



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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January 19, 2007

**TOPIC #9: FIREARMS AND ARCHERY RANGE RECREATION PROGRAM
REVISE THE CAP ON GRANT REQUEST**

Approved by the Director: 

Prepared and Presented By: Marguerite Austin, Manager

Proposed Action: Decision

Summary:

The estimated funds available for grants in the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) program are \$600,000. This is the largest amount available for a grant round since grants were first awarded in 1991. With the sizable amount of funds available, concern about the number of applications that might be submitted, consideration of escalating construction costs, an Executive Order that could require a site investigation for cultural and historic resources, and the current limit of \$50,000 per project, staff is asking the Board to consider raising the maximum grant allowed for the 2007 grant cycle.

Staff Recommendation:

IAC staff recommends increasing the maximum grant request to \$100,000 for the 2007 application cycle. Resolution 2007-04 is provided for Board consideration.

Background:

The Washington State Legislature established the FARR grant program in 1990. Since that time, \$2.6 million in grants have been awarded for more than 70 firearms and archery range projects statewide. Program funding comes from a portion of the money collected from the sale of concealed pistol licenses.

Statutorily¹, project sponsors must provide a matching share of not less than thirty-three percent (33%) for noise abatement or safety improvement elements and not less than fifty percent (50%) for all other elements. The maximum grant award is set by the IAC Board and is currently \$50,000 per project application. This grant limit has been in place since the programs inception.

¹ 79A.25 Revised Code of Washington and Washington Administrative Code 286-30



Analysis:

IAC offers funding for the FARR program every two years pending fund availability. Each cycle the amount of available funding varies but in recent grants cycles appropriations have averaged approximately \$280,000. In the 2005 grant cycle, IAC was able to fund all project applications and had approximately \$25,000 of that cycle's appropriation remaining.

We currently estimate approximately \$600,000 to be available for the 2007 grants cycle. A large amount of this is related to uncommitted grant funds from previous biennia and unused funds from projects that either did not proceed or were completed under budget. In the past few years we have seen a higher than average amount of unused funds, contributing to the relatively high balance currently available in the FARR account.

This situation has led IAC staff to initiate an expanded education outreach effort to generate more interest and competition in the FARR program and consider other incentives that could help ensure use of all available funds. These considerations, however, must be tempered with the fact that the current surplus may be a blip on the screen and not indicative of a trend. Therefore, we are not proposing permanent changes to the FARR policies, but do propose that the maximum grant award per project for the 2007 grant cycle be increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Our goal is that the increased maximum award, coupled with increased outreach, will attract a greater number of grant applications. This increase would provide the opportunity for applicants to submit some of their more costly projects in this next round. Another reason to consider making this adjustment is the 2005 Governor's Executive Order that requires all projects using state capital funds to investigate for archeological and cultural resources. Several FARR applicants will likely be required to conduct a cultural resources survey and incur additional expenses tied to implementing the requirements of the Executive Order.

Public Comment

This proposal was first distributed to the FARR Advisory Committee for their consideration. They generally support the proposal and several members have engaged in assisting staff with its outreach efforts. A summary of comments from potential applicants and other members of the general public will be provided at the upcoming board meeting.

Next Steps:

If the caps are revised as proposed, staff will update IAC Manual #11, **FARR: Program: Policies and Project Selection** and send out notices to potential applicants and other interested parties.

Attachment:

Resolution 2007-04

RESOLUTION #2007-04

**Firearms And Archery Range Recreation Program
Revise the Cap on Grant Request for Fiscal Year 2008**

WHEREAS, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) has authority to establish maximum grant limits for the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Program, and

WHEREAS, the current limit is set at \$50,000 per project application, and

WHEREAS, an estimated \$600,000 will be available for grants during this grant cycle, which is considerably higher than a typical grants cycle, and

WHEREAS, it is important to distribute these funds to eligible projects in a timely fashion,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that IAC does hereby modify its current FARR caps policy and increases the maximum grant amount to \$100,000 for the 2007 grants cycle, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director is authorized to modify the appropriate policy manual and application materials to reflect this interim change.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: February 8, 2007