



News Release

Date: July 13, 2015

Contact: Al Sanders, 206-477-1016

Clean water, salmon recovery receive boost from Flood Control District grants

The King County Flood Control District today approved nearly \$4.5 million in grant funding for a range of projects aimed at improving water quality, protecting and restoring habitat, and supporting salmon recovery efforts in four King County watersheds.

"I am very pleased at the quality of the projects that will be receiving grants this year," said Reagan Dunn, Chair of the King County Flood Control District. "These projects will take us that much closer to preserving and protecting our local ecosystems."

"One of the benefits of living and working in King County is the ability to take advantage of the beauty of our environment," said Flood District Vice Chair Larry Gossett. "Today's vote ensures the important work of restoring and protecting salmon habitat and the environment will continue."

Today's action by the Flood District board of supervisors will boost the efforts of local organizations by providing Cooperative Watershed Management Grant funds in the following areas:

- \$1.8 million for the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed, known as Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 8.
- \$1.6 million for the Green/Duwamish Watershed (WRIA 9)
- \$839,059 for the Snoqualmie Watershed (WRIA 7) [King County Part]
- \$217,705 for the Puyallup/White Watershed (WRIA 10) [King County Part]

These grants help carry out King County-based WRIA salmon conservation projects for Endangered Species Act-listed species for each of the four WRIA according to annual priorities set by the WRIA Forums. The grants also help leverage additional funds. Total funding leveraged for the four WRIs is more than \$4.5 million.

“Improving habitat for endangered salmon and their ecosystems while easing flood risks is at the heart of action today,” said Supervisor Larry Phillips, a founding member of the WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council. “Protecting our critical watersheds with the use of these grant funds for habitat restoration work allows us to press forward in meeting our region’s vital—and legally required—salmon recovery goals.”

“Conducting restoration projects and protecting habitat are critical in preserving the beauty and sustainability of the Snoqualmie Valley,” said Supervisor Kathy Lambert. “I am glad to see the grants going primarily towards on-the-ground projects, where we will see great benefits in the years to come.”

WRIAs were created to restore watershed ecosystems for the purpose of recovering Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon species in Puget Sound. The WRIAs are governed by “Watershed Forums” that are comprised of elected officials from jurisdictions within the respective WRIAs. The respective Forums propose the annual budget and identify what projects and programs may receive revenues. To ensure high quality projects, only those that have been scientifically vetted and ranked competitively by their respective WRIA Forum are candidates for funding.

In the Cooperative Watershed Management Grant Program, projects must address high priority habitats or watershed processes that significantly influence productivity in each basin.

King County’s Water and Land Resources Division in the Department of Natural Resources and Parks administers the grant allocation process with the Flood Control District executive committee overseeing project selections. Cities, towns, special districts, public schools, King County, federally recognized tribes and non-profits are eligible to apply for the grants.

Visit the Flood Control District website to view a list of the projects approved for funding.

###

The King County Flood Control District is a special purpose government created to provide funding and policy oversight for flood protection projects and programs in King County. The Flood Control District’s Board is composed of the members of the King County Council. The Water and Land Resources Division of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops and implements the approved flood protection projects and programs. Information is available at <http://www.kingcountyfloodcontrol.org/>.