

WRIA 9 MONITORING AND RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 9

Overview

The WRIA 9 Monitoring and Research grant program supports effectiveness monitoring and ongoing research and data gaps projects within WRIA 9.

The [WRIA 9 Watershed Ecosystem Forum \(Forum\)](#) is eager to assist private non-profit corporations (501(c)3 status), tribal governments, government agencies, special purpose districts and schools in funding monitoring and research projects that help inform recovery efforts in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound watershed.

The WRIA 9 2021 Salmon Habitat Plan Update includes a comprehensive update to the [Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan \(MAMP\)](#).

Monitoring for MAMP is divided into three primary types (Figure 1).

- **Implementation:** Did we implement the Salmon Habitat Plan’s projects, programs and policies as intended?
- **Effectiveness:** Did the projects perform as expected and have all the activities combined improved habitat conditions as expected?
- **Validation:** What overall effects have habitat plan implementation actions had on the Green River Chinook salmon viable salmonid population (VSP) parameters, and are the technical assumptions within the plan accurate?

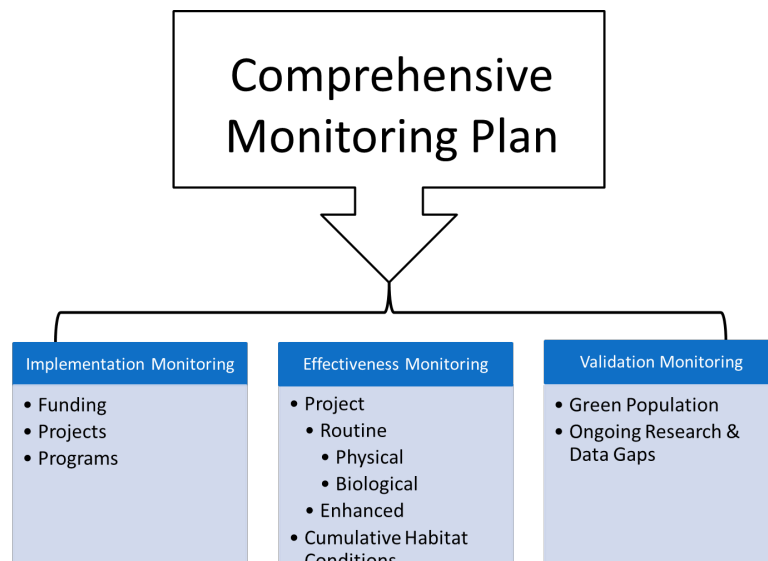


Figure 1: Types of Monitoring in the MAMP

These three primary types of monitoring are used to evaluate management strategies, adapt them as necessary, and inform a long-term funding strategy for WRIA 9 salmon recovery funds.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is soliciting proposals for:

- Enhanced Effectiveness Monitoring
- Ongoing Research and Data Gaps

Enhanced Effectiveness Monitoring

Enhanced effectiveness monitoring is focused on understanding how Chinook are using restoration projects. Unlike routine project monitoring, which asks whether a certain type of habitat was created and sustained, enhanced monitoring is meant to determine if/how fish use the habitat and which restoration and enhancement/improvement techniques work best.

EXAMPLES of study questions for Enhanced Effectiveness Monitoring projects:

- What factors determine whether restoration projects are contributing to higher growth rates (and thus survival) of juvenile Chinook?
- Are juvenile Chinook using constructed backwater habitats in the Lower Green and Duwamish, and if so, at what times and under what flows?
- How and when are juvenile Chinook using large wood structures in the Lower Green?

Ongoing Research and Data Gaps

The WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan is grounded in best available science; filling known data gaps is a priority for ensuring effective management and implementation of the Plan. In 2004, the WRIA 9 Implementation and Technical Committee (ITC) created the [WRIA 9 Chinook Salmon Research Framework](#) to “provide guidance about which research efforts should be implemented in the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed to inform recovery planning”. Existing information was used to create a conceptual model of how Chinook salmon use the watershed. The conceptual model helps organize and prioritize data and knowledge gaps for future research. Data gaps were categorized into three tiers. Topics in Tier 1 were developed in more detail within the report while Tier 2 and 3 topics were left undeveloped.

Since 2004 many data gaps have been addressed, or at least partially addressed through various studies. We now know some items originally listed as lower priorities in 2004 should be considered higher priorities and our list of data or knowledge gaps has expanded. There have been many reports with recommendations for additional research. Two newer reports that compiled and described many new data gaps are the 2012 [WRIA 9 Status and Trends Report](#) and white papers on [Chinook use](#), [temperature](#), [climate change](#), and [contaminants in the Salmon Habitat Plan update](#).

While the above resources document many opportunities for future research, they are not exhaustive and there are likely many data gaps that could be addressed through this funding source. This funding is also available to support studies that seek to address previously funded or existing research more fully.

EXAMPLES of study questions that build on ongoing research or address data gaps:

- How are contaminated substrates contributing to the very low survival of fry migrants in the Duwamish?
- To what extent do salmonids use pocket estuaries and small streams in WRIA 9? (see “Juvenile Chinook Salmon Rearing in Small Non-Natal Streams Draining into the Whidbey Basin” Beamer et

al, 2013 and “Juvenile salmon non-natal rearing via habitat shifting through the marine environment” Lambert & Chamberlin 2023)

About the Grant

Each year, the **WRIA 9** Forum grants a portion (up to 10%) of King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) funding to projects that support monitoring and research priorities within the Green/Duwamish watershed. **For the 2024 grant round, there is up to \$320,000 available for multiple projects.**

Meeting and Reporting Requirements

Grant recipients may be asked to meet with WRIA 9 staff and advisors to review their proposal, discuss project parameters, and finalize agreement language. Recipients will be required to complete one interim progress report and a final detailed report in addition to standard reporting for CWM grant funding. Interim progress reports can be a PowerPoint or short narrative. These requirements may be modified for certain projects. At the conclusion of the project, the project lead will be asked to present their work at a WRIA 9 Implementation and Technical Committee (ITC) and/or Forum meeting. The project lead may also be asked to present prior to the conclusion of the grant agreement.

Eligibility and Guidelines

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for funding through this grant program. All applicants that submit an NOI **by the deadline of January 12th, 2024**, will be invited to submit a full application.

Who Can Apply

- Private non-profit corporations (501(c)3 status)
- Tribes
- Governments (e.g., city, county, state, federal)
- Special Purpose districts
- Schools (e.g., colleges, universities)

Prerequisites

- Study demonstrates a high certainty of success of addressing project-specific study question(s) within the stated funding limits and 3-year timeframe of the agreement.
- Research deliverables will be fully completed with the grant award or in combination with other funds being sought or in hand.
- Award cannot be used to support monitoring for mitigation projects required or otherwise mandated under permits, as compensation for damages, or in other regulatory or legal contexts¹.
- Project must demonstrate consistency with the WRIA 9 Salmon Habitat Plan.
- Agreement deliverables must be completed within three years of award.
- Project budget is realistic and accurately represents the project’s expenses and revenue.
- Project must fully meet all [CWM policies](#).

¹ Grants can be used on mitigation projects to extend/increase monitoring beyond that required by regulatory permits.

- If requested, the applicant agrees to present their project at a mutually convenient WRIA 9 ITC or Forum meeting.

Each proposal description should include the following, as applicable:

- How study results will inform/advance WRIA 9 Chinook recovery efforts moving forward to improve outcomes
- A specific research plan including defined study questions, project activities, locations, and detailed collection and analytical methods
- How grant recipients/project lead(s) will share results with WRIA 9 partners at the ITC and/or the Forum and the scientific community in a timely way
- If or how the work supports equity², social and environmental justice³ (e.g., projects that include creative ways to communicate with/engage with the diverse communities within WRIA 9.)

How to Apply

NEW THIS YEAR Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to apply for funding through this grant program. All applicants that submit an **NOI by the deadline of January 12th, 2024**, are invited to submit a full application. Full and final application materials are **due by 5:00 pm PST on Wednesday, February 28, 2024** via this online form:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland>

Proposal Elements: Project applicants must complete the 2024 CWM online grant application and provide all materials detailed below to complete their application.

The following **five elements** are required to complete your application:

1. Completed CWM [online grant application](#).
2. Proposed Scope of Work (link available within the online grant application)
3. Detailed research plan (.doc/.docx format)
4. CWM Detailed Budget Table (link available within the online grant application)
5. Map of site(s) using the King County iMap tool (include legend)

Optional Application Elements (encouraged but not required to complete your application):

- Links to related reports
- Letters of support
- Landowner agreement/permission correspondence (Must be secured before grant agreement is signed)

See “How to Apply” above for instructions on submitting your application. **Grant Applications are due by**

² The distribution of resources that considers history and current position so that future outcomes are distributed equitably.

³ Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

5 pm PST on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

For an overview of the CWM Grant Program, please see [Grant Program Overview](#).

Budget Items and Restrictions

Up to \$320,000 is available for funding in 2024. Minimum grant award of \$10,000; there is no maximum grant award per year.

Budget items may include but are not limited to:

- Contracted services or labor
- Supplies and materials
- Equipment specifically related to the proposed project

The grant will NOT cover:

- Capital and/or land acquisition
- Long-term research projects classified as “status and trends” monitoring⁴
- General operations

Proposal Evaluation

A team of reviewers that includes members of WRIA 9 committees and partner organizations, serving as subject matter experts, will review, score, and rank applications. The review team will consider whether the proposal:

- Addresses the **monitoring priorities** described in the MAMP
- Focuses on **specific short- and long-term objectives that promise measurable results**
- Informs a **strategy, a goal, or project design**; or addresses **uncertainty around WRIA 9 data and knowledge gaps** (e.g., the *WRIA 9 Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan*, Tier 1 enhanced monitoring (Table 1 below))
- Demonstrates **careful planning and strong likelihood of success**
- Includes plans to **evaluate and share results**
- Structures proposal to include **principles of equity and social justice (ESJ)**

See “[Evaluation Criteria and Scoring](#)” below for scoring information.

Review Process

Applications received on or before 5:00 pm PST Wednesday, February 28, 2024, will undergo an initial assessment for completeness and eligibility. Staff will follow up directly with applicants on incomplete or missing information. Project applicants will have until Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 5 pm PST to complete applications in full.

⁴ If your proposal is for status and trends monitoring, please get in touch with the WRIA 9 Technical Coordinator Iris Kemp at ikemp@kingcounty.gov or (206) 477-7680.

The Monitoring and Research review team will convene and independently evaluate and score final proposals using the criteria outlined on the following page. Scores will be summed, and projects ranked in order of score – highest to lowest.

In April, the ranked list will be presented to the full WRIA 9 ITC for review. The ITC will consider the proposed ranked project list and either:

- Recommend the project list, as ranked, to the Forum, or
- Recommend an alternative ranking to the Forum with justification for that ranking.

The Forum will consider for approval a final project list as part of their May meeting. If approved, the funding list will then be presented to the Flood Control District for a final decision of approval. Following the Flood Control District meeting, project applicants will be notified of the decision, and, if approved, contract agreements will be initiated.

Grant Round Timeline

- **January 12, 2024** – Notice of Intent due via online portal here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland>
- **February 28, 2024** - Applications due via online portal here: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=kingcountywaterland>
- **March 6 - April 5, 2024** – Initial review and screening of projects by WRIA 9 staff. Review team evaluates, scores, and ranks projects.
- **April 8 – 10, 2024** – Reviewer workshops to finalize scores and ranking.
- **April 17, 2024** – Project list review and decision to recommend for approval by WRIA 9 ITC.
- **May 9, 2024** – Final project list decision for approval by the WRIA 9 Forum.
- **May 15, 2024** – Project applicants notified of their status for funding.
- **July – November 2024 (meeting schedule tentative)** – Flood Control District makes a funding decision on the final project list.
- **Following FCD meeting** – Project applicants contacted by King County for contracting. Funding is available after approval and following a signed contract agreement.

Questions/Contact Information

For any questions, please contact Suzanna Smith at susmith@kingcounty.gov or by phone at 206-477-4641. This information is available in alternative formats on request at 206-684-1280 (voice) or 711 (TTY).

Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

The following criteria will be used to guide the scoring for your proposal. Total points available: 100.

Technical Merit (55 points; 35 point minimum required to be considered for funding):		MAX points: 55
For Ongoing Research and Data Gap Proposals	Proposal clearly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies critical data gap (0 – 10); explains how proposed research addresses uncertainties (0 – 5); links research outcomes/hypotheses to improving salmon recovery outcomes (0 – 5). 	0 – 20
For Enhanced Effectiveness and Validation Monitoring Proposals	Tier from draft MAMP (or Table 1 below): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 1 = 16 - 20 Tier 2 = 6 – 15 Tier 3 = 0 - 5 	
All Proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focuses on specific short- and long-term objectives that promise measurable results Clearly states how results will inform/advance recovery efforts and contribute to better outcomes Demonstrates careful planning and thorough study design Includes plans to evaluate and share results 		0 – 35
Certainty of Success (35 points; 20 point minimum required):		MAX points: 35
Demonstrates careful planning and strong likelihood of success <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Highest</i> - Uses proven scientific methods <i>Medium</i> - Uses methods that may have been tested but with incomplete or varying results <i>Lower</i> - Uses methods that have not been tested or proven to be effective in past uses 		0 - 20
Proposal describes organization’s capacity and experience implementing similar projects		0 - 15
Community Support (10 points; 5 point minimum required):		MAX points: 10
Letter(s) of support submitted AND proposed work provides positive outcomes for equity and social justice (ESJ)		0 - 5
Proposal provides secured match (in-kind or funds). <i>NOTE:</i> Match is not required but highly encouraged		0 - 5
		TOTAL POINTS: 100

⁵ 14: Salmon recovery planning and habitat project development should integrate social justice and equity considerations. Public access and recreational improvements should be considered where demonstrated need exists and when compatible with salmon recovery goals. WRIA 9 should seek multiple benefit solutions that consider displacement and social justice issues. (WRIA 9 2021 Salmon Habitat Plan, Page 72)

Subwatershed	Restoration project subtype (does not include acquisition, stewardship, fish passage, and education projects)	Certainty of Benefit to Chinook (1=High to 5=low certainty)	Process Based? (1=process to 5 = Creation)	Relevance to future projects (number likely to do in the next 10 yrs) 1-few to 5-many	Relevance to future projects (likely cost over next 10 years) Low=1, high=5	sum	Tier
Duamish	*Shallow water habitat creation	3	5	4	5	17	1
Middle Green	*Spawning Gravel Supplementation	3	4	4	4	15	
Lower Green	*Backwater (nonflow thru off-channel habitat) creation	3	5	2	4	14	
Lower Green	Spawning gravel supplementation	4	4	1	4	13	
Marine	Pocket Estuary Enhancement	5	3	2	3	13	
Lower Green	*Side channel (flow thru off-channel habitat) creation	3	5	1	4	13	
Middle Green	LWD installation	3	4	3	3	13	
Marine	Soft-shoreline armoring	2	4	3	2	11	2
Middle Green	*Setback of levee or revetment	2	2	2	4	10	
Duamish	Revegetation	2	1	4	3	10	
Middle Green	Revegetation	2	1	4	3	10	
Tributaries	*Revegetation	2	1	4	3	10	
Tributaries	*LWD installation	3	3	2	2	10	
Lower Green	*Setback or removal of levee or revetment	2	3	1	3	9	3
Lower Green	*Revegetation	2	1	3	3	9	
Marine	Marine shoreline armoring removal-other shoreform	4	1	1	2	8	
Marine	Revegetation of riparian area	2	1	3	2	8	
Middle Green	Removal of shoreline armoring	2	1	2	3	8	
Tributaries	*Creek channel creation or relocation	3	2	1	2	8	
Marine	Marine shoreline armoring removal-feeder bluffs	3	1	1	2	7	
Upper Basin	Enhanced level of monitoring is not suggested until fish passage is provided	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
* denotes a project subtype that could be monitored through the ACOE Ecosystem Restoration Program							

Table 1. Enhanced project effectiveness monitoring priorities by project type and subwatershed. Higher scores are a higher priority for enhanced monitoring.