

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Request for Proposals - Fact Sheet
October 10, 2007**

***Protecting Puget Sound Watersheds, Water Quality and Aquatic Resources
from the Impacts of Growth***

Purpose: **Assist local and tribal governments in managing land uses to protect watershed functions and values**
Eligible Applicants: **Entities of local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes in the greater Puget Sound Basin**
Estimated Total Funding: **\$2,500,000**
Expected Number of Grants: **Up to 10**
Expected Amount per Grant: **\$250,000 - \$625,000 federal, 25% non federal match**
Length of Grant: **2-4 years**
Anticipated Announcement Date: **October 2007 on Grants.gov and epa.gov/r10earth**
Points of Contact: **Sally Hanft, Hanft.Sally@epa.gov**

Anticipated Request for Proposals

In October 2007 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expects to issue a competitive grant announcement soliciting new assistance agreement proposals under EPA's Targeted Watershed Grants Program. The announcement will be designed to support the protection and restoration of high valued Puget Sound aquatic resources in areas threatened by growth pressures through holistic watershed protection and management approaches at the local level.

Local and tribal governments (including special purpose districts) in Puget Sound are uniquely positioned to address and minimize the impacts of population growth and land development through their land use management authorities. EPA is looking for opportunities to assist these entities in integrating land use programs and policies with watershed

management to proactively protect and restore watersheds. Successful proposals are expected to achieve measurable outcomes in terms of on-the-ground watershed protection or recovery of water quality and local aquatic resources. State agencies, institutions of higher learning and non-governmental entities will not be eligible to receive grant awards under the announcement; however, we strongly encourage their participation as local collaborators.

Protecting Watersheds that Support Healthy Aquatic Resources a Priority

The Puget Sound basin is the largest population center in the Pacific Northwest. The basin encompasses more than 16,000 square miles of land and contains more than a dozen major river systems. In December 2006 the Puget Sound Partnership recommended priorities for a healthy Sound by 2020. Anticipated projects funded

under the announcement will support the following Partnership priorities:

- Reduce stormwater and non-point source pollution impacts.
- Protect water quality from pathogens, toxics, and excess nutrients.
- Protect habitat including riparian forests, shorelines, floodplains, wetlands and marine waters.
- Protect ecosystem biodiversity and recover imperiled species.

Watershed Health Not Achievable with Current Development Patterns and Practices

The *2000 Puget Sound Plan, 2007-2009 Puget Sound Conservation and Recovery Plan* and *Puget Sound Partnership* recommendations recognize the impact of growth and development on the health of Puget Sound and the watersheds, salmon, shellfish and other species – including

humans - that depend on clean water and sustainable habitat. Over the next decade, local and tribal governments will be challenged to implement watershed protection approaches while accommodating an additional million-plus people.

Extensive scientific research shows that *where development is located, how much development occurs and what practices are used* greatly affects the chemical, physical and biological integrity of marine and fresh waters. Decisions regarding development patterns and parcel level practices can increase impervious cover and roads, require stream crossings for roads and utilities, and can include harmful land-clearing practices. The cumulative result is excessive stormwater that scours fish habitat and delivers pollutants, pathogens and excess nutrients to surface waters during wet weather, and significantly reduces water in streams during dry summer months.

Integrating Protection of Water Quality, Hydrology and Biology by Promoting Sensitive Land Use Practices

Local and tribal governments are faced with multiple planning processes and mandates. To integrate many of the processes and mandates into effective watershed protection and implementation, local and tribal managers need the best available scientific information to determine how ecological conditions can guide future land use

decisions. They also need tools and incentives to carry out development in a way that is sensitive to a watershed and its resources. The integration of watershed scale information and land use management tools can enable local and tribal governments to accommodate growth while protecting and restoring water quality, habitat and the hydrologic processes.

Eligible Activities That Make a Difference

Local and tribal governments are at various stages of developing and applying effective and robust watershed programs. Some need to improve their scientific understanding of their watersheds. Others understand how their watersheds work and need assistance implementing the plan. Under the announcement, preference will be given to multifaceted proposals that lead to measurable outcomes or proposals that fill critical program needs leading to significant environmental results. Therefore, a wide range of activities will be eligible including, but not limited to, proposals that:

- Enhance and implement watershed protection and restoration plans, land use plans, stormwater controls and/or land development standards to maintain native vegetation and natural hydrology by protecting and restoring wetland, riparian, upland, and near shore habitats and ecological processes, while accommodating growth.

- Refine and implement watershed and land use plans based on watershed models predicting hydrologic impacts of alternative, future land cover conditions, development scenarios and resulting aquatic resource conditions.
- Develop and carry out laws, ordinances and incentive programs to implement watershed programs such as systematic implementation of low impact development, land acquisition, and transfer of development rights.
- Increase data and information available to local decision-makers who write and implement laws, ordinances and permits.
- Monitor and measure watershed indicators to report on restoration or protection activities.
- Implement watershed-based, interagency monitoring and public involvement and education efforts to establish and run stream-team type approaches that monitor and assess conditions and trends of water quality and aquatic resources.

Successful proposals will demonstrate how activities address the impacts of growth while achieving watershed protection and restoration goals. Activities required under Clean Water Act regulatory programs (e.g. TMDL or NPDES permit development or implementation requirements) are not eligible for funding.

⇒ For additional information on developing and submitting proposals, eligible activities, selection criteria, please see October announcement.