



Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (WRIA 8)

Grant Review Committee Funding Report – 2026

Salmon Recovery Funding Board, Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration, and Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Programs

2026 Funding Recommendations

The WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee (Committee) recommends 31 grant awards totaling the full amount available of \$4,521,113 for Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) and \$1,920,480 for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)/Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR). The recommendations allocate funds across eligible categories as follows (for a list of all proposals see Attachment 1):

- PSAR Habitat Protection and Restoration projects - \$1,457,555
- SRFB Habitat Protection and Restoration projects - \$267,445
- SRFB Riparian projects - \$195,480
- CWM Habitat Protection and Restoration projects - \$2,500,265
- CWM Riparian Habitat and Stewardship projects - \$794,446
- CWM Monitoring and Assessment - \$879,670
- CWM Outreach and Education - \$346,732

Application Process

Pre-Application Consultation

Sponsors were encouraged to reach out to the Projects and Funding Coordinator to discuss potential projects, particularly if the sponsor or project is new to our process. Several sponsors took advantage of this opportunity and were either able to tailor their projects to better fit our grant round, or to seek funding elsewhere from more appropriate sources.

Notice of Intent (NOI) Process

The WRIA 8 team reviewed 55 notices of intent submitted by prospective grant proposal sponsors to determine alignment with recovery strategies and advance those that were well-aligned to full application stage for one or both fund sources. Staff invited all but two proposals to move forward but counseled several sponsors that their projects might not compete as well as others in this grant round. Several sponsors elected not to move forward with grant applications after the NOI phase. This process reduced the Committee's review time and allowed for additional conversations with project sponsors prior to application.

Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant Programs

Funding Summary

Table 1 summarizes 2026 Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) grant funding in WRIA 8. Grants for SRFB are available annually and are comprised of state and federal funds. PSAR funding is allocated on a biannual basis and is subject to approval by the state legislature – projects recommended for PSAR funding in this grant round will receive funding in July of 2027. In 2025, WRIA 8 and other Washington State Lead Entities for salmon recovery received an

allocation of funding for priority riparian projects, and the amount here reflects unallocated funding from the last grant round. Grant allocations for SRFB are still being finalized; the amounts below represent anticipated allocations of state and federal funding for this grant round.

<i>Table 1. Summary of Estimated 2026 SRFB/PSAR Grant Funds – WRIA 8</i>	
2026 Estimated SRFB Allocation	\$435,234
2026 SRFB Riparian Allocation - Carryover from 2025 Grant Round	\$195,480
2026 Anticipated PSAR Allocation	\$ 1,457,555
Total SRFB/PSAR Estimated Allocation	\$2,088,269
2026 Funding Requested	\$2,097,399
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>\$9,130</i>

Grant Eligibility and Administration

Grants for SRFB/PSAR are administered by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), and projects proposed for funding must meet the criteria and policies outlined in RCO's Manual 18. Eligibility is geared toward acquisition and habitat restoration (including project design and planning activities that relate to project development). All proposed projects must be on the WRIA 8 Four-Year Work Plan and have a clear link to one or more of WRIA 8's recovery strategies.

Grant Review Committee Process

SRFB/PSAR Grant Review Committee members (listed in Attachment 2) review grant proposals and develop funding recommendations for consideration by the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council (Council). In March, the Committee, RCO grant manager, several PSP staff members, and two members of the SRFB Technical Review Panel visited two sites in person and heard online presentations from two applicants. The Committee evaluated the proposals using the WRIA 8 grant criteria. Funding is prioritized for proposals that align best with WRIA 8 goals and recovery strategies, articulate clear goals and objectives – including equity and environmental justice considerations - and demonstrate readiness and a strong likelihood of successful implementation. The Committee also reviewed one application for the PSAR Large Capital Projects RFP (for the Carey Creek at 276th SE Fish Passage Project) and elected to write a letter of support for this project in the regional competitive funding round.

Cooperative Watershed Management Grants

Funding Summary

Table 2 summarizes the 2026 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) grant funding in WRIA 8, provided by the King County Flood Control District. The total funding available includes WRIA 8's 2025 allocation from the King County Flood Control District plus returned funds from past projects that closed under budget or could not move forward to implementation.

<i>Table 2. Summary of 2026 Cooperative Watershed Management (CWM) Grant Funds – WRIA 8</i>	
2025 CWM Allocation	\$4,521,113
Returned Funds	\$0
Total Funding Available	\$4,521,113
2025 CWM Funding Requested	\$7,204,935
<i>Difference between Requested and Available Funds</i>	<i>\$2,683,822</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, the administer of CWM grants. Eligible activities include habitat restoration (including planning and design), acquisition, monitoring and assessment, and outreach and education. Matching funds are not required but are encouraged.

Grant Review Committee Process

CWM Grant Review Committee members (listed in Attachment 3) individually reviewed the grant proposals using the WRIA 8 grant criteria. The Committee had site visits for five habitat projects, and all other applicants gave virtual presentations to describe their proposals. The Committee met to share perspectives about the merits of the proposals and to develop the funding recommendations presented in this report. Funding is prioritized for proposals that align best with WRIA 8 goals and recovery strategies, articulate clear goals and objectives – including equity and environmental justice considerations - and demonstrate a strong likelihood of successful implementation.

Salmon Recovery Council Guidance for Allocating CWM Funds

The Salmon Recovery Council (Council) annually issues guidance to inform the Grant Review Committee's funding allocation discussions. In November of 2025 the Council voted to use the same allocation formula used in the 2025 grant round (outlined in Table 3). The Council approved using of 20% of the annual allocation for monitoring and assessment activities and 5% of the annual allocation for outreach and education activities. Of the amount remaining in the allocation, 85% is set aside for habitat restoration and acquisition projects and 15% is available for projects focused entirely on riparian restoration and stewardship (Table 3). The Council also approved using up to 20% of the monitoring and assessment allocation to fund management actions that further successful efforts at addressing salmon survival that have been identified during previous rounds of monitoring and assessment funding.

Because there were far more riparian proposals in Tier 1 areas than in previous years, the habitat and riparian subcommittee recommended using over 15% of the habitat allocation to support more of these types of projects. The subcommittee reviewing outreach and education proposals also wanted to fully fund all proposals recommended for funding and recommended allocating \$120,676 more than the original allocation for this category. These recommendations are outlined in the funding

recommendation tables in Attachment 1. The original funding targets are provided in Table 3 and do not reflect the proposed reallocation.

<i>Table 3. Original Funding Guidance by Category for 2026 CWM Grant Funds in WRIA 8</i>	
Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Projects	\$2,882,210
Riparian Habitat and Stewardship Projects	\$508,625
Monitoring and Assessment Activities	\$904,223
Outreach and Education Activities	\$226,056
Total	\$4,521,113

2026 CWM and SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendation Summary – Habitat Acquisition and Restoration Projects

The Grant Review Committee (Committee) recommended full funding for two SRFB/PSAR projects and eight CWM habitat projects, and partial funding for one CWM habitat project. Because our SRFB allocation is still uncertain, we will need to make decisions on any remaining SRFB funds once that amount has been finalized.

SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendations

Big Gulch Restoration Implementation – *Tulalip Tribes*

SRFB/PSAR Grant Request: \$1,500,000

SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommended: \$1,500,000

Tulalip Tribes will work with stakeholders and engineers to advance designs from permit ready to final, and complete project construction on Big Gulch stream immediately above a railroad crossing on Big Gulch. The current planning phase includes close coordination with stakeholders to complement work downstream as part of a fish barrier removal project led by Tulalip and BNSF in which a partially impassible culvert will be replaced with a channel spanning bridge on the Mukilteo rail line. Final designs will identify the preferred re-alignment of the stream course and restore intertidal processes, improve riparian buffers, and reestablish meaningful habitat for salmonid species. This funding request builds on previously funded work to maximize benefits for salmon by re-aligning the stream for maximum benefit to ESA listed species, and creation of much needed nearshore habitat at the outlet of Big Gulch.

Perrinville Creek Railroad Stream Crossing Preliminary Design – *Tulalip Tribes*

SRFB/PSAR Grant Request: \$225,000

SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommended: \$225,000

The project is the first restoration project resulting from the Tulalip Tribes' regional project prioritizing and implementing stream mouth restoration along the railroad on the shoreline of Puget Sound. The project includes restoration of 500 feet of stream and estuary habitats. This will include channel realignment, installation of large wood, restoration of a small estuary upstream of the railroad, and planting of native vegetation. This project is occurring concurrently with the City of Edmonds' work to address three fish passage barriers in the lowermost 500 feet of Perrinville Creek. The project will restore process-based delivery of water, sediment, and wood from the coastal stream watershed to Puget Sound. Downstream of the railroad crossing, the restored delivery of sediment to the marine nearshore will promote the expansion of the stream delta and adjacent nearshore habitats.

CWM Funding Recommendations

Carey Creek at 276th SE Fish Passage Project - *King County Water & Land Resources Division*

CWM Grant Request: \$500,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$500,000

The project will construct a 135-foot-long fish passable structure bridge to replace the barrier culvert where 276th Ave SE, crosses over Carey Creek in Hobart, WA. The new bridge will allow all species and life stages of fish to move freely under the bridge and provide salmon access to 4.43 miles of high-quality stream habitat.

May Creek Delta Restoration - *Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

CWM Grant Request: \$414,669

CWM Funding Recommended: \$414,669

The proposed project advances 30% designs to final design and permitting for the restoration of the mouth of May Creek, a tributary of South Lake Washington. When constructed, the project will restore shallow-water habitat for juvenile Chinook through vegetated delta islands and placement of large and fine woody material.

Dock Permitting Portal: Lake Sammamish & South Lake Washington- *Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

CWM Grant Request: \$50,474

CWM Funding Recommended: \$50,474

Mid Sound and Trout Unlimited will develop an online dock permitting portal to help shoreline residents navigate permitting and implement salmon-friendly dock improvements. Partnering with WDFW and other permitting agencies, the portal will reduce barriers, increase landowner knowledge, and serve as a scalable framework for additional shoreline restoration actions.

Conceptual Action Plan Guiding Whale Scout Programming at the Former Wayne Golf Course -*Whale Scout*

CWM Grant Request: \$31,292

CWM Funding Recommended: \$31,292

Whale Scout partners with the City of Bothell, engaging students and the community in riparian restoration and salmon recovery education along the Sammamish River at the former Wayne Golf Course. The goal of this project is to plan future efforts following the city-led "Wayne Open Space Action Plan" currently underway and the Waynita/Sammamish restoration project nearing construction. This work will complement community engagement work funded through a WRIA 8 Project Innovation and Community grant.

Laughing Jacobs Creek Restoration Construction (Reach 1)- *Trout Unlimited*

CWM Grant Request: \$ 1,592,909

CWM Funding Recommended: \$ 992,665

Laughing Jacobs Creek is one of the larger tributaries of Lake Sammamish and provides an important rest stop for juvenile Chinook salmon on their migration to the sound. This project includes improvement of ~500 ft of stream, removal of armoring and invasive plants, creation of a floodplain and riparian area, installation of 18 instream wood structures, and replacement of two crossings. Because this project is not located in a Tier 1 area, the Committee recommends partial funding for this effort.

Issaquah Miyawaki Forest – Establishment Phase- *Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC)*

CWM Grant Request: \$25,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$25,000

IATC, in partnership with the City of Issaquah, seeks WRIA 8 funding to support establishment stewardship of a 15,000-sq-ft Miyawaki riparian forest along 220 ft of Issaquah Creek. Activities will ensure ≥85% plant survival, improve stream shading and bank stability for Chinook salmon, and support a youth internship program and community stewardship events.

Seidel Creek Habitat Restoration and Connectivity Project- *Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

CWM Grant Request: \$ 246,598

CWM Funding Recommended: \$ 246,598

The purpose of this project is to connect and expand existing healthy riparian and in-stream habitat on Seidel Creek from the confluence with Bear Creek to approximately 1300 linear feet upstream and to address environmental and point-sources of thermal pollution in Seidel Creek.

Lower Thornton Creek Restoration and Fish Passage Improvements Feasibility Study- *Seattle Public Utilities*

CWM Grant Request: \$239,567

CWM Funding Recommended: \$239,567

A feasibility study will identify opportunities to improve salmon habitat in lower Thornton and tributary Maple Creek. Study sites include Thornton Creek mouth, Thornton Creek Natural Area, a King County Wastewater facility, Maple Creek ravine, and seven SPU-owned culverts. The resulting high level concept report will inform future projects to address several recovery strategies on Thornton Creek.

238th Avenue NE and NE 70th Street Culvert Replacement - King County, DLS, Road Services Division
CWM Grant Request: \$1,394,333 **CWM Funding Recommended: \$0**

King County proposes to replace a failed metal culvert at the 238th Ave NE crossing of an unnamed tributary to Evans Creek with a new culvert that improves fish passage, accommodates flood flows and future climate conditions, and restores ecological connectivity. The project will also restore 30 feet of stream channel upstream and downstream to support sediment transport and stabilize the streambed. This project is in a lower priority area of the watershed with less direct Chinook benefits, so the Committee is not recommending it for funding.

2026 CWM and SRFB Funding Recommendation Summary – Riparian Habitat/Stewardship Projects

The Committee recommends full funding for five CWM riparian projects and partial funding for one CWM riparian project and one SRFB riparian project. The partial funding from both sources awarded to the King County WLRD/Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust Cedar River Restoration at Belmondo Reach and Dorre Don Natural Area is intended to fully fund that project when combined.

Cedar River Riparian Restoration at Belmondo Reach & Dorre Don Natural Area - Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and King County Water and Land Resources Division

CWM Grant Request: \$ 303,825 **CWM Funding Recommended: \$158,000**
SRFB Riparian Grant request: \$ 372,399 **SRFB Riparian Funding Recommended: \$195,480**

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, in partnership with King County Water and Land Resources Division and King County Noxious Weeds Control Program, will restore 24.8 acres of riparian habitat along the Cedar River at the Belmondo Reach and Dorre Don Natural Areas. The project will control invasive species and install 15,000 native trees and shrubs to improve salmon habitat and support long-term restoration and maintenance efforts.

Bear Creek Knotweed Treatment Program - Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group

CWM Grant Request: \$179,983 **CWM Funding Recommended: \$179,983**

The project continues critical knotweed control in the Bear Creek watershed to support ESA-listed Chinook. Mid Sound will engage private and public landowners to monitor and treat knotweed infestations and install replacement plantings where control has been successful. Landowner outreach will identify opportunities for future treatment and revegetation.

Lake Sammamish UWRP Riparian Stewardship – Phase II - Trout Unlimited

CWM Grant Request: \$152,553 **CWM Funding Recommended: \$152,553**

This project continues riparian stewardship along Issaquah and Tibbetts Creeks, key juvenile Chinook migration and rearing corridors. With a primary focus on Issaquah Creek, work will expand upstream and downstream of the Pickering Reach to include the Animal Hospital property and Emily Darst Park, using volunteers and professional and WCC crews to carry out stewardship activities.

Bear Creek Riparian Restoration - EarthCorps

CWM Grant Request: \$152,433 **CWM Funding Recommended: \$152,433**

Riparian restoration along Bear Creek will support salmon recovery by improving riparian condition, water quality, and habitat complexity in a key salmonid-bearing stream. EarthCorps crews will remove invasive species and protect, enhance, and install native plants. Work will occur adjacent to Juel Park,

building on existing restoration efforts along other reaches and tributaries of Bear Creek.

Bear Creek Learning Lab for UW Bothell Capstone Research Students - *Whale Scout*

CWM Grant Request: \$46,586

CWM Funding Recommended: \$46,586

Whale Scout channels people's interest in whales towards the recovery of salmon. This year, Whale Scout partnered with Mid-Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group engaging University of Washington Bothell students in capstone riparian restoration research projects on a King County Roads property on Bear Creek. Whale Scout proposes hosting two more years of future student cohorts at this site.

Student and Community-led Riparian Restoration Maintenance at the former Wayne Golf Course - *Whale Scout*

CWM Grant Request: \$104,891

CWM Funding Recommended: \$104,891

This project will engage diverse audiences and students in maintaining five acres of newly planted riparian habitat along the Sammamish River at the Former Wayne Golf Course. Over 1,220 community members will participate in 10 inclusive education events and 36 volunteer events, and 182 K-college students will gain hands-on experience, including four paid living-wage internships.

Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Invasive Bamboo Removal - *Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery*

CWM Grant Request: \$174,947

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

FISH proposes to remove bamboo, rebuild and stabilize the riverbank, add critical salmon habitat and plant native species. The site will be incorporated into outreach programming highlighting active salmon recovery efforts to the public, school tours & community groups. The long-term impact includes reducing storm impacts in downtown Issaquah and removing invasive bamboo. Because of the high cost of this effort and the lack of potential for a riparian forested area to replace the bamboo, the Committee is not recommending funding this effort.

2026 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Monitoring and Assessment

The WRIA 8 Technical Committee and Grant Review Committee heard virtual presentations from all applicants in the Monitoring and Assessment category. In addition to proposals for population monitoring, we received several proposals seeking to answer questions affecting salmon survival or to assess the effectiveness of innovative restoration techniques. The Committee is also recommending one proposal for funding in the “Management Action” category, implementing actions that have been identified during previous CWM grant rounds. The Committee recommends awarding \$879,670 in this category, leaving \$24,553 available for habitat and riparian projects.

2027 Lake Washington Fish Predation Monitoring Project- *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

CWM Grant Request: \$180,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$180,000

The project, recommended for funding in the newly created “Management Action” subcategory, will assess the utility of gill netting and trap netting as techniques for capturing and reducing the abundance of predator fish in Lake Washington. Gill netting and trap netting will target non-native fish that prey on juvenile salmon rearing in Lake Washington. Most netting work will occur in the south end of Lake Washington (south of I-90) and will target species known to prey on Chinook and sockeye fry that emigrate from the Cedar River to rear in shoreline areas of south Lake Washington. An overarching goal of the project is to increase survival of juvenile salmon in Lake Washington through direct removal of predator fish species.

2027 Chinook (Fish-In) Monitoring - King County Water & Land Resources Division

CWM Grant Request: \$32,285**CWM Funding Recommended: \$32,285**

The purpose of this project is to provide resources to assist with inter-agency monitoring of spawning Chinook salmon in WRIA 8. The primary goal of this work includes weekly carcass and biosampling surveys of the Cedar River (September through November), including Chinook length, sex, origin, pre-spawn mortality, egg retention, and supplemental collection of otoliths, scales, and potential tags.

A life-cycle model and integrated population model for Cedar River Chinook Salmon- *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife***CWM Grant Request: \$101,513****CWM Funding Recommended: \$101,513**

WDFW will use a life-cycle model and an integrated population model for wild Cedar River Chinook salmon using life stage-specific metrics derived from long-term monitoring on the Cedar River. Using these two approaches, we will identify stage-specific constraints on adult returns, evaluate alternative recovery scenarios and test covariates that are hypothesized to influence adult returns.

Evaluation of a low-cost ALAN mitigation tool – *US Fish and Wildlife Service***CWM Grant Request: \$52,960****CWM Funding Recommended: \$52,960**

This study will evaluate the threshold of light reduction required to decrease predation risk. We will use predation event recorders to compare predation risk at varying lux levels created by three tint shades of glass film and a control. If effective, use of tinted glass film could be a cost-effective management tool for reducing juvenile salmon predation in areas of point source light pollution.

Assessing the value of freshwater habitats through juvenile Chinook prey availability and foraging - *King County Water & Land Resources Division***CWM Grant Request: \$164,715****CWM Funding Recommended: \$164,715**

King County proposes to compare invertebrate prey and juvenile Chinook salmon diets across five habitats in the Cedar River. The team will sample four replicates of each habitat four times across spring to understand how prey availability and foraging vary among habitats, through time, and in response to changing conditions. This study will inform holistic decisions about where and how to restore salmon habitat.

Aquatic Weed Treatment near the Confluence of Issaquah Creek - *Trout Unlimited***CWM Grant Request: \$122,909****CWM Funding Recommended: \$122,909**

This project expands Trout Unlimited's aquatic invasive plant management work to the mouth of Issaquah Creek to reduce predator habitat and improve nearshore conditions for juvenile Chinook salmon and other important salmonids. Treatment across ~20 acres will be coordinated with co-manager predator suppression efforts and paired with monitoring to inform adaptive management and future actions.

Monitoring 6PPD-Q to Inform Stormwater and Salmon Recovery Actions in WRIA 8- *Three Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited***CWM Grant Request: \$125,614****CWM Funding Recommended: \$125,614**

Trout Unlimited will monitor the tire-derived contaminant 6PPD-quinone in Issaquah Creek and the Cedar River to identify where and when stormwater contamination occurs in salmon-bearing streams. Passive samplers, storm-event autosamplers, and fish bioassays will inform targeted stormwater management, guide mitigation actions, and support salmon recovery in WRIA 8.

Quantifying long term artificial light at night trends at two monitoring stations - *US Geological Survey***CWM Grant Request: \$38,391****CWM Funding Recommended: \$38,391**

This project aims to establish paired long term ALAN monitoring stations that will assess nocturnal light intensity and duration of elevated light overtime to understand the cumulative impact of ALAN as a stressor on salmon. This monitoring will be used to determine effects of ongoing regional lighting upgrades and mitigation efforts in limiting ambient light in the WRIA 8 watershed.

LWSC Data Gaps 2.3 - Salmon Behavior Study Design - *Long Live the Kings*

CWM Grant Request: \$61,283

CWM Funding Recommended: \$61,283

High temperatures and low dissolved oxygen levels in the Lake Washington Ship Canal are a major barrier to the recovery of ESA-listed Chinook and other salmonids. To find solutions to this major barrier to salmon recovery, this project is developing a study plan to assess salmon behavior in response to water quality changes, especially supplemental cold water. This proposal furthers work that has long been supported by WRIA 8 CWM funds.

Using Mark-Recapture Techniques to Estimate Chinook Passage Through the Fish Ladder at Ballard Locks - *Sno-King Watershed Council*

CWM Grant Request: \$50,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

To determine the relative importance of Chinook salmon entering the fish ladder at Ballard Locks multiple times and mortality between the fish ladder and the spawning grounds in the discrepancy between counts at the ladder and on the spawning grounds, Chinook will be photo-identified and mark-recapture techniques will be used to determine the actual run size entering the ladder. The Committee was impressed with this creative approach but would like to see proof of concept before funding.

Lake Sammamish Mysis Assessment to Inform WRIA 8 Water Quality and Salmon Recovery- Pilot - *Three Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited*

CWM Grant Request: \$60,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

This pilot project will assess the presence, distribution, and ecological role of the non-native zooplankton Mysis diluviana in Lake Sammamish. Field sampling, laboratory analysis, and water quality monitoring will evaluate how mysids influence lake food webs, nutrient cycling, and habitat conditions relevant to multi-species salmon recovery in WRIA 8. This work does not align as well with the highest priorities for monitoring in WRIA 8 and the Committee is not recommending it for funding.

Lake Washington Fish Assemblage Assessment Netting - *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

CWM Grant Request: \$60,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

Assessment of Warmwater fish assemblage in Lake Washington through standardized gillnetting. This project WDFW proposes will utilize standardized gillnets and randomized sampling techniques to assess warmwater fish populations in Lake Washington, through the use of standardized sampling practices developed by WDFW to assess and monitor the warmwater fish populations in lakes. This proposal was not as fully developed as some others recommended for funding this year.

2026 CWM Funding Recommendation Summary – Outreach and Education

Demand in the Outreach and Education category continues to exceed available funding. The Committee recommends funding the programs most clearly and directly aligned with the WRIA 8 Communications and Outreach Framework, community engagement and equity and environmental justice

considerations, and recovery strategies. The Subcommittee recommends awarding \$120,676 from the habitat category in addition to the original allocation of \$226,056, for a total of \$346,732.

Salmon Heroes: Improving stewardship behaviors through science-based field studies – *Environmental Science Center*

CWM Grant Request: \$20,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$20,000

Salmon Heroes is a multi-part program for WRIA 8 students and their teachers in 4th-8th grade reaching 40 classes (approximately 1,000 students), focused on the Cedar River. Using salmon as a local phenomenon to center the program, Salmon Heroes increases knowledge of local salmon habitat needs, challenges to their survival, and actions they can take to help keep our waters healthy for salmon and humans alike.

Cedar River Salmon Stewards - *Environmental Science Center*

CWM Grant Request: \$39,264

CWM Funding Recommended: \$39,264

Cedar River Salmon Stewards builds an inspired, informed community around salmon recovery through education and outreach. Experienced volunteers facilitate observations of salmon habitat and migration, hold meaningful conversations with participants about salmon needs and recovery and connect visitors with actions they can take to support an equitable and thriving watershed for salmon and people.

Community Action Training School 2027 - 2028 - *Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*

CWM Grant Request: \$68,156

CWM Funding Recommended: \$68,156

Community Action Training School is a free program that guides participants through a robust series of 7 classes and 4 field experiences focusing on scientific, social, cultural, and political issues important to watershed health and salmon recovery. Participants will either work independently or with Mid Sound project partners to create a 32+ hour salmon-related stewardship action project.

Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests & Fins Education Program (2027-2028) - *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust*

CWM Grant Request: \$80,075

CWM Funding Recommended: \$80,075

"Forests and Fins" is the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's 4th-12th grade curriculum that builds support and promotes behavior changes critical to long-term salmon recovery efforts in WRIA 8. Five hundred students will evaluate the health of Issaquah Creek and do riparian restoration that contributes to larger efforts. Expenses include Plant ID Cards, raincoats, plants, and school buses.

Advancing Lake Sammamish STREAM Connections - *Trout Unlimited*

CWM Grant Request: \$74,355

CWM Funding Recommended: \$74,355

STREAM Connections engages students and community members in salmon recovery through place-based learning in the Lake Sammamish watershed. Delivered with UWRP partners, the program connects classroom education, field experiences, and community engagement to build lasting stewardship and support for salmon.

Salmon Pathways: Building Community Stewardship - *ECOSS*

CWM Grant Request: \$64,882

CWM Funding Recommended: \$64,882

Salmon Pathways engages immigrant and refugee communities in salmon recovery stewardship across WRIA 8 through outdoor learning, watershed site visits, and community engagement activities. The program builds long-term community awareness and stewardship by connecting families and youth with restoration sites and partners working to recover salmon habitat.

Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Education & Outreach Internship program - *Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery*

CWM Grant Request: \$56,100

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

FISH proposes to develop a 12-week internship program (SMOLT – Salmon Migration & Outreach Leadership Traineeship), designed to showcase environmental career pathways, to recruit & train up to 5 interns. The program will expand FISH's capacity to reach community, provide school tours, off-site tours, work with partners & highlight salmon recovery efforts at the hatchery during busy fall season. This proposal did not rank as highly as others in this highly competitive funding round.

North Lake Washington Creekside HOA & MHP Outreach and Education- *Adopt A Stream Foundation*

CWM Grant Request: \$87,373

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

This project would work to identify Homeowner Association communities (HOA's) and Mobile Home Parks (MHP's) on or near priority creeks in WRIA8, conduct educational workshops and stream visits to teach residents about salmon recovery, riparian stewardship, native plant landscapes, water quality, water conservation, and pollution prevention, design up to 20 native plant landscapes, and obtain written stewardship commitments. This proposal could benefit from more social marketing research prior to implementation.

Reading to Rivers - Clean Water for the King County Library System- *Salmon-Safe*

CWM Grant Request: \$35,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

Leveraging the King County Library System (KCLS) Climate Action Plan's commitment to site environmental improvements, the project provides a pilot assessment of the Renton and Sammamish library sites that will lead to assessment of KCLS's properties for water quality, conservation, habitat, operations and maintenance. We will host public awareness events for salmon education at both sites. This project is more oriented toward built infrastructure impacts on water quality than salmon habitat restoration and is less aligned with WRIA 8's Community Engagement goals.

Salmon Cultural Plaza- *Discover Your Northwest*

CWM Grant Request: \$20,000

CWM Funding Recommended: \$0

A phased project, this effort expands education at the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks for 1.5M+ annual visitors about salmon migration while creating a cultural space honoring native connections to Pacific Northwest salmon through Native design and interpretive signs. Grant funds would support development of a master plan, fundraising strategy, and public outreach materials. WRIA 8 would like to see this work progress a bit further before investing funding.

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Funding Recommendations for 2026 Grant Funds

Table 4: CWM Habitat Restoration and Acquisition Funding Recommendations			
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Project Phase</i>	<i>Funding Requested</i>	<i>Funding Recommended</i>
Carey Creek at 276th SE Fish Passage Project - King County Water & Land Resources Division	Construction	\$500,000	\$500,000
May Creek Delta Restoration - Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	Construction	\$414,669	\$414,669
Dock Permitting Portal: Lake Sammamish & South Lake Washington - Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	Planning	\$50,474	\$50,474
Conceptual Action Plan Guiding Whale Scout Programming at the Former Wayne Golf Course - Whale Scout	Planning	\$31,292	\$31,292
Laughing Jacobs Creek Restoration Construction (Reach 1) - Trout Unlimited	Construction	\$1,592,909	\$992,665
Issaquah Miyawaki Forest – Establishment Phase - Issaquah Alps Trails Club	Construction	\$25,000	\$25,000
Seidel Creek Habitat Restoration and Connectivity Project - Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	Design	\$246,598	\$246,598
Lower Thornton Creek Restoration and Fish Passage Improvements Feasibility Study - Seattle Public Utilities	Design	\$239,567	\$239,567
238th Avenue NE and NE 70th Street Culvert Replacement - King County, DLS, Road Services Division	Construction	\$1,394,333	\$0
Totals		\$4,494,842	\$2,500,265

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Funding Recommendations for 2026 Grant Funds

Table 5: SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommendations					
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Project Phase</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>SRFB Funding* Recommended</i>	<i>PSAR Funding Recommended</i>	<i>Total SRFB/PSAR Funding Recommended*</i>
Big Gulch Restoration Implementation – Tulalip Tribes	Construction	\$1,500,000	\$42,445	\$1,457,555	\$1,500,000
Perrinville Creek Railroad Stream Crossing Preliminary Design – Tulalip Tribes	Design	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$0	\$225,000
Totals		\$1,725,000			\$1,725,000

*Note: WRIA 8's SRFB habitat allocation has not yet been finalized by the Recreation and Conservation Office and Puget Sound Partnership. These numbers are based on last year's allocations

Table 6: CWM Riparian Habitat and Stewardship Funding Recommendations		
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Funding Recommended</i>
Cedar River Riparian Restoration at Belmondo Reach & Dorre Don Natural Area - Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust	\$303,825	\$158,000
Bear Creek Knotweed Treatment Program - Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$ 179,983	\$179,983
Lake Sammamish UWRP Riparian Stewardship – Phase II- Trout Unlimited	\$152,553	\$152,553
Bear Creek Riparian Restoration - EarthCorps	\$152,433	\$152,433
Bear Creek Learning Lab for UW Bothell Capstone Research Students - Whale Scout	\$46,586	\$46,586
Student and Community-led Riparian Restoration Maintenance at the former Wayne Golf Course - Whale Scout	\$104,891	\$104,891
Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Invasive Bamboo Removal - Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery	\$174,947	\$0
Totals	\$1,115,218	\$794,446

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Funding Recommendations for 2026 Grant Funds

<i>Table 7: SRFB Riparian Habitat and Stewardship Funding Recommendations</i>		
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Funding Recommended</i>
Cedar River Riparian Restoration at Belmondo Reach & Dorre Don Natural Area – King County Water and Land Resources Division	\$372,399	\$195,480
Totals	\$372,399	\$195,480

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Funding Recommendations for 2026 Grant Funds

Table 8: Monitoring and Assessment Funding Recommendations		
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Funding Recommended</i>
2027 Lake Washington Fish Predation Monitoring Project - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$180,000	\$180,000
2027 Chinook (Fish - In) Monitoring – King County WLRD	\$32,285	\$32,285
A life-cycle model and integrated population model for Cedar River Chinook Salmon - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$101,513	\$101,513
Evaluation of a low-cost ALAN mitigation tool – US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$52,960	\$52,960
Assessing the value of freshwater habitats through juvenile Chinook prey availability and foraging - King County Water & Land Resources Division	\$164,715	\$164,715
Aquatic Weed Treatment near the Confluence of Issaquah Creek - Trout Unlimited	\$122,909	\$122,909
Monitoring 6PPD-Q to Inform Stormwater and Salmon Recovery Actions in WRIA 8 - Three Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited	\$125,614	\$125,614
Quantifying long term artificial light at night trends at two monitoring stations- US Geological Survey	\$38,391	\$38,391
LWSC Data Gaps 2.3 - Salmon Behavior Study Design- Long Live the Kings	\$61,283	\$61,283
Using Mark-Recapture Techniques to Estimate Chinook Passage Through the Fish Ladder at Ballard Locks- Sno-King Watershed Council	\$50,000	\$0
Lake Sammamish Mysis Assessment to Inform WRIA 8 Water Quality and Salmon Recovery-Pilot - Three Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited	\$60,000	\$0
Lake Washington Fish Assemblage Assessment Netting - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$60,000	\$0
Totals	\$1,049,670	\$879,670

Attachment 1: WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Funding Recommendations for 2026 Grant Funds

<i>Table 9: Outreach and Education Funding Recommendations</i>		
<i>Project Name and Sponsor</i>	<i>Funding Request</i>	<i>Funding Recommended</i>
Salmon Heroes: Improving stewardship behaviors through science-based field studies- <i>Environmental Science Center</i>	\$20,000	\$20,000
Cedar River Salmon Stewards - <i>Environmental Science Center</i>	\$39,264	\$39,264
Community Action Training School 2027 – 2028- <i>Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group</i>	\$68,156	\$68,156
Mountains to Sound Greenway Forests & Fins Education Program (2027-2028)- <i>Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust</i>	\$80,075	\$80,075
Advancing Lake Sammamish STREAM Connections- <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	\$74,355	\$74,355
Salmon Pathways: Building Community Stewardship - <i>ECOSS</i>	\$64,882	\$64,882
Issaquah Salmon Hatchery Education & Outreach Internship program - <i>Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery</i>	\$56,100	\$0
North Lake Washington Creekside HOA & MHP Outreach and Education - <i>Adopt A Stream Foundation</i>	\$87,373	\$0
Reading to Rivers - Clean Water for the King County Library System- <i>Salmon-Safe</i>	\$35,000	\$0
Salmon Cultural Plaza - <i>Discover Your Northwest</i>	\$20,000	\$0
Totals	\$545,205	\$346,732

Attachment 3: 2026 CWM Grant Round WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Members

1. Seethu Babu – City of Bellevue
2. Tracy Banaszynski – Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*
3. Jim Bower – King County
4. Bryna Cortes, King County
5. Carston Curd, Councilmember, City of Bothell*
6. Aaron David – King County
7. Brent Lackey – Seattle Public Utilities
8. Will Mansfield– King County
9. Roisin O’Farrell, Councilmember, City of Sammamish*
10. Rob Plotnikoff – Snohomish County
11. Mary Ramirez – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
12. Bethany Scoggins – Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
13. Carrie Byron – WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member

Attachment 3: 2026 CWM Grant Round WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Members

1. Ian Anderson - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2. Tracy Banaszynski – Mid Sound Fisheries Enhancement Group*
3. Sun Burford, Councilmember, City of Newcastle*
4. Jim Bower – King County
5. Karl Burton – Seattle Public Utilities
6. Carston Curd – Councilmember, City of Bothell*
7. Aaron David – King County
8. Jesse Dykstra - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
9. Josh Kubo, King County
10. Will Mansfield – King County
11. Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz – King County
12. Roisin O’Farrell, Councilmember, City of Sammamish*
13. Mary Ramirez – WRIA 8 Technical Coordinator
14. Ashley Townes – City of Bellevue
15. Julia Unrein – Seattle Public Utilities
16. Carrie Byron – WRIA 8 Grant Review Committee Chair

*Denotes WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council member