ESRP Nearshore Restoration and Protection Projects

REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
January 13, 2022

2023-25 ESRP Investment Plan

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed towards:

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- Kay Caromile, ESRP/Salmon Grants Manager- Recreation and Conservation Office
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- Tish Conway-Cranos, Nearshore Science Manager –Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) is seeking nearshore restoration and protection project proposals in Puget Sound, including new and portfolio projects. Proposed project actions will be competitively evaluated based on assessment of completed project costs, technical merit and readiness, stakeholder support, and ecological 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 2023-25 Investment Plan. A draft Investment Plan will be presented to the State Legislature in consideration of 2023-25 state appropriations.

SCHEDULE AND IMPORTANT DATES

TASK	DATE	DESCRIPTION
RFP published	January 13	Request for proposals to ESRP mailing list and posted on website.
Restoration and Protection Program and Small Grants Programs Informational Webinar	January 18	ESRP will host an informational webinar to answer any questions about the Small Grants Program, Restoration and Protection Program, Evaluation Criteria, and the application process. https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xj4PxF2kTbGo-mhfKe9Ajg
Pre-proposals due and register for site visit	February 15	Pre-proposal submitted through PRISM Online. All applicants will submit information for site visits and receive instructions to schedule as part of pre-proposal process. See below for tentative dates and locations. Site visit scheduling questions can be sent to daron.williams@dfw.wa.gov
Pre-proposal site visits	March 7-April 1	In-person site visits with members of the ESRP team. Virtual site visits will be optional.
Full applications due	June 1, 11:59 PM	Invitation to submit or deferral by early April or rolling notification soon after site visit. See application process steps and criteria. Proposals submitted through PRISM Online.
Presentations	July 18 –22	Presentations by sponsors to technical evaluation team. Presentations will be virtual.
2023-25 ESRP Preliminary Investment Plan Published	September	Ranked project list and funding recommendations published and submitted to OFM. Ranked list submitted to Governor in October.
Funding notification	TBD	Funding notification dependent upon final 2023-25 state budget. Funds are anticipated to be available July 1, 2023.

ESRP NEARSHORE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION 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.*

ESRP nearshore restoration and protection projects are one of four ESRP investment types managed through the ESRP. The four investment types include:

- Nearshore Restoration and Protection
- Regional Pre-Design (Learning)
- Small Grants, and
- Shore Friendly

Nearshore restoration and protection projects are projects of regional importance that provide substantial and cost-effective nearshore ecosystem restoration or protection of ecosystem functions, goods, and services. 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 nearshore restoration and protection project proposals will be those that employ management measures that can most fully address 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 WDFW's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program and PSNERP web pages. Application material and project management information can be found at RCO's Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program web page. 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](#)
- [Strategic Needs Assessment: Analysis of Nearshore Ecosystem Process Degradation in Puget Sound](#)
- [Management Measures for Protecting and Restoring the Puget Sound Nearshore](#)

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

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ESRP NEARSHORE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

ESRP is taking applications for new projects and for subsequent phases of projects already included on ESRP's Phased Portfolio Project list. In addition, ESRP is asking interested project applicants to submit a request for "enhanced funding" to capitalize on potential new funding opportunities from new and traditional funding sources that may be able to support ESRP projects. More detailed information on portfolio and enhanced funding requests is provided below.

PHASED PORTFOLIO FUNDING

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 several years and multiple phases to complete. 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 recent ESRP grant competition, and 3) have not substantively altered project scope. Portfolio projects may apply for supplemental funds without preparing a full competitive application. Proposals for subsequent phases of **Portfolio projects do not have to compete in the full technical review process**, but instead are evaluated and ranked by ESRP staff. Subsequent phases of Portfolio projects will be placed at the top of the 2023-25 ESRP Investment Plan.

Refer to "Portfolio Application and Review Process" for application instructions. Contact the ESRP Program Manager to confirm if your project is part of ESRP's Portfolio Project list.

ENHANCED FUNDING REQUESTS

As part of the 2023-2025 ESRP grant competition, applicants can provide an *enhanced* funding request **in addition** to their *regular* ESRP funding request. There are new federal funds for ecosystem restoration and an increased interest by state decision makers for priorities that align with the ESRP program. If new funding opportunities become available in the upcoming biennium we will look to leverage those dollars for the ESRP Investment Plan. An *enhanced* funding request should be beyond what ESRP would typically be able to fund for a single project. This does not replace your *regular* ESRP funding request, but "stacks" on top of that request to potentially fund a larger portion of your project with ESRP funds if state or federal dollars become available. *Enhanced* funding requests will be listed in the same rank order as the *regular* ESRP raked list and will be placed just below the ESRP agency appropriation request cutoff line. So if additional dollars are provided to ESRP over and above our appropriation request, those dollars would be directed to *enhanced* project requests. A few short questions will be asked of sponsors in the PRISM application system for ESRP.

ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES

STATE FUNDING

This RFP will be used to develop the 2023-25 ESRP Investment Plan containing a ranked project list and funding recommendations. This spending plan will be used to direct 2023-25 state capital appropriations to sound conservation investments in Puget Sound. ESRP anticipates a $20 million request for the biennium. ESRP received a $15.708 million biennial appropriation during the 2021-2023 fiscal period.

FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS

Establishing Awards for Funding Partnerships - The 2023-25 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 or for new state or federal funding sources. ESRP has successfully leveraged supplemental funding from federal and state partners in the past to support projects on the ESRP investment plan that align with the core criteria and goals of those partner programs.

OTHER 2023-25 ESRP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) Learning Program released a request for proposals in November 2021. 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 January 2022. This process produces our prioritized investment plan for Regional Small Grants. ESRP anticipates allocating 5% of the total ESRP legislative appropriation funding for the entire Small Grants program.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

FUNDING REQUEST LIMITS

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 within 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, 2023 and June 30, 2025, unless additional time is required and approved by the ESRP Management Team.

AWARD PERIOD

Project awards are for work to be completed between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2025, unless additional time is required and approved by the ESRP Management Team. Applicants with projects requiring extended timeframes to complete should consider breaking the project up into multiple planning and/or construction phases that can each be completed in roughly a two-year time frame and entering ESRP's Phased Portfolio Project program.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Applicants may be state, federal, or local agencies, Native American tribes, non-profit organizations, and quasi-governmental organizations (e.g., conservation districts, irrigation districts, regional fisheries enhancement groups).

ELIGIBLE GEOGRAPHIES AND SCOPE

1. Project sites/project types within Puget Sound Nearshore (East of Cape Flattery to the Canadian border). ESRP defines the nearshore zone as 200 meters immediately upland of tidal influence to the end of the photic zone in the marine shoreline. It includes the shoreline bluffs, the tidal portions of streams and rivers, and shallow water areas out to a depth where sunlight no longer supports marine vegetation.
2. The proposed project need must be identified by PSNERP, a salmon recovery Lead Entity or Marine Resource Committee, or 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 purpose 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.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Acquisition
- Feasibility studies
- Design
- Restoration/construction

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

ESRP requires that projects provide a match of cash or in-kind services equaling 30% of the total project cost for a regular ESRP funding request. 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. ESRP enhanced funding requests are required to provide a match of cash or in-kind services equaling 10% of the enhanced request.

Match may include cash, bond funds, grants, 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 for ESRP-eligible 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 Grants Manager to determine whether a specific grant may be used as match for the ESRP project.

WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

To ensure the complete application may be submitted by the deadline, and to expedite project implementation, make sure to work with landowners including state or local agencies, early. Make time to review all project control and tenure documents to confirm information is complete and they are signed by the appropriate person. RCO's Landowner Acknowledgement Form is required at application for all project types. After funding, for restoration and design projects, sponsors must provide Landownership Certification Forms (due prior to agreement), and Landowner Agreement Forms, and/or right-of-entry permits (due before implementation), depending on the project type. For acquisition projects, sponsors must provide preliminary title reports prior to agreement.

Landowner Acknowledgement Form: 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 their property is proposed for ESRP funding consideration.

NOTE: *A Landowner Acknowledgement Form differs from a Landownership Certification Form, which documents that there are no encumbrances that would adversely affect the ability to restore the property; and a Landowner Agreement, which is required for restoration projects occurring on land not owned by the applicant before construction.*

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands: If the project is on land owned or managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the applicant should initiate consultation with the department early to allow enough time to get the required agency support documents. The department's State Lands Division manager is the only authorized person who may sign the required control and tenure documents and access permits. Regional staff contact information may be found online. Successful applicants should be prepared to work with the department's regional staff to prepare these documents.

State-owned aquatic lands: 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 early in the application process to determine whether the project is on state-owned aquatic lands, which could affect project scoping.

See the Department of Natural Resources' online map to find the contact information for the department's aquatics land manager in the applicant's area, or call the department at (360) 902-1100.

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, 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 and Manual 5 – Restoration Projects.

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 following construction materials: Large woody materials, Culverts, 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

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

Agency indirect costs are not eligible for ESRP Nearshore Restoration and Protection projects.

Governor's Executive Order 21-02, Archaeological and Cultural Resources, directs state agencies to review all acquisition and construction projects for potential impacts to cultural resources[1] to ensure that reasonable action is taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to these resources. The federal government, through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, requires the same compliance for projects with federal involvement, for example, projects on federal lands, with federal funds, or those that require a federal permit.

RCO facilitates review under the Governor's executive order. The appropriate lead federal agency facilitates review under the National Historic Preservation Act. If the federal review covers the entire RCO project area, there is no additional review needed to meet state requirements. Both processes require review, analysis, and consultation with the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and affected Native American tribes.

After the initial consultation, a funded project may be required to complete further cultural resources review and continue the consultation process to determine next steps. Costs for cultural resources review (survey, monitoring, etc.) are eligible for reimbursement and should be included in the grant application.
Sponsors must complete the consultation process and satisfy all requirements before beginning any ground-disturbing activities (including demolition). Ground disturbance or demolition started without approval will be considered a breach of the grant agreement. Typically, cultural resources approval will be authorized as part of the notice to proceed.

For acquisition projects, cultural resources requirements must be completed before final reimbursement will be made.

See RCO Manuals 3 or 5 for additional details on the cultural resource review process for acquisition and restoration projects, respectively.

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[1] Cultural resources are archeological and historical sites and artifacts, and traditional tribal areas or items of religious, ceremonial, and social uses.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

PORTFOLIO PROJECT APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

Due Date: <u>By 11:59 PM June 1, 2022</u>. Applications received after this time may not be considered.

Project Sponsors who have received ESRP funding for a recent previous project phase, are interested in requesting funds for a subsequent project phase, and have written approval from the ESRP Program Manager that their project is 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 eligibility and technical feedback to improve their project scope and design prior to submitting a full proposal. Note that, although pre-proposal 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. ESRP will notify all project sponsors who submit a pre-proposal if they are invited to submit a full proposal soon after the site visit.

REVIEW TEAMS

Pre-proposal Technical Advisory Teams
This team's role is to advise ESRP grant applicants on process-based restoration and protection best practices for projects and for fit to the ESRP program during in-person or virtual site visits. This team will review and provide advisory input to project sponsors on how to consider natural processes and ESRP grant criteria. This team will advise whether the project should proceed to the full application stage. Projects will not be ranked and scored. Projects sponsors are responsible for capturing technical feedback as they consider refining their application if invited to submit a full proposal. This team consists primarily of local and statewide WDFW and RCO staff and local technical advisors like Lead Entity staff or others as available.

ESRP Technical Review Teams
This team's role is to evaluate full ESRP proposal applications, score, and provide critical analysis and feedback for an ESRP recommended funding award. This review process creates the ESRP ranked list for an agency funding request called the ESRP Investment Plan. This team consists of volunteer technical reviewers from across the Puget Sound region and small teams are grouped together to review projects that provide a spectrum of expertise across policy, science, and practice. Reviewers for individual applications may or may not be part of the Pre-Proposal Technical Advisory Teams.

STEP 1. SIGN UP FOR A SECUREACCESS WASHINGTON ACCOUNT AND A PRISM USERNAME AND PASSWORD

All applicants must use PRISM Online to complete and submit applications. New PRISM users must fill out a New User Account Form to obtain a username and password and sign up for a SecureAccess Washington Account. When signing into PRISM for the first time, users will be asked to sign into both PRISM and SecureAccess. After the initial sign in, users will sign into PRISM using their SecureAccess credentials only. For more details on the double sign-in, visit RCO's PRISM information Web page.

Questions about using PRISM? PRISM instruction and training videos are available on RCO's website. Feel free to also contact:
- ESRP/Salmon Grants 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. SUBMIT PRE-PROPOSAL THROUGH THE PRISM ONLINE APPLICATION WIZARD

Due Date: By 11:59 PM February 15, 2022. 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.

Pre-Proposal PRISM Application Submittal Process:

A. *Create and Fill Out Your Pre-Proposal PRISM Application:*

To begin an application, log into PRISM Online using the SecureAccess credentials. On the PRISM home page, users can search for applications, apply for grants, manage grant agreements (active projects), and submit billings for reimbursement and progress and final reports. From the PRISM Online home page, applicants can locate and click on the orange "+ New Application" button as seen here, to launch the Application Wizard. 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.
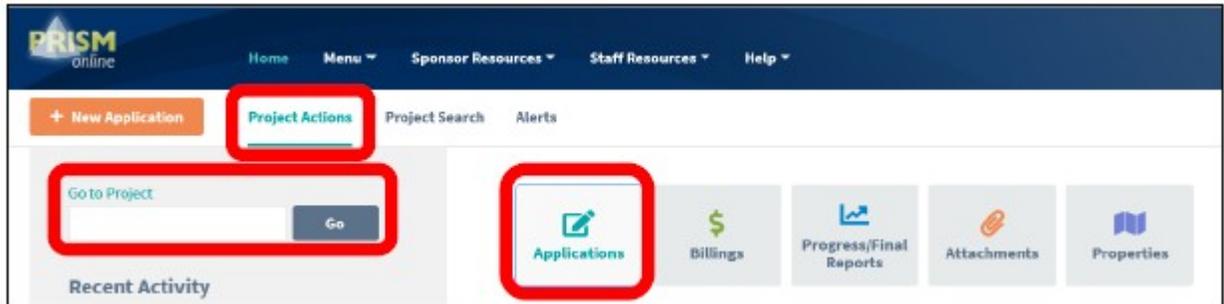
Complete the required information on each screen and click the "Next" button. This process will take the applicant through the entire application page by page. Be sure to save work often.

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 or use the Restoration and Protection Budget Worksheet that will be required with your final application.

C. *Check for Errors and Submit Your PRISM Application.*

After completing all 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 pages are cleared of errors and show a green check mark, submit the application.

STEP 3. REGISTER FOR SITE VISIT

Site visits are optional, but participation is strongly encouraged. ESRP staff will contact all applicants who have submitted a pre-proposal through PRISM **soon after submission** to schedule site visits. Site visit

scheduling questions can be sent to daron.williams@dfw.wa.gov.

ESRP is planning to schedule site visits to different areas within Puget Sound as follows (though this is **subject to change** if a critical mass of applicants justifies altering the timing for an area):

March 7-11	**North Sound**
March 14-18	**Central/South Sound**
March 28-April 1	**West Sound/Hood Canal**
Mid-April	**Virtual Site Visits as requested and as available TBD**

The site visit is an opportunity for project applicants to have an early dialogue with the ESRP **Pre-proposal Technical Advisory Team** about the project that will lead to a more robust grant application package.

This team will review and provide advisory input to project sponsors on how to consider natural processes and ESRP grant criteria. This team will advise whether the project should proceed to the full application stage. 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 advisory 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.

Sponsors will be notified soon after the site visit weather they are invited to submit a full proposal for ESRP funding consideration.

STEP 4: SUBMIT FULL APPLICATION MATERIALS, IF INVITED

Due Date: By 11:59 PM June 1, 2022. Applications received after this time may not be considered.

Requirements: Applicants invited to submit a full application will be notified by late April, after the pre-proposal process. Only applicants who are invited should submit a full application. 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 Review 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.

Project Evaluation Criteria Worksheet (optional): You will respond to the Nearshore Restoration and Protection Project evaluation criteria questions directly in PRISM (rather than filling out a separate form and attaching it PRISM). For your convenience, a Nearshore Restoration and Protection Grant Project Evaluation Criteria Worksheet is available to use if you wish to craft your responses before copying them into PRISM. Use of this worksheet is optional. Its intent is to serve as a tool as you develop your responses. There is no need to attach this to PRISM. Pay close attention to the character limits established for each response as PRISM will cut off all text that exceeds the limit. If you are having trouble staying within the character limit, please notify your ESRP/Salmon Grants Manager so we can determine if it is necessary to extend the limit.

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

An application checklist is provided in Appendix A, complete with links to necessary templates. It may also be downloaded from RCO's ESRP website.

- **Restoration and Protection Budget Worksheet** (MS Excel file template)

  Applicants must complete and submit ESRP's "whole project" budget worksheet that presents whole project costs (not just the individual project phase for which you are applying for grant funds). Project costs must be 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 in PRISM 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.

- **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's Coastal Atlas 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. See RCO's ESRP website for Example Visual Scopes of Work from previously funded ESRP applications.

- **Landowner Acknowledgement** (Fillable PDF template)

    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 their property is proposed for ESRP funding consideration. If there is landowner conflict or uncertainties to the project proposal, please provide rationale and how the project applicant proposes to manage that circumstance.

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

    Notes:
    - o   A Landowner Acknowledgement Form differs from a Landowner Agreement, which is required before construction for restoration projects occurring on land not owned by the applicant.
    - o   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** (MS Word template)

    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.

    Applicant Authorization Resolution Forms are not required from tribal sponsors at the time of application. However, RCO will need an organizationally drafted resolution from tribal sponsors before signing the agreement. Tribal sponsors should work with their grants manager to fulfill this requirement.

- **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.
  - Nearshore maps illustrating the project's location relative to priority habitats or previously restored or acquired properties, its location within the drift cell or process unit, or other relevant information.
  - RCO Waiver of Retroactivity (for parcels acquired prior to application)
  - Monitoring or stewardship plans, if available.

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

  After completing all 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 pages are cleared of errors and show a green check mark, submit the application before the deadline.

STEP 5: SPONSOR PRESENTATIONS: JULY 18 – 22, 2022

Project applicants will have the opportunity to present their project to our ESRP technical review team virtually through MS Teams or Zoom. 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 June 21.

STEP 6: PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING

Full proposals and presentations are reviewed and ranked by the ESRP technical review team 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 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 grants receive 10% of the total ESRP appropriation and small grants receive a maximum of 5% of the total ESRP appropriation).

The ESRP ranked list is created to clarify the prioritized need for nearshore restoration and protection projects during the legislative process. Contact the ESRP Program Manager for more information on the integration of multiple ESRP grant programs into one investment plan.

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 ESRP Investment Plan and distribution of award notices. The project sponsor assumes full risk for any costs incurred prior to publication of the Final ESRP Investment 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.

APPENDIX A: APPLICATION ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

All ESRP applications must be submitted in PRISM Online. Note that PRISM is designed to check for certain required attachments, but PRISM cannot check for all. Use the application checklist below to ensure you attach all required application material to PRISM.

PRE-PROPOSAL PRISM Online Attachment Checklist Items	Template / Form Link
Draft Cost Estimate or Budget Worksheet. You may create your own budget format for this proposal stage or use the Restoration and Protection Budget Worksheet that will be required with your final application.	Spreadsheet
Maps • General vicinity map for all projects • Site plan for restoration projects • Parcel map for acquisition projects	Applicant Creates
All Available Design Materials for Restoration Projects.	Applicant Creates
FINAL APPLICATION PRISM Online Attachment Checklist Items **(the following are in addition to your Pre-Proposal Application requirements)**	Template / Form Link
Final Budget Worksheet. Use the Restoration and Protection Budget Worksheet template to illustrate "whole" project costs (not just the individual project phase for which you are applying for grant funds).	Spreadsheet
Visual Scope of Work (see examples on RCO Website)	Applicant Creates
Landowner Acknowledgement Form is required for projects on land not owned by the applicant or on state-owned aquatic lands.	Form
Applicant Resolution and Authorization is required for any applicant that will sign the project agreement.	Form
Project Site Photographs. At least two photographs of site conditions before project implementation are required in .jpg file format.	Applicant Creates
Other Materials (optional) "Waiver of Retroactivity," graphs, nearshore maps, letters of support, etc.	Applicant Creates

APPENDIX B: EVALUATION CRITERIA

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 Strategies for nearshore ecosystem restoration and protection.

- **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.

ESRP'S EVALUATION CRITERIA

Conceptual diagram of ESRP Evaluation of the project site as it relates to the surrounding landscape context.
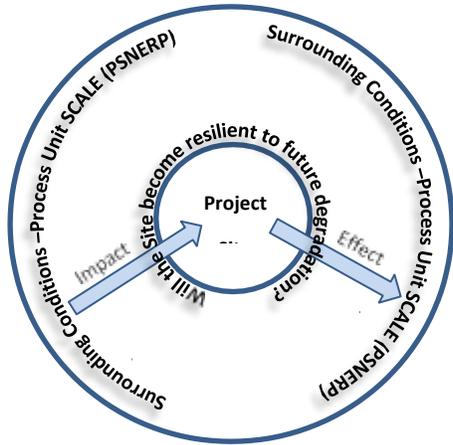
Definitions from Evaluation Criteria
- Surrounding Conditions
- Process Unit
- Project Site
- Resilient? (project site regarding future conditions)
- Effect? (on surrounding conditions) Impact? (on project site)

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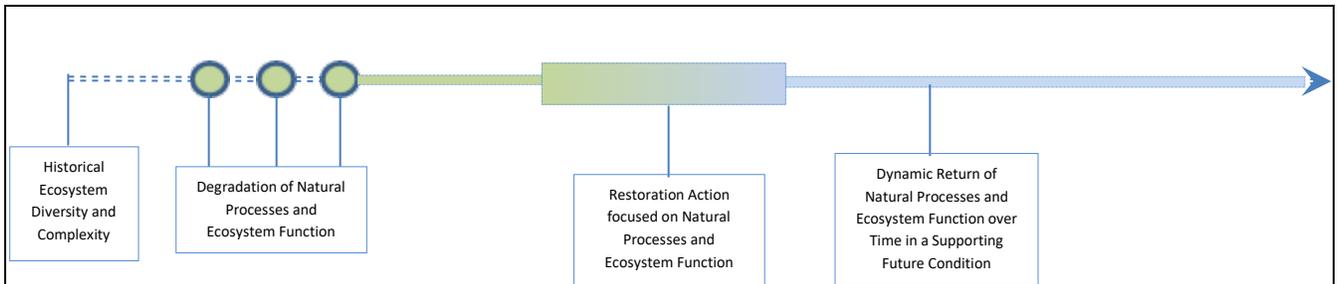
The following evaluation criteria are questions to be answered in your full application in PRISM online. They are copied here for reference and to offer guidance and best practices for responding to each question.

Evaluation Criteria Categories

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

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. [*0-10 pts*] **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. To help respond to this question, refer the 2-page Process Unit Summary Report for the Shoreline Process Unit or Delta Process

Unit in which your project is located[2], Beach Strategies, other Puget Sound Nearshore Technical Resources, and other relevant documents. [Response is limited to 4500 characters, including spaces]

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 the shoreline or delta process unit in which it lies Cereghino et. al. 2012.
- Cumulatively restores critical stressors within a group of smaller and simpler process units.

2. [*0-10 pts*] **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.) [Response is limited to 4000 characters, including spaces]

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. [*0-10 pts*] **Do the surrounding conditions support the project?** – The project approach is 1) responsive to potential risks of intense or complex site degradation, 2) responsive to potential future impacts from population growth, and 3) 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 in a later category.) [Response is limited to 4500 characters, including spaces]

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

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[2] Find the Shoreline Process Unit (SPU) or Delta Process Unit (DPU) by going to the Nearshore Data Site MAP. Once at the site, access the information with these instructions:
1) In the layer list to the right of the screen, check the box next to "Process Units". Zoom into the map and click on your area of interest.
2) 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.

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 within and 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).
- 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. [*0-10 pts*] **Does the project 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. [Response is limited to 4000 characters, including spaces]

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.

TECHNICAL MERIT AND READINESS (40 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.

5. [*0-15 pts*] **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. [Response is limited to 4000 characters, including spaces]

Ideal projects have some or all of the following:

All Projects
- 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.

6. [*0-5 pts*] **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 your technique is experimental, opportunities for learning are fully developed and integrated into the project design development process. [Response is limited to 3500 characters, including spaces]

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 has been or will be developed 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 to 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.

7. [*0-10 pts*] **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. [Response is limited to 3500 characters, including spaces]

   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 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.

8. [*0-10 pts*] **Is the project ready to go?** – The proposed schedule is reasonable for the 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. [Response is limited to 3500 characters, including spaces]

   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 land access are secured, as required by the project phase and project scope.
   - 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 during the design process. For construction projects, the sponsor has a clearly defined contingency plan to address any unresolved issues. Sponsor has documented their stakeholder communication efforts concerning the project and has taken appropriate steps to address concerns.

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.

9. [*0-5 pts*] **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. [Response is limited to 2500 characters, including spaces]

    Ideal projects have some or all of the following:
    - Costs are comparable to what is appropriate for implementation of similar projects at the same location.
    - 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.

10. [*0-5 pts*] **Are actions cost effective?** – The relationship between expected outcomes and total project cost has a high benefit/cost value at the Puget Sound scale. [Response is limited to 2500 characters, including spaces]

    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.

11. [*0-5 pts*] **Is there a clear and understandable budget?** – Evaluators will consider the budget narrative and attached project cost estimate to assess whether the budget is complete and provides a fair estimate of all elements required for successful implementation of proposed actions. [No Response Necessary]

    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 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 donations from a user-group are included; if salmon recovery project, SRFB dollars are included).

STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT (15 pts.) - The project will build community support for protection and restoration, engage the local community and/or encourages valuable partnerships.

12. [*0-5 pts*] **Are there social benefits? –** The project provides benefits in addition to ecological restoration or protection. [Response is limited to 2500 characters, including spaces]

   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.

13. [*0-10 pts*] **Are the appropriate levels 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. [Response is limited to 2500 characters, including spaces]

   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 have been or 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 guaranteed and is not an assurance of funding. Membership in ESRP Portfolio System requires meeting eligibility described above in this RFP. 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. Email the ESRP Program Manager for portfolio application materials.

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.

Portfolio Criteria for Restoration and Protection Projects

Pts.	Criteria	Definition
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.
15	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

LOCATING THE SHORELINE OR DELTA PROCESS UNIT FOR YOUR PROJECT.

Find the Shoreline Process Unit (SPU) or Delta Process Unit (DPU) by going to the Nearshore Data Map and following these instructions:

1. In the layer list to the right of the screen, check the box next to "Process Units". Zoom into the map and click on your area of interest.
2. 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 for Nearshore Protection and Restoration in Puget Sound report. The 2-page summary provides a process unit overview, nearshore process degradation summary, recommended management strategy, historic shoreline alterations, and landform composition.

Note that you may also use the map to find information on the drift cell, current and historic shoreform type, current and historic wetlands, and other data.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following resources can be found on WDFW's ESRP website and may provide additional information that supports your application.

- Puget Sound Nearshore Chinook Salmon Strategies
- Sea level rise projections for Puget Sound
- Sea level rise considerations for nearshore restoration and protection in Puget Sound
- PSNERP Publications
- PSNERP Change Analysis Geodatabases
- Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda
- The Nature Conservancy Ecoregional Assessment
- Ecology Oblique Aerial Photography
- WA Dept. of Ecology Coastal Atlas
- Puget Sound Partnership Salmon Recovery and Watershed Work Plans
- Local Integrating Organizations
- Northwest Straits MRCs
- Shore Friendly Programs
- Beach Strategies Project

CITATIONS

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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.