



Riparian Grant Program

Chehalis River Restoration by Kianna Sinner, Thurston CD



Shana Joy
District Operations & Regional Manager Coordinator



Special Commission Meeting
February 28, 2024



Background

2 new appropriations 2023-2025 biennium

\$25m for a voluntary riparian grant program

\$3m for related outreach

Detailed budget proviso direction

Restoring fish habitat by Kari Quaas, Snohomish CD

Work Group

CD Representatives

Craig Nelson, Okanogan

David Marcell, Grays Harbor & Pacific

Drew Schuldt, Palouse

Emmett Wild, Skagit

Evan Bauder, Cascadia

Frank Corey, Whatcom

Kristin Marshall, Snohomish

Ryan Williams, Mason

Walt Edelen, Spokane

Zachary Bergen, King

Agency Representatives

Ben Rau, Ecology

Evan Sheffield & Kelly McLain, WSDA

Nick Norton, RCO

Tom O'Brien, WDFW

Site visit of restoration project by James Dunphy, Central Klickitat CD





Timeline

Sept. 19th – Jan. 30th

9 Work Group Meetings

Nov. 20th

Draft guidelines published for
comment

Jan. 17th

Comment period ends

Jan. 18th – Feb. 21st

Comment review & incorporation into
final draft interim guidelines

Comment Statistics

39 comments received via Smartsheet form

2 comments submitted by Tribes

25 comments submitted by Conservation Districts

12 comments submitted by other interested parties

5 comment letters received

Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

WA Dept. of Ecology

WA Conservation Action



*Spring in Central Washington
by Ken Muir, Cascadia CD*



Native Yakima Trout by Lance Downing, Kittitas CD

Comment Themes

Permanent Protection

Eligible Practices

Project Prioritization

Tiered Incentives

Maintenance

Technical Resources

Buffer Widths

Permanent Protection

(b) The commission must give preference and compensation for permanent protection of riparian areas or removal of riparian land from agricultural production or other development by purchase at fair market value.

Steptoe Butte by Garrett LaCivita, Palouse CD





Permanent Protection

Lack of Detail

Cost

Complexity & Capacity

- SCC and CD capacity
- Easements vs. Fee-simple purchase
- Funding

Duplication

Riparian buffer by Aneka Sweeney, Whatcom CD

Eligible Practices

All the tools available in the box

Site Prep

Buffer Installation

Instream

Livestock Exclusion

Maintenance Practices

*Instream practice of a Beaver Dam Analog (BDA)
by Emmy Engle, Okanogan CD*





Prioritization

Prioritization must be informed by and consistent with one or more of the following....

+ additional criteria added

Constructing Beaver Dam Analogs by Jacob Murray, Mason CD

Tiered Incentives

Annual payments made to a landowner for participating in riparian management zone restoration under this program.

Determined by buffer width

Minimum

NRCS Practices & Standards

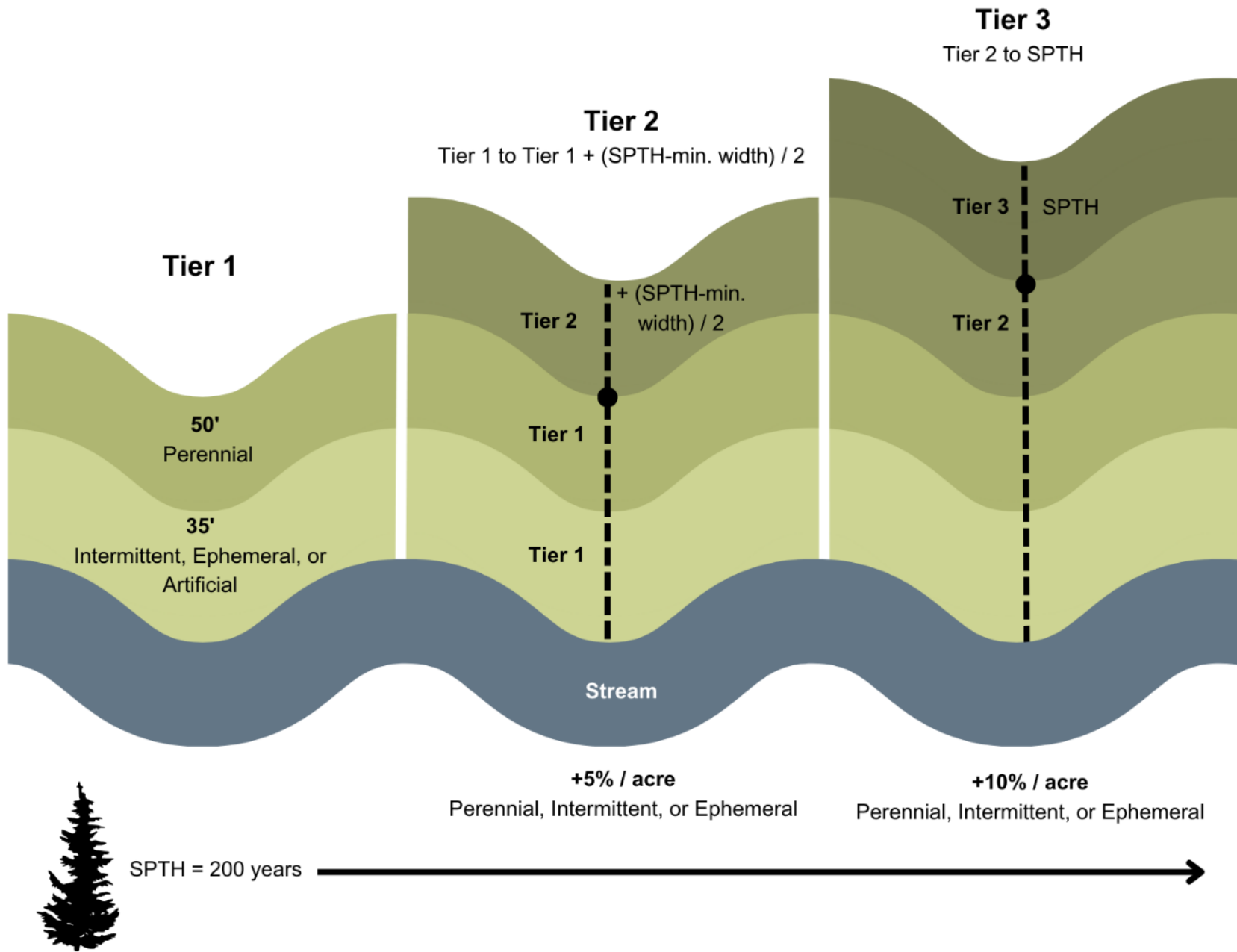
Maximum

WDFW

Site Potential Tree Height (200 years)



*Plantings from above
by Natalie Otto, Grays Harbor CD*



Tiered Incentives Calculation

$$\frac{\text{county median land value (by acre)}}{\text{vegetation type (7\% for RHB or 8\% for RFB)}} \times \text{Base per acre payment rate (BPAPR)}$$
$$\frac{\text{Base per acre payment rate (BPAPR)}}{\text{any additional incentive (\% of BPAPR)}} + \frac{\text{acres enrolled}}{\text{acres enrolled}} = \text{Annual payment}$$

+5% for Tier 2 buffer width

+10% for Tier 3 buffer width

+10% if two adjacent participants enroll together

+15% for signing up for a 15-year contract

\$300 minimum per acre annual payment

\$1,000 maximum per acre annual payment



Tiered Incentives Funds Flow

Long-term contracts with biennial funding

Option 1

SCC obligates funds & administers to CDs annually

Option 2

SCC obligates funds & administers directly to participants annually

Option 3

Transfer of funds

Site visit by Alexi Guddal, Whatcom CD

Payment Comparison

10.2 acre project site with a 100' wide buffer

CREP would pay a 10-year total incentive of \$6,860

Riparian Grant Program would pay a 10-year total incentive of \$10,000

The larger the menu of options the greater the chance that everyone can select a meal to suit them.



Maintenance

Proviso requires support for 5 years

All riparian buffers are eligible for this work if and as needed

All the tools in the box

Invasive weeds

Herbivory controls

Irrigation

Mulch

Exclusion fence by Kari Quaas, Snohomish CD

Monitoring & Adaptive Management

Annual Monitoring by CDs

Required as long as funding is available

Technical Monitoring by SCC

~ Every 5 years to evaluate project condition and riparian function

Biennially

Program evaluation and adaptive management cycles



Water quality testing by Allison Rhoad, Whidbey CD



Technical Resources & Tools

Technical references to be provided on program webpage

Tiered Incentives Calculator

Frequently Asked Questions

Tiered Incentives Form Template

Riparian Restoration Techniques

Stream engineering and willow planting by Kiana Sinner, Thurston CD

Requested Action

Adopt the Interim Guidelines for 1 year to allow work to begin while concurrently we work on additional **outreach** and **engagement** with Tribes and further discussion about **permanent protection projects**.

Direct staff to present an **updated edition** of Riparian Grant Program Guidelines by March 2025 Commission meeting.

Volunteer planting tree by Emma Kilgore, Snohomish CD



Rock Creek by Garrett LaCivita, Palouse CD

A wide-angle landscape photograph of a dry, grassy field. A winding creek flows through the center of the image, surrounded by green vegetation. In the background, there are several flat-topped mesas or buttes under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish grass and some green shrubs.

Questions?



Thank you!

Contact:

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Washington State
**Conservation
Commission**



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OF WASHINGTON STATE**

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