

## **Puget Sound Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

### **Request for Proposals Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Q:** Must the projects take place on private land only? (“...focusing available resources to work with agricultural and rural landowners to implement best management practices.”)
  - **A:** All work under a proposal is not required to take place on private lands. However, if you intend to access the NRCS EQIP funds available under the RFP for the projects, there is a private lands only requirement for those funds.
  
2. **Q:** Are there income requirements similar to other USDA-NRCS programs?
  - **A:** Yes, an adjusted gross income form (AGI) for each landowner applying for EQIP funds has to be on file with USDA similar to other NRCS programs.
  
3. **Q:** Can sponsor match come from work done on public ROW (ex: upgrading a public culvert to allow for better fish passage, in same creek tributary)?
  - **A:** Yes, work on public lands funded by a sponsor or a partner can be counted as match so long as the work is directly related to the goals and objectives of your project proposal. For example, if correcting a blocked fish passage on a public ROW is part of a focused effort in a sub-basin to improve habitat for salmon or address water quality issues.
  
4. **Q:** Are payments made directly to the project sponsor, or is the landowner involved somehow?
  - **A:** When a landowner signs up for EQIP and enters into a contract with NRCS, those funds are directly paid from USDA NRCS to the landowner when the work is completed. Payments for technical assistance funds from either NRCS or the WSCC are paid to the project sponsor.
  
5. **Q:** When determining whether or not a particular project area falls within a blue/dark blue priority area, should the overall, cumulative map be referred to or could the project area be eligible if it falls within the blue shading on any one of the individual maps in the Opportunity for Targeted BMPs report?
  - **A:** The overall, cumulative map should be used to determine whether or not a project area falls within the priority, blue shaded areas. Also, please refer to the interactive mapping tool linked [here](#) which should be helpful in determining project area eligibility.
  
6. **Q:** Can both on the ground work and programmatic activities be included in a proposal?

- **A:** Yes, however the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding available under the RFP has specific rules associated with it. See the link on page 3 of the RFP to *EQIP rules and guidelines*.
7. **Q:** When implementing a BMP on private lands is adhering to the NOAA buffer metric required?
- **A:** The funds available for BMP implementation under this RFP are not directly tied to NOAA buffer specifications. The USDA NRCS has their own list of eligible BMPs and BMP practice standards and specifications. Please see the link on page 4 of the RFP: *EQIP rules and guidelines*.
8. **Q:** Are publicly owned lands eligible?
- **A:** Work on publicly owned lands may be part of a project proposal. Please see the link on page 4 of the RFP, *EQIP rules and guidelines*, for eligibility to utilize those funds. WSCC funds available under this RFP do allow work on publicly owned lands at a reduced cost share rate not to exceed 50%.