

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Recruitment



INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Recreation and Conservation Office

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To Apply:

www.governor.wa.gov/board/application/default.asp

Good Board Members:

- Attend all meetings and are well prepared.
- Recognize that serving the public interest is the top priority.
- Recognize that the board must operate in an open and public manner.
- Know about the legislative process and issues affecting the board.
- Examine all available evidence before making a decision.
- Communicate well and participate in group discussions.
- Are aware that authority to act is granted to the board as a whole, not to individual members.
- Recognize that compromise may be necessary to reach consensus.

Overview

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board began in 1964 when citizens voted for Initiative 215, which created the board and gave it authority to spend gas taxes from boaters to develop boating facilities.

In the succeeding 47 years, the board has been given nine additional grant programs that offer grants to build parks, trails, ball fields, and boating facilities; to conserve and restore wildlife habitat; and to protect farmland.

Funding for the grants comes from federal funds, state gas taxes, fees, and the state's sale of general obligation bonds.

Role of the Board

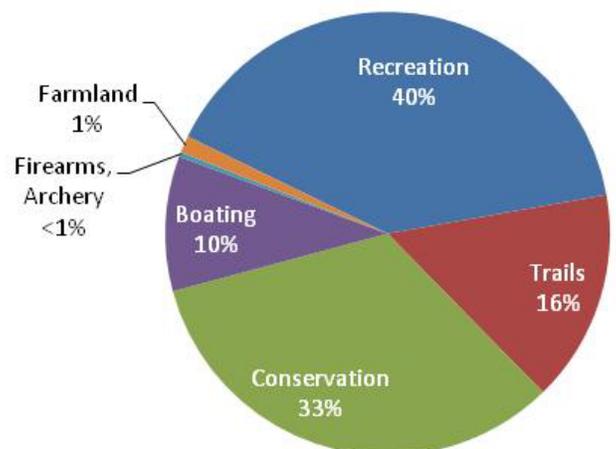
The board sets policies for grant programs and ensures that the grants are awarded to the best projects in a manner that is fair, accountable, and open to the public.

Applications generally are submitted every other year and reviewed by evaluation committees, which are made up of staff and citizen experts. The committees score projects based on criteria established by the board and submit ranked lists to the board for funding consideration.

The board awards grants in some programs and in others, submits prioritized lists of projects to the Governor and Legislature or the federal government for approval.

The board does not own or operate outdoor recreation or resource facilities. The board is not a hearings board. Land use decisions, such as a project's location, environmental impact, zoning, or other effects on a community, are outside the board's authority.

It performs and accomplishes its work through staff in the Recreation and Conservation Office. The on-the-ground work of acquiring or developing property for recreation or conservation is done by grant recipients.



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Making a Difference

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board plays a significant role in keeping Washington a great place to live, work, and play. Consider:

- The board's grants are the largest source of funding for most city and county park departments' capital projects (outside of local levies).
- The board is a significant financial contributor to conserving some of the state's most pristine natural areas for plants and animals at risk of extinction.
- The board offers some of the few state grants for protecting important farmland from being converted for development.

Grants Awarded

- Since 1964, the board has awarded more than \$1 billion for more than 4,700 projects in every county of the state.
- Grant recipients have contributed nearly \$700 million, bringing the total investment to more than \$1.7 billion in Washington's great outdoors.
- This investment is protected long-term through contracts managed by the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Other Responsibilities

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board is more than a grant-making agency. In addition, the board has a number of other responsibilities.

For example, the board has created statewide plans for recreation and boating to enable the state to qualify for federal grants.

The board also hosts a statewide Web site for boaters (www.boat.wa.gov)

The board also frequently completes reports and legislative studies on a range of topics including public ownership of lands, recreation trends, and levels of service for park departments.

Board Makeup

The board includes five citizen volunteers (appointed by the governor) and three state agency heads – the commissioner of public lands, the director of parks and recreation, and the director of fish and wildlife.

Meeting Schedule

The board typically meets four times a year. Current meeting schedule is at www.rco.wa.gov/boards/rcfb_meetings.shtml

Compensation

Board members receive \$50 a day for each meeting and are reimbursed for travel costs.

Strategic Plans and Work Plans

- Board Strategic Plan: www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/rcfb_strategic_plan.pdf
- RCO Strategic Plan: www.rco.wa.gov/documents/strategy/RCO_Strategic_Plan.pdf