

V. Funding Salmon Recovery

To protect and restore the habitat necessary for salmon recovery, the WRIA 8 Plan set an ambitious funding goal of over \$17 million annually from federal, state, and local sources. Funding during the first five years of implementing the Plan has fallen short of funding goals in most categories (**Table 6** and **Figure 14**).

Salmon recovery in WRIA 8 relies on grant funding from several local, state, and federal sources. Between 2005 and 2010, WRIA 8 partners received over \$12 million in grants for habitat protection and restoration projects (**Figure 13**).

Federal and State Funding

The Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) has been a crucial, consistent source of federal and state funds for salmon habitat protection and restoration. From 2005 to 2010, annual SRFB funding was one-third of what the WRIA 8 Plan anticipated from this source.

In 2007, recovering Puget Sound became a greater state and federal priority. This additional focus on Puget Sound brought new regional funding to accelerate the pace of salmon recovery efforts. In the 2007 biennial budget, the state legislature appropriated \$42 million through the newly created Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program to Puget Sound watersheds. This increased funding to implement the highest priority salmon habitat protection and restoration projects.

WRIA 8 received \$2,015,099 in 2007 PSAR funds and \$1,623,911 in 2009 PSAR funds. Although PSAR only provided about half of the anticipated new funding from regional grants, it was a substantial, much-needed investment. The PSAR program is not a guaranteed funding source, and the legislature appropriates it every two years. It is important for WRIA 8 partners to actively support PSAR funding and demonstrate the on-the-ground habitat improvement that results from this investment.

Federal funding has been much lower than anticipated. In particular, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding has been far lower than expected in the Plan goals, largely a result of reduced congressional allocations to the Corps of Engineers and some potential project partners deciding to seek funding elsewhere rather than go through the Corps project funding process.

Funding Sources	WRIA 8 Plan Annual Funding Goal
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	\$1,400,000
New Regional Funding	\$4,000,000
Other State (agency grants, etc.)	\$800,000
Federal (Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, other federal grants, etc.)	\$3,500,000
King Conservation District	\$660,000
King County Conservation Futures	\$2,500,000
Other Local Match (utility fees, stormwater management fees, etc.)	\$4,500,000
TOTAL	\$17,360,000

Table 6. WRIA 8 Plan anticipated funding sources and annual goal. WRIA 8 is unable to track all funding sources; shaded rows indicate funding sources tracked by WRIA 8.

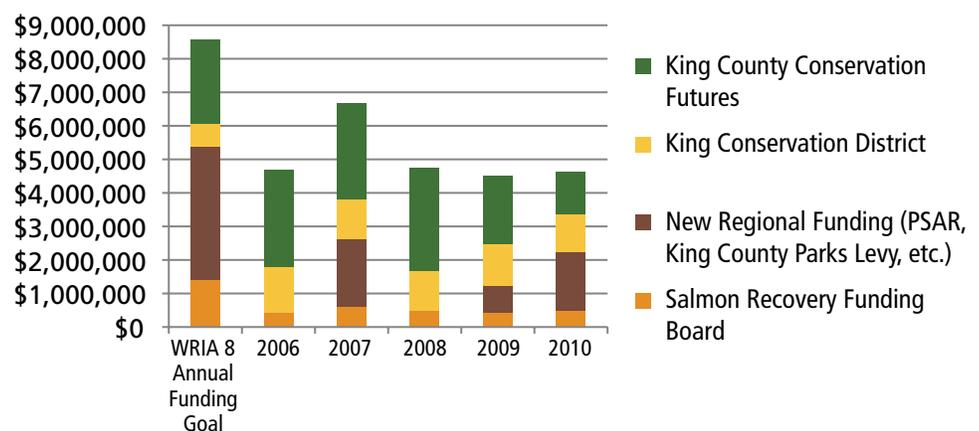


Figure 14. WRIA 8 Plan annual funding goals for four primary funding sources compared to actual annual funding levels during the first five years of implementing the Plan.

However in 2009, with the increased focus on recovering Puget Sound, several important WRIA 8 priorities received over \$4 million in federal grant funding from the EPA. EPA grants are advancing the following priorities:

- Monitoring watershed conditions in up to 50 stream reaches (King County)
- Establishing a stormwater flow control plan for the Piper’s Creek watershed (City of Seattle)
- Developing an incentives and credits program to improve ecosystem functions and processes along shorelines of single-family waterfront homes (City of Seattle)
- Supporting a partnership to restore riparian ecosystems and eradicate invasive species (City of Seattle)

Local Funding

During the past five years, local funding for salmon recovery has contributed over \$40 million towards implementing priority habitat projects, much of which serves to match state and federal grants (Figure 15). Local funds come from a number of sources, most notably King Conservation District (KCD), King County Conservation Futures, King County Parks Levy, and local government surface water management fees, utility fees, and other sources. With the doubling of KCD funds in 2006, KCD has contributed nearly twice the funding for habitat restoration and protection anticipated in the WRIA 8 Plan. Additionally, King County Conservation Futures provides annual funding from property taxes levied throughout King County and its cities for the purchase and permanent protection of habitat and open space. Beginning in 2008, the King County Parks Levy also provides annual funding to acquire open space and restore county parkland that supports salmon habitat. These local funding sources serve as indispensable match to leverage grant funds for habitat protection and restoration projects.

Recovering Salmon in Challenging Economic Times

The last few years have been difficult for salmon recovery funding. Beginning in 2009, as a result of the recession, funding suffered as local, state, and federal budgets were greatly reduced. The PSAR program was reduced from \$42 million in the 2007-2009 biennial budget to \$33 million in the 2009-2011 biennial budget. In coming years, with the prospect of continued budget shortfalls at all levels, we could see further reductions in salmon recovery funding. This will continue to hinder implementation of the WRIA 8 Chinook Recovery Plan.

Although the reality of funding for habitat protection and restoration has fallen well short of the goals set by the Plan (Table 6), we have used the available funding to accomplish substantial priority project work. We will not be able to increase the pace and effectiveness of habitat restoration and protection without additional funding sources.

Figure 15. Amount of WRIA 8 grant funding by grant source compared to the amount of local funding. State and federal grant funds are leveraged heavily by local matching funds. Although King Conservation District grants are separated from local match in the figure, they should be included in the total local funds that serve as match to state and federal grants.

