

## Capital Project Request

2017-19 Biennium

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Version: BD 17-19 Capital Budget

Report Number: CBS002

Date Run: 9/8/2016 11:33AM

Project Number: 30000409

Project Title: Washington Wildlife Recreation Grants

**Description**

Starting Fiscal Year: 2018

Project Class: Grant

Agency Priority: 1

**Project Summary**

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland and forest preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities. The WWRP was envisioned as a way for the state to accomplish two goals: acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they were lost to other uses and develop recreation areas for a growing population. The purpose of the WWRP program is to provide public access to these lands before they are converted to other uses and to develop or renovate existing public recreational lands and facilities to meet the needs of present and future generations. This program provides for healthier Washingtonians and contributes to the state's \$20.5 billion outdoor recreation economy. Funding is divided into twelve categories: local parks, state parks, water access, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, urban wildlife habitat, farmland protection, forestland protection, riparian protection, state lands development and renovation, and state lands restoration and enhancement. This program is funded by state general-obligation bonds (RCW 79A.15). Projects in several categories (riparian protection, urban wildlife habitat, critical habitat, state land restoration, and natural areas) support Puget Sound recovery priorities and efforts. RCO's mission is to work with others to protect and improve the best of Washington's natural and recreational resources, enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations. This request is in direct alignment with the agency's mission. In addition, the request helps Washington meet recreation needs identified in the state's 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, supports the strategic direction of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board, supports the recommendations of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and is in alignment with the Puget Sound Action Agenda.

**Project Description**

The WWRP provides grants to eligible applicants for acquisition, restoration and/or development of state lands, local and state parks, water access sites, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, urban wildlife habitat, riparian areas, farmland, and forests. It is the state's premier conservation and outdoor recreation grant program, which provides matching funds to create new local and state parks, protect wildlife habitat and preserve working farms and forests. Projects funded by this grant program contribute significantly to the economic opportunities and a healthier population in Washington state.

The request will fund the acquisition, development, renovation, and restoration of local and state parks, trails, water access sites, natural areas, farmlands and forests around the state. Most projects will begin on July 1, 2017 and be completed within 2 to 4 years.

Program funds are passed through RCO to local governments, other state agencies, nonprofit nature conservancy organizations and tribes. Ranked project lists are submitted to OFM that support this request. Eligible Grant Recipients include:

- \* Local governments: cities, towns, counties and special districts (ports, parks and schools);
- \* State agencies: WDFW, State Parks, DNR, and DES;
- \* Tribal governments;
- \* Lead entities (eligible for riparian protection grants); and
- \* Non-profit nature conservancy organizations (eligible for programs in the Habitat Conservation Account and Farm and Forest Account)

Local and tribal governments, non-profits, and lead entity grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Since the program's beginning, WWRP funding has been used to bring in more than \$500 million in matching funds. Except for state agencies and tribal governments, at least 10% of the total project cost must be provided in the form of a non-state, non-federal contribution. State agencies use these state funds to leverage federal funds.

The request supports IT related activities only to the extent that RCO uses a portion of its administrative funds to support its IT infrastructure and PRISM project database. All larger IT enhancements follow the OCIO review process.

Revenue Source: General obligation bonds.

**Location**

City: Statewide

County: Statewide

Legislative District: 098

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**Description**

**Project Type**

Grants

**Grant Recipient Organization:** See project description for full list of eligible recipients

**RCW that establishes grant:** RCW 79A.15

**Application process used**

Advisory committees comprised of experts in parks and recreation, wildlife and conservation biology, restoration ecology, natural resource management, forestry, and farming review and evaluate grant applications in the twelve WWRP categories mentioned above. Applications are evaluated biennially in a competitive process by the advisory committees with expertise specific to those categories. Criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) are used in the evaluation process. Final prioritized lists are approved by the board. RCO submits prioritized lists of projects to the Governor and legislature for final approval. Funds are allocated to each category by formulas established in statute 79A.15.

**Growth Management impacts**

GMA is considered for this program through the adopted criteria used for project evaluation.

**Funding**

Acct Code	Account Title	Estimated Total	Expenditures		2017-19 Fiscal Period	
			Prior Biennium	Current Biennium	Reapprops	New Approps
070-1	Outdoor Recreation-State	270,000,000				54,000,000
09C-1	Farm and Forest Acct-State	60,000,000				12,000,000
244-1	Habitat Conservation-State	270,000,000				54,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>600,000,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>

**Future Fiscal Periods**

Acct Code	Account Title	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27
070-1	Outdoor Recreation-State	54,000,000	54,000,000	54,000,000	54,000,000
09C-1	Farm and Forest Acct-State	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000
244-1	Habitat Conservation-State	54,000,000	54,000,000	54,000,000	54,000,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>	<b>120,000,000</b>

**Operating Impacts**

**No Operating Impact**

**Narrative**

This is a pass-through grant program.