

# Applicant's To-Do List

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## Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

This to-do list is designed to help an applicant prepare and submit a grant application for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account.

*Grants may be used to acquire, restore, or improve aquatic lands for public purposes.  
Grants may be used to provide for, or improve, public access to those lands and associated waters.*

An applicant must submit the required information through [PRISM Online](#), the online project data system used by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). These steps will guide an applicant through RCO's application process.

NOTE: for all documents, forms, and manuals referenced here, go to the [grant web page](#) and [grant manuals web page](#).

### Step 1: Establish Eligibility

**Eligible Applicants:** Divisions of local or state government, as well as Native American tribes, if legally authorized to acquire and develop public open space, habitat, or recreation lands.

A first-time applicant must submit a legal opinion to establish eligibility.

ALL projects must be associated with navigable waters of the state as defined by Washington Administrative Code 332-30-106, Revised Code of Washington 79.105, and Article 17 of the State Constitution. See manual 21 for more information.

### Step 2: Review Materials

- Review the appropriate Recreation and Conservation Funding Board manuals for this grant category:
  - *Manual 21: Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account*
  - *Manual 3: Acquisition Projects*
  - *Manual 4: Development Projects*
  - *Manual 5: Restoration Projects*

An applicant required to plan under the Growth Management Act<sup>1</sup> should consult his/her/their organization's planning department or contact the [Washington State Department of Commerce's Growth Management Services](#) to determine compliance status with the Growth Management Act. RCO uses information reported by the Department of Commerce in scoring. An applicant in compliance receives a zero score on the question; an applicant out of compliance receives a minus one score. If an applicant's organization is out of compliance, this advance inquiry may give the applicant time to change the status before the technical completion deadline.

### Step 3: Submit Application—May 1, 2024

## SecureAccess Washington Account

Before beginning an application, an applicant must sign up for a [SecureAccess Washington](#) account and submit a [PRISM New User Account Form](#). When using either of these databases for the first time, an applicant must complete a double sign-in.

## PRISM Online Application

PRISM will open in February. To start an application, go to [PRISM Online](#) and select + *New Application*. Follow the prompts to fill out the application. On-screen instructions, tool tips, and links are available throughout the *Application Wizard*.

## PRISM Attachments

There is an *Attachments* screen for each PRISM Online application. An applicant must attach the documents below before submitting an application. Include the applicant name, project name, and RCO grant number on each attachment. Maps must include a north arrow, scale, and labels for any major highways, roads, cities, water bodies, etc. If the project includes any combination of acquisition, development, or restoration, attach the documents required for all relevant project types.

- ❑ **Authorizing Resolution/Application Authorization** (due by the technical completion deadline) shows the application is supported by the elected council or commission, board, or executives of the applicant's organization. An applicant must adopt RCO's text verbatim even if using a different format.
  - *Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda Certification*. An applicant for a project in the Puget Sound area, which is defined as the geographic areas within Water Resource Inventory Areas 1 through 19, inclusive, also must include in the adopted resolution or application authorization a statement certifying that the project is not in conflict with the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda. There

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<sup>1</sup>Revised Code of Washington 36.70A

is certification language in the resolution/authorization template on RCO's website.

- ❑ **Control and Tenure Documentation** (development, planning, and restoration projects only). For properties the applicant already owns or has control over, include property ownership information, such as a deed, and all applicable leases, easements, and use agreements. See *Manual 4: Development Projects* for additional details about control and tenure.
- ❑ **Landowner Acknowledgement Form** (acquisition projects only). An applicant must demonstrate that the landowner is aware of the applicant's interest in purchasing the property. There are several options to meet this requirement (see "Section 3: Application Requirements" in *Manual 3: Acquisition Projects*).
- ❑ **Map: Boundary Map–Proposed** (development and restoration projects only) shows the extent of the site covered by the grant agreement. The map is used by RCO and the sponsor to ensure compliance with provisions in the grant agreement. Factors to consider when establishing boundary maps include project scope, a complete recreation or public access experience, site management unit or area, and past RCO grant assistance at the site. See *Manual 4: Development Projects* or *Manual 5: Restoration Projects* for additional details and boundary map requirements.
- ❑ **Map: Parcel Map** (acquisition projects only) shows the parcels to be acquired in the scope of work as well as adjacent land ownership. Show the parcels in relation to local roads, landmarks, etc. Include the county parcel numbers on the map.
- ❑ **Photo**. Every application requires at least one general project photograph in .jpg format. A current ground shot or aerial view of the project site is appropriate.
- ❑ **Site Plan: Conceptual Site Plan** (acquisition and planning projects only) provides a visual diagram of the intended future use and development of the property.
- ❑ **Site Plan: Development Site Plan** (development projects only) shows the proposed improvements at the project site. This plan should show site boundaries, major site features, and proposed project elements. Existing and future elements should be distinguished from those in the current project. Master, schematic design, design development, and construction document level plans are suitable for a development site plan.
- ❑ **Site Plan: Restoration Site Plan** (restoration projects only) shows the restoration activities to take place on the project site. Existing and future restored areas should be distinguished from those in the proposed project scope.

Note that letters and other documented expressions of project support or concern submitted with the application will be made available for advisory committee review. **These should be**

**combined into one PDF and attached to the project in PRISM–use the attachment type *Project Support/Concern Documents*.**

Also note that except for a few protected items, such as cultural resources data or confidential appraisal documents, as soon as the application is started in PRISM, it and most attachments will be available for review by RCO staff, evaluators, and the public.

#### **Step 4: Present Project for Technical Review–May 29-30, 2024**

An applicant may present the project virtually to the advisory committee. Participation in this technical review is not required but is highly recommended. It serves as a practice session for the upcoming evaluation and provides valuable feedback. The focus of the review is on eligibility and the technical aspects (scope, design, cost, feasibility, etc.) of the project.

- Prepare a PowerPoint presentation responding to the evaluation criteria in *manual 21*. Handouts and other materials will not be permitted. See *Tips for Developing a PowerPoint Presentation for Grant Applicants* for more information. RCO will schedule a time for the presentation to the evaluation team.
- Attach the PowerPoint presentation to PRISM Online at least three business days before the scheduled review meeting.
- Present the project to the advisory committee. Technical review sessions are thirty minutes. An applicant will have up to twenty minutes to make a presentation. The remaining ten minutes are reserved for questions by the advisory committee.

Committee members provide feedback and make suggestions about changes needed to improve the project and presentation.

RCO staff also will review the application for eligibility, completeness, and clarity, and will return the application with questions or suggested changes.

#### **Step 5: Resubmit Application by Technical Completion Deadline–July 18, 2024**

- Address issues raised during technical review and make modifications, if needed.
- Attach an **Authorizing Resolution/Application Authorization** to show the application is supported by the elected council or commission, board, or executives of the applicant’s organization. An applicant must adopt RCO’s text verbatim even if using a different format.
- Complete all revisions and resubmit the application in PRISM Online by the technical completion deadline or the application will be deemed ineligible.

## Step 6: Present Project for Evaluation–August 27-28, 2024

Participation in the project evaluation meeting is mandatory for all projects being considered for funding. All presentations are given virtually.

- Prepare (or update from technical review) a PowerPoint presentation responding to the evaluation criteria found in manual 21. Respond to the criteria in order. Note: Handouts or other materials will not be permitted. RCO will schedule time for an applicant to make a presentation to the evaluation team.
- Attach the PowerPoint presentation and presentation notes to the application in PRISM Online at least three business days before the scheduled evaluation.
- Present the project to the evaluation team. Evaluation sessions for this category are thirty minutes. An applicant will have up to twenty minutes to present the project. The remaining ten minutes are reserved for questions and deliberation by the advisory committee.

Evaluators may ask clarifying questions and will score the project using the board-adopted evaluation criteria.

RCO staff tabulate the results and share the preliminary ranked list with the advisory committee to validate the results, establish the committee's funding recommendation, and discuss any proposed process or policy changes. RCO then announces the results of the evaluation and posts the preliminary ranked list on its website.

RCO staff present the preliminary ranked list to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for final approval and inclusion with the board's recommendation to the Governor and the Legislature.

## Step 7: Submit Pre-Agreement Materials–May 1, 2025

- Attach a **Certification of Applicant Match** to show what amounts and sources of match are in hand for the project.
- Attach **Control and Tenure Documentation** for property to be developed if not already completed in the application. Include property ownership information, such as a deed, and all applicable leases, easements, and use agreements. For details, see *Manual 4: Development Projects* or *Manual 5: Restoration Projects*.
- If a **combination project**, the property must be secured at least one month before the board considers approving funding (see manual 3).
- Provide any other requested pre-agreement materials as required by RCO.

## Step 8: Sign Grant Agreement—After July 1, 2025

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approves grants after the Legislature adopts a budget. RCO works with the applicant to execute a grant agreement before work begins.

- Applicant reviews other RCO policy manuals:
  - *Manual 7: Long-Term Obligations*
  - *Manual 8: Reimbursements*
- Applicant reviews the Successful Applicant Workshop materials, then completes the project.

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