

July 21, 2022

TO: Conservation Commission Members
Chris Pettit, SCC Executive Director

FROM: Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director

SUBJECT: Salmon Recovery Funding Guidance – Comments Received, Review and Approval of Funding Guidance

Action Item

Informational Item

Summary:

This past Legislative session, the Conservation Commission received \$10,000,000 in operating funding from the Salmon Recovery Fund for “grants for riparian restoration projects with landowners.” Commission staff developed proposed guidelines for how the funds may be used. The proposed guidelines were made available for comment. The final proposed guidelines are presented for Commission consideration and final action.

Requested Action:

Motion to approve staff recommended amended guidelines and adoption of the final version.

Staff Contact:

Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director

rshultz@scc.wa.gov

Background:

In the 2022 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed the 2021-23 supplemental operating budget. In this budget, they included new one-time funding to the Commission for Riparian Restoration Projects. This funding totals \$10,000,000 and was allocated from the newly established Salmon Recovery Account. Funding is available for the 2023 fiscal year, meaning funds could not be used until after July 1, 2022. Because these are operating budget dollars, funds must be spent by June 30, 2023. Unspent funds return to the Salmon Recovery Account. The Commission may request funding for those unspent amounts in the 2023-25 biennial budget, but a specific budget request must be made.

All Commission program funds must be allocated and spent consistent with program guidelines and with the Commission's Grants Manual. These documents identify minimum required elements for fund expenditure. These proposed Salmon Recovery Fund (SRF) guidelines implement the Grants Manual requirements and set forth requirements to ensure funds are spent consistent with the requirements of the Legislative appropriation.

Guidance on Legislative appropriation is made through the funding bill by budget provisos, specific line items relating to the appropriation. In the case of the SRF, the budget proviso is straight forward:

“\$10,000,000 of the salmon recovery account—state appropriation is provided solely for the commission to provide grants for riparian restoration projects with landowners.”

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5693, section 307(14) 2022.

This brief language provides important direction to the Commission on the use of these funds. These are for “grants” for the purpose of “riparian restoration projects” to be conducted “with landowners”. The proposed SRF guidance implements these elements.

Commission staff presented a general concept of the SRF guidelines to the Commission at the May 2022 Commission business meeting. In that presentation, staff proposed the approach to allocation of the SRF funding would:

- Grouping projects within a sub-basin to achieve linear riparian habitat improvements over multiple parcels;
- Focusing on temperature impaired stream segments;
- Focusing on critical fish basins to improve habitat conditions where salmon species are in critical condition;
- Connect district proposed projects with restoration priorities for local salmon recovery organizations;
- Providing resources for conservation district staff capacity to provide landowner technical assistance and manage project implementation;
- Develop scientific and technical capacity at the Commission to support data collection, science support for identification of key salmon recovery locations, and coordination and collaboration with other state, federal, local and tribal salmon recovery entities;
- Develop capacity at the Commission and conservation districts to monitor results of project implementation and resource impact.

Proposed guidance was developed with these general concepts as the starting point. Once the proposed guidance was completed, it was distributed for comment.

Early Funding Opportunity:

Since the SRF funding would not be available for use until after July 1, and since the Commission meeting for approval of the guidelines would not be until July 21, many districts expressed concern regarding the potential of funding not being available until after August 1st. To be responsive to these concerns, Commission staff initiated an early application process so some district project proposals could be considered early in the process so that once the guidelines were approved, funding could be distributed quickly and projects begin sooner. Two rounds of project proposals have been received.

Comment and Input on Proposed Guidelines:

The proposed salmon funding guidelines were distributed to conservation districts and stakeholders on June 1, 2022. Comments were to be returned by July 1, 2022.

The proposed guidelines reflect Commission staff consideration of the recommendations and comments received from conservation districts, WDFW, Ecology, and stakeholders.

Comments Received and Proposed Changes

A total of 24 districts responded to the opportunity to comment on the proposed guidance. Two agencies commented – Ecology and WDFW. One stakeholder commented, The Nature Conservancy. In addition, the proposed guidance was discussed at a CD Listening Session conducted by WSCC staff on July 1 in which 42 conservation districts participated. Comments on the guidance in that venue are included in the roll-up below.

In total we received 161 discrete comments on various aspects of the guidance.

For ease in addressing the comments, Commission staff have grouped the comments by theme so common themes may be addressed rather than respond to each comment individually.

Acquisition

Six commenters asked to have acquisition projects eligible for salmon recovery funding. Acquisition requests include proposals for fee simple as well as easement acquisition. Other ideas include being able to use the funding to partner with another entity, such as a land trust, to help close the deal on an acquisition. One commenter did not want acquisitions to be eligible stating these can take large amounts of funding compared to other types of projects. In addition, this commenter noted there are other funds available for riparian acquisitions.

Response: Commission staff recommend acquisitions not be an allowed use of funds for this fiscal year. Acquisitions take several years to reach a final result making them unrealistic if not impossible with one-year operating funds. There are other fund sources suitable to these acquisitions. If conservation districts are finding these sources aren't helping address the opportunities, then we can have a longer-term discussion on ideas to address this.

Cultural Resources

Suggestion we delete the line: "A cultural resources review should begin only after the final design is complete to expedite the process". While ideally this would be done, given the time constraints associated with this funding it may not always be a good project management decision. So long as the location, nature and extent of soil disturbance is known with sufficient confidence the cultural resource review can move forward in parallel. It isn't necessary to know every detail (the term "final design" can describe a pretty high bar depending on the project type).

Response: Change made.

Instream Practices

Several commenters requested instream practices be eligible for funding. Some noted the challenge of implementing instream practices in the short time allowed for the funding. Instream practices require permitting and approvals which can take some time to obtain. WDFW identified several specific instream practices they would like to see eligible for funding. Many of these practices are related to fish blockage and barrier removal.

Response: While we recognize the value instream practices to improve the overall condition of salmon habitat, we are confined by the terms of the budget proviso. The proviso states funding is for riparian restoration projects. We define the term "riparian" consistent with the WDFW document "Riparian Ecosystems, Volume 1: Science Synthesis and Management Implications (2012)". In the guidance, we also define the term "instream habitat improvement" consistent with the WDFW document "Lessons Learned from Long-Term Effectiveness Monitoring of Instream Habitat Projects (2019)". This document includes findings that instream projects implemented in isolation are not favored and recommends instream projects be implemented in conjunction with riparian restoration. The Salmon Recovery Funding guidance follows this recommendation. No change to the guidance.

Fencing Practices

Many commenters noted the absence of fencing practices as part of the list of allowable practices in the Appendix to the guidance.

Response: This was an oversight. Fencing of riparian areas will be an allowed practices. However, the fencing project must be for purposes of exclusion fencing related to the management of a riparian area. Fencing is not allowed as pasture cross-fencing merely to support a grazing plan.

Maintenance

There were several comments relating to whether maintenance projects would be allowed. These comments fall into two general categories: maintenance of areas of existing riparian projects to improve the riparian area and increase chances for growth of previously installed riparian restoration projects; and, ongoing maintenance of a riparian project funded and installed with SRF funding.

Response: Proposals for maintenance of existing riparian areas is allowed so long as the maintenance project can be done by June 30, 2023. Maintenance that is proposed to be ongoing with a project funded in the current cycle with SRF funds may only be allowed if it can be completed by June 30, 2023. No funding for maintenance will be provided beyond this date.

Additional Practices Allowed

Some commenters requested SRF funding be allowed for practices such as precision agriculture, reduced tillage, and residue management programs. Another comment was modeling of stream wetland restoration in a modified system should be allowed. Finally, a commenter suggested including projects that under plant, install tree protection or enhance existing buffers to meet original densities to achieve water quality targets should be allowed.

Response:

- Practices such as precision agriculture, reduced tillage, and residue management programs are upland programs. Although there are benefits to water quality by reducing run-off into streams and rivers, the funding is specifically for riparian restoration. As we've defined the "riparian area", these types of practices are tangential to the riparian and therefore not allowed. There are other fund sources available for these activities, such as the Sustainable Farms and Fields program at the Commission.
- Stream and wetland modeling is allowed so long as it is associated with a riparian project, or will lead to riparian restoration projects.
- Projects for under planting, installation of tree protection, or enhance existing buffers are allowed.

Per Landowner Cap

Many commenters requests the lifting of the \$50,000 per landowner cap that is part of the Commission's grants manual, applicable to all SCC grant fund sources. Districts content the dollar figure is challenging as the costs associated with projects continue to rise.

Response: Commission staff recommend no change at this time to the \$50,000 per landowner per year cap. The grants manual allows for exemptions to the cap with the approval of the SCC Executive Director. SRF proposals which include a request to exceed the \$50,000 are allowed and the case must be made for why the cap should be lifted for the specific proposed project. For this reason, no change to the guidance is proposed on this topic. Commission staff will continue to monitor the number of projects for which the cap is a problem and if there is need to alter the cap amount, Commission staff will make such a recommendation.

Use of Maps to Identify Key Salmon Areas

The SRF guidance includes in the "Project Evaluation Criteria" a list of criteria for project funding. Projects meeting one or more of the listed criteria may receive enhanced prioritization. The first of the criteria is the proposed project is "within a watershed or portions of a watershed with critical salmon habitat needs as identified by the Commission as having sufficient quality of salmon riparian habitat." See guidance at 2.2.1. To assist in this determination, Commission staff developed maps which utilized data from WDFW to identify streams with listed salmonids, areas of

forest cover, and areas of reduced forest cover near streams. The maps were shown to the districts at the July 1 listening session with conservation districts.

In comments on the proposed guidance several conservation districts objected to any requirement for the use of the maps to identify key salmon riparian locations. Districts expressed concern whether the maps accurately characterized the riparian conditions. Some commented the use of the maps felt too “top down” and the Commission directing where projects would go. Districts indicated they would prefer to be able to identify areas needing riparian restoration using their own data, including information generated by local salmon recovery entities.

Response: The intent of the maps is to assist the conservation districts in identifying areas of critical salmonid species and habitat. It was not intended to be a requirement. Language of the guidance is modified to allow for identification of these areas through a variety of sources, including local salmon recovery entities.

Use of NRCS Practice Standards and Buffer Width

The proposed Salmon Recovery Funding guidance includes language requiring the use of best management practices (BMPs) which meet the NRCS standards and specifications. SRF Guidance at 3.6.5. Alternative practice designs are allowed but they must be approved by a professional engineer. This requirement is standard language in SCC guidance for spending SCC funds. These apply to Natural Resource Investments (NRI) and Shellfish funding at the SCC.

Commenters from Ecology suggest the NRCS standards do not achieve state water quality objectives. And commenters from WDFW state the NRCS standards are not consistent with the WDFW Priority Habitat Species (PHS) documents relating to the science of salmon habitat restoration. Both agencies recommend the SRF guidance either require the use of PHS riparian science, which recommends a Site Potential Tree Height (SPTH) buffer of up to 260 feet depending upon location, or provide incentives to encourage district landowner projects to achieve the wider buffer width.

Conservation districts commented the guidance should retain the NRCS standards as the requirement for funded projects.

Response: Commission staff have based the proposed SRF guidance on the existing guidance for other SCC funded programs. These guidance have been approved by the Commission and implement the Commission’s long-standing policy regarding the use of the NRCS standards for conservation district BMP implementation with landowners. It is the Commission’s position that the NRCS standards are based on sound science and undergo a rigorous evaluation at NRCS. Commission staff have found over years of implementation that frequently implemented NRCS standard buffers are wider than the minimums allowed. For example, in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) which uses NRCS standards, the average buffer width for salmon riparian buffers is 145 feet.

The primary NRCS practices standard in the riparian setting is the “Riparian Forest Buffer”, Code 391. The practice standard found in this practice code include BMP “considerations” for the technician to evaluate for a particular site. These considerations go beyond the required criteria of the practice code. Some of the considerations include: “consider extending the minimum width depending on wildlife species habitat needs” and “maximize widths, lengths, and connectivity of

riparian forest buffers”. These considerations present an opportunity for a district to evaluate the project site in the context of the recommendations found in the PHS document.

Commission staff propose the SRF guidelines maintain the NRCS standards as a minimum requirement, and encourage conservation districts to consider incorporating into projects management recommendations found in the WDFW PHS documents.



Salmon Recovery Funding Programmatic Guidelines

1.0 Program Background

A portion of funds in the State Operating budget are appropriated to the Salmon Recovery Account. From this Salmon Recovery Funding (SRF), \$10 million has been allocated to the State Conservation Commission (SCC) in the FY23 supplemental budget with proviso language that specifies how these funds are to be used. This proviso states the funding is provided:

“...solely for the commission to provide grants for riparian restoration projects with landowners.”

The Commission interprets the SRF funding to be restricted to projects with landowners for the purpose of riparian restoration.

Because the SRF funds come from the Operating budget, all projects must begin July 1, 2022 and be completed by June 30, 2023. At the end of the fiscal year unspent operating funds will revert to the Salmon Recovery Account. Due to the short timeline for expenditure and the criticality of achieving and demonstrating effective restoration projects with landowners through voluntary incentives, it is essential quality projects are implemented and completed by June 30, 2023.

2.0 Salmon Project Funding Eligibility

2.1 Who is eligible?

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

2.2 Project Evaluation Criteria

All projects must be located within riparian areas. Instream projects must be conducted in support of a riparian restoration project. See definitions section for definitions of the terms “riparian” and “instream” projects.

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 and design, etc.). Funding will not be extended beyond this date, and there is no guarantee continued legislative appropriation for this program.

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.

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 or identified by the local conservation district with supporting documentation as having insufficient quality of salmon riparian habitat. The Commission is available to assist districts with this information.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 2.2.7 Districts are encouraged to prioritize projects connected to the conservation district's annual or long-range plan.

In addition to the criteria listed above, districts are encouraged to complement the NRCS standards, particularly the standards relating to "Riparian Forest Buffers", with management considerations found in the WDFW document: Riparian Ecosystems, Volume 2: Management Recommendations. 2020.

2.3 Project Proposal Requirements

2.3.1 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).

2.4 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. The following are the eligible project types and associated parameters of each type:

2.4.1 Landowner Implemented Cost-Share Projects

- 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 landowner's properties.

2.4.2 District Implemented Projects

- 2.4.2.1 A district implemented project (DIP) is a project where the district is the lead planner and implementer. An example of a DIP could be implementing an identified practice with multiple landowners at the same time – i.e. installing riparian buffers on several consecutive properties along a creek. Another example of a district implemented project could be 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. In this project type, the District is taking 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.
- 2.4.2.2 A district implemented project 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.
- 2.4.2.3 All project information and completed practices must be entered completely into the Conservation Practice Data System (CPDS).
- 2.4.2.4 A 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 WSCC 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.
- 2.4.2.5 There is no match or cost-share scenario requirement for these projects. However, other sources of contributing funds toward the project should be reported.
- 2.4.2.6 See 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.

2.4.3 Project Planning and Design

Other eligible activities include programs for project planning and design through 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.

3.0 Program Rules and Funding Process

3.1 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.

3.2 Timeline & 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 a [grant application form available from the Commission](#). 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.

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 the 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.

3.3 Funding Process

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

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 SCC leadership.

Upon approval of the project by the committee, districts will be formally notified of the award.

***NOTE: Periodic reports of Conservation District Supervisors and Associate Supervisors receiving cost share funding will be given to the SCC Commissioners.

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.

3.5 Technical Assistance

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.

3.6 General Requirements

- 3.6.1 All funded cost-share and completed District Implemented Projects and practices must be entered in the CPDS.
- 3.6.2 All projects and practices must have a detailed description. See example descriptions below.
- 3.6.3 Maximum cost-share per landowner per fiscal year is \$50,000 per *13-25 Category 3 Policy, May 16, 2013*.
- 3.6.4 The maximum cost-share rate allowable for publicly owned lands is 50% per *13-05 Cost Share Assistance Policy, March 21, 2013*.
- 3.6.5 All best management practices (BMPs) must meet NRCS standards and specifications, alternative practice designs approved by a professional engineer licensed by the State of Washington or an SCC approved practice per *13-05 Cost Share Assistance Policy, March 21, 2013*.
- 3.6.6 An overhead percentage only is allowed to be billed based on actual hours worked.
- 3.6.7 Ineligible costs include administrative goods and services (office rent, copy machines, telephones etc....)
- 3.6.8 Work must be underway on all awarded SRF projects within 120 days of the funding allocation. This could be technical assistance effort or actual construction.
- 3.6.9 Any district that does not utilize their awarded SRF funding in a timely manner or returns funding late in the biennium without a compelling explanation, may be deemed ineligible to receive future SRF funding.
- 3.6.10 All project and practices must be completed in the funding time frame. The funding is granted on a fiscal year basis (July 1 - June 30) therefore, all projects must be completed by the end of each fiscal year. All technical assistance costs must be vouchered for in the month following when the expenditures are incurred.

- 3.6.11 A [Returned Funds form](#) must be submitted as soon as it becomes clear that funds will not be utilized.

3.7 CPDS Requirements

- 3.7.1 All funded cost-share and completed DIP's 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.
- 3.7.2 The Contract for Cost Share must be printed from the CPDS for all cost-share projects. No changes may be made to SCC's Contract for Cost Share.
- 3.7.3 "Before" and "After" pictures are required for each practice.
- 3.7.4 "Planned" and "Actual" implementation measures are required for each practice.

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.

- Once practices are completed, the following fields must be updated in the CPDS prior to reimbursement:
 - "After" pictures are required for each practice.
 - "Actual" implementation measures are required for each practice.
 - Completion date of practice is required.
- The [Cultural Resources Complied Statement](#) form must be submitted when requesting cost share or district implemented project reimbursement.

Refer to the [Grant and Contract Procedure Manual](#) for further, detailed vouchering and cost share rules.

3.9 Cultural Resources

- 4.1.1 All practices must comply with the SCC cultural resources policy. Due to the short timeline for completion of projects under this fund source, a cultural resource review should begin as soon as the location, nature and extent of soil disturbance is known with sufficient confidence. Please plan ahead to ensure enough time is permitted prior to implementation, which could be 45 days or more. Cultural resources review is required by the Governor's Executive Order 21-02 for all projects using both state operating and capital funding provided by SCC.

- 4.1.2 Please refer to the [SCC cultural resources policy and procedures](#).
- 4.1.3 Cultural resource costs are awarded on a case by case basis. Funding will be added in to a separate grant outcome as each award occurs.

4.0 Definitions

4.1 Definitions

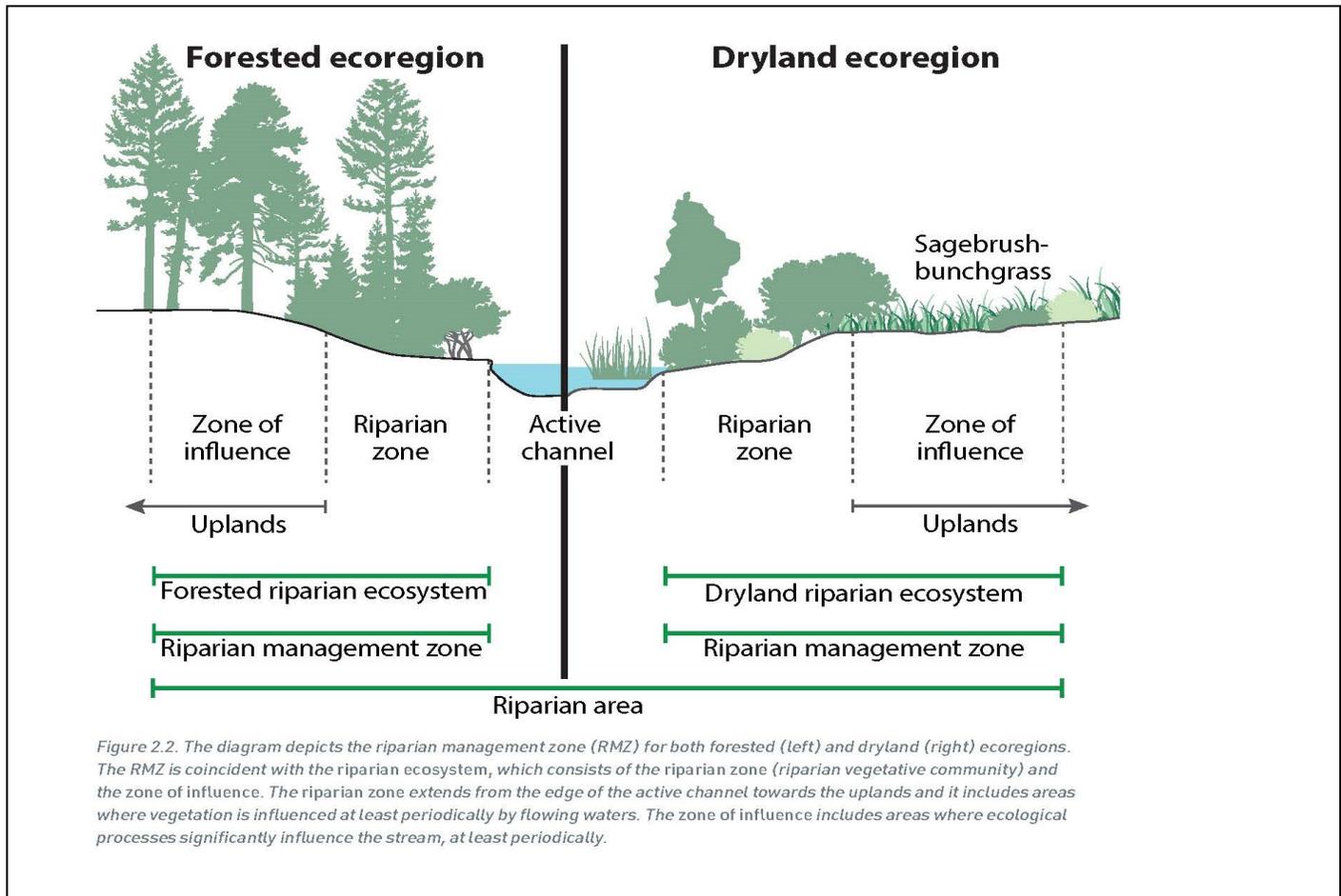
- 4.1.1 **Instream habitat improvement**¹: Projects which include the placement of natural structures such as large wood (LW; single or multiple logs), engineered log jams, and artificial structures (e.g., weirs, deflectors, boulders) into the active stream channel, or similar structures. Instream restoration activities as stand-alone restoration techniques are only appropriate if the cause of stream degradation can be isolated to a specific instream cause.²
- 4.1.2 **Practice**: Approved practice per current NRCS practices available within CPDS, or Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) approved practices or Licensed Engineer approved practices.
- 4.1.3 **Riparian ecosystem**³: Riparian ecosystems are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and are distinguished by gradients in biophysical conditions, ecological processes, and biota. They are areas through which surface and subsurface hydrology connect waterbodies with their adjacent uplands. They include those portions of terrestrial ecosystems that significantly influence exchanges of energy and matter with aquatic ecosystems (i.e., a zone of influence). Our definition of riparian ecosystem does not include adjacent waters (i.e., river or streams, but does include riverine wetlands) and recognizes the riparian zone as a distinctive area within riparian ecosystems.

¹ Krall, M., C. Clark, P. Roni, K. Ross. 2019. Lessons Learned from Long-Term Effectiveness Monitoring of Instream Habitat Projects. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 39:1395-1411, 2019

² Cramer, Michelle L. (managing editor). 2012. *Stream Habitat Restoration Guidelines*. Co-published by the Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources, Transportation and Ecology, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, Puget Sound Partnership, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Olympia, Washington.

³ Quinn, T., G.F. Wilhere, and K.L. Krueger, technical editors. 2020. *Riparian Ecosystems, Volume 1: Science Synthesis and Management Implications*. Habitat Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia. p.292

Allowable riparian area projects are those in the area described above and pictured below and are intended to address ecosystem attributes particularly important to salmonid needs.



4.1.4 Riparian Restoration: Riparian restoration activities are management practices which focus on reinstating the ecological processes that naturally create and maintain stream habitat over the long term and return the stream to a dynamic, self-sustaining condition. Restoration strategies may include site- or reach-scale projects intended to increase or improve habitat or the processes that create and maintain habitat. Restoration actions also commonly include enhancement - habitat creation or stabilization - where the full restoration of processes is not possible within acceptable timeframes.

4.1.5 **Riparian zone**⁴: 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.

⁴ Quinn, et al., at 293

APPENDIX A

ELIGIBLE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING

NOTE: All instream BMPs must be done in conjunction with an upland restoration activity.

<u>BMP Name</u>	<u>Practice Code</u>	
Riparian Forest Buffer		391
Fence		382
Wetland Creation		658
Wetland Enhancement		659
Wetland Restoration		657
Bulkhead Removal	SCC16	
Conservation Cover		327
Hedgerow Planting		422
Riparian Herbaceous Cover		390
Structures for Wildlife		649
Access Control		472
Tree/Shrub Establishment		612
Beaver Dam Analogue	SCC3	
Aquatic Organism Passage		396
Brush Management		314
Contour Buffer Strips		332
Critical Area Planting		342
Filter Strip		393
Grade Stabilization Structure		410
Herbaceous Weed Control		315
LWD Structure	SCC26	
Root Wads	SCC45	
Dynamic Revetments	SCC46	
Bank Reshaping/Channel Modification	SCC48	
GPS Precision Guidance System	SCC52	
Bank Barb	SCC53	
Live Stake Revetments	SCC54	
Dead Stake Revetments	SCC55	
Rock Toe Protection	SCC56	
Brush Mattress	SCC57	
Mulching		484
Multi-Story Cropping		379
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment		654

