

SRFB Project Guide West Sound Watersheds Council

This guide describes the process for proposing and funding a salmon habitat restoration or protection project in the West Sound Watersheds Council (WSWC) Lead Entity. This guide is intended for Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) projects. Any and all potential project sponsors are encouraged to contact the lead entity coordinator prior to submitting a proposed project.

General SRFB funding process overview:

The SRFB is composed of five citizens appointed by the Governor and five state agency directors, bringing together the experiences and viewpoints of citizens and the major state natural resource agencies. See SRFB website for more details:

http://www.rco.wa.gov/salmon_recovery/index.shtml

WSWC is in the Puget Sound Region, represented by the Salmon Recovery Council of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), along with 14 other Lead Entities. The Salmon Recovery Council determines how to distribute the Region's allocation to the Lead Entities. WSWC is aware of the amount of funding dollars available each year prior to the start of the project selection process.

The SRFB updates and publishes a grants manual each year, which clearly outlines the policies and application instructions for their grants. This can be found on their website at http://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/manuals&forms/Manual_18.pdf

WSWC projects must follow all SRFB eligibility and other policies.

Project in the WSWC Lead Entity area:

Any proposed SRFB project in this geographic area must be submitted by the WSWC Lead Entity. The West Sound Watersheds Lead Entity is the eastern portion of Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 15, excluding Vashon Island. The watersheds include the islands of Anderson, Fox, McNeil, Bainbridge, Ketron, Herron, Blake and Raft, the cities of Gig Harbor, Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge Island, and parts of Kitsap, Pierce and Mason Counties. There are approximately 120 salmonid bearing streams and 370 miles of shoreline in the West Sound Lead Entity. There are two Indian treaty tribes with usual and accustomed fishing areas in the WSWC Lead Entity – the Suquamish and Squaxin Island Tribes.

Components of a successful SRFB project:

- ✓ Project should be included on the 3 Year Work Program submitted to the PSP. This work program is reviewed by federal technical and policy representatives for consistency with the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan. If project was not included on the 3 Year Work Plan, it will be considered if it is consistent with the priority and sequence of projects and programs on the current list. The lead entity recognizes that opportunities for habitat restoration and protection don't always align with planning for them. The 3 Year Work Plan update for 2010 will be finalized by May 15.

- ✓ Project sponsor must have these components for a project to be considered:
 - Project name, project contact person at sponsoring organization
 - Short description of project
 - Cost estimate, summary of funding request and match (15% minimum in cash or in kind)
 - Species benefited/ limiting factor(s) addressed, and supporting documentation for this (such as recovery planning document, limiting factors analysis, watershed or shoreline management plan)
 - Map of project location (if applicable)
 - Photos of project (if applicable)
 - Landowner acknowledgement (SRFB form) if applicable
 - Scope of work
 - Goals and objectives of project
 - Project must be ready to go. Design only and phasing of projects are both options if project is not ready at present time.

- ✓ Project Sponsor must be ready and able to submit project materials for the application into PRISM, the SRFB's online computer system.

- ✓ Project Sponsor must be ready and able to enter project information in the Habitat Work Schedule database.

- ✓ It is helpful to have a monitoring plan to document success of the project. This does not necessarily need to be a part of the project, but it is helpful to have an idea of what components of project monitoring should be included if project is selected.

Process for selecting and ranking projects for SRFB list submittal:

1. Project applicant meets with WSWC to discuss proposal. Project sponsors are encouraged to participate in WSWC meetings. (Contact Lead Entity Coordinator to be on WSWC meeting email list).
2. SRFB Review Panel schedules site visits, scheduled through the Lead Entity coordinator.
3. Project applicant submits pre-application materials in PRISM for SRFB Review Panel review. This must be done a minimum of 2 weeks prior to site visit.
4. WSWC discusses and evaluates projects based on Evaluation Criteria (attached).
5. Projects are ranked and forwarded to WSWC for concurrence and approval.
6. Lead Entity submits ranked list of projects to the SRFB, due Aug. 25 in 2010.
7. SRFB Review Panel meets, reviews Regional project lists, and meets with Lead Entities and project sponsors as needed (October-November).
8. SRFB makes funding decisions on all projects in December.

West Sound Watersheds Council Technical Advisory Group Evaluation Criteria

Note: project reviewers are strongly encouraged to utilize the entire range of points within each criteria category when scoring individual projects

- **Benefits to salmon from project (30 points possible)**
 - Importance – the project targets recovery of ecosystem processes and functions
 - Technical Merit – the project should result in demonstrated benefit to species of concern
 - SRFB definition of high, medium, low benefits
 - Location in proximity of the West Sound Watersheds Tier 1 Streams (Chico, Coulter, Gorst, Minter, Rocky)
 - Project identified as a high priority in one of the assessments of nearshore area (Bainbridge Island, KGI, LE Strategy, or other valid assessments)
 - Project meets the intent of the 3 year work plans submitted to Puget Sound Partnership
 - Project addresses key identified limiting factors

- **Certainty of success of project (20 points possible)**
 - Project is ready to go – relative to other projects under consideration, e. g. permits are in hand, project is ready to go to bid.
 - SRFB definition of high, medium, low certainty
 - Project proponent and partners have the experience and capabilities for success
 - Landowner is ready and willing to have the work done
 - No action could mean the loss of opportunity (property development, loss of matching funds)

- **Cost/Benefit of project (15 points possible)**
 - Cost effectiveness – the project will produce a substantial and desirable ecological effect relative to project cost
 - The budget is clearly defined and accurate.
 - Probability of maintenance or operational funds available after the project is implemented
 - Low cost estimate to maintain the project