## 2023-2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Opportunity in West Sound (Approx 1.256 million)

*West Sound Partners for Ecosystem Recovery (WSPER) is announcing a call for salmon habitat projects*.

As a lead entity for salmon recovery, WSPER coordinates a solicitation and ranking of salmon habitat projects in east Water Resource Inventory Area 15. WSPER is calling for sponsors to submit projects for review by our Technical Advisory Group and ultimately the state’s Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). The first step is for sponsors to submit a Letter of Intent to the WSPER coordinator by **January 8, 2024.** [**Submit your Letter of Intent here.**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-uS2i8uKd2MY0tgvP7hnEg7_JzJMHKbQb4cTdjK0IMc/edit)

Funding Information

Funding for this grant round is available from the State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) and Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) program to protect and restore habitat for salmon and steelhead populations. Projects must align with WSPER’s [Recovery Plans and Strategies](https://westsoundpartners.org/recovery-plans-and-strategies/) for salmon and steelhead populations. SRFB funding for approved projects will be available after the September 2024 SRFB meeting. PSAR funding for approved projects will be available in July of 2024. SRFB funds are anticipated to be ~$266,000 available September 2024. PSAR funds are anticipated to be ~$990,000 in available in July 2025.

Eligible Applicants

* Cities
* Counties
* Native American Tribes
* Conservation districts
* Non-profit organizations
* Regional fisheries enhancement groups
* Special purpose districts
* Private landowners
* State agencies (with local partner)

Eligible Projects

* Acquisition
* Restoration
* Planning (Designs, Assessments and Inventories)
* Combination projects (Acquisition and Restoration, Acquisition and Planning)

Submission Information

The [Letter of Intent form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1-uS2i8uKd2MY0tgvP7hnEg7_JzJMHKbQb4cTdjK0IMc/edit) is due **January 9, 2024**. The WSPER Technical Advisory Group will screen all Letters of Intent to determine consistency with local [Recovery Plans and Strategies](https://westsoundpartners.org/recovery-plans-and-strategies/) and priorities. The WSPER coordinator will notify project sponsors of the TAG’s decision of whether a project is consistent with local priorities and should continue into the 2024 grant round by January 31, 2024. A site visit will be required in March 2024 for projects continuing in the grant round.

Contact Renee Johnson for more information about salmon recovery strategies, watershed recovery plans, and the application process. Call 360-509-9941 or email [rkjohnso@kitsap.gov](mailto:rkjohnso@kitsap.gov). For information about West Sound salmon recovery, see [WSPER Recovery Plans and Strategies](https://westsoundpartners.org/about-us/recovery-plans-and-strategies/).

For information about Salmon Recovery Grants see [RCO Website](https://rco.wa.gov/grant/salmon-recovery/).

Criteria for Scoring (Criteria are meant to be a guide for scoring, not finite)

Project implements a recovery strategy and/or is on the Planned Project Forecast List 2023-2024 or 4-Year Workplan

* If yes, then rank
* If no, then not eligible

Scope and cost/budget of project (10 points)

* Is scope of project appropriate? Could the project be phased?
* Is the budget consistent with expected benefits and with projects of similar scale?

Benefits to fish (20 points)

* Restoration project addresses high priority habitat, watershed processes, or nearshore processes that will have a demonstrable effect on salmon productivity
* Restoration and/or acquisition project targets high priority watershed (refugia with source populations and relatively high abundance and productivity)
* Acquisition project targets high habitat function, low site disturbance, and intact processes
* Acquisition project is necessary to carryout high priority restoration project
* Tier 1 projects per Nearshore integration and synthesis tool

Certainty of success (15 points)

* Experience of sponsor in implementing similar projects
* Restoration approach is well established with predictable outcomes
* Restoration project restores ecosystem processes versus simply making structural modifications
* Stewardship/maintenance for restoration and/or acquisition projects
  + Stewardship plan? Actions self-sustaining or low maintenance? Funds for monitoring/stewardship?
* Benefits realized immediately versus long term and are independent of other restoration/acquisition projects
* Benefits of acquisition not dependent on future restoration actions

**Draft 2023-2024 Salmon Recovery Grant Round Schedule**

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| **Date** | **Action** | **Description** |
| September 19 | TAG meeting | Discuss approach, set call for projects |
| October 10 | Working Group meeting | Approve approach and call for projects |
| October 13 | Release call for projects | Call for projects, scoring criteria, & Letter of Intent |
| November 28 | Combined WG and TAG? | Discuss projects, letter of intent, call for projects as needed |
| January 8 | Letters of Intent Due |  |
| January 16 | TAG meeting | Sponsors present their letters of intent; TAG members review and screen the projects, give feedback to project sponsors, and decide which should move through the application process |
| January 31 | PRISM numbers created | WSPER coordinator creates project numbers in PRSIM |
| Jan 31 – March 1 | Project development | Sponsors develop project applications in PRISM |
| February 13 | Working Group Meeting | Update the working group on which projects will move forward |
| *Early to mid- March?* | *Site visits* | *Site visit with SRFB review panel and TAG* |
| March 19 | TAG meeting | Provide comments to sponsors based on site visits (optional?) (This seemed redundant last time and TAG was tired after site visits.) |
| March 19 & 20 | *SRFB review panel meeting* | *Track 1: SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comment forms for projects visited in February and March.* |
| *March 28* | *SRFB Review Panel comment form released* | *Track 1: Applicants receive SRFB Review Panel comments identifying projects as “Clear,” “Conditioned,” “Needs More Information,” or “Project of Concern.” RCO staff accepts “Clear”*  *applications and returns “Conditioned,” “Needs More Information,” and “Project of Concern”*  *applications so applicants may update and respond to comments. The Monitoring Panel will*  *provide comments for monitoring projects.* |
| *April 8 & 9* | *1-hour conference call (optional) with SRFB Panel* | *Discuss “Need More Information,” “Project of Concern,” or “Conditioned” projects* |
| April 9 | WG meeting | Update the WG on project status |
| May 21 | TAG meeting | Discuss Review Panel Comments and how they will be addressed; TAG provides advice, support |
| May 30 | Responses to comments due | Sponsors submit final responses to Review Panel comments |
| April 30 | TAG Project Scores Due | TAG submits scores to WSPER Coordinator for processing (TAG needs to decide whether their names will be kept private or associated with their scores) |
| June 11 | Working Group | TAG shares list during WG meeting for feedback |
| June 20 | Executive Committee | WG shares list during meeting for feedback |
| *July 16, 17, 18* | *SRFB Review Panel*  *meeting* | *SRFB Review Panel and RCO staff meet to discuss projects and complete comments.* |
| *June 24 (noon)* | *Final applications due* | *Applicants submit final revised application materials via PRISM. All projects, including monitoring and Targeted Investment, must be submitted by this date. See Application Checklist.* |
| July 16 | TAG meeting | Develop final ranked list |
| July 23 | Working Group meeting | Review ranked list (special meeting out of usual order; not on a second Tuesday |
| *July 26* | *Final comment form received* | *Applicants receive the final SRFB Review Panel comments, identifying projects as “Clear,” “Conditioned,” or “Project of Concern.” The Monitoring Panel will provide final comments for*  *monitoring projects.* |
| August 1 | Executive Committee meeting | Approve ranked list |
| *August 12* | *Due Date: Accept SRFB*  *Review Panel condition* | *Applicants with Conditioned projects must indicate whether they accept the conditions or will withdraw their projects.* |
| *August 13* | *Due Date: Final SRFB list due* | *Final ranked list due in PRSIM* |

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