

Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program

Beach Restoration Funding Opportunity – 2012 ESRP Request for Proposals

Questions and Answers

September 10, 2012

The Puget Sound Marine and Nearshore Grant Program (Grant Program) will provide up to \$2.5 million to eligible projects through the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program's (ESRP) Request for Proposals (RFP). The Grant Program is seeking projects that restore shoreline habitat and processes by removing shoreline modifications, as well as provide public access and opportunities for outreach and education. The following is a summary of questions and answers about this Grant Program funding opportunity.

Question 1: Is this funding available for projects on the coast, or only Puget Sound?

Answer 1: Projects must be along marine shorelines east of Cape Flattery.

Question 2: Are private citizens eligible for this funding? Are federal agencies eligible?

Answer 2: No, eligible applicants for Grant Program funds include state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations. The Grant Program does, however, encourage project partnerships that may include entities not listed as eligible applicants.

Question 3: Does the Grant Program plan to develop an outreach strategy around these projects? Can these funds be used for outreach portions of other ongoing projects, such as signage?

Answer 3: The Grant Program intends to invest in outreach, likely starting this fall. The funds for this particular RFP are for restoration projects, not outreach.

Question 4: What is the source of the Grant Program funds? Will NEPA apply to projects?

Answer 4: The source of the Grant Program's funds is EPA's National Estuary Program. Projects funded by the National Estuary Program are not typically subject to NEPA requirements. Other sources of funds may have different requirements.

Question 5: Are funds in excess of the \$2.5 million available? Can projects in excess of \$2.5 million be submitted?

Answer 5: Projects in excess of \$2.5 million can be submitted, although only up to \$2.5 million is available through the Grant Program. Three different sources of funding may be available through the ESRP RFP: state funds, NOAA funds, and EPA funds.

Question 6: Could these funds be used to remove shoreline modifications other than armoring, such as groins, piers, boat launches, etc.?

Answer 6: Yes, as long as projects remove modifications that inhibit shoreline processes, they are eligible.

Question 7: Could these funds be used for acquisitions?

Answer 7: Grant Program funds available through this funding opportunity cannot be used for acquisitions, although there may be exceptions for discrete pieces of projects (see question 8). Other funds available through ESRP can be used for acquisition projects.

Question 8: If a restoration project eliminates parking, can these funds pay for replacement parking elsewhere? What about acquiring lands for this purpose?

Answer 8: Relocation of parking could potentially be an eligible cost, but the project sponsor would have to make the case for the need to provide replacement parking. If the project sponsor does not already own land sufficient for relocation, acquisition as a piece of the project may also be allowable.

Question 9: Are public amenities such as parking lot improvements associated with a bulkhead removal project eligible? Would relocating a road be an allowable cost for a beach restoration project?

Answer 9: Infrastructure replacement and improvements necessary to facilitate beach restoration and public access could potentially be eligible costs. The project sponsor would have to make the case for the need to provide replacement for or improvements to existing infrastructure.

Question 10: Are beach nourishment projects (i.e. placing sand/gravel on a beach) eligible for Grant Program funding?

Answer 10: Projects funded by the Grant Program must demonstrate process-based restoration by removing shoreline modifications. Beach nourishment could contribute to or compliment beach process restoration activities, although the project must achieve the stated objectives of this funding opportunity.

Question 11: Can dredge materials be used for beach restoration projects? Can the value of these materials be counted to meet match requirements?

Answer 11: Beneficial use of dredged materials is encouraged. Any necessary materials provided by the project sponsor may be eligible as in-kind match, as long as well-supported documentation of their value can be provided.

Question 12: Are projects in more urbanized settings, such as a port, eligible? Do they need to provide “pristine” habitat?

Answer 12: Projects in urban settings that offer public access opportunities are encouraged. While projects do not have to provide pristine habitat, they need to provide clear ecological benefits and demonstrate desirable improvements in beach system conditions.

Question 13: Would demolition of structures such as houses be an allowable cost in conjunction with the associated removal of shoreline armoring?

Answer 13: While the demolition of structures such as houses alone would not necessarily demonstrate beach restoration, removal of the bulkheads could provide desired benefits. If the structures needed to be removed in order to allow the beach to erode naturally following bulkhead removal, then demolition may be an allowable cost.