\$0
Totals	\$229,914	\$175,000

Attachment 3

2019 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. Christa Heller – City of Bellevue
5. Peter Holte – City of Redmond
6. Kathy Minsch – Seattle Public Utilities
7. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz – WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager
8. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
9. Ezekiel Rohloff - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
10. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
11. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator and Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member