



2017 Request For Proposals Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed Fund

The ***Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed Fund*** was created by a legal settlement between Bellingham-based ***RE Sources for Sustainable Communities*** and Pacific International Terminals (PIT), which resulted in an \$825,000 mitigation payment. As required by the settlement, the funds may only be used for construction of physical projects or other on-the-ground work for physical improvements for the benefit of Puget Sound and the Salish Sea.

RE Sources sued PIT as part of its ***North Sound Baykeeper*** program, which protects and restores the marine and nearshore habitats of the northern Puget Sound/Salish Sea region. In addition to litigation to enforce the Clean Water Act, North Sound Baykeeper works in coalition with other organizations, interacts and partners with agency staff and decision makers, offers technical assistance trainings for businesses to help them come into compliance with state and federal permitting systems, and encourages public involvement and stewardship through educational events and volunteer programs. The suit revolved around allegations that PIT had violated the Clean Water Act by discharging fill materials into wetlands located on its Cherry Point property in Whatcom County. The waters near Cherry Point are a designated aquatic reserve, and home to extensive kelp and eelgrass beds that help support a unique herring population. The area is noted for its rich biodiversity, is recognized as Usual and Accustomed fishing grounds of the Lummi and Nooksack Tribes, and supports commercial and recreational fishing as well as serving as an important stopover for migratory birds.

In addition to the mitigation payment, PIT agreed to conduct restoration work on the wetlands and also set aside additional protected wetland acreage. RE Sources received no funding from this lawsuit; however, the lawyers on the case received repayment of attorneys' fees and expenses, which were paid separately from the mitigation fund. Since Rose Foundation had already established the ***Puget Sound Stewardship and Mitigation Fund***, which was created through a series of legal settlements involving the ***Puget Soundkeeper Alliance*** and had already organized a grant program to award mitigation funds back to the community as grants to protect Puget Sound, RE Sources and North Sound Baykeeper asked Rose Foundation to administer the PIT funds through this existing program.

Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment is a grant making public charity that has specialized experience handling restitution payments and class-action settlement awards. For more than 15 years, Rose has administered approximately 400 settlement mitigation funds, enabling \$40 million in community grants in Washington, California, Oregon and other states. To ensure that the Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed Fund is grounded in the values and knowledge of the local community, a funding advisory board of watershed, wetlands and marine science experts guides the fund.

Goals and Purpose of the Fund

Grant funds may be used for land acquisition, planning, permitting, monitoring and management, with the objective of restoring and enhancing shoreline and nearshore water quality and associated habitat within the waters of Puget Sound (including the Salish Sea) and its estuaries. Preferred projects are those that are of sufficient scale or significance to have a meaningful contribution to habitat restoration or enhancement in the Puget Sound (including the Salish Sea) and that can be completed within two years of the grant award. Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria for specific preferences and limitations regarding how and where funds may be used.

It is anticipated that grants will be awarded in the range of \$10,000 - \$100,000, and it is anticipated that grants will be awarded at both ends of this range. Applicants who want to explore ideas prior to submitting the proposal can contact Kevin Hendrick at khendrick@rosefdn.org.

Pre-Proposals must be received by 5PM, January 13, 2017. Strongly encouraged for all projects larger than \$25,000.

Final applications must be received by 5PM, February 10, 2017.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a grant from the Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed Fund (the Fund), the applicant and project must meet all of the following criteria:

- Project must be located in Whatcom, Skagit or San Juan Counties. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate significant past experience operating in these counties and/or are based in these counties.
- The project must be designed to improve (or prevent degradation) of the water quality of coastal wetlands, shorelines and nearshore waters associated with the Samish River, Nooksack River and other coastal watersheds within Whatcom, Skagit or San Juan Counties.
- The applicant must demonstrate the capacity to complete the proposed project, including experience in successfully conducting similar or otherwise related work in the past. Preference will be extended to projects that can demonstrate a long-term management and/or stewardship plan to preserve the project extending well beyond the end of the grant period.
- Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate matching funds. Applicants seeking funding for more than \$50,000 must be prepared to demonstrate a 1:1 match. If such a proposal is selected for funding, the applicant will be required to provide written documentation of the committed matching funds before the grant would be paid.
- The proposed project must be designed to make a meaningful contribution to coastal ecosystem restoration or enhancement in the Puget Sound/Salish Sea watershed, especially the coastal wetlands of Whatcom, Skagit or San Juan Counties. Preference shall be extended to projects that fit into existing plans, such as the Dept. of Ecology Watershed Characterization and Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project. Preference shall also be extended to projects that can be completed within two years of the grant award.
- The applicant must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit, or fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) non-profit; or a governmental or tribal entity.

Examples of Allowable Projects and Activities

These are the types of projects and activities that are eligible for funding:

- Enhancement or restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, including spawning habitat, in riparian, wetland or shoreline areas. Preference will be given to projects related to improving Pacific herring and other forage fish habitat.
- Restoration of historical or highly-degraded coastal wetlands areas or other aquatic resources that particularly relate to improving water quality.
- Removal of physical barriers such as bulkheads, culverts or dams and associated restoration activities.
- Land acquisition and associated planning, permitting, monitoring and management.
- Acquisition, restoration and enhancement projects may include educational and interpretive elements (such as sign and brochures) to educate the public.
- Reasonable organizational expenses, including staff, related to watershed improvement projects.

Examples of Projects that are Not Allowable

The following activities or types of projects will not be funded:

- Endowment, capital improvement or other similar projects (unless the proposed project directly involves watershed habitat acquisition or restoration).
- Engineering projects that do not directly enhance natural ecosystem processes.
- Policy advocacy, litigation, community organizing or general public outreach.
- Grants to individuals.
- Grants to for-profit businesses.
- Grants for general operating support.
- Grants for projects that are not Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed related, or are not in Whatcom, Skagit or San Juan Counties.
- No electoral involvement.
- No lobbying.

Application Process

Follow these instructions to apply for a Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed Grant. It is anticipated that grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$100,000 will be awarded. All proposals for more than \$25,000 are strongly encouraged to submit a pre-proposal by January 13, 2017. Proposals for over \$50,000 require a 1:1 match. Most grants will be for a 12 to 24 month period. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to propose schedules and timelines that are achievable and appropriate to the project – thus, timelines shorter than 12 months or longer than 24 months are allowable.

1) Instructions for Pre-Proposal (For projects greater than \$25,000)

All applicants interested in applying for a grant of more than \$25,000 are strongly encouraged to submit a pre-proposal letter. This allows Rose Foundation to determine if the proposal appears to be a good fit for the Fund. The letter should be **no longer than three pages**, and should concisely describe each of the following:

- **Contact Information:** Organization, contact name, mailing address, email address, phone number
- **Project:** What do you propose to do and how will you do it? When will the work be done? What outcome(s) do you want to achieve?

- **Strategy:** Why is this project important from an overall standpoint? How does it address the goals of this RFP and how does it fit in with other Puget Sound/Salish Sea Watershed initiatives or programs?
- **Evaluation:** How will you assess the effectiveness of the project and ensure its long-term sustainability?
- **Funding:** What is the total budget for the project? How much are you seeking from Rose Foundation? What other funders are you approaching? What is your group's overall budget?
- **Organization:** Profile the organization requesting funds. Describe past experience in natural resource recovery or restoration activities, and experience in the target watersheds of this RFP. What are your organization's major programs and most significant achievements over the past few years?

How to Submit your Pre-Proposal

Submit by email to: grants@rosefdn.org

*Please send your proposal as a PDF or MS Word attachment, and include the applicant organization's name or acronym in the file name of the attachment.

The deadline for receipt of Pre-Proposals is 5PM, January 13, 2017

2) Instructions for Applications

a) Check Eligibility: Please check all eligibility requirements before starting the application.

b) Read the Application Instructions: Please read all of the instructions carefully and follow them step-by-step. To access our online application system instructions, please visit <http://rosefdn.org/instructions>

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact us by email at grants@rosefdn.org or by phone at (510) 658-0702.

c) Start your Application: To get started on your application, please visit <http://rosefdn.org/onlineapplication>

d) Submittal Deadline: ***Your application must be submitted by 5PM, February 10, 2017.***

What Happens Next

You will receive an email acknowledgement of your Pre-Proposal or Application within few days of receipt. Applicants may or may not be contacted for follow up information or interviews. Applicants who submit full proposals should generally be available for interviews in the latter part of February and during March. Final funding decisions will be announced in April 2017.

For Further Information Contact:

Kevin Hendrick, Grant Manager

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