



## Allocating Additional 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Funding

July 21, 2022

### **Summary:**

At its May meeting, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council approved the Project Subcommittee's recommendations for funding for the 2022 Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant round, as well as those for other funding programs. Subsequently, WRIA 8 staff have learned that the watershed will receive an additional \$511,717 in funding. Today the SRC is asked to approve the Project Subcommittee's recommendations for allocating that additional funding.

### **Background:**

In the 2022 supplemental legislative session, the Washington State legislature appropriated \$75 million in new funding for salmon recovery to the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). The legislative language from the operating budget stated:

- \$50,000,000 of the salmon recovery account—state appropriation is provided solely for the salmon recovery board to provide grants for projects valued at greater than \$5,000,000 each that will benefit salmon recovery.
- \$25,000,000 of the salmon recovery account—state appropriation is provided solely for the salmon recovery board to provide grants for watershed projects typically valued at less than \$5,000,000 each that will benefit salmon recovery

The SRFB voted at its June meeting to allocate the \$50M for larger projects to each salmon recovery region. Each region then determined how best to allocate this funding to large projects within their geographic scope. The Puget Sound Partnership will receive just over \$14M in funding and intends to draw from the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) Large Capital project list to determine which projects will receive funding. This year, WRIA 8 has no projects that exceed the eligibility threshold of \$5M in current need. While this funding will not directly benefit any WRIA 8 projects, it represents strong support for salmon recovery funding in Washington State and will help fund down the list of large projects within the region that will compete for limited funds.

The SRFB also voted to allocate the remaining \$25M to each region, which then allocated the additional resources to the salmon recovery Lead Entities within that region according to existing regional allocation formulas. WRIA 8 will receive an additional \$511,717 in SRFB funding, bringing the watershed's total available SRFB funding available to \$946,951.

The Recreation and Conservation Office has asked Lead Entities to allocate as much of this funding as possible during the 2022 SRFB grant round. However, because the additional funding is being made available after many Lead Entities, including WRIA 8, have already completed project ranking for the 2022 grant round, RCO has allowed Lead Entities to roll over any unallocated funding to the 2023 grant round if necessary.

**Project Subcommittee Recommendation:**

The Project Subcommittee met on July 6 to consider a variety of options for allocating this additional funding. The recommended option is to allocate these additional SRFB funds as follows:

- Use \$160,373 to fund the City of Bothell’s E Side Wayne Sammamish – Waynita Restoration Design Project (former Wayne Golf Course) cost increase. The City requested these additional funds several months ago to cover project cost overruns, but both the Puget Sound Partnership and RCO indicated there are no available funds at the state or regional level that can be used to fund this request at this time. Because this project is a high priority for WRIA 8, funding this cost increase is a preferred option to keep this key project on track.
- Award an additional \$351,344 to Seattle Public Utilities’ (SPU) Cedar River Upper Royal Arch project. At this time, the project’s overall funding shortfall is estimated to be around \$500k, so SPU has indicated they could use any additional available funding.

Below is a table illustrating the recommendations for the full 2022 SRFB/PSAR funding amounts:

<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Project Phase</i>	<i>Initial Recommended SRFB/PSAR Funding</i>	<i>Updated Recommended SRFB/PSAR Funding</i>
Cedar River Upper Royal Arch - <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i>	Construction	\$1,792,744	\$2,144,088
Seawest Granston (Middle Bear) Natural Area - <i>King County</i>	Construction	\$100,000	\$100,000
E Side Wayne Sammamish-Waynita Restoration Design – <i>City of Bothell</i>	Design	N/A	\$160,373
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,892,744</b>	<b>\$2,404,461</b>