

# Salmon Recovery Funding Board

## Individual Comment Form



<b>Lead Entity:</b>	WRIA 8
<b>Project Number:</b>	15-1067
<b>Project Name:</b>	Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Final Design
<b>Project Sponsor:</b>	King County Water and Land Resources Division
<b>Grant Manager:</b>	Elizabeth Butler

	Date	Status <sup>1</sup>
Post-Application		
Final	9/23/15	Clear

### PROJECT SUMMARY *(for Review Panel reference only)*

This proposed assessment grant would fund completion of final designs for the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project to enhance Chinook salmon habitat in the Sammamish River by creating a) juvenile rearing habitat through floodplain reconnection as well as bank geometry improvements in the mainstem, and b) adult resting pools with thermal refugia at a critical point in the journey to spawning grounds in Issaquah Creek. The project is located just downstream of Lake Sammamish in the uppermost reach of the Sammamish River. Future restoration will provide the following key ecological benefits: reconnecting the Sammamish River channel to the adjacent left bank floodplain and wetlands (up to 40 acres); enhancing the quantity and quality of aquatic and riparian habitat along the river channel; restoring adjacent tributaries and improving their connectivity to the river; removing and controlling invasive vegetation; and improving Sammamish River water quality (lower temperatures, higher dissolved oxygen levels) via cold water supplementation during hot weather periods.

### FINAL REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

**Date:** 9/23/15

**Final Project Status:** Clear

**Review Panel Member(s):** Full Panel Review

1. If the project is a POC, please identify the SRFB criteria used to determine the status of the project:
2. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
3. Other comments:

The project sponsor has addressed the previous Review Panel comments and is cleared to proceed.

### POST-APPLICATION REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

**Date:**

**Project Status:** Click to choose a status

**Review Panel Member(s):**

1. If the project is a POC, identify the SRFB criteria used to determine the status of the project:

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<sup>1</sup> CLEAR: Cleared to proceed; CONDITIONED: Cleared to proceed with a condition; NMI: Needs More Information; POC: Project of Concern; NOTEWORTHY: Exemplary Project

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2. If the project is a POC, identify the changes that would make this a technically sound project:
3. If the project is Conditioned, the following language will be added to the project agreement:
4. General comments:



### SPONSOR RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS:

If your project is not cleared (i.e. has a status of NMI, Conditioned, or POC) you must update your proposal, PRISM questions, or attachments as necessary to address the review panel's comments. Use track changes when updating your proposal. Fill out the section at the end of your project proposal to document how you responded to comments.

### DRAFT APPLICATION / SITE VISIT REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS

Date: May 5, 2015

Project Site Visit?

Yes  No

Review Panel Member(s): Pat Powers and Steve Toth

1. Recommended improvements to make this a technically sound project according to the SRFB's criteria:

2. Missing Pre-application information.

Please provide a copy of the alternatives analysis that evaluated options for improving salmon habitat and addressing flood control issues.

3. General Comments:

The proposed project would split 10 percent of the upper river flow through a newly constructed, dedicated fish habitat channel and supplement the flow with groundwater pumping and conveyance. The groundwater would provide a cold water source that could significantly reduce water temperatures below the currently lethal temperatures that regularly reach above 21 degrees C. The Sammamish River channel has been significantly modified for flood-control benefits and the project would require USACE and Congressional approval through the Section 408 "major modification" process. The overall project cost is estimated to be around \$8 million.

During the project presentation, an alternatives analysis was mentioned that included the possibility of pumping a larger volume of cool lake water into the Sammamish River for about \$10 million. The project sponsor should provide a review of potential project alternatives and explain why the current proposal is the preferred alternative. The pumping of cool lake water could potentially improve habitat conditions along the entire Sammamish River and provide significantly greater benefits to threatened Chinook salmon than the current proposal. The cost-benefit of pumping lake water appears to be higher than just pumping groundwater into the habitat channel.

4. Staff Comments:



### SPONSOR RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS:

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Revise your project proposals using “track changes” and update any relevant PRISM questions and attachments. Fill out the section at the end of your project proposal to document how you responded to comments.