

## Final PSAR supplemental questions

2023-2025 State Biennium Grant Round

**Note:** *These questions are due in PRISM at the time of full application only, June 3, 2022. Please do not submit these questions as part of your pre-proposal materials. Pre-proposals include the PRISM application and a letter showing alignment to strategy. Final applications include the PRISM application, supplemental questions below, and must include a letter of support from your Lead Entity. All questions are required for the full proposal to be complete. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.*

**Limit your response to these questions to 8 pages.** The limit does not include PRISM application, maps, photos, or letters of support. Site video footage is also requested when possible, *but not required*. Videos are encouraged and can be uploaded to PRISM online.

Please respond to each question individually. Do not summarize answers collectively in essay format. The regional reviewers will use this information to evaluate your project. The sponsor may delete inapplicable supplemental questions to shorten the proposal.

For additional information, please review the [PSAR large capital request for proposals](#). For questions please contact:

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**BENEFIT TO SALMON**

*Viable Salmonid Population Benefits (25 points)*

- 1) Using the table below as a guide, describe the Viable Salmonid Population (VSP) benefits expected from the proposed project. Use responses from targeted species identified in the table on the “Worksite Details” page of your PRISM application to link VSP parameters<sup>1</sup> to the salmonid population(s) identified. Note that projects for ESA listed species and non-listed species of tribal importance are accepted. For non-listed species, sponsors should still respond to VSP questions even if goals are not defined.

Species	Life History (egg, juvenile, adult)	Abundance/ Relative abundance	Productivity	Spatial Structure	Diversity
<b>EX. Chinook salmon population and run</b>	Egg, Juvenile, Adult	Number of outmigrating juveniles/smolt  Number of returning adults  Number of redds	Smolts per spawner  Recruits per spawner  Juveniles per acre	Geographic spawner distribution  Number of major spawning areas	Adult run and spawn timing  Age at return  Duration of freshwater residency  Juvenile/smolt outmigration timing  Genetic population structure

- a) In addition to the table, describe expected changes to VSP parameters. Please consider the following when providing your answer:
- Specify which VSP parameter(s) the project is intended to directly influence?
  - *What is the magnitude of that change?*
  - *How long will it take to realize the change?*
  - *How persistent is the change likely to be?*
  - *What other VSP attributes may be affected (positively or negatively)?*
- b) Provide a summary of the types and amount of habitat that will be restored or protected as a result of the project. Use the [Common Indicators](#) where appropriate to describe expected outcomes from the project (Table 1). If other outcomes are expected in addition to those that can be measured by Common Indicators, please include those as well. The [Puget Sound Recovery Data Hub](#) includes protocols and definitions for calculating values for Common Indicators, but estimates from other data sources or methods are also acceptable for

<sup>1</sup> More resources on VSP are available here: <https://pspwa.box.com/s/1og96skgb6724j8czvwx7f18g447sky>

calculating values for the Common Indicators.

**Table 1.** Common Indicators of salmon habitat condition in Puget Sound. Shown are the Common Indicator name, a brief description, and examples of expected project outcomes. More information available at the [Puget Sound Recovery Data Hub](#).

Common Indicator	Description	Expected Project Outcomes
Pocket estuaries and embayments	Number of estuaries, accessible habitat, and extent of tidal wetlands and tidal channels	<i>Number and acres of accessible pocket estuary habitat restored or protected</i>
Stream miles available for Chinook and other salmon species	Percent historic stream miles available to adult Chinook	<i>Miles of stream habitat opened or protected for salmon use (any life stage)</i>
Marine Riparian	Proportion of marine shoreline that is vegetated	<i>Acres or miles of marine riparian restored, planted or protected</i>
Freshwater Riparian stream area	Percent forest cover in riparian area (stream bank to historic geomorphic floodplain extent)	<i>Acres or miles of freshwater riparian habitat restored, planted or protected</i>
Floodplain Function (connectivity and land use and land cover)	Connectivity and/or improved land use/land cover	<i>Acres of connected floodplain habitat restored or protected</i>
Functional estuary surface area	Estuarine surface area, extent of connected tidal wetlands and functional tidal channels	<i>Acres of functional estuary habitat (providing fish access and sediment flow) restored or protected</i>
Nearshore Armor	Extent of armor in the nearshore and percent feeder bluffs not armored by drift cell	<i>Length of nearshore armor removed, and if applicable, indicate if armor was associated with a feeder bluff</i>
Instream habitat	Wood abundance, large woody debris, and percent pools	<i>Amount of large wood placed or protected in project area and percent pools created or protected</i>
Stream Flow	High pulse count and average summer low flow	<i>If relevant, describe how may protect or restore instream flow</i>
Fresh Water Quality Index	Index combines eight measures of water quality	<i>If relevant, describe how project may protect or restore water quality</i>
Marine Water Quality Index	Index combines 12 measures of water quality	<i>If relevant, describe how project may protect or restore water quality</i>
Eelgrass	Extent of submerged aquatic vegetation	<i>Acres of eelgrass beds protected or restored</i>

*Priority Stocks (15 Points)*

- 2) Does this project contribute to the recovery of the selected prioritized stocks for 2023-25? These prioritized stocks include the listed populations that are:
  - at highest risk of extinction
  - acutely limiting harvest
  - closest to attaining recovery goals

Stocks that meet the first two priority criteria include **Chinook in the Dungeness, Stillaguamish, Nooksack, and Mid-Hood Canal watersheds**. Stocks that address the third criteria include **Skagit Chinook and Hood Canal Summer Chum**.

Briefly address the below criteria, referring to the table presented in your answer to Q1:

- a) (10 Points) Does the project provide a demonstrable benefit to one of the above listed watersheds’ priority stocks? (Note: do not answer this question here, points will be assessed based on your answer to Q1)
- b) (5 points) Does the project benefit multiple priority stocks? Describe how the project’s design and geographic location benefits multiple stocks. If there are priority stocks benefitting from your project that are not listed in Table 1, please describe benefits to those stocks here.

*Probability of Project Success (15 points)*

*The probability of project success evaluates the likelihood that a proposed project will achieve the project sponsor’s goals and objectives for the project. This section should be used to describe the big picture of the project. What processes are being restored or protected and for what purpose?*

- 3) Describe how the proposed project will improve habitat opportunity for salmonids and how the project will support and maintain ecosystem functions needed for various life stages.
  - a) Using the table below as a guide, list the restoration objective(s) and action(s) proposed for this project. For each project objective, list a restoration action used to achieve this result. Reference a [Common Indicator](#) (Table 1) that could be used to document progress toward the ecological goal and the success criteria, or the expected condition of the habitat after restoration that could measure the restoration objective. Include an estimated timeline for the expected results to appear (see example below).
  - b) Provide additional detail on expected changes in ecosystem processes and functions for restoration projects in terms of functions for salmon (e.g., juvenile salmon feeding, rearing, off-site food web support). For protection projects, provide detail on known ecosystem benefits of the site for salmon use. Provide examples of similar projects and/or other evidence that this project will meet expected results.
  - c) Explain how the project objectives are anticipated to be maintained through natural processes. Please detail any adjustments made for projected climate change impacts<sup>2</sup>.

**Table 2.** Example table of restoration objective, indicator of habitat condition and criteria for success. Where possible, please use [Common Indicators](#) for habitat condition (see Table 1).

Example of Restoration Objectives and Success Criteria	
<b>Project Objective 1</b>	<i>Restore floodplain functions and processes that provide for natural development of riverine habitat and aid salmon recovery</i>

<sup>2</sup> See guidance available [here](#), and a glossary of climate related terms [here](#).

<b>Restoration Action (if applicable)</b>	<i>Remove levee and grade floodplain to reconnect historic channels</i>
<b>Common Indicator of habitat condition</b>	<i>Floodplain connected</i>
<b>Success Criteria</b>	<i>Acres of connected floodplain habitat restored or protected</i>
<b>Timeline for expected results</b>	<i>Immediate</i>

*Habitat Quality (10 points)*

The habitat quality score evaluates how the proposed project will promote or maintain salmon production through improved foraging, growth, and/or decreased mortality. For restoration projects, describe how proposed actions will improve habitat structure and complexity to benefit salmonid species. For protection projects, describe the existing habitat qualities that maintain foraging, growth, and improve survival for salmonid species. What are the risks of losing this habitat?

- 4) Describe how the restored or protected habitat will support functions that benefit salmon. Describe the current habitat quality and how the expected improvements or the increased protection will promote salmon foraging, growth, and decreased mortality. Please include conditions of adjacent lands or interconnected projects that could influence the recovery and restoration process and explain why. Demonstrate that the project is designed to be flexible and can be modified over time as conditions change to ensure continued quality of habitat.

LINK TO ACTION AGENDA (5 Points)

*Desired Outcomes (5 points)*

- 5) Identify one or two [Action Agenda Desired Outcomes](#)<sup>3</sup> the proposed project will help advance. Briefly describe how the proposed project will help achieve the Desired Outcomes selected.

UNSCORED CRITERIA (Required, not scored)

*Access and Connectivity*

The fish access score evaluates how the proposed project will improve the capability of salmon to access and benefit from the improved or protected habitat described in Question 3. Connectivity refers to the site’s ability to move water and aquatic organisms between the project site and surrounding landscape. Connectivity can be seasonal, however sites connected during both high and low flows are defined as more connected than those that only occur during high flow conditions.

- 6) Describe salmon access to the restored or protected habitat. Is the site currently well connected or will it be connected to critical habitats after restoration? Include hydrological information about expected or known wetted area, existing fish barriers, or any issues related to habitat access. Include any historical data on habitat access and quality and demonstrate that you have

<sup>3</sup> For more information on Desired Outcomes, please visit:  
<https://pspwa.box.com/s/lwk71kpaaoo9off1iw5ancj3m7xrcp45>

addressed projected climate change impacts (e.g., hydrology, sediment regimes, sea level rise, water supply, water temperature, flood refugia, peak flow) to the habitat.

### Multiple Benefits

- 7) Briefly describe any additional benefits of implementing this proposed project and/or the community/stakeholder support for the project.
- Explain how you have worked with or will work with impacted communities in designing this project?
  - How will this project impact relevant amenities and industries?
  - Does this project increase opportunities for nature-based recreation and/or work, access to local foods, participation in cultural practices, and/or representation of local communities in decision-making?
  - If applicable, demonstrate how public access to the site is provided or maintained, public safety is increased, and/or any connection to agricultural viability<sup>4</sup>.

### Climate Change

*Note: Do not answer this question as part of the supplemental question answer package – the answer will be drawn from the regular project application.*

- 8) Briefly address the following questions:
- a) How will your project be climate resilient given future conditions, and
  - b) How will your project increase habitat and species adaptability?

### Project Readiness

9) For restoration construction projects, what level of design and permitting work is completed for the project? For acquisition projects, what is the stage of appraisal and purchase? For engineering and design projects, what is the level of readiness?

### Match/Other sources of funding

10) Has this project been submitted for funding to other grant programs?

Using PSAR funds to leverage additional funds for your project is encouraged. Please list other funding sources (outside of those listed for your match requirement) that you have secured or are not yet secured but are being/will be pursued. Please list the portion of this PSAR project to be funded, the funding source, local/state/federal, award date (past or anticipated), and funding amount.

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<sup>4</sup> *Agricultural viability* can be defined as the ability of a farmer or group of farmers to: productively farm on a given piece of land or in a specific area, maintain an economically viable farm business, keep the land in agriculture long-term, and steward the land so it will remain productive into the future ([Environmental Services Associates 2016](#)).

Portion of PSAR project funded (e.g., design)	Fund Source (e.g., FEMA, SRFB, etc.)	Type of funding (e.g., HMGP)	Local, state or Federal	Timing (choose in-hand or applied for)	Amount in whole dollars

*NTA Status*

11) Is your project a Near Term Action (NTA) that was adopted in the 2018-2022 Action Agenda? If yes, what is the name and number of the NTA?

*Link to Vital Sign targets and the Action Agenda*

12) Briefly describe (3-4 sentences) the connection of the project to the Puget Sound Action Agenda Vital Signs indicator targets and how this connection directly influences salmon recovery strategies in Puget Sound<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> More information about Puget Sound Vital Signs available at <https://vitalsigns.pugetsoundinfo.wa.gov/>