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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE**

July 2008

**Item #4:** **Funding Decision: Fisher Slough Construction Reserve Grant, RCO #07-1914R and 07-1833N**

Marc Duboiski, Outdoor Grants Manager

**Prepared By:**

Brian Abbott, Section Manager

**Presented By:**

**Approved by the Director:**

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**Proposed Action: Decision**

**Summary**

The Nature Conservancy, through the Skagit Watershed Council lead entity, has completed the Fisher Slough Floodgate Design Report (07-1883N) and is asking the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) to fund the Fisher Slough Floodgate Replacement construction reserve grant (07-1914R). The Board approved the funds in reserve in 2007.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Board approve funding for the Fisher Slough Floodgate replacement. Resolution 2008-010 is provided for Board consideration.

**Background**

As part of the 2007 Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR) funds, the Board adopted a policy for "phased design/construction projects" (Manual #18, 2007, Appendix A). The Board's intent was to accelerate implementation of projects funded under PSAR.



On December 13, 2007, the Board funded the Fisher Slough design grant (07-1833N) and approved Skagit Watershed Council to reserve \$615,511 in construction funds for the next phase of the project (07-1914R). The construction project also included \$108,594 in match for an estimated total project cost of \$724,105.

Restoration will include installation of self-regulating floodgates and the removal of antiquated culverts and fish passage barriers. The design predicts about 9.7 acres of freshwater tidal habitat will be restored and fish access will be improved to 15 miles of the Carpenter Creek Watershed.

The policy set forth in Appendix A of the SRFB 2007 Manual 18, allows projects that (1) are seeking funding for the construction phase, and (2) had funds reserved by the Board, to request funding at any future Board meeting after they complete the following.

1. The design work is completed.
2. The lead entity technical & citizen advisory group has reviewed the design, construction costs estimate, and identified no major concerns (using their local criteria).
3. The Board review panel has reviewed the design and construction cost estimates, and identified no major concerns (using the Board Project of Concern criteria).
4. Coordination has occurred with the Puget Sound Partnership and the project is noted in the work plan and considered a priority.
5. Appropriate match has been identified and secured to complete the project.

## **Analysis**

Staff reviewed the project and found that the project has met the criteria for further funding, as follows.

1. The Nature Conservancy completed the Fisher Slough Floodgate Design on June 4, 2008.
2. The Skagit Watershed Council Restoration and Protection subcommittee completed their local review on June 13, 2008 and had no major concerns. The subcommittee recommended approval to the SWC Board of Directors, which approved the design on June 18, 2008.
3. The Board review panel completed their state review on June 17, 2008 and had no major concerns.
4. The Skagit Watershed Council coordinated with the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) and received concurrence from Joe Ryan, PSP Salmon Program

Manager, on June 20, 2007. The project is a priority noted in the Skagit River Watershed three-year work plan.

5. The Nature Conservancy has secured their match through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Puget Sound Marine Funds.

### **Next Steps**

If the Board approves funding for the Fisher Slough Floodgate Replacement (07-1914R), then the RCO staff will develop the project agreement with The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy plans to begin advertising for the construction bid to complete the floodgate replacement by October 30, 2008.

### **Attachment**

Resolution 2008-010

**RESOLUTION #2008-010**

**Fisher Slough Construction Reserve Grant, RCO #07-1914R and 07-1833N**

**WHEREAS**, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (Board) mission statement includes support for programs and activities that produce sustainable and measurable benefits for fish and their habitat; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2007, the Board funded the Fisher Slough design grant (07-1833N) and approved Skagit Watershed Council to reserve \$615,511 in construction funds for the next phase of the project (07-1914R); and

**WHEREAS**, Board policy allows certain design projects to request construction funding at a future Board meeting if established criteria are met; and

**WHEREAS**, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff have reviewed the project's progress and determined that it has met the established criteria;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board approves funding for the Fisher Slough Floodgate Replacement (07-1914R) and authorizes the RCO director to execute an agreement to facilitate prompt implementation of this project.

*Resolution moved by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Resolution seconded by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_