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King County Flood Control District WRIA funding to go toward Issaquah Creek restoration projects

Today the King County Flood Control District approved \$145,000 in grants toward Issaquah Creek to support ongoing Chinook salmon recovery efforts in the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed or Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8. These funds were part of \$4.6 million the District approved as part of the Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program.

“I am pleased to see these restoration projects along Issaquah Creek and the partnerships that these grants are able to leverage with funding from other jurisdictions and organizations throughout the County!”, said Supervisor Kathy Lambert.

“When we invest in restoring King County’s critical habitats we invest in the future of our region’s ecosystems,” said Reagan Dunn, Chair of the Flood Control District. “I look forward to seeing the results of these projects throughout our four major watersheds.”

Lower Issaquah Creek Stream and Riparian Restoration-Design sponsored by the city of Issaquah will receive \$120,000. This funding will be used to complete the final design and gain permitting agency approval for a combination of instream and riparian habitat resource features, focusing on off-channel and backwater habitat use by Chinook salmon and other salmon species along Issaquah Creek.

“Issaquah is so fortunate to work with our many great partners to plan for the recovery of Issaquah Creek and the enhancement of the Issaquah Creek Basin,” said Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly. “These grants will allow us to improve and enhance habitat for our returning spawning salmon. Thank you for the funding to complete final design and begin the permitting for this important habitat project.”

Issaquah Creek Basin Riparian Restoration sponsored by Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust will receive \$25,000. This funding will be used to continue the multi-year project to remove knotweed and other invasive species and reforest the riparian zone of Issaquah Creek and its tributaries.

Grant recipients participating in the Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program must address high priority habitats or watershed processes that significantly influence productivity in each basin. To ensure high quality projects, only those that have been scientifically vetted and ranked competitively by their respective WRIA Forum are candidates for funding. Cities, towns, special districts, public schools, King County, federally recognized tribes and non-profits are eligible to apply for the grants.

The Flood Control District Executive Committee oversees project selections and King County’s Water and Land Resources Division administers the grant allocation process. The Flood Control District board will

pursue on-going funding for future watershed management actions given the relationship between flood control and stormwater projects and cooperative watershed management.

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