

# Grant Summary

## FACT SHEET

### Recreation and Conservation Office

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### Who Can Apply?

- Local governments
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Federal agencies
- Tribes
- Nonprofits
- Private landowners
- Corporations

### Competitive Selection Process

The grant process varies by program but is open and competitive.

Generally, grant applications are reviewed by staff and citizen committees, who score the applications based on criteria established by the funding boards or agencies, or based on their fit to strategic plans or national priorities.

The committees submit ranked lists of projects to the funding boards or agencies for consideration.

In some cases, the boards then submit prioritized lists of projects to the Governor, Legislature, or federal agencies for approval.

## Outdoor Recreation and Conservation Support Washington's Economy

Washington State is blessed with a rich, natural heritage – from the Pacific Ocean, to the Olympic and Cascade Mountain Ranges, to forests, deserts, and lake-studded landscapes. These very natural places not only provide residents and visitors with places to relax, rejuvenate, and recreate, but they help drive Washington's economy.

A recent study of the economic value of outdoor recreation in Washington, found the following:

### ▪ \$21.6 Billion

Spent in Washington on recreation trips and equipment annually.

### ▪ 199,000 Jobs

Direct and indirect jobs supported in Washington.

### ▪ \$2 Billion

Local and state taxes collected.

### ▪ \$4.6 Billion

Generated by out-of-state visitors.

In addition, parks and natural areas can help people stay healthy, reducing health care costs, and reduce the costs of flooding, fires, and other natural disasters.

## Ensuring a Wise Investment

The Recreation and Conservation Office administers 20 different grant programs aimed at developing outdoor recreation facilities, bringing salmon back from the brink of extinction, reducing the risk of flood and conserving wildlife habitat and working farms and forests.

Without this state investment in Washington's outdoors, many local communities would not have the resources to do this important work and opportunities could be lost.

## Leveraging Outside Funding

Many of these grant programs are funded with federal dollars. Since 2005, the Recreation and Conservation Office has brought in an average of nearly \$54 million in federal funding each biennium.

In addition to federal funding, Recreation and Conservation Office grants bring in local community funding as well. Most grant recipients are required to match the grant with their own resources—cash, staff labor, equipment, materials, and donations. To date, grant recipients have contributed more than \$1 billion in matching resources.



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## INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

### Providing for Recreation



#### Parks

Several grant programs provide funding for parks. Grants in these programs can be used to buy land and renovate, build, and equip outdoor facilities, including parks, ball fields, skateboard parks, spray parks, and pools. Grants also fund projects that create access to the waterfront.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- RCO Recreation Grants
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
- Youth Athletic Facilities

#### Trails

Trails, whether connecting urban areas or providing a backcountry experience, are funded primarily through three grant programs. Grants in these programs can be used to buy land, develop trails, and support trail activities, such as planning, maintenance, education, and law enforcement.

- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
- Recreational Trails Program
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

#### Boating

To meet the needs of Washington boaters, several programs provide grants to acquire, develop, and renovate boating facilities different types of boats from yachts to canoes.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Boating Facilities Program
- Boating Infrastructure Grant
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

#### Shooting Ranges

One grant program, the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation program, provides grants to acquire,

develop, and renovate firearm and archery training and practice facilities. It also funds equipment purchases, safety and environmental improvements, noise abatement, and liability insurance.

### Conserving Wildlife Habitat and Working Farms and Forests



#### Conserving Habitat

Several programs protect wildlife habitat by funding land purchases and restoration to conserve unique sensitive and endangered wildlife and plant species.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

#### Salmon Recovery

These programs provide grants to protect and restore salmon habitat.

- Salmon recovery
- Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program
- Family Forest Fish Passage Program
- Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration
- Puget Sound Critical Stock
- Washington Coast Restoration Initiative

#### Farmland and Forestland Preservation

One grant program, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, provides grants to protect working forests and valuable farmland.

#### Other



RCO provides grants for a variety of other purposes. The No Child Left Inside program provides grants for environmental education, and the Chehalis Basin Flood Strategy provides grants to minimize the damage of flooding in the Lewis County area.