

## Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2020

### Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant Programs

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**Funding Summary:** Table 1 summarizes the 2020 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant funding in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2020 allocation from SRFB, returned funds from the 2019 grant round, and the anticipated 2021 – 2023 biennial allocation from PSAR.

<i>Table 1. Summary of 2020 SRFB &amp; PSAR Grant Funds – WRIA 8</i>	
2020 Funding Requested	\$4,614,875
2020 SRFB Allocation	\$391,711
2019 SRFB Returned Funds	\$816,866
2021 – 2023 PSAR Allocation (Anticipated)	\$1,457,579
Total Available to Award	\$2,666,086
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$1,948,789)</i>

**Funding Recommendations:** The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (Subcommittee) recommends grant awards totaling \$2,666,086—the full amount available in this year’s grant cycle. Important to note is that the anticipated PSAR allocation of \$1,457,579 requires legislative approval of at least \$30 million for the PSAR program in the 2021 – 2023 state capital budget.

**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. Eligibility is geared toward 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 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.

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## **2020 SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendations**

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

**Grant Request: \$2,500,000                      Funding Recommended: \$1,840,561**

This grant award will be used to support construction of a project focused on instream restoration along 6,600 feet of lower Issaquah Creek within Lake Sammamish State Park. The project will install large wood in the creek to improve channel complexity, facilitate stream-floodplain interactions, and support enhanced juvenile salmon rearing and refuge habitat. In addition to benefitting Chinook, the project will also benefit coho and Lake Sammamish kokanee. Together with funds already awarded through the Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant program, the sponsor is in good position to begin construction in 2022.

### **2. East Side Wayne Sammamish/Waynita Restoration Design – *City of Bothell***

**Grant Request: \$183,400                      Funding Recommended: \$183,400**

The City of Bothell is initiating design activities to assess restoration alternatives on 31.6 acres of the former Wayne Golf Course property. This area presents a unique opportunity for Chinook and coho habitat restoration along the Sammamish River. High water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen are major problems in the Sammamish during summer months, and the river lacks habitat complexity and floodplain connections. Through this project the city intends to provide cold water refuge for Chinook and improve overall habitat conditions. The current proposal is focused on developing restoration alternatives and producing a conceptual design of the preferred alternative.

### **3. Lower Rutledge-Johnson Levee Removal Design – *King County***

**Grant Request: \$342,125                      Funding Recommended: \$342,125**

The Rutledge-Johnson Levee is located along the left bank of the Cedar River at River Mile 13.1 to 13.5, and King County is proposing to initiate design for a partial levee setback project that will reconnect approximately 16 acres of floodplain to the Cedar River (with a possibility for expansion pending additional land acquisition). Removing the lower portion of the levee will allow the river to interact with existing off-channel habitat that is partially disconnected, which will benefit Chinook, coho, and steelhead. Grant funds will contribute to preliminary design.

### **4. Rutledge-Johnson/Rhode Reach Acquisitions – *King County***

**Grant Request: \$689,350                      Funding Recommended: \$300,000**

King County seeks to acquire additional property to expand the restoration area for the Rutledge-Johnson floodplain reconnection project. Current land ownership will allow King County to develop a stand-alone project at Rutledge-Johnson, and continuing with acquisition immediately upstream of current County ownership will allow for removal of more of the levee and an expanded project footprint. The timing of additional acquisition will dictate whether the expanded project proceeds simultaneous with the project described above or in a future phase.

**5. Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration – *City of Issaquah***

**Grant Request: \$450,000**

**Funding Recommended: \$0**

The City of Issaquah seeks funds to construct a project focused on restoring instream and riparian habitat along 1,200 feet of Issaquah Creek north of I-90. Project elements include removing bank armoring, constructing side and backwater channels, placing large wood in the main channel and side channels, and restoring riparian habitat.

The proposed actions will improve habitat for multiple species of salmon, and while the site offers great potential, the current level of design makes it challenging to evaluate whether the project is proposing the most appropriate actions to maximize habitat benefits. A 2020 CWM grant award will allow the city to continue to develop the design and provide the certainty needed to consider a future construction request.

**6. Edmonds Marsh Estuary Restoration and Fish Access – *City of Edmonds***

**Grant Request: \$450,000**

**Funding Recommended: \$0**

The City of Edmonds seeks funds to develop a preliminary design to reconnect the 28-acre Edmonds Marsh to Puget Sound, restoring juvenile fish passage to this barrier estuary via a new tidal channel. Once constructed the project will enable juvenile Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon to reach an area that is currently inaccessible to fish, thus increasing nearshore habitat diversity along the highly degraded WRIA 8 nearshore.

The project's ultimate path forward depends on transfer of adjacent land currently held by Unocal to Washington State Department of Transportation – Ferries Division. Because the adjacent property's status remains in flux, the alignment of the future tidal channel and overall project approach are uncertain. The Subcommittee recommends that the city consider this a one-shot opportunity to maximize the ecological potential at the site. Allowing for resolution of the land ownership issue on the Unocal property will provide greater certainty over restoration outcomes and will also ensure the design can proceed based on the greatest restoration potential.

**Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for 2020 SRFB/PSAR Grant Funds**

<b>Table 1: Funding Recommendations</b>			
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Project Phase</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Funding Recommended</i>
<b>Issaquah Creek Restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park</b> <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	Construction	\$2,500,000	<b>\$1,840,561</b>
<b>East Side Wayne Sammamish/Waynita Restoration Design</b> <i>City of Bothell</i>	Design	\$183,400	<b>\$183,400</b>
<b>Lower Rutledge-Johnson Levee Removal Design</b> <i>King County</i>	Design	\$342,125	<b>\$342,125</b>
<b>Rutledge-Johnson/Rhode Reach Acquisitions</b> <i>King County</i>	Acquisition	\$689,350	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration</b> <i>City of Issaquah</i>	Construction	\$450,000	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Edmonds Marsh Estuary Restoration and Fish Access</b> <i>City of Edmonds</i>	Design	\$450,000	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Totals</b>		\$4,614,875	<b>\$2,666,086</b>

## **Attachment 2**

### **2020 SRFB/PSAR Grant Round**

### **WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Members**

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. Josh Kubo – King County
6. Brent Lackey – Seattle Public Utilities
7. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz – WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Manager
8. Miles Penk - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
9. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park\*
10. Rob Plotnikoff – Snohomish County
11. Lauren Urgenson – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
12. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8 Projects and Funding Coordinator and Subcommittee Chair

\*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member