

Item # 7

**WWRP
Riparian Protection Account**

June 2007

Topics

1. Maximum grant award
2. Incorporation of mitigation banking projects
3. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) policies

1. Maximum Grant Award

- Current limit is \$1 million
- Board waived limit in 2006 for projects transferred from other categories
- For 2008: Consider whether to increase the cap.

2. Incorporating Mitigation Banking Projects

- Mitigation banking projects - eligible in RPA, Critical Habitat and Urban Wildlife categories.
- 2006: IAC approved a mitigation banking pilot process, and dedicated funds.
- June 2007: Two pilot projects were proposed and are on WWRP list for approval.

2. Incorporating Mitigation Banking Projects, (con't)

- Options for 2008:
 - Use same criteria and earmark additional funds for additional pilot projects; OR
 - Evaluate proposals through the traditional process (no earmark of funds)

3. CREP Leases

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): administered by Washington Conservation Commission.
- Private lands along streambanks are leased for 10 – 15 years.
- Lease extensions are eligible in RPA.

CREP Issues

- Who will hold the lease?
- Lease language
- Lease valuation instructions
- Lease enforcement requirements
- Payment for leases over time or lump sum

CREP Issues (con't)

- Public access
- Sponsor match
- Protect investment via deed restriction or some other vehicle
- Land uses allowed during the lease period
- Planning eligibility requirements
- Incorporate into the existing evaluation criteria

RPA Changes: Next Steps

- June – July: Staff analysis and review
- August: Public review of draft changes
- September: Report to Board
- October: Final draft for public review
- November: Board reviews and decides
- January 2008: Application Workshops
