



Request for Nearshore
Restoration & Protection
Project Proposals March 6, 2020

2021-23
Investment
Plan

CONTENTS

<u>PROGRAM OVERVIEW</u>	3
CONTACT INFORMATION	3
PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS	3
SCHEDULE AND IMPORTANT DATES	3
ESRP NEARSHORE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES ...	4
ESRP PROGRAM GUIDANCE.....	4
<u>FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES</u>	5
ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES.....	5
AWARD AMOUNTS AND AWARD PERIOD	5
PHASED PORTFOLIO FUNDING.....	5
<u>ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION.....</u>	6
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.....	6
ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES AND SCOPE	6
MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.....	7
RELEVANT RCO POLICIES	7
RCO POLICY MANUALS.....	7
REPORTING.....	7
GRANT REIMBURSEMENT.....	7
<u>PORTFOLIO PROJECT APPLICATION AND</u>	
<u>REVIEW PROCESS.....</u>	8
<u>NEW RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECT</u>	
<u>APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS</u>	9
<u>INVESTMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT</u>	16
INTEGRATING RANKED PROJECT LISTS	16
<u>AWARD ADMINISTRATION.....</u>	16
AWARD AND CONTRACT INFORMATION.....	16
<u>APPENDICES</u>	17
APPENDIX A: RESTORATION AND	
PROTECTION APPLICATION ATTACHMENT	
TEMPLATES.....	17

APPENDIX B: EVALUATION CRITERIA.....	22
--------------------------------------	----

APPENDIX C: OTHER RESOURCES	34
-----------------------------------	----

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed towards:

Jay Krienitz, ESRP Manager- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(360) 902-2572, jay.krienitz@dfw.wa.gov or

Kay Caromile, ESRP/Salmon Project Manager- Recreation and Conservation Office
(360) 867-8532, kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov or

Tish Conway-Cranos, Nearshore Science Manager –Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(360) 902-2540, Tish.Conway-Cranos@dfw.wa.gov

PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program is seeking project proposals for nearshore protection and restoration projects in Puget Sound, including new and portfolio projects. Proposed project actions will be competitively evaluated based on assessment of completed project costs and benefits. A competitive review of proposals will result in a ranked project list. This ranked list along with funding recommendations will be the basis for ESRP's 2021-23 Investment Plan. A draft Investment Plan will be presented to the State Legislature in consideration of 2021-23 state appropriations.

SCHEDULE AND IMPORTANT DATES

RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECTS APPLICATION SCHEDULE

TASK	DATE	DESCRIPTION
RFP published	March 6	Request for proposals to ESRP mailing list and posted on website.
Pre-proposals due and register for site visit	April 1	Pre-proposal submitted through PRISM Online. All applicants will be contacted the first week of April with instructions to schedule site visits. See below for tentative dates and locations. Site visit scheduling questions can be sent to PugetSoundNearshore@dfw.wa.gov
Pre-proposal site visits	April 27- May 22	In-person site visits with members of the ESRP team.
Full applications due	July 23, 11:59 PM	Invitation to submit or deferral by early June. See application process steps and criteria. Proposals submitted through PRISM Online.
Presentations	August 17 – 21	Presentations by sponsors to technical evaluation team.
2021-23 ESRP Preliminary Investment Plan Submitted	September	Ranked project list and funding recommendations published and submitted to OFM. Ranked list submitted to Governor in December.
Funding notification	TBD	Funding notification dependent upon final 2021-23 state budget. Funds are anticipated to be available July 1, 2021.

ESRP NEARSHORE PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) is housed within the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is jointly administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) which functions as ESRP's fiscal agent. The mission of the ESRP is to **restore the natural processes that create and sustain the Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem**. We seek exemplary projects of regional importance that either: 1) provide substantial and cost-effective nearshore ecosystem restoration or protection of ecosystem functions, goods, and services, or 2) advance learning about cutting-edge ecosystem restoration tactics and strategies for the purpose of increasing efficiency and effectiveness of future restoration. Our work is centered on the scientific principles and ecosystem restoration strategies developed by the [Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project](#) (PSNERP) during the feasibility phase of the sound-wide PSNERP General Investigation.

PROTECTING AND RESTORING NEARSHORE ECOSYSTEM PROCESSES

The nearshore ecosystem of Puget Sound is a dynamic environment strongly shaped by physical and ecological processes. PSNERP research and findings suggests that projects designed to protect and restore the ecosystem processes that shape and maintain nearshore structure will result in self-sustaining improvements in ecosystem functions, goods, and services, thereby justifying our capital investments in nearshore ecosystem projects. The broad restoration [objectives](#) of ESRP include:

1. Restore the size and quality of large river delta estuaries and the nearshore processes that deltas support.
2. Restore the number and quality of coastal embayments.
3. Restore the size and quality of beaches and bluffs.
4. Increase understanding of natural process restoration in order to improve effectiveness of program actions.

The most competitive ESRP proposals will be those that employ [management measures](#) that can most fully addresses the source of degradation of these natural processes or that are focused on protection of intact areas.

ESRP PROGRAM GUIDANCE

In addition to the information contained in this RFP, program information can be found at the [Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program](#) and [PSNERP](#) web pages. Available materials summarize our current understanding of the important processes and functions of the nearshore ecosystem as well as restoration and protection strategies, including:

- [Strategies for nearshore ecosystem restoration and protection](#)
- [PSNERP objectives and target ecological processes](#)
- [PSNERP Management Measures and shoreline classification](#)

This RFP contains the most up to date ESRP grant program policy guidance specifically related to grant competition requirements.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES

STATE FUNDING

This RFP will be used to develop the 2021-23 ESRP Investment Plan containing a ranked project list and funding recommendations. This spending plan will be used to direct 2021-23 state capital appropriations to sound conservation investments in Puget Sound. ESRP anticipates a \$20 million request for the biennium. ESRP received a \$10 million biennial appropriation during the 2019-2021 fiscal period.

FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS

Establishing Awards for Funding Partnerships - The 2021-23 Investment Plan process and the resultant ranked project list can be used to identify opportunities with other state and federal partnership funding mechanisms (e.g., NOAA, PSAR, FEMA, and EPA) as part of a coordinated investment strategy. Funding has been distributed in previous years to ESRP projects where other funding programs, core criteria, and project outcomes are in alignment.

OTHER 2020 ESRP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Learning Program will release a request for proposals in March 2020. This process produces our prioritized investment plan for **Regional Predesign Projects**, and typically accounts for 10% of our biennial appropriation request.

The ESRP Small Grants Program will release its request for proposals in March 2020. This process produces our prioritized investment plan for Regional Small Grants. ESRP anticipates a \$500,000-\$700,000 funding cap (depending on ESRP's appropriation) for the entire Small Grants program.

AWARD AMOUNTS AND AWARD PERIOD

There is no maximum or minimum funding limit for proposed projects. Previous awards have ranged from \$25,000 to \$2,600,000, with average requests from \$200,000 - \$400,000. Final award amount and scope may differ from proposed amounts and will reflect a thorough evaluation of investment plan alternatives, and a project sponsor's readiness to complete work in the award period. Negotiation of final award amounts will occur after a capital budget is passed for ESRP.

Project awards are for work to be completed between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2023, unless additional time is required and approved by the ESRP Management Team.

PHASED PORTFOLIO FUNDING

Contact the [ESRP Program Manager](#) to confirm if your project is part of ESRP's Portfolio Project list.

ESRP provides awards for project activities that can be completed within a 2-year time frame as aligned with our biennial budget cycle. However, we recognize that many projects require years and multiple phases for completion. To support phased funding, ESRP has developed a streamlined application or “portfolio” process for projects that: 1) have completed all feasibility tasks, have a final design alternative selected, have land access and required agency agreements on the project, 2) have won an award in a previous ESRP grant competition, and 3) have not substantively altered project scope. Portfolio projects may apply for supplemental funds without preparing a full competitive application. **Portfolio project proposals do not have to compete in the full technical review process, but instead are evaluated and ranked by ESRP staff.** Refer to “Portfolio Application and Review Process” for application instructions.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants may be state, federal, local, or tribal agencies, non-governmental or quasi-governmental organizations, and private or public corporations.

ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES AND SCOPE

BASIC ESRP ELIGIBILITY

1. Within Puget Sound (East of Cape Flattery).
2. The proposed project need must be identified by PSNERP, a salmon recovery Lead Entity or Marine Resource Committee, and listed in a current watershed, salmon recovery, or nearshore habitat restoration or protection plan.
3. The primary purpose of the project must be to restore or protect Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem processes or functions.
4. Projects with the primary objective of providing recreational access, or remediating chemical contamination are not eligible as stand-alone projects; however, these activities may be eligible components of larger efforts.
5. Projects awards will not be provided for work that relieves obligatory compensation or mitigation requirements incurred by the sponsor or a third-party. Funding, however, may be provided for actions associated with compensation or mitigation, if those elements are above and beyond the mitigation requirements and can be easily isolated from the required mitigation activities.
6. ESRP project applications will be entered into PRISM and a record will be generated into the Salmon Recovery Portal (formerly the Habitat Work Schedule). The Salmon Recovery Portal is an online database specifically designed to manage salmon recovery information. It is a useful project management tool for project sponsors to track project implementation and for the public and other funders to learn about salmon recovery projects statewide.

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

ESRP requires that projects provide a match of cash or in-kind services equaling 30% of the total project cost. This match must be incurred according to RCO policies. Some of this match must be non-state funds. Match eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Match may include cash, bond funds, grants (unless prohibited by the funding entity), labor, equipment and equipment use (see [RCO Manual 8](#) for restrictions), materials, staff time, and donations. All match must be an integral and necessary part of the approved project, must be eligible ESRP elements for the project, and must be committed to the project. Match expenses are reviewed for eligibility, and with the same criteria, that reimbursement requests are reviewed.

No funds administered by the ESRP may act as match for an ESRP grant. Other funds administered by RCO may be used as match; consult with the ESRP/Salmon Project Manager to determine whether a specific grant may be used as match for the ESRP project.

RELEVANT RCO POLICIES

RCO POLICY MANUALS

Sponsors must abide by all RCO policies when implementing their projects. Please refer to [Manual 3- Acquisition Projects](#), [Manual 5- Restoration Projects](#), and [Manual 7- Long-Term Obligations](#). Use [Manual 8- Reimbursements](#) for all billing instructions and forms.

REPORTING

Sponsors are required to enter two progress reports a year for all funded projects using the [PRISM Online](#) progress reporting tool. Sponsors are also required to complete and submit a final report in PRISM Online at the completion of their projects. Through the online final report, sponsors provide a final project description, narrative, and information about the project scope, metrics, and costs. Sponsors will verify or update metrics reported through earlier progress reports and billings. Final reports must be submitted within 90 days of the grant expiration date.

GRANT REIMBURSEMENT

RCO pays sponsors through a reimbursement process. This means that sponsors will not receive a lump sum grant in advance. Sponsors must provide documentation for all expenditures before receiving compensation. RCO [Manual 8- Reimbursements](#) describes RCO reimbursement policies and procedures. Reimbursement workshops are available online on the RCO Web site.

Eligible Costs

All project costs and donations submitted for reimbursement or match must directly relate to the work identified in the grant agreement and be considered reasonable, necessary, and eligible. Itemized lists of eligible expenses are in [Manual 3, Acquisition Projects](#), [Manual 5, Restoration Projects](#), and [Manual 7, Long-Term Obligations](#).

Monitoring Costs

Grant recipients must monitor project implementation to ensure project completion as planned and address any post-construction issues in the ESRP project agreement. This is referred to as implementation monitoring.

ESRP does not fund project-specific effectiveness monitoring but supports a learning program that collects region-wide data to inform future restoration.

Pre-Agreement Costs

Generally, RCO will not reimburse costs incurred before the project start date of the grant's project agreement. However certain pre-agreement costs within the project scope are eligible for reimbursement (or to be used as match) if approved by the RCO grants manager in writing. Eligible pre-agreement costs include the following:

- Engineering and design costs for restoration projects.
- Engineering and design costs (e.g. surveying, geotechnical, other data gathering) for planning projects.
- Costs necessary to determine control and tenure of the restoration site (e.g. preliminary title report).
- Costs necessary to establish land values for acquisition projects (e.g. survey, appraisals, title report).
- Acquisition projects granted a [Waiver of Retroactivity](#).
- If cost-effective (i.e. materials are available at a reduced cost), the construction materials below and any associated transportation costs. RCO requires advance approval by the RCO grants manager to reimburse pre-grant purchase of any of the construction materials listed below.
 - o Large woody materials
 - o Culverts
 - o Bridges

ESRP will not pay for purchases of land, construction materials and associated costs, or installation costs except those noted above, incurred before the project start date of the grant's project agreement.

Indirect Costs Are Not Eligible

Agency indirect costs are not eligible for ESRP nearshore protection and restoration projects.

PORTFOLIO PROJECT APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Due Date: By 11:59 PM July 23, 2020. Applications received after this time may not be considered.

Requirements and Application Submittal Process:

Project Sponsors who have written approval from the ESRP Program Manager as eligible to participate in our Portfolio Program are required to submit a Portfolio Project Status Sheet and an updated Whole Budget Worksheet into PRISM as part of their existing or new record. The required documentation will be emailed to the project sponsor when eligibility is determined. Project sponsors will work with Kay Caromile, ESRP RCO Grants Manager, to update their record in PRISM. Project Sponsors will notify the ESRP Program Manager when their Portfolio application is updated in PRISM.

NEW RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECT APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

The following application process pertains to new ESRP project proposals. Portfolio projects should follow the process described above.

ESRP's application process for new projects includes a required pre-proposal, a site visit, and a required full application and presentation. The site visit is optional, but strongly encouraged as it provides an opportunity for applicants to discuss their proposals on site with ESRP and WDFW staff and engineers and receive technical feedback to improve their project scope and design prior to submitting a full proposal. Note that, although pre-proposals are required, ESRP staff will consider accepting full applications from applicants who did not submit a pre-proposal on a case-by-case basis in order to take advantage of emerging project opportunities.

Proposals are expected to provide accurate and precise information about predicted project benefits and costs. ESRP uses a competitive peer-reviewed ranking process to compare the costs and benefits of projects. Review procedures are intended to evaluate anticipated whole project value. Applicants are strongly encouraged to present their project as a cohesive and complete restoration or protection action.

STEP 1. Sign Up for a PRISM Username and Password

All applicants must use PRISM Online to complete applications. To use PRISM Online, visit RCO's Web site to [sign up for a username and password](#). Do not share a PRISM username and password with others in the applicant's organization.

Questions about using PRISM? PRISM instruction and training videos are available on [RCO's website](#). Feel free to also contact:

- ESRP/Salmon Project Manager at kay.caromile@rco.wa.gov or 360-867-8532 or
- RCO's PRISM support staff at prismsupport@rco.wa.gov or (360) 902-3086.
(Telephone Relay Service for the Hearing Impaired (800) 833-6388.)

STEP 2. Initiate Communication with Washington Department of Natural Resources and/or Fish and Wildlife if Working on State Land

Applicants with restoration or design projects that include shoreline, in-water work, over-water work, or public water access should contact the Washington Department of Natural Resources in the pre-proposal process to determine whether their projects are on state-owned aquatic lands, which could affect project scoping. [See the map](#) to find the contact information for the department's aquatic land manager in your area or call the department at (360) 902-1100. See [Grant Projects on State Owned Aquatic Lands](#) for more information on managing projects that are on state-owned aquatic lands.

If you are proposing to do work on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands, you are required to initiate a request through WDFW's **Restoration Pathways** process. Contact your local WDFW Habitat Biologist or Area Manager in a [WDFW Regional Office](#) for more information.

STEP 3. Submit Pre-proposal through the [PRISM Online Application Wizard](#).

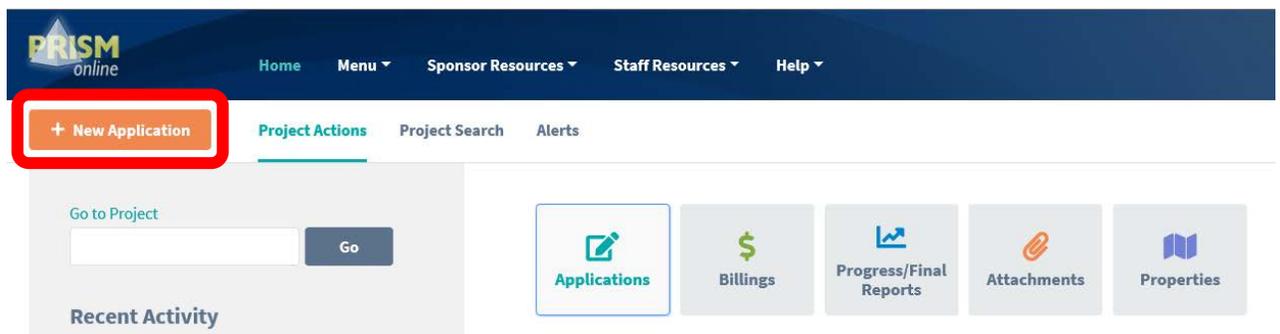
Due Date: By 11:59 PM April 1, 2020. Proposals received after this time or not in the described format may not be considered for competition.

Pre-Proposal Requirements: A complete pre-proposal includes a PRISM application and supporting PRISM attachments (e.g., supporting maps, budget, and designs). Additional detail on contents and format for application materials is provided below. The ESRP team will review and evaluate pre-proposal materials submitted in PRISM and will provide an opportunity for project sponsors to present their project proposal during the site visit. ESRP will also have our WDFW engineering team and staff review any projects involving design or construction.

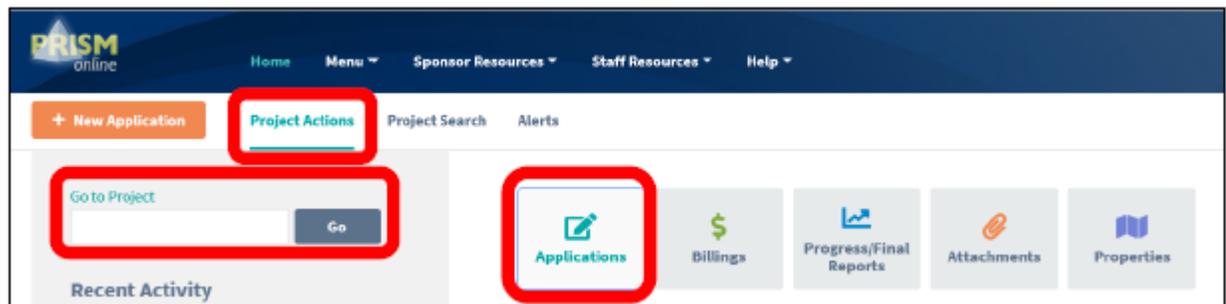
Pre-Proposal PRISM Application Submittal Process:

A. *Create and Fill Out Your PRISM Application:*

Once you have a PRISM account, [log into PRISM Online](#) to create and complete your application. Select “New Application” (see figure below). You then will be prompted to fill out several screens of information about your project. When prompted to “select the program for which you are applying”, select “ESRP Pre-Proposal”.



Once a PRISM project number is assigned, you may leave and return to your application at any time. To return to your application, sign in to [PRISM Online](#), select “Project Actions,” and enter the project number in the “Go to Project” field. Doing so will open the “Application Wizard” for the project. Alternatively, in “Project Actions” select the Applications icon, which will display a list of applications for the applicant’s organization.



Complete the required information on each screen and click the “Next” button. This process will take the applicant through the entire application page by page. Be sure to save work often.

Multiple users may work on one application in PRISM, just add individuals to the Project Contacts list, but it is best not to have two people working in the application at the same time.

B. Attach Supporting Project Information to Your PRISM Application.

- **Project location or vicinity map** (assign it a PRISM attachment type of “Map-Site Location”). Maps should show nearby towns and major roads. For acquisitions, the map should depict the project site as well as lands in the vicinity owned publicly or having protection status.
- **Detailed site or parcel map.**
- **Design plans or sketches, if available** that clearly convey the intent of the proposed restoration project.
- **Draft cost estimate:** Please provide a cost estimate to supplement the general cost information required by PRISM. You may create your own budget format for this proposal stage.

C. Check for Errors and Submit Your PRISM Application.

After completing all of the application information and requirements, check the application for errors on the “Submit Application” screen. Pages indicated with a red exclamation mark (!) in the navigation table on the left of the screen require refinement. Continue to check for errors after making corrections. If errors persist, reach out to the RCO grants manager for assistance. Once all of the pages are cleared of errors and show a green check mark, submit the application.

STEP 4. Register for Site Visit

Site visits are optional, but participation is strongly encouraged. All applicants who have submitted a pre-proposal through PRISM **will be contacted the first week of April** with instructions to schedule site visits. Site visit scheduling questions can be sent to PugetSoundNearshore@dfw.wa.gov

ESRP is planning to schedule based on the following dates and areas (though this is **subject to change** if a critical mass of applicants justifies altering the timing for an area):

- **April 27-May 1 -North Sound**
- **May 4-8 Central/South Sound**
- **May 18-22 West Sound/Hood Canal**

The site visit is an opportunity for project applicants to have an early dialogue with ESRP staff and technical advisors about the project that will lead to a more robust grant application package. These site visits will consist of a small group of ESRP staff, engineers, habitat biologists, lead entity support staff (as available), and any local representatives the project applicant chooses. The information collected during the site visit can help with the technical review team’s ability to understand all the components of a project needed for the application review.

The ESRP team will use information collected during the pre-proposal site visits to note highlights about projects for the technical team review. Some common “red flag” notations by the ESRP team may include the following:

- *Ideal for ESRP or consider other more appropriate funding source ...*
encourage funding by ESRP or a more appropriate source, better aligned with project goals
- *Ready to proceed or not ready...*
if “not ready” comment is noted it is for projects with design or feasibility issues that are anticipated to strongly affect ecosystem benefits or implementation timing that cannot be expediently resolved through contract negotiation.
- *Process-based or not process-based ...*
project is or is not consistent with process-based approach to restoration.

The project applicants and ESRP team will be able to discuss any important considerations that are revealed during the site visit that can be addressed in the final submission of grant application materials. This will help applicants develop a more clear and robust proposal.

STEP 5: Submit Full Application Materials, if invited

Due Date: By 11:59 PM July 23, 2020. Applications received after this time may not be considered.

Requirements: Applicants invited to submit a full application will be notified by early June, after the pre-proposal process. Applicants will then be emailed the full application instructions. Only applicants who are invited to submit a full application will receive the full application instructions. All full applications must be submitted through the PRISM online application process. The full application builds off the pre-proposal material already submitted but requires much more information be entered into PRISM. RCO strongly encourages applicants to start the online application early.

Application material will be evaluated by the ESRP technical evaluation team using the relevant ESRP criteria provided in [Appendix B](#). A ranked list will be developed based on reviewer scores. Once the list is developed there will be no changes to the project ranking, although funding award recommendations may differ from requested amounts.

Full- Application Submittal Process:

A. RCO Will Convert Your Pre-Proposal to an ESRP Project Application in PRISM.

This step will be completed prior to your invitation to submit a full application. Your PRISM project number will remain the same. The information in your pre-proposal will be transferred to your full application.

B. Complete Your Full Application:

Open your ESRP Project application in PRISM. The information in your pre-proposal will already be entered in your full application, but there will be many more questions and screens to fill out to ensure a complete application. Complete the required information on each screen and click the “Next” button. This process will take the applicant through the entire application page by page. While some of the information required in PRISM will not directly influence the technical evaluation process, it is required for all projects awarded ESRP funds. Be sure to save work often.

C. *Attach Supporting Project Information to Your PRISM Application.*

Examples of each of the attachments described below are provided in Appendix A. When applicable, templates are provided on the ESRP website.

- **Full Application Budget Worksheet** (excel file)

Applicants must complete and submit ESRP's "whole budget worksheet" that presents whole project costs defined by project tasks (e.g., feasibility, design, and construction) and by object class (e.g., salaries, supplies, contract expenses). The worksheet must be supported by the budget narrative and/or other supporting materials that justify task costs. Project funding is typically limited to what applicants can commit to accomplish within a 2-year award period, with the understanding that the initial award may be amended to include additional tasks. It is understood that the whole project costs are estimates; exact amounts will be defined at the contract stage. Since this is an Excel-format document, a separate file will be provided to you as part of the full application process.

- **Visual Scope of Work** (Image/JPEG)

The visual scope of work is a map that clearly articulates the present and future vision for the project site. Create the map to the best of your abilities using available resources (e.g., GIS, desktop publishing software, aerial imagery with hand-drawn markups, etc.). Washington Department of Ecology oblique [aerial photos](#) can be useful for this exercise. The visual scope of work does not need to be professional quality, but whatever best creates a visual demonstration of the vision for the project. Do not submit formal design documents unless they are **1-2 pages at most** and fulfill the criteria stated here.

- **Area of Potential Effect (APE) Map** (Image/Word document)

RCO starts cultural resources review and consultation early in order to help keep projects on schedule. To do this RCO requires project applicants to provide a map showing the project's area of potential effect. This map should show the location of all proposed ground-disturbing activities, including access and staging areas. The map must include the RCO project number and title, applicant name, a polygon of the entire project area, and **must include section, township, and range information**. A U.S. Geological Survey quad map is the preferred base map, though the applicant may use an aerial base map, as long as section, township, and range information are included on the map. Section lines and numbers must be clearly visible in the map. Note that small-scale projects may need to attach more than one map—one zoomed out far enough to depict section lines and numbers, and another zoomed in close enough to clearly depict the boundaries of all proposed ground-disturbing activities. Applicants will be asked to revise maps if sufficient information is not provided for the purposes of cultural resources review. Attach multiple Area of Potential Effect maps, if needed.

Applicants who do not have mapping software to create the Area of Potential Effect map can use the Washington Department of Ecology's free [mapping tool](#), which allows users to draw polygons and create PDF maps. Users can turn on important features such as section, township, range, county, etc.

Important Note: Ground-disturbing activities for any project, regardless of project type, that occur before the completion of the cultural resources review process are not eligible for reimbursement. If the applicant has a planning or acquisition project that will involve ground disturbance (such as geotechnical excavation, demolition, fence installation, etc.) be sure to indicate these activities in the grant application and make the RCO grants manager aware of this work before going under agreement. This will help ensure the appropriate review is conducted for the project.

- **Landowner Acknowledgement** (Fillable PDF; template available on ESRP website)

A landowner acknowledgement form is required for all projects proposed to occur on property not owned by the applicant at the time of application. Include a signed Landowner Acknowledgement Form from each landowner acknowledging that his/her property is proposed for ESRP funding consideration. If there is landowner conflict or uncertainties to the project proposal, please provide rationale and how project applicant proposes to manage that circumstance.

Exceptions:

- Assessments, inventories, and studies that cover a large area and encompass numerous properties do not require Landowner Acknowledgement Forms.
- Multi-site acquisition projects that involve a large group of landowners, require (at minimum) signed Landowner Acknowledgement Forms for priority parcels.

NOTE: A Landowner Acknowledgement Form differs from a Landowner Agreement, which is required for restoration projects occurring on land not owned by the applicant before construction.

Special Note: If you are proposing to do work on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands, you are required to initiate a request through WDFW's Restoration Pathways process. Contact your [local WDFW Habitat Biologist](#) or Wildlife Area Manager for more information.

- **Applicant Resolution and Authorization** (Word document; template available on ESRP website in June)

The applicant's governing body must pass a resolution that authorizes submission of the application for funding. This resolution will identify who may sign a contract and amendments on behalf of the organization. The format of the authorization may change, but the text may not change. Only one form is required for each applicant, so long as each project name and number are included in the resolution. Forms filled out incorrectly, or unsigned, are not valid and will require revisions. For help, contact an RCO grants manager before signing the form. Secondary sponsors must also complete this form.

- **Two Photos of Project Site** (JPEG)

- **Additional Supporting Documents** (Word, PDF, Image, JPEG, etc.)

The following suggested supporting documents improve the ability of reviewers to evaluate

projects based on criteria. Reviewers are instructed to treat absence of information as an indicator of insufficient capacity or resources. Suggested supporting documents:

- Letters of support
- Feasibility studies and design drawings (if applicable) useful for understanding project scope and configuration.
- Monitoring or stewardship plans, if available.

D. Check for Errors and Submit Your PRISM Application by the Application Due Date.

After completing all of the application information and requirements, check the application for errors on the “Submit Application” screen. Pages indicated with a red exclamation mark (!) in the navigation table on the left of the screen require refinement. Continue to check for errors after making corrections. If errors persist, reach out to the RCO grants manager for assistance. Once all of the pages are cleared of errors and show a green check mark, submit the application before the deadline.

STEP 6: Sponsor Presentations: August 17 – 21, 2020

Project applicants will have the opportunity to present their project to our ESRP technical review panel in person or via WebEx (prefer in-person). The technical review team will use this time to gain a better understanding of the proposed project and ask the applicant clarifying questions that may help them in their review and scoring. Applicants must be able to present on the day they are assigned, so it is highly recommended that applicants keep the entire review week free until the presentation schedule is established.

Presentations are typically no more than 15 minutes, with an additional 15 minutes for Q&A with the technical review panel. Additional information on presentation guidelines and schedule will be made available no later than July 29th.

STEP 7: Project Evaluation and Ranking

Full proposals and presentations are reviewed and ranked by the ESRP technical review panel using the following evaluation criteria categories.

Evaluation Criteria Categories

Ecological Importance	(40 points)
Technical Merit and Readiness	(40 points)
Cost Justification	(15 points)
Public Support and Involvement	(15 points)

The full evaluation criteria and guidance for incorporating the criteria into your application are provided in [Appendix B](#).

INVESTMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

INTEGRATING RANKED PROJECT LISTS

The ESRP review process results in integrated separate projects lists for each sub-program:

1. Ranked new project list
2. Ranked portfolio project list
3. Ranked learning project list
4. Ranked small grants project list
5. Shore Friendly local program funding request

The ESRP investment lists are “zippered” together with the top ranked portfolio project becoming the top ranked ESRP project, followed by the top ranked new project, then 2nd ranked portfolio project, and so forth. Learning and small grants projects will compete against other learning projects/small grants projects for a portion of ESRP’s total appropriation that will be set aside for these opportunities. Shore Friendly’s funding request to the legislature is integrated in incremental appropriation levels of \$10, \$15, and \$20 million funding request levels. All projects will be incorporated into a single whole ESRP project list according to the running total and the funding set aside for each sub-program (Learning 10% and small grants maximum of \$500k - \$700k). The ESRP ranked list is created to clarify the prioritized need for nearshore restoration and protection projects during the legislative process. However, Learning Projects, Shore Friendly, and Small Grants investments will receive a pre-determined funding allocation based on the total ESRP capital budget appropriation. Contact the ESRP Program Manager for more information on the integration of multiple ESRP grant programs into one investment plan.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION

AWARD AND CONTRACT INFORMATION

ESRP awards will be administered through contracts between project sponsors and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), ESRP’s fiscal partner. All discussion of award funding level, scope, and project implementation schedules are preliminary until publication of the Final Spending Plan and distribution of award notices. The project sponsor assumes full risk for any costs incurred prior to publication of the Final Spending Plan and subsequent award notification.

Contracts will be developed and executed using RCO documents. These materials will be made available upon request. Projects eligible for streamlined review in future grant rounds (via the ESRP Portfolio process) are not assured funding in future spending plans. Project sponsors should not assume that funding of a project phase will result in guaranteed funding of future phases. Projects receiving federal funds must also comply with the relevant federal terms and conditions associated with the funding agency.

VISUAL SCOPE OF WORK

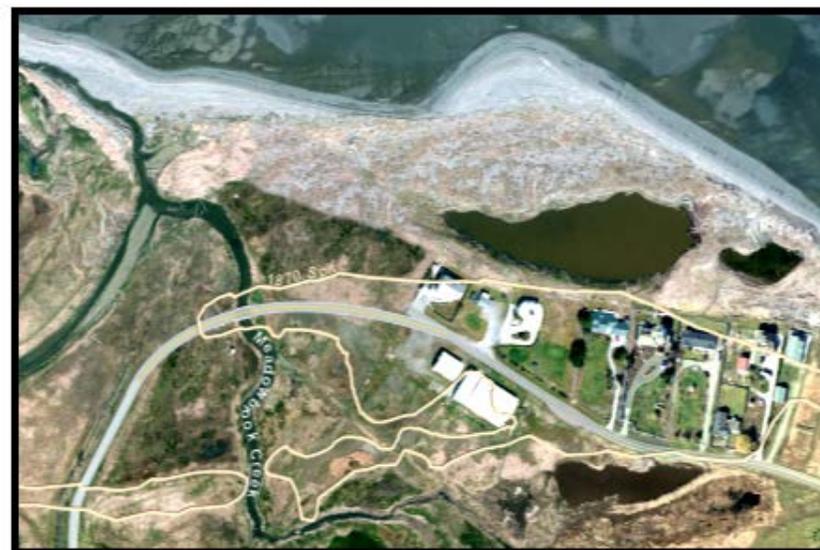
Please create a map that clearly articulates the present and future possible vision for the project site. Create the map to the best of your abilities, either utilizing GIS, desktop publishing software, aerial imagery with hand-drawn outlines, or an artistic rendering. Please include Washington Department of Ecology oblique aerial photos if relevant. The visual scope of work does not need to be professional quality, but whatever best creates a visual demonstration of the vision for the project. Do not submit formal design documents unless they are **1-2 pages at most** and fulfill the need stated above.

EXAMPLE Below is a very high-quality demonstration of a visual scope of work:

Current conditions



Expected future condition



LANDOWNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Provide acknowledgement that all affected landowners are aware of the project and supportive of the application in cases where the landowner is not also the applicant. If there is landowner conflict or uncertainties to the project proposal, please provide rationale and how project applicant proposes to deal with it. The Landowner acknowledgement form is available as part of the ESRP online application documents. Go to the ESRP grants webpage for the form.

Special Note: If you are proposing to do work on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands, you are required to initiate a request through WDFW's Restoration Pathways process. Contact your [local WDFW Habitat Biologist](#) or Area Manager for more information.

ESRP Landowner Acknowledgement Form

Landowner Acknowledgement Form

Landowner Information

Name of Landowner:
Landowner Contact Information:
 Mr. Ms. Title:
First Name: Last Name:
Contact Mailing Address:
Contact E-Mail Address:
Property Address or Location:

1. (Landowner or Organization) is the legal owner of property described in this grant application.
2. I am aware that the project is being proposed on my property.
3. If the grant is successfully awarded, I will be contacted and asked to engage in negotiations.
4. My signature does not represent authorization of project implementation.

Landowner Signature Date

Project Sponsor Information

Project Name:
Project Applicant Contact Information:
 Mr. Ms. Title:
First Name: Last Name:
Mailing Address:
E-Mail Address:

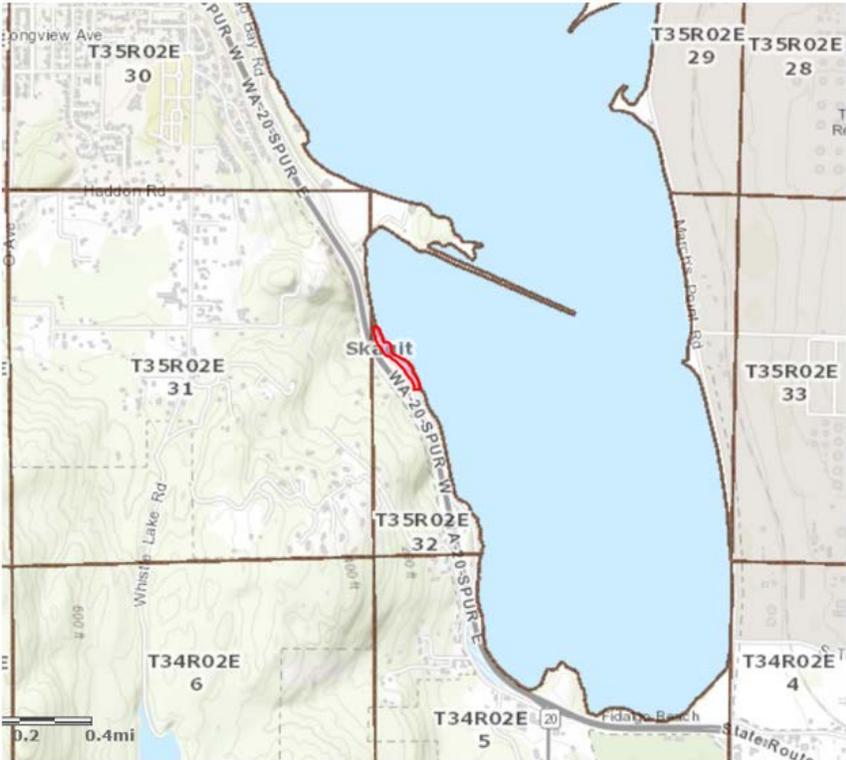
ESRP • July 2014

MAP OF AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

RCO requires project applicants to provide a map showing the project's area of potential effect. This map should show the location of all proposed ground-disturbing activities, including access and staging areas. The map must include the RCO project number and title, applicant name, a polygon of the entire project area, and **must include section, township, and range information.**

EXAMPLE

RCO Project #XX-XXXX, Project Title
Sponsor Name
Section 32, Township 35 N, Range 2E



APPLICANT RESOLUTION/AUTHORIZATION

The applicant's governing body must pass a resolution that authorizes submission of the application for funding. This resolution will identify who may sign a contract and amendments on behalf of the organization. The format of the authorization may change, but the text may not change. Only one form is required for each applicant, so long as each project name and number are included in the resolution. Forms filled out incorrectly, or unsigned, are not valid and will require revisions. For help, contact an RCO grants manager before signing the form. Secondary sponsors must also complete this form.

Recreation and Conservation Office Applicant Resolution/Authorization

Organization Name (sponsor) _____

Resolution No. (if applicable) _____

Project(s) Number(s), and Name(s) _____

This resolution/authorization authorizes the person identified below (in section 2) to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of our organization and to legally bind our organization with respect to the above Project(s) for which we seek grant funding assistance managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office (Office).

WHEREAS, state grant assistance is requested by our organization to aid in financing the cost of the Project(s) referenced above;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Our organization has applied for or intends to apply for funding assistance managed by the Office for the above "Project(s)."
2. _____ (insert **NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE/AGENT**) is authorized to act as a representative/agent for our organization with full authority to bind the organization regarding all matters related to the Project(s), including but not limited to, full authority to: (1) approve submittal of a grant application to the Office, (2) enter into a project agreement(s) on behalf of our organization, (3) sign any amendments thereto on behalf of our organization, (4) make any decisions and submissions required with respect to the Project(s), and (5) designate a project contact(s) to implement the day-to-day management of the grant(s).
3. Our organization has reviewed the sample project agreement on the Recreation and Conservation Office's WEBSITE at: <https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SampleProjAgreement.pdf>. We understand and acknowledge that if offered a project agreement to sign in the future, it will contain an indemnification and legal venue stipulation (applicable to any sponsor) and a waiver of sovereign immunity (applicable to Tribes) and other terms and conditions substantially in the form contained in the sample project agreement and that such terms and conditions of any signed project agreement shall be legally binding on the sponsor if our representative/agent enters into a project agreement on our behalf. The Office reserves the right to revise the project agreement prior to execution and shall communicate any such revisions with the above authorized representative/agent before execution.
4. Our organization acknowledges and warrants, after conferring with its legal counsel, that its authorized representative/agent has full legal authority to enter into a project agreement(s) on its behalf, that includes indemnification, waiver of sovereign immunity (as may apply to Tribes), and stipulated legal venue for lawsuits and other terms substantially in the form contained in the sample project agreement or as may be revised prior to execution.
5. Grant assistance is contingent on a signed project agreement. Entering into any project agreement with the Office is purely voluntary on our part.

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLYING ESRP'S CRITERIA

ESRP has a unique and rigorous approach to selecting new nearshore investments, providing funding and programmatic support for successful projects that improve ecosystem processes. The criterion ESRP uses to guide and analyze new and ongoing projects is substantial. However, projects that pass through initial stages are entered into ESRP's "portfolio status," offering a streamlined process and providing more reliable long-term support for projects that fall within the approved scope of work. ESRP makes every effort to simplify the application process, while asking for all the information necessary to assure investments for the nearshore and salmon recovery are well spent.

How to demonstrate evidence in the space provided?

While ESRP requests a lot of detail and rationale in grant applications, sometimes the details being requested are already articulated in published online materials (PSNERP, PSP, and NOAA resources to name a few). Sometimes, both the project sponsor and the technical reviewer do not need a full re-iteration of a published and well-articulated piece of nearshore research. In order to save narrative space, applicants are encouraged to provide a succinct description about how their project is supported by and/or fulfills the intentions described in published research available online (i.e. previously identified priority areas). Proper citations will include the web address/URL, and page number (paragraph number if needed). Only publications available online are allowed to be cited. Please use recommended publications in grant criteria. A successful narrative will succinctly explain why an individual project meets ESRP objectives, while providing the citation for appropriate publications (i.e. PSNERP document, web link, and page #).

Defining nearshore ecosystem sites

Every action occurs within a landscape setting. The PSNERP approach proposes that important physical and ecological processes operate at large scales, drive ecosystem structure, and control the delivery of ecosystem services. Therefore, our ability to evaluate the importance and technical merit of a nearshore action depends, in part, on understanding how an action effects and is affected by a larger landscape.

For the purposes of ESRP, the landscape context should be evaluated at the scale of one of three "process domains": shoreline process unit, delta process unit (Simenstad et al. 2011), or coastal inlet site (Cereghino et al. 2012) unless a compelling rationale (e.g. local assessment) demonstrates that a larger or smaller frame of analysis than the process unit is sufficient to insure sustained ecosystem services over time. Projects that fully restore processes within large complex landscapes (i.e. high potential sites in the sense of Cereghino et al 2012) are generally favored over comparable projects at smaller sites.

An application should clearly identify the 'nearshore ecosystem site' in which project actions are proposed. Typically, this is a single shoreline process unit (SPU) or delta process unit (DPU) but may include a complex of multiple process units or a separable piece of a process unit such as a coastal inlet if that can be justified. The definition of a 'nearshore ecosystem site' is therefore somewhat subjective and depends on what the applicant is willing to 'bite off' and what the scale of benefits is in relation to the scope of their proposed work. Larger more complex sites are generally encouraged, but within that

site you must account for risks and the degree to which your action addresses the integrity of the system.

Recommendations

Proposals should describe a logic chain that justifies how physical changes being proposed will deliver predicted ecological/ecosystem functions, goods and services (e.g. Restoration Action - Restored Process - Structural Changes - Functional Response).

To adequately address the criteria an application should:

- **Define the ‘nearshore ecosystem site’ in which the action is being proposed.** Unless a compelling justification is provided, this should be the Process Unit or Delta Process Unit. To identify the Shoreline Process Unit (SPU) or Delta Process Unit (DPU) number(s) in which your project is located, go to the [Nearshore Data Site map](#). Once at the site, access the information with these instructions:
 - In the layer list to the right of the screen, check the box next to “Process Units”
 - Zoom in the map and click on your area of interest. The SPU/DPU number will appear in a pop-up screen, along with links to the 2-page summary for that process unit from the PSNERP Strategies Report (http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/technical_papers/psnerp_strategies_maps_low_res.pdf).
- **Define the effect of the action** in relation to the change from historical conditions. High ranking projects would substantively address the impacts to a site, rather than proposing superficial treatments that do not address impacts. Proposals should identify the documented (and undocumented) stressors, nearshore and watershed modifications influencing the site, and specifically list those that will be affected by the proposed restoration action.
- **Describe the ‘target state’ of the nearshore ecosystem site**—how will the composition and configuration of the site look when the site has reached a certain level of “restoration maturity?” Partial and incremental actions may be perfectly appropriate. However, if there is no pathway toward substantive restoration of a whole site, that is a concern that may affect prioritization. ESRP strives to fund actions that move us toward some target future condition that is sustainable and has integrity.
- **Describe how the project overcomes risks from degradation**, both from current process degradation, and potential future impacts. Currently Bolte and Vache 2011 data are our only Sound-wide estimates of predicted population changes. However local planning analyses, [PSNERP Change Analysis](#) upland and watershed modifications, zoning and other information can provide another perspective. Projects should address the extent to which existing protection mechanisms and/or land ownership patterns create risk.
- **Link the anticipated outcomes of an action to precise benefits for target species.** The presence of a species in the system does not necessarily indicate there is benefit to the population. If the applicant wishes to claim benefit to a valued species, the mechanisms that result in population benefits should be explicitly stated and supported.
- **Indicate a peer-review mechanism employed** to ensure that design is rigorous, and the action maximizes ecological and social benefits. Many projects are developed in isolation. Transparent,

independent, interdisciplinary, and well-documented peer review should increasingly become a standard feasibility task for restoration actions.

- **Be focused on primary restorative and prerequisite management measures** (in the sense of Clancy et al. 2009) to ensure the majority of funding is focused on actions that have the ability to protect or restore the target ecological processes at the site. A strong justification should be provided for funding requests that focus on other less significant management measures. Match or partnership funds may be more appropriate for these non-essential management measures.

Tailoring Proposal Review to Landform

Our criteria will be applied based on what we understand about the dynamics of different coastal landforms (following Shipman 2008). Deltas, beaches and their barrier embayments, and coastal inlets each are shaped by a different set of physical processes and provide a unique set of services, that are in turn degraded by distinct patterns of development. The interpretation of ESRP evaluation criteria will be informed by strategic recommendations developed for each landform (Cereghino et al. 2012).

The following describes how ecological *importance* may be differentially evaluated based on landform:

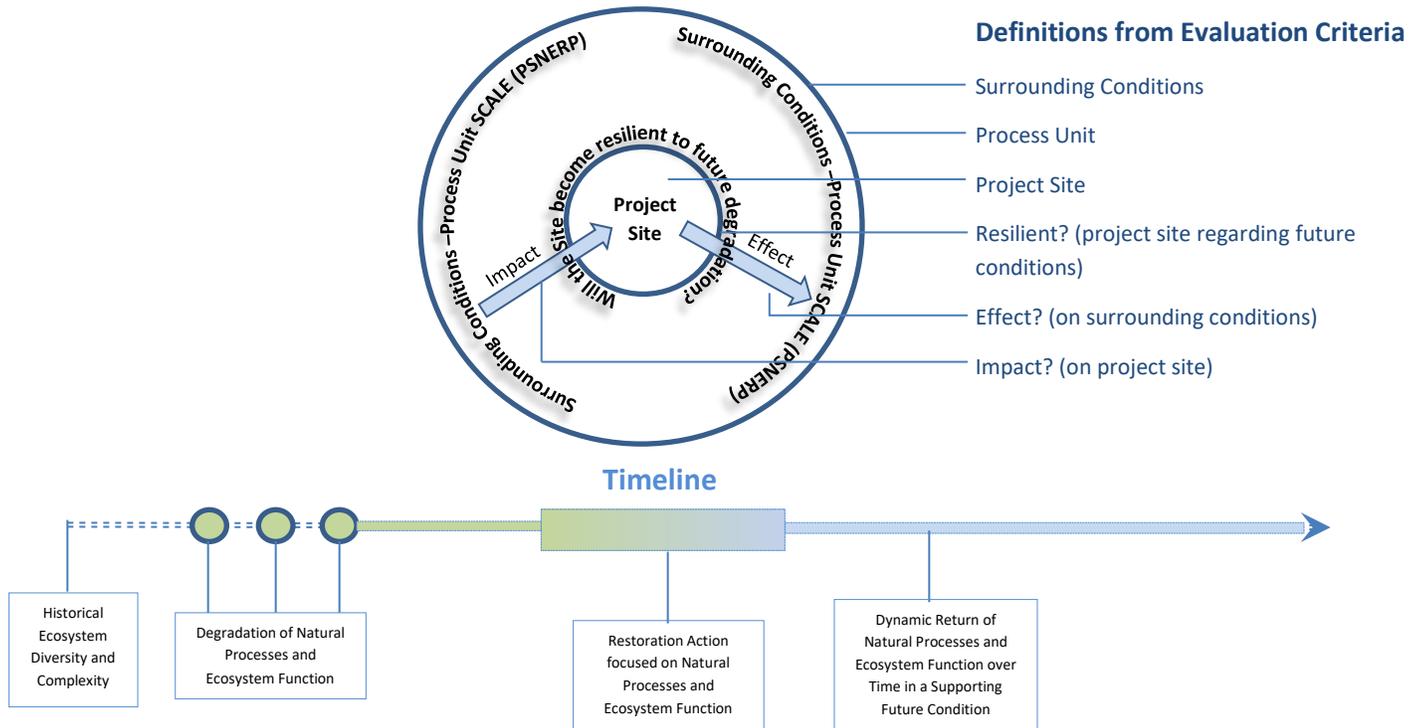
Deltas - Substantial benefits are derived for restoring large estuarine areas to both tidal flow and freshwater inputs, through dike and levee setback. **System Integrity** requires consideration of sediment deposition, and representation of diverse wetland types, particularly oligohaline transition and freshwater tidal components, which are delta components which have been disproportionately lost in Puget Sound (Fresh et al. 2011; Simenstad et al. 2011). **Sustainability** may be compromised in places where accretion rates are insufficient for keeping up with sea level rise, and/or where the potential for landward wetland migration in response to sea level rise is limited. **Highly valued services** include nursery services for estuarine dependent fish like Chinook and chum salmon.

Beaches – Substantial benefits are derived by restoring or protecting substantial sources of sediment or removing substantial barriers to sediment transport to large beach systems that support complex depositional features. **System Integrity** requires the presence of a critical mass of sediment supply and transport, nearshore forest, intact groundwater and surface hydrology. **Sustainability** is threatened by residential clearing and shoreline stabilization in combination with sea level rise and can be overcome through nearshore ecosystem site scaled local management of sediment and coastal forest resources. **Highly valued services** include forage fish spawning.

Embayments (both barrier embayments and coastal inlets) – Substantial benefits are derived from reconnecting or reestablishing tidal flow to large historical embayments that have been lost or degraded or reestablishing large areas of tidal wetlands where they have been lost. **System Integrity** requires management of coastal forest, and maintenance of freshwater quantity and quality through watershed management, and for barrier systems, the integrity and sustainability of the surrounding beach system. **Sustainability** is threatened by watershed development that degrades freshwater inputs, and where barriers sustain embayment structure, the degradation of updrift sediment supply. Sea level rise potentially affects both the sustainability of wetlands (similar to deltas) and increases the importance of sustained sediment supply. **Highly valued services** include nearshore rearing associated with natal salmon streams and rivers, and shellfish production.

- **Criteria for Evaluation** –This produces the ranking and scoring worksheet

Conceptual diagram of ESRP Evaluation of the project site as it relates to the surrounding landscape context.



The following evaluation criteria are questions to be answered in your full application in PRISM online. They are copied here for reference and to offer guidance and best practices for responding to each question.

A) ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE (40 pts.) - *An ideal project will restore dynamic natural ecosystem processes, structures and services, resulting in site conditions that restores or protects the highest level of process complexity within a large process unit, and where the site is both resilient to current and future development impacts, and known to provide highly valued habitat services to target species.*

1. Does it have a large effect on the delta or shoreline process unit? – The project will protect intact existing ecosystem processes and services or provide a large increase in ecosystem services by restoring the most significant sources of degradation to ecosystem processes.

**Points Possible
0-10 Points**

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Restores or protects the greatest degree of functioning ecosystem processes or services.
- Defines and provides context for relevant ecosystem benefits.
- Addresses a high proportion of the restoration or protection needs (i.e. degradation or future risk) within a site.
- Project site is large and complex relative to other similar sites.
- Proposed action(s) addresses the PSNERP strategy for that process unit [Cereghino et. al. 2012](#).
- Cumulatively restores critical stressors within a group of smaller and simpler process units.

- 2. Will the site be resilient to future degradation?** – The project results in a highly functioning site that restores or protects ecosystem dynamics and connectivity, and if not delivered fully by the project action, the proposal describes how incremental work will reach this target condition at the site scale (Note: climate change will also be addressed in a later category).

Points Possible
0-10 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Expected future condition of target ecosystem is clearly described including predicted changes over time. A full range of ecosystem components (Shipman 2008) or conditions (Cereghino et al 2012) will provide increasing levels and complexity of ecosystem services over time.
- Proposed actions will result in large contiguous patches of habitat that are hydrologically connected in a manner sustainable by natural processes, and open to unconstrained river and/or tidal processes.
- If incremental restoration is proposed: future restoration is feasible, and designs do not preclude full restoration in the future.

- 3. Do the surrounding conditions support the project?** – The project approach is 1) responsive to potential risks of intense or complex site degradation, and 2) potential future impacts from population growth, and demonstrates a preference for work where historical processes will be restored or protected at the scale of the process unit or ‘nearshore ecosystem site’ (Note: climate change will also be addressed in section titled “Climate Change”).

Points Possible
0-10 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following

- The project will protect or restore an ecosystem component or landform that is critical for

increasing the integrity of the surrounding sub-basin, compared to historical composition.

- Project actions respond to risks identified in Cereghino et al. 2012 and utilize local assessments.
- The whole of intact surrounding areas is protected, and/or target processes are comprehensively restored. The project addresses multiple stressors and their cumulative impacts.
- Upland and watershed modifications do not substantially limit the ability of the proposed actions to provide intended benefits and/or such modifications are or will be addressed through the project design.
- The potential for future development adjacent to the site is explicitly explored. The processes and services of the site will be resilient to anticipated change [Cereghino et. al. 2012](#).
- Provides a range of risk metrics following [Simenstad et al. \(2011\)](#) and [Bolte & Vache \(2010\)](#).
- Adjacent areas support the function of the site (e.g. well-vegetated buffers deliver clean, cold water; up-drift bluffs provide sediment etc.).

Sample questions to consider in this section

- What are the known or anticipated (current and future) impacts to the project site from the surrounding landscape conditions?
- What are the known or anticipated (current and future) benefits to the project site from the surrounding landscape conditions?

4. Does it provide ecosystem services that benefit society? – The site provides a high level of ecological services compared to other similar landforms, based on an identified and accurately cited assessment.

Points Possible
0-10 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Proposed actions restore or protect ecosystems and ecosystem services that have experienced significant loss in size or quantity in Puget Sound or sub-basin, or that contain rare, vulnerable or ecologically important species or resources (e.g. PSP indicators: estuaries, eelgrass, seabirds, unarmored shorelines, forage fish, and Chinook salmon; state and federal listed species, WDFW's priority habitats and species).
- Proposed action is logically linked to a change in habitat and other conditions that provide direct benefits for species of concern. The mechanism by which habitat change leads to species benefits is described (e.g. increases in tidal wetland area and re-establishment of channel networks is anticipated to increase juvenile salmon carrying capacity; predicted change in sediment texture and increase in overhanging shoreline vegetation increases forage fish spawning area).
- Proposed actions are clearly identified in regional or species recovery plans.
- Rare shoreform types (e.g. lost barrier estuaries, oligohaline and freshwater tidal marsh), and relatively rare ecosystem components (e.g. stream deltas) are recovered.

B) TECHNICAL MERIT AND READINESS (35 pts.) - A strong technical and social review of the project is well documented or proposed for the current phase. Work will be done quickly, and the project is being **designed** to meet a range of contingencies, advance ecological science, and maximize resilience under climate change.

1. Are the techniques reliable and likely to have the desired outcomes? – 1)

The project team includes the range of professional skills and experience suited to the scope of the project, ensuring high confidence the project will result in the predicted benefits, and 2) the project has been improved by an interdisciplinary technical review process, as appropriate for the project.

Points Possible
0-15 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- The project team contains the range of expertise needed to complete proposed actions.
- Anticipated and measurable project outputs and performance is clearly identified and linked to the best available restoration design techniques and methods. If needed, new and innovative design considerations are identified, and conceptual hypotheses are provided.
- Proposal references or proposes an interdisciplinary technical review of project strategies and alternatives, particularly for complex projects. Involvement and support of the interdisciplinary team is well documented and provided.
- The project addresses links between restored or protected habitats and the processes that maintain them so that project actions are likely to have the outcomes described in Ecological Importance (considers ecological context, confidence in predictions, and predictability of the management measures).
- Acquisition
 - Risks to ecological processes at the site can largely be controlled through acquisition. A strong stewardship plan is provided or is proposed as an early project deliverable.
- Restoration
 - Sponsor has engaged key stakeholders and technical experts regarding project performance and identified how design techniques will lead to desired project outputs.

2. Have you identified a strategy for addressing or resolving uncertainty around the project? –Describe **1)** the factors that may create uncertainty in project outcomes and their associated risk, **2)** your strategy for implementation monitoring and managing uncertainty, and **3)** if technique is experimental, opportunities for learning are fully developed and integrated into the project design development process.

Points Possible
0-5 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Feasibility and design – proposal explicitly lists factors anticipated that may create uncertainty in project outcomes, including impacts from partial restoration, landscape setting, future threats, ongoing human use, and fundamental assumptions about climate change.
- Acquisition
 - Long-term stewardship and management plan have been (acquisition phase) or will be developed (site identification phase) based on known uncertainties and risks.
- Restoration
 - Projects requesting implementation monitoring funds should have completed a monitoring and adaptive management plan.
 - A management strategy, including an appropriate level of implementation monitoring, has been (or will be) developed to monitor the evolution of natural processes and to observe characteristics of the site during and following implementation that are explicitly linked to outcomes. Note that implementation monitoring is to ensure project completion as planned and address any post-construction issues in the ESRP project agreement; effectiveness monitoring is not eligible through this grant program.
 - Proposed approach is designed to address the uncertainties and constraints to the extent possible and consider alternative scenarios in the design process. For construction projects, the sponsor has a clearly defined contingency plan to address uncertainties.
- Large-scale projects and/or those with high uncertainty have identified specific learning objectives and have created (or will create) a “learning and adaptive management plan” in coordination with the ESRP Nearshore Science Manager. This plan will identify hypothetical connections between implementation monitoring findings and potential future alterations.

3. **Is the project designed to be resilient to climate change and/or does it promote ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change?** – The action fosters adaptation to anticipated sea level rise and local climate change or increases the resilience of both natural and human systems.

Points Possible
0-10 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Restoration projects include specific modeling, design, and construction activities that account for applicable effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, changes in precipitation, changes in freshwater and groundwater hydrology, potential biological changes and changes in temperatures. Project sponsor will reference the Washington Coastal Resilience Project (e.g., Miller et al. 2018 [Raymond et al 2018](#) for

Sea Level Rise elements)

- Proponent demonstrates an understanding of how processes at the site are vulnerable and/or resilient to climate change.
- Opportunities to facilitate landward movement of coastal ecosystems subject to dislocation by sea-level rise and other climate change impacts are considered. For example:
 - Beach projects allow for landward migration area of shorelines within the project and sustained sediment supply necessary to adjust beach elevations.
 - Adequate opportunities for landward migration of tidal wetlands are available with the project area
 - The project design and system conditions allow for adequate and timely delivery of sediments to support marsh accretion within the project area and drift cell.
- Proposal identifies and addresses potential impacts of the project to adjacent land uses under climate change scenarios.

4. **Is the project ready to go?** – The proposed schedule is reasonable for project phase and not likely to be significantly delayed due to lack of involvement, engagement, and support of landowners, traditional stakeholders, non-traditional stakeholders, and tribes.

Points Possible
0-10 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Affected landowner(s) has provided written support or acknowledgement as required for the project.
- Proposed actions are consistent with local land use goals, policies, and regulations.
- Budget needs for the proposed phase of project, including matching funds, are secured or pending and likely. A clear strategy is provided for financing necessary additional phases that comprise the whole project.
- All appropriate permits, government approvals, and access to land as required by the project phase and project scope are secured.
- Social barriers have been identified and addressed so implementation is possible and will occur in an efficient timeframe. Sponsor has engaged key stakeholders, technical experts, and tribal experts to overcome obstacles that may prevent the project from being successful. Proposed approach is designed to address barriers and consider alternative scenarios in the design process. For construction projects, the sponsor has a clearly defined contingency plan to address issues if unresolved. Stakeholder communication efforts concerning the project and evidence that the sponsor has taken appropriate steps to address concerns is documented.

C) COST JUSTIFICATION (15 pts.) - Ideal projects will have clear budgets that are appropriate for the type of actions proposed in the given location and demonstrate that cost-saving mechanism (design considerations, low-cost partners, diverse funding sources etc.) have been incorporated into the project.

- 1. Are actions cost appropriate for the site?** – The relationship between expected outcomes and total project cost is appropriate for the project location and landform in this location.

Points Possible
0-5 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Costs are comparable to what is appropriate for implementation of this project as similar projects at the same location (i.e. cost comps)
- Costs are focused on the most relevant management measure(s). Only a limited proportion of funds are focused on supporting management measures.
- Operations and maintenance costs are minimized, and cost-savings mechanisms are used (e.g. low-cost partners; volunteers, partnerships etc.).
- Non-state funding sources are leveraged to maximize the ecological protection and restoration benefits.

- 2. Are actions cost effective?** – The relationship between expected outcomes and total project cost has a high cost/benefit value at the Puget Sound scale.

Points Possible
0-5 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- There is a clear cost/benefit estimation for investments at the Puget-Sound scale. This project provides strong process-based restoration or protection outcomes vs a similar project that is higher cost elsewhere.

- 3. Is there a clear and understandable budget?** – The budget is complete and provides a fair estimate of all elements required for successful implementation of proposed actions.

Points Possible
0-5 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- The whole project budget is complete, sources of funding are explicit, and their status can be clearly discerned.
- Line item costs are clearly described in a budget narrative so that the nature of the costs and the estimation method can be easily discerned.
- Budget narrative describes uncertainties considered when developing the budget. Modest

but reasonable contingency (based on specific and identified risks) is built into the budget at the task level.

- Funding partners and contributions reflect the diversity of benefits that will be delivered by the project (e.g. projects addressing drainage or flood control have contributions from agricultural groups or dike districts; if public access is improved, matching funds or in-kind from a user-group included; if salmon recovery project, SRFB dollars included).

D) STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT (10 pts.) - The project will build community support for protection and restoration, engage the local community and/or encourages valuable partnerships.

- 1. Are there social benefits?** – The project provides benefits in addition to ecological restoration or protection.

Points Possible
0-5 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- The project references or provides documentation that the project will deliver multiple benefits to local communities including, but not limited to, public education or engagement, recreational/commercial fisheries, appropriate low-impact public use, flood hazard mitigation, drainage improvements, or infrastructure upgrades.

- 2. Are there the appropriate level of stakeholders and partners involved?** – The project engages local and regional partners that will collaboratively support public outreach and education, technology transfer, and stakeholder participation.

Points Possible
0-10 Points

Evaluation Guidance and Best Practices

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

- Letters of support indicate a broad and diverse base of support.
- Proponent has a project communications strategy describing how specific groups of stakeholders will be made aware of project activities and related issues.
- Partners or key stakeholders are actively involved in feasibility, design and/or implementation.
- Large-scale projects and/or those that may affect a broad spectrum of stakeholders and tribes include a public engagement strategy to overcome obstacles and identify multi-benefit opportunities. Such stakeholders may include landowners, local units of government, industry groups, NGOs, wildlife groups, state and federal agencies. Consider engaging with groups and key individuals outside of traditional stakeholders, as appropriate.

PORTFOLIO PROJECT CRITERIA

Membership in the ESRP Portfolio is not an assurance of funding. While the application process is streamlined, funding is still dependent on competitive evaluation among portfolio projects and across the Investment Plan. Instead of a full proposal, a portfolio project produces a ***Budget and Status Report*** in response to an annual request. These portfolio ranking criteria are intended to support consistent review and ranking of ***funding requests*** provided by partners.

Scoring is conducted by ESRP staff. For additional phases of funding, projects must still satisfy eligibility criteria, particularly match requirements. Reviewers look for specific evidence that the proposed project meets the following criteria

Please note, for portfolio projects requesting monitoring implementation funds, their status update sheet should be accompanied by a narrative that addresses the learning criteria.

Portfolio criteria for restoration and protection projects

Pts.	Criteria	Definition
5	Learning	The project is part of an enhanced evaluation or learning strategy.
15	Technical Ranking	The project performed well within its last strategic competition.
15	Leverage	The project has secured additional matching resources for subsequent phases of work.
15	Readiness	The project has completed proposed work on time and on budget and has provided evidence of readiness to complete subsequent project phases.
10	Urgency	Failure to provide additional funding may jeopardize initial investments or result in substantial cost increases beyond inflation.
10	Project type and location	The project type or location has been identified as a high local or regional priority.

APPENDIX C: OTHER RESOURCES

The following websites may provide additional information that supports your application:

ESRP website	https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/habitat-
Puget Sound Nearshore Chinook Salmon Strategies	https://pspwa.box.com/shared/static/k0xpbegydhwww61vq3xzjc36y3fa/wfwx.pdf
SEA LEVEL RISE CONSIDERATIONS for NEARSHORE RESTORATION PROJECTS in PUGET SOUND	http://www.wacoastalnetwork.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Restoration-Raymondetal.2018-compressed.pdf
PSNERP Publications	http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/technical_reports.html
PSNERP: Change Analysis Geodatabases	http://wagda.lib.washington.edu/data/geography/wa_state/#PSNERP
Puget Sound Partnership- Action Agenda	http://www.psp.wa.gov/action_agenda_center.php
Puget Sound Partnership- Salmon Recovery and Watershed Work Plans	https://psp.wa.gov/salmon-recovery-watersheds.php
The Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Assessment	http://waconservation.org/ecoregionalAssessments.shtml
Ecology Oblique Aerial Photography	http://apps.ecy.wa.gov/shorephotos/index.html
WA Dept. of Ecology Coastal Atlas	https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlas/

CITATIONS Bolte, J. and K. Vache. 2010. *Envisioning Puget Sound Alternative Futures*. Prepared for, the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project. Department of Biological & Ecological Engineering, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, 50 p.

Cereghino, P., J. Toft, C. Simenstad, E. Iverson, S. Campbell, C. Behrens, J. Burke. 2012. *Strategies for nearshore protection and restoration in Puget Sound*. Puget Sound Nearshore Report No. 2012-01. Published by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle, Washington.

Clancy, M., I. Logan, J. Lowe, J. Johannessen, A. MacLennan, F.B. Van Cleve, J. Dillon, B. Lyons, R. Carman, P. Cereghino, B. Barnard, C. Tanner, D. Myers, R. Clark, J. White, C.A. Simenstad, M. Gilmer, and N. Chin. 2009. *Management measures for protecting and restoring the Puget Sound nearshore*. Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Report No. 2009-01. Published by Seattle District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle Washington, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia WA.

Fresh, K. L., M. Dethier, C. Simenstad, M. Logsdon, H. Shipman, C. Tanner, T. Leschine, T. Mumford, G. Gelfenbaum, R. Shuman, and J. Newton. 2011. *Implications of observed anthropogenic changes to nearshore ecosystems in Puget Sound*. Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project Report No. 2011-03. Published by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington.

Shipman, H. 2008. *A geomorphic classification of Puget Sound nearshore landforms*. Puget Sound Nearshore Partnership Report No. 2008-01. Published by Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle, Washington.

Simenstad, C., M. Ramirez, J. Burke, M. Logsdon, H. Shipman, C. Tanner, J. Toft, B. Craig, C. Davis, J. Fung, P. Bloch, K. Fresh, D. Myers, E. Iverson, A. Bailey, P. Schlenger, C. Kiblinger, P. Myre, W. Gertsel, and A. MacLennan. 2011. *Historical change of Puget Sound shorelines: Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Project Change Analysis*. Puget Sound Nearshore Report No. 2011-01. Published by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle, Washington.