

A photograph of a salmon swimming in water, viewed from above. The water is dark and slightly rippled. The salmon's body is silvery and sleek, with its tail fin visible at the top right.

Salmon Recovery Funding Guidance Review



Washington State
**Conservation
Commission**

Webinar for CDs – June 10, 2022

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and the SCC Salmon Recovery Team

WEBINAR OVERVIEW

- Background on funding received and context
- Funding and proviso
- Funding eligibility
- Priorities and criteria
- Eligible project types
- Program rules and funding
- How to comment
- Next steps on guidance

FUNDING BACKGROUND

- Salmon recovery priority for Governor and Legislature
- Lorraine Loomis Act legislation and debate.
- Significant funding for salmon recovery.
- \$100 million placed in newly created Salmon Recovery Account.

SCC FUNDING AND PROVISIO

- SCC received \$10 million in salmon recovery funding (SRF).
- Funds provided in the operating budget.
- Available for use July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.
- Budget proviso language, funding is provided:
 “...solely for the commission to provide grants for riparian restoration projects with landowners.”
- The SCC interprets the SRF funding to be restricted to projects with landowners for the purpose of riparian restoration.

SRF GUIDANCE - ELIGIBILITY

- All Washington conservation districts are eligible for funding from the Salmon Recovery Fund.
- A conservation district may partner with other entities on a proposal.

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

- All projects must be located within riparian areas.
- Instream projects must be conducted in support of a riparian restoration project.
- “Riparian” is defined: A distinctive area within riparian ecosystems. The riparian zone contains wet or moist soils and plants adapted to growing conditions associated with periodically saturated soils.
- “Instream” is defined: Projects which include the placement of structures into the active stream channel.

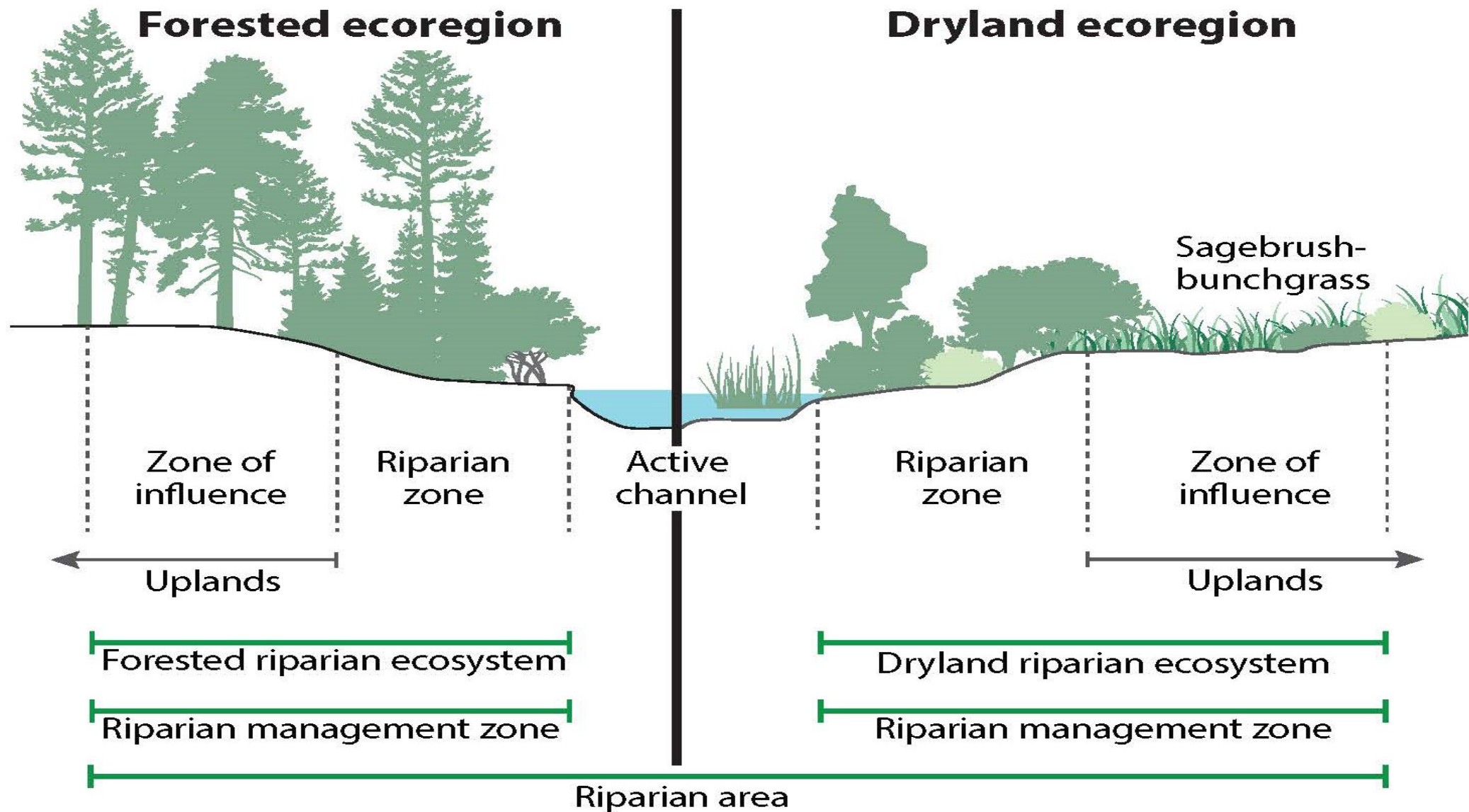


Figure 2.2. The diagram depicts the riparian management zone (RMZ) for both forested (left) and dryland (right) ecoregions. The RMZ is coincident with the riparian ecosystem, which consists of the riparian zone (riparian vegetative community) and the zone of influence. The riparian zone extends from the edge of the active channel towards the uplands and it includes areas where vegetation is influenced at least periodically by flowing waters. The zone of influence includes areas where ecological processes significantly influence the stream, at least periodically.

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

- Projects must be started within 120 days of the award of funding and completed by June 30, 2023.
- This work may include technical assistance (outreach/engagement, project planning, design, etc.).
- Funding will not be extended beyond this date, and there is no guarantee continued legislative appropriation for this program.

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

- Districts are encouraged to geographically group landowners and practices together.
- This targeted approach of clustering practices with multiple landowners in one concentrated area allows for more effective and efficient use of funding and helps reach the measurable natural resource improvement goal more quickly.

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

Projects meeting one or more of the following criteria may receive enhanced prioritization:

- 2.2.1 Located within a watershed or portions of a watershed with critical salmon habitat needs as identified by the Commission as having insufficient quality of salmon riparian habitat. This information is available to conservation districts through the Commission.
- map: <https://wacds.maps.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html?webmap=a89f2ff66fe04f459bb3258411e471a5>

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

Projects meeting one or more of the following criteria may receive enhanced prioritization:

- 2.2.2 In addition to increasing riparian habitat for salmon, districts are encouraged to prioritize projects implemented in areas with identified pollution inputs with particular focus on areas with 303(d) listing for temperature, projects implementing an Ecology TMDL implementation plan, and project implementing a local resource plan. Information on how to access this information will be posted on the Commission's website.

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

Projects meeting one or more of the following criteria may receive enhanced prioritization:

- 2.2.3 A project adjacent to or within the same sub-basin as another project funded either with SRF funding or with other fund sources such as CREP, SRFB, or other funding.
- 2.2.4 Projects that group work on multiple parcels landowners together into a larger continuous project.

SRF GUIDANCE - CRITERIA

Projects meeting one or more of the following criteria may receive enhanced prioritization:

- 2.2.5 Preference for projects that are included in a salmon recovery plan, WRIA plan, or other local salmon habitat restoration strategy.
- 2.2.6 Projects where partners, contracted field technicians, or coordination between districts supports or leverages capacity of existing CD staff to avoid new hires. This is potentially one-time funding at this point with no guarantee of carry forward into the next biennium.
- 2.2.7 Districts are encouraged to prioritize projects connected to the conservation district's annual or long-range plan.

SRF GUIDANCE - REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Activities

- All project proposals must include eligible activities.
- Eligible activities are those intended to increase protection and/or restoration of riparian habitat.
- Instream activities with no connection to nearshore or upland riparian habitat function will not be funded.
- See Appendix A for list of eligible best management practices (BMPs).

SRF GUIDANCE – ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

SRF funds may be used to support four different project types:

- 1.) Landowner implemented cost-share;
- 2.) District Implemented Project (DIP);
- 3.) Incentives program (e.g. commodity buffer); or
- 4.) Planning/design of a riparian restoration BMP.

A project may not be changed from one eligible project type to another once work has been done or expenditures have occurred.

SRF GUIDANCE – ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

1.) Landowner implemented cost-share;

- All landowner information and proposed practices must be entered completely into the Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS).
- All cost-share practices must be identified under the funding tab as utilizing “Salmon Recovery Funding” funding.
- The cost-share contract must be generated from CPDS and utilized for this type of project. The cost-share agreement terms must not be modified.
- Multi-landowner cost-share projects are allowed. A multi-landowner cost-share project is one in which the same or similar BMP(s) are installed on several landowners’ properties.

SRF GUIDANCE – ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

2.) District Implemented Project (DIP)

- Project where the district is the lead planner and implementer.
- Example: Implementing an identified practice with multiple landowners at the same time – i.e. installing riparian buffers on several consecutive properties along a creek.
- Example: Performing one aspect of a much larger project such as acquiring large woody debris for a stream restoration project or constructing or installing one component or practice of a multi-practice project.
- District takes full responsibility for installation/construction of the project which may include, but is not limited to: acquiring permits, bidding and purchasing processes, and prevailing wage requirements.

SRF GUIDANCE – ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

2.) District Implemented Project (DIP), cont.

- Must not include cost-sharing, cash reimbursement, to a landowner(s) with SRF or other SCC funds. The District is assuming all responsibility for project planning and construction directly.
- All project information and completed practices must be entered completely into the Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS).

SRF GUIDANCE – ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

2.) District Implemented Project (DIP), cont.

- Landowner Agreement is required for any projects completed on non-district owned property and a fully signed copy must be provided to the SCC at the time of vouchering. The SCC provides a Landowner Agreement template for district use, if desired. A district may also use their own version of a Landowner Agreement. A copy of this agreement must be provided when vouchering.
- No match or cost-share scenario requirement for these projects. However, other sources of contributing funds toward the project should be reported.
- See the District Implemented Project Decision Tree for assistance with determining if a cost-share or DIP approach is best for your project or contact your regional manager.

SRF GUIDANCE – ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

District Landowner Outreach Projects

- Other eligible activities include programs for landowner outreach and engagement targeting specific sub-basin or defined geographic sub-watershed areas with particular resource concerns impacting the recovery of listed salmonid species.
- Examples of specific resource concerns include water temperature or riparian area degradation but there may be others.
- Since funding is limited to the state fiscal year, such program proposals must be completed within this timeframe with the outcome of identifying future riparian habitat restoration projects clustered or grouped in the targeted location.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

Eligibility to Receive Funds

- Conservation districts must meet all of the accountability requirements under the Conservation Accountability and Performance Program (CAPP) in order to be eligible to receive Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF) funds.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

Timeline and Application for Funding

- SRF funds are allocated to conservation districts at the beginning of fiscal year 2023, which starts July 1, 2022. Funds may also be offered throughout the state fiscal year as they are available.
- Funds will be allocated to districts based on complete applications submitted utilizing the grant addendum form.
- Funding will be allocated based on a competitive granting process. Applications will be reviewed by an internal team of SCC staff for complete information, adherence to program guidelines, and scored for the extent to which the request meets the program goals.
- Districts are strongly encouraged to enter project proposals for SRF funding into CPDS to build future requests for funding.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

Special Application and Project Approval Process:

- Due to the timing of funding availability (July 1) and the need to complete projects within the fiscal year, an early application and project approval process will be implemented.
- **The SCC will begin accepting project pre-applications on June 21, 2022.**
- The SCC project review committee will review applications and provide conditional approval so work may begin immediately upon notification after July 1. Approval will be confirmed by the Commission at their July business meeting upon approval of the proposed guidelines.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

- Regional managers will interact with each conservation district with awarded SRF funding to ascertain project progress.
- Work must be initiated, regardless of project type, within 120 days of funding award to the district.
- This work may include technical assistance (outreach/engagement, project planning and design, etc.)
- At the end of 120 days if progress has not been demonstrated, the district may forfeit the funding allocation.
- If funds are returned to SCC or additional funding otherwise becomes available, a subsequent application round may be conducted. If that occurs, funding will be distributed through a competitive process.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

Projects will be reviewed and approved by a committee made up of SCC staff. The review committee exists:

- To ensure consistency with funding criteria and funding intent
- To request clarity or additional information on the nature of specific projects
- To provide for case by case consideration of projects that are unique cases
- To provide formal award of funds for projects

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

- The review committee will meet as often as necessary to review projects.
- During the period July 2022 – September 2022, the review committee will meet weekly to review project applications.
- Subsequent to this period, the review committee will meet as needed to review project applications.
- It is recognized that, from time to time, projects may need further review by the review committee or the SCC leadership.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

3.4 Landowner Cost-share cap

- All landowner cost-share proposals must be consistent with the SCC grants manual and policies.
- Current SCC policies cap cost-share to \$50,000 per landowner per fiscal year.
- A project proposed for SRF funding may request cost-share in excess of the \$50,000 cap. Such requests must be made as part of the project proposal submitted to the review committee and must include a detailed justification for exceeding the cap.
- Approval of requests to exceed the cap will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the SCC Executive Director or designee based on the recommendation of the review committee.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

3.5 Technical Assistance (TA)

- A maximum of 25% of the total funding award of SRF funds may be used for technical assistance activities for cost-share, district implemented projects, or incentive programs.
- TA activities include planning, project design, engineering, permitting, project implementation oversight, project management and administration, travel, and reporting.
- Total award amount x 25% = allowable amount for technical assistance.
- Planning/design only projects are not eligible for a technical assistance allowance.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

3.6 General Requirements

- All requirements are the standard requirements for SCC projects. Please review the guidance.

3.7 CPDS Requirements

- All funded cost-share and completed DIPs and practices must be entered into the CPDS
 - i. Input the amount of SRF funding utilized for the practice.
 - ii. Input other funding sources also being utilized for the practice such as landowner contribution or another grant.

SRF GUIDANCE – PROGRAM RULES AND FUNDING

3.8 Vouchering

- *Monthly grant vouchers are required.* Technical assistance must be vouchered for on a monthly basis whether or not any cost-share practices or construction of a district implemented project were completed in the given month.

3.9 Cultural Resources

- All practices must comply with the SCC cultural resources policy. A cultural resources review should begin only after the final design is complete to expedite the process. Please plan ahead to ensure enough time is permitted prior to implementation, which could be 45 days or more.

SRF GUIDANCE – DEFINITIONS AND BMPs

Please review the guidance document for key term definitions.

Also, please review the list of qualifying BMPs in Appendix A.

SRF GUIDANCE – HOW TO COMMENT

How to comment

- Use the [**Salmon Recovery Funding Guidelines form**](#) to submit your comments. You can also get the link in GovDelivery message sent on Wed., June 1 at 8:10 p.m.
- ***Comments are due by 5:00 pm on July 1, 2022.***
- The SCC will make a final decision on the proposed guidelines at its next business meeting on July 21, 2022. The guidelines would be in effect as of that date.

SRF GUIDANCE – NEXT STEPS

- Commission staff will review comments received and make appropriate changes to the proposed guidelines.
- The revised proposed guidelines and any comments received will be presented to the Commission at its next business meeting on July 21, 2022 for their consideration and action.
- The guidelines would be effective the date approved by the Commission.

SRF GUIDANCE

Early Application Reminder:

- **SCC will begin accepting project pre-applications on June 21, 2022.**
- The SCC project review committee will review applications and provide conditional approval so work may begin immediately upon notification after July 1.
- The approval will be confirmed by the Commission at their July business meeting upon approval of the proposed guidelines.



Thank you!

Questions?



Washington State
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