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

Today the King County Flood Control District approved \$271,490 in grants toward Bear Creek to support ongoing Chinook salmon recovery efforts in 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.

“These projects will go a long way in improving the habitat in and around Bear Creek. I am excited to see the progress taking place in this area! It is very important habitat in a stream we all cherish,” 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.”

City of Redmond’s sponsored project NE 95th Street Restoration on Bear Creek Construction will receive \$143,490. This funding will be used to install four log jams with associated backwater alcoves on both banks of a 300-foot reach of Bear Creek along with 1.4 acres of riparian planting.

“We are pleased to receive funding support from Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) for Redmond’s NE 95th Street restoration on Bear Creek. The City project’s components, including backwater channels and logjams, will enhance edge habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon rearing in the creek and protect young fish. Projects such as this help restore salmon populations in Bear Creek, a high-quality stream habitat valued throughout the region,” stated Mayor John Marchione.

Bear Creek Little Bit Restoration Design sponsored by King County will receive \$128,000. This funding will be used to initiate the design process for a project to enhance fish habitat on 650 lineal feet of Bear Creek.

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.