

Capital Project Request

2017-19 Biennium

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Version: BD 17-19 Capital Budget

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/8/2016 11:33AM

Project Number: 30000415

Project Title: Puget Sound Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2018

Project Class: Grant

Agency Priority: 28

Project Summary

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) is Washington's only restoration program that focuses solely on the entirety of Puget Sound's nearshore. Puget Sound's 2,500 miles of shoreline are among the most valuable and fragile of Washington's natural resources. Over the past 100 years, this shoreline has been dramatically altered, largely through the impacts of the built environment including dikes, earthen fill, and shoreline bulkheads. Nearly 75% of Washington's historical estuary lands have been lost and approximately 1/3rd of Puget Sound beaches have been armored. ESRP provides grants to protect and restore the Puget Sound near-shore. The program was created by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to support the emerging priorities of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Program and is managed cooperatively by WDFW, RCO, and the Puget Sound Partnership. All phases of project development from feasibility through implementation monitoring are eligible for funding. These projects support the goals set forth in the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

Project Description

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program provides grants to enhance protection and restoration specifically of the Puget Sound near-shore, a uniquely critical area for salmon recovery.

Not taking action to complete these projects would result in continued degradation of Puget Sound's natural shoreline function and the recreational and commercial resources that depend on it. Local communities throughout Puget Sound and recreational and commercial fishers are impacted by these restoration efforts. ESRP projects are identified by working closely with local communities and multiple stakeholders. Tribes who are working to maintain federally-protected tribal treaty rights benefit from ESRP nearshore project implementation. Efforts to restore the priority nearshore habitat support the efforts to recovery salmon and to implement the regional salmon recovery plan and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. It is estimated that an average of 17 jobs are generated by every \$1 million of habitat restoration projects (NOAA 2010).

In the Puget Sound Action Agenda, the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program is identified as an "ongoing program" that supports key vital signs, strategies, and priorities. ESRP is one of six state programs listed that make important contributions to Puget Sound recovery programs. A majority of ESRP projects are identified as Near Term Actions. ESRP primarily supports Action Agenda Ecosystem Strategy 16 – Protect and restore nearshore and estuary ecosystems.

The request supports IT related activities only to the extent that RCO uses a portion of its administrative funds to support its IT infrastructure and PRISM project database. All larger IT enhancements follow the OCIO review process.

Eligible Grant Recipients:

- * Local governments - cities, towns, counties, and special districts (ports, park, conservation, and school districts);
- * State agencies;
- * Federal agencies;
- * Tribal governments;
- * Academic institutions;
- * Private institutions; and
- * Nonprofit organizations.

ESRP requires a 30% cost-share match from local sponsors, some of which must be non-state funding. Typically, projects seek funding from multiple sources in order to find full funding for restoration or protection projects. Often, federal funding sources are leveraged for ESRP projects.

Revenue Source: general obligation bonds.

Location

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

Project Type

Grants

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Grant Recipient Organization: See project description for full list of eligible recipients

RCW that establishes grant: RCW 77.85

Application process used

Grant funds are distributed through a competitive process. Applications are accepted annually pending availability of funding and release of a Request for Proposals. Previous grant applications cycles have begun with a spring release of a request for proposals, late summer application deadline and a year-end funding decision. Project proposals are evaluated based on their cost and likelihood of addressing high priority ecosystem impairment. Proposals are ranked by a technical review committee resulting in a ranked project list.

Growth Management impacts

GMA is not considered for this program.

Funding

Acct Code	Account Title	Estimated Total	Expenditures		2017-19 Fiscal Period	
			Prior Biennium	Current Biennium	Reapprops	New Approps
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	100,000,000				20,000,000
	Total	100,000,000	0	0	0	20,000,000

		Future Fiscal Periods			
		2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000
	Total	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000

Operating Impacts

No Operating Impact

Narrative

This is a pass through grant program.