

2026 Manual 18 Updates

Each year RCO updates Manual 18 with policy changes approved by the board and administrative clarifications suggested by staff, applicants, or lead entities. The following include the substantive changes made for 2026.

- Section 1: provided links to contacts on RCO's website where they stay up to date.
- Section 2: under Acquisition Projects, the last paragraph provides direction on scenarios and process applicants will need to follow when they want to limit or restrict public access.
- Section 4: added Conflict of Interest policy and narrative section regarding the Review Panel.
- Section 6: Updated the Cultural Resources Review, Review Process, section.
- Appendix changes: the Salmon Recovery Contacts appendix was deleted, links were provided in Section 1. Following is the new order of Appendices, including any relevant substantive changes.
- Appendix A: Application Checklist. For Targeted Investments projects, project presentation slides, visuals, or recorded video is a required attachment for the grant round.
- Appendix B: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Fund, updated for the 2026 grant round.
- Appendix C: Funded Project Forms
- Appendix D: Design and Restoration Project Deliverables. To make this appendix more accessible, the information was reformatted. Mainly the information is no longer presented in tables and instead is provided in a narrative layout.
- Appendix E: SRFB Evaluation Criteria
- Appendix F: Lead Entity Project Evaluation. Reformatted from table to narrative to make it more accessible.
- Appendix G: Regional Area Summary Information
- Appendix H: SRFB Amendment Request Authority
- Appendix I: Riparian Planting Projects
- Appendix J: Targeted Investments Program, updated the appendix to include the December 2025 SRFB decisions for the 2026 grant round, specific Sections include Project Eligibility, Submission, Resubmission, Project Presentation attachment requirement, and Evaluation Criteria.
- Appendix K: Quantifying Habitat Types for Acquisition Projects
- Appendix L: Riparian Funding Policies and Guidelines. The Tribal Notification requirement that is related to Climate Commitment Act Funding was removed because the 2025-27 Riparian funding is state bond funding. Additional information provided on what to include in Existing Conditions Assessment for invasive species control projects.