WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Proposed Agenda
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Regular Meeting

June 27-28, 2012
Port Angeles Red Lion, 221 N. Lincoln, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation:
In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment:
- Comments about topics not on the agenda are taken during General Public Comment.
- Comment about agenda topics will be taken with each topic.

If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. You also may submit written comments to the Board by mailing them to the RCO, attn: Rebecca Connolly, Board Liaison or at rebecca.connolly@rco.wa.gov.

Special Accommodations:
If you need special accommodations, please notify us by June 20, 2012 at 360/902-3013 or TDD 360/902-1996.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

11:00 a.m. **Call to Order** *Chair Chapman*
- Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
- Review Agenda
- Welcome from State Representative Steve Tharinger
- Welcome from other local officials

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1. Consent Calendar ***(Decision)*** *Chair Chapman*
a. Approve board meeting minutes – March 2012
b. Approve eligibility for John Ball Park Property, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, RCO #12-1491
c. Continue FARR advisory committee and delegate authority to director to appoint members

Resolution # 2012-03

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2. Management Reports ***(Briefings and Written Reports)***
a. Director's report *Kaleen Cottingham*
b. Fiscal report
c. Policy and legislative report *Steve McLellan*
d. Grant management report
- Update on 2012 grant application cycle *Scott Robinson & Marguerite Austin*

11:30 a.m.		**State Agency Partner Reports** • Department of Fish and Wildlife • Department of Natural Resources • State Parks	*Board Members Representing State Agencies*
		General Public Comment For issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.	*Chair Chapman*
11:45 a.m.	**3.**	**Selection of Subcommittee to Conduct Director Performance Evaluation**	*Chair Chapman*

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSION

11:55 a.m.	**4.**	**Preview of Applications Submitted for Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program Funding, Tier 1 and Tier 2**	*Marguerite Austin*
12:15 p.m.	**BREAK/LUNCH**		
12:45 p.m.	**5.**	**Preparing for the 2013 Legislative Session: Budget and Request Legislation**	*Steve McLellan*
1:15 p.m.	**6.**	**Performance Review and Strategic Plan** a. RCO Performance for Fiscal Year 2012 b. Updates to Agency and Board Strategic Plans	*Rebecca Connolly*
1:45 p.m.	**7.**	**Public Comment Received about the Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses** • Subcommittee Proposal: Livestock Grazing • Subcommittee Proposal: Tree Removal • Subcommittee Proposal: Telecommunications Facilities • Subcommittee Proposal: Clarification of "Conveyance of Property Interests" in conversion policy Request for board direction regarding any changes to policy proposals in advance of October decision	*Dominga Soliz*
3:15 p.m.	**BREAK**		

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

3:30 p.m.	**8.**	**Follow-up to State Parks' Request to Allow Shower Facilities in State Parks Cabins** *Resolution # 2012-04*	*Dominga Soliz* *Marguerite Austin*

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS & DISCUSSION

4:30 p.m.	**9.**	**Briefing on Compliance Issue at Woodland Park in Lacey**	*Sarah Thirtyacre*
5:30 p.m.	**10.**	**Preview of the tour for June 28**	*Sarah Thirtyacre*
5:45 p.m.	**ADJOURN**		

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

9:00 a.m. **Tour of Board-Funded Projects in Port Angeles Area**

1. Elwha River Bridge (WWRP)**
2. Salt Creek Recreation Area (Land and Water Conservation Fund)
3. Elwha Dam Removal (triggered a conversion and some SRFB funding)
4. Railroad Bridge Park and Trail (WWRP)**
5. JimmyComeLately Nearshore Trail & Restoration (Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account & SRFB)**
6. Fish and Wildlife Discovery Bay site (multiple grants and applications)**

*** Projects Related to the Olympic Discovery Trail*

3:00 p.m. **End Tour**

Port Angeles, WA
(Clallam Co.)
Peninsula Daily News
(Cir. D. 13,514)
(Cir. S. 15,135)
APR 24 2012
Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

Clallam to mull grant for Sekiu beach access

County plans interpretive signs, kiosks

By Rob Ollikainen
Peninsula Daily News

PORT ANGELES — Clallam County commissioners have vetted a $57,500 grant application to the state Recreation and Conservation Office for day-use beach access and a wildlife viewing area in an existing county right of way along the Sekiu shoreline.

If approved, the county would be responsible for a 50 percent match.

The pedestrian rest area would become the only public access to the Sekiu shoreline.

"It would be a great addition to that community," said Clallam County Parks, Fair and Facilities Manager Joel Winborn, while pitching the grant during the commissioners' work session Monday.

The three commissioners will consider authorizing the grant application today.

The deadline is May 1.

Future features

In the future, the county plans to build kiosks with interpretive signs, a birding platform and seating for the rest area.

According to a grant questionnaire, the project would "enhance the aesthetics of the Sekiu shoreline and provide additional tourism opportunities and services."

Winborn said future maintenance of the area would need to be discussed.

Doherty

Commissioner Mike Doherty, whose West End district includes Sekiu, said the viewing area would be located near Commercial Street.

"For a couple years, the [Clallam Bay-Sekiu] chamber, the community advisory council and some business have been asking: Can they turn this right of way into a little park with some benches, some art and whatever?" Doherty said.

UW drawings

In 2009, a grant-funded team of graduate architecture students from the University of Washington produced "some pretty good drawings" of the park, Doherty said.

If the state grant is approved, the project would be added to the county's 2013 capital or real estate excise tax projects request.

Commissioners today also will consider two agreements for 2,740 square feet of easement for culvert improvements along Fuhrman Road on the West End of the county near Bogachiel State Park near Forks.

The cost of the easement would be $878.

Reporter Rob Ollikainen can be reached at 360-452-2345, ext. 5072, or at *rob.ollikainen@peninsuladailynews.com.*

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Article published May 9, 2012

City, port in Port Townsend craft pact over Kah Tai Lagoon

By Charlie Bermant
Peninsula Daily News

PORT TOWNSEND — Staff members of both the Port of Port Townsend and city of Port Townsend have crafted a property-transfer agreement that, they say, would streamline operations of both — while it also probably sounds the death knell for a proposed aquatic center at Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.

The agreement will reinforce the two agencies' strengths, representatives of the port and city staff said at a joint appearance Tuesday.

The agreement, if approved by the officials, would result in the port's withdrawing its lawsuit against the city, contesting use restrictions imposed by federal and state governments, and essentially closing the door on an aquatic facility in Kah Tai park.

"This has allowed us to reach agreement on a variety of issues that have been in front of us for more than a decade," City Manager David Timmons said.

"This allows us to both do what we do best."

"If we would have proceeded with a lawsuit, it would have gone to an arbitrator and cost us $50,000 to hear that we needed to sit down and settle our differences," Port Director Larry Crockett said.

"So we decided to get to that same place on our own."

Public comment will be heard today at the port commission's regular meeting, which takes place at 1 p.m. at the Port Townsend Yacht Club, 2503 Washington St.

The proposal also will be discussed publicly at a joint meeting of the port commissioners and the City Council at 7 p.m. May 21 in the Cotton Building, 607 Water St.

Crockett said he delivered the news of the exchange with members of Make Waves!, which had proposed an aquatic center at the park, on Tuesday morning.

The project is not dead, he said, but probably would not be in its current location because restrictions still apply and the project has lost its advocate with the port.

As for a local aquatic facility, Timmons said the city would expend its energy toward the development of the Mountain View pool., the only public pool in Port Townsend.

"We can deal with these issues more quickly and less expensively at Mountain View than what would be required for the construction of a new facility," Timmons said.

The pending agreement, which has been in the works for four months, would include the transfer of about 20 acres of property in the vicinity of Kah Tai Lagoon from the port to the city for inclusion in its Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park.

This transfer would implement the city's plans, ensuring preservation of the full 80-acre Kah Tai area so it would remain a public park and open space.

In return, the city would transfer both Union Wharf and City Dock to the port, allowing it to manage these facilities.

This is more within the port's area of expertise and is consistent with its mission of providing public and commercial access to navigable waters and promoting commerce, according to a prepared statement issued by both agencies.

The agreement also would include the vacation of some rights of way in the Boat Haven — which were termed redundant — to the port, including transfer of a portion of the former railroad line which is not being used for the Larry Scott Trail.

It would also clarify some non-conforming use regulations in the Boat Haven.

Both Timmons and Crockett say the agreement would allow them to streamline their operations, since port staff would no longer be charged with managing a portion of the park and the city would not have to manage three docks.

The actual property transfer would take several months, but the port and city would switch maintenance of the new properties as soon as their boards approve the agreement, both managers said.

This includes the development by the port of a mooring buoy field adjacent to Quincy Street Dock, which would improve boater access to downtown, staff members said.

Under the agreement, the city would abandon its claim to several rights of way near the Boat Haven, which would allow the port to develop that land.

Crockett and Timmons said the changes would make little difference today but would have impact in the future.

"The public won't notice any differences," Crockett said.

"But whoever is in my seat or on the port commission in 15 years will appreciate the wisdom of what we are doing.

"This won't create jobs or bring in money next week, but the long-term effects will be very significant."

More details on the proposed joint settlement agreement are available from either the city of Port Townsend or the Port of Port Townsend.

ptleader.com
Daily news, connections for Port Townsend & Jefferson County, Washington

Friday, May 18, 2012

Port, City discuss land swap Monday

Friday, May 18, 2012

Port of Port Townsend and City of Port Townsend officials meet jointly on Monday, May 21 to discuss the details of a proposed settlement agreement for an exchange of property that could resolve long-standing issues surrounding property around Kah Tai Lagoon Nature Park and the Boat Haven.

The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Cotton Building downtown with a presentation by staff followed by a public comment period.

Elected officials are to discuss the key terms of the proposal, which includes the port transferring its property near Kah Tai Lagoon to the city in exchange for, among other things, the vacation of old rights-of-way within the Boat Haven area and the consideration of changing some zoning rules.

Detailed information on the proposal is available on the city's website or at tinyurl.com/7pnz39y.

Related Links:

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Article published May 23, 2012

City, port OK Kah Tai Lagoon swap

By Charlie Bermant
Peninsula Daily News

PORT TOWNSEND — A historic property exchange between the Port of Port Townsend and City Hall involving Kah Tai Lagoon has been set in motion with passage of a joint resolution to approve the agreement.

At the crux of the agreement, the entire Kah Tai property is transferred to the city, while City Dock and Union Wharf goes to the port.

“There are more details that need to be worked out,” Mayor David King said at the beginning of a meeting between city and port officials, “but we are on the right path.”

“We are doing this in a spirit of cooperation and trust,” said Port Commissioner Leif Erickson.

“This resolution allows us to do what we were elected to do,” he said, which is to “provide the best solution for the people of Port Townsend and Jefferson County.”

The agreement was generated by a discussion between King and newly elected Port Commissioner Steve Tucker last winter.

After several meetings, the agreement was drafted and presented to the legislative bodies.

Both unanimously approved the resolution.

Aside from the property swap, the agreement results in the port's withdrawing a lawsuit against the city that contested use restrictions imposed by federal and state governments.

The suit withdrawal will be the last step of the agreement once all other aspects are signed, Port Director Larry Crockett said.

Crockett called the lawsuit “a hammer.”

“We will withdraw the suit after all the T's are crossed and the I's dotted,” Crockett said. “It will be the last thing we do.”

About 20 people attended the Monday meeting at the Cotton Building on the waterfront.

During the public comment period, four people spoke in favor of the agreement. No speakers opposed it.

“This joint agreement provides the best solution for Kah Tai,” said David Beatty, a representative of the local chapter of the Audubon Society.

“We've spent a lot of time fixing up the park for wildlife, and we are happy to see the dismissal of a lawsuit that puts a drain on scarce resources.”

The best-case timing for the completion of the agreement is the end of this year, Crockett said.

The port will need to surplus the Kah Tai property, which will require a public hearing.

Also occurring will be a change to the port's comprehensive plan, which will require a public hearing.

The port and city staffs will now work together to develop a timeline that will outline all the steps for the transfer and the sequence in which they should occur.

The agreement also includes vacating some rights of way in the Boat Haven — which were termed redundant — to the port, including a portion of the former railroad corridor that is not being used for the Larry Scott Trail.

It also will clarify some nonconforming-use regulations in the Boat Haven.

This includes the development by the port of a mooring buoy field adjacent to Quincy Street Dock, which would improve boater access to downtown, staff members said.

Under the agreement, the city would abandon its claim to several rights of way near the Boat Haven, which would allow the port to develop that land.

Jefferson County Reporter Charlie Bermant can be reached at 360-385-2335 or at charlie.bermant@peninsuladailynews.com.

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Volunteers can help direct outdoor grants

By The Columbian

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Volunteers can help direct outdoor grants
By The Columbian Thursday, March 15, 2012

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office needs about 70 volunteers to help determine how millions of dollars in state grants should be invested in the state's outdoor areas.

Volunteers should be familiar with one or more of several outdoor categories that include: parks and shorelines, trails, farms and ranches, wildlife habitat conservation and shoreline conservation.

To apply, send a completed application and support materials to the recreation and conservation office by March 30. For applications and more information, visit http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

Vancouver, WA
(Clark Co.)
The Columbian
(Cir. D. 49,607)
(Cir. S. 58,882)
APR - 4 2012
Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

Around the area

VANCOUVER 2219

Land trust announces three land purchases

The Columbia Land Trust this week announced the purchase of more than 500 acres of land near the mouth of the Columbia River, which the Vancouver-based nonprofit plans to protect as natural habitat for fish and wildlife.

The land was purchased as three separate properties: 378 acres at Knappton Cove on the north side of the Columbia opposite Astoria, Ore., 117 acres at the mouth of the Wallicut River near Ilwaco, and 65 acres at the mouth of the Deep River near Grays Bay.

The purchases, totaling $1.1 million, were paid for mostly with ratepayer funds from the Bonneville Power Administration, a federal power marketing agency that also operates an extensive wildlife restoration program under federal rules. Additional money came from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Washington Recreation & Conservation Office, according to the land trust.

The Columbia Land Trust now owns more than 5,300 acres of natural habitat in the Northwest.

Chehalis Foundation Pursues $125,000 Grant for Outdoor Pool

By The Chronicle | Posted: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 6:39 am

The Chehalis City Council allowed the Chehalis Foundation to apply for a State Recreation and Conservation Office Grant Monday night for repairs to the outdoor swimming pool.

The Chehalis Foundation needed the city's support because the grant requires that the city, as the owner of the pool, submit the application.

The Whidbey Examiner
News from the Heart of Whidbey Island

4/5/2012 10:35:00 AM

Langley marina expansion to be done by 2013

By Betty Freeman
Examiner Staff Writer

Betty Freeman / The Whidbey Examiner

Once permits are obtained for the Langley marina upgrade, work could begin later this year on tearing out the unsafe wharf at left and repositioning the breakwater sheltering the boat harbor at right.

Betty Freeman / The Whidbey Examiner

The Langley Marina, as seen from the bluff above. When permits are finally obtained, the plan is to remove the unsafe wharf at right, and to reposition the breakwater behind the boat dock area, creating a safer docking harbor and a new gangway.

The long-anticipated upgrade to the Langley Marina is one step closer to reality following a public hearing last month at Langley City Hall.

Proponents of the upgrade tout the benefits to the community, from the removal of the unsightly and dangerous wharf with its creosote pilings and rotten decking to expanded moorage for transient boats, commercial vessels and tour boats bringing visitors to town.

Among the potential users of the upgraded facility is Seattle's Clipper Navigation Company, which wants its Victoria Clipper tour boat to make a stop in Langley en route to the San Juan Islands and Victoria, B.C.

"We hope to be ready for the 2013 summer boating season," said Ed Field, Port of South Whidbey manager.

A written recommendation to give the first phase of the project the go-ahead is expected from Hearing Examiner Ted Hunter early this month.

Hunter was hired by the City of Langley last fall to review the project documents and make a recommendation to the state Department of Ecology. Permits are still pending from the federal government as well. Additional permits and environmental impact statements will also be needed for the temporary construction site office.

The first phase of the $2.5 million project involves repositioning the 40-foot breakwater, building an 80-foot gangway connected to the marina dock and installation of utilities to support the upgraded facility.

Wharf decking and old creosote pilings next to the existing boat ramp will be removed, and a new gangway and boarding floats will be installed. When completed, the marina will be able to accommodate commercial vessels, tour boats, passenger ferries and smaller boats.

Efforts to upgrade the Langley Marina got under way in 2003. The Port of South Whidbey took over management of the site in 2007 and the port board's first move was to purchase a 40-foot breakwater from the City of Bremerton. This recycled breakwater saved the port district $65,000 initially, but now it's causing damage to the dock it's supposed to protect.

Prevailing winds and tides inspired the idea of repositioning the breakwater to shelter the docking area better.

Moving the breakwater has been delayed until federal permits are approved, Field said.

"The Port redesigned the floating wave attenuator (breakwater) in 2009 and started the permitting process then, but those federal permits from the Department of Fish and Wildlife are still pending," he said.

Most of the funding for the project is already in place. The primary source of funding is a $1.2 million grant from Rural County Economic Development Funds derived from .09 percent of sales taxes. The port also received a $300,000 grant for the boat-ramp floats from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. Bond sales for an additional $850,000 are pending approval from the Port of South Whidbey Board of Commissioners.

Phase One of the marina project also puts in place the infrastructure needed for future expansion and disaster preparedness.

"The Langley Harbor offers the only public deep-water moorage on the south end of the Island aside from the ferry dock," Field said. "If we need to bring in supplies or evacuate residents, we'll be able to bring in big boats to do that."

Coupeville, WA
(Island Co.)
The Whidbey
Examiner
(Cir. W. 1,100)

MAR 2 2 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Port commissioners bicker over finances

22-19

By Elisabeth Murray
Whidbey Examiner

The three members of the Port of Coupeville Board of Commissioner are at odds again, this time over whether or not the port should apply for a grant to replace damaged dock floats on the north side of the Coupeville Wharf.

The floats, to which boats must tie up in order to access the port's fueling station, are deteriorating due to the effects of wave action during windy weather. A recent storm made the problem worse, with one float almost torn away from the pilings.

Port commissioners Marshal Bronson and Benye Weber both are in favor of proceeding with applying for a grant to replace the float, but new Commissioner Laura Blankenship said she is against seeking money for the project until additional project analysis is completed and documentation regarding the responsibilities of the Port is provided.

"Project analysis should be conducted to determine potential cost overruns," Blankenship said. "(The Port) needs to go into this with eyes wide open, and not just a guess of how much it will cost."

Port of Coupeville Executive Director Jim Patton said the floats are falling apart and damaging the wharf, thanks to repeated wave action during windy weather.

Blankenship has been raising concerns about financial and policy decisions made by the port commissioners since before she joined the board in January. Blankenship was elected to the board in 2011; Bronson has been on the board since 2008 and Weber has served since 2002.

The port's finances are in poor shape for a number of reasons.

The port's two primary assets – the Coupeville Wharf and the main barn at Greenbank Farm – are both more than a century old and require a lot of expensive repairs and maintenance.

The property-tax levy from which it pays for maintenance and operations is not adequate to cover all of the expenses related to these historic properties. But twice in recent years, voters in the port district have declined to increase the amount of the levy in order to give the port more money.

In particular, Blankenship has criticized the port's decision to establish a solar-power installation at Greenbank Farm, which she says cost too much at a time when the port is facing severe financial difficulties. After subtracting a $25,000 grant the port was awarded and revenue from land rent, the solar project has cost the port $47,390, Blankenship said.

Elisabeth Murray / The Whidbey Examiner

Port of Coupeville Executive Jim Patton shows damage to the Coupeville Wharf pier caused by wave action on the fuel dock floats. The Port wants to apply for a boating facilities grant to replace the floats.

Bronson and Patton defended the cost overruns related to the solar project at Greenbank Farm.

Bronson said that the increased costs were for unexpected complications. For example, the cost of the wires was higher than the port had expected, he said.

"If we had spent a lot more money on analysis, we might have known about this in advance," Patton said.

Weber said she prefers that the Port not use contingency funds at all, but the money should be used when necessary.

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office grant that the port is applying for will require a 20 percent matching contribution, Patton said. Money for the grant comes from a state fuel taxes paid by boaters.

Blankenship made a motion, "in hopes of learning from the past," that the executive director of the port complete a thorough analysis of the project, including potential areas of cost overruns, and ask the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to confirm whether the Port can make an in-kind contribution.

"I have not heard or seen documents that specifically tell the Port's responsibilities," Blankenship said. "The Port needs to know for sure what in-kind contribution will be acceptable, and if it can meet that."

Blankenship said it is important to be as prepared and knowledgeable in advance before starting a project.

Replacing the floats will cost $50,000, Patton said, and the Port must cover the cost, then apply for reimbursement through the grant.

If the port were to receive a grant, the money would be available in 2013, Patton said.

Blankenship's motion, which she read from a prepared document, did not receive a second from her fellow commissioners.

Weber said that a lengthy and descriptive motion such as the one proposed by Blankenship should be submitted in advance so the commissioners have a chance to study the issue before discussing it and making a decision at a public meeting. ★

5/10/2012 10:59:00 AM

Land deal preserves forest, historic buildings

By Elisabeth Murray
Examiner Staff Writer

Elisabeth Murray / The Whidbey Examiner

Mark Sheehan, prairie restoration manager for the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, examines new growth on a Douglas fir branch along a trail at Camp Casey near Coupeville.

Some 60 acres of land at Camp Casey near Coupeville will soon be protected from development – and open to the public – thanks to a $1.9 million state appropriation.

The land will be purchased from Seattle Pacific University, which plans to use the money to repair and restore historical buildings at the old military fort and pursue a long-planned upgrade and expansion of campus facilities.

SPU Vice President Don Mortenson said the deal is a turning point for the campus, which needs the money for repairs of its historic campus. SPU also has future plans to expand in order to accommodate more adult guests at larger conferences.

The campus, which hosts conferences, retreats and educational and sports camps, currently offers mostly dorm-style housing that is more suitable for youths than adults.

“This sale of land will not only preserve this unique property for future generations, but also allow Seattle Pacific University to begin improvements at its Camp Casey historic facility which will create jobs and an economic benefit to the region,” he said.

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will own the land and the Washington Department of Natural Resources will hold a restrictive conservation easement on it, Land Trust Executive Director Pat Powell said.

Powell said she is pleased with the deal for many reasons – one of which is that it will preserve native prairie.

“This project will save some of the last native prairie on Whidbey Island,” Powell said. “Less than 1 percent or 80 acres remains.”

The Land Trust had purchased 33 acres from Seattle Pacific University seven years ago in a similar arrangement, Powell said.

“The partnership worked really well before,” Powell said. “We want to continue that partnership.”

Powell said that she is hopeful that the purchase will be completed by the end of the year, but the

Elisabeth Murray / The Whidbey Examiner

Mark Sheehan, prairie restoration

final terms and price are still being negotiated, and an appraisal completed.

manager for the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, pauses amid Camp Casey's old-growth forest, where many trees are up to 300 years old. The Land Trust's efforts to preserve the land will free up Seattle Pacific University's budget for a planned expansion of its camp facilities.

"About $1.4 million will start to be spent on renewal and repairs of the current historic structures at Camp Casey as soon as the University knows the sale will be closed," Mortenson said.

The university's future plans for expansion at Camp Casey include an 8,000 square foot to 14,000 square foot education center, six retreat/seminar buildings and up to 40 cabins to accommodate adult and family groups.

The Camp Casey Master Plan covers 82 acres, and about three acres of forest would be cleared for new structures. No large, old growth trees would be removed and the heritage forest would not be affected, Mortenson said.

The new development would occur on the row of current officers' houses as well as north of that row of structures.

The existing camp group would be used for new development. New "walk-in" campsites also could be developed, Mortenson said.

Construction is still several years away, Mortenson said, but he is hopeful that the new buildings that are part of the expansion plan will begin to be ready in three to five years after the sale of the land is completed.

Prior to the economic recession Camp Casey would typically expect approximately 40,000 camper days annually, according to Mortenson. A camper day is one person occupying one bed for one night. Once the entire master plan is completed over the course of 10 to 15 years, an additional 312 new beds will be available – bringing the total to 982 beds at the conference center.

Trails in the area that currently are reserved for use only by guests of Camp Casey would be open to the public once the property is acquired, Powell said.

Preserving the land is of statewide importance in large part because it is home to golden paintbrush, an endangered native prairie plant that is disappearing as a result of habitat loss due to development, Powell said.

Once common to Washington's prairies, golden paintbrush is now found at only 12 sites around the state – and Camp Casey is one of them.

"This land has fantastic conservation benefits," Powell said.

The property also includes 44 acres of old-growth forest habitat. Only a handful of low-elevation coastal forests remain in Washington, she said.

The property also is important because of the half-mile of bluff along Admiralty Inlet. These so-called "feeder bluffs" provide sediment to down-current beaches as the result of wave action on the bluff. Replenishing the beaches benefits endangered salmon and other species, Powell said.

The Land Trust already had secured more than $2 million in federal funding through a grant aimed at protecting endangered species, but that money was conditional on matching funds being found before June 2013. That goal has now been achieved, Powell said.

Funding to help buy the Camp Casey property is included in the recently approved state capital budget. The regular legislative session had adjourned without agreement on a budget, but lawmakers returned to Olympia to hammer out the final details.

Money for capital funds projects comes from bonds, and pays for physical improvements to buildings, facilities and public lands.

Powell said she is grateful to Dist. 10 lawmakers for their efforts in securing the money to preserve the property.

"The Land Trust is so incredibly grateful to our legislative champions, Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen and Rep. Norma Smith, for their vision and commitment to the natural heritage and economic vitality of Whidbey Island," Powell said. "They have taken a stand to protect an irreplaceable treasure while at the same time creating needed jobs on the Island."

Additional funds to purchase the property also come from a grant of about $80,000 from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office. Private funds will also be raised by the Whidbey Camano Land Trust to complete the purchase, Powell said.

Posted: Thursday, May 10, 2012

01/25/2012

State Recreation & Conservation Office Grant Funding - Firearms?

I was recently doing some homework about grant funding for 2012 provided by the State Recreation & Conservation Office. Of particular interest to me was funding provided for Salmon Recovery efforts. In the process, I learned about some surprising if not disturbing projects that are currently being funded. Topping the list for me of questionable spending was the category Firearms and Archery Range Recreation. I'm not a firearms enthusiast but the issue for me was not so much whether firearms and archery qualify as bonafide "recreation" that merit state recreation funding but that the funding was going to private gun clubs. If you don't belong to any of these clubs or pay a fee to them, you can't use their facilities. I don't get it. And consider how are State Parks are now being decimated.

Following is the full list of funded projects:

WASHINGTON STATE Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
Grants Awarded (Fiscal Year 2012)

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total Amount	Grant Awarded
1	74.5	11-1053D	Tri-Cities Shooting Association Shotgun Range Facility	Tri-Cities Shooting Association	$100,000	$174,700	$274,700	$100,000
2	70.4	11-1174D	Renton Fish and Game Club Clubhouse Renovation	Renton Fish and Game Club	$92,300	$96,373	$188,673	$92,300
3	67.7	11-1143D	Fort Colville Development	Fort Colville Gun Club	$26,500	$14,120	$40,620	$26,500
4	66.0	11-1164A	Little Mountain Archery Range Safety Buffer	Mount Vernon	$37,000	$19,000	$56,000	$37,000
5	60.6	11-1123D	Lynden Shotgun Club Trap and Skeet	Lynden Shotgun Club	$18,915	$18,915	$37,830	$18,915
6	60.0	11-1046C	Walla Walla Gun Club Shooting Site Acquisition and Development	Walla Walla Gun Club	$96,000	$98,242	$194,242	$96,000
7	55.4	11-1167D	Okanogan County Sheriff's Office Range Shoot House	Okanogan County	$60,000	$62,680	$122,680	$60,000
					$430,715	**$484,030**	**$914,745**	**$430,715**

Why in the world should the public provide grant funding to upgrade the Clubhouse of the Renton Fish and Game Club or any of these clubs for that matter? For more detail on these projects and others, follow this link to Recreation and Conservation Office.

I did find that there is quite a lot of funding going directly and indirectly to salmon recovery as the following summary list illustrates.

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	**$6,608,000**
Boating Facilities Program	**$4,401,653**
Boating Infrastructure Grant	**$1,447,532**
Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program	**$13,436,750**
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation	**$430,715**
Land and Water Conservation Fund	**$10,526,526**
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities	**$1,712,544**
Recreation Trails Program	**$762,342**
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	**$5,878,200**
Salmon Recovery	
Salmon Recovery Funding Board	**$18,194,189**
Puget Sound Restoration Funds	**$13,540,800**
Total All	**$76,939,251**

I believe that the roughly $540,000 grant awarded to purchase an easement for trails in the Icy Creek area came through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. Hopefully, such acquisition can be completed as this would be a significant asset to our community.

Posted at 07:44 AM in Conservation, Environmental Restoration, Local Trails, Sustainability, Watershed | Permalink

Kent, WA
(King Co.)
Tukwila Reporter
(Cir. M. 10,500)

MAR - - 2012

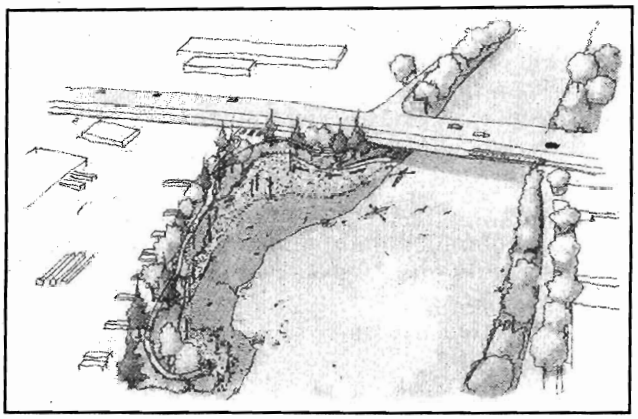
Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

Duwamish Gardens habitat replacement project design

2219

The City of Tukwila recently began design of the Duwamish Gardens habitat replacement project. Purchased by the City in 2008, the Duwamish Gardens project is a 2.16-acre site, with 250 feet of Duwamish River frontage, located along the northern bank of the Duwamish River and along the west side of East Marginal Way South.

The goal of the Duwamish Gardens project is to create approximately 1.25 acres of shallow water mudflat and marsh habitat, and 0.8 acres of uplands planted with native vegetation. The project will also include a pedestrian path, interpretive signs, and visitor overlook. Final site layout and features for Duwamish Gardens will be further defined during the design process, which will involve consultation with tribal interests, permitting, funding agencies, WRIA 9 Habitat Team, and interested citizens.



The Duwamish Gardens design will be headed by J.A. Brennan, a local landscape architecture firm that specializes in the design, planning and restoration of parks, recreation facilities, and habitat sites. This firm has completed a number of successful waterfront and shoreline parks and recreational facilities, including the award-winning Herring's House Park and Terminal 105 Viewpoint Park on the Duwamish River in Seattle. The design team includes scientists and engineers, helping ensure that the Duwamish Gardens project is based on sound science to maximize the benefit to the community and to the habitat resource.

Funding for the Duwamish Gardens design effort is through grant funding from Washington State's Recreation and Conservation Office, the King Conservation District, and matching funds from the City of Tukwila.

If you are interested in learning more about or participating in the Duwamish Gardens design, please contact Ryan Larson, Surface Water Senior Engineer, at Ryan.Larson@TukwilaWA.gov, or give him a call at 206-431-2456.

Seattle, WA
(King Co.)
Daily Journal of
Commerce
(Cir. D. 4,000)

MAR - 6 2012

Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

State seeks help on wildlife grants

22219

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office needs about 70 volunteers to help determine how to spend state grants.

Volunteers will score grant applications for two programs: the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, which funds parks and trail projects as well as habitat and farmland restoration; and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, which funds shoreline restoration and public access to water. Grants go to cities, counties, state agencies and tribes.

Candidates with expertise in project management, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, permitting or property acquisition are encouraged to participate.

Applications are due March 30 and are available online at: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml .

More information is available from Lorinda Anderson at (360) 902-3009, TTD (360) 902-1996 or lorinda.anderson@rco.wa.gov.

The Seattle Times
Winner of Eight Pulitzer Prizes

Outdoors

Originally published Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 7:02 PM

Rail-trail trestles let you walk on water (sort of)

The Tommy Thompson trail in Anacortes and other trails around Western Washington use old rail trestles to get you where you want to go.

By Mike McQuaide

Special to The Seattle Times

ANACORTES — On a dark, blustery afternoon in the middle of Fidalgo Bay, a couple of double-crested cormorants dive below the chilly chop in search of food while, overhead, gulls appear to hang motionless. Nearby, billowing smoke streams sideways from the stacks of "Blade Runner"-esque refineries and, ever so slowly, parting clouds above the eastern foothills reveal an ultra-snowy Mount Baker, practically aglow from a recent fortnight of epic snowfall.

Meanwhile, Sandy Hirzel gets in his afternoon constitutional.

"I like walking across the water," says the retired Anacortes resident, not at all implying that he possesses supernatural powers. Rather he's partaking in his twice-weekly routine of walking the Tommy Thompson Parkway, an ultracool 3.3-mile paved-and-boardwalk trail from Anacortes to March Point, which includes a mile-long crossing of Fidalgo Bay.

For a little less than a half-mile of that water crossing, the trail travels atop a 2,000-foot railroad trestle that once carried a BNSF Railway line.

"You see a lot of wildlife out here," Hirzel says. "Sea gulls, otters, great blue herons, harbor seals, eagles — a whole lot of stuff."

The trail is named for Tommy Thompson, a local railroad enthusiast who once ran a small-scale steam engine train in Anacortes.

Open to pedestrians and cyclists — it's a terrific way for two-wheelers to avoid the hustle and bustle of the Highway 20 approach to Anacortes — the trestle trail first opened to the public in 2005. But four years later, it closed when a 300-foot section of the trestle burned in a suspected arson.

"It's suspected arson only because nobody could figure out a way that the fire could've started on its own," says Gary Robinson, director of Anacortes Parks and Recreation. "No clues or evidence were ever found."

They love their trestle

Thankfully, trestle-lovers throughout the area rallied, raising more than $300,000 to repair the trestle, which reopened about two years ago.

It's seen a fairly steady stream of walkers, runners and cyclists ever since, many of them out even on a chilly, constant-threat-of-rain day.

Adds Robinson: "People who live here absolutely love it because it's almost like having your own boat, only better: You don't have to scrape the barnacles off it or pay moorage fees."

The Tommy Thompson Parkway trail is 3.3 miles long (one-way) and extends from the intersection of 11th Street and Q Avenue in Anacortes (by the downtown Safeway) to March Point on the east side of Fidalgo Bay. Along the way, the paved, flat trail passes through industrial waterfront to madrona- and fir-heavy forest to an RV park. The last mile crosses the bay, first via rocky causeway mere feet above the eelgrass- and muck-heavy mud flats, before reaching March Point via the 2,000-foot trestle.

Getting there: From Burlington, at Exit 230 from Interstate 5, head west on Highway 20 for about 11 miles. Just past the Highway 20 turnoff to Whidbey Island, turn right on Fidalgo Bay Road and in about a mile turn right into Fidalgo Bay Resort RV park. Tommy Thompson Trail parking is just ahead on the right.

There is also on-street parking in town near the trail if you want to make a longer walk of it.

Here are a few other Western Washington rail trails that offer a trestle-top experience:

Taylor Avenue Dock, Bellingham

This one-third-mile restored trestle boardwalk extends out over Bellingham Bay and boasts big -time water, island and Canadian mountain views. From Boulevard Park, at the foot of Bellingham's South Hill neighborhood, head south across the newly restored Pattle Point Trestle (reopened last year) and continue on to Taylor Dock, just ahead. Mosey your way along, taking in the waterfront and "Grace," a guerrilla-art sculpture of a yoga pose installed in the middle of the night last fall atop a heap of old tin from the city's cannery days.

From the south end of the dock, by the Chrysalis Inn & Spa, you're a quarter-mile from Fairhaven, easily accessed by trail and a short stretch of lightly traveled 10th Street.

From I-5 take Exit 250 and head west on Old Fairhaven Parkway into Fairhaven. Turn right onto 12th Street and follow for 0.7 miles to the Boulevard Park entrance on the left.

John Wayne Pioneer Trail

This beloved rail trail follows the old Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul-Pacific line — roughly paralleling Interstate 90 — and is probably best-known for its frighteningly cool but frighteningly dark 2-plus mile Snoqualmie Tunnel.

Along the way, the John Wayne, which extends east from Cedar Falls for more than 100 miles into Eastern Washington, crosses a number of high trestles. They offer stunning views into deep, dark ravines and to the surrounding peaks and Cascade ridges.

A good one to check out is the Hall Creek Trestle — rebuilt in 1999, and a key puzzle piece in enabling the John Wayne to be a continuous trail west of Snoqualmie Pass — just off I-90's Exit 38. Make a day of it and explore a couple of tumbling waterfalls while you're at it: Twin Falls and Weeks Falls, both at Olallie State Park, also accessed via Exit 38.

Foothills Trail,

Orting to South Prairie

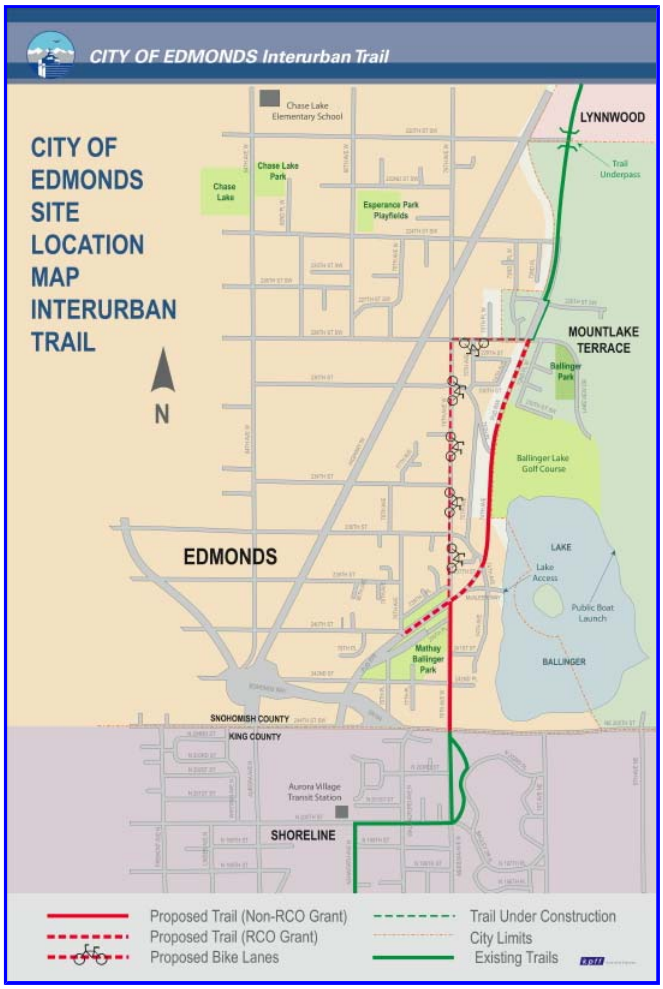
Mount Rainier is the star of this 7-mile stretch of paved rural rail trail, for its views and its Carbon River, which the trail crosses via a railroad trestle.

Along the way, several trailside viewing and rest areas offer opportunities for contemplative enjoyment of the surrounding forests and farmland. (Look for the farm with emus and buffalo!)

Along the way, the trail also crosses Voights, Roush and South Prairie creeks, making this Pierce County gem a sort of trail-trestle-palooza.

The Foothills Trail runs through downtown Orting; a good place to start is near Orting City Park on Washington Avenue. On-street parking is available.

Mike McQuaide is a Bellingham freelance writer and author of "75 Classic Rides: Washington" (Mountaineers Books) due out in May. He can be reached at mikemcquaide@comcast.net. His blog is mcqview.blogspot.com.



MLT NEWS COMMUNITY NEWS FOR MOUNTLAKE TERRACE

Interurban Trail project linking Shoreline to Terrace likely to be completed by early May

April 2, 2012

Early May is the anticipated completion date for the Edmonds segment of the Interurban Trail — running from the intersection of Highway 104 and 76th Avenue West in the Lake Ballinger neigborhood to 228th Street in Mountlake Terrace. That's the word from Carrie Hite, Edmonds Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director.

The project is 92-percent complete, with one section remaining to be paved — a Snohomish County Public Utility District crossing that links the trail from 76th Avenue West and McAleer Way to a new four-way stop at 74th Avenue West — and that work is likely to start after April 15. According to Hite, Washington State Department of Transportation regulations prohibit paving after Nov. 15 due to cold temperatures. WSDOT "opens up the paving season when the weather is at least 50 degrees and rising in order for the pavement to cure. They want to ensure the pavement doesn't fail," she said.

The last task is completion of the striping, Hite added. "We estimate that it [the project] may be complete by the first part of May if everything goes smoothly."

The Interurban Trail Project will complete the missing Edmonds link of the 30-mile regional trail that runs from North Seattle to Everett. The $2.4 million project — with $1.3 million coming from state and federal grant funds — includes the addition of bicycle lanes on 76th Avenue West both east and westbound.

Those who want a more scenic (and slower) route can leave 76th at the PUD crossing and will be able to take a breather at Ballinger Station, a landscaped rest area for users of the Interurban

Trail. Highlights will include a drinking fountain, an open shelter with a park bench and two interpretive historical panels that tell the story of the Interurban Trolley Line, which ran from Seattle to Everett until 1939.

A spur trail heading west from this location has been built to Mathey Ballinger Park, with a 12-foot trail through power line right-of-way.

The trail continues lakeside along 74th Avenue West, which has been paved with new asphalt and striped with a walking area for pedestrians on the east side and shared use for cars and bicycles on the west. In the final section of the Edmonds trail, a portion of 74th (commonly referred to as an alley) has been paved and widened, and exits to a crosswalk at 228th Street Southwest, rejoining the already-completed Mountlake Terrace portion.

Mercer Island REPORTER

PRINT THIS

City applies for grant to redo dirt infield at Island Crest Park

MEGAN MANAGAN/MERCER ISLAND REPORTER
Tarps cover part of the infield of the baseball field at Island Crest Park while the field is closed for being too wet. The City is applying for a grant which would convert the field to turf.

By MEGAN MANAGAN
Mercer Island Reporter Reporter
MAY 1, 2012 · UPDATED 9:18 AM

Three times so far this season, the Mercer Island baseball team has been forced to cancel or reschedule a game because the field at Island Crest Park is unplayable.

Anyone who has used the fields at the park in the center of the Island similarly knows that when the weather is wet, so will be the fields.

Last week, during the April 16 Mercer Island City Council meeting, the Council gave authority to the city manager to apply for a grant with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. If awarded, the grant would allow the city to upgrade the northern field — where the varsity baseball team plays — to turf.

“It’s very competitive, but we have our fingers crossed,” said Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Director Bruce Fletcher. Fletcher said they should have an idea by July about whether or not they won grant funds.

The city has already planned for $338,000 in the budget to replace the field lights at the park in the coming year, but winning the grant would allow them to replace the dirt infield with turf as well.

“An upgraded infield to synthetic turf would improve playability, minimize rainouts on the field and would help maximize field availably during the boys spring sports season,” explained the summary given in the Council packet.

“There are a lot of people who use the park,” said Fletcher. Besides the MIHS teams, there are 11 leagues that use the park regularly, including: the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club baseball/Little League, National Adult Baseball league, two Mudville baseball teams, NW Islanders, City of Mercer Island softball league, Warriors baseball, Puget Sound Senior Baseball league, MI Youth Soccer and the Boys & Girls Club football teams.

The grant, which would be for roughly $338,000, is from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, which gives funding to local and state parks, trails, water access, state land conservation and restoration, farmland preservation and habitat conservation. The program has $55 million that can be awarded. The grant’s deadline was May 1.

“There are all kinds of local projects vying,” said Fletcher. “Of course, there are way more applicants than there are funds, and there are all kinds of different athletic projects, so we’re hoping that since ours is a park that also has tennis courts, a children’s play area, that will help. We’re trying to tie that all in.”

Many other local parks and schools have made the switch to turf fields, such as Robinswood Soccer Fields in Bellevue, as well as most of the baseball fields in the Bellevue School District.

The turf has done wonders for scheduling. Fletcher said since the South Mercer Playfields were switched to the turf, there has only been one rainout, due to snow.

Contact Mercer Island Reporter Reporter Megan Managan at mmanagan@mi-reporter.com or (206) 232-1215 ext. 5054.

THE Highline Times

Barnes Creek trail in Des Moines may get makeover

By Christina Gramling
05/21/2012

The Barnes Creek trail may get a makeover worth more than $1 million if the City of Des Moines' grant application is approved.

The City Council will reapply for a grant through the Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. The grant has been denied in previous years.

The request is for $650,000. The city currently has $850,000 secured from the Des Moines Urban Trails Fund and the King County Conservation Futures.

The money requested will help with the purchase of 25 acres of land in the SR-509 corridor, currently owned by the Department of Transportation. The land spans in a narrow area from Kent-Des Moines Rd. to South 220th Street.

The Barnes Creek Trail, which heads off at Kent-Des Moines Road (near South 216th Street), meanders through the woods northward to 15th Avenue South. The improvements will provide access to several other area trails, and also connect with Des Moines Creek Park, Des Moines Beach Park National Historic District and the marina.

There will also be continuous trails connecting to places such as the Mt. Rainier Pool, the Des Moines Activity Center and Highline Community College.

Although the application was previously denied because of budget shortfalls and state prioritization the City Council is continuing their effort to meet their goals for the Des Moines City Comprehensive Plan and the 2012-2017 Capital Improvement Plan, which includes improving the city's trails and promoting healthy lifestyles through physical activity.

There is also a conservation aspect to the project, considering Barnes Creek and Massey Creek are Coho and Cutthroat salmon breeding grounds. Once purchased, the land will be designated as a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitat Species Area.

The work the city has accomplished is already being recognized.

The City was also recently awarded three Spotlight Awards from the Washington Recreation and Park Association (WRPA). Spotlight Awards are given to cities and parks and recreation officials and/or facilities for outstanding work and community service.

On May 3 the City of Des Moines received an award for each of the following categories and accomplishments: Events, Fairs & Festivals – Celebrate Des Moines Festival, Best Interpretive Signage or Map – Des Moines Beach Park Heritage Trail, Best Trails – includes all Des Moines Trails.

Councilwoman Carmen Scott was also recognized by the city for her work on theHeritage Trail signage.
Her historic knowledge of the city is displayed along the trailwith photographs and information for past eras of Des Moines.

Bremerton, WA
(Kitsap Co.)
Bremerton Patriot
(Cir. W. 12,239)

MAR 0 2 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Same article appeared in Silverdale's Central Kitsap Reporter, Cir. 2xW, 18,000

State seeks volunteers to score grant applications

2219

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office seeks 70 volunteers to help determine how millions of dollars in state grants should be spent in Washington state. Volunteers will score grant applications submitted in two statewide programs: the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

Seven volunteers are needed to evaluate grant application for park and shoreline users. Each volunteer is asked to serve for four years and meet infrequently, about six weekdays every two years.

The WWRP provides money for a range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland preservation and construction of outdoor recreation facilities.

Created in 1984 by the Washington State Legislature, ALEA works to ensure that money generated from aquatic lands, including all tidelands, shore lands, harbor areas and the beds of navigable waters is used for their subsequent protection and enhancement. Grants may be used for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands to public purposes and may be used to provide or improve public access to the waterfront.

Trail advisory committee is looking for four volunteers to review grant applications for projects that build or renovate trails. Those with experience in project design or management, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, permitting and property acquisition are encouraged to apply. Volunteers would serve four years and meet six times every two years.

The WWRP's Farmland Advisory Committee needs six individuals to review applications for projects that conserve farmland. Participants would meet infrequently and serve four years.

Wildlife Habitat Conservationists need 50 volunteers to evaluate applications for preserving wildlife habitat. Volunteers meet up to five weekdays in the summer. They seek those with experience in natural resource sciences, conservation easements, urban planning and fish and wildlife management.

The state seeks one individual to serve on the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Advisory Committee as a shoreline conservationist to represent local government. The qualified volunteer would be familiar with shoreline habitat protection and meet up to six weekdays in the summers of 2012 and 2014.

Travel expenses are usually paid to citizens, local government and nonprofit members. To apply, send a completed application and support materials to RCO by March 30. Applications are available online at www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

2219

Kitsap Sun

Printer-friendly story
Read more at kitsapsun.com

Bremerton port commissioners OK Harper Pier grant application

By Chris Henry

Originally published 09:00 p.m., April 10, 2012
Updated 10:22 p.m., April 10, 2012

BREMERTON — The Port of Bremerton Board of Commissioners Tuesday gave the go-ahead to a grant application that could net up to $500,000 toward a permanent fix for the Harper Pier in South Kitsap, but not without considerable discussion of "what ifs."

The port has spent $400,000 on the aging but popular structure over the past 12 years, counting routine maintenance and efforts to shore up a deteriorating skeleton near the end of its useful life.

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement grant from the state's Recreation and Conservation Office would cover one-third of the cost to replace the pier. Plans include adding benches and a dock where small boats can moor. The port would have to match the grant, but could do so using money kicked in by other public agencies.

The state Department of Natural Resources owns the dock, built in the late 1800s to serve the fleet of small boats that was public transportation back then. The port leases the dock and is responsible for its upkeep but not bound to repair it.

Commissioner Larry Stokes asked "what if" the port didn't get the entire grant amount it was after. Would it be on the hook to complete the project?

"The grant doesn't have to be executed or spent. It wouldn't be good for the port's reputation, but we can back out of the grant at any time," said Steve Slaton, director of marine facilities.

A scaled-back version of the plan also is a possibility, Slaton said, but it would require renegotiating the grant.

Before the vote, Commissioner Roger Zabinski tendered his approval only on condition that the DNR and Kitsap County would kick in on the cost. He also suggested community members — who turned out in force in defense of the pier at a March meeting — might be willing to create a junior taxing district to help fund the project.

Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn likened the DNR to a landlord with a crumbling building. "They do have a responsibility as well," he said.

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Kitsap Caucus

A blog about politics and government in Kitsap County as well as Washington state political news as it relates to Kitsap County.

Recreational grant funding in decent shape despite state budget woes

Wednesday, April 11th, 2012

Competition is fierce for a grant from the state's Recreation and Conservation Office that Port of Bremerton officials hope to score for replacement of the aging Harper Pier. Port officials formally approved the grant application yesterday. Today, Susan Zemek, RCO spokeswoman, came through with some information I had requested on the impact of state budget cuts on recreation grant funding.

"Overall, funding for recreation grants has dropped significantly in the past few years," said Zemek, whose agency manages nine different state and federal grant programs for recreation.

The term "recreation" covers a gamut of activities, including parks, trails, ball fields, skate parks, swimming pools and wildlife habitat. Most of the RCO's grant programs have seen fairly stable funding over the past few years (about $25 million this biennium).

"However, the largest funding source, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) has seen funding plummet from $100 million in the 2007-09 biennium to $42 million this biennium," Zemek said. "That is the lowest amount the program has been funded since its start in 1990."

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is the largest grant program for local parks and trails in the state.

The grant the port will apply for come froms the RCO's Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

"Funding for ALEA has remained relatively stable at $5 million a biennium," Zemek said.

The state Department of Natural Resources raises money for ALEA as it manages the state's 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands. Revenue comes from leases of waterfront sites for marinas, public ports, log storage, restaurants, aquaculture, and selling harvest rights for geoducks and other shellfish. Since the Port of Bremerton leases the Harper Pier from the DNR, it appears the money would come full circle, if the port obtains the grant.

Most feedback the port has gotten from the community amounted to a loud outcry to save the Harper Pier, a popular spot for fishing, crabbing and scuba diving. But one man who attended Tuesday's port meeting, Clarke Coulter of Port Orchard, said the port should deep six the pier. The port's primary mission is economic development, not recreation, Coulter said.

The port is looking for support from the DNR and Kitsap County, and port officials have suggested the public needs to kick in as well. The idea was floated for scuba divers to build an underwater reef that would be a tourist destination. Port officials also wondered aloud if Harper residents would be open to creating a junior taxing district, like the Kingston Metropolitan Parks District, to help fund improvements on the dock.

As always, open to your thoughts.

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Kitsap Sun

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State grant sought for South Kitsap skate park

By Chris Henry

Originally published 05:40 p.m., April 16, 2012
Updated 05:56 p.m., April 16, 2012

SOUTH KITSAP — A state grant could help Kitsap County and South Kitsap Skate Park Association get twice the bang for their buck in funding construction of a state-of-the-art, outdoor skateboard center at South Kitsap Regional Park.

The county will apply for $132,500 from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, which oversees the recreation grant, Parks and Recreation Director Jim Dunwiddie told the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners on Monday.

The state requires a “match” of money it contributes, and $108,000 that the nonprofit skate park group has raised over the past five years would be used to cover most of the match. The county, if it gets the grant, would contribute the remainder of the match from its parks budget.

In essence, said Dunwiddie, the county is using the skate park group’s funds, already committed to the project, to leverage additional money. The grant total, with funding contributed by the group and the county, is $265,000.

The skate park group’s $108,000 is earmarked for halfpipes, ramps, rails and other obstacles at the skatepark. If the county beats out contenders in the fiercely competitive grant pool, more such features could be built, possibly along with bleacher seating, landscaping and security cameras. An in-line skate feature is envisioned down the road and would not be covered by the grant.

But Dunwiddie expects stiff competition for limited grant dollars.

“Just like every other grant that everyone else is trying to get, it’s fierce,” Dunwiddie said.

According to Recreation and Conservation Office spokeswoman Susan Zemek, funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program — which handles this grant money — has recently plummeted, while other Recreation grant accounts have remained relatively steady, despite the state’s budget woes. The Wildlife and Recreation Program’s account went from $100 million in the 2007-09 biennium to $42 million this biennium.

The county already has committed $200,000 from its parks capital budget to construct a skate bowl, which is to be the centerpiece of the facility. Parks officials need a permit

approval from the county's Department of Community Development before they can put the project out to bid, which might be this spring, Parks and Recreation Director Jim Dunwiddie said.

The entire skatepark is expected to be built in phases and to cost $1 million when completed in unknown years.

Meanwhile, the skate park group continues to seek — and earn — grants of its own, including a $75,000 one in 2011 from the Birkenfeld Trust of Seattle. The group's plans to use part of the money for a small skate bowl in a Port Orchard city park have been abandoned.

According to Leslie Reynolds-Taylor, the flurry of fundraising activity that the group undertook when plans for the skate park were first announced, have died down due to lack of volunteers. At one time, approximately 50 people, including young skateboarders, threw themselves into carwashes, skate demos and concerts. These days, a core of about a half-dozen people remain, but Reynolds-Taylor is confident volunteers will return as soon as construction on the skatepark gets under way.

"There are so many people in the public that don't believe it's going to happen. 'Why work on it?'" Reynolds-Taylor said. "I believe once we put the hole in the ground and people see it's going to be built, I think people are going to come out and help."

Part of the delay is the fact that the skatepark project is part of a massive upgrade of the entire park that is expected to take a couple of decades and cost roughly $22 million. Any aspect of the upgrade must be planned so that it fits in with the entire scheme, Dunwiddie said.

In September, in an unrelated venture, a then-20-year-old longboarder opened a 3,000-square-foot indoor skate park on Mile Hill Drive. Richard Anderson said he wanted Impact Skate Shop to be a community hub, and he appears to be succeeding.

"They have definitely given the community something that we really needed," Reynolds-Taylor said. "If you go in there any time of the day, that place is packed. They've done an awesome job giving kids a place to go."

Reynolds-Taylor does not see for-profit Impact Skate as competition to the South Kitsap skate park. Both indoor and outdoor venues are needed, the more the better, she said.

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Concerns emerged before land sale

By Brynn Grimley

Saturday, April 21, 2012

CENTRAL KITSAP — The Kitsap County commissioners chambers was filled with people in May 2009 when the audience suddenly erupted into applause.

Members of the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club were cheering the county commissioners for unanimously selling 72 acres and giving the club full control over its shooting range.

Club executive officer Marcus Carter cited the sale as a model of the private sector and the government working together, “doing what they’re supposed to do.”

Commissioner Josh Brown said the sale lived up to the county’s pledge to save the club while creating a 1,200-acre park for Central Kitsap.

“I made a promise to them that if we were able to complete the land swap and move forward with the 1,000-plus acre Newberry Hill Heritage Park, we would come up with a way for the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club to continue,” Brown said following the commissioners’ vote.

The deal appeared to be a happy ending for both sides. Brown and fellow commissioners moved ahead to transfer state-owned land, which included the gun club, to the county for a park; the club believed a title to the land would eliminate fears someone could boot them from the property they’d occupied since 1926.

But within a year the congeniality expressed in May 2009 had degraded into a bitter legal battle over alleged violations of land-use laws, excessive noise and high-powered bullets said to be straying into the neighboring community.

Commissioners seemed caught off guard by complaints that poured in after the sale. But emails and documents reveal that commissioners were warned of concerns before and during the land transfer.

Those concerns went unaddressed as the county raced against the clock to complete the land deal in light of a looming deadline on a $755,000 state grant.

Commissioners created their 1,200-acre park but legal costs have mounted. When the trial ended Nov. 7, 2011, county attorneys and legal assistants had spent more than 2,600 hours on the case along with $83,000 in other legal expenses.

The Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club meanwhile has appealed a court order shutting down the range.

What happened?

TIME OF THE ESSENCE

In the early 1990s, some club members began to get the feeling that they were at risk of losing their longtime home off Seabeck Highway. County park planners eyed the densely forested parkland as an ideal spot for a Heritage Park.

“I think it was as far back as 1993; I had a parks person at the range that was asking us about moving, because they had some grand vision about a Central Park, like what’s in New York City,” Carter said.

A decade later, Carter had run-ins with Mark Fisher, a former Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member who said stray bullets were leaving the range near trails on Department of Natural Resources land. He pushed for the relocation of the range to the South Kitsap Industrial Area.

So when Carter wrote to club members in March 2009 about the county taking ownership of the club’s gun range he didn’t have much trouble getting people to show up at a meeting on the topic.

DNR held the meeting to review the proposed swap, which transferred 522 acres of state-owned school trust land to the county in exchange for 543 acres of county land. The swap expanded the county’s existing 250 acres that comprised the Newberry Hill Heritage Park, which borders the gun club.

More than 200 people filled the chambers, with gun club members dominating public testimony. Gun club leaders talked about building a “world-class shooting facility” that would complement the planned Heritage Park.

By the time the meeting was held, the county was working under a tight deadline to finalize the swap by June 2009. An expiring state Recreation and Conservation Office grant prevented any extension of that date. The $755,000 grant was used to buy the land the county traded to DNR for the park.

“The DNR stated to the county that if they were going to transfer parcels over to the county in this area, they wouldn’t just transfer some of the parcels, they would transfer all of them,” Brown said.

In a Jan. 26, 2009, email, former parks planner Rick Fackler stressed the urgency of the swap:

“If the county vacillates much on the arrangement it will not happen,” he wrote. “And if it does not happen now, I am afraid it will not happen for a long, long time.”

By March 2009 it appeared everything was on track for a June approval.

Five days after a public hearing where gun club supporters showed up in force, email exchanges between club leaders and county parks staff show talk had begun about selling the club its property.

State law prevented DNR from selling the land to the club without a public auction; department policy discourages owning small pockets of land.

In closed meetings, county commissioners discussed liability tied to a site with an active shooting range, Brown said.

Ultimately county prosecutors recommended against owning the property, citing liability concerns about accumulations of lead and other toxic chemicals at the gun range, Brown said.

There was almost no talk at public meetings about the possible hazards, but behind closed doors conversations about the potential for pollutants on site were paramount in the board's decision to sell the land, he said.

LAND-USE CONCERNS IGNORED

The commissioners' talks of liability overshadowed red flags raised over land-use violations.

The board did request a meeting with Department of Community Development staff in the run-up to the deal, including code enforcement officer Steve Mount and department director Larry Keeton.

Commissioners Brown, Charlotte Garrido and Steve Bauer asked about land-use violations from 2005 to 2007 that occurred before they were elected, including allegations that the club illegally cleared land outside its historic 8-acre footprint.

Court records show Mount spent two years attempting to work with gun club leaders after a 2005 complaint stating the club had cleared property to add a new rifle line without a permit. Mount issued a verbal stop-work order until permits were issued.

Club leaders at first didn't believe they needed a permit. Later they abandoned the expansion because they felt a permit would give the county too much control over operations at the shooting range.

Because DNR owned the property, Mount kept DNR officials informed about the disagreement.

A document prepared in 2007 by Brad Pruitt with DNR's South Puget Sound Region outlined the property the state planned to transfer to the county, including a section with "a historically troubled gun club lease."

"Local neighbors have complained about the gun club use, and the lessee has been less than cooperative with county code enforcement and has had trouble communicating improvements on and off the lease area with DNR," Pruitt wrote. "DNR

will potentially spend considerable resources resolving ongoing issues, or even be pressured to relocate the club on other DNR lands if the property is not exchanged to Kitsap County."

Brown doesn't remember seeing this document or being made aware of the state's concerns with the club's lease.

Testimony from the lawsuit between the county and gun club, along with correspondence between the county's code enforcement division, the state and KRRC show there was strife among the three entities over the club's code compliance in 2007.

In an email from July 18, 2007, Patrick Hennessy, a natural resources specialist with DNR, wrote to DNR deputy supervisor Randy Acker about the county's concerns. The club was not out of compliance with its lease, even though it had failed to obtain permits to do work on site, he said.

"Randy, this is a very long story involving deep, personal conflicts between KRRC and County Code Enforcement inspectors going back decades," Hennessy wrote. "In my opinion the county has failed to do their job of enforcing code. Rather, they have attempted to draw DNR into canceling the lease."

By November 2007, communication between the county and DNR officials was strained, according to Mount. Shortly thereafter, Hennessy informed the county that DNR had inspected the property and the gun club was in compliance with its lease. He noted DNR was done dealing with the problem.

County code officers did not return to inspect the property.

At a March 23, 2009, meeting with county commissioners, DCD Director Keeton told the board before the land swap went through that he wanted a county inspection of the KRRC property to ensure the restoration work for illegal clearing was completed like DNR said.

But county commissioners never followed up on Keeton's request.

"When we made the decision we didn't want to lease it and we wanted to separate the club out, I don't recall the board spending much time asking questions about, 'Is the rifle and revolver club in compliance?' I just don't," Brown said. "All the way along for the county, our sole interest was being able to complete the Newberry Hill Heritage Park acquisition."

That was the direction given to county attorneys working on the land transaction; there was no direction to look into the land use violations, Prosecuting Attorney Russ Hauge said.

“My office’s direction by our client, the county commissioners, was to close the deal however the deal had to be closed to get the parkland DNR had,” he said. “The rifle club issues were always a side show.”

A DONE DEAL

The voice of the gun club was the loudest during the land deal. Their comments largely outweighed any opposition to the proposed exchange.

“We did hear from a lot of the gun range users about how important it was to them and how well-used the facility was,” Commissioner Garrido said. “A lot of what we were hearing was assurances that they were good stewards up to that time and they would continue to be.”

But there were voices urging caution.

Club neighbors Terry Allison and Wade Larson were in the minority when they warned commissioners not to rush the deal. Allison had communicated concerns to Brown previously about the club.

“The whole speed of the process was wrong,” said Allison, whose property borders the club. “There was nothing wrong with the county continuing the lease until all the details were evaluated.”

Allison filed repeated complaints with county code enforcement about what he believed was illegal land use at the range starting in 2005.

In a May 2007 letter to Brown, Allison detailed his concerns, including allegations of clearing and grading the property without permits, increased noise and a change in the historic footprint of the site, which he felt put neighboring homes in danger. Allison later became part of CK Safe and Quiet LLC, a group of neighbors who organized to bring attention to their concerns with the club.

Two weeks before commissioners approved the land transfer with the gun club they received an email from Larry D. Cote, a retired parks and recreation employee who claimed he suggested the creation of the Newberry Hill Heritage Park while working for the county.

“I am thinking seriously of filing a zoning complaint violation regarding the gun club expansions,” he wrote to commissioners on April 27, 2009. “You just simply need to take control of this situation, put any sale on hold (there is no rush) and investigate the expansion of the gun club without any zoning approvals or Conditional Use Permit approvals of record.”

Cote’s and Allison’s emails to commissioners and parks planners were never publicly addressed by commissioners.

“There were enough indicators out there that should have clued in somebody,” Allison said.

“There was hardly anybody else at the time of the land swap who knew really what it entailed,” Larson added.

Carter said it’s easy to see why county commissioners so readily went along with the agreement.

“They didn’t want the property with the lead on it and they weren’t interested in owning a gun club,” he said.

Other than the warnings issued in documents leading up to the sale, DNR did not discuss code compliance concerns with the county, nor did the county ask about them, said Doug McClelland, DNR’s South Puget Sound assistant region manager.

“As we sold the property the county took on the lease and it was up to them to determine if the site was in compliance,” McClelland said. “There weren’t any requirements or orders or directions at the time of sale, or directives in the sale agreement, that required us to do that.”

LITIGATION THE ONLY ANSWER

Despite the concerns brought up in various memos and emails, county commissioners claimed to know only of a few complaints lodged against the club.

It wasn’t until after the exchange was complete that commissioners realized the severity of allegations against the club that led the county to sue it, Garrido said.

“We were assured that they were going to be abiding by all of the constraints that we discussed and that they would honor hours and that they would have safety training,” she said of club leadership.

Those constraints were outlined in a bargain and sale deed drafted by county prosecutors and signed by gun club and county leaders.

The three-page document placed restrictions on the club’s expansions confining its operations to its historic 8-acre footprint. Any expansion beyond the 8 acres would require county approval and conformation to conditions protecting public safety and habitat. It did not include a requirement that the club bring the site into compliance before taking ownership.

Club leadership saw the agreement as a fresh start with the county, erasing all previous disagreements over land use and compliance.

Even without language citing specific land-use violations, the document didn’t forgive previous violations of the gun club, Hauge said.

County prosecutors later argued this position in the lawsuit against the club. The judge found in favor of their argument in her decision.

While prosecutors followed the direction of commissioners in 2009 to complete the land swap, a year later they couldn't ignore mounting evidence against the club suggesting code violations and disregard for the terms of the bargain and sale agreement, Hauge said.

Complaints from neighbors who started to organize their efforts escalated in November 2009. Around the same time Hauge learned from county code inspector Mount that he was being denied access to inspect the club property and that a stop-work order had been ignored. Hauge also remembers hearing gunfire from the range at his Chico home, something he'd never heard before, leading him to believe the allegations of expansion, he said.

The cumulation of these events, which came after commissioners approved the sale, are what led the prosecutor's office to pursue legal action in 2010.

Commissioners made the best decision they could with the information they had at the time, Brown said. Had more complaints from the community come ahead of when the deal was completed, he said he would have worked for a smaller Heritage Park that did not require the county to take over the gun club land. DNR could have continued as the gun club's landlord.

"Hindsight is always 20-20," he said. "If I had the choice today, knowing what I know now, I would not sell the gun range."

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PORT OF BREMERTON

3219

Harper fishing pier aid pursued

Officials may apply for state grant to rebuild

By Kitsap Sun staff

BREMERTON NATIONAL AIRPORT — Saving the crumbling Harper fishing pier will be on the minds of Port of Bremerton commissioners when they meet Tuesday.

The three leaders — Larry Stokes, Axel Strakeljahn and Roger Zabinski — are expected to direct the staff to apply for a $500,000 state grant to repair the aging and wave-battered pier. If received, the port would have to come up with $500,000 in matching funds out of its own budget, creating a $1 million pot of money to contribute toward the project.

If received, the money would be available in 2013.

The wooden pier was built in the late 1880s to serve Mosquito Fleet mini-ferries, and has been repaired many times over the years. At a recent public meeting, port marine-facilities chief Steve Slaton said more fixes won't extend its life for much longer. It must be replaced entirely at $1.5 million, progressively rebuilt as needed, or torn down, he said.

The pier is popular with neighborhood walkers and anglers.

The application would be made to the state Recreation and Conservation Office. Slaton admitted getting that maximum amount allowed under the agency's aquatic lands enhancement account is a long shot. Competition for the grant money is very fierce. But he also said it's worth a shot.

The meeting takes place at 6 p.m. at port offices at Bremerton National Airport.

A study session takes place at 5:30 p.m., where port leaders might discuss fees the port charges at the Bremerton Marina.

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Harper Pier OK'd to apply for grant

Board looks to county, DNR to pay their share

By Chris Henry
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BREMERTON AIRPORT — The Port of Bremerton Board of Commissioners gave the go-ahead Tuesday to a grant application that could net up to $500,000 toward a permanent fix for the Harper Pier in South Kitsap, but not without considerable discussion of "what ifs."

The port has spent $400,000 on the aging but popular structure over the past 12 years, counting routine maintenance and efforts to shore up a deteriorating skeleton near the end of its useful life.

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement grant from the state's Recreation and Conservation Office would cover one-third of the cost to replace the pier. Plans include adding benches and a dock where small boats can moor. The port would have to match the grant, but could do so using money kicked in by other public agencies.

The state Department of Natural Resources owns the dock, built in the late 1800s to serve the fleet of small boats that was public transportation back then. The port leases the dock and is responsible for its upkeep but not bound to repair it.

Commissioner Larry Stokes asked "what if" the port didn't get the entire grant amount it was after. Would it be on the hook to complete the project?

"The grant doesn't have to be executed or spent. It wouldn't be good for the port's reputation, but we can back out of the grant at any time," said Steve Slaton, director of marine facilities.

A scaled-back version of the plan also is a possibility, Slaton said, but it would require renegotiating the grant.

Before the vote, Commissioner Roger Zabinski tendered his approval only on condition that the DNR and Kitsap County would kick in on the cost. He also suggested community members — who turned out in force in defense of the pier at a March meeting — might be willing to create a junior taxing district to help fund the project.

Commissioner Axel Strakeljahn likened the DNR to a landlord with a crumbling building. "They do have a responsibility as well," he said.

Slaton said negotiations were under way with both the port and the county, but due to the timing of the grant application window, the port is on its own, at least for now.

"We have formally engaged the county and DNR in this project. They haven't stepped up to formally offer any support," Slaton said.

Unlike the many who favor saving the dock, Clarke Coulter of Port Orchard, who has a plane at Bremerton National Airport, said the port's responsibility is not to provide recreation, but to make the airport, its marine facilities and the Olympic View Industrial Park self-sustaining. He advised the board to deep-six the pier and focus on revenue-producing endeavors.

"The half-a-million the port's asking for is matching. That means the port will have to come up with half-a-million, and we'll still be half-a-million short," Coulter said. "I don't want to see a single dime go to a non-revenue-producing pier."

The board unanimously approved the grant application, with the understanding that the port will keep up pressure on the county and DNR to kick in, appeal to the community for help and consider a scaled-back version if funding realities dictate.

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Pier replacement relies on grant application

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KITSAP CAUCUS

Competition is fierce for a grant from the state's Recreation and Conservation Office that Port of Bremerton officials hope to score for replacement of the aging Harper pier. Port officials formally approved the grant application on Tuesday.

Susan Zemek, RCO spokeswoman, provided some information I had requested on the impact of state budget cuts on recreation grant funding.

"Overall, funding for recreation grants has dropped significantly in the past few years," said Zemek, whose agency manages nine state and federal grant programs for recreation.

The term "recreation" covers a variety of activities, including parks, trails, ball fields, skate parks, swimming pools and wildlife habitat. Most of the RCO's grant programs have seen fairly stable funding during the past few years (about $25 million this biennium).

"However, the largest funding source, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program has seen funding plummet from $100 million in the 2007-09 biennium to $42 million this biennium," Zemek said. "That is the lowest amount the program has been funded since its start in 1990."

> "Overall, funding for recreation grants has dropped significantly in the past few years."
>
> **Susan Zemek,** Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is the largest grant program for local parks and trails in the state.

The grant the port will apply for comes from the RCO's Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

"Funding for ALEA has remained relatively stable at $5 million a biennium," Zemek said.

The state Department of Natural Resources raises money for ALEA as it manages the state's 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands. Revenue comes from leases of waterfront sites for marinas, public ports, log storage, restaurants, aquaculture, and selling harvest rights for geoducks and other shellfish. Because the Port of Bremerton leases the Harper pier from the DNR, it appears the money would come full circle, if the port obtains the grant.

Most feedback the port has gotten from the community amounted to a loud outcry to save the Harper pier, a popular spot for fishing, crabbing and scuba diving. But one man who attended Tuesday's port meeting, Clarke Coulter of Port Orchard, said the port should deep-six the pier. The port's primary mission is economic development, not recreation, Coulter said.

The port is looking for support from the DNR and Kitsap County, and port officials have suggested the public needs to kick in as well.

The idea was floated for scuba divers to build an underwater reef that would be a tourist destination. Port officials also wondered aloud if Harper residents would be open to creating a junior taxing district, like the Kingston Metropolitan Parks District, to help fund improvements on the dock.

This item originally appeared on Kitsap Caucus, a blog at kitsapsun.com. To comment or read more, visit http://pugetsoundblogs.com/kitsap-caucus.

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City seeks more money for park work

2219

BY **KEVAN MOORE**

KMOORE@CENTRALKITSAPREPORTER.COM

The City of Bremerton is moving forward with efforts to complete improvements to a pair of downtown parks.

City councilors were likely to approve a pair of grant applications this week to obtain more money to finish work at Anderson Cove and Evergreen Rotary parks.

Last year in May, the city used a $331,000 Department of Ecology grant to purchase a .62 acre parcel of waterfront property on Anderson Cove for storm water filtration and recreational access. The parks and recreation department will now apply to the state's Recreation and Conservation Office for $150,000 of land and water conservation funds to improve the property for neighborhood recreational use.

Planned improvements at the park include grading, landscaping, irrigation, a path, park furniture and signage. The city will use the value of the property and volunteer labor as a local match for the additional money to complete the work.

City staff says that it will cost about $1,700 per year to maintain the park.

At Evergreen Rotary Park, meanwhile, city officials are hoping to create a playground that is accessible to all children, regardless of disability.

In 2011 the parks department and Bremerton Beyond Accessible Play (BBAP) received a $162,000 Community Development Block Grant to assist with the development of an inclusive playground and improve access at Evergreen Park for people with disabilities. A new grant application to the state's Recreation and Conservation Office uses the block grant and successful community fundraising efforts by BBAP to meet the local match requirements for this $211,350 grant opportunity.

The anticipated total project budget is $422,700.

"When completed the Beyond Accessible Playground will be the first play area in Bremerton and Kitsap County to provide universally designed, integrated play opportunities for all children regardless of disability," a city staff report states.

BREMERTON PATRIOT

PRINT THIS

City seeks more money for park work

By KEVAN MOORE
Bremerton Patriot Writer
MAY 8, 2012 · 4:50 PM

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Contact Bremerton Patriot Writer Kevan Moore at kmoore@bremertonpatriot.com.

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http://www.bremertonpatriot.com/news/150692775.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Kitsap Sun

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Boat launch plans revived on Lake Tahuyeh

By Christopher Dunagan

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

LAKE TAHUYEH — A new boat launch on Lake Tahuyeh for small, nonmotorized craft could become a reality if state officials find $250,000 to build it.

A hard-fought lawsuit between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Tahuyeh Lake Community Club ended last summer when a Kitsap County judge ruled that the state has a right to build the boat launch and open public access to the lake in western Central Kitsap.

The community club filed an appeal of the ruling, then dropped the case in February without comment.

Dave Brittell, special assistant to the director of Fish and Wildlife, said he is pursuing funding for the boat launch. The project was listed among possible public access facilities proposed to the Legislature this year as part of a "jobs" package. The project was not among the nine access projects approved in the budget, he said, but it remains a possible alternative if other projects fall through.

Meanwhile, a grant request for the boat launch has been submitted to the Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Grants will be awarded next year, with funds available in 2014.

Arvilla Ohlde with Bremerton Sportsmen's Club said the boat launch is a high priority for fishing groups in the Kitsap County region. She said she tried to get the project funded by the Legislature this year but failed to gain unanimous support from area lawmakers.

Several years ago, the project was placed into the budget by the governor and held there through two budget cycles, but it was later dropped during the legal battle.

"Everyone is just watching and waiting for this to happen," Ohlde said. "Public access is a huge issue."

Brittell said he will use the time to work with leaders in the Lake Tahuyeh community and with local fishing groups to iron out details of the project.

"I want to have a dialogue about what people would want to see there," he said.

The plan is for a parking lot that could hold a half-dozen cars at once; a small restroom with a vault toilet; and a 90-foot gravel path that people could use to carry kayaks, canoes or inflatables to the water. A fence would separate the state property from adjoining properties.

"I'm optimistic that we can make it work," Brittell said. "That does not mean there are not sincere values on all sides."

He hopes to find ways to address community concerns expressed about trash, vandalism, noise and other issues. Still to be worked out are possible fishing seasons and hours that the launch can be used.

If the site is open for fishing, the state could be expected to stock the lake with fish or at least contribute to the cost, following an appropriate stock assessment, he said.

If the community wants something like a security light, fencing or landscaping, that could be decided by Fish and Wildlife staff, Brittell said. Issues such as the type of access and fishing seasons will be decided by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

"I'm trying to be a sponge to understand the concerns of the local residents," he said, noting that he'd like to hold a community meeting before his agency applies for a site permit from the Kitsap County Department of Community Development.

The boat-launch project was approved in 2007 by the Kitsap County hearing examiner with the stipulation that the state work out a management plan with area residents. After a lawsuit was filed by the Tahuyeh Lake Community Club, state officials dropped plans for a boat launch. Plans were revived after the state won the case.

Brittell said he will wait until he gets more assurance about grant funding before applying for a new county permit. He said county planners informed him that the permitting process must start over.

A primary issue in the lawsuit was whether Lake Tahuyeh was originally nothing more than a bog before the construction of a dam created the lake, as contended by the community club. If that were the case, the state's ownership of waterfront property beginning in 1939 would not provide "riparian rights," which confer public access to the entire surface of the lake. Most of the lake bottom is owned by the community club, which would otherwise control access.

Judge Dalton ruled, based on testimony, that Lake Tahuyeh was indeed a lake before it was ever altered by the dam.

"While it is clear that the water level in the lake fluctuated in the early years ... Tahuyeh Lake was always and continues to be a lake," Dalton said in her 19-page ruling.

Jean Bulette, president of the community club, said she would not comment at this time.

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Kittitas Valley farm easement approved

First for working agricultural land

For **THE DAILY RECORD**

An agreement between Forterra, Kittitas County government and Vernon and Roma Stokes will protect the Stokes' 260-acre Triple Creek Ranch north of Ellensburg as a working farm in perpetuity, according to a news release.

Jill Scheffer-Arango

Funding for the purchase came from state and federal government grants.

The agreement has been in the works for five years in cooperation with the Stokes, Forterra and county government officials, according said Jill Scheffer-Arango, Forterra senior managing conservation director in Ellensburg.

Forterra, formerly Cascade Land Conservancy, has led in establishing conservation easements for other rural lands in the county, but this is the first involving a working-farmland conservation easement.

With the easement in place, the long-time, family-owned farm can continue its agricultural operations in perpetuity without worrying about rural residential development pressures, Scheffer-Arango said.

"We are very excited about the successful conservation of Triple Creek," said Scheffer-Arango. "It was a long process requiring hard work with a wide variety of partners, but we kept at it and were able to help the Stokes family fulfill their dream to protect their family farm."

*See **Easement**, Page A5*

Conservation easement approved

Bringing the Triple Creek deal together

By **MIKE JOHNSTON**
senior writer

In 2007, farmland owners Roma and Vernon Stokes approached Forterra with a request to help them stave off constant offers from developers wanting to subdivide their property for rural residential development, according to a news release.

Forterra agreed to help, recognizing the importance of Triple Creek Ranch as a working farm with high quality riparian habitat, uninterruptible water rights, high water quality, important wildlife corridors and historic family ownership, the release said.

Triple Creek Ranch has been a working farm since the late 1800s. The Stokes bought it in the 1940s and it has remained in the same family ever since. Over the years it has been a cattle ranch and grown crops such as alfalfa, timothy hay and grain.

Before the purchase of the conservation easement, the property was zoned for 13, 20-acre residential parcels.

The conservation easement eliminates the possibility of development on all but five acres that already have homes built on them.

More on the way

The conservation of Triple Creek Ranch is part of Forterra's mission to conserve 200,000 acres of working farmland in Kittitas County, the release said.

The work is guided by The Cascade Agenda, a 100-year vision for the Central Cascade region's economies, communities and lands.

Triple Creek's acquisition was completed with grants from the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchland Preservation Program and the state of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office's Farmland Preservation program.

EASEMENT

Continued from Page A1

Kittitas County and the nonprofit Forterra organization co-hold the conservation easement on the ranch, and the Stokes family will continue to be the underlying fee holder.

How it works

Conservation easements allow land owners to realize the development value of their land while retaining ownership for continued agricultural production.

"Bringing this project together took longer than we expected," said Vernon Stokes, owner of Triple Creek Ranch, in the news release. "But we stuck with Forterra and the process and were, ultimately, able to make sure that the farm we love will stay a farm for our kids, grandkids and great-grandkids."

Roma Stokes said, "We want our family to be able to enjoy the farm forever. It means much to us that we are able to leave this legacy for them."

County Commissioner Paul Jewell, in the release, said conserving working farmland is a priority for the citizens of Kittitas County.

"Our rural way of life and economic base depend on maintaining agriculture, and we need viable farmland to stay in production in order to ensure that future," Jewell said.

"Purchasing conservation easements on working farmland in partnership with private entities, like Forterra, is an excellent way to ensure the continued viability of our agricultural economy."

Kirk Holmes, director of Kittitas County Public Works, said the Triple Creek project is a great example of cooperation to help agriculture.

"This kind of public/private partnership is what we need to ensure landowners in the county have options to keep their land in working agriculture," he said. " We have the transfer of development rights program, but we also need a way for landowners to access public funding for the future of farming."

Shelton, WA
(Mason Co.)
Shelton-Mason
County Journal
(Cir. W. 7,525)
FEB 09 2012
Allen's P.C.B. *Est. 1888*

Forterra working on 'Olympic Agenda'

2219

By NATALIE JOHNSON
natalie@masoncounty.com

Mason County trustees from Forterra, formerly the Cascade Land Conservancy, held an open meeting at the Colonial House in Shelton on Thursday, Feb. 2.

Representatives of the conservation organization spoke of the need to balance conservation and community, and to create an "Olympic Agenda" for the Seattle-based organization that used to focus primarily on area surrounding the Washington Cascades.

"It's an open house ... to celebrate community building and conservation — we see those things as intertwined," said Michelle Connor, executive vice president and chief program officer for Forterra.

This desire to expand led the organization to change its name, said Mason County Forterra Trustee Patti Case.

Case said she had the opportunity to help the organization change its name.

"When the Cascade Land Conservancy got involved in Mason County I said, 'You're not going to bring your Cascade agenda to the Olympic Peninsula and expect us to buy in ... you're going to need an Olympic agenda,' " she said.

Journal photo by Natalie Johnson

Jodie Galvan, center, senior managing director of Forterra's stewardship program, handed out awards to recognize David Herrera, left, fish and wildlife police representative from the Skokomish Tribe, and Leslie Ryan Connelly, right, outdoor grants manager for the Recreation and Conservation Office, for their work to help purchase a land easement near the Union and Tahuya Rivers. Galvan also gave awards to David Nunes, Pope Resources president and chief executive officer, and Pope representative Brandon Bird.

Forterra, which has worked in Washington to conserve land for 20 years, has a Cascade Agenda, a 100-year plan for conservation in the Cascade region.

Since beginning to work in Mason County, the group has started to form an Olympic Agenda.

"We're not only the Cascades ... we're also about building better communities," Case said. "What's Forterra going to be in the future? That's up to all of us."

In 2011, Forterra conserved 1,000 acres of land on the Olympic Peninsula, Connor said, 160 of which were in Mason County.

In partnership with the Hood Canal Coordinating Council and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, in August 2011 Forterra bought two parcels of land along the Skokomish River near the confluence of the north and south forks of the river.

The first, a 131-acre area of forested floodplains owned by Green Diamond, cost the conservation groups $262,000 and the other — a 29-acre space — was purchased from private landowner Robert Rasmusan for $110,000.

Funding for the project came from the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office Salmon Recovery Fund and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Landowner Incentive Program. The land includes the Skokomish River Road, one of the first areas to flood when heavy rains hit the valley.

Forterra intends the project to help preserve salmon habitat in the Skokomish Valley.

Forterra also recently purchased a conservation easement on 255 acres of working forestland along the headwaters of the Union and Tahuya Rivers. The land is owned by Pope Resources.

Organizers said the $547,000 easement project, funded by a Salmon and Recovery Funding Board grant and an in-kind contribution from Pope Resources, should protect salmon habitat in the Hood Canal area.

The parties finalized the purchase minutes before the 5 p.m. grant-funding deadline on Dec. 30, 2011, said Jodie Galvan, senior managing director of Forterra's stewardship program.

"The project had been given up on many times," she said. "It came down to individual people's personal commitment to making the project happen."

Galvan recognized David Herrera, fish and wildlife police representative from the Skokomish Tribe; Leslie Ryan Connelly, outdoor grants manager for the Recreation and Conservation Office; David Nunes, Pope Resources president and chief executive officer; and representative Brandon Bird for their work to help complete the project.

Tuesday, May 08, 2012

Login

Grand Opening Of New Ball Fields At MCRA

Written by KMAS News Radio
Wednesday, 02 May 2012 08:10

John Keates, Mason County Parks & Recreation Manager, led a Dedication Ceremony at the Mason County Recreation Area (MCRA) to officially open the renovated ball parks and accept an $8,000 sponsorship check from Fred Meyer Representative Charlene Emerson. The donation was made specifically to assist in the funding the operation and maintenance of the park. The park features two new ball fields with new synthetic turf infields, making the ball parks more usable in with the wetter weather here in the Pacific Northwest. The funding of the renovation came through a State Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC) Grant Program.

IMAGES:
TOP: Intro to National Anthem

(2) The young lady singing the National Anthem is Iliana Lepe playing for the Sheetz Family Team.

(3) Charlene Emerson presenting check to

(4) Sarah Thirtyacre, Recreation and Conservation Office

(5) Josh Eveland, President of Mason County Youth Baseball Association and John Keates

(6) Josh Eveland presenting a commemorative baseball to Jon Rose, Washington Wildlife and Recreation

(7) John Keates thanking the County Commissioners, Lynda Ring-Erickson, Tim Shelton and Steve Boomfield

CHELAN/MANSON 93.5FM • 1230AM

Twisp To Apply For Trail Development Grant **4/16/2012**

The Twisp Town Council will move forward in applying for a grant through Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for the purpose of purchasing land for trail development.

The decision came during the council's regular meeting held Tuesday, April 10th.

Town Clerk, Jackie Moriarty, says the council did not take the decision lightly, and even went into executive session before making the final verdict.

The Recreation and Conservation Office began in 1964, awarding more than $1.4 billion in grants to more than 6,400 projects to help build communities.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides funding to preserve and develop outdoor recreation resources, including parks, trails, and wildlife lands.

If Twisp receives the grant, funds would provide financial assistance for the acquisition and development of public trails and would require a 50 percent match from the Town of Twisp.

The Town Council will meet again at 7 PM on Tuesday, April 24th at the Twisp Council Chambers.

Twisp, WA
(Okanogan Co.)
Methow Valley News
(Cir. W. 3,000)

FEB 29 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Help state with rec grants

2219

You can help decide how millions of dollars in state grants should be spent for recreation and conservation projects in the state.

The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office is looking for almost 70 volunteers to score grant applications for two programs: the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, which provides money for parks, trails, wildlife habitat and farmland; and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, which funds shorelines restoration and access.

Depending on the program, volunteers may need some background or experience, such as working with recreational groups or parks boards, in natural resources or engineering, or in farming or ranching.

Most volunteers serve for four years and would travel to Olympia for meetings.

Applications are available online at *www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.* For more information, contact Lorinda Anderson at (360) 902-3009 or *lorinda.anderson@rco.wa.gov.* Deadline is March 30.

Tacoma, WA
(Pierce Co.)
Tacoma Daily Index
(Cir. M-F. 1,000)

APR 30 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

City of Tacoma Newsbriefs

2219

Posted online Fri., April 27

City seeks funding to expand South Tacoma open space

The City of Tacoma has submitted a grant application to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to help fund the purchase of open space in South Tacoma.

The area, located near South 52nd Street and South Mullen Street, is part of a city-designated "habitat corridor" and has high open space value, both as forested land and as one of the largest remaining wetland systems in Tacoma, according to a memo in Tacoma City Manager T. C. Broadnax's April 26 weekly report to city council.

The application requests $500,000 from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, with no required match, to expand the total area in conservation status, enhance habitat connectivity and function, and increase the potential for public access and enjoyment of the habitat corridor. The specific parcels to be acquired will be determined based upon consideration of habitat quality and the willingness of property owners to sell.

WWRP provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities, according to the organization's Web site. The deadline for the grant application is May 1, 2012. Grants will be awarded in June 2013.

Posted online Fri., April 27

Project to clean Tacoma Dome roof is completed

The City of Tacoma announced Friday that Pioneer Masonry, a contractor hired to clean the Tacoma Dome's roof, has completed its work ahead of schedule and within budget. Last month, an anonymous donor paid $103,835 to clean the roof by May 8. The roof was last cleaned in 2003.

Posted online Fri., April 27

Comcast program highlights 6th Avenue Business District

Comcast On Demand will feature the revitalization of Tacoma's 6th Avenue Business District in a monthly program entitled "Neighborhoods." The 10-minute segment will air beginning May 1 and will be available for three months. Click! customers who want to view the show can visit http://wacomcast.com/categorv/comcast-neighborhoods/ when it is archived online.

Lopez Island, WA
(San Juan Co.)
Island's Weekly
Newspaper
(Cir. W. 9,500)

FEB 28 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Land Bank purchases conservation easement

2219

The San Juan County Land Bank has purchased a more than 100-acre conservation easement. The property, owned by Bros Farms, Inc., lies between Fisherman Bay and Dill Roads at the entrance to Lopez's center valley. The transaction was made in partnership with the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office.

"We're pleased to be successful in protecting a property with such agricultural and historical significance," said Land Bank Commissioner Nancy Greene. "It has been a priority for us to protect farmland on Lopez since the Land Bank's inception in 1990. This property is really important given its location."

The easement prohibits development on agricultural fields, but will allow farming to continue.

"People have farmed this land for more than 140 years," stated Land Bank Director Lincoln Bormann. "The easement helps keep that tradition alive."

Contributed photo

An aerial view of the San Juan County Land Bank recently purchased conservation easement

The property was originally homesteaded by Joseph Burt in 1871 and Otto Kjargaard owned and ran the farm from 1944 to 2006.

"We know Otto would be really happy that the farm won't be developed," said M.R. Buffum. "It was a big part of his life."

The acquisition was made possible because the Land Bank successfully secured a grant for $300,000 from the

SEE LAND BANK, PAGE 3

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's farmland preservation account. The Land Bank has used funding partners to make up for revenues that have fallen dramatically in the last several years. "We've been lucky to find other funding and great partners in these times," Bormann said. For more info on the Land Bank, call 378-4402 or email www.sjclandbank.org. For more info on the Washington Recreation and Conservation Office visit www.rco.wa.gov/index.asp.

Mount Vernon, WA
(Skagit Co.)
Skagit Valley Herald
(Cir. D. 17,122)
(Cir. S. 18,573)

This article also ran on March 18.

MAR -4 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

NEW THIS WEEK

2219

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB: The La Conner Boys & Girls Club seeks enthusiastic volunteers who enjoy working with and mentoring youth with homework, chess, arts and crafts, and other projects. Short and long-term opportunities available. Application, interview and background check required. 360-466-3672.

PARK/SHORELINES: The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office needs seven volunteers to evaluate grant applications for projects that build or renovate local parks and improve public access to shorelines. Candidates with expertise in project design or management, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, permitting or property acquisition are especially needed. Volunteers will serve on one of three different advisory committees that meet about 10 weekdays every two years. More information at www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

COMPOST/RECYCLE TRAINING: Skagit County's annual Master Composter/Recycler volunteer training will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays, April 5 to May 24. Receive 30 hours of free training and materials and give back 40 hours as public educators in the Skagit community. Apply online at skagitcounty.net/recycle, or contact Callie Martin at calliem@co.skagit.wa.us or 360-419-7683.

TRAIL USERS: The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office needs four volunteers to review applications for projects that build or renovate trails. Volunteers should represent trail users. Someone from a public agency familiar with managing trails is preferred. Volunteers meet about 10 weekdays every two years. Each volunteer is asked to serve for four years. More information at www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

Snohomish, WA
(Snohomish Co.)
Everett News Tribune
(Cir. W. 10,000)

APR 25 2012

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

2219

Mukilteo to make offer on Japanese Gulch land

By MICHAEL WHITNEY

MUKILTEO — The city is in the process of buying almost 11 acres of the last remaining piece of Japanese Gulch.

The City Council last week approved using a $500,000 grant the city received to make an offer.

The last piece is 98 acres and owned by a creditor group that wants to sell it. The city is slowly raising grant funds to acquire this piece bit by bit, Japanese Gulch Group president Todd Hooper said last week.

The city has no plans to use the Precht property as a bargaining chip in the deal, Hooper said. The idea of selling the Precht property to raise money to buy the last, large piece of the gulch raised concern among council members last month, most notably gulch group member Council President Richard Emery.

The city also is submitting two grant applications to the state's Recreation and Conservation Office for $500,000 and $1 million and one to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Forest Program for $400,000 to acquire additional Japanese Gulch property.

See GULCH, page 3

Snohomish County's Conservation Futures Grant panel also is aware of the city's intent to request funds in 2012 to purchase additional Japanese Gulch property. "We're slowly purchasing pieces; we've still got a long way to go:' Hooper said. "We need community support:' Community support is one of the gauges the county panel uses to give out grants, he said. The city already has acquired all of the other pieces of the gulch, and it released a master plan last year to add trails and amenities in the gulch. Japanese Gulch is the last remaining undeveloped area in Mukilteo. The gulch is plush with forests and acts as a natural wetland for Japanese Creek, which runs into Puget Sound.

1 of 2

GardenNews.biz - May 13,2012

Port Susan Bay Restoration Underway to Improve Salmon Habitat, Provide Flood Protection

The Conservancy will remove nearly 1.4 miles of existing sea dike and build about 1 mile of new dike to protect neighboring farmlands.

SEATTLE, WA

The Nature Conservancy has started construction on a project to restore about 150 acres of tidal marsh that will improve estuary habitat and flood protection in Port Susan Bay in Snohomish County.

“This project is part of widespread, ongoing efforts to ensure the health of Puget Sound,” said the Conservancy’s Washington Director Karen Anderson. “We expect this restoration project to pay off for local communities with more salmon, a healthier Port Susan Bay and better infrastructure to protect surrounding farmland against flooding.”

The Conservancy will remove nearly 1.4 miles of existing sea dike and build about 1 mile of new dike to protect neighboring farmlands. In addition, the Conservancy is partnering with the Stillaguamish Flood Control District to build an emergency floodgate that will provide flood relief for farmland on Florence Island, between Hatt Slough and the Old Stilly Channel.

“Every salmon in the Stillaguamish River uses the delta at some point in its life, but the historical delta now includes a piece of the City of Stanwood, and a lot of fertile flat land that is a critical part of our food system”, said Paul Cereghino, Restoration Ecologist at NOAA Restoration Center. “We have to look at fish, farm land protection, drainage infrastructure, sea level rise, development, and flood risk in an integrated way if we want delta landscapes to work for everyone into the future.”

The Conservancy owns the 4,122-acre Port Susan Bay Preserve, which encompasses much of the Stillaguamish River estuary including 150 acres of former tidelands now behind a sea dike. It’s long been a popular spot for birders. Public access to the preserve is closed during the restoration project, which is expected to be completed by the end of October. Once the restoration is complete, the site will reopen for visitors by reservation.

The lead construction contractor is Northwest Construction, Inc., from Bellevue. Anchor QEA will provide construction management on behalf of The Nature Conservancy. Other contractors will provide engineering and archaeological support during construction.

The project will cost roughly $4 million for pre-construction, construction and post-construction work. Funding for the project comes from the state Salmon Recovery Funding Board, the state Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program, the new state construction bill, NOAA’s Estuary Habitat Restoration Program and private donations.

“This project is a win for fish and farmers,” said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the

Recreation and Conservation Office, which administers Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants. “This is a great example of what can be done when we work together. The Nature Conservancy worked hard to understand the needs of the farmers when designing the project. We ended up with a great project that will create really important habitat for salmon.”

This restoration, like the recently completed Fisher Slough restoration in Skagit County, will demonstrate that habitat restoration and flood protection can be combined in one project. The Conservancy is working with partners around Puget Sound to protect and restore our most important rivers and shorelines for the clean water and habitat they provide, so that they can continue to support fisheries, farming and other community needs.

Because of the scope of the project and the importance of estuaries to a broad array of people, the Conservancy engaged a broad-based technical advisory committee to help inform and guide project design including the flood district, landowners, biologists, permitting agencies and tribal officials.

This multiple-benefits project would not have been possible without strong partnerships. Project partners include:

Stillaguamish Flood Control District
Twin City Foods
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Stillaguamish Watershed Council
Puget Sound Partnership
Stillaguamish Tribe
Tulalip Tribes
Snohomish Conservation District
Snohomish County
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department of Ecology

The Nature Conservancy is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at www.nature.org.

Cheney Free Press

Cheney Free Press 1616 W. First St. • Cheney • WA • 99004 • Phone: (509) 235-6184

Airway Heights applies for grant to fund park

State money would help begin phase 1 of 8.5-acre Aspen Grove on city's west side

By JAMES EIK
Staff Reporter

The Airway Heights City Council approved a resolution authorizing an application for funding assistance for Phase I of the Aspen Grove park site.

City treasurer Richard Cook said the city would apply for a grant through the state's Recreation and Conservation Office, which would come to $727,101. The city would be required to match half of the grant, totaling $363,550.50.

Aspen Grove is an 8.5 acre park on the west side of Airway Heights, and was put in place via the city's 2008 master plan. No comments were made during a public hearing on the issue.

City planner Derrick Braaten presented a workshop on the proposed modifications to the city's mixed-use overlay, which relates to development that is currently under an emergency moratorium until May 1.

Braaten said the city's current code is too broad in its application. Revising it will help to apply standards that will blend well with the county's Joint Land Use Study plan and help to simplify a complicated process.

One particular problem with the city's current document was sound attenuation in buildings, which is currently allowed, but isn't defined. Braaten said the city has a severe deficiency in multi-family housing, and that a mixed-use overlay is important to have. The city's multi-family housing offerings are operating at a 97 to 99 percent occupancy rate, he said.

"There is no cushion for people who want to move in," he said.

Potential employees involved in the Pegasus Project, which brought the Boeing 747 MAX project to Everett, and possible overflow production jobs to the West Plains, wouldn't be able to find housing in Airway Heights.

Mixed-use buildings are built according to the International Building Code, not the International Residential Code. As a result, buildings are sturdier, and meant to operate with commercial structures. They also work better in proximity to air fields.

Mixed-use properties would be restricted to C-2 commercial zones, which are located along the Highway 2 corridor in the middle of the city. Buildings located in the direct flight path of Fairchild Air Force Base would be excluded, in an attempt to not interfere with any operations. Braaten said both the mixed-use overlay and the JLUS document work to ensure the city's compatibility with surrounding aviation activities.

Although the city is in need of mixed-use buildings, Braaten said commercial developers will only

Following a workshop presented by City Manager Albert Tripp at the last City Council meeting, the first reading of a salary ordinance was approved. At the last meeting Tripp said the agreement would add a 1 percent cost of living adjustment in 2012. It would also maintain the city's 2 percent merit system through the year, then be phased out next year, replaced with a 2 percent cost of living adjustment.

The agreement covers the city's Local 270-A bargaining unit and the public safety guild. Four non-union positions will also receive the agreement's benefits: the assistant clerk-treasurer, operations manager and two treatment plant operators.

Cheney Free Press

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ge of 70-acre Airway Heights park is up to the public

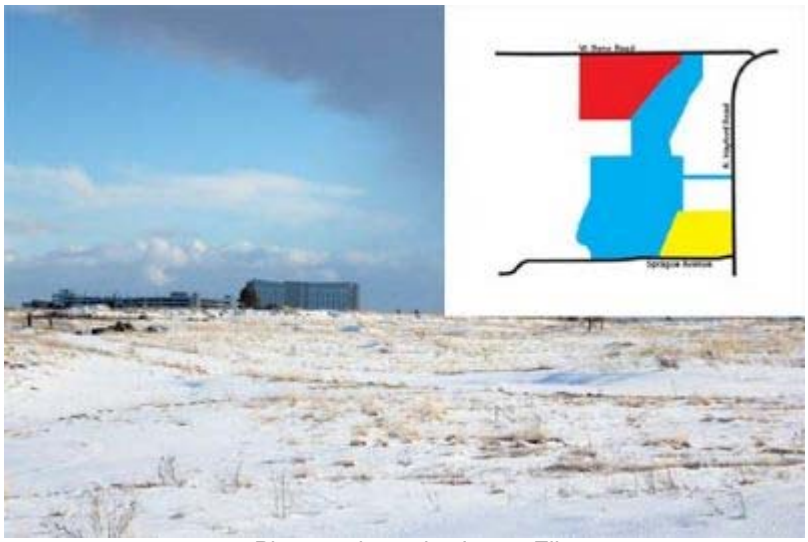

Photo and map by James Eik

In the right hand corner is a map of the proposed 70-acre park. The area in black notes the property acquired for Airway Heights' 70-acre park. Deno Road marks the northernmost boundary for the city. Photo: These open fields will eventually be home to Airway Heights' new 70-acre park. Northern Quest Casino and Resort can be seen in the background. Also on the property is the city's water reservoir, currently under construction on Deno Road.

Workshops to determine what will go in to the park

By JAMES EIK
Staff Reporter
The city of Airway Heights is looking to expand its park offerings with a 70-acre park proposal.
A series of public workshops are set to take input over the next few months to determine just what will be put into the park, which has a long-range construction timeline. Parks and recreation director J.C. Kennedy said much of the funding would come through grants from the state's Recreation and Conservation Office.
The park would be located at the northernmost part of the city, on land to the west of Spokane County Raceway. Part of the land includes the location for the city's water reservoir, which is currently under construction.
Residents at the first workshop had concerns over the amount of traffic that could come their way as a result of the park. Deno Road is currently a two-lane road, without a center turn lane. Kennedy said there were plans to extend Lundstrom Street north to Deno Road, in an effort to steer traffic away from the Hayford Road intersection and create easier access to the park from center of the city.

Rate it - 15 views-

inlander, 03-15-2012 » Page 20

Citizens Un-United

Whitewater Park: The Return

Spokane is taking another stab at a whitewater park in Peaceful Valley. The city and the nonprofit group Friends of the Falls are working to pay for an Environmental Impact Study, says Mike Aho, a city recreation supervisor.

The project, which would build new restrooms and trails and remove five unused bridge piers in the river, was put on hold after supporters lost a $500,000 grant from the state last year.

But the state's Recreation and Conservation Funding Board says it may reissue the grant if the city can come up with the environmental report.

"The only way to really resolve it is with the [impact statement] and get a ruling from that," Aho says.

"We'll get a definitive answer at that point."

— CHRIS STEIN

Cheney Free Press

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Cheney’s 50-acre park construction delayed

Wet ground sends construction start date into 2013, city deals with grant funders

By BECKY THOMAS
Staff Reporter

Record-setting spring rains combined with problem soils have caused a delay in construction of the first phase of Cheney’s 50-acre park.

Parks and Recreation director Paul Simmons told the Park Board last week that the city’s engineer recommended the city change its construction timeline, installing a drainage system and grading existing material at the site this year, “then sit on it until 2013.”

The planned baseball and softball fields would have to be constructed next summer.

“Really I don’t think we have much of a choice,” Simmons said, pointing to photos taken last July of a city tractor that sank into soils placed at the site by the Cheney School District. The school district placed excess soil at the city park site last summer when the district took down Crunk’s Hill to build school sports fields.

With the construction delay, the city has been communicating with various organizations that have awarded grants to the project. First, Simmons said he was working with the state Recreation and Conservation Office relating to the $500,000 state grant awarded to Cheney last year, filling out forms to adjust the timeline.

Additionally, the city pulled its application for a Baseball for Tomorrow grant with plans to resubmit next year. Finally, Simmons said he would contact the Sprite organization about the $10,000 grant the city received through a Facebook contest to build a basketball court at the park.

“If they can’t delay, we’ll have to find another location for that court,” Simmons said.

Park Board members expressed their disappointment about the delay, but board member Carrie Kreilkamp said that the important thing was to do the job correctly and install the proper drainage. “If those fields aren’t built right, they’ll never be used as fields,” she said. The Park Board also discussed the city’s park trees with Spokane Conservation District forestry program manager Garth Davis, who used a grant to inspect and map every tree in Cheney’s city parks.

“I looked at every individual park and made recommendations,” Davis said.

Davis spent three months in 2010 and 2011 completing the tree inventory, which was then inserted into the city’s GIS mapping system. He also completed a report with maintenance suggestions.

“In general, your park trees are in good shape,” he said. “Most of them need some pruning.”

Davis said he found more serious problems in the thick stand of ponderosa pines on the south end of Salnave Park.

“You’ve got a couple of diseases starting to take hold in there,” he said. Mistletoe and gall rust were found, both diseases that can weaken and kill trees, as well as spreading to other trees. Davis suggested thinning the ponderosa stands in Salnave, as well as a portion of Sutton Park.

“I know there’s usually no money in the budget for things like this,” he said. “If the log market ever comes back, it could be an option to take out a bunch of trees at once."

Davis also said the city could start a volunteer ñCommunity Canopyò group, in which citizens receive training and do tree pruning themselves. He stressed the value of healthy trees in city parks, and estimated the value of Cheneyôs park trees at over $4 million. With Davisôreport, the city could also apply for grants to pay for tree removal and maintenance.

ñYou now have a shovel ready project if there was money that came from above, as it has in the past,ò he said. The board also discussed plans to plant a tree in Golden Hills Park for Arbor Day, April 27. The ceremonyôs time was not set.

Finally at the meeting, Simmons brought a suggestion from Mayor Tom Trulove to name the Cheney Community Garden after the recently deceased garden leader Carl Ruud. The board discussed whether the garden, technically part of Centennial Park, was subject to city rules regulating the names for parks, but all board members were in favor of the suggestion and approved it pending a rules check.

Becky Thomas can be reached at becky@cheneyfreepress.com.

Colfax, WA
(Whitman Co.)
Whitman County Gazette
(Cir. W. 4,550)

MAR 08 2012

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

State office seeks scorers

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office seeks nearly 70 volunteers to help determine how millions in state grants should be spent in Washington's outdoors.

The volunteers will score grant applications submitted to two statewide programs: (1) the Washington Wildlife and Recreation program, which provides grants to build and renovate parks and trails, and to protect and restore valuable wildlife habitat and farmland, and (2) the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, which provides grants to restore Washington shorelines and create access for people to the waterfront. The grants are awarded to cities, counties, state agencies, tribes and others.

Volunteers are needed to evaluate grants applications for park and shoreline use, trails, farm and ranchland conservation, wildlife habitat conservation and shoreline conservation.

For more information, call Lorinda Anderson at (360) 902-3009.

From the Yakima Herald-Republic Online News.

Posted on Monday, April 16, 2012

Goal -- 10-field regional soccer complex
By Mark Morey
Yakima Herald-Republic

Part of Yakima's old mill site may one day be filled with teams of soccer players racing up and down multiple fields.

The city is preparing a grant application that may yield the first funding for a regional soccer complex on 52 acres of the old Boise Cascade mill site, now owned by an Oregon-based partnership.

The City Council tonight is scheduled to consider a resolution that would show the council approves of the proposal to seek up to $500,000 from a state fund in the Recreation and Conservation Office, which supports the work of several organizations from recreation to salmon recovery.

A preliminary concept map shows 10 fields and parking.

The soccer complex would meet several goals by being the first major development on the site, providing a central location for Yakima Valley soccer players and covering up an old city landfill that could hamper other forms of development.

Supporters say that a soccer complex could attract numerous visitors to the city, boosting the economy through hotel stays and retail purchases.

Details of the project emerged Monday at the council's media briefing in advance of today's meeting.

Interim city manager Michael Morales said staff are in the process of preparing the application for the funding. That paperwork is due by next month, though the city wouldn't see any state money until next year.

The Yakima Youth Soccer Association -- which runs recreation games for hundreds of local youngsters and hosts summer tournaments for players and supporters who number in the thousands -- supports the proposal, association president Jason Wearin said.

"I clearly would love to see the city pursue this," Wearin said Monday.

The association already has ties to soccer programs from Ellensburg into the Lower Valley, and primarily Latino adult leagues are active, too.

The association tried several years ago to develop a $4 million multi-field complex in West Valley, and before that near the city sewage treatment plant, but the endeavors fell through for lack of funding, Wearin said.

Under the city's developing proposal, the city would seek grants to buy and develop the land, which would then be managed by the soccer association.

Such a model has been successful elsewhere in the state, most notably at the Starfire Sports complex in Tukwila. When King County was looking to close parks about 10 years ago to save money, Tukwila and a nonprofit joined to develop and operate the field complex. It now hosts thousands of players, including the Seattle Sounders of Major League Soccer.

Morales estimated that total development costs would range from $2 million to $5 million. Other funding sources would be tapped for the full cost, he said.

The complex would operate at the southern end of the 211-acre mill property. The city is already responsible for environmental oversight of a 17-acre portion where a decommissioned city landfill sits. The other 35 acres of the complex is held by Office Max Corp., which acquired Boise Cascade. The current owners have an option to buy that piece from Office Max; the city would negotiate for its subsequent purchase, Morales said.

Soccer fields offer a promising alternative for the mill site because they can be used year-round and don't require disruption of the surface. Subsurface construction at the landfill site could require costly environmental review.

Wearin, the soccer association president, said the complex would help relieve fields that can be crowded at times, as well as congested parking. Organized soccer leagues right now mainly use fields at Chesterley Park and Perry Technical Institute in Yakima and the Ahtanum Youth Park in Union Gap.

The proposal comes as soccer continues to grow in popularity in the United States.

"Soccer is in the mainstream now," Wearin said.

** Mark Morey can be reached at 509-577-7671 or mmorey@yakimaherald.com.*

An artist's conception of a proposed soccer complex at the former Boise Cascade mill site in Yakima. The fields would be located on

An artist's conception of a proposed soccer complex at the former Boise Cascade mill site in Yakima. The fields would be located on the southeast corner of the property. The black line is a planned east-west road whle the gray line is an extenstion of Fair Avenue.

From the Yakima Herald-Republic Online News.

Posted on Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Yakima Council moves on soccer complex, tables car-tab fee
By Mark Morey
Yakima Herald-Republic

YAKIMA, Wash. -- The City Council decided Tuesday to proceed with a grant application to help fund the purchase of land for a soccer complex, but held off on deciding whether to take a car-tab fee to the November ballot.

The grant, which would come from the state Recreation and Conservation Office, would go toward buying 52 acres on the south end of the old Boise Cascade mill site, along Interstate 82. Other grants and funding sources would also be sought.

The state recreation grant could provide up to a half-million dollars.

City officials say the project would benefit the city by providing a location for a long-sought regional complex and by finding an appropriate use for that section of the Boise property that contains an old city landfill, which could pose environmental problems for other building options. Soccer games and tournaments could draw thousands to the area to spend money at hotels and businesses near the complex, advocates say.

The council's vote was 6-0, with Maureen Adkison absent.

Councilwoman Kathy Coffey, who made the motion to approve the grant application, said youth sports draw substantial crowds.

"It's a very good economic driver to a community," she said.

Two Yakima residents who addressed the council split on whether the soccer complex was a good idea.

Charles Noel said he believed government in general had too many financial problems to be taking on a project the private sector had not found viable.

Bill Duerr said he had been involved with soccer programs for more than three decades. He encouraged the city to go ahead because the complex would make Yakima more attractive to visitors and soccer enthusiasts.

On the car-tab issue, the council delayed the vote because the six members present were expected to deadlock over whether the measure should go to voters in November.

The $20 car-tab fee would raise about $1 million a year for five years to fund street repairs. The city has no active program for major street repairs; public works staff say streets in bad condition will only get worse without maintenance.

A council majority earlier voted not to impose the fee, but the council then voted 4-3 to ask voters to weigh in. Rick Ensey, Bill Lover and Sara Bristol voted against going to the ballot.

Some council members have expressed concerns that voters aren't willing to accept the charge; Lover has been most vocal in saying he believes the council should carve money for street repairs from the existing budget.

Without taking formal action, the council opted to wait until all members are available to vote at the next business meeting, May 1.

In other action, the council:

* Approved $1,500 in funding to help replace playground equipment stolen from La Casa Hogar, a nonprofit on South Sixth Street that supports Hispanic women and their children.

Altogether, Casa Hogar has raised about $6,000 to upgrade the equipment and make it harder to steal.

Carole Folsom-Hill, Casa Hogar's executive director, said she appreciated the council's support. "I know funds are tight, but it's also an appropriate way to let the community know you care about them."

The council voted 5-2 to approve the funding, with Lover and Ensey opposed. Lover expressed concerns that the city was setting a precedent for other outside organizations to approach the city with funding requests. The Casa Hogar proposal came from interim city manager Michael Morales, who said he thought it was a good use of money originally from the federal government that has since been turned back to the city for discretionary spending.

Dave Ettl made the motion to approve the contribution.

"We have an appropriate need and we can help meet that need," Ettl said.

* Authorized working with the Yakima Valley Museum to move a statue of Col. J.J. Weisenburger, the commander of state National Guard troops during the Spanish-American War. The museum plans to store the statue, which has crumbled into disrepair while sitting at the intersection of Yakima and Naches avenues for 110 years.

"I hope he makes it," Coffey joked.

Organizers of the citizen- led effort hope to raise money to replace the statue with a replica at the same intersection.

A blog for public natural open space in the Puget Sound region

Home

Serving Recreation and Conservation in Washington

March 12, 2012
tags: RCO, volunteer
by Norah

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office is looking for volunteers to join its Advisory Committees. Committee members help evaluate grant applications, so they get to have a real say in the distribution of funds to great programs in the state. They provide technical advice on project merits, legislative issues, and statewide planning. They also advise RCO on issues affecting grant programs and help develop policies and procedures. Most of the work occurs in the spring and early summer. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. For more information, check out the RCO website.

Benefits of volunteering (according to their website):

- The ability to learn and grow professionally and personally
- The ability to help shape the quality of life for Washingtonians
- Skills to become a better grant writer
- Valuable experience for your resume

If you think you would be a good candidate, definitely consider serving on one of the following:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)
- Boating Program Advisory Committee
- Farmland Advisory Committee (Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program)
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) - Habitat
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) - Outdoor Recreation

Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance ORV funds lawsuit will go before the Washington State Supreme Court.

Olympia, Washington - 13 February 2012

The Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (WOHVA) and Northwest Motorcycle Association (NMA) lawsuit against the State of Washington to block the transfer of over 9.5 million dollars in offroad vehicle funds from the Nonhighway and Offroad Vehicle Activities (NOVA) account to State Parks will advance to the Washington State Supreme Court. Attorney James Buchal will be representing both organizations.

In 2009 the Legislature passed House Bill 1244, which transferred the money out of the NOVA account. The NOVA account money comes from the gas tax paid by offroad vehicle users and the license tab fees on offroad vehicles (ORV).

According to the Washington State Constitution gas tax collected must be used only for roads. To comply with that the state allows refunds on gas tax paid for other uses. In 1972 the offroad vehicle community supported passage of legislation that waived their right to a direct refund of the taxes they paid for ORV fuel in exchange for having those same funds "refunded" into a dedicated account to promote and protect their sport. Later on, their ORV license tab money was added to this account too. The NOVA program was established to administer these funds.

All the money went to State Parks where it was not spent on offroad vehicle recreation. This was not a legitimate refund for the benefit of these taxpayers.

The NOVA funding is normally distributed by the State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board in the form of grants. These grants are awarded to governmental agencies such as the United States Forest Service, the Washington Department of Natural Resources and various counties. It is the primary source of funding for offroad vehicle recreation and for law enforcement on public lands in Washington.

If this funding is not returned to benefit the taxpayers that paid for it, families and their children throughout the State of Washington will lose the healthy outdoor recreational opportunities they were promised and for which they paid their taxes and ORV tab fees, as the trails they have enjoyed together are closed. Additionally, public employees throughout Washington who maintain and patrol those trails will lose their jobs.

The Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance and the Northwest Motorcycle Assoc. are nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting and promoting off highway vehicle and offroad motorcycle recreation.

Tod Petersen
Political Action Committee Chairman - Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance
Legislative/Land Use Coordinator - NW Motorcycle Association
P.O. Box 61161
Seattle, WA 98141
tod701@aol.com
www.wohva.org
www.nmaoffroad.org

~

PLATEAU
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Projects

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Gun Club Site

Posted in Trails / Recreation

A privately-owned gun club was awarded a Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) grant by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. The project would involve construction of facilities including an RV parking area, clubhouse, trap shooting range, handgun range, several rifle ranges, and access routes between areas within a larger facility spanning 106 acres.

No previously recorded archaeological sites or potential Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) were identified in the Project Area during pre-field research for this project. The pedestrian survey did not reveal the presence of any prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, features, or artifacts in the Project Area. One historic property, the Franklin-Walla Walla Transmission Line, runs across the Project Area, with one of the transmission tower's footings resting in the Project Area, but outside of any impacted areas. One new historic property was identified during the survey, but it was determined to be not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cultural resource investigation determined that implementation of the project would result in no adverse effect upon historic properties, and Plateau recommended that the proponent could proceed without any additional archaeological or cultural resource investigations. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation concurred with Plateau's recommendations.

Location: Walla Walla County, Washington

E3 Washington: Education, Environment, Economy

Education for Sustainable Communities

WA State Recreation and Conservation Office-Multiple Volunteer Positions (Apply by 3/30/12)

3/5/2012

Job Description

State Needs Volunteers to Score Recreation, Conservation Grant Applications

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office is looking for nearly 70 volunteers to help determine how millions of dollars in state grants should be spent in Washington's great outdoors.

The volunteers will score grant applications submitted in two statewide programs: (1) the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, which provides grants to build and renovate parks and trails, and to protect and restore valuable wildlife habitat and farmland, and (2) the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account, which provides grants to restore Washington shorelines and create access for people to the waterfront. The grants are awarded to cities, counties, state agencies, tribes and others.

The following volunteers are needed:

Park and Shoreline Users – Seven volunteers are needed to evaluate grant applications for projects that build or renovate local parks and improve public access to shorelines. Volunteers should

represent recreational groups or local parks boards. Especially encouraged are candidates with expertise in project design or management, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, permitting or property acquisition. Volunteers will serve on one of three different advisory committees. The advisory committees meet infrequently (about ten weekdays every two years). Each volunteer is asked to serve for four years. See the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's advisory committees for local parks, state lands or water access on this Web page: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

Trail Users – Four volunteers are needed to review applications for projects that build or renovate trails. Volunteers should represent trail users; one of those should be a person from a public agency familiar with managing trails. Also encouraged to apply are people with expertise in project design or management, landscape architecture, planning, engineering, permitting or property acquisition. Volunteers meet infrequently (about six weekdays every two years). Each volunteer is asked to serve for four years. See the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Trails Advisory Committee on this Web page: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

Farmers and Ranchers – Six volunteers are needed to review applications for projects that conserve important farmland. The Farmland Advisory Committee meets infrequently (about six weekdays every two years). Volunteer are asked to serve four years. See the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Farmland Advisory Committee on this Web page: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

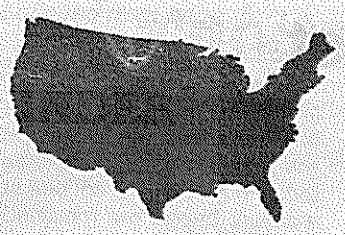
Wildlife Habitat Conservationists – 50 volunteers are needed to review applications for projects that conserve important wildlife habitat. Volunteers should have experience in natural resource sciences, conservation easements, urban planning, management of water or land, engineering, acquisition of habitat properties or fish and wildlife management. Volunteers will meet for up to five weekdays in the summer. See the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's advisory committees for critical habitat, natural areas, state lands restoration, riparian protection and urban wildlife habitat on this Web page: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

Shoreline Conservationists – One volunteer representing local government and familiar with shoreline habitat protection and restoration is needed. This volunteer would meet up to six weekdays in the summers of 2012 and 2014. See Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Advisory Committee on this Web page: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

Compensation
Travel expenses usually will be paid for citizens, local government and nonprofit members.

How to Apply
Send a completed application and support materials to RCO by **March 30**. Applications are available online at: www.rco.wa.gov/grants/advisory_cmte.shtml.

More Information
Lorinda Anderson, (360) 902-3009, TTD (360) 902-1996, or lorinda.anderson@rco.wa.gov



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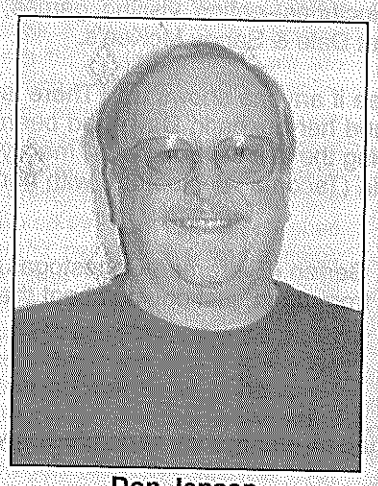


Don Jensen
Inter Association Director 1

Carol Jensen
Inter Association Director 2

Winter Convention-Report
February 11, 2012

Forest Service Planning Rule:
The Forest Service announced the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the planning rule. There were 300,000 comments on the draft environmental impact statement and proposed rule, the Forest Service developed Modified Alternative A as the preferred alternative. The Under Secretary of Agriculture will review the alternatives in the PEIS and issue a final rule and record of decision in approximately 30 days. There will be several opportunities for comments once a final rule is issued.

A Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) committee is being formed to continue to engage a diverse and broad set of interests in the planning process. The application form for nomination to the committee is available at http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/faca. The nomination period closes February 21, 2012.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
Recreational Trails Program (RTP) remains a major concern. The current authorization is set to expire at the end of March. A simple extension of the authorization for a period of a year or so might keep RTP intact whereas reauthorization for a longer period of time, say two to six years, might mean more restructuring of the current programs due to the funding shortfall. Please contact your Representative and Senators about this critically important program for recreation, motorized and non-motorized alike.

We need to stay active on land issues both locally and nationally. 2012 is going to be a challenging year for our form of recreation. We can make a difference!

Wilderness legislation

We are encourage you to contact your members of congress regarding all Wilderness bills. Be specific about the information you are requesting. Ask your congressman to ensure that there is local support from those people and industries utilizing the area under consideration, including motorized recreation and four wheel drive users such as yourself. Request a map of the area from the member of congress, showing what roads, trails, power lines, dams, bridges, and structures currently exist in the area(s) under consideration. Ask for a list of current recreational activities occurring in the area(s). The purpose for asking for this information is to make yourself and your member of congress aware of the current level of human activity in the area, including roads, to underscore the suitability or unsuitability of the area for wilderness designation. Ask what, if any, current land management designations regulate the area – roadless, roaded natural, Wilderness Study Area, etc.

Land use issues
New Mexico – s. 667/H.R. 1241 – Rio Grande del Norte National Conservation Area Establishment Act. Establishes the Rio Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area in New Mexico consisting of nearly 240,000 acres. Sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), co-sponsored by Tom Udall (D-NM). House version sponsored by Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), co-sponsored by Martin Heinrich (D-NM).

Oregon – s. 766 - Devil's Staircase Wilderness Act of 2011. Designates certain federal land in Oregon administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as the Devil's Staircase Wilderness and as wilderness and a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The area lies within the Northwest Forest Plan under which logging and road-building have been prohibited since the mid-1990s. It is approximately an 8 mile hike to get to Devil's Staircase, but the bill would protect nearly 30,000 acres of wilderness around the Staircase. Transfers the administrative jurisdiction over BLM land north of the Umpqua River to the Forest Service. Amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate Franklin and Wasson Creeks in Oregon as wild rivers and as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Sponsored by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), co-sponsored by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR).

Tennessee – s. 1090 - Tennessee Wilderness Act of 2011. Designates nearly 20,000 acres in Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee by expanding 5 existing wilderness areas creating one new Upper Bald River Wilderness area as an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). Sponsored by Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN), co-sponsored by Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN).

Washington - s. 322/H.R. 608- Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act. Designates certain land in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to become part of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System and amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the Middle Fork Snoqualmie and Pratt Rivers in Washington as scenic and/or wild rivers. Sponsored by Senator Patty Murray and co-sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell, Washington. House version sponsored by Rep. Dave Reichert (R-WA), co-sponsored by Reps. Norman Dicks (D-WA), Jay Inslee (D-WA), Jim McDermott (D-WA), and Adam Smith (D-WA).

Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming
–H.R. 3334 - Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA). Designates specified National Forest System lands, National Park System lands, and public lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness and as components or additions to existing components of the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS).

California
Johnson Valley . The final EIS for Johnson Valley should be out January 2012. Save Johnson Valley, the California Motorized Recreation Council (CAMRC), will need help from all organizations. More to information will follow in the way of brochures, websites and outreach.

Specialty Equipment Marketing Association (SEMA)
SEMA is working with the of road community on the Roadless Rule and the Forest Service Planning Rule. Another big issue for SEMA is the Bonneville Salt Flats. SAVE THE SALTS. SEMA has offered help in Washington DC if we're in the area.
** Subscribe to the SAN—SEMA Action Network. http://www.semasan.com

North American Motorized Recreation Council (NAMRC)
Del and Stacie Albright have written a land use book. It should be released this Spring.. It will cover the tips and tricks needed to save trails and keep backcountry sports alive and well.
We recommend that a motion be made to support the following organizations:

- Specialty Equipment Marketing Association (SEMA) $150.00
- Blue Ribbon Coalition $100.00
- Tread Lightly! $100.00
- North American Motorized Recreation Council (NAMRC)

Thank you for allowing us to represent you. Please feel free to call us if you have questions or concerns.

Don and Carol Jensen

~

REMINDER

The deadline to submit articles and photos for Tri-Power is the

21st of each month

Send to:
tripower@pnw4wda.org

Articles should be in Microsoft Word with Arial 10pt font

ADs can be in word and if you can make a PDF that would be best so it will hold the type styles that you picked

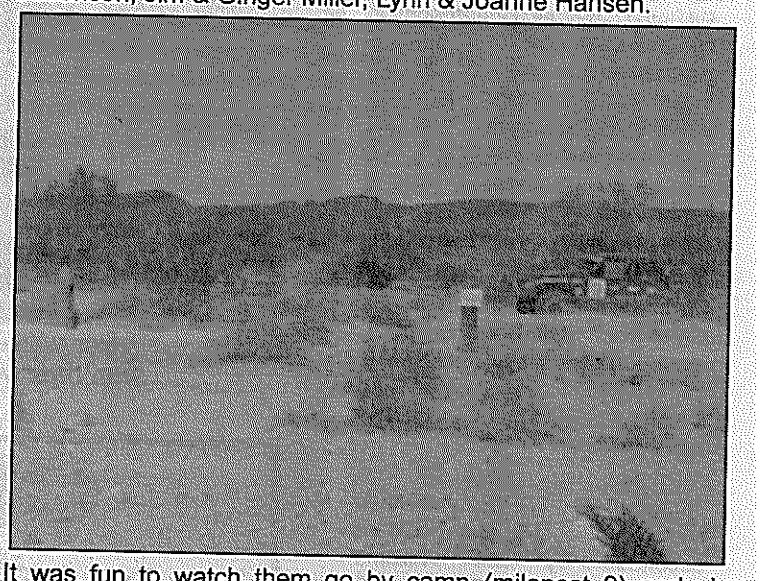
Tri-Power
Ron McDonald
360-901-8376
3902 NE 61st Ave.
Vancouver, WA 98661

Bluewater Resort & Casino Parker "425"

February 4, 2012 was the annual Parker 425 BEST in the Desert series race held in Parker, AZ.

We went up to a couple days early to watch the prelims and be there for the Contingency and Tech held on Friday.

Again we had a participant to cheer on, Dennis Shattuck, *Oly 4 Wheeler*. There were a lot of PNW members that came down to cheer him on, Dennis & Denny Martin, Chad Simonson, Kathy Simonson, Jim & Ginger Miller, Lynn & Joanne Hansen.



It was fun to watch them go by camp (milepost 9) early in the morning, then wait and wait to see if they were still in the course when they came by the second time (milepost 125). Alex Littleboy was Dennis' co-driver and Danny Simonson and Jerry Simonson drove the second lap.

The guys did a good job—They finished tenth (out of 32) overall in the two-lap event—and fifth (out of 20) in their class—Jeepspeed.

Another fun time at the races!!

Mary Lou Radcliff

~

KOMO News

Print this article

Boaters accuse state of raiding rec fund to balance budget

Originally printed at http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Boaters-accuse-state-of-raiding-rec-fund-to-balance-budget-148458545.html

By Michelle Esteban April 22, 2012

SEATTLE - Despite the recent sunny weather and perfect conditions out on the water - not all is right, some boaters are saying.

They accuse the state of raiding gas tax money paid by boaters to help balance the state budget - and they want it back.

They're calling on Gov. Chris Gregoire to sink that part of the state budget - and sending out a desperate May Day call to every boat owner in our state.

Steve Greaves of the Recreation Boating Association of Washington says the state Legislature is guilty of raiding the Recreation Resource Account, a fund used to build, maintain and repair boat launches, docks, mooring buoys and marina facilities.

"It feels like maybe there is a public trust being broken here," says Greaves.

He says if the governor signs the budget, the state will help itself to more than $3 million paid by boaters in gas taxes.

"Our contention is this money is much better spent as the boaters wish it to be - as a citizens' initiative set up to be - (for) building boating infrastructure," he says.

Every time boaters fill up they pay a gas tax that funds the Recreation Resource Account. Boaters can ask for a tax refund, but most are like Tobey Wilkins, who opts to put the money into the Recreation Resource Account.

Wilkins says he feels robbed.

"Once the Ben Franklins are in the bank they all look alike to them and they just take 'em," he says.

Balancing the budget has not been easy - and some non-boating taxpayers say they see nothing wrong with diverting the money temporarily during the sate budget crisis.

"Temporarily, I think it's not such a bad idea," says one taxpayer, Jennifer Russell. "I'm sure there are better things in need, other than fixing a boat ramp."

The budget is now on the governor's desk. And before signing it, some boaters hope she'll sink the plan to tap into boating gas tax dollars.

"We are hoping people will write emails and make phone calls to the governor," says Greaves.

The Recreational Boating Association of Washington says the Recreational Resource Account raises about $8 million every two years.

Send to printer Close window

State seeks comments about grant-funded land use

The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office is seeking comment on how lands may be used if their purchase or development is funded with state grants. Under consideration are policies about when grant recipients may allow grazing, install telecommunications facilities such as cell towers and remove trees on lands assisted with some state recreation and conservation grants.

For details about the proposal, visit the Recreation and Conservation Office Web site. Comments on the proposed policy changes are due May 21.

The proposal requires grant recipients to manage the activities in ways that protect the habitat or outdoor recreation that was funded by the grant. The proposal also sets up a method for deciding if a use may be allowed on grant-funded land.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board will discuss the proposal and any comments received when it meets June 27 in Port Angeles. The board is expected to make a final decision about the proposal when it meets Oct. 17.

State Board Awards more than $800,000 in Grants for Trails

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board this week approved grants for projects in 10 counties to improve trails.

"These grants will be put to good use, helping local communities provide jobs and keep Washington's outdoor areas available to everyone," said Bill Chapman, board chair. "They are made possible by federal funding."

On Tuesday, the state funding board awarded grants to 22 projects, totaling more than $802,000. Grants were awarded to organizations in the counties below. For details on each grant, visit the board's Web site at: www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rcfb/rtp/2011RTPGrantAwards.pdf.

Chelan County.....$208,903
Island County..... $70,089
Jefferson County..... $15,000
King County..... $10,000
Kittitas County..... $85,000
Lewis County..... $21,000
Okanogan County..... $42,734
Pierce County..... $75,000
Skagit County..... $81,653
Whatcom County..... $16,049
Statewide..... $177,037

The grants were awarded in the Recreational Trails Program, a federally funded program that pays for the rehabilitation and maintenance of backcountry trails, as well as projects to educate trail users about protecting the environment and having a safe experience.

"These grants are vital to making sure Washington remains a great state, not only for young people and families that live here, but for employers, touring visitors and others who value a quality outdoor experience," Chapman said.

Recent surveys peg the number of Washingtonians who recreate in the backcountry at 33 percent, including those who hike, snowshoe, cross-country ski or ride bicycles, horses, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles.

"These grants provide funding to maintain trails in some of the more remote areas, making it easier and safer for people to get outdoors," Chapman said. "Many of these aren't glamorous projects, such as rebuilding trails after storm washouts and cutting down bushes that have grown over trails, but they are essential to maintaining what we have and preventing large sections of trails from being closed to the public.

Grant recipients don't come empty handed. Grants applicants are contributing more than $1 million in matching resources, stretching limited state dollars even further, Chapman said.

The board received 62 grant proposals for projects requesting more than $2.3 million. Only about half the projects will receive funding.

"The competition for these grants is very high," Chapman said. "That means that only the very best of the best projects get funded."

Projects are evaluated on criteria including need, project design, cost-effectiveness, and community support.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board was established in 1964 to finance recreation and conservation projects throughout the state. For more information on the agency or its grant programs, visit the Web site: www.rco.wa.gov.

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Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-03
June 2012 Consent Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following June 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

a. Board meeting minutes – March 2012

b. Eligibility for John Ball Park Property, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, RCO #12-1491

c. Continue FARR advisory committee and delegate authority to director to appoint members

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summarized Meeting Agenda and Actions, March 21, 2012

Agenda Items without Formal Action

Item	Board Request for Follow-up
Item 2: Management Report	No follow-up requested
Item 3: 2012 Legislative Session & Preparation for 2013 Legislative Session	No follow-up requested
Item 4: State Parks Transformation Strategy	No follow-up requested
Item 6A: State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)	Keep the board informed of progress, as described in staff memo
Item 6B: Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Plan	Keep the board informed of progress, as described in staff memo
Item 6C: Update of Agency and Board Communication Plan	Plan to be presented in October
Item 7: Current Policy and Practice for Declaring Facilities Obsolete	Include financial reporting in the status reports required of the sponsor.
Recognize Service of Retiring RCO Staff: Jim Anest	No follow-up requested
Item 8: Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses	Change language in the grazing and tree removal policies, publish for broader public comment including through media, report in June 2012. Decision in October 2012.
Additional Topic: Allowability of showers in State Parks' cabins funded by the board	Staff to work with State Parks to explore issues and address policy changes necessitated by the Transformation Strategy in a coordinated way. Report back to the board in June 2012.

Agenda Items with Formal Action

Item	Formal Action	Board Request for Follow-up
Item 1: Consent Calendar	APPROVED Resolution 2012-01 • Approved board meeting minutes – November 2011 • Recognized volunteers • Approved change to August meeting date • Approved time extension request: State Parks, Deception Pass Hoypus Day Use Area, #06-2073D • Recognized Service of Retired Deputy Director Rachael Langen	No follow-up requested
Item 5: YAF grant program, use of returned funds	APPROVED Resolution 2012-02 • Authorized the director to award YAF funds to eligible project alternates in the WWRP Local Parks Category.	No follow-up requested

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Summary Minutes

Date: March 21, 2012 Place: Room 172, Natural Resources Building, Olympia, WA 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Bill Chapman, Chair	Mercer Island	**Stephen Saunders**	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Betsy Bloomfield	Yakima	**Don Hoch**	Director, State Parks
Pete Mayer	Vancouver	**Dave Brittell**	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Harriet Spanel	Bellingham		
Ted Willhite	Twisp		

It is intended that this summary be used with the meeting materials provided in advance of the meeting. A recording is retained by RCO as the formal record of meeting.

Opening and Management Reports

Chair Bill Chapman called the meeting to order at 9:07a.m. Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined. Mr. Chapman introduced new member Ted Willhite.

Consent Calendar

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed Resolution #2012-01, Consent Calendar. The consent calendar included the following:

a. Approve board meeting minutes – November 2011
b. Recognize volunteers
c. Approve change to August meeting date
d. Approve time extension requests
    - State Parks, Deception Pass Hoypus Day Use Area, #06-2073D
e. Recognize Service of Retired Deputy Director Rachael Langen

Resolution 2012-01moved by: Stephen Saunders and seconded by: Dave Brittell
Resolution APPROVED

Item 2: Management Report

Director's Report: Director Cottingham reported that all members were confirmed by the Senate, and that the Operations Manual was complete. She also noted the work to identify jobs and economic impact of WWRP projects. She also noted that last week, she attended a ribbon cutting in Anacortes for a BIG project. She also reviewed her work in Washington DC, and recent RCO staffing changes. Director Cottingham noted that there would be an audit finding about administrative costs in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund.

Policy and Legislative Update: Steve McLellan noted that they had a very successful Lands Group forum, with great attendance, including the state natural resource agencies and legislators. Many legislators and staff were focused on (1) philosophical issues about land acquisition and (2) the effect on the operating budget of maintenance and other costs that go with land acquisitions. He noted that the Lands Group was extended by the Legislature for another five years; the Governor had not yet signed the bill.

Grant management report: Scott Robinson reported on the application worship webinar and its success, noting that a recording of the webinar and other application materials are on the web site. Chair Chapman asked for more detail about the projects that received returned funds. Marguerite Austin responded by describing the State Parks project on Lake Sammamish and the Sunset Bluff project in Mason County. Member Willhite asked how the RCO recruits volunteers from small communities; Robinson responded that the agency uses numerous forms of outreach that would be described later by the Communications Manager.

Projects of Note: Kim Sellers and Karl Jacobs presented information about two successfully completed projects. Jacobs presented the recreation projects at the Mukilteo Lighthouse Park, and Sellers presented the North Winds Weir restoration project in Tukwila. The latter involved funds from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board as well.

Item 3: 2012 Legislative Session & Preparation for 2013 Legislative Session

Steve McLellan noted that the special session was still in progress. On the budget, it appears that the general fund budget is settled for natural resources; most agencies are taking cuts of about 10 percent. The bigger issue is a potential diversion of Recreational Resource Account funds to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) marine enforcement program. In this biennium, it does not affect projects, but going forward, if the money continues to be taken, the grant rounds would be reduced by about half. It also would move our management of the account to a cash basis rather than accrual basis. The RCO also is watching the appropriation of the ALEA funds for other programs as it may change the amount available for grants in the next biennium.

McLellan also noted that there is a small supplemental capital budget. Part of this will be the jobs package, which will, in part, provide $10 million for the Family Forest Fish Passage Program co-managed by RCO, DNR and WDFW. He then discussed the debt limit commission recommendations, which would reduce the capital capacity in the future, but would smooth out the funding levels.

McLellan also noted proposed changes to federal funding for recreation and salmon programs. Director Cottingham noted that Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding was in danger at the federal level.

McLellan noted that staff would begin work on the 2013-15 request legislation and budget requests over the summer. He noted that staff did not see a pressing need for request legislation, but invited the board to contact him or Kaleen if members saw a need for legislation.

Member Bloomfield asked if there was any news on payment in lieu of taxes (PILT). Steve McLellan noted that it seems to be settling on a rollback to the 2009 funding level, but not a complete cut.

Item 4: State Parks Transformation Strategy

Member Hoch introduced Larry Fairleigh, Assistant Director at State Parks, who presented the transformation strategy.

Fairleigh linked the current Transformation Strategy to the Centennial plan, which was adopted in 2005. State Parks is changing to an enterprise agency due to budget cuts; this is a change for both staff and the public. He reviewed the key transformation concepts: (1) status quo not an option, (2) changing to a technological park system, (3) helping the public to see parks as a general public asset (i.e., expand public involvement beyond specific user groups), and (4) new capital development priorities for new income streams. He then reviewed progress to date, including staffing and other efficiencies, marketing efforts, introduction of new technology, and restructuring the agreement with the State Parks Foundation. He reviewed the next steps in the transformation strategy, including publishing the strategy and securing the funding and/or legislation needed.

Fairleigh then noted that the commission will soon consider whether to partner with Port Townsend at Fort Worden State Park. Director Cottingham noted that Fort Worden State Park has Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant funds, and reminded Fairleigh that they need to work with the National Park Service regarding the restrictions.

Member Bloomfield asked if State Parks had some holdings for which they could sell partial interests (e.g., historic preservation easements). Fairleigh responded that they are looking at it, but they have to understand tax codes and legal encumbrances, and it has to be consistent with their values. They do not want to sell properties for operating funds because that converts a long-term asset to cover a short-term problem.

Member Mayer asked about the backlog of deferred maintenance, and how that would be balanced with all of the other problems they are facing. Fairleigh noted that in 2000, they did a study regarding deferred maintenance; updating the study would be costly. There will be a period of time where they will just be working to keep the doors open and keeping maintenance from slipping too much before they can address the backlog.

Chair Chapman noted that he agrees the parks are a public asset, and that the general fund cuts and move to an enterprise agency needs to be revisited in better budget times. The land base was not set up to be a business, and will be a huge challenge.

Other State Agency Partner Reports

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Member Brittell reiterated McLellan's report on payment in lieu of taxes, noting that WDFW has been working on the issue. WDFW also has been working on budget gaps and fund shifts, but they will still have about $1 million in new general fund reductions. He also noted their work on the transferability of the Discover Pass. They have done all of the background work so that it will happen as soon as the Governor signs the bill. WDFW gets eight percent of Discover Pass sales.

Department of Natural Resources: Member Saunders noted that they will use their portion of the Discover Pass funds for trail and facility maintenance. They have been working on the jobs bill proposal, along with the Puget Sound Partnership and Legislature to identify a funding component for the Puget Sound Corps to maintain trails. They were able to get a small funding proposal ($150K) in general fund for the Natural Heritage Program.

General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Business: Decisions

Item 5: Youth Athletic Facilities: Use of Returned Funds

Recreation Section Manager Marguerite Austin presented this topic as described in the staff memo. She explained that about $100,000 remains in the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant program, and there are no YAF projects awaiting funding. Austin further stated that staff was proposing that the funds be awarded to eligible alternate Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks category projects that also meet YAF criteria. Austin explained what types of facilities and sponsors would or would not be eligible in the program, and provided some history of program expenditures.

Board members asked that staff consider projects that are "shovel ready."

Resolution 2012-02 moved by: Harriet Spanel and seconded by: Stephen Saunders
Resolution APPROVED

Board Business: Briefings & Discussion

Item 6: Board Input Regarding Planning Efforts

State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Dominga Soliz, Policy Staff, presented this topic as described in the staff memo. She identified the consultant selected to create the plan, explained the plan for developing the SCORP and asked the board for comments about the general direction of the plan.

Board members highlighted the need to ensure that multiple user groups and stakeholders be involved in the process. They encouraged the RCO to work with the contractor and ensure broad outreach for the surveys, committee representation, other feedback, and opportunities to participate.

In response to questions from members, Dominga noted that the final report would include recommendations for the board, and that statewide recreation participation survey would include an assessment of economic contribution. She also noted that the specific inclusion of wetlands reflected federal priorities for SCORP.

Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Plan

Marguerite Austin, Recreation Section Manager, presented this topic as described in the staff memo. The NOVA plan update is required by statute. Austin outlined the general approach and purpose, noted that the fuel use study was in need of an update within the next few years, and asked the board to comment. The board had no input on the approach.

Update of Agency and Board Communication Plan

Susan Zemek, Communications Director, presented information about the communication work done on behalf of the agency and board. She explained that there is a plan that guides the communications work of staff and board members, but that the plan is seven years old and needs to be updated. She reviewed the communications goals and how they have been implemented. She asked for input from the board members about key messages and communication activities they want to consider.

Chair Chapman asked for better follow-through with recipients as ground-breaking or ribbon-cutting nears so that more of them include RCO or board participation. Member Spanel said that continuing the big checks is very important; the community needs to be continually reminded of the state investment. Member Bloomfield added that such messaging needs to be amplified with county commissioners and state legislators. Member Mayer suggested that RCO initiate a conference among sponsors and officials to help increase awareness, before projects are completed – maybe even before they start. He also suggested greater emphasis on consumer awareness, along the lines of the boating app, and greater use of YouTube and Facebook to highlight the work. Member Brittell suggested that the plan be very clear about key messages and what we want to accomplish because different messages might have different strategies. Member Willhite suggested an increase in social media and other outreach around policy issues so that people do not feel left out of the decision making process. Member Saunders agreed that we need to focus on feedback; we are good at getting information out there, but need work on getting information to us. Member Hoch suggested partnering with other agencies to do the outreach.

Item 7: Current Policy and Practice for Declaring Facilities Obsolete

Jim Anest, Compliance Specialist, explained the current policy and practice for declaring a facility obsolete, as described in the staff memo. He noted that the policy is a key part of grant compliance, and reflects the inevitable change for some projects. He explained the considerations for determining that a facility is obsolete, and discussed U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) standards, the relevant terms used in grant management (e.g., “element”), the requirements for the sponsors, and the current process for

reviewing requests. Karl Jacobs, Grant Manager, provided a practical example by presenting a recent request from the town of Tonasket to declare a pool obsolete. Jacobs described the pool facility, the city's study of the repairs needed for the site, and the RCO staff review. He noted that the decision is made more difficult because the city plans to close the site for several years while funds are raised for renovation and the renovation is completed. Staff recommended that the director declare the facility obsolete, and grant up to five years to raise funds and complete the renovation. The remainder of the park will stay open for public use.

The board expressed concern about the certainty of the city's proposal to bank unspent maintenance funds for future planned expenditures, and asked staff to find ways to ensure that funds are set aside. Chair Chapman suggested that the approval include a condition that the sponsor will include financial progress in the report they submit to the RCO every two years.

Member Saunders asked for clarification about the conversion versus obsolescence policy. Anest responded that obsolescence is a way to avoid a compliance problem; however, its application is site-specific and sponsors need to work with grant managers to determine if obsolescence is the appropriate option.

Member Mayer suggested that the board consider (1) whether they were comfortable with one recreation type replacing another and (2) how they balance incentives to ensure that sponsors perform adequate maintenance. Chair Chapman noted it appeared from the staff presentation that current compliance policy addresses situations where a facility is not properly maintained, and reaches the end of its useful life too quickly. He thinks there are limits to the kinds of recreation that can replace each other.

Member Willhite thought that it was important to recognize the expertise of partners. Chair Chapman asked if there were any concerns in Tonasket about this approach. Jacobs responded that there were no concerns that he knew of; the question was specifically asked in the public survey for the park plan. The community wanted newer features in the pool.

Recognize Service of Retiring RCO Staff: Jim Anest

Scott Robinson, Acting Deputy Director, thanked Jim Anest for his service to the board and agency with regard to conversion and compliance issues.

Item 8: Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses

Dominga Soliz provided background information and an overview of the process used by the board subcommittee to identify and propose programmatic policies related to allowable uses. She noted that staff was collecting board feedback on the subcommittee proposals before publishing them for public comment. She then explained each of proposals in turn; board discussion and public comment took place after each presentation.

Subcommittee Proposal: Livestock Grazing

Soliz described the policy and explained that the subcommittee proposed that grazing would be allowed under certain circumstances in the WWRP Critical Habitat category.

Member Bloomfield recommended that the policy clearly state that proposals for grazing that are not in the agreement or application materials would be subject to the gray areas framework.

Member Willhite asked what public feedback had been incorporated in to the policy. Soliz responded that the approach was to bring the policy to the board before putting the policy out for public comment. Chair Chapman noted that the board always submitted policies for public input; the question at hand was what the policy should be that would go out for public comment.

Member Willhite asked that the RCO expand its outreach beyond the typical user groups. Soliz noted that the agency uses a variety of media, and that it would be sent to the conservation districts as well. Member Brittell noted that the policy will help maintain the ability to have working lands when it is consistent with the intent of the grant and particular acquisition, and will ease the process to make that determination. Director Cottingham noted that the RCO makes every effort to have expansive outreach and offered that the outreach could include media.

Member Bloomfield suggested that the policy include a nexus with SEPA. Chair Chapman responded that it should not be included because the RCO grants are not regulatory, and that they need to keep the board's decision about whether or not to allow it independent of SEPA. Member Spanel noted that there is other applicable legislation. Member Brittell explained that the subcommittee had considered a variety of different laws and rules that affect how grazing can and cannot be done, but none are applicable to all situations, so they were not included. They are useful to informing the "gray area" process, but only as applicable. As they use the process, they will develop a "track record" that will help build a better policy.

Chair Chapman clarified that board policy does not regulate the use of private or public property; it simply sets the rules for use of land funded with board grants. They are used so that the board can ensure that the lands are used in compliance with the statutes. Chair Chapman explained a few style-related edits that he would suggest to the director.

Subcommittee Proposal: Telecommunications Facilities

Soliz described the policy proposed for telecommunications facilities, and the criteria that would be considered for approval. The policy was drafted to apply only to WWRP Local Parks. Director Cottingham noted that a question was raised about whether the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) definition includes tsunami warning systems. Soliz responded that she would check the definitions. Chair Chapman noted that if they were included in the definition, the policy should not require them to be camouflaged. Soliz noted that the policy did not require any telecommunications facility to be camouflaged. Member Saunders noted that they should look at all emergency warning systems (e.g., lahar warnings). He also noted that such systems tend not to be attached to existing structures, so they may not fall under this

policy. Board members discussed that the "existing structure" cannot be constructed for telecommunications as the primary use.

Subcommittee Proposal: Tree Removal

Soliz described the policy and the circumstances under which tree removal would be allowed:

- It does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and:
- It is included in the project agreement and project evaluation materials, or
- Trees are removed to prevent imminent threat to public safety or are removed in accordance with a plan to protect or enhance forest health or the health of species targeted by the grant.

Member Saunders noted that DNR will get grants for trails and wants to ensure that they can maintain the trail without encumbrances on their ability to remove trees, even if they sell the timber. Member Spanel noted that they could simply include that in the agreement. Board members noted that sponsors would still be able to remove trees as needed to implement the grant.

Member Spanel noted that she was concerned that sponsors not remove trees just to make money. She believes the language does that, and does not want it weakened. Member Hoch noted that they are handling a lot of forest health issues and that any funds from selling the timber are used to maintain properties. Member Spanel noted that the purpose in that case is to maintain forest health, not secure funds for other maintenance. Soliz noted that the subcommittee had discussed including language about the removal not being "solely for income production" but decided that the language did not provide sufficient protection.

Member Bloomfield suggested that the board should consider the implications for prescribed fire as a tree removal mechanism. Board members discussed the use of prescribed fire as a tree removal mechanism versus as a management technique akin to mowing and weed control. Member Saunders suggested that prescribed burns would fall under the "in accordance with a plan" provision, and that the policy should include context that defines what would constitute "a plan."

Director Cottingham reminded the board that if a sponsor met the criteria, nothing would come back to staff; they would not be reviewing plans. She suggested that they could resolve this by clarifying "plan" as "site specific plan." This would provide a tool for the grant sponsor to have a plan that allows them to do certain actions without RCO approval.

Member Willhite suggested that tree removal could harm the original purpose of the grant, and that we shouldn't be looking for reasons to remove them. Member Brittell noted that the intent is to allow sponsors to take care of the land based on their land management expertise. There is a range of activities they are trying to address with a single policy – from a single hazard tree to a prescribed burn across thousands of acres. He suggested that the RCO shouldn't have to review such management plans.

Members discussed whether the policy addressed acres of land or the removal of a few trees. Member Brittell stated that on large landscapes, strategically removing a tree or two is not realistic. Chair Chapman suggested that they wait and see if it was a concern during public comment.

The board asked staff to clarify the language with an "approved site specific stewardship plan."

Subcommittee Proposal: Clarification of "Conveyance of Property Interests" in conversion policy

Soliz explained the proposed clarification, noting that leases have caused confusion among staff and sponsors. Chair Chapman suggested that they need to make sure that the language in bullet five reflects the language in the framework. Director Cottingham noted that a specific cross-reference to the proposed policies on livestock grazing and telecommunications facilities would meet that request; Chapman concurred. Saunders suggested that the existing policy be clarified so that the term "non-" modifies all of the uses (i.e., recreation, conservation, and salmon-recovery).

Saunders also noted that he thought the language about leases was still unclear since a lease could be an encumbrance. Director Cottingham clarified that current policy could be interpreted such that a lease is a conversion. The revised policy would mean that leases are allowed in some circumstances; it will be clarified with the cross-reference.

Public Comment:
Sharon Claussen, King County, stated that the proposal lowers the threshold for local parks to be able to discourage some activities by being able to cite the conversion process. This takes away a tool for protecting parks. She asked the board to open it narrowly.

Director Cottingham noted that it was intended to open the door narrowly, and not as broadly as interpreted. The RCO agrees that it needs to be narrow and for specific situations.

Additional Discussion

Member Hoch asked if the cabins policy approved in Resolution 2011-17 included showers of "simple basic design." Dominga Soliz responded that the resolution was specifically amended by the board to be "a toilet, sinks, and general utilities." She clarified that it was an eligibility question, not an allowable use question. The language said that anything exceeding a "simple basic design" would not be eligible, so no part of it could be reimbursed. The request to add showers could undermine the board policy regarding eligibility criteria by adding features outside the project scope.

Chair Chapman noted that the board tried to ensure that the cabins remained rustic and basic, while balancing it with the needs of the public and desire to expand outreach. Director Cottingham reminded the board that we have a policy against prorating; a sponsor cannot have part of a facility paid for with other funds. State Parks is now asking if either (a) a shower added at a later time and paid for with non-board funds is allowable, or (b) if the prorating policy could be changed so that cabins with showers could be eligible as long as the showers are paid for with non-board funds.

Marguerite Austin clarified the difference between match and proration (i.e., everything paid for with match has to be an eligible expense). She also stated that the board allows some proration in the boating program and youth athletic facilities program.

> **Chair Chapman moved that (a) showers are not an eligible cost and (b) to allow State Parks to install showers with other funds. Mayer seconded.**

Member Spanel expressed concern about this motion opening the door to several requests for specific items. Member Saunders echoed the concern about a piecemeal approach, and suggested that State Parks bring a list of items needed for the Transformation Strategy so the board can look at all of the requests at once.

Member Brittell noted that he is not sure what language the motion would modify, and that other programmatic policies regarding allowable uses are going out for public comment. Brittell, Willhite, and Mayer suggested that the motion be tabled pending further staff work and public comment.

> **Saunders moved to table the motion. Bloomfield seconded the motion.**
> **APPROVED, 6-2 with Chapman and Hoch opposing.**

The board agreed that because they are not changing eligibility, State Parks could still apply for grants in 2012, with the caveat that it is a gray area of allowable uses. The motion would be considered in June 2012.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Approved by:

Bill Chapman, Chair

Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-01
March 2012 Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following March 2012 Consent Calendar items are approved:

a. Board Meeting Minutes –November 2011

b. Service Recognition for Volunteers

c. Change to August 23, 2012 meeting date to September 4, 2012

d. Time Extension Request

- State Parks, Deception Pass Hoypus Day Use Area, #06-2073D

e. Service Recognition for Retired Deputy Director Rachael Langen

Resolution moved by: Saunders

Resolution seconded by: Brittell

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 21, 2012

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution # 2012-02
Approving the Use of Youth Athletic Facility Grant Funds for Eligible Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Local Parks Category Projects

WHEREAS, the Legislature established the Youth Athletic Facilities program to provide athletic facilities to meet the needs of youth who participate in sports and athletics; and

WHEREAS, the program currently has an unobligated balance of about $100,000 but no projects eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, conducting a grant round to award this unobligated balance would be costly and time consuming for the state and for project applicants; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Local Parks category has several alternate projects that have been reviewed by volunteer evaluators and the board in open public meetings; and

WHEREAS, many of the WWRP Local Parks alternate projects include facilities that would be eligible for funding in the Youth Athletic Facilities program; and

WHEREAS, the WWRP Local Parks category and YAF program have substantially similar criteria for project and sponsor eligibility, as well as project ranking criteria; and

WHEREAS, consideration of this proposal supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board authorizes the director of the Recreation and Conservation Office to fund eligible WWRP Local Parks alternate projects from the fiscal year 2012 and 2010 board-approved ranked lists with moneys available from the YAF program.

Resolution moved by: Spanel

Resolution seconded by: Saunders

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: March 21, 2012

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1B**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Approve eligibility for John Ball Park Property, Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation, RCO #12-1491

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Outdoor Grants Manager

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This action will provide a policy waiver so that the John Ball Park property is eligible for grant funding.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-03 (CONSENT)

Purpose of Resolution: Make the John Ball Park property eligible for grant funding.

Background

The Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department (Parks Department) has applied for funding from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks category to purchase 2.4 acres (RCO #12-1491A). The Vancouver School District currently owns the site, which is located in one of the older established neighborhoods of downtown Vancouver (Attachment A).

Formerly used for school district administrative offices, this surplus school property was under a lease agreement with the City of Vancouver for recreational use from 1959 through 2003. The parks department developed the property into a neighborhood park with play equipment, picnic tables, and an open lawn area. The city, unable to negotiate another lease extension with the school district, wants to purchase the property so it remains available for public outdoor recreational use.

Conflict with Existing Policy

The property is not eligible for reimbursement, based on the acquisition policies contained in Manual 3, which state in part that:

> "In general, property that already is under public ownership or management is not eligible for RCO grant funding. … There are two exceptions to this policy that allow existing public property to be eligible for RCO grant funding.
>
> 1. The property was acquired under a waiver of retroactivity.
>
> **or**
>
> 2. The following three circumstances are satisfied:
> a. State law requires that the agency selling the land must receive compensation, and
> b. The land was not originally acquired by the selling agency for …. recreation use, and
> *c.* The land has never been publicly managed for … recreation."

The school district is required to receive compensation and did not originally acquire the property for recreation use. However, the Parks Department has managed and developed the property as a neighborhood park for recreation. As a result, under Policy 2.c., the property is not eligible for grant funding.

Request for Board Decision

The Parks Department is asking the board to waive the policy so that it can seek grant funding to assist in the purchase the property. A policy waiver would not guarantee funding during this grant cycle. Rather, it would allow Parks Department to compete for funds through the established evaluation process.

Similar Decisions by the Board

In 2000, the board waived this policy to allow the City of Edmonds to acquire Marina Beach when the private owner announced its intention to sell the property for development. Before that time, the city had leased and managed Marina Beach, for outdoor recreational opportunities.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this request supports the board's strategies to (1) evaluate and develop strategic investment policies so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation needs and (2) regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs.

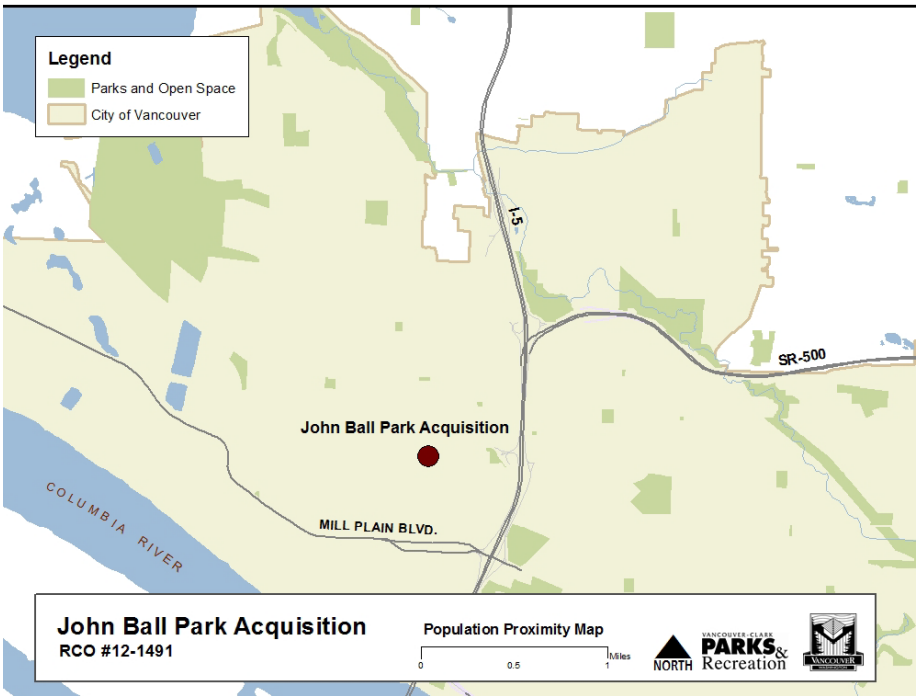
Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the policy waiver to allow the John Ball Park property to be eligible. This action would permit this grant application to proceed in the evaluation process.

Attachments

A. Maps of park and vicinity

Attachment A: Maps of park and vicinity



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **1C**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Changes to the FARR Subcommittee Composition

Prepared By: Steve McLellan, Policy Director

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This action will delegate authority to the director to appoint a broadly representative group for the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) Advisory Committee.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-03 (CONSENT)

Purpose of Resolution: Delegate authority to the director to appoint members of the FARR committee.

Background

The Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) program's primary goal is to assist with acquisition, development, and renovation of firearm and archery range facilities to provide for increased general public access to ranges.

When the Legislature created the program, it also created an advisory committee[1] to counsel the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) on FARR matters. This committee provides advice to RCO about program policy and procedure, and to staff and grant applicants on the technical elements and the merits of grant proposals. It also evaluates and ranks grant applications for

[1] Revised Code of Washington 79A.25.220

consideration by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board). RCO's director appoints committee members from the following groups:

- Archery sports
- Black powder sports
- General public
- Hunter education
- Hunters
- Law enforcement
- Pistol sports
- Rifle sports
- Shotgun sports
- Washington Military Department

RCO's director may appoint *ex officio* members to the committee to provide additional representation and expertise.

Legislative Change in 2011

In 2011, the Governor proposed and the legislature agreed to eliminate numerous boards and commissions, including the FARR advisory committee. During legislative discussion, it was noted that the agency could continue to use an advisory committee if needed without statutory authorization.

Request for Board Decision

The current FARR program manual includes reference to the statutory advisory committee and needs to be changed to align with the repeal of the statute. At the same time, the RCO continues to need a group of advisors to evaluate and rank grant applications for the FARR program and to provide advice on program policies and direction.

As a result, staff is asking the board to authorize the director to convene an advisory committee for FARR. Staff would seek members so that the group is broadly representative of the activities covered by FARR grants. Because of the difficulty in recruiting volunteers, staff recommends that the board list the categories for membership as examples, rather than specifying mandatory representation. This is consistent with the approach used for other grant programs.

Strategic Plan Link

This proposal supports the board's strategies to (1) ensure the work of the board and staff is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; (2) evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation needs; and (3) provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve Resolution 2012-3, authorizing the director to convene a FARR advisory group broadly representative of activities funded through FARR grants and revise Manual 11 accordingly.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2A**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Management Reports: Director's Report

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo is the director's report on key agency activities. To minimize duplication, some items that might normally be included in the director's report have been deleted here and included in other memos throughout the notebook (such as the policy director's report, and the grant manager's report).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Supporting and Implementing Grant Management

Boating Grant Rules May Change

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing new rules for the Boating Infrastructure Grant program, which provides grants for facilities for recreational boats 26 feet or longer. RCO staff has submitted comments on the proposed changes. More information is in Item 2D.

Complicated Land Swaps Will Resolve Decades-old Issue

A complex land swap is expected to resolve a lawsuit filed by the Port of Port Townsend against the City of Port Townsend, RCO, and the National Park Service. More information is in Item 2D.

Communications Report

Communications staff has spent the month of May in planning, research, and writing mode, with one break to make a presentation. Staff made a presentation at the Washington Recreation and Park Association's annual conference on how to talk to the media and stage events. Staff also updated the Web to present project evaluation schedules, wrote a media release about the board's allowable uses policy, and worked with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration on common ways to talk about salmon recovery. Staff continues to conduct research and interviews in preparation of updating the agency's 5-year-old communications plan.

Pending Lawsuit about Beaconsfield's Restoration Project Nearing Settlement

RCO staff is finalizing a settlement agreement and conservation easement terms between an upland property owner and our grant sponsors (Forterra and the City of Normandy Park). The lawsuit against the grant sponsors will be dismissed after final documents are signed. RCO was not a party to the lawsuit, but because we have Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants and deeds-of-right on 12 small parcels along Puget Sound, we participated in the settlement discussions. In exchange for not advancing a habitat restoration project, which would have removed rock and concrete bulkheads, Normandy Park and RCO are receiving a conservation and public access easement on a contiguous parcel that has functioning salmon habitat.

Employee News

- **Steve McLellan** announced he will retire in October. He has been our policy director and legislative liaison extraordinaire and we will miss him. We do plan to fill his position and will recruit later this summer.
- **Lynn Kennedy** left us to join the newly created Washington Health Benefits Exchange as the executive assistant to the director. The exchange is a program being developed as a new marketplace for individuals and small businesses in Washington to purchase private health insurance coverage.
- **Leslie Frank** joined us June 1 to replace Lynn as executive assistant, supporting me, the deputy, policy director, and the human resources manager, as well as being our facilities and payroll manager. Leslie comes to us from the Governor's Policy Office, where she supported nine executive policy advisors to the Governor. Before that, she spent 20 years in the Governor's Office (working for four governors) in a variety of administrative positions. We are lucky to have her join our family.
- **Scott Robinson** has been appointed deputy director. He has been the acting deputy for several months after the retirement of Rachael Langen and has done a great job. He has lots of new ways of looking at our current business. So please join me in congratulating him.
- **Tauren Ibarra**, who has held many positions in the agency, but most recently in our Fiscal Section, has announced he will be leaving in July to go to Hawaii. He has a great sense of humor and is always willing to pitch in no matter what we throw his way. We will miss him.

Meetings with Partners

- **Washington Recreation and Park Association** Annual Leadership Institute: I put together a panel to address the "Changing Face of Parks and Recreation." The panel featured former King County Executive Ron Sims, Trust for Public Land Washington Director Mike Deller, and REI Executive Vice President Matt Hyde. We shared perspectives on how local park managers can adapt to difficult and rapidly changing conditions, and how they might be able to forge new partnerships with non-profit and business organizations.
- **Girl Scouts of Western Washington:** I was honored, along with Gov. Chris Gregoire and long-time school activist Thelma Jackson, a "Women of Distinction" based on my demonstration of living the values of Girl Scouting – demonstrating courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place, and helping girls learn important leadership skills. I was a Girl Scout when I was younger and spoke of the lessons learned that still guide me every day.
- **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition** quarterly meeting, **Washington Recreation and Park Association** quarterly meeting, and the **Washington Association of Land Trusts** quarterly meeting: At these three meetings, I updated our partners about the current grant round applications, new board members, policy work, the boating grant to create better maps, and our work on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, among other RCO activities.

Update on Sister Boards

Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

The SRFB met on June 7. The board was briefed on the efforts to find efficiencies in three regions: Upper Columbia, Puget Sound, and the Northeast. Doug Osterman from King County presented the concept of watershed investment districts. The board approved funding for the 2013 salmon project conference, and set a target funding level of $18 million for the 2012 grant round. The board ended the day with presentations about the findings and results of the ongoing monitoring programs (effectiveness, status and trends, and intensively monitored watersheds), and made contract awards to continue the efforts.

Washington Invasive Species Council

Staff was interviewed by KIRO FM radio (97.3) about invasive animals in Washington. The story aired the morning of May 7th and there was an online piece that accompanied it (Here is the interview). Council staff also was invited by the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program Steering Committee to give a presentation on the state of invasive species monitoring the Puget Sound basin. As a follow-up to that presentation and discussion among the steering committee, staff has formed a work group to begin addressing ways to enhance invasive species monitoring efforts.

Additionally, staff is working on:

- Preparing and submitting the work request for the Phase 2, Baseline Assessment project
- Working with the Pacific Education Institute on identifying invasive species in school science kits.
- Developing the logo and messaging for the upcoming Report-A-Pig regional outreach project with Oregon and Idaho
- Preparing for the next Invasive Species Council meeting on June 14.

Governor's Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO)

The GSRO continues to focus significant effort on developing the 2012 *State of the Salmon in Watersheds r*eport. Like past reports, the 2012 report will roll up data consistently at both the regional and state scales; contain indicators of fish abundance, watershed health, and recovery implementation; and will highlight key information about gaps and needs. The 2012 report; however, will be electronic and housed on RCO's Web site with links to the seven salmon recovery regions. The report will have printable summary pages, a printable executive summary, and links to a broader information base that will feed and inform the state-level information. Jennifer has been working closely with the regions and a contractor to develop content, identify a data delivery system, and create a Web design and graphics.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group is preparing to publish the second *Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report*. The report will provide maps and other information about lands the state plans to purchase with 2013-15 funds. The report also will include discussions about Payment in Lieu of Taxes and funding for maintenance and operation of state lands.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2B**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Management Report: Fiscal Report

Prepared By: Mark Jarasitis, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

Periodic update of agency and program budgets, revenues, and expenditures

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Fiscal Reports

The attached financial reports reflect Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) activities as of May 25, 2012.

- Attachment A reflects the budget status of board activities by program.
- Attachment B reflects the budget status of the entire agency by board.
- Attachment C reflects the revenue collections.
- Attachment D is a Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) summary. Since the beginning of this program, $578 million of funds appropriated in the WWRP program have been expended.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board - Activities by Program

For the Period of July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013, actuals through 4/30/2012 (05/25/12) fm 10

Percentage of biennium reported: 41.7%

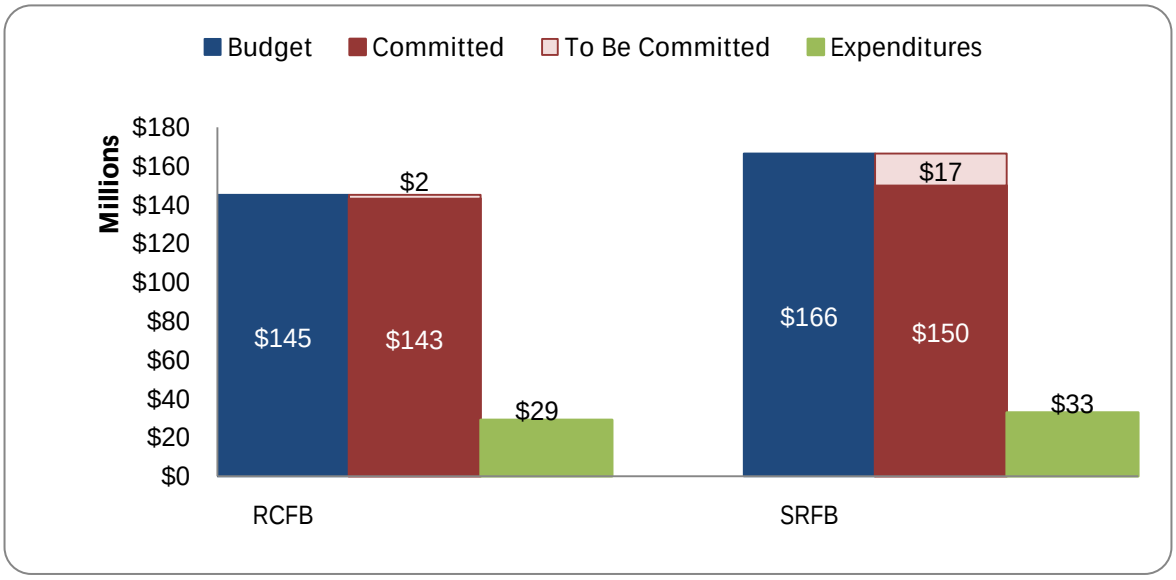
	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	new & reapp. 2011-13	Dollars	% of budget	Dollars	% of budget	Dollars	% of committed
Grant Programs							
WA Wildlife & Rec. Program (WWRP)							
WWRP Reappropriations	$57,695,035	$56,725,250	98%	$969,785	1.7%	$13,562,495	23.9%
WWRP New 11-13 Funds	40,740,000	40,739,426	100%	574	0.0%	2,930,166	7.2%
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)							
BFP Reappropriations	1,229,967	1,225,431	100%	4,536	0.4%	890,241	72.6%
BFP New 11-13 Funds	8,000,000	7,915,000	99%	85,000	1.1%	823,088	10.4%
Nonhighway & Off-Road Vehicle (NOVA)							
NOVA Reappropriations	3,343,066	3,179,683	95%	163,383	4.9%	870,918	27.4%
NOVA New 11-13 Funds	6,461,782	6,461,782	100%	0	0.0%	173,648	2.7%
Land & Water Conserv. Fund (LWCF)							
LWCF Reappropriations	2,747,126	2,747,126	100%	0	0%	1,778,486	64.7%
LWCF New 11-13 Funds	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Aquatic Lands Enhan. Account (ALEA)							
ALEA Reappropriations	3,756,494	3,756,494	100%	0	0.0%	737,565	19.6%
ALEA New 11-13 Funds	6,806,000	6,608,000	97%	198,000	2.9%	1,200,473	18.2%
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)							
RTP Reappropriations	2,941,713	2,941,713	100%	0	0.0%	1,724,583	58.6%
RTP New 11-13 Funds	1,552,132	1,552,132	100%	0	0.0%	10,298	0.7%
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)							
YAF Reappropriations	686,973	574,013	84%	112,959	16.4%	349,552	60.9%
Firearms & Archery Range Rec (FARR)							
FARR Reappropriations	616,194	218,489	35%	397,705	65%	109,417	50.1%
FARR New 11-13 Funds	365,000	334,715	92%	30,285	8%	147,113	44.0%
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)							
BIG Reappropriations	1,447,532	1,447,532	100%	0	0%	1,302,779	90.0%
BIG New 11-13 Funds	200,000	200,000	100%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Sub Total Grant Programs	138,589,012	136,626,785	99%	1,962,227	1%	26,610,822	19.5%
Administration							
General Operating Funds	6,455,280	6,455,280	100%	0	0%	2,451,353	38.0%
Grant and Administration Total	**145,044,292**	**143,082,065**	**99%**	**1,962,227**	**1%**	**29,062,175**	**20.3%**

Note: The budget column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Recreation and Conservation Office – Entire Agency Summary by Board

2011-13 Budget Status Report, Capital + Operating the Agency
For the Period of July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013, actuals through 4/30/2012 (05/25/12) fm 10
Percentage of biennium reported: 41.7%

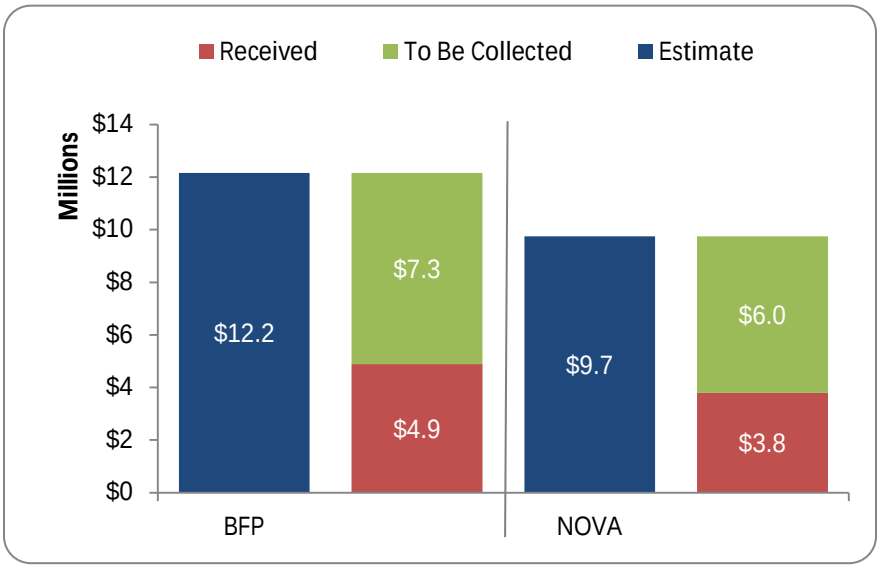
	BUDGET			COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	New	Reapp.	new and reapp. 2011-13	Dollars	*% of budget*	Dollars	*% of budget*	Dollars	*% of committed*
Board/Program									
RCFB	$69,469,207	$75,575,085	$145,044,292	$143,082,065	*98.6%*	$1,962,227	*1.4%*	$29,062,175	*20%*
SRFB	$60,917,194	$105,508,039	$166,425,233	$149,889,453	*90.1%*	$16,535,780	*9.9%*	$32,880,555	*22%*
Invasive Species Council	$216,000	$0	$216,000	$216,000	*100.0%*	$0	*0.0%*	$36,941	*17%*
Salmon Recovery Office	$601,705	**$0**	$601,705	$601,705	*100.0%*	$0	*0.0%*	$208,000	*35%*
Total	**$131,204,106**	**$181,083,124**	**$312,287,230**	**$293,789,223**	***94%***	**$18,498,007**	***6%***	**$62,187,671**	***21%***

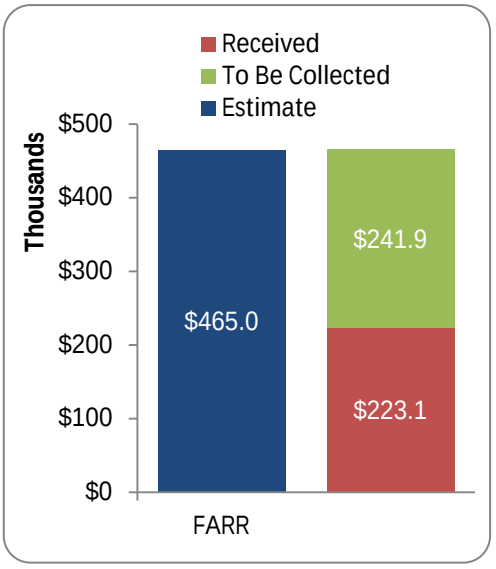


Recreation and Conservation Funding Board – Revenue Report

For the Period of July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2013, actuals through 4/30/2012 (05/25/12) fm 10
Percentage of biennium reported: 41.7%

Revenue	Biennial Forecast Estimate	Collections Actual	Collections % of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	$12,157,100	$4,884,449	40%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	9,748,704	3,796,784	39%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	465,000	223,107	48%
Total	**22,370,804**	**8,904,340**	**40%**





Revenue Notes:

Boating Facilities Program (BFP) revenue is from the unrefunded marine gasoline taxes.

Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA) revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of ORVs and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by ORV use permits.

Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR) revenue is from $3 each concealed pistol license fee.

This reflects the most recent revenue forecast of February 2012. The next forecast is due in June 2012.

RCFB – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Summary

1990 through May 25, 2012

History of Biennial Appropriations

Biennium	Appropriation
89-91 Biennium	$53,000,000
91-93 Biennium	61,150,000
93-95 Biennium	65,000,000
95-97 Biennium*	43,760,000
97-99 Biennium	45,000,000
99-01 Biennium	48,000,000
01-03 Biennium	45,000,000
03-05 Biennium	45,000,000
05-07 Biennium **	48,500,000
07-09 Biennium ***	95,491,955
09-11 Biennium ****	67,344,750
11-13 Biennium *****	40,740,000
Grand Total	**$657,986,705**

Notes to History of Biennial Appropriations:

* Original appropriation was $45 million.

** Entire appropriation was $50 million.
3% ($1,500,000) went to admin.

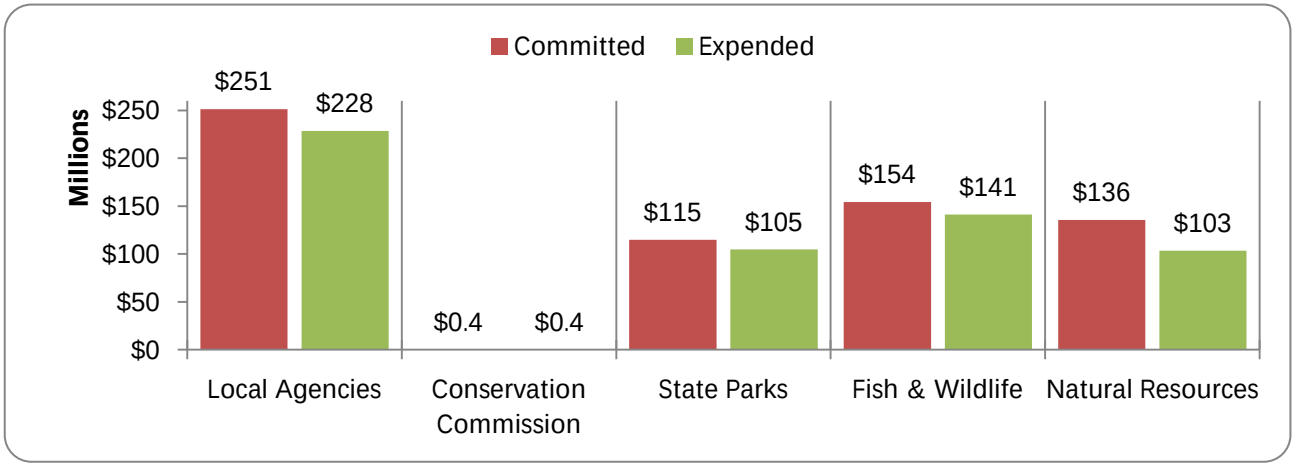
*** Entire appropriation was $100 million.
3% ($3,000,000) went to admin. Removed $981,000 with FY 10 supplemental, removed $527,045 with FY 2011 supplemental.

**** Entire appropriation was $70 million.
3% ($2,100,000) went to admin. Removed $555,250 with FY 2011 supplemental.

***** Entire appropriation was $42 million. 3% or $1,260,000 went to admin.

History of Committed and Expenditures, Since 1990

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	$251,304,790	$228,392,435	91%
Conservation Commission	$356,783	$356,783	100%
State Parks	$114,675,743	$104,769,594	91%
Fish & Wildlife	$154,353,916	$141,273,290	92%
Natural Resources	$135,590,103	$103,438,093	76%
Riparian Habitat Admin	$185,046	$185,046	100%
Land Inventory	$549,965	$549,965	100%
Sub Total Committed	**$657,016,346**	**$578,965,206**	**88%**



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2C**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Policy Report

Prepared By: Steve McLellan, Policy Director and Legislative Liaison

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Topic Summary

Periodic update of work being done by agency policy section

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Included in this report

- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group
- Puget Sound Action Agenda
- Boating "App"

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Outreach

The National Park Service (NPS) provides federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant-in-aid assistance to the states. To be eligible for the funds, each state must submit a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and update that plan at least every 5 years. The next Washington State SCORP is due by June 30, 2013. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) has contracted with Responsive Management to produce the next SCORP document. LWCF guidelines require the SCORP be developed with ample public participation.

In the past, the public has participated in the SCORP planning process via focus groups and general public meetings conducted around the state. Attendance at the public meetings has typically been very low. For the last SCORP, public input on recreation priorities was obtained through a series of town halls conducted by Governor Gregoire on issues most important to

citizens. The statewide survey of residents conducted for each SCORP has also collected information and data about recreational activities most of interest to the public.

At the March 2012 meeting, the board provided several comments about the need to thoroughly engage all segments of the public, including diverse user groups and geographic regions. Subsequently, Responsive Management worked with staff to develop a public participation plan (the complete plan is included as Attachment A).

Highlights of Public Participation Plan

For the 2013 SCORP, Responsive Management developed a plan to engage the following audiences through a variety of techniques throughout the development of the SCORP (see Attachment A, table 3):

SCORP Advisory Group - The RCO SCORP team and Responsive Management agreed to create a SCORP Advisory Group comprised of standing advisory committee members and others who have expressed an interest in outdoor recreation issues. Primary engagement of this 23-member group will be through a series of in-person meetings at key points throughout development of the plan, an online forum and email exchanges, and three opportunities for participating in internet town hall sessions.

General Public – The public will be able to provide input via the recreation participation telephone survey, the SCORP web site (hosted by RCO), the SCORP Advisory Group, in–person meetings, and three internet town hall sessions. Media releases, the web site, and email blasts will alert the public to ways they can participate.

Recreation Providers – Providers, such as state and local agencies, will be asked to complete an online survey about key issues related to providing outdoor recreation sites and facilities. In addition, providers will be invited to participate in the internet town hall sessions and SCORP Advisory Group meetings.

Recreation Partners – Key partners, such as Tribes, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, user groups, and outdoor recreation industry representatives, will be targeted for personal outreach and invited to participate in the internet town hall sessions.

RCO Staff – The RCO SCORP Team has been instrumental in developing the public participation plan and the surveys for providers and the general public. All RCO staff will be kept apprised of the plan's development.

Board – The board will be briefed over the development of the plan. In spring of 2013, Responsive Management will present the draft plan to the board.

In addition, Responsive Management will work with RCO's Communication Manager to ensure residents and groups in eastern Washington are aware of opportunities to provide input. For example, media releases will be sent to all major dailies in Spokane, Wenatchee, Walla Walla, Chelan and Yakima as well as many rural papers. In addition, notices will be emailed to RCO

partners such as land trusts, park and recreation associations, city and county associations, and grange organizations to be distributed to their statewide members. User groups in eastern Washington will also be targeted, such as the Backcountry Horsemen, trail groups (for hiking, equestrian, ORV, and ski use), boating and fishing groups and publications, and gun ranges.

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (land group) held its annual forum in March 2012. Presentations from the forum are now posted on the RCO website at http://www.rco.wa.gov/doc_pages/other_pubs.shtml#hrlcg. The forum was a chance for local governments, citizens, state agencies, legislators, and others to learn about lands that state agencies hope to buy in the 2013-15 biennium. Much of the discussion focused on how proposed state land acquisitions will be managed over time. Based on comments received at the forum and from legislators and legislative staff, we expect that funding of ongoing maintenance costs for land acquired and managed by state agencies will be a topic of interest in the 2013 legislative session.

The lands group is preparing to publish the second Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report in June 2012. The report will show maps and other information about projects proposed for funding in the 2013-15 biennium.

Puget Sound Action Agenda

At its April 26, 2012 meeting, the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) Leadership Council postponed approval of the Action Agenda to give PSP staff more time to develop the following strategic initiatives:

- Prevention of pollution from urban stormwater runoff
- Protection and restoration of habitat in support of salmon recovery
- Recovery of shellfish beds

The PSP will engage the RCO and the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office in developing the strategic initiative related to habitat for salmon recovery. The Leadership Council is also analyzing funding gaps in implementing the Action Agenda. The Leadership Council is expected to approve the final Action Agenda later this summer.

During development of the Governor's 2013-15 budget submission, the PSP will review agency grant programs for consistency with the Action Agenda. During past reviews, habitat protection and restoration programs have ranked high and we expect they will do so again.

Boating "App"

Earlier this year, the RCO received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to update the agency's boating website (which lists facilities available to boaters) and to create a mobile "app" to provide boaters with the information. Policy staff is leading an agency work team on this project, which includes significant outreach to the Northwest Marine Trade Association (NMTA) and the Washington Boating Alliance (WBA) as well as to state providers of boating facilities (e.g., the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks, and the Department of Natural Resources). Local government and port managed facilities will be included. Staff anticipates data will be collected this fall with a "beta" version of the mobile "app" available for testing by spring 2013.

Attachments

A. SCORP Public Participation Plan

WASHINGTON SCORP
INTERIM REPORT TO THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO)

Project Requirement #1: Engage Public in Planning Process

May 2012

WASHINGTON SCORP
INTERIM REPORT TO THE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO)

Project Requirement #1: Engage Public in Planning Process

2012

Responsive Management National Office

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Acknowledgments

Responsive Management would like to thank Dominga Soliz and Susan Zemek of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for input and advice.

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Action Item 5: Web-Based Surveys of Recreation Providers 4
Action Item 6: Telephone Survey of Residents and Visitors/Tourists 4
Action Item 8: Final Strategic Planning Workshop 5
Initial Work Plan for Engaging the Advisory Group, Citizen, and RCO Board in the Planning Process (i.e., implementing the objectives in Action Item 3) 5

INTRODUCTION

Responsive Management and The Cooperation Company are working cooperatively with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to develop a State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The plan will include "...ample opportunity for public participation involving all segments of the state's population..." as required in the federal legislation[1]. The final plan will take into consideration the demands and expectations of Washington residents and visitors/tourists to the State. To this end, the researchers have developed a comprehensive approach that involves the public throughout the planning process to gather important input on issues and concerns related to outdoor recreation that the SCORP should address. This interim report provides a progress update on work that has been done to meet project requirement #1 in the scope of work for this project, which involves engaging the public in the planning process, and to provide a work plan to guide citizen involvement activities during the remainder of the project.

PROGRESS UPDATE

PROJECT REQUIREMENT #1: ENGAGE PUBLIC IN PLANNING PROCESS

This project requirement calls for meaningful public participation in developing the SCORP by consulting with stakeholders and the general public, statewide. While we make a series of recommendations (see Table 3) for activities to involve the public, these should be part of the continuous review of project progress and amended if/when circumstances dictate. The contract specifications call for Responsive Management to complete nine Action Items. Six of these are concerned with citizen involvement: Action Item 1, Action Item 2, Action Item 3, Action Item 5, Action Item 6, and Action Item 8. Progress on these six Action Items is reported here.

Action Item 1: Form the SCORP Advisory Group

At a January 13, 2012 planning meeting between RCO and Responsive Management the consensus emerged that,

- One advisory group would suffice, given the other citizen involvement activities contemplated in the project (e.g., publically accessible Blog or Internet Town Hall Meeting, news releases, etc.),
- Recruiting people from existing RCO standing committees would provide topic and geographical diversity and a knowledgeable membership for the SCORP Advisory Group,
- Additional members not from the existing RCO advisory committees should be recruited (especially to ensure inclusion of perspectives from local jurisdictions), and

[1] National Park Service, U. S. Department of The Interior. 2008. Land And Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Volume 69, Effective Date: October 1, 2008 (available at: http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/lwcf/manual/lwcf.pdf, accessed May 20, 2012).

- The hosting of general public meetings would not be productive as attendance at these events in the past has been extremely poor.

Since this initial planning meeting, one advisory committee has been created and active. See Table 1 for the list of advisory group members as of the date of this report. Recruitment is still underway to add members from the outdoor recreation industry as well as from federal partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service).

Name	Organization	City	Notes
Rebecca Andrist		Omak	LWCF* Advisory Committee – Citizen At Large
Joseph Bee		Sedro Woolley	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Advisory Committee
Leslie Betlach	City of Renton Parks and Recreation	Renton	
Mike Blankenship		Kettle Falls	Non-highway and Off-road Vehicles Activities Advisory Committee
Renagene Brady		Sammamish	LWCF* Advisory Committee – Citizen At Large
Justin Bush	Skamania County Noxious Weeds	Stevenson	LWCF* advisory committee
Sharon Claussen	King County Parks and Recreation	Seattle	
Kurt Dahmen	City of Pullman Parks and Recreation	Pullman	
Dave Erickson	City of Wenatchee, Parks Director	Wenatchee	
Nikki Fields	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Olympia	LWCF* advisory committee
Nicole Hill	Nisqually Land Trust	Lacey	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Advisory Committee
Tana Inglima	Port of Kennewick	Kennewick	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account Advisory Committee
Mike Kaputa	Chelan County Natural Resources Department	Wenatchee	LWCF* advisory committee
Kathy Kravit-Smith	Pierce County Parks and Recreation	Tacoma	
Marilyn LaCelle		Issaquah	LWCF* Advisory Committee
Mark Levensky		Seattle	Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities Advisory Committee
Michael O'Malley	Department of Fish and Wildlife	Olympia	LWCF* advisory committee
Anna Scarlett	Avista	Spokane	Land and Water Conservation Fund Advisory Committee – Citizen at Large
Paul Simmons	City of Cheney, Parks and Recreation	Cheney	
Dave Smith		Moses Lake	Boating Programs Advisory Committee – Citizen At Large
Pene Speaks	Department of Natural Resources	Olympia	LWCF* advisory committee
Paul Whitemarsh		Pasco	LWCF* Advisory Committee – Citizen At Large
Dona Wuthnow	San Juan County Parks	Friday Harbor	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

Action Item 2: SCORP Advisory Group Kickoff Meeting

The SCORP Advisory Group kickoff meeting occurred on March 26, 2012. This meeting was open to the public (which will also be the case for subsequent Advisory Group meetings). Table 2 provides a list of advisory group members and interested citizens who attended the meeting. The meeting was designed to inform the participants of the goals and objectives of the project. The meeting was in a workshop format to give Advisory Group members and stakeholders additional information, to assess their interest in participating in the planning process, and to encourage their participation. After the Kickoff meeting the RCO convened a meeting of its internal, RCO Staff SCORP Team to have a similar conversation and to discuss the outcome of the Kickoff meeting. Discussion at the Advisory Group Kickoff meeting and at this RCO Staff SCORP Team meeting highlighted several issues to keep in mind as the project evolves,

- Do what is feasible to make the SCORP planning accessible to stakeholders in Eastern Washington, to a diversity of user groups, and to local planning organizations,
- The notion of hosting an Internet opportunity for citizen input (e.g., a Blog or Internet Town Hall Meeting) was supported though there was some concern about how to manage this discussion; the concerns centering around achieving the values of open access and transparency while maintaining a proper decorum (e.g., insuring acceptable use of language),
- What is the inclusion need for evaluating private lands as part of the SCORP analysis?,
- The degree of consideration needed in this SCORP for incorporating geographic information systems (GIS) technology?, and
- What is the appropriate way to address the issue of wetlands in this SCORP?

Table 2. Attendees at the SCORP Advisory Group Kickoff Meeting

Name	Organization
Paul Whitemarsh*	Citizen
Chris Parsons	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Rick Terway	City of Pasco
Jim Eychaner	Citizen
Marilyn LaCelle*	Citizen
Nichole Hill*	Citizen
Mark Levensky*	Citizen
Renagene Brady*	Citizen
Carmon Parker	City of Bellevue
Nikki Fields*	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Dave Redman	US Forest Service
Brit Kramer	Washington Parks and Recreation Association
Kathy Kravit-Smith*	Pierce County Parks and Recreation
Pene Speaks*	Department of Natural Resources
Tana Bader-Inglima	Port of Kennewick

Table 2. Attendees at the SCORP Advisory Group Kickoff Meeting

Name	Organization
Dona Wuthnow*	San Juan County Parks
Justin Bush*	Skamania County Noxious Weeds
Anna Scarlett*	Avista Corporation
* Advisory Group member.	

Action Item 3: Engage SCORP Advisory Group and the Public

This action item outlines plans for engaging the Advisory Group and the general public via the Internet and traditional public relations mechanisms such as news releases and targeted outreach. At this time the following activities are contemplated,

- Update RCO website where stakeholders can find all pertinent documents (e.g., research reports) and a link for providing input (in process),
- Three Blog or Internet Town Hall postings (probably hosted by the RCO) for general public access with a call for comments (presently scheduled for September 2012, November 2012, and January 2013),
- A series of news releases alerting the public about the existence of the project and about work products as they are completed,
- Online idea exchanges (e.g., e-mail, online Forum) with the Advisory Group (to occur throughout the project but focused around research work products as they are produced),
- SCORP Advisory Group input meeting #1: Kickoff Meeting (completed, see above),
- SCORP Advisory Group input meeting #2 (presently scheduled for October 2012), and
- SCORP Advisory Group input meeting #3 (presently scheduled for December 2012).
- Potential SCORP Advisory Group meeting #4 (spring of 2013) with the need for this meeting to be decided later in the project.

Action Item 5: Web-Based Surveys of Recreation Providers

Responsive Management is currently working with the RCO to finalize the web-based survey of recreation providers; this work product is in the final stages of development. The survey will canvass the quantity and quality of recreation opportunities and facilities in the state and ask these providers to assess the level of service they are able to provide compared to the demand they are encountering. This work (full administration of the survey) is scheduled for completion in October 2012.

Action Item 6: Telephone Survey of Residents and Visitors/Tourists

Responsive Management is currently working with the RCO to finalize the telephone survey of residents and visitors/tourists; this work product is in the final stages of development. The survey will canvass the opinions of the public about the outdoor recreation opportunities they are receiving from public recreation providers as well as assessing the diversity and level of activity

across a wide spectrum of recreation activities. This work is scheduled for completion in October 2012.

Action Item 8: Final Strategic Planning Workshop

Presently scheduled for January 2013, the final strategic planning workshop will be designed closer to the date of this meeting but will feature Advisory Group and citizen review of and comment on the draft SCORP document.

INITIAL WORK PLAN FOR ENGAGING THE ADVISORY GROUP, CITIZEN, AND RCO BOARD IN THE PLANNING PROCESS (i.e., implementing the objectives in Action Item 3)

Eight target audiences have been identified for involvement in the SCORP planning process: the SCORP Advisory Group (described above), general public, providers, media interests, RCO SCORP Team, RCO staff (in general), partner organizations, and the RCO Board. The interaction methods and desired input from these audiences are summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. SCORP citizen participation plans as of the date of this report. While we make these recommendations for activities to involve these audiences, this plan should be part of the continuous review of project progress and amended if/when circumstances dictate

Audience	Technique	Desired Interaction from this Audience	Milestones			
			Introduction to the Project	Survey Results	Draft Report	Final draft Report
Advisory Group	First (Kickoff) Meeting	Attend and comment	Completed			
	Project Updates	Read		X	X	X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
	On-line Forum	Comment		X	X	X
	Blog	Monitor		X	X	X
	Second meeting	Attend and comment		X		
	Third meeting	Attend and comment			X	
	Potential Fourth meeting	Attend and comment		To be decided		
General Public	News Releases	Read	X	X	X	X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
	Survey	Complete Interview		X (participate)		
	Blog/Internet Town Hall	Comment		X	X	X
Providers	E-mail	Read	X	X	X	X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
	Survey	Complete Interview		X (participate)		
	Blog/Internet Town Hall	Comment		X	X	X
Media	News Releases	Publish	X	X	X	X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
	Invitation (e.g., personal telephone calls)	Write stories			X	X

Table 3. SCORP citizen participation plans as of the date of this report. While we make these recommendations for activities to involve these audiences, this plan should be part of the continuous review of project progress and amended if/when circumstances dictate

			Milestones			
RCO SCORP Team	E-mail	Read and comment	Completed	X	X	X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
	Meetings	Participate		X	X	X
RCO Staff (in general)	E-mail	Read	X	X	X	X
	Director's Newsletter	Read	X			X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
Partner Organizations*	E-mail	Read, send announcements to their lists	X	X	X	X
	Website	Read		X	X	X
	Blog/Internet Town Hall	Comment		X	X	X
RCO Board	Updates	Comment	Completed	X	X	X
	Meeting Agenda Item	Approve				X

* e.g., Tribes, federal agencies, recreation clubs.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **2D**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Management Report: Grant Management Report

Prepared By: Scott Robinson and Marguerite Austin

Approved by the Director: For Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

Periodic update of work being done by the agency's Conservation and Grant Services Section and the Recreation Grants Section.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Included in this Report

- 2012 Grant Cycle Updates
- Federal Grant Program News
- Using Returned Funds for Alternates and Partially-Funded Projects
- Project Administration

2012 Grant Cycle

Grant Applications

As of May 1, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) had received 231 grant applications for four grant programs , as shown in the following table.

Grant Programs	Number of Projects	Grant Requests	Applicant Match	Total
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	30	$13,760,549	$21,859,275	$35,619,824
Boating Infrastructure Grants	3	$2,551,875	$5,236,872	$7,788,747
Land and Water Conservation Fund	14	$5,325,777	$13,463,774	$18,789,551
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program	184	$127,502,639	$81,341,464	$208,844,103

This is a 32 percent drop in the number of applications submitted compared to the 2010 grants cycle. RCO believes that the drop in applications is due in part to the economic downturn. Specifically, some applicants may have been unable to secure the required matching funds.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) will be asked to approve ranked lists for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) at the October 2012 meeting. The approved lists are due to the Governor's Office by November 1, 2012. The Governor submits the list of projects to the legislature as part of the proposed capital budget. Once the budget is approved, the board will award grants for ALEA, WWRP, as well as the Land and Water Conservation Fund projects at the June 2013 meeting. The board delegated authority to the director to approve Boating Infrastructure Grants.

Staff is currently working with sponsors interested in submitting grant proposals for the following programs:

- Boating Facilities Program
- Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
- Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
- Recreational Trails Program

There are 176 pre-applications for these programs. The application deadline is July 2, 2012. The board will award grants for these projects at the June 2013 meeting.

Project Review

Staff members are reviewing new grant applications and working with advisory committees to assist with their technical reviews[1]. Technical review meetings give applicants the opportunity to present their projects, receive feedback on the merits of the proposals, and get suggestions about ways to refine the project scope, design, cost estimates, and graphics. All changes must be completed by the technical completion deadline, which varies by grant program.

Applicants may either (a) come to Olympia and present their projects in person or (b) use a web-based system to present their projects via a computer and telephone. Although review is not required, most applicants participate and revise their proposals based on comments and recommendations made during the review meetings.

Evaluations

Evaluations for grant applications submitted in May are scheduled for June, July, and August as shown in the table below. Detailed presentation schedules for each program or category will be available at least a week before the evaluation meeting. Although these meetings are open to the public, testimony is not taken. Rather, the board will hear public testimony regarding these projects at the October 2012 or June 2013 meeting.

[1] As part of its streamlining efforts, staff is conducting the project review for WWRP Critical Habitat, Urban Wildlife Habitat, Natural Areas, and Riparian Protection projects.

Grant Program	Evaluation Dates (In-Person Presentations)
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	Wednesday, August 8 and Thursday, August 9
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Tuesday, August 7
WWRP – Critical Habitat	Tuesday, June 26
WWRP – Farmland Preservation	Tuesday, August 21 and Wednesday, August 22
WWRP – Local Parks	Tuesday, August 14 through Thursday, August 16
WWRP – Riparian Protection	Tuesday, July 10 and Wednesday, July 11
WWRP – State Parks	Monday, July 23
WWRP - Trails	Tuesday, August 14 and Wednesday, August 15
WWRP – Water Access	Thursday, August 16

Other evaluations taking place during this time period are written evaluations that the evaluators complete at their home or office. The board approved a written evaluation process for four WWRP categories: Natural Areas, State Lands Development and Renovation, State Lands Restoration and Enhancement, and Urban Wildlife Habitat.

Volunteer Recruitment Efforts Complete for 2012 Grants Cycle

Staff recently completed volunteer recruitment for the 2012 grants cycle. More than 190 volunteers will assist with technical review and evaluation of grant applications in 2012.

The names of the volunteers who are members of a standing advisory committee, severing multi-year terms, are posted on the Advisory Committee page on our Web site. These advisors also help us with plans, policy or other issues that may arise in the respective grants programs.

Kah Tai Park Lagoon – Port Townsend

A complex land swap is expected to resolve a lawsuit filed by the Port of Port Townsend against the City of Port Townsend, RCO, and the National Park Service.

Through the lawsuit, the Port was contesting use restrictions imposed by RCO and the National Park Service as a result of having received grants through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in the early 1980s for Kah Tai Park Lagoon in Port Townsend. The land swap would resolve a number of decades-old issues between the City and the Port by transferring land between the two.

The Port would transfer 20 acres to the City at Kah Tai Lagoon Park. This transfer would help implement several of the City's park plans and ensure the 80-acre Kah Tai area would remain a public park and open space. The park would be protected by the Land and Water Conservation Fund 6(f) boundary, which protects it in perpetuity for recreational use.

In return, the City would transfer City Dock and Union Dock to the Port, allowing it to manage these facilities and meet its comprehensive plans. The transfer of the two docks to the Port would affect three other RCO project agreements awarded for public access development. The

Port will need to accept RCO grant funding obligations that come along with these facilities. The settlement agreement includes a special condition to obtain necessary approvals from RCO.

RCO supports the proposed agreement. Staff has been in contact with the City and Port and is working to answer questions related to the proposed settlement and ensure both parties understand the long-term requirements of each of the impacted grants

Federal Grant Program News

RTP Grants

In May, we received word that Congress had authorized nearly $700,000 in additional funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). As a result, on May 4, the director approved grant awards for 16 alternate projects and provided full funding for 6 partially-funded projects from the list approved by the board in November 2011. There is now a total of 38 projects funded with 2012 RTP grants (Attachment A).

The additional funding supports program administration and grants for development, maintenance, and education projects associated with trails that provide a backcountry experience. Total RTP funding to date for federal fiscal year 2012 is $1.5 million.

LWCF Grants

The state of Washington has nearly $844,000 in Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) for federal fiscal year 2012 projects. The program provides matching grants to states to acquire and develop outdoor recreation areas for public use. In November 2011, the board approved the ranked list of projects and delegated authority to the director to submit applications for funding upon receipt of our state's apportionment.

This table shows the top four ranked projects and the grant funds approved for each project. The third ranked project, Claybell Park Improvements, received $112,960 from the Youth Athletic Facilities program (see section on Returned Funds below). If unused funds become available, the Shane Park Playground will be eligible for additional funding.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Funds Approved	Unfunded Balance
11-1191D	Klickitat Prairie Park Phase 2	Mossyrock	$335,575	$335,575	
11-1359A	North Creek Forest Phase 1	Bothell	$109,000	$109,000	
11-1429D	Claybell Park Improvements	Richland Parks and Recreation	$500,000	$387,040	$112,960
11-1195D	Shane Park Playground	Port Angeles	$92,975	$39,627	$53,348

Comment on Proposed BIG Revisions

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing new rules for the Boating Infrastructure Grant program. This program provides funds for boating facilities that target recreational boats

26 feet and larger. Because the proposed changes are significant, the RCO director sent a letter that strongly encourages the USFWS to extend the review and comment period. An extension would allow more time for staff to review and assess the proposed changes, and involve our stakeholders in the review process.

Not knowing if the extension would be approved, RCO staff reviewed and submitted initial comments on the proposal. The most significant change affects the evaluation criteria. The proposed criteria appear to (1) emphasize improving or maintaining the quality of the environment and (2) encourage projects that enhance long-term environmental sustainability. This new emphasis, which aligns with policies supported by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and the Invasive Species Council, appears to be designed to advance the priorities of the Sport Fish Restoration Act. Staff responded that the RCO supports this change.

Another change requires applicants to prorate costs so that grant funds do not pay for anything that benefits ineligible users, even if the use is incidental. This requirement does not align with existing board adopted policies for its boating programs. Staff will ask the board to consider modifications to its BIG program if the rules are adopted. Staff responded by asking USFWS to clarify the definition of "incidental use" and explain how they intend to apply this policy.

Using Returned Funds for Alternates and Partially-Funded Projects

The director has recently awarded a new grant for one alternate project. The funds are from projects that did not use the full amount of their grant awards.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Funds Approved	Category
10-1586D	Claybell Park Improvements 2010	Richland Parks and Recreation	$500,000	$112,960	Youth Athletic Facilities

Also, as unused funds have become available from other projects, the director has approved additional funding partially funded projects. This table shows the projects' original grant awards and the total grant funds now approved.

Project Number	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Original Grant Funding	Current Total Grant Funding	WWRP Category
10-1244A	Nisqually State Park Acquisition	State Parks and Recreation	$900,000	$862,659	$900,000	State Parks
11-1222M	Mt Baker Trail Grooming and Maintenance	Northwest Glacier Cruisers	$62,000	$12,153	$62,000	RTP General
08-1183A	Stavis NRCA / Kitsap Forest NAP Riparian 2008	Dept. of Natural Resources	$3,423,052	$3,326,770	$3,423,052	Riparian Protection

Project Administration

This table summarizes the outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects currently being administered by staff:

- Active projects are under agreement.
- Staff is working with sponsors to place the "Board Funded" and "Director Approved" projects under agreement.

In addition, staff has several hundred funded projects that they monitor for long-term compliance.

Program	Active Projects	Board Funded Projects	Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	17	0	1	**18**
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	25	0	1	**26**
Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIG)	2	0	0	**2**
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	11	0	0	**11**
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	6	0	1	**7**
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	62	0	16	**78**
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	84	1	0	**85**
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	145	0	1	**146**
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	6	0	0	**6**
Total	**358**	**1**	**20**	**379**

Since the March board meeting, staff has closed 28 active project agreements. These closures reflect the tenacity of our sponsors to complete funded projects and the exceptional work of our dedicated grant managers. Closing completed projects during a grants cycle can be challenging, but it is an important step in grant management.

Attachments

A. Recreational Trails Program Grants for 2011 Projects

Attachment A: Recreational Trails Program Grants for 2011 Projects

Project #	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
Recreational Trails Program – General Category					
11-1236D	Mount Tahoma Trails Association	Mt. Tahoma Trails Association Outhouse Replacement	$21,000	$28,000	$49,000
11-1308M	Washington Trails Association	Washington Trails Association 2012 Front Country Trail Maintenance	$75,000	$375,000	$450,000
11-1307M	Washington Trails Association	Washington Trails Association 2012 Backcountry Trail Teams	$75,000	$223,000	$298,000
11-1253M	Pacific Northwest Trail Association	Pacific Northwest Trail North Cascades Youth Crew: 2012	$70,089	$72,500	$142,589
11-1420M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Nason Ridge Trail System	$42,000	$42,200	$84,200
11-1326M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District	Chelan Uplake Trails 12	$75,000	$66,000	$141,000
11-1255M	Mountains to Sound Greenway	Mountains to Sound Trail Maintenance 2012	$75,000	$75,000	$150,000
11-1328M	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Walker Valley ORV Maintenance and Operation 2012	$69,500	$39,000	$108,500
11-1305M	Washington Trails Association	Washington Trails Association 2012 Youth Trail Maintenance Support	$25,000	$50,300	$75,300
11-1324M	Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Anderson Lake State Park Trails 2012	$15,000	$17,000	$32,000
11-1404M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Entiat Ranger District - Wilderness Non-Motorized Trails 2012-13	$73,000	$71,740	$144,740
11-1287M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Ranger District	Methow Valley Ranger District Trail Maintenance 2012-13	$75,000	$73,720	$148,720
11-1437M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Multi-Use Trails Maintenance	$60,000	$62,300	$122,300
11-1223M	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Darrington Ranger District	Darrington Trail Maintenance 2012-13	$50,000	$50,000	$100,000
11-1254M	Pacific Northwest Trail Association	Pacific Northwest Trail Oympic Youth Crew: 2012	$70,911	$72,000	$142,911
11-1259M	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Volunteer Trail Maintenance 2012	$29,000	$82,500	$111,500
11-1432M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District	Wildhorse and Whitepine Trails Maintenance and Operation	$38,000	$49,100	$87,100

Project #	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
11-1293M	Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Snoqualmie-White River Trail Maintenance 2012	$75,000	$115,000	$190,000
11-1186M	EarthCorps	2012-13 EarthCorps Wilderness Trail Maintenance	$35,425	$35,456	$70,881
11-1288M	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District	Sawtooth Backcountry Trail Maintenance 2012-13	$12,050	$8,250	$20,300
11-1221M	Nooksack Nordic Ski Club	Salmon Ridge Ski Trail Maintenance 2011-2013	$21,300	$19,900	$41,200
11-1249M	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Alpine Lakes Trail Maintenance 2012	$75,000	$64,805	$139,805
11-1196M	Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District	Gifford Pinchot National Forest Wilderness Trails Maintenance 2012	$39,757	$39,768	$79,525
11-1294M	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Evans Creek ORV Maintenance and Operation 2012	$75,000	$69,000	$144,000
11-1217M	EarthCorps	Dutch Miller Gap Trail Maintenance	$10,774	$10,860	$21,634
11-1222M	Northwest Glacier Cruisers	Mt Baker Trail Grooming and Maintenance	$12,153	$9,959	$22,112
11-1342M	Jones Creek Trail Riders Association	Jones Creek ORV Trail Maintenance	$20,000	$10,000	$30,000
11-1229M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Greenwater-Naches-Ahtanum Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$50,484	$201,938	$252,422
11-1226M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	South Cascades Snowmobile Trail Grooming	$20,304	$81,218	$101,522
11-1233M	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	Snoqualmie Pass to Blewett Pass SM Trail Grooming	$47,065	$188,260	$235,325
		Sub-Total General	**$1,432,812**	**$2,303,774**	**$3,736,586**
Recreational Trails Program – Education Category					
11-1248E	Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District	Snoqualmie Volunteer Ranger Program 2012	$10,000	$36,835	$46,835
11-1382E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Winter Trail Patrol 2012-2013	$10,000	$26,000	$36,000
11-1188E	Washington Water Trails Association	Water Trail SEA Kayaker Team Educators	$5,000	$7,500	$12,500
11-1338E	Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt Baker Ranger District	Mountain Stewards 2012	$10,000	$13,500	$23,500
11-1339E	Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, Mt Baker Ranger District	Mt. Baker Climbing Rangers 2012	$6,049	$8,594	$14,643

Project #	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
11-1281E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	Cle Elum Wilderness Education 2012	$10,000	$10,500	$20,500
11-1408E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District	Lake Wen - Entiat Snow Ranger 2012	$10,000	$19,720	$29,720
11-1412E	Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	USFS Snoqualmie Pass Winter Education Patrol	$8,424	$10,111	$18,535
		Sub-Total Education	**$69,473**	**$132,760**	**$202,233**
		TOTAL	**$1,502,285**	**$2,436,534**	**$3,938,819**

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

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To: Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

From: Bill Chapman, Chair

Subject: Approach to the Director's Evaluation for 2012

Date: June 2012

Over the past several years, the board has reviewed the Director's performance based on her self-assessment, performance data, surveys, and feedback gathered from our external stakeholders.

I suggest we use the same approach used in 2011 to conduct the Director's evaluation in 2012. I have proposed a few changes to the timeline so that the work can be done before the October meeting. Mid-fall is generally a good time for the evaluation because it allows time for staff to finish the fiscal year and assess performance.

Proposed Process

1. At the June meeting, the chair will appoint a subcommittee (the chair and two board members) to work over the late summer and early fall to review the previous year's expectations, director's self-assessment and performance data, as well as gathering feedback from our external stakeholders. Comments by board members suggested that the two appointed roles should rotate among the board members.

2. By **September 7**, the director will submit to the subcommittee a self-assessment of her performance along with the agency's performance data. This self-assessment will be based on the previous fiscal year's performance measures. The self-assessment will include:

    - A discussion of appropriate metrics and any trends, issues, or opportunities illustrated by those metrics

- An identification of her priorities for the next year, including any suggestions on ways to measure her performance in the next year's evaluation.

3. By **September 7**, the subcommittee will compile a list of individuals to contact for feedback, including board members, chairs of other RCO-supported boards and councils (Salmon Recovery Funding Board and Invasive Species Council), and key stakeholders (e.g., WWRC and WRPA). By **October 5**, the RCO Human Resources manager will solicit early (pre-evaluation) input from this list.

4. The RCO Human Resources manager will provide the feedback to the RCFB chair by **October 5**.

5. The chair will convene the subcommittee to consider all feedback and develop a written summary of the director's performance. By **October 15**, the chair will prepare a draft with review and comment by committee members.

6. In executive session during the board's **October 17-18** meeting, the board will discuss the results of the subcommittee's gathered information and reach a conclusion on the director's performance for the preceding year.

7. In the same executive session, the board will present its findings to the director with an opportunity for response.

8. The chair will then verbally discuss the results of the performance evaluation with our designated liaison in the Governor's office.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **4**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Preview of Applications Submitted for Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program Funding, Tier 1 and Tier 2

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo presents the applications that have been submitted for Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program funding in 2012 for review at an open public meeting of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

When the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program was created, the board adopted policies delegating authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director to approve funding for Tier 1 projects. The approval is based on the Boating Programs Advisory Committee (BPAC) evaluation and ranking.

In June 2011, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) discussed the timing conflict for BIG Tier 2 proposals. These grant applicants compete for funding on a national level; that application deadline typically does not align well with board meeting schedules, making board approval of a ranked list difficult. The board passed Revised Resolution #2011-11, delegating authority to the director to submit Tier 2 projects to the USFWS for the national competition following evaluation of the projects by the BPAC and presentation of the applications at a regular meeting of the board.

This memo and the staff briefing in June will provide the public presentation of the applications, which have not yet been reviewed or ranked by the BPAC.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Description

The purpose of this grant program is to develop and renovate boating facilities that target recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Funds also may be used to provide information and to enhance boater education.

Program Policies

The U.S. Congress created the BIG Program under the Transportation Equity Act. The program, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides funds for developing and renovating boating facilities for recreational boats 26 feet and larger. Sponsors also may use funds to provide information and to enhance boater education. Facilities eligible for funding include transient moorage docks, breakwaters, and buoys.

The USFWS has established two "tiers" of grants.

- Tier 1 is for projects that request $100,000 or less. Each year, Washington State may submit an unlimited number of projects requesting funds on behalf of the state or eligible sub-sponsors. However, the total may not exceed $100,000. Tier 1 applications are not guaranteed, but have a high probability of funding approval.
- Tier 2 is for projects that request between $100,001 and $1.5 million. States may submit applications for any number of Tier 2 grants on behalf of itself or an eligible sub-sponsor. These projects are submitted for national competition with no assurances of success.

Rules governing Washington's program are found in Manual #12, *Boating Infrastructure Grant Program* Specific policies related to BIG are:

Eligible Applicants:	Local governments, state agencies, port districts, tribal governments, and private marinas and nonprofit organizations with facilities open to the general public
Eligible Projects:	Development, renovation, education, and information
Match Requirements:	Grant recipients must provide at least 25% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions.
Funding Limits:	Tier 1 – minimum grant request $5,000, maximum $95,000.[1] Tier 2 – minimum grant request $100,001, maximum $1,455,000. [2]
Public Access:	Required for a minimum of 20 years

[1] Generally, the award for each state is $100,000. The board's adopted a policy is to set aside $5,000 for program administration.

[2] The USFWS adopted a $1.5 million maximum grant limit, effective federal fiscal year 2012. $45,000 is set aside for program administration.

Other Program Characteristics:	Projects must be located on navigable waters. Key priorities in the evaluative process include partnerships, percent of sponsor match, innovation, and access to sites of national, regional or local significance.

BIG Tier 1 and 2 Project Evaluation

Applications for the BIG program were due to the Recreation and Conservation Office on May 1, 2012. The Boating Programs Advisory Committee (BPAC), which includes representatives from state and local agencies and citizens with expertise in boating access facilities, will review project proposals in August 2012, after the USFWS issues its request[3] for applications.

- Tier 1: The director will approve funding based on the ranked list from the advisory committee, once funding is awarded by the federal government in early 2013. For this cycle, the director will approve funding based on the recommendation of the committee because there is only one application. The board delegated this authority when they adopted program policies in 2000.
- Tier 2: As directed by the board in June 2011, the director will submit the project applications to the USFWS following review by the BPAC and review at an open public meeting by the board.

Description of the Projects Submitted

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) received applications for one Tier 1 and two Tier 2 Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) project proposals to review for federal fiscal year 2013 funding consideration. The proposals are shown in Attachment A.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of grant awards supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's goal to achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to it. The criteria for selecting projects support strategic investments in the protection, restoration, and development of recreation opportunities.

Next Steps

The director will submit projects to the U.S. Fish and Widlife Service for fund consideration following review by the Boating Programs Advisory Committee.

Attachments

A. Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Project Proposals

[3] USFWS is currently revising its rules, but this will not affect the current grant round. See memo #2D.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program Project Proposals

Tier 1 Proposal

Number	Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Match	Total Cost
12-1394D	Marina Breakwater Dock Electrical Renovation	Port of Camas-Washougal	$47,250	$15,750	$63,000

Description: The Port of Camas-Washougal marina, located in southwest Washington on the Columbia River, is a 350-slip public marina with a 1200-foot breakwater dock that provides protection from waves and debris as well as transient and seasonal overflow moorage. The transient moorage slips are in designated areas where boats can be rafted to maximize use of the area. This mooring facility was commonly used by lower Columbia River yachting clubs as well as boaters in transit to other destinations before the rebuild of the dock system in 2009, when deteriorating shore power utilities were removed.

This development project will replace electrical components to supply shore power hookups for 13 guest moorage slips designed for 26- to 40-foot boats. The goal is to replace the shore power system and provide boaters with safe and convenient electrical hookup utilities and promote use of the breakwater as a port of call.

Tier 2 Proposals

Number	Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Match	Total Cost
12-1588D	Chambers Creek Properties Pier and Moorage	Pierce County Public Works	$1,455,000	$4,871,247	$6,326,247

Description: Pierce County Public Works and Utilities will use this grant to connect an existing pedestrian overpass with a 4,700-square-foot dock, gangway, and moorage float at its Chambers Creek Properties along the shores of southern Puget Sound. The Chambers Creek Properties is 930 acres and includes a golf course, playfields, off-leash dog area, and more than 3 miles of trail in the Chambers Creek canyon.

The project also will provide guest moorage for large recreational boats and access to more than two miles of shoreline and upland amenities. The 1,200-square-foot float will be joined to the dock by a 630-square-foot, grated gangway. Tie ups will run along the length and end of the float. Lighting and a waterline also will be installed.

12-1342D	Deception Pass Marina Improvements and Expansion	State Parks	$1,049,625	$349,875	$1,399,500

Description: State Parks is proposing to improve and expand marina facilities at the Cornet Bay Marina Area of Deception Pass State Park in Island County. The project will replace the existing pedestrian access pier, gangway ramp, pilings and moorage floats and add about 384 linear feet of additional guest moorage.

The existing facility was constructed in the 1960s and has exceeded its useful life. The demand has increased in recent years; in 2011 alone, there were 6,000 moorage guests and thousands of day users. The project, once completed, will provide a larger, safer, and more accessible facility. It is the final phase of a multi-phased redevelopment that includes a previously improved boat launch and recently constructed restroom and shelter.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **5**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Preparing for the 2013 Legislative Session: Budget and Request Legislation

Prepared By: Steve McLellan, Policy Director

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) must submit its 2013-15 biennial budget requests (operating and capital) to the Office of Financial Management in early September. The board will meet on September 4 to determine its funding requests. This memo provides background information on the budget requests and legislative activity.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☒ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Note: Staff is asking for board direction about options to present on September 4 regarding the budget request for the 2013-15 biennium.

Operating Budget

The financial outlook for the next biennium continues to be uncertain. The current estimate – based solely on the need to provide increased funding for basic education to comply with court rulings – is that the operating budget will face a shortfall of over $1 billion. The next revenue forecast update is after the mailing date of this memo; staff will update the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) at the June meeting about any further changes in the projected shortfall.

Capital Budget

Budget Outlook for 2013-15: Capital Budget

The outlook for the upcoming capital budget is contingent on whether voters approve a proposed constitutional amendment this November. Senate Joint Resolution 8221 (SJR 8221) resulted from the work of the state Debt Limit Commission. It would reduce the constitutional debt limit to 8 percent of revenues (from the current 9 percent) over the next 20 years. At the same time, it would calculate the debt limit using six years of revenues (rather than the current three), and would expand the revenue base upon which the debt limit is calculated.

The net effect of these changes would be to have a larger capital budget in the short term, but it would grow more slowly over time. If the changes are approved by voters, the current estimate of capital budget capacity for 2013-15 is $1.65 billion. If the changes are not approved by voters, the short-term capital budget would be $1.25 billion (primarily because it would be calculated using only three years of data, all during the recession). Of course, if the revenue situation materially changes over the coming months, these capacity estimates also will change.

Grant Programs with Dedicated Revenue-Based Requests

For a number of programs, the board bases its request on estimated dedicated revenues or federal allocations. Staff will present those estimates in September for board approval.

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Act (ALEA)
- Boating Facilities Program (BFP)
- Boating Infrastructure Grants (federal -- BIG)
- Firearm and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal –LWCF)
- Nonhighway Off-Road Vehicle Account (NOVA)
- Recreational Trails Program (federal -- RTP)

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is funded through the capital budget with general obligation bonds. In September, the board will need to decide on a level of funding to request in the RCO budget. The next portion of this memo will lay out the statutory funding formula for WWRP, historic appropriation levels, and three alternative ways to approach the issue of setting a funding request level for 2013-15.

WWRP Statutory Funding Formula

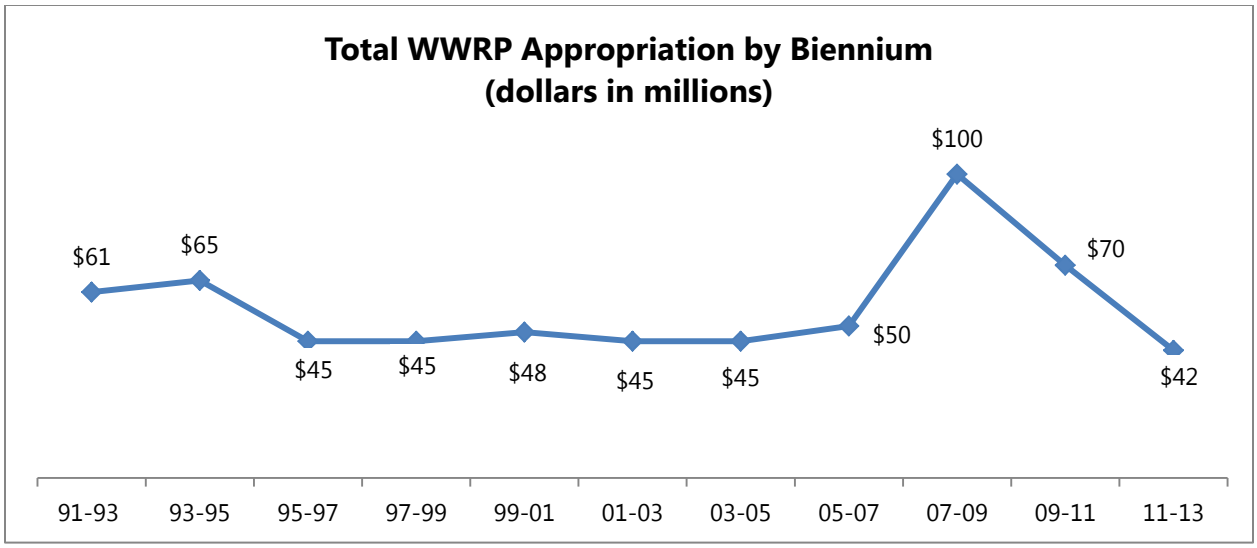
WWRP includes four accounts: Habitat Conservation, Outdoor Recreation, Farmland, and Riparian. Distribution among the accounts and categories is set in state law. The first table below summarizes the distribution among accounts; the second shows how the funding for each account and category would be distributed at different funding levels.

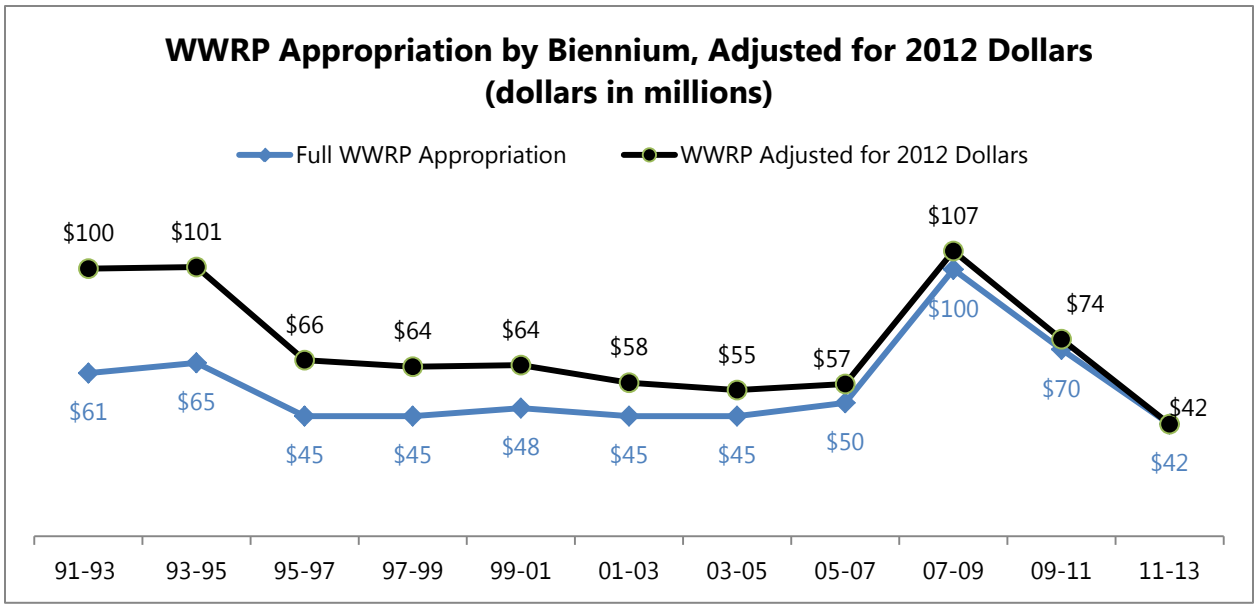
Account	Under $40 million	$40 - $50 million	Over $50 million
Habitat Conservation	50%	$20 million *plus* 10% of amount over $40 million	$21 million *plus* 30% of amount over $50 million
Outdoor Recreation	50%	$20 million *plus* 10% of amount over $40 million	$21 million *plus* 30% of amount over $50 million
Riparian Protection	0%	40% of amount over $40 million	$4 million *plus* 30% of amount over $50 million
Farmland Preservation	0%	40% of amount over $40 million	$4 million *plus* 10% of amount over $50 million

	------ Funding Levels -----						
Dollars in millions	**$40 m**	**$50 m**	**$60 m**	**$70 m**	**$80 m**	**$90 m**	**$100 m**
Habitat Conservation Account							
Critical Habitat	$8.7	$9.2	$10.5	$11.8	$13.1	$14.4	$15.7
Natural Area	$5.8	$6.1	$7.0	$7.9	$8.7	$9.6	$10.5
State Lands Restoration	$1.0	$1.0	$1.2	$1.3	$1.5	$1.6	$1.7
Urban Wildlife	$3.9	$4.1	$4.7	$5.2	$5.8	$6.4	$7.0
Subtotal	$19.4	$20.4	$23.3	$26.2	$29.1	$32.0	$34.9
Outdoor Recreation Account							
Local Parks	$5.8	$6.1	$7.0	$7.9	$8.7	$9.6	$10.5
State Lands Development	$1.0	$1.0	$1.2	$1.3	$1.5	$1.6	$1.7
State Parks	$5.8	$6.1	$7.0	$7.9	$8.7	$9.6	$10.5
Trails	$3.9	$4.1	$4.7	$5.2	$5.8	$6.4	$7.0
Water Access	$2.9	$3.1	$3.5	$3.9	$4.4	$4.8	$5.2
Subtotal	$19.4	$20.4	$23.3	$26.2	$29.1	$32.0	$34.9
Riparian Protection Account	$0.0	$3.9	$4.9	$5.8	$6.8	$7.8	$8.7
Farmlands Preservation Account	$0.0	$3.9	$6.8	$9.7	$12.6	$15.5	$18.4
Administration (3%)	$1.2	$1.5	$1.8	$2.1	$2.4	$2.7	$3.0

WWRP Funding Over Time

Since peaking in the 2007-09 biennium, funding for WWRP has decreased significantly. Although it appears in the first graph that the current funding ($42 million) is close to the levels seen between 1996 and 2006, the second graph shows that, when adjusted for inflation, the most recent appropriation actually is substantially below historic funding levels.





Options for Determining a 2013-15 WWRP Funding Request Level

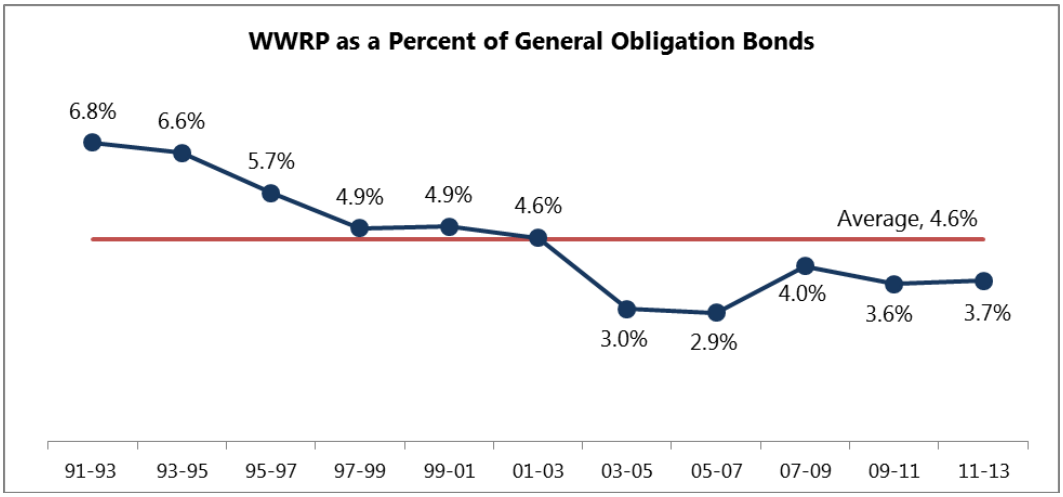
Staff has developed three options for the board to consider in setting a WWRP funding request level. These are not mutually exclusive; rather they are simply different lenses for looking at the same question. Staff also can prepare other scenarios the board finds useful in considering the funding level. For each option, data were obtained from the Office of Financial Management or RCO's records.

Option 1: WWRP as Percent of General Obligation Bonds

Over the past twenty years, WWRP has received an average of 4.6 percent of general obligation bonds.

Biennium	Full WWRP Appropriation	Total General Obligation Bond Funding	WWRP percent of General Obligation Bonds
91-93	$61	$900	6.8%
93-95	$65	$989	6.6%
95-97	$45	$796	5.7%
97-99	$45	$927	4.9%
99-01	$48	$982	4.9%
01-03	$45	$970	4.6%
03-05	$45	$1,491	3.0%
05-07	$50	$1,701	2.9%
07-09	$100	$2,504	4.0%
09-11	$70	$1,952	3.6%
11-13	$42	$1,148	3.7%

Dollars in millions



The following table shows the amount of funding estimated for the upcoming biennium, if it the board chooses to base the request on a percent of general obligation (GO) bond funds.

		Calculated WWRP Appropriation			
13-15 Biennium	**Estimated GO Bond Funding**	**Lowest Historical: 2.9%**	**Current: 3.7%**	**Average Historical: 4.6%**	**Highest Historical: 6.8%**
With constitutional amendment[1]	$1,650	$49	$60	$76	$112
Without constitutional amendment[1]	$1,250	$37	$46	$57	$85

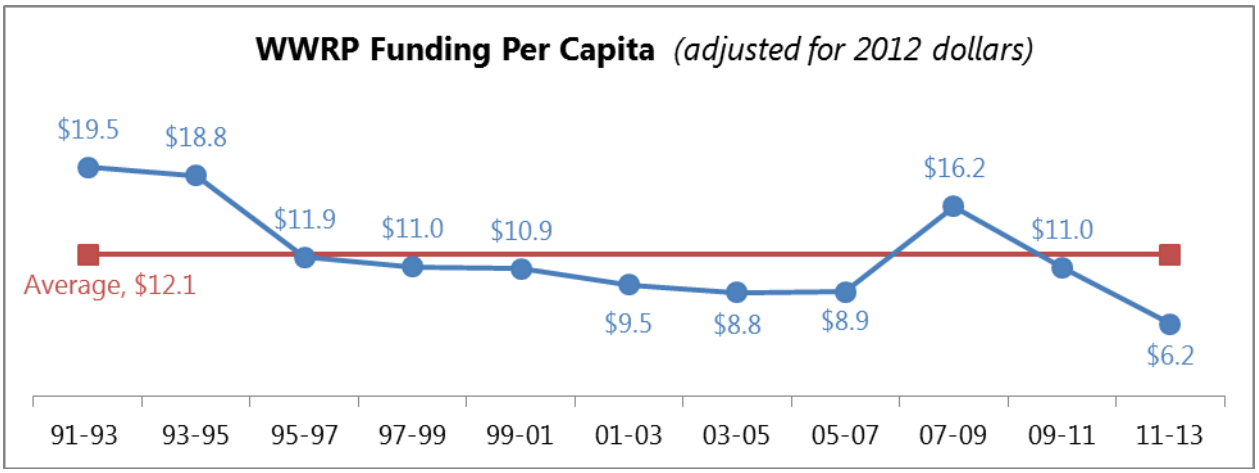
Dollars in Millions

Option 2: Amount Expended per Capita

Since 1992, the average per capita expenditure (adjusted for inflation) for WWRP has been about $12.

Biennium	Inflation adjusted WWRP Appropriations 2012 Dollars *(in millions)*	State Population *(in millions)*	WWRP Funding per Capita
91-93	$100	5.14	$19.51
93-95	$101	5.36	$18.81
95-97	$66	5.57	$11.85
97-99	$64	5.75	$11.05
99-01	$64	5.89	$10.88
01-03	$58	6.06	$9.50
03-05	$55	6.21	$8.83
05-07	$57	6.42	$8.89
07-09	$107	6.61	$16.17
09-11	$74	6.72	$10.98
11-13	$42	6.82	$6.16

[1] SJR 8221 will be presented to voters in the next general election. As noted earlier, approval means a slow reduction in the debt limit but a larger revenue base and longer time frame for calculating the base. Practically, it would mean a larger capital budget in the short term than the current system, and a slightly smaller one over time. The longer time frame for calculating the base should smooth out some of the volatility caused by either recession or rapid growth.



The following table shows the amount of funding estimated for the upcoming biennium, if it the board chose to base the request on different levels of per-capita spending.

		Calculated WWRP Appropriation			
Biennium	**Estimated Population**	**Lowest Historical: $6.16**	**Current: $6.16**	**Average Historical: $12.06**	**Highest Historical: $19.51**
13-15	6,944,700	$42.8	$42.8	$83.7	$135.5

Dollars in Millions

Option 3: Percent of Funding Needs Met

This table shows the amount of funding requested in the applications received compared to the funding appropriated in each biennium. Historically, the appropriation has met an average of about 50 percent of the funding requested.

Biennium	Total Need in Applications	WWRP Funding Available	Percent of Need Met**
99-01	$78.9	$48.0	59%
01-03	$62.6	$45.0	70%
03-05	$116.7	$45.0	37%
05-07	$85.1	$50.0	57%
07-09	$141.5	$100.0	69%
09-11	$212.4	$70.0	32%
11-13	$162.6	$42.0	25%

Dollars in millions (figures are net of 3% administration costs)

The first table below shows the implied level of WWRP funding based upon meeting a set percentage of funding need. It is followed by a more detailed matrix that shows the percent of

need met in each category at different funding levels. Because projects are not yet ranked, in both cases "need" is defined as the total funding requested in the 2012 applications rather than number of projects.

Caveat: A caveat with this approach is that the level of need (as expressed by applications) is likely to be affected by recent appropriations. For example, the grant cycle after the $100 million appropriation saw the amount requested in applications ("need") increase by 50 percent. After the appropriation dropped to $70 million, funding requests for the next cycle dropped by nearly 25%. This year, after funding dropped from $70 million to $42 million, funding need has dropped by over 20%. Because changes in the appropriation appear to influence the amount requested by sponsors, it may decrease the usefulness of this measure in setting a funding level.

		Calculated WWRP Appropriation[2]			
Biennium	**Total Need in 2012 Applications**	**Lowest Historical: 25%**	**Current: 25%**	**Average Historical: 50%**	**Highest Historical: 72%**
13-15	$127.5 million	$33.0	$33.0	$65.7	$94.8

Dollars in millions

Funding in Millions	$50	$60	$70	$80	$90	$100
All Categories	**38%**	**46%**	**53%**	**61%**	**68%**	**76%**
Farmland Preservation	46%	57%	68%	80%	91%	**103%**
Riparian Protection	26%	45%	64%	84%	**103%**	
Critical Habitat	59%	67%	75%	84%	92%	**100%**
Natural Areas	41%	47%	53%	59%	64%	70%
State Lands Restoration	34%	39%	44%	49%	53%	58%
Urban Wildlife	23%	27%	30%	33%	37%	40%
Local Parks	38%	43%	48%	54%	59%	65%
State Lands Development	42%	48%	54%	61%	67%	73%
State Parks	57%	65%	73%	82%	90%	98%
Trails	29%	33%	37%	41%	45%	49%
Water Access	33%	37%	42%	47%	51%	56%

[2] Calculations in both tables account for administration costs equal to 3% of the total funding.

Other Budget Requests

Besides the WWRP and dedicated revenue-driven funding items, RCO will submit a number of other budget-related requests to OFM in September. A number of these are related to salmon recovery and will be determined by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board in August.

Other possible budget-related items include the following.

Backfill of Recreation Resources Account (Boating Facilities Program)

During the last session, the legislature diverted $3.3 million of the Recreation Resources Account (Boating Facilities Program) to meet budget needs at the Department of Fish and Wildlife and to free up general fund dollars. At that time, key lawmakers indicated it may be possible to "backfill" those funds with general obligation bonds in the 2013-15 capital budget. Doing so would allow a complete grant round to be funded in 2014. If the funds are not backfilled, available grants would be reduced by approximately one third.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

The Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant program was created with a one-time $10 million contribution as part of the initiative to build Qwest Field. Aside from a one-time appropriation there have been no other funds deposited in the account, and the program is winding down. There is interest among local parks stakeholders to support a new appropriation since YAF funds can support functions (such as maintenance) or facilities that are not allowed under WWRP or the Land and Water Conservation Fund, such as indoor sports facilities.

Trails Plan Update

RCO is statutorily directed to prepare a state trails plan (RCW 79A.35.040) as part of state outdoor recreation planning. While basic supply and demand questions for trails will be updated as part of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) update, a comprehensive rewrite of the trails plan has not been undertaken since 1991. Staff is working with trails stakeholders to determine the scope and cost of a comprehensive update to the state trails plan.

Support for better coordination of state agency land acquisitions (Lands Group)

Part of the charter of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group is to encourage better coordination of state agency land acquisitions. In particular, there is interest in seeing whether individual land purchases might meet multiple state policy objectives. For example, there currently is no simple mechanism for graphically overlaying land acquisition objectives on the land base and seeing where there is overlap and the possibility for coordination.

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **6A**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: RCO Performance for Fiscal Year 2012

Prepared By: Rebecca Connolly, Accountability Manager

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

Highlights of agency performance related to the projects and activities funded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

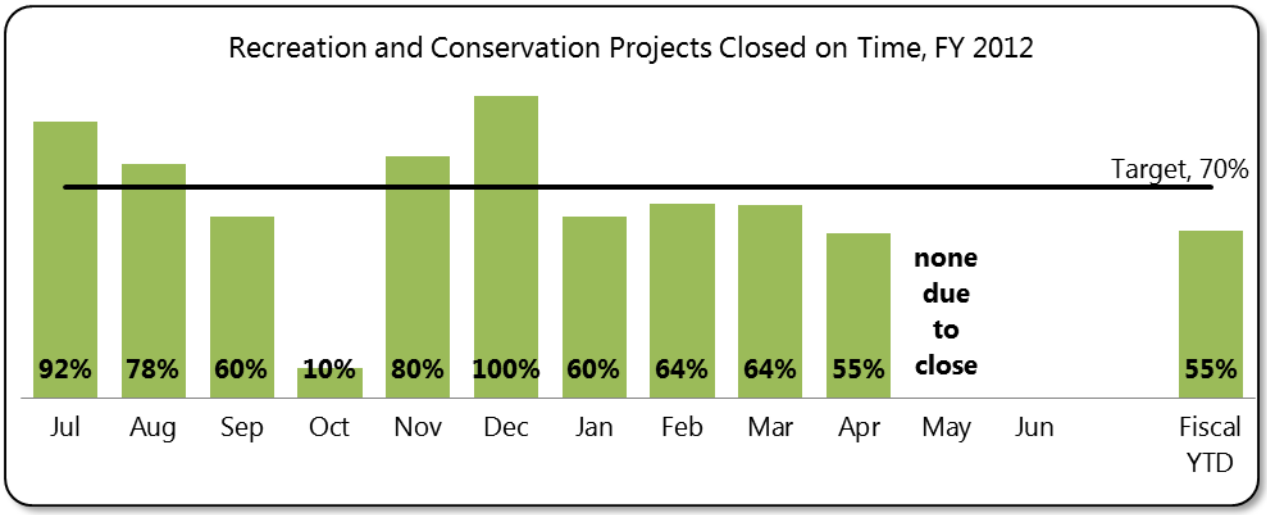
Grant Management Measures

All data are for recreation and conservation grants only.

Measure	Target	FY 2012 Performance *Through June 1*	Indicator
1. Percent of recreation/conservation projects closed on time	70%	55%	🟡
2. Percent of project agreements issued within 120 days after the board funding date	75%	91%	🟢
3. Percent of projects under agreement within 180 days after the board funding date	95%	91%	🟢
4. Fiscal month expenditures, recreation/conservation target	22%	17%	🟡
5. Bills paid within 30 days: recreation/conservation projects	100%	64%	🟡

Notes and Analysis

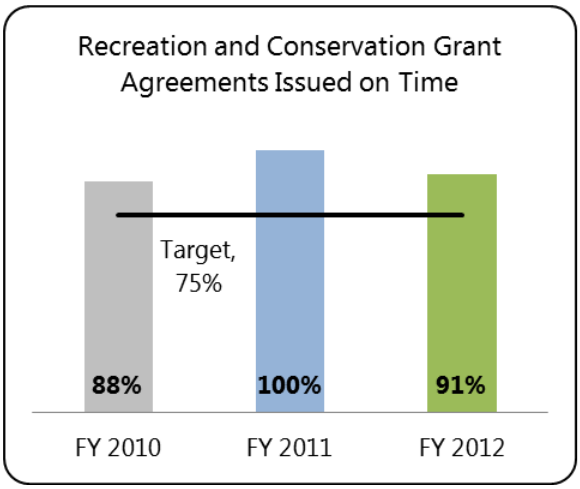
Projects Closed On Time

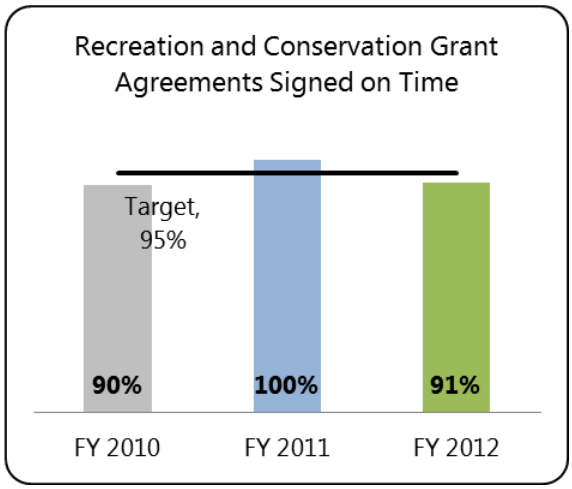


Strong performance in some months was offset by lower performance in others. A key factor is that many contracts are written to reflect the state fiscal year, so they are due for closure in October. In 2011, this coincided with the need to put recently-approved projects under contract. Another key factor has been the 2012 application cycle, which started in February. This is the first time that all available grant programs have been open for application at once since 2008.

Staff has since closed 72 of the 99 projects that did not close on time in this fiscal year.

Project Agreements Issued and Signed on Time

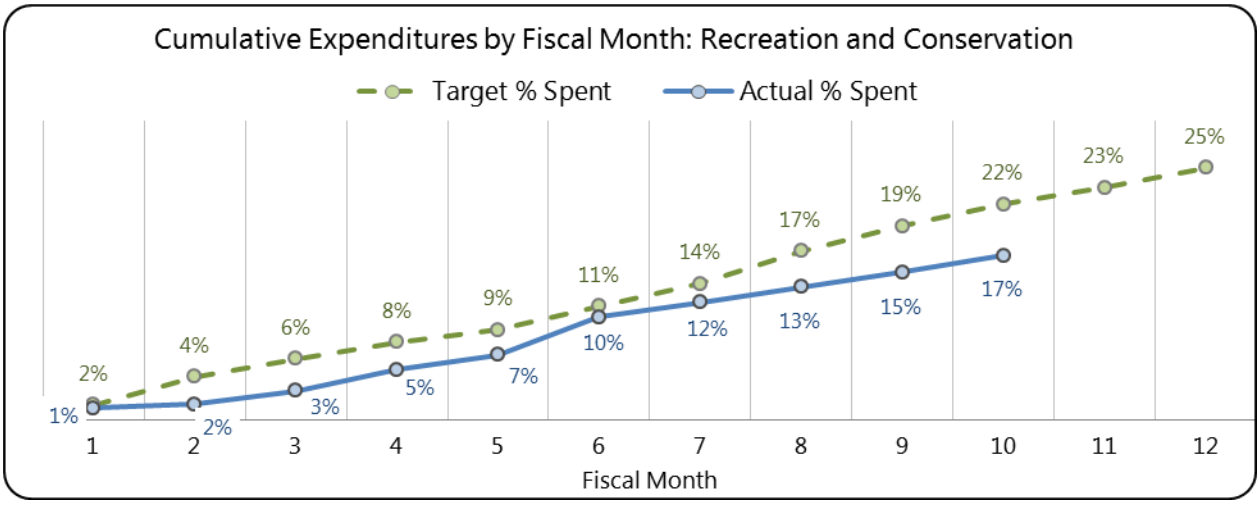




Staff members make a strong effort to place grants under agreement. The measure for fiscal year 2012 reflects grants approved for funding in several different months[1]. This measure is currently in progress (i.e., there are several grants in the agreement process).

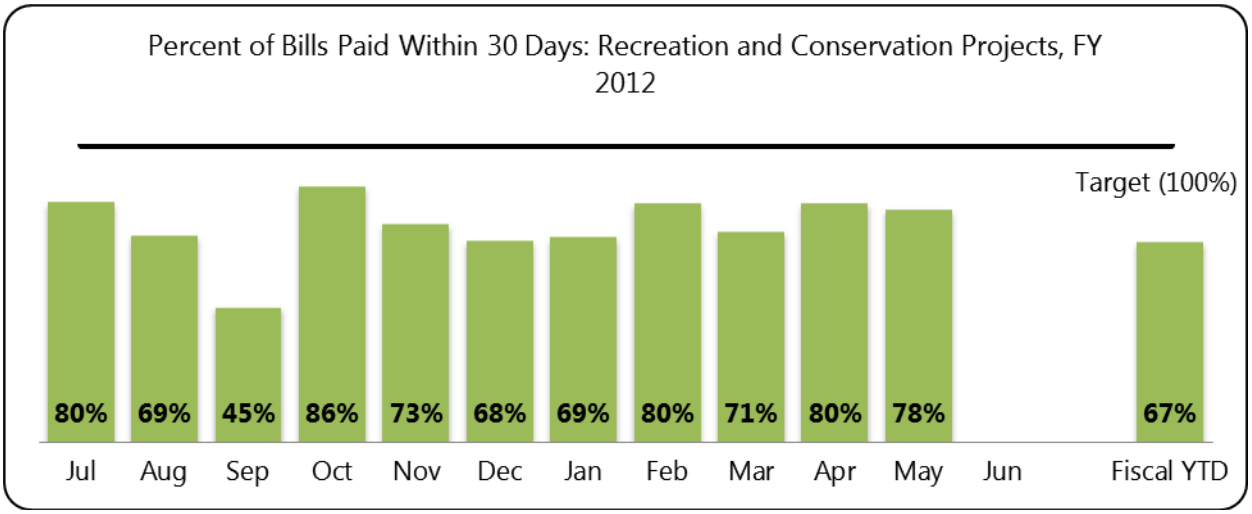
[1] The measure includes director-approved RTP grants. The board had previously approved the list of

Fiscal Month Expenditures



The agency has set a stretch target of expending 60% of its allotments in this biennium; the previous target was only 50%. Expenditures for recreation and conservation grants are lagging behind the target as of fiscal month 10 for recreation and conservation programs. The agency overall, however, is closer to its fiscal month target. It is likely that we will get closer to the target as the current fiscal year closes and state agencies submit bills.

Bills Paid within 30 days



Paying bills on time continues to be a challenge. Between July 1 and June 1, there were 656 invoices due for recreation and conservation projects; of those, 440 were paid on time and 156 were paid late. Sixty are outstanding, generally due to a lack of documentation from the sponsor or other issues. The average number of days to pay a bill is 25.

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projects pending federal grant funding.

Time Extensions

The board's adopted policy for progress on active funded projects requires staff to report all requests for time extensions and subsequent staff actions to the board.

Time Extension Requests – Director Approved

Since the beginning of the biennium, the RCO has received some requests to extend projects. Staff reviewed each request to ensure compliance with established policies. The following table shows information about the time extensions granted by quarter, as of June 6, 2012.

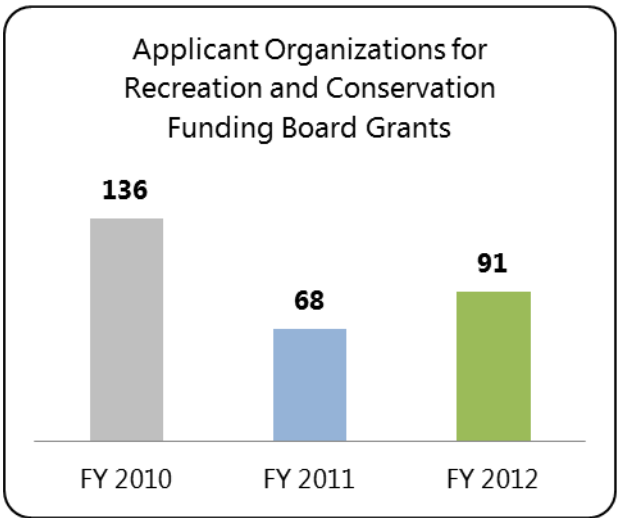
Quarter	Extensions Approved	Number of Repeat Extensions	Average Days Extended	Number Closed to Date
Q1	14	7	290	2
Q2	20	13	197	0
Q3	14	6	187	1
Q4	4	2	183	0

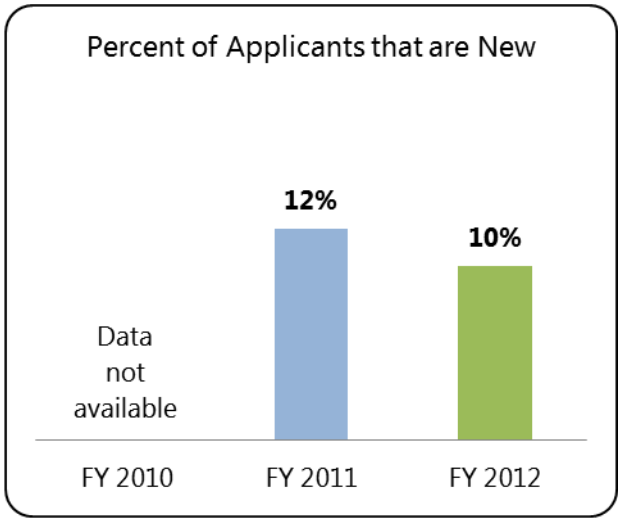
Additional Measures and Information

Grant Applicants

One of the key questions for the board and RCO is whether the grants are meeting a public need, and how well we meet statewide need. Two of the measures we consider are (1) number of unique applicant organizations and (2) the percent of applicants that have not applied to the board before. Due to the change to a biennial cycle for all grant programs, the years are not directly comparable, but nevertheless do indicate a decline in total applicants from 2010 to 2012. It is encouraging, however, that the RCO continues to attract new applicants to these programs.

Later in the application cycle, we measure the number of applications in different parts of the state.





WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **6B**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Updates to Agency and Board Strategic Plans

Prepared By: Rebecca Connolly, Accountability Manager

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo presents the staff proposal for updating the agency and board strategic plans as part of the preparation for the 2013-15 biennial budget request.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) prepare their strategic plans in accordance with RCW 43.88.090, which calls for agencies to develop a mission, measurable goals, strategies, and timelines. The Office of Financial Management (OFM) also requires each agency to establish and measure progress toward objectives for each major activity in its operations budget.

The RCO and board typically review their strategic plans at the meeting before approving the biennial budget request.

Agency Strategic Plan

The RCO conducted a major rewrite of its strategic plan in 2008, and made minor revisions in 2010. These adjustments were discussed with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board in June 2010.

For the current update, staff is again recommending only minor revisions and updates to its strategic plan. Key elements of the revision are as follows:

- Make no changes to the agency's mission, vision, goals, or values;

- Make major changes to the objectives and strategies so that they are more streamlined and easier to track and measure.
- Add objectives and strategies to better capture the agency's work regarding conservation grants
- Add an introductory section ("Key Changes") that identifies major changes for the agency and operating environment since the last update.
- Remove Appendix C (performance) and report it separately. Having that information dates the document and doesn't add to the "plan."
- Update the operating environment section (current Appendix D) to make it current.

The body of the strategic plan, less the appendices, is in Attachment A.

The RCO will adopt a new biennial work plan, with specific actions to implement the strategic plan, before the start of the 2013-15 biennium.

Board Strategic Plan

The board approved its current strategic plan in June 2010 (Attachment B). The plan continues to reflect the work of the board, so staff is not recommending changes at this time. However, if the board would like to make changes, staff can revise the plan for adoption at either the September or October 2012 board meeting.

Attachments

A. Recreation and Conservation Office Strategic Plan, without appendices

B. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Strategic Plan

2013-15 Biennial Update

Agency Strategic Plan

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Office

About the Recreation and Conservation Office

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is a small state agency whose employees support the work of several boards.

- Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
- Salmon Recovery Funding Board
- Washington Invasive Species Council
- Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

RCO administers 14 grant programs that provide millions of dollars to local communities for recreation, conservation, and salmon recovery. The agency makes these investments through processes in which local, state, federal, tribal, and non-government organizations compete for grants, using established criteria.

RCO also is responsible for completing plans and studies in response to requests from the Legislature, and for developing policies for the boards.

RCO staff coordinates the state's approach to watershed and salmon recovery monitoring, natural resource data collection, and invasive species management.

RCO also includes the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office, whose mission is to recover salmon populations in Washington to a healthy, harvestable level, and to improve the habitats upon which salmon rely.

Agency Values

We are good stewards of public resources.

We make strategic investments through a fair and impartial grant process that selects the best and most important projects.

We are leaders.

We empower others to work together to protect, conserve, and restore valuable lands and resources. We serve as a catalyst for creating and moving toward a shared vision of a Washington with abundant recreational opportunities and its valued lands, plants, fish, and wildlife protected and restored.

We value people.

We recognize that collaboration and relationships with our grant recipients, employees, volunteers, the public, and others make us successful. We listen and respect community interests and priorities in our grant processes. Our workplace is a healthy, respectful, family-friendly place where employees learn and find innovative ways to achieve our mission.

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This strategic plan is prepared in accordance with Revised Code of Washington 43.88.090, which calls for agencies to develop a mission, measurable goals, strategies, and timelines. Agencies also must establish objectives for each major activity in their budgets.

Key Changes in the 2013-15 Update

This plan was updated in May 2012 in preparation for the 2013-15 biennium.

No Changes in the Strategic Direction

RCO vision, mission, goals, and values remain unchanged.

Key Changes in the Implementation of the Strategic Direction

RCO streamlined and clarified its objectives and strategies to ensure that the plan is easy to understand and implement. The streamlining also provides more focus for the agency, which is experiencing declines in both staff and resources – leading to a diminished capacity for new initiatives.

Key Changes in the Agency's Organization

- Since the last update in 2010, both the Biodiversity Council and Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health reached their respective sunset dates. The Legislature extended both the Invasive Species Council and the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, but changed the funding for the council. The Legislature did not provide specific funding for the lands group, so RCO must continue to use existing resources.
- RCO experienced significant staffing changes in the past two years from budget reductions and the retirements of a few key staff members who each had decades of experience with the agency. This affects staff size and institutional knowledge. Specifically, the agency has gone from 57 employees to 50 employees since May 2010. The average length of service with the RCO is 12 years.

Key Changes in the Operating Environment and Business Processes

- RCO made several changes to streamline its grant processes, including moving the grants awarded by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to a biennial cycle.
- RCO has made significant technology improvements, including improvements in its mapping abilities. Staff has begun to scope an electronic billing system, a key feature desired by grant recipients and staff. We also are scoping a compliance tool for our grant management database (PRISM), and have an online application wizard under development. Technology needs exceed the financial and human resources available, so the RCO has developed management approach to prioritize requests.
- RCO has increased its focus on long-term grant compliance issues so that the agency can continue to protect the state's investments. This is a priority for the agency, as well as the National Park Service, which provides funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects. Meeting the need will require considerable work from both staff and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. The

RCO may need to consider changes in its approach to compliance and rely more on the use of technology.

- RCO also has increased its focus on improving the environmental sustainability of grant-funded projects. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted policies for several grant programs as a pilot to test criteria.
- State and federal funding continues to be a challenge.
    - The Salmon Recovery Funding Board tasked staff with identifying options to deal with potential drops of up to 23 percent in federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) for federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014. Funding for federal programs such as LWCF and the Recreational Trails Program also faces potential cuts.
    - General fund support for salmon recovery declined in the state 2011-13 budget by 38%, compared to the 2009-11 budget. State capital and operating funds for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board also are in decline; the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) received $42 million in funding for the 11-13 biennium, compared to $70 million for the 09-11 biennium and $100 million in the 07-09 budget.
    - Legislative changes enacted during the 2011-13 biennium will constrain debt capacity in future budget cycles.
- Financial pressures and decreasing staff have created opportunities to look at the ways we do business. Project sponsors and our partners feel the same pressures. The RCO has begun to formalize and document its approach to LEAN and other process improvements. Initiatives included moving from in-person to web-based training for grant applicants/recipients. The RCO estimates that this approach saved thousands of dollars for the agency and sponsors. The focus of the agency's process improvements is on creating staff capacity so that we can better adjust to reductions in the work force.
- With the economic downturn, there has been an increased focus on the job impact of capital projects. The RCO began reporting job impacts, first using calculations developed for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), then multipliers provided by the Office of Financial Management. Beginning with the 2012 grant cycle, the RCO also began to examine the broader economic impact of projects funded by WWRP.

Strategic Direction

Vision

RCO is an exemplary grant management agency and provides leadership on complex natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Mission

The RCO works with others to protect and improve the best of Washington's natural and outdoor recreational resources.

- We do this by developing strategies, promoting partnerships and coordination, and funding projects through fair processes that consider research, community priorities, and best practices.
- We do this because the people of Washington have entrusted us to be good stewards of public funds, believing that healthy ecosystems, open spaces, and outdoor recreation facilities improve the quality of life now and for future generations.

Goals

1) Manage the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us in an effective, efficient, and open way.

2) Protect and improve ecosystems so that they sustain our biodiversity: plants, wildlife, fish, and people.

3) Protect and improve outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the health and well-being of Washingtonians.

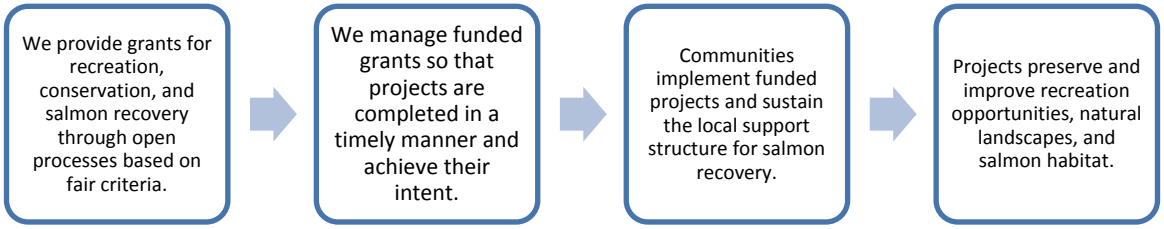
Implementing the Strategic Direction

Goal 1: Manage the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us in an effective, efficient, and open way.

Objectives	Strategies
Increase the efficiency of business processes.	• Update existing technologies and increase the use of technology to support and improve business operations, including the ability to map investments. • Use LEAN and other process improvement approaches to reduce duplication of effort, process delays, and other inefficiencies. • Increase the efficiency and transparency of the salmon recovery local support structure.
Maintain the high quality, impartiality, and accountability of grant programs.	• Review program policies (including evaluation criteria) to ensure that they are consistent with state priorities, federal mandates, and statutory intent. • Explore use of technology to assist with project evaluations. • Maintain customer satisfaction with workshops and grant management. • Expand the use of the sponsor profile for risk management purposes. • Maintain diverse membership for the volunteer evaluation and advisory committees.
Maintain the state's investments in recreation, conservation, and salmon recovery.	• Improve RCO's operational ability and funding structure to support long-term grant and contract obligations. • Promote economically sustainable projects and practices. • Clarify and refine implementation of compliance policies.
Improve RCO's ability to measure and report progress	• Develop systems and metrics for tracking and reporting progress in recovery plan implementation. • Help regional salmon recovery organizations coordinate monitoring and evaluation of regional progress in salmon recovery with statewide monitoring programs. • Develop and implement the communication plan. • Support the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group.

Connection to Statewide Priorities and the Priorities of Government

- Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources.
- Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state.



Key Performance Measures

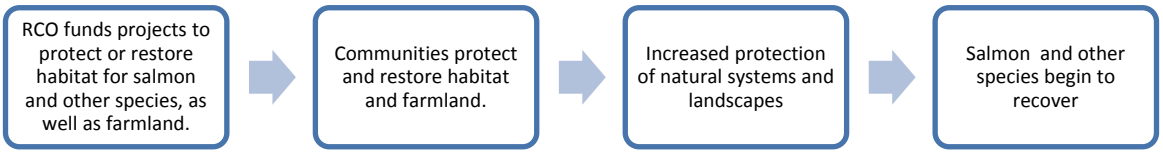
Framing Question	Measure
Is the evaluation process objective and fair?	Percent of applicants reporting that the evaluation is objective and fair
Do the grants meet a public need?	% statewide eligible applicants that applied for grants Number of applications by location
Is RCO managing grants efficiently and reducing project delays?	Percent of grants closed on time Agency re-appropriation rate
Does RCO maintain the state's investments so that they continue to preserve and improve Washington?	Percent of grants in compliance

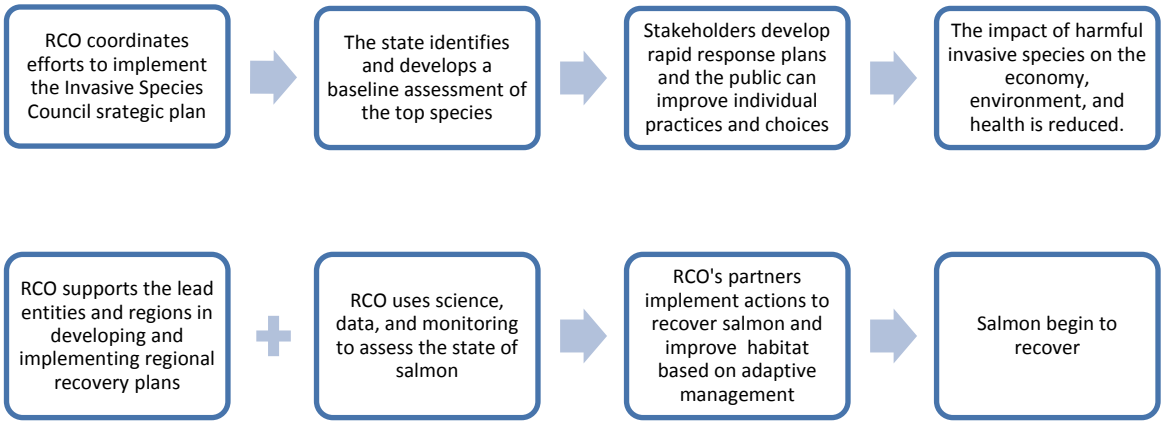
Goal 2: Protect and improve ecosystems so that they sustain our biodiversity: plants, wildlife, fish, and people.

Objectives	Strategies
Conserve and restore habitat for salmon and other species	• Increase the state's ability to refine and implement salmon recovery plans. • Provide competitive grants statewide for habitat acquisition/conservation and restoration. • Ensure policies and grant evaluation criteria support program goals and statutory requirements.
Support implementation of the priority Invasive Species Council strategy recommendations.	• Increase public involvement in reporting invasive species. • Expand the baseline assessment of programs and activities that address invasive species beyond Puget Sound. • Maintain a Web clearinghouse for information. • Develop an early detection and rapid response network. • Improve agency coordination and collaboration on Invasive Species response.
Increase the environmental sustainability of grant-funded projects	• Share sustainability information and best practices with local communities, project sponsors, and state agencies. • Help sponsors create sustainable recreational opportunities. • Educate sponsors about best practices regarding invasive species.

Connection to Statewide Priorities and the Priorities of Government

- Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources.





Key Performance Measures

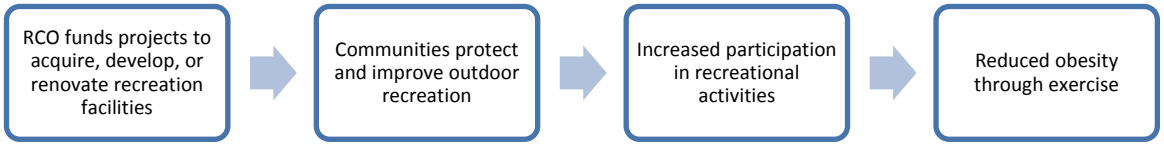
Framing Question	Measure
Is RCO addressing statewide needs?	• Projects funded by type, location, and (if applicable) species
Is RCO protecting natural systems and landscapes?	• Number of stream miles opened to salmon • Acres protected by purpose (farmland, riparian, estuarine, etc)
Is RCO reducing the effect of invasive species?	• Percent of priority invasive species with emergency response plan in place • Number of occurrences of each of the top 50 invasive species
Is public awareness growing?	• Number of public reports of invasive species via the hotline
Are RCO's efforts helping salmon and other native species?	• Number of native species at risk • Listed salmonid abundance

Goal 3: Protect and improve outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the health and well-being of Washingtonians.

Objectives	Strategies
Increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation statewide.	• Provide competitive grants statewide for the acquisition and development of active and passive recreation opportunities. • Ensure policies and grant evaluation criteria support program goals and statutory requirements.
Promote the importance of outdoor recreation statewide	• Collect, use, and share data regarding recreation.

Connection to Statewide Priorities and the Priorities of Government

- Improve the health of Washingtonians.
- Improve cultural and recreational opportunities throughout the state.



Key Performance Measures

Framing Question	Measure
Is RCO providing affordable access within reasonable proximity for the public?	Projects funded by location
Is RCO providing diverse recreation opportunities?	Number and percent of recreation facilities acquired, developed, or renovated by type
Are these opportunities compatible with long-term stewardship?	Percent of projects that involve sustainable practices in design or building
Is there increased participation in recreation?	Percent of respondents to Office of Financial Management and statewide recreation surveys reporting participation in recreation
Are Washingtonians healthier?	State health rating (reported by Department of Health)

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Strategic Plan

Mission

Provide leadership and funding to help our partners protect and enhance Washington's natural and recreational resources for current and future generations.

Goals

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.
2. We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.
3. We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Guiding Principles

Guiding principles are fundamental concepts that form the basis for Board policy.

Principle 1. The Board's primary roles are to (1) ensure the best possible investment of funds in protecting and improving habitats, ecosystems, and outdoor recreation opportunities, (2) provide accountability for those investments, and (3) provide citizen oversight to the funding process.

Principle 2. Successful protection and improvement of Washington's ecosystems and recreation requires coordination across all levels of government and geographic scales. Decisions and actions should be guided by a statewide perspective coupled with each local community's social, economic, and cultural values and priorities.

Principle 3. The plans and strategies (conservation and/or recreation) of federal, state, tribal, local government, and other partners should help guide the identification and prioritization of projects.

Principle 4. Projects must have explicit objectives, as well as appropriate designs and implementation plans to meet those objectives.

Principle 5. The Board will continue to work with federal, tribal, state, and local agencies, stakeholder organizations, and other interested parties to evaluate and improve the funding process. The Board also will continue to ensure that it funds the highest priority projects with integrity and impartiality and provides accountability to the Legislature and the public for that funding.

Objectives and Strategies

Goal 1: We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

Objective 1.A.
Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities. We do this through policy development, coordination, and advocacy.

- Strategy 1.A.1. – Evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation and conservation needs.
- Strategy 1.A.2. –Gather and interpret data that inform plans and help the board to provide grant programs that balance investments across a range of activities.
- Strategy 1.A.3. – Coordinate recreation resources information and priorities.

Objective 1.B.
Provide funding to help partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation facilities and lands.

- Strategy 1.B.4. – Provide partners with funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance habitats.
    - For example, this includes projects that help sustain Washington's biodiversity; protect "listed" species; maintain fully functioning ecosystems; protect unique urban wildlife habitats; and/or protect game and non-game wildlife.
- Strategy 1.B.5. – Provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.
    - For example, this includes projects such as bicycling and walking facilities "close to home"; programs that assist with facility operation and maintenance; facilities most conducive to improved health; outdoor sports facilities; programs that provide improved recreation data; and/or access to nature and natural settings (includes fishing and hunting).
- Strategy 1.B.6. – Help sponsors maximize the useful life of board-funded projects.

Goal 2: We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.

Objective 2.A.
Ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities.

- Strategy 2.A.1. – Evaluate and develop policies and practices to reduce the number of projects not starting or finishing on time.
- Strategy 2.A.2. – Regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs.
- Strategy 2.A.3. – Ensure the work of the Board and staff is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner.

Objective 2.B
Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement.

- Strategy 2.B.4. – Ensure the Board has time on its agenda to discuss high-level policy issues.
- Strategy 2.B.5. – Implement a Board member and staff feedback process.

Goal 3: We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Objective 3.A
Broaden public support and applicant pool for the Board's grant programs.

- Strategy 3.A.1. – Expand the Board's support by developing key partnerships.
- Strategy 3.A.2. – Increase public understanding of project benefits.
- Strategy 3.A.3. – Perform regular assessments to determine the public's priorities for outdoor recreation and conservation funding.
- Strategy 3.A.4 – Advocate for the protection of habitat and recreation through multiple venues.
- Strategy 3.A.5 – Expand reach of grant programs by broadening applicant pool for grant programs.

Key Performance Measures

Goal	Framing Question	Measure
We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.	Is the board creating opportunities for recreation?	Projects funded by type, location
	Is the board protecting natural systems and landscapes?	Acres protected (through acquisition) or restored
	Are we affecting the health of Washingtonians?	Percent of respondents to OFM and statewide recreation surveys reporting participation in active recreation
We achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us.	Is the evaluation process objective and fair?	Percent of applicants reporting that the evaluation is objective and fair
	Are we managing grants efficiently and reducing project delays?	Agency re-appropriation rate
	How well do we maintain the state's investments?	Percent of grants in compliance {Sustainability measure to be developed with policy)
We deliver successful projects by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.	Are stakeholders involved in policy development?	Percent of sponsors agreeing with the survey question that "The board considers input before making policy decisions"
	Are we achieving statewide participation in our grant programs?	Number of funded projects by location (e.g., county or other geography)

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **7**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Public Comment Received about the Subcommittee Proposals for Policies Related to Allowable Uses

Prepared By: Dominga Soliz, Policy Specialist

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo summarizes the public comment received about the board subcommittee proposals on the allowable uses "grey areas" framework and programmatic policies (i.e., livestock grazing, telecommunications facilities, tree removal, and clarification on when conveyance of a property interest is a conversion).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☒ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Note: The subcommittee is asking for board discussion and feedback before preparing the policies for a decision in October.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) reviewed its subcommittee proposals for programmatic policies related to "allowable uses" in March 2012. The policies were the result of work and discussion that was started in 2011.

At the meeting in March, the board requested some adjustments to the policy language, and directed staff to submit the policies shown in Attachment A for public comment.

Staff posted the policies on the Recreation and Conservation Office web site and e-mailed them to interested party lists of about 8000 individuals on April 23 and 24, 2012 for a 30-day public comment period. Other outreach included sending news releases to 127 media outlets in the following counties: Chelan, Cowlitz, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, Walla Walla, Whatcom, Whitman, and Yakima.

Public Comment Received

The RCO received a total of 29 responses related to the request for comment (Attachment B). Respondents represented stakeholders including tribes, local agencies, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, interest groups (such as conservation districts), citizens, and others. The state Departments of Health and Natural Resources specifically declined to comment.

Many of the comments addressed several parts of the proposal.

- Ten comments support the general proposal to clarify whether certain uses are allowed on project sites; some also offer revisions or refinements.
- Five generally oppose the proposal or specific parts, indicating that they believe it undermines the intent of the grant programs and compromise the future protection of grant-assisted sites
- Fourteen comments do not clearly support or oppose the proposal, but rather suggest revisions. Many comments expressed a desire for balance that gives land managers needed flexibility while setting clear standards that protect the grant purposes. Several comments were concerned about allowing revenue to be generated on project sites.

General Comments

Several of the comments indicated a need for general clarification about how the policy would be applied and how it would be coordinated with other existing policies.

Subcommittee Response

The board subcommittee recommends the following general revisions:

- Clarify the policy to state that if a livestock grazing, telecommunications facility, or tree removal proposal failed to meet the criteria, then it could be reviewed under the framework.
- Clarify that the proposal will not change other existing policies such as cultural resources policies.
- Clarify that income generated on a project site must comply with the existing *Income Use* policy[1], which requires that it be used only to offset:
  - The sponsor's matching funds;
  - The project's total cost;
  - The expense of operation, maintenance, stewardship, monitoring, and/or repair of the facility or program assisted by the funding board grant;
  - The expense of operation, maintenance, stewardship, monitoring, and/or repair of other similar units in the sponsor's system; and/or
  - Capital expenses for similar acquisition and/or development.

[1] Manual 7, Section 28

In addition, many respondents recommended developing programmatic policies on the following topics:

- Mineral, oil, gas and air rights
- Land allowed for carbon sink use
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Hayfield management
- Shared parking
- Rearing of salmon species not identified in the project agreements
- Wetland mitigation

Comments about the Livestock Grazing Proposal

Sixteen of the comments addressed livestock grazing; comments were both supportive and opposed. Many offered suggestions for revising the proposal.

In general, several comments recognized the need to use livestock grazing as a land management tool but stated that the reliance on the HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-owned Agricultural Grazing Land is inappropriate because the standards are outdated and unclear. It was recommended that the board require site-specific grazing management plans to protect habitat and that the management plans should incorporate current standards (e.g., water quality and sage-grouse). Some comments stated the site-specific management plans should allow grazing only if there is a benefit to the habitat.

Some respondents also expressed concern about (1) allowing the grazing indefinitely and (2) allowing grazing on lands that have not been grazed within the last 10 years.

Other respondents supported the proposal because it would help land managers steward lands and protect habitat in a way more likely to be supported by the local community. Others opposed the proposal as inconsistent with the critical habitat purposes of the grant.

Subcommittee Response

The board subcommittee recommends that the board incorporate the following revisions in the policy:

- Remove the references to HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards, which reviewers considered to be out of date and unclear.
- In lieu of HB 1309, require that grazing be implemented in accordance with a site-specific management plan that incorporates current laws, rules, and guidelines, such as water quality guidelines, to protect or enhance the health of species targeted by the grant.
- Require grazing management plans to include a duration and periodic renewal schedule.

Comments about the Telecommunications Facilities Proposal

Seven of the thirty comments addressed telecommunications facilities. Most comments were supportive.

Respondents stated that the proposal for telecommunications facilities is clearer than the other programmatic proposals because the management standards are specifically prescribed. Several people supported the proposal because it will help local parks by providing revenue.

One respondent opposed the proposal as clearly inconsistent with the recreation purposes of the grant.

Several comments suggested adding clear height and aesthetic standards (e.g., screening and camouflaging) to the proposal. One expressed concern that there could be an impact to habitat if the facilities were allowed in other grant categories, and recommended site-specific evaluations if the facilities are placed in shrub-steppe and prairie habitats.

Subcommittee Response

The board subcommittee recommends this proposal remain unchanged. The need for height and aesthetic standards vary depending on the local park. Most local ordinances already prescribe height and aesthetic standards for telecommunications facilities.

Comments about the Tree Removal Proposal

Eight of the thirty comments addressed tree removal. The comments were generally supportive but offered revisions and indicated that the proposal needs clarification.

Several respondents recognized that tree removal is an important land management tool and land managers should have flexibility to manage the specific site within clear standards that further the grant purposes. However, it was not clear to many whether the proposal would apply to hazard tree removal, tree removal for other purposes, or both. Some comments offered revisions based on consideration of specific circumstances, such as State Park tree assessment practices.

One respondent noted that it was unclear how the proposal would apply to a local park project that submits a conceptual plan that does not include tree removal during evaluation but later provides a developed plan for the park that does include tree removal . Staff believes that the later park plan would be considered a “site-specific stewardship plan.”

Subcommittee Response

The board subcommittee recommends the following revisions:

- Replace “imminent threat” with “potential risk” to public safety so that trees can be removed before the hazard is imminent.

- Add language to clarify that State Park's tree assessment practice is allowed.
- For clarity, break out the point of the policy as follows:

  The policy proposal would allow tree removal if:

  - Tree removal is included in the project evaluation materials or project agreement, or
  - Trees are removed to prevent potential risk to public safety, or
  - Trees are removed in accordance with an approved site-specific stewardship plan or documented site-specific tree assessment to protect or enhance forest health or the health of species targeted by the grant.

Comments about the Allowable Uses Framework Proposal

Seven of the thirty comments addressed the framework. In general, the comments were supportive of the effort to develop a transparent method for determining whether or not a requested use is allowed.

Several comments stated that it is not clear how the criteria in the proposed framework would be evaluated. For example, it is not clear how it would be determined whether a requested use is consistent with the essential purposes of the grant.

One comment suggested developing target expectations around the process and timing for the review of requests where consideration by RCO or the board is required. Other comments suggested requiring only three of the four framework criteria to be met, requiring the use to be secondary to the purposes of the grant, and adding examples.

Subcommittee Response

The board subcommittee plans to recommend the framework remain unchanged. Staff has developed a procedure that shows how a requested use would be evaluated under the framework (Attachment C). The subcommittee agreed that expectations for timing of the review could be developed after the procedure has been tested.

Comments about the Clarification of "conveyance"

The RCO received four comments about the clarification. In general, the comments were supportive of the effort to clarify existing policy.

Two comments, however, highlighted the need for significant further analysis (see comments 18 and 27). State Parks recommended that deed restrictions be allowed if they are consistent with the essential purposes of the grant (e.g., restricting development of structures on ecologically sensitive areas of State Park lands). The comment also raised the question of whether allowing deed restrictions that are consistent with the grant purposes would sometimes allow wetland mitigation for impacts caused by non-sponsors. With respect to wetland mitigation, the

Department of Transportation also commented that there should be a programmatic policy describing when non-recreational uses that are consistent with the grant are allowed.

Even if it will help further the purposes of the grant, RCO currently prohibits wetland mitigation and other uses of the land that require a restriction of property interests because it reduces the level of control the sponsor has over the land, thereby reducing the public's grant investment. For example, many wetland mitigation projects require an easement or deed restriction to ensure the wetland will remain intact for a period of time, often in perpetuity.

State Parks, however, has worked at-length with the public to develop a well-vetted policy allowing private parties to mitigate development-related wetland impacts on State Park lands. Of the approximately 126,000 acres of land managed by State Parks, about 31,000 acres (25 percent) are wetlands. State Parks policy work is focused on using all appropriate fund sources to restore and protect these wetlands consistently with the Centennial 2013 plan.
Besides the conveyance of property interests, allowing wetland mitigation on board-funded land raises other significant issues including:

- Whether the policy of "no net loss" is consistent with board programs.
- Whether it is feasible to calculate the value of mitigation work on land that is already protected.
- Whether mitigation for impacts by private developers is allowed under federal tax laws.

Subcommittee Response

The subcommittee plans to recommend postponing consideration of the footnote that would clarify when conveyance of a property interest is a conversion pending further analysis.

Summary of Subcommittee Recommendations

Proposal	Recommendations
General	• Clarify the policy to state that if programmatic proposal failed to meet the criteria, then it could be reviewed under the framework. • Clarify that the proposal will not change other existing policies such as cultural resources policies. • Clarify that income generated on a project site must comply with the existing Income Use policy.
Livestock grazing	• Remove the references to HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards, which reviewers considered to be out of date and unclear. • In lieu of HB 1309, require that grazing be implemented in accordance with a site-specific management plan that incorporates current laws, rules, and guidelines, such as water quality guidelines, to protect or enhance the health of species targeted by the grant. • Require grazing management plans to include a duration and periodic renewal schedule.

Proposal	Recommendations
Telecommunications facilities	No changes
Tree removal	• Replace "imminent threat" with "potential risk" to public safety. • Clarify that State Park's tree assessment practice is allowed. • For clarity, break out the point of the policy about when tree removal would be allowed.
Framework	• No changes. • Develop expectations for timing of the review after the procedure has been tested.
Conveyance of a property interest	Postpone consideration of the footnote that would clarify when conveyance of a property interest is a conversion pending further analysis

Next Steps

Following board discussion in June, the subcommittee will make necessary revisions and submit the proposals for board decision in October.

Attachments

A. Subcommittee Proposal Published for Public Comment

B. Public Comment Received

C. Framework Procedure

D. WA Native Plant Society policy (provided at the request of the respondent)

Attachment A – Subcommittee Proposal Published for Public Comment

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board discussed the concept of "allowable uses" at several meetings in 2011 after grant recipients asked to use project sites in ways that were not expressly approved in the grant agreement. Because RCO grant projects are unique and diverse, the range of potential questions about allowable uses of land and facilities is practically limitless. The proposals here are intended to help RCO staff make clear, consistent, and more streamlined decisions about whether uses of project sites are consistent with the original grants. The goal is to give RCO staff and grant recipients a clearer understanding of the board's expectations about how grant-funded land and facilities should be used.

Current Policy

It can be difficult and potentially subjective for grant managers to determine whether a use is allowed because while current policies about whether a project use is eligible for reimbursement generally are clear, policies about whether a project use is allowed, even if it is not eligible for reimbursement, are less clear.

RCO staff and grant recipients currently consider the following two policies when determining whether a use would be allowed on a grant-funded site.

Current Policy	What it Says	What is Potentially Unclear
Compatible Uses Policy	Non-outdoor recreation and non-habitat conservation uses are allowed on acquisition projects as long as the uses are compatible with, and clearly secondary to, the uses described in the project agreement.	Meaning of "clearly compatible with approved uses"
Conversion[1] Policy	Non-outdoor recreation or non-habitat conservation use is a conversion if it impairs the originally intended purposes of the project.	Meaning of "made in a manner that impairs the originally intended purposes of the project"

The "allowable uses" proposals are intended to clarify these policies by replacing the compatible uses policy. The new policies would help determine whether a specific use is (a) compatible with the approved project uses or (b) made in a manner that impairs originally intended purposes of the project. The current conversion policy would not change; rather, the proposals are written to work together so that the conversion policy also becomes clearer.

[1] See RCO *Manual 7, Funded Projects*, *Section 3: Compliance* to learn more about conversions.

Discussion of Policy Proposals

Programmatic Policy Proposals

A subcommittee of the board developed the following proposals for three commonly requested uses of grant project sites. The proposals are intended to clarify when the uses would be allowed and when they would be considered conversions. Uses that do not meet the criteria in the proposals would need to be reviewed under the allowable uses framework to be allowed.

The proposals would expressly allow certain non-habitat conservation or outdoor recreation activities on grant funded project sites under certain circumstances. The proposals would require the grant recipient to manage the activities in a way that protects the habitat conservation or outdoor recreation resource that was funded by the grant. Existing policy requires that income generated be used only to offset (a) matching funds, (b) project cost, (c) operation and maintenance of the project or another project in the grant recipient's system, or (d) capital expenses for a similar acquisition or development

Livestock Grazing (Applies only to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Critical Habitat Category)

Lands purchased with Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Critical Habitat grants are sometimes used for grazing at the time of purchase. The policy proposal would allow grazing to continue indefinitely after purchase as long as it does not diminish the purposes of the grant and the grazing is managed according to approved ecosystem standards. Grazing that was not already occurring at the time of purchase would be allowed under the same circumstances as long as the potential for grazing is considered during the funding process (i.e., in the project agreement or during evaluation).

Telecommunications Facilities (Applies only to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Local Parks Category)

Permitting or leasing of park space for telecommunications facilities, such as antennae for cellular technology, can provide money to a local park without reducing the recreational experiences or opportunities the park provides. The policy proposal would allow telecommunications facilities that are attached to structures (i.e., not stand-alone facilities) and equipment cabinets as long as (1) they do not diminish the purposes of the grant and (2) the siting, construction, modification, and servicing are managed to protect recreational experiences and opportunities. The policy requires that the grant recipient remove facilities and equipment cabinets that are no longer used.

Tree Removal
(Applies to all grant programs and categories)

Tree removal is a land management tool that sometimes is necessary to protect public safety and help conserve species and habitat. The policy proposal would allow tree removal that does not diminish the purposes of the grant if it is done to protect public safety or to protect or enhance species or habitat, and as long as it is managed in accordance with the Washington Forest Practices Act and Forest Practices Rules and in accordance with a site specific stewardship plan. Tree removal that is considered during the funding process (i.e., in the project agreement or during evaluation) also would be allowed.

Allowable Uses Framework

The allowable uses framework would help clarify when a requested use of a project site is allowed and when it is out of compliance with the grant. The framework would apply to requests for uses that are not clearly governed by other policies. That is, if the requested use is identified in the grant project agreement or there is already a policy governing it, such as one of the programmatic policies above, then the framework would not apply.

Under the proposed framework, a use of the project site could be allowable only under the following circumstances:

• Identified in the project agreement or • Allowed[2] by RCO policy	**OR**	Approved by RCO or the funding board by meeting the following criteria: 1. Consistent with essential purposes of the grant (i.e., consistent with the grant agreement and grant program); 2. All practical alternatives to the use, including the option of no action, must have been considered and rejected on a sound basis; *and* 3. Achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource. • If the use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), it also must provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource.

[2] If a use is allowed by grant program/category policy this means the use is allowed on all project sites funded by the program/category; it does not mean the use is eligible for reimbursement in the program/category.

Policy Clarification

Clarification of When a Conveyance of a Property Interest is a Conversion

The board subcommittee proposes a footnote to current policies that would clarify when conveyance of a property interest is a conversion. Current policies are unclear about whether a lease on a project site is allowed or a conversion. If policy clearly says when a lease is allowed and when it is a conversion, then the framework will not apply. For example, leases allowed under the livestock grazing and telecommunications facilities proposals would not need to be reviewed under the framework to be allowed.

The current policies in RCO *Manual 7, Funded Projects* say that a conversion occurs when "property interests are conveyed for non-public outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses" and when "property interests are conveyed to a third party not otherwise eligible to receive grants in the program from which funding was derived."

The policy proposal would define "convey" as the transfer of title to the property or an encumbrance on the title. It would expressly allow leases, utility permits, and concessions that are approved by RCO.

Decision Process

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board is expected to discuss the proposals and any comments received when it meets on June 27 in Port Angeles. Submitted written comments will be summarized and presented to the board before its discussion on the proposals. The board is expected to make final decisions about the proposals when it meets October 17.

If approved by the board, the final policies will be included in RCO policy manuals: *Manual 7, Funded Projects*, *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account*, and *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account* as described in Attachment A.

Attachment A: Draft Policy Proposals

Livestock Grazing (for inclusion in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account*)

Livestock grazing is allowed on funded project sites provided that the grazing does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and:

- Grazing is included in the project agreement and project evaluation materials, or
- Grazing is a continuing use of the project area.

Livestock grazing must be managed in accordance with state ecosystem standards.[i] Leases or permits issued by the grant recipient for livestock grazing are allowed in this grant category.[ii]

Other requests for livestock grazing on board-funded project sites must be reviewed under the allowable uses framework (*Manual 7, Funded Projects*).

Telecommunications Facilities (for inclusion in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account, for the Local Parks Category*)

Telecommunications facilities[iii] and equipment cabinets are allowed on funded project sites provided that their placement, construction, modification, or servicing does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and all of the following criteria are satisfied:

- The antenna[iv] is attached to an existing building or structure, such as a utility pole, sign, or rooftop. Such a building or structure may be replaced.
- The footprint of the equipment cabinet is the minimum necessary.
- The facility and equipment cabinet are placed, constructed, and modified to have the least impairments, including cumulative impairments, to outdoor recreation opportunities. Concealed or camouflaged facilities and equipment cabinets are preferred.
- Servicing does not interfere with the recreational use of the project area.
- The building or structure to which the facility is attached is not damaged by the facility.
- Facilities and equipment cabinets no longer in use or determined to be obsolete are removed within 12 months of the cessation of use.

Leases or permits issued by the grant recipient for telecommunications facilities are allowed in this grant category.[ii]

Tree Removal (for inclusion in *Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

Tree removal is allowed on funded project sites provided it does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant and:

- Tree removal is included in the project agreement and project evaluation materials, or
- Trees are removed to prevent imminent threat to public safety or are removed in accordance with an approved site-specific stewardship plan to protect or enhance forest health or the health of species targeted by the grant.[ii]

Tree removal must be managed in compliance with the Washington Forest Practices Act (Revised Code of Washington 76.09) and Forest Practices Rules (Title 222 Washington Administrative Code).

Proposed Deletion from *Manual 3, Acquisition Projects*

~~Compatible Uses~~

~~RCO allows non-outdoor recreation, salmon habitat recovery, or habitat conservation use of acquisition projects, such as timber management, grazing, and other natural resource uses. These uses must be:~~

> ~~Clearly compatible with the outdoor recreation, salmon habitat recovery, or~~
>
> ~~Clearly secondary to the outdoor recreation, salmon habitat recovery, or habitat conservation use approved in the project agreement~~
>
> ~~Approved by RCO in writing~~

Allowable Uses Framework (for inclusion in *Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

RCO grants are intended to support Washington State's habitat, outdoor recreation, and salmon habitat resources. Uses of project sites must have no overall impairment to the habitat conservation, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource funded by RCO.

To be in compliance with the grant, uses of grant-assisted project sites must be either:

A. Identified in the project agreement;

B. Allowed by RCO policy; OR

C. Approved by RCO or the funding board.

For the use to be approved by RCO or the funding board (Option C, above):

- The use must be consistent with the essential purposes of the grant (i.e., consistent with the grant agreement and grant program);
- All practical alternatives to the use, including the option of no action, must have been considered and rejected on a sound basis; AND
- The use must achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource;
    - If the use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), it also must provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource so there is no overall impairment.

An approved use of a project site must continue in the way it was approved to remain in compliance with the grant.

Clarification of "Conveyance" (for inclusion in *Manual 7, Funded Projects*)

Footnote added to the following existing policies.

A conversion would be determined when one or more of the following takes place, whether affecting an entire site or any portion of a site funded by RCFB-SRFB:

- *Property interests are conveyed[v] for non-public outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses.*
- *Property interests are conveyed[v] to a third party not otherwise eligible to receive grants in the program from which funding was derived.*

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[i] See HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Land.

[ii]Income generated must comply with the RCO policy on income and income use (see *Manual 7, Funded Projects*).

[iii]A telecommunications facility is the aggregate of equipment, such as radios, telephones, teletypewriters, facsimile equipment, data equipment, cables, and switches, used for providing telecommunications services. Federal Standard 1037C, Glossary of Telecommunications Terms, 1996.

[iv]An antenna is any structure or device used to collect or radiate electromagnetic waves. Federal Standard 1037C, Glossary of Telecommunications Terms, 1996.

[v]Convey means the permanent or temporary transfer of legal title to the property or the granting of an encumbrance that affects or limits the title of the property, such as a mortgage, easement, lien, or restriction. Leases, utility permits, and concessions approved by RCO are allowed. Leases for livestock grazing and telecommunications facilities may be allowed in some grant programs. (See the policy on livestock grazing in *Manual 10b, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Habitat Conservation Account and Riparian Protection Account*, and the policy on telecommunications facilities in *Manual 10a, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account*.)

Attachment B: Public Comment Received

Comments of General Support

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes				
			Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
1.	Eric Flodstrom *Hurricane Ridge Winter Sports Education Foundation*	Looks like pretty straight forward changes. Simplifying the wording for RCO people to make decisions on projects. I'm for making the changes.					
2.	Ron Shultz *Policy Director, State Conservation Commission*	The Office of Farmland Preservation, a program within the State Conservation Commission, supports the policy proposal to allow grazing on lands funded under the WWRP Critical Habitat category. This category of funding often sees state agencies bring large acreage projects where grazing has historically been utilized as a management tool on these varied landscapes. By removing grazing from these lands, management concerns can grow as agencies are faced with budget shortfalls and operation and maintenance challenges. We commend the subcommittees' work to address this policy change. This change will improve the WWRP Critical Habitat category and work to preserve an agricultural industry that relies on open space for grazing while providing for an effective management tool on sensitive landscapes.					
3.	Ken T. Heany *International Northwest Parks and Recreation Association*	It appears to be reasonable to make those changes.					
4.	Mike Deller *Washington State Director, Trust for Public Land*	The Trust for Public Land and its agency partners are often faced with a variety of management choices when determining how best to conserve a specific property. The programmatic policy changes regarding grazing, forest management, and communication sites give clear guidance to TPL and our agency partners when faced with our most frequent compatible use questions. Whether negotiating a conservation easement with a private landowner or planning for the future stewardship of a property purchased outright, the ability to consider the above management options makes conservation that works both for fish and wildlife, the specific property and the local community more likely. For example, a cattle grazing lessee can help an agency manage the property and be its eyes and ears on the ground. This is an important management tool in times when budgets are stretched. Timber management helps an agency mitigate fire danger and promotes forest health. By allowing the development of a communication site, the agency could help improve the local community's access to phone and internet.					

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes				
			Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
		Many of the communities in which we work are very concerned about the effects of conservation efforts on their local economies, culture and environment. Managed grazing and forestry also help mitigate the threat of fire and invasive weeds to adjacent private lands. By allowing for fish and wildlife friendly grazing and forest management, the agencies are able to mitigate the perceived impacts of public acquisitions of forest and ranch lands on the local economy. In short, the programmatic policy changes help public conservation stewards manage their lands in a way that help fish and wildlife and are more likely to be supported by the local community. As for the Allowable Use Framework, this rubric encourages TPL and its agency partners to address potential uses on the front end of a grant and provides a mechanism for securing subsequent approval for unanticipated uses. It appears to be a fair and thoughtful approach to allow land managers adapt their stewardship to utilize conservation friendly opportunities that avail themselves over time. Finally, the Conversion policy is straight forward and understandable. The agency's express ability to enter into leases, utility permits and concessions with RCO approval adds another degree of flexibility to manage properties practically for conservation					
5.	Rebecca Post *Spills Program - Natural Resources Unit, Department of Ecology*	I am fine with the new recommendations however I do have a comment. From Attachment A: Livestock grazing must be managed in accordance with state ecosystem standards. Leases or permits issued by the grant recipient for livestock grazing are allowed in this grant category. In reading the Ecosystem Standards, many of the recommendations they give for land and aquatic management is "deferred grazing." Why can't the RCO just take the step and say – "No grazing" instead of relying on another reference that may or may not be enforced?	X				
6.	Craig T. Nelson *District Manager, Okanogan Conservation District*	The Okanogan Conservation District supports the use of grazing as a management tool that should remain as a viable option for landowners who choose to participate in any conservation program. We have found that when conducted under a properly developed management plan that considers the objectives of the landowner, site conditions, and resource availability, grazing can be a very effective tool to address conservation issues or at a minimum does not disrupt conservation goals. We noted however, that the RCO proposes to only allow grazing on lands that are enrolled in the WWRP Critical Habitat if grazing occurred prior to enrollment. We wish to express our desire for the RCO to consider making grazing an option for all lands enrolled in this program in the future so as to afford future owners the opportunity to use grazing as a land management tool. We acknowledge that grazing is not a suitable use for all lands at all times, but often could be used in short duration on some lands on a periodic basis to address issues of concern. We support landowners, have tools available to them to efficiently address management and conservation issues alike	X				

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes: Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
7.	Lori Flemm *City of Lacey* *Parks and Recreation*	I support this and have a few suggestions. • Livestock grazing – Include hayfield management. Hay production is consistent with public use where grazing may not allow public use (trails). How the grazing is provided (fair process – RFP, for example) should be mentioned. • Telecommunications facilities – Good! Thank you, I support this. Add "and does not interfere with the intended use" to the second bullet. • Framework – Please provide an example for what it means to be consistent with the essential purposes of the grant. Possible example: Park is located on a 2-lane street with narrow shoulders and ditch. City annexes the park. City street/public works division improves street to city standard with curb/gutter/sidewalk. Right-of-way must be acquired for the sidewalk from the park land. Sidewalk improves access to the park – as such this would be an allowable use. It would be a conversion, if the park land was taken for the curb, gutter or street widening.	X	X		X	
8.	Charles Ng, *Operations Manager,* *Magnuson Park and Business Resources,* *Seattle Parks and Recreation*	I am offering my feedback/comments below: Policy proposal for telecommunication facilities: I am very supportive of this proposal and like to suggest including description of this category to include wireless antennas, fiber optic telecommunications, and Wi-Fi technology. Allowable Uses Framework: I am supportive of this proposal and would like to suggest an additional bullet under the .."For the use to be approved by RCO or Funding board (Option C, above): •The proposed use and costs for implementing the use constitute less than 10% of the total contract grant award. I also would like to recommend that the proposed framework , a use of a grant funded project site could be allowed if a sponsor meets at least 3/4 of the criteria listed		X		X	
9.	Paul Kaftanski *Director,* *City of Everett* *Parks and Recreation*	The effort to expand grantee flexibility while ensuring that the intended outcome of grant funded projects is not compromised is to be applauded. The investment of public taxpayer and private funds must accomplish and afford opportunities to achieve multiple objectives. In the latter case of private funding, and depending on land use; there are examples where businesses share parking. For example, a bank, where the primary hours of operation are during the day, may have parking available at times that can help to fulfill parking requirements for peak movie demand at an adjacent theatre, where the greatest need is during the night and weekends, when banks are typically closed. This helps to reduce development cost, reduce land requirements to develop surface parking and provide alternative uses for land that otherwise would have been developed for surface parking. With respect to the former case of public funding, the federal government for upwards of 20 years,		X			

Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes				
		Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
	through the Federal Transit Administration, has allowed for federally funded transit grantees to enter into agreements to allow third parties to utilize parking if the intended outcome of providing "park and ride" services for transit customers is not compromised. Today, the parks and recreation industry has suffered through a dramatic and downward structural shift in its funding and the services that it can provide. Capital and maintenance funding of most agencies in Washington State have been reduced upwards of 50 percent. Our challenge in the industry is to pursue reasonable opportunities to increase non taxpayer revenue in ways that also do not detract and/or compromise the mission of our organizations and the requirements of grant funded projects. The draft proposals prepared by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCO) will help to open opportunities to the parks and recreation industry but importantly, help ensure that safeguards are in place to maintain the integrity of the grant system. In Everett's situation, there are two recent examples where this policy initiative would have been beneficial to our revenue stream without compromising the requirements of grants. We were approached by a third party to determine if one of our grant funded parks could be the location of a telecommunications tower. Though it appeared that the preferred location would meet the criteria of today's proposed policy, the third party declined to pursue this business opportunity once it was identified that there was RCO funding previously awarded for the project and that it would be a lengthy and problematic process to determine if the project could proceed. A second example is related to a restaurant located immediately adjacent to a grant funded park. The owner expressed interest in utilizing the park's parking lot after the park was closed at night. After a brief discussion with our grants manager at the time, we concluded that this too would likely not be possible without a finding of a "conversion." If I correctly understand the draft proposal, these examples could easily be considered as appropriate. And that is a positive step in terms of public policy. In summary, I want to lend my support to the draft proposals given the rationale and examples listed above. I would however, suggest that consideration be given to modifying one of the criteria for Telecommunications Facilities. It would not be inconsistent that the RCO Board considers attachment of antennae to new structures, in addition to existing structures. The infrastructure to support stand alone "towers" has continued to improve from the perspective of aesthetics. The ability of the industry to effectively "disguise" towers and/or integrate them within the surrounding environment in order to not diminish a park user's experience has greatly improved in the last decade. Additionally, there needs to be a					

Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes				
		Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
	minimum height for some of these facilities and it is likely that most park structures would not meet the minimum height. Consequently, I would ask that the board consider new structures and subject grantees to a review process under the RCO that would require RCO approval of new structure design for telecommunication facilities. Otherwise, a significant opportunity will likely be lost to grantees. Again, thank you for this policy initiative					
10. Rance Block *Director of Lands, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*	Wildlife habitat land acquisition work in Washington can often times be a difficult process. In addition to competition for funding, balancing support from county commissioners and different interest groups is never easy. With that in mind, I have read the proposed Compatible Uses Policy. Livestock grazing is often a contentious issue in regard to public land, but there have been recent scientific studies exist which show that well managed grazing can provide significant benefits to wildlife. I believe the proposed changes to manual 10b will protect the resource values which are the primary reason for the WWRP grant, while allowing the agency to utilize another land management tool. Similarly, allowing an agency the ability to perform some timber management, as defined in the proposed "Tree Removal" revision to manual 7 will allow land managers to treat forest stands for disease and insect infestation before small scale problems become landscape-scale problems. One suggestion would be a committee of representatives from DNR, WDFW, State Parks and perhaps others to review any potential uses outside the proposed changes.				X	

Comments of General Opposition

	Respondent	Comments
11.	Ken VanBuskirk *Citizen*	It appears that some of these policy proposals perhaps originated around the controversial SFRB 2005 Union River acquisition proposal here in Belfair, the former RCO funding for the Theler trail system back in the 1990's, the illegal grazing of animals on that WDFW land inside the Theler trails, and the proposed flooding of the long term agricultural land as proposed in the Union River "restoration" grant. In any case I think the local community and local jurisdiction's planning commissions, whether it be City or County, should be given the opportunity to weigh in on these policy proposals. The local jurisdiction's elected officials, its comprehensive plan, the State's Growth Management Act and most importantly the local community's plans should not be superseded by "allowable uses" as determined by grant recipients or the RCO staff.
12.	John LaMonte *Citizen*	No; This is clearly giving who you give out grants to a very much clearer hand in what they want to do than what the law reads now. It looks to me that the receivers of grants have voiced there agenda very strongly so they can pursue their own agenda without the oversight of us the American Tax Payer. Programmatic Policy Proposals This could be the start of a never ending acquisition project, where money or income from one project goes to buy another project and on it goes. The money or income from any project or projects should go back into the granting program source. Under grazing if it is not stated as a use at time of approval I never see any land trust, or and other ecosystem group asking for a change in policy to allow it. Tree removal The practice of leaving diseased trees on land that has public grant money involved is wrong. Trees that have been categorized as diseased should be removed and the area replanted. Trees in public parks with people and animals walking under and-or climbing under or-on spreading the diseased to other areas not infested is wrong and is not good habitat protection and-or land management or good stewardship of our lands
13.	Arvilla Ohlde *Citizen, Belfair*	I appreciate that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has had several discussions over the past year regarding grant recipient requests to use project sites in ways that were not expressly approved in the signed grant agreement. I understand that over the past 60-years the RCO and the project management staff have addressed a range of unique and diverse requests to determine if the project request is compatible with the original grant intent. I have had a long professional career of dealing with local elected who quite frankly were insistent that I present to the RCO proposals, which from their perspective should be considered and approved as an "allowable use." Nothing has changed except that currently the economic times seem to be the "guiding" a push to liberalize the intent of the protected property.

Respondent	Comments
	Everyone has an example where the question of "use" of the land was proposed for an "allowable use." The current economic climate seems to make it appear as if it more palatable and reasonable and therefore acceptable that a newly defined "allowable use" can simply be determined to have no impact to the intended use of the site. I think that the three examples of the "allowable use" and simply water downed examples which are given to blur the underlying intent of the change in the existing language for "compatible use." Cattle grazing and the use of the land for agriculture has been thoroughly reviewed, discussed and assessed. Historic land uses across the state for grazing are well vetted and are defined in the state code and through management policies adopted by the state agencies. Putting the issue of "cattle grazing" as an example is simply a smoke screen. The same is true for the management of forest on grant protected lands. The ability to retain and maintain a safe and enhanced site under forest management criteria is not an example of a difficult decision. Project staff is able to approve grazing and forest health as a compatible use. Slipping in the need for non- intrusive and encumbering telecommunication structures is starting to get to the real point of this entire topic of discussion. Now here is an example where it appears to be benign but in reality the lease agreement between cellular vendors needs greater discussion and analysis. This is not simply attaching an antenna on the end of a restroom or maintenance shed. It requires a long term commitment for the lessee. The infrastructure is critical to the telecommunication services provided to customers. The installation with power, access, maintenance structures as well as the towers is clearly non-compatible. The project property is encumbered and the property value is diminished. The "value" is simply the project sponsor's ability to generate revenue. The grant protected lands will simply be the source of money!! The three basic simplified examples conceal the greater issue. This is the first step to in allowing a larger number of grant protected lands to be encumbered through non-compatible uses. Let me give you some examples: • How about leasing a salmon recovery funded site to a lama farmer? • A subsurface water retention facility over a soccer field doesn't hurt anything? • Just a few parking stalls for the hospital doesn't affect a natural area? • Installing a storm detention needed for development mitigation in the outfield didn't take away from the ballgame? All of these requests can be handled by the project staff at the RCO. Your staff is skilled and qualified. They have the language in Manual 3 under "compatible uses" to determine the benefit of protection of the intended use of the site. Their ability should not be questioned or undermined by political pressure, particularly with these phony examples which are not above their expertise! From my perspective this is just a slippery slope to the greater move toward compromising the use of protected lands to generate revenue! Everyone knows that revenue generated is NEVER audited. NO ONE- not the State Auditor, the RCO or the local project sponsor is every

	Respondent	Comments
		required to substantiate that (as you state in your policy proposal) the "revenue generated be used ONLY to offset (a) matching funds, (b) project cost, (c) operation and maintenance of the project or another project in the grant recipient's system, or (d) capital expenses for a similar acquisition or development. " Land purchased with taxpayers dollars clearly were bought for the intended purposes under the grant category that met the evaluated criteria for the program! The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board needs to go beyond and look into the future of what will be the outcome of the continued "graying" of the protections of the lands. Anything short of this simply further diminishes the integrity of the existing intent of the legislation that created the RCO.
14.	Paul Knowles *Park Planner, Spokane County Parks*	We have reviewed RCO's proposed policy changes that were sent out for comment on April 23, 2012 and have several comments and concerns regarding livestock grazing on projects funded through WWRP 's Critical Habitat category as proposed. Spokane County Parks believes that the proposed changes are inconsistent with the intent of the Critical Habitat grant category. Livestock grazing, especially in Eastern Washington can have a detrimental impact on the quality of habitat, available forage for other species, and water quality. While these issues aren't specific to Eastern Washington, they tend to be exacerbated by the thin soils, arid climate, and species extremely sensitive to changes in both. In our opinion, livestock grazing and tree removal are both management activities, therefore, they should be treated (and limited) equally. While we recognize that there may be some limited benefit (i.e. fire suppression) from allowing livestock on project areas, such grazing should only be allowed if in conjunction with an approved "management plan" that can demonstrate that grazing provides a benefit to the "critical habitat" being protected by RCO's funding. Without such assurances, RCO is not protecting their [the public's] "investment." Likewise, grazing permits and leases should also be restricted to be in conjunction with an approved "stewardship" plan. Continuing grazing because it's a past use on a project area should also be removed from the policy amendment.
15.	Mark Sheehan *Citizen*	This policy seems like a green light for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to acquire large acreages of land for critical habitat while allowing a use that in most cases contributes to the loss of habitat for many wildlife species and native plant ecosystems that they are allegedly setting aside critical habitat for. If the purpose of “critical” habitat is to secure remaining habitat for declining species, then having competitors, in the form of cattle, will only exacerbate their decline. In many cases, grazing removes habitat for species through trampling, soil erosion, removal of critical food resources, changes in habitat structure and so on. The policy change cites HB 1309 as the ecosystem standard by which livestock grazing must be managed. This is a 18-year old document which was the result of a consensus process. Given the wide range of views, consensus in this case results in least objectionable management practices for all parties concerned. Whether this is scientifically defensible does not seem to be of concern. In any case, this document does not reflect our current scientific understanding of ecosystems and grazing impacts.

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	In the past, WDFW has proposed acquisition of large areas, especially in Eastern Washington as critical habitat. Elk seem to be the main focus. We all know that wolves have recently come to Washington. Wolves are a predator on elk and help control elk herds from overgrazing their habitat, especially riparian areas critical to fish, such as bull trout. Thus elk critical habitat is also wolf critical habitat, and is also bull trout critical habitat. Putting cattle in this habitat automatically sets up a conflict with the other species. Cattlemen detest wolves. By establishing grazing as a "continuing" use, wolves automatically become a problem species and any economic loss by cattlemen on state land will result in a demand for restitution or retribution, either in dollars or dead wolves. In the news recently is good example of a potential problematic purchase should this policy go through: the McWorter Ranch on the slopes of Rattlesnake Mountain. This area is part of a rebounding elk herd found on the Hanford site. While surprising to many, elk were once common in the sage-steppe of Washington. So were wolves. What is going to be the response when wolves return to the scene. Can grazing be a management tool? Its possible. But the burden of proof should be on the grazing prescription itself. The proposal should be scientifically vetted and should have specific outcomes. It should not be management by cattle walking around. Grazable woodlands referred to in HB 1309 is an oxymoron. The tinderbox condition of our eastside forests is a result of grazing and fire suppression. We are now engaged in costly prescribed burns and thinning projects to try and return our forests to presettlement conditions. To allow continued grazing in these forests will surely defeat these efforts. The fuel needed to carry understory-clearing fires (thereby diminishing the occurrence of crown fires) is the very grass that the cattle will be eating. Its very hard to make a case for any grazing on forestland. It appears that the cattle industry wants its cake and to eat it too. If individual landowners want to sell their property, this is their constitutionally-protected right. But, under this policy change, if the state buys it, previous use (grazing) must be "continuing." That wouldn't necessarily be the case if another private owner decided to buy it. To require this potentially habitat-destroying use to be a prerequisite for an acquisition (which is what this policy change is all about) wastes public money by perpetuating an activity that requires ongoing mitigation. The acquisition of grasslands and woodlands is a political problem for WDFW in parts of the state. To allow continued grazing as a condition for acquisition of lands under the Critical Habitat category is ecological and fiscal nonsense. It may placate the ranching community, but it does little to change conditions on the ground for wildlife and native plant ecosystems. Given that, these lands should remain privately held. The landowners would then at least pay minimal taxes. If open space for hunters is the critical driver for acquisition, then conservation easements should be acquired using hunter license fees. Lets not dignify what amounts to publically-owned ranches with the label Critical Habitat. The WWRP (of which Critical Habitat is part) is funded by all of Washington citizens. By overwhelming supporting this program, they stated that Critical Habitat is first and foremost for the protection of wildlife and native plant ecosystems, not for the perpetuation of a barely for-profit industry.

Suggested Revisions or Refinements

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16.	Ron Craig *Citizen,* *Willapa Bay*	Thanks for asking: When these properties were purchased they were removed from tax roles, this has always been a negative for Counties like Pacific County where the tax payers are already stressed by too much of our County lands are off the property tax ledger (in Pacific County 5% of tax payers pay 95% of property tax). If there is a compatible use then the user should pay the property tax based upon the fair market value of the land, as we all do. This should be distributed to the County as property tax so all junior taxing districts can share in the returns.	X					
17.	Rhonda Foster, CR *Director/THPO,* *Squaxin Island Tribe*	I suggest if your proposed policy does not address cultural resource management and protection, yet you do have a policy that does. I suggest in this draft policy refer to the policies your follow to protect the states cultural resources.	X					
18.	Carol Lee Roalkvam *Policy Branch Manager,* *Environmental Services Division,* *WSDOT*	I believe you understand the background on our suggestion which stems from the use of 6(f) property and wetland enhancement efforts. In follow up to Chris' discussion with you, I would like to submit a very brief comment on WSDOT's behalf. I'd be happy to follow this email with a formal letter if you would prefer. <u>Comment from WSDOT Environmental Services Office Policy Branch:</u> WSDOT respectfully requests RCO consider a policy that would allow for any non-recreational uses that are complimentary to the site and its recreation. We recommend RCO define complimentary uses and develop criteria for compatibility. Also, the approval process that RCO uses should be defined.	X					
19.	Tim Wahl *Greenway Program Coordinator,* *City of Bellingham*	This afternoon I looked over RCO's recent Allowable Uses deliberations, in relation to RCO projects I've observed or participated in. I'm writing with the bias of a land acquisition specialist acquiring property rights for multiple conservation, public access and recreational purposes. I am also stressing a concern with urban area wildlands where public uses are both traditional and emergent. Thanks for your work on this, it's a very important matter. If we in the profession only knew up front what the sensible uses were at the time our agreements were inked! Yes, allowable uses should be memorialized in the Project Agreement, up front, but the many parties involved in subsequent steps of site operations are going to face other use issues and social/recreational changes can be pronounced in 1 or 2 years time. The uses being examined (grazing & communications/utilities & treescaping) seem well-handled…but there are often other	X					

Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes: General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
	"stabilization and interim" uses that can help a local community economically protect and manage its RCO-partnered site. What concerns me is the number and range of other uses that can become reasonable and even vital and essential services to those whose job it is to protect a land resource. Local agencies have to respond to a lot of unanticipated pressure involving growing informal public access to wildlands. What should be encouraged are stewardship plans and objectives, ideally attached in basic form to the Project Agreement and calling for practical metrics in monitoring . If types of wildcraft, property maintenance support, appropriate agriculture or orcharding, special events, caretakers, response to unforeseen archeological or cultural resources, interim recreational/cultural programming etc. can further the objectives of RCO and the grantee, then let's encourage some creative and sensible land management, and not just detail out the ones that have clobbered us in recent years. Detail is scary thing out in the Provinces, with all those project and site managers coming and going. It's cumbersome/resource consuming for many RCO partners to talk to RCO, even when you are on our side. I'm concerned about keeping things adaptive and affordable, so the partners stay in touch readily and can act efficiently.						
20. Jason Paulsen *Methow Conservancy*	I would first like to thank the RCO and RCFB for working to get out in front of this issue of compatible or "allowable" uses, as the work that has been completed to-date will provide an important foundation as we move into the future. Specific comments are as follows: 1. As a Land Trust that works with private agricultural landowners to conserve their farms, ranches and orchards, I applaud the RCFB for acknowledging and including grazing as one of the specific policy proposals developed for consideration. While I do not have actual working experience with the standards document referenced in the policy (HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Land), our organization does incorporate NRCS grazing utilization standards as part of our easements on working lands where grazing is either occurring or expected to occur in the future. Assuming that the standards you've referenced in this draft policy are currently utilized by State Departments (WDFW/ DNR/ State Parks, etc.), and the land managers are familiar with them, then they likely are a reasonable choice and should provide a workable framework. If this standard is not already a part of the work of these agencies and other applicants for this fund, I would recommend allowing flexibility with respect to the standard, so that what is best known and understood by the landowners and/or holders of conservation interests can be most efficiently implemented and monitored going forward. 2. I would encourage the RCFB to work with RCO staff in developing some target expectations around the process and the timing for the review of new allowable uses requests where consideration by RCO or the Funding Board is		X			X	

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes					
			General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
		required. One such use that we know to be on the horizon here in the Methow Valley is the use of conservation easement properties for the purpose of acclimating juvenile Coho salmon (as an introduced species), when the stated purpose of the easement is the recovery of threatened of endangered spring Chinook or steelhead. Because this acclimation activity for Coho has a specific window of opportunity from a timing perspective, it will be helpful for us to guide the Tribal proponents of this work if we can clearly lay out what the review process and schedule will look like (e.g. it will take 6 months, or 12 months, etc.). Additionally, if the RCFB is interested in providing general or "blanket" guidance on another use as they have for grazing, cell phone infrastructure and tree removal, I would nominate the rearing of species not identified in the conservation easements or grant agreements for their consideration, as I expect organizations like ours to receive many requests for this use in the near future.						
21.	Eli M. Levitt *Nonpoint Policy Planner, Department of Ecology* *Water Quality Program*	As the primary agency responsible for protecting water quality in the state, we would like to take a moment to provide comments that may add clarity and specificity around RCO funding for projects that include livestock grazing as an allowable use. We believe that the document cited as the "state ecosystem standards" (HB 1309 report) is out of date and potentially inconsistent with state water quality law and current clean water practices. In 2010, Ecology began a process to define clean water practices for livestock grazing. Using these practices, livestock producers can achieve compliance with water quality law by adopting clean water practices that have been evaluated by Ecology. This is called a good to go approach and it gives producers a clear pathway to prevent pollution from lands used for livestock grazing by installing and maintaining specific practices. The key clean water practices for pasture and rangeland management activities include: • Installing and maintaining a livestock exclusion fence to keep livestock out of the riparian corridor and the stream. The fence must be installed a minimum of 35 feet from the edge of the stream. • Planting and maintaining riparian buffers to protect stream functions and water quality starting at a minimum of 35 feet. • Maintaining healthy vegetative cover in pasture and rangeland areas to prevent polluted runoff. • Prevent and control discharges from high impact areas such as feeding and watering locations: install off-stream watering facilities to keep livestock out of surface waters, promote better pasture utilization, and properly locate winter feeding areas when applicable to prevent polluted runoff. • Using stream crossings when needed to limit access and prevent impacts to stream corridor. These are the only practices that we fund because their proper installation and maintenance will prevent nutrient, fecal, temperature, pH, and sediment impacts to surface and ground water from grazing activities, and therefore achieve compliance with state water quality standards. We also encourage producers to use these practices during technical		X				

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes: General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
		assistance projects and enforcement actions. A number of agencies including Ecology, the State Conservation Commission, Conservation Districts, and NRCS provide financial support to plan, design, or install these types of practices. We ask other government agencies and organizations investing in stream restoration projects to consider and use these clean water practices for livestock grazing so producers can show their intent to meet state clean water laws and proactively demonstrate on-the-ground actions. Where state and federal agencies use public funds to invest in restoration projects that include livestock grazing (as an allowable use or otherwise), producers should take steps to ensure that they are not polluting the state's surface or ground water. Thank you again for your consideration and the chance to comment on RCO policy						
22.	Catherine E. Hovanic *Executive Director, Washington Native Plant Society's Conservation Committee*	Thank-you for the opportunity to comment on proposed policies for land use on grant assisted sites. Of particular interest to the Washington Native Plant Society are grant assisted lands that are being grazed or will be grazed. We recognize that livestock grazing can be a valid use of public lands or publicly assisted lands, however, grazing, like many other land uses, has potential adverse effects. A big part of RCO's mission besides providing recreational opportunities is protecting Washington's biological heritage through land acquisition and habitat restoration. We offer these comments: The Ecosystem Standards document is a good starting point, but the standards are dated and not sufficient to guide grazing operations on RCO funded project lands or land acquisitions. We offer the following recommendations regarding grazing and RCO grant assisted projects: 1. Grazing lessees should seek or propose a grazing plan formulated for the individual site, and submit the plan for external review, as WDFW has done for the Kittitas County sites. The plan, to be followed closely in practice, should specify forage availability based on field assessment, grazing intensity and schedules, means of protecting riparian habitat from grazers, anticipated proportion of herbage to be removed. Detailed field observations of quantities of herbage remaining at individual sites, rather than overall averages which can conceal the high usage which may occur on very palatable or accessible sites, should be used to determine when to move or remove livestock. The grazing plan should be re-written each year to meet adaptive management goals. 2. Required improvements to accommodate grazing (water, fencing, etc.) should be fully funded/provided for by the lessee. 3. Continuance of grazing on these lands: Grazing may be allowed for a limited period (up to 5 years) on lands which are currently grazed, but under new, reviewed grazing management plans as outlined above. Allowing grazing to continue on such lands indefinitely is not consistent with the goals of WDFW nor should it be for other grant assisted properties.		X				

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	4. Lands not grazed within the most recent 10 years should not be grazed. 5. Lands of special interest because of critical habitat should not be grazed, and should be restored if degraded. These include most riparian areas and corridors, valuable both for wildlife and intrinsically for the native vegetation which does or could occur there. We offer a copy[1]of our Policy on Public Lands Grazing by Domestic Livestock for your review and consideration as you consider allowable uses and the potential for conversion of publicly funded grant acquired properties for conservation. It is important to recognize that poorly managed grazing operations, can and do significantly damage native plant communities, habitat value and biodiversity. The very things RCO conservation funding is meant to protect for Washington's future.						
23. Ken S. Berg *Manager,* *US Fish and Wildlife Service*	The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed proposed policies for allowed uses on grant-assisted sites drafted by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). As you know, federal funding from the Service is often combined with state funds administered by the RCO, so we considered the potential direct and indirect effects of the proposed policies on fish and wildlife resources of federal concern. We offer the following comments. **Livestock Grazing** The draft policy proposal specifies that livestock grazing must be managed in accordance with state ecosystem standards set forth in HB 1309 Ecosystem Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Land While this document provides a basis for grazing standards that meet certain ecosystem standards, proponents of any grazing on a grant-assisted site should be able to demonstrate and document that grazing contributes to, or is necessary for, meeting the site's specific conservation values or objectives. For instance, in western Washington, a specific grazing regime may be appropriate within riparian habitats if the site was acquired to enhance a diversity of native aquatic species habitats, and Oregon spotted frogs were known to use the site. However, the grazing regime would have to specifically account for the needs of that species, which would determine the timing and intensity of grazing. In addition, if a grant-assisted site is/was acquired in eastern Washington to support species native to shrub-steppe habitat,	X	X	X			

[1] See attachment D to the RCO memo

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		General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
	any grazing plan should implement grazing standards being developed by the Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to protect and enhance habitat for greater sage-grouse. These standards are currently being drafted and will be finalized for use later this year. The standards will include not only acceptable range condition standards, timing of grazing, and grazing practices, but will include specific standards for managing grazing infrastructure, such as fencing. Deviation from, or exceedances of, grazing standards can occur even in the best of situations. It will be important for the RCO to determine how to monitor and ensure compliance with the grazing standards, and how they will correct implementation of those standards and any incidences where site objectives are not met. This is not addressed in the proposed policies. **Telecommunications Facilities** While we have no concern over the allowance of telecommunications facilities for the local parks category, we do have concern if this allowance is to be included now or applied in the future to other grant categories. Our concern is over the introduction of perch sites for predators in habitats where perch sites do not naturally occur. Such perches or structures with height can interfere with habitat use (avoidance of an area by sensitive species, such as sage grouse) or artificially increase predation rates (can increase mortality of sensitive species, such as streaked homed larks). Guy wires or cables used in association with telecommunication facilities can also kill or injure birds or bats flying in the area. Sage grouse are vulnerable to injury from these wires, particularly when the wires are not highly visible. We recommend that site-specific evaluation of proposed telecommunication facilities in shrub- steppe and prairie habitats, and assessment of their compatibility with a site's conservation values, be conducted. Servicing of such facilities may need to be restricted to reduce disturbance during sensitive breeding or migration periods. **Coordination** While it is the responsibility of the landowner of a grant-assisted site to coordinate with grant funders on allowable uses, it can be useful for grant-administering agencies to initiate coordination when needed, particularly if certain uses are questionable, unique, or potentially not consistent with a site's conservation purpose. We encourage the RCO to coordinate with other funders of land acquisition sites (such as the Service) on potentially incompatible allowable uses, to minimize confusion and ensure a consistent response to landowners and managers.						

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes: General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
24.	Michael Paine *Environmental Planning Manager, City of Bellevue*	**Livestock Grazing** While I recognize that many grants involve purchasing land on which existing grazing leases may exist, this proposed policy change, while offering more specific guidance than previously existing, gives little comfort to those concerned about potential conflicts arising from grazing on lands purchased for habitat protection. This is true because the state ecosystem standards referenced in the policy are not standards at all but are instead general policy statements about desired ecological outcomes. In place of clear rules and measurable performance standards common to most environmental regulation, the standards contain guidance in the form of vague management "strategies." Such strategies, while useful in a general sense, lack prescriptive standards, mitigation direction, and possess no monitoring requirements to guarantee performance. As someone who routinely deals with ecosystem regulation, I see no predictable way that RCO can ensure that grazing "does not diminish the essential purposes of the grant" using the ecosystem standards as they exist now. My recommendation would be to update the existing ecosystem guidance (it is out-of-date anyway) or, failing that, ensure that each project site has a set of clear, unequivocal, management prescriptions and mitigation options designed to accommodate existing grazing only to the extent that grazing does not diminish the habitat goals of the funded project site. I would subject new applications for grazing leases to a detailed habitat assessment sufficient to demonstrate that any new lease will provide a net benefit to grant supported resources, or at minimum provide mitigation sufficient to offset all predicted impacts. **Telecommunications Facilities** The new policy for wireless facilities has distinct criteria that make its administration more straightforward and potentially successful. That said, I would recommend that you add a few additional standards starting with clear direction on those antenna arrays that you will permit to be located on buildings or utility poles. For example, antenna arrays come in a variety of forms including whips, flush mounted, and canister; I recommend that you be clear what types you will tolerate and which you will not. Also include some specific standards addressing some of the key issues most associated with aesthetic impacts; for example, include specific standards for height—we recommend that the height of the facility not exceed maximum building height allowed on the site. For utility poles, insist on a height limit so as to avoid out-of-scale installations. Consider allowing pole replacement so cables and conduit can be contained within the pole. Similarly, consider requirements for screening where the telecommunication facility is roof-mounted, and require color matching with existing structures to diminish the visual impact of the new facility. Where equipment cabinets are permitted, consider specific screening standards, including the requirement to house equipment cabinets in small accessory structures designed to match existing buildings or to be screened by site-appropriate vegetation at least as high as the cabinet.		X	X	X	X	

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		General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
	Tree Removal Hazard tree removal is an important responsibility of any land owning agency and protection of public safety an overriding concern. That said, permission to remove hazardous trees is best predicated on careful evaluation by a certified arborist or agency forester. That way debates over the necessity of removal can be avoided or reduced. We recommend that agency personnel document hazard assessment using the International Society of Arborists Hazard Tree Evaluation Form. It represents an industry standard and depends on a three-part evaluation of failure potential, size, and target rating. **Allowable Use Framework** This policy is a distinct improvement over past practice where vague language and lack of standards made its use problematic. However, for the proposed policy to be successful, there must be a clear understanding of what is meant by " impairment" when referring to the impact of uses outside the RCO grant framework of support for habitat, outdoor recreation, and salmon habitat. We recommend that the practical alternatives test include some specific criteria by which a particular proposal could be evaluated. Simply insisting that the decision about alternatives to the proposed use be "sound" does not give one much assurance that this determination will lead to consistent results. The guidance requiring "lease possible impact" to the resource is excellent but my experience suggests you will be frustrated by the result unless the guidelines also specify the manner by which this judgment is reached. I suggest the policy be revised to specify what kinds of study and analysis are required to make this impact assessment and by whom. For sites whose intended purpose is habitat, new uses should only be introduced only after a thorough habitat analysis and impact study is conducted by a qualified professional. This need not be an exhaustive study but at minimum it should be based on a site reconnaissance buttressed by a thorough literature review. The character and magnitude of the new use must be fully understood and its expected impacts amenable to accurate estimation. Judgments about whether a new use provides equivalent habitat benefits (presumably with mitigation) are difficult to make absent sufficient information about species association with given habitat types and sober assessment of direct and indirect impacts that may occur from a new use. My experience suggests the desire for the new use often overwhelms sound analysis of impacts, so laying out a clear path by which impacts can be assessed and weighed is an essential step to giving this policy language meaning.						
25. Sharon Claussen *King County Parks and Recreation*	I have a comment to the policy about tree removal and its interpretation that I wasn't able to make at the presentation. Example: An agency seeks and receives grant funding for acquisition of a site for a trail of a local park for active and passive recreation. There is a conceptual drawing submitted as part of the grant materials. Subsequent to the acquisition, the agency prepares a master plan for development based on a more detailed site inventory and analysis, along with public engagement. Due to the more in depth study of the site, the later plan layout differs from the grant materials in the location of project elements. Trees will need to be removed in areas not initially indicated in the conceptual plan at the time				X		

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes: General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
		of the grant proposal and evaluation. How would this be addressed? It fits with the program for the site, but the time of the grant proposal is premature to specifically identify trees or even number of trees to be removed for development of the park or trail. Should there be language added to indicate that tree removal is allowed for development of the site consistent with the grant elements. I suspect this policy is more related to larger scale tree harvesting , but it doesn't really say it that way and leaves an opening for misinterpretation. Thanks for your consideration.						
26.	Heather McCartney, FAICP *Planning & Community Development Director, City of Mukilteo*	I have reviewed the proposed changes from "Compatible" to "Allowable" Use policy amendments. Under allowable Uses Framework, the concept of secondary use(s) needs to be addressed. I have noted this as a #4 addition: "The use is secondary to the principal use in area, visual dominance, sound generation of the natural resources and habitat alteration." In addition, this policy (if not covered under other locations/manuals should also address: • Mineral, gas and oil rights • Air space rights • Land being used as a carbon sink • Land being allowed as a form of match repayment The "Tree Removal" policy does not address re-vegetation or tree replanting. Our critical area codes address both removal and replanting, and it would be more balanced with this added. Add "tree replanting is encouraged/required at a 2-to-1 ratio" before the last sentence.				X	X	
27.	Chris Parsons, AICP *Partnership and Planning Program, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission*	**Tree removal for inclusion in Manual 7, Funded Projects.** State Parks employs the services of two arbor crews that work daily on the maintenance and safe removal of trees necessary to maintain the forest health and public safety of park property. Our park managers fill out a "Tree Activity Worksheet" that identifies specific tree pruning maintenance or removal (felling) needs. This "tree assessment" form provides information about the tree species and condition, old growth status, diameter and height, and a tree risk rating. By documenting tree management activities, we are able to track our individual park's forest health and promptly respond to tree pruning or emergency tree removal in a timely manner. Once a Tree Activity Worksheet has been reviewed and signed off by				X		X

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	supervisory and natural resource staff, the removal or pruning of a tree is approved for that activity. • Please revise the wording "imminent threat" in the second bullet and substitute "potential risk" to public safety instead. • Please add the words "or documented tree assessment" after "an approved site-specific stewardship plan". **Clarification of "Conveyance" for inclusion in Manual 7, Funded Projects.** The current policy on non-compliance: conversion (page 22, Manual 7) states that a non- compliance conversion occurs when "property interests are conveyed for non-public outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses". According to Webster Dictionary, the word "convey" means that the action is to transfer, as property or title to property, from one person to another. Self-imposed conservation easements or permit-imposed deed restrictions for project mitigation sites under this definition would be interpreted a violation of the conversion policy, even when permit or self-imposed and not conveyed to another entity. Restrictive covenants are sometimes applied to State Park lands to restrict the development of structures on lands deemed ecologically sensitive or where set aside as a condition of a permit, for example. Passive recreational use of lands acquired with RCFB funds would continue to occur within these restricted areas, but the action of imposing a restrictive covenant would be considered non-compliant. Finding a way to allow for these types of easements to be placed on recreational lands would benefit the environment and the public use of the property. • Please revise footnote "v" to also include: Self imposed or permit imposed restrictive covenants are allowed, if compatible with the essential purposes of the grant. We appreciate hearing about the RCFB's interest in looking at the State Park category for WWRP funding and working with our agency on the transformational efforts we are in the process of implementing. Over the next year or so we hope work with RCO staff to reexamine the current funding criteria for WWRP State Parks grants and redefine these to meet our new and evolving agency objectives						

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes					
			General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
28.	Heather Ramsay *Program Officer, National Park Service*	Right up front the way you've framed the question is narrowing the problem more than you want, I think. You're talking about what to do when the proposed use is inconsistent with the specific grant. I'd encourage you to frame it in the context of whether it's compatible with the legislative intent of the grant program. Given that many of your programs have very long term compliance requirements, it must be recognized that needs change and agencies need the ability to respond to those changes (assuming they've been vetted through a local public process). So for example, let's say we originally funded tennis courts at a park. Fast forward 40 years and now skate parks are the hot thing and no one is playing tennis any more (or there's an over- abundance of inventory, or whatever). The municipality wants to convert those tennis courts to a skate park. NPS would say "fine" and you don't even need to bother asking us because it's all still under the umbrella of "public outdoor recreation", which is the intent of our enabling legislation, Furthermore, we don't consider the change from one court sport to another significant. We do get involved in rendering an opinion and a grant amendment if it's a "significant change in use", say from soccer fields to natural area with trails, but even then we wouldn't deny such a request unless the community was unable to provide a justification for the change. Under the telecommunications facilities, you might require that the equipment be camouflaged. You might also require that the revenue generated be used to support that park (or at least go directly to the park agency, rather than the general fund). Though I personally feel like it's a good idea, I wonder if there isn't some additional legal requirement why all our policies about revenue generation from non-recreation uses makes this distinction. For us this comes up primarily with mineral extraction. I would also add to the language on allowing leases in this category that the leases include some mechanism for the grant recipient to terminate the lease if they determine that the communications operator is violating any of the RCO's policies. That way they don't get forced into a conversion. This is still a conversion for us, alas, but if you do a great job with this policy I will use it to nag our DC office some more. What about indoor recreation facilities? Can you not add some type of parameters that would make these acceptable (i.e. no more than x% of the total acreage of the park, bathrooms must be open and available to outdoor recreation users, etc.). I agree that the lease language is muddy. The intent with our policies is that permanent conveyance of property rights (except in cases of underground utilities) would be conversions, but temporary leases for the management and/or operation of the facility for recreation purposes (i.e. through grazing, concessions, etc.) would not be a conversion. Temporary leases (or use agreement, etc.) that are for non-recreation purposes are usually treated as conversions but see our draft policy on extended non-conforming uses.			X			X

	Respondent	Comments	Suggested Changes					
			General	Grazing	Telecom	Trees	Framework	Conveyance
29.	Judy Finn *Citizen*	My questions and comments regarding proposed revisions to RCO Manual 7 are as follows: Is the intention of this revision to remove the last five sentences of existing text in section 3, item 6, on page 22? I suggest instead that the language on page 22 be left as is and the concept of "conveyance" be added to the "Definitions" section on page 19 alongside the definition of "conversion". Use of a footnote to define the term "conveyance" is not good form and detracts from rather than adds to clarity of the issues at hand. Also, the references to "leases, utility permits, and concessions approve by RCO..." in the proposed revision should be in section 2, item 16, on page 13, rather than discussed in a footnote. The most important thing here is to clarify that transferring of legal title to real property is only one of several ways that a conversion can be triggered and that leases, utility permits and concessions have equal potential to act as triggers. The proposed revision fails to provide needed clarity in this regard.						X

Additional Comment

The following comment was received and is not related to the Allowable Uses policy proposal. It is about two different board programs: Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Gary Johnson
GPOHVA
CBORVC
GPRORV

We need the RCO to set up the RTP and NOVA 30% 40% 30% , Non Motorized and Motorized so that the Motorized Grants Requests are Graded only against the Other Motorized Grants as for years since I was on the RTP Grants review board for 4 Years and the Nova Review in 2007 Our Motorized Grants are almost always Graded below the Non Motorized in total, as a matter of common results and by the Different aspects of a Motorized Grant and Equipment and that we do allot more miles on our Trails that we work on, and They are open to the Non Motorized almost in every case in every FS DNR BLM Private Recreation Areas.

We need to get at least 50% of the 40% category as we are always in a true mixed multi use projects to keep trails open and the Fact that this 30-40-30 has always intended to be a even split for all the available Grant Dollars and not just graded below non motorized and given an occasional bonus.

In other words we want motorized Graded Against Motorized Only and I discussed this with Rep Gary Alexander and Rep JT Wilcox who are on the said ORV Committee and they concurred with me.

This change needs to happen this Year as we the Motorized ORV OHV UTV Community across the State have long been under funded what we are due as to this issue of grading most Motorized Grants below Non and we maintain more trails and have for 40 to 50 years.

Also more Motorized Grants will be Requested if we bring about this Equity as for years Our Grants have in most years been declining because of this inequity.

Please correct this process as it needs to be done the way it was intended. Greg Lovejoy , who I worked with for 4 years told me that the 40% Mixed use Compatible is in fact Motorized and Non together, and this is in most cases the Category that our Trails that we Manage are in ,most cases, just this mixed use Compatible Category.

The Only Time this would be Different is when we have a single Tract Trail Grant , and even these are open to Non Motorized. So In Essence Non Motorized get more Grants and Dollars every year and they use all the Trails we work on as Motorized and we get less then the 30-40-30 split and we get a less total Trails overall open to us.
This is inequitable and needs to change to Motorized Graded Against other Motorized Grant Only.

Please let me know if you can fix this mistake and help us catch up to were we should have been 11 years ago when Nova and RTP started. We have discussed this amongst our selves and our ORGs and Clubs for many Years now and we would like to have Equity in this Distribution of Funds made a Priority this Year and every Year.

Please forward this to the RCO Director and Staff for review and Comment and Change. This has been forwarded to the ORV ATV Community across the State and the Legislature.

Attachment C: Allowable Use Procedure

Step 1: Grant Manager Review

A. Is the use a clear conversion?
Yes – The use is out of compliance. Follow conversion policies and procedures
No – Go to B

B. Is the use a clear element change?
Yes – The grant manager works with sponsor to resolve the element change. If the element change is resolved, the use is allowed.
No – Go to C

C. Is the use clearly consistent with the project agreement? That is, does the use clearly meet all of the following criteria?
- Does not impair overall goals identified in project agreement
- Does not impair primary purpose identified in project agreement
- Does not impair key elements identified in project agreement

Yes – The use is allowed. The grant manager informs the applicant or sponsor and documents the conclusion and the rationale in the project file. The applicant or sponsor may request written confirmation from RCO. The conclusion is documented in the project file.
No - The grant manager denies the request. The sponsor can choose to submit an allowable use request (Step 2).

Step 2: Sponsor submits allowable use request

The sponsor submits an allowable use request to the grant manager, including but not limited to the following:

- Complete description of the proposed use, including location (such as maps or other visual aids)
- Reasons for the use
- Discussion of how practical alternatives were considered, including the option of no action
- Discussion of how the purpose of the use will be achieved with the least possible impact to the resources
- Facts to support the argument that the use is consistent with the purposes of the grant program and project agreement
- Signed verification of the analysis regarding alternatives, impacts, benefit, and consistency from a subject matter expert
- Discussion of public support for the use

Once the request is submitted, the process moves to Step 3.

Step 3 – Compliance team review and recommendation

The compliance team, including the grant manager, reviews the sponsor's request to determine whether all of the following criteria are met:

- The facts provided support the use as consistent with the purposes of the project agreement and grant program;
- All practical alternatives to the use, including the option of no action, have been considered and rejected on sound basis; AND
- The use achieves its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the resource;
    - If a use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), it must also provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource so there is no overall impairment

A. Is the use consistent with the project agreement? That is, does the use meet all of the following criteria?
- Does not impair overall goals identified in project agreement
- Does not impair primary purpose identified in project agreement
- Does not impair key elements identified in project agreement

B. Is the use consistent with the grant program? The team evaluates how and to what degree the use affects the protected public resource (habitat, outdoor recreation, salmon habitat).
- The use must not contradict the "purpose" or "introduction" section of the manual.
- Some of the factors the team considers may include (depending on the program) the use's effect on:
    - Indoor, commercial, illegal, or exclusive use of the project
    - Public access
    - Habitat quality or species
    - Operations and maintenance
    - Land features such as vegetation
    - Structures, facilities or infrastructure elements
    - Public support for the project
    - Cumulative impairments or benefits to the resource

C. Which practical alternatives were considered and why were they rejected?

D. Does the use achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource?

E. If the use impairs the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), does it also provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource? This is a balancing test that weighs resource impairments against resource benefits.

The compliance team submits a recommendation form to the director and includes the form in the project file.

Step 4 – Director or board decision

The director has different options depending on what the RCO staff team recommends.

A. If the RCO staff team recommends approval, the director may
   - Approve the request
   - Approve the request subject to conditions, or
   - Submit the request and staff recommendation to the board

B. If the RCO staff team recommends denial or is undecided, the director may
   - Approve the request
   - Approve the request subject to conditions
   - Deny the request
   - Submit the request and staff recommendation to an ad hoc review panel before making a decision or submitting the request and staff recommendation to the board, or
   - Submit the request and staff recommendation directly to the board.
     - The review panel is not a standing panel. The panel shall be comprised of at least five members who are not RCO staff. Members of the panel must not represent the interests of the requesting sponsor and must have experience with projects in the same grant program or category.

RCO informs the applicant or sponsor in writing of the director or board determination. The outcome is documented in the project file.

Washington Native Plant Society

"To promote the appreciation and conservation of Washington's native plants and their habitat through study, education and advocacy."

Washington Native Plant Society – Policy on grazing of domestic livestock on public lands

DATE: Adopted by the Executive Board on October 18, 2008

Purpose

The primary purpose of this policy is to protect native plant species and their ecosystems by supporting appropriate grazing management practices on appropriate sites. WNPS seeks to collaborate with public and private land managers in order to promote grazing practices that are least harmful to native ecosystems and plant populations. The WNPS believes that native habitats that appear to be intact should be managed to support dynamic native plant and wildlife populations into perpetuity.

Policy Statement

- The WNPS recognizes that livestock grazing can be a valid use of public lands. However, grazing, like many other land uses, has potential adverse effects.
- The WNPS recognizes that responses to the effects of domestic livestock grazing are specific to ecological conditions and vegetation types.
- The WNPS would support livestock grazing on public lands in cases where a funded site-specific management plan, based on the best available science, is expected to protect native habitats and native flora.
- The WNPS opposes grazing use where native plant communities will be degraded, with a long-term reduction in natural biodiversity.
- The WNPS does not support the initiation of domestic livestock grazing on previously ungrazed habitats, particularly shrub-steppe and Garry oak habitats.
- The WNPS favors a public policy that will reduce the adverse impact of grazing, particularly in shrub-steppe and Garry oak communities, on public lands in Washington state.

Background

Botanists, plant ecologists and others concerned about native plants are interested in the whole suite of vascular plants, as well as the mosses, lichens, fungi and algae, which complete the biological setting that other organisms inhabit and use. Ecosystems have evolved with complex interrelationships between the plants and animals in them. In the northwest, plants evolved without large populations of ungulates; as a result, native plants in the region are more sensitive to domestic livestock grazing than native habitats where large ungulates were historically present, such as bison in the North American great plains. Livestock grazing has a multitude of effects on native ecosystems, and potential negative effects can severely alter habitats, which are difficult to restore to natural conditions.

Areas with extensive and intensive, poorly managed grazing are widespread on public lands in Washington state. Poor management is often the result of: grazing on lands that are sensitive; where funds are not available to either monitor for or mitigate damage; and/or where grazing is allowed due to improper administrative or political motivation. Poor range management techniques can have negative affects on natural resources such as native plants and plant communities, pollinators, wildlife, and water and soils.

Less than 15% of the shrub steppe community is still biologically intact in Washington. (Noss et al. 1995) Garry oak communities are of limited extent and also highly altered. Current native plant communities in eastern Washington did not evolve with the continual levels of grazing pressure and the presence of noxious and non-native invasive species.

The tradeoff between benefits and costs of grazing on public lands has long been an issue with WNPS members, public land managers and the public at large. Public land managers (both state and federal), charged with increasing revenues from public lands, have often used grazing as another source of income from the lands they manage. WNPS members have been concerned that the short term monetary gain from grazing may not justify the potential long-term negative effects to native plants and habitats or cover the potential increased cost of future management.

The WNPS recognizes the shared goals of ranchers and the WNPS to preserve natural open spaces, which contrast with the economic conditions driving natural open space loss through conversion for housing, agriculture or energy development. In many cases, grazing may be a better land use than others with greater impact, such as development, that can result in permanent loss of wildlands.

Issues and Concerns

Grazing is not compatible with biological resources on all sites. Some sites are less resilient to disturbance or may harbor sensitive species.

Grazing can increase the distribution of invasive plant populations. Grazing may also contribute to the risk of wildfire through plant community changes towards a more flammable system.

Use of grazing for weed control may have adverse impacts on residual native plants. In sites with both native and non-native species present, native species are usually preferred forage by livestock.

In many cases, the long-term increased economic costs of weed control, soil loss, water degradation and loss of biological integrity is much higher than the short term economic benefit of grazing.

Monitoring and adaptive management practices are needed for grazed sites, but are frequently not implemented due to limited funding.

Adequate funding should be available when grazing is implemented on public lands. Inadequate funding can prevent implementation of good management practices and of adequate monitoring and review.

The long-term cumulative effect of grazing practices are difficult to evaluate and quantify, such

as reduction in natural biodiversity or the loss of native flora, because of the numerous disturbance factors present in the Columbia Basin over the past 100 years. However, current and historic grazing practices contribute to ecological impacts.

On state and federal lands, inadequate required environmental review (NEPA/SEPA project analysis), out of date policies, lack of management plans and inadequate reviews, feedback and follow through of those plans, may not provide adequate protection of threatened, rare or endangered plant species and other natural resources.

The regulatory mechanism to reduce the amount of grazing on an allotment, or to close vacant and unused allotments, is not in place or applied.

Recommendations

The WNPS:

- Recommends development of formal decision-making criteria for, and the application of, appropriate grazing practices based on ecological conditions, such as the specific ecosystem and site grazing history.
- Recommends that previously ungrazed lands determined to be in excellent condition, are not grazed in the future. This is particularly important for shrub-steppe and garry oak habitats because of their limited extent.
- Recommends that sensitive ecological areas (such as riparian areas, wetlands, or rare plant habitats) are protected using appropriate practices (such as exclosures, managed intensity, duration and timing, or movement of animals).
- Recommends that grazing practices allow for flowering and sexual reproduction to provide for long-term viability of native plants.
- Recognizes that management decisions must be made to accommodate political or economic realities (such as human communities or land acquisition opportunities). With this in mind, the WNPS recommends the development of decision-making criteria for a grazing regime that accommodates political necessities, while affording the highest possibly protection to native plants and their habitats.
- Recommends that use of grazing for weed control should be applied carefully and monitored to preserve native plants and habitats. Use of grazing to control weeds may be most appropriate in permanently altered, non-native communities. Plant communities that have experienced significant alteration, such as invasion by exotic plants, should be managed where possible, to return them to a more natural state.
- Recommends to the extent possible, restoration to a more natural state, or rehabilitation to a more productive state, of significantly altered plant communities. Adequate monitoring followed by adaptive management may prevent the need for restoration or rehabilitation.
- Recommends a system of consistent monitoring and review that allows the grazing regime to be altered when necessary.
- Recommends that agencies build a system that provides adequate funding for all appropriate grazing management and monitoring practices. Hidden costs that can be barriers to appropriate management, and which should be included in funding plans, include mandated environmental compliance (NEPA/SEPA), monitoring, fencing, and weed control.
- Recommends that the costs and benefits of grazing should include both the return from grazing and the long-term costs of weed control, soil loss, water degradation, developing water sources, and loss of biological integrity. Short-term monetary return of grazing should not be the only consideration.

- Recommends that the availability of water for both grazing and ecological needs, particularly during drought-year scenarios, should be considered.
- Recommends that federal agencies cancel permits and make inactive those active allotments that are unused, with the intent of eventual closure and cancellation.

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WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **8**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Follow-up to State Parks' Request to Allow Shower Facilities in State Parks Cabins

Prepared By: Dominga Soliz, Policy and Planning Specialist
Marguerite Austin, Recreation Grants Section Manager

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo is in response to State Parks' request in March 2012 to allow shower facilities in State Parks cabins. State Parks is asking the board to allow showers in cabins that are proposed for funding in the current grant round.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☒ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2012-04

Purpose of Resolution: Waive the current cabin eligibility policy for the Rasar State Park project and allow State Parks to purchase and install showers in cabins at that park with non-board funds.

Background

Current Policy

In June 2011, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) approved the following policy regarding the eligibility of cabins and other overnight recreational facilities:

> "Stand-alone overnight recreational facility structures (such as cabins, yurts and bunkhouses) of simple, basic design are eligible for reimbursement in some grant programs and categories if they are used for the purpose of supporting outdoor recreation and are available to the general public in an equitable manner. A

> simple, basic design can include a toilet, sinks, and general utilities described in Section 2, Eligible Support Elements.
>
> Overnight recreational facility structures exceeding 500 square feet or intended for uses other than recreational rental unit uses (for example, leasing, housing, office/meeting room uses) are not eligible for reimbursement. Overnight recreational facility structures that exceed a simple, basic design (for example, more than 500 square feet) will not be reimbursed.
>
> Appliances, furniture, furnishings and other non-fixtures are not eligible for reimbursement"

The board made cabins eligible for funding in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program and in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Parks, Local Parks, and State Lands Development and Renovation categories.

This policy means that projects to develop cabins exceeding a "simple, basic design" (e.g., those with showers) are not eligible for reimbursement. While the RCO has no general prohibition against prorating costs, the cabins policy was designed to avoid prorating costs for structures or amenities that exceed a simple, basic design.[1]

State Parks Requests in 2012

In March 2012, State Parks asked the board to allow them to include showers in cabins developed with WWRP funds. Like it did in June 2011, the board expressed concerns about using capital budget funds dedicated for outdoor recreation to purchase and install indoor amenities such as kitchenettes and showers.

The board also expressed concerns about including utilities or other amenities that could be viewed as encouraging park visitors to stay indoors. These concerns raise broad policy issues about the fundamental intent of the outdoor recreation grants. The board thought it would be worthwhile to have an in-depth discussion about the intent of the outdoor recreation grants while also considering what might be needed to help State Parks implement its transformation strategy. To that end, the board deferred its decision and asked staff to work with State Parks to bring back a package of policy items, including cabins with showers, that considers State Parks transformation efforts.

Since then, staff has worked with State Parks staff to develop a plan for assessing how board grant program policies align with the State Parks transformation strategy. The goal is to identify transformation strategy items that are inconsistent with current board policy and propose options to the board. The scope of the work connected with the broader transformation strategy could not be completed before the June 2012 meeting, but staff plans to bring a package of options for board consideration before the 2014 grant round.

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[1]For example, a sponsor could not propose a 700 square foot cabin, and ask to prorate the cost of the additional 200 feet.

Request Regarding Rasar State Park

In May 2012, to meet the grant application deadline, State Parks submitted a grant request to develop two 400-square foot cabins with showers at Rasar State Park (RCO #12-1341D). They believe that showers will help expand the user base of the park (e.g., to elderly recreationists and families with young children), lengthen the recreation season for overnight visitors, and provide more opportunities for the park to generate revenue.

Under the current policy, the cabins are not eligible for reimbursement because they exceed a simple, basic design. State Parks is asking the board to waive its policy so that they may be reimbursed for developing the cabins, if this project is ranked high and funded by the legislature.

Board Decision Requested

For the cabins at Rasar State Park to remain eligible to receive funds in the current grant round, one of two things must occur: either State Parks must redesign the cabins to remove the showers before July 2012, or the board must waive the current policy.

Staff is asking the board to consider the following options to address State Parks' request:

Option 1: No policy waiver – cabins with showers remain ineligible.

Under this option, the board would not take action and cabins with showers would remain ineligible to receive grant funds because they exceed a simple, basic design. State Parks would need to redesign the cabins in their grant application to remove the showers, or remove the grant from consideration.

Option 2: Waive the eligibility policy and use grant funds to purchase and install the showers

Under this option, the board would waive the policy so that State Parks could keep the cabins with showers in the current grant application. If the project were funded, State Parks would be allowed to use board funding to purchase and install the showers.

Option 3: Waive the eligibility policy and allow the showers to be purchased and installed with non-board funds

Under this option, the board would waive the policy so that State Parks could keep the cabins in the current grant application. If the project were funded, however, State Parks would need to use other funds to purchase and install the showers and staff would need to prorate the costs.

Analysis

Cabins already are eligible for project funding. The board has not yet determined how adding showers would affect the essential purposes of the grants.

State Parks is asking for the waiver only related to this park and project. Approving this request could allow State Parks to generate needed revenue, and inform future board discussions about the transformation strategy and the fundamental intent of the outdoor recreation grants.

Waiving the policy will require staff to prorate the costs of the showers. Prorating is generally avoided for development projects in part because it requires a greater level detail that can make the bid process more complex for sponsors. In addition, prorating adds additional grant management and administrative work at a time when both RCO and State Parks are looking for ways to streamline processes. However, prorating the costs and keeping the showers ineligible for reimbursement is consistent with the approved cabins policy.

Another consideration is whether this decision sets a precedent for future staff and board decisions. Providing a waiver for this project may not reflect the board's intent for similar requests in the future. However, allowing cabins with showers at this time could provide a pilot so that staff can better understand the costs of added amenities and test the feasibility of amending the cabin eligibility policy.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this request supports the board's strategies to (1) evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation and conservation needs and (2) provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve Option 3 for Rasar State Park by waiving the eligibility policy for this project, and, if the project is funded, letting State Parks purchase and install the showers with non-board funds. Staff would prorate the costs of adding the showers. We believe that, for this project, the advantages of prorating the costs (e.g., information for future, consistency with existing policy) outweigh the disadvantages.

Staff's recommendation to waive the policy is limited to the Rasar project. Staff may propose changes to the policy as part of the State Parks transformation policy assessment package.

Next Steps

The project proposal for Rasar State Park will be submitted according to the board's decision. Staff will work with State Parks staff to develop a State Parks transformation strategy policy alignment package in time for the 2014 grant round.

Attachments

Resolution 2012-04

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2012-04
Providing Policy Waiver so that Cabins with Shower Facilities at Rasar State Park are Eligible in 2012 WWRP State Parks Grant Round and Related Costs are Prorated

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) adopted a policy in 2011 making certain cabins and other overnight recreational facilities eligible in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) State Parks category; and

WHEREAS, the board policy required that cabins and other overnight recreational facilities would not be eligible if they exceeded a "simple, basic design" as defined in policy; and

WHEREAS, State Parks has requested a waiver of the cabin eligibility policy so that they may submit a grant application that includes cabins that have shower facilities at Rasar State Park; and

WHEREAS, the Rasar State Park cabins meeting the definition of "simple, basic design" in all ways except the inclusion of shower facilities; and

WHEREAS, State Parks believes that shower amenities showers will help expand the user base of the park, lengthen the recreation season for overnight visitors, and provide more opportunities for the park to generate revenue; and

WHEREAS, providing the policy waiver could inform future policy discussions about the State Parks transformation strategy and the fundamental intent of the outdoor recreation grants and could provide a pilot so that staff can better understand the costs of added amenities and test the feasibility of prorating costs; and

WHEREAS, providing the policy waiver allows the project to proceed through the evaluation process and does not guarantee funding for the project; and

WHEREAS, providing a waiver supports the board's strategies to (1) evaluate and develop strategic investment policies and plans so that projects selected for funding meet the state's recreation and conservation needs and (2) provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board waives the cabin eligibility policy for project #12-1341 to allow State Parks to propose cabins that include the shower amenities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the project is funded, State Parks must purchase and install the shower facilities with non-board funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Recreation and Conservation Office staff will prorate costs as appropriate with regard to the shower facilities.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **9**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Briefing on Compliance Issue at Woodland Park in Lacey

Prepared By: Sarah Thirtyacre, Grant Manager

Approved by the Director: Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo provides an overview to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) about a compliance issue that will be presented for decision at the October 2012 meeting. Staff will ask for board comments and questions in June so that we can prepare for the October decision.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

Conversion Policy and Board's Role

Use of grant funds creates a condition under which funded property and structures become part of the public domain in perpetuity. However, because needs and values inevitably change over time, federal and state laws allow conversions of grant funded property under carefully scrutinized conditions.

Board policy states that interests in real property, structures, and facilities that were acquired, developed, enhanced, or restored with board funds must not be changed (either in part or in whole) or converted to uses other than those for which the funds were originally approved without the approval of the board.[1]

[1] Policy is consistent with state law. See especially RCW 79A.15.030 (8) and RCW 79A.25.100.

If a board-funded project is changed or converted, the project sponsor must replace the changed or converted interests in real property, structures, or facilities. The replacement must have at least equal value and have reasonably equivalent recreation utility and location.

The role of the board is primarily to evaluate the list of practical alternatives that were considered for replacement or remediation, including avoidance, and to consider if the replacement property has reasonably equivalent location and utility. Under current policy the board does not have the ability to levy additional penalties or dictate the future use of the property being converted.

Background

The project in question is RCO #92-070, Pacific Avenue Community Park in Lacey. The city acquired the park site with funding assistance from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks category.

Project Name:	Pacific Avenue Community Park	**Project #:**	92-070A
Grant Program:	WWRP Local Parks	**Board funded date:**	1992
RCO Amount:	$ 473,503	**Original Purpose:** Acquisition of 70 acres to be used as a community park. Proposed future development will include interpretive and walking trails, informal open space, outdoor theater, and group picnic area.	
Total Amount:	$ 947,005		

In 1993, the City of Lacey (City) purchased 70 acres for future development of a community park with a mix of active and passive outdoor recreation elements. The city used grant funds and local appropriations. Today, the park is known as Woodland Creek Community Park. Upon completion of the acquisition, a Deed of Right for Recreation Purposes was recorded on a total of 67 acres, with a 3-acre exception for a future community center.

In 2000, after constructing the first phase of the community center, the city notified RCO of its plans to use a total of 2.5 acres for the community center. The remaining .5 acre would accommodate a senior center and associated parking.

Woodland Creek Community Park is now fully developed offering large open play areas, a playground, walking trails, a community center, senior center, and other support amenities (Attachment A). Long's Pond is located in the park. It is more than 10 acres and has a year-round open fishing season for children 14 and under. The Department of Fish and Wildlife plants it with rainbow trout. Since 2007 volunteers have been planting native trees and shrubs along the banks of Woodland Creek, which runs through the park, to establish a riparian corridor and improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

The park serves the City of Lacey and the northern portion of Thurston County. Located off a major arterial, not directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods, most users access the park by driving, biking, or using public transit.

The Conversion

In 2011, the City contacted the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) about an upcoming senior center expansion at the park. City staff had discovered that the existing Community Center and Senior Center, which is located within the park boundary, had expanded beyond the 3-acre exception originally identified in the Deed of Right. The City also noted that the existing caretaker's residence is now being used as a rental property. Using dedicated park property for these purposes does not comply with the terms of the project agreement and is considered a conversion of use.

In May 2012, the City formally requested approval to convert 2.41 acres of the Woodland Creek Community Park to rectify the existing compliance issues and to address the planned senior center expansion. City maps refer to this area as "Parcel B", but for clarity, it is referred to as the "conversion property" throughout this memo. The senior center, associated parking, and former caretaker's residence are all located entirely in the conversion property (Attachment B). The residence will be demolished to expand the parking lot for the senior center. The conversion property also includes a portion of the existing asphalt shoreline trail and a horseshoe pit. The horseshoe pit will be relocated closer to the senior center and the trail will remain in place and will be available for public use.

The property to be converted is less than 3.5 percent of the original 67 acres protected with a Deed of Right. Approximately 25 percent is wetland buffer and the remainder is upland.

Details of Proposed Replacement

The city proposes to replace the conversion property with 27.5 acres (the "replacement property"). This is a portion of the 170-acre Fox Creek Greenway property that the city purchased after requesting a waiver of retroactivity. Under board policy[2], the waiver allows the property to remain eligible to be used as replacement property for this conversion even though the city purchased it in March of 2011.

Location

The replacement property is located along the Woodland Creek corridor on Pleasant Glade Road. It is less than one mile from Sleater-Kinney Road and is adjacent to the planned 407-acre Greg J. Cuoio Community Park in Lacey (Attachment C).

Property Characteristics

The replacement property has 4.5 acres of uplands, four small wetlands (less than 2 acres), and is home to Fox Pond, a 15-acre pond that was once an important salmon spawning site. It offers

[2] Manual 3, Section 2

better fishing and wildlife habitat than that offered at Long's Pond. The property has 975 feet of frontage on Woodland Creek, which flows 4.6 miles from the north end of Long Lake into Henderson Inlet. The proposed replacement property is a critical property in the Woodland Creek Corridor, which the city has been actively working to protect since 1972.

Analysis

When reviewing conversion requests, the RCO considers the following factors, in addition to the scope of the original grant and the proposed substitution of land or facilities[3].

- All practical alternatives to the conversion have been evaluated and rejected on a sound basis.
- The fair market value of the converted property has been established and the proposed replacement property is of at least equal fair market value.
- Justification exists to show that the replacement property has at least reasonably equivalent utility and location.
- The public has opportunities for participation in the process.

Evaluation of Practical Alternatives

At the time of the original acquisition, the City identified Woodland Creek Community Park as the future home of the city's community and senior centers. However, it now appears that the three-acre exception from the Deed of Right did not adequately account for the future expansion.

The city has considered alternatives.

- No action. The city determined that avoidance is not a viable alternative since the senior center, constructed in 2002, is at capacity.
- Move the senior center to another location. The city determined that it is not practical to "move" the existing senior center and parking to another site.
- Expand the center at the existing location. The current senior center is already located within the park. Expansion at the existing location is less disruptive, cost efficient, and meets important needs identified by the Lacey City Council.

Replacement Property Considered

Three sites were assessed as potential replacement property based on these criteria:

- Potential for community park development with active and passive recreational uses.

[3] Manual #7: *Funded Projects: Policies and the Project Agreement*

- Waterfront, either freshwater lake or pond preferred, and wetland. Woodland Creek Corridor desired.
- Wildlife viewing and/or habitat.
- Natural features and quality, including native trees.
- Trail opportunities.
- Willing seller and affordable price.

Options considered:

Site	Name	Acres	Notes
1	Rancho Serino	67	The city acquired this site on March 3, 2011 for a future community park. A WWRP grant application was submitted in May 2010, with the intent to use about two acres as replacement property for this conversion. The site meets all of the city's criteria, including frontage on Woodland Creek, however, there is no pond or lake and the site is considered less desirable since much of the property is open pasture (hayfield).
2	Miller Property	27.5	This site meets all of the criteria and includes frontage on Woodland Creek and Fox Creek. Beavers, damming up Fox Creek, have created a large pond that is approximately 15 acres. The site has a natural, passive quality, with existing casual trails (former logging roads) used by people and wildlife. With the exception of the open water pond and wetland, the site is wooded.
3	Hicks Lake		Rejected because the City and landowner could not resolve the large difference between appraised value and the asking price.

After reviewing the options, the city selected a portion of site 2 (Miller Property) as the replacement property. The City chose this site because it met all of the selection criteria and meets the eligibility criteria for WWRP Local Parks.

Evaluation of Fair Market Value

Appraisals of the properties were conducted with a market value date of April 2012 for the conversion property and January 2011 for the replacement property. Both appraisals were completed within the timeframes set by board policy and do not exceed the shelf life of an appraisal for an acquisition.

	Conversion Property	Replacement Property	Difference
Market Value	$145,000	$145,392	+$392
Value Date	April 2012	January 2011	
Acreage	2.41 acres	27.5 acres	+25.09

As shown in the chart above, the appraisals found that the fair market value of the proposed replacement property is nearly equal to the value of the conversion property. There is a 92 percent increase in the number of acres that will be protected for public outdoor recreation.

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Location

Woodland Creek Community Park serves the City of Lacey and the northern portion of Thurston County. It is located off a major arterial and is not directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods, so most users access the park by driving, biking, or using public transit.

The 27.5 acre replacement property is located within the City of Lacey, northwest of the existing Woodland Creek Community Park. It is in an area that currently has no developed community parks or county parks. The property is located along the Woodland Creek Corridor, and Pleasant Glade Road Northeast. It is less than one mile off Sleater-Kinney Road, which is a major arterial street.

The two parcels are located about 2.5 creek miles apart. The replacement property provides an opportunity to residents north of I-5 who now have limited opportunities. Sleater-Kinney Road provides convenient access to residents who live south of I-5 (Attachment D).

Evaluation of Reasonably Equivalent Utility

The replacement property consists of undeveloped land; it is primarily wooded with an open wetland area and pond. Old "logging roads" and casual trails meander through the property. The City has not yet completed a master plan for the property, but envisions the property will be developed with passive recreation uses, including trails, fishing access, wildlife observation, and habitat enhancements. The City identified this property because it offers many of the same recreational opportunities (fish, walking, wildlife observation), passive character and quality, and natural features the converted property.

The replacement property has potential for an extensive developed trail network, due to the size of the surrounding community park and length of creek corridors. The on-site pond, Fox Pond, is about 15 acres and offers significant fish and wildlife habitat value.

Evaluation of Public Participation

The public has not yet had an opportunity to offer input, although the conversion has been discussed in open public meetings. If the board accepts the proposed replacement property, the City of Lacey will publish a notice in the newspaper of record and on the city website. The subsequent information will be provided to RCO staff. This public outreach work will be completed before the board is asked for a decision in October 2012.

Other Basic Requirements Met

Same Project Sponsor

The replacement property meets the requirement that it be administered by the same project sponsor or successor. The City of Lacey is the original project sponsor and will also be the owner and manager of the replacement property.

Satisfy Needs in Adopted Plan

The replacement property satisfies a need identified in city's adopted plan currently on file at RCO. Specifically the action plan states that the city will acquire property along the Woodland Creek Corridor and evaluate its potential for improving water quality and providing trails and public access.

Eligible in the Funding Program

The replacement property meets the eligibility requirements of the WWRP Local Parks category.

Next Steps

RCO staff with work with the city to complete the conversion requirements and will bring the final conversion package forward for Board decision in October 2012.

Attachments

Map/master plan of Woodland Creek Community Park

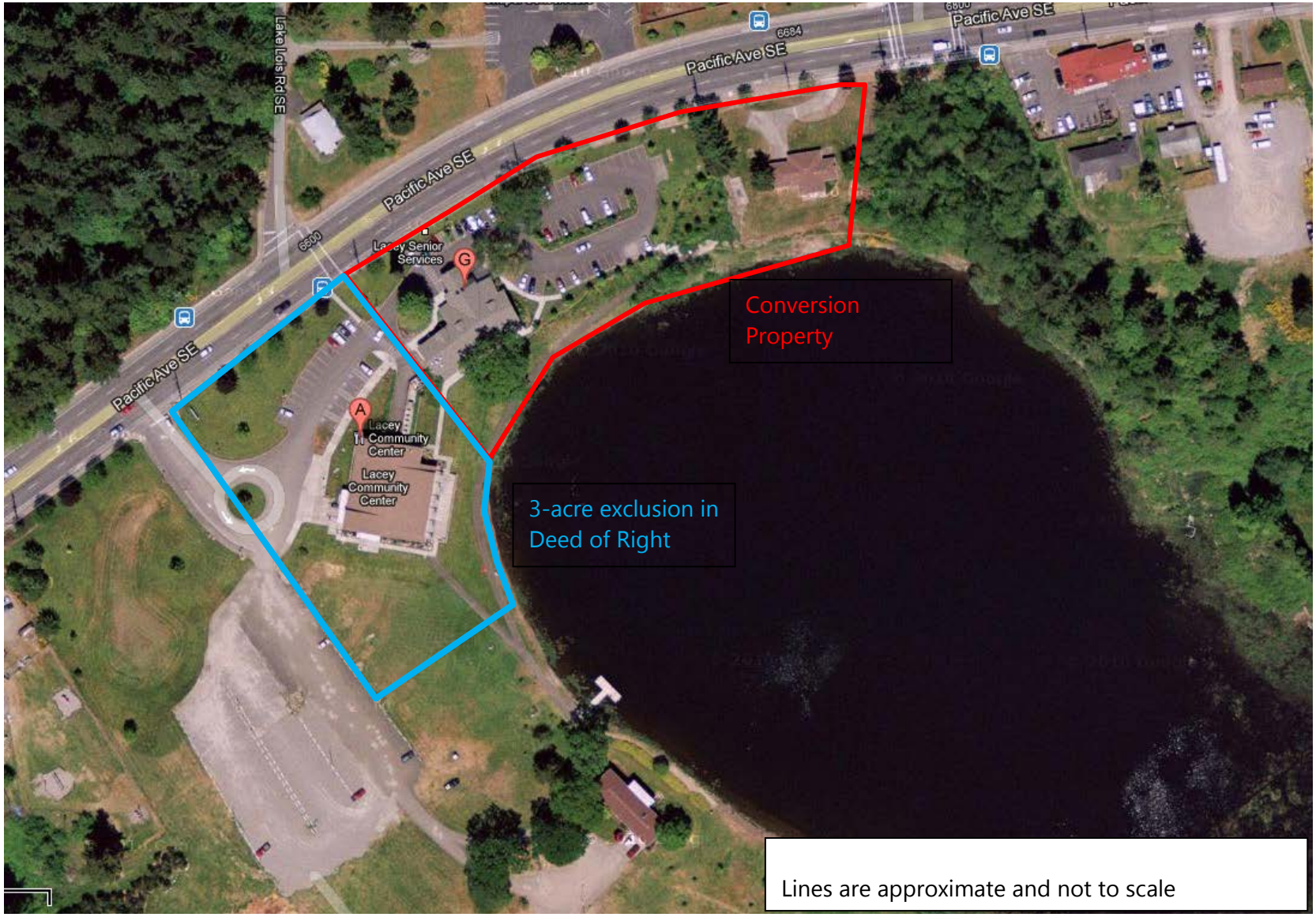
Map of conversion property

Map of replacement property

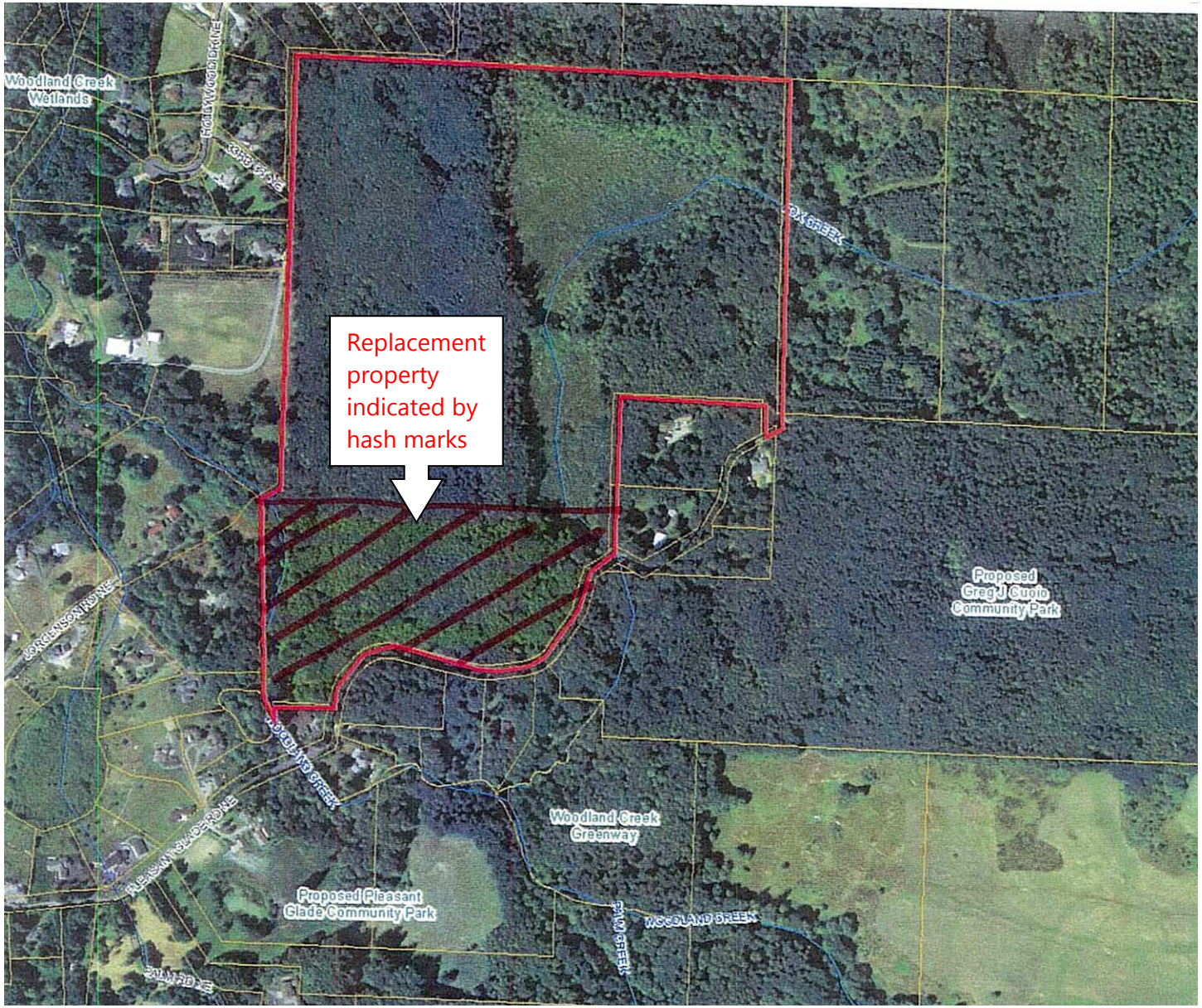
Map showing locations of converted and replacement property

Attachment A: Map/master plan of Woodland Creek Community Park

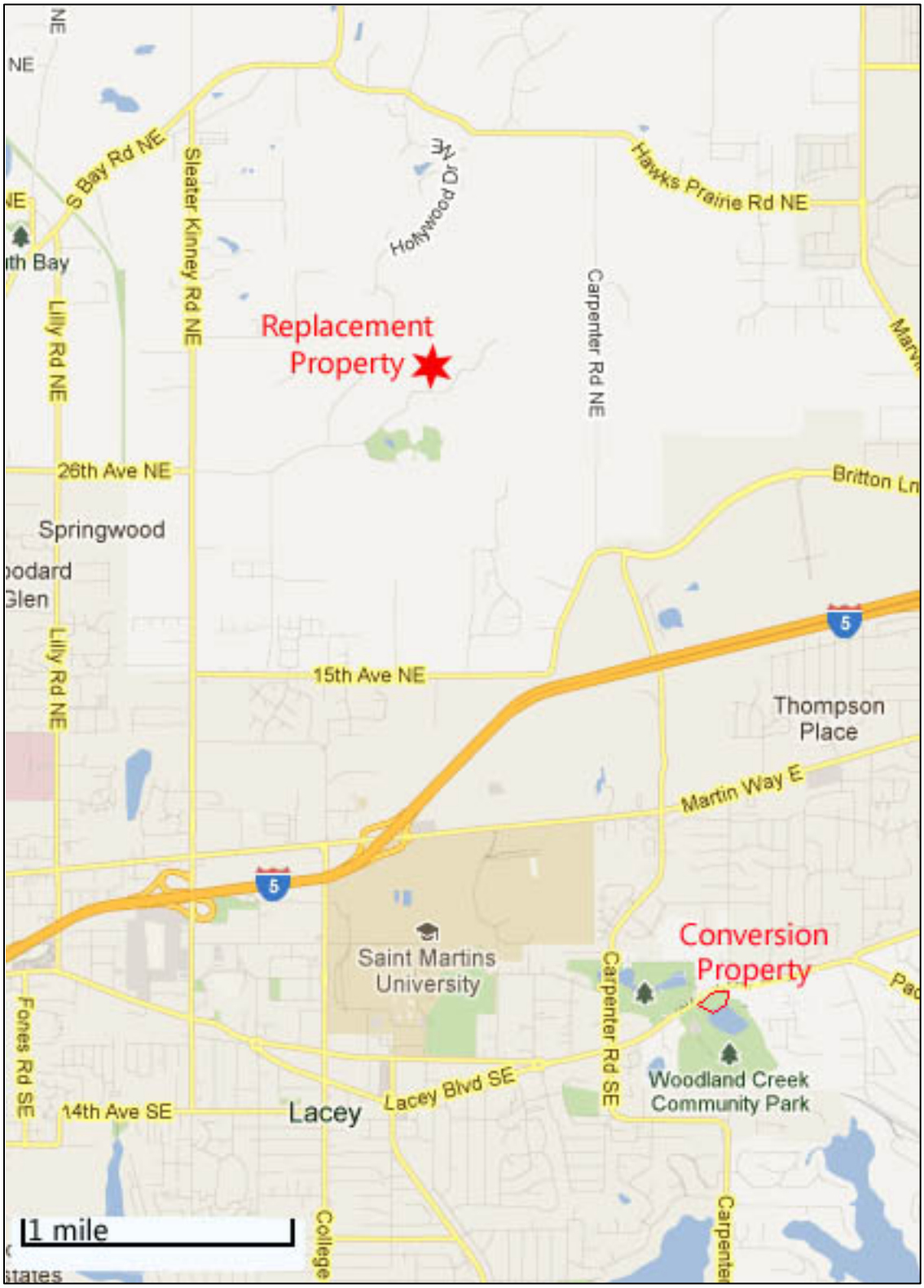
Attachment B: Map of Conversion Property



Attachment C: Map of Replacement Property



Attachment D: Map Showing Locations of Conversion and Replacement Property



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

Item **10**

Meeting Date: June 2012

Title: Preview of Board Tour

Prepared By: Sarah Thirtyacre, Grant Manager

Approved by the Director: For Kaleen Cottingham

Summary

This memo describes the projects that the board will tour on June 28, 2012. Additional details and driving directions will be provided at the meeting.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- ☐ Request for Decision
- ☐ Request for Direction
- ☒ Briefing

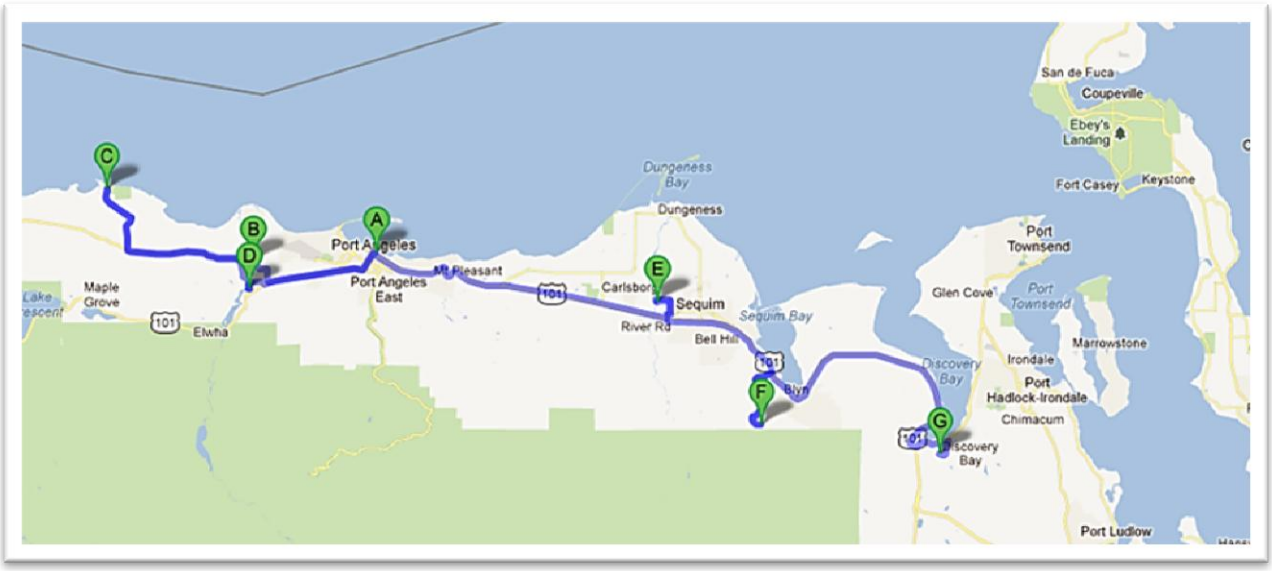
Tour Overview

Departure Time	Travel Time	Arrival Time	Site	Time on Site
9:00 a.m.	15 min +	9:30 a.m.	Elwha River Bridge *	30 min
10:00 a.m.	20 min	10:20 a.m.	Salt Creek Recreation Area	30 min
10:50 a.m.	20 min	11:10 a.m.	Elwha Dam Removal Project	30 min
11:40 a.m.	30 min	12:10 p.m.	Railroad Bridge Park and Trail * Railroad Bridge Trestle Expansion*	60 min Lunch on site
1:10 p.m.	30 min	1:40 p.m.	JimmyComeLately *	30 min
2:10 p.m.	20 min	2:30 p.m.	Discovery Bay*	30 min
3:00 p.m.			End tour	

Driving directions will be provided at the meeting.

Projects marked with an asterisk are part of the Olympic Discovery Trail, or may become a part of the trail in the future. A summary of the trail is included at the end of this memo.

Approximate Locations



Project Information

B. Elwha River Pedestrian Bridge/Olympic Discovery Trail Link

Number	06-1718D		
Sponsor	Clallam County	**Grant Funding**	$999,500
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$1,079,800
Program	WWRP - Trails	**Total Cost**	$2,079,300

Description Clallam County used this grant to build a nearly 800-foot-long pedestrian bridge over the Elwha River and turn nearly 2.3 miles of former railroad bed into a regional trail. The bridge links 30 miles of existing trail east of the Elwha River with 20 miles of new trail west of the river.

This project is part of the Olympic Discovery Trail.

C. Salt Creek County Park Site Renovation

Number	03-1048D		
Sponsor	Clallam County Parks	**Grant Funding**	$251,578
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$251,579
Program	Land and Water Conservation Fund	**Total Cost**	$503,157

Description Salt Creek County Park is one of the busiest waterfront parks on the North Olympic Peninsula. Clallam County used this grant to renovate several elements at the park including signs, roads, camp sites, and three restrooms. The County built a gravel trail connecting the beach and bunker, and completely renovated the children's play area.

D. Elwha River Dam Removal and Revegetation Support Project

Completed in 1913, the 108-foot high Elwha Dam was situated about 4 miles from the mouth of the Elwha River. The dam was constructed to provide electricity to Port Angeles, but was built without fish ladders, making it a complete barrier to salmon migration.

Dam removal began on the Elwha River in mid-September 2011. Originally anticipated to be a two to three year process, removal proceeded quickly and by late spring 2012, the Elwha Dam was completely gone.

Neither the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) nor the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board provided grant funds for the dam removal. However, the SRFB funded the following project to support replanting efforts.

Elwha River Dam Revegetation Support Project

Number	11-1257R		
Sponsor	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$450,785
Status	Active	**Match**	$148,750
Program	Salmon State Projects Puget Sound Acquisition & Restoration	**Total Cost**	$599,535
Description	Removal of the dams will expose nearly 800 acres of land devoid of vegetation. The Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe will use this grant to fund crews to control exotic weeds, plant more than 14,000 plants on the dewatered Aldwell reservoir surface, and mobilize large logs for erosion control and safe planting sites attwo reservoirs. Crews also will provide logistical support for overall replanting efforts.		

E. Railroad Bridge Park (4 projects)

The park includes a 3,000' paved trail, historic wooden trestle bridge, and interpretive facilities. The trail is the centerpiece of the Olympic Discovery Trail that links Port Townsend and Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula.

Railroad Bridge Park Expansion

Number	96-1174A		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$60,233
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$60,233
Program	WWRP - Local Parks	**Total Cost**	$120,467
Description	The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe purchased two properties that expanded the park from 16 to over 26 acres. This acquisition allows public access for both passive (scenic viewing, picnicking, bird watching) and active (hiking,) recreational activities.		

Dungeness River Trestle

Number	97-1243D		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$17,792
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$17,918
Program	RTP - General	**Total Cost**	$35,710

Description This project repaired and resealed the wooden trestle bridge crossing the Dungeness River. The project also repaired the asphalt trail surface leading to the bridge. Nature trails and horse trails were brushed, cleared and smoothed where necessary, and vegetation was planted to stabilize banks against storm erosion.

Olympic Discovery Trail Railroad Bridge Trailhead Parking

Number	02-1366C		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$97,128
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$97,423
Program	WWRP - Trails	**Total Cost**	$194,551

Description This project provided key parking and access to the Olympic Discovery Trail at Railroad Bridge Park. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe acquired a two-acre parcel and developed 64 parking spaces on the east side of the park and 10 parking spaces on the west side. Other improvements included safety lighting, fencing, and entrance and directional signs.

Railroad Bridge Trestle Extension

Number	10-1364D		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$52,000
Status	Active	**Match**	$52,000
Program	WWRP - Trails	**Total Cost**	$104,000

Description The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to extend an historic bridge and trestle 100 feet so that it fully spans the Dungeness River's migration area. The trail extension will prevent impairment to the west side channel of the river, which provides rearing habitat for four salmon species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act.

F. Jimmycomelately Creek & Estuary Restoration (4 projects)

Jimmycomelately Estuary

Number	99-1773C		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$349,877
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$350,000
Program	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	**Total Cost**	$699,877

Description The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe acquired and restored a critical estuarine habitat in the Jimmycomelately Estuary. The area is listed for summer chum under the Endangered Species Act. It reestablished a functional, self-sustaining estuary and riparian corridor for 19.8 miles of creek and associated tidelands. The site is coupled with a biking/walking trail that is part of the Olympic Discovery Trail (see Jimmycomelately Nearshore Trail below), and offers great wildlife viewing.

Jimmycomelately Creek Acquisition

Number	01-1456C		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$59,965
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$59,965
Program	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	**Total Cost**	$119,930

Description This project involved purchase of a conservation easement for 3.3 acres of riparian corridor and buffer to accommodate restoration of Jimmycomelately Creek to its historical channel and link it to its estuary. This property is a critical missing link in the overall restoration of the south Sequim Bay/Jimmycomelately Creek estuary.

Jimmycomelately Nearshore Restoration

Number	03-1183C		
Sponsor	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	**Grant Funding**	$458,138
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$466,034
Program	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	**Total Cost**	$924,172

Description This project combines acquisition and restoration of three acres of riparian habitat for restoring the ecological processes of a portion of the nearshore of the Jimmycomelately estuary at the south end of Sequim Bay.

Jimmycomelately Nearshore Trail

Number	03-1188D		
Sponsor	Clallam County of	**Grant Funding**	$326,000
Status	Closed Completed	**Match**	$326,000
Program	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account	**Total Cost**	$652,000

Description Clallam County developed about one mile of interpretive trail that included construction of three pedestrian bridges, along an existing, historic, elevated railroad grade. The trail is a segment of the Olympic Discovery Trail, a larger trail project extending the width of the Olympic Peninsula.

G. Discovery Bay

Information will be provided on site about this location and its relationship to the Olympic Discovery Trail.

Overview of the Olympic Discovery Trail

The route of the Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) traverses about 130 miles of lowlands, bordered on the south by the Olympic Mountain Range and on the north by the Strait of Juan de Fuca. It starts in the Victorian seaport of Port Townsend and spans approximately 130 miles east to west, ending on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. The trail is a wide, paved pathway designed to multi user standards for bicyclists, hikers, and disabled users, with a 4-foot shoulder for equestrians where appropriate.

Construction started in the 1990s. Completed sections will total 53 miles by 2012, with right of way agreements in place for over 65 miles.

The board has awarded more than $4.1 million in Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grants and nearly $100,000 in Recreational Trails Program grants for this trail. State, local, and tribal governments used grant funds to acquire property and build segments of the trail. This included renovation of trestle bridges, development of connector trails and trailhead facilities.