# WRIA 12 Project Prioritization Discussion

Goal: Develop a plan with projects that offset the estimated consumptive PE domestic well use through 2038 and achieve a net ecological benefit.

Background: According to the NEB Guidance, plans must include an accounting of the offsets from the projects and actions described in the plan and cost estimates for projects and actions.

HDR’s contract includes evaluating between 2 and 10 projects in more detail, including:

* General characterization of the offset quantities.
* Order-of-magnitude, planning-level estimates of capital and operating costs.

Note: HDR’s contract states that they will not be responsible to develop project designs, project-specific drawings, detailed operational schemes, or feasibility studies for any specific projects or actions.

Status: Based on this information, the workgroup went through the project list and identified projects to recommend that HDR to characterize offset quantities and estimate costs. The workgroup focused on projects located in specific watersheds. Workgroup members identified what information each project needed from HDR. Workgroup focused on projects with the following qualities:

* Specific locations and actions.
* Offset potential.
* Located outside of the nearshore area.
* Information generally available.

The workgroup had specific concerns about projects in the Clover Creek basin, including:

* Removing asphalt from channels raises complex questions about hydrology – where and when the project might reduce or increase flows, and the timing of habitat benefits.
* Potential to exacerbate groundwater flooding needs to be better understood for the North Fork Clover Creek project idea. The USGS Groundwater Model, when complete, would provide some answers.
* Habitat projects just upstream of where Clover Creek runs under McChord Field may not provide much benefit for salmonids because the runway may act as a barrier. There are also concerns with groundwater contamination from PFAS near McChord Field.
* More assessment is needed for projects in the Clover subbasin. This need is captured in a WRIA-wide project. The workgroup did not review the WRIA-wide projects or proposed studies.

## Next Steps:

1. The full committee will consider the five projects recommended for deeper HDR review.
2. The full committee will review and prioritize the WRIA-wide projects, the North Fork Clover Infiltration project, and proposed studies for deeper review.
   1. Additional project development may fall on committee members or project sponsors, depending on the level of development desired by committee members.
   2. PGG’s infiltration analysis will help in developing and conceptualizing some of the infiltration-based projects (MAR, wastewater treatment, stormwater, etc.)
3. The workgroup will continue to prioritize the WRIA-wide projects at their February 24 meeting.

## Recommended Projects for HDR Evaluation (1/30/2020)

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| Project Name | Project Type | Pertinent Subbasin(s) | Brief Project Description | Sponsor | Project Stage | Task for HDR |
| South Tacoma Channel | Offset/Habitat | Chambers | Reroute storm water discharge away from the Thea Foss Waterway to the Flett Creek basin, and develop the South Tacoma Stormwater Channel to improve permeability. The site has the potential for infiltration, leading to groundwater recharge of aquifers. However, the exact water for water benefit is difficult to estimate and would require hydrogeologic analysis as part of a feasibility study. Rough costs estimates are in the range of $7 million to $11 million total. Project includes 1) Infiltration facility in the South Tacoma Channel Stormwater Ditch; 2) an MAR infiltration gallery at SERA park; and 3) restoring the Flett Creek channel to reconnect the springs and plant riparian vegetation. | City of Tacoma | Planning/  Feasibility | Work with City of Tacoma and their consultant to pull the information about project together for a summary for the plan. |
| Protect and restore main stem habitat | Offset/Habitat | Chambers | Place large woody debris and other treatments as needed along the main stem Chambers Creek, based on study. May be able to quantify storage opportunities. | Puyallup Tribe | Design (what and where?) | Work with Puyallup Tribe to look at designs and identify if there are potential water offsets. |
| Peach Creek Stream Restoration | Offset/Habitat | Chambers | Potential project to address stream incision. May contribute small offset. | Pierce County (Potential) | Conceptual | Compare to Clark's Creek project in WRIA 10 (cost per linear foot/offset per linear foot). Lower priority. |
| JBLM reclaimed water project | Offset | Sequalitchew | Find customers for JBLM reclaimed water to replace water right. Install "purple pipe" to convey water to new | JBLM (potential) | Phase 2 | Look into whether this project be cost effective and whether it provide an offset. (Where does the reclaimed water go now?) |
| Upper Sequalitchew Restoration (stormwater/beaver) | Offset/Habitat | Sequalitchew | Currently, stormwater and water from Sequalitchew Creek is diverted down the stormwater canal straight to the Puget Sound, leaving the creek dry. The project will install a diversion structure to regulate flow between Sequalitchew Creek and stormwater canal, install a gauging station, remove cross culvert, reroute stormwater, install berm, remove fish screen and install beaver control. SPSSEG will provide beaver management based on upcoming beaver management plan. When complete, streamflow and stormwater will pass through marsh area and down Sequalitchew Creek. This project is part of a larger Sequalitchew Creek project restoration plan. | JBLM/  SPSSEG | Design. 100% design expected in Oct. 2020 | Work with JBLM with design to identify offset potential. |