

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

Funding Summary: Table 1 summarizes 2019 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant funding in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2019 SRFB allocation, as well as funds from other watersheds being provided to complete allocation transfers initiated in 2018 (whereby WRIA 8 transferred a portion of available Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration [PSAR] funding in 2018 to other Puget Sound watersheds in exchange for SRFB funding in 2019).

<i>Table 1. Summary of 2019 SRFB Grant Funds – WRIA 8</i>	
2019 SRFB Funding Requested	\$424,065
Unmet Need for 2018 PSAR Large Capital Project	\$1,319,738
Total Funding Need	\$1,743,803
2019 SRFB Allocation	\$391,711
2019 SRFB from Watershed Transfers	\$849,220
Total Funding Available	\$1,240,931
<i>Difference between Needed and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$502,872)</i>

Grant Eligibility and Administration: Grants for SRFB 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 proposed projects 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, an RCO grant manager, and two members of the SRFB Technical Review Panel conduct site visits with project sponsors, and the Subcommittee evaluates 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.

Transferred Funds and Unmet Need from 2018: The SRFB funding process occurs annually, while proposals for PSAR funds are solicited every other year (even-numbered years). It is PSAR policy that watersheds fully obligate their PSAR allocation in the year when proposals are requested.

In the 2018 grant round, the amount of PSAR recommended for funding in WRIA 8 fell short of fully obligating WRIA 8’s 2019 – 2021 PSAR allocation by \$849,220. Given funding needs in other Puget Sound watersheds, WRIA 8 secured trades with WRIA 7 (Snohomish Watershed), WRIA 14 (Kennedy-Goldsborough Watershed), and WRIA 18 (Elwha-Dungeness Watershed). Together these trades fully

obligated WRIA 8's unallocated balance of \$849,220. This amount is being returned to WRIA 8 for the 2019 grant round in the form of SRFB funds.

King County's Riverbend Floodplain Restoration project on the Cedar River ranked #3 on the regionally-competitive PSAR large capital project list, and the state legislature intended to provide sufficient funding in the 2019 – 2021 capital budget to fulfill the \$5.9 million grant request for the project. However, WRIA 8 staff were informed after the passage of the state budget that an insufficient amount was appropriated, resulting in a funding gap of approximately \$1.3 million.

Funding Recommendation Summary: We anticipated receiving up to five proposals in the 2019 grant round, but due to a number of factors, we ultimately received one new proposal (see project summary below). The merits of this project and its high priority location on the Cedar River resulted in a Subcommittee recommendation to fully fund the grant request.

With no other competition for funds, the Subcommittee recommends directing the entire available balance (\$816,866) to the Riverbend project to help address its remaining funding need and enable it to initiate construction in 2020. As for the gap that remains to fully fund the project (\$502,872), the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) anticipates being able to secure this amount in early fall via PSAR funds that are being returned from projects that either did not move forward or finished under budget. As of late August, PSP had identified approximately \$450,000 in returned funds that are being held for Riverbend.

2019 SRFB Funding Recommendation Summary

Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection Design – *Seattle Public Utilities*

Grant Request: \$424,065 Funding Recommended: \$424,065

Seattle Public Utilities proposes to complete 90% design and initiate permitting for a habitat restoration project on city-owned property in the Upper Royal Arch Reach of the Cedar River (~River Mile 14.5). The project encompasses approximately 9 acres along 0.32 miles of riverbank. Elements of the future project include enhancing mainstem habitat by adding large wood jams; reconnecting and enhancing approximately 1,200 linear feet of an existing side channel; reconnecting at least 5 acres of floodplain and wetland habitat to the river by removing a berm, floodplain fill, and riprap; and restoring 9 acres of riparian habitat. In addition to enhancing juvenile rearing and refuge habitat for Chinook salmon and other salmon species in the Cedar River, the project will provide improved flood storage.

Riverbend Floodplain Restoration Project – *King County* (2018 PSAR large capital project)

Remaining Need: \$1,319,738 Funding Recommended: \$816,866*

The Riverbend project will 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.

The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee evaluated the Riverbend project during the 2018 grant round as part of the PSAR large capital project list, and the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council endorsed the project in 2018 via letters of support and through communications with state legislators.

* This amount reflects all remaining available WRIA 8 SRFB grant funds. The PSP has committed to securing sufficient funds to fill the remaining gap.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2019 SRFB Grant Funds

Table 2: 2019 SRFB Funding Recommendations				
<i>2019 Proposal</i>				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Royal Arch Reach Floodplain Reconnection Design <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i>	\$424,065	\$74,835	\$498,900	\$424,065
<i>Remaining Need for 2018 PSAR Large-Cap Project</i>				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Remaining Need</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Riverbend Floodplain Restoration <i>King County</i>	\$1,319,738	\$1,046,259	\$5,900,000	\$816,866
Totals	\$1,743,803	\$1,121,094	\$6,398,900	\$1,240,931
Funding Available				\$1,240,931
Difference between Recommended Amount and Amount Available				\$0

Attachment 2

2019 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – SRFB 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. Brent Lackey – City of Seattle
7. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
8. Ezekiel Rohloff – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
9. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Coordinator

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member