

Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8) Project Subcommittee Funding Report – 2016

King County Flood Control District Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Funding Summary: Table 1 summarizes the funding for the 2016 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant cycle in WRIA 8. The total available includes WRIA 8’s 2016 allocation from the King County Flood Control District plus funds returned from past grant rounds. The returned funds consist of \$260,000 from an acquisition project that did not move forward, \$62,701 from monitoring grants that closed under budget, and \$14,303 for an outreach award the sponsor eventually did not accept.

2016 CWM Allocation	\$1,615,505
Returned Funds	\$337,004
<i>Total Funding Available</i>	<i>\$1,952,509</i>
2016 CWM Funding Requested	\$2,323,328
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>(\$370,819)</i>

Grant Eligibility and Administration: Activities proposed for CWM funding must occur within King County, and the proposed scope and budget must meet the guidelines and policies outlined by King County, who administers CWM grants. Eligible activities include habitat restoration (including project design), acquisition, monitoring, and public outreach and education. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged. Proposed activities must be reflected on the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan.

Project Subcommittee Process: The WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee (Subcommittee; participants listed in Attachment 2) reviews grant proposals and develops funding recommendations for consideration by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (Council). The Subcommittee visits project sites and hears in-office presentations from project sponsors and subsequently assesses each proposal using the WRIA 8 grant criteria. The criteria are a tool to evaluate the degree to which proposals align with WRIA 8 recovery objectives, and funding is prioritized for proposals that demonstrate the greatest capacity to successfully implement objectives from the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

Guidance for Allocating CWM Funds: In past years, the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council set funding targets to guide the Subcommittee’s allocation of CWM funds across eligible categories. Of the total available in a given year, \$300,000 was identified as the maximum for monitoring, \$96,000 as the maximum for outreach and education, and the balance as the amount to be directed to restoration and acquisition projects (with up to 15% of the project total as a guideline for riparian-only proposals). As part of the funding guidance, the Council granted the Subcommittee the flexibility to deviate from the funding targets where watershed priorities and the merits of the proposals justify doing so. The Subcommittee assumed this same guidance for the 2016 CWM funding cycle.

2016 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Protection and Restoration Projects

1. Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Design – *Seattle Public Utilities*

Grant Request: \$300,000 Funding Recommended: \$300,000

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) requests funding for final design of a project that will improve instream, lakeshore, and delta habitat for Chinook salmon and other species on Taylor Creek, which flows into south Lake Washington. The stream channel is currently tightly confined by bank armoring, and past property acquisitions will allow SPU to meander the channel and dramatically improve habitat for juvenile Chinook migrating to Puget Sound. The project will also complete SPU's series of juvenile Chinook "rest stops," or refuge habitats, along the south Lake Washington shoreline.

2. Luther Burbank South Shoreline Restoration – *City of Mercer Island*

Grant Request: \$325,000 Funding Recommended: \$0

The City of Mercer Island proposes to rework 900-feet of shoreline within Luther Burbank Park with the goal of improving lakeshore habitat for juvenile Chinook. Project elements include excavating the eroding shoreline and relocating an unpaved trail to create a more gradual sloping shoreline, placing gravels to provide beach habitat, and replanting the area with native vegetation.

The shoreline currently offers functional shallow water rearing habitat for juvenile salmon with undercut banks and over-hanging vegetation. The proposed project is an expensive approach and may not result in a net-benefit over existing conditions. There will be a short-term temporal loss of mature vegetation due to the clearing that will need to occur to implement the project, and overall, the biological need for the project as proposed is unclear. The sponsor will be invited to meet with the WRIA 8 Technical Committee to discuss actions that will better support Chinook recovery.

3. Wayne Sammamish Community Project – *Forterra*

Grant Request: \$1,000,000 Funding Recommended: \$600,000

The 89-acre Wayne Golf Course along the Sammamish River was recently acquired by Forterra for the purpose of conservation and future habitat restoration, and Forterra is seeking grant funding to repay the acquisition loan and allow for the property to be transferred to public ownership. This funding request is focused specifically on the "Back Nine," which contains 1,000 linear feet of Sammamish River shoreline and the downstream portion and mouth of Waynita Creek.

The project partners (City of Bothell, King County, One Bothell, and Forterra) have three years to assemble the funding needed to repay the acquisition loan and allow for the transfer of the property to public ownership. From a salmon recovery perspective, the most significant value of the acquisition is in the future restoration of the site. The Subcommittee spent considerable time discussing the project and how much funding to commit now. Ultimately, they determined it would be pragmatic at this time to allow stakeholders to further develop the vision for the property and also allow the City of Bothell to engage in necessary public planning processes. Both will result in greater certainty of the future restoration potential.

2016 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects

1. Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action – Seattle Public Utilities

Grant Request: \$174,627 Funding Recommended: \$174,627

Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action is a partnership between Seattle Public Utilities, Forterra, and King County's Noxious Weeds Control Program, and these partners work collaboratively to restore riparian habitat on the lower Cedar River from Landsburg Dam to the City of Renton. The current proposal will provide two years of funding to support the ongoing effort to treat and control invasive plants and restore native riparian forest that will benefit Chinook habitat and overall ecological health. The sponsor has a good track record of working within the limitations presented by the number of private properties within the project area to achieve excellent results. To-date, the partnership has controlled 85% of the pre-treatment extent of knotweed.

2. Issaquah Tributary Restoration at Hope Creek – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Grant Request: \$46,250 Funding Recommended: \$46,250

In partnership with the City of Issaquah, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust proposes to perform riparian restoration along lower Hope Creek, a tributary to Issaquah Creek. The purpose of the project is to remove invasive plants and install native vegetation to enhance the riparian plant community adjacent to previous restoration efforts implemented by the City.

The project site is directly adjacent to other protected and restored areas and the main stem of Issaquah Creek, and the primary benefit of the project is providing additional protection to a cool water input to Issaquah Creek, which is an important function to safeguard against the potential effects of climate change. The proposal also intends to achieve substantial planting at a low cost.

3. Willow's Run Golf Course Restoration – Stewardship Partners

Grant Request: \$41,556 Funding Recommended: \$0

Stewardship Partners proposes to restore 1,680 linear feet of riparian habitat along three streams that flow through the Willow's Run Golf Course and drain to the Sammamish River. The objective is to improve water quality (temperature) by providing riparian habitat where it is currently minimal or absent, as well as to provide educational signage on the importance of riparian buffers for salmon.

Funding is not recommended for this project due to three primary concerns: 1) Chinook do not use the subject streams or have access to them, 2) the streams will not influence Sammamish River temperatures at the most critical time of year since two run dry in the summer and a third flows into a holding pond, and 3) the planting is high cost and includes only low-growing vegetation. While the partnership with the golf course and the educational elements were viewed favorably, the proposal did not demonstrate a strong connection to Chinook recovery.

2016 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Monitoring/Investigations

1. Effects of Nighttime Artificial Lighting on Juvenile Chinook Salmon in Lake Washington – *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Grant Request: \$14,795 Funding Recommended: \$14,795

Emerging research suggests juvenile Chinook salmon are attracted to lights in the nearshore of Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, which may cause increased vulnerability to predators. This proposal intends to test light intensity levels and new LED lights to provide better information to resource managers on how to reduce the effects of nighttime lighting on juvenile Chinook.

The WRIA 8 Technical Forum identified nighttime lighting as an issue for which more information is needed. The results of this work could be considered best available science, meaning it can be used by regulators involved in permitting decisions. This is a one-time request, and the Subcommittee recommends applying returned funds from past Fish In/Fish Out grants to support this work.

2. Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring – *King County*

Grant Request: \$57,540 Funding Recommended: \$57,540

The purpose of this effort is to monitor spawning Chinook in WRIA 8 through redd and carcass surveys. These data are used in concert with juvenile monitoring data to evaluate viable salmonid population (VSP) parameters and thus the success of implementing the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

3. Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring – *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Grant Request: \$242,460 Funding Recommended: \$242,460

The proposal will continue the monitoring of VSP parameters of Chinook in WRIA 8 by trapping and tagging juvenile fish. The resulting abundance, productivity, survival, and life-history diversity data are used to evaluate the success of implementing the *WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan*.

4. Predator Abundance and Predation Impacts on Juvenile Chinook and Sockeye Salmon – *University of Washington and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

Grant Request: \$42,572 Funding Recommended: \$42,572

Predation of juvenile salmon can limit salmon survival and production, which has implications for the effectiveness of restoration actions. This work proposes to estimate predator abundance and quantify salmon predation to better understand the magnitude of the problem, as well as to provide information about factors that affect predation and can be addressed through management action.

The WRIA 8 Technical Forum identified predation as an issue for which additional information is needed. This request is time sensitive given that funding is needed for the second year of a two-year study. This is also a one-time request, and the Subcommittee recommends applying returned funds from past Fish In/Fish Out grants to support this work.

2016 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Outreach and Education

1. Citizen Action Training School – *Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

Grant Request: \$16,828 Funding Recommended: \$16,828

The Citizen Action Training School is an engagement and education program that offers participants a free 8-week training course on watershed health (with salmon as the central focus) in exchange for committing to a volunteer project of at least 50 hours. This is a unique program in that it focuses on empowering citizens to change behaviors and get involved in their communities to protect and restore salmon habitat.

2. Beach Naturalists – *Seattle Aquarium*

Grant Request: \$13,200 Funding Recommended: \$13,200

The Beach Naturalist program is a public education and outreach campaign designed to engage citizens in learning how to protect and conserve the nearshore environment. Trained naturalists motivate behavioral change by raising public understanding of the value of the intertidal ecosystem, the nearshore, and Puget Sound—and they connect these habitats to the needs of salmon.

3. Cedar River Salmon Journey – *Seattle Aquarium*

Grant Request: \$38,500 Funding Recommended: \$38,500

This program provides opportunities for people to see salmon and learn how individual choices affect them, and in so doing supports and promotes salmon recovery in WRIA 8. Since 1998, the Salmon Journey program has educated over 105,000 citizens about Cedar River salmon, watershed health, and the actions citizens can take to help salmon recovery efforts.

4. Issaquah Hatchery Education and Outreach – *Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH)*

Grant Request: \$10,000 Funding Recommended: \$10,000

Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) seeks to expand their salmon recovery educational programs by recruiting and training new volunteers to increase their outreach at the Issaquah Hatchery (the most visited hatchery in the state), as well as through participation in outreach events and promotion of best management practices not previously part of their work.

Returned CWM Funds and Carryover to 2017

Leading up to the 2016 CWM grant cycle, WRIA 8 staff learned of \$337,004 in past grant awards that were being returned by sponsors. These funds are available for reallocation to priority proposals submitted for CWM consideration. As described on page 4, the Subcommittee proposes allocating \$57,367 of this amount to monitoring—over \$60,000 of the returned fund balance comes from past monitoring awards, and the monitoring proposals either fill a priority data gap or ensure data continuity. The Subcommittee recommends carrying forward \$395,737 to the 2017 CWM grant round. While submitted proposals could have absorbed most of this amount, the Subcommittee recommends allowing time for projects to further develop or be adjusted to better meet recovery objectives.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for the 2016 CWM Grant Cycle

Table 2: Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Project Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Lower Taylor Creek Restoration Design <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i>	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$600,000	\$300,000
Luther Burbank South Shoreline Restoration <i>City of Mercer Island</i>	\$325,000	\$494,452	\$819,542	\$0
Wayne Sammamish Community Project <i>Forterra</i>	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$1,500,000	\$600,000
Totals	\$1,625,000	\$1,294,542	\$2,919,542	\$900,000

Table 3: Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Project Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Cedar River Stewardship-in-Action <i>Seattle Public Utilities</i>	\$174,627	\$54,261	\$228,887	\$174,627
Issaquah Tributary Restoration at Hope Creek <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$46,250	\$17,500	\$63,750	\$46,250
Willow's Run Golf Course Creek Restoration <i>Stewardship Partners</i>	\$41,556	\$7,000	\$48,556	\$0
Totals	\$262,433	\$78,761	\$341,194	\$220,877

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee Funding Recommendations for the 2016 CWM Grant Cycle

Table 4: Monitoring Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Effects of Artificial Nighttime Lighting <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	\$14,795	\$11,583	\$26,378	\$14,795
Adult Chinook (Fish In) Monitoring <i>King County</i>	\$57,540	\$18,903	\$76,443	\$57,540
Juvenile Salmon (Fish Out) Monitoring <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>	\$242,460	\$0	\$242,460	\$242,460
Predator Abundance and Impacts <i>UW/WDFW</i>	\$42,572	\$121,828	\$164,400	\$42,572
Totals	\$357,367	\$152,314	\$509,681	\$357,367

Table 5: Outreach and Education Funding Recommendations				
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Request</i>	<i>Match</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Citizen Action Training School <i>Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group</i>	\$16,828	\$27,010	\$43,838	\$16,828
Beach Naturalists <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$13,200	\$70,914	\$84,114	\$13,200
Cedar River Salmon Journey <i>Seattle Aquarium</i>	\$38,500	\$80,631	\$119,131	\$38,500
Issaquah Hatchery Education and Outreach <i>Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery</i>	\$10,000	\$201,510	\$211,510	\$10,000
Totals	\$78,528	\$380,065	\$458,593	\$78,528

Table 6: 2016 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary		
<i>Total Funding Available</i>	<i>Total Funding Recommended</i>	<i>Requested Carryover to 2017</i>
\$1,952,509	\$1,556,772	\$395,737

Attachment 2

2016 WRIA 8 Project Subcommittee – Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Round

1. Tor Bell – Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*
2. Jim Bower – King County
3. Diane Buckshnis – City of Edmonds*
4. Christa Heller – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
5. Peter Holte – City of Redmond
6. Kathy Minsch – Seattle Public Utilities
7. Mark Phillips – City of Lake Forest Park*
8. Kerry Ritland – City of Issaquah
9. Scott Stolnack – WRIA 8
10. Jason Wilkinson – WRIA 8, Subcommittee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member