

# WRIA 8 Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program

## Options for Revising Salmon Recovery Council Funding Guidance

September 2020

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In March 2020, the King County Flood Control District (FCD) increased annual Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding from \$4.8 million to \$9.6 million to support salmon recovery activities and a greater commitment to a multi-benefit approach to floodplain management in King County's four main watersheds. Beginning in 2020, the FCD's funding decision increased WRIA 8's CWM funding from \$1.8 million to \$3.6 million. This funding increase helps address WRIA 8's funding need to support salmon recovery projects and programs, and provides an opportunity to reconsider the Salmon Recovery Council's (SRC) CWM funding guidance – see options below.

### Background

The King County FCD provides funding to the King County portions of WRIs 7, 8, 9, and 10 through the CWM grant program. Eligible activities include habitat restoration and acquisition projects, monitoring, and outreach and education. For each annual grant cycle, the SRC is asked to provide funding targets for the three categories of eligible activities.

The SRC-approved targets serve as guidance for the WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee as they review grant proposals and develop grant funding recommendations. Since the inception of the CWM grant program in 2012, the SRC has approved amounts of \$300,000 for monitoring/assessment and \$96,000 for outreach and education (approximately 17% and 5% of available funding, respectively). The remainder (approximately 78% of available funding, adjusting with increases) has been directed to restoration and acquisition projects. Additionally, the SRC grants flexibility to the Project Subcommittee to deviate from these targets if there is a strong justification for doing so. Annual funding requests typically exceed available funding in all categories, demonstrating substantial need in all areas. Regarding the monitoring/assessment category, the majority of available funding has regularly supported 'fish-in' and 'fish-out' salmon population status and trends monitoring, leaving little CWM grant funding available to support research and assessment work to address priority data gaps and information needs. To address these funding needs the SRC has instead approved use of limited one-time funding from the WRIA 8 budget's carryforward fund balance.

### Comparing funding available and funding requested

The tables below show Cooperative Watershed Management grant funding available compared to funding requested in the three eligible grant activity categories over the past four years (2017-2020). Please note that when comparing funding requests with available funding, it's important to recognize requests likely far underrepresent the true funding need.

Reasons for this include:

- WRIA 8 staff advise project/program sponsors to tailor their requests to the funding available and typical size of grant funding awards for a given project/program type.
- The majority of funding in the monitoring/assessment and education and outreach categories has typically funded the same programs every year, resulting in some program sponsors deciding not to apply given a perceived unlikelihood of funding.

**2017**

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Approved/Available</b>
Restoration and acquisition	\$4,068,010	\$1,986,164
Monitoring/assessment	\$299,972	\$299,972
Education and outreach	\$93,209	\$93,209
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,461,191</b>	<b>\$2,379,345</b>

**2018**

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Approved/Available</b>
Restoration and acquisition	\$2,147,377	\$1,414,112
Monitoring/assessment	\$375,568	\$300,000
Education and outreach	\$51,700	\$51,700
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,574,645</b>	<b>\$1,765,812</b>

**2019**

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Approved/Available</b>
Restoration and acquisition	\$1,461,366	\$1,461,366
Monitoring/assessment	\$452,960	\$320,508
Education and outreach	\$90,818	\$90,818
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,005,144</b>	<b>\$1,977,464</b>

**2020 – \*NOTE: This is the first year reflecting the Flood Control District’s increase in CWM funding**

<b>Funding Category</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Approved/Available</b>
Restoration and acquisition	\$4,284,372	\$3,255,057
Monitoring/assessment	\$353,466	\$353,466
Education and outreach	\$138,270	\$138,270
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,776,108</b>	<b>\$3,746,793</b>

### Funding guidance revision options for consideration

Below are six CWM grant funding guidance options for SRC consideration. Under all options, any funding not awarded in the monitoring and assessment and education and outreach categories would be added to restoration and acquisition project funding. The SRC-approved funding guidance will go into effect for the 2021 CWM grant cycle.

#### Option 1: Status Quo / No Change (reflects 2020 grant funding guidance)

Activity	Amount
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$3,211,629
Monitoring/assessment – \$300,000 cap (~8.3% of available funding)	\$300,000
Education and outreach – \$96,000 cap (~2.6% of available funding)	\$96,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,607,629</b>

#### Option 2: Designating 10% for monitoring/assessment and 5% for education and outreach

Activity	Amount
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$3,066,485
Monitoring/assessment – 10%	\$360,763
Education and outreach – 5%	\$180,381
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,607,629</b>

#### Option 3: Designating 15% for monitoring/assessment and 10% for education and outreach

Activity	Amount
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$2,705,722
Monitoring/assessment – 15%	\$541,144
Education and outreach – 10%	\$360,763
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,607,629</b>

#### Option 4: Designating 20% for monitoring/assessment and 10% for education and outreach

Activity	Amount
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$2,525,341
Monitoring/assessment – 20%	\$721,525
Education and outreach – 10%	\$360,763
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,607,629</b>

**Option 5: Designating 20% for monitoring/assessment and 5% for education and outreach**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$2,705,723
Monitoring/assessment – 20%	\$721,525
Education and outreach – 5%	\$180,381
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,607,629</b>

**Option 6: Doubling designated funding caps for monitoring/assessment and education and outreach**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Restoration projects and acquisitions (including up to 15% of this amount for riparian-only habitat projects)	\$2,815,485
Monitoring/assessment – \$600,000 cap (~16.6% of available funding)	\$600,000
Education and outreach – \$192,000 cap (~5.3% of available funding)	\$192,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,607,629</b>