

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Habitat Conservation Account

Climate Change Policy Statement

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board recently adopted changes to the Washington Wildlife Habitat Conservation Account.

Below are the details of the adopted climate change statement, which will be added to the WWRP Manual 10b under the heading, *Environmental Requirements*. The Board also revised the non-scored climate change PRISM application question.



Climate Change Statement

Climate change is expected to profoundly affect Washington's natural and recreation resources in myriad ways. In our region, this will likely include changes to precipitation patterns and the timing of stream flows, reduced snowpack and water supplies, shifts in species ranges and distribution, changes to the timing of events such as flowering and egg laying, sea level rise, increased insect outbreaks, tree mortality and risk of wildfire, and impacts to human health and quality of life. These impacts are expected to accelerate in coming years, and taken together, will fundamentally alter certain ecological processes, challenge the survival of vulnerable species and ecosystems, and pose increasing risks and hazards to human communities.

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) invests public funds to acquire the most significant lands in Washington for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation purposes before they are converted to other uses, and to develop public recreational facilities that meet the needs of present and future generations of all Washingtonians.

With this purpose, the board acknowledges the risks a changing climate pose to their investments to date and the opportunity for their future investments to increase community resiliency; mitigate greenhouse gasses, the primary driver of climate change; and continue to provide Washington residents with a high quality of life. The board

encourages project sponsors to consider future climatic impacts to the projects they propose for funding through climate-smart planning and design. Sponsors are also encouraged to share lessons learned, best practices, and their approaches to addressing climate change with the board, so together, we can build the collective capacity of the State in addressing this global challenge.

Non-Scored Application Questions

The following question will replace the current non-scored application question for all projects in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Habitat Conservation Account.

- How has your organization used or integrated climate change projections, vulnerability assessments, or adaptation plans into your comprehensive planning, project prioritization, and/or project design? Please cite the information you used.
- How could RCO assist you to better address climate-related impacts to your projects, jurisdiction, service area, or organization?

Questions?

For more information on this policy please contact:

Ben Donatelle, Natural Resource Policy Specialist
Ben.donatelle@rcow.wa.gov