# Beach Restoration Small Grants Program

REQUEST FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS
October 2, 2025
Revised November 5, 2025

2027-29 INVESTMENT PLAN

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program's Beach Restoration Small Grants Program (BRSGP) is jointly administered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO functions as ESRP's fiscal agent.

For grant round updates refer to WDFW's website. Questions regarding this RFP should be directed towards:

Jenna Jewett, Shore Friendly and Beach Restoration Small Grants Program Manager - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (360) 463-6988, jenna.jewett@dfw.wa.gov

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

Catherine Buchalski Smith, ESRP Program Manager - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (564) 669-8941, catherine.buchalskismith@dfw.wa.gov

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's (ESRP) Beach Restoration Small Grants Program (BRSGP) seeks exemplary nearshore ecosystem restoration projects. This program works to engage local communities by bringing together multiple interested parties and partners seeking local solutions to complex ecosystem and land use problems.**

The BRSGP is one of four investment types managed through the ESRP. The four investment types include:

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

In 2016, ESRP initiated the BRSGP pilot program to assist ESRP's mission in restoring the natural processes that create and sustain the Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem. The intent of the program is to provide funding opportunities for small-scale projects that collectively restore and protect beach systems at a regionally significant scale. The BRSGP defines "small-scale" projects as those with an anticipated total award per property of up to $350,000. To maximize the benefits of nearshore process restoration, habitat connectivity, and cost efficiencies, sponsors are encouraged to coordinate proposed actions across adjacent properties to complete restoration. There is no limit on the number of individual properties within a proposal. For the 2025-27 grant round, the highest priority for the ESRP BRSGP is to fund armor removal projects. Armor removal projects are considered a high priority for process-based restoration because of their benefits to beach habitats and the important species that depend on them,

including salmon, forage fish, birds, shellfish, and people. It is also the intent of the BRSGP that these successfully restored beach systems serve as demonstration sites for neighboring property owners, local communities, and other marine waterfront landowners in the greater Puget Sound.

We seek projects of local importance that provide significant contributions to regional goals. These projects will focus on nearshore ecosystem restoration or protection of ecosystem functions, goods, and services. Our work is centered on the scientific principles and strategies of the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP).

Proposed project actions will be evaluated on their ecological importance, technical merit and readiness, cost, and public support and involvement. A competitive review of proposals will result in a ranked project list.

## BEACH RESTORATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION SCHEDULE

| TASK | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|
| RFP Published | October 2, 2025 | Release Beach Restoration Small Grants Program RFP. |
| Early Project Consultations (optional) | October 2 – December 1, 2025 | An opportunity to meet one on one with program manager to review project concepts, receive feedback, and ensure eligibility. Email jenna.jewett@dfw.wa.gov to schedule a consultation. |
| Informational Webinar for Restoration and Protection, Learning (Pre-Design) and Beach Restoration Small Grants Programs | November 19, 2025 | Informational Webinar for Restoration and Protection, Learning (Pre-Design) and Beach Restoration Small Grants Programs Register for the webinar here. |
| Pre-Proposals Due in PRISM | December 2, 2025 11:59 P.M. | Pre-proposal submitted through PRISM Online. Pre-proposals are required for program staff to schedule a virtual site visit. |
| Beach Restoration Small Grants Virtual Site Visits (required) | December 15 - 18, 2025 | Pre-proposal applicants will be contacted by program staff to schedule virtual site visits with members of the ESRP team. Additional questions or information regarding virtual site visits may be emailed to jenna.jewett@dfw.wa.gov. |
| Applicants invited to submit Full Proposals to Beach Restoration Small Grants Program | January 9, 2026 | Pre-proposal reviews complete. Applicants will be contacted by program manager with an invitation to submit a full proposal. |
| Final Applications Due in PRISM | March 31, 2026 11:59 P.M. | See application process steps and criteria. Final application submitted through PRISM Online. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Technical Review Meetings | May 4 -5, 2026, 2024 | Technical Review Meetings |
| Written questions provided to applicants | May 11, 2026 11:59 P.M. | Reviewers may submit questions to applicants to gain additional clarity and information regarding the proposed project. |
| Written responses due | May 18, 2026 11:59 P.M. | Written responses from applicants are due. |
| Preliminary 2027-29 ESRP Investment Plan Released | October 1, 2026 | Preliminary ranked project list and funding recommendations published and submitted to the Governor's Office and the Washington State Legislature for funding consideration |
| Final Investment Plan Released | Spring 2027 | Determined by WA Legislature |
| Grant Funds Become Available | July 1, 2027 | Funding notification dependent upon final 2027-29 state budget. Funds are anticipated to be available July 1, 2027. |

## IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

### BEACH RESTORATION SMALL GRANT PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The most competitive BRSGP proposals will be those that employ management measures that can restore and protect beach systems.

**Successful projects will seek to restore one or more of the following primary nearshore ecosystem processes that support healthy beach systems:**

- Beach erosion and accretion
- Sediment supply and transport

**Additional nearshore ecosystem processes supported by projects may include:**

- Detritus recruitment and retention
- Freshwater input
- Wind and waves

**Successful projects will employ one or more of the following primary management measures:**

- Armor removal
- Groin removal

**Successful projects may also include complementary management measures such as:**

- Revegetation

- Topography restoration

**BEACH RESTORATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM PROJECT CRITERIA**

1. Project sites/project types within the 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. Projects must be endorsed by at least one of the following local nearshore planning and conservation organizations: Marine Resources Committee, Lead Entity, Lead Integrating Organization, and/or Shore Friendly program. Applicants shall provide a letter of support by one of these organizations.
3. The primary purpose of the project must be to restore or protect Puget Sound nearshore beach ecosystem processes or functions, and to additionally support strategies that restore or protect ecosystem function of a geographic area such as a Process Unit (delta, drift cell, etc.). (See Appendix C for information on how to find the shoreline process unit in which your project is located and the restoration strategy for that process unit.) Projects with the primary purpose of providing recreational access or remediating chemical contamination are not eligible.
4. It is the intent of the BRSGP that successfully restored beach systems will serve as demonstration sites for neighboring property owners, local communities, and other marine waterfront landowners in the greater Puget Sound. To support that goal, applicants must include a draft communication plan with their BRSGP full application. A communication plan is necessary to ensure that the messaging, coordinated with the local Shore Friendly program, reaches the intended target audience in a strategic and thoughtful manner. If awarded funding, a final communication plan will be a required project deliverable. Links to communication plan guidance and an example of a recently completed BRSGP communication plan are included in Step 4c of the Application and Review Process section of this RFP.
5. Project 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.

## ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES

**STATE FUNDING**

This RFP will be used to develop the BRSGP portion of the 2027-29 ESRP Investment Plan containing a ranked project list and funding recommendations. This investment plan will be used to direct 2027-29

state capital appropriations to sound conservation investments in Puget Sound. ESRP anticipates a $25 million request for the biennium. ESRP will set aside at least 5% of ESRP's legislative appropriation for the BRSGP program, which will be funded provided the ESRP receives at least a $5 million appropriation. ESRP received a $15,665,000 biennial appropriation that funded the 2025-2027 Final Investment Plan.

### CLIMATE COMMITMENT ACT FUNDING

The Climate Commitment Act created a market-based program to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. A portion of the revenues are directed into the Natural Climate Solutions Account and may be distributed into several standing grant programs, including the Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program. Funding comes with additional reporting, assessment, and tribal consultation requirements. The Governor's Office and state agencies engage with tribal governments on how best to meet these requirements. RCO will provide guidance to the applicant after tribal government engagement has concluded.

### FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS

The 2027-29 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. 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 2025 ESRP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The ESRP Learning Program and the Restoration and Protection Grant Program will each release a request for proposals on November 17, 2025.

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### FUNDING REQUEST LIMITS

The minimum funding request for proposed projects is $30,000. The maximum request is $350,000 per property. There is no maximum funding request per application nor is there a limit on the number of individual properties within a proposal. For the purposes of this RFP, "Property" is defined as land owned by the same person or persons. An individual property may be comprised of multiple parcels. Applications may include multiple landowners and/or parcels. *Note: The ESRP funding request must be rounded to the nearest $1,000 in both the cost estimates in the cost estimate attachments and in PRISM.

### AWARD PERIOD

Project awards are for work to be completed between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2029. Additional time may be granted if necessary and approved by the ESRP management team.

## MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

No match is required for the BRSGP projects. Although match will not be included in a grant agreement, applicants should identify outside sources of funding used to complete the project on a new page in the PRISM application called "Other Funding." Applicants should also include outside sources of funding in their attached cost estimate. Grant recipients will not be required to document outside funding in bills but will be required to document outside funding in the final report at the close of the grant.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Construction (restoration)
- Design
- Feasibility Studies

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Academic Institutions
- Conservation and Special Purpose Districts
- Counties, cities, and towns
- Lead entities for salmon recovery
- Marine Resources Committees
- Native American Tribes
- Non-profit organizations
- Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- State and federal agencies

## 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 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.

After funding, sponsors of restoration and design projects must provide a Landownership Certification Form (due prior to agreement) to document there are no encumbrances that would adversely affect their ability to restore the property. Landowner Agreement Forms (and/or a use authorization, if working on state-owned aquatic land) are required before implementing any restoration project on property not owned by the sponsor.

**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 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.

#### CASH ADVANCE POLICY

RCO recognizes that some sponsors may not have the cash flow needed to implement parts of approved projects. Short-term cash advances are available.

To comply with federal rules and state law, RCO established an advance policy for private entities and one for public/quasi-public entities. A public/quasi-public entity is defined as an entity established or

authorized by law that would not constitute a private service provider under Revised Code of Washington 43.88.160(5)(e). Please refer to Manual 8: Reimbursements for detailed information on cash advances.

## 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 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.

The ESRP does not fund project-specific effectiveness monitoring but does support 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 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).
- 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, and bridges.

The ESRP will not pay for purchases of construction materials (except those noted above) or installation costs that are incurred before the project start date of the grant agreement.

### INDIRECT COSTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE

Agency indirect costs are not eligible for ESRP Beach Restoration Small Grants projects.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

Governor's Executive Order 21-02, Archaeological and Cultural Resources, requires that state agencies 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 harm to those resources. The federal government, through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, requires similar compliance for projects with federal involvement, for example, projects on federal lands, with federal funds, or requiring a federal permit.

RCO facilitates review under the Governor's executive order. Federal agencies facilitate 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.

RCO evaluates all projects before funding and initiates consultation with the affected tribes and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. An applicant should not initiate consultation with either of these groups. The review may require a sponsor to conduct a cultural resources survey or may add requirements to the grant agreement.

The applicant should budget for cultural resources work for most projects. The costs of a cultural resources investigation are highly dependent upon the size, scope, and location of the project. RCO encourages the applicant to work with qualified cultural resources professionals to estimate costs. The Association for Washington Archaeology' maintains a list of qualified consultants on its website. Costs for compliance actions (e.g., survey, monitoring, permitting, redesign, and mitigation) are eligible for reimbursement and should be included in the grant application.

Any required cultural resources investigations or documentation must be complete before the sponsor may start any ground-disturbing activities, such as demolition, planting, or building signs. Ground disturbance or demolition started without approval are breaches of the grant agreement. Typically, cultural resources approval will be authorized as part of the Notice to Proceed.

See RCO Manual 5 for additional details on the cultural resource review process for restoration projects.

## APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

**Pre-proposal Due Date**: Proposals must be submitted by 11:59 P.M. on December 2, 2025 through PRISM Online. Pre-proposals received after this time may not be considered.

**Final Application Due Date**: Full proposals must be submitted by 11:59 P.M. on March 31, 2026 through PRISM Online. Full proposals received after this time may not be considered.

The BRSGP application process consists of three main requirements: 1) a pre-proposal, 2) a virtual site visit, and 3) a full application. The virtual site visit will occur shortly after pre-proposals are due to provide an early opportunity for applicants to discuss their proposals with the ESRP BRSGP Technical Review Team. Applicants will receive eligibility and technical feedback to improve their project scope and design prior to submitting a full proposal. Full proposals will be reviewed by the ESRP BRSGP Technical Review Team. Please note that, while pre-proposals and virtual site visits are required, ESRP

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

staff will consider accepting full applications from applicants who did not submit a pre-proposal on a case-by-case basis to take advantage of emerging project opportunities.

## REVIEW TEAM DEFINITION

### ESRP BEACH RESTORATION SMALL GRANTS TECHNICAL REVIEW TEAM

This team's role is to advise ESRP BRSGP applicants during the pre-proposal virtual site visits, evaluate and score full applications, and provide critical analysis and feedback for potential ESRP funding awards. This review process results in a ranked ESRP BRSGP list which is later combined with the other ESRP programs to create an agency funding request called the ESRP Investment Plan. This team consists of volunteer technical reviewers across the Puget Sound region that provide a spectrum of expertise across policy, science, and practice.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### 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 user name 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 website.

*Questions about PRISM?* PRISM instruction and training videos are available on RCO's website. Feel free to also contact:

- Your 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.

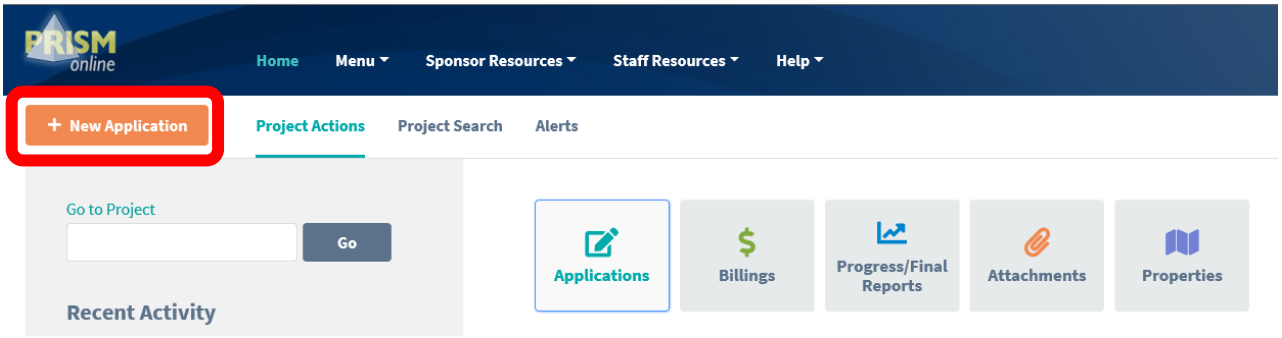
**Due Date**: By 11:59 P.M. December 2, 2026. Pre-proposals received after this time or not in the described format may not be considered for competition.

**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.

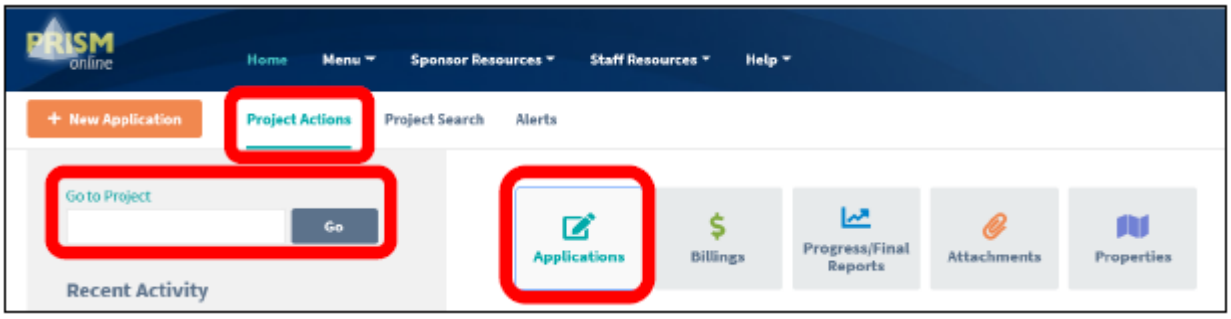
**Pre-Proposal PRISM Application Submittal Process:**

*A. Create and Fill Out Your 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 Beach Restoration Small Grants - Potential.**"




Once a PRISM project number is assigned, use PRISM Online to complete the application. 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*.

- **RESTORATION WORKSITE MAP** that depicts all major elements of your proposed restoration project.

- **DESIGN PLANS OR SKETCHES**, if available, that clearly convey the intent of the proposed restoration project. Providing all available information now will help reviewers offer more thorough targeted feedback to inform your final application.

- **DRAFT BUDGET WORKSHEET:** Please use the ESRP Beach Restoration Small Grants Budget Worksheet template to provide a draft cost estimate to supplement the general cost information required by PRISM. *Note: The ESRP funding request must be rounded to the nearest $1,000 in both the cost estimate attachments and in PRISM.

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. SCHEDULE AND PRESENT DURING A VIRTUAL SITE VISIT**

After pre-proposals are submitted, ESRP program staff will begin contacting applicants to schedule virtual site visits, which will be held December 15 - 18. (although this is subject to change if a critical mass of applicants justifies altering the timing). Virtual site visits are expected to be held using the Microsoft Teams platform. Site visit scheduling questions can be sent to jenna.jewett@dfw.wa.gov.

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

This team will review application material and advise project applicants 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 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 the ESRP Beach Restoration Small Grants Technical Review Team will be able to discuss any important considerations revealed during the site visit that can be addressed in the final submission of grant application materials. This will help applicants develop more clear and robust proposals.

**STEP 4: SUBMIT FULL APPLICATION MATERIALS**

**Due Date**: By 11:59 P.M. March 31, 2026. Applications received after this time may not be considered.

**Requirements:** 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 and contact RCO if assistance is needed.

Application material will be evaluated by the ESRP Technical Review Team using the ESRP Evaluation 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 after pre-proposals are submitted. 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 BRSGP project evaluation criteria questions directly in PRISM (rather than filling out a separate form and attaching it to PRISM). For your convenience, a Beach Restoration Small 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 to 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.

- **ANY UPDATED DESIGN MATERIAL** available since your pre-proposal submission. It is important for reviewers to have complete and current design information when reviewing applications.

- **FINAL BUDGET WORKSHEET** (Microsoft Excel template)

  Update the draft budget worksheet submitted with your pre-proposal, as needed. Applicants must complete and submit ESRP's Beach Restoration Small Grant Program budget worksheet. This worksheet presents project costs defined by project tasks (e.g., feasibility, design,

construction). 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 sponsors can commit to accomplish within a 2-year award period, although additional time may be granted if necessary and approved by the ESRP management team. It is understood that the project costs are estimates and exact amounts will be defined at the contract stage. Proposals requesting funding greater than $10,000 for assessment or outreach/education activities should separate those elements in the budget worksheet. This will provide clarity when evaluating proposals. *Note: The ESRP funding request must be rounded to the nearest $1,000 in both the cost estimate attachments and in PRISM. The costs entered into the Metrics screen in PRISM should include only the ESRP funding request (plus optional match, if provided).

- **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 or project sites. 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. Choose the best component that 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** (MS Word or PDF template)

  If the proposed project will occur on property not owned by the applicant at the time of application, attach a signed and complete landowner acknowledgement form from each landowner to demonstrate that all affected landowners are aware of the project and supportive of the application. If there is landowner conflict or uncertainties to the project proposal, please provide rationale and how the project sponsor proposes to manage that circumstance. Refer to WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS for information on who to contact if you are proposing work on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands or state-owned aquatic lands.

- **LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCAL NEARSHORE PLANNING AND CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS** (PDF/MS Word document)
  Marine Resources Committee, Lead Entity, Lead Integrating Organization, Shore Friendly Program. (MS Word or PDF).

- **DRAFT COMMUNICATION PLAN** (MS Word document)
  It is the intent of the BRSGP that these successfully restored beach systems will serve as demonstration sites for neighboring property owners, local communities, and other marine waterfront landowners in the greater Puget Sound. A communication plan is necessary to ensure that the messaging, coordinated with the local Shore Friendly program, reaches the intended target audience in a strategic and thoughtful manner. Please use the Communication Plan Guidance and Example to create a draft or final communication plan and attach it to your PRISM application.

- **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 is included in the resolution. Forms filled out incorrectly, or unsigned, are not valid and will require revisions. For help, contact a 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)

- **TRIBAL NOTIFICATION LETTER** (MS Word template)
  This is required for all projects. Climate Commitment Act funding requires the applicant to notify all affected federally recognized tribes in the project area about the proposed project before submitting a final application. To fulfill this requirement, RCO created a template letter that the applicant may tailor for the specific project. In addition to this notification letter, RCO will offer government-to-government consultation with tribes on the proposed project. RCO also will update the Tribes with project lists at various stages, including initial application, final application, and final approved lists. For more information, see RCO's Climate Commitment Act website. This notification is a separate requirement from cultural resources consultation.

- **ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** (MS Word, PDF, Image, JPEG, etc.)

  The following supporting documents improve the ability of reviewers to evaluate projects. Reviewers are instructed to treat absence of information as an indicator of insufficient capacity or resources. Suggested supporting documents:

  - Letters of support from affected landowners, tribes, agencies, etc.
  - Feasibility studies and design drawings (if applicable) useful for understanding project scope and configuration.
  - 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.
  - 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 pages are cleared of errors and show a green check mark, submit the application before the deadline.

**STEP 5: WRITTEN QUESTION AND RESPONSE**

To assist the Technical Review Team in their evaluation of project proposals, ESRP BRSGP staff will facilitate a question and response period between the reviewers and applicants. This process will allow technical reviewers to gain additional clarity and information regarding the proposed projects and will serve as a final opportunity for the applicants to provide a written response.

Important dates:

- May 11, 2026:
  - Applicants will receive a single email from the ESRP BRSGP with all reviewer questions for their project, and instructions on how to respond. Please check spam folders to ensure the email notification is not missed.
- May 18, 2026:
  - Applicants are required to provide responses to reviewer questions in writing by this date for the information to be considered in the evaluation process.
  - Responses must be submitted as an attachment to your PRISM application by 11:59 PM.

**STEP 6: PROJECT EVALUATION AND RANKING**

Proposal material will be evaluated by the ESRP BRSGP Technical Review Team using the ESRP BRSGP Evaluation Criteria that are provided in Appendix B. Points are awarded based the following criteria categories. A ranked list will be developed based on reviewer scores. Once the list is developed there will be no changes to the project ranking.

**Beach Restoration Small Grants Project Evaluation Criteria Categories**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ecological Importance | (30 points) |
| Technical Merit and Readiness | (30 points) |
| Cost Justification | (15 points) |
| Public Support and Involvement | (25 points) |

## INTEGRATING RANKED PROJECT LISTS

The ESRP review process results in a separate prioritized project list for each sub-program:

1. Ranked new Restoration and Protection project list
2. Ranked portfolio Restoration and Protection project list
3. Ranked Learning project list
4. Ranked BRSGP project list
5. Ranked Shore Friendly local program list

These separate lists are “zippered” together to create a single integrated ESRP Preliminary Investment Plan to be submitted to the Governor’s Office and the Washington State Legislature for funding consideration. The integrated ESRP investment plan is created with the top ranked portfolio Restoration and Protection project becoming the top ranked ESRP project, followed by the top ranked new Restoration and Protection project, then 2nd ranked portfolio Restoration and Protection project,

and so forth. Learning and BRSGP projects will compete against other learning projects/BRSGP projects for a portion of ESRP's total appropriation that will be set aside for these opportunities. (Learning grants receive 10% of the total ESRP appropriation and BRSGP receive at least 5% of the total ESRP appropriation.) Shore Friendly's funding request to the legislature may be integrated at various incremental appropriation levels on the ESRP investment plan.

The ESRP Preliminary Investment Plan will remain preliminary until state capital funding is secured and a Final ESRP Investment Plan is published. Contact the ESRP Manager for more information on the integration of multiple ESRP grant programs into one investment plan.

## AWARD AND CONTRACT INFORMATION

ESRP BRSGP 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 Investment Plan and subsequent award notification.

Contracts will be developed and executed using RCO documents. These materials will be made available upon request. A sample RCO Grant Agreement is available on RCO's website. Projects receiving federal funds must also comply with the relevant federal terms and conditions associated with the funding agency.

## APPENDIX A: ESRP BEACH RESTORATION SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM 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 Budget Worksheet.** RCO recommends using its template or similar format. Attach in PRISM and clearly label "Draft Budget Worksheet." | Spreadsheet |
| **Restoration Worksite Map** that depicts all major elements of your proposed restoration project. | 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.** Update the Draft Budget Worksheet, as needed, and attach in PRISM labeled "Final Budget Worksheet." | 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 |
| **Letter of Support** from Marine Resources Committee, Lead Entity, Lead Integrating Organization, and/or Shore Friendly Program | Applicant Creates |
| **Draft Communication Plan** (see guidance and example on RCO Website) | Applicant Creates |
| **Applicant Resolution and Authorization** is required for any non-tribal applicant who will sign the grant agreement. A tribal sponsor will instead submit a resolution with their agreement, once funded. | Form |
| **Project Site Photographs.** At least two photographs of site conditions before project implementation are required in .jpg file format. | Applicant Creates |
| **Tribal Notification Letter.** This is required for all projects. (See RFP for more information.) | Template Letter |
| **Other Materials (optional)** graphs, parcel maps, letters of support, etc. | Applicant Creates |

# APPENDIX B: ESRP BEACH RESTORATION SMALL PROJECTS EVALUATION CRITERIA

Project proposals are reviewed and scored using four primary criteria. Each criterion is broken down into a number of sub-criteria, each associated with evidence that sponsors can provide to demonstrate how a project meets criteria and sub-criteria. How well an applicant provides evidence will determine how many points they receive for a given sub-criteria. For evaluation, Ecological Importance and Technical Merit are generally evaluated within the context of the "whole project," not only the current phase being proposed. For other criteria, evaluation will focus on the current phase of effort.

**Evaluation Criteria Categories:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ecological Importance | (30 points) |
| Technical Merit and Readiness | (30 points) |
| Cost Justification | (15 points) |
| Public Support and Involvement | (25 points) |

***ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE (30 pts.) -*** *An ideal project will restore natural ecosystem processes, structures and services. Preferably, the project will result in site conditions that restores or protects complex natural processes and is resilient to current and future development impacts, and will provide highly valued habitat to target species. Please respond to the questions below.*

1. **[0-5 pts] Will the project provide long-term ecosystem benefits?** Describe how your project will maintain existing ecosystem services or protect intact ecosystem processes or restore the 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.*

   *Ideal projects have some or all the following:*
   - Restores or protects ecosystem processes or services.
   - Protects intact areas.

[2] Find the Shoreline Process Unit (SPU) by going to the Nearshore Data Map. Click on "See the PSNERP Maps". 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 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.

Find the updated drift cell and associated shoreform data by using the Beach Strategies Data Explorer and associated Hub Site.

1. Click on the drift cell or bluff of interest and then click "download report" to view a summary of drift cell features including armor proportion and sediment supply length. Depending on internet browser, pop-ups may need to be temporarily enabled to download the report.

- Addresses priority restoration or protection needs (i.e., degradation or future risk) within a site.
- Proposed action(s) addresses a PSNERP strategy for the shoreline or delta process unit in which it lies Cereghino et. al. 2012.

2. **[0-5 pts] Will the site be resilient to future degradation?** The project results in a 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 (through future actions to which this project contributes) will reach this target condition at the site scale. (Note: climate change will also be addressed in a later category.)

   *Ideal projects have some or all 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 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, over time, 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.)

   *Ideal projects have some or all the following*
   - The project will protect or restore an ecosystem component or landform that is critical for increasing the integrity of the region, compared to historical composition.
   - Project actions respond to risks identified in Cereghino et al. 2012 and utilize local assessments.
   - 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. **[0-5 pts] Does the proposal achieve goals listed in your geographic area's local plan for nearshore beach restoration/protection (e.g., Marine Resources Committee, Salmon Recovery Lead Entity, Local Integrating Organization, Shore Friendly Program)?** List and describe how your project meets the goals and objectives of local nearshore planning priorities.

5. **[0-5 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.

   *Ideal projects have some or all the following:*
   - Proposed actions restore or protect ecosystems 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.

***TECHNICAL MERIT AND READINESS (30 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. Please respond to the questions below.*

6. **[0-10 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.

   *Ideal projects have some or all the following:*
   All Projects
   - The project team contains the range of expertise needed to complete proposed actions.
   - Proposal references or proposes an interdisciplinary technical review of project strategies and alternatives, as appropriate for the project. 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).

   Restoration
   - Sponsor has engaged key interested parties and technical experts regarding project performance and identified how design techniques will lead to desired project outputs.
   - Restoration stewardship and adaptive management plans are in place.

7. **[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.

   *Ideal projects have some or all 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.

   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.
   - A restoration stewardship plan has been, or will be, developed based on known uncertainties and risks.

8. **[0-5 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.

   *Ideal projects have some or all 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) and associated visualization tools 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.

9. **[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 by social controversy or over landowner willingness.

*Ideal projects have some or all 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 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 partners, tribes, affected community members and groups, technical experts, and other interested parties 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 interested parties' 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. Please respond to the questions below.*

10. **[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.

    *Ideal projects have some or all 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 benefit.

11. **[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.

    *Ideal projects have some or all 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.

12. **[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.

*Ideal projects have some or all 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, leveraged funds or in-kind donations from a user-group are included; if salmon recovery project, SRFB dollars are included).

***PUBLIC SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT (25 pts.)*** *The project will build community support for protection and restoration, engage the local community and/or encourages valuable partnerships. Please respond to the questions below.*

13. **[0-10 pts] Are there social benefits?** The project provides benefits in addition to ecological restoration or protection.

    *Ideal projects have some or all 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, appropriate low-impact public use, flood hazard mitigation, drainage improvements, or infrastructure upgrades.

14. **[0-15 pts] Are the appropriate levels of partners, tribes, affected community members and groups, technical experts, and other interested parties involved?** – The project engages local and regional partners that will collaboratively support public outreach and education, technology transfer, and community participation.

    *Ideal projects have some or all the following:*

    - Letters of support indicate a broad and diverse base of support.
    - Proponent has a project communications strategy describing how specific groups of interested parties have been or will be made aware of project activities and related issues.
    - Partners and key parties are actively engaged in feasibility, design and/or implementation.

# APPENDIX C: OTHER RESOURCES

## 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 affects and is affected by a larger landscape.

For the purposes of ESRP's BRSGP, the landscape context should be evaluated at the scale of one of three "process domains": shoreline process unit, delta process unit, or coastal inlet site (Cereghino et al. 2012, Simenstad et al. 2011) 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 for BRSGP, this is a single shoreline process unit (SPU) 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.

## LOCATING THE SHORELINE PROCESS UNIT AND DRIFT CELL FOR YOUR PROJECT

Find the Shoreline Process Unit (SPU) by going to the Nearshore Data Map. Click on "See the PSNERP Maps" and follow 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.

Find the updated drift cell and associated shoreform data by using the Beach Strategies Data Explorer and associated Hub Site.

1. Click on the drift cell or bluff of interest and then click "download report" to view a summary of drift cell features including armor proportion and sediment supply length. Depending on internet browser, pop-ups may need to be temporarily enabled to download the report.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following websites may provide additional information that supports your application. Current hyperlinks are provided on the ESRP website under ESRP Grant Resources.

- Communication Plan Resources
  - Strategic communications planning template
  - Communicating Science Effectively
  - The Message Box

- ESRP 2025 Grant Competition Resources
  - ESRP Learning Program webpage
  - ESRP Restoration and Protection webpage
  - ESRP Shore Friendly webpage
  - ESRP Beach Restoration Small Grants Program webpage
  - RCO Resources
    - Includes the majority of needed resources such as grant forms, ESRP specific resources, and general resources.

- Letter of Support Resources
  - Local Integrating Organizations
  - Northwest Straits MRCs
  - Shore Friendly Programs
  - Local Lead Entities

- Science/Technical Resources
  - Beach Strategies for Restoration Hub site
  - Beach Strategies Data Explorer
  - Puget Sound Nearshore Chinook Salmon Strategies
  - Sea level rise considerations for nearshore restoration and protection in Puget Sound
  - PSNERP Publications (Technical Reports)
  - 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

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