

Technical and Programmatic Priorities – Recommended Investments

January 2018

Background

During the 2018 WRIA 8 budget approval process, the Salmon Recovery Council (Council) approved a carry-forward fund balance of \$184,476, which is available to advance priority actions identified during the WRIA 8 Plan update process (technical and programmatic priorities), to fill revenue gaps due to federal and state funding reductions, or to carry-forward to fund priorities identified in the future. WRIA 8 staff committed to briefing the Council on priorities to be considered for investment using these funds after approval of the Plan update.

The WRIA 8 Plan update places increased emphasis on measurable improvements to Chinook salmon habitat and identifies gaps and priorities to address. Based on the Plan update, the Technical Committee and Implementation Committee discussed and identified a suite of initial technical and programmatic investment recommendations for the Council’s consideration. The Council reviewed the draft recommendations at the November 2017 meeting. Based on the discussion, further research and communications with potential partners, and review and discussion with the committees, staff revised the recommendations. This memo presents the updated recommendations for Council decision at the January 2018 meeting. In addition to the topics recommended for funding, staff and the committees will continue to develop several additional topics (see list at the end of the memo) for future Council consideration.

Summary of Recommended Technical and Programmatic Investments:

Recommended Action/Product	Estimated Cost															
<p>Stream wood surveys</p> <p>A stream wood survey in 2018 would establish baseline information necessary for tracking progress toward wood goals in streams. The program would focus on Tier 1 and Tier 2 streams only (North, Little Bear, Bear/Cottage, Kelsey and Issaquah creeks). Information would be reported at five-year intervals, as required in the WRIA 8 MAP. Work would involve partnerships with local jurisdictions as well as King County, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and WDFW.</p> <p>This work would be repeated every five years as part of implementation of the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan.</p> <p><u>Cost Basis:</u></p> <p>Time estimate -- 2018 wood surveys of Chinook salmon streams in WRIA 8.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="181 1759 1203 1953"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="181 1759 841 1801">STREAM</th> <th data-bbox="841 1759 1036 1801">Miles</th> <th data-bbox="1036 1759 1203 1801">Total hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="181 1801 841 1843">North</td> <td data-bbox="841 1801 1036 1843">5</td> <td data-bbox="1036 1801 1203 1843">20</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="181 1843 841 1885">Little Bear</td> <td data-bbox="841 1843 1036 1885">4</td> <td data-bbox="1036 1843 1203 1885">16</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="181 1885 841 1927">Bear</td> <td data-bbox="841 1885 1036 1927">7</td> <td data-bbox="1036 1885 1203 1927">28</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="181 1927 841 1953">Cottage</td> <td data-bbox="841 1927 1036 1953">3.5</td> <td data-bbox="1036 1927 1203 1953">14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	STREAM	Miles	Total hours	North	5	20	Little Bear	4	16	Bear	7	28	Cottage	3.5	14	<p>\$32,000</p>
STREAM	Miles	Total hours														
North	5	20														
Little Bear	4	16														
Bear	7	28														
Cottage	3.5	14														

Evans	0.2	0.8	
Kelsey	4	16	
EF Issaquah	3	12	
Issaquah (estimate)	15	60	
May	3	12	
Rock	0.4	1.6	
Taylor	1.3	5.2	
Coal	2.7	10.8	
(travel to sites)		60	
Project management		60	
TOTAL		316.4	
Assumptions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys will be performed in conjunction with Chinook redd surveys in fall 2018. • Assumed average (conservative) rate of 4 hours per stream mile for surveys. Some streams will take shorter or longer periods, but this average rate factors that in. • Vehicle cost included in KC overhead. • Actual cost likely will be less, since many streams have less wood to survey, and some surveys may be performed by partner agencies rather than King County staff, or as part of the spawner survey so mobilization and other costs could be reduced. 			
Cedar and Sammamish river wood surveys			\$55,000 - \$60,000
<p>A river wood survey of the Cedar and Sammamish rivers is necessary for tracking progress toward wood goals in rivers. The TC will seek partnerships with other groups who will benefit from this information. Total cost could be as high as \$100,000 or more but costs would be shared among partners. The survey should be repeated every 5 years and reported in five-year intervals, as required in the WRIA 8 MAP.</p> <p>This work would be repeated every five years as part of implementation of the WRIA 8 Monitoring and Assessment Plan.</p>			
<u>Cost Basis:</u>			
Time estimate -- 2018 wood surveys of Cedar and Sammamish rivers.			
		Hours/	#
RIVER	Miles	Mile	Staff
Cedar	21	12	2
Sammamish	13	1	2
(travel to sites included in hr/mi)			
Project management & reporting			40
TOTAL			570

Assumptions:

- Surveys will be performed during low-flow conditions in summer 2018.
- Assumed average (conservative) rate of 12 hours per stream mile for Cedar surveys, including travel, mobilization, etc. This estimate incorporates the extra effort needed for side channels, challenging river conditions, wider bankfull areas to survey, etc.
- Vehicle costs and mobilization included in total hours.

Additional topics being developed for future consideration:

- **Addressing elevated temperatures in the Ship Canal** – The WRIA 8 Plan Update highlights the impact from elevated temperatures in the Ship Canal as one of the most critical bottlenecks to salmon recovery in the watershed. Using a phased approach to begin to address the issue, Phase 1 would involve convening and/or coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders to produce a *scope of work and request for proposals* (RFP) for development of a report that documents the problem of elevated temperatures in the Ship Canal and synthesizes existing information and data. Additional phases of this effort would involve using this report as a basis for working with the Corps and other partners to identify potential solutions and initiate an options analysis to identify a preferred alternative for addressing high temperatures in the Ship Canal. Additional funding will be needed to support future phases.
- **Outreach and Communications Implementation Strategy** – Produce an outreach and communications implementation strategy working with WRIA 8 outreach and communications partners, which builds on past programmatic actions gap analysis and recommendations (2009) to advance priority education and outreach actions identified in the Plan update. Proposals may also be brought to Council for consideration that address emerging specific education and outreach needs/opportunities.
- **Comprehensive Ballard Locks Economic Impact Study** – Work with partners to build on recent economic impact study to cost-share development of a more comprehensive study to fully capture the broader suite of economic impacts resulting from a potential Locks failure, including transportation infrastructure (e.g., I-90 Bridge), municipal water supply and wastewater service lines, habitat protection and restoration investments, etc.