

Riparian Plant Propagation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

General questions

1. What is the Riparian Plant Propagation Program?

The Riparian Plant Propagation Program (RPPP) was established to support statewide salmon recovery efforts by increasing the availability of native trees and shrubs needed for streamside restoration.

The program has been divided into three categories:

- **Propagation:** Working with nurseries to increase the propagation of trees and/or shrubs.
- **Cultivation:** Funding for conservation districts to support plant cultivation.
- **Restoration:** Matching plants with restoration groups for riparian restoration projects.

2. Who is eligible to participate?

This program is available to conservation districts, nurseries, and restoration groups with expertise in propagating woody plant materials and/or expertise in riparian restoration. To further enhance the program, conservation districts are encouraged to partner with restoration groups. Restoration groups can be comprised of salmon enhancement groups, tribes, non-profits, local, state or federal agencies, and county groups actively involved in restoration work in Washington state.

3. What part of the program can I participate in?

Participant	Propagation	Cultivation	Restoration
Nurseries	✅ Contract grows.	❌ Not applicable	❌ Not applicable
Conservation Districts	✅ Some propagation allowed at holding sites.	✅ Can grow out plants at holding sites.	✅ Can receive plants from the nursery contract grows.
Restoration Groups	❌ Not applicable	✅ Can partner with district holding sites and receive plants.	✅ Can receive plants from the nursery contract grows.

4. What is a riparian habitat?

A riparian habitat is an area of land that surrounds a river, stream, or other body of water, and is often home to a variety of plant and animal species adapted to wetland conditions. This program aims to restore riparian habitat that is beneficial to salmon, which is an important keystone species in Washington state. In addition, riparian habitats are important for water quality, soil health, erosion control, and wildlife habitat.

5. What types of plants are funded through this program?

Washington's riparian habitats are home to a variety of trees and shrubs that are well-suited for a wetland environment. Some common examples include red alder, black cottonwood, Pacific willow, Sitka spruce, bigleaf maple, quaking aspen, common snowberry, Nootka rose, and Indian plum. You can learn more in detail about which tree and shrubs species are specific to your area here: [Shrub and Tree Species for Planting in Riparian Areas.](#)

Propagation

6. How can my nursery apply to grow contracted plants for SCC?

Applications are submitted through a competitive solicitation, based on funding availability. The solicitation is run through the State Webs System (WEBS). Registration for WEBS is free and required to participate. You may register here: [https://pr-webs-vendor.des.wa.gov.](https://pr-webs-vendor.des.wa.gov)

7. Who is eligible to apply?

Nurseries that have a valid business license in Washington state and any additional licenses, certifications, or permits necessary to be in compliance with all federal and state regulations to grow and distribute native plants are eligible to apply. Both private and non-profit nurseries are eligible.

8. What does the competitive solicitation process involve?

Nurseries applying through the competitive solicitation will submit bids on the quantity, species, plant size/type based on information provided by SCC. Proposals will also include a section to demonstrate knowledge of native plant propagation practices.

9. How long does the competitive solicitation take?

The solicitation process is 45 days in length and includes both a pre-bid conference and Q&A period to answer any questions that may arise.

10. What type of plants are we expected to grow?

SCC will provide a detailed plant list with each competitive solicitation to include species, quantity, size, and type. The list will be comprised of native riparian trees and shrubs in various forms, such as pots, bareroot, cuttings, or plugs. The list will also outline required seed zones and ecoregions.

11. Will the delivery location be specified in the solicitation?

Plant delivery locations will vary by solicitation and awarded bids. Plants will be organized by ecoregion or seed zone, allowing nurseries to select plants based on their capabilities. Specific delivery addresses will be determined once awarded a contract.

12. How long is the grow period?

Plant propagation will span 2-3 years with deliverables due by June 30 of the agreed upon year. SCC recognizes that plant delivery is typically in the fall and spring and can extend the contracts to accommodate seasonal delivery schedules.

13. Once awarded a contract, what are the next steps?

After being awarded a contract, the RPPP manager will coordinate with you and the restoration groups via email to confirm orders. You will be provided delivery details and an invoice of the order for your review.

Cultivation

Project set up

14. Can we place a plant order with a nursery prior to being awarded funding if no deposit is required?

No, however, you may get a detailed estimate from a nursery for your anticipated plant order.

15. Can a district use RPPP funds to lease a space for next fiscal year, but pay for it within the fiscal year the funds were awarded?

No, leasing must be paid for within the fiscal year in which the award was funded, since it is a deliverable. Deliverables must be received by June 30 of each fiscal year.

Partnerships

16. Can my district partner with a private landowner to build a holding site?

Yes, a signed agreement will be required, and districts should discuss the risks of building a holding site on the landowner property to ensure full understanding of the program.

17. My district is interested in partnering with a school district. Does this fit within the scope of the program?

Yes, several districts have already partnered with schools and this program encourages community engagement. For examples, please check out the past projects list on the website to see how other districts have partnered with schools.

18. Can my district be awarded funding if we are not finished with our partner agreements?

Yes, provided your district is in the process of a partner agreement, the funding can be awarded.

19. My district is partnering with a non-profit entity. Can our partner sign the order for plants purchased with RPPP funds or does it need to be the district?

SCC's agreement is with the district, so the district would need to sign for the plants.

Expenses

20. Can districts hire students or other staff at the school to cover some of the labor of the plants?

Yes, students can be hired for labor provided that all state of Washington labor laws are followed. Other staff at the school may be hired as well. Districts partnering with non-profit entities must have a signed agreement in progress or in place prior to being awarded funding.

21. Is there a limit on the funds that can be requested for both labor and overhead?

There is not an official limit for the amount that can be requested for labor. It is up to the conservation district to justify what is needed for labor, which is reviewed by the RPPP review committee when evaluating the applications. Overhead is allowed to be 25% of the total labor cost. This can be calculated as: employee hours x employee rate (composite rate) x 25%.

22. Can RPPP funding be used to maintain and repair a plant cooler to keep the plants dormant prior to planting?

Yes, this is an eligible expense since it directly relates to an RPPP holding site project to maintain funded plants.

23. Can RPPP funds be used to purchase a small tractor or UTV?

Yes, as long as it is reasonably sized and justification is provided in the application for why it is needed for the holding site.

24. Can I use RPPP funds for a portable irrigation system that can be rented out to clients for planting establishment?

No, RPPP only funds the propagation and cultivation of riparian trees and shrubs. Funds cannot be used for the implementation of restoration projects.

Plant Distribution and Care

25. Can a district use funding to build a holding site and use it for plant sales instead of purchasing plants through RPPP?

No, holding sites funded through this program are intended to be used exclusively for RPPP plant storage and not for other district plant sale operations.

26. Can plants purchased through RPPP be given away through a free plant program?

Yes, as long as the conservation district tracks plant distribution and can confirm that they will be planted in riparian restoration sites to benefit salmon recovery. Plants cannot be given away to participants of a workshop or other outreach activity to take home as enticement or gift for attending the event.

27. My district received diseased plants from a nursery that we used RPPP funds to purchase. What should we do?

If you receive damaged or diseased plants that were purchased through RPPP's contract grows, please notify the RPPP manager to coordinate a refund or replacement.

Restoration

28. If I fill out the 'Plant Needs Form', am I making an official plant order?

No, the 'Plant Needs Form' is the first step in making a plant order and collects anticipated plant orders. The information you provide is used in the competitive solicitation process for contract grows, where nurseries will bid on the plants listed. The RPPP manager will reach out to officially confirm orders in the subsequent fall/winter.

29. Who is eligible to receive plants from the contract grows?

These plants are available for restoration groups actively implementing riparian restoration projects in Washington state. This includes conservation districts, non-profits, tribes, counties, state or federal agencies, etc.

30. What information will be required if I confirm plant orders in the fall/winter?

When the RPPP manager reaches out via email to confirm orders, any interested groups must provide an address and a general delivery timeline.

31. What is required of my agency to receive the plants?

To receive plants through this program, your restoration group must complete a [receipt form](#) within 7 days of plant delivery, documenting their health and quality. Additionally, you will be required to update SCC on [restoration metrics](#) once they are implemented in restoration projects such as project location, acres restored, and other relevant details.

Reporting

32. What reporting is required for the Riparian Plant Propagation Program?

All program participants must complete annual reporting to SCC. Reporting helps SCC track statewide progress in riparian restoration, plant propagation, cultivation outcomes, and distribution.

Some reporting requirements may be tied to the Climate Commitment Act (CCA), which requires additional documentation when projects serve overburdened communities and vulnerable populations.

33. What Climate Commitment Act reporting is required?

Participants receiving CCA funding must submit information each fiscal year demonstrating how funded activities benefited or served overburdened communities and vulnerable populations, as defined by Washington state law. This annual reporting may include project locations, populations served, environmental benefits delivered, and other metrics required. Metrics are defined by Washington State Department of Ecology, who oversees CCA reporting. To stay informed on reporting deadlines and criteria, participants should subscribe to the [RPPP newsletter](#). All information on CCA will be posted on the [SCC CCA webpage](#).