

Proposed Agenda & Meeting Materials

October 2-3, 2019



Travel Meeting

Cle Elum City Hall, 109 Yakima Avenue, Cle-Elum, WA

Time: Opening sessions will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a presentation, followed by board discussion and then public comment. The board makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda item.

Public Comment: To comment at the meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff. Please be sure to note on the card if you are speaking about a particular agenda topic. The chair will call you to the front at the appropriate time. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person. You may also submit written comments to the board by mailing them to RCO, attn: Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, at the address above or to wyatt.lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Meeting Accommodations: Persons with disabilities needing an accommodation to participate in RCO public meetings are invited to contact us via the following options: 1) Leslie Frank by phone (360) 902-0220 or email leslie.frank@rco.wa.gov; or 2) 711 relay service. Accommodation requests should be received by September 13, 2019 to ensure availability.

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Welcome by Cle Elum Mayor Jay McGowan C. Review and Approval of Agenda D. Remarks of the Chair	<i>Chair Willhite</i>
9:20 a.m.	1. <u>Consent Agenda</u> (Decision) <u>Resolution 2019-26</u> A. Board Meeting Minutes: June 27, 2019 B. Time Extensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Seattle, West Seattle Track and Field (15-1379D) Department of Natural Resources, Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline (14-1249A) C. Volunteer Recognitions (5)	<i>Chair Willhite</i>

9:25 a.m.	2. Director's Report <i>(Briefing)</i>	
	A. Director's Report	Kaleen Cottingham
	• 2020 Calendar	
	B. Grant Management Report	Marguerite Austin
	• Funding of Alternate Projects	
	• Land and Water Conservation Fund	
	C. Grant Services Report	Scott Robinson
	• Volunteer Recruitment Video	
	D. Performance Report <i>(Written)</i>	
	E. Fiscal Report <i>(Written)</i>	

9:40 a.m. **General Public Comment** for issues not identified as agenda items. Please limit comments to 3 minutes.

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

9:45 a.m.	3. Hiking, Biking and Walking Study	Wendy Brown
10:05 a.m.	4. Simplifying the Sustainability Evaluation Criterion	Ben Donatelle
10:35 a.m.	BREAK	
10:50 a.m.	5. Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance	Adam Cole
12:00 p.m.	LUNCH	

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

1:00 p.m.	6. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category – Policy and Criteria Changes	Ben Donatelle
	Resolution 2019-27	
	Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.	
1:30 p.m.	7. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category – Criteria Changes	Ben Donatelle
	Resolution 2019-28	
	Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.	
2:00 p.m.	8. Climate Change Statement and Applicant Question	Ben Donatelle
	Resolution 2019-29	
	Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.	

2:30 p.m.	9. <u>Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation Category – Approval of Ranked List and Grant Awards for Supplemental Grant Round</u>	Kim Sellers and Marguerite Austin
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[Resolution 2019-30](#)

Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.

3:00 p.m.	10. <u>Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation Category – Approval of Ranked List and Grant Awards for Supplemental Grant Round</u>	Kim Sellers and Marguerite Austin
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[Resolution 2019-31](#)

Public comment will occur prior to adopting the resolution. Please limit comments to three minutes.

3:30 p.m.	Break and Celebration of the Recreation and Conservation Office's Fifty-Five Year Anniversary and Other Recognitions	
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BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

4:00 p.m.	11. <u>Public Land Inventory</u>	Brent Hedden
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4:15 p.m.	12. Reports from Partners (3 minutes max)	
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4:35 p.m.	13. Tour Prologue	Jesse Sims and Kim Sellers
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5:00 p.m.	RECESS	
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[FULL PRINTABLE MATERIALS](#)

Thursday, October 3, 2019

DIRECTOR'S EVALUATION

7:30 a.m.	Call to Order	Chair Willhite
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7:35 a.m.	14. Executive Session: Director's Evaluation (For Board Members Only)	Chair Willhite
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Location: [Best Western Snowcap Lodge, 809 W Davis St., Cle Elum, WA](#)

9:00 a.m.	Adjourn for Tour	
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BOARD PROJECT TOUR

9:10 a.m.	Meet in Lobby to Load Vehicles – Best Western Snowcap Lodge, 809 W Davis St., Cle Elum, WA <i>50 minutes load/travel</i>	<i>Board Members and RCO Staff</i>
10:25 a.m.	LT Murray Wildlife Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heart of the Cascades discussion• What work has already been accomplished?• Long and short term strategies for future acquisitions?• What are some of the benefits when government and non-profit groups work together towards common goals?	<i>Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) The Nature Conservancy (TNC)</i>
11:45 a.m.	LUNCH – Manastash Campground and Trail Head	<i>Board Members and RCO Staff</i>
12:20 p.m.	Shoe String Lake Trailhead Jeep Tour! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cle Elum Ranger District discussion of RCO grants and how they impact the management and public access of the area	<i>United States Forest Service (USFS), Cle Elum Ranger District Local Jeep Representatives</i>
2:00 p.m.	Collaborative Management/Green Dot Road System -LT Murray Wildlife Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Green Dot Road System• Challenges and opportunities within this unique system that traverses multiple jurisdictions	<i>Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)</i>
2:40 p.m.	Depart for Hotel – Best Western Snowcap Lodge, 809 W Davis St., Cle Elum, WA <i>50 minutes load/travel</i>	<i>Board Members</i>
3:30 p.m.	TOUR CONCLUDES	

Next Meeting:

Regular Meeting January 28-29, 2020 – TBD

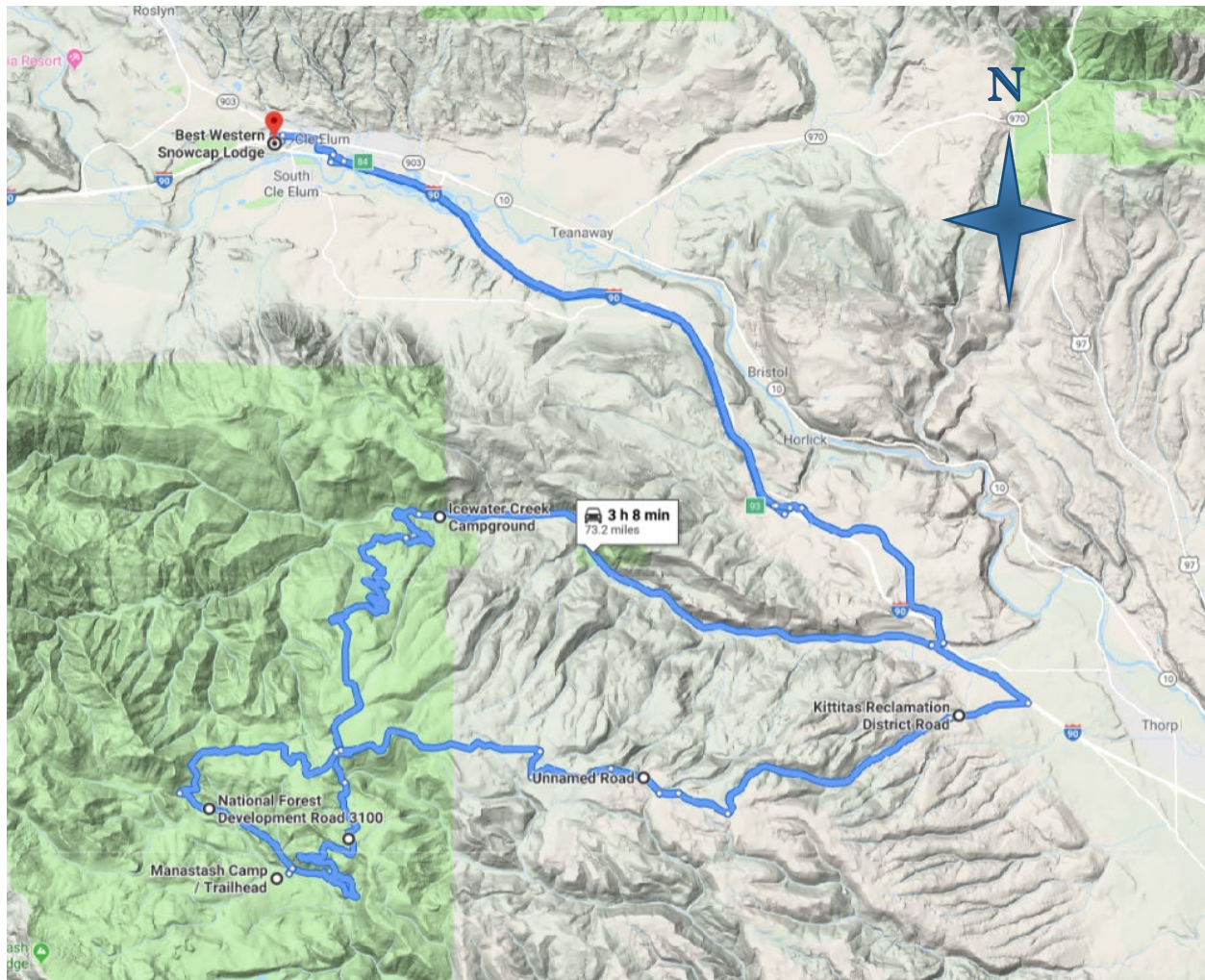
[TOUR ITINERARY](#)

RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Route of the Cle Elum Tour

<https://goo.gl/maps/1tiEojdD1mYoWiW56>



RCO Staff: Jesse Sims and Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Managers

Guest Tour Guides: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest: Cle Elum Ranger District, and The Nature Conservancy

RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Schedule and Itinerary

~ Thursday, October 3, 2019

Time	Event/Activity	Location	Notes
9:10 a.m.	Meet in Lobby to Load Vehicles	Best Western Snowcap Lodge	Board Members and RCO Staff 50 Minutes Load/Travel
10:25 a.m.	Stop 1: Heart of the Cascades Discussion	LT Murray Wildlife Area	Mike Livingston, Ross Huffman, Melissa Babbik – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Darcy Batura – The Nature Conservancy
11:45 a.m.	Stop 2: Brown Bag Lunch	Manastash Campground and Trail Head	Casual lunch stop in a Forest Service campground (picnic tables and outhouses available)
12:20 p.m.	Stop 3: Jeep Tour and Management Discussions	Shoe String Lake Trail Head	Kim Larned, Brian Speeg and Mikki Douglass – Cle Elum Ranger District Local Jeep Representative (Outhouses available)
2:00 p.m.	Stop 4: Collaborative management discussion and Green Dot System	LT Murray Wildlife Area- Hutchins Road	Larry Leach, Joe Smith – Washington State Department of Natural Resources Mike Livingston, Ross Huffman, Melissa Babik – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
2:40 p.m.	Depart for Hotel	Cle Elum	Board Member and RCO Staff
3:30 p.m.	Tour Concludes	Best Western Snowcap Lodge	Safe travels home.

RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 1: Heart of the Cascades-LT Murray Wildlife Area

Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ross Huffman, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Melissa Babik, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Darcy Batura, The Nature Conservancy

PROJECT #	PROJECT NAME	RCO PROGRAM	RCO INVESTMENT	ACRES ACQUIRED
16-1343A	Heart of Cascades-South Fork Manastash	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$1,500,000	1,603
14-1090A	Heart of the Cascades 14	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$4,000,000	1,345
12-1132A	Heart of the Cascades 12	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$1,440,200	3,512
10-1272A	Heart of the Cascades Phase 2, Bald Mountain - Rock Creek	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$2,688,634	7,711
06-1808A	Heart of the Cascades Phase 1, Bald Mountain - Rock Creek	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$1,922,083	2,675
TOTAL			\$11,550,917	16,846

NOTE: WWRP= Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Project Description: The area referred to as the Heart of the Cascades is located roughly 12 miles west of Ellensburg and abuts the LT Murray Wildlife Area to the north and east, the Wenas Wildlife Area to the south and U.S. Forest Service Lands to the west. Over the last decade, RCO grants have helped WDFW acquire almost 17,000 acres in the heart of the cascades region including just over 16,000 acres of uplands, about 800 acres of riparian and wetland habitat. Additionally, WDFW has collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to protect an additional almost 48,000 acres.

The Heart of the Cascades lies within the transitional zone of the east Cascades and is rich in plant and animal species diversity. The project encompasses numerous habitat types that are ecologically important, and connected to surrounding protected public lands. Emerging science suggests that the elevation gradient and landscape integrity of the site will allow species to move upward in altitude and along temperature gradients in response to climate change.



RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 2: Lunch- Manastash Campground and Trailhead

Kim Larned, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Brian Speeg, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Mikki Douglass, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Area Description: The Manastash Campground and Trailhead is a jumping off point for the Manastash trail, which provides access to Lost Lake and Manastash Ridge. This site consists of 14 individual campsites and one large group site. Multiple outhouses are assessable throughout this site. This area is popular for all types of ORV's such as dirt bikes, quads, and 4x4s. The trails from this site access both the Cle Elum and Naches Ranger District's trail networks. RCO funding has helped with the maintenance and operations, education, enforcement, and general stewardship programs that keep this area open and assessable to all.



RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 3: Jeep Tour/Management Discussion- Shoe String Lake Trail Head

Kim Larned, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Brian Speeg, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Mikki Douglass, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Cle Elum Ranger District Projects Funded in June 2019

2018 Projects	RCO Program and Category	RCO Grants	Sponsor Match	Total investment
4	NOVA – Education And Enforcement	\$393,724	\$282,174	\$675,898
1	NOVA – Nonhighway Road	\$150,000	\$150,500	\$300,500
1	NOVA – Nonmotorized	\$150,000	\$103,000	\$253,000
2	NOVA – Off-Road Vehicle	\$379,500	\$44,000	\$423,500
1	Recreational Trails Program – General	\$20,100	\$42,500	\$62,600
9	Total	\$1,093,324	\$622,174	\$1,715,498

NOTE: NOVA = Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities

Cle Elum Ranger District All Time Totals

RCO Program and Category	RCO Grants	Sponsor Match	Total Investment
NOVA – Education and Enforcement	\$2,317,762	\$1,164,878	\$3,482,640
NOVA – Noise Enforcement	\$38,421	\$1,820	\$40,241
NOVA – Nonhighway Road	\$999,795	\$785,600	\$1,785,395
NOVA – Nonmotorized	\$737,650	\$503,803	\$1,241,453
NOVA – Off-Road Vehicle	\$3,947,045	\$745,598	\$4,692,643
Recreational Trails Program – Education	\$313,894	\$528,798	\$842,692
Recreational Trails Program – General	\$1,179,886	\$1,240,206	\$2,420,093
Total	\$9,525,893	\$4,970,704	\$14,505,157

Area Description: The Cle Elum Ranger District consists of 400 miles of nonmotorized trails (much of which lies within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness), 400 miles of trails open to motorized use (300 are single track and 100 double track), 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, and 21 miles of set track ski trails, which offer options for all trail users. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is the western boundary of the district. South of I-90 it passes through dense forests and old clear cuts that offer expansive views and berry patches in the fall. North of I-90 you are treated to one of the most rugged and scenic segments of the trail between Snoqualmie Pass and Deception Pass. Whether you are drawn to jeep trails, secluded valleys or lofty peaks, you won't be disappointed.



RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 4: Collaborative Management/Green Dot System – LT Murray Wildlife Area

Larry Leach, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Joe Smith, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ross Huffman, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Melissa Babik, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Area Description:

The L.T. Murray Wildlife Area is comprised of conifer forest and shrub steppe, both interspersed with riparian corridors. Wildlife use is diverse, including elk, deer, bighorn sheep, forest grouse, turkey, quail, and a myriad of small mammals, Neotropical and upland birds, raptors, and reptiles. Recent conservation efforts are returning federally listed anadromous stocks to the Manastash and Taneum watersheds. Hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife watching are all popular.



The L.T. Murray Wildlife Area is about 15 miles west of Ellensburg in Kittitas County.

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Time Extension Requests**Prepared By:** Recreation and Conservation Grants Managers**Summary**

This is a request for the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to consider the proposed project time extensions shown in Attachment A.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☒ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☐ Briefing

Resolution: 2019-26 (Consent Agenda)**Purpose of Resolution:** Approve the requested time extensions.**Background**

Manual #7, Funded Projects, outlines the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (board) adopted policy for progress on active funded projects. Key elements of this policy are that the sponsor must complete a funded project promptly and meet the project milestones outlined in the project agreement. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director has authority to extend an agreement for up to four years. Extensions beyond four years require board action.

RCO received requests for time extensions for the projects listed in Attachment A. This document summarizes the circumstances for the requested extensions and the expected date of project completion. Board action is required because the project sponsors are requesting an extension to continue the agreement beyond four years.

General considerations for approving time extension requests include:

- Receipt of a written request for the time extension;
- Reimbursements requested and approved;
- Date the board granted funding approval;
- Conditions surrounding the delay;

- Sponsor's reasons or justification for requesting the extension;
- Likelihood of sponsor completing the project within the extended period;
- Original dates for project completion;
- Current status of activities within the grant;
- Sponsor's progress on this and other funded projects;

Plan Link

Consideration of these requests supports the board's goal of helping its partners protect, restore, and develop habitat, working lands, and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the time extension requests for the projects listed in Attachment A.

Attachments

A. Time Extension Requests for Board Approval

Seattle Parks and Recreation Department

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
15-1379 Development	West Seattle Track and Field Renovation	Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	\$25,000 (10%)	11/30/2019	3/31/2021

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

City of Seattle's Parks and Recreation Department has completed the track and field features of this project, including the renovated rubber running surface and updated pole vault and high jump landing pits. These features are open for public use. The remaining elements that have not been completed are the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades, including accessible routes of travel, parking lot renovations, and ADA upgrades to restrooms.

Progress on this project was delayed by two main factors. First, facility use has been a factor in the postponement of the project, as the stadium encounters high use for most of the year and the construction window is limited. Secondly, the larger scope of the ADA work exceeds the original RCO proposal and has therefore increased the City's project funding and planning needs. To date, Seattle has completed 65% design for the ADA plans and submitted these to RCO for review. Seattle expects to complete the ADA design by April 2020 and construction by March 2021.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Project number and type	Project name	Grant program	Grant funds remaining	Current end date	Extension request
14-1249 Acquisition	Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline 2014	WWRP –Natural Areas	\$894,967 (28%)	12/31/2019	6/30/2020

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has acquired 423 acres of riparian and forested uplands totaling just over \$2.35 million. The purpose of this acquisition is to acquire and permanently protect coastal shoreline and high quality under-represented forest vegetation types listed in the Natural Heritage Plan. Acquiring these parcels also will provide access for education and research and possibly low-impact recreation.

DNR is requesting a time extension to allow for acquisition of two properties totaling approximately 83 acres. These properties include forested uplands, riparian and shoreline access. Negotiations are complete on the 61-acre property and the sellers are signing a purchase and sale agreement. Jefferson County recently adopted a new boundary line adjustment process, which has resulted in the need for additional survey work on this property. DNR anticipates closing by March 2020. The appraisal for the 22-acre property was delayed because of the time needed to remove a right of first

refusal from the property and negotiate the terms of a life estate, which will encompass 1.5 acres of the property and includes the use of a cabin.

This 6-month time extension will provide the additional time needed to complete the project and protect these important properties.

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Director's Report**Prepared By:** Kaleen Cottingham, Director**Summary**

This memo outlines key agency activities and happenings.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Agency Updates**RCO Presents at Results Washington**

RCO was chosen to present to the Governor on how to become employers of choice and engage employees as part of the Results Washington review meeting in May. The meeting focused on the importance of creating psychologically safe, human-centered workplaces where employees feel respected, valued, and safe to take interpersonal risks. RCO was represented by Kaleen Cottingham, Marguerite Austin, DeAnn Beck, and Marc Duboiski. RCO shared examples of leader actions that create the conditions for employee engagement and staff shared stories about their experiences at the agency. Watch the Results Review on [TVW](#).

**New Custom Project Agreements and More**

On July 1, RCO launched a game changing new approach to grant agreements. Staff are now able to print project agreements customized by program, project type, organization type, fund source, and other elements, right from RCO's database, PRISM. The customization will mean that staff no longer have to print different reports and append PDFs.



In other PRISM work, the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section has been reviewing and testing two new modules. First, is the Scoring Module, which allows evaluators to enter project scores into PRISM, rather than on paper, which staff later have to re-enter, and second, is the Review and Evaluation Module, which will automate some of the scoring and ranking processes.

Shovels and Scissors

RCO helped celebrate many groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings at projects funded with grants. In Hoquiam, we cut a ribbon on the 28th Street boat launch. The Port of Grays Harbor used a \$920,000 Boating Facilities Program grant to replace and widen the boat ramp, add a boarding float and permanent restroom, and pave and light the parking lot.



28th Street Boat Launch



Yakima's Randall Park



Olympia's Woodruff Park



Barnum Point

We also celebrated at a ribbon-cutting in Yakima for the reopening of Randall Park. The City used a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant to renovate a 60-year-old park in the center of Yakima.

In Snoqualmie, we celebrated the opening of the city's first skatepark, funded in part by an RCO Recreation grant.

In Cowlitz County, we helped the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife dedicate the purchase of about 1,400 acres along the Kalama River and Merrill Lake, using three Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grants. The land has many unique features including lava beds with tree casts, springs, small old-growth stands, waterfalls, and high quality native plant communities.

In Olympia, we cut the ribbon on a sprayground at Woodruff Park. The City used a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grant to build the sprayground and remodel the park restroom, build a picnic shelter, and add paths and parking accessible to wheelchairs.

On Camano Island, we cut the ribbon on a large project (\$5.8 million in 8 grants) to buy 13 acres of rare, low-bank waterfront on Barnum Point, a third-mile of beach, and 17 acres of tidelands for a county park. The land provides the only low-bank water access

along the point, and will improve dramatically the public's access to more than two-thirds mile of public beach. The project is part of a larger project to expand the 27-acre Barnum Point County Park to 129 acres, protecting nearly all of Barnum Point, an iconic waterfront landscape on Camano Island.

RCO Attends Land Camp

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Washington Association of Land Trusts, and the National Land Trust Alliance hosted the 2019 Northwest Land Camp. This regional land trust conference was in Walla Walla and RCO was well represented. Kim Sellers participated in a panel discussion on funding easements. Alice Rubin and Alison Greene, RCO grant managers, held an informal "ask the expert" session, where attendees could ask RCO staff any questions. There were more than 300 attendees from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.



Employee Changes

- **Julia Marshburn**, moved from an administrative assistant position in the Grant Services Section to become RCO's agency records and contracts specialist.
- **Theron "Jim" Lochner** joined the fiscal team on June 24. He came to RCO with vast accounting experience gained at other state agencies. He has worked in many different aspects of accounting, including accounts payable, fiscal monitoring, and grant management.
- **Julia McNamara** joined the RCO as an administrative assistant. Julia is a graduate from St. Martin's University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology. She will support the policy and communication staff and be responsible for supporting all four of the boards and councils at the RCO. Julia loves spending time with her family and friends and can often be found outside kayaking, hiking, and camping.
- **Lanlail "Lan" Nicolai** is the new administrative assistant for the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section. This graduate, of California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), has a degree in recreation, parks and tourism administration. Before moving to Washington, Lan was a grants coordinator at Cal Poly for 2 years. Lan enjoys trail running, growing oyster mushrooms, traveling, and reading. She and her husband, Eric Nicolai (an engineer with the Department of Fish and Wildlife) also enjoy backpacking and hiking.



- **Christopher Popek** joined the Grant Services Section as an administrative assistant. Chris has extensive customer service experience as a wilderness ranger at Mount Rainier National Park and a park aide at Washington state parks. Chris grew up near Mount Rainier and is a graduate of Western Washington University, with a bachelor of fine arts. He is an avid outdoor recreationist, who loves to hike, backpack, and explore the outdoors.



News from the Boards

- The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** welcomed two new state agency representatives. Annette Hoffmann is the new Department of Ecology designee and Jeff Davis is the designee for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. In addition, the Governor reappointed Chair Phil Rockefeller and member Jeromy Sullivan to new 4-year terms. In July, the board traveled Yakima for both a regular meeting and a tour of SRFB-funded projects. At the meeting, the board decided how to allocate state and federal funds, and made several decisions about monitoring and targeted investments for larger, more complex projects.
- The **Washington Invasive Species Council** met in Olympia in June to discuss topics such as a northern pike science and economic review, a Lake Roosevelt invasive mussel rapid response exercise, and the incident command system as it relates to invasive species response.
- The **Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group** held its second annual meeting in May in Olympia. At this meeting, the lands group discussed its revised charter, which it will approve at its October meeting.

Grant Management Report

Grant Awards for Land and Water Conservation Fund Projects

Washington State is the recipient of more than \$3.5 million for its Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program for federal fiscal year 2019. Congress approved more than \$170 million in grants for the now permanently authorized program. Funds for LWCF include a regular apportionment that comes from federal offshore oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf and revenue from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA).

When the board approved the final ranked list of LWCF projects in June, it delegated authority to the director to award grants. The National Park Service plans to issue agreements to the State of Washington, for each project, by the end of September. The

Director has approved funding for seven LWCF projects. The funded projects are listed in Attachment A, Funds for Alternate and Partially-Funded Projects.

Using Returned Funds for Alternate and Partially-Funded Projects

The board awarded \$126 million in grants at its June meeting for the 2019-21 biennium. The final ranked lists and awards for 333 projects are posted on RCO's [Web Site](#).

Since that meeting, the Director has approved nearly \$8 million in grants for 19 alternate projects, including seven Land and Water Conservation projects, and more than \$7.2 million in additional funds for 23 partially funded projects. These awards are comprised of unused funds from previously funded projects that did not use the full amount of their grant award. Attachment A, Funds for Alternate and Partially-Funded Projects, shows the grant awards for alternate projects (Table A-1) and the additional funding for partially funded projects (Table A-2).

Farmland and Forestland Evaluations

Evaluation of farmland and forestland projects submitted for the supplemental grant cycle for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program are now complete. The board authorized a supplemental round since there were not enough funds requested to use up all available funds in the Farm and Forest Account. Staff conducted the grant results meetings with the advisory committees on August 22 and has provided, for board consideration, the ranked list and recommended grant awards in [Items 9](#) and [10](#).

Sport Fish Restoration Program Training

Karl Jacobs attended the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Training Program in San Diego. The 3-day program, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is designed to help states with specialized grants management knowledge and skills to administer certain federal grants. Karl serves as lead staff for the federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program. Washington State applicants submitted four applications this year requesting \$1.8 million in grant funds. Below is a summary of the outcome of this year's competition.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Awards

RCO's Director approved nearly \$200,000 in Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) for two Tier 1 grant proposals submitted this year. Board policy limits Tier 1 grant request to \$192,086. Tier 2 applicants may request up to \$1,440,645. The Boating Programs Advisory Committee evaluated the Tier 1 projects in August. Staff submitted Des Moines' Marina Guest Moorage Electrical Upgrades ([RCO #19-1532D](#)) and the Port of Friday Harbor's Shower Remodel ([RCO #19-1510D](#)) projects to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for final fund approval.

BIG, administered by the USFWS, provides funds to construct, renovate, and maintain marinas and other facilities with features that support recreational boating for vessels that are 26 feet or more in length. The boating advisors reviewed and recommended submittal of the Port of Poulsbo's Transient Moorage Breakwater ([RCO #19-1523D](#)) for the national Tier 2 competition. A national panel will evaluate this Tier 2 grant proposal early next year.

Project Administration

Staff administer outdoor recreation and habitat conservation projects as summarized in the table below. "Active" grants are those currently under agreement and in the implementation phase. "Director Approved" grants includes grant awards made by the RCO director after receiving board-delegated authority to award grants. Staff are working with sponsors to secure the materials needed to place the Director Approved grants under agreement.

Program	Active Projects	Board and Director Approved Projects	Total Funded Projects
Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA)	23	9	32
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	46	25	71
Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG)	6	1	7
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)	7	6	13
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	14	1	15
No Child Left Inside (NCLI)	15	15	30
Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)	104	90	194
Recreation & Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG)	8	0	8
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	42	32	74
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)	156	87	243
Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)	22	29	51
Total	443	295	738

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment B lists projects that closed between June 1, 2019 and August 31, 2019. Click on the project number to view the project description, grant funds awarded, and other information (e.g., photos, maps, reports, etc.).

Volunteer Recruitment for Advisory Committees

The Recreation and Conservation Office administers 17 Advisory Committees that evaluate grants, provide policy direction, and help shape the future of Washington's outdoors. This includes nearly 200 committee members who serve 4 year terms (equating to roughly 2 grant cycles). Volunteer and Grant Process Coordinator, Tessa Cencula, will be launching a major recruitment effort in October for new members to fill these important committee positions. Approximately 50 spots need to be filled by the end of 2019. These committees are absolutely critical to the agency's business. Not only are we striving to fill important spots, we are striving to improve the diversity of the committees. In this effort, grant services staff and communication staff will be utilizing several new approaches for recruitment. This includes an expansive social media campaign highlighting a newly created Advisory Committee recruitment video (video will be shared at the October meeting), and targeted newsletters to key stakeholders and communities. Board members are encouraged to visit the "Get Involved" webpage once the new website is launched in October.



Compliance

In January 2019, the board approved changes to the compliance policies to permit an exception to conversion for specific actions and expanded the non-conforming/non-permanent use time limit. Following board approval, staff developed guidance and provided training to grants staff on implementing the changes. A user-friendly request form was created for sponsors. Since that time, five exceptions to conversion have been approved. These exceptions include underground easements for utilities, exceptions for right-of-way improvements, and relocation of existing easements.

- King County/City of Maple Valley requested an exception for an underground utility easement. The City of Maple Valley needed an underground sewer easement to serve a new park being developed. The underground easement crosses underneath a portion the Green River/Cedar River Trail, which was funded with a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Trails category. (RCO #92-085A)
- King County requested an exception for right-of-way for road improvement. The City of Issaquah is expanding Newport Way, which is adjacent to the county's Cougar Precipice Trailhead property that was acquired with a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks category. The property provides a new trailhead access to the Cougar Mountain Regional

Wildlife Park. The city needed approximately 10' right-of-way for the road expansion. Access to the trailhead will be improved by the installation of a crosswalk and flashing beacon to facilitate safe pedestrian crossings from adjacent neighborhoods and with a pedestrian bridge that will provide additional access to the trailhead. (RCO #10-1313A; 16-1363D)

- Skagit Land Trust requested an exception for relocating an existing easement. The former Puget Sound Power & Light (PSP&L) company held an easement that was recorded in 1963 on property acquired in 2004 with a grant from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB). PSP&L ceased to exist and the same utility corridor has been used by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to maintain an existing power line. PSE asked the land trust for an easement on the property to formalize the pre-existing use. (RCO #02-1620A)
- City of Kent requested an exception for right-of-way for street improvement. A city ordinance required frontage improvements as part of the YMCA and park redevelopment projects at East Hill/Morrill Meadows Park. The street will be widened to accommodate a turn lane into the park and sidewalks will be constructed that improve access into the park. Utilities that serve the YMCA and the park will be located underground within the right-of-way. The park was acquired and developed with Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Local Parks category grants and was subject of conversion due to the construction of a YMCA that was approved by the board in June. (RCO # #91-170A, 96-1224D, 97-036A, 02-1175A)
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) requested an exception for relocating an existing easement. A dike easement was recorded in 1946 on property acquired by WDFW with a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Critical Habitat category. A levee setback and restoration project funded through the SRFB resulted in the need to relocate the dike easement. The levee setback is expected to restore tidal processes to tidal marsh for fish and wildlife and to help protect surrounding agricultural lands from flooding and saltwater intrusion. (RCO #92-629A)

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources Program Coordinator, Sarah Thirtyacre, has been very busy initiating cultural resources consultation with Tribes and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) pursuant to Executive Order 05-05 and Section 106. Consultation has been initiated for 427 RCFB projects that have been funded or are likely to be funded in the next year.

No Child Left Inside Grant Program

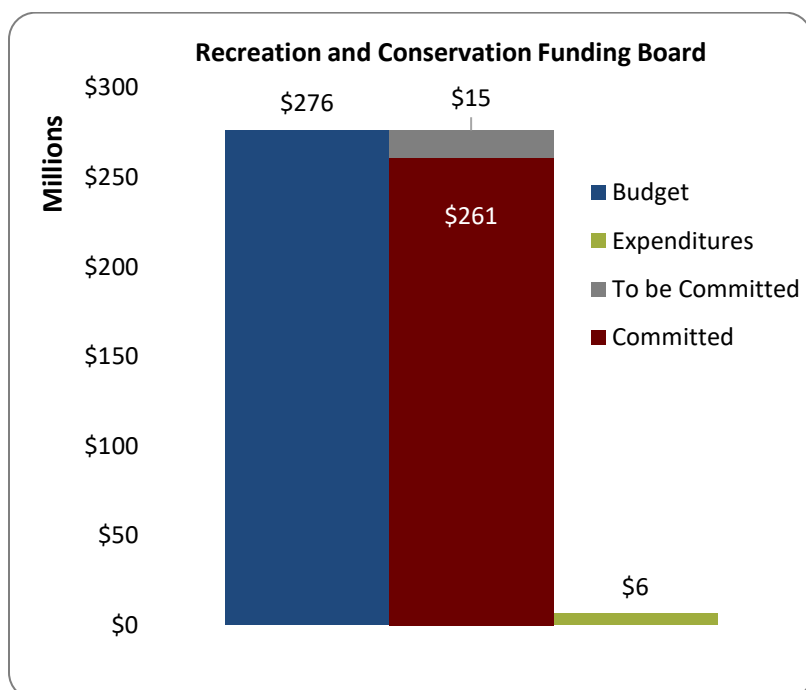
The 2019 grant application cycle is complete and funding has been awarded to 30 No Child Left Inside projects across the state. This popular Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission grant program is administered by RCO. A total of 173 applications were submitted in 2019 presenting a significant increase in demand for this important program. For complete details of the grant process, please see Attachment C - No Child Left Inside Application Summary 2019.



Fiscal Report

For July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020, actuals through August 28, 2019 (Fiscal Month 02). Percentage of biennium reported: 8.3 percent. The "Budget" column shows the state appropriations and any received federal awards.

Grant Program	BUDGET	COMMITTED		TO BE COMMITTED		EXPENDITURES	
	Re-appropriations 2019-2020	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% of Budget	Dollars	% Expended of Committed
Grant Programs							
ALEA	\$17,941,000	\$17,717,767	99%	\$223,234	1%	\$1,115,060	6%
BFP	\$33,148,000	\$30,968,137	93%	\$2,179,863	7%	\$732,308	2%
BIG	\$2,175,411	\$2,175,411	100%	\$0	0%	\$396,437	18%
FARR	\$1,578,000	\$1,222,826	77%	\$355,174	23%	\$0	0%
LWCF	\$5,631,594	\$5,631,594	100%	\$0	0%	\$293,946	5%
NOVA	\$20,437,832	\$20,389,573	99%	\$48,259	1%	\$169,105	1%
RTP	\$4,312,114	\$3,942,299	91%	\$369,815	9%	\$132,321	3%
WWRP	\$156,466,625	\$147,056,437	94%	\$9,410,188	6%	\$856,458	1%
RRG	\$9,820,805	\$8,074,957	82%	\$1,745,848	18%	\$1,899,997	24%
YAF	\$14,927,040	\$13,705,070	92%	\$1,221,970	8%	\$360,060	3%
Subtotal	\$266,438,421	\$250,884,072	94%	\$15,554,349	6%	\$5,955,692	2%
Administration							
General Operating Funds	\$9,722,554	\$9,722,554	100%	\$0	0%	\$364,751	4%
Grand Total	\$276,160,975	\$260,606,626	94%	\$15,554,349	6%	\$6,320,443	2%



Acronym	Grant Program
ALEA	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
BFP	Boating Facilities Program
BIG	Boating Infrastructure Grant
FARR	Firearms and Archery Range Recreation
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NOVA	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities
RTP	Recreational Trails Program
WWRP	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
RRG	RCO Recreation Grants
YAF	Youth Athletic Facilities

Board Revenue Report

For July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021, actuals through July 31, 2019 (Fiscal Month 01).

Percentage of biennium reported: 4.2%.

Program	Biennial Forecast	Collections	
	Estimate	Actual	% of Estimate
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	\$20,647,541	\$879,454	4.3%
Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA)	\$14,346,987	\$619,601	4.3%
Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR)	\$572,984	\$25,909	4.5%
Total	\$35,567,512	\$1,524,964	4.3%

Revenue Notes:

BFP revenue is from the un-refunded marine gasoline taxes.

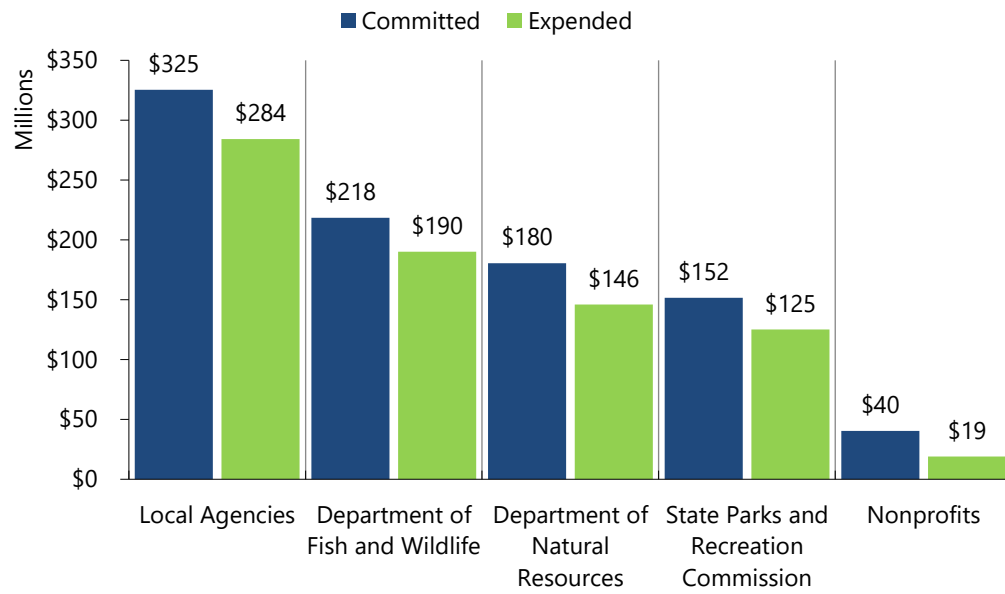
NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits. NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits.

FARR revenue is from \$2.16 of each concealed pistol license fee.

This reflects the most recent revenue forecast of June 2019. The next forecast is due in September 2019.

WWRP Expenditure Rate by Organization (1990-Current)

Agency	Committed	Expenditures	% Expended
Local Agencies	\$325,252,333	\$284,206,444	87%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$218,322,476	\$190,007,838	87%
Department of Natural Resources	\$180,345,836	\$146,005,596	81%
State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$151,527,798	\$125,185,902	83%
Nonprofits	\$40,464,724	\$19,070,315	47%
Conservation Commission	\$3,840,040	\$469,450	12%
Tribes	\$2,241,411	\$741,411	33%
Other			
Special Projects	\$735,011	\$735,011	100%
Total	\$922,729,629	\$766,421,967	83%



Performance Measures for Fiscal Year 2020

The following performance data are for recreation and conservation projects in fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020). Data are current as of August 26, 2019.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

Measure	Target	Fiscal Year-to-Date	Status	Notes
Grant agreements mailed within 120 days of funding	90%	N/A	●	No agreements have been due to be mailed this fiscal year
Grants under agreement within 180 days of funding	95%	N/A	●	No agreements have come due this fiscal year
Progress reports responded to within 15 days	90%	96%	●	RCFB staff received 139 progress reports and responded to them in an average of 5 days.
Bills paid in 30 days	100%	100%	●	132 bills have come due and all were paid within 30 days. On average, staff paid bills within 13 days.
Projects closed within 150 days of funding end date	85%	100%	●	3 of 3 projects have closed on time.
Projects in Backlog	5	20	●	There are 20 RCFB projects in the backlog
Compliance inspections done	125	0	●	There has been no worksites inspected this fiscal year. Staff have until June 30, 2020 to reach the target.

Funds for Alternate and Partially-Funded Projects

Table A-1: Funds for Alternate Projects

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Funds Approved	Grant Program, Category ⁱⁱ
18-1819D	Chehalis Recreation Park Upgrade Renovation Phase 2	Chehalis	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-1379D	Downtown Civic Park Development	Edmonds	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-1834D	South Lynnwood Park Renewal	Lynnwood	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-1622A	East Monroe Heritage Site Acquisition	Monroe	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-1274D	Green Lake Community Boathouse	Seattle	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-1781D	South Park Playground and Spray Park	Seattle	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-1657D	William Shore Pool Warm Water Exercise Pool	William Shore Pool District	\$500,000	\$500,000	Land and Water Conservation Fund
18-2316E	Cle Elum Winter Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Account Education and Enforcement	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District	\$30,000	\$7,724	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement
18-2493E	Tahuya, Green Mountain Education and Enforcement	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$130,935	\$130,935	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement
18-2434D	Taylor Mountain Trail Bridge Construction Phase 1	King County	\$200,000	\$127,181	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
18-2474D	Rattlesnake Ledge Trail Maintenance and Restoration	Seattle	\$147,610	\$147,610	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
18-2618D	Methow Valley Fun Rocks Development	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Ranger District	\$19,100	\$19,100	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
18-2385M	Methow Valley Ranger District Fire Trail Maintenance	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Ranger District	\$141,000	\$141,000	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
18-2522M	Tahuya Water Quality	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$41,100	\$41,000	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-road Vehicle

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Funds Approved	Grant Program, Category ⁱⁱ
18-1336A	Simcoe	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$4,235,000	\$587,594	WWRP Critical Habitat
16-1624A	Brooks Memorial State Park 200-Acre Acquisition	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$434,746	\$434,746	WWRP State Parks
18-1760D	Willapa Hills Trail Development 6 Miles Raymond to Menlo	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$1,994,000	\$431,361	WWRP State Parks
16-1352A	Scatter Creek Addition	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat
16-1350A	West Rocky Prairie	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$2,200,000	\$1,400,000	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat

Table A-2: Funds for Partially Funded Projects

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Original Grant	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program, Category ⁱⁱ
18-1437D	Log Boom Park Waterfront Access and Nature Viewing	Kenmore	\$500,000	\$405,112	\$470,575	Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
18-2495E	Colville National Forest Off-Highway Vehicle Education and Enforcement Forest Rangers	U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest	\$94,000	\$64,053	\$94,000	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement
18-2523D	Horn Rapids Off-Road Vehicle Park Access Road Reconstruction	Richland	\$269,500	\$99,086	\$269,500	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
18-2466D	Capitol Forest Nonmotorized Trail Development	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$69,000	\$30,455	\$69,000	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized
18-2587M	Western Washington Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	\$125,000	\$62,500	\$125,000	Recreational Trails Program, General

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Original Grant	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program, Category ⁱⁱ
18-2536M	Statewide Heavy Maintenance Trail Crew	Northwest Motorcycle Association	\$121,114	\$60,557	\$121,114	Recreational Trails Program, General
18-2413M	Naches Motorized Trails Deferred Maintenance and Operations	U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
18-2265M	Pomeroy Ranger District Trail Grooming Maintenance and Operations	U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District	\$36,000	\$18,000	\$36,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
18-2299	Mount Baker Snowmobile Sno-Parks and Trail Maintenance	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$143,134	\$86,567	\$108,323	Recreational Trails Program, General
18-2296M	Statewide Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$117,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
18-2324M	Statewide Youth Volunteer Trail Maintenance	Washington Trails Association	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$150,000	Recreational Trails Program, General
18-1791A	Twisp Uplands Conservation Easements	Methow Conservancy	\$2,056,622	\$427,319	\$2,056,622	WWRP Critical Habitat
18-1668D	Puyallup Valley Sports Complex Field Improvement	Puyallup	\$461,150	\$414,135	\$427,095	WWRP Local Parks
18-1517A	Dabob Bay Natural Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$3,017,883	\$578,699	\$1,940,198	WWRP Natural Areas
18-1529A	Lower Big Beef Creek Acquisition	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$1,572,330	\$583,576	\$583,816	WWRP Riparian Protection
18-1965D	Roses Lake Access Redevelopment Phase 2	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$325,000	\$8,625	\$325,000	WWRP State Lands Development
18-1830R	Wenas Watershed Enhancement	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$647,950	\$230,769	\$340,582	WWRP State Lands Restoration

Project Number ⁱ	Project Name	Sponsor	Grant Request	Original Grant	Current Grant Funding	Grant Program, Category ⁱⁱ
18-1890A	Flaming Geyser Nelson Property	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$914,000	\$680,725	\$914,000	WWRP State Parks
18-1843D	Palouse to Cascade Tekoa Trestle Deck and Rails	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission	\$1,633,119	\$1,014,114	\$1,633,119	WWRP State Parks
18-1243D	Grass Lake Nature Park Trail Construction	Olympia	\$1,190,000	\$427,990	\$467,990	WWRP Trails
18-1524A	Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area	Washington Department of Natural Resources	\$4,768,585	\$2,648,563	\$4,768,585	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat
18-1272D	Green Lake Dock Replacement and Restrooms	Seattle	\$520,000	\$450,775	\$520,000	WWRP Water Access
18-1908C	South 116th Street at Green-Duwamish River	Tukwila	\$827,520	\$260,155	\$323,312 ⁱⁱⁱ	WWRP Water Access

ⁱ A=Acquisition, C=Acquisition and Development, D=Development, E=Education/Education and Enforcement, M=Maintenance, O=Operation R=Restoration

ⁱⁱ WWRP = Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

ⁱⁱⁱ Grant funds for this acquisition and development project are for acquisition costs only. The maximum grant amount is \$628,320.

Projects Completed and Closed from June 1, 2019 to August 31, 2019

Project Number ^{iv}	Project Name	Sponsor	Program ^v	Closed On
16-2601D	Brownsville Marina Boat Launch and Staging Area	Port of Brownsville	Boating Facilities Program, Local Agencies	8/20/19
14-1221D	North Cove Access Redevelopment at Lake Stevens	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Boating Facilities Program, State Agencies	8/29/19
14-1716D	Inspiration Playground Construction Phase 1	Bellevue	Land and Water Conservation Fund	8/28/19
14-2129D	Rustlers Gulch-County Park Non-Motorized Connect	Pend Oreille County	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	8/21/19
14-1841P	Snoqualmie Corridor Facilities Design	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized	8/29/19
14-1846P	Green Mountain GM-1 Area Planning	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle	8/29/19
14-1438D	McCormick Village Park Phase 2	Port Orchard	Recreation and Conservation Office Recreation Grants, Local Parks	8/6/19
14-1695D	Point Defiance Off Leash Park	Tacoma Metropolitan Park District	Recreation and Conservation Office Recreation Grants, Local Parks	6/10/19
16-1382D	Woodruff Park Sprayground and Picnic Shelter	Olympia	WWRP Local Parks	8/8/19
14-1471D	Columbia River Waterfront Park	Vancouver	WWRP Local Parks	8/7/19
14-1480A	Mashel Phase 4 and Busy Wild Shoreline Protection	Nisqually Land Trust	WWRP Riparian Protection	8/2/19
14-1276A	Bass-Beaver Lake Acquisition	King County	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat	8/15/19
14-1098A	West Rocky Prairie 2014	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat	8/22/19

Project Number ^{iv}	Project Name	Sponsor	Program ^v	Closed On
16-1971D	Mill Creek Sports Park	Mill Creek	Youth Athletic Facilities, Renovation	8/16/19

^{iv} A=Acquisition, C=Acquisition and Development, D=Development, E=Education/Education and Enforcement, M=Maintenance, O=Operation R=Restoration

^v WWRP = Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

No Child Left Inside Application Summary 2019



Program Purpose

The Washington State Legislature created the No Child Left Inside grant program to provide under-served youth with quality opportunities to experience the natural world.

Grant funds are available for outdoor environmental, ecological, agricultural, or other natural resource-based education and recreation programs serving youth.

This grant program is intended to empower local communities to engage youth in outdoor education and recreation experiences and focuses on serving youth with the greatest needs. Youth work to improve their overall academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, community involvement, personal health, and understanding of nature.

Grant Limits

Tier 1 - \$5,000-\$25,000* (no match required)

**Tier 1 - Grants in this category are open only to programs and organizations that did not receive NCLI funding in the 2016 or 2018 grant cycles.*

Tier 2 - \$5,000-\$75,000 (25% match required)

Tier 3 - \$75,001-\$150,000 (25% match required)

2019 Applications

Funding Program	Number of Applications	Grant Request	Sponsor Match	Total
Tier 1	93	\$1,962,316	\$1,451,049	\$3,413,365
Tier 2	57	\$3,157,925	\$3,475,292	\$6,633,217
Tier 3	23	\$2,839,558	\$3,746,772	\$6,586,330
Total	173	\$7,959,799	\$8,664,535	\$16,632,912

Application Summary

The total number of applications in the 2019 represents a significant increase in projects and total grant request from previous grant cycles. In 2018, a total of 122 applications requesting \$4,512,299 were submitted for review. In 2019, 173 applications were submitted requesting \$7,959,799 in grant funds. This results in a 42% increase in total applications (51 additional applications) and a 44% increase in total grant request (\$3,447,500 additional grant request).

Evaluation Process

Project evaluation is the competitive process adopted by the State Parks Director to guide its grant awards. It is based on a set of Director-approved evaluation questions. The questions are created from statutory and other criteria developed through a public process. The No Child Left Inside Advisory Committee scores each of the applications.

No Child Left Inside Advisory Committee

NAME	AFFILIATION OR ORGANIZATION
Kandi Bauman	University of Washington
Dana Bowers	Stevens County Conservation District
Andy Bryden	US Forest Service
Gideon Cauffman	City of Oak Harbor
Salvador Cobar	Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
Keli Regan Drake	University of WA
Dan Eberle	Bates Technical College
Mary Flanagan	Teacher – North Beach School District (Pacific Beach)
Julie Gardner	Vertical Generation
Jeremy Grisham	WA State Department of Veterans Affairs
Katherine Hollis	The Mountaineers
James E. King	Diverse Environmental Leaders
Makaela Kroin	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Martin LeBlanc	LBC Action
Siri Nelson	Pacific Science Center/Mercer Slough Envir. Education Center
Jennifer Papich	City of Spokane Parks and Recreation
Jaime Pardo	REI (Recreation Equipment Incorporated)
Melinda Posner	State Parks and Recreation Commission
Scott VanderWey	WA State University Extension
Jason Wettstein	WA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tier 1 and Tier 2

Tier 1 and Tier 2 applicants provide written responses to the Evaluation Criteria. Scores are based on each applicant's response to evaluation questions and summary application materials. Half of the Advisory Committee reviewed and scored all of the Tier 1 projects and the other half reviewed and scored the Tier 2 projects.

Tier 3

Tier 3 applicants present their responses to the Evaluation Criteria, in-person to the Advisory Committee. Each applicant was given 15 minutes to present their project and then the Advisory Committee was given 10 minutes for questions. Seven members of the Advisory Committee volunteered to take part in the in-person review process.

Evaluation Criteria

Scored by	#	Criteria Title	Maximum Points Possible
Advisory Committee	1	Youth	15
Advisory Committee	2	Program	20
Advisory Committee	3	Partnerships	10
Advisory Committee	4	Sustainability of Program	5
Advisory Committee	5	State Parks and Public Lands	5
Advisory Committee	6	Military and Veteran Families	2
		Total	57

Overall, the advisory committee felt the process was organized, well-run, and fair. The sheer amount of applications to review provided a challenge to many committee members for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 proposals. The committee members that scored the Tier 3 projects were very supportive of the in-person review process for the larger grant requests.

Grant Awards

A total of 30 projects will receive funding in the 2019-2021 grant cycle (17% of applications). This includes 19 Tier 1 projects, 6 Tier 2 projects, and 5 Tier 3 projects. This includes an allocation of \$375,000 for Tier 1, \$375,000 for Tier 2 and \$600,000 for Tier 3 projects. Due to the significant amount of the applications for Tier 1, the State Parks Director adjusted to the proposed allocation formula to be split equally between Tier 1 and Tier 2. See the attached grant award tables and funded project descriptions for more details.

Projected Outcomes

The 30 funded projects will provide outdoor program opportunities for a projected 14,578 youth. The table below presents application data for these 30 projects by funding tier and overall average. The second table presents the average percentages for collected underserved demographic measures.

Tier	Youth Served	Average # of Hours Each Youth Spends Outdoors	Total Hours of Outdoor Programming
1	7,173	88	357,900
2	1,900	132	172,090
3	5,505	168	577,585
TOTAL	14,578	110	1,107,575

Tier	% Eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch	% English Language Learners	% youth of Color	% youth with a disability
1	69%	13%	45%	37%
2	80%	16%	70%	30%
3	78%	19%	60%	13%
TOTAL	73%	15%	53%	32%

Next Steps

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will issue grant contracts in July and August 2019. The official start date for all projects is July 1, 2019 and project sponsors will have until June 30, 2021 to complete their projects. In early August, RCO will host a Successful Applicant Workshop with project sponsors. This workshop will provide important resources for project success, including billing demonstrations, project management and implementation guidance, project deliverables and closeout reporting. RCO will also send an applicant survey for feedback on the grant application process.

A new grant cycle will open in the late summer of 2020 in preparation of the 2021-2023 budget. Proposed dates for the next cycle are August-December 2020.

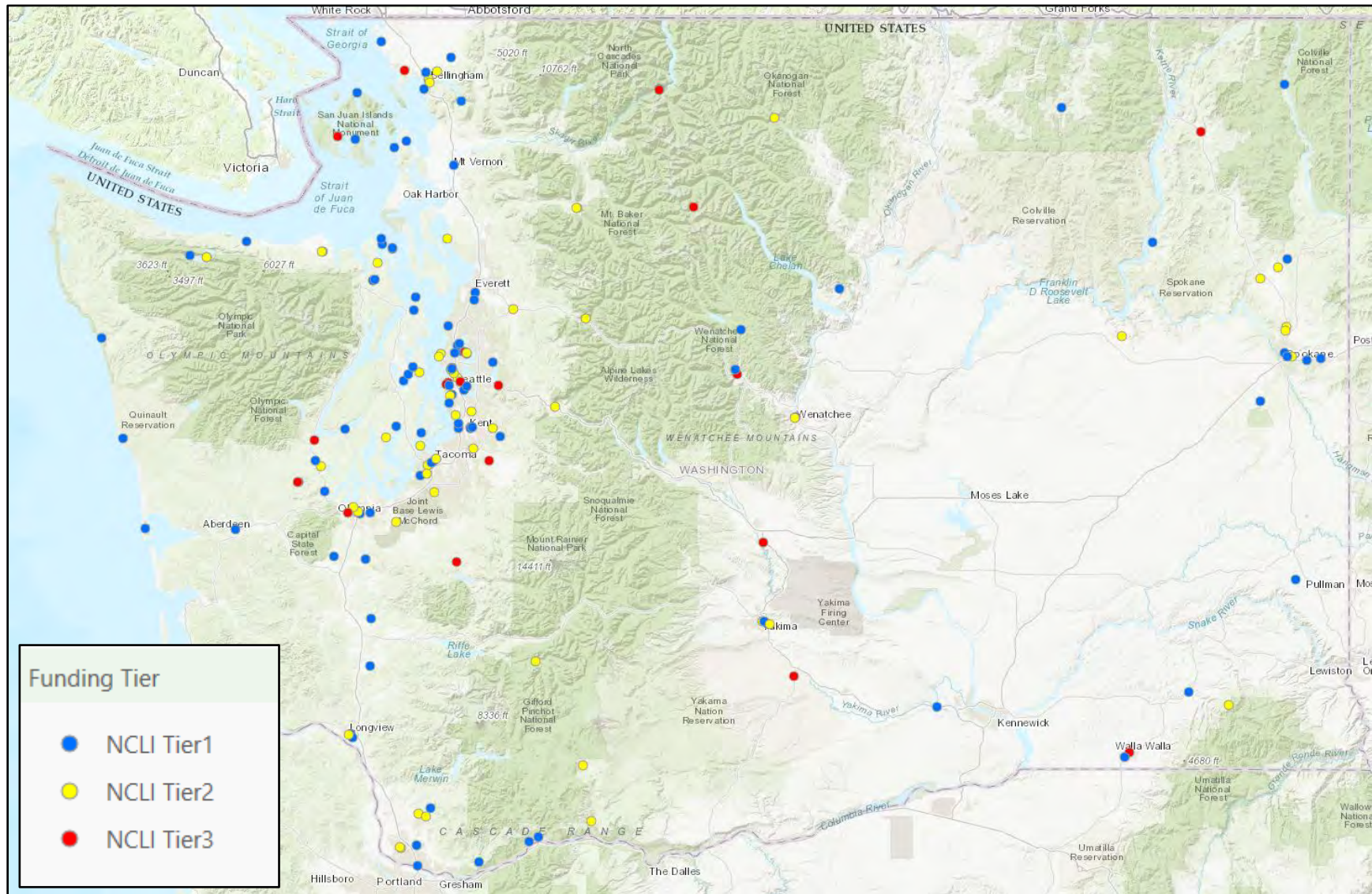
Final Thoughts

The 2019 application cycle was the most competitive NCLI grant cycle to date. The scoring between projects was extremely close in all three funding tiers. The demand for this type of grant funding was clearly represented by the total number of applications submitted (173 applications). The smaller, Tier 1 grants (\$5,000-\$25,000) were much more popular than originally anticipated. More than half of the applications were submitted in Tier 1 (93 applications).

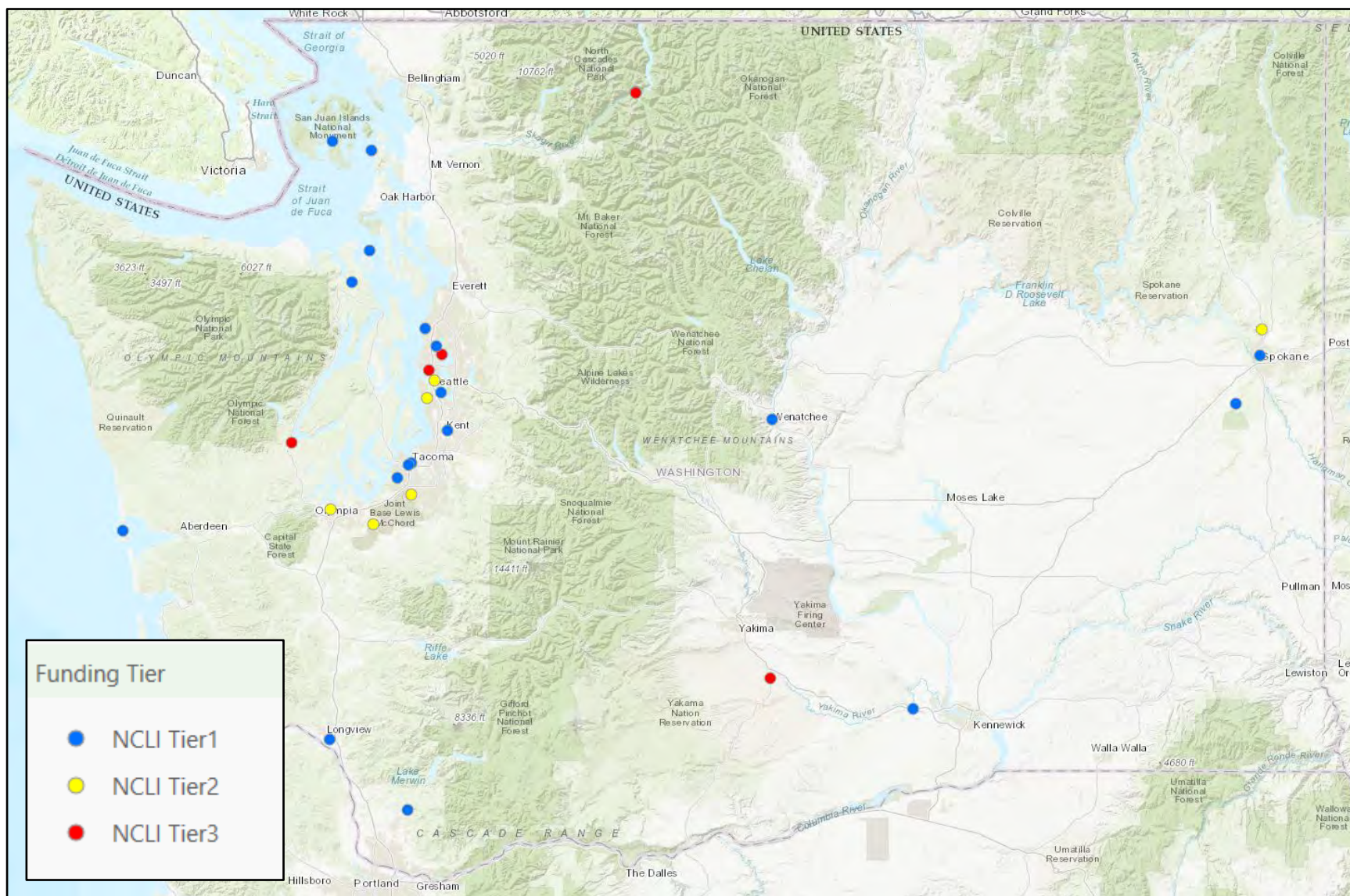
The popularity for NCLI lies in the flexibility of the funding. Eligible costs include staff, transportation, supplies and equipment, and contracted services. Applicants have repeatedly expressed that there are not many other grant options available that is as flexible as NCLI.

RCO is collecting new metric data for underserved youth as a part of the evaluation criteria. This was one of the major changes to the evaluation criteria that was created by a policy work group, reviewed by the advisory committee and approved by the State Parks Director. This application data, along with final reporting data will provide important statistics overtime for measuring the populations that are reached by this funding.

NCLI 2019 Applications



NCLI 2019 Grant Awards





No Child Left Inside
Tier 1
 Grants Awarded
 2019



Rank	Score	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	51.13	19-1076	Lopez Island Youth Outdoor Education Program	Lopez Island Family Resource Center	\$24,963	\$60,865	\$85,828	\$24,963
2	50.63	19-1059	Mini Camps for Youth with Disabilities	Camp Beausite Northwest	\$25,000	\$16,000	\$41,000	\$25,000
3	49.50	19-1026	mPOWER: Outdoor Recreation and Mentoring for At-Risk Youth	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest	\$17,261	\$56,880	\$74,141	\$17,261
4	48.75	19-1179	Link's Out Door Adventures	Youth and Family Link Program	\$24,998	\$22,151	\$47,149	\$24,998
5	48.63	19-1025	Scriber Lake High School Interdisciplinary Studies Environmental Program	Edmonds School District	\$20,958	\$69,362	\$90,320	\$20,958
6	48.00	19-1207	Outdoor Education Workshops at Camp Mariposa	Lifeline Connections	\$15,100		\$15,100	\$15,100
7	47.75	19-1301	Youth Environmental Stewards New Leaders	Northwest Watershed Institute	\$24,980	\$29,900	\$54,880	\$24,980
8	47.50	19-1063	Palouse Prairie Restoration and Education Program	Eastern Washington University	\$24,982		\$24,982	\$24,982
9	47.13	19-1328	Tacoma Outdoor Learning Opportunities	Child and Family Hope Center	\$25,000		\$25,000	\$25,000
10	46.75	19-1181	Summer Fun Program	Ocean Shores	\$9,160	\$39,395	\$48,555	\$9,160
11	46.50	19-1050	Guardians of the Sea: Boat-based Education	The Salish Sea School	\$25,000	\$71,807	\$96,807	\$25,000
12	46.38	19-1123	Benton City, Get Outside!	Benton City	\$25,000	\$18,030	\$43,030	\$25,000
12	46.38	19-1278	North Seattle Family Resource Center Outdoors Recreation	North Seattle Family Resource Center	\$25,000	\$7,895	\$32,895	\$25,000
14	46.13	19-1156	Foster Kids Explore Washington	Catholic Community Services Tacoma	\$25,000		\$25,000	\$25,000
15	45.88	19-1254	The Willow Project Southeast King County	Greenplay Northwest	\$25,000	\$9,000	\$34,000	\$25,000
15	45.88	19-1329	Therapy on Wheels Pierce County Bicycling	Hope Inspired Change	\$25,000		\$25,000	\$25,000
17	45.75	19-1288	Seattle Rock Climbing Program	Peak 7 Adventures	\$21,427	\$9,826	\$31,253	\$4,200 ¹
17	45.75	19-1127	Outdoor Education Initiative for Burlington Edison	Burlington-Edison Schools	\$24,409	\$34,566	\$58,975	\$4,200 ¹
17	45.75	19-1071	Kids in the Creek and Forest	Cascadia Conservation District	\$24,950		\$24,950	\$4,200 ¹
20	45.63	19-1145	Nature Kids Program	Blue Mountain Land Trust	\$13,630	\$10,683	\$24,313	Alternate
21	45.50	19-1252	Vamos! Bilingual Environmental Education in the Cascades	Vamos Outdoors Project	\$25,000	\$6,700	\$31,700	Alternate
22	45.38	19-1143	Chalá-at (People of the Hoh River) Youth Surfers	A Warm Current	\$22,100	\$5,440	\$27,540	Alternate
22	45.38	19-1201	Nepal Seattle Youth Outdoors Program	Nepal Seattle Hiking Community	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
24	45.25	19-1250	Pacific Middle School Youth Experiential Training Institute Adventure Club	Youth Experiential Training	\$15,600		\$15,600	Alternate
24	45.25	19-1042	Finding Urban Nature, Multilingual Enhancement	Audubon Society Seattle	\$25,000	\$31,521	\$56,521	Alternate
26	44.88	19-1109	Buffalo Soldier American History Summer Learning	Horse Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
27	44.75	19-1132	Outdoor Education at Camp Singing Wind in Toledo	Multi-Sensory Academic Partnerships Enrichment Programs	\$22,574	\$14,488	\$37,062	Alternate
28	44.50	19-1097	Fifth-grade Outdoor Education	Port Townsend School District	\$24,824		\$24,824	Alternate
29	44.25	19-1371	Field Trip Project for Homeless Children	Mary's Place	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
30	44.13	19-1347	Fostering Stewardship Through Beach Explorations	Environmental Science Center	\$20,000	\$50,292	\$70,292	Alternate
30	44.13	19-1137	Take a Hike with Puget Sound WildCare Naturalists	Puget Sound WildCare	\$24,000	\$10,880	\$34,880	Alternate
32	44.00	19-1121	Young Friends of the Forest	Cascade Forest Conservancy	\$18,500	\$8,000	\$26,500	Alternate
32	44.00	19-1093	The Pleiades Education Program	Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group	\$20,621	\$27,753	\$48,374	Alternate



No Child Left Inside
Tier 1
 Grants Awarded
 2019



Rank	Score	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
32	44.00	19-1291	Gonzaga Inland Northwest Watershed Project	Gonzaga University	\$23,998		\$23,998	Alternate
35	43.88	19-1129	Outdoor Education Programs in Island County	Boys and Girls Clubs of Snohomish County	\$17,860		\$17,860	Alternate
35	43.88	19-1040	NextGen Outdoor Camp in Kitsap County	Great Peninsula Conservancy	\$25,000	\$15,000	\$40,000	Alternate
35	43.88	19-1058	Salish Sea Explorers Eco Camp	Blaine-Birch Bay Parks and Recreation District 2	\$17,804		\$17,804	Alternate
35	43.88	19-1373	Yakima Homeless Youth Recreation and Education	Rod's House	\$20,000		\$20,000	Alternate
39	43.75	19-1405	Strong S'Klallams Go Outside	Port Gamble S'Klallam Foundation	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	Alternate
40	43.63	19-1176	Gorge Outdoors Youth Program	Stevenson-Carson School District	\$15,730		\$15,730	Alternate
41	43.38	19-1170	Full Circle Camp	Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District	\$25,000	\$14,550	\$39,550	Alternate
41	43.38	19-1251	Mica Peak High School	Central Valley School District	\$24,634		\$24,634	Alternate
43	43.25	19-1078	C and C Kids Camp and Camp David Junior County Park	C and C Kids Afterschool Enrichment	\$18,579	\$191,966	\$210,545	Alternate
44	43.13	19-1441	Nature Connection Youth Programs at Seward Park	Audubon Washington	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$45,000	Alternate
45	42.88	19-1235	Outdoor Learning Experience at Camp Reed	YMCA of the Inland Northwest	\$24,162		\$24,162	Alternate
46	42.75	19-1363	Barrier-free Rainbow Trout Fishing	The Noel Cole Fish and Wildlife Project	\$10,850		\$10,850	Alternate
47	42.50	19-1295	Beach Investigation at Fort Worden State Park	Port Townsend Marine Science Center	\$17,290	\$3,150	\$20,440	Alternate
48	42.38	19-1162	Southwest Boys and Girls Club Summer Outdoors Program	Boys and Girls Clubs of King County	\$7,500	\$1,875	\$9,375	Alternate
48	42.38	19-1056	Jefferson County 4-H Challenge Program	Washington State University	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
48	42.38	19-1262	Environmental Education Overnight Camp for Fourth through Fifth Grade	South Sound YMCA	\$24,734		\$24,734	Alternate
51	42.25	19-1082	Multi-age Maritime Field Experience	Swan School	\$9,937		\$9,937	Alternate
51	42.25	19-1313	Kent-Students for Sustainability-World Relief	World Relief Seattle	\$15,000		\$15,000	Alternate
53	42.13	19-1306	Wild Sky Summer Camps	Outdoor Adventure Center	\$24,998	\$7,293	\$32,291	Alternate
53	42.13	19-1189	Highline Outdoor Classrooms	Highline College	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
53	42.13	19-1049	Forest School for Bellingham Third Graders	Bellingham Public Schools	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
53	42.13	19-1379	Columbia Springs Summer Camp Expansion Project	Columbia Springs	\$25,000	\$6,575	\$31,575	Alternate
57	41.63	19-1096	Dayton Youth Summer Recreation Program	The Club of Dayton	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	Alternate
58	41.13	19-1233	Hands-On Outdoor Education in South Puget Sound	Capitol Land Trust	\$24,986	\$54,975	\$79,961	Alternate
59	41.00	19-1257	Connecting People with Prairie Oaks	Center for Natural Lands Management	\$24,309	\$10,374	\$34,683	Alternate
59	41.00	19-1419	Whitman County Service Learning Opportunities	Whitman Conservation District	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
61	40.88	19-1021	Exploring Washington Parks and Recreation Areas	Columbia School District	\$12,000		\$12,000	Alternate
62	40.75	19-1004	Saplings and Cedars Outdoor Preschool Project	Squaxin Island Tribe	\$25,000	\$31,200	\$56,200	Alternate
62	40.75	19-1161	No Child Left Inside Bremerton Forest Days	Bremerton Forest Days	\$19,100		\$19,100	Alternate
62	40.75	19-1358	No Quinault Child Left Inside	Quinault Indian Nation	\$20,448		\$20,448	Alternate
65	40.50	19-1323	Elementary Science Program Local Field Education	Mount Vernon School District	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
66	40.38	19-1353	Outdoor School and Camps	Everett	\$18,235	\$29,124	\$47,359	Alternate
66	40.38	19-1401	Delridge Wetland Park	Delridge Neighborhood Association	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
68	39.88	19-1024	Fostering Natural Resource Stewards	Mason Conservation District	\$25,000	\$24,109	\$49,109	Alternate



**No Child Left Inside
Tier 1
Grants Awarded
2019**



Rank	Score	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
69	39.75	19-1034	Outdoor Education in Cowlitz County School Gardens	Lower Columbia School Gardens	\$25,000	\$5,400	\$30,400	Alternate
69	39.75	19-1172	Nature Nuts After School Program	Peacock Family Services	\$8,000	\$61,909	\$69,909	Alternate
71	39.63	19-1230	Outdoor Preschool in Olympia	A Cooperative Outdoor Revolutionary Nature School Northwest	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
71	39.63	19-1307	After School Ski Program	Cascade School District	\$20,000	\$900	\$20,900	Alternate
71	39.63	19-1297	Kids in the Dishman Hills	Dishman Hills Conservancy	\$24,950	\$10,900	\$35,850	Alternate
71	39.63	19-1043	Outdoor Education and Stewardship Program	Camp Fire USA Central Puget Sound	\$24,091		\$24,091	Alternate
71	39.63	19-1436	Field Youth Awareness King County	Northwest Avalanche Center	\$11,997	\$8,000	\$19,997	Alternate
76	39.25	19-1361	Nooksack Indian Summer Program Parks Trip	Nooksack Indian Tribe	\$22,463		\$22,463	Alternate
77	39.00	19-1066	Clark County StreamTeam School Plantings	Clark Public Utilities	\$24,950	\$55,841	\$80,791	Alternate
78	38.75	19-1133	Kids on Bikes Program	Olympia Peninsula Bicycle Alliance	\$10,000		\$10,000	Alternate
79	38.50	19-1019	Orcas Island Middle School's NatureBridge Trip	Orcas Island School District	\$12,725		\$12,725	Alternate
80	38.38	19-1039	Stonewater Leadership Pursuits	Youth Dynamics	\$24,948		\$24,948	Alternate
81	37.75	19-1242	Hawaiian Outrigger Paddling in Bellingham	Bellingham Bay Paddlers	\$23,140	\$10,200	\$33,340	Alternate
82	37.63	19-1450	Fishing Kids	Redmond	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
83	37.25	19-1453	Tenino Quarry Pool Sponsored Season Pass Program	Friends of Tenino Parks	\$25,000	\$8,150	\$33,150	Alternate
84	37.13	19-1454	Tasting Earth, Smelling Sky, Hearing Water: Elwah	Wild Edge Farm	\$19,500	\$21,500	\$41,000	Alternate
85	36.13	19-1244	Take Me Fishing	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
85	36.13	19-1013	Hansville Greenway Ecosystem Elementary Education	Hansville Greenway Association	\$6,500		\$6,500	Alternate
87	36.00	19-1146	Anacortes Youth Sailing Expansion	Anacortes Small Boat Center	\$10,000		\$10,000	Alternate
88	34.63	19-1193	Ione and Metalines Public Libraries	Pend Oreille County Library	\$5,000		\$5,000	Alternate
89	34.00	19-1399	Kaleidoscope Forest School	Orcas Daycare Association	\$25,000	\$196,624	\$221,624	Alternate
90	31.38	19-1186	TreeSong Nature Center	TreeSong Nature Awareness	\$7,461		\$7,461	Alternate
91	31.25	19-1099	Kids Play Tubing Day	Echo Valley Ski and Tubing Club	\$24,400		\$24,400	Alternate
92	30.75	19-1041	Fossil Field Trips Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Studies at Stonerose	Friends of Stonerose Fossils	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
93	29.88	19-1016	Yakima's First Outdoor Preschool	Sol Shine Nature Preschool	\$25,000		\$25,000	Alternate
¹ Partial Funding					\$1,962,316	\$1,451,049	\$3,413,365	\$375,002



No Child Left Inside
Tier 1
Evaluation
2019



Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
			Youth	Program	Partnerships	Sustainability of Program	State Parks and Public Lands	Military and Veteran Families	
1	Lopez Island Youth Outdoor Education Program		13.13	18.50	8.75	4.00	5.00	1.75	51.13
2	Mini Camps for Youth with Disabilities		13.88	18.00	9.00	3.63	4.25	1.88	50.63
3	mPOWER: Outdoor Recreation and Mentoring for At-Risk Youth		14.25	16.50	8.50	3.88	4.63	1.75	49.50
4	Link's Out Door Adventures		13.88	16.50	8.50	3.88	4.38	1.63	48.75
5	Scriber Lake High School Interdisciplinary Studies Environmental Program		12.38	17.00	9.00	4.25	4.88	1.13	48.63
6	Outdoor Education Workshops at Camp Mariposa		13.13	18.50	8.25	4.38	2.50	1.25	48.00
7	Youth Environmental Stewards New Leaders		12.00	17.00	9.50	3.75	4.50	1.00	47.75
8	Palouse Prairie Restoration and Education Program		12.75	18.00	8.00	3.88	3.88	1.00	47.50
9	Tacoma Outdoor Learning Opportunities		13.88	15.50	8.50	3.63	4.13	1.50	47.13
10	Summer Fun Program		11.63	16.50	8.25	4.25	4.25	1.88	46.75
11	Guardians of the Sea: Boat-based Education		11.63	16.00	8.75	3.63	4.50	2.00	46.50
12	Benton City, Get Outside!		13.50	17.00	7.50	3.38	3.88	1.13	46.38
12	North Seattle Family Resource Center Outdoors Recreation		12.75	16.50	8.00	3.88	4.38	0.88	46.38
14	Foster Kids Explore Washington		13.88	16.00	7.75	2.50	4.13	1.88	46.13
15	The Willow Project Southeast King County		14.25	15.50	8.25	3.50	3.00	1.38	45.88
15	Therapy on Wheels Pierce County Bicycling		12.38	16.50	7.75	3.63	3.75	1.88	45.88
17	Seattle Rock Climbing Program		11.63	15.50	8.75	4.00	4.25	1.63	45.75
17	Outdoor Education Initiative for Burlington Edison		12.75	17.00	7.25	3.38	4.50	0.88	45.75
17	Kids in the Creek and Forest		12.38	16.50	8.25	3.13	3.88	1.63	45.75
20	Nature Kids Program		12.38	16.00	8.00	3.50	3.88	1.88	45.63
21	Vamos! Bilingual Environmental Education in the Cascades		13.50	17.00	7.00	3.50	4.25	0.25	45.50
22	Chalá-at (People of the Hoh River) Youth Surfers		12.75	18.50	6.00	3.63	3.13	1.38	45.38
22	Nepal Seattle Youth Outdoors Program		12.75	17.50	6.25	3.88	4.13	0.88	45.38
24	Pacific Middle School Youth Experiential Training Institute Adventure Club		11.63	16.00	8.25	3.88	4.25	1.25	45.25
24	Finding Urban Nature, Multilingual Enhancement		13.13	16.00	7.50	4.00	2.88	1.75	45.25
26	Buffalo Soldier American History Summer Learning		12.00	15.50	8.25	3.00	4.25	1.88	44.88
27	Outdoor Education at Camp Singing Wind in Toledo		13.13	15.50	8.25	3.38	3.00	1.50	44.75
28	Fifth-grade Outdoor Education		11.63	17.50	7.00	3.50	4.50	0.38	44.50
29	Field Trip Project for Homeless Children		13.13	15.00	7.75	3.88	3.88	0.63	44.25
30	Fostering Stewardship Through Beach Explorations		12.75	16.00	7.50	4.00	3.50	0.38	44.13
30	Take a Hike with Puget Sound WildCare Naturalists		12.00	15.50	8.00	3.25	4.13	1.25	44.13
32	Young Friends of the Forest		12.38	15.50	8.25	3.75	4.00	0.13	44.00
32	The Pleiades Education Program		12.00	14.50	8.00	3.50	4.00	2.00	44.00
32	Gonzaga Inland Northwest Watershed Project		11.63	16.50	6.50	3.50	4.38	1.50	44.00
35	Outdoor Education Programs in Island County		11.63	15.50	7.25	3.75	4.13	1.63	43.88



No Child Left Inside
Tier 1
 Evaluation
 2019



	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Rank	Project Name	Youth	Program	Partnerships	Sustainability of Program	State Parks and Public Lands	Military and Veteran Families	Total
35	NextGen Outdoor Camp in Kitsap County	12.75	15.00	7.50	3.00	4.25	1.38	43.88
35	Salish Sea Explorers Eco Camp	10.88	16.00	8.00	3.50	4.38	1.13	43.88
35	Yakima Homeless Youth Recreation and Education	13.50	17.00	5.25	3.63	3.63	0.88	43.88
39	Strong S'Klallams Go Outside	12.38	15.50	7.25	3.75	3.88	1.00	43.75
40	Gorge Outdoors Youth Program	10.88	16.00	8.25	3.63	4.00	0.88	43.63
41	Full Circle Camp	10.13	16.00	7.75	4.00	4.00	1.50	43.38
41	Mica Peak High School	12.00	16.50	6.25	3.25	4.00	1.38	43.38
43	C and C Kids Camp and Camp David Junior County Park	11.63	15.00	7.25	3.63	4.13	1.63	43.25
44	Nature Connection Youth Programs at Seward Park	12.38	14.00	8.25	3.75	3.75	1.00	43.13
45	Outdoor Learning Experience at Camp Reed	12.75	14.50	7.25	3.88	2.75	1.75	42.88
46	Barrier-free Rainbow Trout Fishing	11.63	15.50	7.75	4.25	2.00	1.63	42.75
47	Beach Investigation at Fort Worden State Park	11.63	15.50	7.00	3.38	4.38	0.63	42.50
48	Southwest Boys and Girls Club Summer Outdoors Program	12.00	14.50	7.25	3.75	4.00	0.88	42.38
48	Jefferson County 4-H Challenge Program	11.63	13.50	8.25	3.63	3.50	1.88	42.38
48	Environmental Education Overnight Camp for Fourth through Fifth Grade	12.00	16.50	6.75	3.50	2.63	1.00	42.38
51	Multi-age Maritime Field Experience	10.50	15.50	8.50	3.25	4.25	0.25	42.25
51	Kent-Students for Sustainability-World Relief	13.13	15.50	6.25	3.50	3.00	0.88	42.25
53	Wild Sky Summer Camps	10.88	14.50	7.50	3.38	4.00	1.88	42.13
53	Highline Outdoor Classrooms	12.00	14.50	7.25	3.50	3.38	1.50	42.13
53	Forest School for Bellingham Third Graders	11.63	16.50	7.50	3.13	2.38	1.00	42.13
53	Columbia Springs Summer Camp Expansion Project	10.50	15.00	8.00	3.75	3.25	1.63	42.13
57	Dayton Youth Summer Recreation Program	10.13	15.00	7.75	4.25	4.00	0.50	41.63
58	Hands-On Outdoor Education in South Puget Sound	12.00	14.00	8.00	3.75	2.75	0.63	41.13
59	Connecting People with Prairie Oaks	10.88	15.00	7.50	3.38	3.25	1.00	41.00
59	Whitman County Service Learning Opportunities	10.50	14.50	8.25	3.50	3.38	0.88	41.00
61	Exploring Washington Parks and Recreation Areas	13.13	14.00	5.25	3.00	4.75	0.75	40.88
62	Saplings and Cedars Outdoor Preschool Project	11.25	14.50	7.75	3.00	2.88	1.38	40.75
62	No Child Left Inside Bremerton Forest Days	12.75	15.00	4.50	3.00	4.00	1.50	40.75
62	No Quinalt Child Left Inside	12.75	14.00	6.00	3.00	4.13	0.88	40.75
65	Elementary Science Program Local Field Education	11.25	14.50	6.75	3.38	4.38	0.25	40.50
66	Outdoor School and Camps	10.88	14.50	6.00	3.75	4.00	1.25	40.38
66	Delridge Wetland Park	10.13	14.50	8.50	3.88	3.25	0.13	40.38
68	Fostering Natural Resource Stewards	11.25	12.00	7.75	3.63	4.13	1.13	39.88
69	Outdoor Education in Cowlitz County School Gardens	11.25	13.50	8.50	3.88	2.13	0.50	39.75
69	Nature Nuts After School Program	9.00	15.50	7.50	3.25	3.75	0.75	39.75



No Child Left Inside
Tier 1
 Evaluation
 2019



	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Rank	Project Name	Youth	Program	Partnerships	Sustainability of Program	State Parks and Public Lands	Military and Veteran Families	Total
71	Outdoor Preschool in Olympia	10.50	15.00	5.50	3.13	3.63	1.88	39.63
71	After School Ski Program	10.13	14.00	7.50	3.88	3.63	0.50	39.63
71	Kids in the Dishman Hills	10.88	13.50	7.00	3.25	3.75	1.25	39.63
71	Outdoor Education and Stewardship Program	9.38	15.00	7.75	3.75	2.88	0.88	39.63
71	Field Youth Awareness King County	9.38	16.00	6.00	3.75	4.25	0.25	39.63
76	Nooksack Indian Summer Program Parks Trip	11.63	14.00	5.00	3.50	4.38	0.75	39.25
77	Clark County StreamTeam School Plantings	11.25	13.50	7.00	3.00	2.63	1.63	39.00
78	Kids on Bikes Program	10.50	14.00	6.25	3.00	3.50	1.50	38.75
79	Orcas Island Middle School's NatureBridge Trip	9.75	16.50	4.00	3.13	4.25	0.88	38.50
80	Stonewater Leadership Pursuits	12.38	13.50	5.25	2.88	4.00	0.38	38.38
81	Hawaiian Outrigger Paddling in Bellingham	8.63	14.00	6.75	3.38	3.50	1.50	37.75
82	Fishing Kids	8.25	13.50	7.75	3.75	3.38	1.00	37.63
83	Tenino Quarry Pool Sponsored Season Pass Program	10.13	13.50	6.25	2.75	3.13	1.50	37.25
84	Tasting Earth, Smelling Sky, Hearing Water: Elwah	10.13	12.50	6.75	3.25	3.50	1.00	37.13
85	Take Me Fishing	11.25	14.00	3.50	3.13	3.13	1.13	36.13
85	Hansville Greenway Ecosystem Elementary Education	9.75	13.00	5.75	2.75	3.38	1.50	36.13
87	Anacortes Youth Sailing Expansion	7.50	14.00	6.50	3.50	3.38	1.13	36.00
88	Ione and Metalines Public Libraries	10.88	12.50	4.50	2.38	3.25	1.13	34.63
89	Kaleidoscope Forest School	9.38	13.50	3.00	3.25	3.88	1.00	34.00
90	TreeSong Nature Center	10.13	12.50	5.00	2.25	0.50	1.00	31.38
91	Kids Play Tubing Day	10.88	13.00	1.75	2.75	2.50	0.38	31.25
92	Fossil Field Trips Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Studies at Stonerose	11.25	12.50	4.00	1.75	0.63	0.63	30.75
93	Yakima's First Outdoor Preschool	9.75	12.00	2.50	2.38	2.63	0.63	29.88

Advisory Committee Scores Questions 1-6



No Child Left Inside
Tier 2
 Grants Awarded
 2019



Rank	Score	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	51.78	19-1135	Nature Connections	Young Women Empowered	\$75,000	\$136,356	\$211,356	\$75,000
2	48.89	19-1267	Get Out and Learn	King County	\$17,770	\$20,000	\$37,770	\$17,770
3	48.22	19-1112	Outdoor Leadership Instruction and Field Experiences Program	Pierce County	\$69,962	\$87,260	\$157,222	\$69,962
4	47.67	19-1084	Cultivating Youth and Food in the South Sound	Garden-Raised Bounty	\$75,000	\$594,000	\$669,000	\$75,000
5	47.22	19-1094	Nisqually Tribal Youth: Explore and Connect	Nisqually River Foundation	\$74,931	\$63,387	\$138,318	\$74,931
6	46.78	19-1139	Outdoor Learning Expansion for Urban Spokane Youth	Camp Fire Inland Northwest Council	\$75,000	\$55,786	\$130,786	\$62,337 ¹
7	46.33	19-1370	Refugees United in Nature with Intentional Leadership Development-Refugee Youth Outdoors	International Rescue Committee	\$72,121	\$24,603	\$96,724	Alternate
8	46.22	19-1337	Outdoor Leadership Program for Pierce County Teens	Boys and Girls Clubs of Pierce	\$50,000	\$37,570	\$87,570	Alternate
8	46.22	19-1204	4-H Eco-Stewardship	Washington State University Extension, Chelan County	\$74,977	\$143,254	\$218,231	Alternate
10	46.11	19-1108	NatureBridge-Olympia: Youth Environmental Education	NatureBridge	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	Alternate
10	46.11	19-1274	Glacier Peak Institute: Promoting the Outdoors-Momentum in Snohomish/Skagit Education	Washington State University	\$74,991	\$42,563	\$117,554	Alternate
12	45.67	19-1396	Salmon Outside!	Mid-Columbia Regional Fisheries Enhancement Group	\$35,900	\$20,840	\$56,740	Alternate
13	44.89	19-1243	Sustaining Opportunities for Equitable Access	Waskowitz Environmental	\$74,745	\$69,280	\$144,025	Alternate
13	44.89	19-1144	Lifeways of Our Native Habitat	Puget Sound Educational Service District	\$75,000	\$33,943	\$108,943	Alternate
15	44.67	19-1412	As Long as the Rivers Run: Heritage Camping	Institute for Community Leadership	\$60,000	\$20,000	\$80,000	Alternate
16	44.56	19-1229	Students for Salmon in Whatcom County	Nooksack Salmon Enhance Association	\$60,900	\$85,280	\$146,180	Alternate
17	44.33	19-1232	Outdoors For Life	Cispus Learning Center	\$62,119	\$27,740	\$89,859	Alternate
17	44.33	19-1258	The Youth Eco-Therapy Program	The Rescue Mission	\$53,900	\$19,500	\$73,400	Alternate
17	44.33	19-1260	Outdoor Adventures Program	Auburn Parks and Recreation	\$70,000	\$65,000	\$135,000	Alternate
17	44.33	19-1300	Mountains to Sound Greenway Education Program	Mountains to Sound Greenway	\$60,000	\$22,000	\$82,000	Alternate
21	44.22	19-1384	Native Foster Children Outdoor Education Program	United Indians Foundation	\$75,000	\$25,300	\$100,300	Alternate
22	44.00	19-1409	Rebuilding Young Lives on the Water-3 Counties	Sound Experience	\$74,728	\$53,370	\$128,098	Alternate
23	43.78	19-1086	Darrington Explore Outdoors	North Counties Family Services	\$25,000	\$33,000	\$58,000	Alternate
23	43.78	19-1003	Explore Your Wild Yakima	Explore Your Wild	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	Alternate
25	43.44	19-1190	Kids Eating Right - Nutrition and Exercise for Life	Inland Northwest Farmers Market Association	\$55,707	\$62,500	\$118,207	Alternate
26	43.00	19-1406	Camp Learning Education Adventure Driven	YMCA of Tacoma-Pierce County	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	Alternate
27	42.89	19-1150	Real Learning Real Work-Restoration Education	North Olympic Salmon Coalition	\$43,160	\$24,000	\$67,160	Alternate
28	42.67	19-1052	Hands-On Science for Youth on the Salish Sea	Salish Sea Expeditions	\$75,000	\$126,700	\$201,700	Alternate
29	42.33	19-1302	Outdoor School for Klickitat and Skamania Counties	Mount Adams Institute	\$74,954	\$25,324	\$100,278	Alternate
30	42.11	19-1400	Recreation Events for Children with Disabilities	Outdoors for All Foundation	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000	Alternate
31	41.67	19-1239	Puget Sound-Explore • Connect • Inspire!	Puget Sound Estuarium	\$38,687	\$18,340	\$57,027	Alternate
32	41.56	19-1065	Outdoor Youth Programs	Camp Hope of Southwest Washington	\$55,255	\$61,690	\$116,945	Alternate



**No Child Left Inside
Tier 2
Grants Awarded
2019**



Rank	Score	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
32	41.56	19-1404	Outdoor Youth Program in White Salmon	CultureSeed	\$62,100	\$103,985	\$166,085	Alternate
34	41.22	19-1198	Go Green! Outdoor Adventures	Longview	\$18,750	\$79,750	\$98,500	Alternate
35	40.44	19-1130	All Kids Get Outside-School Garden Environmental Education	Common Threads Farm	\$74,479	\$61,166	\$135,645	Alternate
35	40.44	19-1075	Outdoor Horsemanship Safety and Recreation for Youth	Backcountry Horsemen of Washington	\$39,399	\$71,982	\$111,381	Alternate
35	40.44	19-1091	Student Led Sustainable Climate Change Solutions	Antioch University	\$73,943	\$24,946	\$98,889	Alternate
38	40.33	19-1068	Linking Youth-Serving Partners to The Nature Conservancy Preserves	The Nature Conservancy	\$52,000	\$17,334	\$69,334	Alternate
39	40.22	19-1051	School Overnight Program-Outdoor Education	IslandWood	\$75,000	\$147,980	\$222,980	Alternate
40	39.78	19-1180	Outdoor Preschool in King County	Tiny Trees Preschool	\$37,000	\$16,000	\$53,000	Alternate
40	39.78	19-1238	Y Adventure School: Education Beyond the Classroom	Whatcom Family YMCA	\$28,520	\$9,507	\$38,027	Alternate
40	39.78	19-1465	Wild Sky Summer Camps for Tribes	Outdoor Adventure Center	\$64,753	\$22,182	\$86,935	Alternate
40	39.78	19-1283	Boys and Girls Southwest Washington On-Water Access Project	Lower Columbia Estuary Partner	\$48,713	\$16,298	\$65,011	Alternate
44	39.67	19-1098	Garden Buddies: Building School Capacity for Environmental Education	Oxbow Farm and Conservation Center	\$67,652	\$39,866	\$107,518	Alternate
45	38.89	19-1134	Camp Gifford	The Salvation Army of Spokane	\$75,000	\$421,471	\$496,471	Alternate
46	38.67	19-1067	Outdoor Education Program	Snohomish County	\$45,117	\$18,216	\$63,333	Alternate
47	37.78	19-1304	Heritage Farm to Fork	Washington State University Extension Clark County	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	Alternate
48	36.78	19-1432	Science and Math Institute Outdoor Education and Stewardship	Elements of Education	\$31,500	\$10,500	\$42,000	Alternate
49	36.33	19-1345	Camp Wooten Outdoor Education Program	Clarkston School District	\$26,250	\$8,750	\$35,000	Alternate
50	36.22	19-1008	Expanding Equitable Engagement with Washington State Envirothon	King Conservation District	\$56,036	\$18,965	\$75,001	Alternate
51	35.11	19-1381	Methow Valley Youth Outdoor Program	Northwest Outward Bound School	\$22,650	\$22,697	\$45,347	Alternate
52	33.44	19-1237	Our Natural Outdoor World in Winter and Summer	Boys and Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula	\$36,294	\$108,205	\$144,499	Alternate
53	32.78	19-1002	Garden Project	Hands-On Personal Empowerment Garden Project	\$25,000	\$16,500	\$41,500	Alternate
54	32.56	19-1154	Kids Camp	Down the Stretch Ranch	\$75,000	\$25,000	\$100,000	Alternate
55	32.33	19-1205	Spokane Parks Rx Outdoor Adventure Camps	Spokane	\$12,000	\$48,918	\$60,918	Alternate
56	23.00	19-1206	Sailing Education Program	Olympia Yacht Club	\$45,000	\$54,500	\$99,500	Alternate
57	21.78	19-1281	Youth Farming Efforts	Clark County Food Bank	\$20,962	\$6,988	\$27,950	Alternate
					\$3,157,925	\$3,475,292	\$6,633,217	\$375,000

¹Partial Funding



No Child Left Inside
Tier 2
 Evaluation Scores
 2019



Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
			Youth	Program	Partnerships	Sustainability of Program	State Parks and Public Lands	Military and Veteran Families	
1	Nature Connections		13.33	18.22	9.33	4.44	4.67	1.78	51.78
2	Get Out and Learn		14.00	16.44	8.67	3.89	4.44	1.44	48.89
3	Outdoor Leadership Instruction and Field Experiences Program		14.33	16.89	7.78	3.78	3.56	1.89	48.22
4	Cultivating Youth and Food in the South Sound		12.67	17.33	8.67	4.00	3.22	1.78	47.67
5	Nisqually Tribal Youth: Explore and Connect		12.67	17.33	8.22	3.78	4.33	0.89	47.22
6	Outdoor Learning Expansion for Urban Spokane Youth		14.00	16.89	8.22	3.67	3.67	0.33	46.78
7	Refugees United in Nature with Intentional Leadership Development-Refugee Youth Outdoors		13.67	15.11	8.44	3.78	3.89	1.44	46.33
8	Outdoor Leadership Program for Pierce County Teens		13.00	16.00	8.00	3.44	4.22	1.56	46.22
8	4-H Eco-Stewardship		12.67	16.89	8.00	3.89	4.22	0.56	46.22
10	NatureBridge-Olympia: Youth Environmental Education		12.33	17.33	8.22	4.11	3.89	0.22	46.11
10	Glacier Peak Institute: Promoting the Outdoors-Momentum in Snohomish/Skagit Education		11.33	16.89	8.22	3.78	4.67	1.22	46.11
12	Salmon Outside!		13.33	17.33	7.11	2.56	3.89	1.44	45.67
13	Sustaining Opportunities for Equitable Access		13.33	16.89	8.44	3.78	2.22	0.22	44.89
13	Lifeways of Our Native Habitat		13.00	15.56	8.00	3.78	4.11	0.44	44.89
15	As Long as the Rivers Run: Heritage Camping		13.00	14.22	8.44	3.33	4.22	1.44	44.67
16	Students for Salmon in Whatcom County		11.00	16.00	8.44	3.78	4.11	1.22	44.56
17	Outdoors For Life		12.00	16.00	7.33	3.22	4.33	1.44	44.33
17	The Youth Eco-Therapy Program		14.00	13.33	8.22	3.78	3.89	1.11	44.33
17	Outdoor Adventures Program		14.00	14.67	6.22	3.67	4.33	1.44	44.33
17	Mountains to Sound Greenway Education Program		11.67	15.56	8.22	4.11	4.33	0.44	44.33
21	Native Foster Children Outdoor Education Program		14.00	15.56	7.11	2.56	4.00	1.00	44.22
22	Rebuilding Young Lives on the Water-3 Counties		12.33	14.67	9.11	3.44	3.11	1.33	44.00
23	Darrington Explore Outdoors		11.00	15.56	8.67	3.56	4.11	0.89	43.78
23	Explore Your Wild Yakima		13.67	14.67	7.11	2.78	3.67	1.89	43.78
25	Kids Eating Right - Nutrition and Exercise for Life		11.00	15.56	7.78	3.33	4.11	1.67	43.44
26	Camp Learning Education Adventure Driven		11.33	15.11	7.11	3.56	4.11	1.78	43.00
27	Real Learning Real Work-Restoration Education		11.67	15.56	7.56	3.44	3.89	0.78	42.89
28	Hands-On Science for Youth on the Salish Sea		10.67	15.56	7.78	3.44	4.22	1.00	42.67
29	Outdoor School for Klickitat and Skamania Counties		10.67	16.44	6.44	3.44	3.78	1.56	42.33
30	Recreation Events for Children with Disabilities		13.67	15.11	6.00	3.11	3.67	0.56	42.11
31	Puget Sound-Explore • Connect • Inspire!		10.33	14.67	8.44	3.22	3.67	1.33	41.67
32	Outdoor Youth Programs		11.33	15.56	7.56	2.78	2.67	1.67	41.56
32	Outdoor Youth Program in White Salmon		13.33	13.78	7.56	2.89	3.78	0.22	41.56
34	Go Green! Outdoor Adventures		12.33	15.11	6.44	3.44	3.89	0.00	41.22
35	All Kids Get Outside-School Garden Environmental Education		11.67	15.11	8.44	3.22	1.11	0.89	40.44
35	Outdoor Horsemanship Safety and Recreation for Youth		11.00	14.22	6.22	3.11	4.00	1.89	40.44



No Child Left Inside
Tier 2
 Evaluation Scores
 2019



Rank	Project Name	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
			Youth	Program	Partnerships	Sustainability of Program	State Parks and Public Lands	Military and Veteran Families	
35	Student Led Sustainable Climate Change Solutions		12.00	15.56	7.11	3.33	2.44	0.00	40.44
38	Linking Youth-Serving Partners to The Nature Conservancy Preserves		10.67	15.11	8.00	3.33	3.22	0.00	40.33
39	School Overnight Program-Outdoor Education		11.67	14.67	6.44	3.78	2.00	1.67	40.22
40	Outdoor Preschool in King County		9.67	16.00	6.44	4.00	3.00	0.67	39.78
40	Y Adventure School: Education Beyond the Classroom		11.00	14.67	6.44	3.33	4.11	0.22	39.78
40	Wild Sky Summer Camps for Tribes		12.67	13.78	5.11	3.00	3.67	1.56	39.78
40	Boys and Girls Southwest Washington On-Water Access Project		12.33	13.33	6.67	2.89	3.89	0.67	39.78
44	Garden Buddies: Building School Capacity for Environmental Education		12.33	14.22	6.67	3.22	2.56	0.67	39.67
45	Camp Gifford		12.67	15.11	4.89	3.33	2.22	0.67	38.89
46	Outdoor Education Program		8.67	14.22	8.22	3.22	3.11	1.22	38.67
47	Heritage Farm to Fork		11.00	12.00	7.56	2.89	2.56	1.78	37.78
48	Science and Math Institute Outdoor Education and Stewardship		9.67	12.89	6.89	3.44	3.22	0.67	36.78
49	Camp Wooten Outdoor Education Program		10.00	13.33	6.67	2.44	2.89	1.00	36.33
50	Expanding Equitable Engagement with Washington State Envirothon		11.00	12.89	6.44	3.11	2.78	0.00	36.22
51	Methow Valley Youth Outdoor Program		9.67	14.22	6.67	3.44	1.00	0.11	35.11
52	Our Natural Outdoor World in Winter and Summer		9.00	12.00	5.11	2.78	3.56	1.00	33.44
53	Garden Project		9.33	13.33	6.44	2.67	0.78	0.22	32.78
54	Kids Camp		8.00	12.89	4.89	2.00	2.89	1.89	32.56
55	Spokane Parks Rx Outdoor Adventure Camps		9.33	12.44	4.44	2.22	3.78	0.11	32.33
56	Sailing Education Program		5.33	8.89	4.89	2.89	0.78	0.22	23.00
57	Youth Farming Efforts		5.00	8.00	4.89	1.56	1.11	1.22	21.78

Advisory Committee Scores Questions 1-6



**No Child Left Inside
Tier 3
Grants Awarded
2019**



Rank	Score	Project Number	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Grant Awarded
1	50.71	19-1196	Youth Leadership Adventures	North Cascades Institute	\$120,000	\$310,318	\$430,318	\$120,000
2	49.14	19-1014	Bringing Outdoor and Occupational Teaching to Students and Riparian Program	Hood Canal School District	\$136,490	\$106,504	\$242,994	\$136,490
3	48.00	19-1074	Mountain Workshops: Pierce, Kitsap, King, Thurston	The Mountaineers	\$150,000	\$54,075	\$204,075	\$150,000
4	47.71	19-1029	Boys Outdoor Leadership Development/Girls Outdoor Leadership Development	YMCA of Greater Seattle	\$150,000	\$1,734,268	\$1,884,268	\$150,000
5	46.71	19-1072	Outdoor Adventure Program	Yakima Valley Farm Workers	\$150,000	\$70,468	\$220,468	\$43,510 ¹
6	46.43	19-1107	Eco-Kayaking on the Thea Foss Waterway	Foss Waterway Seaport	\$90,287	\$217,021	\$307,308	Alternate
7	46.29	19-1246	Outdoor School for All 2.0: Expanding Reach	University of Washington Mount Rainier Institute	\$130,000	\$130,000	\$260,000	Alternate
8	45.86	19-1272	Lummi Youth Living and Protecting Schelangen	Lummi Nation	\$149,483	\$50,009	\$199,492	Alternate
9	45.71	19-1048	Nature EdVentures	Wild Whatcom	\$116,288	\$121,620	\$237,908	Alternate
10	45.57	19-1163	Cascades to Waves: King County Youth Leadership Development	The Service Board	\$112,498	\$37,502	\$150,000	Alternate
11	45.43	19-1177	Washington Expansion	Big City Mountaineers	\$150,000	\$111,716	\$261,716	Alternate
11	45.43	19-1264	Branch Out, Year 2	Refugee Women's Alliance	\$150,000	\$79,292	\$229,292	Alternate
13	45.29	19-1027	Rock the Park Summer Camp-Magnuson Park	Associated Recreation Council	\$87,188	\$73,201	\$160,389	Alternate
14	44.00	19-1378	Kittitas Environmental Education Network Connects Middle Schoolers to Nature	Kittitas Environmental Education Network	\$133,660	\$44,700	\$178,360	Alternate
15	42.00	19-1318	Outdoor Youth Leadership in Seattle	Seattle	\$111,935	\$94,000	\$205,935	Alternate
16	39.57	19-1305	Traveling Naturalist	Wenatchee River Institute	\$142,142	\$69,550	\$211,692	Alternate
17	39.14	19-1011	San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corp	San Juan Island Conservation District	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$200,000	Alternate
18	37.57	19-1309	The HOPE Program	Family Support Center	\$150,000	\$122,968	\$272,968	Alternate
19	36.57	19-1456	Camp Bishop Outdoor Education and Recreation	YMCA of Grays Harbor	\$80,000	\$96,000	\$176,000	Alternate
20	36.14	19-1299	Opportunities Outdoors	Stevens County	\$118,620	\$41,900	\$160,520	Alternate
21	35.00	19-1110	Walla Walla Valley Outdoor Youth Adventures	United Way of Walla Walla	\$121,117	\$67,530	\$188,647	Alternate
22	29.57	19-1266	Kids and Kokanee Growing Watershed Stewards in King County	Trout Unlimited Incorporated	\$139,850	\$64,130	\$203,980	Alternate
					\$2,839,558	\$3,746,772	\$6,586,330	\$600,000

¹Partial Funding



No Child Left Inside Tier 3

Evaluation Scores
2019



	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Rank	Project Name	Youth	Program	Partnerships	Sustainability of Program	State Parks and Public	Military and Veteran Families	Total
1	Youth Leadership Adventures	12.86	18.86	8.86	4.29	4.29	1.57	50.71
2	Bringing Outdoor and Occupational Teaching to Students and Riparian Program	13.71	17.14	8.00	4.29	4.43	1.57	49.14
3	Mountain Workshops: Pierce, Kitsap, King, Thurston	11.57	16.57	9.71	4.29	4.43	1.43	48.00
4	Boys Outdoor Leadership Development/Girls Outdoor Leadership Development	11.57	17.14	8.29	4.00	4.71	2.00	47.71
5	Outdoor Adventure Program	13.71	14.86	8.57	3.71	4.43	1.43	46.71
6	Eco-Kayaking on the Thea Foss Waterway	14.57	16.00	8.86	3.57	2.71	0.71	46.43
7	Outdoor School for All 2.0: Expanding Reach	11.57	18.29	7.14	4.43	4.14	0.71	46.29
8	Lummi Youth Living and Protecting Schelangen	14.57	14.86	7.71	3.71	4.14	0.86	45.86
9	Nature EdVentures	12.43	16.57	8.57	3.86	4.00	0.29	45.71
10	Cascades to Waves: King County Youth Leadership Development	14.14	17.14	6.57	3.29	3.57	0.86	45.57
11	Washington Expansion	13.71	16.00	7.43	4.00	3.71	0.57	45.43
11	Branch Out, Year 2	15.00	14.29	8.29	3.71	4.14	0.00	45.43
13	Rock the Park Summer Camp-Magnuson Park	14.57	15.43	7.43	4.00	3.57	0.29	45.29
14	Kittitas Environmental Education Network Connects Middle Schoolers to Nature	10.29	16.57	8.00	3.14	4.14	1.86	44.00
15	Outdoor Youth Leadership in Seattle	11.57	14.86	7.43	3.57	4.00	0.57	42.00
16	Traveling Naturalist	12.86	13.71	6.29	2.86	3.57	0.29	39.57
17	San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corp	8.14	13.71	8.57	3.71	4.29	0.71	39.14
18	The HOPE Program	13.71	10.86	6.29	2.86	2.43	1.43	37.57
19	Camp Bishop Outdoor Education and Recreation	11.57	12.57	5.71	3.29	2.14	1.29	36.57
20	Opportunities Outdoors	10.29	12.00	7.43	2.43	3.00	1.00	36.14
21	Walla Walla Valley Outdoor Youth Adventures	9.86	9.71	8.86	2.71	3.00	0.86	35.00
22	Kids and Kokanee Growing Watershed Stewards in King County	7.29	9.14	5.71	3.14	3.57	0.71	29.57

Advisory Committee Scores Questions 1-6

Benton County	Grants Awarded: \$25,000
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Benton City Helping Youth Kayak, Hike, and Standup Paddle	Grant Awarded: \$25,000
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Benton City will use this grant to provide 472 local youth, ages 10-19, with eight three-outing kayak sessions, eight three-outing standup paddle board sessions and 14 three-outing hiking sessions. Water activities will start from Sportsman Park, paddling on the Yakima River. Hikers will be bussed to three nearby publicly owned trails. The city will buy kayaks, paddleboards, paddles, life vests, and a trailer. The project will also include transportation, and hiring qualified leaders and program assistants. The project will promote healthy lifestyles, outdoor safety, positive social relationships, and lifelong recreational skills. This program is the only non-sports-team outdoor programming in Benton City, where 64 percent of the Kiona-Benton School District's 1,500 students are eligible for free-and-reduced lunch, and 17.9 percent of families with children under the age of 18 live in poverty. The City will contribute \$18,030 in cash and donations of materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1123)

Clark County	Grants Awarded: \$15,100
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Lifeline Connections Enhancing Outdoor Education at Camp Mariposa	Grant Awarded: \$15,100
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Lifeline Connections will use this grant to buy hiking boots, socks, digital cameras, water bottles, daypacks, hiking guidebooks, and transportation for kids ages 9-12 as part of six two-day weekends at the Lewis River Campground in Yacolt and Moulton Falls Regional Park. The weekend workshops will provide kids the knowledge, tools, and coping skills to prevent substance use disorder and encourage problem-solving, teamwork, and physical and mental health. Activities will include hiking, nature photography, and sleeping in rustic cabins. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1207)

Cowlitz County	Grants Awarded: \$24,998
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Youth and Family Link Program Helping Kids Explore the Outdoors	Grant Awarded: \$24,998
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Youth and Family Link Program will use this grant to serve more than 600 underserved students in Longview, Kelso, and Cowlitz Counties as part of its Outdoor Explore project. The program uses combines outdoor recreation with lessons in science, technology, engineering, and math to help students develop new skills and a lifelong passion for outdoor activities. Students will spend an average of 16 hours per week in the summer and 4 hours per week in the school year doing activities like kayaking, orienteering, outdoor cooking, archery, swimming, canoeing, geocaching, fishing, and hiking. Youth and Family Link Program will contribute \$22,151 in a state grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1179)

Chelan County	Grants Awarded: \$4,200
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Cascadia Conservation District Getting Kids in the Creek and Forest	Grant Awarded: \$4,200
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Cascadia Conservation District will use this grant to help more than 300 10th-grade students and 1,500 8th-grade students connect with natural resource management professionals to study the health of local streams, collect samples, and better understand forest health and wildfire history. Following field trips with forest experts, students will use playdough to build their own forests, incorporate slope steepness, dry or wet soils, and dense or sparse tree stands. Working with instructors and a local fire department, the students will learn about wildfire risk and forest fires. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1071)

Grays Harbor	Grants Awarded: \$9,160
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Ocean Shores Providing Fun Summer Opportunities for Ocean Shores Youth	Grant Awarded: \$9,160
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The City of Ocean Shores will use this grant to buy tablets, backpacks, compasses, binoculars, safety vests, rain ponchos, magnifying glasses, field books, and other supplies to help 80 kids ages Kindergarten to 8th grade participate in outdoor programing. The educational three-week

program will incorporate science, technology, engineering and math with outdoor recreation, community service, and cultural enrichment opportunities. With support from the Coastal Interpretive Center, the program will include four field trips to local beaches, Damon Point, a local hatchery, and the Quinault Rain Forest. The program will help youth gain leadership and socialization skills, inspire self-esteem, learn and provide an enriched outdoor experience. The City will contribute \$39,395 in cash, in-kind services, and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1181)

Jefferson County

Grants Awarded: \$49,980

Camp Beausite NW Helping Youth with Disabilities Experience Camp

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Camp Beausite NW will use this grant to create six to eight overnight camps, each for 20 youth aged 6-19 with disabilities, at its camp in Chimacum. Camp Beausite NW's programs help youth with disabilities swim, beachcomb, ride horses, explore trails, visit Fort Worden and other parks, and go on field trips to learn about the Salish Sea, study the night sky, and watch wildlife. Camp participants will also do nature-based arts and crafts, make birdhouses, take part in scavenger hunts, and talent nights on the camp's outdoor stage. Campers also will be visited by Discovery Bay Wild Bird Rescue to learn about birds. The camp also will coordinate mini camps focusing on plants for birds, bees, and butterflies; astronomy; nature-based theatre, and the northwest marine environment. Camp Beausite NW will contribute \$16,000 in in-kind services and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1059)

Northwest Watershed Institute Fostering Environmental Stewardship in Olympic Peninsula Young Leaders

Grant Awarded: \$24,980

Northwest Watershed Institute will use this grant to help 20 underserved students from rural Olympic Peninsula spend at least 90 hours each serving as a youth crew leader for ten natural-resource groups in east Jefferson County. Teens will attend a weeklong, overnight leadership camp at Fort Flager State Park, where they'll explore marine, freshwater and forested environments with professional natural resource experts. At two new outdoor sites each day, students will hike in forests, wade streams, explore wetlands, dig for shellfish in tidelands, and paddle on a lake. During the school year, teens will earn high school graduation credits by serving as crew leaders on their mentors' projects. The Institute will contribute \$29,900 in in-kind services and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1301)

King County

Grants Awarded: \$446,970

King County Helping Kids Get Out and Learn

Grant Awarded: \$17,770

King County Parks' White Center Teen Program will use this grant to help 100 local youth participate in its Get out and Learn (GOAL) program between Fall 2019 and Summer 2021. The program includes outdoor education at the White Center Community Center and ten field trips to national, state, county, and city parks, where youth can hike, camp, bike, kayak, snowshoe, and watch wildlife. The program teaches youth about leadership, problem solving, teamwork, water safety, environmental awareness, and nutrition. The County will contribute \$20,000 in equipment, staff labor, materials, and in-kind services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1267)

Young Women Empowered Connecting Young Women to Nature

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Young Women Empowered will use this grant to fund its Nature Connections program, which provides women ages 12-18 with outdoor recreation, environmental education, and stewardship activity programs. About 70 percent of Young Women Empowered participants are first- or second-generation immigrants and 85 percent are minorities. As part of Nature Connections, youth and mentors will learn about the natural world as they hike, rock climb, backpack, camp, snowshoe, kayak, garden, engage in hands-on stewardship, and more. Young Women Empowered provides expert guidance, safety, cultural respect, transportation, and meals for all activities. Young Women Empowered will contribute \$136,356 in private and local grants and donations of labor and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1135)

Greenplay Northwest Developing the Willow Project for Homeless Children

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Greenplay Northwest will use this grant to develop and implement The Willow Project, a nature-based program for homeless children up to 6 years old and their caregivers. Mentors will meet with 60 children and their caregivers, who are living in shelters in southeast King County, once a week to facilitate outdoor activities such as nature immersion, sensory play, walking and wandering, guided nature art, and story and songs. The goal is to mitigate the harmful effects of negative childhood experiences by connecting homeless kids to the many benefits provided by spending time in nature. The mentors also will provide rain boots and educational resources on

the benefits of nature play to reduce the barriers for homeless children to get outside. Greenplay Northwest will contribute \$9,000 in another grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1254)

Peak 7 Adventures
Expanding the Seattle Rock Climbing Program

Grant Awarded: \$4,200

Peak 7 Adventures will use this grant to fund expansion and continuation of the Seattle Rock Climbing program, providing guide services, gear, and trip scholarships to organizations serving low-income and marginalized youth in King County and the surrounding areas. Populations served include youth in treatment for addiction; in correction programs; who are homeless; who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning; who are refugees; and who are low-income. Most participants are 11 to 18 years old. Peak 7 Adventures teaches beginning climbing techniques, encouraging respect for the environment and emphasizing lessons from the activity that apply to daily life. The goal of the program is to break down barriers that prevent kids from getting outside by offering low-cost, high-quality outdoor climbing trips. The rock climbing trips provide an adventure experience that builds self-confidence, fosters community growth, and boosts mental and physical health through exercise and connection to nature. Peak 7 Adventure served 265 participants in 2018, and has served more than 1,700 since it started in 2010. Peak 7 Adventures will contribute \$9,826 in donations of cash and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1288)

The Mountaineers
Offering Mountain Workshops

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Mountaineers will use this grant to offer Mountain Workshops, which provides outdoor experiences for at-risk and low-income youth, ages 6 to 20, who otherwise could not afford outdoor adventures. Mountain Workshops offer year-round outdoor activities such as rock climbing, hiking, camping, cooking, and snowshoeing in state and national parks. The Mountaineers partner with local youth-serving agencies to deliver single- or multi-day experiences. The Mountaineers will contribute \$54,075 in a private grant and donations of labor and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1074)

North Seattle Family Resource Center**Grant Awarded: \$25,000****Offering a Summer of Outdoor Activities for Minority, Low-income Kids**

The North Seattle Family Resource Center will use this grant to offer its summer outdoor recreation program for 230 minority, low-income youth. The Center will offer camping, kayaking, hiking, cooking outdoors, beachcombing, and nature walks in state parks. The goal is to empower youth by giving them the tools to boost self-esteem, become leaders in their communities, improve their grades, and overcome fears of outdoor recreation. The North Seattle Family Resource Center will contribute \$7,895 in staff labor and in-kind services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1278)

YMCA of Greater Seattle**Grant Awarded: \$150,000****Offering Outdoor Leadership Programs**

The YMCA of Greater Seattle will use this grant to offer BOLD & GOLD, outdoor leadership development programs (OLD). The boys' BOLD and the girls' GOLD is expected to serve 2,000 youth and takes place in the summer, during the school year, and on weekends. Participants benefit from unique recreational experiences such as backpacking, camping, rock climbing, kayaking, orienteering, river rafting, mountaineering, art, yoga, music, and creative writing—with environmental outdoor educational components woven into each adventure. The mission of BOLD & GOLD is to inspire leadership, courage, and friendship in young people from different backgrounds through outdoor adventures. The program has helped youth develop tools to resist or leave gangs, reach out for help with mental illness, and stay in school. The YMCA will contribute \$1.7 million in donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1029)

Mason County**Grants Awarded: \$136,490****Hood Canal School District****Grant Awarded: \$136,490****Offering B.O.O.T.S. and Riparian Enhancement Program**

The Hood Canal School District will use this grant to offer its Bringing Outdoor and Occupational Teaching to Students (BOOTS) and Riparian Enhancement Program. The yearlong, program exposes students to the region's natural beauty and resources through hands-on learning. The program combines adventure-based activities, such as hiking, wilderness backpacking, kayaking, and climbing with a place-based outdoor environmental science

curriculum. Each program holds the guiding principle that direct experience in nature, with a strong experiential component, is inherently motivating and rewarding to youth. The school district will contribute \$106,504 in a state appropriation and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1014)

Pierce County

Grants Awarded: \$144,962

Catholic Community Services Tacoma

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Helping Youth Who Live in Foster Homes Explore Washington

Catholic Community Services Tacoma will use this grant to help 250 youth who live in foster homes to explore the world around them. Youth will take day trips to state and city parks, learn about how the salmon spawn, and visit Snoqualmie Pass to experience the snow. Students will kayak at Boston Harbor, learn about marine life on the Puget Sound, and visit Northwest Trek to learn and experience wildlife. Each trip will environmental education, water safety tips, and an introduction to Leave No Trace principles. In addition to an increased awareness of the outdoors, kids will also gain improved physical and mental well-being and opportunities to grow their self-esteem. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1156)

Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Investing in Kids' Outdoor Experiences in the Tacoma Area

The Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center will use this grant to help about 300 children participate in its Tacoma Outdoor Learning Opportunities program. The program runs from June to August and focuses on serving children of parents in substance abuse recovery or mental health services, children ages 3-5 in its summer preschool program, and children in grades kindergarten to eighth grade, including those in foster homes and staying with other family members. The program encourages social emotional development, a healthy lifestyle, and enthusiastic learning, and models how to invest in their environment. Activities include outdoor experiments, field trips and family activities. Students will be educated about, exposed to, and then provided opportunities to help care for developed, marine, and historical locations. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1328)

Hope Inspired Change

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Helping Girls Find Therapy in Biking

Hope Inspired Change will use this grant to support its Therapy on Wheels program, which will serve 10 girls of color ages 12 to 17 for 36 weeks, starting in June. Therapy on Wheels provides therapeutic support to girls in an outdoor setting and pairs it with outdoor recreation activities, such as cycling. The program introduces girls to cycling, improves their physical well-being, teaches them road safety, and bike maintenance, all while exploring their community and the world around them. Girls will learn leadership skills, build self-esteem, confidence, and learn how to become productive citizens while engaging positively with adults and peers. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1329)

Pierce County Parks and Recreation

Grant Awarded: \$69,962

Giving Rural Pierce County Youth Access to the Outdoors

Pierce County Parks and Recreation will use this grant to provide court-associated youth in rural Pierce County access to nature and outdoor recreation experiences. Teens, ages 13-17, will participate in a six 7-hour sessions once a week throughout the program. Sessions will focus on environmental education, leadership, hands-on stewardship service projects, and activities such as rock climbing, canoeing, fishing, hiking, etc. Five sessions will occur in a regional park in the youth's local community, with one week to a state-park destination. The County will contribute \$87,260 in in-kind services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1112)

San Juan County

Grants Awarded: \$24,963

Lopez Island Family Resource Center

Grant Awarded: \$24,963

Getting Lopez Island Youth Outside

Lopez Island Family Resource Center will use this grant to help 300 underserved youth ages 2-18 living on Lopez Island participate in its Youth Outdoor Education program. Year-round programming includes after-school activities and summer workshops outside that engage youth in nature conservation, orienteering, and awareness of the Salish Sea and surrounding environment. The program aims to improve youth self-esteem, community involvement, and environmental stewardship. The Center will contribute \$60,865 in donations of cash, and donation of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1076)

Skagit County**Grants Awarded: \$25,000****The Salish Sea School
Investing in the Future Salish Sea Stewards****Grant Awarded: \$25,000**

The Salish Sea School will use this grant to help 65 youth in 9th-12th grade participate in its Guardians of the Sea program, a boat-based, marine conservation ecology program. The program includes five four-day excursions in the summer and eight fall, winter, and spring, two-day weekends, and additional seasonal daily eight-hour adventures. Lessons will include Salish Sea history, state standards, citizen science, and mindfulness in nature techniques. The School will contribute \$71,807 in cash, a state grant, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1050)

Snohomish County**Grants Awarded: \$20,958****Edmonds School District
Expanding Edmonds School District Learning Outside****Grant Awarded: \$20,958**

Edmonds School District will use this grant to serve 28 at-risk, low-income students annually as part of its Interdisciplinary Studies Environmental Program. Students will head outdoors to learn about environmental science, social studies, physical education, English, health and art, while also improving attendance, teamwork and self-esteem. A credit-baring program is held during the spring quarter (early April to late June), and a year-round extracurricular club further supports the program. Activities include hiking, backpacking, and camping while teaching students about civic engagement, native plant identification, first aid, CPR, camp skills, and teamwork. Students will enjoy journaling, sketching, and reading. On average, students participate in 360 hours of programming annually. The School District will contribute \$69,362 in a state appropriation, in-kind services, and donations of cash, equipment, and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1025)

Spokane County**Grants Awarded: \$104,580****Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest
Empowering Youth through Mentorship****Grant Awarded: \$17,261**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest will use this grant to support its region-wide initiative, "mPwoer," which combines lifelong benefits of 1-to-1 mentoring with outdoor

recreation, group activities, access to equipment, and case management services. Big Brother Big Sisters of the Inland Northwest has found that in its 50+ years serving Spokane and its surrounding rural communities, the time children (“Littles”) spend with their mentor (“Bigs”) is often the first and only chance they have to get outdoors. Big Brothers Big Sisters will contribute \$56,880 in donation of labor. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1026)

**Camp Fire Inland Northwest Council
Helping Spokane County Kids Come to Summer Camp**

Grant Awarded: \$62,337

Camp Fire Inland Northwest will use this grant to expand opportunities for outdoor education in Spokane County, creating access to Camp Fire’s outdoor activities for 1000 low-income urban Spokane youth ages 5-14 over two years. The goal of this program is to get youth outside and expand youth leadership and environmental education. Children will participate in camping, hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, archery, pacing, orienteering, knife safety, whittling, fire building, and camp cooking. Children enrolled in other summer and after-school programs in the community will also attend two Camp Fire camps and Riverside State Park. About 450 children will attend Camp Dart-Lo summer day camp in Spokane County and 60 children will attend overnight summer camp at Camp Sweyolakan on Lake Coeur d’Alene, just outside of Spokane County. During the school year, 490 children will benefit from programming at Dart-Lo and Riverside State Park. The Council will contribute \$55,786 in in-kind services and donations of cash. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1139)

**Eastern Washington University
Educating Cheney Youth about the Palouse Prairie Environment**

Grant Awarded: \$24,982

Eastern Washington University will use this grant to engage about 700 4th-8th grade students in Cheney in outdoor education curriculum on native ecosystems as part of its Palouse Prairie Restoration and Education Program. The 2019-2020 academic year program will include field trips to Steptoe Butte State Park and Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. Students will also grow native plants and contribute to a 150-acre Eastern Washington University Palouse prairie restoration site. The program develops students’ understandings of and appreciation for native ecosystems through hands-on outdoor activities. Most students in the Cheney community don’t receive outdoor environmental education in elementary and middle grades. Despite living near state and national parks, there are no outdoor field trips and many teachers haven’t worked with outdoor environmental curriculum. With 98 percent of Palouse prairie habitats transformed into farmland, it is critical to educate future generations on the importance of preserving native

ecosystems. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1063)

Thurston County

Grants Awarded: \$149,931

Garden-Raised Bounty

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Cultivating Youth and Food in the South Sound

Garden-Raised Bounty will use this grant to engage more than 200 youth in agriculture-based dropout prevention and re-engagement programs in Thurston and Pierce Counties. With their hands in the soil, youth find greater self-esteem, self-care, academic confidence, and a profound sense of environmental and civic responsibility. This project will engage 80+ youth in seven weeks of farm-based job training and outdoor experiential education in the summers of 2019 and 2020, earning a \$1,000 employment-training stipend and one Career Technical Education (CTE) credit in sustainable agriculture. It will engage 120+ middle and high school students in 360-720 hours of outdoor farm-to-school CTE classes during the next 2 academic years; and 70+ General Education Development (GED) students in 140 hours of farm-based job training, leadership development and GED attainment in a new program in the next two school years, earning up to \$1,000 stipend. Garden-Raised Bounty will contribute \$594,000 in a state appropriation. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1084)

Nisqually River Foundation

Grant Awarded: \$74,931

Helping Nisqually Tribal Youth Explore and Connect

Nisqually River Foundation will use this grant to help up to 100 students from the Nisqually Indian Tribe's Youth Services Program and up to 40 students from the Wa He Lut Indian School access environmental education in their home watershed. Youth will gain new exposure to outdoor recreation, traditional foods, outdoor survival skills and the power of their treaty rights. The program will include a combination of stewardship and recreation with a minimum of monthly meetings year-round. Activities will include hiking, camping, river rafting, horseback riding, snowshoeing, traditional cultural knowledge, and local food sources. The Foundation will contribute \$63,387 in in-kind services and donations of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1094)

Yakima County**Grants Awarded: \$43,510****Yakima Valley Farm Workers
Using After-School Programming to Get Kids Outdoors****Grant Awarded: \$43,510**

Yakima Valley Farm Workers will use this grant to support after-school programming that gives meaningful outdoor experiences to youth who have little or no access to Washington's State and National Parks. The program focuses on providing services to underserved, low-income, at-risk youth in the lower valley area of Yakima County. Activities include hiking, camping, swimming, backpacking, outdoor cooking, and environmental outdoor education. Each adventure is the culmination of a place-based curriculum emphasizing physical health as well as academic, social, and emotional growth. Yakima Valley Farm Workers will contribute \$70,468 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1072)

Whatcom County**Grants Awarded: \$124,200****Burlington-Edison Schools
Sending Kids to Mountain School****Grant Awarded: \$4,200**

Burlington-Edison Schools will use this grant to send 154 fifth graders in the Burlington Edison School District to Mountain School, a 3-day, 2-night outdoor program of the North Cascades Institute. Mountain School is an opportunity for students, many of whom are non-native English speakers, at three Burlington Edison schools to develop a sense of place in the Skagit Valley and learn more about the outdoors. Led by professional educators, masters of education students, and park rangers, the program gives students a new understanding and appreciation for the outdoors and a renewed sense of self-confidence. The School District will contribute \$34,566 in in-kind services. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1127)

**North Cascades Institute
Fostering Youth Leaders in the North Cascades****Grant Awarded: \$120,000**

North Cascades Institute will use this grant to help underserved youth participate in Youth Leadership Adventures, which includes a series of eight and 12-day backcountry courses, the Northwest Youth Leadership Summit, internships, and mentorship. The program culminates trips in North Cascade National Park, national forests and state parks. During backcountry courses, students canoe, backpack, and participate in stewardship work while receiving training in

recreation, leadership, science, and communication. Designed for students who have no prior outdoor experience, the North Cascades Institute provides all gear, food, and transportation. The Institute will contribute \$310,318 in a federal grant, local grant, private grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project.](#) (19-1196)

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2018**Title:** Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Scoping**Prepared By:** Ben Donatelle, Policy Specialist**Summary**

This memo summarizes a proposal to update the sustainability and environmental stewardship criterion across all grant programs. These proposed changes seek to provide greater consistency, relevance, and meaning to this criterion.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

In March 2011, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff presented a white paper, [*Approaches to Policies to Promote Sustainability through the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board*](#), to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board). The paper outlined a number of policy approaches for the board to consider. This research and subsequent deliberation culminated in the board's *Sustainability* policy and a revised *Project Design* evaluation criterion, which was adopted in September 2011 ([Item 3; Resolution 2011-22, page 107](#)). Initially, this criterion was applied to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) State Parks and Local Parks categories. Over time, the Sustainability Policy was adopted by the board for all the board's program manuals. The evaluation criterion evolved to become the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship question and was applied to all the board-funded recreation programs¹.

¹ Grant programs in which the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship Criteria currently appears: Boating Facilities Program, Non-highway Off-Road Vehicle Activities, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreational Trails Program, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program – Outdoor Recreation Account, and the Youth Athletic Facilities.

The board's current Sustainability Policy states:

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board encourages greater use of sustainable design, practices, and elements in grant-funded projects. To the board, "sustainability" means to help fund a recreation or conservation project that minimizes impact to the natural environment while maximizing the project's service life.

Sponsors are encouraged to incorporate sustainable design, practices, and elements in their projects. Examples may include use of recycled materials; native plants in landscaping; pervious surfacing material for circulation paths and access routes, trails, and parking areas; energy efficient fixtures; onsite recycling stations; and composting.

The evaluation question, as adopted by the board, currently states:

Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment?

This core question is common to all the recreation grant programs. However, over the years, RCO staff has developed additional "guidance" questions to clarify the meaning and intent of the criterion for each program and project type. Please see *Attachment A: Compiled Sustainability Questions*.

Following the past three project evaluation cycles, members of the advisory committees and project applicants routinely requested RCO staff to consider revising the Sustainability and Environmental criterion to clarify the intent, reduce the need for the additional guidance questions, and provide greater certainty regarding the board's interest in sustainability. RCO staff have piecemealed minor changes to the question in specific programs (e.g. YAF, WWRP – State Parks) but have not taken a wholesale look at the policy or evaluation question since it was first adopted in 2011.

Problem Analysis

Problem statement

The *Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship* evaluation criterion encourages applicants to consider the sustainability of their projects. However, the board adopted criterion does not clearly communicate the board's expectations to project applicants and evaluators, the "guidance" questions developed by RCO staff are redundant to

questions in other scored criteria, and the Sustainability criterion's score is inconsistently weighted across the programs².

Advisory Committee Survey

Between August 5 and 14, 2019, RCO staff sent a survey to all 97 Advisory Committee members from the above programs, with the exception of the FARR program.³ The survey asked advisory committee members about their perception of the intent of the Sustainability question, how they award points to projects, the major challenges of this question, what they like about it, and how RCO could improve it. RCO received 41 responses, which corresponds to a 42 percent response rate. RCO received at least two responses from each advisory committee to which the survey was distributed

The complete survey report can be found [here](#).

Themes emerging from the responses indicate the evaluators understand that the question is intended to induce project applicants to think about their project in terms of several broad categories:

- Construction methods and materials source or selection
- Reducing the project's impacts to surrounding habitat, ecosystem, or natural environment (i.e. reducing construction impacts, carbon emissions, or waste)
- Improving habitat or ecosystem function, degraded areas, or provision of environmental services
- Integration of green infrastructure or low-impact design techniques
- Reducing maintenance and operations costs or improving maintenance and operational efficiency
- Extending life expectancy of the project site
- Providing additional community health, educational, or social benefit

² For example, in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Sustainability criterion is worth 17.2% of a project's overall score, while in the Youth Athletic Facilities program it is worth 5.7% of a project's overall score.

³ In the FARR program, because the concept of sustainability is embedded within the Project Design criterion and is not an independent question, RCO staff chose to exclude the Advisory Committee from the survey.

It was generally agreed upon that the goal of this question is to encourage innovation in project designs. In the eyes of most evaluators, in order to score well, an applicant must demonstrate they are going above and beyond the project's permit requirements or generally accepted best practices for the project type. However, many advisory committee members commented that without defined standards, it is difficult to effectively score a proposal.

Many survey respondents could recall specific elements of past projects that contributed to a strong sustainability score, but couldn't recall specific projects that stood out as being particularly innovative.

When asked for their top three most important factors of sustainability, respondents cited:

- Applicant's ability to maintain and operate the facility in the future (62%)
- Including green infrastructure in the design (59%)
- Protecting fish and wildlife habitat at or near the site (46%)
- Choice and source of building materials (36%)

Individual comments suggested transportation enhancements that encourage active or multimodal transportation, reducing the applicant's or project's carbon footprint, and providing habitat improvements were also important factors.

Advisory committee members cited several broad challenges with the current criterion. The question is seen as ambiguous and ill-defined; the words "quality" and "sustainable" are subjective and open to broad interpretation. Both project applicants and evaluators lack standards to define baseline expectations, therefore, demonstrating quantitative measures of both quality and sustainability by which to evaluate a project is difficult. Many advisory committee members suggested the question was too broad or generic to be effectively evaluated. As a result, the applicant's answers to the question felt similarly vague or overreaching.

Examples of applicant's answers to the sustainability question are provided in Attachment B.

The additional guidance developed by RCO staff is redundant to the detailed questions in the Project Design, Site Suitability, and Project Scope evaluation criteria. Additionally, permitting requirements typically address protection of sensitive environmental resources and wildlife habitat while best practices and industry standards have caught up to commonly identified "sustainability" efforts (e.g. using LED lighting). Many advisory committee members also felt the question doesn't translate well for

maintenance or land acquisition projects which leaves applicants struggling to answer to what are viewed as vaguely defined questions.

However, advisory committee members broadly agreed that asking applicants to think about sustainability issues added value to projects when the questions are applicable to the project type. Specific comments suggested:

"It encourages applicants to consider how they can create a more 'environmentally-friendly' project - the more they can do, the more points they'll receive for this question."

"I think it's a fantastic question that hopefully motivates applicants to take a thoughtful approach to design for durability and environmental stewardship."

"By asking the question, we are making sure we are funding organizations/land managers that value the environment that already exists before we go in to do work, and that we try not to disturb more than we need to and in ways that will cause the least amount of damage to the areas around it. It also shows a standard in what materials to use."

When asked: *To which project type(s) does the Sustainability criterion most apply*, 90 percent of respondents said development. Other project types received significantly less support: Renovation (48%), Planning (34%), Acquisition (29%), and Maintenance (26%).

PRISM Data

To coincide with the advisory committee survey, RCO staff queried PRISM for the scores to the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship criterion for all projects between the 2014 and 2018 grant cycles. Generally speaking, the question is inconsistently applied across the programs, meaning the same question is weighted more heavily in some programs than it is in others. For example, in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program, the question is worth 17.2% (10 of 58) of total possible points, while in the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program (two programs that are often used to match each other) it is only worth 5.7% (3 of 52) of the total possible points.

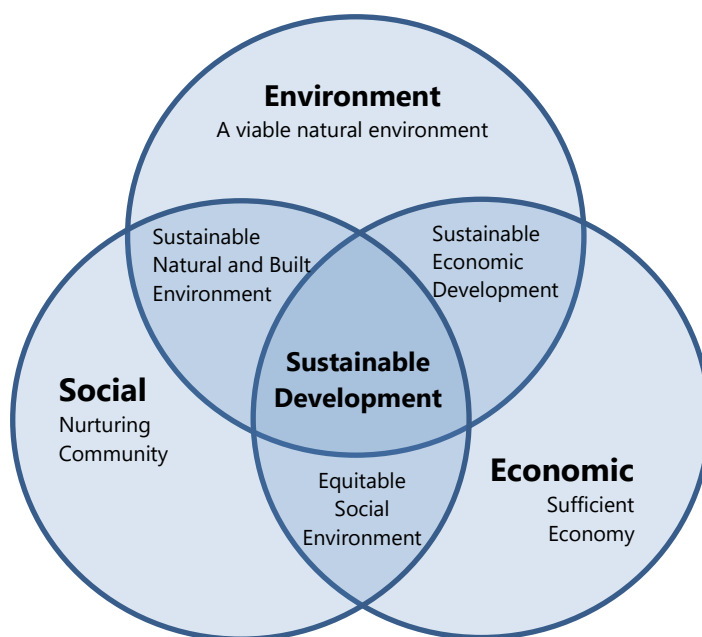
A limited selection of programs and project types consistently exhibit a significant point variance (the range of scores within the criterion from the highest scoring project to the lowest) to differentiate between projects. However, for most programs, the project scores use a narrow range of the available points; in many cases all projects in a program score within one point of each other. A narrow point variance generally indicates the criterion does not help to differentiate between projects. For example, the point variance for the Sustainability criterion in the Boating Facilities Program (BFP), LWCF, WWRP Local Parks, WWRP Trails, and YAF has been 40% or greater in at least one of the past three grant cycles. In all other programs, the variance has averaged 27% of

available points. Development projects consistently exhibit a wider point variance than maintenance or acquisition project types.

Attachment C illustrates the point variance and percent of total score for all programs and provides examples of the point distribution for selected grant programs and project types from the past three grant cycles (2014, 2016, and 2018).

Models of Sustainability

The theoretical foundation of sustainability science evolved as an outgrowth of international sustainable development efforts championed by the United Nations beginning in the late eighties and early nineties. Today, sustainability is conceptualized in the figure below, consisting of equal parts environment, economy, and social values⁴. This conceptualization inherently implies that every project will encapsulate trade-offs between the three elements to find its sustainability sweet spot.



Models for sustainability practice have been developed and refined by such entities as the United Nations, public and private corporations, and public agencies at all levels of

⁴ Purvis, B., Mao, Y. & Robinson, D. Sustain Science (2019) 14: 681. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-018-0627-5>

government and with varying complexity. Some particularly instructive models have been developed by:

National Park Service (NPS)

First released in 2012, NPS's [Green Parks Plan](#) establishes, "...goals to improve service wide performance in sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Objectives in the plan set quantitative goals to reduce energy and water use, convert fleet vehicles to alternative fuel sources, prioritizing active transportation, reduce waste from operations, protect health engagement with the outdoors, and protecting the natural environment including through improved landscape management using low-impact design and green infrastructure.

U.S. Forest Service

In 2010, the US Forest Service developed a [Framework for Sustainable Recreation](#). Similar to the National Park Service, the framework outlines several broad sustainability principles including, among others, an acknowledgement of the role forests play in: Connecting people with their natural and cultural heritage; promoting healthy lifestyles; community engagement; and the larger (ecological) landscape. Specific goals tier off the Forest Service's sustainability principles and are integrated across the recreation program.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

NRPA recently developed [guidance](#) on incorporating green infrastructure in park and landscape design. Green Infrastructure is the variety of stormwater management systems that, rather than diverting runoff through a traditional system, capture and infiltrate it where it falls. The guidance is intended to assist project managers in assessing the environmental, health, social, and economic benefits of a green infrastructure project.

Washington State Parks

[From WA State Parks Website] Washington State Parks strives to educate its staff and visitors of the benefits of using sustainable practices in parks and their homes in order to make the world a cleaner, safer place. Parks developed their [sustainability plan](#) to conserve park resources and address energy conservation and renewable energy, transportation efficiency, water use, waste management, environmental health, materials sourcing, community education and interpretation, reducing use of toxics, and reducing their carbon footprint.

Sustainable SITES Initiative

The [Sustainable SITES Initiative](#) is a sustainable landscape design certification program. Similar and designed to be complementary to the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, the SITES program awards points to landscape design projects that exhibit specific sustainability characteristics. At the time the Sustainability policy was originally developed, SITES was in its nascent stages of development. Since that time, the SITES criteria and scorecard have undergone significant revision, testing, and implementation across the country.

Common to all these models is the focus on actions that address and attempt to balance each of the three aspects of sustainability.

Options for Revision

RCO staff suggests the following options for the board to consider in updating its sustainability criterion:

Option 1: Do Nothing

Option 2: Embed the concept of "sustainability" within the Project Design criterion

Option 3: Revise the Sustainability criterion to clarify, simplify and address stakeholder concerns

RCO Staff recommends option 3 and is proposing to revise the *Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship* criterion to maintain the board's interest in encouraging sustainable project designs and construction practices, while addressing concerns articulated by the advisory committees and applicants. Using the SITES⁵ scorecard as a conceptual model, RCO staff is proposing to reframe the criterion to address specific elements of sustainability based on feedback from the board on sustainability issues of most concern or interest.

Staff proposes the revised criterion address the following sustainability goals:

1. Encourage innovative designs that increase energy efficiency, reduction of greenhouse gas footprint, and improved synergy between the built and natural environment.

⁵ <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/sites-rating-system-and-scorecard>

2. Increase community, ecological, or project resiliency in the face of climate change.
3. Ensure the site's public benefits are maintained for the long term.
4. Projects contribute to a vibrant local economy.
5. Projects provide positive and equitable social, cultural and health benefits.

With that, RCO Staff has drafted a potential revised criterion to prompt discussion by the board. This criterion would replace the existing criterion and staff guidance in all of the recreation programs.

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board encourages projects that go above and beyond permitting or regulatory requirements to advance local sustainability goals. Discuss how your project's siting or design supports your organization's sustainability plan and balances environmental, economic, and social sustainability. Not all categories listed below will apply to all projects, so please discuss in detail the elements that are most relevant to your project.

1. Project planning and design directly involves stakeholders or engages the community immediately adjacent to the site (e.g. within 10 minute walk);
2. Project site is purposely located on previously disturbed or developed lands to avoid conversion of native habitat;
3. Construction plan includes methods to remediate previous disturbance, reduces carbon emissions, and/or diverts wastes from the landfill;
4. Materials used are recycled, recyclable, sourced from local producers, or produced sustainably (e.g. FSC certified lumber; locally milled or forged; finishes produced by local artisans; etc.);
5. Project protects, restores, or enhances native ecosystem function adjacent to development activities;
6. Project design includes green infrastructure or low-impact design elements to reduce energy consumption, water use, manage stormwater, sequester carbon, reduce urban heat island effect, or produce other verifiable environmental services;

7. Project integrates and encourages active, multi-modal, or alternatively-fueled transportation choices;
8. Project provides common areas for the community to gather that promotes physical activity, social and cultural connections, or community education;
9. Maintenance and operations plan lengthens life expectancy or reduces environmental impact (e.g. reduces energy or water consumption, minimizes pesticide and fertilizer use, uses reclaimed water for irrigation, recycles organic matter on site, etc.)
10. Other sustainability measures or goals achieved by this project?

▲ Points Possible 0 – 5. Evaluators, please credit the applicant for each element of their project that adequately addresses the sustainability factor(s), and to the best of your knowledge, goes above and beyond permitting or regulatory requirements.

Strategic Plan Link

This project supports the board's strategic plan and the Statewide Recreation and Conservation Plan:

Strategic Plan

Objective 2B: Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement

Statewide Recreation and Conservation Plan

Sustain and grow the legacy of parks, trails and conservation lands:

Renovate facilities to meet today's recreation needs

Improve equity of parks, trails, and conservation lands:

Connect more people to popular activities

Provide experiences where people go most

Enhance community health and safety

Next Steps

RCO staff would like to continue engaging stakeholders with options to revise the criterion and solicit further public comment between October and January 2020. In January, staff would like to present the board with a final option for adoption so this criterion can be used in the 2020 grant round.

Staff requests direction from the board on how to proceed with revising the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship evaluation criterion.

Attachments

Attachment A - Compiled Sustainability Evaluation Questions

Attachment B - Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship (Example Answers)

Attachment C - Selected Charts and Graphs

Attachment A: Compiled Sustainability Evaluation Questions

Programs in which the criterion appears:

Program	Point value	Manual, Advisory Committee, Stakeholder and Staff notes
Boating Facilities Program (BFP)	5	Added February 9, 2016 by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-10.
Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG)	6	Innovation and Environmental Stewardship – Tier 1&2
Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)		Embedded in the project design criteria (#3)
Land and Water Conservation Fund	10	Same question language/format as WWRP
Non-Highway Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)		All project types. Revised February 2016 by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-09. In 2018, RCO staff recommended removing the question for maintenance projects but board did not adopt the recommendation.
Non-Motorized	5	
Non-Highway Road	5	
Off-Road Vehicle	5	
Recreational Trails Program	10	Adopted January 2014.
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)		Outdoor Recreation Account only
Local Parks	10	Adopted January 2014, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2014-06
State Lands D/R	10	Revised January 2008, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2008-09
State Parks	10	Revised April 2016. Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2016-20.
Trails	10	Adopted January 2014, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2014-06
Water Access	10	Adopted January 2014, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Resolution 2014-06
Youth Athletic Facilities	3	Most simplified version of the criterion

Boating Facilities Program (BFP)

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity (or planned opportunity) while protecting the integrity of the environment? Factors to consider by project type are outlined below.

Acquisition, Planning, and Combination Acquisition and Planning Projects

- In evaluating alternative sites, did you reject them to avoid impacts to valuable ecosystem functions or habitat loss?
- How will the proposed uses avoid environmental impacts and support the ecosystem functions of the property or adjacent water body?
- Are there invasive species on site? If there are, what is the response plan? Will the planned development of the property limit the presence and spread of invasive species?
- What is the strategy or plan for maintenance and stewardship of the site? How will your planned operation and maintenance of the site protect water and air quality? What low impact actions will you take to achieve the longest useful life of the facility?
- How do the natural characteristics of the site support future planned uses? What natural elements of the site do you plan to retain?
- For the planned use of the site, do you expect to go beyond the expected permitting and mitigation requirements?
- Materials – What sustainable materials are planned for inclusion in the project? What low impact actions will you take to achieve the longest useful life of these materials while at the same time making the most your maintenance funds?
- Will the planned project protect wetlands or wetland functions? Describe the size, quality, and classification.
- Is there an opportunity for public environmental education?
- Compare your site and your expected development to other sites or developed sites on the subject water body. How is your planned development more sustainable and environmentally responsible than others?
- What other noteworthy characteristics of the planned project contribute to environmental protection, energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?

Development

- Does the proposed development protect natural resources onsite and integrate sustainable elements such as low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?
- Vegetation and Surfaces – Are you replacing invasive plant species with native vegetation? Are you using pervious surfaces for any of the proposed facilities?
- Education – Are you installing interpretive panels or signs that educate users about sustainability?
- Materials – What sustainable materials are included in the project? What low impact actions will you take to achieve the longest useful life of these materials while at the same time making the most your maintenance funds?
- Energy – What energy efficient features are you adding?
- What modes of transportation provide access to the site?
- Water – Is the on-site storm water managed by rain gardens, porous paving, or other sustainable features? Does the design exceed permit requirements for storm water management? If there are wetlands on site, describe the size, quality, and classification and explain how the design considers the wetland functions.
- What is the strategy or plan for long-term maintenance and stewardship of the site?
- What other developed features will contribute to increasing energy efficiencies, reducing maintenance, minimizing environmental impacts, or being more sustainable?

Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG) – Tier 1 and Tier 2

Demonstrate Innovation and Environmental Stewardship

- A. Will the proposed project include physical components, technology, or techniques that improve eligible user access? (0-3 points)

Evaluators will consider whether the project will increase the availability of the BIG-funded facility for eligible users or improve eligible boater access to the facility.

Applicants should describe if the project will be doing either of the following:

- Using a new technology or technique
- Applying a new use of an existing technology or technique

Evaluators will consider if the project will use an optional or advanced technology or technique. If going beyond the minimum technical requirements for a project

component, applicants must describe the current standards and how they will exceed the standards. Points will not be awarded for followings standards set by law.

- B. Will the proposed project include innovative physical components, technology, or techniques that improve the BIG-funded project? (0-2 points)

Evaluators will consider if the project will include physical components, technology, or techniques that are newly available or repurposed in a unique way. Examples include components, technology, or techniques that do the following:

- Extend the useful life of the project.
- Are designed to help save costs, decrease maintenance, or improve operation.
- Are designed to improve services or amenities for BIG-eligible users.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of the facility.
- Reduce negative environmental impacts (beyond compliance requirements).
- Improve facility resilience.

- C. Has the facility where the project is located demonstrated a commitment to environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship and has an organization officially recognized the facility for its commitment? (0-1 point)

Evaluators will consider if the application documents that the facility has received official recognition for its voluntary commitment to environmental compliance, sustainability, and stewardship by exceeding regulatory requirements. The official recognition must be part of a voluntary, established program administered by a federal or state organization. The program must require the facility to use management and operational techniques and practices that will ensure it continues to meet the high standards of the program and must contain a component that requires periodic review. The facility must have met the criteria required by the program and received official recognition by the due date of the application.

Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR)

3. Project Design (development and combination projects only). Has this project been designed in a high quality manner? Does the design agree with generally accepted practices? For example:

- Environment. How are aesthetic, accessibility, and environmental issues addressed? If applicable, how are lead recovery, soil, and water conditions addressed?
- **Sustainability.** How does the project design include sustainability features or shooting range best management practices?
- General. If this is a new facility project, is it designed for ease of maintenance and traffic flow, operation of several types of shooting experiences simultaneously, etc.? Is the site's size, location, and topography appropriate?
- Small works. The above considerations may not fully apply to projects composed of one or two small items, such as toilets, fencing, or lighting. In such cases, consider how the items may contribute to the entire facility's general design features.

Point Range: 0-5. Evaluators award a maximum of 5 points, which are multiplied later by 2 for development projects and 1 for combination projects.

0 points Poor. Insufficient evidence presented or the design is inappropriate for the intended uses.

1-2 points Moderate. The design, or contribution to the overall design, does a fair job of addressing intended uses.

3 points Good. The design, or contribution to the overall design, is adequate and reasonable for intended uses.

4-5 points Excellent. The design, or contribution to the overall design, is outstanding.

LWCF and WWRP – Local Parks, Trails, & Water Access

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment? Factors to consider for acquisition and/or development and renovation projects are outlined in the table below.

Acquisition	Development and Renovation
Does the acquisition and proposed development preserve the natural function of the site?	Does the proposed development protect natural resources onsite and integrate sustainable elements such as low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?
How do the proposed uses protect, enhance or restore the ecosystem functions of the property?	Vegetation/Surfaces–Are you replacing invasive plant species with native vegetation? Are you using pervious surfaces for any of the proposed facilities?

Are there invasive species on site? If there are, what is your response plan?	Education–Are you installing interpretive panels/signs that educate users about sustainability?
What is the strategy or plan for maintenance and stewardship of the site?	Materials–What sustainable materials are included in the project?
How do the natural characteristics of the site support future planned uses?	Energy–What energy efficient features are you adding?
To provide for greater fuel economy, is the proposed acquisition located close to the intended users?	What modes of transportation provide access to the site?
Does this project protect wetlands or wetland functions? Describe the size, quality, and classification.	Water–Is the on-site storm water managed by rain gardens, porous paving, or other sustainable features? Does the design exceed permit requirements for storm water management?
How does the proposed acquisition help create connectivity? How many acres are already protected? How critical is this property to the overall plan?	If there are wetlands on site, describe the size, quality and classification and explain how the design considers the wetland functions.
What other noteworthy characteristics demonstrate how the natural features of the site contribute to energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?	What is the strategy or plan for long-term maintenance and stewardship of the site?
	What other developed features will contribute to increasing energy efficiencies, reducing maintenance, minimizing environmental impacts, or being more sustainable?

WWRP – State Parks

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. What techniques or resources are proposed to ensure the project will result in a quality, sustainable, recreational, heritage preservation, or educational opportunity, while protecting the integrity of the environment? Describe how the project will protect natural and cultural resources and integrate sustainable elements such as low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products.

Point Range: 0-5 points, which are multiplied later by 2

- 0 points No or little stewardship elements.
- 1-2 points Contains stewardship elements and protects natural or cultural resources. Consistent with State Parks' Sustainability Plan and goals.
- 3-4 points Numerous stewardship elements, protects and enhances natural resources or cultural resources. Implements many of State Parks' sustainability goals.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 5 points | Maximizes natural or cultural resource protection, enhances natural resources or cultural resources, and contains innovative and outstanding stewardship elements. Implements many of State Parks' sustainability goals. |
|----------|--|

WWRP – State Lands Development and Renovation

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment? Factors to consider for development and renovation projects are outlined below.

- Does the proposed development protect natural resources onsite and integrate sustainable elements such as low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?
- Vegetation/Surfaces–Are you replacing invasive plant species with native vegetation? Are you using pervious surfaces for any of the proposed facilities?
- Education–Are you installing interpretive panels/signs that educate users about sustainability?
- Materials–What sustainable materials are included in the project?
- Energy–What energy efficient features are you adding?
- What modes of transportation provide access to the site?
- Water–Is the on-site storm water managed by rain gardens, porous paving, or other sustainable features? Does the design exceed permit requirements for storm water management?
- If there are wetlands on site, describe the size, quality, and classification and explain how the design considers the wetland functions.
- What is the strategy or plan for long-term maintenance and stewardship of the site?
- What other developed features will contribute to increasing energy efficiencies, reducing maintenance, minimizing environmental impacts, or being more sustainable?

Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. Will the project result in a project, plan, or program that protects the integrity of the environment? Factors to consider for different project types are outlined below.

Acquisition and Planning Projects

- How was your project site selected and how can impacts to ecosystem functions or habitat loss be minimized or avoided?
- How will the proposed uses avoid environmental impacts and support the ecosystem functions of the property to include any aquatic resources?
- Are there invasive species on site? If there are, what is your response plan to limit the presence and spread of invasive species in your project and future recreational uses?
- What is the strategy or plan for maintenance and stewardship of the site? How will your planned operation and maintenance preserve or protect natural resources?
- How do the natural characteristics of the site support future planned uses? What natural features do you plan to retain?
- For the planned use of the site, do you expect to go beyond the expected permitting and mitigation requirements?
- What natural elements of the site do you plan to retain/protect? Is there an opportunity for public environmental education?
- Will the planned project protect wetlands or wetland functions? Describe the size, quality, and classification.
- Compare your site and your expected development to other developed sites nearby. How is yours more sustainable and environmentally responsible than others?
- What other noteworthy characteristics of the planned project contribute to environmental protection, energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?

Development Projects

- Does the proposed development protect natural resources onsite and integrate sustainable elements such as low-impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?
- Are you replacing invasive plant species with native vegetation? Are you using pervious surfaces for any of the proposed facilities?
- Are you installing interpretive panels or signs that educate users about sustainability?
- What sustainable materials are included in the project? Will these materials result in a long useful life of the project?
- What energy-efficient features are you adding?
- What modes of transportation provide access to the site?
- Is the on-site storm water managed by rain gardens, porous paving, or other sustainable features? Does the design exceed permit requirements for storm water management?

- If there are wetlands on site, describe the size, quality, and classification and explain how the design considers the wetland functions.
- What is the strategy or plan for long-term maintenance and stewardship of the site?
- What other developed features will contribute to increasing energy efficiencies, reducing maintenance, minimizing environmental impacts, or being more sustainable?

Maintenance and Operation Projects

- In evaluating alternative approaches to your maintenance and operations, did you consider and reject any to reduce impacts to natural resources and reduce pollution?
- If replacing an existing structure or rerouting a trail, will this reduce existing negative impacts to ecosystem function or habitat? Will your invasive species response plan reduce the presence or spread of invasive species?
- Do you have a maintenance and operation plan that prioritizes environmental stewardship?
- Are the materials, equipment, and products you use environmentally responsible? Will they result in a long useful life?
- Do you require staff and contractor training in tasks that reduce waste, lower emissions, and reduce impacts to natural resources?
- When upgrading facilities, to what extent can you leverage these upgrades to improve your stewardship of natural resources and reduce waste and pollution?
- What other noteworthy characteristics of your project contribute to environmental protection, energy efficiency, less maintenance, fewer environmental impacts, or sustainability?
- Does your maintenance and operation program have a public education component? How do you communicate with your users about how they can reduce their environmental impacts?
- In what ways will your maintenance and operations reduce impacts to ecosystem function and habitat that would otherwise occur?
- Compare your site and your expected development to other developed sites nearby. How is your planned development more sustainable and environmentally responsible than others?
- In what ways will your maintenance and operations extend the useful life of the facility or preserve public access?

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Sustainability and environmental stewardship. Will the project result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment? Factors to consider for development and maintenance projects are outlined below.

- Does the proposed project protect natural resources onsite and integrate sustainable elements such as low impact techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products?
- Vegetation/Surfaces – Are you replacing invasive plant species with native vegetation? Are you using pervious surfaces for any of the proposed facilities? Education – Are you installing interpretive panels or signs that educate users about sustainability?
- Materials – What sustainable materials are included in the project?
- Energy – What energy-efficient features are you adding?
- What modes of transportation provide access to the site?
- Water – Is the on-site storm water managed by rain gardens, porous paving, or other sustainable features? Does the design exceed permit requirements for storm water management? Does the project divert or control water run-off?
- If there are wetlands on site, describe the size, quality, and classification and explain how the design considers the wetland functions.
- What is the strategy or plan for long-term maintenance and stewardship of the site?
- What other developed features will contribute to increasing energy efficiencies, reducing maintenance, minimizing environmental impacts, or being more sustainable?

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship. What techniques or resources are proposed to ensure the project will result in a quality, sustainable, recreational opportunity while protecting the integrity of the environment? Describe how the project will integrate sustainable elements such as low impact development techniques, green infrastructure, or environmentally preferred building products.

Attachment B: Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship – Example Answers

Boating Facilities Program (BFP)

18-2355 City of Pasco, Schlagel Park Boating Facilities Updates

There are several aspects of this project that address Criterion #7, Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship.

The project will install infiltration trenches to treat storm water and prevent runoff from discharging directly into the river.

The project will install restroom facilities at the boat ramp which will improve public health and reduce pollutant loading to the river system.

The project will locate parking outside of the shoreline and as far as practical from the open water to reduce the risk of contamination.

Existing pavement will be recycled on-site and used as gravel base.

The landscaped area will be planted with low maintenance native plants.

Existing lighting will be replaced with LED lights.

Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)

18-2546 USFS Skykomish Ranger District, Dispersed Sites and Trailhead Maintenance (Maintenance)

Recycle & Repair Existing Facilities Rather than Purchase New Materials. We have gone to plastic permit boxes which are less likely to be vandalized and are easier to maintain. We strive to repair our bulletin boards rather than build new ones in order to save wood and costs.

Upgrade facilities with materials that are vandal resistant, reduce maintenance costs, and will control sanitation issues.

Reconfigure existing trailheads in the current footprint to minimize environmental impacts to the area.

Protect dispersed sites and sensitive areas from impacts and resource damage due to heavy recreational use. Resource damage is irreversible and lasts forever.

18-2497 USFS Methow Ranger District, North Summit Horse Camp (Development)

Tiering off the site plan, we have addressed sustainability and environmental stewardship in the following ways:

Minimized clearing limits to protect trees.

Native vegetation will be used to revegetate disturbed areas, under guidance from district botanist

Sustainable materials were considered and used as possible – including recycled plastic for parking curbs, long lasting steel hitch rails to reduce impacts to trees, concrete manure bunkers are long lasting and help reduce the spread of non-native weeds, and wood materials such as fences complement the natural setting

Porous gravel is used for all walkways and campsites to allow for natural water drainage and retain a primitive natural look, and the site is graded to allow for appropriate runoff and to minimize any erosion

Site is primarily dry, but a nearby spring will be tapped to provide water for stock, which will be piped to the campground to avoid any stock impacts near water

The FS will continue to tap the expertise and enthusiasm of the BCH partner group for maintenance and stewardship of this camp in the long term. This group has a proven outstanding track record of stewarding stock trails and facilities in the District.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

18-2587 Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Volunteer Trail Maintenance – Western Washington

Timely trail maintenance is critical to reducing environmental impact, including degradation of streams from sediment, and protecting recreational assets from significant damage. In late 2016, we completed a trail visit with DNR during their annual Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification audit and had the opportunity to discuss trail impact and erosion control techniques with FSC auditors. While this visit was on a trail built by DNR, we follow the same standards and practices to ensure long term sustainability and habitat protection. We have direct quotes from Colville National Forest staff that our work at our annual Kettle Fest work parties is of the highest quality they have seen in all their user groups.

Additionally, Evergreen's emphasis on stewardship – proper techniques and a solid trail ethic – is an investment in the future of trails in Washington. As volunteers work and learn today, they develop a sense of ownership and responsibility that carries far into the future. Recently, we offered a dedicated trail school for women only, encouraging increased diversity in our trail crews and getting more women involved in maintenance activities.

WWRP State Parks

18-1843 Palouse to Cascade – Tekoa Trestle Deck and Rails

The main point to be made in regard to these goals includes preservation and re-use of an existing structure that will facilitate the preservation and re-use of an existing transportation corridor. We are reducing, reusing and recycling a corridor and its structures that have already made their impact on the environment.

Additional sustainable and stewardship benefits include:

- No new roads or direct impacts to the environment.
- Minimal use of fossil fuels and no new materials in the landfill
- Minimal carbon footprint
- Minimal additional toxins entering into the environment

Products and materials will be locally sourced while the design will also use materials that minimize maintenance and extend the life cycle like concrete and weathering steel.

WWRP Local Parks and Water Access

18-1923 City of Lakewood, Fort Steillacoom Park (Local Parks)

Protecting our natural areas is very important to our community and the City works with many groups – including Pierce Conservation District to help us do the Habitat Restoration using native trees and plants, Interpretive Signage in and around the park helps describe the native habitat and the flora / fauna on site. Pierce College who partners with the University of Washington Tacoma and PLU uses this site as an Outdoor Classroom for their environmental programs, we continue to improve and maintain this park using best practices to sustain and preserve the environmental integrity.

The improvements will link folks to our internal path system which will keep them out of established natural areas. These improvements will support our volunteers groups, like the monthly Audubon bird walk and weekend scotch broom pullers, who support community clean-up projects and create new stewards at the park.

18-1272 City of Seattle, Green Lake Dock Expansion and Restrooms (Water Access)

To improve the nearshore environment, all the new docks will have open grating to meet current environmental regulatory requirements allowing more light to support smaller fish near the shoreline. This will have the added benefit of allowing the docks to be more easily cleaned.

The new building, where two of the project restrooms are located, will be environmentally sustainable and will be, at a minimum, LEED Silver certified by the Green Building Council. The building design also includes stringent on-site storm water management practices. The docks, as noted earlier will be designed with grating to protect the near shore environment.

Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

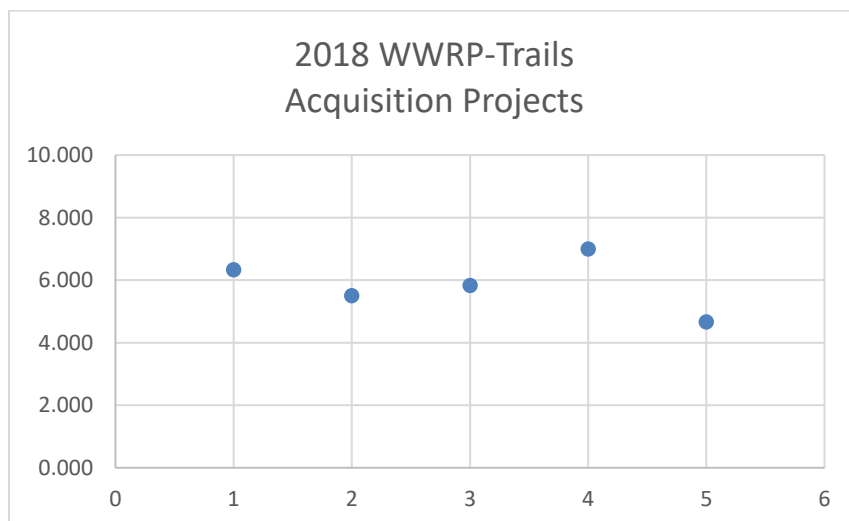
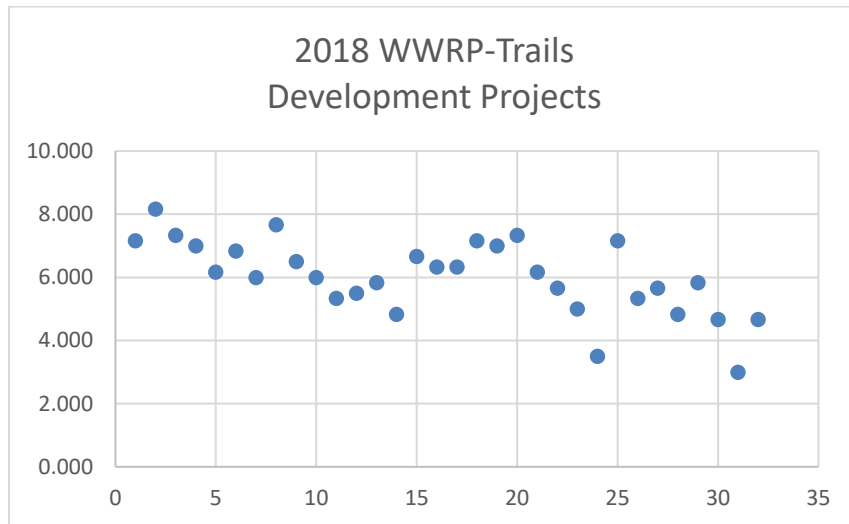
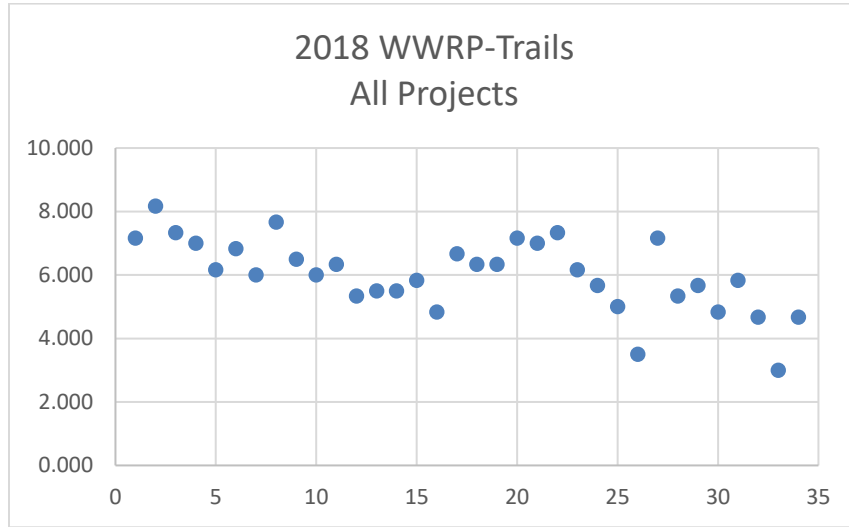
18-1451 Spokane Youth Sports Association, Zakheim Youth Sports Complex

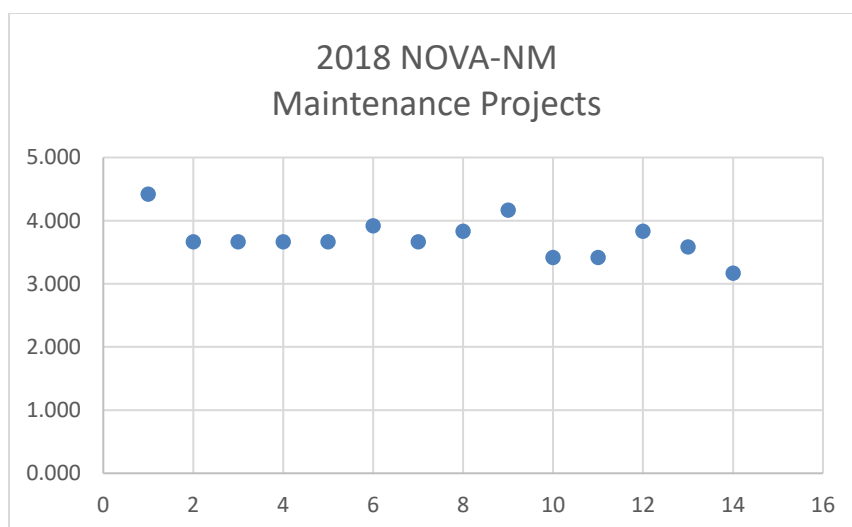
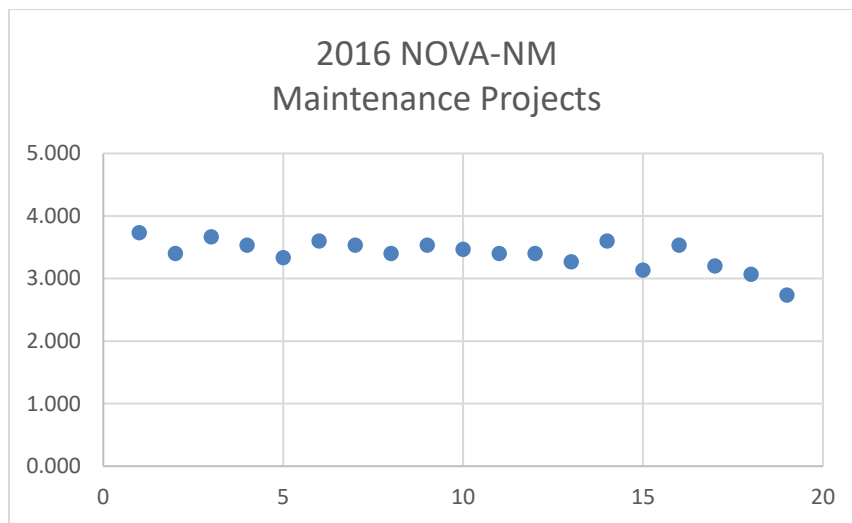
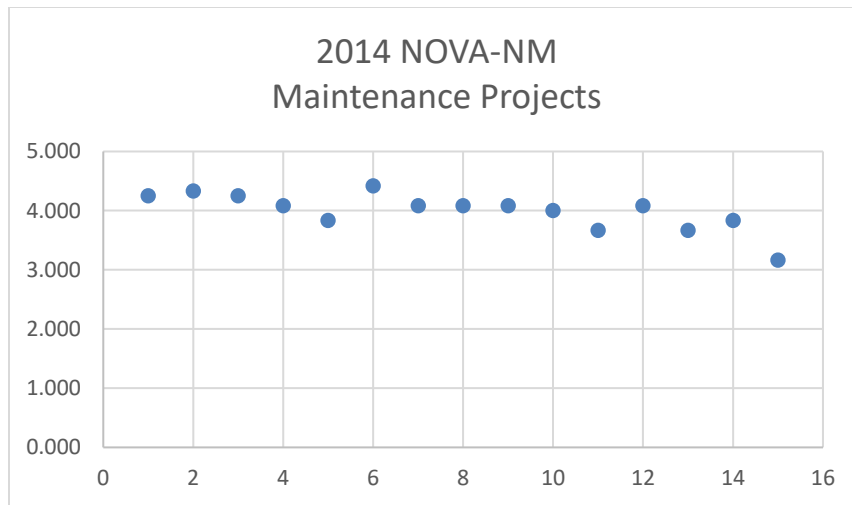
In 2001 SYSA developed Andrew Rypien Field (13 acres) which was previously a brown field and is now a valued green space allowing kids and families the opportunity to participate in sports activities. SYSA is responsible for all ongoing maintenance, operations and scheduling.

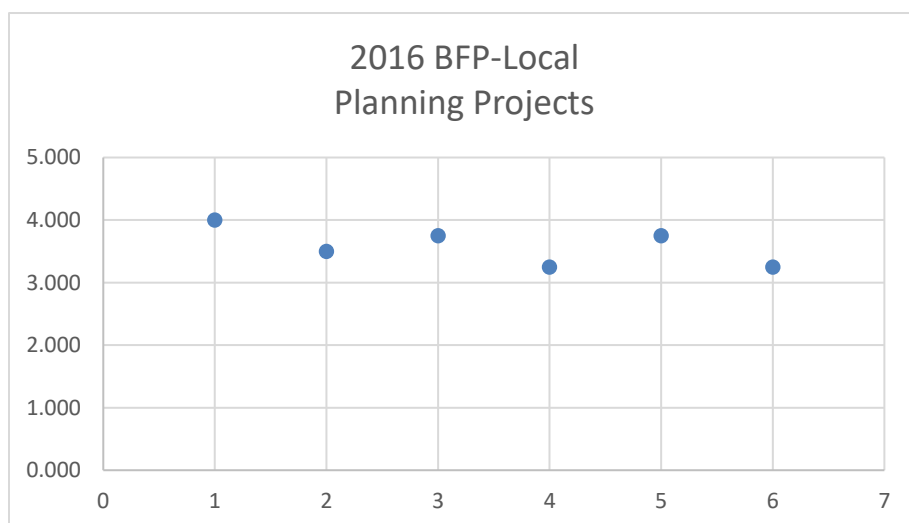
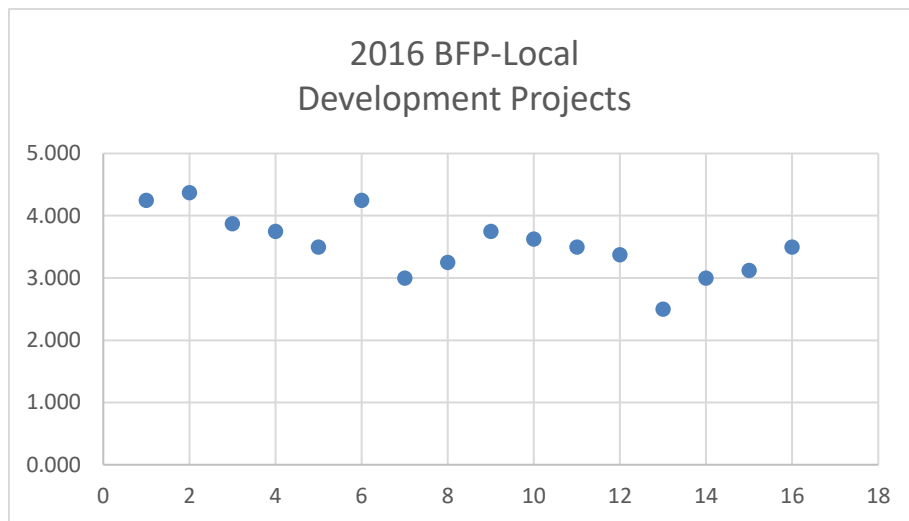
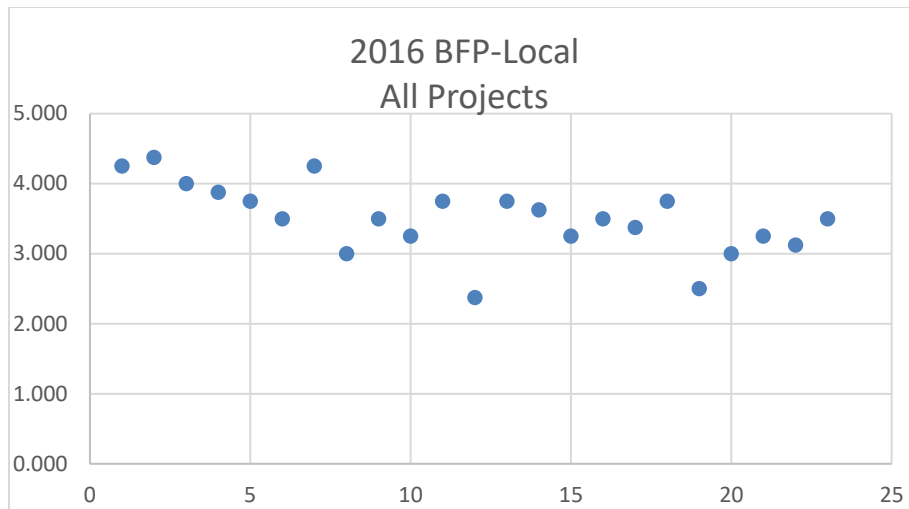
The play surface of synthetic turf fields will meet or exceed the requirements of Spokane County and the State of Washington.

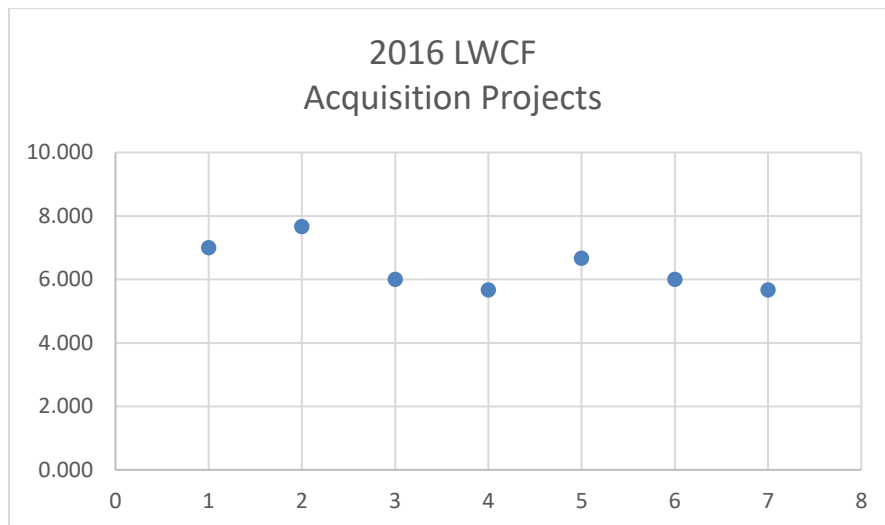
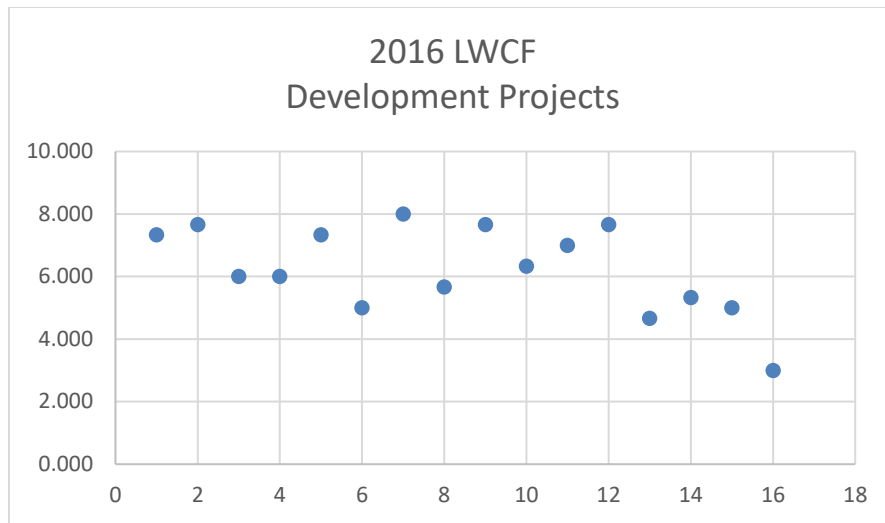
Attachment C: Selected Charts and Graphs

Fiscal Year	Program Name	Points Possible	% of Cumulative	High Score	Low Score	% of points possible used
2018	Boating Facilities - Local	5.000	6.5%	4.375	2.375	40%
2020	Boating Facilities - Local	5.000	6.5%	4.625	3	33%
2018	Boating Facilities - State	5.000	6.8%	4.75	3.5	25%
2020	Boating Facilities - State	5.000	6.8%	4.25	3	25%
2016	Land and Water Conservation	10.000	17.2%	9	3.75	53%
2018	Land and Water Conservation	10.000	17.2%	8	3	50%
2020	Land and Water Conservation	10.000	17.2%	9.25	6	33%
2016	NOVA Nonhighway Road	5.000	6.5%	4.583	3.333	25%
2018	NOVA Nonhighway Road	5.000	6.5%	3.933	2.733	24%
2020	NOVA Nonhighway Road	5.000	6.5%	4	3.083	18%
2016	NOVA Nonmotorized	5.000	6.5%	4.417	3	28%
2018	NOVA Nonmotorized	5.000	6.5%	3.733	2.6	23%
2020	NOVA Nonmotorized	5.000	6.5%	4.417	2.75	33%
2016	NOVA Off-Road Vehicle	5.000	6.9%	4.417	3.167	25%
2018	NOVA Off-Road Vehicle	5.000	6.9%	3.933	2	39%
2020	NOVA Off-Road Vehicle	5.000	6.9%	4.167	2.333	37%
2016	RTP - General	10.000	11.8%	8.308	4.462	38%
2018	RTP - General	10.000	11.8%	8.154	5.385	28%
2020	RTP - General	10.000	11.8%	8.667	6.222	24%
2016	WWRP - Local Parks	10.000	12.8%	8	2.444	56%
2018	WWRP - Local Parks	10.000	12.8%	8.333	1.667	67%
2020	WWRP - Local Parks	10.000	12.8%	8.571	3.714	49%
2016	WWRP – SLD	10.000	15.2%	7.6	7	6%
2018	WWRP – SLD	10.000	15.2%	8	6.4	16%
2020	WWRP - SLD	10.000	15.2%	9.2	6.4	28%
2016	WWRP - State Parks	10.000	11.2%	8.8	6.4	24%
2018	WWRP - State Parks	10.000	11.2%	9	5.8	32%
2020	WWRP - State Parks	10.000	11.2%	9.2	5.8	34%
2016	WWRP - Trails	10.000	11.3%	8.5	5.333	32%
2018	WWRP - Trails	10.000	11.3%	8.5	4.5	40%
2020	WWRP - Trails	10.000	11.3%	8.167	3	52%
2016	WWRP - Water Access	10.000	13.7%	8.2	4.6	36%
2018	WWRP - Water Access	10.000	13.7%	9	6.25	28%
2020	WWRP - Water Access	10.000	13.7%	9.111	5.778	33%
2020	YAF - Large	5.000	5.7%	2.833	1.667	23%
2016	YAF - Renovation	5.000	5.7%	2.867	0.867	40%
2018	YAF - Renovation	5.000	5.7%	2.667	1.25	28%
2020	YAF - Small	5.000	5.7%	2.833	2.333	10%









APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance Study**Prepared By:** Adam Cole, Natural Resource Policy Specialist**Summary**

This memo summarizes the results of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) study of recreational assets of statewide significance. The study report includes data, findings, and recommendations; as well as three map applications. Staff will discuss the findings and gauge the board's interest in using this study information in the context of its authority and grant programs.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

To help identify the future recreational needs of the state, in 2018, the Washington State Legislature tasked the RCO to conduct a study and provide a report¹ on recreational assets of statewide significance. The legislation asked that the study identify recreational assets of statewide significance, where gaps in recreational assets exist, and investment strategies and options for addressing those gaps. The proviso also directed that the study address existing and future needs of the people of Washington State and help fulfill the goals of the 2018 state comprehensive recreation and conservation plan ([SCORP](#))². The final report is due to the Legislature on September 30, 2019.

At the time of preparing this memo, the findings and recommendations of the study are still in draft form. For that reason the study findings and recommendations are not

¹ [2018 Session Law Volume 3 Section 7012](#)

² [Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018](#), Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington State, 2018

contained herein, but instead will be presented in their entirety to the board at the October 2, 2019 meeting.

Study Purpose

Washington has an abundance of natural beauty and a rich tradition of providing outdoor recreation. The state has a diversity of landscapes that provide a nearly unparalleled opportunity for outdoor enthusiasts. This makes Washington a great place to live, play, and do business. Outdoor recreation also contributes significantly to the state and regional economies, public health, and environmental resiliency. It is therefore a priority of the state to see that recreational assets keep pace with anticipated economic and population growth, and other demographic changes.

The study is intended to be a resource for policy makers at all levels of government to aid in recreation and conservation planning and implementation in the state. RCO worked with over one hundred federal, state, and local government agencies, Native American tribes, private sector organizations and individuals to produce this study.

Scope of Study

Based on staff's outreach with stakeholders and in consultation with the Advisory Committee (see [April 2019 – Item 7](#)), the scope of the study was two-fold, based on these two types of asset classes:

1. **Foundational Assets.** These are assets with amenities that support the most popular recreational activities in the state.
2. **Exceptional Assets.** These are assets that represent the most popular, destination-oriented, and iconic places in the state to recreate.

These two groups of assets are not mutually exclusive.

The focus of the study is on publicly-owned outdoor facilities. However, private recreation facilities, such as marinas and pools, are included provided they are primarily open and available to the general public³ and not for the purpose of professional or semi-pro sports.

³ Anyone may use them for no cost or an affordable price.

Foundational Recreation Assets

Foundational recreation assets are those that support the most popular activities as determined by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan (SCORP) 2018-2022. These assets are considered important to every resident of the state and should be accessible to every community in the state. These foundational assets strengthen the livability, vitality, and the economic and public health of a community.

The most popular activities and the related foundational assets as identified in the SCORP survey are:

Most Popular Activities (At a minimum, roughly one third of residents participate in these)	Foundational Assets
<ul style="list-style-type: none">WalkingHikingBicycling	Trails, Urban Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leisure Activities (picnicking, socializing, events)	Neighborhood/Community Park
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nature ActivitiesSightseeing	Natural Areas (Geographies that provide multiple benefits to include recreation, conservation, education, and ecosystem services)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">FishingSwimmingWading Pools/Splash PadsPaddling (floating)	Water Access Sites/Water Bodies, Marine Parks, Marine Trails,
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Playing Sports	Local Parks and Regional Athletic Complexes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Swimming (pool)Spray Parks and Wading Pools	Outdoor and Indoor Pools Spray Pads and Wading Pools.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Motor boating/Sailing	Launch Sites, Moorages, Marinas, Water Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Camping	Campgrounds (developed or undeveloped)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Snow and Ice Activities	Trails, Winter Recreation Facilities

⁴ A community with an approved and funded bike or pedestrian master plan.

Exceptional Recreation Assets

Exceptional recreation assets of state-wide significance are specific places that provide regional or “destination” recreational experiences. Exceptional recreational assets were identified through outreach to stakeholder groups. We asked them to name and describe the places most valued by their members. In general, we looked for at least two or more of the following criteria in identifying these assets:

1. A “destination” type facility that is well-known, a major gathering place, and important to an organized statewide or regional user group(s), and these groups provide advocacy and resources (volunteers, donations) to support the facility.
2. A centerpiece outdoor recreation attraction that draws significant number of visitors, particularly from other areas, other states, and even other countries.
3. Is highly important to a specific user group that has disproportionately limited opportunities, or those under threat of closer.
4. Enhances Washington’s economic standing with particular user groups; supports the tourism sector and other businesses.
5. Popular venues that host large events or competitions.
6. Sites that are connected to larger recreational goals (example: national trail system or scenic roadway system, National Wildlife Refuges)
7. Large or otherwise significant sites that combine recreation and high conservation and aesthetic/scenic value, and significant ecosystem services contributions.

Methodology

Foundational Assets

To study foundational assets and where gaps exist staff developed three maps to provide analysis.

1) **Service Area Map.** This map shows areas of the state that have access to foundational asset and areas that do not. This was done by mapping assets where a foundational activity could take place and establishing thresholds of reasonable drive and walk times to these facilities by local residents. Based on the outcome of this analysis we could see areas of the state that have service and areas we describe as “service deserts.”

2) **Population Density Service Area Map.** This shows a service area map analysis based on relative opportunity for an activity. In this analysis, we calculated a “user ratio” for each community based on the number of certain facilities available per 1000 residents. Based on this view, we could see how much recreation was available to one community as compared to another.

3) **County Population Density Service Map.** We calculated the number of certain facilities within a county divided by the county population. This map measures the recreational opportunity within any county in the state.

Based on the data in each map, staff developed recommendations, which will be presented at the board meeting.

Exceptional Assets

Staff identified an exceptional asset based on what facilities state-wide user groups said their membership valued most. Based on this outreach, we assembled Stakeholder Asset Reports for 25 recreational activities and described the most popular and iconic assets that serve each type of recreationist. We also asked the groups where significant assets are lacking and what are the challenges around providing more of these facilities. Based on this feedback, staff developed recommendations that should improve opportunity within the state. Those will be presented at the board meeting.

At This Meeting

At this board meeting, staff will discuss the final study findings and recommendations, and demonstrate the functionality and utility of each map application. Staff will ask what recommendations and other information are useful to the work of the Board and seek direction on next steps.

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2-3, 2019**Title:** Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Review -- Final Recommendations**Prepared By:** Ben Donatelle, Natural Resource Policy Specialist**Summary**

This memo summarizes the final recommendations of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Urban Wildlife Habitat policy workgroup. The recommendations propose changes to the project proposal evaluation criteria, increase the area of eligible project locations, and more equitably distribute funding between state agencies and local entities. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption of the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-27.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

In January 2018, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed RCO staff to review the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) Urban Wildlife Habitat category. The goal of the review was to evaluate how well the funded projects align with the statutory intent of the category, make recommendations for necessary changes to program policies and evaluation criteria, and include criteria related to climate change. Issues identified and policy topics discussed by the workgroup formed for this purpose were summarized in [Item 4](#) at the April 2019 board meeting. Proposed changes to the evaluation criteria, project location and funding allocation policies were presented to the board in [Item 5](#) at the June 2019 board meeting.

RCO staff worked with the workgroup between January and June to develop recommendations for evaluation criteria and policy changes. The board reviewed proposed changes, and RCO staff solicited public comment from July 15 through August

12. The workgroup then reconvened on August 22 to review the public comments and finalize the proposed evaluation criteria and policy recommendations. This memo details the final recommendations proposed by the workgroup and ultimately requests a decision from the board.

Summary of Public Comments

Proposed policy recommendations and evaluation criteria were posted on RCO's website and public comments were requested between July 15 and August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice requesting public comments to a PRISM generated email list of over 900 recipients. In total, RCO received comments from five individuals.

Generally, all the comments were supportive of the evaluation criteria changes and modification of the funding allocation formula. One comment advocated for equally balancing the point values between the ecological benefits criterion and the public access criterion. Other comments suggested slight modifications to language in specific questions to improve clarity or meaning.

One comment did not support expanding the area of project location eligibility. The other comments were supportive of expanding the project location policy. Furthermore, one comment suggested aligning with the U.S. Census Bureau's designation for urbanized areas of 2,500 for the minimum population threshold to determine project area eligibility.

A table summarizing the public comments and RCO staff's response is included in Attachment A, while a full-text copy of each public comment is included in Attachment B.

Final Proposed Evaluation Criteria

Summary

The changes to the evaluation criteria proposed below are recommended to accomplish four primary goals which were developed by the workgroup based on direction from the board:

- Maintain the category focus on protecting functioning native habitat;
- Increase the number of applications and funded projects from local entities;
- Increase human-nature interaction by providing close-to-home opportunities for nature-based activities, especially for underserved communities;
- Increase habitat connectivity, landscape permeability, protect ecosystem services, and enhance resilience to future climate impacts

These goals are being accomplished through the evaluation criteria questions in several ways:

- The workgroup recognizes the need to maintain connectivity and provide refuge for all types of species, both rare and common, in the urban setting and therefore recommends reducing the emphasis on species and communities with special status.
- The workgroup recommends asking questions about public engagement, accessibility of the site, and specific benefits for underserved communities.
- The workgroup recommends including reference to climate adaptation planning, carbon sequestration, and other ecosystem service benefits in the questions and examples provided.
- The workgroup recommends balancing the points awarded between the ecological benefits and public benefits questions, with a slightly higher emphasis on ecological benefits.

Taken together, the evaluation criteria proposed below have been developed based on the consensus recommendations of the Urban Wildlife Habitat workgroup after consideration of the board's direction, significant review of past funding trends, and the public's comments. Additionally, the WWRP statutes (RCW 79A.15.060) guide the evaluation criteria by requiring the board to undertake specific considerations of all projects proposed for funding. RCO staff has provided a table (Attachment C) which explains how and where each statutory consideration has been incorporated into the proposed evaluation criteria questions.

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

State Agencies and Local Entities (Including Local Governments, Tribes, and Nonprofits)

Urban Wildlife Habitat means lands that provide habitat important to fish and wildlife in proximity to a metropolitan area.¹ Urban wildlife habitat also provides an opportunity for human awareness of the importance of nature and the environmental benefits it provides.

PROPOSED: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category Evaluation Summary			
Score By	Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Possible Points
Not Scored	Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location maps• Project goals and objectives	Not scored
Advisory Committee	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project area composition• Species and communities• Pollinator habitat• Landscape characteristics	40
Advisory Committee	2. Planning and Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan support• Public engagement• Threat to the site• Level of protection	15
Advisory Committee	3. Public Access and Community Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public access, health, recreation, or cultural opportunities• Education and citizen science• Underserved communities• Multiple benefits	35
Advisory Committee	4. Management and Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management and stewardship plan• Restoration needs• Organizational and Staff capacity	15
RCO Staff	5. Growth Management Act	Growth Management Act preference	0
RCO Staff	6. Population	Population of, and proximity to, the nearest urban area	10
Total Possible Points =			115

¹Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.010 (12)

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. The following detailed criteria will provide an opportunity to describe the project in more depth; however, the intent here is primarily to help orient the evaluators.

- a. Locate the project on statewide, regional, and site maps to help orient the evaluators to the project area and its context within the landscape; and
- b. briefly provide a broad overview of the site and the project's goals and objectives (e.g. acquisition goals, habitat or ecosystem type, and opportunities for connecting people with nature)

▲ Project introduction is not scored.

Detailed Scoring Criteria

1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics

- a. Describe the project area and the ecological makeup of the site(s): Include in your description the ecosystem structure and composition, and/or habitat types targeted for conservation; the number of acres; the plant and animal species present and the significance of the site to the target species. Describe how the targeted species currently use the site.
- b. Describe any of the plant or animal species at the site that are considered threatened or endangered by any local, state, federal or international species list. Describe the extent to which noxious weeds or other invasive species occur on site.
- c. How does the site support the feeding, nesting and reproduction of pollinator species (e.g. bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc.)?²
- d. Define your service area or jurisdiction. How unique is this site within your service area or jurisdiction? Is this site part of a larger ownership or management unit?
- e. What are the land uses surrounding the project area? How does this project connect, enhance, or provide ecosystem services to the surrounding landscape? Are there other protected lands (public or private) near the site that have complementary or compatible habitat characteristics for the target species (consider wide-ranging or migratory species)?

² Laws of 2019, Ch. 353, §3

Applicants must complete and submit the “Species or Communities with Special Status” table in Appendix A. This is a required part of the application. Staff may verify the information and evaluators will be given a copy of the table along with the other project materials. As part of the presentation, applicants must describe the significance of the information to evaluators for scoring.

▲ **Maximum Score: 40 points**

2. Planning and Community Support

- a. How is this project supported by a current plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort? Who is the plan’s proponent(s), and how does the plan address this specific project, habitat, or ecosystem type (e.g., a local open space plan, comprehensive growth management plan, or shoreline master program; a watershed or salmon recovery plan; species management plan; climate adaptation plan; Puget Sound Action Agenda; etc.)?
- b. Describe the public engagement process used to identify this project or habitat as a priority. For example, how were local citizens, organizations, underserved communities, tribal governments and/or elected officials engaged, and how was their input incorporated into the project selection and design? Describe the support or partnership commitments you have secured for the project.
- c. What is the threat to the site’s ecological integrity? Include in your discussion any anticipated ecological changes; the zoning and land use potential of the site; and regulatory protections currently afforded to the site. Why are land use regulations not sufficient to achieve the project goals?
- d. For acquisition projects, what level of protection (fee title acquisition vs. easement) will be placed on the property? Is this acquisition part of a phased project? Is a conservation easement sufficient to achieve the project purpose? If not, please explain why.

▲ **Maximum Score: 15 points**

3. Public Access and Community Benefits

- a. What public access, public health, recreational, educational, or cultural opportunities will this site provide? In your description, please describe in detail how the public will experience the site and any plans for integrating environmental education and/or citizen science at this site. Also consider how people may access this site using

public and/or active transportation (i.e. is there existing or planned multi-modal transportation that will bring people to or within a 10 minute walk of this site?)

- b. How does this project address the needs of communities who have been historically underserved by or excluded from opportunities to access nature? Please describe how their input was incorporated into the planning and design of this project, how they will safely access this site, how they will experience the stated benefits, and how they may be involved in the future of this project. .
- c. How does this project provide other multiple benefits to the community, habitat, or surrounding ecological landscape? Include in your discussion:
 - i. Other resource uses or management practices that may help achieve additional conservation benefits (e.g. managed grazing for weed control, supporting a community forest, etc.);
 - ii. How this project provides other ecosystem service benefits (e.g. protecting tree canopy cover in a dense urban area, aquifer recharge, flood attenuation, increased fire security, carbon storage, etc.).
- d. If development is being proposed at the site, please describe the development plan, site design, and implementation timeline. How does the proposed development contribute to the public needs (educational, health, recreation, cultural, etc.) described above and encourage an appreciation for the protected ecosystem? How will it be compatible with the surrounding natural habitat?

▲ **Maximum Score: 35 points**

4. Management and Stewardship

- a. Describe the anticipated stewardship and management needs of the site, including those related to the species and ecosystems, public access, recreation, education, and cultural opportunities. To the degree possible, include the desired future condition of the site, an estimate of stewardship and management costs, and plans to maintain the ecological viability of the site in consideration of future climate impacts, changes to surrounding land uses, and development pressure.
- b. Describe any restoration actions, if any are needed, to improve the habitat function or complexity on-site. How will the restoration work be funded? Who will complete the work? What is the proposed timeline to complete the restoration work?
- c. What is your organization's experience in managing a site with these, or similar, conservation values, habitat characteristics, and public access opportunities? What staff, volunteer, and financial resources are available to maintain the site? What is the

source of funding for this ongoing work?

▲ **Maximum Score: 15 points**

RCO Staff Scored Questions

5. Growth Management Act Preference

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

State law³ requires that:

- A. Whenever a state agency is considering awarding grants to finance public facilities, it shall consider whether the applicant⁴ has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as required by Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.040.
- B. When reviewing such requests, the state agency shall accord additional preference to applicants that have adopted the comprehensive plan and development regulations. An applicant is deemed to have satisfied the requirements for adopting a comprehensive plan and development regulations if it:
 - Adopts or has adopted within the time periods specified in state law;
 - Adopts or has adopted by the time it requests a grant or loan; or
 - Demonstrates substantial progress toward adopting within the time periods specified in state law. An agency that is more than 6 months out of compliance with the time periods has not demonstrated substantial progress.
- C. A request from an applicant planning under state law shall be accorded no additional preference over a request from an applicant not planning under this state law.

This question is scored by RCO staff based on information from the state Department of Commerce's Growth Management Services. Scoring occurs after RCO's technical completion deadline. If an agency's comprehensive plan, development regulation, or

³ Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250

⁴ County, city, or town applicants only. This segment of the question does not apply to state agency, tribal government, nonprofits, or lead entity applicants.

amendment has been appealed to the Growth Management Hearings Board, the agency cannot be penalized during the period of appeal.

▲ Point Range: -1 to 0 points

- 1 point The applicant does *not* meet the countywide planning policy requirements of Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250.
- 0 points The applicant *meets* the countywide planning policy requirements of Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250.
- 0 points The applicant is a nonprofit organization, state or federal agency.

RCO staff subtracts a maximum of 1 point.

6. Population

Where is this project located with respect to urban growth areas, cities/towns, and urban clusters?⁵

This question is scored by RCO staff based on a map provided by the applicant. To receive credit, depict on a map 1) your project boundary or your geographic envelop and 2) the nearest city, town, or urban cluster. Next, draw a straight line, measure and record on the map the shortest distance in miles "as the crow flies" between 1 and 2 above. Include a scale and legend on the map for reference.

Population of, and Proximity to, the Nearest Urban Area

- A. The score is based on the population of the largest city, town or urban cluster within 5 miles of the project (using the most current published Washington State Office of Financial Management population estimates):

- 0 points 0-4,999
- 1 point 5,000-9,999
- 2 points 10,000-29,999
- 3 points 30,000-149,999
- 4 points 150,000-299,999
- 5 points 300,000-and above

⁵ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.060 (5)(b)

B. The project's proximity to the closest city, town, or urban cluster (of any size).

5 points within 1 mile, or inside the UGA/municipal boundary/urban cluster

4 points 1.01 – 2 miles

3 points 2.01 – 3 miles

2 points 3.01 – 4 miles

1 point 4.01 – 5 miles

▲ Point Range: 0-10 points

Final Proposed Project Location Policy

Summary

The proposed policy recommends expanding the area of eligible project locations. The board's current project location eligibility policy states:

To be eligible in this category, the land must lie:

- Within the corporate limits of a city or town with a population of at least 5,000 or within 5 miles of such a city or town (or its adopted Urban Growth Area boundary); or
- Within 5 miles of an adopted Urban Growth Area in a county that has a population density of at least 250 people per square mile.

In the most densely populated urban communities, vacant land exhibiting functionally intact habitat characteristics is increasingly scarce, which is one reason applications from local entities has declined over previous grant cycles. Opportunities for protecting functioning and diverse habitat lands increase dramatically on the fringe of urban areas but so too does development pressure. Therefore, the workgroup recognized need to expand the footprint of eligible project locations to get out in front of urbanization, and to increase the area where projects may be eligible (i.e. increase the number of eligible local communities).

How it differs from the current policy

The proposed policy uses "urban clusters" as an additional determinant of project location eligibility. As part of the decennial census, the [U.S. Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/2010-urban-rural.html) delineates urban areas from rural areas across the country and controlled territories. Census designated urban areas are comprised of, "a densely settled core of census tracts and/or blocks that meet minimum population density requirements..."⁶ The Bureau designates two types of urban areas, 1) urbanized areas which represent populations greater than 50,000; and 2) urban clusters which represent at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people. Because urban areas are based on census tracts and blocks, they are not constrained to jurisdictional (county or city) boundaries and therefore can be more representative of an urban footprint.

The Washington State Office of Financial Management's Small Area Estimates Program augments the census designated urban areas by annually modeling their populations

⁶ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural/2010-urban-rural.html>

using official April 1 population estimates for the state as a control. These modeled population estimates are then embedded in a shape file, which depicts their footprint within the state. Again, because the areas are based on census tracts and blocks, they are not aligned with the jurisdictional boundaries and can be more representational of the urban footprint and population growth.

Conclusion

The intent of the Urban Wildlife Habitat category is to protect intact wildlife habitat near urban and urbanizing communities before it is converted to other uses. Early on, RCO's workgroup recognized the need to expand the area of eligibility for project location to get out in front of where development may be occurring but not represented by jurisdictional boundaries in rapidly urbanizing areas. Using urban clusters is one way in which to do so. This recommendation both meets the intent of the program and accomplishes the workgroup's goal. However, the workgroup was not comfortable lowering the population threshold to 2,500 as the US Census does, primarily to align with RCW 79A.25.250 which designates urban areas as those with a population of 5,000 or greater.

With that, the Workgroup recommends the project location policy be revised as stated below. The revision expands the area of eligibility to allow projects within five miles of urban clusters that have a population greater than 5,000 to compete for Urban Wildlife Habitat funds.

Recommended Policy

To be eligible in this category, the land must be located:

- Within five miles of the designated urban growth area of a city or town, or a designated urban cluster with a population of 5,000 or more; or
- Within five miles of an adopted urban growth boundary in a county that has a population density of 250 people per square mile or greater.

Final Proposed Funding Allocation Formula

Summary

The goal of the recommended policy is to provide a more equalized distribution of funding between state agency and local entity sponsored projects.

Current board policy requires the category funds be distributed as follows:

*40 percent to local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations;
40 percent to state agencies; 20 percent to fully fund partially funded local agency,*

Native American tribe, and nonprofit organizations; then fully fund partially funded state agency projects, and apply any remaining amount to the next highest ranked project(s), regardless of sponsor.

As explained in [Item 5](#) at the June 2019 board meeting, since the funding allocation formula was first adopted in 2008, state agency projects with extremely large budgets (often in the millions of dollars) are most likely to absorb up to the entire 20 percent of remaining funds after the first 80 percent are allocated. Therefore, the workgroup recommends realigning the funding allocation to increase the amount of funding dedicated to each sponsor type while leaving some flexibility for the board to fund partially funded projects.

Workgroup Recommendation

The workgroup recommends modifying the funding allocation policy to distribute funds as follows:

45 percent to local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations; 45 percent to state agencies; 10 percent to fully fund partially funded local agency, Native American tribe, and nonprofit organization projects; then fully fund partially funded state agency projects, and apply any remaining amount to the next highest ranked project(s), regardless of sponsor.

Recommendations

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-27.

Next Steps

Following the Board's decision, RCO staff will incorporate any adopted changes into the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Manual 10B.

Attachments

Attachment A: Public Comments Summary with RCO staff responses

Attachment B: Full compiled public comments

Attachment C: Evaluation Criteria Statutory Crosswalk

Attachment D: Resolution 2019-27

Attachment A: Public Comments and RCO response

Commenter Info	Summary of Comment Received	Date Received	Detailed Response	Response Date
<p>Karen Daubert, Citizen, Former RCFB Member</p> <p>Retired Executive Director, Washington Trails Association</p> <p>206-310-1792</p>	<p>In summary, I recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not expand the areas where UWH projects are located and not expand them to “urban clusters.” • Modify the criteria to put equal weight and points on public access and habitat value. • Approve the proposed 45/45/10 split. 	7/17/2019	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i> - The workgroup recognizes the tension between funding projects in highly developed urban areas, the lack of available highly-functioning wildlife habitat in the densest urban areas, and the need to get protect functional habitat in rapidly urbanizing areas of the state. Therefore, the workgroup maintains its recommendation to expand the areas of eligibility.</p> <p><i>Point Values</i> - The points available for habitat values and public access values are 30 and 35 percent of the overall score respectively. Considering this is a category Habitat Conservation Account, the workgroup felt a slight preference should be awarded to the Ecological and Biological Characteristics.</p>	8/13/2019
<p>Paul Knowles</p> <p>Parks Special Projects Manager</p>	<p>Overall, the changes are great (Nice work!). Our comments are as follows:</p>	7/25/2019	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i> – RCO staff will be sure to clearly explain the</p>	7/25/2019

<p>Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf</p> <p>pknowles@spokanecounty.org</p>	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i></p> <p><i>Proximity Qualifier</i> – Supportive of the Working Group’s recommendation of keeping the five-mile radius</p> <p><i>Population Qualifier</i> – Supportive of the Working Group’s recommendations with two caveats: 1) more clearly define “urban cluster” in subsequent manual updates; and 2) by opening this category up to smaller jurisdictions, RCO staff may run into additional compliance and implementation issues</p> <p><i>Funding Allocation Formula</i> Supportive of the Working Group’s recommendation to change the formula from 40/40/20 to 45/45/10.</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria proposed changes:</p> <p><i>General</i> – Overall supportive of the adjustments to weighting and evaluation criteria.</p> <p><i>Question 1 – Ecological and Biological Characteristics</i> “Species</p>	<p>project location eligibility policy in future manual updates.</p> <p><i>Evaluation Criteria</i> – Species with special status is a consideration required by the WWRP Statute and has been included as one of the considerations in the Ecological and Biological Characteristics criteria rather than as a stand-alone criterion as it was previously. Additionally, applicants will still be required to fill out the species with special status table. See the statutory crosswalk table for where all the statutory considerations are couched within the evaluation criteria.</p> <p><i>Population size</i> -</p> <p>Thank you for the comment, after discussion with the workgroup, RCO staff revised question 1c. We replaced the population size question with a question that relates to the significance of the site for the targeted species.</p> <p>The pollinator habitat question is a new statutory requirement resulting from the passage of</p>	
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	<p>or Communities with Special Status” has been removed entirely. This should be somehow re-incorporated into this question, as it’s a good guide for judging a high-quality habitat property vs. low quality.</p> <p>Describing the “size of populations present” may be difficult if not impossible for most jurisdictions to answer</p> <p>The pollinator question (c.) seems like it would provide little value to determining the quality of a project...</p> <p>It doesn’t appear there’s now any question regarding the “viability” of the habitat. If the project expands or connects an existing conserved area, this should be scored and a bonus to the project...</p> <p><i>Question 3 – Public Access and Community Benefits</i></p> <p>Maybe the active transportation component can include “future potential” to be connected via bus / bike transportation.</p>		<p>SSB 5552. RCO staff will note this statutory reference in the forthcoming manual update.</p> <p>Long term viability of a site is now evaluated as part of the Management and Stewardship criteria, Question 4a</p> <p><i>Future potential for active transportation –</i></p> <p>After discussion with the workgroup, we included reference to future planned multi-modal transportation in the question.</p>	
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<p>Laurence Reeves, Conservation Director</p> <p>Capitol Land Trust</p> <p>4405 7th Ave SE Ste 306 Lacey, WA 98503</p> <p>laurence@capitolandtrust.org</p>	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i></p> <p>Overall I support the recommendations of the workgroup with regard to the proximity and population qualifiers</p> <p><i>Funding Allocation Formula</i></p> <p>I also support the work group's recommendation on the funding formula, to move to a 45/45/10 allocation</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria proposed changes</p> <p>I encourage the RCO to de-emphasize the focus on public access, given these grant funds can't be used to facilitate public access infrastructure development, planning, programming or maintenance.</p>	7/25/2019	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i></p> <p>Thank you for your comment</p> <p><i>Funding Allocation Formula</i></p> <p>Thank you for your comment</p> <p><i>Evaluation Criteria: Public Access</i></p> <p>The Urban Wildlife Habitat category does allow for development of facilities and support structures to provide passive recreation opportunities as an eligible project activity.</p>	7/25/19
<p>Connie L. Blumen, Natural Resource Lands/Open Space</p> <p>King County Dept of Natural Resources and Parks</p> <p>Parks and Recreation Division</p>	<p>Evaluation Criteria proposed changes</p> <p>We appreciate that there is an opportunity to describe ways that grant applications for proposed projects are able to provide ecosystem services. (Such as 1e</p>	8/12/2019	<p><i>Ecosystem Services</i></p> <p>Thank you for your comments.</p> <p><i>Adding carbon storage to list in 3cii</i></p>	8/12/2019

<p>201. S. Jackson Street, Suite 700 Seattle, WA 98104</p> <p>connie.blumen@kingcounty.gov</p>	<p><i>and 3c.ii in the Urban Wildlife Habitat policy</i>). However, we believe there is room to integrate this information into 2a as well...</p> <p>Additionally, we feel it would be beneficial if 3c.ii. explicitly included carbon storage in the list of ecosystem service benefits.</p>		<p>After discussions with the workgroup, RCO staff added carbon storage to the list of examples in 3c.ii.</p>	
<p>Theodore Holt, Conservation Transactions Director</p> <p>The Nature Conservancy, Washington Field Office</p> <p>74 Wall Street Seattle, WA 98121</p> <p>theodore.holt@tnc.org</p>	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i></p> <p>Would like to see more expansion of eligibility to increase the number and diversity of applications – specifically recommend aligning with the US Census Bureau’s definition of urban (2,500-50,000).</p> <p>Found the consideration of growth rate as a qualifier inspired. Encourages the workgroup to re-consider the decision to not adopt growth rates as a qualifier.</p> <p><i>Planning and Community Support</i></p> <p>Support the inclusion of underserved communities during the project selection and design process. Encourage RCO staff to</p>	8/12/2019	<p><i>Project Area Eligibility</i></p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p><i>Planning and Community Support</i></p> <p>Thank you for your comment, the RCFB is committed to doing what it can to addressing matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.</p> <p><i>Public Access and Community Benefits</i></p> <p>Thank you for your comment.</p>	

	<p>continue refining their programs to elevate the voices of communities who have historically been underserved including indigenous peoples. We would encourage the workgroup and RCO staff to consider additional changes to RCO programs, including composition of evaluation committees and workgroups, to address issues of importance to indigenous people and matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.</p> <p><i>Public Access and Community Benefits</i></p> <p>Support the change in emphasis to provide more weight to public access and community benefits. We would like to thank the workgroup for incorporating evaluation criteria that reward projects that prioritize underserved communities.</p>			
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Attachment B: Compiled Public Comments (Full Text)

From: [Laurence Reeves](#)
To: [RCO MI Policy Changes \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Urban Wildlife Habitat
Date: Thursday, July 25, 2019 12:37:05 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Greetings,

I am writing to provide comments on the proposed changes to the WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat grant program. Overall I support the recommendations of the workgroup with regard to the proximity and population qualifiers, although it would have been nice to have some proposed definition for what constitutes an “urban cluster.” I also support the work group’s recommendation on the funding formula, to move to a 45/45/10 allocation (option 3). I think it is worth noting that there is an very uneven playing field between state and non-state applicants because of the onerous match requirements that only apply to non-state entities, so any steps to minimize that inequity is greatly appreciated.

Finally, with regard to the evaluation criteria, I encourage the RCO to de-emphasize the focus on public access, given these grant funds can’t be used to facilitate public access infrastructure development, planning, programming or maintenance. To tell grant applicants that public access is important but then refuse to help fund it seems unreasonable, especially when those of us in the non-profit world often have no other means for absorbing the high cost of providing and maintaining public access opportunities “in perpetuity.” I urge the RCO to consider how this unfunded mandate impacts their non-profit partners’ ability to conserve important wildlife habitat. Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on these proposed program changes.

Regards, Laurence

Laurence Reeves Conservation
 Director Capitol Land Trust
 4405 7th Ave SE Ste 306 | Lacey, WA 98503
 360.943.3012 x 3 | CapitolLandTrust.org

From: [Karen Daubert](#)
To: [RCO MI Policy Changes \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Shiosaki, Michael](#)
Subject: Urban Wildlife Habitat
Date: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 1:42:02 PM

RCO Staff and RCFB Funding Board:

I served on the RCO Board for eight years and at that time, I led the last review of the Urban Wildlife Habitat (UWH) category. Thank you for the opportunity to comment now.

At the time of the last review, we devoted substantial parts of three meetings to this topic, researching the program’s history and trends, and discussing at length the overall program goals. We concluded that while there are other funding categories that fund habitat projects, there are few funding opportunities for habitat

closest to our DENSEST population centers – our URBAN centers. We researched the history of the grantees and found that our densest areas – Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane – previously received significant grants for their habitat projects but over the course of several decades, those grants were awarded to the far outskirts of urban growth boundaries, where, we concluded, fewer residents and visitors were able to experience this land and its wildlife.

We discussed the importance of providing opportunities for our young and our most diverse populations to witness firsthand the transformative power of wildlife. We talked about this being important to the future of Washington and to the future of supporting all RCO and WWRP programs. If our young do not have these opportunities, they will not advocate for vital funding in the future.

As a result, we devised the 40/40/20 split which insured that more grants would fund more local projects. We concluded that we needed evaluation criteria that prioritized public access! We needed to fund projects where citizens could touch, feel and experience the importance of nature.

And we discussed the for “urban.” I urge staff to research past projects and their true proximity to our population centers. I think the Chelan/Manson example is an excellent one. I visit there frequently and am impressed by how easy it is to escape all signs of population. While the towns are growing, the activities are centered around the lake and in the water. One only has to bicycle or hike or even drive outside of town a couple miles and there are very few visitors. And since most of the new residents live there seasonally, there is even less opportunity to value their nearby habitat. Even so, if proposed habitat is so important, it can be funded using other grant programs.

The unintended (I sincerely hope) consequence of this proposed policy change will be to fund less in our truly urban urban centers and to fund more in our rural areas that already have WWRP funds available.

In summary, I recommend:

Not expand the areas where UWH projects are located and not expand them to “urban clusters.”

Modify the criteria to put equal weight and points on public access and habitat value.

Approve the proposed 45/45/10 split.

Let me now if you have any questions,

Sincerely,

Karen Daubert, Former RCFB Member

Retired Executive Director, Washington Trails Association

From: [Blumen, Connie](#)
To: [RCO MI Policy Changes \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Donatelle, Ben \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: RCO proposed habitat policy changes
Date: Monday, August 12, 2019 11:55:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

RE: RCO PROPOSED HABITAT POLICY CHANGES, Comments from King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the revised the proposed changes to the RCO policies. (Per Ben's July 15 email below).

We have determined that they are consistent with, and thus support, many of King County's key strategic conservation and recreation initiatives and policy plans such as the following:

- [Land Conservation Initiative \(LCI\)](#): King County's strategic goal to protect the remaining high conservation value lands and secure our regional trail network within 30 years.
- [Equity focus of the Land Conservation Initiative](#): King County's work to ensure this land protection initiative provides a region-wide benefit to all residents and reverses historical inequitable access to health-promoting open space.
- [Strategic Climate Action Plan](#): King County's blueprint for action to confront climate change, integrating climate change into all areas of County operations and its work in the community.
- [Forest Carbon Program](#): King County's program to acquire high-value forests at risk of development and offer buyers the opportunity to purchase carbon credits generated by keeping carbon in the forests. King County then invests the revenue generated by the program to protect more forests and offer credits to additional buyers.
- Our policy plans, including our [King County Comprehensive Plan](#) and our [King County Open Space Plan](#) and our [Salmon Recovery \(WRIA\) Plans](#)

More specifically, we appreciate that there is an opportunity to describe ways that grant applications for proposed projects are able to provide ecosystem services. (*Such as 1e and 3c.ii in the Urban Wildlife Habitat policy*) However, we believe there is room to integrate this information into 2a as well, by allowing a description of how a project fits into a broader strategy to enhance ecosystem services. Additionally, we feel it would be beneficial if 3c.ii. explicitly included carbon storage in the list of ecosystem service benefits.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to review and provides comments on these proposed changes. If you have any questions about our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to benefiting from these proposed changes which also help streamline and clarify existing policy language and application requirements.

Connie L. Blumen, Natural Resource Lands/Open Space

King County Dept of Natural Resources and Parks

Parks and Recreation Division

201. S. Jackson Street, Suite 700

Seattle, WA 98104

From: [Knowles, Paul](#)
To: [RCO MI Policy Changes \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Chase, Doug](#)
Subject: Urban Wildlife Habitat Comments - Spokane County Parks
Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2019 3:38:11 PM
Attachments: [UWH-publiccommentmemo_2019-07-12.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon!

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on RCO's proposed changes to the Urban Wildlife Habitat grant category. Overall, the changes are great (Nice work!). Our comments are as follows:

1. Proposed changes to project area eligibility:

- a. Proximity Qualifier – Supportive of the Working Group's recommendation of keeping the five-mile radius [from UGA] for eligible projects.
- b. Population Qualifier – Supportive of the Working Group's recommendations with two caveats:
 - i. While in the attached document, "urban cluster" is defined, you may want to more clearly define it in subsequent manual updates. The definition provided in p.5 of the attached is not as concise as: "as identified by the United State Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census." Instead, it reads like RCO staff can consider several different options when qualifying a jurisdiction for a grant.
 - ii. Consequently, by opening this category up to smaller jurisdictions, RCO staff may run into additional compliance and implementation issues down the road.

2. Proposed changes to funding split:

- a. Supportive of the Working Group's recommendation to change the formula from 40/40/20 to 45/45/10.

3. Proposed changes to the Evaluation Criteria:

- a. General: Overall supportive of the adjustments to weighting and evaluation criteria.
- b. Question 1 – Ecological and Biological Characteristics
 - i. "Species or Communities with Special Status" has been removed entirely. This should be somehow re-incorporated into this question as it's a good guide for judging a high- quality habitat property vs. low quality. For example, aspen groves aren't threatened or endangered, but they're a critical habitat feature that sustains (or has the potential to) a myriad of species.
 - ii. Describing the "size of populations present" may be difficult if not impossible for most jurisdictions to answer. I'm not sure very many presenters would be able to answer this accurately.
 - iii. The pollinator question (c.) seems like it would provide little value to determining the quality of a project as any property with any habitat will support pollinators. If anything, this should be lumped with (b.). I understand the intent of protecting pollinator habitat, but not sure if this provides any real benefit to the process or outcome.
 - iv. It doesn't appear there's now any question regarding the "viability" of the habitat. If the project expands or connects an existing conserved area, this should be scored and a bonus to the project. An isolated island of "urban" habitat can only support so many species in the long-run...
- c. Question 3 – Public Access and Community Benefits
 - i. Public access – Maybe the active transportation component can include "future potential" to be

connected via bus / bike transportation. When a site is typically outside of a UGA, there are limited options (currently) for active transportation / bus access. Just a thought.

Please let us know if you have any questions! Thank you!

Best Regards,

Paul Knowles

Parks Special Projects Manager

Spokane County Parks, Recreation & Golf

(509) 477-2188 | pknowles@spokanecounty.org

From: [Theodore Holt](#)
To: [Donatelle, Ben \(RCO\)](#); [RCO MI Policy Changes \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Tiffany Choe](#)
Subject: Urban Wildlife Habitat, Riparian Protection, and Climate Change
Date: Monday, August 12, 2019 12:00:50 PM

Ben,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Riparian Protection Category and Climate Change Statement. The Nature Conservancy is supportive of many of the proposed changes, and are grateful for the time and effort staff and workgroups put in to making these proposed changes.

Urban Wildlife Habitat

Project Area Eligibility: Proximity and Population Qualifiers

We are appreciative of the workgroup's thoughtful consideration of alternatives to the proximity and population qualifiers for project area eligibility. We support the goals of the workgroup to increase the number of applications from "local entities"; maintain focus on protecting native habitat, increase habitat connectivity and landscape permeability, and enhance ecosystem services; and increase access to nature-based experiences for underserved communities.

We agree with the workgroup's adoption of "urban clusters" into the definition for project area eligibility, but believe more could be done to increase the number and diversity of applicants. We have been working with partners on identifying climate resilient landscapes and evaluating landscape-scale connectivity (see comments on section d on page 3 of this document). We encourage the board to expand opportunities for applicants from landscapes that have regionally significance for habitat connectivity. To accomplish this, we believe that the definition of an urban area for purposes of this grant program should match the existing Census definition for "urban" as closely as possible. The Census Bureau defines "urban clusters" and "urban areas" as densely settled territories that have 2,500 to 50,000 people, and at least 50,000 people, respectively. Both definitions are based on the density of the population in the immediate vicinity, and a population threshold. We do not see any reason

to depart from the Census Bureau’s definition for densely settled urban areas for the purposes of this program, which is intended to protect habitat near densely settled urban areas. A 2,500-person threshold would expand eligibility of this program to projects throughout the State, and specifically to several urban areas within a rural backdrop, which in general are areas that we think are in greatest need of conservation in consideration of the latest trends in changing climate and human development.

Further, we found the workgroup’s consideration of growth rate as a qualifier was inspired. While the workgroup ultimately chose not include growth rate as a qualifier, we would encourage the workgroup to reconsider its decision. To do so would conserve state resources as it will be more cost effective to purchase land within a rapidly urbanizing area rather than once it is urbanized, and it would also allow for projects that might not otherwise happen by waiting for development to occur.

Finally, we note that the workgroup identified increase access to nature-based experiences for underserved communities as a primary goal for this program’s review. We recommend the board consider this goal within this context, as there may be opportunities to expand project eligibility to communities that have been underserved.

Planning and Community Support

The proposed evaluation criteria expands the public engagement process to include underserved communities. We are in support of the inclusion of underserved communities during the project selection and design process.

- b. Describe the public engagement process used to identify this project or habitat as a priority. Specifically, how were local citizens, organizations, underserved communities, and elected officials engaged, and how was their input incorporated into the project selection and design? Describe the support or partnership commitments you have secured for the project.*

We encourage RCO staff to continue refining their programs to elevate the voices of communities who have historically been underserved including indigenous peoples. We would encourage the workgroup and RCO staff to consider additional changes to RCO programs, including composition of evaluation committees and workgroups, to address issues of importance to indigenous people and matters of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Public Access and Community Benefits

The revised scoring criteria provide more weight to public access and community benefits. We agree with this change in emphasis, and would encourage RCO staff to consider similar changes in other WWRP programs.

- b. How does this project address the needs of communities that historically have been underserved by, or excluded from, opportunities to access nature? Please describe the engagement with these communities and how their input was incorporated into the planning and design of this project.*

We would like to thank the workgroup for incorporating evaluation criteria that reward projects that prioritize underserved communities. In order to assess the effectiveness of implementing this policy, see comments for Planning and Community Support on page 1.

Sincerely, Theo

Theodore Holt, Conservation Transactions Director
The Nature Conservancy, Washington Field Office
74 Wall Street
Seattle, WA 98121
Office: (206) 436-6253
Mobile: (401) 477-4344
theodore.holt@tnc.org
WashingtonNature.org

Attachment C: Statutory Crosswalk

Statutory Consideration	X	Criteria	Detailed Question
(a) For critical habitat and natural areas proposals:			
(i) Multiple benefits for the project;	x	Public Access and Community Benefits	3e
(ii) Whether, and the extent to which, a conservation easement can be used to meet the purposes for the project;	x	Planning and Community Support	2d
(iii) Community support for the project based on input from, but not limited to, local citizens, local organizations, and local elected officials;	x	Planning and Community Support	2b
(iv) The project proposal's ongoing stewardship program that includes estimated costs of maintaining and operating the project including, but not limited to, control of noxious weeds and detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of the funds from which the stewardship program will be funded;	X	Management and Stewardship	4a
(v) Recommendations as part of a watershed plan or habitat conservation plan, or a coordinated regionwide prioritization effort, and for projects primarily intended to benefit salmon, limiting factors, or critical pathways analysis;	x	Planning and Community Support	2a
(vi) Immediacy of threat to the site;	x	Planning and Community Support	2c
(vii) Uniqueness of the site;	X	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1d

(viii) Diversity of species using the site;	X	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1a
(ix) Quality of the habitat;	x	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1a
(x) Long-term viability of the site;		Management and Stewardship	4a
(xi) Presence of endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;	x	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1b
(xii) Enhancement of existing public property;	x	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1e
(xiii) Consistency with a local land use plan, or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan, including projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130;	x	Planning and Community Support	2a
(xiv) Educational and scientific value of the site;	x	Public Access and Community Benefits	3a
(xv) Integration with recovery efforts for endangered, threatened, or sensitive species;	x	Planning and Community Support	2a
(xvi) The statewide significance of the site.	x	Ecological and Biological Characteristics;	1d&e; 2a

		Planning and Community Support	
(xvii) Habitat benefits for the feeding, nesting, and reproduction of all pollinators, including honey bees.	x	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1c
(b) For urban wildlife habitat proposals, in addition to the criteria of (a):			
(i) Population of, and distance from, the nearest urban area;	x	Population	6a&b
(ii) Proximity to other wildlife habitat;	x	Ecological and Biological Characteristics	1e
(iii) Potential for public use; and	x	Public Access and Community Benefits	3a&b
(iv) Potential for use by special needs populations.	x	Community engagement/ Public Access	3b

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-27
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category**

WHEREAS, the Chapter 79A.15 Revised Code of Washington established the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and authorized the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for WWRP; and

WHEREAS, the board directed RCO staff to conduct a programmatic review of the Urban Wildlife Habitat category and make recommendations for necessary changes to program policies and project evaluation criteria that encourage greater participation in the program by local entities; encourage projects that provide greater opportunities for people to access nature-based activities, especially in underserved communities; and encourage projects to consider the potential future impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a policy workgroup to assist in reviewing and making recommendations to the board that modify policies and evaluation criteria to address the board's interests and direction; and

WHEREAS, the policy workgroup developed five broad goals for the programmatic review which included protecting native habitat while increasing habitat connectivity, landscape permeability and enhancing ecosystem services; increasing the number of applications from "local entities"; prioritizing projects that provide close-to-home opportunities to experience nature; increasing access to nature-based experiences for underserved communities; and simplifying the evaluation criteria questions; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), along with the policy workgroup drafted options on how revise the project location policy, the funding allocation policy, and project evaluation to address the above goals and the board selected their preferred options at its meeting in June 2019 for the public to comment on; and

WHEREAS, the preferred options were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019 and RCO solicited comments from over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments with the workgroup and made recommendations for options, including a preferred option, in Item 6.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the project location policy, the funding allocation policy, and the revised project evaluation criteria as described in Item 6;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO staff is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these revisions beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to evaluate whether the approved changes are achieving the desired effect after the 2022 grant cycle.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded _____

by: Adopted Date: _____

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program -- Riparian Protection
Category Review Final Recommendations**Prepared By:** Ben Donatelle, Natural Resource Policy Specialist**Summary**

This memo summarizes the final recommended changes to the project evaluation criteria in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) Riparian Protection category. The proposed changes aim to increase efficiency of the project evaluation process and reduce redundancy between evaluation criteria. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-28.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

In January 2018, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed RCO staff to review the WWRP Riparian Protection category. The goal of the review was to evaluate how well the funded projects align with the statutory intent of the category, make recommendations to address issues raised by the Advisory Committee¹, and include criteria related to climate change. Issues identified and policy topics discussed by the Riparian Protection policy workgroup (workgroup)² were summarized in [Item 5](#) at the April 2019 board meeting. Proposed changes to the evaluation criteria were presented to the board in [Item 4](#) at the June 2019 board meeting.

¹ The Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee is RCO's designated advisory group that reviews and scores grant proposals and advises on policy issues for the Riparian Protection and State Lands Restoration categories.

² The Riparian Protection policy workgroup included a subset of the Habitat Restoration Advisory Committee and other external stakeholders.

RCO staff worked with the workgroup between January and June to develop recommendations for evaluation criteria changes. The board has reviewed the proposed changes and public comment was solicited between July 15 and August 12, 2019. The workgroup reconvened on August 28, 2019 to review public comments and finalize the proposed evaluation criteria. This memo summarizes the public comments and details the workgroup's final recommendations.

Summary of Public Comments

The proposed evaluation criteria were posted on RCO's website and public comments were requested between July 15 and August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice requesting public comments to a PRISM generated email list of over 900 recipients. Overall, RCO received three comments from members of the public.

Generally, the comments were supportive of the proposed changes, and a few suggested minor changes to the language of specific detailed questions. One comment suggested increasing the consideration of climate impacts and risks to stewardship and restoration and project goals in question 3. One comment expressed concern about the focus on near-term, or immediate threats, suggesting that this focus encourages applicants to overlook climate change. Finally, one comment addressed the Growth Management Act staff scored question for which no changes are proposed. RCO staff and the workgroup made some minor changes to detailed questions based on the public comments to clarify the intent and meaning of the questions.

A summary of the public comments received and RCO staff's response to the comments are presented in Attachment A.

The full text of the comments received is included in Attachment B.

Final Proposed Evaluation Criteria

Summary of Proposed Changes

The evaluation criteria proposed below have been developed based on the consensus recommendations of the workgroup after consideration of the board's direction, significant review of past funding trends, and the public's comments. The changes are intended to accomplish four main objectives:

- Reduce redundancy and overlap in detailed criteria questions.
- Clarify the intent of detailed questions and remove yes/no questions.
- Prioritize protecting and maintaining ecologically diverse, functioning riparian habitat.
- Ensure public access and other community benefits are compatible with proposed conservation activity.

Simply by consolidating and reorganizing the detailed questions, the workgroup was able to reduce the number of advisory committee scored criteria topics from 8 topics to 5 topics. The workgroup believes this reorganization will not only improve clarity for the applicants, but also improve the evaluators understanding of a project's proposed benefits. Additionally, the WWRP statutes (RCW 79A.15.060) guide the evaluation criteria by requiring the board to undertake specific considerations of all projects proposed for funding.

RCO staff has provided a table (Attachment C) which explains how and where each statutory consideration has been incorporated into the proposed evaluation criteria questions.

Riparian Protection Category

State and Local Agencies, Tribes, Nonprofits, and Lead Entities

"Riparian habitat" is defined as land adjacent to water bodies, as well as submerged land such as streambeds, which can provide functional habitat for salmonids and other fish and wildlife species. Riparian habitat includes, but is not limited to, shorelines and near-shore marine habitat, estuaries, lakes, wetlands, streams, and rivers³.

Proposed: Riparian Protection Category Evaluation Summary			
Scored By	Criteria	Evaluation Elements	Maximum Score
Not Scored	Project Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map Project goals and objectives 	Not Scored
Advisory Committee	1. Acquisition benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological makeup Riparian Habitat Pollinator Habitat Surrounding Land Uses Level of protection 	20
Advisory Committee	2. Planning and community support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan support Community engagement 	15
Advisory Committee	3. <u>Stewardship and Restoration</u> Part 1: Acquisition Projects/ Combination Projects Part 2: Combination Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational capacity <u>Stewardship plan</u> Restoration Plan 	16 points 16 points/ 8 points 8 points
Advisory Committee	4. Threats to the habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threats to the site Immediacy of threat 	5
Advisory Committee	5. Community Benefits and Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple Benefits Public Access Education and scientific opportunities 	10
RCO Staff	6. Matching share		4
RCO Staff	7. Growth Management Act preference		0
Total Possible Points			70

³ [79a.15.010](#)

Project Introduction

This is an opportunity to set the stage for the project. The following detailed criteria will provide an opportunity to describe the project in more depth; however, the intent here is primarily to help orient the evaluators to the project.

- a. Locate the project on statewide, regional, and site maps to help orient the evaluators to the project area and it's context within the landscape; and
- b. briefly provide a broad overview of the site and the project's goals and objectives (e.g. acquisition goals, habitat or ecosystem type, and opportunities for connecting people with nature)

Project introduction is not scored

Detailed Scoring Criteria

1. Acquisition Benefits

Describe the specific environmental benefits for this project.

- a. Describe the ecological structure and composition of the property to be acquired. What riparian habitat types exist on the property (e.g. wetland, stream, estuary, etc.)? What non-riparian habitat types exist on the property and how do they contribute to the riparian function? Describe the extent to which priority species, including threatened or endangered species, occur on-site?
- b. How much of the property is considered riparian? How is the riparian area defined (e.g. flood maps, channel migration zone, wetland delineation, tree height, local regulations, etc.)?
- c. How does the site support the feeding, nesting and reproduction of pollinator species (e.g. honey bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, etc.)?⁴
- d. What are the land uses surrounding the site? In your description, consider how this site is adjacent to other protected habitat, connects

⁴ Consideration of pollinator habitat required by passage of 2019 Session Laws, Chapter 353; codified RCW 79A.15.060(5)(c)(x).

otherwise isolated habitat, or generally improves landscape connectivity.

- e. What level of protection will be placed on the property? Will the site be protected in perpetuity? If the site will be protected with a conservation easement, describe the plan for inspection and enforcement.

▲ Point Range: 0 - 20 points

2. Planning and Community Support

- a. How does this project, or its ecological characteristics, support a current organizational plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort? Who is the plan's proponent(s) and how does this proposal help meet the goals or strategies of the identified plans (e.g., Natural Heritage Plan; watershed plan; salmon recovery plan; climate adaptation plan; or other local comprehensive plan or shoreline master program)?
- b. What are the future potential additions to the conserved land base in the area? Is this site an "anchor site" for future conservation opportunities? Why is this site a high priority at this time?
- c. Describe the community engagement efforts for this project proposal. How was the local community engaged in the scoping and development of this project?

▲ Point Range: 0-15 points

3. Stewardship and Restoration

NOTE: If this is an acquisition only project, answer Part 1 and receive up to 16 points. If this is a combination (acquisition and restoration) project, answer both Parts 1 & 2 and receive up to 8 points for each part.

Part 1: All applicants please describe:

- a. What expertise and capacity your organization has for long-term management of the site including staff, volunteer, and financial

resources, and any other relevant factors.

- b. What partners are involved and how these partners have demonstrated a commitment to assist with project implementation or long-term management of the site.
- c. The stewardship plan for the property and the ongoing funding sources to implement the stewardship plan. Include in your discussion consideration of future ecological condition, and plans for controlling or removing invasive species and noxious weeds.
- d. Describe the risks to achieving the stewardship or management goals.

Part 2: If this project seeks restoration funding, please also describe:

- e. What expertise and capacity your organization has to conduct this riparian restoration project.
- f. Other sources of funding or resources that will be used for the restoration activities.
- g. The desired future condition of the site, the restoration goals, and the project design: What is the restoration plan and timeline? When will it be implemented? How does the restoration plan consider and anticipate future ecological conditions?
- h. Describe the risks to achieving success of the restoration goals.

▲ Points Range: 0-10 points

4. Threats to the Habitat

- a. Characterize the threat(s) to the site. Threats may be ecological, biological, human-caused, or related to climate change. Include in your discussion the county zoning, critical areas, and shoreline master program regulations, and why these are not adequate to protect the property. Based on this assessment, please also describe the potential for development or conversion of the property.
- b. What are the near-term consequences of the identified threats to the

project site? How do these threats affect the function of the riparian habitat?

- c. How will this project address these threats? What will happen if this project is not funded?

▲ Point Range: 0-5 points

5. Community Benefits and Public Access

- a. How does this project provide multiple benefits to the community, habitat or surrounding ecological landscape? Include in your discussion :
 - i. Other resource uses or management practices that are compatible with and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits (e.g. grazing uplands for weed control, supporting community-based forestry, etc.);
 - ii. Describe how this project provides other ecosystem service benefits to the surrounding land (e.g. increased tree canopy cover in a dense urban area, aquifer recharge, flood attenuation, increased fire security, etc.).
- b. If public access is not currently allowed on this site, describe your plans to facilitate public access and/or recreation. Describe how the recreation opportunities are compatible with the conservation goals of this project? How will public access or recreation opportunities be managed so as to not interfere with the conservation purpose of this project? If public access will be excluded from some or all of the project area, please explain why?
- c. Describe the plan for community outreach for use of this site. For example, how will this site will be used for youth and community education and/or scientific study, (i.e. university research, school programming, citizen science, etc.)?

▲ Point Range: 0-10 points

Scored by RCO Staff

6. Matching Share

To what extent will the applicant match any Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant funds with other contributions?

This question is scored by RCO staff based on information submitted as part of the application. Native American tribes, local agencies, nonprofits, and lead entities are required to provide a 50 percent match.⁵ Of the 50 percent match, 10 percent must be from non-federal and non-state sources. State agency applicants are not required to provide a matching share.

All applications are scored whether a match is required or not.

To qualify, matching resources must be eligible for Riparian Protection Category funding. An RCO grant used as match will not count toward the award of matching share points.⁸³

▲ Point Range: 0-4 points

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 0 points | 50 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources |
| 1 point | 50.01-60 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources |
| 2 points | 60.01-70 percent of project's value will be contributed from other resources |
| 3 points | 70.01 percent or more of project's value will be contributed from other resources |

Add 1 point to the score assigned above if the matching share includes non- federal or non-state contributions equivalent to more than 10 percent of the total project cost.

⁵ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.120(7)

7. Growth Management Act Preference

Has the applicant made progress toward meeting the requirements of the Growth Management Act?

State law⁶ requires that:

- A. Whenever a state agency is considering awarding grants to finance public facilities, it shall consider whether the applicant⁷ has adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as required by Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.040.
- B. When reviewing such requests, the state agency shall accord additional preference to applicants that have adopted the comprehensive plan and development regulations. An applicant is deemed to have satisfied the requirements for adopting a comprehensive plan and development regulations if it:
 - Adopts or has adopted within the time periods specified in state law;
 - Adopts or has adopted by the time it requests a grant or loan; or
 - Demonstrates substantial progress toward adopting within the time periods specified in state law. An agency that is more than 6 months out of compliance with the time periods has not demonstrated substantial progress.
- C. A request from an applicant planning under state law shall be accorded no additional preference based on subsection (B) over a request from an applicant not planning under this state law.

RCO staff score this question using information from the state Department of Commerce, Growth Management Division. Scoring occurs after RCO's technical completion deadline. If an agency's comprehensive plan,

⁶ [Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250](#)

⁷ County, city, or town applicants only. This segment of the question does not apply to state agency, tribal government, nonprofits, or lead entity applicants.

development regulation, or amendment has been appealed to the Growth Management Hearings Board, the agency cannot be penalized during the period of appeal.

▲ Point Range: -1 to 0 points

- 1 point The applicant does *not* meet the countywide planning policy requirements of Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250
- 0 points The applicant *meets* the countywide planning policy requirements of Revised Code of Washington 43.17.250
- 0 points The applicant is a nonprofit, state agency, or tribal government

Recommendation

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-28.

Next Steps

Following the Board's decision, RCO staff will incorporate any adopted changes into the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Manual 10B. Adopted criteria will be used to evaluate project applications in the 2020 grant round.

Attachments

Attachment A: Public comments summary log

Attachment B: Compiled public comments – full text

Attachment C: Evaluation Criteria Statutory Crosswalk

Attachment D: Resolution 2019-28

Attachment A: Public Comment Summary Log

Commenter Info	Summary of Comment Received	Date Received	Response	Response Date
Richard Tveten WDFW Forest Management Team Lead Richard.Tveten@dfw.wa.gov	A comment in regards to Growth Management Act preference: It does not seem like "preference" is the appropriate way to view projects. They are either "consistent" or "inconsistent" with comprehensive plans developed under the growth manage act. That said, it seem like a single point will make much difference in how projects are ranked and RCO really doesn't mind approving projects that could undermine comprehensive planning efforts.	7/16/2019	The GMA preference criteria is a staff scored question and is the same question used in all RCO grant programs. It is required by RCW 43.17.250 which directs all state grant-making agencies to, "accord additional preference to those counties, cities, or towns that have adopted a comprehensive plan and development regulations as required by RCW 36.70A.040." While 1 point seems small, in competitive programs, the difference between funded and unfunded projects is often less than one point.	7/16/2019
Amy Snover, PhD Director, Climate Impacts Group University of Washington Box 355674 Seattle, WA 98195	<i>(Dr. Snover's comments were provided as margin notes in .pdf document, so the full text of the comments are reprinted here.)</i> Question 3; Pt. 2,i – Opportunity to prompt a discussion about climate change risks to achieving desired restoration	7/22/2019	Question 3; pt. 2i – Based on this and other public comments, the workgroup revised the questions in Parts 1 & 2 to prompt applicants to discuss future ecological conditions in their restoration and stewardship plans. Question 4b – The statutes governing the	8/28/2019

	goals – similar to the prompt in 4a.			RP program require RCO to evaluate the “immediacy of threat” to the property proposed for acquisition. Hence the question about near-term consequences. 4a is intended to capture a picture of the full range of threats (including climate change) and then 4b is intended to focus in on those that have immediate consequences if the property is not protected (i.e. platted subdivision, shovel ready development, etc.). That being said, the workgroup revised the questions two questions to more clearly reflect this intent.	
	<i>Question 4b</i> – concerned about the emphasis on near-term consequences. Encourages applicants and reviewers to overlook climate change.				
Theodore Holt, Conservation Transactions Director The Nature Conservancy, Washington Field Office 74 Wall Street Seattle, WA 98121 theodore.holt@tnc.org	<i>Acquisition Benefits</i> <i>Question 1a</i> - We propose that the question be revised such that degraded riparian habitat is evaluated based on the potential future ecological benefits under the partner’s proposed restoration plan. <i>Question 1b</i> – Projects may have significant benefits to riparian habitat even though a low percentage of the project area is in a riparian area. If a project can describe the potential riparian benefit of upland land management, we believe that the project should score well, even if the project site has a relatively small riparian area.	8/12/2019	<i>Acquisition Benefits</i> <i>Question 1a</i> – The intent of this question is to understand the current condition of the project site. The workgroup considered different ways to evaluate the integrity of riparian habitat proposed to be acquired, and decided to prioritize high quality habitat over degraded habitat or threatened habitat. However, an applicant could still discuss potential of a site here and that site could score well in the Stewardship and/or Restoration Criteria questions with a compelling plan. <i>Question 1b</i> – the workgroup modified the second question to include a discussion of how non-riparian habitat contributes to the riparian function of the property. However, the focus of this category is on acquiring riparian habitat and projects with significant upland habitat values may compete better	8/28/2019	

Question 1d – We believe that there is an opportunity to be more expansive in evaluating a project site's importance to a connected landscape. The revised criteria focuses unnecessarily on adjacent or neighboring protected areas. In so far as the criteria prioritizes projects adjacent to conserved lands, we believe that the criteria unnecessarily weights proximity to prior conservation efforts. A project site may have landscape permeability and regional connectivity, and indeed may be a priority landscape when evaluating overall flow patterns of species, despite its adjacency to non-conserved lands.

Planning and Community Support – We believe that the criteria requiring a project to be connected to a state or regional plan can be consolidated with the [ecological benefits] criteria. Support equal consideration of scientific justification not formalized in a state or regional plan.

Stewardship and Restoration – Part 1 and Part 2 are significantly

in other categories of the Habitat Conservation Account.

Question 1d – The workgroup understands and interprets the phrase, "surrounding land uses" to be more expansive than directly adjacent property. That said, the workgroup modified the question to direct applicants to consider how the project contributes to landscape connectivity.

Planning and Community Support – "Current plan" is meant to be inclusive of wide range of planning efforts and is not solely limited to a state or regional coordinated plan – see list of examples. WWRP Statute requires preference for projects that are identified or recommended by local plans. After discussion, the workgroup revised to more clearly reflect this intent to consider plans broadly.

Stewardship and Restoration – Part 1 and 2 are intentionally similar, but Part 1 asks about ongoing stewardship and management, whereas Part 2 asks about the specific restoration project design. For projects that are requesting funding for both land acquisition and restoration, Part 1 is intended to understand the stewardship and management goals after the restoration activities are complete. The workgroup revised some of the questions

redundant. Suggest entirely separate criteria.

Question 3b – unfairly biases the grant process towards older, more established organizations. Recognize the need to evaluate the performance risk of a proposed project, but recommend consideration of alternative measures, such as staff experience, financial resources, and third party verification (i.e. land trust accreditation).

Question 3c – propose incorporating into a revised stewardship and/or restoration capacity question.

Question 3i – risks to achieving success should also be applied to stewardship projects, which may face risks as a result of climate change.

Threats to Habitat - Should be interpreted expansively to address changes in climate and land use that are presenting new and different threats to ecological systems.

based on the suggestions to clarify and reduce redundancy between parts 1&2

Question 3b – Thank you for the comment. The workgroup revised combined this question with question a and revised to better address the expertise or capacity within the organization rather than the experience of the organization itself.

Question 3c – Thank you for the comment. The workgroup feels the two parts of the question are sufficiently unique and address different parts of a project proposal.

Question 3i – Thank you for the comment. The workgroup revised the questions (pt. 1, d & pt. 2, g) to include consideration of future ecological conditions and removed some of the

Threats to the Habitat – Thank you for your comment. The workgroup agrees.

Community Benefits and Public Access – Thank you for your comments. The workgroup is supportive of community benefits resulting from riparian protection projects but believes the primary focus should be to protect riparian habitat.

Question 5c – RCO Staff revised the question to reflect the suggestion

Community Benefits and Public Access – Supportive of criteria receiving more points.

Question 5c – propose the criteria be rephrased, “Describe the plan for community engagement. This may include using the site for youth and community education or scientific study, including citizen science.”

Attachment B: Public Comments – Full Text

From: Tveten, Richard K (DFW)
To: RCO MI Policy Changes (RCO)
Subject: Riparian protection
Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2019 6:34:07 AM

Ben,

A comment in regards to Growth Management Act preference: It does not seem like "preference" is the appropriate way to view projects. They are either "consistent" or "inconsistent" with comprehensive plans developed under the growth manage act. That said, it seem like a single point will make much difference in how projects are ranked and RCO really doesn't mind approving projects that could undermine comprehensive planning efforts.

Richard Tveten
 Forest Management Team Lead
 360-902-2367
Richard.Tveten@dfw.wa.gov

From: Theodore Holt
To: Donatelle, Ben (RCO); RCO MI Policy Changes (RCO)
Cc: Tiffany Choe
Subject: Urban Wildlife Habitat, Riparian Protection, and Climate Change
Date: Monday, August 12, 2019 12:00:50 PM

Ben,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, Riparian Protection Category and Climate Change Statement. The Nature Conservancy is supportive of many of the proposed changes, and are grateful for the time and effort staff and workgroups put in to making these proposed changes.

Riparian Protection

Acquisition Benefits

We are broadly supportive of the proposed changes to streamline criteria relating to acquisition benefits, but would propose further changes on the evaluation of ecological benefits, riparian benefits, and surrounding land uses.

- a. *Describe the ecological structure and composition of the property to be acquired? What riparian habitat types exist on the property (e.g. wetland, stream, estuary, etc.)? What non-riparian habitat types exist on the property? Describe the extent to which sensitive, threatened or endangered species occur on-site?*

We propose that this evaluation criteria be revised such that degraded riparian habitat is evaluated based on the potential future ecological benefits under the partner's proposed restoration plan. Many of the riparian areas that we consider as potential project sites have diminished ecological functions as a result of current land use practices. These project sites may not score well under the existing or revised criteria as a result of their degraded habitat and lack of species diversity. Nevertheless, these project sites have the opportunity to become pristine riparian areas important to the ecological functions of the State's riparian ecosystems, and we believe should be scored based on this potential future value.

b. How much of the property is considered riparian? How was the riparian area defined (e.g. flood maps, channel migration zone, tree height, local regulations, etc.)?

We propose the review committees take a holistic approach to evaluating the riparian benefits of a project. The proposed criteria would have applicants provide a definition of a riparian area, and a calculation of how much of the proposed project area is considered riparian. We are aware of multiple projects that would have significant benefits to riparian habitat even though a low percentage of the project area is in a riparian area. For example, watershed simulations using the Environmental Protection Agency's Visualizing Ecosystem Land Management Assessments (VELMA) have shown that upland forest management has significant benefits to water quality and quantity for adjacent riparian areas. Accordingly, if a project can describe the potential riparian benefit of upland land management, we believe that the project should score well, even if the project site has a relatively small riparian area.

d. What are the surrounding land uses? Is this site adjacent to other protected habitat areas? Does this site connect otherwise isolated protected habitat areas?

We believe that there is an opportunity to be more expansive in evaluating a project site's importance to a connected landscape. Through "Conserving Nature's Stage", The Nature Conservancy has been a leader in identifying climate resilient landscapes and evaluating landscape scale connectivity. As part of that work, we considered two different analytical models for connectivity. The first approach, which we call "landscape permeability", started with a focal cell and looked at the resistance to flows outward in all directions through the cell's local neighborhood. The second approach, which we call "regional connectivity", evaluates regional flow patterns by looking at broad east-west and north-south flow patterns across an entire region and measuring how flow patterns become slowed, redirected, or channeled into concentration areas, due to the spatial arrangements of cities, towns, farms, roads, and natural land. Much of our analysis on connectivity and permeability is publicly available on the website climatemapper.org.

In any case, our comment is that the revised criteria focuses unnecessarily on adjacent or neighboring protected areas. In so far as the criteria prioritizes projects adjacent to conserved lands, we believe that the criteria unnecessarily weights proximity to prior conservation efforts. A project site may have landscape permeability and regional connectivity, and indeed may be a

priority landscape when evaluating overall flow patterns of species, despite its adjacency to non-conserved lands.

Planning & Community Support

- a. *How is this project area, or its ecological characteristics, supported by a current plan or a coordinated state or regional prioritization effort? Who are the plan's proponents? How does this proposal help meet the goals or strategies of the identified plans? (e.g., Natural Heritage Plan; watershed plan; salmon recovery plan; climate adaptation plan; local comprehensive or shoreline master plan)*

We believe that the criteria requiring a project to be connected to a state or regional plan can be consolidated with the prior criteria relating to the ecological benefits of the project and/or revised to give equal weight to comprehensive science analysis that is not a formalized state or regional plan. Our thinking is that, to the extent the plan sets forth a scientific basis for prioritizing the project area, the plan would be discussed in the foregoing criteria relating to ecological benefits. Moreover, we do not believe it to be the case that planning efforts are uniformly supported and resourced for all landscapes across the State. Accordingly, some projects will fail to be part of a state or regional prioritization effort due to lack of planning resources, and despite the relative importance of the project area under a comprehensive science analysis.

Stewardship and Restoration

The overall structure of this category would have restoration projects respond to both Part 1 and Part 2, despite significant redundancy in the criteria under each Part. Moreover, some projects seek only acquisition funding, even though the project contemplates restoration efforts that would be funded from other sources. We would suggest entirely separate criteria, and that projects that contemplate restoration, regardless of whether they seek restoration funding, be given the opportunity to choose the criteria under which they would be evaluated.

- b. *What is your experience with riparian habitat land management?*

The revised criteria prioritizes experienced land managers, which we understand is a means to understanding the performance risk relating to stewardship and restoration. The Nature Conservancy is such an experienced land manager, but would advocate against our own interest that such a criteria is unnecessary to evaluate the performance risk of a proposed stewardship and restoration project, and unfairly biases the grant process towards older, more established organizations. Alternatively, we would suggest that the committee consider alternative measures of capacity, such as the experience of the organization's staff, the organization's financial resources, any third party verification of the organization's capacity (e.g., if a land trust, whether it is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance), partner involvement, etc.

- c. *What partners are involved? Describe how partners have demonstrated a commitment to assist with project implementation or long-term management of the site.*

We would propose incorporating partner involvement into a revised criteria relating to overall stewardship and/or restoration capacity. Partner involvement is helpful accomplishing stewardship and/or restoration goals, and we would support it being included in a list of non-exclusive factors used to evaluate stewardship or restoration capacity.

i. Describe the risks to achieving success of the restoration goals.

We support the inclusion of a risks analysis for restoration projects, and our only comment is that a similar question could be asked of stewardship projects, which may face risks as a result of invasive species or as a result of climate change.

Threats to Habitat

The existing and revised criteria define threat expansively, and our only comment is that these criteria should be interpreted expansively by grant evaluators to address changes in climate and land use that are presenting new and different threats to ecological systems.

Community Benefits and Public Access

The Nature Conservancy is a strong supporter of prioritizing projects that have multiple community benefits. We note that the relative weight of this category is slightly diminished under the revised criteria, and we would be supportive of it receiving more points under the revised criteria.

c. Describe how this site will be used for youth and community education or scientific study, including citizen science. What is the plan for community engagement?

We would propose the criteria be rephrased to "Describe the plan for community engagement. This may include using the site for youth and community education or scientific study, including citizen science."

Sincerely,
Theo

Theodore Holt, Conservation Transactions Director
The Nature Conservancy, Washington Field Office
74 Wall Street
Seattle, WA 98121
Office: (206) 436-6253
Mobile: (401) 477-4344
theodore.holt@tnc.org
WashingtonNature.org

Attachment C: Statutory Crosswalk Table

(c) For riparian protection proposals, the board must consider, at a minimum, the following criteria:		
Statutory Clause	Criteria	Detailed Question
(i) Whether the project continues the conservation reserve enhancement program. Applications that extend the duration of leases of riparian areas that are currently enrolled in the conservation reserve enhancement program are eligible. These applications are eligible for a conservation lease extension of at least twenty-five years of duration;	Acquisition Benefits	1e
(ii) Whether the projects are identified or recommended in a watershed plan, salmon recovery plan, or other local plans, such as habitat conservation plans, and these must be highly considered in the process;	Planning and Community Support	2a
(iii) Whether there is community support for the project;	Planning and Community Support	2c
(iv) Whether the proposal includes an ongoing stewardship program that includes control of noxious weeds, detrimental invasive species, and that identifies the source of the funds from which the stewardship program will be funded;	Stewardship and Restoration	4 Part 1
(v) Whether there is an immediate threat to the site;	Threat	4b
(vi) Whether the quality of the habitat is improved or, for projects including restoration or enhancement, the potential for restoring quality habitat including linkage of the site to other high quality habitat;	Stewardship and Restoration	3 Part 2

(vii) Whether the project is consistent with a local land use plan or a regional or statewide recreational or resource plan. The projects that assist in the implementation of local shoreline master plans updated according to RCW 90.58.080 or local comprehensive plans updated according to RCW 36.70A.130 must be highly considered in the process;	Planning and Community Support	2a
(viii) Whether the site has educational or scientific value; and	Community Benefits and Public Access	5c
(ix) Whether the site has passive recreational values for walking trails, wildlife viewing, the observation of natural settings, or other multiple benefits.	Community Benefits and Public Access	5b
(x) Whether the project provides habitat benefits for the feeding, nesting, and reproduction of all pollinators, including honey bees.	Acquisition Benefits	1c

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-28
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Riparian Protection Category**

WHEREAS, the Chapter 79A.15 Revised Code of Washington established the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and authorized the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for WWRP; and

WHEREAS, the board directed RCO staff to conduct a programmatic review of the Riparian Protection category to evaluate how well the funded projects align with the statutory intent of the category, make recommendations to address issues raised by the Advisory Committee, and include criteria related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a policy workgroup to assist in reviewing and making recommendations to the board to modify the evaluation criteria to address the board's interests and direction; and

WHEREAS, the policy workgroup developed four broad goals for the programmatic review, which included maintaining the programmatic distinction between this and other RCO administered grant programs, simplifying the evaluation criteria, evaluating the need for a maximum grant limit, and implementing the consideration of pollinator habitat as required by Senate Substitute Bill 5552; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), along with the policy workgroup drafted revised project evaluation criteria to address the above goals and the board provided direction at its meeting in June 2019 for staff to solicit public to comment on the revised evaluation criteria; and

WHEREAS, the revised evaluation criteria were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice to over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments and made a recommendations for a preferred option in Item 7.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the revised project evaluation criteria as described in Item 7;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these revisions beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to evaluate whether the approved changes are achieving the desired effect after the 2022 grant cycle.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded _____

by: Adopted Date: _____

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Climate Change Policy Strategy Final Recommendation**Prepared By:** Ben Donatelle, Natural Resource Policy Specialist**Summary**

This memo serves as a summary to the continued conversation around addressing climate change and proposes a policy statement on climate change. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-29.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

In January 2018, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed staff to develop an approach to address climate change in the Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

At the April 2019 meeting, RCO staff updated the board with a potential framework for future work and how it linked to the Board's strategic plan. RCO staff had developed these options with assistance from the working group (RCFB members Ted Willhite, Danica Ready and Kathryn Gardow) and other external advisors. The board shared their desired direction: to develop a policy statement and continue collecting information from applicants using non-scored application questions.

In June 2019, RCO staff presented a draft climate change statement highlighting the board's concern over how climate is likely to impact funded projects. In addition, staff developed a suite of questions that could help gain a better understanding of how applicants are using climate science to inform comprehensive planning and project site location and design. RCO solicited public comment on the statement and proposed revised unscored questions between July 15 and August 12, 2019.

This memo summarizes the public comments received and requests the board to adopt the climate change policy statement and application questions, to be used as part of the 2020 grant cycle.

Summary of Public Comments

RCO received two public comments. Dr. Amy Snover of the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group was supportive of the statement and suggested a slight modification to the last sentence of the first paragraph. The suggestion has been added to the final proposed statement. The other comment was from Theodore Holt of The Nature Conservancy. Mr. Holt also supports the statement and encourages the board to continue evolving its climate policies and funding strategy as more information and feedback is collected.

Final Proposed Climate Change Statement

This statement will be added to WWRP Manual 10b in Section 2 under the heading, *Environmental Requirements*.

Climate Change

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.

Final Proposed Application Questions (Non-Scored)

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?

Recommendation

Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommends adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-29.

Next Steps

Pending board approval, RCO staff will integrate the climate change statement into the Habitat Conservation Account manual (Manual 10B) and work with the PRISM team to modify the application questions in advance of the 2020 grant cycle.

Attachments

Attachment A: Public Comments

Attachment B: Resolution 2019-29

Attachment A: Climate Change Policy Statement – Summary of Public Comments

Commenter Information	Comment Received	Date Received	Response	Response Date
Amy Snover, PhD Director, Climate Impacts Group University of Washington Box 355674 Seattle, WA 98195	It's a bit extreme to say that cc impacts will "challenge the survival of vulnerable human communities" -- when referring to near-term challenges for WA. Suggest reworking this sentence to something like, "... taken together, will fundamentally alter ecological processes, challenge the survival of vulnerable species and ecosystems and pose increasing risks and hazards to human communities."	7/22/2019	Revised statement to reflect this suggestion.	8/6/2019
Theodore Hold, Conservation Transactions Director The Nature Conservancy Washington Field Office 74 Wall Street Seattle, WA 98121 Theodore.holt@tnc.org	The Nature Conservancy supports the board's proposed climate change statement and application questions... Our hope is the board's climate change policy will evolve in response to feedback from applicants, and eventually provide financial support of adaptive management strategies and our collective capacity to address a global challenge.	8/12/2019	Thank you for your comment.	8/12/2019

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-29
Climate Change Policy Statement**

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed RCO staff to develop an approach to addressing climate change to pilot in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection Categories; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a sub-committee of the board and a climate change policy stakeholder group to assist with policy and strategy development for addressing climate change through funding policies and evaluation criteria changes; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff, assisted by the board sub-committee and the stakeholder group, developed a menu of options for the board to consider to address climate change. The board provided strategic direction at their meeting in April 2019 to develop a climate change policy statement and continue collecting information from applicants on how they are integrating climate change information into their strategic planning and project designs; and

WHEREAS, the RCO staff developed a draft climate change statement and non-scored application questions and the board provided direction at its meeting in June 2019 and asked staff to solicit public to comment; and

WHEREAS, the draft climate change statement and non-scored application questions were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice to over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments and modified the recommendations found in Item 8.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the climate change policy statement as described in Item 8;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is directed to take the necessary steps to implement the non-scored application questions for projects in the Habitat Conservation Account beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to keep the board informed on future climate change issues that intersect with the board's funding goals and priorities.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded _____

by: Adopted Date: _____

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation
Category - Approval of the Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019
Supplemental Grant Round**Prepared By:** Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager**Summary**

The Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed and ranked fourteen Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) project proposals submitted for fund consideration. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the ranked list and award grants. Staff will submit this list to the Governor by the November 1st deadline.¹

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☒ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2019-30**Purpose of Resolution:** Approve the ranked list and grant awards as shown in
Table 1.**Background**

The primary focus of the Farmland Preservation category is to acquire development rights on farmland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for agricultural practices. A secondary goal is to enhance or restore ecological functions on farmland.

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(14)

The Farmland Preservation category receives ninety percent of the funds allocated to the WWRP Farm and Forest Account.² The remaining ten percent funds projects in the Forestland Preservation category.

Farmland Preservation Category Requirements

Eligible Applicants	Cities, counties, qualified nonprofit nature conservancies, and the Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of property interest • Combination project involving both acquisition and restoration or enhancement
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no minimum or maximum request limit • Maximum cost for a farmland stewardship plan is \$10,000. • Restoration or enhancement totals are limited to no more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cities, counties and nonprofit nature conservancies must provide a minimum 1:1 matching share. • No match required for the Washington State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although public access is not required, it is allowed if explicitly provided for in the conservation easement.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each parcel proposed for protection must be classified as farm and agricultural land as defined in the Open Space Tax Act. • Preservation of agricultural lands must be a priority for the organization. • Applicants must have the ability to draft, acquire, monitor, and enforce conservation easements. • Development of a farm stewardship plan as part of an acquisition is allowed.

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) accepted Farmland Preservation applications in 2018, however, there were not enough proposals to use all available funds. Earlier this year, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) agreed to conduct a supplemental grant cycle to solicit more project proposals.

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.040(1)(b)

Evaluation Summary

The WWRP Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed fourteen project proposals, requesting nearly \$5.9 million in July. Applicants participated in the in-person evaluation meetings on August 12-13, 2019. Six advisory committee members, using criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), evaluated the final project proposals. Advisors used the new PRISM Scoring Module for a paperless review and scoring process.

Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise, experience, and knowledge related to agricultural production, agri-business, real estate, land management, and community interests related to farming. The advisory committee members participating during this supplemental grants cycle are:

Name	Affiliation
Julie Kintzi, Enumclaw	Farmer
Tristan Klesick, Stanwood	Farmer
Cynthia Nelson, Oroville	Farmer
Jesika Harper, Northwest Farm Credit Services	Local Agency
*Patricia Hickey, Washington Association of Conservation Districts	Local Agency
Perry Beale, Washington Department of Agriculture	State Agency
Mike Kuttel, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Nicole Witham, Washington State University	State Agency

**Participated in the technical review only.*

The results of the evaluations, which are presented for board consideration, are shown in *Table 1- WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

At the end of the evaluation meeting on August 13 and during the post-evaluation meeting on August 22, staff met with the WWRP Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee to debrief and assess the application materials provided, technical and evaluation meeting processes, and scoring results. Although there were no major concerns with the criteria, advisory committee members discussed whether or not the board should consider changing the title of one criterion, Farmland Stewardship. The

evaluation question is, “What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and other wildlife habitat?” Advisors expressed concern that the question itself, the annotated explanation included in the manual, and the way applicants addressed the criterion, emphasizes stewardship for fish and wildlife species rather than stewardship of the farm. They recommend changing the title to Environmental Stewardship, Fish and Wildlife Stewardship, Habitat Stewardship, or something similar.

Throughout the review and evaluation process, advisors were asked to provide staff with feedback on their assessment of the application materials provided, the process, and final results. Because this was one of the first groups of advisors to use the new PRISM Electronic Scoring Module, most of the comments following evaluation focused on the new tool – what worked well and what would make it easier to use. The advisors were especially complimentary about the scoring tool and made one or two suggested enhancements that are underway in preparation for the 2020 grants cycle.

Funds Available

With Legislative approval of \$85 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Farmland Preservation category received \$7,340,940 for the 2019-21 biennium. The board awarded \$5,068,970 in grants to fully fund the 16 projects submitted in 2018. This means there is \$2,682,220 remaining from the 2019-21 Capital Budget appropriation for this supplemental grant cycle. In addition, there is nearly \$1.8 million in unused funds from projects that were unsuccessful or projects that did not use the full grant amount awarded. As a result, the total available for the Farmland Preservation category is just over \$4.4 million.

Certification of Match Required

Applicants must certify that they have matching funds available before the funding meeting.³ Staff notified applicants of this requirement on August 15, 2019. Applicants have certified that their matching funds are available.

Public Comment

RCO has received letters of support or concern for Farmland Preservation Category projects. The letters addressed to the board, advisory committee members, or RCO staff

³Washington Administrative Code 286-13-040(3)

are provided in Attachment F. Any additional public comment will be shared at the October meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant proposals supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems. The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments of state funds.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the ranked list and award grants as depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle* via Resolution #2019-30.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor for consideration by the November 1st deadline. RCO's director is authorized by language in the capital budget to distribute these funds and execute agreements for projects that meet all post approval requirements immediately after the list has been submitted.

Attachment

- A. Resolution #2019-30, including Table 1 – WWRP, Farmland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- B. State Map for Farmland Preservation Category Projects
- C. Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary and Detailed Scoring Criteria
- D. Farmland Preservation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- E. Farmland Preservation Category Project Descriptions for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- F. Farmland Preservation Category Letters of Support or Concern for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2019-30
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Category
Approval of the Ranked List and Grant Awards for the
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle**

WHEREAS, for the 2019-21 biennium, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board authorized a supplemental grant cycle to solicit additional grant proposals for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest Account; and

WHEREAS, for this supplemental grant cycle fourteen Farmland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, the fourteen applications submitted in the Farmland Preservation category projects meets program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10f, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation*, including criteria regarding viability for continued agricultural production and community benefits; and

WHEREAS, all of the farmland projects meet criteria that demonstrate preference for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's fully functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, a team of citizens, farmers, and governmental representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), reviewed and evaluated the Farmland Preservation category projects, thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the review and evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-13-020, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, funds available from the 2019-21 State Capital Budget combined with unspent funds from previous biennium total approximately \$4.4 million for the WWRP Farmland Preservation Category;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby approves the final ranked list of projects and funding amounts depicted in *Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby authorizes RCO's Director to execute agreements necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby directs staff to submit to the Governor, by the November 1st deadline, the final ranked list for the 2019 Farmland Preservation category for further consideration.

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by:

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

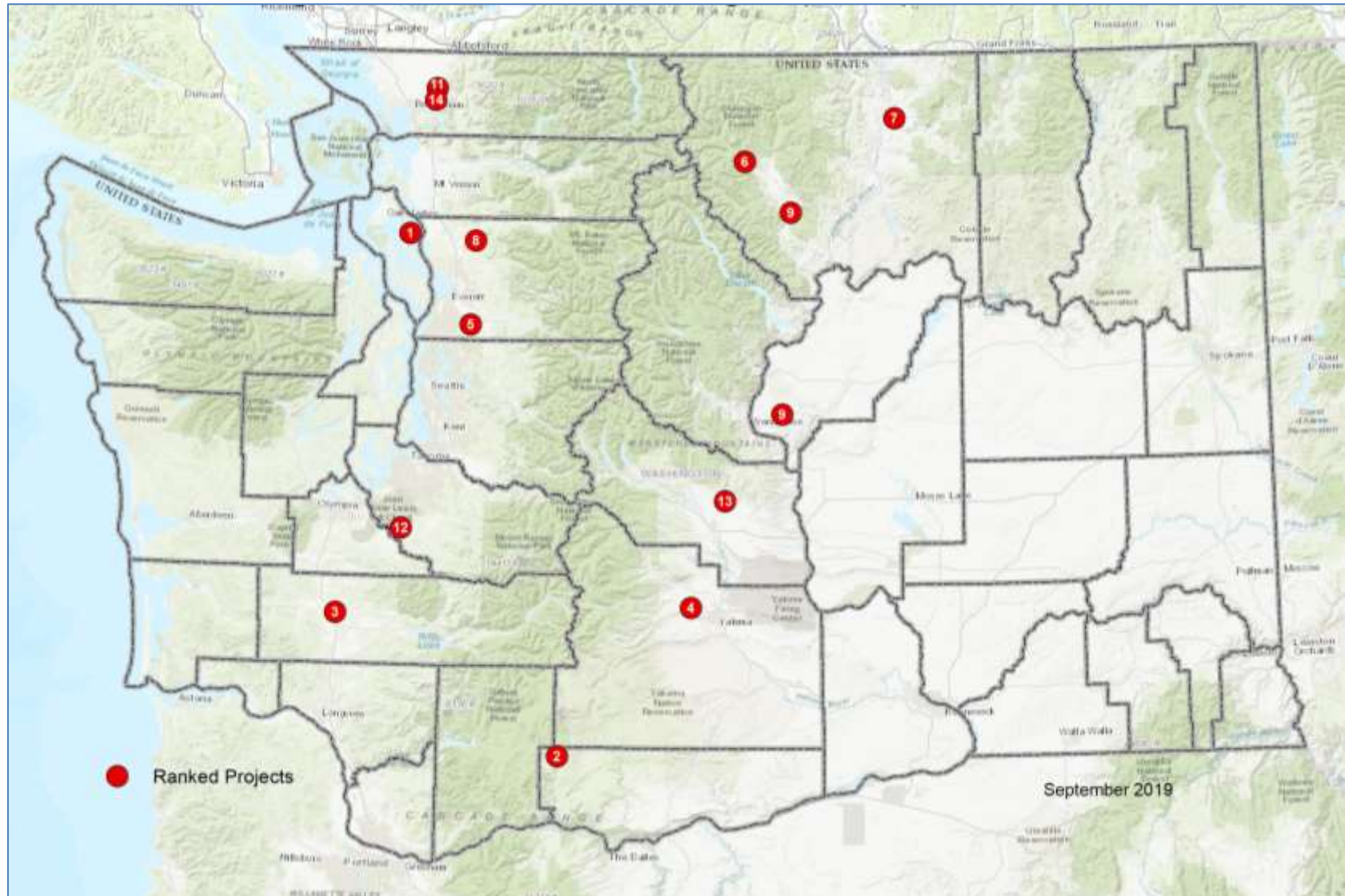
Date:

**Table 1: Farmland Preservation Category
Final Ranked List and Grant Awards**
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Cumulative Grant Request	Staff Recommends
1	51.14	19-1530A	Kristoferson Farm - Working Farmland	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	\$579,000	\$709,000	\$1,288,000	\$579,000	\$579,000
2	49.57	19-1539A	Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement	Columbia Land Trust	\$277,000	\$277,000	\$554,000	\$856,000	\$277,000
3	47.14	19-1445A	Olson Farm, Lewis County	PCC Farmland Trust	\$151,000	\$185,800	\$336,800	\$1,007,000	\$151,000
4	46.57	19-1527A	Stevenson Farm	Conservation Commission	\$730,718		\$730,718	\$1,737,718	\$730,718
5	46.14	19-1350A	Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm	PCC Farmland Trust	\$552,625	\$552,625	\$1,105,250	\$2,290,343	\$552,625
6	46.00	19-1360A	Woodward (Highway 20) Conservation Easement	Methow Conservancy	\$290,150	\$393,350	\$683,500	\$2,580,493	\$290,150
7	44.57	19-1507A	Sand Land Conservation	Okanogan Land Trust	\$549,443	\$549,443	\$1,098,886	\$3,129,936	\$549,443
8	44.29	19-1526A	Tillman Farm	Forterra	\$1,280,700	\$1,280,700	\$2,561,400	\$4,410,636	\$1,280,700
9	43.86	19-1462A	Breiler Ranch, Douglas County	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	\$229,500	\$450,000	\$679,500	\$4,640,136	Alternate
9	43.86	19-1431A	Fort Conservation Easement	Methow Conservancy	\$153,392	\$153,392	\$306,784	\$4,793,528	Alternate
11	43.43	19-1542A	Bishop Agricultural Conservation Easement	Whatcom County of	\$155,000	\$172,000	\$327,000	\$4,948,528	Alternate
12	43.29	19-1457A	Mensonides Farm, Pierce County	PCC Farmland Trust	\$526,500	\$527,350	\$1,053,850	\$5,475,028	Alternate
13	38.29	19-1534A	Upper Naneum Creek Farm	Forterra	\$253,250	\$253,250	\$506,500	\$5,728,278	Alternate
14	35.29	19-1537A	Rethlefsen Agricultural Conservation Easement	Whatcom County	\$150,000	\$177,500	\$327,500	\$5,878,278	Alternate
					\$5,878,278	\$5,681,410	\$11,559,688		\$4,410,636

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition

State Map for the Farmland Preservation Category



Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Farmland preservation means protection of any land defined as farm and agricultural land in RCW 84.34.020(2) and farm and agricultural conservation land in 84.34.020 (8).⁴

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table			
Scored By	Number	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
Advisory Committee	1	Viability of the Site	16
Advisory Committee	2	Threat to the Land	10
Advisory Committee	3	Access to Markets	4
Advisory Committee	4	On-site Infrastructure	4
Advisory Committee	5	Building Envelope	4
Advisory Committee	6	Farmland Stewardship	8
Advisory Committee	7	Benefits to the Community	8
RCO Staff	8	Match	2
RCO Staff	9	Easement Duration	0
Total Points			56

⁴ Chapter 79A.15.010 (5)

Farmland Preservation Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

- 1. Viability of the Site** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(h))
What is the viability of the site for agricultural production?
- 2. Threat to the Land** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(c))
What is the likelihood the land will not stay in agricultural use if it is not protected?
- 3. Access to Markets** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(h))
How is the land's agricultural productivity supported by access to markets?
- 4. On-site Infrastructure** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(h))
How well is the land's agricultural productivity supported by on-site production and support facilities such as barns, irrigation systems, crop processing and storage facilities, wells, houses, livestock sheds, and other farming infrastructure?
- 5. Building Envelope**
How much of the property is included in the building envelope?
- 6. Farmland Stewardship**
What stewardship practices are in place to benefit fish and other wildlife habitat?
- 7. Benefits to the Community** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(9(a))
How will protecting the land for agricultural purposes provide other benefits to the community? Does the community and area Native American tribes support the project?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

- 8. Match**
Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?
- 9. Easement Duration**
What is the duration of the conservation easement?

Farmland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

Rank	Question	1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8	9	Total
	Project Name	Viability of the Site	Threat to the Land	Access to Markets	On-Site Infrastructure	Building Envelope	Farmland Stewardship	Farmland Stewardship Bonus	Benefits to the	Letters of Support Bonus	Match	Easement Duration	
1	Kristoferson Farm - Working Farmland	13.86	9.29	3.86	3.57	3.71	5.86	1.86	5.43	1.71	2.00	0.00	51.14
2	Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement	14.71	9.57	3.86	4.00	3.71	5.00	1.43	5.43	1.86	0.00	0.00	49.57
3	Olson Farm, Lewis County	14.00	8.71	3.57	3.43	3.43	4.43	1.29	4.57	1.71	2.00	0.00	47.14
4	Stevenson Farm	14.14	8.71	3.71	2.86	3.57	5.57	1.71	4.57	1.71	0.00	0.00	46.57
5	Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm	14.71	8.57	3.57	3.86	3.57	4.14	0.86	5.29	1.57	0.00	0.00	46.14
6	Woodward (Highway 20) Conservation Easement	13.86	8.71	3.86	2.71	3.29	4.00	1.14	4.71	1.71	2.00	0.00	46.00
7	Sand Land Conservation	13.86	7.00	3.43	3.71	3.71	5.29	1.43	4.14	2.00	0.00	0.00	44.57
8	Tillman Farm	14.14	9.43	3.29	3.71	2.86	3.86	1.29	4.00	1.71	0.00	0.00	44.29
9	Breiler Ranch, Douglas County	13.29	6.29	3.57	3.00	3.71	5.00	1.29	3.86	1.86	2.00	0.00	43.86
9	Fort Conservation Easement	14.29	8.71	3.43	3.57	3.14	3.86	0.86	4.29	1.71	0.00	0.00	43.86
11	Bishop Agricultural Conservation Easement	13.71	8.86	3.43	3.71	3.14	4.29	1.43	4.57	0.29	0.00	0.00	43.43
12	Mensonides Farm, Pierce County	13.00	9.57	3.14	3.14	3.57	4.00	1.29	3.86	1.71	0.00	0.00	43.29
13	Upper Naneum Creek Farm	11.71	6.71	3.43	3.14	3.57	4.29	1.43	3.29	0.71	0.00	0.00	38.29
14	Rethlefsen Agricultural Conservation Easement	11.14	7.29	3.57	3.57	3.43	2.86	0.43	2.86	0.14	0.00	0.00	35.29

Evaluators score Questions 1-7; RCO staff scores Questions 8-9.

Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Whidbey Camano Land Trust Preserving an Iconic Camano Island Farm

Grant Requested: \$579,000

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on about 80 acres of the 231-acre Kristoferson Farm, on Camano Island. The farm is a local icon, providing a scenic backdrop along nearly a mile of Northeast Camano Drive, the main road to and from the island. Purchased by Alfred Kristoferson in 1912, the farm is now in the fourth generation of family ownership. Recently, the Kristoferson family diversified the farm, adding lavender, apples, and pumpkins to the organic hay historically grown there. Farming without chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides is a family tradition, and Kristoferson Farm is certified organic by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The family's dedication to preserving the farm and wildlife habitat is central to its mission. Major environmental initiatives such as improving salmon passage, restoring the banks along Kristoferson Creek, and the family's embrace of sustainable farming serve as model practices. In 2014, Kristoferson Farm was named "Washington State Wildlife Farm of the Year" by the Washington Association of Conservation Districts. The fourth generation of Kristofersons are committed to the farm and eager to protect it for many generations to come. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute \$709,000 in conservation futures,[^] a federal grant, and a donation of property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1530)

Columbia Land Trust Conserving a Trout Lake Valley Farmland

Grant Requested: \$277,000

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to protect permanently 101 acres of prime farmland in the scenic Trout Lake Valley. Trout Lake is 1,800 feet above sea level at the base of Washington's second tallest peak, Mount Adams. The easement would protect high-quality, volcanic, agriculture soils on land that has been platted for development, and enable the organic dairy farm there to expand its operations by buying additional at-risk farmland. The easement would ensure the source of milk for a nearby cheese creamery, securing at least eight full-time jobs and additional part-time jobs. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute \$277,000 in a federal grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1539)

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of crops or for ranches.

[^]Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



PCC Farmland Trust **Conserving the Olson Farm**

Grant Requested: \$151,000

The PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to protect permanently 121 acres of Lewis County's best prime farmland. Located outside Napavine, the Olson Farm is owned by the Olson family, third generation farmers. The farm has been certified organic since 2000 and its herd is 100 percent pasture-raised. With excellent soils, on-site supporting infrastructure, and ideal access to the markets of Olympia and Tacoma, preservation of this farm provides a unique opportunity to conserve a farm that is almost double the size of the average Lewis County farm. In light of surrounding commercial and residential development, the Olson family is seeking to conserve its farm to continue their commitment to Lewis County's deep agricultural heritage and ensure that the land is available for the next generation of family farmers. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$185,800 in federal and private grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1445)

State Conservation Commission **Conserving Stevenson Farm near Yakima**

Grant Requested: \$730,718

The State Conservation Commission will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to protect nearly 92 acres of irrigated, agricultural land in Yakima County. The land is next to 281 acres already preserved with an easement. This property also is on a busy road linking Yakima with the agricultural communities of Cowiche and Tieton. The surrounding area includes a mix of farms and new home construction. Conservation of this property will ensure the agricultural characteristics are not diminished and will build an agricultural buffer between rural residential and intensive agriculture. The area being considered also contains 2,220 feet of Cowiche Creek, a high priority to salmon recovery. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1527)

PCC Farmland Trust **Conserving Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm**

Grant Requested: \$552,625

The PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm, conserving 209 acres permanently. Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm is a fifth generation farm in the Snohomish River Valley, located just a few miles west of Monroe and south of the city of Snohomish. The farm has been owned and operated by the Ricci family since 1888. It was a dairy for generations until 2001 when the family sold its herd and switched to row crops, hay production, and agricultural tourism. The Riccis are raising their five children on the farm and plan to continue farming there for generations to come. The land borders the Snohomish River, which is priority habitat for Chinook salmon, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and coho salmon, which is

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of crops or for ranches.

Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



a federal species of concern, as well as other species of trout and salmon. The easement will ensure the property will be stay a working farmland and allow for restoration of the fish habitat. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$552,625 in a federal grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1350)

Methow Conservancy

Grant Requested: \$290,150

Conserving Farmland near Mazama

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to conserve 88.3 acres of irrigated, agricultural land with high-quality soils near Mazama in the Methow Valley. The Methow Valley is renowned for its scenic beauty and intact wildlife populations. The land proposed for protection has been owned by the same family for almost 70 years and is part of the family's larger cattle operation. The easement will extinguish 16 development rights on the land, and in doing so, will protect permanently an important piece of agricultural land and its associated water right, as well as protect signature scenic views from the adjacent Highway 20, a State Scenic Byway. The Methow Conservancy will contribute \$393,350 in a federal grant and donations of cash and land. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1360)

Okanogan Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$549,443

Protecting a Farm and Cattle Ranch near Tonasket

The Okanogan Land Trust will use this grant to buy a permanent conservation easement* on 842 acres of productive farmland and rangeland that supports a cattle ranch northeast of Tonasket. The project also will protect prime and unique soils and grasslands of special environmental significance. The land abuts state, federal, and tribal lands. The grant will allow the Olmas Family to permanently protect and solidify its successful and growing ranching operation, and help prepare to transition the farm to the next generation. Because the land is near Tonasket, it is a prime target for a large housing development and likely would be subdivided. The Okanogan Land Trust will contribute \$549,443 in donations of cash and property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1507)

Forterra

Grant Requested: \$1,280,700

Conserving the Tillman Dairy Farm

Forterra will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to restrict development of the 329-acre Tillman Farm, in Arlington Heights, an unincorporated community in north-central Snohomish County. The historic property is a Snohomish County Centennial Farm, and has been used to grow corn, peas, strawberries, and other crops during the past 100 years. Most recently, the farm has been operated as a dairy and to grow hay and silage for area livestock farmers. The

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of crops or for ranches.

Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



farm has about 85 percent prime farmland soils or soils of statewide significance. According to the most recent agriculture census, about 7,000 acres of agricultural lands in the Snohomish County were converted to other uses during the 5-years between censuses, making large tracts with relatively small residential lots all the more uncommon, as well as threatened by conversion. Several entities have approached the landowner to develop the site, which offers about 66 rural home lots. Forterra will contribute \$1.2 million in conservation futures,[^] and a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1526)

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$229,500

Conserving Wheat Fields at Breiler Ranch

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on about 2,450 acres of wheat farmland in Douglas County. This fourth generation dry land wheat farming and grazing operation produces wheat and other non-irrigated grain crops and supports 40 to 60 cow and calf pairs. The land has stunning views and is near areas in high demand for development. In addition to its agricultural benefits, permanent protection of the land will meet Douglas County's Habitat Conservation Plan for greater sage grouse, which live on the land and are listed as threatened with extinction by the state. The land adjoins another almost 7,000-acre wheat and cattle ranch being conserved by the land trust. The Douglas County commissioners, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and Sage Grouse Initiative all strongly support this project. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute \$450,000 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1462)

Methow Conservancy

Grant Requested: \$153,392

Conserving Farmland near Twisp

The Methow Conservancy will use this grant to buy conservation easement* on 66.5 acres of irrigated agricultural land near Twisp in the Methow Valley. The land contains high-quality soils and is next to other important agricultural lands. The easement will extinguish two development rights, protect the water rights associated with the land, and retain one development right. This project builds on the conservancy's agricultural land preservation efforts, which to date have resulted in the permanent protection of about 1,700 acres. The Methow Conservancy will contribute \$153,392 in donations of cash and land. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1431)

[^]Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of crops or for ranches.

Farmland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$155,000

Conserving a Native Plant Nursery

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on 47.24 acres of prime agricultural soils along a tributary of Anderson Creek, just east of Bellingham. The land, known as the Bishop property, supports Fourth Corner Nursery, which uses wildcrafted seed sources and plant materials to grow a diversity of native plants for use around the region. The land has all prime soils. Protection of this property also supports Whatcom County's goal of protecting 100,000 acres of land available for agriculture. Whatcom County will contribute \$172,000 in conservation futures.[^] Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1542)

PCC Farmland Trust

Grant Requested: \$526,500

Conserving the Mensonides Cattle Ranch

The PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to protect permanently the 240-acre Mensonides Farm near Roy in southwestern Pierce County. At nearly nine times the average farm size, the farm is one of the largest, contiguous blocks of farmland left in the county. The farm operated as a dairy for decades and transitioned to cattle in 2007. The farm supports about 125 cow and calf pairs each year as well as hay and haylage production. The farm has 90 percent prime farmland soils or soils of statewide importance. The area is experiencing an upswing in development. A developer completed preliminary site work and determined the farm could be developed into 48 homes. The PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to extinguish development rights, keeping the land as farmland. The PCC Farmland Trust will contribute \$527,350 in a federal grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1457)

Forterra

Grant Requested: \$253,250

Conserving Forever an Upper Naneum Creek Farm

Forterra will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* for the 150-acre Upper Naneum Creek Farm, northeast of Ellensburg in Kittitas County. The easement will preserve the land for agriculture in perpetuity. With excellent soils, more than adequate water rights, large size, and southern exposure, the site is ideally suited for long-term agricultural use. Upper Naneum Creek Farm is leased by a local rancher for alfalfa-grass mix hay as well as for pasture. Because of the site's substantial water rights, it can accommodate nearly any type of agriculture being done in the area. Forterra will contribute \$253,250 in a federal grant and donation of property interest.

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of crops or for ranches.

[^]Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Farmland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#).
(19-1534)

Whatcom County Preserving a Sheep Farm

Grant Requested: \$150,000

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on 48.86 acres of prime agricultural soils in the Squalicum Valley, just east of Bellingham. The land, known as the Rethlefsen property, supports a local farm, Lydia's Flock, which raises Icelandic and Shetland sheep for the production of wool products and lamb meat. Lydia's Flock also provides shepherding education and outreach. The land is all prime soils and contains the headwaters of a tributary that feeds Anderson Creek. Whatcom County will contribute \$177,500 in conservation futures.^ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1537)

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of crops or for ranches.

^Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Letters Submitted by the Public Regarding Project Proposals for the Farmland Preservation Category

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support and opposition) received by RCO during the grant evaluation process. The number in parenthesis represents the number of letters submitted for that project.

Letters are in Ranked Order

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • 19-1539A Trout Lake Valley Phase 4 Agricultural Easement (1) | Rank 2 |
| • 19-1445A Olson Farm, Lewis County (3) | Rank 3 |
| • 19-1527A Stevenson Farm (4) | Rank 4 |
| • 19-1350A Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm (2) | Rank 5 |
| • 19-1360A Woodward (Highway 20) Conservation Easement (2) | Rank 6 |
| • 19-1431A Fort Conservation Easement (3) | Rank 9 |
| • 19-1462A Breiler Ranch, Douglas County (1) | Rank 9 |
| • 19-1542A Bishop Agricultural Conservation Easement (1) | Rank 11 |
| • 19-1457A Mensonides Farm, Pierce County (2) | Rank 12 |
| • 19-1537A Rethlefsen Agricultural Conservation Easement (1) | Rank 14 |



July 14, 2019

State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
1111 Washington Street, S.E.
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: Charis Way Dairy Agricultural Easement Project #19-1539

Dear Recreation and Conservation Office:

The Trout Lake Community Council strongly supports funding for Project #19-1539 to purchase conservation easements for the Charis Way Dairy properties.

Since 1976, the Trout Lake Community Council has consistently supported preservation of agricultural and forest land in Trout Lake, through zoning, comprehensive planning, and through the use of agricultural easements. The first agricultural easement, protecting a significant acreage now belonging to Trout Lake Farm, arrived more than 20 years ago. Since that time, Columbia Land Trust has added easements for land owned by two of the remaining four organic dairies in Trout Lake.

The addition of an easement on Charis Way property is an important next step, adding significant acreage under easement.

The dairies provide significant employment and economic support to the community. We value their presence, which is essential to the character of Trout Lake. We fully support funding for this project.

DAINA L. BAMBE
Chair, Trout Lake Community Council

cc:
Nate Ulrich, CLT
Trout Lake Community Council

*Furthering collaborative and strategic conservation of southwest
Washington's essential natural areas and working lands*



19-1445 WWRP FP #3

April 22nd, 2014

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Melissa Campbell, Conservation & Finance Director
PCC Farmland Trust
1917 First Ave. Level A, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Support for the Olson Farm application

To whom it may concern:

Capitol Land Trust would like to express our full support of the Olson Farm grant proposal. The opportunity to purchase an agricultural conservation easement strongly supports the goals of Capitol Land Trust in conserving working forests, farms and habitat lands.

The Puget Sound basin continues to lose farmland open space at an alarming rate. A recent American Farmland Trust study found that Puget Sound has lost 60% of its farmland since 1950, with loss in some areas accelerating dramatically in the last decade. Combined with average age of Washington State farmers getting closer and closer to retirement, the need is urgent to conserve Lewis County's remaining farmlands and ensure the next generation of farmer has access to land and a supportive local agricultural economy.

As third generation farmers, the Olson family has grown a successful, sustainable beef operation which supplies product directly to the local community. The well managed operation is complemented by an ideal property configuration and set up in that it has irrigation rights, is nearly double the size of the average farm size in Lewis County, and excellent market access. As such, this project presents an incredible opportunity for the County and the State to secure excellent farmland with significant residential and commercial development pressure.

Conservation cannot wait. Please help us preserve this valuable farm and protect the precious remaining land in Lewis County forever.

Sincerely,

Laurence Reeves
Conservation Program Manager



Lewis County Conservation District

1554 Bishop Rd. - Chehalis, WA 98532-8710 - Phone (360) 748-0083 - FAX (360) 740-9745

SUPERVISORS

19-1445 WWRP FP #3

D. Fenn CHAIRMAN

M. Courtney VICE-CHAIRMAN

A. Tuning SECRETARY

 TREASURER

C. Aldrich MEMBER

C. Hayes MEMBER

July 24, 2014

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Melissa Campbell, Conservation & Finance Director
PCC Farmland Trust
1917 First Ave. Level A, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Support for the Olson Farm application

To whom it may concern:

The Lewis County Conservation District would like to express our full support of the Olson Farm grant proposal. The opportunity to purchase an agricultural conservation easement strongly supports the goals of the Lewis County Conservation District in conserving working forests, farms and habitat lands, and the District's commitment to supporting the viability of our local farm economy.

The Puget Sound basin continues to lose farmland open space at an alarming rate. A recent American Farmland Trust study found that Puget Sound has lost 60% of its farmland since 1950, with loss in some areas accelerating dramatically in the last decade. Combined with average age of Washington State farmers getting closer and closer to retirement, the need is urgent to conserve Lewis County's remaining farmlands and ensure the next generation of farmer has access to land and a supportive local ag economy.

As third generation farmers, the Olson family has grown a successful, sustainable beef operation which supplies product directly to the local community. The well managed operation is complemented by an ideal property configuration and set up in that it has irrigation rights, is nearly double the size of the average farm size in Lewis County, and excellent market access. As such, this project presents an incredible opportunity for the County and the State to secure excellent farmland with significant residential and commercial development pressure.

Conservation cannot wait. Please help us preserve this valuable farm and protect the precious remaining land in Lewis County forever.

Sincerely,

Bob Amrine/District Manager



South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust

P.O. Box 12118, Olympia, WA 98508 (360) 292-9842
www.communityfarmlandtrust.org

19-1445 WWRP FP #3

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Melissa Campbell, Conservation & Finance Director
PCC Farmland Trust
1917 First Ave. Level A, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98101

April 22, 2014

Re: Support for the Olson Farm application

To whom it may concern:

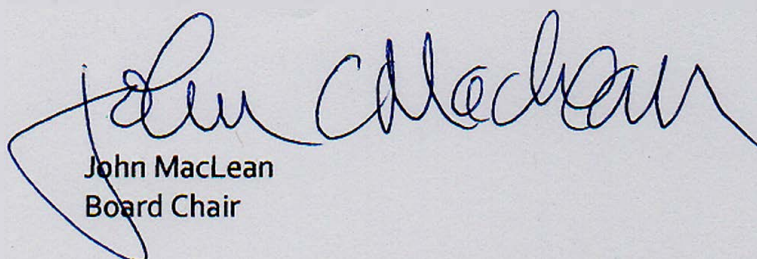
South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust (SSCFLT) is a working farmland preservation nonprofit based in Thurston County, Washington. SSCFLT would like to express our full support of PCC Farmland Trust's Olson Farm grant proposal. Their efforts to purchase an Olson Farm agricultural conservation easement strongly aligns with the goals of SSCFLT to conserve working farmland and support the viability of our local farm economy.

The Puget Sound basin continues to lose farmland at an alarming rate. A recent American Farmland Trust study found that Puget Sound has lost 60% of its farmland since 1950, with loss in some areas accelerating dramatically in the last decade. Combined with average age of Washington State farmers getting closer and closer to retirement, the need is urgent to conserve Lewis County's remaining farmlands and ensure that the next generation of farmers has access to land and a supportive local ag economy.

As third generation farmers, the Olson family has grown a successful, sustainable beef operation which supplies product directly to the local community. The well managed operation is complemented by an ideal property configuration and set up, in that it has irrigation rights, is nearly double the size of the average farm in Lewis County, and has excellent market access. As such, this project presents an incredible opportunity for the County and the State to secure excellent farmland with significant residential and commercial development pressure.

Conservation cannot wait. Please help us preserve this valuable farm and protect the precious remaining land in Lewis County forever.

Sincerely,



John MacLean
Board Chair



19-1527 WWRP FP #4

June 17, 2019

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia WA 98501

Re: Stevenson Farm (19-1527 A) Farmland Preservation Program Application

Dear Evaluation Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Cowiche Canyon Conservancy (CCC) to express our support for the grant application entitled "Stevenson Farm" submitted by the Washington State Conservation Commission in coordination with the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD). CCC views the farmland preservation work of NYCD as a critical need in our shared landscape strategy to honor the legacy of agriculture in our valley, which preserved land in the broad open spaces we enjoy today. This work also supports our parallel efforts to steward the natural resources of our area and restore the essential features of riparian terrain within the Cowiche Creek watershed.

CCC is a growing land trust whose mission is "protecting shrub-steppe habitat and connecting people to this vanishing landscape." The riparian habitats embedded in our landscape have been a focus of our effort to integrate our work in conservation, low impact recreation, and education. Cowiche Creek runs alongside the Stevenson Farm and through two properties owned by CCC. The creek is an important link between the Naches River and upland habitats to the west. CCC has partnered with NYCD on past restoration efforts which enhanced riparian habitat and removed fish passage barriers in Cowiche Creek. The watershed has tremendous potential for habitat function and we want to see the enhancements made within it protected into perpetuity.

We believe that viable agricultural lands and environmental stewardship of those lands needs to be supported. Conservation easements that preserve farmland and ensure ongoing stewardship related to water quality and salmon recovery are the best fundamental tool to achieve that outcome. Thank you for your consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Celisa Hopkins".

Celisa Hopkins
Executive Director

(509) 248-5065
INFO@COWICHECANYON.ORG
P.O. BOX 877
YAKIMA, WA 98907
WWW.COWICHECANYON.ORG





*Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation
Organization*

19-1527 WWRP FP #4

May 31, 2019

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street SE
Olympia WA 98501

Re: Stevenson Farm (19-1527A) Farmland Preservation Program Application

Dear Evaluation Committee,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is pleased to support the "Stevenson Farm" Farmland Preservation Program grant application being submitted by the Washington State Conservation Committee in coordination with the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD).

Protection of the Stevenson Farm will provide meaningful community and ecosystem benefits. This project will help maintain the agricultural—hay and cattle—operations and local, Yakima Valley community values, and will also provide a vital buffer between intensive agriculture and rural residential areas.

The Stevenson easement will help protect past and ongoing stream restoration efforts for flow, water quality, and riparian improvements. As a national, coldwater fisheries conservation non-profit, TU partners with landowners and local entities to develop and implement multi-benefit projects that provide meaningful benefits for fish and communities. Several years ago, TU and the NYCD worked together to implement a water conservation and streamflow restoration project that included the Stevenson Farm's water rights. The easement enhances the streamflow project.

We appreciate and support collaborative approaches to solving natural resource issues facing our communities. We are pleased to support the Stevenson Farm project.

Thank you,

Lisa Pelly, Director-Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project

Washington Water Project

103 Palouse, Suite 14, Wenatchee, WA 98801; 115 S. Glover Street, Twisp, WA 98856;
119 W. 5th Ave, Ellensburg, WA 98926,
(509) 888-0970 • Fax: (509) 888-4352 • www.tu.org



June 6, 2019

Re: Farmland Preservation Project, Stevenson Farm 19-1527 A

Dear Evaluation Committee,

The Yakima County Cattlemen's Association wishes to provide their support of the Stevenson Farm Project-19-1527 A. This project sponsored by the Washington State Conservation Commission and supported by the North Yakima Conservation District will protect valuable farmland within Yakima County. The Stevenson Farm is currently part of a viable Cow/Calf operation that helps Yakima County produce over \$1.50 Billion in Farm and Ranch revenue for the State's economy. Cattle production ranks in the top ten commodities in Washington State.

The Yakima County Cattlemen's Association also supports this project due to the great stewardship ethic implemented by the landowner. The stewardship of this property is assisting in the State's Salmon Recovery efforts and Water Quality improvements. Additional benefits to preserving this valuable property are those related to floodplain function and ground water recharge.

The Yakima County Cattlemen's Association again lends its full support for this valuable project.

Sincerely,

*Yakima County Cattlemen's Association
President, Darrell Winters*

Yakima County Farm Bureau
850 Olmstead Road
Grandview WA. 98930

To: RCO –Farmland Preservation Evaluation Committee

Re: Support of Stevenson Project # 19-1527A

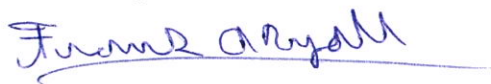
Dear Committee,

The Yakima County Farm Bureau supports the application from the Washington Conservation Commission (WCCC) and the North Yakima Conservation District (NYCD) for the Stevenson Project.

Farming and ranching are essential components of Yakima County's economy and culture. This project will preserve and enhance those values now and into the future. Currently, the Stevenson Property supports a viable Cow / Calf operation but is highly suited due to location, soils, local markets, etc.. for any number of other agricultural endeavors now and into the future. Maintaining the land for agricultural uses also compliments many environmental needs of our area specifically to goals of the Yakima County Voluntary Stewardship Program and Salmon recovery efforts without eroding our agriculturally based economy. The properties location and project goal is also a compliment to the localized agro-tourism industry.

It is for these reasons the Yakima County Farm Bureau supports this application.

Best Regards



Frank A. Lyall
President YCFB
(509) 840-0320
falyall@yahoo.com



Snohomish County

County Council

Sam Low
District 5

April 3, 2019

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Robin Fay, Conservation Manager
PCC Farmland Trust
1402 Third Avenue, #709
Seattle, WA 98101

3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S #609
Everett, WA 98201-4046
425-388-3494
FAX 425-388-3496
TTY/TDD 1-800-877-8339

Re: Support for the Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm application

To whom it may concern:

As Snohomish County Councilmember for District Five I would like to express our full support of the Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm grant proposal. The opportunity to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on this farm and protect over 200 acres of Snohomish County's prime farmland strongly supports the goals of Snohomish County in conserving working forests, farms and habitat lands, and Snohomish County's commitment to supporting the viability of our local farm economy.

Bob's Corn is located on the Snohomish River, west of the City of Monroe. This specific property is ideal for supporting long-term commercial agriculture, and is in a high priority area for farmland conservation. The farm's agricultural values, which this project seeks to protect, include the property's irreplaceable prime farmland soils, agricultural productivity, capability to support diverse agricultural production, appropriate topography, excellent accessibility to market and communities, and compatibility with surrounding land use and open space preservation. In addition, this project will also support the property's complementary ecological conservation values, including opportunities for future compatible restoration priorities along the Snohomish River.

The farm sits adjacent to the Snohomish, which is a priority for migration and breeding habitat for Chinook Salmon (ESA listed as Threatened) and Coho Salmon (NMFS species of concern), as well as Coast Resident Cutthroat, Chum, and Bull Trout. The agricultural conservation easement will ensure the property will be protected as open space and include flexibility to address and support compatible restoration targeting these priority species and habitats in the future. With less than 76,000 of an original 180,000 acres of farmland remaining, Snohomish County's farmland is under threat for conversion as residential pressures continue to escalate and farmland prices rise beyond the reach of most farmers. Conservation of Snohomish County's historical farm legacy cannot wait. Please help us preserve this valuable farm and protect a Snohomish County legacy.

Sincerely,

Sam Low
Snohomish County Councilmember

Sam.Low@snoco.org

Gold Bar, Index, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Snohomish, Sultan, and areas of unincorporated Snohomish County

www.snoco.org

**Snohomish County****Dave Somers**
*County Executive*3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 407
Everett, WA 98201-4046
(425) 388-3460
www.snoco.org

April 24, 2019

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Robin Fay, Conservation Manager
PCC Farmland Trust
1402 Third Avenue, #709
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Support for the Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm Application

To whom it may concern:

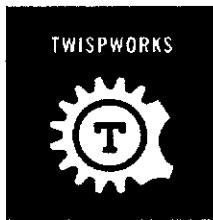
Snohomish County would like to express full support for the Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm grant proposal. The opportunity to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on this farm and protect over 200 acres of Snohomish County's prime farmland strongly supports the goals of Snohomish County in conserving working forests, farms and habitat lands, and Snohomish County commitment to supporting the viability of our local farm economy.

Bob's Corn is located on the Snohomish River, west of the City of Monroe. This specific property is ideal for supporting long-term commercial agriculture and is in a high priority area for farmland conservation. The farm's agricultural values, which this project seeks to protect, include the property's irreplaceable prime farmland soils, agricultural productivity, capability to support diverse agricultural production, appropriate topography, excellent accessibility to market and communities, and compatibility with surrounding land use and open space preservation. In addition, this project will also support the property's complementary ecological conservation values, including opportunities for future compatible restoration priorities along the Snohomish River.

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Sincerely,

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive



Our mission is to promote the economic vitality of the Methow Valley through agriculture, technology, education and arts and culture.

July 23, 2019

Kim Sellers, Farmland Preservation Grants Manager
State of Washington
The Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: Letter of Support for Farmland Preservation Grant Applications

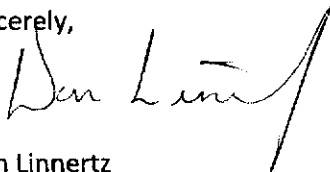
Dear Ms. Sellers,

TwispWorks has been working for over a decade to strengthen the local economy through programs and strategic partnerships that directly support the diversification and resilience of businesses in our community. Agriculture accounts for 9% of our local employment and nearly 10% of the wages in that sector and retaining prime farmland for our ranchers and growers is a top strategic priority.

I am writing to support the Methow Conservancy's current applications for grant funds through the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program. Together, the proposed Fort and Woodward farmland conservation easements will preserve 155 acres of high quality soils (prime, unique or state-wide significant), as well as protect senior water rights, ensuring that these agricultural lands remain productive in perpetuity.

Protection of farmland in the Methow Valley through the use of voluntary conservation easements supports current and future farming/ranching businesses and protects wildlife corridors and scenic views. As well, tying irrigation water to productive farmland in our Valley will provide flexibility for our community to adapt to a changing climate. All of these elements contribute to a healthy economy and community, while celebrating our agricultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Don Linnertz
Executive Director

LOCATION 502 S. Glover Street Twisp, WA 98856
MAIL PO BOX 264 Twisp, WA 98856
EMAIL info@twispworks.org
PHONE 509.997.3300

TWISPPWORKS.ORG



Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization

July 24, 2019

Kim Sellers, Farmland Preservation Grants Manager
State of Washington
The Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

Re: Letter of Support for Farmland Preservation Grant Applications

Dear Ms. Sellers,

Trout Unlimited has been working in the Methow Valley for over a decade, with a goal of protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems in the Methow. Much of our work involves working with agricultural producers to conserve water rights.

I am writing to support the Methow Conservancy's current applications for grant funds through the WWRP Farmland Preservation Program. Together, the proposed Fort and Woodward farmland conservation easements will preserve 155 acres of high quality soils (prime, unique or state-wide significant), as well as protect senior water rights, ensuring that these agricultural lands remain productive in perpetuity.

Protection of farmland in the Methow Valley through the use of voluntary conservation easements supports current and future farming/ranching businesses and protects wildlife corridors and scenic views. As well, tying irrigation water to productive farmland in our Valley will provide flexibility for our community to adapt to a changing climate. All of these elements contribute to a healthy economy and community, while celebrating our agricultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Wallace
Project Manager
Trout Unlimited – Washington Water Project
Twisp, WA 98856
jwallace@tu.org
509-881-7690

Washington Water Project

103 Palouse, Suite 14, Wenatchee, WA 98801 and 115 S. Glover Street, Twisp, WA 98856
(509) 888-0970 • Fax: (509) 888-4352 • www.tu.org

Kim Sellers, Farmland Preservation Grants Manager
State of Washington
The Recreation and Conservation Office
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, Washington 98504-0917

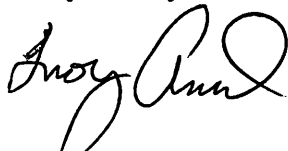
Re: Letter of Support for Farmland Preservation Grant Applications

To Whom It May Concern:

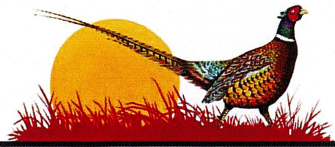
As the current rancher leasing the Fort property, I am writing to express my support for the Fort conservation easement grant application.

The protection of the Fort land by a conservation easement will ensure that it is available to support current and future ranching businesses which are an important part of our local economy. Without a conservation easement, the land is likely to be developed with multiple homes, resulting in a permanent loss of farmland in the Methow Valley.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Acford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Troy" and last name "Acford" clearly distinguishable.

Troy Acford



215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801
831-239-8307
mbrown@pheasantsforever.org
www.PheasantsForever.org



Dear Recreation and Conservation,

I am writing in support of Chelan-Douglas County Land Trust's effort and application to protect the Breiler Farm with a conservation easement. This effort is part of a coordinated region-wide prioritization that has been going on for years and this project not only represents a critical pathway for sage grouse and a host of other species in Eastern Washington but is also part of several conservation plans. These include the Douglas County Multi-species General Conservation Plan, lead by Foster Creek Conservation District, NRCS's SGI 2.0 state strategic plan, the Arid Lands Initiative, The Nature Conservancies Resilient Landscape, as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Priority Area of Conservation for Sage Grouse.

The protection of the Breiler Farm would also build on another easement that CDLT is set to close on later this year. The two projects would protect approximately 10,000 contiguous acres of shrub-steppe habitat that is critical for sage grouse and protect the working lands that the local communities depend on. Additionally, the project is consistent with local land use plans and statewide and regional resource plans that list habitat predictability and permanent land protection as key resource concerns for wildlife.

More importantly, this effort along with the past work of CDLT have shown the local communities that these projects help protect rural communities and the way of life that is important to them. By continuing to support these efforts more individuals will be interested in these types of projects which will allow for landscape conservation that is critical to wildlife species in the region that depend on wide open spaces to achieve their annual life cycle.

I am proud to be working with CDLT on this project and would be happy to talk with anyone regarding the Breiler project.

Sincerely,

Michael Brown
SGI Field Capacity Coordinator
Pheasants Forever Inc.
mbrown@pheasantsforever.org
831-239-8307



August 13, 2019

19-1542 WWRP FP #11

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Farmland Preservation Grant Program

RE: 19-1542 Bishop Agricultural Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Whatcom Land Trust, in support of Whatcom County's grant application, 19-1542, for funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Bishop property.

Whatcom Land Trust has worked closely with the County for over 15 years to protect working lands with conservation easements. We currently co-hold 23 conservation easements with Whatcom County protecting over 1,300-acres of farmland. Whatcom County is one of the fastest growing areas in the State and the development pressure on our farms, forests and open spaces is tremendous. The Sand Road and Anderson Creek area supports a highly significant salmon bearing stream corridor providing critical open spaces and representing a valuable working agricultural neighborhood. The Bishop property is located in a rapidly developing rural area just East of Bellingham and is experiencing high rates of subdivision and establishment of rural 5 to 20 acre residential estates. We would hate to see this property sold to a developer and lose another working farm to subdivision and residential development, especially given the current working lands and open space character of the Anderson Creek area.

I strongly support this application and I know it would make a great addition to the long list of properties that have been protected through WWRP's grant programs.

Sincerely,

Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director
Whatcom Land Trust
gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org, 360.746.6688



April 12, 2019

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Kate Delavan, Conservation Manager
PCC Farmland Trust
1402 Third Avenue, #709
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Support for the Mensonides Farm, Application Number: 191457

To Whom It May Concern:

The Pierce County Department of Planning and Public Works would like to express our full support of the Mensonides Farm grant proposal. The Pierce County Council recently adopted a policy to support farmland preservation, and the Comprehensive Plan has an adopted goal to support organizations that play a role in agricultural conservation. The opportunity to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on this farm and protect 240 acres of Pierce County's prime farmland strongly supports these goals, and Pierce County's commitment to supporting the viability of our local farm economy.

The 240-acre Mensonides Farm is located near Roy in southwestern Pierce County. The farm makes up one of the largest contiguous blocks of farmland left in the county. The farm operated as a dairy for decades and transitioned to beef cattle in 2007. The farm supports about 125 cow/calf pairs each year as well as hay and haylage production.

The farm has about 90% prime farmland soils with conditions or soils of statewide importance. Nearby land use is primarily residential, agriculture, and small forest. The area is experiencing an upswing in development since the end of the recession. A developer completed preliminary site work and determined the farm could be developed into 48 homesites. PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to extinguish development rights and acquire a permanent agricultural conservation easement, conserving 240 acres as farmland.

This specific property is ideal for supporting long-term commercial agriculture and is in a high priority area for farmland conservation. The farm's agricultural values, which this project seeks to protect, include the property's irreplaceable prime farmland soils, agricultural productivity, appropriate topography, excellent accessibility to market and communities, and compatibility with surrounding land use and open space preservation.

Pierce County has lost 70% of its agricultural land since 1950. The area's farmland is currently under threat for conversion as residential pressures continue to escalate and farmland prices rise

beyond the reach of most farmers. Conservation of Pierce County's historical farm legacy cannot wait. Please help us preserve this valuable farm and protect a Pierce County legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "K Larrabee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kathleen Larrabee
Resource Management Division Manager



308 West Stewart Avenue
P.O. Box 1057
Puyallup, WA 98371
www.piercecd.org
253.845.9770
Toll Free: 866. 845.9485

April 2, 2019

Recreation and Conservation Office
c/o Kate Delavan, Conservation Manager
PCC Farmland Trust
1402 Third Avenue, #709
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Support for the Mensonides Farm application 19-1457

To whom it may concern:

Pierce Conservation District (District) works throughout Pierce County with local landowners, citizen volunteers and public agencies to conserve natural resource that are essential to both our economy and our region's quality of life. The District has collaborated with PCC Farmland Trust for many years to conserve family farms, improve habitat and soil conditions on protected farm properties and improve economic viability for Pierce County Farmers. I would like to express our full support of the Mensonides Farm grant proposal. The opportunity to purchase an agricultural conservation easement on this farm and protect 240 acres of Pierce County's prime farmland strongly supports the goals of **Pierce Conservation District** in conserving working forests, farms and habitat lands, and **our agency's** commitment to supporting the viability of our local farm economy.

The 240 acre Mensonides Farm is located near Roy in southwestern Pierce County. The farm makes up one of the largest contiguous blocks of farmland left in the county. The farm operated as a dairy for decades and transitioned to beef cattle in 2007. The farm supports about 125 cow/calf pairs each year as well as hay and haylage production.

The farm has about 90% prime farmland soils with conditions or soils of statewide importance. Nearby land use is primarily residential, agriculture, and small forest. The area is experiencing an upswing in development since the end of the recession. A developer completed preliminary site work and determined the farm could be developed into 48 homesites and therefore it is at real threat of conversation to non-agricultural uses. PCC Farmland Trust will use this grant to extinguish development rights and acquire a permanent agricultural conservation easement and conserve these 240 acres as working farmland.



308 West Stewart Avenue
P.O. Box 1057
Puyallup, WA 98371
www.piercecd.org
253.845.9770
Toll Free: 866. 845.9485

This specific property is ideal for supporting long-term commercial agriculture and is in a high priority area for farmland conservation as determined by the Pierce County Strategic Conservation Partnership priority setting process. The farm's agricultural values, which this project seeks to protect, include the property's irreplaceable prime farmland soils, agricultural productivity, appropriate topography, excellent accessibility to market and communities, and compatibility with surrounding land use and open space preservation.

Pierce County has lost 70% of its agricultural land since 1950. The area's farmland is currently under threat for conversion as residential pressures continue to escalate and farmland prices rise beyond the reach of most farmers. Conservation of Pierce County's historical farm legacy cannot wait. Please help us preserve this valuable farm and protect a Pierce County legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan N. Mello", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Ryan N. Mello
Executive Director



August 13, 2019

19-1537 WWRP FP #14

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Farmland Preservation Grant Program

RE: 19-1537 Rethlefsen Agricultural Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Whatcom Land Trust, in support of Whatcom County's grant application, 19-1537, for funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Rethlefsen property.

Whatcom Land Trust has worked closely with the County for over 15 years to protect working lands with conservation easements. We currently co-hold 23 conservation easements with Whatcom County protecting over 1,300-acres of farmland. Whatcom County is one of the fastest growing areas in the State and the development pressure on our farms, forests and open spaces is tremendous. The Y Road and Squalicum Valley area is a highly significant open space and working lands corridor with hundreds of acres of farmland surrounded by thousands of acres of forestland. The Rethlefsen property is located near to the Lake Whatcom watershed and City of Bellingham and is experiencing high rates of subdivision and development of rural 5 to 20 acre residential estates. We would hate to see it sold to a developer and lose another working farm to subdivision and residential development, especially given the current working lands character of the Squalicum Valley.

I strongly support this application and I know it would make a great addition to the long list of properties that have been protected through WWRP's grant programs.

Sincerely,

Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director
Whatcom Land Trust
gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org, 360.746.6688

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: October 2, 2019

Title: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation Category - Approval of the Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Round

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager

Summary

The Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed and ranked five Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) project proposals submitted for funding consideration. This memo describes the category, review and evaluation process, and ranked list. Staff will present additional information about the projects at the October meeting. Staff is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve the ranked list and award grants. Staff will submit this list to the Governor by the November 1st deadline.¹

Board Action Requested

This item will be a: ☒ Request for Decision
☐ Request for Direction
☐ Briefing

Resolution #: 2019-31

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the ranked list and grant awards as shown in Table 1.

Background

The primary focus of the Forestland Preservation category is to acquire development rights on working forestland in Washington and ensure the land remains available for timber production. A secondary goal is to support other benefits of preserving

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(14)

forestland such as jobs, recreation, protection of water and soil resources, carbon sequestration, habitat for wildlife, and scenic beauty.

The Legislature expanded the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) to include the Forestland Preservation category in 2016. The category receives ten percent of the funds allocated to the WWRP Farm and Forest Account.² The remaining ninety percent funds projects in the Farmland Preservation category.

Forestland Preservation Category Requirements

Eligible Applicants	Cities, counties, qualified nonprofit nature conservancies, and the Washington State Conservation Commission
Eligible Project Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of property interest.• Combination projects involving both acquisition and restoration or habitat enhancement.
Funding Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maximum request limit is \$350,000.• Maximum cost for a forest management plan is \$10,000.• Restoration or enhancement totals are limited to no more than half of the total acquisition costs, including match towards acquisition.
Match Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cities, counties and nonprofit nature conservancies must provide a minimum 1:1 matching share.• No match required for the Washington State Conservation Commission.
Public Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although public access is not required, it is allowed if explicitly provided for in the conservation easement.
Other Program Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each parcel proposed for protection must be classified as either timberland or forestland under county property tax definitions (Revised Codes of Washington 84.34.020(3)) and 84.33.035(5).• Applicants must submit a county approved timber management plan if required by the county's tax program.• Development of a forest management plan as part of an acquisition is allowed.

² Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.040(1)(b)

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) accepted Forestland Preservation applications in 2017 and 2018, however, there were not enough proposals to use all available funds. Earlier this year, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) agreed to conduct a supplemental grant cycle to solicit more projects. RCO contracted with Mankowski Environmental LLC to learn why there were only a few grant applications and to help create awareness for this grant program category. His outreach to key organizations across the state resulted in several applications for this grant round.

Evaluation Summary

The WWRP Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed five project proposals, requesting more than \$1.3 million, as part of a modified written review process in July. Applicants participated in an in-person evaluation meeting on August 12, 2019. Five advisory committee members, using criteria adopted by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), evaluated the final project proposals. Advisors used the new PRISM Scoring Module for a paperless review and scoring process.

Advisory committee members, selected and appointed by the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director, are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of forestland preservation and management in Washington. The advisory committee members participating during this supplemental grants cycle are:

Name	Affiliation
Gretchen Lech, Hancock Forest Management	Forest Landowner
Arno Bergstrom, Kitsap County	Local Government
Joe Kane, Nisqually Land Trust*	Nonprofit Organization
Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust	Nonprofit Organization
Jay McLaughlin, Mount Adams Resource Stewards	Nonprofit Organization
Mark Ferry, Quinault Indian Nation	Tribal Government

**Participated in the technical review only.*

The results of the evaluations, which are presented for board consideration, are shown in *Table 1- WWRP, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle*.

Review of Process and Criteria Modifications

This was the third grant cycle for the Forestland Preservation category. Unfortunately, advisory committee members were not available for an in-person review process. Staff

worked with applicants to record their technical review presentations, then asked advisors to view the presentation videos and provide written comments to help applicants prepare for the August 12, evaluation meeting.

Throughout the review and evaluation process, advisors were asked to provide staff with feedback on their assessment of the application materials provided, the process, and final results. Because this was the first group of advisors to use the new PRISM Electronic Scoring Module, most of the comments following evaluation focused on the new tool – what worked well and what would make it easier to use. The advisors were especially complimentary about the scoring tool and made one or two suggested enhancements that are underway in preparation for the 2020 grants cycle.

Forestland Outreach Strategy

As mentioned above, RCO contracted with John Mankowski of Mankowski Environmental, LLC to conduct outreach and increase awareness of the Forestland Preservation grant opportunities. He successfully reached out to land trust organizations through the Washington Association of Land Trusts, the Washington State Conservation Commission, and county governments largely through the Washington State Association of Counties. Mr. Mankowski conducted numerous meetings and held discussions with industrial and non-industrial forest owners, individually and in small groups. These efforts took place over the course of about six months and culminated in a final report, *Increasing Use of Washington State's Forestland Preservation Program (Attachment G)*, which details his findings.

Because of his outreach efforts, RCO received inquiries from several organizations who had not previously expressed interest in the program. These included land trusts, local governments, and the Washington State Conservation Commission. Additionally, Mr. Mankowski and RCO staff held a webinar with landowners who may want to participate in the 2020 grant cycle.

There are several recommendations in the final report, including creating more awareness within the forest owner and sponsor communities before the 2020 grant cycle. To accomplish this, one recommendation is to host a practitioner's workshop with key staff from sponsoring organizations. RCO is considering hosting a forestland workshop in early 2020 that would include sponsors and other potential funders.

In addition to greater outreach efforts before the 2020 grant cycle, RCO staff identified two recommendations from Mr. Mankowski's report that the board may want to consider before the 2020 grant cycle. Both of the following issues were discussed by the

board when this program was established in 2016, but are increasingly viewed as barriers to participation:

1. Modifying the grant maximum limit by increasing or removing the cap, and
2. Expanding the easement options by allowing term easements (50, 75, or 100 years) and perpetual easements.

Staff is seeking direction on the board's willingness to revisit these policy issues before the start of the 2020 grant round, which means making a decision at the January 2020 board meeting.

Funds Available

With Legislative approval of \$85 million for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the Forestland Preservation category received \$815,660 for the 2019-21 biennium. The board awarded a \$350,000 grant in June for a project submitted in 2018. However, the successful applicant has withdrawn the project because they no longer have a willing seller. As a result, there is \$815,660 available for forestland projects.

Certification of Match Required

Applicants must certify that they have matching funds available before the funding meeting.³ Staff notified applicants of this requirement on August 15, 2019. Most applicants have certified that their matching funds are available. Forterra, however, has withdrawn the Little Skookum Inlet Forest Phase II ([19-1533A](#)), because their matching resources are not available. This application is no longer eligible for funding consideration and is shown as "Not Funded" on the final ranked list in Table 1.

Public Comment

RCO has received letters of support or concern for Forestland Preservation Category projects. The letters addressed to the board, advisory committee members, or RCO staff are provided in Attachment F. Any additional public comment will be shared at the October meeting.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of these grant proposals supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore, and develop opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems.

³Washington Administrative Code 286-13-040(3)

The grant process supports the board's strategy to conduct its work in a fair and open manner, as well as its goal to deliver successful projects by using broad public participation. The criteria for selecting projects support the board's goal of making strategic investments of state funds.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve the ranked list and grant awards as depicted in *Table 1 – WWRP, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle* via Resolution #2019-31.

Next Steps

If approved by the board, staff will forward Table 1 to the Governor by the November 1st deadline. RCO's director is authorized by language in the capital budget to distribute these funds and execute agreements for projects that meet all post approval requirements immediately after the list has been submitted.

Attachment

- A. Resolution #2019-31, including Table 1 – WWRP, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- B. State Map for Forestland Preservation Category Projects
- C. Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary and Detailed Scoring Criteria
- D. Forestland Preservation Category Projects, Evaluation Scores for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- E. Forestland Preservation Category Project Descriptions for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- F. Forestland Preservation Category Letters of Support or Concern for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle
- G. Mankowski Environmental LLC. August 2019. Increasing Use of Washington State's Forestland Preservation Program.

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2019-31
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category
Approval of the Ranked List and Grant Awards for the
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle**

WHEREAS, for the 2019-21 biennium, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board authorized a supplemental grant cycle to solicit additional grant proposals for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest Account; and

WHEREAS, for this supplemental grant cycle five Forestland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, *Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle* now indicates the project that was withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, the remaining applications submitted in the Forestland Preservation category projects meets program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10c, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation*, including criteria regarding county tax designation as either forestland or timberland; and

WHEREAS, the forestland projects use perpetual easements to protect these working lands, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's fully functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, a team of citizens, foresters, and government representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), reviewed and evaluated the Forestland Preservation category projects, thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the review and evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meetings part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-13-020, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-21 State Capital Budget includes \$815,660 for the WWRP Forestland Preservation Category;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby approves the final ranked list of projects and funding amounts depicted in

Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby authorizes RCO's Director to execute agreements necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby directs staff to submit to the Governor, by the November 1st deadline, the final ranked list for the 2019 Forestland Preservation category for further consideration.

Resolution moved by:

Resolution seconded by:

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date:

Table 1: Forestland Preservation Category
Final Ranked List and Grant Awards
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

Project Number and Type ¹								Cumulative Grant	Staff
Rank	Score	Type ¹	Project Name	Grant Applicant	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total	Request	Recommends
1	39.40	19-1531A	Kristoferson Farm - Working Forest	Whidbey Camano Land Trust	\$350,000	\$610,500	\$960,500	\$350,000	\$350,000
2	36.00	19-1533A	Little Skookum Inlet Forest Phase II	Forterra	\$334,350	\$334,350	\$668,700	\$684,350	Not Funded
3	27.80	19-1330A	Squalicum Forestry Conservation Easement	Whatcom County	\$350,000	\$398,000	\$748,000	\$1,034,350	\$350,000
3	27.80	19-1541A	Devil's Mountain Forestland Protection	Skagit Land Trust	\$67,970	\$83,210	\$151,180	\$1,102,320	\$67,970
5	22.40	19-1535A	Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement	Whatcom County	\$250,000	\$274,500	\$524,500	\$1,352,320	\$47,690
					\$1,352,320	\$1,700,560	\$3,052,880	\$815,660	

¹Project Type: A=Acquisition
²Applicant withdrew the project because matching resources are not available.
³Partial funding

State Map for the Forestland Preservation Category



Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Criteria Summary

Forestland preservation means protection of any land designated as either timberland in RCW 84.34.020(3) or forestland in 84.33.035(5).⁴

Evaluation Criteria Summary Table

Scored By	Number	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
Advisory Committee	1	Viability of the Site	15
Advisory Committee	2	Forestland Stewardship	10
Advisory Committee	3	Threat to the Land	8
Advisory Committee	4	Community Values	6
Advisory Committee	5	Multiple Benefits	2
RCO Staff	6	Match	2
Total Points			43

⁴ Chapter 79A.15.010 (6)

Forestland Preservation Category Detailed Scoring Criteria

Advisory Committee Scored Criteria

- 1. Viability of the Site** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(h))
What is the viability of the site for commercial timber production?
- 2. Forest Stewardship** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(e-g))
What stewardship practices beyond the Forest Practices Act are in place that support timber production or provide ecologic benefits?
- 3. Threat to the Land** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(c))
What is the likelihood the land will be converted to some other use than forestland if it's not protected?
- 4. Community Values** Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.130(10(a))
How will protecting the land for timber production provide benefits to the community?

Multiple Benefits Revised Code of Washington 79A.15.060(5)(a)(i)
Does the project include recreational uses that are compatible with habitat conservation?
Does the project include resource uses or management practices that are compatible with conservation and provide the ability to achieve additional conservation benefits?

RCO Staff Scored Criteria

- 5. Match**
Is the applicant providing additional match above the minimum requirement?

Forestland Preservation Category Evaluation Scores

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

Attachment D

Rank	Question	1	2		3	4		5	6	Total
	Project Name	Viability of the Site	Forestland Stewardship		Threat to the Land	Community Values		Multiple Benefits	Match	
			Stewardship Practices	Stewardship Practices Bonus		Community Values	Community Values Bonus			
1	Kristoferson Farm - Working Forest	13.40	7.60	1.80	6.80	3.80	2.00	2.00	2.00	39.40
2	Little Skookum Inlet Forest Phase II	14.20	6.60	1.60	6.20	3.80	2.00	1.60	0.00	36.00
3	Squalicum Forestry Conservation Easement	11.00	5.80	1.20	6.00	3.00	0.00	0.80	0.00	27.80
3	Devil's Mountain Forestland Protection	7.40	5.20	1.40	5.60	3.20	1.40	1.60	2.00	27.80
5	Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement	10.80	4.00	0.40	3.60	2.80	0.00	0.80	0.00	22.40

Evaluators score Questions 1-5; RCO staff scores Questions 6.

Forestland Preservation Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Whidbey Camano Land Trust Conserving the Kristoferson Working Forest

Grant Requested: \$350,000

The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on about 115 acres of the 231-acre Kristoferson Farm and Forest, on Camano Island. The land is a local icon, providing a scenic backdrop along nearly a mile of Northeast Camano Drive, the main road to and from the island. Purchased by Alfred Kristoferson in 1912, the farm is now in the fourth generation of family ownership. To keep the farm financially sound, the Kristofersons have supplemented traditional working forest and agriculture practices with ecotourism, corporate leadership training and team-building, and farm events. The family's Canopy Tours Northwest gives visitors access to the forest in an environmentally friendly way that is compatible with sustainable timber harvest. The fourth generation of Kristofersons are committed to the property and eager to protect it for many generations to come. The Whidbey Camano Land Trust will contribute \$610,500 in conservation futures,[^] a federal grant, and a grant from the salmon recovery program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1531)

Forterra Protecting the Little Skookum Inlet Forest

Grant Requested: \$334,350

Forterra will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on 182 acres of working forests, marine shoreline, and streamside habitat on the southern shore of Little Skookum Inlet in Mason County. The goal is to permanently protect the land from conversion to non-forest uses and to prevent trees from being cut near the salmon-bearing streams and the marine shoreline. The easement will permanently protect the working forest and the environmental benefits. The land has been logged for more than 150 years by Port Blakely Tree Farms, generating multiple rotations of timber and supplying local mills. However, the land has been zoned for rural residential development, and plans have been drawn up for its development. Conversion to a non-forest use would not only impact generations of local forest products, habitat, and cultural resources, but would be detrimental to the productive and commercially lucrative shellfish growing areas in the inlet. Forterra will contribute \$334,350 in donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1533)

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of timber.

[^]Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Forestland Preservation Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$350,000

Ensuring Squalicum Forest Remains a Working Forest

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on 160 acres of Squalicum forest, near Bellingham. This forest has been managed as a working forest and the landowner wants to ensure the land forever remains available as working land. The forest also contains a significant portion of the headwaters of Squalicum Creek, which is home to several priority species. Whatcom County will contribute \$398,000 in conservation futures.^ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1330)

Skagit Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$67,970

Protecting Devil's Mountain Forest

The Skagit Land Trust will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* to ensure 43 acres of low elevation forest near Mount Vernon remains a working forest forever. The easement also will protect a wetland and Nookachamps Creek, a tributary to the Skagit River. The land has varied geology, topography, and microclimates, and sustains a diverse array of plants and animals, including bear. It is part of the larger Devil's Mountain forest block, which is partly owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources. This area is sandwiched between Mount Vernon to the north, Interstate 5 to the west, and the community of Big Lake to the east, and is converting steadily to residential development. The Skagit Land Trust will contribute \$83,210 in donations of cash and property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1541)

Whatcom County

Grant Requested: \$250,000

Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement

Whatcom County will use this grant to buy a conservation easement* on 115 acres east of Deming. The land was logged in the 1980s and largely has been left to grow as a forest with minimal management. The land is next to state-managed lands and has been used for horseback riding, hiking, and camping. The owners want to continue to manage the land as a working forest and allow these recreational uses. Known as the Kiera-Duffy property, the land contains a portion of Lake Jorgensen and is home to several priority species. Whatcom County will contribute \$274,500 in conservation futures.^ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (19-1535)

*In this grant program, a conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that restricts development of the land and keeps it for a specific purpose, such as for the production of timber.

^Conservation futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Letters Submitted by the Public Regarding Project Proposals for the Forestland Preservation Category

These attachments include public correspondence (letters of support and opposition) received by RCO during the grant evaluation process. The number in parenthesis represents the number of letters submitted for that project.

Letters are in Ranked Order

- | | |
|---|--------|
| • 19-1330A Squalicum Forestry Conservation Easement (1) | Rank 3 |
| • 19-1541A Devil's Mountain Forestland Protection (1) | Rank 3 |
| • 19-1535A Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement (1) | Rank 5 |



August 13, 2019

19-1330 WWRP FLP #3

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Forestland Preservation Grant Program

RE: 19-1330 Squalicum Forestry Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Whatcom Land Trust, in support of Whatcom County's grant application, 19-1330, for funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Squalicum Forest property.

Whatcom Land Trust has worked closely with the County for over 15 years to protect working lands with conservation easements. We currently co-hold 23 conservation easements with Whatcom County protecting over 1,300-acres of farmland. Whatcom County is one of the fastest growing areas in the State and the development pressure on our farms, forests and open spaces is tremendous. The Squalicum Mountain area and Squalicum Creek watershed are adjacent to the City of Bellingham and because of its close proximity have experienced non-stop subdivision and development of rural 5-lot and 10-lot developments. I have visited the subject property several times and I can attest at how strategically located it is and how valuable it is from the perspective of keeping it in a resource management land use category. We would hate to see it sold to a developer and lose another working forest to subdivision and residential development.

I strongly support this application and I know it would make a great addition to the long list of properties that have been protected through WWRP's grant programs.

Sincerely,

Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director
Whatcom Land Trust
gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org, 360.746.6688



Skagit County Board of Commissioners

Ron Wesen, First District

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Second District

Lisa Janicki, Third District

19-1541 WWRP FLP #3

June 12, 2019

Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Forestland Preservation Program
P.O. Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917
Attn: Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Manager

Dear Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee,

We are pleased to submit this letter of support for Skagit Land Trust's RCO grant application #19-1541, Devil's Mountain Forestland Protection. The proposed easement on Mr. Owen's tree farm will remove all development rights and promote sustainable forestry. The property supports water quality to the West Fork of the Nookachamps, which in turn flows into the Skagit River. The property's extensive wetlands support groundwater recharge, critical for both residents and agriculture.

Skagit County is strongly tied to its natural resources, including the timber industry. Our working forests support the local economy, water quality and quantity, and habitat for wildlife that includes federally-listed Chinook and Steelhead. Unfortunately, the low-elevation forests on Devil's Mountain are under high pressure to convert due to their location along I-5 and adjacency to the City of Mount Vernon and the rural villages of Big Lake, Conway, and Lake McMurray.

Skagit Land Trust's proposal to protect the Owens property, and future efforts to protect additional forestland on Devil's Mountain, supports Skagit County Government's efforts to protect its natural resources and the rural character of our County for the generations of Skagitians to come. We strongly support Skagit Land Trust's proposed project and ask Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to please support funding the Owens Conservation Easement.

We are excited to see this project move forward.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Handwritten signature of Lisa Janicki in blue ink.

Lisa Janicki, Chair

Handwritten signature of Ron Wesen in blue ink.

Ron Wesen, Commissioner

Handwritten signature of Kenneth A. Dahlstedt in blue ink.

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt, Commissioner



August 13, 2019

19-1535 WWRP FLP #5

Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
WWRP Forestland Preservation Grant Program

RE: 19-1535 Kiera-Duffy Forestry Conservation Easement

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Whatcom Land Trust, in support of Whatcom County's grant application, 19-1535, for funding to acquire a conservation easement on the Kiera-Duffy property.

Whatcom Land Trust has worked closely with the County for over 15 years to protect working lands with conservation easements. We currently co-hold 23 conservation easements with Whatcom County protecting over 1,300-acres of farmland. Whatcom County is one of the fastest growing areas in the State and the development pressure on our farms, forests and open spaces is tremendous. The Mosquito Lake area is adjacent to thousands of acres of Department of Natural Resource lands and because of its remote wildness continues to experience ongoing subdivision and development of rural 5 to 20 acre residential estates. We would hate to see it sold to a developer and lose another working forest to subdivision and residential development, especially given its adjacency to state managed lands.

I strongly support this application and I know it would make a great addition to the long list of properties that have been protected through WWRP's grant programs.

Sincerely,

Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director
Whatcom Land Trust
gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org, 360.746.6688

INCREASING USE OF WASHINGTON STATE'S FORESTLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM



August 2019

A report produced for the Recreation and Conservation Office in fulfillment of Contract #18-2620
by:



MANKOWSKI
ENVIRONMENTAL LLC

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Forestland Preservation Program provides funding for conservation easements to conserve working forests in Washington. It also funds optional habitat enhancement activities on these lands. This program provides compensation to forest owners in exchange for development rights, ensuring the lands continued use as working forest into the future.

A program like this has long been viewed as an important tool to help avoid fragmentation and parcellation of forest lands in the face of increasing population growth pressures. Yet, since the program's creation in 2016, relatively few grant applications have been submitted by project sponsors (land trusts, WA State Conservation Commission, and local governments).

This project was initiated to 1) explore the reasons behind the underutilization of this program, 2) conduct outreach efforts to forest owner and project sponsor communities, and 3) develop recommendations to increase use of this program.

Through a series of roundtable discussions, interviews, and a survey, several obstacles were identified that are limiting this program's use by forest owners and project sponsors.

Forest owners are largely unaware of this program's existence and have suggested several approaches to increase exposure within their communication networks. Successful grant applications require a close partnership between forest owners and project sponsors, and there is not a long history of collaboration between some forest owner and sponsor organizations. Both entities recognize this and see benefits to creating and sustaining these collaborative relationships. Within sponsor organizations, land trusts are most actively involved in promoting the program while the WA State Conservation Commission (WSCC) and local governments see potential for increased roles, with adequate capacity and training. Lastly, several operational and structural improvements to the program have been identified that will likely lead to increased use in future grant cycles.

Near term recommended action items:

- Aggressively promote awareness of this program within forest owner and sponsor communities, through targeted communication venues, in time for 2020 grant cycle
- Clarify program name, intent, evaluation criteria to ensure clear consistent messaging
- Seek opportunities to build relationship bridges between sponsors and forest owners
- Explore value in hosting practitioners' workshop

Longer term recommended action items:

- Explore value of using landscape assessments to target program application

- Consider adjusting program cap limits to increase participation
- Continue building collaborative relationship bridges between sponsors and forest owners
- Seek opportunities to streamline program to reduce transaction costs for forest owners and sponsors

A. PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

The Washington State Legislature created the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) in 1990 to accomplish two goals: Acquire valuable recreation and habitat lands before they were lost to other uses and develop recreation areas for a growing population.¹ The WWRP provides funding for a range of projects that conserve wildlife habitat, preserve working farms and forests, buy lands for parks and trails, and develop outdoor recreational facilities..

Forestland Preservation Grant Program

One of the categories under the Farm and Forest Account of WWRP is the **Forestland Preservation Grant Program**. This program provides funding to purchase development rights (also called conservation easements) from willing forest owners to ensure that those lands remain available as working forests into the future. This program was created in 2016, when the state Legislature expanded the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to include a policy goal of preserving working forestlands, in response to a 2015 program review.² This program has the unique policy goal of supporting working forests along with their associated ecosystem services such as clean water, wildlife habitat, landscape connectivity, and other public benefits.

Typical projects funded by this program include conservation easements on forest lands threatened with development. In conjunction with a conservation easement, funds from this program can also cover activities that enhance and restore habitat conditions such as protecting stream corridors to support clean water and fish habitat.

Funding for this program comes from the sale of state general obligation bonds.

Forest lands eligible for this program include industrial forest lands, non-industrial or family forest lands, community forests, tribally owned forest lands, and some publicly owned forests. The land must be devoted primarily to timber production and enrolled in a county's open space or forestland property tax program.

Project sponsors (or applicants) include cities, counties, nonprofit nature conservancies (land trusts), and the Washington State Conservation Commission.

Match requirements can be required. Cities, counties, and land trusts must provide a one-to-one matching share. There is no match requirement if the Washington State Conservation Commission

¹ Revised Code of Washington 79A.15

² Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Review, 2015, Recreation and Conservation Office

is the applicant. Match requirements are broad and can include cash, bonds, land, labor, equipment, materials, federal/state/local/private grants.

Grant Caps. The maximum grant request amount is \$350,000. There is no minimum grant amount.

Eligible projects are principally acquisition of permanent development rights through easements or leases (required for all projects). In addition to development right acquisition, projects can also include optional habitat enhancement or restoration. These enhancement activities must further the ecological functions of the forestland. Examples of these activities include installing fences to protect riparian and wetland habitats, controlling invasive species, replanting native vegetation, and, in some cases, replacing fish migration barriers with fish-passable culverts and bridges.

There are limits on the activities covered by this program. A list of ineligible projects and activities can be found on the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) website for this program.³

The Grant Evaluation Process takes about one year from application to final award of funding. The sponsor/applicant works with the forest owners to craft an agreement, then the applicant submits an online application and makes an in-person presentation. Applications are reviewed and scored by RCO staff and a panel of experts, then a ranked list is presented to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for consideration. The Board sends an approved list of projects to the Governor's Office for inclusion in the capital budget request to the state Legislature. After the Legislature approves a budget and a list of projects, the Board makes final funding awards for projects approved by the Legislature.

B. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The forest industry is important to Washington State's culture, environment, and economy - providing about \$28 billion in revenue and 101,000 family-wage jobs.⁴ With Washington's population at 7.6 million, up from 6.7 million in 2009, and expected to be 8.4 million in 2029,⁵ there are unrelenting pressures to convert forest lands to development or other non-forest uses.

During a recent community meeting on conservation and working lands, a panel of industrial and family forest landowners outlined a list of threats to the long-term viability of their tree farms, that includes regulatory impacts, population increases, and lack of funds for incentives/easements/ecosystem services.⁶ In 2009 a comprehensive look at the future of Washington's forests pointed to parcellation and fragmentation of forest lands as key threats. That

³ RCO Forestland Preservation Program web site, <https://rco.wa.gov/grants/ForestlandPreservation.shtml>

⁴ Washington Forest Protection Association web site: wfpa.org, taken July 10, 2019

⁵ Office of Financial Management, 2019, [report](#)

⁶ Working Lands and Conservation Community Meeting, 2018, [report](#)

report⁷ cited the need for several actions including using public funds to conserve working forests by purchasing development rights. So, the need for resources to purchase development rights to protect working forests from development - and compensate landowners for giving up those rights - is clear and has been in discussion for at least the past 10 years.

While the Forestland Preservation Program squarely addresses this longstanding need, since the program was created in 2016, only a small number of applications were received and approved in 2017 and 2018. This led to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approving a supplemental grant round in 2019 to utilize potential unobligated funds.

In January 2019, this project was initiated to 1) explore the reasons behind the underutilization of this program, 2) conduct outreach efforts to the forest owner and project sponsor communities, and 3) develop recommendations on how to increase use of this program. The aim was to conduct an outreach strategy with key entities and organizations to maximize understanding and use of the Forest Land Preservation Grant Program in advance of a supplemental grant round in 2019, for the regular grant round in 2020, and lay groundwork for long term support.

C. APPROACH

Summary of Methodology	
<i>Task 1 – Conduct program research</i>	Reviewed Forestland Preservation Grant Program to understand its history, strengths, weaknesses; created a small project team with key RCO staff; developed outreach workplan.
<i>Task 2 – Develop and improve outreach tools</i>	Reviewed/updated program information materials; worked with RCO staff to create new outreach products (brochure, Power Point presentations, and webinars).
<i>Task 3 – Conduct roundtable briefings with eligible projects sponsors</i>	Held meetings with a cross section of entities/organizations meeting the definition of project sponsors. Presented program overview, facilitated conversations with past and potential project sponsors, encouraged them to share information about the program within their networks and submit grant applications for 2019 grant cycle and beyond. Lastly, contacts were encouraged to complete an on-line survey to capture additional thoughts and recommendations.

⁷ UW College of Forest Resources, Retention of High-Valued Forest Lands at Risk of Conversion to Non-Forest Uses in Washington State, 2009, [report](#)

Project sponsors contacted included:

1. Lands trusts – In-person and phone interviews were conducted with individual land trusts working in forested environments that were interested in conservation easements for working forests. Presentations and interviews were also conducted with the WA Association of Land Trusts.
2. WA State Conservation Commission – Agency leadership and key staff were briefed on the program and interviewed about engagement opportunities. Explored roles of promoting the program through Conservation Districts and serving as potential project sponsor.⁸
3. County Governments – Presentations and meetings were held with the Washington State Association of Counties and representatives of Washington’s 29 timber counties.

***Task 4 – Conduct
roundtable briefings
with forest owners***

Through individual and group conversations, provided program overview, discussed interest, identified outreach options and potential improvements. Held conversations with past and potential recipients of the program funds. Encouraged forest owners to share information about the program within their networks and have interested parties connect with prospective project sponsors for 2019 grant cycle and beyond. Lastly, contacts were encouraged to complete an on-line survey to capture additional thoughts and recommendations.

- Industrial forest owners – Contacts were made with leadership and staff at the Washington Forest Protection Association, past recipients of grant funds, and a panel of commercial forest owners that recently participated in a conservation and working lands community meeting.⁹
- Non-industrial forest owners
 - Interviews were conducted with leadership from the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA).
 - A 2-hour web-based meeting was conducted with a seven-member panel of non-industrial forest owners

⁸ WSCC plays a unique role in this program in that there is no requirement for grant match for projects they sponsor.

⁹ Working Lands and Conservation Community Meeting, 2018, [report](#)

Task 5 – Document findings and recommendations in a report to the RCO.

<p>representing a cross section from WFFA, WA Tree Farm Program, a member of the RCO Forestland Advisory Committee, and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivered presentation and distributed brochures at WFFA’s Annual Meeting in May, with over 200 attendees. 	
<p>Provided summary report on outreach strategy with recommendations on building and sustaining support for this program.</p>	

An on-line survey was created as a tool to capture additional feedback from forest owners and project sponsors on program use, outreach opportunities, and improvements. The survey questions can be found in Appendix A.

E. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SURVEY RESULTS

Figure 1: Results of Forestland Preservation Program Survey

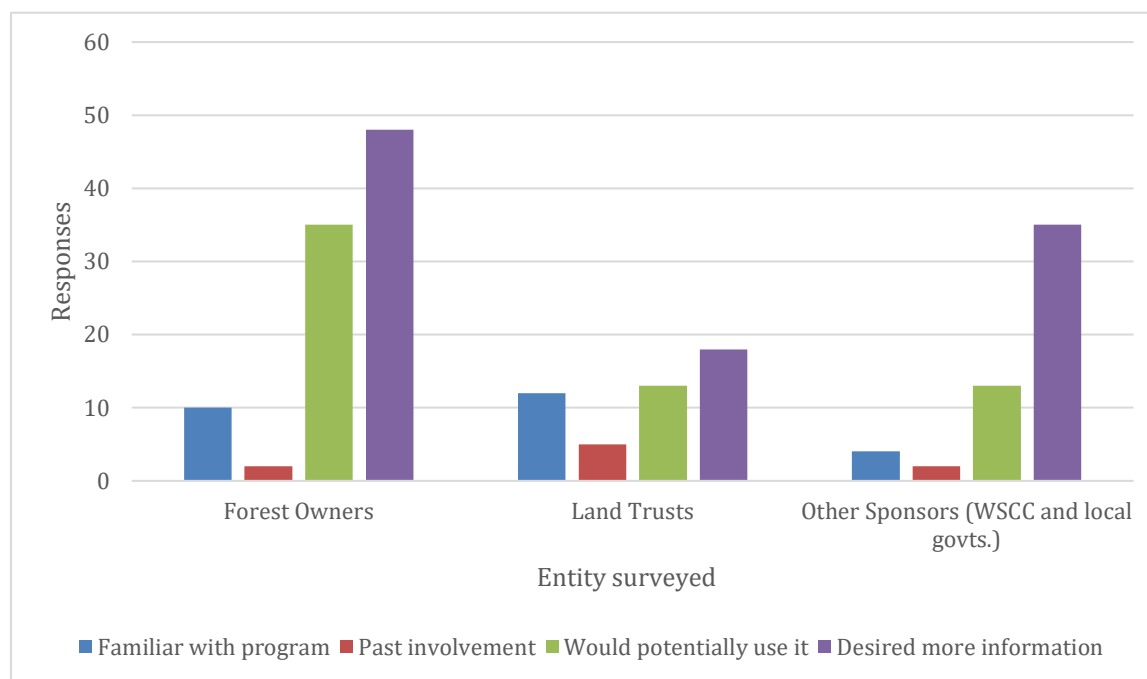


Figure 1 displays the results to four questions from the survey. Of the 113 respondents, about half represented forest owners. Very few **forest owners** responding to the survey were familiar with the program or used it in the past, although a fairly large proportion indicated an interest in potentially using it in the future and obtaining more information. Respondents from **land trusts** showed comparatively higher levels of familiarity with the program and the highest level of use between the three entities surveyed. Other sponsors (WSCC and local governments) showed the least amount of familiarity with the program and a relatively high level of interest in learning more about it, mostly coming from counties with forest lands and active conservation programs.

FOREST OWNERS

1. **Forest owners do not have a high level of knowledge of this program.** This was borne out in the survey results and through interviews. Despite RCO's efforts to conduct outreach prior to grant cycles, and some outreach conducted by sponsor organizations at local scales, the message isn't connecting with information networks commonly used by forest owner

communities. Upon learning more about the program there is a general perception that this program would be of interest to both industrial and non-industrial forest owners, as a tool in the toolbox to help keep tree farms profitable and productive. There is a high level of interest in learning more about this program, especially how it might apply to individual ownerships. Landowners were interested in opportunities to have informal conversations with RCO program staff and prospective sponsors to determine if the program fit their long-term goals.

- 2. Opportunities for sustained and targeted outreach.** The primary limiting factor to generating and sustaining interest in this program from forest owners is lack of exposure to potentially interested parties. Forest owners recommend RCO and sponsor organizations create and distribute information about the program through already-existing information flow networks. To have an impact, it was suggested that sponsors and RCO needed to reach out to forest owners, especially family forest owners, to share program information and build trust between forest owners and project sponsor organizations. Seven primary opportunities were identified by forest owners.
- WFFPA can distribute information within their in-house communication networks.
 - WFFA hosts a large annual meeting and suggested that representatives from RCO and project sponsors staff one of the many information tables frequented by the meeting's 200+ attendees.
 - Include promotional information in WFFA's web site and newsletters, including:
 - *Northwest Woodlands* - a magazine mailed quarterly to WFFA members
 - *Landowner News* – a quarterly newsletter sent to WFFA members via mail or e-mail
 - *Stewards of the Land* – a bimonthly e-news letter sent to subscribers
 - There are 16 WFFA chapters across the state that provide members with opportunities to attend education program and tours in their local area. Presentations on this program by locally based sponsor organizations or RCO staff was identified as a good opportunity to generate interest and build trust between forest owners and sponsor organizations.
 - The WA Tree Farm Program is a voluntary certification program and provides educational webinars, seminars and field days for forest owners, providing additional opportunities to share information about the forestland preservation program to forest owners.
 - WSU extension works with many non-industrial forest owners and expressed in interest in promoting information about the Forestland Preservation Program in their work.

- Provide program information materials and briefings to other organizations working with landowners including Department of Natural Resources Small Forest Landowner Office and Forest Stewardship program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Farm Bill and Landowner Incentive program, US Fish and Wildlife Services' Partners Program, and state salmon and watershed enhancement entities.
3. **Forest owners, especially family forest owners, do not have history and experience working with RCO, and sponsor organizations like land trusts or WSCC.** Because this program requires a trusting relationship between forest owners and sponsors, the need was identified to find ways to build collaborative relationships between these entities to facilitate greater program use. Encouraging representatives from sponsor organizations and RCO to become engaged in the outreach processes identified in #2 above would help build and sustain these important relationships. Forest owners expressed their interests in building collaborative relationships with new organizations and felt this program may provide an important bridge-building opportunity.
 4. **Funding cap and overall program resources.** Some forest owners expressed concern that the cap of \$350,000 per project may be too low to attract owners of larger acreages. Some suggested the cap be raised to \$500,000. It was also noted by some forest owners that the overall program funding of about \$1,000,000 per grant cycle may be inadequate to make a difference in the forest conversion rate at a large scale but would be meaningful for individual landowners or specific geographic priorities. This comment was not meant to disparage the overall program, and many noted that full use of the grant funds could help demonstrate the need for additional resources over time.
 5. **Permanent easement requirement.** This program requires permanent divestiture of development rights for lands covered in the easement. While this may work for some forest owners, others believe this could prove to be a barrier and suggested that consideration be given to 50- or 100-year term easements as an alternative. It was also suggested that a buyback option be allowed allowing landowners the option to re-purchase forgone development rights at some point in the future if needed or desired.
 4. **Program title and potentially conflicting evaluation criteria.** Forest owners suggested the title of this program - Forestland Preservation - is somewhat of a misnomer in that the term "preservation" can imply no forest management, like national parks. If sustaining working forest lands remains the goal of this program, it was suggested the program title be clarified

accordingly. One survey respondent suggested a title of Working Forest Protection Program. Similarly, there are potential contradictions in the Evaluation Criteria between the high scores based on a project's value for commercial timber production versus high scores awarded for stewardship practices. Sometimes these dual purposes of the program can run counter to each other leading to confusion about program purpose and how to develop competitive applications. It was recommended that RCO work with the Forestland Advisory Panel to clarify the program title, intent (including evaluation criteria) and develop consistent messaging.

5. **A landscape assessment would help maximize effectiveness.** Some forest owners suggested that a watershed or landscape assessment should be conducted to identify lands of high conservation value with high conversion pressures. Landowners in these priority areas could be approached and offered the benefits of this program. Such an assessment and targeted approach would maximize the impact of these limited investments of public dollars.

PROJECT SPONSORS

1. **Land trusts have high awareness of this program; WSCC and county governments expressed interest in potentially increasing their roles.** Survey results and interviews confirmed that land trusts as a group have the greatest awareness of this program and experience submitting applications. This awareness and experience is uneven, however between individual land trusts, with some expressing an interest in learning more and potentially serving as sponsors. Staff at WSCC are aware of the program, see opportunities to help promote the program with forest owners through Conservation District staff, and are considering a more active role as potential applicants. County governments are largely unaware of this program with a few exceptions and want to learn more. There is general support for this program's unique focus on sustaining working tree farms and participants appreciate that this program is not highly prescriptive. Survey feedback suggest that the greatest bottlenecks to greater use of this program are lack of awareness by local governments and forest owners.
2. **Opportunities for increased outreach.** Project sponsors have a key role in actively promoting this program as they interact with forest owner communities. They suggested several ways they could share information and promote wider use.
 - a. **WSCC** – The Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation can include program promotional information in the monthly *Farmland Preservation*

- Newsletter*. In addition, joint messaging from the Commission and ROC should be conducted through press releases and public announcements prior to grant cycles.
- b. WA State Association of Counties** can include information on this program in future meetings of their Timber Counties group, and their newsletter: *Insider*.
 - c. Land Trusts** – Land trusts and the WA Association of Land Trusts expressed a willingness to actively promote this program through local and regional outreach opportunities with forest landowners, including the WFFA’s Annual Meeting and local Chapter meetings. They also offered to promote the program on land trust web sites, newsletters, and public events.
3. **Value in increasing WSCC and county engagement.** Advocates of this program expressed a desire to see WSCC and county governments becoming more involved in sponsorship roles, especially in areas where land trusts were not working with this program. It was acknowledged that some investment in training and increased capacity would be needed for those entities to become more involved. See #9 below.
4. **Clarify program purpose, title, and evaluation criteria** – Like #5 in the Forest Owner list above, some in the land trust community also expressed the need to review and clarify the program title, intent, and resolve potentially conflicting evaluation criteria (timber production vs enhanced conservation).
5. **Funding limits.** Like finding #4 under Forest Owners, some in the land trust community encourage consideration of increasing the \$350,000 cap to \$500,000.
6. **Match requirement.** Some in the land trust community find it challenging to meet the 50% match requirement; others did not have problems meeting match requirements. It was also mentioned that funds used to meet the match requirements come with expectations that can sometimes run counter to “working forest” theme of this program.
7. **Build collaborative relationships between sponsor organizations and forest owners.** Many in the sponsor community noted the relationship gaps that exist between them and forest owner organizations and saw this program as an avenue build important bridges that can lead to larger wins with forest owners.
8. **Program efficiencies should be explored.** Some land trusts are moving away from easements like these citing relatively large transactional costs for limited conservation value

on smaller acreages. These easements require resources for long-term management and monitoring, which are not funded by program grant funds.

9. **Sponsor Practitioners' Workshop** – Some in the land trust community and WSCC suggested the idea of a practitioner's workshop to foster peer-to-peer exchange and learning about the program with participants from land trusts, WSCC, and local governments. This workshop would help get sponsor organization working together to enhance program use, while ensuring high performance standards are maintained. See details of this concept in Attachment B.

NEAR TERM ACTIONS

Promote program awareness within forest owner and sponsor communities in time for 2020 grant cycle. This top priority involves creating custom outreach materials, sharing them through established venues, and sustaining this effort across multiple years.

Clarify program name, intent, evaluation criteria to ensure clear consistent messaging.

Seek opportunities to build relationship bridges between sponsors and forest owners.

Explore value in hosting practitioners' workshop.

LONGER TERM ACTIONS

Seek opportunities to streamline program to reduce transaction costs for forest owners and sponsors.

Consider adjusting program cap limits to increase participation.

Explore value of using landscape assessments to target program application.

Continue building collaborative relationship bridges between sponsors and forest owners.

On-line Survey Questions

Forestland Preservation Program

1. Have you heard about this program? If so, what do you know about it? How did you learn of it?
2. Are you affiliated with a forest owner, project sponsor (either land trust, local government, or WSCC), or neither?
3. Have you used it?
4. If not, is it the type program you might consider using in the future?
5. Can you see others in your community using it?
6. What features are attractive?
7. What are the biggest barriers?
8. What would make it more attractive?
9. What opportunities do you see to share information about this program with your peers?
10. Are you interested in learning more about this program?
11. Additional comments?

Forestland Preservation Program

Practitioner's Workshop

DRAFT

Idea:

Plan and host a **Forestland Preservation Program Practitioners Workshop** to increase the understanding and promote the use of the WWRP Forestland Preservation Program with key staff from sponsor organizations.

The Need:

The Forestland Preservation Program is uniquely designed to preserve working forests (and the ecosystem services they provide). This program also offers the option of funding additional habitat enhancements on those working forests.

Forest owners often cite the need for a state-funded program like this to help compensate them for unused development rights as an important tool to keep their tree farms intact and profitable for future generations. Yet this program has seen relatively few applications for a couple of reasons:

First, few forest owners are aware of the program.

Second, forest owners need to partner with a project sponsor such as land trusts, WA State Conservation Commission, or local governments which adds some complexity (which can be overcome).

Thirdly, many potential project sponsors do not have sufficient understanding of the program or have experience developing applications with forest owners and submitting applications for funding. This is especially applicable for WSCC, local governments, and some land trust staff.

This **Forestland Preservation Program Practitioners Workshop** will address this third barrier.

Workshop Design:

- Plan and host a facilitated one-day workshop for practitioners from interested project sponsor organizations (land trusts, WSCC, county and city governments)
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning - learn from those experienced in developing projects with forest owners and successfully applying for grants
- Get in the weeds - discuss ways to create a competitive application, meet match requirements, conduct oversight, etc.

- Review successes, list best practices, develop ideas for program improvement
- Identify opportunities to engage forest owners

Participants:

- RCO, land trusts, local governments, WSCC
- Forest owner guest to offer their perspective

When:

Winter 2019, in time for 2020 grant cycle

Workshop support:

- Jointly sponsored by RCO, WALT, and others
- Secure event planner/facilitator
- Identify and prepare workshop venue
- Prepare pre-workshop training/references materials (workshop notebook with program description, guidelines, case studies, peer contact information)

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM**Meeting Date:** October 2, 2019**Title:** Public Land Inventory**Prepared By:** Brent Hedden, Performance Analyst**Summary**

RCO staff will brief board members on the status of the update to the Public Land Inventory database and Web map.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Direction
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Briefing

Background

The last update to the Public Land Inventory was completed in 2014, and since that time the inventory has remained a static map. In 2015, the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC) completed a review of state recreation and habitat lands and recommended that the state agencies develop a single, easily-accessible source for information about proposed recreation and habitat land acquisitions. To accomplish this recommendation, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) proposed funding to update the Public Lands Inventory and create a feature that would allow agencies to refresh the information on a regular basis. In the 2017-19 capital budget, RCO was given a special appropriation to carry out this work, and in December 2018, RCO awarded a contract to Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to complete the Public Land Inventory Update.

Public Land Inventory Update in Progress

At the board briefing in June, RCO had received updated parcel information from its partner agencies (Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department Natural Resources, and State Parks and Recreation Commission), and ESRI was working with the data to build a comprehensive database and Web map.

At this time, all of the data has been built into a Web map and dashboard, and RCO staff are currently reviewing the data for completeness. RCO staff will also be working in the

coming weeks to format the dashboard with the appropriate metrics before making it available to the public.

Web Application Demonstration

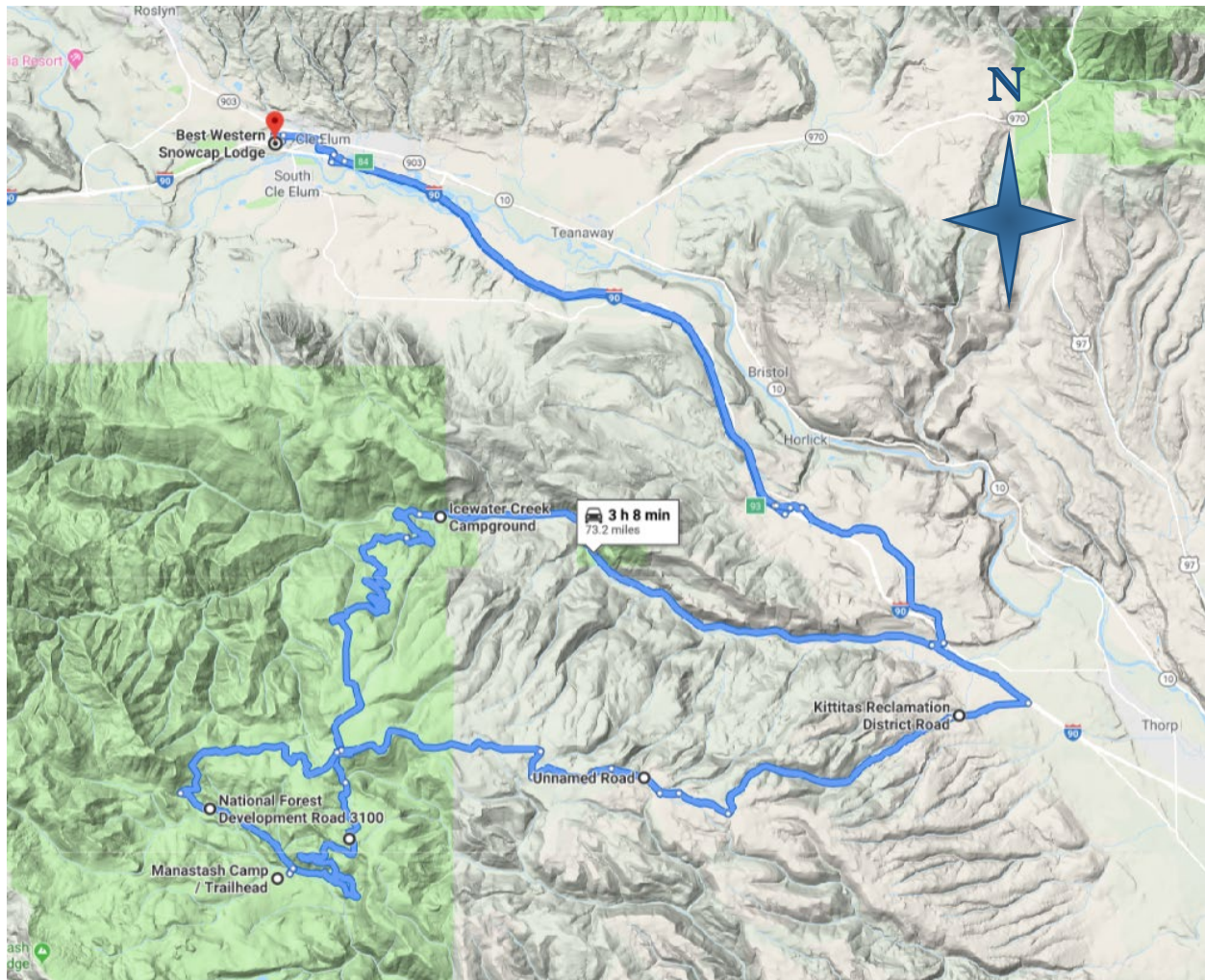
RCO staff will present the Public Land Inventory dashboard to the board.

RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Route of the Cle Elum Tour

<https://goo.gl/maps/1tiEojdD1mYoWiW56>



RCO Staff: Jesse Sims and Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Managers

Guest Tour Guides: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest: Cle Elum Ranger District, and The Nature Conservancy

RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Schedule and Itinerary

~ Thursday, October 3, 2019

Time	Event/Activity	Location	Notes
9:10 a.m.	Meet in Lobby to Load Vehicles	Best Western Snowcap Lodge	Board Members and RCO Staff 50 Minutes Load/Travel
10:25 a.m.	Stop 1: Heart of the Cascades Discussion	LT Murray Wildlife Area	Mike Livingston, Ross Huffman, Melissa Babbik – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife Darcy Batura – The Nature Conservancy
11:45 a.m.	Stop 2: Brown Bag Lunch	Manastash Campground and Trail Head	Casual lunch stop in a Forest Service campground (picnic tables and outhouses available)
12:20 p.m.	Stop 3: Jeep Tour and Management Discussions	Shoe String Lake Trail Head	Kim Larned, Brian Speeg and Mikki Douglass – Cle Elum Ranger District Local Jeep Representative (Outhouses available)
2:00 p.m.	Stop 4: Collaborative management discussion and Green Dot System	LT Murray Wildlife Area- Hutchins Road	Larry Leach, Joe Smith – Washington State Department of Natural Resources Mike Livingston, Ross Huffman, Melissa Babik – Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
2:40 p.m.	Depart for Hotel	Cle Elum	Board Member and RCO Staff
3:30 p.m.	Tour Concludes	Best Western Snowcap Lodge	Safe travels home.

RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 1: Heart of the Cascades-LT Murray Wildlife Area

Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ross Huffman, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Melissa Babik, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Darcy Batura, The Nature Conservancy

PROJECT #	PROJECT NAME	RCO PROGRAM	RCO INVESTMENT	ACRES ACQUIRED
16-1343A	Heart of Cascades-South Fork Manastash	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$1,500,000	1,603
14-1090A	Heart of the Cascades 14	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$4,000,000	1,345
12-1132A	Heart of the Cascades 12	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$1,440,200	3,512
10-1272A	Heart of the Cascades Phase 2, Bald Mountain - Rock Creek	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$2,688,634	7,711
06-1808A	Heart of the Cascades Phase 1, Bald Mountain - Rock Creek	WWRP-Critical Habitat	\$1,922,083	2,675
TOTAL			\$11,550,917	16,846

NOTE: WWRP= Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

Project Description: The area referred to as the Heart of the Cascades is located roughly 12 miles west of Ellensburg and abuts the LT Murray Wildlife Area to the north and east, the Wenas Wildlife Area to the south and U.S. Forest Service Lands to the west. Over the last decade, RCO grants have helped WDFW acquire almost 17,000 acres in the heart of the cascades region including just over 16,000 acres of uplands, about 800 acres of riparian and wetland habitat. Additionally, WDFW has collaborated with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) to protect an additional almost 48,000 acres.

The Heart of the Cascades lies within the transitional zone of the east Cascades and is rich in plant and animal species diversity. The project encompasses numerous habitat types that are ecologically important, and connected to surrounding protected public lands. Emerging science suggests that the elevation gradient and landscape integrity of the site will allow species to move upward in altitude and along temperature gradients in response to climate change.



RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 2: Lunch- Manastash Campground and Trailhead

Kim Larned, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Brian Speeg, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Mikki Douglass, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Area Description: The Manastash Campground and Trailhead is a jumping off point for the Manastash trail, which provides access to Lost Lake and Manastash Ridge. This site consists of 14 individual campsites and one large group site. Multiple outhouses are assessable throughout this site. This area is popular for all types of ORV's such as dirt bikes, quads, and 4x4s. The trails from this site access both the Cle Elum and Naches Ranger District's trail networks. RCO funding has helped with the maintenance and operations, education, enforcement, and general stewardship programs that keep this area open and assessable to all.



RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 3: Jeep Tour/Management Discussion- Shoe String Lake Trail Head

Kim Larned, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Brian Speeg, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Mikki Douglass, Cle Elum Ranger District USFS

Cle Elum Ranger District Projects Funded in June 2019

2018 Projects	RCO Program and Category	RCO Grants	Sponsor Match	Total investment
4	NOVA – Education And Enforcement	\$393,724	\$282,174	\$675,898
1	NOVA – Nonhighway Road	\$150,000	\$150,500	\$300,500
1	NOVA – Nonmotorized	\$150,000	\$103,000	\$253,000
2	NOVA – Off-Road Vehicle	\$379,500	\$44,000	\$423,500
1	Recreational Trails Program – General	\$20,100	\$42,500	\$62,600
9	Total	\$1,093,324	\$622,174	\$1,715,498

NOTE: NOVA = Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities

Cle Elum Ranger District All Time Totals

RCO Program and Category	RCO Grants	Sponsor Match	Total Investment
NOVA – Education and Enforcement	\$2,317,762	\$1,164,878	\$3,482,640
NOVA – Noise Enforcement	\$38,421	\$1,820	\$40,241
NOVA – Nonhighway Road	\$999,795	\$785,600	\$1,785,395
NOVA – Nonmotorized	\$737,650	\$503,803	\$1,241,453
NOVA – Off-Road Vehicle	\$3,947,045	\$745,598	\$4,692,643
Recreational Trails Program – Education	\$313,894	\$528,798	\$842,692
Recreational Trails Program – General	\$1,179,886	\$1,240,206	\$2,420,093
Total	\$9,525,893	\$4,970,704	\$14,505,157

Area Description: The Cle Elum Ranger District consists of 400 miles of nonmotorized trails (much of which lies within the Alpine Lakes Wilderness), 400 miles of trails open to motorized use (300 are single track and 100 double track), 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, and 21 miles of set track ski trails, which offer options for all trail users. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is the western boundary of the district. South of I-90 it passes through dense forests and old clear cuts that offer expansive views and berry patches in the fall. North of I-90 you are treated to one of the most rugged and scenic segments of the trail between Snoqualmie Pass and Deception Pass. Whether you are drawn to jeep trails, secluded valleys or lofty peaks, you won't be disappointed.



RCFB Cle Elum Tour 2019



Stop 4: Collaborative Management/Green Dot System – LT Murray Wildlife Area

Larry Leach, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Joe Smith, Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Mike Livingston, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ross Huffman, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Melissa Babik, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Area Description:

The L.T. Murray Wildlife Area is comprised of conifer forest and shrub steppe, both interspersed with riparian corridors. Wildlife use is diverse, including elk, deer, bighorn sheep, forest grouse, turkey, quail, and a myriad of small mammals, Neotropical and upland birds, raptors, and reptiles. Recent conservation efforts are returning federally listed anadromous stocks to the Manastash and Taneum watersheds. Hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife watching are all popular.



The L.T. Murray Wildlife Area is about 15 miles west of Ellensburg in Kittitas County.

RECREATION CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2		
Item	Formal Action	Follow-up Action
OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS		
Opening and Call to Order	Opening and Decision	No follow-up action requested.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Welcome by Cle Elum Mayor Jay McGowan C. Review and Approval of Agenda D. Remarks of the Chair 	<u>October 2019 Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Ready Seconded by: Member Deller Decision: Approved	
1. Consent Agenda	Decision	No follow-up action requested.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Board Meeting Minutes: June 27, 2019 B. Time Extensions C. Volunteer Recognitions 	<u>Resolution 2019-26</u> Moved by: Member Shiosaki Seconded by: Member Milliern Decision: Approved	
2. Director's Report	Briefing	TASK: Send out email update to RCFB on social media campaign
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report B. Grant Management Report C. Grant Services Report D. Performance Report <i>(written only)</i> E. Fiscal Report <i>(written only)</i> 		
General Public Comment		

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
3. Hiking, Biking, and Walking Study	Direction	TASK: Send full report to the board of the Hiking, Biking and Walking Study before January 2020
4. Simplifying the Sustainability Evaluation Criterion	Direction	TASK: Bring this topic back at the January RCFB meeting
5. Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance	Briefing Public Comment: Jon Snyder, Governor's Policy Advisor, updated board on The Governor's Policy Office happenings and events.	TASK: Bring this topic back at the April RCFB meeting
BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS		
6. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Wildlife Habitat Category A. <u>Policy and Criteria Changes</u>	Decision <u>Resolution 2019-27</u> Moved by: Member Deller Seconded by: Member Ready Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
7. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category A. Policy and Criteria Changes	Decision <u>Resolution 2019-28</u> Moved by: Member Milliern Seconded by: Member Herzog Decision: Approved Public comment:	No follow-up action requested.

8. Climate Change Statement and Applicant Question	Decision <u>Resolution 2019-29</u> Moved by: Member Shiosaki Seconded by: Member Ready Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
9. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation Category <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Ranked List and Grant Awards for Supplemental Grant Round 	Decision <u>Resolution 2019-30</u> Moved by: Member Deller Seconded by: Member Gardow Decision: Approved	No follow-up action requested.
10. Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation Category <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Ranked List and Grant Awards for Supplemental Grant Round 	Decision <u>Resolution 2019-31</u> Moved by: Member Milliern Seconded by: Member Stohr Decision: Approved	TASK Bring back data on program funding caps at the January RCFB meeting
BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS		
11. Public Land Inventory	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
12. Reports from Partners	Briefing	No follow-up action requested.
13. Tour Prologue	Briefing	
ADJOURN	Before Adjourning the meeting Chair Willhite honored two board	

members who were stepping down (member Deller and member Ready) by entertaining the motion to approve honorary resolutions in their name.

Decision

Resolution 2019-32

Moved by: Member Milliern

Seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Decision: Approved

Resolution 2019-33

Moved by: Member Deller

Seconded by: Member Stohr

Decision: Approved

Next Meeting: January 28, 2019

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: October 2, 2019

Place: Cle Elum City Hall, 109 Yakima Avenue, Cle-Elum, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Kathryn Gardow	Seattle
Mike Deller	Mukilteo	Brock Milliern	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Michael Shiosaki	Seattle	Peter Herzog	Designee, Washington State Parks
Danica Ready	Winthrop	Joe Stohr	Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife

It is intended that this summary be used with the materials provided in advance of the meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) retains a recording as the formal record of the meeting.

Opening and Welcome

Chair Willhite called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., he welcomed the board, staff, guests and audience. Chair Willhite invited Mayor Jay McGowan of Cle Elum, WA, to address the board. Mayor McGowan welcomed the board to Cle Elum and shared his hopes for the board to enjoy their stay.

Staff called roll, and a quorum was determined.

October 2019 Agenda

Moved by: Member Ready

Seconded by: Member Deller

Decision: Approved

Item 1: Consent Agenda

The board reviewed the consent agenda, which included approval of the June 2019 meeting minutes.

Resolution 2019-26

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-26

Moved by: Member Shiosaki

Seconded by: Member Milliern

Decision: Approved

Chair Willhite took this time to thank each individual volunteer, noting the time and effort that goes into each project.

Management Reports

Item 2: Director's Report

RCO Director, Kaleen Cottingham outlined key agency activities and happenings, including the Results Washington review meeting in May 2019, new custom project agreements, ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings at project sites funded with grants from RCO, employee changes, and an announcement of the new RCO website.

Grant Services:

Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, provided updates to the board on behalf of the grant services section. He reviewed compliance, cultural resources, and the social media campaign that is targeted towards recruiting volunteers. Mr. Robinson closed his presentation by providing the board members with some of the statistics around projects, noting that there will be over 400 projects funded within the next year, and highlighted that the volunteers will be a huge part of the success of these projects. Board members discussed when and how the volunteer recruitment will be distributed on social media. Member Gardow requested a follow-up email to the board when the social media campaign begins. To close the update, Deputy Robinson played RCO's new volunteer recruitment video.

Grant Management Report:

Marguerite Austin, Recreation and Conservation Section Manager, provided the board with a high level overview of the current grant round, including number of projects funded in each category. For the 2019-21 biennium there was a total number of funded projects of 738. Details can be found in Item 2 of the October 2019 RCFB meeting materials. Ms. Austin continued her presentation by addressing funds for some of the specific programs in her area, including Outdoor Legacy projects and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland and Forestland projects. Chair Willhite thanked Mrs. Austin for her and her teams work and commended them on a job well done.

General Public Comment:

Mr. Fred Wert wrote in with concern with the lack of a WWRP Trails Category funding cap or maximum grant amount, requesting that the topic be added as a future agenda item.

Board Business: Briefings

Item 3: Hiking, Biking and Walking Study

Wendy Brown, RCO Policy Director, and Andrea Imler, Washington Trails Association Advocacy Director, presented to the board the study of economic and health benefits of trail-based activities, including hiking, biking, and walking. The economic portion of the study pulled data from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Planning (SCORP) projects, U.S. Census, and 519 on-site counts at recreational areas to measure participation and economic contributions across the state. Ms. Brown and Ms. Imler reviewed some of the findings from this study, including the \$8.2 billion in annual economic contributions that these recreational users provided to the nearby communities, and health benefits and \$390 million in annual health care savings also associated with these types of outdoor recreation. Ms. Imler closed the presentation by giving a high level overview of the seven policy recommendations and improvements that resulted from the data collected in this study. Please see Item 3 of the October 2019 RCFB materials for further detail.

The Board discussed findings, asked clarifying questions, and requested a follow-up of the study be presented before January 2020.

Item 4: Simplifying the Sustainability Evaluation Criterion

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, summarized a proposal to update the sustainability and environmental stewardship criterion across all grant programs. Those proposed changes seek to provide greater consistency, relevance, and meaning to the criterion. Mr. Donatelle covered the history of the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship criterion, its current state, challenges and justifications, the options for revising it, a proposed draft, and closed the briefing with a request for direction.

When addressing the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship criterion, Mr. Donatelle addressed important questions, the redundancy of unclearly framed questions, and how ninety-nine members of the public were able to give feedback on the criterion to assist RCO staff in fixing these issues.

One of the most prominent issues with the criterion is the inability of grant applicants to utilize all the available points per category. To mitigate this issue, Mr. Donatelle presented three different options and sought direction from the Board, who suggested that option three would be the most appropriate form of action.

Public Comment:

Doug Levy, Washington Recreation and Park Association Lobbyist, provided public comment on scoring and recommendations of the Sustainability Evaluations Criterion. Mr. Levy started by thanking RCO for doing the work and followed up with some minor concerns. Mr. Levy shared they feel the sustainability criterion could negatively impact project scoring. Stating that the new criterion could impact a scored projects overall rating by upwards of 17-18%. Meaning that a project that scored higher across the board could fall below a project that didn't just because of a poor sustainability score. Scoring information can be found on Page 12 of item 4 in October RCFB meeting materials.

Break – 10:56-11:12am

Upon return from the break, the chair invited Wyatt Lundquist, Board Liaison, to briefly display the 2020 RCFB meeting calendar. The board approved the calendar to be sent to the Code Reviser by consensus vote and requested a final copy be emailed to them.

Item 5: Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance

Adam Cole summarized the results of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) study of recreational assets of statewide significance (RASS). See the staff memo for a description of the study results. The study report included data, findings, and recommendations; as well as three map applications. Staff will discuss the findings and gauge the board's interest in using this study information in the context of its authority and grant programs.

Mr. Cole began by addressing the proviso requiring RCO to conduct a study that identifies RASS with a report of findings and recommendations. Through a survey in 2017, RCO was able to determine that 74% of the participants were satisfied with the activities for recreation in the state.

Following the discussion about the findings, Mr. Cole presented three maps that displayed recreational activities with additional data in each. During this time, Member Milliern inquired whether Mr. Cole had created the maps using public lands only, which Mr. Cole confirmed. Mr. Cole addressed that more time and data is needed for the maps.

Board continued to discuss the findings, asked clarifying questions, and shared concerns about the study. The board was concerned that the study would appear to look like recommendations coming from the board. Director Cottingham and RCO staff reassured the board that this is strictly a study that the legislature asked RCO to conduct

and share findings. This is not viewed as recommendations from the board. The board requested that the topic be readdressed at the April 2020 meeting to identify potential future work for the board.

Brief Partner update:

Chair Willhite invited the Governor's Outdoor Recreation Policy Advisor, Jon Snyder, up to provide his Partner Report early. Mr. Snyder updated the board on the Governor's Policy Office happenings and events, including staff changes in the Governor's policy office.

LUNCH 12:20pm – 1:00pm

Board Business: Decisions

Item 6: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Urban Wildlife Habitat Category- Policy and Criteria Changes

Ben Donatelle summarized the final recommendations of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Urban Wildlife Habitat policy workgroup. The recommendations propose changes to the project proposal evaluation criteria, increase the area of eligible project locations, and more equitably distribute funding between state agencies and local entities. Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff recommended adoption of the proposed changes as set forth in the associated board memo and resolution 2019-27.

One proposed policy change is the Project Location, where the terminology "urban cluster" would be an addition. This term would be defined in the manual and embedded in PRISM along with a mapping tool. By adopting this proposed policy change, it would expand the eligibility for the grants to six new communities that were not previously eligible.

The second proposed policy change is for the funding allocation. Currently, the policy is split 40/40/20 with 40% to local agencies, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations; 40% to state agencies; and 20% to fully fund partially funded local agency, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations, then fully fund partially funded state agency projects, and finally apply any remaining amount to the next highest ranked projects. The proposed change would split the allocation by 45/45/10.

The final proposed change is to the evaluation criteria. The majority of these changes had already been shared with the board at the June 2019 meeting. However minor revisions were made to the wording within the criteria to improve clarity and meaning.

After addressing the changes that need adoption, Mr. Donatelle said that RCO recommended approval.

Board discussed findings, asked clarifying questions, and moved to approve the proposed changes.

Resolution 2019-27

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-27.
Moved by: Member Deller
Seconded by: Member Ready
Decision: Approved

Public Comment:

Curt Soper, Executive Director of the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, urges support for resolution 2019-27.

Kristine Mahler, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC), expressed the WWRC's happiness and comfort with the changes made, especially concerning underserved communities.

Item 7: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Riparian Protection Category- Criteria changes

Ben Donatelle summarized the final recommended changes to the project evaluation criteria in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) Riparian Protection category. The proposed changes aim to increase efficiency of the project evaluation process and reduce redundancy between evaluation criteria. RCO staff recommended adoption of the proposed changes as set forth in the accompanying memo and resolution 2019-28.

Mr. Donatelle informed the board that the same 1000 people who received a copy of the Policy and Criteria changes for the Urban Wildlife Habitat Category, also received the criteria changes to the Riparian Protection Category. Generally, most of the public were supportive of the changes. After public feedback, the workgroup identified changes to reduce the redundancy and overlap, clarify detailed questions and remove any yes/no questions, prioritize protecting and maintaining ecologically diverse, functioning riparian habitat, and ensure public access and benefits are compatible.

Mr. Donatelle presented the proposed evaluation criteria, which had not changed significantly since the last board meeting in June. The workgroup made some revisions

to detailed questions in the Planning and Community Support, Stewardship and Restoration, and Public Access and Community Benefits criteria. After updating the board on the revisions made, Mr. Donatelle indicated that RCO recommended approval.

Resolution 2019-28

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-28.
Moved by: Member Milliern
Seconded by: Member Herzog
Decision: Approved

General Public Comment:

Christine Mahler: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC), expressed the WWRC's happiness and comfort with the changes made, especially concerning underserved communities.

Item 8: Climate Change Statement and Applicant Question

Ben Donatelle continued the conversation around addressing climate change and presented a proposed RCFB policy statement on climate change. RCO staff recommended adoption on the proposed changes as set forth in this memo and resolution 2019-29.

Mr. Donatelle indicated that the statement had not changed since the last board meeting in June. Member Herzog helped the board understand that the questions posed for climate change in the application are not scored questions, but the answer submitted by each entity will be reviewed by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board staff.

Chair Willhite expressed that the need to implement the climate change policy. Mr. Donatelle explained that there are actions being put into place where entities are finding ways to sequester carbon emissions. For example, King County is attempting to develop a carbon currency. The board then took time to discuss the development of such a currency and how it would take effect.

Resolution 2019-29

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-29.
Moved by: Member Shiosaki
Seconded by: Member Ready
Decision: Approved

Public comment:

Hannah Dewey, Public lands organizer for the Methow Valley Citizen's Council, commented that the council supports the climate change statement.

Item 9: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation Category- Approval of Ranked List and Grant Award for Supplemental Grant Round

Kim Sellers discussed how the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed and ranked fourteen Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) project proposals submitted during the supplemental grant round for funding consideration. She described the category, reviewed the evaluation process, and presented the ranked list. She requested that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approve the ranked list and award grants. Ms. Sellers informed the board that the Farmland category's primary purpose is to purchase development rights on working farmland where the landowners maintain their ownership of the land and ability to farm, but the grant program places an agricultural conservation easement on the property, restricting changes to the land that would permanently change the use to nonagricultural.

Fourteen proposals were submitted during the supplemental grant round requesting \$5,878,278 in grant funds. Because of the grant money in hand, the RCFB will be able to fund the top 8 projects.

The number one ranked project is the Kristoferson Farm in Island County. This project was sponsored by Whidbey Camano Land Trust. Following the presentation, the board discussed the resolution and moved to approve it.

Resolution 2019-30

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-30.
Moved by: Member Deller
Seconded by: Member Gardow
Decision: Approved

No public comment at this time.

Item 10: Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation Category- Approval of Ranked List and Grant Awards for Supplemental Grant Round

Kim Sellers explained that the Forestland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed and ranked five Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) project proposals

submitted during the supplemental grant round for funding consideration. She requested that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approve the ranked list and award grants.

Ms. Sellers explained that the primary purpose of the Forestland Preservation Category is to acquire and preserve opportunities for timber production consistent with local planning. This cycle, the five grant proposals requested approximately \$1,352,320. The highest ranked project was the Kristoferson Forest. This family supports two different businesses for outdoor recreation on this land and helps preserve a forested creek that runs through it.

Wrapping up the presentation, Ms. Sellers expressed that there are two items to consider for future direction. The first being whether to increase or remove the project cap of \$350,000, and whether the easement options should be expanded to allow term easements. Member Milliern suggests that removing the cap would be beneficial, but the easement should remain the same.

The board discussed the projects, asked clarifying questions and asked that RCO staff to present options on these policy topics at the January RCFB meeting.

Resolution 2019-31

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-31.
Moved by: Member Milliern
Seconded by: Member Stohr
Decision: Approved

No public comment at this time.

Break 2:24-2:30

Board Business: Briefing

Item 11: Public Land Inventory

Brent Hedden gave a briefing on the Public Land Inventory. He gave a history of previous Public Land inventories and followed by informing the board that RCO and other partnering agencies have been reviewing the map data to help refine it. Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), creator of the Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping software being used, and the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) have been working on the dashboard look and layout, but there still remains a need for refinement. In the future, this dashboard will be available to the public via the

website. The dashboard contains maps that allow agencies to view who owns what parts of Washington land.

While the map is helpful, there are some parts that do not give a full view of what the land ownership boundaries are. There are also pins within the maps that are RCO acquisition projects zooming in on a location supplies additional data such as owner, ownership type, principal land use and more.

The next steps for the public land inventory will be to have state agencies submit revised data and have the dashboard completed by October 31, 2019.

Brent answered questions and the Board discussed.

Item 12: Reports from Partners

Joe Stohr, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife--Informed the board that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is looking for suggestions on how to take less lethal action to manage and recover gray wolves in Washington. He also informed the board that there are new duties that the legislature and stakeholders have asked WDFW to take on in less than a year and changed their budget of operations.

Brock Milliern, Department of Natural Resources—Reported that the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) program at DNR hired two interns. These interns created a survey on who uses DNR land. There was also an event in the Seattle area that targeted the Asian American population. DNR would also like to bring in a consultant who does work with indoor and outdoor target shooting and have them give recommendations. Finally, there were four tours over the summer for the Community Forest Programs. These tours help inform the legislature on the Community Forest Program and whether or not to create one.

Peter Herzog, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission—Reported that the Commission has approved a supplemental budget request where Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks) asked for \$5.3 million in supplemental funding for maintaining state parks. From this supplemental funding, \$750 thousand would be used for the No Child Left Indoors program. Parks also requested \$3.7 million in capital budget funds. Parks has also been working to develop a prescription for outdoor recreation. He closed his report by informing the board that Anna Gill is Parks' new communications director.

General Public Comment:

Christine Mahler, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, expressed that WWRC has been putting a lot of time into outreach about the WWRP. A few of the places they have visited for outreach is Yakima, Walla Walla, and areas in King County.

Item 13: Tour Prologue

Jesse Sims and Kim Sellers provided the tour prologue, describing each of the three tour stops planned. The first stop will be the Heart of the Cascades to get an overview of the checkerboard ownership, the second stop was the Manastash Campground where the board will have the opportunity to go on a jeep tour of a few Off Road Vehicle (ORV) trails, and the final planned stop will be Shoe String Lake Trailhead and Green Dot Road system. Due to inclement weather, the tour does not match RCO staff's original outline.

To close the meeting on day one, Chair Willhite thanked members Deller and Ready for their time spent on the Recreation and Conservation Funding board (RCFB).

Resolution 2019-32

Motion: Move to recognition resolution 2019-32.
Moved by: Member Milliern
Seconded by: Member Shiosaki
Decision: Approved

Resolution 2019-33

Motion: Move to approve resolution 2019-33.
Moved by: Member Deller
Seconded by: Member Stohr
Decision: Approved

Day Two Announcement

Chair Willhite announced there would be an **Executive Session** in the morning regarding the Director's Evaluation. Chair Willhite read this Statement, "At this time, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board will recess for the afternoon. Beginning tomorrow morning (October 3, 2019) at 7:30 a.m. the board will reconvene and then immediately move into executive session for purposes allowed under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), specifically to review the performance of the RCO Director. This executive session will take place at the Best Western Snowcap lodge in Cle Elum and is expected to last until 9:00am. No general business decisions will be made during this session. The board will adjourn the meeting at 9:00 am and then meet in the hotel lobby at 9:10 a.m. for the regularly scheduled board tour of the LT Murray Wildlife Area. The tour stops are outlined in the agenda posted on the RCO Web site."

Chair Willhite recessed the meeting at 3:40 PM

RECESSED FOR THE DAY

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: October 3, 2019

Place: Cle-Elum, WA

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members Present:

Ted Willhite, Chair	Seattle	Kathryn Gardow	Seattle
Mike Deller	Mukilteo	Brock Milliern	Designee, Department of Natural Resources
Michael Shiosaki	Seattle	Peter Herzog	Designee, Washington State Parks

Members Ready and Stohr excused themselves from the executive session and the tour.

Executive Session:

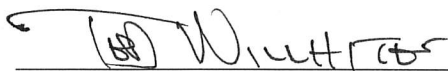
Chair Willhite reconvened the meeting at 7:30 a.m. and immediately put the board into Executive Session. This announcement was made, "At this time the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has a quorum and will reconvene its board meeting. The board will immediately move into executive session for purposes allowed under RCW 42.30.110(1) (g), specifically to review the performance of the RCO Director. This executive session will last until 9:00am. The board can elect to extend the executive session. If this is necessary, the chair will return at the scheduled time (9:00a.m.) to announce that more time is needed and provide a new time to reconvene the regular meeting. No general business decisions will be made during the executive session. After the board returns from executive session they will reconvene and immediately adjourn the meeting. The board is scheduled to meet in the Best Western Snowcap Lodge hotel lobby at 9:10 a.m. to depart on the board tour."

ADJOURNED

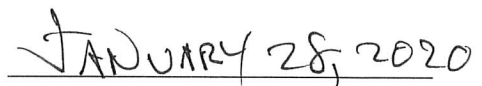
Tour of Projects

The board began a tour of projects at 9:10 a.m. and proceeded as indicated on the agenda. The tour concluded at 4:00 p.m. No board business was conducted during the tour.

Approved by:



Theodore Willhite, Chair



Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2019-26
October 2, 2019 - Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following October 2, 2019 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2019-26

- A. Board Meeting Minutes: June 27, 2019
- B. Time Extensions:
 - City of Seattle, West Seattle Track and Field ([15-1379D](#))
 - Department of Natural Resources, Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline ([14-1249A](#))
- C. Volunteer Recognitions (5)

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Milliern

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (*underline one*)

Approved Date: 10-2-19

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-27
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Urban Wildlife Habitat Category**

WHEREAS, the Chapter 79A.15 Revised Code of Washington established the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and authorized the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for WWRP; and

WHEREAS, the board directed RCO staff to conduct a programmatic review of the Urban Wildlife Habitat category and make recommendations for necessary changes to program policies and project evaluation criteria that encourage greater participation in the program by local entities; encourage projects that provide greater opportunities for people to access nature-based activities, especially in underserved communities; and encourage projects to consider the potential future impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a policy workgroup to assist in reviewing and making recommendations to the board that modify policies and evaluation criteria to address the board's interests and direction; and

WHEREAS, the policy workgroup developed five broad goals for the programmatic review which included protecting native habitat while increasing habitat connectivity, landscape permeability and enhancing ecosystem services; increasing the number of applications from "local entities"; prioritizing projects that provide close-to-home opportunities to experience nature; increasing access to nature-based experiences for underserved communities; and simplifying the evaluation criteria questions; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), along with the policy workgroup drafted options on how revise the project location policy, the funding allocation policy, and project evaluation to address the above goals and the board selected their preferred options at its meeting in June 2019 for the public to comment on; and

WHEREAS, the preferred options were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019 and RCO solicited comments from over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments with the workgroup and made recommendations for options, including a preferred option, in Item 6.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the project location policy, the funding allocation policy, and the revised project evaluation criteria as described in Item 6;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO staff is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these revisions beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to evaluate whether the approved changes are achieving the desired effect after the 2022 grant cycle.

Resolution moved by: Member Deller

Resolution seconded by: Member Ready

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (*underline one*)

Date: 10-2-19

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-28
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Riparian Protection Category**

WHEREAS, the Chapter 79A.15 Revised Code of Washington established the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) and authorized the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for WWRP; and

WHEREAS, the board directed RCO staff to conduct a programmatic review of the Riparian Protection category to evaluate how well the funded projects align with the statutory intent of the category, make recommendations to address issues raised by the Advisory Committee, and include criteria related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a policy workgroup to assist in reviewing and making recommendations to the board to modify the evaluation criteria to address the board's interests and direction; and

WHEREAS, the policy workgroup developed four broad goals for the programmatic review, which included maintaining the programmatic distinction between this and other RCO administered grant programs, simplifying the evaluation criteria, evaluating the need for a maximum grant limit, and implementing the consideration of pollinator habitat as required by Senate Substitute Bill 5552; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), along with the policy workgroup drafted revised project evaluation criteria to address the above goals and the board provided direction at its meeting in June 2019 for staff to solicit public to comment on the revised evaluation criteria; and

WHEREAS, the revised evaluation criteria were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice to over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website, and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments and made a recommendations for a preferred option in Item 7.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the revised project evaluation criteria as described in Item 7;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these revisions beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to evaluate whether the approved changes are achieving the desired effect after the 2022 grant cycle.

Resolution moved by: Member Milliern

Resolution seconded by: Member Herzog

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (*underline one*)

Date: 10-2-19

**Recreation and Conservation Funding
Board Resolution 2019-29
Climate Change Policy Statement**

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) directed RCO staff to develop an approach to addressing climate change to pilot in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection Categories; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff convened a sub-committee of the board and a climate change policy stakeholder group to assist with policy and strategy development for addressing climate change through funding policies and evaluation criteria changes; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff, assisted by the board sub-committee and the stakeholder group, developed a menu of options for the board to consider to address climate change. The board provided strategic direction at their meeting in April 2019 to develop a climate change policy statement and continue collecting information from applicants on how they are integrating climate change information into their strategic planning and project designs; and

WHEREAS, the RCO staff developed a draft climate change statement and non-scored application questions and the board provided direction at its meeting in June 2019 and asked staff to solicit public to comment; and

WHEREAS, the draft climate change statement and non-scored application questions were made available to the public for review and comment from July 15 to August 12, 2019. RCO sent notice to over 1,000 members of the public and posted notice on its website; and

WHEREAS, staff reviewed the public comments and modified the recommendations found in Item 8.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the climate change policy statement as described in Item 8;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is directed to take the necessary steps to implement the non-scored application questions for projects in the Habitat Conservation Account beginning with the 2020 grant cycle; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO is encouraged to keep the board informed on future climate change issues that intersect with the board's funding goals and priorities.

Resolution moved by: Member Shiosaki

Resolution seconded by: Member Ready

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (*underline one*)

Date: 10-2-19

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2019-30
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Category
Approval of the Ranked List and Grant Awards for the
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

WHEREAS, for the 2019-21 biennium, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board authorized a supplemental grant cycle to solicit additional grant proposals for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest Account; and

WHEREAS, for this supplemental grant cycle fourteen Farmland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, the fourteen applications submitted in the Farmland Preservation category projects meets program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10f, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Farmland Preservation*, including criteria regarding viability for continued agricultural production and community benefits; and

WHEREAS, all of the farmland projects meet criteria that demonstrate preference for perpetual easements, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's fully functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, a team of citizens, farmers, and governmental representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), reviewed and evaluated the Farmland Preservation category projects, thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the review and evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in open public meetings as part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-13-020, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, funds available from the 2019-21 State Capital Budget combined with unspent funds from previous biennium total approximately \$4.4 million for the WWRP Farmland Preservation Category;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby approves the final ranked list of projects and funding amounts depicted in *Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby authorizes RCO's Director to execute agreements necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby directs staff to submit to the Governor, by the November 1st deadline, the final ranked list for the 2019 Farmland Preservation category for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Deller

Resolution seconded by: Member Gardow

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: 10-2-19

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2019-31
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category
Approval of the Ranked List and Grant Awards for the
2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle

WHEREAS, for the 2019-21 biennium, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board authorized a supplemental grant cycle to solicit additional grant proposals for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farm and Forest Account; and

WHEREAS, for this supplemental grant cycle five Forestland Preservation category projects are being considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, *Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle* now indicates the project that was withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, the remaining applications submitted in the Forestland Preservation category projects meets program eligibility requirements as stipulated in *Manual 10c, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program: Forestland Preservation*, including criteria regarding county tax designation as either forestland or timberland; and

WHEREAS, the forestland projects use perpetual easements to protect these working lands, thus supporting the board's strategic goal to maximize the useful life of board-funded projects and supporting the board's strategy to provide partners with funding for projects that help sustain Washington's fully functioning ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, a team of citizens, foresters, and government representatives using criteria approved by Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board), reviewed and evaluated the Forestland Preservation category projects, thereby supporting the board's goal to fund the best projects as determined by the review and evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, these evaluations occurred in an open public meetings part of the competitive selection process outlined in Washington Administrative Code 286-13-020, thereby supporting the board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, the 2019-21 State Capital Budget includes \$815,660 for the WWRP Forestland Preservation Category;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby approves the final ranked list of projects and funding amounts depicted in *Table 1 – Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Forestland Preservation Category, Ranked List and Grant Awards for the 2019 Supplemental Grant Cycle*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board hereby authorizes RCO's Director to execute agreements necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board hereby directs staff to submit to the Governor, by the November 1st deadline, the final ranked list for the 2019 Forestland Preservation category for further consideration.

Resolution moved by: Member Milliern

Resolution seconded by: Member Stohr

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: 10-2-19



WASHINGTON STATE

Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Mike Deller

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, beginning on January 6, 2014, and for the following 6 years, Mike Deller served the citizens of the state of Washington as an exemplary member of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board; and

WHEREAS, during his two terms of service, over 620 projects were approved by the Board with a total funding amount of over \$515 million; and

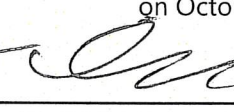
WHEREAS, Mr. Deller has been an articulate spokesman for the board at ribbon cuttings and events, a level head, a thoughtful and considerate board member, and has used his considerable recreation and conservation knowledge to help the board tackle many complicated outdoor recreation and conservation policy issues; and


WHEREAS, Mr. Deller plans to focus on retirement, which as we all know has been well earned; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the residents of Washington and in recognition of Mr. Deller's leadership, dedication, and excellence in his duties as a board member, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Cle Elum, Washington
on October 2, 2019



Kathryn Gardow
Citizen Member



Danica Ready
Citizen Member


Michael Shiosaki
Citizen Member


Ted Willhite
Citizen Member (Chair)


Peter Herzog
Washington State Parks and
Recreation Commission


Brock Millienn
Department of Natural
Resources


Joe Stohr
Department of Fish and
Wildlife



WASHINGTON STATE

Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Danica Ready

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, beginning on January 5, 2017, and for the following 3 years, Danica Ready served the citizens of the state of Washington as an exemplary member of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board; and

WHEREAS, during her time on the board, over 327 projects were approved with a total funding amount of over \$285 million; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ready has been an outstanding spokeswoman for the board at ribbon cuttings and events, bringing forth thoughtful insight and intuition, and has used her firsthand experience and knowledge of recreation and conservation to benefit the board on many complicated outdoor recreation and conservation issues; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ready plans to focus on her work and family and we wish her well in the Methow Valley; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on behalf of the residents of Washington and in recognition of Ms. Ready's leadership, dedication, and excellence in her duties as a board member, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Cle Elum, Washington
on October 2, 2019

Mike Deller
Citizen Member

Kathryn Gardow
Citizen Member

Michael Shiosaki
Citizen Member

Ted Willhite
Citizen Member (Chair)

Peter Herzog
Washington State Parks and
Recreation Commission

Brock Milliarn
Department of Natural
Resources

Joe Stohr
Department of Fish and
Wildlife



WASHINGTON STATE

Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Justin Brooks

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2019, Justin Brooks served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of LWCF projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Brook's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Brooks.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 2, 2019

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite", is written over a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Patricia Hickey

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2019, Patricia Hickey served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee; and

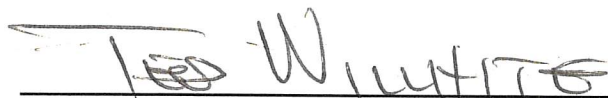
WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of WWRP Farmland Preservation projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

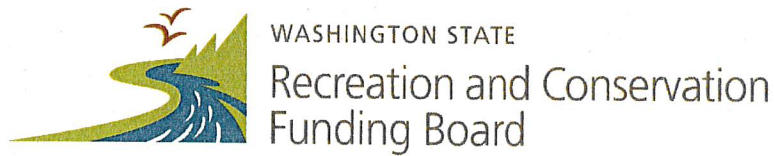
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Ms. Hickey's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Ms. Hickey.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 2, 2019



Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Pete Schroeder

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2012 to 2019, Pete Schroeder served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee;


WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of WWRP Farmland Preservation projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Schroeder's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Schroeder

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 2, 2019



Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Kevin Farrell

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2011 to 2019, Kevin Farrell served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Committee;


WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of RTP projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Farrell's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Farrell.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 2, 2019



Ted Willhite, Chair



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board

A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Jon Lunsford

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2019, Jon Lunsford served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Advisory Committee; and

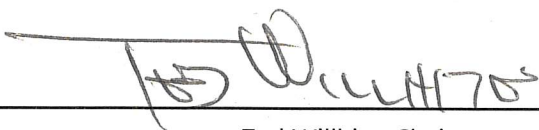
WHEREAS, the result of this service was the provision of valuable analysis and excellent advice that assisted in the development of exemplary program policies, program planning, and the evaluation of RTP projects for funding;

WHEREAS, members of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board wish to recognize this support and service,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in recognition of Mr. Lunsford's dedication and excellence in performing these services, the board and its staff extend their sincere appreciation and compliments on a job well done, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent along with a letter of appreciation to Mr. Lunsford.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on October 2, 2019



Ted Willhite, Chair

RCO POLICY WORK PLAN

JULY 2019 – JUNE 2021

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
Tier 1 – Required by Law, Governor or Previous Board Direction and/or Necessary for RCO Operations to be Completed by December 2020					
SRFB Funding List	Develop options for preparing a biennial project list in advance of the submittal of our biennial budget request to the Governor.	Tara Galuska/Kat Moore	SRFB	September 2019	complete
WWRP Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Category Updates Project Completion	Complete the update to the Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian categories of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to ensure the most important projects are being funded. Include criteria related to climate change.	Ben Donatelle	RCFB	October 2019	
Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance	Complete the study that identifies recreational assets of statewide significance, where gaps in recreational assets exist, and investment strategies and options for addressing those gaps.	Adam Cole	RCO	October 2019	
Update the Public Lands Inventory	Complete update to the GIS-based public lands inventory with current state agency land acquisition parcel and meta-data.	Brent Hedden	RCO	October 2019	
Hiking, Walking, Biking Study	Complete a study of the economic and health benefits of hiking, walking and biking.	Wendy Brown	RCO	October 2019	
WAC Updates	Finalize WAC updates as recommended from the Lean Study.	Katie Pruitt	SRFB	December 2019	
Nason Ridge Community Forest Management Plan	Assist Chelan County in developing a management plan for the proposed	Katie Pruitt	RCO	December 2019	

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
	Nason Ridge Community Forest.				
Evaluation Criteria that Impact Multiple Programs- Phase 1	Update evaluation criteria questions that apply to multiple grant programs and those of significance to a single grant program: sustainability and environmental stewardship.	Ben Donatelle	RCFB	January 2020	
Underserved Communities and Communities In Need	Evaluate if grant programs are effectively addressing the needs of underserved communities and communities in need and make adjustments as needed. Identify options for reduced planning requirements for small agencies, assess implementation of the population proximity statute, and improve program outreach as recommended in the Unified Strategy.	Brent Hedden/Ben Donatelle	RCFB	January 2020	
Pollinator Benefits in WWRP	Following passage of SSB 5552, include consideration of pollinator habitat benefits into the habitat conservation account categories.	Ben Donatelle	RCFB	March 2020	
Invasive Species Readiness and Response	Address issue of invasive mussel response readiness by facilitating improvement of Washington State <i>Dreissenid</i> Response Plan, including working with tribal, state and federal organizations to hold a functional and full scale exercise to evaluate and further improve the updated plan.	Justin Bush	WISC	April 2020	
Response Plan on Urban Forest Pests	Address issues of urban forest pest preparation, readiness, and response capabilities within cities with state and federal	Justin Bush	WISC	April 2020	

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
	response agencies by developing a response plan and readiness assessment.				
Community Forests	Participate on community forest stakeholder workgroup and determine policy provisions to include in a community forest bill in 2020.	Wendy Brown	RCO	June 2020	
Targeted Investment for Delisting	Develop policies and criteria for prioritizing targeted investment in areas nearing delisting.	Katie Pruitt	SRFB	June 2020	
Public Safety and Risk	Develop guidance for board, review panel and staff discussions of public safety and risk in the funding of salmon recovery projects.	Adam Cole	SRFB	June 2020	
West Coast Regional Invasive Species Council Workshop	Plan and facilitate a west coast regional invasive species council workshop in collaboration with California, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia and others. Investigate a regional agreement or memorandum of understanding to formalize collaboration and partnerships	Justin Bush	WISC	June 2020	
Implement Actions from the State Plans, Phase 1	Implement the following actions from the State Trails and Boating Plans: evaluate the state recreation trails designation program.	Ben Donatelle	RCFB	June 2020	
Commercial Uses in Parks	Define and address the growing commercial uses in parks and incorporate into our existing policies on conversion, allowable use, and income generation.	Adam Cole/Katie Pruitt	RCFB	October 2020	
Grant Programs that are Oversubscribed (change title)	Address grant programs that are oversubscribed and the impacts on staff workload and volunteer advisory committees.	Brent Hedden	RCFB	October 2020	

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
	Research other grant processes and approaches to scoring that could minimize impacts on advisory committee members and maintain the fair and open ranking process.				
Inspections and Compliance	Following one year of employing a compliance assistant, investigate what we have learned from the increased number of on-site inspections and investigate if there are additional tools that could be developed to address compliance issues, such as replacement alternatives.	Myra Barker	RCFB	October 2020	
Statewide Salmon Recovery Strategy	Provide input to the Governor's office during process to update the statewide strategy for salmon recovery.	Kaleen Cottingham	SRFB	November 2020	
Tier 2 – Priorities Identified by Staff and/or RCFB-Approved Plans and to be Completed by June 2021					
Forestland Preservation Category	Identify potential changes to increase the pool of applicants in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program -- Forestland Preservation category.	Wendy Brown	RCFB	June 2020	
Invasive Species Interagency Collaborative	Plan and facilitate an interagency invasive species coordination and planning meeting with state and federal agencies, and universities for the purpose of promoting information, resource, and best management sharing, in addition to promoting interagency collaboration on funding requests.	Justin Bush	WISC	August 2020	
Climate Considerations in SRFB Projects	Investigate opportunities for applying climate change considerations developed by the Recreation and	Ben Donatelle	SRFB	December 2020	

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
	Conservation Funding Board SRFB projects.				
Riparian Buffer Guidance in Salmon Programs	Consider if and how to incorporate new WDFW guidance on riparian buffers into salmon recovery grant programs.	Katie Pruitt	SRFB	December 2020	
Recommendations from Orca Task Force, Year 2	Placeholder: Potentially develop policies to address recommendations from the Orca Task Force related to salmon recovery.	Erik Neatherlin	SRFB	January 2021	
Evaluation Criteria that Impact Multiple Programs – Phase 2	Update evaluation criteria questions that apply to multiple grant programs and those of significance to a single grant program, including immediacy of threat, readiness, matching shares, water access views and scenic values, and viability of site.		RCFB	June 2021	
RCO Planning Manual	Revise the RCO planning manual, including evaluating an expedited or short-form plan for smaller, rural counties.	Katie Pruitt	RCO	June 2021	
ALEA Grant Evaluation Criteria	Review the effectiveness of using the current three different sets of evaluation criteria and potentially look for opportunities for streamlining.	Ben Donatelle/Katie Pruitt	RCFB	June 2021	
Capacity Funding	As identified in the Lean Study (recommendation 3.4), evaluate differences in funding among lead entities in relation to project funding and other metrics. Evaluate whether there are alternative approaches for distributing capacity funding.	Wendy Brown	SRFB	June 2021	
Using the RASS Study Results in Grant Programs	Investigate options for using the results of the recreational assets of statewide significance study to modify	Adam Cole	RCFB	June 2021	

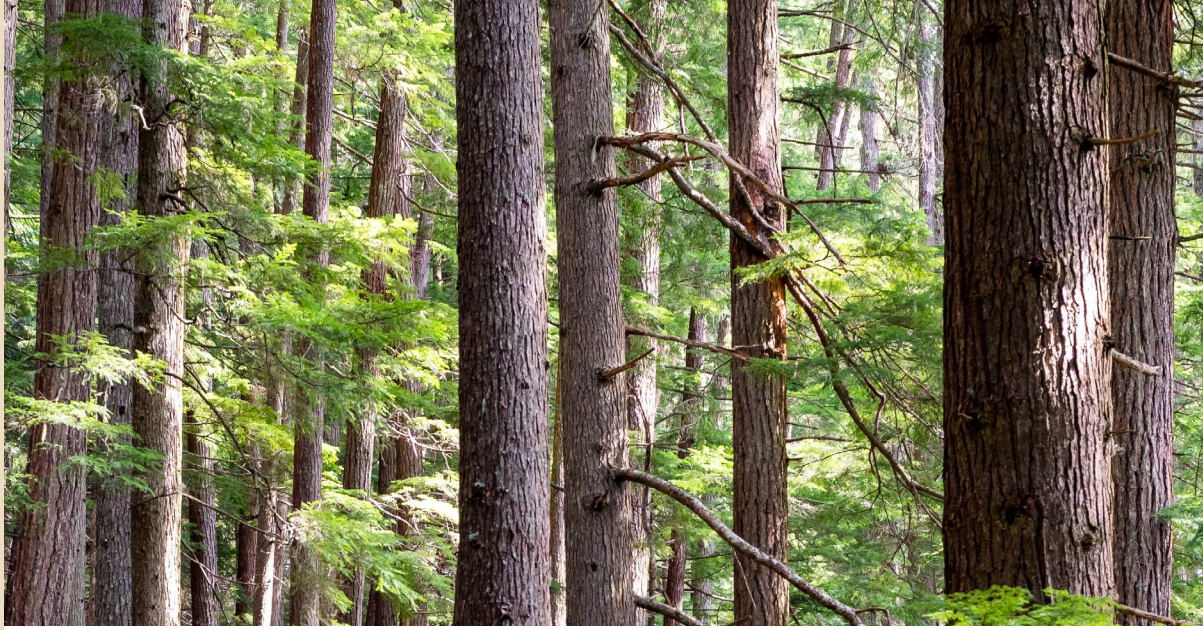
Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
	recreation-focused grant programs.				
Water Rights	As follow up to water rights appraisal policy, develop long-term policy and guidance for water rights acquired with grant funds. Modify current board policy on appraisals to be relevant for water rights acquisitions.	Kat Moore	SRFB	June 2021	
Water Storage Projects	Begin to understand the SRFB's role in funding projects that improve water quantity for salmon. Provide clarity on current projects funded and eligibility. Include a discussion of existing efforts by the Washington Water Trust, Trout Unlimited, and Department of Ecology.	Tara Galuska	SRFB	June 2021	
Landowner Willingness	Investigate what is impacting landowner willingness to allow a project on their property and what tools or incentives might help. See if potential new landowner requirements such as bonds and insurance to address liability or future repair work are allowable expenses and how to address requirements that extend beyond the contract term.		SRFB	June 2021	
Environmental Justice	Track the work of the newly-formed task force on environmental justice. Potentially incorporate their recommendations on best practices and model policies for advancing a healthy environment for all residents.	Wendy Brown	RCO	June 2021	

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
Noxious Weed Funding Advisory Committee	Investigate options and willingness of partner agencies to convene an aquatic noxious weed funding advisory committee for the purpose of identifying current investments and gaps in aquatic weed research, and management.	Justin Bush	WISC	June 2021	
WWRP Critical Habitat and Natural Areas Category Updates	Review and update two more Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program categories – critical habitat and natural areas. Incorporate climate change as was done for the Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection categories.	Ben Donatelle	RCFB	October 2021	

Tier 3 – Assignments to be Completed as Time Allows

Permit Streamlining Subcommittee	Support SRFB subcommittee looking at permit streamlining and permit cost issues.	Katie Pruitt	SRFB	June 2021	
Implement Actions from the State Plans, Phase 2	Implement the following actions from the State Trails and Boating Plans: maintain high satisfaction around boating experiences and facilities, promote environmental stewardship and safety, fund development of multiple use sites that reduce user conflict, obligate grants in a single biennium in the Boating Facilities Program state agency category, support the paddle sports community and facility providers.	Adam Cole, Ben Donatelle	RCFB	June 2021	
Revise How Manuals are Prepared and Published	Develop procedures for revising manuals, consider alternative forms for publication, implement changes, and ensure	Brent Hedden	RCO	June 2021	

Assignment	Description	Lead Staff	Board	Expected Completion Date	Status
	compliance with RCW 42.56.070(3)(c).				



2019 Research Executive Summary
Economic and Health Benefits of Walking, Hiking and Bicycling
on Recreational Trails in Washington State



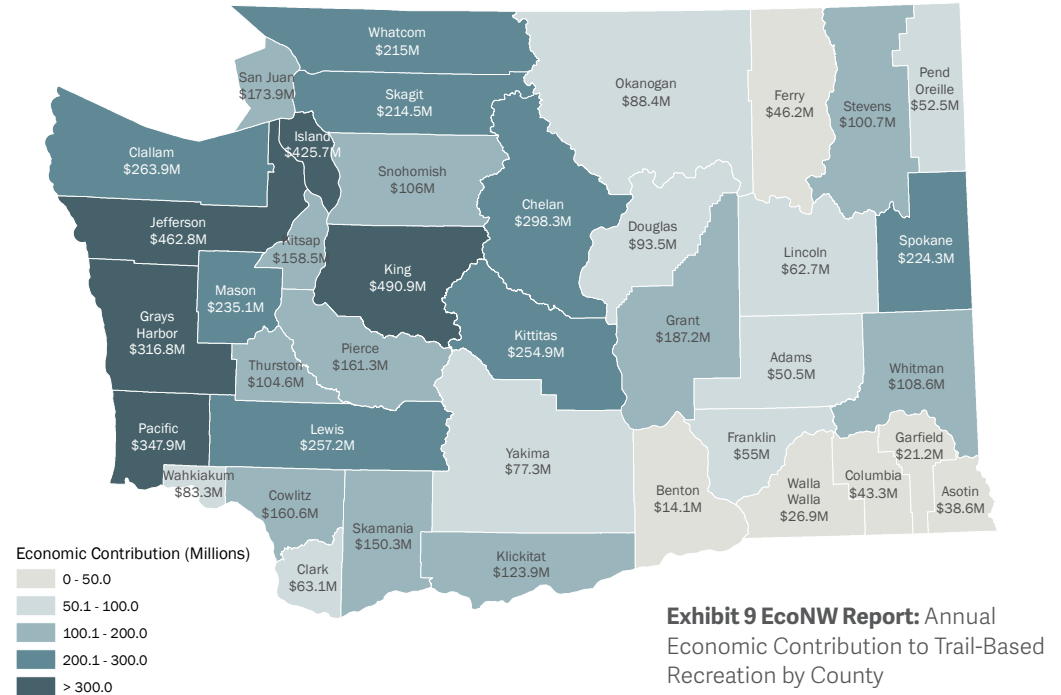
Economic and Health Benefits of Walking, Hiking and Bicycling on Recreational Trails in Washington State

It is time to think about trails as more than a privilege we enjoy from time to time, and to begin to understand the extent of monetary, health and environmental benefits trail systems provide Washington state. The analysis on the benefits of trails¹ facilitated by the Recreation and Conservation Office clearly demonstrates that trails are strong economic and health improvement drivers for every corner of Washington.

*Every county in Washington state benefits from walkers, runners, bikers and backpackers using our beautiful trail systems. Ninety percent of Washington residents participate in non-motorized recreation annually² with **each legislative district benefiting from between 2.1 and 27.2 million visits to their trails each year.***



Mountain bikers at Grand Ridge Park. Photo by Emma



This type of recreation directly and indirectly improves local economies, decreases health care-related costs by improving overall health and helps protect our wild spaces.

- Trails contribute over \$8.2 billion to Washington state's economy and support over 81,000 jobs each year
- Trail use results in over \$390 million in health savings each year
- Trail-based activities can improve physical and mental health, especially for children and communities at a higher risk of illness and chronic stress

¹ "Economic, Environmental and Social Benefits of Recreational Trails in Washington State." ECONorthwest, 2019. "Health Benefits of Nature Contact." University of Washington, 2019.

² Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. (2013). *The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*. Retrieved from https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/rec_trends/2013-2018SCORP-FullRpt.pdf



Physical Health Benefits

Trail-based activities offer numerous health benefits including **improved cholesterol levels and protection against chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity.**⁴ With 27.7% of Washington adults being obese and another 34.5% overweight, access to trails has never been more important to the overall health of Washington constituents.

Physical health benefits generate economic value based on the direct cost of illness savings and loss of productivity that occurs while dealing with an illness. The accompanying research indicates that Washington residents may **save over \$390 million each year** due to the increased activity from using trails. In fact, physically active adults have approximately 30% lower health care costs than inactive adults.⁵ These savings benefit participants, health insurers and health care providers.

In addition, lower income communities face more significant health challenges, and more barriers to accessing trails than more affluent areas. **Improving access and decreasing barriers to trails for these communities could help close the health gap in Washington state.**



Mental Health Benefits

Outdoor exercise has been demonstrated **to improve mood, restore attention, and decrease anger, depression and stress.** This is critical as Washington reports higher levels of adults suffering from some form of depression or mental illness and children reporting more major depressive episodes each year than the national average.⁶ **Children may particularly benefit from physical activity in nature as it is more conducive to social play, emotional development and improved cognitive function than indoor activity.**⁷

It is difficult to monetize the mental health benefits of trails, and therefore potential savings from mental health costs are not included in the health savings projections. However, this does not diminish the true value trails provide in addressing a growing health concern for our state.

The impact on jobs and the economy

Trail users benefit local economies in a myriad of ways including spending money on transportation, lodging, entry fees, food and supplies, equipment and other necessities. This type of spending has a ripple effect throughout the economy by increasing the demand for supply chain products and services and increasing spending from employer and employee households who directly benefit from trail-related products and services.

The ECONorthwest study estimates **\$8.2 billion in economic contributions** to Washington state from trails every year. This represents **approximately 1.45% of Washington's 2018 gross domestic product**, which, to put in context, is 11 times larger than commercial logging and 7 times larger than breweries contribute to our economy each year.³

³ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. (2019). Total Gross Domestic Product for Washington (WANGSP). May 31. Retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/WANGSP>.

⁴ Albright & Thompson, 2006; Ball, Bauman, Leslie, & Owen, 2001; Parkkari et al., 2000

⁵ Pratt, M., Macera, C. A., & Wang, G. (2000). Higher direct medical costs associated with physical inactivity. *Physician and Sports Medicine*, 28(10), 63-70.

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015; SAMHSA, 2015a and 2015b

⁷ Bodrova & Leong, 2005; Gray et al., 2015; Rivkin, 1995

Additional benefits of trails

Environmental Impacts of Trails

Although trails themselves do not provide significant environmental benefits, they have a lasting impact by preserving natural spaces from other uses like deforestation, developments for commercial or residential use and protecting ecological systems vital to the health of Washington forests and wild places that make this state such an amazing place to live and work.

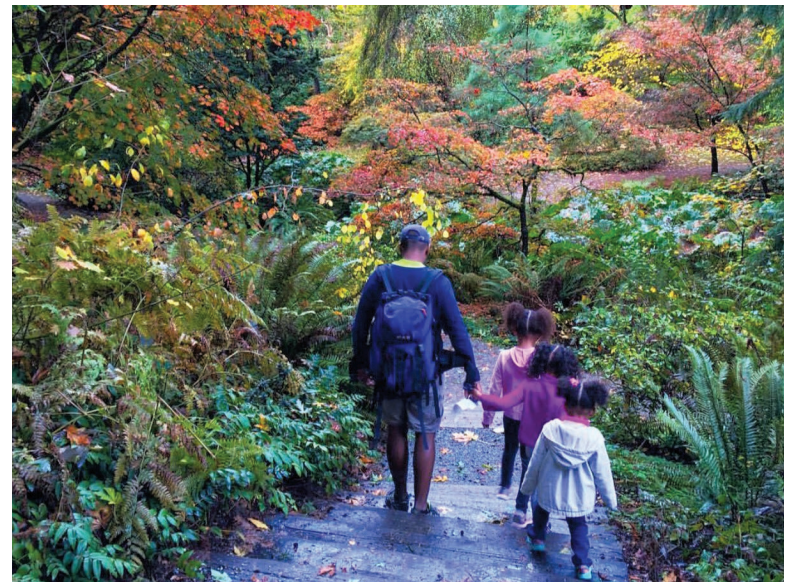
Trails typically provide protected corridors of natural space that are invaluable resources for environmental benefits like carbon sequestration, air filtration and habitats for various plants and animals. Using a conservative valuation model, **the study estimates the 332,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land that is forested, not in a wilderness area, and near a trail provides more than \$5.9 billion in environmental benefits.**

Residential and Business Location Decisions Based on Quality of Life Factors

Although difficult to monetize, trails provide a key factor in improving the quality of life for those living and working nearby. Businesses who are trying to recruit and retain employees in sectors like technology, research and development or other professional services have prioritized quality of life as an important factor in deciding where to locate or expand their operations.⁸

Trails are a way Washington communities set themselves apart in attracting and retaining businesses that have a significant impact on their local economies and expand their tax base.

⁸ Reilly, C.J. and Renski, H. (2008). "Place and Prosperity: Quality of Place as an Economic Driver." *Maine Policy Review*, 17(1),12-25.



Above: Cyclists on the Alki Trail in West Seattle. Photo courtesy People for Bikes.
Below: A family explores Washington Park Arboretum. Photo by Gisselle Pichardo.

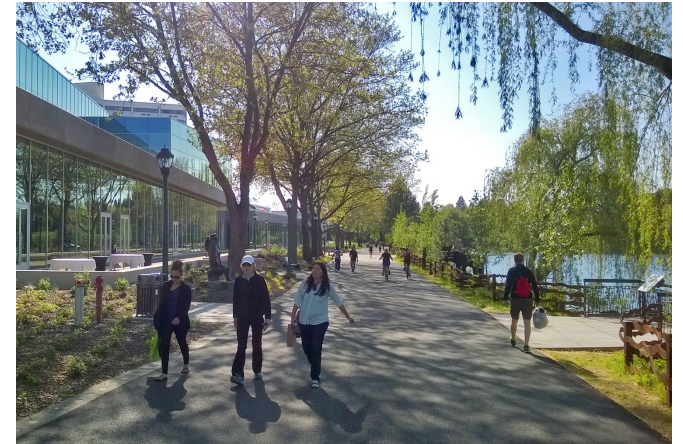
Case Study Highlights: An Economic Tale of Two Trails

The study looked at two different trails to illustrate the economic and health-savings impacts of trails: the Spokane Centennial Trail and the Lake Serene Trail in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The first trail, being a trail that connects an urban center to rural areas, is mostly a residential-use trail and the second a rural, destination trail—both provide an important glimpse into the local economic benefit of a single trail.

The following chart outlines the estimated annual economic value the two different trails provide the local community when the trails are open and well-maintained throughout the year.

Impact Type	Centennial Trail Annual Value	Lake Serene Trail Annual Value
Local Economic Contribution	\$1.7 million	\$834,000
Total Labor Income	\$594,000	\$314,000
Health Savings	\$1.6 million	\$38,000

These studies highlight the importance of every trail and the potential negative economic and health impacts that losing a trail can have on local communities across Washington. For example, there would be **a potential \$834,000 loss in visitors** contributing to the local economy due to the closure of a trail like Lake Serene.



Centennial Trail, Spokane



Lake Serene, Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest

Photos courtesy Wikipedia/Jdubman and Lukasz Grabarski

Policy Recommendations

The following policy recommendations will build on the current success trails have on local Washington communities across the state and expand the economic, health and environmental benefits of trails.

1. Encourage Development of New Trails & Improve Quality of Existing Trails

Build new trails and trailheads in areas where there is high use of other trails or a scarcity of trails. Maintain and improve the quality of trails to improve the experience of the user and therefore be a source of high value and benefits.

2. Develop State-Wide Permitting Requirements

Requirements for building new trails varies across the state. A state-wide permitting process and set of clear trail language definitions would greatly improve the prospect of building new trails.

3. Conduct Comprehensive Planning for Trails

Long-term, state-wide trail planning, similar to what is done for roads, could help address congestion and areas of future population growth to maximize the future benefits of trails.

4. Encourage Development of Trails that Promote Multi-Day Trips

Dollars spent on overnight trips are significantly higher than on day trips. Therefore connecting existing trails and allowing for more camping would increase the economic benefits to local communities.

5. Encourage Visitation by Adding New and Improving Existing Amenities

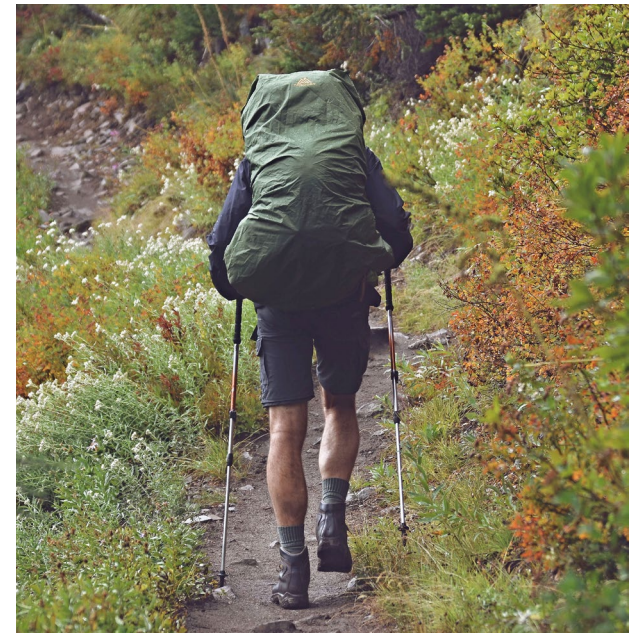
Amenities like maps, bathrooms, ample parking, water fountains and views improve the quality of trails and in turn increase visitation. A plan to address scarcity of amenities is needed.

6. Use Trails as a Health Intervention Strategy

Increased access to trails for populations vulnerable to health issues could have a major impact on overall health and could include public transportation to trails and subsidizing trail fees.

7. Improve Data Collection of Trail Usage and Create Consistency

Participant use and economic benefit analysis is limited by the quantity and quality of data available. Therefore increasing survey samples and improving existing surveys is recommended.



Acknowledgments:

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Adam Domanski, Senior Economist, ECONorthwest

Molly Harper, CEO, Harper Consulting Group

Andrea Imler, Advocacy Director, Washington Trails Association

Laura Marshall, Economist, ECONorthwest

Sara Perrins, College of the Environment, University of Washington

Jenica Nordstrom, Graphic Designer, Washington Trails Association

Economic and Health Benefits of Walking, Hiking and Bicycling on Recreational Trails in Washington State Advisory Committee

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Cascade Bicycle Club

U.S. Forest Service

Washington Governor's Office

Washington State Parks

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments

Other firms, agencies and staff contributed to other research that this analysis relied on.

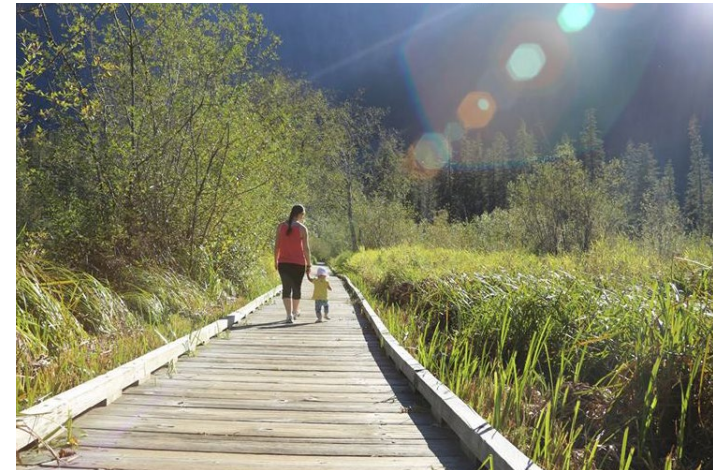
Background:

The funding for this project was passed by the legislature as part of the 2018 supplemental operating budget. The two reports were developed by ECONorthwest and the University of Washington. The economic and health savings data was calculated utilizing a combination of survey, on-site counts, economic models and third-party research.

There have been several studies and surveys that assess the number of people and visits to trails in Washington state each year, but this is one of the first substantial undertakings in understanding the economic, health savings and environmental benefits of trails to date.



Talapus and Olallie Lake Trail. Photo by Rafael Reese.



Big Four Ice Caves. Photo by Luke Radford.

Cover photos courtesy Jason Prater, Amira Ahmad, Tara Weber



RECREATIONAL ASSETS OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE IN WASHINGTON STATE

Study Report

September 30, 2019





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Kaleen Cottingham, director
Wendy Brown, policy director
Adam Cole, natural resource policy specialist
Katie Pruitt, planning and policy analyst
Julia Marshburn, administrative assistant

Red Barn Communications

Brit Kramer, principal
Shelley Dahle, member services

The Otis Group

Larry Otis, project manager

Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance Study Advisory Committee

The Honorable Nancy Lilquist,
Councilwoman, Ellensburg City Council

David Patton, Northwest director
Trust for Public Land

Jon Snyder, recreation policy advisor
Governor's Office

Owen Rowe, governmental and
legislative affairs director
Washington State Parks and Recreation
Commission

Dave Schaub, member
Spokane County Parks and Recreation
Advisory Committee

Peter Schrappen, director of
government affairs
Northwest Maritime Trade Association

Mike Racine, director
Washington SCUBA Alliance

Leah Dobey, Recreation Program manager
Washington Department of Natural
Resources

Brian Adams, director
Skagit County Parks and Recreation
Department

Cynthia Wilkerson, Lands Division manager
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Andrea Imler, advocacy director
Washington Trails Association

Chris Zipperer, physical activity coordinator
Washington Department of Health

Peter Mayer, deputy executive director
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*Cover photograph of Clear Lake near
Eatonville by Tony Sirgedas, courtesy of
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

Washington has an abundance of natural beauty and a rich tradition of providing outdoor recreation. The state is home to diverse landscapes that provide nearly unparalleled opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. This makes Washington a great place to live, play, and do business. In addition, outdoor recreation contributes significantly to state and regional economies, public health, and environmental resiliency.

With so much to gain by investing in outdoor recreation, the Washington State Legislature funded a study in 2018 to identify future recreational needs. It tasked the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) with identifying: 1) recreational assets of statewide significance, 2) where gaps in recreational assets exist, and 3) investment strategies and options for addressing those gaps.

Over the course of the study, RCO consulted more than 80 interest groups, land managers, organizations, and individuals. An advisory committee consisting of local agency directors, state policy leads, and user groups provided guidance throughout the project. In addition, RCO looked at 146 recreational activities and more than 16,000 records of assets that support them.

DEFINING RECREATIONAL ASSETS OF STATEWIDE SIGNIFICANCE

The advisory committee recommended RCO study two types of recreational assets: foundational and exceptional.

Foundational Assets are facilities that support the most popular recreational activities in the state (exceeding 30 percent participation)¹. These facilities were deemed “foundational” to the recreational satisfaction and well-being of Washington’s residents. Walking trails, community parks, and swimming, are examples of activities provided by foundational assets. RCO mapped these assets by activity and then identified spatial gaps and levels of service by community.

¹As identified in the [State of Washington Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report](#), Prepared for RCO by Eastern Washington University, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Exceptional Assets represent the most popular, destination-oriented, and iconic places in the state to recreate. These assets are places of greatest importance to a recreational group. RCO defined these assets through interviews of statewide user and advocacy groups, land managers, and others. These places provide a unique experience or activity (for example, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, and backcountry horseback riding). Due to geographical constraints, exceptional assets may not be available in all areas of the state.

Interactive Maps

The study resulted in three [interactive maps](#) that are a unique resource in Washington. The maps on RCO's Web Site identify existing foundational assets, exceptional assets, and future needs. The maps can be used as a resource to community and project planners.

FINDINGS

Population Growth

As Washington's population is forecast to grow from 7.4 million in 2019 to 9 million in 2040, the State will need to increase investment in outdoor recreation to accommodate these new residents. Investments also should be made with the goal of maintaining residents' relatively high satisfaction with their recreational opportunities (74 percent were satisfied, according to a 2017 study).² Because population growth largely will be driven by people moving to Washington, there is also a need to strengthen programs that support these new residents' appreciation of the state's heritage.

Population growth will put pressure on local parks and recreation agencies to maintain and redevelop existing sites to accommodate increasing use. For example, in urban and urbanizing areas of the state, facilities such as athletic fields need to be upgraded to synthetic, multi-sport surfaces to provide continuous year-round availability for a diversity of sports. Similarly, trail corridors and open space facilities need to be secured to meet future needs.

²[State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report](#), Eastern Washington University, 2017, p47-52

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trails and Backcountry Recreation

- Many statewide and regional trails lack completeness with missing links and underdeveloped segments.
- Overcrowding at backcountry sites and trailheads, and a lack of amenities.
- Missing or inadequate road access.
- Regional gaps in off-road vehicle facilities and lack of statewide, long-distance routes for off-roaders.
- Lack of a cross-state (Cascade Mountain range) mountain bike route.
- Lack of access for hunting.

Water-based Recreation

- Lack of boat launches in mid and south Puget Sound, and moorage in south Puget Sound, San Juan Islands, and areas of the Columbia River.
- Lack of shoreline access for boaters and paddlers.
- Better coordination of water trail (paddling) experiences should be prioritized.

Volunteers and Private Recreation Lands

- Public agencies are not well staffed to maximize the contribution of volunteers and private sector partners.
- Recreationists want more access to private forests and farmland for hunting and other forms of backcountry recreation.
- Recreationists also want more access across private lands to reach land-locked public lands and to access upland amenities from state-owned tidelands.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Preserve existing state funding programs that support the acquisition, development, management, and maintenance of local and state parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Expand facilities at trailheads and backcountry destinations to serve more users and protect natural resources.
- Help local, urban and urbanizing governments maintain and add capacity to existing sites, and invest in more multisport facilities in response to population growth.
- Fill gaps in motorboat moorage, launches, and marinas in locations in Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands, and the Columbia River to better serve marine recreation.
- Fund positions at land manager agencies so they may increase partnerships and contributions from volunteers to support and expand opportunities.
- Establish a statewide trails system advisory committee to better coordinate regional and long-distance trail programs and fully fund a cross-state trail route.
- Create incentives and fund programs that expand recreational access on and through private lands.
- Fund targeted investments in backcountry road maintenance and reconstruction to preserve and expand opportunities.
- Support sports leagues that serve low-income youth to increase participation, and reduce barriers to elite sport camps to better develop talent.
- Pilot an outdoor recreation council in one or more regions of the state to create efficiencies in providing parks and recreation services with the goal of expanding opportunities.
- Improve map applications built as part of this study to best identify return on investment for programs and authorities.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LINKING TO THE STATEWIDE PLAN

This study addresses existing and future needs of Washingtonians and helps fulfil the goals of the [*Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*](#).³ It is intended to be a resource for policy-makers at all levels of government when they plan and implement recreation and conservation initiatives.

The scope of the study supports the goals of the [*Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*](#) in the following ways:

- Sustain and grow the legacy of parks, trails, and conservation lands.
 - Renovate facilities to meet today's recreation needs.
 - Pursue regional solutions to recreation and conservation.
 - Maintain residents' level of satisfaction in recreation.
- Position recreation and conservation as a vital public service
 - Promote the outdoor recreation economy and other benefits.
- Improve equity.
 - Locate and build recreation facilities for underserved populations.⁴
 - Connect more people to popular activities.
 - Provide experiences where people go the most.
 - Enhance community health and safety.
- Get youth outside.
 - Provide a variety of activities for youth.

³[*Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*](#), Recreation and Conservation Office, Washington State, 2018

⁴Underserved populations are often referred to as "at-risk populations."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Build and renovate athletic facilities.
- Plan for culturally relevant parks and trails to meet changing demographics.
 - Create new and diverse opportunities.
 - Accommodate the active senior population

ABOUT RCO

RCO is a state agency that manages grant programs to create outdoor recreation opportunities, conserve wildlife habitat and working farms and forests, and help return salmon from near extinction. RCO also serves as a central planning organization for the recreational and conservation needs of the state and a repository of information for all levels of government and the public.



The first task of the study was to define recreational assets of statewide significance. To be most inclusive, RCO established two definitions: Foundational Assets and Exceptional Assets.

FOUNDATIONAL ASSETS

These are facilities that support the most popular forms of recreation in the state as identified in the State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report.⁵ Any facility that supports the top 12 categories (at least 30 percent of residents participate) are deemed “foundational” to the recreational satisfaction and well-being of the state’s residents. These assets are in an [interactive map](#) on the RCO Web site. Below are the foundational activities and the facilities associated with them:

Foundational Activities	Facilities
Biking and mountain biking	Trails and pathways separated from a roadway, and bike parks (parks or areas inside a park designed for biking). Mountain biking facilities are trails on state, federal, and some local government recreation lands where mountain biking is allowed.
Boating	Any public boat launch or dock designated for motorized or sailboat use, or marina, including private marinas
Camping	Any public campground
Fishing	Any water access point where fishing is allowed. Can be a bank, pier, dock, or similar surface.
Hiking	Any trail on state, federal, and some local government recreation land
Leisure activities (in a park)	Any local or state park
Nature activities	Any open space or natural area with recreational access, such as a trail or path
Paddling	Any public water access facility that could safely and efficiently accommodate launching a kayak, canoe, stand-up paddleboard, or similar vessel.

⁵State of Washington 2017 Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report, 2017, Washington Recreation and Conservation Office and Eastern Washington University, p57-62

MAP ANALYSIS

Foundational Activities	Facilities
Playing sports	Any park or similar facility with a sport court or playfield
Swimming	Public or semi-public, ⁶ outdoor or indoor pool or freshwater beach as well as wading pools and spray pads
Walking	Trails and pathways separated from a roadway, parks, and open space including public school grounds where walking likely takes place.
Winter recreation	Any facility used for alpine or cross-country ski, snowshoe, snowmobile, or similar activity.

Staff assessed access to foundational sites by establishing limits on a reasonable distance a person would walk or drive to get there, which varied by asset type. RCO then performed three map analyses for these assets. The three maps below were created to show where gaps may exist.

Gap Analysis Map

This simple gap analysis covered communities with 1,000 or more residents and all federally recognized tribal communities. The analysis shows where citizens have access to foundational assets and where they do not. The maps illustrate where lack of services may exist but do not account for the condition of the assets or how many people are served. For example, when evaluating hiking opportunities, staff identified very few gaps in the entire state, meaning that people in larger communities have access to at least one hiking point. That fact might indicate that there are enough places to go hiking but it fails to address the level of service, such as how crowded the trails are, if parking is adequate, and whether the trails are maintained adequately.

Populated Areas Service Levels Map

This map was created to provide more context than the gap analysis map described above. It looks at communities of 5,000 residents or more⁷ with one or more assets and depicts a service level analysis that consists of totaling assets divided by the population of the community. This value is then shown as a user ratio in the maps and shows the

⁶Includes facilities like YMCAs and Boys and Girls Clubs, not private swim clubs.

⁷Only communities in counties that plan under the state Growth Management Act were included in the analysis to allow unincorporated urban growth areas in counties and urban growth areas associated with cities and towns to be included.

MAP ANALYSIS

level of service a category of assets provides in a community. This ratio represents a relative measure of access based on how many people likely will be using a limited (or plentiful) amount of assets in a locale.

County Service Levels Map

This map is similar to the populated areas map but information is studied by county. Through this analysis, each county has a user ratio by activity, which allows comparison between counties.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

These assets are those places of greatest importance to user groups. These assets were identified by their popularity, exceptional and iconic nature, and status as a destination site.

Methodology

These sites were identified through more than 80 interviews and surveys with statewide or regional user groups, land managers, and other organizations and individuals that represent specific recreationists or experiences. Staff asked them what their significant assets were, where gaps existed, challenges, and future needs. Staff distilled the information into 25 Asset and Activity Stakeholder Reports (Appendix A) and made recommendations therein.



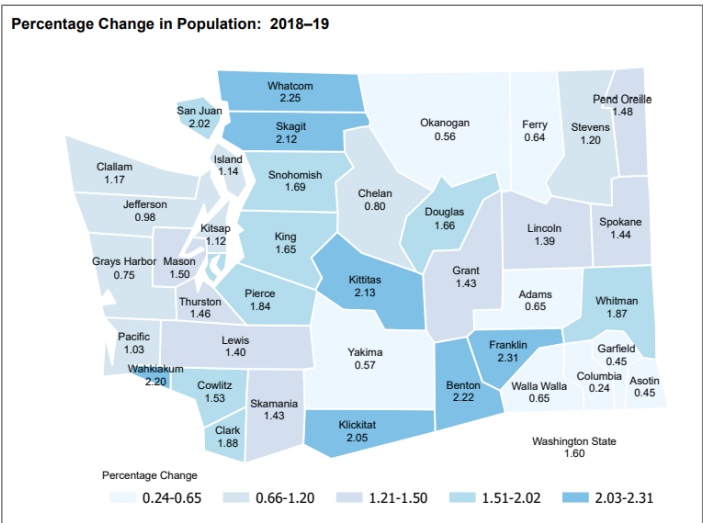
POPULATION AND SATISFACTION

Population Change in Washington State

Washington’s population is expected to continue increasing from 7.4 million residents in 2019 to more than 9 million by 2040. The Washington Office of Financial Management⁸ forecast for 2040 includes the following:

- 1.9 million children (0-17 years old)
- 5.3 million people of working age (18-64 years old)
- 2 million elderly (65 years old and older)
- Population growth will be attributed mostly to people moving here.
- The elderly population is increasing dramatically; 1 in 5 Washingtonians will be 65 years or older by 2028.
- In 2040, the state will have 74 dependents for every 100 people of working age.

The map to the right shows that as a percent of growth, many counties⁹ in 2019 grew faster



⁸Office of Financial Management (OFM) Population Forecast 2010-2040, OFM Forecasting and Research Division, State of Washington, 2019

⁹Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Skagit, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties

FINDINGS

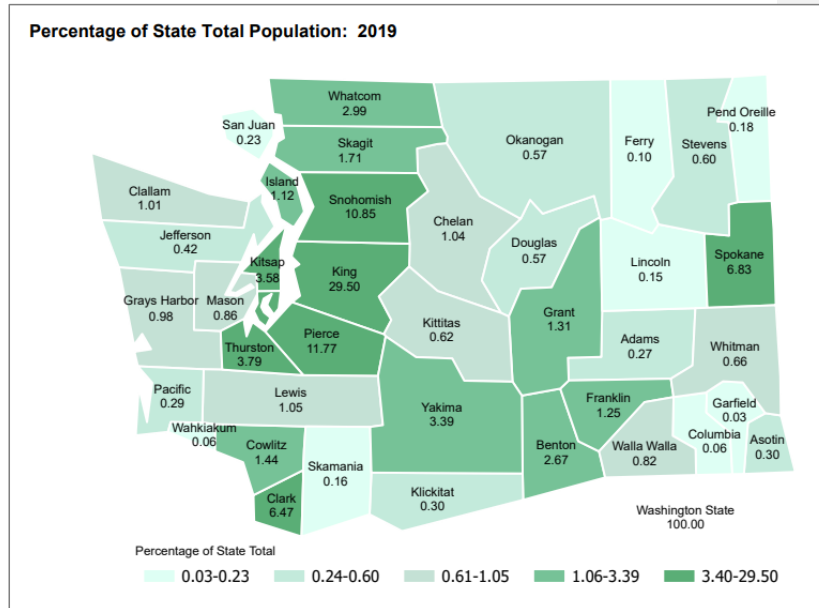
than the most populated counties¹⁰.

The map to the right shows the counties with the highest percent of total state population.

Based on this information, parks and recreation facility investment should be prioritized for

the most populous and fastest growing counties because a growing and changing demographic will result in changes in activity preferences and demand for new facilities. Although it is important to think about the recommendations of this study in the context of expected population change, investments also should be prioritized in those counties that are destinations for recreationists living elsewhere. These are Ferry, Garfield, Jefferson, Kittitas, Okanogan, Pacific, and Skamania Counties.¹¹

These findings based on population should be studied further after additional functionality is built into the map applications produced for this study (see Recommendations section) and the next statewide participation survey is conducted in 2022.



¹⁰Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, and Thurston Counties

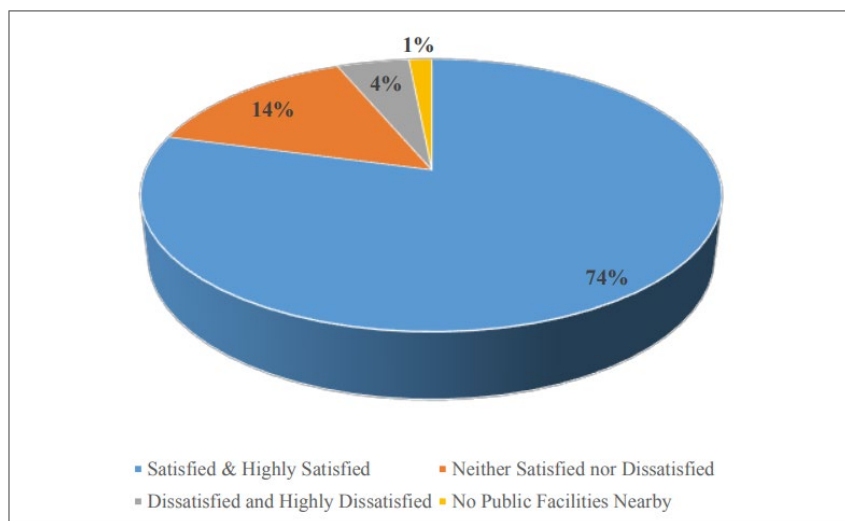
¹¹ Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State, Earth Economics, 2015, p16-19.

FINDINGS

Satisfaction

As the chart below shows, residents overall are satisfied with their recreational opportunities. Investments should be prioritized to maintain this relatively high satisfaction and raise satisfaction for those activities that need improvement.

Overall Recreational Satisfaction of Washington Residents in 2017.¹²

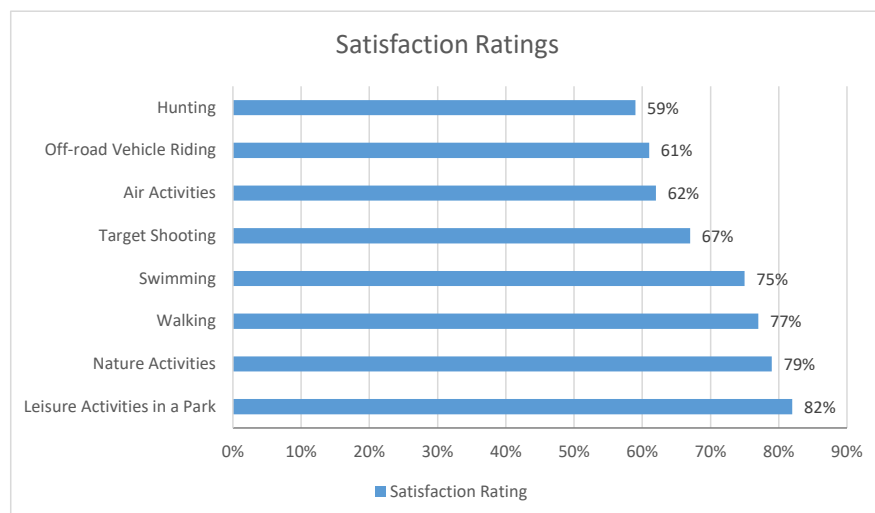


The four most popular activities (leisure and nature activities, walking, and swimming) all had relatively high satisfaction ratings (combination of “Satisfied” and “Highly Satisfied”).¹³

¹²[State of Washington Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report](#), Prepared for RCO by Eastern Washington University, 2017, p 47.

¹³[State of Washington Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Demand Report](#), Prepared for RCO by Eastern Washington University, 2017, p 47–52, and p57-62.

FINDINGS



SUMMARY

With consistent population growth projected for the next 20 years, use of, and competition for, assets will grow. While many assets may be able to accommodate increased demand, many will not. To maintain high satisfaction and improve it where needed, more investment is recommended. All levels of government should invest in developing new facilities, renovating areas to accommodate expanding and changing uses, and maintaining sites to optimize their use. In addition, with the increase in residents coming primarily from outside the state, interviews with land managers and stakeholders show that efforts also should be made to support and expand heritage sites, wildlife viewing, and environmental and historical interpretation programs to educate and inform these new residents on Washington's history.



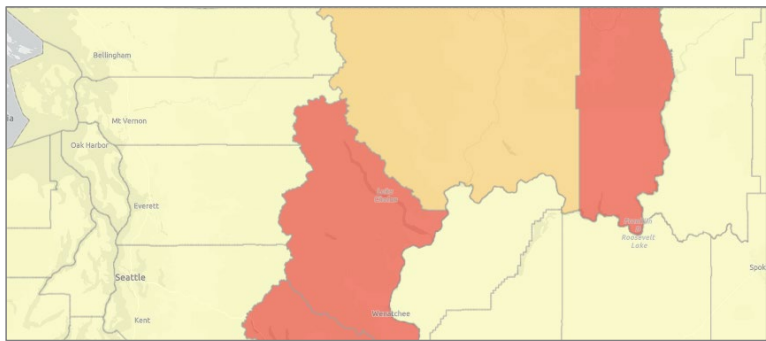
SUMMARY

Staff created a map of foundational recreation assets across the state, which is a new dataset and resource. The limited scope of this study allowed only a high-level look at the spatial data to identify where recreational facilities exist and where they do not. Staff also examined the amount of service provided by an individual facility and type of facility. Staff would encourage more investment in this work to better identify spatial, service level, and socio-economic-demographic needs. Staff also recommends establishing service level thresholds by recreational activity to better identify needs and evaluate a return on investment.

COUNTY SERVICE LEVELS MAP

The County Service Levels Map summarizes recreation availability by county. This map gives the best general picture of the assets and level of service and illustrates which counties have the most assets, relative to their population. What this map fails to capture is the number of out-of-county residents who use the asset. Large numbers of tourists can greatly increase the crowding of those assets and decrease the level of service.

Similar to the Populated Areas Service Map, this map contains no level of service standard against which to measure. For example, in the image below for northern Washington, the yellow counties have a lower mountain bike user ratio than the orange county (Okanogan). The red counties (Chelan and Ferry) have the highest user ratio.



Mountain Bike User Ratio Differences in Northern Washington Counties. Yellow has lowest user ratio, orange (Okanogan County) has higher, and the red counties (Chelan and Ferry) have the highest user ratios for mountain bike recreationists.

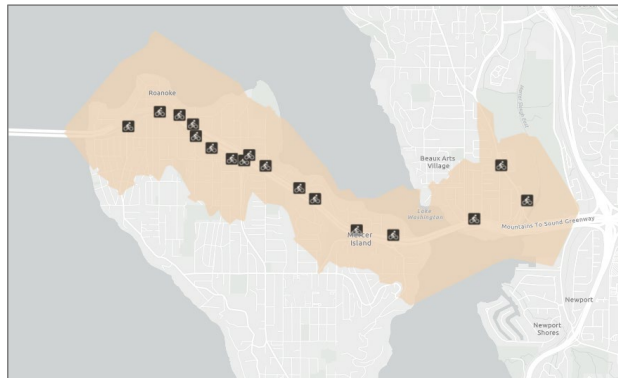
FOUNDATIONAL ASSETS

GAP ANALYSIS MAP

The Gap Analysis Map shows where there is service in the state and where there is not by asset type. The analysis shows that most communities have service by most of the foundational assets, but there are noteworthy gaps. Details for each asset are summarized below.

Biking

Most communities lacked biking facilities. Communities with these assets tended to be associated with major transportation routes and retired railroad lines (rails to trails) running through them. Moreover, larger communities (a combination of space and population) tended to exhibit greater access to biking facilities than smaller communities.



Northern Mercer Island area. Access points for biking are indicated by a biking icon and their corresponding service areas are in orange shading. People outside the orange areas may have less access to these biking assets.

Boating and Sailing

Nearly all the communities in the map show access for boating. However, there are notable exceptions in many small eastern Washington communities and the communities immediately next to north Seattle. The availability of water in western Washington likely explains better boating access there. Similar to sports fields, the capacity and individual service provided at each facility is likely more of a determinant of access than the presence of any boating access site.

Camping

The map shows service coverage for nearly all of the study communities. Although the map suggests that there is adequate camping for the state's recreationists, staff are not confident in this conclusion. The study cannot distinguish between the type of camping

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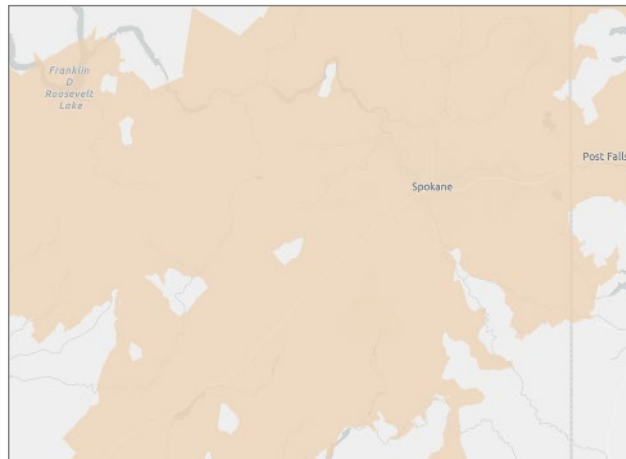
(recreational vehicle, bike, car, tent, yurt, etc.) or the number of sites. Upgrading the maps to allow for land managers and others to populate these data fields would improve the analysis.

Fishing

Similar to boating and sailing, there appears to be greater access to fishing opportunities in western Washington likely due to the abundance of lakes, rivers, Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. There are some notable gaps in service in the Cascade Mountain foothill communities in King County and in many small eastern Washington communities.

Hiking

Hiking is the foundational asset with the fewest gaps. Similar to mountain bike trails, hiking trails are very diffuse throughout the state and located along major transportation routes. Therefore, the vast majority of the state's populated areas have access to hiking facilities. A notable exception is northwest and southwest Seattle because these areas exceed the drive time measure (of 30 minutes) to the closest hiking opportunity, which is the Cougar Mountain Park trailhead near Newcastle and Issaquah.



Greater Spokane and west Interstate 90 area. Service areas for hiking are in orange shading.

Leisure Activities (in a Park)

A park is defined as any park or similar open space, such as a public school, with grounds suitable for casual recreation. The opportunity measure is a 10-minute walk from a home. Similar to walking opportunities, which use the same measure, nearly all

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communities have gaps and these are more likely in the industrial areas and their peripheries.

Nature Activities

Nature activities are defined as any natural area or “nature park” with some form of public access. It also includes natural areas such as beaches and other water-access points. The measure of opportunity is a 10-minute walk from any home. The map shows that communities built along water have the most opportunity for nature activities because any water-access site or beach was included in the definition of a natural park. Additionally, the largest and most populated communities of the state appear to have less opportunity than other areas, although many very small communities also had little or no opportunity. It appears there is room for improvement in providing natural areas in large to midsize communities. If water-access sites were not included in the definition of nature activities, the gaps would be much larger in most communities.

Mountain Biking

Mountain bike trails are very diffuse throughout the state in part because, similar to hiking, mountain bike facilities appear along all major transportation routes in populated areas. Although there are some noteworthy mountain bike parks in urban areas, highways provide quick access to backcountry recreation areas where most mountain bike facilities exist. Therefore, the majority of the state’s populated areas have access to mountain bike facilities.

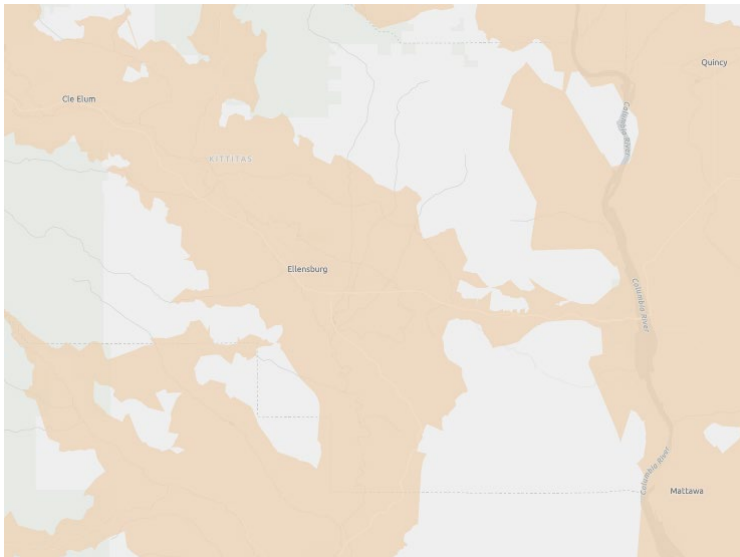


Greater Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound area. Service areas for mountain biking are shaded in orange.

Paddling

The map shows that nearly all of the communities have adequate access for paddling. This is primarily due to fact that most communities in Washington developed along marine waters, lakes, and rivers.

FOUNDATIONAL ASSETS



FOUNDATIONAL ASSETS

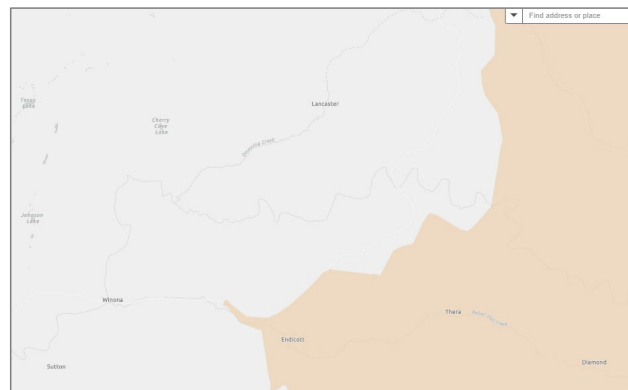
Greater Ellensburg area. Service areas for paddling are shaded in orange.

Playing Sports (Sports Fields, Sports Complexes)

A sports field is defined as any local park or school facility with a playfield. The opportunity measure is a 10-minute walk from any home. A sport complex was defined as any facility with three or more playing fields and a large parking area. The map shows service coverage for nearly all of the study communities. Although the map suggests that there is adequate sports fields and complexes for the state's recreationists, staff are not confident in this conclusion. Because sports fields and complexes are typically sport-centric, and the quality of fields is a high priority for recreationists, these factors would need additional analysis. Upgrading the maps to allow land managers and others to populate these data fields would improve the analysis.

Swimming

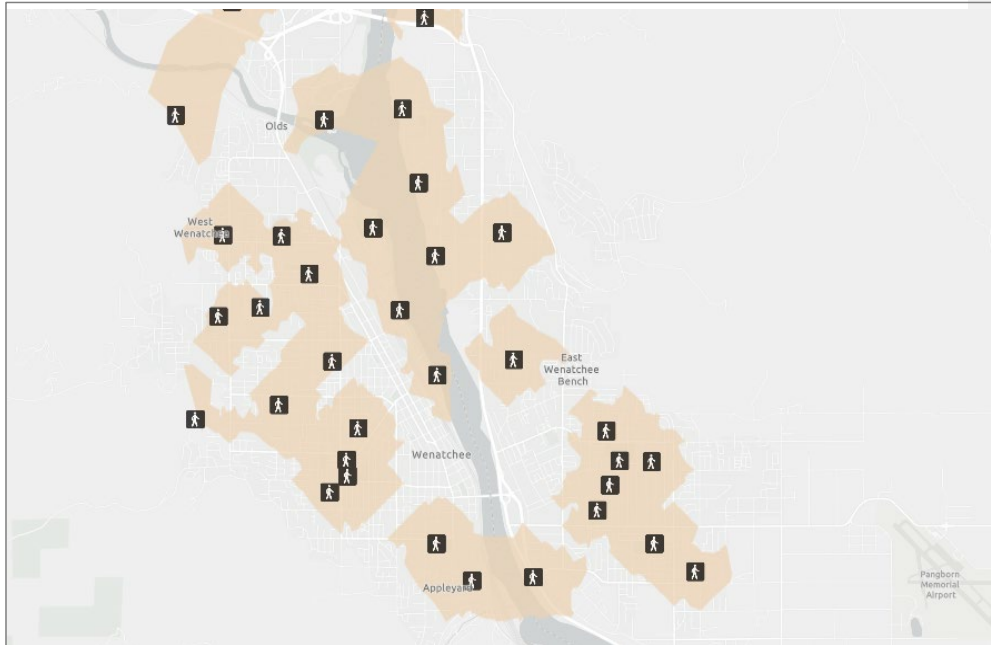
Gaps in swimming opportunities are very hard to find in medium to large communities; however, some gaps exist in smaller communities. For swimming pools, there are notable gaps in smaller eastern Washington communities.



Western Whitman County area. Service areas for swimming pools are in orange shading.

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Walking



Wenatchee and East Wenatchee area. Access points for walking are indicated by a walking icon and their corresponding service areas are in orange shading. People outside the tan areas may have less access to these walking assets.

All large cities and most communities analyzed have gaps in walking assets. For the most part, walking opportunities are in the core of residential areas rather than on the periphery or in the business and industrial areas of a community.

Winter Recreation

There are notable gaps in the state for nonmotorized, winter trail recreation. These areas include communities along marine waters, with the exception of King, Pierce, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties where residents have easier access to the Cascade Mountain range. Other notable winter recreation gaps are in the Walla Walla and Tri-Cities areas.

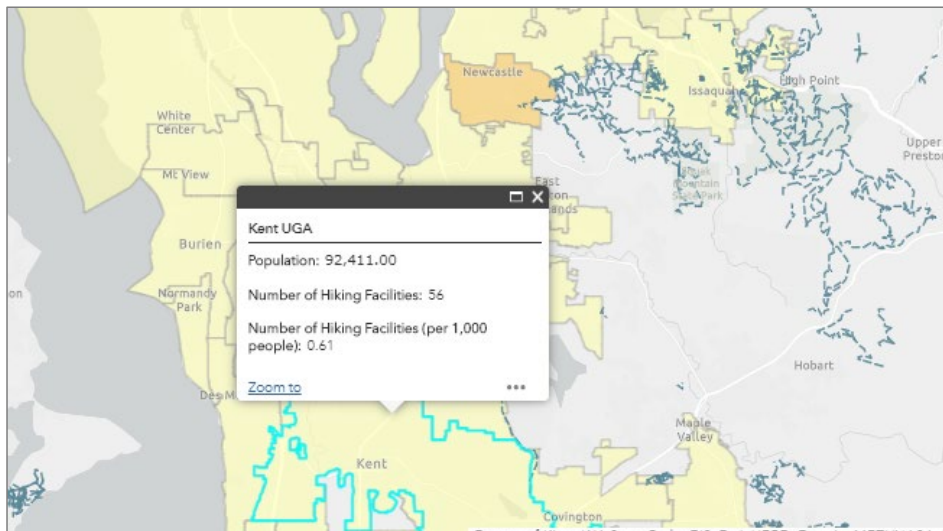
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For motorized winter recreation and alpine skiing, notable gaps in service are in island communities, communities near the coast in north Puget Sound, and the Walla Walla and Tri-Cities areas.

POPULATED AREAS SERVICE LEVELS MAP

This map depicts a level of service analysis for a community by looking at the community's population and assets.¹⁴ A community's "user ratio" was calculated by tallying the number of recreational units by activity per 1,000 residents. For each recreational activity and its associated foundational assets, staff noted variation in the level of service. To determine if the variation represented sufficient or insufficient access to recreational activities will require additional analysis outside the scope of this study.

The map below is an example of the "user ratio" for Kent described here as "Number of Hiking Facilities (per 1,000 people)." By these definitions and measures, Kent residents have access to .61 hiking facilities for every 1,000 residents.



Hiking User Ratio for Kent

¹⁴Recreation units in the community were included in this analysis as well as those available assets outside the community but within the activity opportunity measure (drive/walk time).

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The multitude of analysis that can be drawn from this map is large given the number of communities and recreational activities included. This information may be useful to policy-makers and planners. To make greater use of this information at the state level, additional investment in the capability of the map is needed and a measure of sufficiency needs to be established to compare communities and do more detailed analysis of the reasons why similar communities may have different user ratios, for example.



Exceptional assets are recreational opportunities that are of high value to a set of recreationists. These assets can accommodate a lot of use or are destination sites. The study asked recreation user groups and land managers what their exceptional assets are, where there are gaps, what are some of the challenges at these recreation sites (and potential sites), what are future needs, and how these issues should be addressed. Below are summaries for the most salient points made by recreation user groups and land managers.

Firearms and Archery Recreation

Significant assets for firearms and archery ranges exist in all regions of the state. For those activities that traditionally rely on private outdoor shooting ranges, or shooting on public lands, the following findings for exceptional assets were identified:

- **Club revenues are not sustainable.** Many nonprofit organizations say their member dues and public fees do not keep pace with capital needs.
- **Conflicts with new development.** Many firearm and archery ranges in the state were established when surrounding areas were rural or sparsely developed. As development has encroached on a range, the number of complaints about noise and stray bullets has skyrocketed. Also, as zoning classifications have changed from open or agriculture lands to residential lands, ranges operate under conditional use regulations, which often limit renovations or expansions of facilities.
- **Desire for more shooting on public lands.** More and more shooters are recreating on public lands, which presents safety, user conflict, and pollution (solid waste and water contamination) challenges. These challenges would be best served by a statewide, coordinated approach for hosting and developing an adequate supply of shooting opportunities on public lands.
- **Shooting on private lands.** Similar to many other forms of recreation, additional opportunities would be available if shooters could access private lands, such as timberlands, for shooting.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Trails and Backcountry Recreation Activities

The following findings are made for gaps in significant assets for trail activities, such as hiking, climbing, mountaineering, mountain biking, horseback riding, off-road vehicle riding, hunting, and participating in nature activities:

- **Lack of statewide coordination of trails activities.** Trail recreationists identify a lack of statewide coordination of trail opportunities. Agencies have authority and budget to provide facilities; however, trail users desire facilities that transcend the responsibility of any one jurisdiction. Trail users desire more coordination with the goal to have agencies jointly manage the resources and prioritize connections between trails and trail networks. Where multiple jurisdictions manage different segments of the same trail, each may have different management priorities, standards, and funding. This often results in trails that have underdeveloped segments or too few access points. A coordinating body could help to set priorities and share information without such geographic limitations.
- **Lack of connectivity and completeness of trails and trail plans.** There are significant gaps in statewide and regional trails, incomplete and unfunded plans for long distance trails, and no connections between regional trails and between urban and backcountry trails.
- **Lack of off-road vehicle and mountain bike statewide trail routes.** Substantial work remains to open cross-state routes in the Cascade Mountain range for off-road vehicles and mountain bikes.
- **Gaps in off-road vehicle recreation.** There are gaps for off-road vehicle trails in the Yakima Valley and Tri-Cities, and in general along the Interstate 5 corridor.
- **Lack of trails.** The increasing popularity of trail activities has created crowded conditions at the most popular trailheads and backcountry destinations. There is a need for more trails and more capacity at existing sites. Overcrowding leads to the following impacts:
- **Backlogged trail maintenance.** Most state and federal land manager agencies say they have a backlog of annual maintenance. The more trails and other backcountry sites are used, the greater the need for maintenance. When trails are

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not maintained, resource damage occurs and users are less satisfied with the experience. At times, unmaintained trails become “lost” and inventory is lost.

- **Overcrowding.** Overcrowding at sites leads to users being turned away, causing users to recreate less or not at all. This likely has the greatest negative impact on first-time or beginner users. Relatedly, popular trail and backcountry destinations are often denuded, compacted, eroded, and polluted. Wildlife is displaced. These impacts harm the aesthetic beauty and result in the loss of a wilderness experience.
- **Lack of parking.** When users find parking lots full, they often park in unauthorized areas, damaging plants, creating safety issues, and causing social problems with neighbors and other users.
- **Unmaintained roads.** The lack of resources to maintain forest roads or rebuild washed out backcountry roads limits the ability for recreationists to get to their desired sites or trailheads. Rough or hazardous road conditions and complete closures reduces opportunity. More investments should be put towards road maintenance.
- **Road closures** may represent recreational opportunities. Land managers often close roads to highway vehicles due to lack of funds to maintain them. Although this in itself may reduce access to recreational areas by highway vehicle, these closed roads may be converted easily to trail uses for off-road vehicles, bikers, hikers, and equestrians.
- **Lack of coordination.** Government agencies manage their own assets, each with their own authorities, mission, revenue, and spending priorities. While these agencies often coordinate efforts to provide an adequate supply of recreational opportunities, in many cases they lack the authority and capacity to do so in a formal and authoritative approach in consultation with user groups and policy-makers. Without a conceptual process and resources to support it, coordination cannot be maximized for the benefit of recreationists and potential efficiencies among land managers may go unrealized.
- **Leveraging volunteers.** User groups say they have more capacity to develop and maintain sites relying on volunteer labor. They cite the lack of agency staff and expertise to recruit and manage volunteers, as well as a need for training and

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policy considerations that are barriers to getting more work done with volunteers.

- **Limits to recreation planning and coordination.** Planning and coordination for recreation resources that transcend agency boundaries, such as trails and roads, can be challenging for land managers with multiple, and oftentimes contradictory, missions and management responsibilities. Resources to support systemic planning and coordination are often inadequate for the task. Without adequate funding for the planning and coordination, recreational opportunity may decline.
- **Lack of natural area preservation and hunting access.** For nature seekers, including hunters, protecting habitat is very important. There is a need to provide more natural areas in the Interstate 5 corridor and around urbanizing areas. There also is a statewide need for improved access to quality hunting lands, and more availability to hunt on private lands.
- **Overcrowding at climbing and mountaineering sites.** Impacts from overcrowding at popular rock climbing and alpine areas results in reduced quality of experience and impacts to the nearby natural environment. One reason for the natural resource destruction is the lack of facilities, such as restrooms and developed camping areas.

Parks and Recreation Services

For activities that traditionally rely on local and state parks departments to provide desired facilities, the following findings are gaps in significant assets:

- **Resources not keeping pace with demand.** Local and state parks and recreation providers want to meet the needs of a growing recreating public. Existing facilities need to be updated for new activities and increasing use. New facilities are needed to address growth. For example, there is increased need for multipurpose artificial play surfaces and lighted playfields to increase capacity for sports. Similarly, assistance is needed for sports leagues in low-income or underserved communities who cannot afford the cost to use prime fields. Also, while there is a need to buy land to keep pace with development, many government agencies cannot afford the market rate for the land.

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- **Low-income communities have less access.**¹⁵ Low-income families participate less in sports and have reduced access to elite sports camps. Also, these families have less access to outdoor spaces and nature experiences.

Water Based Activities

For on-water activities such as motorboating, swimming, paddling, and fishing, the following findings are gaps in exceptional assets:

- **More boating and sailing infrastructure is needed.** The specific needs identified are noted below.
 - User groups, some land managers, and other stakeholders identified the need for more boat launch and moorage amenities for transient boaters in specific areas. The feasibility of providing more launch or moorage amenities for transient boaters should be evaluated for the following areas:
 - Manchester (Kitsap County)
 - Port Gamble (Kitsap County)
 - Point No Point (Kitsap County)
 - Cama Beach Historical State Park (Island County)
 - San Juan Islands: Blake Island, Blind Bay at Shaw Island, Cyprus Island, Hunter Bay at Lopez Island, Orcas Island. (Consider installing stern ties as additional moorage)
 - Seattle to Olympia saltwater shoreline (for launch ramps)
 - Steilacoom
 - McNeil Island
 - Pateros, on the Columbia River

¹⁵[State of Plan Seattle–King County, Analysis and Recommendations, Aspen Institute, 2019.](#)

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- North shore of Columbia River in the upper Columbia Plateau.
- **Shore to land access restrictions prohibit sufficient access.** Although the majority of navigable waters are public, private ownership of uplands is a barrier for boaters and paddlers to get to and from the water when public access is not available. Encouraging and incentivizing private landowners to grant access easements across their lands is a cost-effective way to add access to and from the water.
- **Lack of systemic reservation system for public transient moorage.** Some users desire a reservation system for public transient moorage facilities to better plan and have greater confidence in their overnight boating trips.
- **Reduced fishing opportunities.** Users report a reduction in desirable fish stocks and length of seasons and catch limits.
- **Lack of coordination for paddle sports facilities.** Water trails offer long distance and overnight adventures. However, desired sites often are managed by different providers who do not have the means and authorities to coordinate efforts. Coordination of site standards, permitting, uniform signs, regulations, and volunteers should be developed.
- **Lack of long-term leases needed.** Marina operators and others desire longer term leases of state-owned aquatic lands than current authorities allow. Loans are more readily available for developing or upgrading facilities with longer lease terms. Users like the assurance that a desired site will continue into the long-term future.
- **Preserving public access sites in the face of intense development.** For all water-dependent recreationists, there is a desire to buy and develop shoreline sites before they are developed for other purposes. Shoreline development for recreation should keep pace with population growth and demand for shoreline and water-based recreation. Where expanding access is not possible, investments at existing sites such as adding parking, docks and piers, and hand-launch sites may add capacity for multiple types of user.

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Winter Recreation

for activities that traditionally rely on snow, the following findings are gaps in exceptional assets:

- **Lack of parking and transportation.** The growth in winter recreation has resulted in crowded and congested parking at trailheads and other locations. In addition, plowing at trailheads and on highways and access roads does not always meet the demands, which limits recreational opportunities.
- **Reduced suitability due to climate change impacts.** Lastly, a warming climate may mean sites need to be moved to higher elevations. As seasons shorten, there may be an increasing need for parking and other visitor services to accommodate more use in shorter seasons.



INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

The study proviso directed RCO to identify investment strategies and options for addressing gaps in recreational assets of statewide significance. The recommendations below call for investments for filling gaps. Recommendations further in the report relate to programmatic or policy considerations.

- **Preserve funding for recreation in any change to a road usage charge.** As the state considers transitioning away from the state gas tax, continue funding essential maintenance, development, renovation, education, and enforcement of outdoor recreation services that currently rely on gas tax revenue. Currently, gas taxes are the main, or only, source of funding supporting the following recreation:
 - Hiking, backpacking, mountaineering, and climbing
 - Camping
 - Mountain biking and equestrian trail activities
 - Riding off-road vehicles
 - Snowmobiles and nonmotorized winter trail recreation
 - Developing and renovating boat launches and marinas
 - Paddling sports
- **Continue to fund state and local parks and recreation facilities and programs.** Continue to fund the following grant programs, which leverage local investments:
 - [Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant program.](#)
 - [Boating Facilities Program](#)
 - [No Child Left Inside grant program](#)
 - [Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program](#)

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- [Youth Athletic Facilities grant program](#)
- **Fill gaps in motorboating and sailing opportunities.** Fund feasibility assessments to look at providing more launch or moorage amenities for transient boaters in areas where they are limited, at capacity during peak seasons, or don't exist. Following are examples of these areas:
 - Manchester (Kitsap County)
 - Port Gamble (Kitsap County)
 - Point No Point (Kitsap County)
 - Cama Beach Historical State Park (Island County)
 - San Juan Islands: Blake Island, Blind Bay at Shaw Island, Cyprus Island, Hunter Bay at Lopez Island, Orcas Island.
 - Seattle to Olympia saltwater shoreline (for launch ramps)
 - Steilacoom
 - Pateros at the Columbia River
 - North shore of the Columbia River in the upper Columbia Plateau
- McNeil Island
- **Help local governments preserve, redevelop and add athletic fields.** New authorities or funding programs are needed to allow new or expanded taxing authorities that address deferred maintenance and development of high capacity sports fields. As the population concentrates in cities, there is a need to maintain and renovate local park facilities as well as develop multifunction, artificial sports fields that provide greater capacity and flexibility.
- **Address development needs at trailheads.** Fund needed improvements to high-use trailheads across the state. Nearly all the trail and backcountry recreation stakeholders contacted in this study made some recommendations for systemic improvements to trailheads. These include expanding parking to accommodate increasing use, especially in areas where multiple user groups use

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the same facilities; expanding camping opportunities at trailheads; expanding capacity for large events, and adding amenities such as more equestrian and off-road vehicle trailer parking. Relatedly, fund any planned expanded camping opportunities at State Parks.

- **Support salmon and orca recovery.** To support the sport fishing community, there is a need to make sure healthy and sustainable runs are available for sport fishing. Therefore, sport fishers recommend continue funding to recover salmon and other sportfish with state and federal funds as able
- **Support tourism through historical and cultural asset preservation and interpretation.** Continue funding state programs that preserve Washington's historical and cultural destinations, interpretation, and wildlife viewing. These include programs that support the state's recreation economy such as lighthouses, wildlife viewpoints, forts, barns, cemeteries, tribal cultural centers, and maritime sites. The following programs or sites in particular should be supported:
 - Heritage Barns (Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation)
 - Historic Courthouses (Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation)
 - Ebey's Reserve Historic Properties (Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation)
 - Historic Cemeteries (Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation)
 - Heritage Capital Grant Program (Washington State Historical Society)
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Watchable Wildlife
 - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's interpretation, and folk and traditional arts.
- **Invest in clean water.** Continue to authorize [pump-out facilities grants in Puget Sound](#) to support a No Discharge Zone designation.

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- **Build and sustain volunteer partnerships.**¹⁶ Fund a new program to add capacity in land management agencies to support more partnerships and volunteers. This new program would help maintain, manage, and develop new assets through the contributions of stakeholders and volunteers. This new program would be directed towards volunteer program development, recruitment, coordination, and training; project development, leadership, and recognition; and working with agencies to formalize user-built facilities. This will increase the capacity of land managers to provide recreation and help prioritize investments.
- **Fund backcountry road maintenance and use.**¹⁷ Fund targeted investments in backcountry road management, maintenance, and redevelopment that maximize access to popular recreational facilities. Also prioritize nonhighway vehicle and trail activities on roads that may be closed to highway vehicles. More funding in this area will recapture access to popular destinations and convert closed roads to trail-based recreational opportunities and may help to fill gaps in ORV opportunities in the I5 corridor and near the Tri-Cities..
- **Fund a target shooting plan.** Fund a statewide plan for target shooting on public lands that will improve coordination among land managers as well as support and expand opportunities. Continue funding for firearms and archery recreation in the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation grant program.
- **Support sports leagues that serve low-income youth.**¹⁸ Low family income is a barrier to youth involvement in organized sports and participation in elite sports camps.¹⁹ Develop a pilot grant program that reduces barriers to participation.
- **Add capacity for paddling and fishing to existing water access areas.** To add capacity for nonmotorized uses at existing water access points and reduce

¹⁶Supported by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p24-25

¹⁷Supported by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p27

¹⁸Supported by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p12

¹⁹[State of Play Seattle-King County, Analysis and Recommendations, Aspen Institute, 2019](#)

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conflict with motorboats, fund programs that increase parking and add amenities such as hand-launch boat launch areas and fishing piers.

- **Improve transportation options to outdoor recreation areas.**²⁰ Fund regional transit organizations and local parks and recreation departments to provide more opportunities to get people without cars to outdoor destinations. This will have the dual benefit of reducing parking congestion at trailheads and increasing outdoor opportunities for low-income people. Also, ensure adequate funding for snow removal operations that meet the needs of winter recreationists.

CROSS-CUTTING RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations in this section are not linked to specific exceptional or foundational assets but rather address major themes or a category of assets, or otherwise maximize the utility of this study.

- **Support and promote a statewide trails system.**²¹ Establish a state trails system advisory committee of stakeholders and land managers to advise policy-makers on funding priorities for a state trails system. The advisory committee could serve under the authority of RCW 79A.35 (Washington State Recreation Trail System). The advisory committee could recommend designations into the state trails and active transportation system, serve as a repository of information on trails statewide, and make recommendations on trail priorities statewide.
 - Within this effort, convene a stakeholder and land manager group to produce a feasibility study and plan to complete a cross-state trail for off-road vehicles and another for mountain bikers (with a hut-to-hut camping system) in the Cascade Mountains.
- **Build a cross-state trail route.** Recommend the Governor's Office coordinate and secure funding for a recreational, cross-state trail for nonmotorized uses. The Governor's office could better work across governments and with stakeholders to

²⁰Supported by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p16

²¹Supported by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p16.

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coordinate this effort. This effort should include the State Parks and Recreation Commission (RCW 79A.05.115-125), the Department of Natural Resources, (RCW 79A.05.115-125), the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCW 79A.35), and the Department of Transportation (RCW 47.01, RCW 47.06 and 23 USC Section 217(g)). This cross-state route should act as the backbone to connect other state, regional, and local trails and active transportation networks. In conjunction with this effort, the study recommends the Governor's Office staff coordinate efforts towards the completion of [the Great American Rail Trail segments](#) in Washington.

- **Incentivize private landowners to improve recreational access.**²² Consider tax incentives and direct spending to encourage private landowners to allow the public to access their lands. These could include tax break or refunds, more programs to pay landowners to allow public access, or direct spending such as assistance with road maintenance, trash removal, and law enforcement. Below are five areas of emphasis any program should address:
 - **Land-locked parcels.** Many quality public recreation lands are surrounded by private property. Access easements to and from these properties would make the public land available to a wider array of recreationists.
 - **Use easements to eliminate missing links in trails.** Use on long-distance (and other) trails often is diverted to public roads, for example, when these trails come to private properties. Trail easements could close some gaps in long-distance and local trails.
 - **Hunting access.** Quality hunting opportunities exist on private forests and farms in Washington. Although many private landowners allow hunting and other uses (for a fee for example), more incentives are needed to maximize these opportunities.
 - **River, lake, and marine waters.** Many miles of water for boaters, hunters, and anglers are inaccessible because of the lack of public access. Easements are another great way to make these areas accessible.

²²Supported by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p15

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Pilot an outdoor recreation coordinating council.** This is a recommendation also made in the [Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation \(2014\)](#).²³ Establish an outdoor recreation coordinating council consisting of federal, state, and local government agencies, and nonprofit and private sector representatives to serve as a cross-agency leader on outdoor recreation. This body would coordinate management and investments in a geographic area that results in more opportunity for recreationists. This would be done through identifying efficiencies in operations, reducing duplication of efforts, and changing individual priorities. It is recommended to pilot this effort with a regional scope first, and then replicate elsewhere or at a statewide level.
- **Expand trailhead law enforcement.** Law enforcement agencies have made great strides at trailheads with increased and coordinated patrols and investigations, cameras, and other efforts. However, there is a continued need for law enforcement efforts to keep pace with the expected growth in trailhead-centered recreation activities. Formation of a task force of law enforcement agencies is suggested that could identify strategies and funding options to respond to increasing use and to reduce crime at trailheads.
- **Invest in and share study resources.** This study produced three map applications that show levels of service in and around communities. RCO should present and share these map applications and its findings to federal, state, and local governments as well as stakeholder groups and the businesses to aid in planning, managing, and developing recreation priorities in the state.
 - **Maintain and improve study map applications.** RCO believes it is using the most comprehensive and reliable inventory of recreation sites in the state. However, gaps in the data remain. More information and functionality is needed to maximize the usefulness of these maps in statewide recreation planning. More information and functionality will help measure return on investment by asset and location. To build on the initial investment made through this study, here is list of possible improvements:
 - Map exceptional assets.

²³Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Parks and Outdoor Recreation—Final Recommendations to the Governor 2014, Recreation and Conservation Office, p4, 6-9, 27

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include demographic layers to better identify investment needs and populations served.
 - Include activity participation and satisfaction rates by region or county.
 - Map regional and long-distance trails to include missing links and possible routes.
 - Create capacity to evaluate long-distance travel (inter-county) to destination areas and tourist routes.
 - Map “walkable communities” and their connections to parks and regional trails.
 - Identify asset capacity and life expectancy.
 - Review and refine drive-time metrics and analysis.
 - Ask other agencies what they would like to add to the map applications.
- **Establish a paddle sports facilities ombudsman.** Recommend a paddle sports ombudsman at the state to coordinate paddle sports recreation programs and issues. Paddlers’ issues span multiple land management agencies and regulatory areas. This position could better coordinate the planning and management of water trail systems to include standards for development, maintenance, branding and signs, volunteers, education, enforcement. Lastly, the ombudsman could coordinate paddle sport needs and interests such as informing statutory and regulatory efforts designed to support paddlers such as river access priorities along some state highway projects and water releases from dams.
 - **Consider a stern tie installation pilot.** Evaluate the feasibility of [a stern tie installations](#) system at select sites in the San Juan Islands. Stern ties may be an inexpensive way to add moorage or make moorage more efficient by adding capacity at some locations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Pilot a moorage reservation system.** Evaluate the feasibility of a pilot online reservation and payment system for public transient moorage at some facilities in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.
- **Discuss options for better systemic management of climbing and mountaineering destinations.** A broad discussion with the recreation community and land managers is needed to decide the best approach to dealing with overcrowding at popular sites. Options range from investing more in backcountry facilities, staffing education and enforcement presence, or user management systems at select sites.
- **Ensure long-term aquatic leases.** To support private financing to develop or upgrade private marinas, ensure the State has the ability to issue long-term leases for aquatic lands as may be needed for private marina operators to obtain private sector financing.



EXCEPTIONAL ASSET REGIONS

Stakeholder-identified exceptional assets are organized by the following ten regions of the state. These regions align with the planning units of the *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*, where there is a statistically valid sample of recreation participation and satisfaction in each.



ASSET AND ACTIVITY STAKEHOLDER REPORTS

Description

The following reports are a synthesis of what staff heard from recreationists, stakeholder and advocacy groups, and land managers. The recommendations are the perspective of RCO.



DEFINITION

Activities that involve personal wind-powered vehicles such as but not limited to paragliders, parachutes, hang gliders, windsurfing and kitesurfing boards, and hot air balloons.

PROFILE OF SIGNIFICANT ASSETS

Significant assets that support air activities are open spaces such as fields, dry lake beds, dunes, beaches, and large water bodies; and high elevation open spaces such as those located on hills and mountains.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS AND GAPS

The Coast

- Long Beach, Pacific Ocean (Pacific County)
- Ocean Shores, Pacific Ocean (Grays Harbor County)

Peninsulas

- Fort Flagler State Park (Jefferson County)

Islands

- Wind Jammer Park (Island County)

Southwest

GAP Access sites in Columbia River Gorge area: Insufficient access points for wind sports in the Columbia River Gorge area. A limited number of large access points in desired areas leads to overcrowding.

- Columbia River Gorge area where air activities are allowed. (Benton, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties)

AIR ACTIVITIES

Seattle-King County

- Gene Coulon Park (King County)
- Tiger Mountain Summit (King County)

North Cascades

- Blanchard Mountain (Skagit County)

GAP Eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains: Lack of developed access at desired locations or land manager prohibitions on air activities access in general on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains.

- Lake Wenatchee State Park (Chelan County)
- Jetty Island (Snohomish County)

South Central

GAP Eastern slope of the Cascade Mountains: Lack of developed access at desired locations or land manager prohibitions on air activities access in general on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains.

Columbia Plateau

- Moses Lake Sand Dunes (Grant County)

Northeast

GAP Potential gap

The Palouse

- Steptoe Butte State Park (Whitman County)



AIR ACTIVITIES

QUALITATIVE CHALLENGES AND FUTURE NEEDS

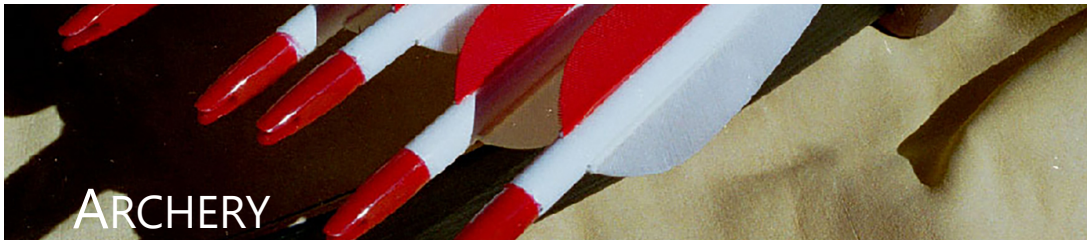
Air activities often deemed incompatible with other permitted uses (safety, resource protection). For the most part, users rely on areas developed for other recreational activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

Recommend state agencies evaluate the utility of allowing and developing access for air activities when developing new recreational areas.





DEFINITION

Recreational use of a bow or crossbow for target shooting or simulated hunting or other activity.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSET PROFILE

Outdoor areas that are naturally suited or developed for recreational use of bows for target shooting and simulated hunting. These may be facilities in natural areas on public lands, in developed landscapes, or indoors on public or private lands. Facilities include formal and informal ranges as well as walking courses. Although very different from firearms in terms of public safety risk, archery facilities often are collocated at firearm facilities.

An archery recreation area should accommodate a 20- to 40-yard range with several or more shooting lanes, as well as a walking course that may require up to 1 acre of open space for each target (20-30 targets are common). Shooting positions should be covered for year-round use. Exceptional assets have large parking areas and well-maintained access roads. Archery recreation frequently consists of large competitions that require larger areas for staging and support facilities, concessions, camping, restrooms, and utilities.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Bear River Archers (Pacific County)
- Grays Harbor Bowmen (Grays Harbor County)

Peninsulas

- Jefferson County Sportsman's Association Shooting Range (Jefferson County)
- KBH Archers (Kitsap County)
- Wapiti Bowmen (Clallam County)

ARCHERY

Islands

GAP Range needed in Oak Harbor Area.

Southwest

- Capital City Bowman (Thurston County)
- Chinook Archers (Clark County)
- Lewis and Clark Bowman (Cowlitz County)
- Lucky Shot Archery (Lewis County)
- Skookum Archers Club and Range (Pierce County)
- Tacoma Sportsman's Club (Pierce County)

Seattle-King County

GAP Potential gap

North Cascades

- Darrington Archery Range (Snohomish County)
- Nock Point Archery Range (Snohomish County)
- Silver Arrow Bowman (Skagit County)

South Central

- Kamiakin Roving Archers (Yakima County)
- Mount Clemans Archery Club (Yakima County)
- Wa-Ku-Wa Archers (Yakima County)



ARCHERY

Columbia Plateau

- Colyak Bowhunters Club (Benton County)

GAP Range needed in Ellensburg area

Northeast

- Evergreen Archery Club (Spokane County)
- Spokane Valley Archery (Spokane County)

The Palouse

- Blue Mountain Archers (Walla Walla County)

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Archery is a year-round sport but due to weather conditions in Washington, indoor or covered facilities are needed for at least part of the year. Archery clubs often lack capital to build an all-weather facility.
- None of the permanent indoor ranges is large enough to host the state championship tournament, necessitating use of multiple sites with loss of prestige, uniformity, and cohesion. Archery may be practiced and competed in a multiuse facility such as large gymnasiums, convention centers, fairgrounds, pavilions, or arenas, if the lease is affordable and the equipment (targets, stands, participant and spectator seating) is available. Archery is a family activity with participation by people of all ages, gender, and capabilities. Facilities must consider needs of women, children, seniors, and disabled.
- Areas for youth to shoot. Youth programs are on the rise and finding a year-round site, which often means indoors, is hard due to the cost to buy or lease a facility.
- While participation is increasing, distances to suitable archery ranges may be a deterrent or barrier to participation.



ARCHERY

- Emphasis should be on indoor or outdoor ranges with covered shooting stations and covered targets near population centers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding

- Maintain funding for developed archery ranges through the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation grant program managed by RCO.
- Fund a single, large state tournament site with indoor and outdoor ranges.
- Coordinate an approach to identify opportunities and partnerships for range development and improvement, with organizations such as federal, state, county, and city agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations, shooting ranges, and commercial entities.
- For backcountry archery recreation facilities, maintain funding for the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Account in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

In this study, bicycling is defined as riding a bike or ebike on surfaces other than those shared with highway vehicles. Biking opportunities were evaluated in the scope of riding on local or regional, hard-surface trails and pathways (concrete, asphalt, or fine hard-packed gravels or natural material) protected and separated from a roadway as well as similar trails in parks, public schools grounds, port properties, etc. This activity includes cycling on rough gravel trails and pathways such as rail-trail routes that do not have improved surfacing (gravel grinding). Only public properties were evaluated.

Walking is low or medium intensity walking or similar movement with the use of a mobility assistance device for recreation or exercise. Walking occurs in public places including a separated and protected sidewalk along a roadway, a local or community trail, pathway in a park or park-like setting such as school grounds or port property. This type of walking occurs on a paved or gravel path or similar surface made for walking and may be a multi-modal pathway or trail (a pathway where bicycling, scooters, motorized scooters may be allowed). Walking described here is not associated with great elevation change or a need to navigate obstacles.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

An exceptional biking or walking facility is an area where people may walk or ride comfortably on a surface separated and protected from highway vehicles. Facilities may be in a natural, rural, suburban, or urban setting. They have more than one access point and support facilities such as potable water, resting areas, and restrooms. Access to these facilities is either by a public road or pedestrian network. Ideally, walking and bicycling routes take users through a diversity of environments and connect to community attractions and amenities.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

The Coast

- Discovery Trail (Pacific County)


BICYCLING AND WALKING

- Palouse to Cascade Trail (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)

Peninsulas

- Olympic Discovery Trail (Clallam and Jefferson Counties)

Islands

 Potential gap

Southwest

- Chehalis-Western Trail (Thurston County)
- Columbia River Trail (Clark and Skamania Counties)
- Foothills Trail (Pierce County)
- Green River Trail (King and Pierce Counties)
- Klickitat Rail Trail (Klickitat County)
- Palouse to Cascade Trail (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)
- Willapa Hills Trail (Lewis and Pacific Counties)

Seattle-King County

- Burke-Gilman Trail (King County)
- Discovery, Seward, Green Lake, and Washington Arboretum Parks (King County)
- Green River Trail (King and Pierce Counties)
- Interurban Trail (King and Snohomish Counties)
- Palouse to Cascade Trail (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)



BICYCLING AND WALKING

North Cascades

- Cascade Trail (Skagit County)
- Centennial Trail, Bellingham Trails (Skagit and Snohomish County)
- Interurban Trail (King and Snohomish Counties)
- Similkameen Trail (Okanogan County)
- White Horse Trail (Snohomish County)

South Central

- Palouse to Cascade Trail (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)
- Sacagawea Heritage Trail (Benton and Franklin Counties)
- Yakima Greenway Trail (Benton and Yakima Counties)

Columbia Plateau

- Palouse to Cascade Trail and (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)
- Columbia Plateau State Park Trail (Adams, Grant, and Whitman Counties)

Northeast

- Centennial Trail (Spokane County)
- Ferry County Rail Trail (Ferry County)
- Palouse to Cascade (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)

The Palouse

- Palouse to Cascade Trail (Adams, Grant, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Whitman Counties)



BICYCLING AND WALKING

- Columbia Plateau State Park Trail (Adams, Grant, and Whitman Counties)
- Bill Chipman Palouse Trail (Whitman County)

QUANTITATIVE GAPS

- Many of the above regional trails have gaps in them. These may be physical disconnections in a trail due to alternative land use in the trail corridor, walking on a pathway not protected and separated from a roadway, or areas that are underdeveloped and not usable by a beginner.
- The Palouse region has a Blue Mountain Trails Plan, which has yet to be funded substantially.
- A cross-state trail route as described Revised Code of Washington 79A.05 (and related codes) serving as a “spine” across the state with connections to regional trails has not been fully built.

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Money to maintain new facilities. Grants and other targeting funding programs exist for building or enhancing pedestrian networks, multimodal pathways, and trails but not for routine maintenance.
- A statewide plan to identify projects and investments to extend regional trail networks in the context of a statewide trails system is needed.
- Communities without interconnected trail and low stress pedestrian networks.
- Communities without adequate parks and open space with walking facilities.
- Opportunities for families and beginning cyclists off of roadways.
- Missing links in trails, and trail and active transportation plans that have not been funded and built.



BICYCLING AND WALKING

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Establish an advisory committee to recommend policy and trail designations to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's statewide trails plan (Revised Code of Washington 79A). The advisory committee would have three tasks: 1) develop a statewide trails plan; 2) advise the board and other agencies on the status and priorities of a statewide trails system; and 3) serve as a repository of information on local and regional trails that connect to the state trails system.
- Build a cross-state trail Recommend the Governor's Office coordinate and secure funding for a recreational, cross-state trail for nonmotorized uses. The Governor's Office could better work across governments and with stakeholders to coordinate this effort. This effort should include the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Revised Code of Washington 79A.05.115-125), the Department of Natural Resources, (Revised Code of Washington 79A.05.115-125), the Recreation and Conservation Office (Revised Code of Washington 79A.35), and the Department of Transportation (Revised Codes of Washington 47.01 and 47.06, and 23 USC Section 217(g)). This cross-state route should act as the backbone to connect other state, regional, and local trails and active transportation networks. In conjunction with this effort, the study recommends the Governor's Office staff coordinate efforts towards the completion of [the Great American Rail Trail segments](#) in Washington.

Funding

- Continue to fund the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to help agencies develop regional and statewide trails.
- Identify a fund source to help communities other agencies maintain their new sections of regional trail systems.
- Continue to provide planning, funding, and other assistance for walkable and bikeable inclusive communities and a statewide system of trails.





DEFINITION

Boating consists of operating or riding on a motorboat or sailboat (with or without a motor) on any type of water suited for the vessel.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSET PROFILE

Exceptional boating facilities are on-water with upland amenities that support boating. These facilities provide access to and from destination water bodies. They allow for on-water experiences such as cruising, fishing, sightseeing, and water skiing, and provide protection from the elements. Facilities primarily are used for launching, retrieving, and mooring vessels including dinghies, as well as providing needed services such as sanitary pump-out, water, and fuel. Exceptional sites also provide access to upland amenities desired by boaters such as trails or other recreation facilities, restrooms, parking (including trailers), and businesses. Facilities may be publicly or privately owned.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS AND GAPS

The Coast

- Illwaco (Pacific County)
- Tokeland (Grays Harbor County)
- Westport Marina and Boat Launch (Grays Harbor County)

Peninsulas

- Bremerton Marina (Kitsap County)

GAP Manchester (Kitsap County): More developed transient moorage is needed for access to desired uplands.

- Neah Bay (Clallam County)
- Pleasant Harbor (Jefferson County)

BOATING

GAP Port Gamble (Kitsap County): There is no developed transient moorage or access to upland areas.

- Port Haven Boat Launch and Marina (Jefferson County)
- Quileute Marina in La Push (Clallam County)
- Sekiu (Strait of Juan de Fuca, Pacific Ocean)

Islands

GAP Cama Beach Historical State Park (Island County): There is no developed transient moorage or access to upland areas.

- Fisherman Bay (San Juan County)

GAP Point No Point (Kitsap County): There is no developed launch or transient moorage.

- Roche Harbor (San Juan County)

GAP San Juan Islands: Blake Island, Blind Bay at Shaw Island, Cyprus Island, Hunter Bay at Lopez Island, Orcas Island, and some private land trust properties. (San Juan County): There is limited transient moorage and access to upland areas in peak season.

- Sucia Island State Park (San Juan County)

Southwest

- Foss Water Way (Pierce County)

GAP McNeil Island (Pierce County): There is little developed transient moorage or access to upland areas.

GAP Saltwater shoreline from Seattle to Olympia. (Pierce and Thurston Counties): There is a lack of launch ramps in this stretch of shoreline.

GAP Steilacoom (Pierce County): There is little developed transient moorage or access to upland areas.



BOATING

Seattle-King County

- Don Armeni Boat Launch (King County)
- Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park (King County)
- Lake Sammamish State Park (King County)
- Port of Seattle Facilities (King County)

GAP Saltwater boat launch ramps from Seattle to Tacoma (King and Pierce Counties): There is a lack of launch ramps in this stretch of shoreline.

North Cascades

- Don Morris Park and Marina (Chelan County)

GAP Pateros (Okanogan County): There is no developed transient moorage and limited boat launch parking.

- Port of Bellingham (Whatcom County)
- Port of Everett (Snohomish County)
- Vantage Boat Launch (Kittitas County)

South Central

- Columbia Point and Park (Benton County)
- Crow Butte Park (Benton County)

Columbia Plateau

- Moses Lake launch ramps (Grant County)
- Steamboat State Park (Douglas County)

Northeast

- Fort Spokane (Stevens County)



BOATING

- Kelly Ferry Boat Launch and Marina Park (Ferry County)
- Long Lake (Stevens County)

GAP There is a lack of boat launching facilities on the north shore of Columbia River in this area.

The Palouse

- Clarkston boat launches (Asotin County)
- Heller Bar Access Area (Asotin County)

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Reduced fishing opportunities due to fewer fish.
- Shortage of marina capacity in high-demand locations.
- Shortage of marine haul-out and repair facilities.
- Inability to reserve public moorage space.
- Aging boating infrastructure.
- Costs for in-water work rising due to updated regulatory requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

Moorage and Launch Capacity

- South Puget Sound and San Juan Islands: Recommend that state agencies evaluate the feasibility of providing more launch ramps, transient moorage, and access to desired uplands in the south Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands. Evaluation of moorage may be limited to peak use seasons.



BOATING

- Recommend state agencies pilot stern tie installations at one or more sites in the San Juan Islands. Stern ties may be an inexpensive way to add moorage or make moorage more efficient (add capacity) at some locations.
- Pilot an online reservation and payment system for public transient moorage facilities in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.
- Incentivize private landowners to grant public access easements to and from tidelands to allow travel from vessel to upland amenities and vice versa.
- Study ways to incentivize local governments to provide launch and marina facilities in areas with high need.
- To support private financing of marina facilities, authorize longer term leasing options for state-owned aquatic lands as may be needed.
- Create authorities where none may exist that prioritize boating infrastructure needs over other forms of development in areas with limited boating facilities.
- Find ways to reduce competition from Canadian facilities, which charge lower taxes than Washington State for interstate boaters.

Funding

- Continue funding salmon, other sportfish, and orca recovery.
- Continue funding Boating Facilities Program grants in the context of any implementation of a [road usage charge](#).
- Continue to fund pump facilities in Puget Sound to support possible future No Discharge Zone designation.
- Continue to fund the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account to support development of more water access opportunities.





DEFINITION

This activity is characterized by traveling to a developed campground in a rural or natural setting and spending one or more nights there. For this study, only publicly owned camping locations were considered. Camping areas are overwhelmingly at, or near, attractions such as water, mountains, geographic landmarks, and historical or scenic landscapes. Users may drive to and park at their campsites. Users also may enjoy nature or be near opportunities for other types of recreation such as sightseeing, hiking, off-road vehicle riding, hunting, fishing, biking, swimming, or boating.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

An exceptional camping facility is near a desired destination area such as a natural area or near water. These facilities have well-developed access roads and full or partial amenities such as hardened tent or trailer platforms, recreational vehicle sites, utility hookups, potable water, trash facilities, and restrooms. Exceptional camping areas have many sites as well as special sites for large groups. These facilities may have their own beaches, boat launches, trail network, viewpoints, and docks. They also may have services for rent such as cabins or yurts, fishing gear, paddle boats, and bikes. These facilities often have camp hosts or resident staff and maintained daily.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Cape Disappointment State Park (Pacific County)

Peninsulas

- Olympic National Park: Fairholme Campground, Hoh Rainforest Campground, Kalaloch Campground (Multiple Counties)
- Salt Creek Recreation Area (Clallam County)

Islands

- Cama Beach State Park (Island County)

CAMPING

- Fort Casey Historical State Park (Island County)
- Moran State Park (San Juan County)

Southwest

- Capitol State Forest: Marguerite McKinney Campground and Trail Head (Thurston County)
- Elbe Hills and Tahoma State Forest (Pierce County)
- Mount Rainier National Park: Cougar Rock, Ohanapecosh, White River. (King, Lewis, and Pierce Counties)

GAP Need more camping in and near Mount Rainier National Park to accommodate peak season users (King, Lewis, and Pierce Counties)

Seattle-King County

- Camping areas along the Interstate 90 corridor east of North Bend (King County)

North Cascades

- Eight Mile Campground (Okanogan County)
- Methow Valley Camping Areas (Okanogan County)
- Pearrygin Lake State Park (Okanogan County)
- Similkameen Wildlife Area (Okanogan County)
- Steamboat Rock State Park (Lincoln County)

South Central

- Crow Butte Park (Benton County)

Columbia Plateau

- Quincy Lakes (Grant County)



CAMPING

- Sun Lakes–Dry Falls State Park (Douglas County)

Northeast

- East Sullivan Campground (Pend Oreille County)
- Riverside State Park (Spokane County)

The Palouse

- Wooten Wildlife Area (Columbia County)

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- More group camping at popular sites.
- More yurts and cabins (systemic).
- More hut-to-hut camping opportunities for long-distance recreationists to include mountain bikers and winter recreationists.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding

- Fund expanded camping opportunities at state parks. The Washington state parks system is a premier destination for camping and nature activities. Fund expansion of camping opportunities at state parks as needed to include yurt and cabin development.
- Maintain funding for backcountry recreation activities such as camping in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

This activity is characterized by climbing natural rock features either as cliff faces, boulder fields, or other steep terrain. Climbing is generally done with the assistance of climbing gear and safety devices. Climbing routes may have affixed hardware and include areas with permanent anchors for top-roping. For this study, only public facilities are discussed.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Significant climbing areas are those that offer unique or multiple climbing experiences. These include climbing routes for the beginners, training routes, climbs with varying degrees of difficulty, remote experiences, and group experiences. A significant site has well-maintained access roads and trails, ample parking, a large staging area, and opportunities for camping with potable water. Desired elements are dedicated maintenance, an education and enforcement presence, and designated areas for different skill levels.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Beacon Rock State Park (Skamania County)

CLIMBING, BOULDERING, AND SCRAMBLING


Seattle-King County

- Little Mount Si (King County)
- Ollalie State Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Icicle Canyon (Chelan County)
- Mount Index and Index Town Walls (Snohomish County)
- Newhalem Climbing Area (Whatcom County)
- Peshastin Pinnacles State Park (Chelan County)
- The Enchantments (Chelan County)
- Washington Pass and Upper Methow Valley (Okanogan County)

South Central

 Potential gap


Columbia Plateau

- Frenchman Coulee (Grant County)

Northeast

- Deep Creek, Minnehaha (Spokane County)
- Metaline Falls (Pend Oreille County)

The Palouse

 Potential gap



CLIMBING, BOULDERING, AND SCRAMBLING

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Increasingly users want to camp at, or close to, trailheads and in the backcountry at climbing destinations. Quality and quantity of sustainable camping opportunities, restrooms, and potable water are lacking at many popular front-country and backcountry sites. Access to many sites are user-created so there is minimal parking, maintenance, and staff presence.
- Many facilities have inadequate access due to road and trail washouts, blowdowns, and overgrown vegetation. Lack of regular maintenance can lead to closure of access roads
- Turnover of staff at land manager agencies means partnerships stall.
- Multiple or complex permit systems for users.
- More maintenance funding needed to keep sites open and optimal.
- Inadequate coordination between land manager agencies.
- Car prowls at trailheads.
- Missing links in trails. Incentivize landowners to allow recreational trails on and through their lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Evaluate the desirability of a reservation system for use of popular backcountry climbing areas.

Funding

- Continue funding backcountry recreation activities such as climbing in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).
- Continue or increase the following:



CLIMBING, BOULDERING, AND SCRAMBLING

- Development of new sites to keep pace with growth in the sport.
- Investment in camping areas at popular trailheads and in the backcountry.
- Fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand off-road vehicle opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.
- Evaluate the feasibility and use of developing a new source of revenue for the protection, enhancement, and maintenance of popular backcountry climbing areas. This new resource should fund the following:
 - Investment in bathrooms and developed camping areas at backcountry sites to reduce natural resource impacts.
 - Investment in road repair and maintenance to keep opportunities open.

NOTES

Stakeholder groups report that land management agencies are increasingly seeing climbing and bouldering as part of their missions.





DEFINITION

Equestrian in the backcountry consists of riding horses and leading pack animals on trails in a wilderness or other natural setting. Riding also may take place on regional trails in a natural setting with a separate pathway (soft shoulder) specifically designed for equestrian travel.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Facilities that support this activity offer soft surface or gravel trails in a natural setting that are designated for equestrian recreation. These facilities have well-developed and well-maintained access roads, parking areas with ample parking for trailered vehicles, and amenities desired by equestrian recreationists such as corals, hitching rails, loading ramps, water, and bathrooms. Trails start at or reach open areas that facilitate large gatherings and camping. Where backcountry equestrian recreation is collocated with other compatible recreation activities, equestrian facilities are separate and signed for that use. Because of the trail distance traveled by equestrian recreationists (as compared to hikers, for example), there is a greater need for longer routes of travel.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

This section includes trails listed under the Bicycling and Walking section that also are used for equestrian recreation.

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

- Miller Peninsula Park (Kitsap County)

GAP Need more horse camps on the Olympic Peninsula (Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties).

EQUESTRIAN IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Battle Ground Lake State Park (Lewis County)
- Capitol State Forest (Thurston County)
- Kalama Horse Camp (Lewis County)
- Whipple Creek Park (Clark and Vancouver Counties)
- Yacolt Burn State Forest (Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties)

Seattle-King County

- Middle Fork of Snoqualmie River (King County)
- Iron Horse State Park (King and Kittitas County)

North Cascades

- Blanchard Mountain and Lake Whatcom Recreation Areas (Whatcom County)
- Iron Horse State Park (King and Kittitas County)
- Les Hilde Trails (Skagit County)

South Central

GAP Potential gap

Columbia Plateau

- Palouse to Cascade Trail (Adams, Grant, and Lincoln Counties)

Northeast

- Mount Spokane State Park (Spokane County)



EQUESTRIAN IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- The amount of backlogged maintenance on trails and access roads. In some cases this leads to closing facilities and loss of opportunity.
- Frequent turnover in land manager staff makes partnerships hard to establish and maintain.
- Insufficient parking for trailers and other amenities at some popular trailheads.
- Multiuse trails often are built and maintained primarily for hikers and mountain bikers and not to equestrian standards, which require safe approaches to bridges, bypass trails for steep downhill grades, high clearing limits, etc.
- Lack of an enforcement presence, which often leads to misuse of recreation areas and degraded conditions.
- As trail use overall increases, need funding for more multipurpose trails as well as equestrian-centric facilities.
- User conflicts with motorized recreationists.
- Expanded parking and trailer parking at busy trailheads.
- Missing links in trails. Incentivize landowners to allow recreational trails on and through their lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Establish a new authority to fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand



EQUESTRIAN IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

riding opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.

- Align rules and regulations across government agencies to streamline opportunities for volunteering.
- Incentivize private landowners to allow trails across their lands to eliminate missing links on trails.

Funding

- Continue funding for equestrian opportunities through existing programs and consider support for these programs in any implementation of a [road usage charge](#).
- Support equestrian opportunities on Washington Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service lands by maintaining roads, trails and trailheads; developing more camping and trailer parking at popular sites; and funding more education and enforcement presence.
- Fund more trails near urban areas. Where able, conserve land for backcountry equestrian and other nonmotorized uses near urbanizing areas.

NOTES

Pack horses are becoming more popular with many user groups to carry backcountry gear, which allows people to venture deeper into wilderness for longer periods of time. Wagon riders also are a significant user group in some areas (Iron Horse State Park).





FIREARMS

DEFINITION

Firearms recreation other than hunting (see “Hunting” in a separate section). Users participate in this activity individually and in groups, indoors and outdoors, in a dispersed or concentrated areas, and in a wide range of landscapes from natural to highly developed. Individual disciplines exist within this activity such as rifle, pistol, and shotgun, as well as sub-disciplines such as short- and long-range activities, practical shooting, black powder, and semiautomatic firearms; and skeet, trap, and sporting clay sports.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Significant sites for firearm recreationists are those facilities that have a diversity of shooting opportunities to accommodate different types of firearm and shooting sports. These facilities have a clubhouse for gatherings and transactions, restrooms, large parking areas, covered firing lines, safety and sound abatement devices, and developed outdoor amenities such as picnic areas and camping areas with utility hookups.

Another type of significant facility is an informal but large shooting area on public land. This type of facility has developed and well-maintained road access and large backstop and side berms to contain projectiles.

Significant sites can accommodate large tournaments with a statewide, national, or international draw.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast


GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

FIREARMS

Islands

 Potential gap

Southwest

- Capitol State Forest, Triangle Pit (Thurston County)
- Evergreen Sportsman's Club (Thurston County)

Seattle-King County

- Black Diamond Gun Club (King County)
- King County Shooting Sports Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Kenmore Shooting Range (King County)

South Central

- Sun Valley Shooting Park (Yakima County)
- Tri Cities Shooting Association (Benton County)
- Wenas Wildlife Area (Yakima County)


Columbia Plateau

- Lynden Gun Club (Adams County)

Northeast

- Spokane Gun Club (Spokane County)

The Palouse

 Potential gap



FIREARMS

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Cost of operating a recreational range is expensive. Gun clubs typically do not have a large capital reserve, and operating costs may not keep pace with membership-driven revenue. The higher costs associated with shooting at a gun club likely results in more informal shooting on public lands, which may be less desirable than at a formal facility where safety and resource protection and management may be better managed.
- Many established and sustainable ranges are on leased lands. The development market has pushed many landowners to sell, which means clubs have to close or move to smaller, less desirable properties with longer drive times for users.
- New development near established ranges raises nuisance and other regulatory challenges.
- Many established clubs are operating with a conditional use permit (nonconforming uses permit), which often prevents clubs from renovating or expanding.
- With an increase in population and participation, managing safe and sustainable target shooting opportunities on public land is becoming more challenging, yet more important. Therefore, emphasis should be on supporting safe outdoor ranges with covered shooting stations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Evaluate and update authorities that preserve shooting opportunities in developing areas.

Funding

- Fund a statewide public lands shooting plan to better coordinate and manage sustainable outdoor shooting opportunities.
- Incentivize private landowners to allow shooting on their properties.



FIREARMS

- Maintain funding for range projects through the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation grant program.
- Maintain funding for backcountry recreation activities such as firearms recreation in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).

NOTES

Concerns for dispersed shooting on public lands includes fire starts in eastern Washington.





DEFINITION

Fishing for freshwater or saltwater fish from a bank or built infrastructure such as a jetty, pier, or dock. Includes digging for clams at public beaches.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Exceptional assets are those next to or over a water body with a desired fish or shellfish species. These assets exist in developed or natural landscapes. Access to significant sites is by a well-developed and maintained roadway, trail, or sidewalk. Day-use amenities such as seating, open lawn space, and restrooms are provided.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

Statewide

- Hundreds of miles of underused perpetual streambank fishing easements held by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Coast

- Illwaco (Pacific County)
- Long Beach (Pacific County)
- Ocean Shores (Clamming, Grays Harbor County)
- Westport (Grays Harbor County)

Peninsulas

- Hoe River (Jefferson County)

Islands

GAP Potential gap

FISHING AND SHELLFISHING

Southwest

- Mayfield, Merwin, and Riffe Lake Access Sites (Lewis County)

Seattle-King County

- Angle Lake Park (King County)
- Des Moines Marina Fishing Pier (King County)
- Green Lake Park (King County)
- Lake Washington (King County)
- Gene Coulon Memorial Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Edmond's Pier (Snohomish County)
- Lake Roosevelt (Douglas and Okanogan Counties)
- Methow Valley River Access Areas (Fly Fishing, Okanogan County)

South Central

- Lower Yakima River (Benton and Yakima Counties)

Columbia Plateau

- Banks Lake (Douglas County)
- Pothole Lakes (Grant County)
- Sprague Lake (Adams and Lincoln Counties)

Northeast

- Kettle River (Stevens County)
- Liberty Lake Regional Park (Spokane County)



FISHING AND SHELLFISHING

- Long Lake (Spokane County)
- Spokane River (Spokane County)

The Palouse

- Lake Roosevelt Access Areas (Douglas and Okanogan Counties)
- Quincy Lakes Access Areas (Grant County)

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Private property restrictions. Inability to access water where private property abuts state waters.
- Insufficient fish stocks at desired locations.
- Beginners and nontraditional users don't know where to go.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Funding

- Continue funding for water access projects in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant program.
- Continue funding salmon, other sportfish, and orca recovery.
- Evaluate the need for more funding at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide public information on fishing opportunities and programs for new anglers.
- Expand hatchery services to keep pace with development and increased fishing pressure. Fewer marine opportunities mean more need for upland stocks. Maintain fish stocks to keep pace with increase in recreational anglers.
- Support sturgeon fishing in the Columbia River Gorge area, which is only place to catch the fish in the state).





DEFINITION

This activity is characterized by walking on trails in a natural setting. The experience can be a single day, overnight, or multiple nights. For day hikes, camping is not part of the experience as opposed to backpacking, which is an overnight experience. For backpacking, recreationist bring all the items needed for an overnight stay in the backcountry.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Significant sites are those with long-distance trails, loop trails, or those that are part of a larger trail network. Exceptional sites also may be trails in natural settings with a shorter or non-strenuous hike for beginners, families, or for those with less mobility or mobility assist devices. These trails typically have a natural material surface but may be hardened surfaces such as gravel or boardwalks. Hiking consists of walking on trails with constant to intermittent elevation changes. The hiking experience is typically characterized by walking to destination experiences such as a geographic feature, lake, view, or something culturally or historically significant. Hiking or backpacking may be done alone or in a group and trail users may need a permit to access an area. Trailheads have ample parking, restrooms, potable water, and may have day-use areas such as picnic shelters or other amenities. For this study, only public lands are discussed.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

This section includes those trails listed under the "Bicycling and Walking" section that also are used for hiking. Therefore, the "Quantitative Gaps" section of the "Bicycling and Walking" section also applies.

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

HIKING AND BACKPACKING

Peninsulas

- Lake Cushman area trails (Mason County)
- Olympic Coast Trails (Clallam and Jefferson Counties)

Islands

- Mount Constitution (San Juan County)

Southwest

- Columbia River Gorge (Clark, Klickitat, and Skamania Counties)
- Mount Rainier National Park (Pierce County)
- Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument (Skamania County)

GAP Pacific Crest Trail Corridor (Chelan, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Okanogan Counties): Areas of this corridor are not protected and sections need redevelopment.

Seattle-King County

- Alpine Lakes Wilderness (King and Kittitas Counties)
- Mount Si (King County)

GAP Pacific Crest Trail Corridor (Chelan, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, and Okanogan Counties): Areas of this corridor are not protected and sections need redevelopment.

- Snoqualmie Pass Area (King County)
- Tiger Mountain (King County)

North Cascades

GAP Cascade Trail (Skagit County)

- Enchantments (Chelan County)



HIKING AND BACKPACKING

- North Cascade National Park (Skagit County)

GAP Pacific Crest Trail Corridor (Chelan, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, and Okanogan Counties): Areas of this corridor are not protected and sections need redevelopment.

GAP Pacific Northwest Trail (Chelan, Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Stevens, and Whatcom Counties). Some sections have not been developed and protected as part of this regional route.

- Pasayten Wilderness (Okanogan County)
- Washington Pass and North Cascades Scenic Byway Corridor Trailheads (Okanogan and Whatcom Counties)

South Central

- William O Douglas and Goat Rocks Wildernesses (Yakima County)

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

- Dishman Hills (Spokane County)
- Ferry County Rail Trail (Ferry County)
- [High Drive Park/South Hill Bluff \(Spokane County\)](#)
- Mount Spokane and Riverside State Parks (Spokane County)

GAP Pacific Northwest Trail (Chelan, Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Stevens, Whatcom Counties). Major sections have not been developed and protected.

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap



HIKING AND BACKPACKING

QUANTITATIVE GAPS

- The above gaps for existing trails include missing links or unprotected portions of the trail (not in public ownership), and areas that are underdeveloped or lack formal access points.

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- More public transportation to trailheads is needed.
- Maintenance of trails and support facilities such as restrooms, parking areas, and access roads that have not had routine maintenance in any previous year.
- Areas with poor road maintenance reduces access. If maintenance is deferred too long, use diminishes and areas may be closed (loss of trails).
- A variety of experiences available at a single trailhead. For example, a 1- or 2-mile loop trail for beginners may be desirable at popular trailheads that also have longer distance hikes.
- More urban to backcountry connections.
- New trails and trail connections to keep pace with and expand opportunity in light of ongoing growth in activity.
- Additional trailhead parking at popular destinations. Parking often encroaches on private property or creates safety hazardous on county roads. Available parking is not keeping pace with growth in participation.
- Frequency and intensity of wildfires threatens sustainability of trails. Fires damage trails and the subsequent unchecked erosion washes them away in the seasons that follow. Fires also destroy bridges and other structures, which then limits access to areas hikers value. There also are too few resources to repair washed out access roads.
- The increasing cost of land reduces the ability to fill the gaps in long-distance trails and to connect urban areas with the backcountry.



HIKING AND BACKPACKING

- Car prowling issues at trailheads.
- Access pass requirements may be confusing to users.
- Missing links in trails and dead-end trails that abut private lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Incentivize private landowners to allow trails and access points.
- Establish a new authority to fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand recreational opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.
- Establish an advisory committee to recommend policy and trail designations to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's statewide trails plan (Revised Code of Washington 79A). The advisory committee would have three tasks: 1) develop a statewide trails plan; 2) advise the board and other agencies on the status and priorities of a statewide trails system; and 3) serve as a repository of information on local and regional trails that connect to the state trails system.
- Create additional authorities to purchase land for trails in urbanizing communities, and that link community and backcountry trails.

Funding

- Maintain funding for backcountry recreation activities such as hiking in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).
- Evaluate and identify new revenue that provides sustainable funding to develop new opportunities and keep trails and roads open and well-maintained to support growth in participation.
- Create authorities that increase enforcement at trailheads to reduce crime.





DEFINITION

This activity consists of people accessing natural areas on foot, bicycle, off-road vehicle, highway vehicle, or a mobility assist device to shoot game and other animals with firearms or bows. Types of firearms and bows used and animals sought depend on licenses, permits, and regulations of government agencies and policies of private landowners. Hunting takes place in a natural setting but may occur near developed areas. Hunting generally is a solitary activity but hunting in pairs or small groups is common. Hunting water fowl may occur from a boat.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Exceptional assets for this activity are those that have habitat elements that support specific animal species or communities of species. For sites where wildlife is released for the hunting, the release date is more important than quality of habitat. It is important to note that the natural supply of animals in any given locale often is cyclical over a few years.

Access roads to or near a desired hunting site is as important as habitat considerations. As hunting is generally a solitary or small group activity, large trailheads, parking, and support facilities to accommodate large crowds are not a necessity although some parking and amenities are preferred. Pull-off or shoulder parking along an access road is typically sufficient.

Hunters may desire a hunting camp experience to allow for multiple day hunts from a single location. In these instances, access road and trails and large open areas are important.

For hunters who prefer to hunt from boats, a site with adequate launch capacity and parking, including for trailers, is essential.

HUNTING WITH FIREARMS AND BOWS

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Gifford Pinchot National Forests (Lewis and Cowlitz Counties)

Seattle-King County

GAP Potential gap

North Cascades

GAP Chelan Butte Wildlife Area (Chelan County). Needs road maintenance and redevelopment.

GAP Chesaw Wildlife Area (Ferry and Okanogan Counties). Needs road maintenance and redevelopment.

GAP Methow Valley Area (Okanogan County): Developed access displaces hunting opportunities.

- Murray Wildlife Area (Okanogan County)
- Simlahekin Wildlife Area (Okanogan County)
- Skagit and Whatcom Counties for water fowl.



HUNTING WITH FIREARMS AND BOWS

South Central

- L.T. Murray Wildlife Area (Kittitas and Yakima Counties)

GAP Wenas Wildlife Area (Kittitas and Yakima Counties). Road maintenance and redevelopment needed.

Columbia Plateau

- Pothole Lakes (Grant County)
- Banks Lake (Douglas County)

Northeast

GAP Potential gap

The Palouse

- Chief Joseph Wildlife Area and 4-O Ranch (Asotin County)

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- “Pay to Play” on private lands is cost prohibitive (in excess of \$400 for annual access, on top of required licenses to hunt). Prohibitions for camping on private land is a barrier.
 - People leave Washington to hunt because it is cheaper and better areas are open (more private access).
 - Private forests often land lock public lands that are otherwise good for hunting.
 - Diversity of land uses in Washington limits the quantity of suitable private lands.
 - Lands for beginner hunters are more likely to be private.
- Places where the habitat supports the desired species and adequate motor vehicle access and parking is provided.



HUNTING WITH FIREARMS AND BOWS

- Changing habitat conditions, including natural disasters such as fires, limit hunting and create cycles of good and bad hunting years.
- Insufficient access to public and private lands that have been thinned or logged. These areas are often good places to hunt.
- Where dispersed use is desired, access roads do not provide a pull-off or shoulder parking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Authorize additional incentives to private landowners to open land to public hunting and host hunting opportunities for beginners
- Where good hunting is available on private lands, authorize incentives to private landowners to develop roads to a recreational standard rather than an agricultural standard, and provide funding for their upkeep as needed.
- Find ways to increase hunting licenses sales, which in turn supports the needs of hunters.

Funding

- Increase funding to build roads and redevelop or improve existing roads in areas where desired wildlife is plentiful or where it may be plentiful in the near-term.
- Maintain funding for backcountry recreation activities such as hunting in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).
- Fund additional habitat improvements where needed.
- Purchase good hunting areas (may be less than fee title) for public use.





DEFINITION

This activity consists of people recreating in a local or community park or other destination setting such as a developed state park. Recreation activities in this category include socializing, barbecues, picnics, lawn games, swimming and water play, playing on playgrounds, art and nature viewing, visiting historical places and structures, recreating with pets, hosting social events, attending community events and concerts, and walking or riding bikes.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Facilities that support this activity have medium to large lawn spaces or plazas suited for leisure activities, restrooms, and covered recreation areas such as picnic shelters, viewpoints, and gazebos. Facilities also have paved access roads and large parking lots. Desired locations have access roads for dropping off people and supplies. Areas are well-maintained, may have a staff presence, and may have concessionaries. These facilities may have a central attraction such as a historical landmark or other human-made items, water access, trails, spray parks, or sport courts. Users also should have universal access to all areas and amenities.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Public beaches (Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties)

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Point Defiance Park and adjacent parks (Pierce County)

LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN A PARK

Seattle-King County

- Ballard Locks (King County)
- Cal Anderson, Green Lake, Lincoln, Outdoor Art Museum, Seward, and Volunteer Parks (King County)
- Downtown Park (King County)
- Gene Coulon Memorial Park (King County)
- Lake Sammamish State Park (King County)
- Richmond Beach Saltwater Park (King County)
- Lake Meridian Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Boulevard Park (Whatcom County)
- Kiwanis Park (Chelan County)
- Larrabee State Park (Whatcom County)
- Legion Park (Snohomish County)

South Central

- Columbia Park (Benton County)

Columbia Plateau

 Potential gap

Northeast

- River Front Park (Spokane County)

The Palouse

- Sunnyside Park (Whitman County)



LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN A PARK

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Both state and local parks and recreation agencies are struggling with a growing maintenance and operations backlog that affects both the upkeep and usability of playfields.
- Small public agencies with a large number of low-income residents or low property values struggle with funding renovation of facilities and building parks.
- In light of predicted population growth, local governments need for additional revenue sources to support park acquisition, renovation, and maintenance. Their existing revenue sources of property taxes and general revenue increasingly do not meet the needs of local parks departments.
- Low-income communities face barriers to participation in sports leagues and elite sport camps, and transportation to natural area parks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Evaluate and identify new taxing authorities that support park development and maintenance for all types of local governments and state parks.
- Consider authorities that allow governments not planning under the Growth Management Act to establish park impact fees.

Funding

- Continue to fund grant and other programs that support local park development priorities.
- Establish an additional funding program for artificial multisport athletic fields in urban or urbanizing communities.
- Fund grants that reduce barriers for low-income families to participation in sports leagues, attend elite sport camps, and get transportation to natural area parks.





DEFINITION

This is a trail riding activity using specialized mountain bikes equipped to handle a diversity of terrain and typically takes place on dirt roads, double-track, or single-track trails. Riders also may ride bikes with electric motors on all motorized trails as well as on double- or single-track depending on land manager policies. In addition to riding on trails, mountain bikers also may ride in mountain bike parks, which are properties designed exclusively for mountain bikes. These parks offer skill-building trails with different levels of difficulty, and at times provide lift service to the top of a ride. Riders may use forest or primitive roads that link trails. Riders may recreate alone or in small groups and may compete in mountain bike events.

PROFILE OF SIGNIFICANT ASSETS

Significant assets for mountain bikers include trails in a natural setting, both in front and backcountry settings, as well as bike parks with trails exclusively for mountain biking. Significant facilities have well-developed and maintained access and/or shuttle roads, ample parking, and likely have trailhead facilities such as bathrooms, potable water, and day-use areas for picnicking. Riding areas used for community events or competitions have large open areas for staging and bike maintenance, popup shelters, and portable concessionaires. For this study, only publicly owned facilities are considered.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

This section includes trails in the "Bicycling and Walking" section that also are used for mountain biking. Therefore, the "Quantitative Gaps" section of the "Bicycling and Walking" section also applies.

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Peninsulas

- Olympic Discovery Trail Adventure Route (Clallam County)
- Port Gamble open space (Kitsap County)

Islands

- Moran State Park (San Juan County)

Southwest

- Capitol State Forest (Thurston County)
- Columbia River Gorge (Clark and Cowlitz Counties)

GAP Mount Rainier area (Lewis and Pierce Counties): This area has fewer opportunities than other Cascade Mountain locations.

- Swan Creek Park (Pierce County)
- Yacolt State Forest (Lewis County)
- Coyote Wall Trails (Klickitat County)
- Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Mount Saint Helen's Monument areas (Lewis County)

Seattle-King County

- Duthie Hill Bike Park (King County)
- Grand Ridge (King County)
- Ollalie Trail (King County)
- Tiger Mountain and Raging River State Forests (King County)

North Cascades

- Bellingham to Baker Trail (Whatcom County)



MOUNTAIN BIKING

- Chuckanut Mountain Park and Larabee State Park (Skagit County)
- Derby Canyon (Okanogan County)
- Echo Ridge (Chelan County)
- Galbraith Mountain (Skagit County)
- Lake Padden and Boulevard Parks (Skagit County)
- Lookout Mountain (Whatcom County)
- Sage Hills (Chelan County)
- Ski Hill and Freund Canyon Trails (Okanogan County)
- Squilchuck State Park (Chelan County)
- Sun Mountain and Buck Mountain (Okanogan County)

South Central

- Yacult Burn State Forest (Clark County)

Columbia Plateau

GAP Not identified yet

Northeast

- Abercrombie Mountain, Silver Creek (Pend Oreille County)
- Beacon Hill (Spokane County)
- [High Drive Park/South Hill Bluff \(Spokane County\)](#)
- Kettle Crest Trails (Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties)
- Micah Peak (Spokane County)

GAP Spokane County. This area has disproportionately fewer trail miles than other urban areas.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

Statewide

- Cross-state mountain bike trail: Connection to the Oregon Timber Trail. (Chelan, King, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lewis, Okanogan, Peirce, and Skamania Counties))

Commented [ZS(1)]: List counties

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Lack of developed mountain bike facilities in and near urbanizing communities. Although places like Duthie Hill in Issaquah exist, they quickly reach capacity at peak times because the sport is growing so fast. Mountain bikers prefer more frequent rides close to home over destination experiences, which still are valued greatly.
- Cascade Mountain Range: There is a lack of connectivity with larger trail networks and trail experiences that offer an alpine experience or viewpoint.
- Mountain biking is prohibited in all designated wilderness areas.
- Trail maintenance funding is not keeping pace with growth in this activity.
- Non-sustainability of user built trails on U.S. Forest Service lands. Unapproved development under threat of decommissioning.
- Parking areas frequented by mountain bikers often at capacity and riders must seek out more distant access points.
- Underdeveloped policies (in places) for e-bikes.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Establish a new authority to fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand mountain biking opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.
- Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Establish an advisory committee of stakeholders and land managers to make policy and trail designation recommendations for the board's statewide trails system (per Revised Code of Washington 79A). The advisory committee should develop a trails plan for the state that identifies all the resources and projects that contribute to a statewide trails system. The advisory committee could advise the board and other agencies on the status of a statewide trails system, make recommendations, and serve as a repository of information that includes local and regional trails that many connect to the state trails system.
- Create additional authorities to purchase lands for trails in urbanizing communities, and that link community and backcountry trails.
- Incentivize land manager agencies to support mountain bike development on ski slopes in the off-season.
- Evaluate any policy needs with regard to ebikes on trails.
- Incentivize private landowners to allow trail activities on their lands.

Funding

- Maintain funding for backcountry recreation activities such as mountain biking in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).

Continue or Increase

- Dedicate more funds to trail maintenance and larger trailheads at popular trails.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

- Fund mountain bike facility development in urbanized areas to bring riding opportunities close to home.
- Fund trail development to connect existing networks for longer rides.





DEFINITION

Mountaineering involves ascending mountains, which may include traversing areas of snow and ice. Mountaineering usually requires special climbing and safety equipment and may include overnight camping in the backcountry or at a trailhead. Mountaineers may train by hiking, backpacking, and climbing in low elevation areas.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Exceptional sites are high altitude natural areas with mountain peaks. These areas are accessed by developed trails that typically end in an alpine environment. Mountaineering may be done alone or in a small group and may be led by a paid guide. Mountaineers may stay overnight in a backcountry, dispersed camping areas near the destination climb. Trailheads that support mountaineering have ample parking, restrooms, potable water, and may have day-use areas such as picnic shelters or other amenities. For this study only public lands are discussed.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

- Olympic National Park (Clallam and Jefferson Counties)

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Mount Saint Helens National Monument (Cowlitz County)
- Mount Rainier National Park (Pierce County)

MOUNTAINEERING

Seattle-King County

- Alpine Lakes Wilderness (King and Kittitas Counties)
- Mount Index (King County)

North Cascades

- Enchantments (Chelan County)
- Mount Baker (Whatcom County)
- North Cascades National Park (Whatcom County)

South Central

GAP Potential gap

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

GAP Potential gap

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Lack of needed facilities such as restrooms and developed camping areas in or near the alpine areas. Over-use of popular sites in the alpine environment damages the natural resource there and reduces the quality of experience and may lead to closures.
- Insufficient trailhead parking at significant sites when other recreational users visit as well.



MOUNTAINEERING

- More capacity (parking, trail maintenance) at low-elevation trails used for training. These areas often are overcrowded because they are popular with other nonmotorized trail activities.
- Limitations due to quotas and permits.
- Car prowling issues at trailheads.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Together with the recommendations for climbing, evaluate the desirability of a reservation system for use of popular mountaineering areas.

Funding

- Add more parking at trailheads that serve mountaineers and other nonmotorized users.
- More security and enforcement at trailheads to reduce car prowls.
- More maintenance of, and facilities at, backcountry sites to address resource damage from over use.
- Maintain and develop more low-elevation sites that support training experiences for mountaineers.
- Maintain funding for backcountry recreation such as mountaineering in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

Nature activities in parks or natural areas consists of experiencing and enjoying those things that occur in the natural world. This includes beachcombing, wildlife viewing, sightseeing of nature, visiting gardens and arboretums, spending time in a natural area, nature photography, environmental education, etc. Staff evaluated nature activities rather than the existence of conservation lands or open space that do not provide access.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Significant places to engage in nature activities are parks and natural areas with well-developed access roads and parking areas. These access points have amenities such as restrooms and day-use areas. These areas also may have interpretive signs and trails, boardwalks with viewing platforms, nature centers, and environmental education programs.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Long Beach (Pacific County)

Peninsulas

- Hoh Rainforest (Jefferson County)
- Ozette Coast (Clallam County)

Islands

- State Parks' properties (Island and San Juan Counties)

Southwest

- Columbia River Gorge (Benton, Clark, Klickitat, and Skamania Counties)

NATURE ACTIVITIES

- Mount Rainier National Park (Pierce County)
- Ridgefield National Wild Life Refuge (Clark County)
- Scatter Creek Wildlife Area (Lewis County)
- Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Clark County)
- Few natural areas in the Interstate 5 corridor from Vancouver to Olympia.

Seattle-King County

- Discovery, Seward, and Washington Arboretum Parks (King County)

North Cascades

- Jetty Island (Snohomish County)

South Central

- Cowiche Canyon (Yakima County)
- Oak Creek Wildlife Area (Yakima County)


Columbia Plateau

- Hanford Reach National Monument (Grant County)
- Columbia National Wildlife Refuge (Grant County)

Northeast

- Dishman Hills (Spokane County)

The Palouse

-  Few large public or private land trust land holdings in the Palouse area.



NATURE ACTIVITIES

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Finding adequate resources for stewardship efforts to maintain the ecological integrity of a large land mass.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Evaluate the need for a statewide land manager and stakeholder group to evaluate and prioritize investment needs in natural areas in the state.





DEFINITION

Off-road 4x4 recreation is driving or riding in a four-wheeled vehicle built for off-road purposes, with a wheel for a steering device.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Significant sites for 4x4 recreation are double-track trails, primitive or other non-highway roads, and non-habitat protected open areas in a natural setting. Highly developed sports parks, which offer a variety of custom terrain also are included as potential exceptional assets. Off-road 4x4 riding also may be a means to do other recreational activities in the backcountry such as hunting, fishing, and camping. Exceptional trails will have loops and long-distance routes that connect to other opportunities and open areas for group gatherings. Because 4x4s generally are larger than all-terrain vehicles and motorcycles they require larger facilities. Exceptional assets have large parking areas with trailer parking, restrooms, potable water, day-use areas, and overnight camping areas. Places that host competitive events have areas for staging, mobile concessionaires, and utility hookups.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Elbe Hills and Tahoma State Forests (Lewis County)

OFF-ROAD 4x4 RIDING

GAP Trail routes originating in Eatonville and Packwood that link these areas

Seattle-King County

GAP Potential gap

North Cascades

GAP Adequate Jeep trails in the Lake Wenatchee area. (Chelan County)

GAP Areas near Wenatchee (Chelan County)

- Cle Elum Ranger District (Kittitas County)

GAP Conconully Area (Okanogan County)

- Gallagher Lake Jeep Trail (Kittitas County)

GAP Low-evaluation trails east of the Cascade Mountains that open in the spring

South Central

- Ahtanum State Forest (Yakima County)

GAP Easy to access trails near the Tri-Cities and in the Yakima Valley. (Benton and Yakima Counties)

- Juniper Dunes Off-highway Vehicle Area (Franklin County)
- Naches Ranger District's Funny Rocks and Moon Rocks (Yakima County)
- Saddle Mountain Off-highway Vehicle Area (Yakima County)

Columbia Plateau

GAP Adequate developed rock crawls on Bureau of Land Management land near Vantage (Grant County)

- Beverly Sand Dunes (Grant County)
- Crab Creek Wildlife Area (Grant County)



OFF-ROAD 4X4 RIDING

- Moses Lake Sand Dunes (Grant County)

Northeast

- Liberty Lake (Spokane County)
- Riverside State Park (Spokane County)

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Establishing and maintaining partnerships with land managers. Staff turnover and lack of capacity limits effective partnerships.
- Maintenance of trails and related areas to keep them open
- Many of the most popular areas are not large enough for special events.
- Closing sites because of land manager's lack of capacity to manage impacts
- Newer off-road vehicle recreationists not steeped in best practices have disproportionate negative impacts.
- Missing links in trails. Provide incentives to landowners to allow recreational trails on and through their lands.
- Expensive infrastructure needs, such as bridges to protect waters and wildlife, are hard to fund.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Establish a new authority to fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand



OFF-ROAD 4x4 RIDING

off-road vehicle opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.

- Establish an advisory committee to recommend policy and trail designations to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's statewide trails plan (Revised Code of Washington 79A). The advisory committee would have three tasks: 1) develop a statewide trails plan; 2) advise the board and other agencies on the status and priorities of a statewide trails system; and 3) serve as a repository of information on local and regional trails that connect to the state trails system.
 - Within this effort, convene a stakeholder and land manager group to produce a feasibility study and potential plan to complete a cross-state off-road vehicle trail in the Cascade Mountains ([Backcountry Discovery Route](#)).
 - Create a task force to work with federal land managers and Washington State Department of Natural Resources towards expanding off-road vehicle use of roads (either open or closed).

Funding

- Provide more funding for education and enforcement patrols to reduce resource damage and increased maintenance needs.
- Maintain funding for off-road recreation activities such as 4x4 recreation in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).

NOTES

Off-road vehicles are the only way many people may experience the backcountry at their own pace and independently.





DEFINITION

Riding off-road, all-terrain vehicles and utility vehicles for recreation involving a three- or four-wheeled, non-highway vehicle (may be permitted for highway use), generally smaller and lighter than a highway vehicle, with or without handlebars. These vehicles are defined in state law.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSET PROFILE

An exceptional all-terrain vehicle asset are areas that have long-distance, double-track trails or non-habitat protected open areas. Trail experiences consist of a loop trail experience instead of an out-and-back experience. Exceptional assets also may be developed sports parks, which provide a variety of riding experiences such as rock crawls and obstacle courses. Exceptional sites have large open areas for camping, special events, and competitions. Off-road vehicle riding is also a way to do other forms of backcountry recreation such as hunting, fishing, and camping. Exceptional assets also may connect to highway all-terrain vehicles and utility vehicles may drive legally.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Straddleline ORV Sports Park (Grays Harbor and Thurston Counties)

Peninsulas

- Tahuya State Forest (Kitsap County)

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Capitol State Forest (Thurston County)
- Elbe Hills and Tahoma State Forests (Lewis County)

OFF-ROAD ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE RIDING

GAP [Washington State Back Country Discovery Route](#) (Extends through Washington from the Canadian border to the Mexico border). Gaps, including roads that don't allow off-road vehicles, exist along the route. Many areas need redevelopment.

Seattle-King County

GAP Potential gap

North Cascades

- Colockum Wildlife Area (Kittitas County)

GAP Omak to Naches route using a combination of highway and backcountry trails.

GAP [Washington State Back Country Discovery Route](#) (Extends through Washington from the Canadian border to the Mexico border). Gaps, including roads that don't allow off-road vehicles, exist along the route. Many areas need redevelopment.

- Washington's Green Dot road system

South Central

- Ahtanum State Forest (Yakima County)
- Juniper Dunes (Franklin County)

GAP [Washington State Back Country Discovery Route](#) (Extends through Washington from the Canadian border to the Mexico border). Gaps, including roads that don't allow off-road vehicles, exist along the route. Many areas need redevelopment.

Columbia Plateau

- Beverly Sand Dunes (Grant County)
- Moses Lake Sand Dunes (Grant County)

Northeast

- Golden Tiger Pathway (Ferry County)



OFF-ROAD ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE RIDING

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Areas where all-terrain vehicles cannot use highways to reach riding areas or link riding areas together. This limits riding opportunities and tourism routes where they may be desired.
- Inadequate resources to maintain some high-demand riding areas. This often leads to closure of the site.
- State and federal land managers do not have enough capital to develop new sites to keep pace with need.
- Shrinking federal staff capacity limits partnerships that are needed to keep sites open and to develop new sites.
- Missing links in trails. Provide incentives to landowners to allow recreational trails on and through their lands.
- U.S. Forest Service road currently closed to highway vehicles but could be open to all-terrain vehicles.

Need more ORV trail experiences within driving distance of the Tri-Cities and in the I5 corridor.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Establish a new authority to fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand off-road vehicle opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.



OFF-ROAD ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE RIDING

- Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Establish an advisory committee of stakeholders and land managers to make policy and trail designation recommendations for the board's statewide trails system (per Revised Code of Washington 79A). The advisory committee should develop a trails plan for the state that identifies all the resources and projects that contribute to a statewide trails system. The advisory committee could advise the board and other agencies on the status of a statewide trails system, make recommendations, and serve as a repository of information that includes local and regional trails that many connect to the state trails system.
 - Within this effort, convene a stakeholder and land manager group to produce a feasibility study and potential plan to complete a cross-state off-road vehicle trail in the Cascade Mountains ([Backcountry Discovery Route](#)).
- Create a task force to work with federal land managers and Washington State Department of Natural Resources towards expanding off-road vehicle use of roads (either open or closed).
- Broaden the authority for local governments to allow all-terrain vehicle use of highways to connect riding areas.
- Consider additional resource development to address the growth in utility vehicles use.

Funding

- Provide more funding for education and enforcement patrols to reduce resource damage and increased maintenance needs.
- Maintain funding for off-road recreation activities such as all-terrain vehicle recreation in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

Off-road motorcycling is riding a motorcycle on trails in a natural setting, open areas suitable for off-road motorcycle riding, or at an off-road motorcycle sports park.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Off-road motorcycling at significant sites is characterized by riding on single-track trails or non-habitat protected open areas in a natural setting with mountains and views, or in a more developed setting such as a sports park with human-made obstacles and terrain that offers experiences for a diversity of skill. Trail systems typically are large and connect to other trails. Significant assets will have loop trails and open areas for riding as well as open areas for group gatherings. These facilities are supported by large parking areas with trailer parking, restrooms, potable water, day-use areas, and overnight camping areas. Facilities well-suited for competitive events have areas for staging, mobile concessionaires, and utility hookups.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

GAP Tahuya State Forest (Kitsap County).

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Capitol State Forest (Thurston County)
- Cowlitz Valley and Mount Adams areas (Cowlitz, Skamania, and Yakima Counties)

OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING

GAP Need more trails in the Interstate 5 corridor from Vancouver to Olympia.

Seattle-King County

GAP Potential gap

North Cascades

GAP Better trail development and maintenance in the Cabin Creek, Old Bluet Pass, and Teanaway areas (Kittitas and Yakima Counties)

- Cle Elum Area: Lion's Rock, and the Manastash and Teanaway Forests, (Chelan and Kittitas Counties)
- Entiat Ranger District area: (Chelan County)
- Mission Ridge Area (Kittitas County)

GAP Need more trails in the Monroe area (Snohomish County)

South Central

GAP Potential gap

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

GAP Potential gap

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Need more loop trail experiences: out-and-back trails are not sufficient or sustainable for motorcycle recreation.



OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING

- Need longer trails than those provided for nonmotorized recreation because a motorcyclist can cover more miles in a single ride.
- Lack of trail maintenance often leads to the closure of trails.
- Balance land use policy between motorized and nonmotorized users.
- Off-road motorcycle recreation (along with other motorized forms) are becoming family activities. Need to provide experiences that appeal to multiple generations.
- More camping opportunities at trails and trailheads.
- Missing links in trails: Provide incentives to landowners to allow recreational trails on and through their lands.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand off-road vehicle opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.
- Establish an advisory committee to recommend policy and trail designations to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's statewide trails plan (Revised Code of Washington 79A). The advisory committee would have three tasks: 1) develop a statewide trails plan; 2) advise the board and other agencies on the status and priorities of a statewide trails system; and 3) serve as a repository of information on local and regional trails that connect to the state trails system.
 - Within this effort, convene a stakeholder and land manager group to produce a feasibility study and potential plan to complete a cross-state off-road vehicle trail in the Cascade Mountains ([Backcountry Discovery Route](#)).

Funding

- Provide more funding for trailhead camping.



OFF-ROAD MOTORCYCLING

- Maintain funding for motorcycle activities such as backcountry motorcycle recreation in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

Paddling on oceans and lakes requires sitting in or standing on a small boat (typically a kayak, canoe, or stand-up paddle board) and propelling and steering it through water by human power. This activity does not include surfing.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Significant paddling sites are the ocean and destination lakes with paddling access points available to the public. Significant assets have natural and developed shorelines, or a mix thereof, and scenic vistas, historic or interesting shoreline development, or other attractions. Significant access sites offer easy and safe access to and from the water, and have ample parking, camping, and day-use facilities such as restrooms and open areas for staging and relaxation. A significant access site may be natural, such as a gravel beach or lawn, or developed, such as a dock, pier, or launching ramp.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Lower Columbia River Water Trail (Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties)
- Willapa Bay Water Trail (Pacific County)

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

- Cama Beach (Island County)

Southwest

- Lower Columbia River Water Trail (Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Pacific, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties)

PADDLING

GAP Need more developed access points in the Columbia River Gorge.

- Northwest Discovery Trail (Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties)
- Point Defiance Park (Pierce County)

Seattle-King County

- Gene Coulon Park (King County)
- Lakes to Locks Water Trail (King County)
- Sail Sand Point and Magnuson Boat Launch at Sand Point Magnuson Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Lake Chelan State Park (Chelan County)
- Steamboat Rock State Park (Okanogan County)
- Wenatchee Confluence State Park (Chelan County)

South Central

- Northwest Discovery Trail (Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties)

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

- Pend Oreille River Water Trail (Pend Oreille County)
- Spokane River (Spokane County)



PADDLING

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- For water trail routes, multiple landowners make coordination a challenge. Coordination could include education and enforcement activities, policy issues such as camping and access site standards, development, redevelopment, maintenance, signs and branding, and volunteer efforts.
- Water trails are expensive to expand because waterfront is costly.
- Coordinating dam flows with recreationists. For waters that are dammed, the flow of water is key to providing more or less access and trip planning.
- Access sites that are leased may not have a long-term future.
- Marinas often prioritize in-water boat storage space over hand-launch areas. More cost-effective to offer long-term leases to boaters than paddlers.
- Private property restrictions. Inability to access upland amenities where private property abuts state tidelands.
- Signs and camping along the established water trails that are too far apart.
- More parking will be needed to accommodate growth in this sport. Inexpensive, quality equipment makes beginning this sport easy, which means growth will continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Develop a state paddle sports office to coordinate paddle sports because this sport spans multiple land manager agencies and regulatory bodies. This office should better coordinate the planning and management of water trail systems to include standards for development, maintenance, branding and signs, volunteers,



PADDLING

education, and enforcement, as well as coordinate paddle sport needs with dam operators.

- Develop authorities that direct marinas to offer hand-launch opportunities to the public if no other opportunity exists in a locale.
- As able, create additional authorities for dam operators to support paddling recreation.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of authorities designed to encourage more water access for paddlers.
- Provide incentives to private landowners for access easements to and from tidelands to allow travel between paddle craft and upland amenities.

Funding

- Buy more land for access to the water to support paddling as needed.
- Maintain funding for backcountry paddling activities in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).

NOTES

Paddle sports continues to grow due to new developments in equipment and accessories that reduced barriers to participate (lighter, less expensive gear and accessories). Kayak fishing is on the rise.





DEFINITION

Whitewater paddling is the recreational pursuit of sitting in or standing on a small boat (typically a kayak or raft) or paddleboard and propelling and steering it through water by human power. This is performed on moderate- to fast-moving rivers with a rating scale Class I-V to indicate the level of skill needed and the difficulty of navigation.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Exceptional whitewater paddling sites are destination water bodies with paddling access points available to the public. Exceptional access sites are those that offer easy and safe access to and from the water, and have ample parking and day-use facilities such as restrooms and open areas for staging and relaxation. A significant access site may be natural such as a gravel beach or lawn, or developed such as a boat launch.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Need more access developed on the Wynoochee River (Grays Harbor County)

Peninsulas

- Olympic Peninsula Rivers (Clallam, Jefferson, and Mason Counties)

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Green River (King and Pierce Counties)
- Little White Salmon River (Skamania County)
- White Salmon River (Klickitat County)
- Seattle-King County

PADDLING WHITEWATER

- Forks of Snoqualmie River (King County)
- Green River (King and Pierce Counties)

North Cascades

- Methow River (Okanogan County)

GAP More access sites needed on North Fork Nooksack River.

GAP Need access sites to quality whitewater on the Skykomish River.

- Skagit River (Skagit County)
- Skykomish River (Snohomish County)
- Stillaguamish River, South Fork (Skagit and Snohomish Counties)
- Wenatchee River (Chelan County)
- Wenatchee River in Leavenworth (Okanogan County)

South Central

- Yakima River and Cooper River (Yakima County)

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

- Spokane River (Spokane County)

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap



PADDLING WHITEWATER

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Drought and climate change impacts. Reduced snow pack is expected to reduce length of season rivers may be accessible.
- Market forces. Some private forestlands require permits that are cost prohibitive.
- Develop more river corridor plans for popular rivers where no plans exist.
- Federal and state land management agencies have inadequate resources to provide ample river access points.
- Private landowners and Native American tribes are able to provide access but are concerned about resource and liability impacts to their land.
- Rivers in Washington are unique and losing a site or access could negate that opportunity statewide.
- As population grows, so does development pressure on rivers. Need to have a plan in place to evaluate access points before development in urbanizing counties.
- Evaluate the impact standup paddleboards are having at access sites. This is a growing segment of whitewater paddling.
- River access points are underfunded for maintenance and redevelopment.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Develop a state paddle sports office to coordinate paddle sports because this sport spans multiple land manager agencies and regulatory bodies. This office should better coordinate the planning and management of water trail systems to include standards for development, maintenance, branding and signs, volunteers, education, and enforcement, as well as coordinate paddle sport needs with dam operators.



PADDLING WHITEWATER

- Evaluate the efficacy of authorities in Washington that support whitewater paddling and other paddle sports and make improvements as needed. These include authorities and programs that encourage general public river access on private properties, state and federal wild and scenic river designations, hydropower licensing requirements and programs, Washington State Department of Transportation public access authorities, and other state agency programs (State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, etc.).

Funding

- Develop a funding mechanism for maintenance, planning, and acquisition of river access sites.
- Maintain funding for paddling activities in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

Outdoor athletics activities include participating in “pick up” or league play in team or individual sports. This activity considers both youth and adult sports performed on a court or field designed and developed for one or more specific sports. These sports include but are not limited to, baseball, basketball, cheer, cricket, football, ice sports (hockey, figure skating, etc.), lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, track and field, ultimate Frisbee and Frisbee golf, and volleyball. For this study, only publicly owned facilities are discussed.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Exceptional sport and athletic facilities generally consist of four or more sports fields with ample parking for large events. These facilities also have restrooms, storage and maintenance structures, concessioner buildings or dedicated space for mobile concessions, utility hookups throughout, and lighted fields or courts. A facility may be dedicated to one sport or multiple sports with playing surfaces that are multi-functional. An exceptional asset also may be a single, well-maintained playing surface with stadium seating, scoreboards, announcer’s booth, and concession area, and may have indoor changing facilities for players.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- Bishop Athletic Complex (Grays Harbor County)

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

GAP Potential gap

PLAYING SPORTS

Southwest

- Regional Athletic Complex (Thurston County)
- Tom O'Shanter Park (Cowlitz County)

Seattle-King County

- Bannerwood Ball Park (King County)
- Big Fin Hill Park (King County)
- Lower Woodland, Magnuson, and West Seattle Stadium Parks (King County)
- Marymoor Park (King County)
- Ravensdale Park (King County)
- Sammamish River Regional Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Eastside Park (Okanogan County)
- Rotary Park (Kittitas County)

South Central

- Columbia Play Field (Benton County)
- Kiwanis Park (Yakima County)
- TRAC Softball/Playfields Complex (Benton County)

Columbia Plateau

- Kenroy Park (Douglas County)
- McDonald Park (Whitman County)



PLAYING SPORTS

Northeast

- Dwight Merkel Sports Complex (Spokane County)
- Plante's Ferry Sports Complex (Spokane County)

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Low-income groups face financial barriers to participate in organized sports leagues, have reduced access to quality fields, and cannot attend elite sports camps. which ultimately drives down participation.²⁴
- High purchase and installation cost of artificial playing surfaces and lights. These facilities are needed where there is high demand for playing time. Artificial fields do not need "down time" to regenerate and are playable in any weather, and lights extend play opportunities into the evening.
 - Concerns over the impact on human health of certain playfield surfaces, such as crumb-rubber, has limited how and where sports fields are built and is likely to increase the cost of constructing field surfaces.
- Marathons, triathlon, and ultra races. Land managers often are hard to work with to establish staging areas for long races.
- Growth of sports surfaces and courts needs are not keeping pace with population changes.

²⁴[State of Play Seattle-King County, Aspen Institute, 2019](#)



PLAYING SPORTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Develop new revenue authorities for public agencies experiencing significant population growth, and areas of the state without destination tournament sites, to fund multisport artificial playing surfaces (new or redevelopment) and lighting projects.
- Develop authorizes and programs to help low-income sports leagues obtain use of quality fields and courts at the desired seasons and times of day.

NOTES

Artificial playing surfaces have a higher initial cost but also create higher revenues because they have more availability than natural surfaces and reduce maintenance costs.





DEFINITION

SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) is any underwater activity outside of a vessel where the recreationists has its own artificial breathing device. SCUBA divers also may use propulsion assist devices and vehicles.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

Exceptional SCUBA assets are natural waters where boat or other water activities are restricted to allow people to recreate underwater safely. These underwater areas are scenic and offer interesting features or wildlife. Exceptional sites provide safe and easy access to the water, have well-developed and maintained roads and parking areas, running water, and restrooms.

The Coast

GAP Potential gap

Peninsulas

GAP Access for SCUBA divers at Twanoh State Park (Mason County)

- Fort Ward Park (Kitsap County)
- Potlach State Park (Mason County)

GAP More access for SCUBA divers at Camano Island (Island County)

Southwest

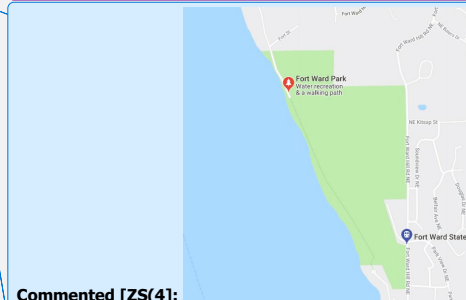
GAP More access for SCUBA Divers needed at: Joemma Beach, Kopachuck, and Penrose Point State Parks (Pierce County), and Tolmie State Park (Thurston County)

Seattle-King County

- Redondo Beach Park Artificial Reef Project (King County)

Commented [ZS(2)]: is this a state Park?

Commented [CA(3)]: Not that I can see



Commented [ZS(4)]:

Commented [ZS(5)]: I see 2 Fort ward parks, not sure which one you are referring to?

Commented [CA(6)]: I saw that too but Bainbridge metro parks website says they own it and it is not on the Washington state parks site. The Bainbridge site said it used to be a state park.

SCUBA

- Saltwater State Park (King County)
- Seacrest Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Brackett's Landing Park (Snohomish County)

South Central

GAP Potential gap

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

GAP Potential gap

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Lack of funding to maintain the sites.
- Generally need better beach access and ample restrooms and parking. Because SCUBA activities often are collocated with other recreational activities there is more competition for support facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Direct agencies who manage or regulate waterfront property or development to better coordinate with the SCUBA community in their planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, and regulatory programs.



SCUBA

Funding

- Continue to support funding of water access sites, and tideland and bedlands stewardship.





DEFINITION

Alpine skiing, or downhill skiing, is the pastime of sliding down snow-covered slopes on skis with fixed or free-heel bindings or on snowboards. Alpine skiing includes services such as ski lifts to bring skiers to the higher elevation to begin their skiing, groomed skiing surfaces, a ski patrol presence, and lighted ski runs to extend skiing into the evening. Backcountry skiing is similar except the skier is in a more remote and undeveloped setting and they do not rely on ski lifts to gain elevation, and the skiing surface is natural, ungroomed snow.

PROFILE OF EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS

Alpine skiing significant assets consist of alpine ski areas that have multiple routes of different length and difficulty, ski lifts, lighting for evening use, large parking areas with developed comfort facilities such as warming areas, restaurants, shops, and rental equipment. These areas have well-maintained access roads and other routes of travel. Nearly all alpine ski areas in Washington are privately operated on leased government lands.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- None

Peninsulas

- Hurricane Ridge (Clallam County)

Islands

- None

Southwest

- Crystal Mountain Resort (Lewis County)

SKIING

- White Pass Ski Area (Lewis County)

Seattle-King County

- Snoqualmie Pass Ski Areas (King County)

North Cascades

- Mission Ridge (Chelan County)

South Central

GAP Potential gap

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

- 49 degrees North Mountain Resort (Stevens County)
- Mount Spokane State Park (Spokane County)

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Warmer temperatures mean less desirable conditions and shorter seasons.
- Overcrowding, limited facilities, and constrained parking

RECOMMENDATIONS

GAP Continue and expand where needed snow plowing efforts to keep downhill ski areas and parking areas open.





DEFINITION

Snowmobiling is riding on a motorized vehicle designed for winter travel and recreation on snow. A snowmobile typically has a single belt track on the rear for propulsion and one or two skis on the front that the operator controls with handlebars. It is designed to be operated on snow and ice and does not require a road or trail. Most are driven on open terrain or groomed trails.

PROFILE OF SIGNIFICANT ASSETS

Significant snowmobiling assets are areas covered in snow in a natural setting where snowmobiling is allowed. Riding areas are composed of open areas or trails or both. Significant sites have large plowed parking and staging areas suitable for trailers and campers, well-maintained access roads, and may have warming huts and restrooms. For large events, larger areas are needed for staging and mobile concessionaires.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- None

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

GAP Potential gap

Southwest

- Greenwater Sno-Park (Kittitas and Yakima Counties)

Seattle-King County

GAP Potential gap

SNOWMOBILING

North Cascades

- Blewett Pass Sno-Park (Kittitas County)
- Crystal Springs Sno-Park near Stampede Pass (Kittitas County)
- Goat Creek Sno-Park Area (Okanogan County)
- Lake Wenatchee and Fish Lake Sno-Park Area (Chelan County)
- Manastash Area Sno-Park (Kittitas County)

South Central

GAP Potential gap

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap

Northeast

- Mill Creek Area Sno-Park (Pend Oreille County)

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Land use policies, such as allowing resource extraction, may take away from the snowmobiling experience.
- Lack of lodging options near snowmobile areas.
- Maintenance and grooming funding is not keeping pace with increasing need.
- Keeping highways, access roads, and parking areas clear of snow and ice in the winter.



SNOWMOBILING

- Concerns about environmental impacts may pose a challenge for increased access.
- Changing climate limiting snowmobiling season.
- Insufficient parking and support facilities at trails and trailheads where multiple winter recreational activities are allowed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Evaluate effectiveness of maintenance and plowing as it relates to providing recreational access to desired sites.

Funding

- Maintain funding for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's [Snowmobile Program](#) and [Sno-Park Program](#) activities in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





DEFINITION

Cross-country skiing, skate-skiing, and snowshoeing are forms of winter trail activities that are nonmotorized. These recreationists rely on their own power to move across snow-covered terrain, rather than using ski lifts or other assistance. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing mostly take place on groomed trails; skate-skiers require a trail that is groomed. Winter trail recreationists also use poles for locomotion, stability, and maneuvering.

Snowshoeing is a type of hiking that involves walking over snow using specialized footwear (snowshoes) that displaces weight over a larger surface area in order to walk on top of the snow rather than sinking into it. Snowshoers typically use poles to aid in locomotion, stability, and maneuvering.

Snowshoers and cross-country skiers may stay overnight in a natural setting. Those doing so carry supplies in a backpack or on sled that is attached to the user's waist and towed behind.

PROFILE OF SIGNIFICANT ASSETS

Nonmotorized winter trail activity assets are backcountry and front-country natural areas where snow accumulates to a desired minimum depth. Activities take place on groomed trails although skate-skiing takes place exclusively on such trails. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing also occur on non-groomed trails and open areas including alpine areas. Trails should travel through scenic or historical areas with viewpoints. Significant assets have large snow plowed access roads and parking areas, and may have warming huts and restrooms. Assets used for large events and competitions must have extra room for staging and mobile concessionaires.

EXCEPTIONAL ASSETS, AND GAPS

The Coast

- None

WINTER TRAILS

Peninsulas

GAP Potential gap

Islands

- None

Southwest

- Mount Tahoma Trail System (Lewis County)

Seattle-King County

- Cabin Creek Sno-Park (King County)

North Cascades

- Echo Ridge Trails (Chelan County)
- Lake Wenatchee State Park Sno-Park (Chelan County)

GAP Mazama and Winthrop winter trails (Okanogan County): More infrastructure development needed to keep pace with growth in sport in the Methow Valley. These needs include roads, parking, snow plow services, utilities, backcountry education, and public safety personnel.

- Salmon Ridge Sno-Park (Skagit County)

South Central

- Pleasant Valley Trail System (Yakima County)

Columbia Plateau

GAP Potential gap



WINTER TRAILS

Northeast

- Frater Lake Sno-Park (Pend Oreille County)
- Mount Spokane (Spokane County)

The Palouse

GAP Potential gap

QUALITATIVE GAPS AND FUTURE NEEDS

- Warmer temperatures for longer duration may reduce snow accumulation, which may shorten winter recreation season.
- Coordinating large trail systems with multiple land managers. Staff turnover stalls partnerships.
- Competing land uses such as resource extraction may change the user experience.
- Maintaining access roads in harsh conditions including the interstate highway system in Washington.
- Inadequate parking. Roadside and dispersed parking is undesirable in winter conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Policy

- Establish a new authority to fund additional staff at land manager agencies to enable them to create and enhance partnerships that will maintain and expand winter trail opportunities. This may include volunteer recruitment coordination, training, recognition, and project leadership.
- For the Methow Valley, authorized a stakeholder and land manager group to coordinate planning and prioritization of investments needed to respond to



WINTER TRAILS

growth in winter trail recreation. Subjects should include a plan to improve and expanded facilities, operations and maintenance goals, and public safety and transportation priorities and improvements.

- Evaluate highway road maintenance and plowing funding as a priority as it relates to providing recreational access to desired sites.

Funding

- Maintain funding for State Parks' Sno-Park program activities and backcountry winter recreation funding in any establishment of a [road usage charge](#).





APPENDIX B: OUTREACH LIST

49 Degrees North Mountain Resort	Nisqually River Foundation
Access Fund	North American Power Kite Association
American Alpine Club	Northwest Marine Trade Association
American Whitewater	Northwest Motorcycle Association
Back Country Horsemen of Washington	Pacific County Tourism Bureau
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers	Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association
Clark County Horse Council	Pacific Northwest Ski Association
Cross-Washington Mountain Bike Route	Pacific Northwest Trails Association
Discover Your Northwest	Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition
Dishman Hills Conservancy	Pasco
Ducks Unlimited	Peninsula Trails Coalition
Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club	Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance	Port of Chinook
Ferry County Rail Trail Partners	Port of Everett
Friends of Capital Forest	Port of Ilwaco
Friends of the Centennial Trail	Port Townsend
Friends of the Tekoa Trestle	Recreational Boaters of Washington
Inland Northwest Trails Coalition	Renton
Kittitas County Field and Stream Club	Richland Rod and Gun Club
Latino Outdoors	Ruffed Grouse Society
Leavenworth Mountain Association	Sail Sand Point
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Sierra Club
Methow Trails	Sierra Club, Washington Chapter
Methow Valley Climbers	Skagit County Parks and Recreation Department
Mount Vernon Parks Foundation	
National Parks Service	

APPENDIX B: OUTREACH LIST

Spokane Gun Club	Washington Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance
Spokane Parks and Recreation Department	Washington Recreation and Parks Association
The Mountaineers	Washington SCUBA Alliance
Traditional Bowhunters of Washington	Washington State Archery Association
U.S. Forest Service	Washington State Department of Health
Vancouver Audubon Society	Washington State Department of Transportation
Visit Long Beach	Washington State Park and Recreation Commission
Waggoner Cruising Guide	Washington Trail Riders Association
Washington Alpine Club	Washington Trails Association
Washington ATV Association	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
Washington Climbers Coalition	Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation
Washington Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation	Wenatchee Row and Paddle Club
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Whatcom Mountain Bike Coalition
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Yakima Valley Dust Dodgers

