



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

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May 15, 2007

**TOPIC #4c: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Allocation of Unused Funds 2007-2009**

Approved by the Director: *LEJ*

Prepared & Presented By: Marguerite Austin, Manager

Proposed Action: Decision

Summary:

More than \$1.1 million in Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funds from the 2007-2009 Capital Budget are available for distribution to alternate or partially funded projects. The funds are from two categories that were undersubscribed. To ensure timely expenditure of funds, staff is asking for approval to use these dollars to fund partially funded projects in other eligible categories.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends using the uncommitted Habitat Conservation Account funds for Stavis NRCA/Kitsap Forest NAP 2006, a partially funded Urban Wildlife Habitat category project. Staff also recommends using the uncommitted funds from the Outdoor Recreation Account for a partially funded Local Parks category project, Eastside Trail Acquisition - North Segment. This recommendation is based on the following parameters:

- › Provide funds to the highest ranked eligible alternate
- › Provide funds to partially funded projects that need additional funding to complete the scope of work included in the project proposal, and
- › Provide funds to projects that best implement the overall intent of WWRP, "...to acquire as soon as possible the most significant lands for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses...."



Background:

Habitat Conservation Account. One of the new categories added to WWRP is State Lands Restoration and Enhancement. Only the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources are eligible applicants. By statute this category receives ten percent of the funds allocated to the Habitat Conservation Account. With \$100 million approved for the program, the category received \$3,492,000.¹

Last year applicants submitted thirteen State Lands Restoration projects requesting \$2,398,007. Subsequent to IAC and Legislative final approval of the ranked list of projects, the Department of Fish and Wildlife withdrew the Wooten Wildlife Area project when it received funding from another source. As a result, the total funds requested in this category are \$2,365,592 leaving a balance of \$1,126,408.

Outdoor Recreation Account. The Water Access category is just one of the five categories in the Outdoor Recreation Account. Eleven projects requesting \$5,211,005 were submitted for fund consideration. Statutorily this category receives \$5,238,000¹, or fifteen percent, of the \$100 million approved for WWRP. Subsequently, there is an unused balance of \$26,995.

When not enough project applications are submitted in a category within the Habitat Conservation or Outdoor Recreation accounts, the Board may distribute those remaining funds to other categories within the respective accounts.²

Analysis:

Habitat Conservation Account. State Lands Restoration and Enhancement is one of four categories within the Habitat Conservation Account. Since there were enough monies to fund all of the projects in that category, the remaining funds can be used for alternates or partially funded projects in the Critical Habitat, Natural Areas, or Urban Wildlife Habitat categories.

This chart identifies the first partially funded project in each category.

Category	Rank	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Request	Grant Award to Date	Unfunded Balance
Critical Habitat	8 of 9	WDFW	Mid-Columbia Shrub Steppe	\$3,129,000	\$890,702	\$2,238,298
Natural Areas	7 of 8	DNR	Bald Hill NRCA 2006	\$4,030,600	\$2,601,211	\$1,429,389
Urban Wildlife	3 of 8	DNR	Stavis NRCA/Kitsap Forest	\$3,222,555	\$1,887,960	\$1,334,595

As you can see the Department of Natural Resources' Stavis NRCA/Kitsap Forest NAP 2006 received the highest relative ranking in the three categories. Under normal circumstances, this project would have received full funding through the statutory

¹ This amount represents the statutory allocation minus administrative dollars.

² RCW 79A.15.040(2)(b) and 79A.15.050(2)(b)

allocation to the category. A proviso in the State Capital Budget, however, requires allocation of forty percent of the funds to local government projects, so this higher ranked Urban Wildlife category project received partial funding.³

After reviewing the options and considering the ranking of projects and project sponsor needs, staff recommends using the unspent Habitat Conservation Account monies for the Stavis NRCA/Kitsap Forest NAP project. The amount of \$1,126,408 would be added to the partial funding already provided.

Outdoor Recreation Account. The following chart shows the highest ranked partially funded Outdoor Recreation Account (ORA) projects that are eligible for unused dollars from the Water Access category.

Category	Type	Rank	Project Sponsor	Project Name	Grant Request	Grant Award to Date	Unfunded Balance
Local Parks	Dev	28 of 69	Gig Harbor	Westside Neighborhood Pk	\$300,000	\$223,590	\$76,410
State Lands Development	Dev	8 of 18	DNR	McLane Creek Nature Trail	\$249,850	\$71,962	\$177,888
State Parks	Dev	9 of 14	State Parks	D Pass-Cornet Bay/Hoypus Pt.	\$820,440	\$485,327	\$335,113
Trails	Acq	8 of 24	King Co.	Eastside Trail Acq-North Seg.	\$2,000,000	\$116,790	\$1,883,210

Unlike projects in the Habitat Conservation Account where the evaluation criteria used to score projects are virtually identical, there are no appropriate parallels for the five categories in this account. The ranking of projects does, however, provide an indication of the relative ranking within a category. In this instance, King County's Eastside Trail Acquisition – North Segment appears to be the highest-ranking alternate.

In addition, a priority for WWRP is to acquire and protect resources before they are converted to other uses. Allowing the unused funds to be disbursed to the relatively highest ranked alternate, which is also an acquisition project, appears to best meet the program goals. This is also a priority for the Water Access category, which is the source of the excess funds. Staff recommends using the Outdoor Recreation Account funds for the Eastside Trail, applying the additional \$26,995 to the \$116,790 partial funding amount.

³ ESHB 1092 §3146 (3)).

RESOLUTION #2007-08
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Allocation of Unused Funds for Fiscal Year 2008 Projects

WHEREAS, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) recommended ranked lists of eligible Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) projects to the Governor for inclusion in the 2007-2009 Capital Budget, and

WHEREAS, Governor Gregoire submitted to the 2007 Legislature all IAC recommended fiscal year 2008 projects for funding consideration, and

WHEREAS, the Legislature approved the project list in LEAP Capital Document No. 2007-3 and the 2007-2009 Capital Budget (Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1092) which includes \$100 million for WWRP, and

WHEREAS, there are unused monies after funding all the projects in the State Lands Restoration and Enhancement category of the Habitat Conservation Account and the Water Access category of the Outdoor Recreation Account, and

WHEREAS, there are viable and eligible partially funded alternates in each account,

WHEREAS, RCW 79A.15 authorizes IAC to distribute any remaining funds to other categories within the same account,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation hereby approves funding IAC #06-1743A, Stavis NRCA/Kitsap NAP2006 project with unused Habitat Conservation Account monies and IAC #06-1965A, Eastside Trail Acquisition – North Segment with unused Outdoor Recreation Account funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director is authorized to execute all necessary agreements or amendments to implement this funding decision.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: June 7, 2007