



WRIA 8 Small Grant Awards

September 9, 2022

Background:

As part of the 2022 WRIA 8 budget and work plan, WRIA 8 staff have worked to develop a small grant awards program to supplement the regular grant rounds and spend down a portion of the carryforward fund balance and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration project development grant.

Purpose of funding awards:

To support innovative or conceptual projects with smaller grant awards, and fund projects that might not compete well in our traditional Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) and Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant rounds. We are encouraging proposals that contribute to early stages of future capital project development and/or incorporate equity and environmental justice principles into salmon recovery work.

Proposals must connect to one or more WRIA 8 salmon recovery strategies. A subset of our strategies that may relate well to this work, and examples of proposals that might address these strategies, is included below:

- Protect and restore functional riparian vegetation (working with private property owners to connect existing restored areas and/or working with community groups on riparian restoration)
- Restore shallow water rearing and refuge habitat (lakeshore shoreline restoration assessment, developing a program to promote and work with private property owners to engage in soft shore alternatives to lakeshore armoring)
- Reconnect and enhance creek mouths (working with private property owners to identify restoration opportunities, early feasibility and design)
- Remove or reduce impacts of overwater structures (could connect with shallow-water strategy actions to promote and engage private property owners in soft shore alternatives to lakeshore armoring)
- Restore natural marine shorelines
- Improve water quality (efforts to integrate salmon habitat restoration and stormwater management)
- Integrate salmon recovery priorities into local and regional planning, regulations, and permitting (use best available science for salmon recovery to develop model ordinances)
- Increase awareness of and support for salmon recovery (working with communities that haven't been previously engaged, - align with [WRIA 8 communications and outreach priorities](#) and [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion \(DEI\) strategic plan](#), grow sponsor capacity to work equity and environmental justice into plans and projects.

Project Development

- explore the nexus between stormwater/toxics and salmon recovery
- support collaborative efforts to solve barriers to salmon recovery
- build capacity to address limiting factors not typically addressed through annual grant round projects

Equity and Environmental Justice

- support for community engagement related to project development
- growing partner organizational capacity
- engagement with communities previously underrepresented in WRIA 8 salmon recovery
- projects that connect salmon recovery with local environmental and public health issues

Guidelines:

- Up to \$150,000 available, maximum award amount \$50,000
- Eligible applicants - cities, counties, tribes, non-profit organizations, special purpose districts, and state and federal agencies.
- Deliverables – presentation and/ or written progress report that details the project's objectives, expected outcomes, performance indicators and whether expected outcomes were achieved within the grant timeframe?

Conceptual Draft Process/Timeline:

- **Release announcement of funding opportunity:** September 7
- **Applications Due:** September 30
- **Selection Process:** September 30 – October 14
- **Grants Announced:** October 19
- **Contracting:** October & November
- **Funding expires:** June 30, 2023 or later

Proposed Review Team:

- Carrie Byron
- Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz
- Lauren Urgenson
- 2-3 members of Project Subcommittee

Proposed Process:

Each member of the review team will read applications and score according to basic criteria such as:

- How well does this proposal align with WRIA 8 recovery strategies?
- To what extent does this proposal fill a critical need for salmon recovery in WRIA 8?
- To what extent does this proposal contribute to advancing principles of equity and EJ in the watershed?

- Does the proposal contribute to the development of a future capital project (yes/no question, used to determine whether it can be funded with PSAR project development funds)?
- Others?

Each criterion is scored on a 1-5 scale

Review team pre-scores and meets to discuss and finalize scoring and proposed funding package

Funding Recommendations will be presented to Salmon Recovery Council in November