

Riparian Plant Propagation Program:

Updates and Draft Programmatic Guidelines

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Photo by Joanna Cowles Cleveland, Walla Walla CD

RPPP Background

- Statewide salmon recovery efforts
- Increase the availability of native trees and shrubs for riparian habitat restoration
- \$1.3 million annual budget

We envision 3 categories of funding:

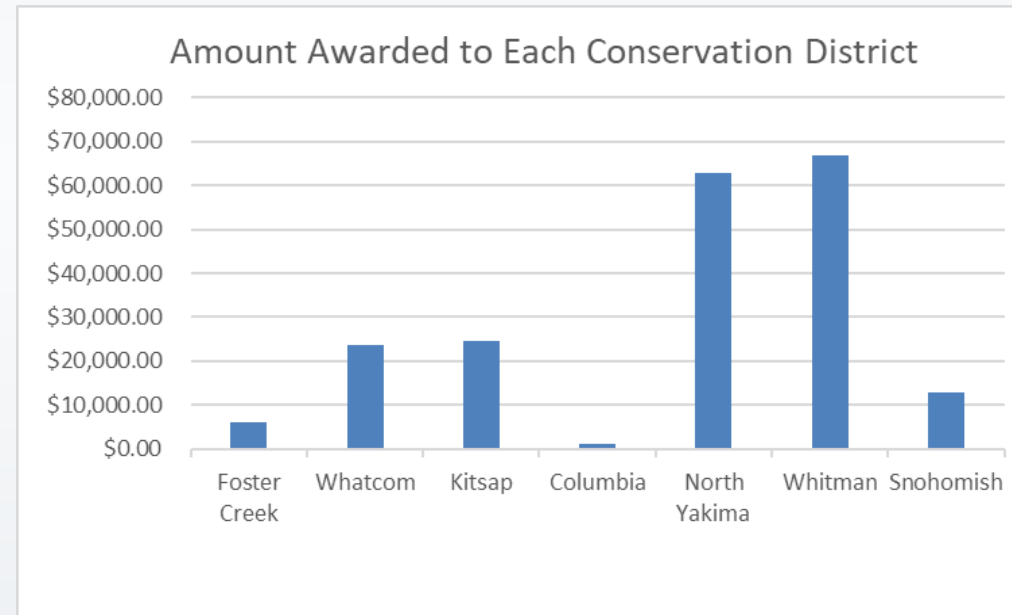
- **Propagation:** Work with nurseries and other partners to increase propagation of locally sourced native trees and shrubs.
- **Cultivation:** Collaborate with conservation districts to cultivate native trees and shrubs until ready to plant.
- **Restoration:** Match the trees and shrubs with districts and other restoration groups for riparian habitat projects.

Conservation District Funding (Round 1)

Funding to purchase native riparian trees and shrubs for cold storage and/or cultivation at established holding sites until the plants are ready to be used in restoration projects.

Total projects: 8

Total amount awarded: \$188,215



Conservation District Funding (Round 2)

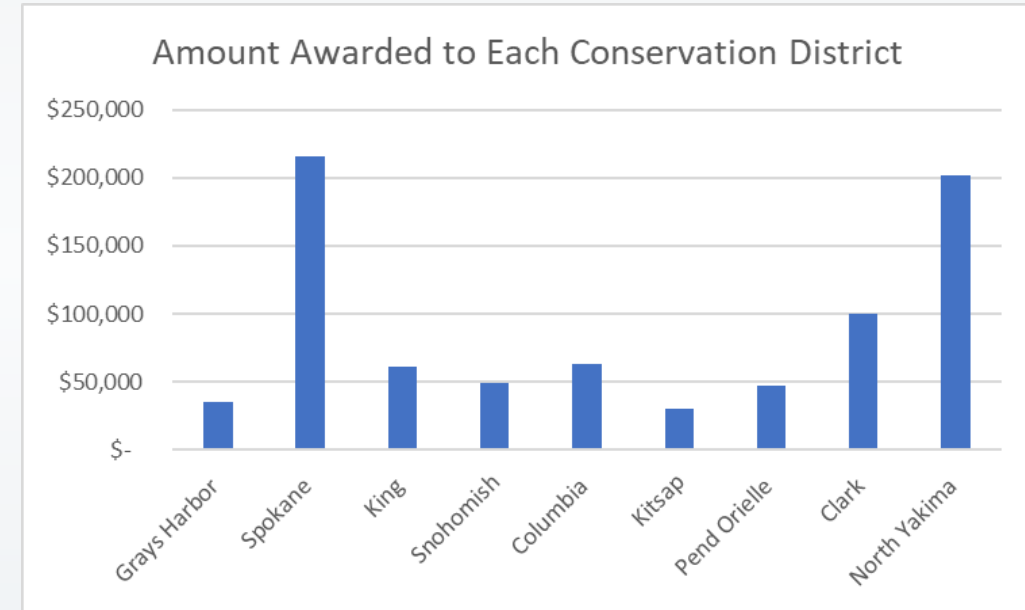
Funding to create, improve, and/or expand holding sites:

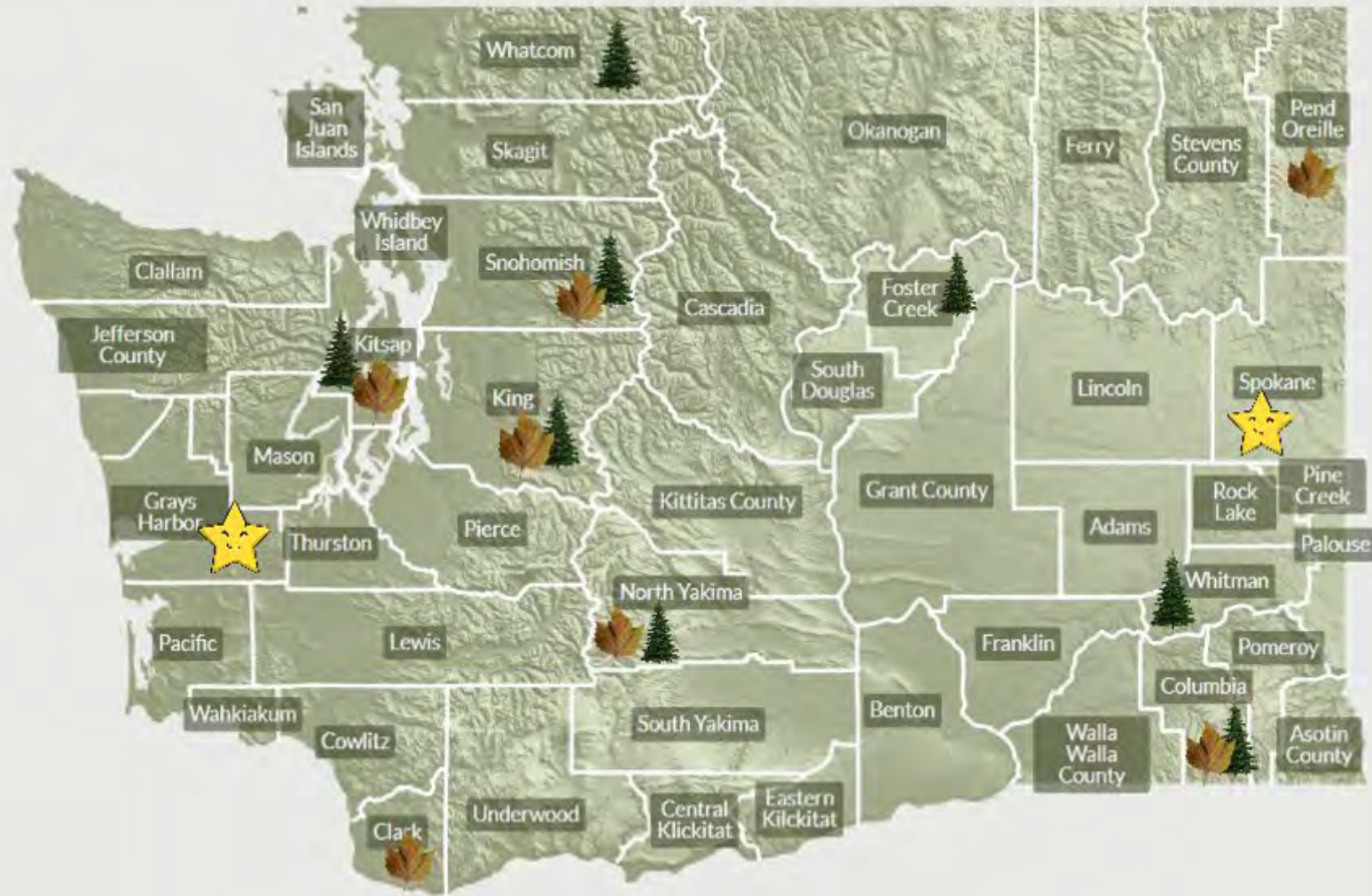
1. Infrastructure, materials, and supplies
2. Plants and seed for cultivation/propagation
3. Labor
4. Overhead

9 total projects:

- New holding sites: 2
- Improvement/expansion: 7

Total amount awarded: \$803,816





- ★ Round 2 Funding (new site)
- 🍂 Round 2 Funding (existing site)
- 🌲 Round 1 funding

Total Projects: 17
Total Amount Funded: \$992,031

Conservation District Project Updates:



Pend Oreille CD: board member and contractor surveying nursery site.



North Yakima CD: new irrigation system is operational



Clark CD: volunteer potting event.



Columbia CD: planting event at local school.

Request for Information (RFI):

A photograph of a nursery field with rows of young pine trees and a dirt path leading into the distance. The field is filled with rows of young pine trees, and a dirt path runs through the center. In the background, there are more trees and a clear blue sky.

Gather information needed to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) open to nurseries:

- How to support efforts to increase plant propagation
- Timeline
- Limitations
- Demand
- Limited scope RFP
- Long term RFP

13 RFI Responses:

Majority grow native plants

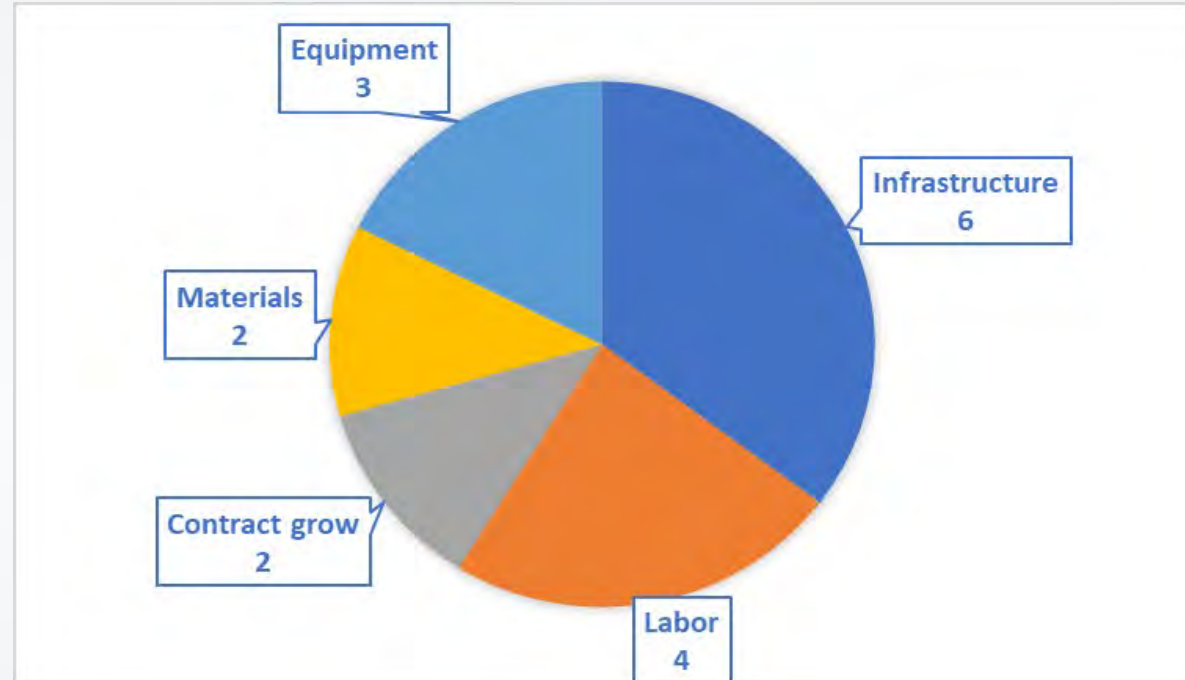
- High demand

How could we support overall efforts?

- infrastructure
- equipment
- labor
- materials
- demand forecasting
- contract production

Important notes from nurseries

1. Concerns about selling at a reduced cost/free
2. Difficult to find seeds/cuttings
3. Fiscal year dates don't line up with native plant propagation





Second Request for Information (RFI):

Gather follow up information to see if nurseries were interested in a 2 year contract grow:

- What can be provided as deliverables in a 2 year timeline
- Seed collection support
- Order size
- Balance paid for materials/services once plants are received.

20 RFI Responses:



Map of counties respondents operate in

Overwhelming support for a 2 year contract grow

- 19/20 indicated that it was a workable option to not have advanced payment

Deliverables by June 2025

- Deciduous trees
- Conifers need at least 3 years
- Sizes:
 - 1-0 bareroots
 - 15-40 ci plugs
 - 1-5 gallon pots

Seed support:

- Difficult to source conifers
- Support for labor of collecting seeds
- Multi-year forecasting

Next Steps:

1. RFP for nurseries:

- Contract grow over the next biennium
- Starting in July 2023
- Deliverables due by end of June 2025
- Possibility to extend contract with 2 additional 1 year terms

2. Connecting with districts and other restoration groups

3. Engaging with tribes

Requested Action

- Focused on supporting cultivation and propagation by the conservation districts.
- Developed with language from the first two RFA's and award notifications

Approve distribution of this portion of draft RPPP guidelines to the conservation districts for 45-day review process.

Thank you!

**For additional questions
please contact:**

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Photo by E Hirsch, Whatcom CD