

## 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: 30000414

Project Title: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration

**Description**

Starting Fiscal Year: 2018

Project Class: Grant

Agency Priority: 24

**Project Summary**

The purpose of the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Funds (PSAR) program is to provide grants for projects that protect or restore salmon habitat and for other salmon recovery programs and activities within the Puget Sound basin. All projects must be identified as high priority in the Puget Sound salmon recovery plan. Projects are evaluated, locally and regionally, to assess whether they will implement the priorities addressed in the adopted salmon recovery plans. The evaluation process is the same as the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (board) funding process with an additional step of sequencing large capital projects by the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council through a pre-proposal process. All PSAR projects are also approved by the Leadership Council of the Puget Sound Partnership prior to being presented to the Salmon Recovery Funding board for approval. The program is jointly managed by the Puget Sound Partnership and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

**Project Description**

Puget Sound Chinook were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by the federal government in 1999. Puget Sound steelhead were listed as threatened in 2007. To comply with ESA, the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan was developed by local and tribal governments, non-profits and others to identify the highest priority salmon recovery actions. The federal government approved the plan as the official Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan in 2007.

The Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Program provides grants specifically for the protection and/or restoration of salmon habitat in the Puget Sound basin. This region in our state is the most complicated and costly in which to address salmon recovery, and this special program was created to focus solely on these highly complex projects. Funding also supports feasibility assessments and designs for future projects and other related activities. Projects identified through the Puget Sound salmon recovery plan as the highest priority projects are eligible for PSAR funding.

Funding the PSAR program ensures that the most critical, timely, priority projects to implement the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan are implemented. In many cases, these projects give protection to critical areas at immediate risk of degradation. Projects work directly toward the goals set out in the federal recovery plan and toward the delisting of threatened salmon populations in the Puget Sound. Funds are distributed among all Puget Sound lead entities in such a way as to provide resources to all 22 listed salmon populations.

Without this program, it is likely that salmon would continue to decline and be re-classified from threatened to endangered, potentially triggering burdensome and expensive actions from the federal government. In addition, opportunities for salmon fishing would continue to decline, significantly impacting Washington resident's quality of life and the many businesses that rely on recreational fishing for a major portion of their income, estimated at \$100 million a year in economic impact in Puget Sound. This funding request is a major piece of implementing the Puget Sound Action Agenda. The Habitat Strategic Initiative has two major sub-strategies associated with it: Protect habitat through regulations and incentives and remove barriers to habitat restoration. These funds would help increase available incentives for protection of habitat and would address one of the major barriers to habitat restoration listed in the Action Agenda: lack of funding for the large-scale, more expensive projects that are necessary to restore the whole Puget Sound ecosystem.

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));
- \* Tribal governments;
- \* Nonprofit organization;
- \* Private Landowners (in limited circumstances);
- \* State agencies;
- \* Conservation Districts; and
- \* Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups.

RCO's mission is to work with others to protect and improve the best of Washington's natural and recreational resources, enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations. This request is in direct alignment with the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery plan and supports the strategic direction of the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Applicants typically provide at least 15% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.

Revenue Source: general obligation bonds.

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**Description**

**Location**

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

**Project Type**

Grants

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

**RCW that establishes grant:** RCW 77.85

**Application process used**

All PSAR projects are thoroughly evaluated. Local communities convene technical and citizens committees to select PSAR projects from regionally approved watershed three-year work plans. Once projects are agreed to locally, a regional technical team reviews them for consistency with regional restoration strategies. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board's appointed Technical Review Panel then conducts a final review before projects are advanced for funding. The Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, the Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council, and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board are responsible for maintaining the integrity of this process. The Salmon Recovery Funding Board approves final prioritized project lists, and grants are administered by RCO.

**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	400,000,000				80,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>400,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>

**Future Fiscal Periods**

Acct Code	Account Title	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
		057-1	State Bldg Constr-State	80,000,000	80,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>	<b>80,000,000</b>

**Operating Impacts**

No Operating Impact

**Narrative**

This is a pass through grant program.