

**RCO/RCFB Grant Application Webinar
February 17, 2016
Participant Questions & Answers from RCO**

- Q:** Does that public use have to be advertised?
A: Properties need to have a funding acknowledgment sign. Unsure of other requirements until legislation is finalized.
- Q:** For the Boating Facilities Grant does it mean that the local Gov. would provide 25% and the grant would provide 75%?
A: Yes.
- Q:** Can you apply for a project in more than one WWRP category?
A: Yes, but not the same project. You can apply for different projects in different categories or in the same category.
- Q:** Providing more match always includes "in-kind" correct?
A: Yes.
- Q:** ALEA- who's eligible?
A: Cities, counties, state agencies, park districts, ports and tribes.
- Q:** What is the grant limit for Urban Wildlife acquisition?
A: There is no grant limit in Urban Wildlife.
- Q:** Can up front or start-up costs, and match costs be satisfied with volunteer labor hours?
A: Yes. But you must wait until you have a grant, unless the donations are for eligible pre-agreement costs.
- Q:** When will the updated manuals with revised evaluation criteria be available?
A: By early March for those programs with May 2 application due date. And in June for the November 1 due date.
- Q:** Is there a grant manager assigned for King County?
A: Yes - see there are several, so depends where you are. Go to Grants - Contact a Grants Manger on our website.
- Q:** Public access is required for Farmland Preservation awards?
A: No, that is one exception. Although it is allowed.
- Q:** Would the development of a water trail (a floatable 'trail' down a river) be an eligible project under the WWRP Trails program?
A: No, but it would be eligible in the Water Access category.
- Q:** Can the ALEA Grant be used for Design only for a boat launch renovation on a navigable water?
A: No, but you could apply for a Planning grant in the Boating Facilities Program if it's for motorized boating. A planning grant should result in a construction-ready project.
- Q:** When is legislature expected to decide whether non-profits are eligible to apply for WWRP? If allowed, which grant programs within WWRP can non-profits apply for?
A: During this session - hopefully will be done by the end of March.
- Q:** Again - which WWRP programs will be open to non-profits if the legislature approve?
A: All of the Habitat Conservation Account categories.
- Q:** Will there be any penalties for having too much match?
A: No. In fact, in some grant programs and categories you can score additional points in the evaluation if you bring more match.
- Q:** What are some of the planning activities that can take place before an agreement is signed? SEPA, construction plans, surveying, etc.
A: Preconstruction work like site specific planning, design, engineering and permitting activities.
- Q:** Will the changes being proposed by the legislature be effective for this grant round?
A: We don't know yet - will depend upon what is in the final/adopted legislation. At this point they are considering making some of it effective now, and some for the next application round in 2018.
- Q:** Will there be another webinar when the manuals etc. for the 11-1-2016 deadline grant programs are available?
A: No. This is the only webinar for 2016. We included all grant programs in this webinar.
- Q:** Under the discussion of Combination Projects, it was required that the property be secured in a number of ways. Is this also required for Acquisition only?

- A:** Yes, but you don't have the same time limits as in a Combination project. In a combination project you have to either buy the property under a waiver of retroactivity, or secure the property within the first 90 days of the grant effective date.
- Q:** Clarify: Must the public have unrestricted access to nesting areas or access to shorelines associated with nesting areas?
- A:** Our board allows public use to be limited in some instances to protect species and sensitive habitats. These restrictions need to be approved by RCO/RCFB
- Q:** Do we submit Park plan through PRISM or send hard copy in?
- A:** Check the website for information about planning eligibility. Submit plans (burned on a CD along with some additional documentation and a certification) to Lorinda Anderson, RCO, PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917 or call 360-902-3009.
- Q:** I don't recall hearing about the No Child Left Inside grant. Is that an opportunity for the '17-'19 cycle?
- A:** The No Child Left Inside application process for 2016 has concluded already. Applications were due February 16.
- Q:** Looking to restore a failed boat launch and bring adjacent restrooms up to ADA compliance. Is this something that fits for the scope of a specific grant?
- A:** Maybe. Contact your Grants Manager to discuss project specifics. If motorized, look at the Boating Facilities Program. If non-motorized, look at the ALEA or Water Access category in WWRP.
- Q:** Can ALEA be used to manage a drainage - weed control?
- A:** Not sure what your project would be. ALEA projects are to benefit public use of aquatic lands located on navigable water bodies.
- Q:** Will there be another webinar when the manuals etc. for the 11-1-2016 deadline grant programs are available?
- A:** No, those programs are included in this webinar.
- Q:** Would Disc Golf courses be considered for the Youth Athletic Facilities grant?
- A:** In YAF an athletic facility is an outdoor facility used for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics. So if you can demonstrate that your disc golf course fits that definition, yes.
- Q:** Is public access required in RCO funded Natural Area acquisitions?
- A:** Yes. RCFB policy already requires public access to funded sites. Sponsors can request limited closures or restrictions to protect species and sensitive habitats.
- Q:** When will changes being proposed by legislature this session be effective?
- A:** The current draft of the bill has staggered implementation with some aspects effective for current grant cycle, and others coming later.
- Q:** What is the maximum grant eligibility for YAF Grants?
- A:** The minimum grant request is \$25,000. The maximum grant request is \$250,000.
- Q:** In the WWRP LP category is it advantageous to submit an application identifying specific park amenities to be funded vs multiple park amenities as complete park?
- A:** Both ways are eligible. Please discuss with your grants manager on how to scope your proposal.
- Q:** Can you say any more about the new forestland category?
- A:** We expect it to be similar in nature to the Farmland Program, but the legislature is still considering the bill so we don't know yet exactly.
- Q:** What's the new possible forestland category in WWRP?
- A:** We expect it to be similar in nature to the Farmland Program, but the legislature is still considering the bill so we don't know yet exactly.
- Q:** What is the next grant application cycle after the one this year? Does it match the State biennial budget cycle or some other cycle?
- A:** 2018 for the full grant cycle. There will be limited opportunities in 2017 (BIG and possibly a new WWRP category pending legislative outcome).
- Q:** OK- anticipated 2016 Leg changes won't include non-profits using ALEA?
- A:** Correct.
- Q:** Can we use costs prior RCO agreement for our match dollars?
- A:** Not sure exactly what you mean. If you mean costs incurred prior to receiving a grant, then they could be eligible if they area for eligible pre-agreement costs (see grant manuals). If you mean costs from a previously funded grant, no - that is not eligible to use again on a future grant. Also, matching RCO funds need to be from the same biennium. Discuss with

your grants manager.

- Q:** I see that the planning requirements are lengthy. Is a Lead Entity work plan, which entails review by a technical advisory group including citizens, eligible? Or does it have to be adopted by the organization applying? This might be a question for Lorinda.
- A:** Need to contact Lorinda Anderson, 360-902-3009
- Q:** For the YAF, it was mentioned that eligibility cannot include school districts. What about non-profit schools?
- A:** Yes, but only if it is a "qualified non-profit organization" (see Manual 17 for definition) and they submit a legal opinion to confirm eligibility.
- Q:** Does the public need physical access to all sensitive habitat areas?
- A:** Sponsors can request limited closures or restrictions to protect species and sensitive habitats.
- Q:** For WWRP grant - do private lands that are leased by DFW count?
- A:** If you are referring to control and tenure requirements, yes so long as the lease meets the minimum requirements for the grant program.
- Q:** Could you explain the Fiscal Data Collection requirement again. What is the Omni Circular?
- A:** The fiscal data collection form is required for applicants to BIG and RTP. It includes information we need to know about your organizations indirect rate. The Omni Circular is the federal requirements for federal grant awards.
- Q:** Does Public Access have to be on entire project or land?
- A:** Yes, RCFB policy already requires public access to funded sites. But sponsors can request limited closures or restrictions to protect species and sensitive habitats.
- Q:** Can you clarify which grant programs a federal agency, such as the Forest Service, can apply to?
- A:** NOVA and RTP.
- Q:** In slide 69, it said "Appraised value is a consideration." If there is no appraisal, is this a concern? Does it lead to lower ranking?
- A:** If funded, or if acquiring under a waiver of retroactivity, you will need an appraisal and review prior to acquisition. But you do not need an appraisal to submit an application.
- Q:** Which grant categories allow an administrative cost percentage?
- A:** If you mean an indirect rate, then it is Boating Infrastructure and Recreational Trails Program grant programs. Only direct costs are allowable in other programs. If you mean administrative costs directly related to a project, Acquisition projects allow up to 5% admin and Development projects up to 20% for A&E.
- Q:** Are there grant opportunities for projects on leased lands?
- A:** Yes so long as the lease meets the minimum control and tenure requirements for the grant program. Please refer to the grant program and policy manuals, and confirm your project with your Grants Manager.
- Q:** When using land as a match, are certain documents required to prove value?
- A:** Land value for property being acquired with a grant must be established by an appraisal and review appraisal. Also note that the land must be acquired in the scope of work of the grant; land already owned by your organization is not eligible in most instances.
- Q:** "available to public" can that mean undeveloped open space that they can wander onto or does it mean developments like parking, trails, special signage, etc.?
- A:** Currently, our board already requires public access of all grant-assisted lands. Signing is always required but current policy does not require that developed facilities must be provided. However, providing facilities such as parking and trails could be a good tool to manage and control the public's access. The pending changes from the Legislature have not been finalized so we do not have further guidance on this yet.