



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Recreation and Conservation Office

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Who May Apply?

- Local governments
- Nonprofit nature conservancies
- Salmon recovery lead entities
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Tribes

Funding Source

Funding comes from the sale of general obligation bonds and is allocated to each category based on formulas set by law.

Leveraging State Dollars

Grant recipients, except state agencies, must provide at least 25 percent or 50 percent in matching resources, depending on the category. Match may be reduced in some categories for projects in under-served communities, federal disaster areas, and communities in need.

Providing Recreation and Conserving Washington's Rich Natural Heritage

The Legislature created the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program in 1990 as a way to accomplish the following two goals:

- Acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they are lost to development.
- Develop recreation areas for a growing population.

These goals remain important today because Washington's population has grown by 58 percent since 1990 and is expected to grow another 15 percent to nearly 9 million people by 2040.¹

Today the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is the state's largest grant program for local parks and many other types of outdoor recreation. Grants fund local and state parks, trails, and water access areas. In addition, grants fund conservation of rare and unique wildlife habitat as well as working farms and forests.

The investment reaps rewards. Outdoor recreation in Washington generates about \$26.5 billion in expenditures and supports 264,000 jobs, rivaling the aerospace industry.² In Washington, 1 in 17 jobs is tied to outdoor recreation spending.

A Proud Legacy

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is unique in the nation for its variety of funding categories and competitive evaluation process. In addition, grant recipients only may buy land sold willingly by landowners. All land acquired or developed with these grants must remain in recreation or conservation status forever, protecting the State's investment and ensuring Washington's rich natural heritage remains intact.

Ensuring Only the Best Projects are Funded

The grant process is open and competitive. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications in even-numbered years. Committees, made of up people experienced in recreation and conservation issues, score projects based and submit ranked lists to the board for consideration. The board then submits prioritized lists of projects to the Governor and Legislature for approval and funding.

Categories of Grants

RECREATION

- Local parks
- State lands development and renovation
- State parks
- Trails
- Water access

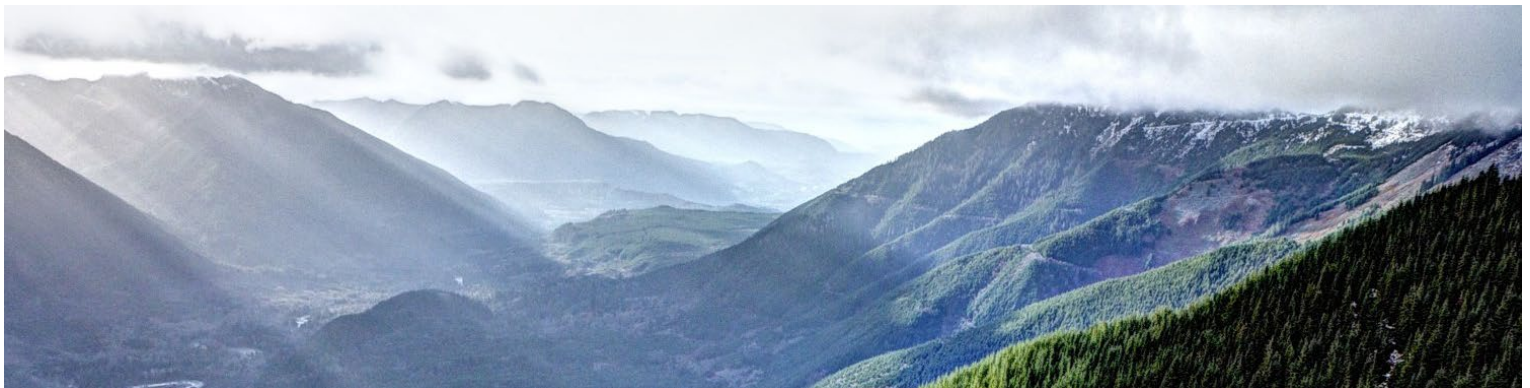
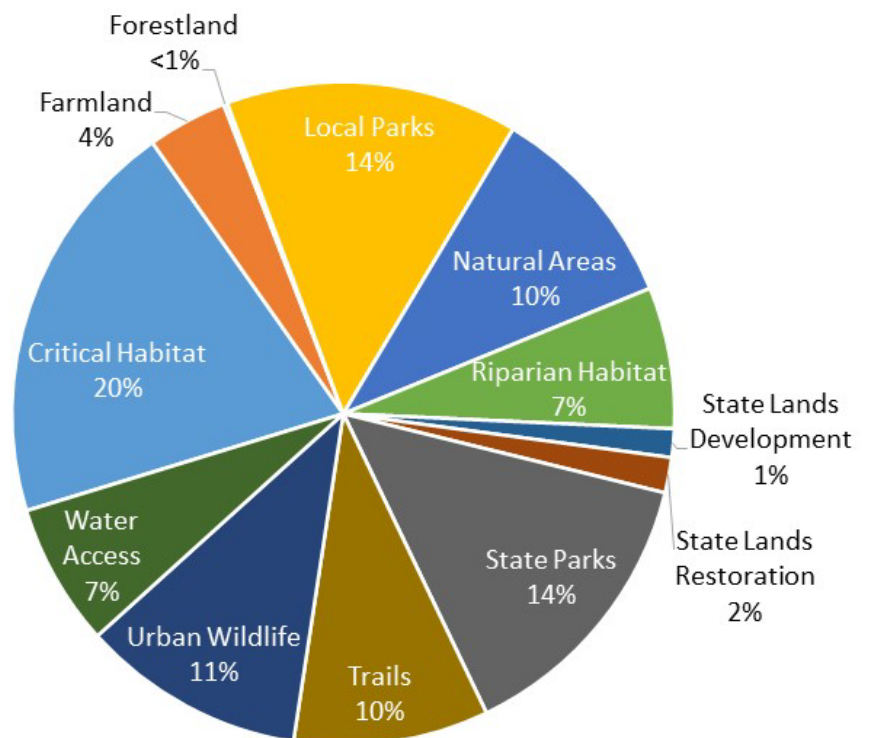
CONSERVATION

- Critical habitat
- Natural areas
- Riparian protection
- Urban wildlife habitat
- State lands restoration and enhancement

WORKING LANDS

- Farmland preservation
- Forestland preservation

Grants Fund a Variety of Outdoor Programs
% of \$937 Million



¹[Forecast of the State Population](#), Washington State Office of Financial Management Forecasting & Research Division, Olympia, WA, November 2020, p. 3, accessed on February 19, 2021; Population for 1990 from [Intercensal Estimates of April 1 Population and Housing, 1990-2000](#), Washington State Office of Financial Management Forecasting & Research Division, Olympia WA, accessed on June 24, 2020.

²Mojica, J., Fletcher, A., 2020. *Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State*, 2020 Update. Earth Economics. Tacoma, WA., p. 3