

Item # 8

**WWRP
Population Points
Outdoor Recreation Account**

June 2007

Background

- Request from Jefferson County in 2007 focused on the weight given for population points
- Issue has been brought up in previous years by applicants
- There is a perception that the five point value is too great a handicap

Population: Current Rules

- RCW: 79A.25.250: IAC Urban Area Parks
"...the legislature hereby directs the interagency committee for outdoor recreation to place a high priority on the acquisition, development, redevelopment, and renovation of parks to be located in or near urban areas and to be particularly accessible to and used by the populations of those areas."

Population: Current Rules

IAC Manual 10a, WWRP: Outdoor Recreation
Evaluation Criteria – Proximity to Human Populations

1. *Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities/towns, and county density?*
 - a. *Urban growth area/incorporated city/town*
 - b. *High density county*
2. *Is the project located in a populated area? (SLD)*

Population: Current Rules

Proximity to Human Populations

Category	Maximum Population Pts.	Maximum Points Possible
• Local Parks	5	7% of 70
• State Lands Dev.	1	2% of 56
• State Parks	5	7% of 75
• Trails	5	6% of 80
• Water Access	5	8% of 65

Population: Options

- No change
- Determine if the statutory intent applies only to "parks" and not other recreation areas like trails and water access sites.
- Modify the evaluation criteria to reduce the points awarded for population proximity.
- Other?

Pros & Cons

Make Changes

- Establishes greater equity between rural vs. urban projects
- Places more emphasis on other evaluation criteria or category priorities
- Provides a greater chance of funding high quality regional trails in rural areas

Do Not Change

- Provides a higher degree of certainty that projects closer to urban areas will score higher
- Does not take into account low population areas that have huge amounts of tourism

Population: Next Steps

- June – IAC review and analyze options
- July – Draft options for public review
- August – Public comment on the options
- September – Report to Board and finalize option
- October – Final draft of changes for review
- November – Board action on recommendation
- January 2008 – Application Workshops

SCORED BY IAC STAFF

10. **Proximity to Human Populations. Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities/towns, and county density?**
Acquisition/Development; RCW 79A.25.250 (IAC urban area parks)

This question is scored by IAC staff based on a map provided by the applicant. To receive credit, the map must describe the project area and contain a circle with a five-mile radius. As its hub, the circle must use the point on the project's boundary closest to a city or town. The single city or town (if any, including urban growth area boundary) with the highest population touched by the circle is counted in part "a," below. The result from "a" (cities) is added to the result from "b" (counties). This takes into account that counties with high *average* densities are made up of both high and low density areas. Projects located near cities over 5000 population *and* within high density counties receive points from both "a" and "b".

- a. Within 5 miles of a GMA urban growth area boundary or the boundary of an incorporated city/town. In either case, the score is based on the city/town population (OFM):

➤	0 -	4,999.....	(0 points)
➤	5,000 -	9,999.....	(1 point)
➤	10,000 -	29,999.....	(2 points)
➤	30,000 -	149,999.....	(3 points)
➤	150,000 -	299,999.....	(4 points)
➤	300,000 -	and above.....	(5 points)

- b. In a county with a population density (OFM) of:

➤	0 -	249.....	(0 points)
➤	250 -	324.....	(1 point)
➤	325 -	399.....	(2 points)
➤	400 -	474.....	(3 points)
➤	475 -	549.....	(4 points)
➤	550 -	and above.....	(5 points)

IAC staff awards a maximum of 10 points that are later multiplied by 0.5.

Revised May 7, 2003

SCORED BY IAC STAFF

7. **PROXIMITY TO HUMAN POPULATIONS. Is the project located in a populated area?**
RCW 79A.25.250 (IAC urban area parks)

IAC policy is to give funding preference to projects located in populated areas. Populated areas are defined (RCW 43.52.380) as a town or city with a population of 5,000 or more, or a county with a population density of 250 or more people per square mile.

Is the project in an area meeting this definition?

Point Range: 0-1

IAC staff awards a maximum of 1 point; there is no multiplier.



1820 Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phil Johnson, District 1 David W. Sullivan, District 2 John Austin, District 3

May 7, 2007

RECEIVED
MAY 10 2007
INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Ms. Val Ogden, Chair
IAC Board
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

Dear Ms. Ogden,

Jefferson County respectfully requests that the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation revisit the point structure in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's population proximity criterion. While we agree it is important to recognize areas with greater populations, the large point spread in the scoring actually penalizes counties with small populations.

Rural counties need trail systems.

Jefferson County is a rural county located on the North Olympic Peninsula. With a population of approximately 28,000 residents, most live in and around the city of Port Townsend and the population clusters of Port Hadlock, Chimacum, Port Ludlow, Quilcene and Brinnon.

For many years Jefferson County has been planning, acquiring and building the Larry Scott Trail, a 7-mile portion of the Olympic Discovery Trail. When complete the Olympic Discovery Trail will traverse the entire Peninsula as well as connect to the Pacific Northwest Trail. The Larry Scott Trail/Olympic Discovery Trail is a trail system identified in local and regional planning documents. Local trails are planned that will loop off the main system into our small communities. The Trail is also identified in state planning documents, including the US 101 Master Plan and the Washington State Trails Plan.

As a regional and local trail system, the Olympic Discovery Trail is a vital resource for the recreation, health and alternative commuting opportunities of our residents. Formal trails may be more important in rural areas than urban areas because there is not an established infrastructure of sidewalks and intersections with built-in safety and traffic calming devices for users. This Trail also attracts visitors from outside the area for the unique recreational experience—these visitors have a significant, beneficial economic impact on the local community.

While Jefferson County has received partial funding of trail projects in the past through the WWRP, we often miss the funding cut-off by tenths of a percentage point.

Revisit the point spread in the Population Proximity Criterion.

While some additional points to urbanized areas may be warranted for trail projects, the large point spread in the WWRP's Population Proximity skews the result in favor of larger jurisdictions. This structure inherently favors projects in areas with greater populations while reducing opportunities for those projects

Letter to Val Ogden, Chair, IAC Board

Date: May 7, 2007

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in areas with fewer residents, minimizing the value of projects that are of great significance on a local, regional and statewide scale. In other grant programs administered by the IAC, the point spread in the Population Proximity Criterion is 0-1 point; in WWRP, the point spread is 0-5 points.

We therefore respectfully request that the IAC Board revisit the scoring for the WWRP's Proximity to Population Criterion.

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Laurie of Jefferson County Public Works at 360/385-9160.

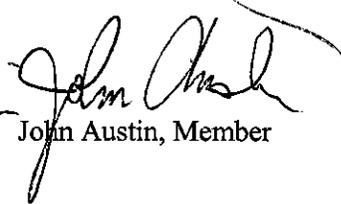
Sincerely yours,



Phil Johnson, Chairman



David Sullivan, Member



John Austin, Member

Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation

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Salmon Recovery Funding Board

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE

1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

May 14, 2007

The Honorable Jefferson County Commissioners
1820 Jefferson Street
PO Box 1220
Port Townsend, WA 98368

Dear Commissioners Johnson, Sullivan, and Austin:

Chair Ogden asked me to respond to your letter requesting the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) revisit the point structure in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

Staff has taken this suggestion under advisement and will be addressing this issue with the IAC, along with other suggested changes to the WWRP program, at its upcoming Committee meeting on June 7 and 8, 2007, in Spokane Valley, Washington.

All suggested changes and staff recommendations will be circulated for public comment before the IAC makes any final decisions at a future Committee meeting.

Thank you for your suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura E. Johnson".

Laura E. Johnson
Director

cc: IAC Board Members and Designees

