



Proposed Agenda

April 21, 2020

Online Meeting

ATTENTION:

Protecting the public, our partners, and our staff are of the utmost importance. Due to recent health concerns with the novel coronavirus and in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order 20-28(amending 20-05), this meeting will be held exclusively online. The public is encouraged to participate online and will be given opportunities to comment, as noted below.

If you wish to participate online, please click the link below to register and follow the instructions. We ask that you register in advance of the meeting. You will be e-mailed specific instructions upon registering. Technical support for the meeting will be provided by RCO's board liaison who can be reached at Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Registration Link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1326136773044936450>

**Additionally, RCO will record this meeting and would be happy to assist you after the meeting to gain access to the information.*

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

Public Comment: General public comment is encouraged to be submitted in advance to the meeting in written form. Please submit written comments to the board by mailing them to the RCO, Attn: Wyatt Lundquist, board liaison, at the address above or at Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov.

Public comment specific to decisions on the agenda will be permitted during the meeting via phone through the Webinar. If you wish to comment, you may e-mail Wyatt.Lundquist@rco.wa.gov or message Wyatt Lundquist using the messenger in the Webinar before the start of the item you wish to testify on. Comment for these items will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

Special Accommodations: People 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 e-mail Leslie.Frank@rco.wa.gov; or 2) 711 relay service. Accommodation requests should be received April 7, 2020 to ensure availability.

OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS

- 9:00 a.m. Call to Order** *Chair Willhite*
- A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
 - B. Overview of the online meeting procedures *Wyatt Lundquist*
 - C. Review and Approval of Agenda
 - D. Remarks of the Chair
-

- 9:15 a.m. 1. Consent Agenda** *(Decision)* *Chair Willhite*
- Resolution 2020-08
- A. [Board Meeting Minutes: January 28-29, 2020](#)
 - B. [Time Extensions:](#)
 - Capitol Land Trust, Nelson Ranch ([RCO 14-1629](#))
 - Methow Valley Ranger District, North Summit Recreation Area ([RCO 14-2111P](#))
 - Tacoma Metro, Point Defiance Loop Trail ([RCO 14-1694D](#))
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Taneum Creek Riparian ([RCO 14-1092A](#))
 - Washington Department of Natural Resources, Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline 2014 ([RCO 14-1249A](#))
 - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Klickitat Trail ([RCO 14-1634D](#))
 - C. [Scope Change:](#)
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Heart of the Cascades: South Fork Manastash ([RCO #16-1343A](#))
 - D. Cost Increases:
 - [Town of Twisp, Twisp Sports Complex Renovation, Phase 1](#) ([RCO #16-2084D](#))
 - [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Boating Facilities Program Cost Increases:](#)
 - Blue Lake Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2443D](#))
 - Lake Campbell Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2266D](#))
 - Liberty Lake Redevelopment ([RCO #18-2461D](#))
 - E. [Technical Corrections:](#)
 - Sustainability Criteria to Balance Scores for Acquisition Projects: Boating Facilities Program (BFP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access Categories
-

- Official Adoption of Resolution 2020-03 – Conversion Request: Dungeness Valley Creamery ([RCO #06-1849A](#))

F. [Volunteer Recognitions \(4\)](#)

9:20 a.m. 2. Director’s Report (*Briefing*)

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| A. Director’s Report | Kaleen Cottingham |
| B. Legislative Update | Wendy Brown |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills and Budget • Update on Policy Work Plan • Carbon Credit Update (Written Only) | |
| C. Partner Updates on Legislation and Budget | Agency Board Members |
| D. Grant Management Report | Marguerite Austin |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steptoe Butte Update | |
| E. Grant Services Report | Kyle Guzlas |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance Follow-up: High Risk Sponsor Policy (Written Only) | |
| F. <i>Performance Report (Written Only)</i> | Brent Hedden |
| G. <i>Fiscal Report (Written Only)</i> | Mark Jarasitis |

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

- 10:05 a.m. 3. [Overview of the Next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan \(SCORP\) and Other Affiliated Plans](#)** Katie Pruitt
- Timeline
 - Process for Integrating Recent Studies and Other Data

- 10:20 a.m. 4. [Land and Water Conservation Fund-Legacy: Applications Overview and Opportunity for Public Comment](#)** Karl Jacobs

- 10:50 a.m. 5. Overview of Grant Cycle Timeline and Procedural Changes** Scott Robinson
Marguerite Austin

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

- 11:10 a.m. 6. [Pandemic Response Match Relief for 2020](#)** Adam Cole
Marguerite Austin
Scott Robinson

Resolution 2020-09

Public Comment: Please limit comment to 3 minutes per person.

11:50 a.m. 7. [Delegation of Authority to the Director for any Necessary Changes for Implementation of Funded Projects](#) Kaleen Cottingham

Resolution 2020-10

Public Comment: *Please limit comment to 3 minutes per person.*

12:05 p.m. 8. **Changing the Date of October 2020 Board Meeting** Kaleen Cottingham

Resolution 2020-11

Public Comment: *Please limit comment to 3 minutes per person.*

12:15 p.m. ADJOURN

Next Meeting: Travel Meeting July 21-22, 2020 – Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Long House, 31912 Little Boston Road NE Kingston, WA 98346 – *The meeting location may change as needed to address any public health issues associated with the COVID-19 situation.*

[Correspondence](#)

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING
AGENDA AND ACTIONS**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28,2020

| Item | Formal Action | Follow-up Action |
|--|--|---|
| OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS | | |
| <p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Review and Approval of Agenda C. Introduction of New Board Members D. Approval of Recognition of Resolution <u>2020-01</u> E. Remarks of the Chair | <p>Decision</p> <p><u>January 2020 Meeting Agenda</u> Moved by: Member Shiosaki Seconded by: Member Milliern Decision: Approved</p> <p><u>Resolution 2020-01</u> Moved by: Member Gardow Seconded by: Member Stohr Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>1. Consent Agenda</p> <p>Resolution <u>2020-02</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Board Meeting Minutes B. Time Extensions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCO <u>15-1429</u> • RCO <u>12-1952</u> • RCO <u>14-1127</u> C. Volunteer Recognitions (24) | <p>Decision</p> <p><u>Resolution 2020-02</u> Moved by: Member Herzog Seconded by: Member Shiosaki Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>2. Director's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TVW Update B. Legislative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill and Budget • Update to 2015 Economic Study • Community Forest Update C. Grant Management Report D. Grant Services Report E. Performance Report | | <p>Task: Respond to WWRC letter.</p> <p>Follow-up: Chair Willhite suggested that the board should discuss how to implement health benefits and outdoor recreation into the RCFB Strategic Plan.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>F. Key Performance Measures for RCFB Strategic Plan G. Fiscal Report</p> | | <p>Task: Send board application participation by each county (map).</p> |
| <p>General Public Comment</p> | | |
| <p>BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS</p> | | |
| <p>3. Clallam County Dungeness Farmland Conversion (RCO 06-1849)</p> | <p>Decision <u>Resolution 2020-03</u> Moved by: Member Gardow Seconded by: Member Shiosaki Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>4. Port of Keyport Boat Ramp Reconstruction Cost Increase (RCO 18-2421)</p> | <p>Decision <u>Resolution 2020-04</u> Moved by: Member Milliern Seconded by: Member Gardow Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION</p> | | |
| <p>5. Amendment Request: Spokane County, Sontag Park (RCO 99-1042)</p> | | |
| <p>BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING</p> | | |
| <p>6. Policy Waiver Request: DNR, Steptoe Butte Natural Area (RCO 18-1526D)</p> | | <p>Task: Bring this item back for further discussion in April</p> |
| <p>BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS</p> | | |
| <p>7. Applying Pollinator Language to the Remaining WWRP Habitat Categories as required by SB 5552</p> | <p>Decision <u>Resolution 2020-05</u> Moved by: Member Milliern Seconded by: Member Hix Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>8. Sustainability Evaluation Criteria</p> | <p>Decision <u>Resolution 2020-06</u> Moved by: Member Milliern Seconded by: Member Hix Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>9. Review of Grant Maximum Policy in the WWRP</p> | <p>Decision <u>Resolution 2020-07</u></p> | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Forestland Preservation Category for 2020 Grant Cycle | Moved by: Member Gardow Seconded by: Member Hix Decision: Approved | |
| BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFING | | |
| 10. Review of the Lack of Grant Maximum in the WWRP Trails Category Data for 2022 Grant Cycle | | Task: Place on RCO Policy Plan, Tier 3. |
| BOARD BUSINESS: REQUEST FOR DIRECTION | | |
| 11. Review of the Data for the 2018 Match Reduction Policy in the WWRP Local Parks, Water Access and Trails Categories and in the YAF Program | | Task: RCO will bring back data to the board concerning underserved communities within the next year |
| BOARD BUSINESS: REPORTS | | |
| 12. State Agency Partner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor’s Office • DNR • State Parks and Recreation Commission • WDFW | | |
| 13. Featured Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCO 14-1752D • RCO 12-1555D • RCO 12-1549D | | |
| RECESS | | |
| Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Remarks from Chair | | |
| BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS | | |
| 14. Compliance Program Update | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>15. Can NOVA-ORV Funds be Used to Address Road Maintenance for Damage Caused by ORVs?</p> | | |
| <p>16. Phasing Out the Gas Tax: Road Usage Charge Pilot Project Report and Recommendations from the Washington State Transportation Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussing Impacts to Future Funding • Sharing RCO Comments | <p>Decision <u>Move to approve Washington Transportation letter from RCFB</u> Moved by: Member Gardow Seconded by: Member Hix Decision: Approved</p> | <p>Task: RCO will develop a letter for Ted Willhite to sign on behalf of RCFB to the Washington Transportation Commission concerning a RUC steering committee</p> |
| <p>17. Update on Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club Conversion</p> | | |
| <p>ADJOURN</p> | | |

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting April 21-22, 2020 – Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: January 28, 2020

Place: Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---|
| Ted Willhite, Chair | Seattle | Shiloh Burgess | Wenatchee |
| Kathryn Gardow | Mukilteo | Brock Milliern | Designee, Department of Natural Resources |
| Michael Shiosaki | Seattle | Peter Herzog | Designee, Washington State Parks |
| Henry Hix | Okanogan | Joe Stohr | Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife |

This summary is to 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.

Call to Order

Chair began the meeting at 9 AM and quorum was determined. He welcomed the two new board members and asked each member of the board to introduce themselves and explain their role in recreation and conservation. He followed by having the audience and RCO staff introduce themselves. Chair Willhite read through resolution 2020-01, recognizing Rory Calhoun, Outdoor Grants Manager and Accessibility Specialist for RCO, who will be retiring in February of 2020.

Motion: Move to approve the January 28 and 29, 2020 Meeting Agenda

Moved by: Member Shiosaki

Seconded by: Member Milliern

Decision: Approved

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2020-01

Moved by: Member Gardow

Seconded by: Member Stohr

Decision: Approved

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Chair Wilhite asked for a motion approving Resolution 2020-02, which included the minutes from the October 2019 meeting, three-time extensions and 24 volunteer recognitions.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2020-02

Moved by: Member Herzog

Seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Decision: Approved

Item 2: Director's Report

Director's Report and Legislative update

Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Director, gave her report and legislative update. Director Cottingham started with two director's awards that were given out, one to Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Specialist, and the other to Kay Caromile, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager. Director Cottingham selects two recipients of these awards annually and both Ms. Barker and Ms. Caromile demonstrated attributes that makes these awards well deserved. Director Cottingham updated the board on the TVW request to improve AV equipment in room 172 of the Natural Resources Building. She also mentioned that RCO has officially completed the new tribal contract templates to address sovereign immunity, after working with the Governor's Office and several tribes and a tribal attorney. She ended her report by mentioning the location of this year's travel meeting, which will be in Port Gamble, Washington.

Ms. Cottingham then gave the legislative update, noting that there had been over 1,500 submitted bills in this legislative session. She also described several of the budget requests. Three budget request items from RCO concern the addition of two staff members for the Governor Salmon Recovery Office (GSRO) and funding for the Economic Study update.

Ms. Cottingham also mentioned that RCO had requested funding to control Northern Pike, but the Governor decided to fund this invasive species work through the Department of Fish and Wildlife. State Parks also asked for an additional \$500,000 for the No Child Left Inside program. There is also a proviso in the capital budget regarding the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant program. This proviso would allow for returned funds to flow down to alternate YAF projects.

Ms. Cottingham also discussed other bills and hearings that RCO is tracking, including one on a new community forest grant program, a hearing on the Hiking, Biking and Walking Study, and bills concerning wheeled all-terrain vehicles.

Ms. Cottingham closed by sharing that Eryn Couch, RCO Communications Specialist, will be leaving her position in February 2020.

Grant Management Report

Marguerite Austin, RCO Recreation and Conservation Grants Section Manager, updated the board on the happenings with RCO's Grants Section. On February 13, 2020, RCO will host an application webinar to provide information on the 2020 grants cycle, which begins with opportunities for recreation, conservation, farmland, and forestland projects. This first round of grant applications is due May 1. The second grant cycle begins on August 10th with applications for backcountry trails, motorized boating, and firearms and archery range projects due on November 1st.

Ms. Austin followed with recognition of Kim Sellers' and Kay Caromile' s hard work on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's conservation easement. She closed noting the update to attachment A, a list of alternate and partially funded projects that received returned funds since the last board meeting.

Task: Scott to follow-up on Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition letter received.

Grant Services Report

Kyle Guzlas, RCO Grant Services Section Manager, briefed the board on volunteer recruitment for advisory committees. RCO needed to fill 50 spots on the 17 advisory committees. The recruitment was done through the "Get Involved" page on the RCO Web site, purchased outreach opportunities, and social media postings.

Mr. Guzlas then relayed that RCO is moving towards implementing an electronic signature process using Adobe Sign. RCO's policy to move forward with this venture was finalized in late 2019.

Member Shiloh Burgess and Chair Ted Willhite commended Kyle and his staff on the volunteer advertisement.

Performance Report

Brent Hedden, RCO Policy Specialist, gave a high-level overview of the performance report, with details found under Item 2.

Performance Report and Key Performance Measures for the RCFB Strategic Plan

Brent Hedden gave an update on key performance measures from the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) Strategic Plan, noting that these measures were adopted in 2016. Mr. Hedden listed three separate goals, the framing questions correlating with the goals, and the performance measures that reflected each question.

These goals, questions and key performance measures addressed the number of funded, unfunded, and SCORP related projects by project type and location, the number of habitat and recreation acres protected through acquisition, the number of applications through state agencies, the overall applicant satisfaction, volunteer hours, and the number of applications submitted in each county from 2012-2018.

When addressing applicant satisfaction, Member Milliern inquired whether there was dissatisfaction among applicants that successfully obtained a grant. Ms. Austin expressed that the response of dissatisfaction was typically received from those whose applications did not receive funding.

Member Gardow followed, expressing curiosity of counties who had not applied or had submitted very few from 2012-2018. Mr. Hedden said he did not currently have participation by each county but would send this to the board after the meeting.

Chair Willhite closed the discussion by suggesting that the board think about recent studies around health benefits and outdoor recreation and how the board could use those studies to influence the strategic plan.

Follow-up: Chair Willhite suggested that the board should discuss how to incorporate consideration of health benefits and outdoor recreation into the RCFB Strategic Plan.

Task: Send board application participation by each county (map).

Fiscal Report

Mark Jarasitis, RCO's Chief Financial Officer, gave the board the fiscal report. This included information on the overall funding provided for each grant program, how much was already committed, what will be committed in the future and the expected expenditures. Mr. Jarasitis took a deeper look at the Boating Facilities Program (BFP), the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program, and the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program, where only 21.5% of the biennial forecast funding had been used thus far. To close, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) expenditure rate was examined by organization from 1990 to 2020.

The Board discussed various aspects of the budget expenditures.

General Public Comment: No public comment

Item 3: Clallam County Dungeness Farmland Conversion

Myra Barker, RCO Compliance Specialist, and **Kim Sellers**, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, briefed the board on the conversion of Clallam County's Dungeness Valley

Creamery. The 24.2-acre conversion was due to Clallam County's partnership efforts to restore the Dungeness River's natural floodplain habitat. Much of the restoration efforts will be made through the removal or set back of levies. Ms. Barker reminded the board of its decision-making role in the conversion process as it relates to RCO's obligation to make sure the land is still publicly available or used for its funded intent. Ms. Barker reviewed the practical alternatives for the conversion and described the proposed replacement property, ensuring that all requirements were met.

Following, Ms. Sellers gave a brief summary of the farm's history and three conversion options. The board could: 1) take no action, 2) allow for the levee setback work to be completed and for the farmland directly adjacent to the creamery be used as the replacement property, or 3) consider the purchase of two alternate properties that would cause the farmers to have to truck their cows from pasture to the dairy facility on a daily basis.

After discussion the board expressed interest in option two and Chair Willhite suggested a motion be made.

Member Gardow moved and member Shiosaki seconded the adoption of resolution 2020-04. It was unanimously approved. (Note: The motion number was incorrect and will need to be corrected at a future board meeting).

Item 4: Port of Keyport Boat Ramp Reconstruction Cost Increase

Kim Sellers, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, presented a cost increase request for the Keyport Boat Ramp. She first described all the issues associated with renovating the ramp, including the cross slope, cracks in the concrete, drop off areas, and sediment buildup on the northwest side. As a result of permitting issues, the ramp was redesigned to allow the sediment to flow under it. Due to this change, the soil had to be tested for its stability. The soil was determined to be less stable than previously thought, leading to the necessity of more sturdy materials, such as deeper pilings to support the ramp. Originally the project cost was \$694,200, but now it is \$974,971.

After the briefing, Member Milliern inquired whether the cost increase came solely from issues with the soil or other issues. The project engineer clarified that much of the money needed was due to the soil condition, but because of the delay there will also be increased costs for labor and materials.

Member Gardow followed by asking where the cost increase funding would come from. Ms. Sellers informed Member Gardow that all cost increase funding came from unused funds appropriated for the Boating Facilities Program.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2020-04
Moved by: Member Milliern
Seconded by: Member Gardow
Decision: Approved

BREAK 10:50AM-11:05AM

Item 5: Amendment Request: Spokane County, Sontag Park

Alison Greene, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, presented the Sontag Park amendment request to change the perpetual obligation to that of a 20-year span, ending the obligation in 2021. If this were to happen, Spokane County would end its lease with the State Parks and Recreation Commission. State Parks would then transfer the site to the adjacent Nine Mile Falls School District for management purposes. The board was asked to advise the RCO director on whether she should approve, deny or approve the request conditionally.

The board discussed the subject and expressed concern with the amendment, as making this change could set a precedence. The board talked this through and ultimately recommended that the director let Spokane County, State Parks and the school district work out the details of the transition. RCO would first amend the grant agreement to modify the long-term compliance period and reduce it from perpetual down to 20 years. They asked for assurance that there would be language in the transfer from state parks to the school district to maintain public access in perpetuity.

Item 6: Policy Waiver Request: Department of Natural Resources, Steptoe Butte Natural Area

DeAnna Beck, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, and Brock Milliern, DNR, briefed the board on the policy waiver request for the Steptoe Butte Proposed Natural Area (RCO #18-1526). The board awarded a WWRP Natural Areas Category grant to DNR and the State Parks and Recreation Commission to acquire a 437-acre parcel, located adjacent to on Steptoe Butte State Park. Ms. Beck relayed that this parcel was intended to become either a Natural Area Preserve (NAP) or a Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA), as it contains rare and endangered species.

DNR and State Parks are seeking a policy waiver on this acquisition as it contains a communications structure, which is ineligible for funding through the Natural Areas Category. DNR considered three options including removal of the towers or excluding them from the purchase, however, they rejected these options in hopes of keeping the

communication towers and using the revenue to pay for stewardship needs on Steptoe Butte.

The board expressed concern with the communication tower being on the Natural Area, concern with the impact of decommissioning the communication tower on local 911 services, and concern that public dollars used to decommission might be viewed as wasteful. The board hopes there would be a “win-win” situation. Chair Willhite requested that more information concerning the communication tower and the waiver request be brought forward at the April RCFB meeting.

Task: Bring this back to the board at the April RCFB meeting.

Public Comment:

John Gamon, DNR retiree, wants this site to find a conservation home because he believes it “rises to the top” due to the rare species and opportunities for college research that could be conducted on this site. He urged the board to use its creativity to help DNR accomplish its goal of conserving the site and this stewardship opportunity.

LUNCH: 12:16pm-1:00pm

Item 7: Applying Pollinator Language to the Remaining WWRP Habitat Categories as required by SB 5552

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, relayed to the board that in the 2018 Legislative session, Senate Bill 5552 was enacted. This new law (RCW 79A.15.060.) requires that RCO consider the benefit to pollinator habitat of projects funded through WWRP. The question created through this was: *How does the site support the feeding, nesting and reproduction of pollinator species? (e.g. bees, butterflies, hummingbird)?* This question has been added to the Riparian Protection and the Urban Wildlife categories. Today’s briefing is about adding that language into the other WWRP habitat categories.

After Mr. Donatelle’s briefing, the Board discussed the addition of this question in the following WWRP Critical Habitat and Natural Areas categories.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2020-05

Moved by: Member Milliern

Seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Decision: Approved

Item 8: Sustainability Evaluation Criteria

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, briefed the board on the proposed updated sustainability evaluation criteria. He noted that the sustainability criteria had been applied to grant applications for the Boating Facilities Program (BFP), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) program, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), and the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) program. To better address sustainability, the updated criterion would become: "Please *discuss how your project's location and design supports your organization's sustainability plan or how you considered the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts in the project plan*". Below the question, there would be guideline of some ecological, social, and economic factors that would pertain.

Following the briefing, Mr. Donatelle addressed a new option for scoring and the project types to which it could be applied. RCO staff preferred the option to assign 5 points to development/renovation and planning projects only, as it has been proved ineffective in other project types.

The Board had a lengthy discussion. To begin, Member Gardow expressed two concerns; the first surrounding the usage of points versus a percentage and the second with a sustainability question being integrated into each grant application section to address climate change. Mr. Donatelle noted that having points assigned versus a percentage is essential, otherwise new points would have to be assigned to each project type. He also clarified that there was a specific climate change question within the grant applications, leaving it unnecessary to address it in all application sections.

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2020-06

Moved by: Member Milliern

Seconded by: Member Hix

Decision: Approved

Item 9: Review of Grant Maximum Policy in the WWRP Forestland Preservation Category for 2020 Grant Cycle

Kim Sellers gave an overview of the grant maximum policy for the WWRP Forestland Preservation Category, following a request that the funding cap be raised. The primary purpose of the forestland category is to acquire and preserve opportunities for timber production. Since 2017, the number of grant applicants for this category has steadily increased. RCO sought out four different alternative actions that could be taken, with alternative 2 being the preferred option.

1. No action alternative. The grant limit stays at \$350,000;
2. Raise limit to \$500,000;
3. Raise limit to \$750,000;
4. Raise limit to \$1,000,000.

After Ms. Sellers concluded, the board discussed the pros and cons of raising the grant maximum and its impact on the number of funded projects. They landed on raising the grant maximum to \$500,000

Public Comment:

Nick Norton, Washington Association of Land Trust, echoed support for the staff recommendation of raising the cap to \$500,000

Motion: Move to approve Resolution 2020-07 (alternative 2)
Moved by: Member Gardow
Seconded by: Member Hix
Decision: Approved

Item 10: Review the Lack of Grant Maximum in the WWRP Trails Category Data for 2022 Grant Cycle

Marguerite Austin sought direction from the Board on a request for the board to set a grant maximum in the WWRP Trails category. RCO staff examined data from the past three biennium's concerning the number of funded projects with no cap and the number of projects that could be funded with differing grant maximums. RCO staff also created a questionnaire for potential applicants, asking if there would be support for imposing a grant maximum in WWRP Trails, what unforeseen impacts could this have to future projects, and if there were any other details that potential applicants might have. Slightly over 50% of applicants supported a grant maximum and all applicants expressed concern with cost, project completion time, and the funding of smaller and more projects, among other concerns.

To initiate discussion, Ms. Austin gave three questions to the board:

1. What is the board's funding strategy?
2. Should the board establish grant limits?
3. If a limit is established, what should be the maximum funding request?

The board discussed the negative impact a cap would have on larger trails, the interest in funding more projects through the cap, and both the positive and negative impacts

of phased projects. Ultimately the board came to no conclusive direction and asked that this topic be added to the policy work plan and brought back to the board sometime in 2021

Public comment:

Christine Mahler, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, expressed that more research needs to be completed in this instance.

Task: Staff will add this to the policy work plan (Tier 3) and continue to think about future options.

BREAK: 2:34-2:45

Item 11: Review of the Data for the 2018 Match Reduction Policy in the WWRP Local Parks, Water Access and Trails Categories and in the Youth Facilities Program for 2022

Ben Donatelle, RCO Policy Specialist, briefed the board on the 2018 match reduction policy implemented in a limited number of WWRP categories and YAF and then sought direction concerning steps to take in the future. The match reduction policy, brought on by a 2015 WWRP review, was meant to help reduce barriers and enhance participation for areas considered underserved.

Mr. Donatelle presented data concerning applicant's projects that did not qualify, did qualify, or did qualify, but took no advantage by having the match reduction.

By examining this data, Mr. Donatelle and Adam Cole, RCO Policy Specialist, were able to determine that not all applicants that qualified for match used it, about 1/3 of applicants qualified for match reduction, match reduction did not affect project priority and there were approximately 35 new applicants who had not participated in applying since 2011. Mr. Donatelle did note that there was not enough data to support that all new applicants participated in response to match reduction.

Returning to the 2015 WWRP review, Mr. Donatelle highlighted that the data for the match policy was only based on median household income. Our future look needs to consider how to factor in race, ethnicity, and health measures.

To address these other aspects, Mr. Donatelle suggested that the RCO Grant Application Data Tool, Washington State Department of Health's Health Disparities Index, and the RASS study be used as part of our future efforts.

Following Mr. Donatelle's presentation, the chair discussed the importance of further examining underserved communities using the RASS study and the Hiking, Biking, Walking study, as well as input from stakeholders. Ms. Cottingham expressed that RCO and RCFB must learn how to assist underserved communities who cannot meet the match requirements, even with a match reduction.

To close, RCO was tasked with bringing more data to the board at the October meeting.

Public Comment:

Christine Mahler, WWRC, expressed that WWRC met with several underserved communities and received feedback from them. She then encouraged RCO staff to continue working on how to better serve these communities, as recreation should not be something that only those who can afford participate in.

Task: RCO will bring back more data concerning underserved communities to the October 2020 meeting.

Item 12: State Agency Partner Reports

Jon Snyder, Governor's Office, opened his briefing speaking on several bills that had been submitted to the legislature: Fifteen bills relate to ATVs; two relate to the discover pass. Finally, there was a bill on scenic bikeways submitted with State Parks and Recreation Commission taking the lead.

Mr. Snyder discussed a group of state agency executives under the umbrella of the National Governor's Association. This group meets twice a year and has bimonthly webinars. He hopes to positively influence other states SCORP plans and has also informed the association of the Hiking, Biking, Walking Study completed by RCO.

He closed by informing the board of the State of Play report completed by King County.

Brock Milliern, DNR, focused on the legislative session and informed the board of bills being submitted with focus on DNR: one concerning derelict vessels and another focusing on Forest practices. There was also a request through the legislation for DNR to create recreational immunity for providing direct target shooting.

Mr. Milliern expressed that one bill of importance to DNR relates to fire funding. They had also playing close attention to the Community Forest bill and bills concerning the discover pass.

Peter Herzog, State Parks, gave a brief update concerning legislative bills and other activities within State Parks. State Parks had several boating bills for personal floating devices on smaller boats and boating under the influence. Mr. Herzog relayed that State

Parks is looking to extend their lease authority from 50-year leases to 80-year leases. Alongside this lease extension, there is hope that their board can get authority to change their current "unanimous" voting to needing just a majority on votes relating to leases.

Concerning their budget, State Parks received most of what they had asked for in the capital and operating budget.

In closing, Member Herzog expressed that State Parks is now the manager of all of Palouse to Cascades Trail, including the Beverly bridge across the Columbia River. There was also a major project being followed through at the Rosalia Trailhead and the surrounding areas.

Joe Stohr, WDFW, opened speaking on their budget situation. The agency was able to get a letter of support through 45 different groups concerning the budget. WDFW has requested a \$26,000,000 increase, of which \$13,000,000 relates to cost of living increases and salary raises and \$13,000,000 relates to ongoing activities. Approximately \$24,000,000 of the request appears to be in early versions of the budget, with \$15,000,000 tied to a fee bill.

Item 13: Feature Projects

DeAnna Beck, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, presented the Lake Meridian Park Dock Redevelopment project. She informed the board of the location, the water access activities allowed at the park, and other amenities within the facility. What had originally been a project supported by a BFP grant in 1990, has expanded into a project supported by the WWRP Water Access grant and LWCF, costing a total of \$1,744,800 to complete.

Beth Auerbach, RCO Outdoor Grants Manager, covered the Peninsula and Missing Link Trail projects within Point Defiance Park. The Peninsula project has received \$500,000 of funding through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Missing Link project received \$500,000 of funding through LWCF and \$2,500,000 of funding through WWRP Trails Category. Because the project area was previously owned by ASARCO, a mining and smelting company, there was significant damage and toxic waste within the area. The new park is known as the Dune Peninsula and Frank Herbert Trail. Frank Herbert was a Tacoma resident who wrote the book "Dune". The trail includes a lookout area, trails, and gathering areas.

RECESS: 4:36pm

Chair Willhite recessed the meeting until 9am January 29, 2020.

DRAFT

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: January 29, 2020

Place: Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---|
| Ted Willhite, Chair | Seattle | Shiloh Burgess | Wenatchee |
| Kathryn Gardow | Mukilteo | Brock Milliern | Designee, Department of Natural Resources |
| Michael Shiosaki | Seattle | Peter Herzog | Designee, Washington State Parks |
| Henry Hix | Okanogan | Joe Stohr | Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife |

This summary is to 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.

Call to Order

Chair Willhite had staff call roll promptly at 9 AM and determined a quorum was present.

Item 14: Compliance Program Update

Myra Barker gave an overview of what the compliance program looks like and the program intentions for 2020. Ms. Barker explained that compliance is done through outreach to sponsors of grants, coordination with sponsors on changes to the project areas, collaborating with sponsors on how to withhold compliance standards, and through on-site inspection on a 5-year basis. Ms. Barker discussed the number of compliance inspections completed in 2019 and what percent inspections came from each grant type.

Through the onsite inspections, the compliance team was able to learn that preparation is critical in providing an accurate report. They also learned that approximately 80% of sites comply. They also learned the most common non-compliance issues.

In 2020, the compliance team intends to prioritize and conduct 600 compliance inspections, focusing on sites that have not been inspected in 10 or more years, as well as focusing on acquisition or development projects funded by LWCF, WWRP, and older bond programs. Ms. Barker explained that they also intend to complete 100 salmon

grant inspections in 2020 and want to focus on finding resolutions for 25% of the 220 open compliance issues.

When opened to discussion, the board voiced their support for more education to sponsors concerning compliance. While Chair Willhite suggested posting non-compliant projects to RCO social media, Director Cottingham relayed that PRISM or the RCO website would be the better place for that. Member Burgess voiced support for a compliance webinar outside the grants webinar where there is only a short section dedicated to stewardship expectations.

Item 15: Can NOVA_ORV Funds be Used to Address Road Maintenance for Damage Caused by ORVs?

Adam Cole, RCO Policy Specialist, introduced NOVA and how it supports roads. On the October 2019 RCFB tour, the board expressed curiosity surrounding the use of NOVA funds for nonhighway roadways used by off-road vehicles. These roadways are not supported through the Washington gas tax, but through the 1% refund from gas used on these roadways. This refund is appropriated to DNR, WDFW, State Parks, and RCFB for distribution in the form of grants. While DNR and WDFW may use this funding to maintain nonhighway roads, this statute does not allow use by State Parks or RCFB currently to maintain roads.

Mr. Cole posed two questions to the board:

1. Should RCFB explore whether a broader interpretation is possible under the NOVA statute?
2. Should RCFB seek legislative changes in 2021 to the NOVA statute to allow greater flexibility?

Public Comment:

Lisa Chissus, Pacific Northwest Four Wheel Drive Association, did not support the use of NOVA funds for non-highway roads.

Ted Jackson, Washington ATV access coalition, expressed reserved support for change in the statute

Nancy Toenyan, Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance, did not express support for the statute change, as there is already funding provided from the NOVA accounts of WDFW and DNR.

Chrystal Crowder, Pistons Wild Motorsports, did not give support to the statute change and urged that RCFB leave the statute as it is.

The board discussed and concluded that the statute should be left alone due to lack of public support.

BREAK: 10:59am-11:15am

Item 16: Phasing Out the Gas Tax: Road Usage Charge Pilot Project Report and Recommendations from the Washington State Transportation Commission

Adam Cole gave a high-level overview of changes proposed to transition from a gas tax to a road usage charge. Due to the increased population, fuel efficient vehicles, and electric vehicles, the gas tax is no longer able to properly support maintenance and building of Washington roadways. To mitigate this issue, the Washington State Transportation Commission initiated a Road Usage Tax Pilot Program, with the final report being out for public comment in January 2020. The report tracked 2,000 Washington driver's road mileage using several different methods. Among these methods were an odometer reader, a mileage permit, a plug-in device without GPS, a plug-in device with GPS, and a smartphone application.

Mr. Cole expressed that while the report suggests that the road usage charge be implemented immediately, this would ultimately be up to the Legislature.

After Mr. Cole closed, the board discussed recommending the creation of a steering committee to advise the Transportation Commission on this issue.

Public Comment:

Nancy Toenyan, Washington Off Highway Vehicle Alliance, shared that the board should consider recreational travel, agricultural work, and boating miles when considering this road usage tax.

Ted Jackson, Washington ATV, expressed that he is also a part of the Big Tent Coalition. This coalition has devoted time to speaking with several other boards and entities to inform them of this tax. He expressed that several different people will be speaking on snowmobiling, boating and ORV use.

- Motion:** Move to send the Washington Transportation Commission a letter commending them on their contribution to RUC report and advise that there should be a technical advisory committee made up of the stakeholders that are a part of the gas tax refund program established dealing with the recreational issues concerning gas tax.
- Moved by:** Member Gardow
- Seconded by:** Member Hix
- Decision:** Approved

Item 17: Update on Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club Conversion

Kim Sellers, RCO grant manager, briefed the board on the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club (the club) conversion. The club has yet to obtain proper permitting from the county for its building and operations. Ms. Sellers indicated that the club is still not open to the public for firearm shooting. The club has until January 2021 to get compliant or be prepared to repay the grant. Ms. Sellers expressed that RCO will continue to work to see if they can obtain the proper permitting and be open to the public. Ms. Sellers closed informing the board that an update on the club will be given in October of 2020.

Public Comment:

Terry Allison, former Kitsap Club member, expressed discontent with the club's actions. He requested that RCFB immediately require the grant repayment from the club to allow for this money to be used for public use.

Glenn Maiers, Kitsap Resident, testified that he had provided a letter to the board with his comments of discontent and that he was available to answer questions.

Closing:

Chair Willhite - Closed meeting at 12:34 p.m.

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 12:34pm

The next meeting will be April 21-22, 2020 in Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building, Olympia.

Approved by:

Theodore Willhite, Chair

Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Time Extension Requests

Prepared By: Recreation and Conservation Outdoor 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:

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

Resolution: 2020-08 (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, and
- 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

Capitol Land Trust

| Project number and type | Project name | Grant program | Grant funds remaining | Current end date | Extension request |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14-1629 Acquisition | Nelson Ranch | WWRP – Farmland Preservation | \$716,705 (95%) | 6/30/2020 | 6/30/2021 |

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Capitol Land Trust is requesting additional time to acquire an agricultural conservation easement on approximately 200 acres of farmland in Thurston County. The acquisition will permanently extinguish 13 development rights.

This project has been delayed for multiple reasons. Initially, delays were due to the property appraising significantly higher than what was originally anticipated. The land trust decided to reappraise the property a couple of times under different scenarios to be strategic in determining which parcels it targeted for acquisition. The need for additional appraisals significantly delayed the project and the land trust lost a federal grant that they were using for match. Most recently, the land trust had to reapply for conservation futures dollars because their original allocation expired.

With the loss of the federal grant, the land trust requested approval to reduce the number of acres included in the project scope. In keeping with board policy and authority delegated to RCO's director, the Farmland Preservation Advisory Committee reviewed the request and acknowledged that the land trust has done its best to salvage this project and still preserve important farmland. The director has approved the scope change (reduced from 550 to 200 acres) and if the board approves this time extension, the land trust anticipates completing the project within a year.

Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma

| Project number and type | Project name | Grant program | Grant funds remaining | Current end date | Extension request |
|--|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14-1694 Development | Point Defiance Loop Trail | Land and Water Conservation Fund and WWRP- Trails | \$3,280,056 (87%) | 6/31/2020 | 3/31/2022 |

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT) is requesting a 21-month time extension for redeveloping their five-mile loop trail in Point Defiance Park. The delay is due to a combination of many factors tied to the complex area that the trail travels through. Causes of the delay included an update of the 2014 master plan for the 765-acre park that involved extensive public scoping and a 2016-2017 parking and circulation study in which the MPT selected the preferred route for the trail. During this time, MPT worked with Native American tribes to determine the least impactful route, while coordinating with several ongoing projects at Point Defiance including; expansion of the Pacific Seas Aquarium, the new roundabout at the main entrance to the park, development of Dune Peninsula Park and the Frank Herbert Memorial Trail, as well as completing a comprehensive master plan update for Owen Beach and the Japanese Gardens. These efforts all influenced the final alignment of the five-mile loop trail.

The cultural resources assessment survey of the areas of potential effect and tribal consultation was conducted in the spring of 2018. Communications with Native American tribes and monitoring for potential archeological sites will continue through the life of the project. Currently, the project is gaining speed and in the last three months MPT has applied for the site development permit; design consultants have developed the construction phasing and a timeline to accommodate the various events held at Point Defiance Park; MPT has developed public messaging about the project and its timeline; and MPT is completing their internal technical review of the 90 percent construction drawings. MPT has secured the shoreline and clearing and grading permits. Bidding will commence in the summer of 2020 with construction slated to begin in the winter.

Since this project involves federal funds, MPT is requesting a 21-month extension pending concurrence by the National Park Service.

U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Methow Valley Ranger District

| Project number and type | Project name | Grant program | Grant funds remaining | Current end date | Extension request |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14-2111 Planning | North Summit Recreation Area | NOVA – Nonmotorized | \$43,532 (92%) | 4/30/2020 | 6/30/2021 |

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is requesting a 16-month time extension to complete the design and environmental analysis for new recreation facilities. The North Summit Recreation Area will be sited near Loup Loup Pass, the high point separating the Methow and Okanogan Valleys, on State Route 20 between the towns of Twisp and Okanogan. Planned amenities including a campground and network of nonmotorized trails to serve the popular recreation area's hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian users.

The project area has a limited work window each summer, as ground surveys must be completed after the spring melt but before fall snows. The project experienced significant delays due to the impacts of wildfires. The sponsor and community were still recovering from the Twisp River Fire, where three of their firefighters were killed in the blaze, just as the project was beginning. Two subsequent years were especially challenging, with the district facing dozens of fires, notably the Diamond Creek Fire – one of the state's largest in 2017 – and the Crescent Mountain Fire of 2018. Many staff members were called away to fight fires and the severely degraded air quality restricted access to the area.

The sponsor has committed staff and resources to this project on their Program of Work for 2020 and 2021. They expect to survey and flag routes; conduct public, tribal, and local government scoping; and begin the other field surveys during 2020. Any remaining surveys and completion of NEPA would be conducted in 2021.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

| Project number and type | Project name | Grant program | Grant funds remaining | Current end date | Extension request |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14-1092 Acquisition | Taneum Creek Riparian | WWRP – Riparian Protection | \$1,628,385 (95%) | 6/30/2020 | 12/31/2020 |

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is requesting a 6-month time extension to allow them more time to acquire approximately 319 acres of forest and riparian habitat along Taneum Creek in Kittitas County.

The project was delayed due to extensive negotiations with the landowner and the need for a boundary line adjustment to allow the landowner to retain a portion of the property. Additionally, the property appraised for more than was anticipated in the application so WDFW needed to secure additional funds for this acquisition. Concurrent with this time extension request, WDFW is also requesting approval to expand the scope of their Heart of the Cascades: South Fork Manastash ([RCO #16-1343A](#)) project. If the board approves the scope change (see Item 1C), WDFW will have enough funds to purchase the entire property. They plan to acquire the property by the end of the year.

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-HCA- Natural Areas | \$864,283 (27%) | 6/30/2020 | 6/30/2021 |

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is requesting a time extension to complete this acquisition project. Progress has been delayed due to time needed to obtain Jefferson County's approval to close on one of two properties targeted for acquisition.

The property that caused the delay is a partial purchase, which triggers the need for a county-approved boundary line adjustment (BLA). While surveying the property, DNR discovered discrepancies in the parcel boundaries, which must be resolved by county-approved boundary line agreements between the seller and neighboring property owners before considering a BLA. The county has an established BLA approval process but did not have a process for approving less-common boundary line agreements until DNR requested such approval for this property. As a result, the county wrote a boundary line agreement process. This unexpected step delayed processing DNR's request for a BLA.

Once the county adopted a boundary line agreement process, DNR submitted (at the end of January) its boundary line agreement application. The county's response is expected by July 31, 2020. DNR will then submit the boundary line adjustment application which may take another 180 days for county approval. Under the maximum county review timeframe, DNR expects BLA approval no later than January 31, 2021. DNR would then open escrow, close the transaction, and complete post-closing work by June 30, 2021. DNR understands that, if approved, this will be the final time extension for this project.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

| Project number and type | Project name | Grant program | Grant funds remaining | Current end date | Extension request |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 14-1634 Development | Klickitat Trail | WWRP-State Parks | \$2,076,338 (93%) | 4/30/2020 | 12/31/2022 |

Reasons for Delay and Justification of Request

State Parks was awarded a grant in April 2016 for construction of 13 miles of trail and decking 9 bridges along the Klickitat Trail in Klickitat County. They are requesting a two-and-a-half-year time extension due to three significant causes.

The first involves layoffs associated with the delayed passage of the 17-19 State Capital Budget. The loss of staff members and their expertise, in addition to the time and effort associated with rehiring and training new employees once the budget was passed in 2018, caused significant delays.

The second was due to concerns raised during the SEPA comment period. The Yakama Nation's concerns were related to the impact the construction, recreation, use, and overall management would have on the Klickitat River and Swale Creek. As a result, State Parks withdrew the SEPA and initiated a series of meetings to fully understand the nature of the concerns. These meetings clarified the issues and gave rise to a better understanding of goals and objectives on both sides as well as a mutual agreement to draft and sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Both parties agreed to stop all work on the project until the MOU was finalized and signed. Development and refinement of the MOU language and associated reviews by both parties took a considerable amount of time and significantly contributed to the project delay. The MOU has now been signed and work has resumed on the project.

The third cause for delay relates to constructability. Harsh winters, in-water work windows, and fire season closures allow for a 3-month construction window per year. This short window, in combination with only two construction access points to the steep and narrow canyon, severely limit construction production.

An extension to 12/31/2022 will allow State Parks to complete design, obtain permits, get a contractor on board, and work within the limited construction windows to complete the project.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Scope Change: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Heart of the Cascades South Fork Manastash, RCO #16-1343A

Prepared By: Kim Sellers, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to approve a scope change for the South Fork Manastash (RCO #16-1343A) project. They want to purchase a portion of a 319-acre property that was not included in their original grant proposal and therefore is considered a major scope change and must be presented to the board for consideration. This scope change is associated with a time extension request for WDFW's Taneum Creek Riparian project.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Resolution: 2020-08 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the scope change for the South Fork Manastash project.

Background

In 2015, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was awarded a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Critical Habitat category grant to purchase a 319-acre property in the Wenas Wildlife Area in Kittitas County. The focus of the Taneum Creek Riparian ([RCO #14-1092A](#)) property acquisition was to protect riparian habitat for tributaries to Taneum Creek, which provides critical habitat for mid-Columbia River steelhead.

The acquisition of this property was delayed due to negotiations with the landowner. During these negotiations, the landowner decided to harvest trees on a portion of the property to pay for a bridge across Taneum Creek that would provide access to his home. Since the trees were included in the initial appraisal, WDFW needed to reappraise the property to remove the trees from the valuation. The appraised value of the property, even without the trees, was more than anticipated when WDFW submitted the application for grant funds, and they found that they did not have enough money to acquire the entire property with the 2014 grant alone.

In 2017, WDFW was awarded a WWRP Critical Habitat category grant to purchase approximately 1,600 acres in the LT Murray Wildlife Area in Kittitas County. The focus of the Heart of the Cascades South Fork Manastash ([RCO #16-1343A](#)) acquisition project was to protect habitat for upland wildlife species, but also to protect the headwater streams that support steelhead and salmon recovery efforts. Later, WDFW received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which they used to purchase a portion of the 1,600-acre property targeted in their RCO application. Because of this, WDFW has a significant amount of funds (over \$500,000) remaining in their RCO grant.

WDFW is now requesting approval to use the remaining funds in their Manastash grant to help purchase the 319-acre property that was included in their Taneum Creek grant.

Analysis

Scope Change Policy

When a sponsor requests approval to purchase property that was not included in the original grant application, the property must meet the eligibility criteria, have equivalent habitat values as the originally targeted property, and be contiguous to the property identified in the grant agreement. If it meets these criteria, the director has authority to approve the change. If it does not meet these criteria, it is considered a major scope change and must be submitted to the board for consideration.

In the case of the 319-acre property acquisition, the property does not meet the criteria that would allow the director to approve this scope change. The property is not contiguous to the property identified in the South Fork Manastash application. However, it is located only 4 miles away in the Wenas Wildlife Area. Both projects received funding through the WWRP Critical Habitat category, and the 319-acre property includes similar quality habitat as that originally included in the South Fork Manastash grant.

Summary

The scope change for the South Fork Manastash grant was a result of the 319-acre property included in the Taneum Creek project appraising for higher than was anticipated. There are enough funds remaining in the South Fork Manastash project to help purchase the 319-acre property and complete post-closing work including initial invasive species control and fencing. Further, the 319-acre property meets the intended purpose of the property included in the South Fork Manastash grant of protecting the headwater streams that support steelhead and salmonid restoration efforts in the Manastash watershed.

If the board approves this scope change, it will allow WDFW to purchase property that supports salmon recovery in the region.

Strategic Plan

Approval of this request supports the board's goal to help its partners protect, restore and develop recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the request to expand the scope of the South Fork Manastash grant to include the 319-acre property. This will allow WDFW to complete the acquisition including post-closing work. In addition, staff recommends the board approve the six-month time extension for the Taneum Creek Riparian project as described in board agenda item 1C.

Next Steps

If the Board approves the scope change and time extension, RCO staff will process the appropriate amendments to facilitate purchase of the 319-acre site.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Cost Increase Request: Town of Twisp, Twisp Sports Complex
Renovation Phase 1, RCO#16-2023D

Prepared By: Brian Carpenter, Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

The Town of Twisp is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board for approval of a cost increase for Twisp Sports Complex Renovation Phase 1 (RCO #16-2023D). The cost increase will help offset an unexpectedly high increase in construction costs due to the materials needed and shortage of available contractors to bid on the contract and complete the work.

The requested cost increase exceeds ten percent of the total project cost; therefore, policy requires board consideration of this request.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2020-08 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the cost increase request.

Background

The Town of Twisp received a Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) grant for \$250,000 to develop the first phase of their sports complex, located in Okanogan County. The Twisp Sports Complex Renovation Phase 1 ([RCO #16-2023D](#)) project will feature installation of one soccer field and one baseball field with natural turf, irrigation and drainage, bleachers, backstop, dugouts, and fencing.

The project was put out to bid and the low bid was \$170,000 over the initial estimate. All available options were considered, and the Town attempted to find additional funding through other avenues before bringing their request to RCO. Ultimately the only option

that would enable the Town to complete the project without deleterious scope reductions was to request a cost increase from the board.

Project Status

With board delegated authority, the director awarded the Youth Athletic Facilities grant in 2018. Since then, Twisp has conducted the cultural resources survey and tribal consultation, prepared the construction documents, and put the project out for bid. When the bids came in much higher than the original estimates, Twisp worked with the architect to secure an updated cost estimate for the complete project with bid alternates. If the board approves the cost increase, Twisp will have the bid documents updated, will put the project out to bid in next winter. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2021.

Discussion and Analysis

The cost increase request is for an additional \$170,000 in grant funding. The Town of Twisp will contribute an additional \$18,900, thus preserving the 10 percent match ratio, and increasing the total project funding to \$488,900. The board decided to approve the Town's request to reduce the match requirement for this project from 50 percent to 10 percent (Resolution 2016-27), due to difficulties caused by two consecutive years of federally declared disasters (2014 Carlton Complex Fire and 2015 Okanogan Complex Fire).

The cost increase request amount appears in the table below:

| RCO #16-2084D | Original Project Agreement | Cost Increase Request | Proposed Project Agreement |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| YAF Grant | \$250,000 | \$170,000 | \$420,000 |
| Sponsor Match | \$50,000 | \$18,900 | \$68,900 |
| Total Project Cost | \$300,000 | \$188,900 | \$488,900 |

Cost Increase Policy

The board's policy on cost increases is outlined in *Manual 4: Development Projects* on page 29. Specifically, the policy states:

On occasion, the cost of completing a project exceeds the amount written into the agreement. Such overruns are the responsibility of the project sponsor. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board may consider a cost increase in some grant programs if funds are available and the grant recipient submits a written request. The director may approve requests for increases up to 10 percent of the

total project cost and the board may approve increases above 10 percent.

To request an increase, the project sponsor must submit a written request to RCO addressing the following:

- The sponsor must have fully explored all practical alternatives to completing the intent of the agreement.
- The sponsor must have had little control over the conditions causing the overrun.
- Any increase must only be used for elements in the project agreement.

A sponsor must obtain director or board approval for any significant change in project scope or design that results in a cost increase request. This approval must be granted before or simultaneously to the cost increase.

Additionally, *Manual 17: Youth Athletic Facilities* further defines the cost increase policy for requests within the YAF program on page 33. The policy clarifies that cost increases for approved YAF projects may be granted by the board or director if financial resources are available. Each cost increase request is considered on its merits and the project's total approved cost is the basis for such cost.

Analysis

There are enough funds available in the Youth Athletic Facilities Account to cover the amount requested. However, this request exceeds 10 percent of the project's initially approved grant, therefore the request is presented for the board's consideration.

Alternatives Considered

The Town sought additional funding through public allocation, private donation, or other grants. No other funding was available. All scope elements were examined to determine if a less expensive version was available, or if the element could be removed from this phase. All scope elements were determined to be essential to the project. The only way to sufficiently reduce cost would be to cut the project scope in half, with only one field instead of two.

Conditions Causing the Overrun

In addition to the rising cost of construction in all areas, the cost of this project increased greatly due to the lack of available materials and contractors as the area continues to recover from the severe fire damage of the last five years. Increases in the cost of transportation exacerbated the issue, as the Town of Twisp is a significant distance from distribution hubs.

Elements in the Agreement

If approved, the increased budget will only pay for the costs associated with purchasing and installing the scope elements included in the original agreement.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this request 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 cost increase as requested.

Next Steps

If the board approves the cost increase request, RCO staff will execute the necessary amendment to the project agreement.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Cost Increase Requests: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Boating Facilities Program Projects

Prepared By: Marguerite Austin, Section Manager

Summary

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board to approve cost increases for the following Boating Facilities Program (BFP) projects:

- Blue Lake Access Redevelopment (RCO #16-2443D)
- Lake Campbell Access Redevelopment (RCO #16-2266D)
- Liberty Lake Redevelopment (RCO #18-2461D)

The cost increases will help offset unpredictably high costs for asphalt paving and the materials needed from float manufacturers.

Each request exceeds ten percent of the total project cost; therefore, policy requires board consideration of this request.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2020-08 (Consent Agenda)

Purpose of Resolution: Approve the cost increase request.

Background

The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board awarded Boating Facilities Program (BFP) grants to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for development and renovation of motorized boating facilities on Blue Lake, Lake Campbell, and Liberty Lake.

The Blue Lake Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2443D](#)) site is in Grant County just north of Soap Lake. WDFW is developing a two-lane launch ramp, installing a boarding float, vehicle-trailer and single-car parking stalls, and fencing. Anglers come from all

around the state to enjoy one of the top trout fisheries in Washington. The 534-acre lake provides opportunities for fishing, wildlife viewing, and various water sports, like jet skiing, motorboating, sailing, swimming, wake boarding, and more.

The Lake Campbell Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2266D](#)) project is located south of Anacortes in Skagit County. The scope of work includes replacement of the launch ramp, installation of a boarding float, toilet, and picnic shelter and paving the parking lot. The improvements are designed to increase safety on this 400-acre lake that attracts fishers (trout, bass, perch, and catfish), water skiers, wake boarders, and recreational boaters.

The Liberty Lake Redevelopment ([RCO #18-2461D](#)) project is located approximately 20 miles east of Spokane in Spokane County. WDFW will redevelop this access site that has outlived its useful life by extending the boarding float, armoring the ramp, upgrading the parking lot, and installing a double vault CXT restroom that is ADA compliant. WDFW stocks the 700-acre lake with Brown trout and Rainbow trout. Also, the lake has Walleye. In addition to fishing vessels, recreational users bring utility boats, pontoon boats, jet skis, and power boats for a variety of recreational activities.

Project Statuses

Blue Lake: The board awarded a \$390,000 grant for this project. WDFW has completed all preconstruction work and has put the Blue Lake float out for bids. They accepted a bid for the float and hope to award a contract for asphalt paving later this spring. WDFW is requesting a \$70,000 cost increase because they had unanticipated architectural engineering cost for piling as well as higher than anticipated costs for the boarding float. They expect the paving costs for the site to be higher than estimated due to general construction cost increases.

Lake Campbell: The board awarded a \$590,000 grant for this project. With permits in hand, Campbell Lake will be put out to bid as soon as WDFW receives the building permit from Skagit County. They had unforeseen costs for extra grading due to the lake's higher water levels. The costs for the boarding float are higher than the engineer's estimate for the past two advertised projects. Asphalt paving costs are projected to be much higher due to a rise in paving costs. WFW is requesting \$130,000 in additional funds for this project, so they can begin construction at this site this summer.

Liberty Lake: The board awarded a \$354,000 grant for this project. The engineering consultant has reviewed this project and has made recommendations that are beyond the original scope of the project. This site is prone to ice damage, which includes, damage to the existing anchor system, undermining of the boat ramp, and relocation of existing rip-rap protection. In addition, the existing float has deteriorated and has

become a safety hazard. The extent of problems was not fully anticipated in the original estimate, even though the scope remains the same. WDFW is requesting a \$140,000 cost increase.

Discussion and Analysis

The individual project cost increase amounts are summarized in the table below:

| Project Number | Project Name | Original Grant Amount | Cost Increase Request | Proposed Grant Amount |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 16-2443D | Blue Lake Access Redevelopment | \$390,000 | \$70,000 | \$460,000 |
| 16-2266D | Lake Campbell Access Redevelopment | \$590,000 | \$130,000 | \$720,000 |
| 18-2461D | Liberty Lake Redevelopment | \$354,000 | \$140,000 | \$494,000 |
| | Total Project Cost | \$1,334,000 | \$340,000 | \$1,674,000 |

Cost Increase Policy

The board’s policy on cost increases is outlined in *Manual 4: Development Projects* on page 29. Specifically, the policy states:

On occasion, the cost of completing a project exceeds the amount written into the agreement. Such overruns are the responsibility of the project sponsor. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board may consider a cost increase in some grant programs if funds are available and the grant recipient submits a written request. The director may approve requests for increases up to 10 percent of the total project cost and the board may approve increases above 10 percent.

To request an increase, the project sponsor must submit a written request to RCO addressing the following:

- The sponsor must have fully explored all practical alternatives to completing the intent of the agreement.
- The sponsor must have had little control over the conditions causing the overrun.
- Any increase must only be used for elements in the project agreement.

A sponsor must obtain director or board approval for any significant change in project scope or design that results in a cost increase request. This approval must be

granted before or simultaneously to the cost increase.

Additionally, *Manual 9: Boating Facilities Program* further defines the policy for cost overruns. In summary it says, overruns are the responsibility of the sponsor. If unused funds are available, RCO may consider a cost.

Available Funds

The 2019-21 State Capital Budget included \$17,872,000 for BFP grants. The funds were split equally between local and state agencies, resulting in \$8,936,000 for the BFP State Category. After providing full funding for the 2018 ranked list of projects, the remaining funds combined with unspent funds from previous biennia total approximately \$835,000. RCO staff contacted state agency sponsors to see if they needed additional funds to complete funded projects. WDFW submitted a request for cost increases for five projects. The director approved increases for two projects that needed cost increases of 10 percent or less. However, the three projects described in this memo are requesting increases that range from 20 to 40 percent and total \$340,000. Since these requests exceed 10 percent of the project's approved grant, the requests are presented for the board's consideration. There are enough funds available in the Recreation Resources Account to cover the amounts requested.

Analysis

WDFW has been looking forward to a busy, yet successful construction season and is hoping to complete these projects in their entirety. They have considered options and have highlighted some of the alternatives considered below.

Alternatives Considered

Blue Lake Alternatives: The float has been advertised and is under construction. During the design phase, WDFW researched alternative anchoring plans, however piling was the final recommendation by the engineer to accommodate for ice and near-shore anchorage. The asphalt paving consists of three separate areas; as an alternative, WDFW considered eliminating an area from the paving bid, however, this would result in an incomplete project since universal accessibility and issues with erosion would not be fully addressed.

Lake Campbell Alternatives: The project scope could be reduced by eliminating one or several scope elements including the new toilet, upgraded parking, the boarding float, or picnic structure. However, WDFW would then have an incomplete project. Another alternative would be to re-design the boarding float to a lighter weight, cheaper float. This would likely result in a less stable float and additional maintenance costs.

Liberty Lake Alternatives: Any repairs or upgrades less than the engineer's recommendations would only be a temporary fix. The existing float would need to be replaced within the next three years. The existing anchorage system is not substantial enough to hold an additional float. The existing riprap is not sized or placed properly to protect the ramp from undermining further. As a cost savings, the toilet could be left out of the project, however the existing toilets do not meet current ADA standards.

Conditions Causing the Overrun

WDFW has had a history of completing their boating projects within the original budgets and has in fact returned funds from several projects that came in under budget. The increased costs for these projects are primarily due to increases in costs for materials and general construction. WDFW says the escalating costs caught them by surprise and has contributed to their budget deficits.

Elements in the Agreement

If approved, the increased budgets will only pay for costs associated with scope elements included in the grant agreements.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of this request 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 cost increases as requested.

Next Steps

If the board approves the requests, RCO staff will execute the necessary amendments to the grant agreements. WDFW will then move forward with project implementation to make sure they do not miss any in-water construction windows.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Technical Corrections to Sustainability Criteria to Balance Scores for Acquisition Projects

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resources Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes a necessary technical correction resulting from the board's adoption of the changes to the Sustainability evaluation criterion in January. The proposal adds points to selected evaluation criteria that apply to acquisition and maintenance projects.

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

In January 2020, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted the proposal ([Board Agenda Item 8](#)) to revise the Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship project evaluation criterion as it applies to the following programs:

- Boating Facilities Program (BFP)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Local Parks, State Lands Development and Renovation, Trails, Water Access categories
- Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF)

In the BFP, LWCF, NOVA, RTP and WWRP programs, this policy change resulted in an unintended consequence. Removing the sustainability criterion from consideration for acquisition and maintenance projects disrupted the balance of overall scores between

the different project types. In order to simultaneously evaluate projects types that have different evaluation criteria, the overall project scores must be equal.

Technical Correction

RCO staff is proposing to add points to selected criteria that apply only to acquisition or maintenance projects in the affected programs to re-balance the overall scores. This change will not alter the evaluation questions, only the point values. This will return these categories to the balance that existed before the changes adopted in January.

Table 1 in Attachment A shows the selected criteria and the proposed new point value for each affected program and project type.

Public Input

RCO staff posted this proposed technical correction on the RCO website on February 19th and sent notice to over 2,300 email addresses from the PRISM database. Staff requested public comments be submitted by 11:59 pm on Wednesday March 4th.

Staff received four public comments. Three were supportive, while one was a general comment unrelated to the proposed changes. Table 2 in Attachment B shows the comments RCO staff received from the public and RCO staff's responses.

Recommendation

RCO staff recommends the board approve the proposal to add points to the evaluation criteria identified in Table 1 and re-balance the overall project points for acquisition and maintenance projects.

Next Steps

Pending the board's approval, RCO staff will make the necessary changes to the evaluation criteria in the affected grant program manuals and post the revised manuals ahead of the 2020 grant evaluation schedule.

Table 1: Selected Criteria and Point Values

| Program Name | Sustainability: Adopted January 2020 | | | Technical Correction: Selected Criteria and Point Value (current/proposed) | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------|--|
| | NEW Point Value | NEW Total Project Score | NEW Percent of Total | Acquisition projects | Combination projects | Maintenance projects |
| Boating Facilities Program (BFP) | - | - | - | Site Suitability | - | - |
| State | 5 | 73 | 6.8% | 15 increases to 20 | Do nothing | N/A |
| Local | 5 | 76 | 6.5% | 15 increases to 20 | Do nothing | N/A |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) | 5 | 53 | 9.4% | Immediacy of Threat 10 increases to 15 | Do nothing | N/A |
| Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) | - | - | - | Site Suitability | - | Need |
| Nonmotorized | 5 | 77 | 6.5% | 10 increases to 15 | Do nothing | 20 increases to 25 |
| Nonhighway Road | 5 | 77 | 6.5% | 10 increases to 15 | Do nothing | 20 increases to 25 |
| Off-Road Vehicle | 5 | 72 | 6.9% | 10 increases to 15 | Do nothing | 20 increases to 25 |
| Recreational Trails Program (RTP) | 5 | 80 | 6.3% | N/A | N/A | Maintenance 10 increases to 15 |
| Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Local Parks | 5 | 73 | 6.8% | Site Suitability 5 increases to 10 | Do nothing | N/A |
| State Lands D/R | 5 | 61 | 8.2% | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Trails | 5 | 83 | 6.0% | Immediacy of Threat 15 increases to 20 | Do nothing | N/A |
| Water Access | 5 | 68 | 7.4% | Site Suitability 10 increases to 15 | Do nothing | N/A |
| Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) | 5 | 54 | 9.3% | N/A | Do Nothing | N/A |

Table 2: Public Comments Log

| Commenter | Date | Comment | RCO Response |
|--|-----------|--|--|
| Lowell Dickson Washington DNR, Aquatics (360) 902-1362 LOWELL.DICKSON@dnr.wa.gov | 2/21/2020 | I quickly perused the proposed changes and generally understand the need. But I did not see a specific rationale/explanation included for the proposed point changes in the chart for each grant type. (For example, why just one criteria - Site suitability - was chosen to receive all 5 of the new BFC grant points and not other criteria). Might be good to know, but not a dealbreaker by any means. OK, now I see. Each criteria unique to each grant type. | Thanks for the comment, Lowell. In response, the criteria chosen to receive additional points were chosen because they offset the points for Sustainability that are applied to some other project type. For example, in BFP, Site Suitability is only evaluated for Acquisition projects and Sustainability is only evaluated for Development and Planning. The points now offset each other and the two different project types can be evaluated side by side. |
| Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director Evergreen MTB Alliance 438 NE 72nd St Seattle WA 98115 206.450.3261 Yvonne@evergreenmtb.org | 2/21/2020 | At first glance I do not have concerns about the proposed policy change for sustainability. Is there anything that has risen to the surface that I should be aware of or look into specifically? For now the proposal seems to make sense. I'll check in with WTA as well but for now I'm not planning on submitting any feedback. Thank you! | Thanks Yvonne! The only thing I think for you to be completely aware of is "Sustainability" is no longer a part of the evaluation rubric for NOVA Maintenance projects. |
| Earl Nettin PNW 4-Wheel Drive Association (PNW4WDA) esnettinn@aol.com | 3/4/2020 | Comments on funding programs available through the RCO. We need to keep the system fair so we do not lose any funding for motorized recreation with the NOVA program. Motorized recreation is growing every year so we need to keep funding for improvements and maintenance of the trail systems. | Thank you for taking the time to submit your comments. Your comments have been recorded for the record and will be shared with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. RCO strives to ensure that all grant programs provide fair and equal treatment to all applicants and user groups. |
| Chris Baldini NOVA Advisory Committee Member echrisb60@yahoo.com | 3/4/2020 | My apologies for the late notice, but after reviewing the changes, I don't think the integrity of the program is compromised by changing the scores. Thanks for asking for input. | Thank you for taking the time to comment on the proposed changes. Your comments have been received and will be shared with the board. |

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Recognition of Volunteer Service

Prepared By: Tessa Cencula, Volunteer and Grants Process Coordinator

Summary

This action will recognize the years of service by agency and citizen volunteers on the advisory committees that the Recreation and Conservation Office uses to assist in its grant programs.

Resolution: 2020-08

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

The Recreation and Conservation Office relies on volunteers to help administer its grant programs. Volunteers provide a strategic balance and perspective on program issues. Their activities, experience, and knowledge help shape program policies that guide us in reviewing and evaluating projects and administering grants.

The following individuals have completed their terms of service or have otherwise bid farewell after providing valuable analysis and excellent program advice. Outdoor recreationists in Washington will enjoy the results of their hard work and vision for years to come. Staff applauds their exceptional service and recommends approval of the attached resolutions via Resolution 2020-08 (consent).

Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities

| Name | Position | Years |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Nicole Sedgwick | Equestrian Representative | 2 |

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Trails

| Name | Position | Years |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Dave Bryant | Citizen-at-Large Representative | 8 |

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Water Access

| Name | Position | Years |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Brad Case | Local Agency Representative | 4 |
| Hanna Waterstrat | Citizen-at-Large Representative | 4 |

Attachment

A. Individual Service Resolutions



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Nicole Sedgwick

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2020, Nicole Sedgwick served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) 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 NOVA 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. Sedgwick'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. Sedgwick.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Dave Bryant

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2012 to 2019, Dave Bryant served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Trails 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 Trails 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. Bryant'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. Bryant.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Brad Case

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2019, Brad Case served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Water Access 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 Water Access 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. Case'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. Case.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Hanna Waterstrat

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2019, Hanna Waterstrat served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Water Access 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 Water Access 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. Waterstrat'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. Waterstrat.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

Ted Willhite, Chair

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-08
April 21, 2020 - Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following April 21, 2020 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2020-08

- A. Board Meeting Minutes: January 28-29, 2020
- B. Time Extensions:
 - Capitol Land Trust, Nelson Ranch ([RCO 14-1629](#))
 - Methow Valley Ranger District, North Summit Recreation Area ([RCO 14-2111P](#))
 - Tacoma Metro, Point Defiance Loop Trail ([RCO 14-1694D](#))
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Taneum Creek Riparian ([RCO 14-1092A](#))
 - Washington Department of Natural Resources, Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline 2014 ([RCO 14-1249A](#))
 - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Klickitat Trail ([RCO 14-1634D](#))
- C. Scope Change:
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Heart of the Cascades: South Fork Manastash ([RCO #16-1343A](#))
- D. Cost Increases:
 - Town of Twisp, Twisp Sports Complex Renovation, Phase 1 ([RCO #16-2084D](#))
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Boating Facilities Program Cost Increases:
 - Blue Lake Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2443D](#))
 - Lake Campbell Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2266D](#))
 - Liberty Lake Redevelopment ([RCO #18-2461D](#))
- E. Technical Corrections:
 - Sustainability Criteria to Balance Scores for Acquisition Projects: Boating Facilities Program (BFP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access Categories
 - Official Adoption of Resolution 2020-03 – Conversion Request: Dungeness Valley Creamery ([RCO #06-1849A](#))
- F. Volunteer Recognitions (4)

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Approved Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Director’s Report

Prepared By: Kaleen Cottingham, Director

Summary
This memo outlines key agency activities and happenings since the last board meeting.

Board Action Requested
This item will be a: Request for Decision
 Request for Direction
 Briefing

Agency Updates

PRISM Streamlines Grant Process

A revolution has been happening for the past 5 years, right at our fingertips. While it hasn’t involved loud bangs or explosions, the revolution nonetheless has profoundly changed the way we work. During the past 5 years, Scott Chapman and his team of employees and contractors quietly have been automating every step of the grant process from application, to evaluation, to billing, to field inspections. In 2015, the team automated the billing process taking reams of paper off every grant manager’s desk and decreasing the time it took customers to get paid. That success was followed in 2017 by the creation of the property module. This feature allows sponsors to map the land they buy, giving RCO quality electronic mapping data to ensure we get all the required documents such as deeds and title insurance. In 2018, PRISM got a snazzy new look with an updated home page. The really big changes happened in 2019, with the addition of custom agreements and electronic scoring. Custom agreements (and amendments) has allowed RCO to tailor contracts to the type of project being funded. No more unnecessary information in the contracts to confuse customers and staff. Electronic scoring eliminated the need to enter evaluators’ scores into PRISM, saving time and reducing errors. This year alone,



this module will save staff from entering more than 60,000 scores and will allow us to verify the results almost immediately. Last year also was the year that more of the application itself was moved online and improvements were made to the compliance workbench to make it easier for staff to track issues found during inspections in the field. Scott and his team aren't resting. They are spending this year improving the review and evaluation module developed in 2019 to allow the salmon scientific panels to review projects directly in PRISM. So, hang on to see how PRISM evolves during the next 5 years!

Showcasing Boating Projects

Rory Calhoun and Allison Dellwo attended the Washington Boating Alliance Leadership Summit at Century Link Field in Seattle where they put on an RCO Grants 101 designed specifically for motorized boaters. They used the opportunity to showcase, to more than 50 attendees, several projects funded with Boating Facilities Program grants and federal Boating Infrastructure Grants. The summit was held in conjunction with



Seattle's 2020 Boat Show, which attracts more than 50,000 attendees from across the United States and Canada.

RCO Maps Course to Mitigate Climate Change

RCO is working with the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to develop strategies for addressing climate change impacts on their investments. This work is grounded in the fact that climate change will put many projects at risk from flooding, increased heat, shifts in species range and distribution, and rising sea levels. The boards can better address climate change by understanding the possible impacts and working with others to adjust project planning and design. RCO has addressed climate change



so far in three ways: 1) the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board approved a policy statement that encourages grant applicants to consider climate change impacts on the location and design of their projects; 2) references to climate change adaptation and resiliency are being embedded in project evaluation criteria; and 3) the Salmon Recovery Funding Board is developing a climate change strategy.

RCO Welcomes New Employee

Michelle Burbidge joined RCO on April 1 as an outdoor grants manager in the Recreation and Conservation Grants Section. Michelle comes from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, where she managed statewide land acquisitions. Before that, she worked for the Washington Department of Natural Resources managing state trust land transactions. She has a long history of working in the real estate industry, specifically focused on land sales. A Washington native, Michelle has a bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College. She enjoys archery, painting, playing guitar, cycling, and backpacking.



News from the Boards

- The **Washington Invasive Species Council** successfully participated in Invasive Species Awareness Week at the end of February, in conjunction with the national week. The council also met in March to discuss innovative response planning and tracking tools, invasive mussel funding, Asian giant hornet, European green crab response, and the Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose pilot project. The council also worked on its 2020-2025 strategy for preventing and stopping invasive species in Washington.
- The **Salmon Recovery Funding Board** met virtually in March and delegated authority to RCO's director to resolve potential federal grant audit findings and discussed criteria for targeted investments.

Grant Management

Washington State Receives \$4.6 Million in Federal Funds

The State of Washington is the recipient of \$4.6 million in Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) for federal fiscal year 2020. This amount represents a 41 percent increase over funds received last year. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior announced \$227,125,000 will be distributed from the fund for outdoor recreation and conservation projects in 50 states, 5 territories, and 1 district.



The board approved the final ranked list of 2018 LWCF projects in June and directed staff to use funds from federal fiscal years 2019 and 2020 for that ranked list. Last year's allocation combined with the 2020 funds provides enough money to fully fund the

remaining viable projects approved for the 2019-21 biennium. Staff estimates there will be more than \$2.5 million left to fund 2020 grant proposals. The board will approve the ranked list of new applications at their November meeting.

RCO Kicks Off the 2020 Grants Cycle

The Recreation and Conservation Section hosted the 2020 Application Webinar on February 13. This virtual workshop provided an overview of Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant programs. Staff shared tips on developing and submitting a grant application, discussed long-term obligations, and highlighted key changes to board programs including the board's match reduction policy, new criteria for some grant program categories, and revision of its sustainability criterion. Approximately 240 participated in the live event. The Webinar presenters included Beth Auerbach, DeAnn Beck, Allison Dellwo, Karl Jacobs, Kim Sellers, and Jesse Sims, with Dan Haws serving as presenter and coordinator. Since the webinar applicants have begun entering nearly 160 grant applications into PRISM Online for the following programs:

- Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account
- Boating Infrastructure Grants
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
- Youth Athletic Facilities Program



In response to challenges applicants are facing as a result of COVID-19, the application deadline has been extended to June 1, 2020.

Step toe Butte Waiver Request

The board awarded a grant to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the State Parks and Recreation Commission for the purchase of 437 acres for the Steptoe Butte Proposed Natural Area ([RCO #18-1526](#)). In January, staff and DNR briefed the board on its need for a policy waiver to allow an ineligible income-producing structure (communication site) to remain in its acquisition project. Staff took board comments and questions and will continue to work with DNR and State Parks to see what, if any, alternatives are available.

In addition to meeting with State Parks to discuss alternatives, DNR is also contracting an appraisal of the property, which will include a study to determine the feasibility of relocating the towers to neighboring Steptoe Butte State Park. The appraisal will establish a market value for the property less the communication site value as well as the cost of relocating the towers off-site. DNR anticipates having some value

information by the April board meeting, however, the appraisal process will not be complete. Once the appraisal and corresponding studies are completed and DNR has concluded its discussions with State Parks, DNR will be prepared to decide about whether to move forward with requesting the policy waiver. If necessary, DNR anticipates bringing a request to the July board meeting.

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 include 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) | 24 | 2 | 26 |
| Boating Facilities Program (BFP) | 65 | 4 | 69 |
| Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR) | 12 | 0 | 12 |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| No Child Left Inside (NCLI) | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) | 148 | 7 | 155 |
| Recreation & Conservation Office Recreation Grants (RRG) | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Recreational Trails Program (RTP) | 49 | 3 | 52 |
| Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) | 226 | 11 | 237 |
| Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) | 49 | 4 | 53 |
| Total | 617 | 31 | 648 |

Viewing Closed Projects

Attachment A lists projects that closed between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020. Click on the project number to view the project description, grant funds awarded, and other information (e.g., photos, maps, reports, etc.).

Grant Services Report

Volunteer Recruitment for Advisory Committees

Volunteers are critical to the fair and accountable grant management processes at RCO. It cannot be stressed enough how important these individuals are to the application review and evaluation process. The time and dedication of each member contributes significantly to protecting and improving Washington's natural and outdoor recreation resources.

After a robust recruitment campaign and review of applications, the director appointed 57 new advisors to 16 committees in February and March. This allowed RCO to fill vacant seats on each committee and expand several committees as well. This new group of passionate and knowledgeable individuals will be a great addition to each committee.

This year's appointments include the following:

| Advisory Committee | New Appointments |
|---|------------------|
| Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account | 3 |
| Boating Programs | 1 |
| Firearms and Archery Range Recreation | 1 |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund | 4 |
| Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities | 4 |
| Recreational Trails Program | 4 |
| WWRP Farmland Preservation | 1 |
| WWRP Forestland Preservation | 2 |
| WWRP Habitat Acquisition | 7 |
| WWRP Habitat Restoration | 4 |
| WWRP Local Parks | 6 |
| WWRP State Lands Development and Renovation | 3 |
| WWRP State Parks | 3 |
| WWRP Trails | 3 |
| WWRP Water Access | 4 |
| Youth Athletic Facilities | 7 |
| TOTAL | 57 |

Compliance Update

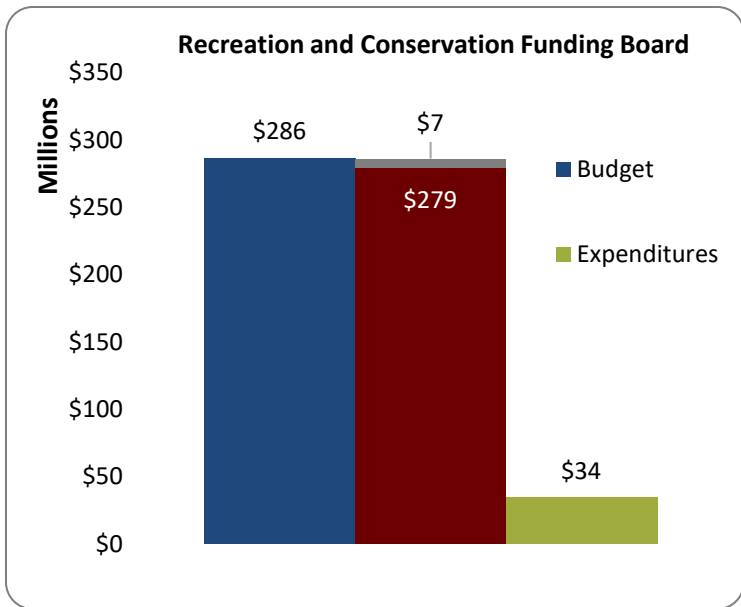
Staff began the implementation of the 2020 Inspection Strategy. Since January, compliance staff completed 35 inspections and 83% of the sites inspected were in compliance. These sites were located throughout the Kitsap Peninsula and in the greater Vancouver area of Clark County. During the months of May and June, staff will focus on inspecting sites in the greater Seattle metropolitan area, if allowed under any "stay at home" executive orders. Additionally, staff will continue its efforts to map all acquisition projects in PRISM (see Item 2E for more info).

Fiscal Report

For July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020, actuals through March 15, 2020 (Fiscal Month 08). Percentage of biennium reported: 33.3 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 | \$17,027,288 | \$16,735,074 | 98% | \$292,214 | 2% | \$3,013,504 | 18% | |
| BFP | \$32,120,671 | \$29,866,667 | 93% | \$2,254,004 | 7% | \$2,701,777 | 9% | |
| BIG | \$2,885,000 | \$2,885,000 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$645,624 | 22% | |
| FARR | \$1,432,948 | \$1,077,774 | 75% | \$355,174 | 25% | \$53,695 | 5% | |
| LWCF | \$6,542,000 | \$6,542,000 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$1,878,131 | 29% | |
| NOVA | \$21,330,670 | \$21,121,632 | 99% | \$209,039 | 1% | \$2,184,528 | 10% | |
| RTP | \$5,285,000 | \$5,207,082 | 99% | \$77,918 | 1% | \$1,249,052 | 24% | |
| WWRP | \$160,689,144 | \$159,895,470 | 99% | \$793,674 | 1% | \$14,862,605 | 9% | |
| RRG | \$12,711,254 | \$11,137,901 | 88% | \$1,573,353 | 12% | \$3,320,144 | 30% | |
| YAF | \$16,533,125 | \$15,338,627 | 93% | \$1,194,498 | 7% | \$1,424,934 | 9% | |
| Subtotal | \$276,557,100 | \$269,807,227 | 98% | \$6,749,874 | 2% | \$31,333,994 | 12% | |
| Administration | | | | | | | | |
| General | \$9,72 | | | | | | | |
| Operating Funds | 2,554 | \$9,722,554 | 100% | \$0 | 0% | \$3,014,726 | 31% | |
| Grand Total | \$286,279,654 | \$279,529,781 | 98% | \$6,749,873 | 2% | \$34,348,720 | 12% | |

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 March 15, 2020 (Fiscal Month 08).
 Percentage of biennium reported: 33.3%.

| Program | Biennial Forecast | Collections | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Estimate | Actual | % of Estimate |
| Boating Facilities Program (BFP) | \$20,630,111 | \$6,847,123 | 33.2% |
| Nonhighway, Off-Road Vehicle Program (NOVA) | \$14,352,550 | \$4,680,920 | 32.6% |
| Firearms and Archery Range Rec Program (FARR) | \$612,898 | \$180,224 | 29.4% |
| Total | \$35,595,559 | \$11,708,267 | 32.9% |

Revenue Notes:

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

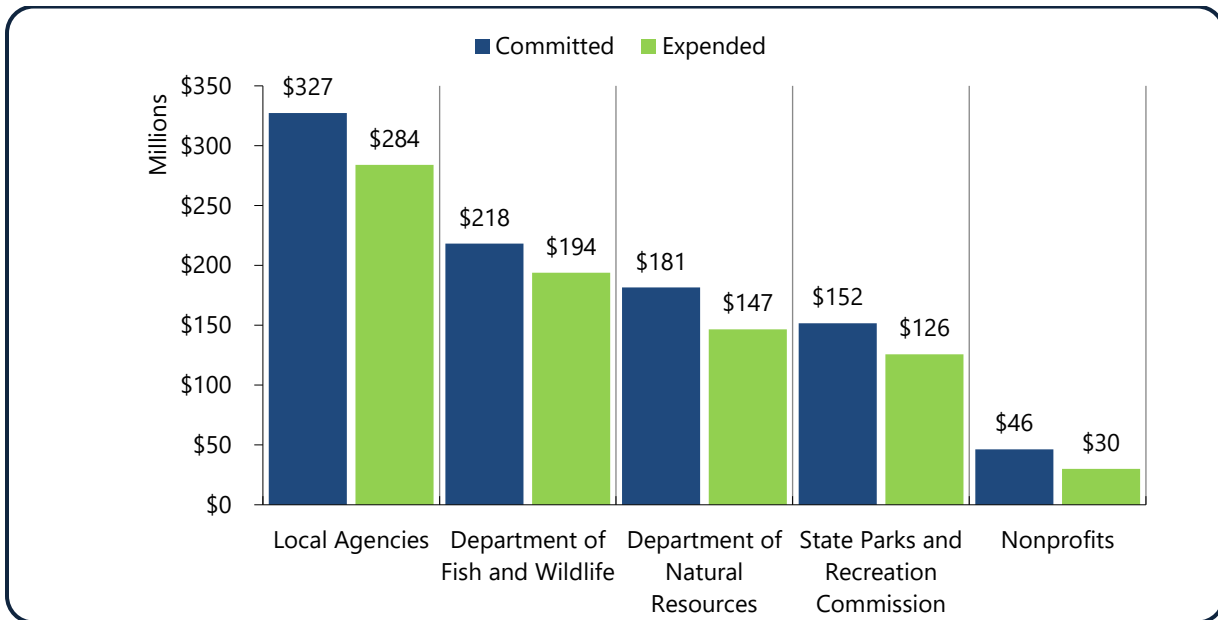
NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid for by off-road vehicle use permits. NOVA revenue is from the motor vehicle gasoline tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and nonhighway roads and from the amount paid 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 March 2020. The next forecast is due in June 2020.

WWRP Expenditure Rate by Organization (1990-Current)

| Agency | Committed | Expenditures | % Expended |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Local Agencies | \$327,211,714 | \$284,014,922 | 87% |
| Department of Fish and Wildlife | \$218,226,016 | \$193,846,462 | 89% |
| Department of Natural Resources | \$181,494,472 | \$146,652,868 | 81% |
| State Parks and Recreation Commission | \$151,523,997 | \$125,636,957 | 83% |
| Nonprofits | \$46,230,763 | \$29,882,238 | 65% |
| Conservation Commission | \$4,570,758 | \$476,431 | 10% |
| Tribes | \$2,241,411 | \$741,411 | 33% |
| Other | | | |
| Special Projects | \$735,011 | \$735,011 | 100% |
| Total | \$932,234,142 | \$781,986,300 | 84% |



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 March 23, 2020.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Performance Measures

| Measure | Target | Fiscal Year-to-Date | Status | Notes |
|---|--------|---------------------|--------|--|
| Grant agreements mailed within 120 days of funding | 90% | 85% | ● | 287 of 338 agreements have been mailed within 120 days. |
| Grants under agreement within 180 days of funding | 95% | 76% | ● | 244 of 320 agreements have been under agreement within 180 days. |
| Progress reports responded to within 15 days | 90% | 93% | ● | RCFB staff received 537 progress reports and have responded to 531 of them in an average of 6 days. |
| Bills paid in 30 days | 100% | 100% | ● | 813 bills have come due and all were paid within 30 days. On average, staff paid bills within 12 days. |
| Projects closed within 150 days of funding end date | 85% | 73% | ● | 44 of 60 projects have closed on time. |
| Projects in Backlog | 5 | 19 | ● | There are 19 RCFB projects in the backlog |
| Compliance inspections done | 125 | 96 | ● | There have been 96 worksites inspected this fiscal year. Staff have until June 30, 2020 to reach the target. |

Projects Completed and Closed from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2020

| Project Number ⁱ | Project Name | Sponsor | Program ⁱⁱ | Closed On |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|-----------|
| 16-2296E | Cle Elum Frontcountry Education and Enforcement 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 3/20/2020 |
| 16-2300E | Cle Elum Alpine Lakes Wilderness Education and Enforcement 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 3/10/2020 |
| 16-2326E | Capitol Forest Education and Enforcement | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 3/18/2020 |
| 16-2372E | Cle Elum Off-road Vehicle Education and Enforcement 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 3/20/2020 |
| 16-2410E | Grant County Off-road Vehicle Areas Education and Enforcement | Grant County Sheriff Department | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 2/13/2020 |
| 16-2419E | Northwest Region Education and Enforcement | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 2/14/2020 |

| Project Number ⁱ | Project Name | Sponsor | Program ⁱⁱ | Closed On |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|-----------|
| 16-2473E | Tahuya/Green Mountain Education and Enforcement | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 3/6/2020 |
| 16-2781E | Riverside State Park Area Education and Enforcement | Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Education and Enforcement | 3/2/2020 |
| 16-2294M | Cle Elum Frontcountry Maintenance and Operations 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonhighway Road | 3/20/2020 |
| 16-2317M | Samish Overlook, Lily/Lizard Lakes CG Nonhighway Road Maintenance and Operations | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonhighway Road | 2/14/2020 |
| 16-2474M | Hood Canal District Nonhighway Road Maintenance and Operation | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonhighway Road | 3/16/2020 |
| 16-2219M | Pomeroy Backcountry-Wilderness Trails Maintenance and Operations 16-2219 | U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized | 2/28/2020 |
| 16-2255M | Cle Elum Ranger District Nonmotorized Trails Maintenance and Operations 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized | 3/10/2020 |

| Project Number ⁱ | Project Name | Sponsor | Program ⁱⁱ | Closed On |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|-----------|
| 16-2327M | Capitol Forest Nonmotorized Trail and Facility Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized | 2/28/2020 |
| 16-2393M | Nicholson Trail System-Elbe Hills Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized | 3/17/2020 |
| 16-2449M | Pacific Cascade Nonmotorized Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Nonmotorized | 3/16/2020 |
| 16-2229M | Pomeroy Ranger District Motorized Trails Maintenance and Operations 16-2229 | U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/6/2020 |
| 16-2279M | Olympic Region Off-road Vehicle Facility/Trail Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 2/14/2020 |
| 16-2330M | Capitol Forest Off-road Vehicle Trail & Facility Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/6/2020 |
| 16-2354M | Cle Elum RD South Zone Off-road Vehicle Maintenance 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/11/2020 |
| 16-2399M | Elbe ORV Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/11/2020 |

| Project Number ⁱ | Project Name | Sponsor | Program ⁱⁱ | Closed On |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|-----------|
| 16-2423M | Tahuya/Green Mountain Trail and Facility Maintenance | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/23/2020 |
| 16-2439M | Reiter Foothills Forest Maintenance and Operations | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 2/28/2020 |
| 16-2454M | Walker Valley Off-road Vehicle Trails Maintenance and Operation | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/6/2020 |
| 16-2456M | Walker Valley Off-road Vehicle Bridge Replacements | Washington Department of Natural Resources | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 2/14/2020 |
| 16-2488M | Grant County Off-road Vehicle Maintenance and Operation | Grant County Sheriff Department | Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities, Off-Road Vehicle | 3/5/2020 |
| 14-1796D | Whitehorse Trail Design and Development | Snohomish County | RCO Recreation Grants Trails | 2/6/2020 |
| 18-2263E | Minimal Impact Recreation | Backcountry Horsemen of Washington | Recreational Trails Program, Education | 2/6/2020 |
| 16-2271M | Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance 2017 | Mountains to Sound Greenway | Recreational Trails Program, General | 3/5/2020 |

| Project Number ⁱ | Project Name | Sponsor | Program ⁱⁱ | Closed On |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 16-2392M | Maintenance on the Pacific Crest Trail | Pacific Crest Trail Association | Recreational Trails Program, General | 3/11/2020 |
| 16-2421M | Upper Lake Chelan Trails | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District | Recreational Trails Program, General | 3/23/2020 |
| 16-2435M | Cle Elum Ranger District Nonmotorized Trail Maintenance 2017-19 | U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District | Recreational Trails Program, General | 3/10/2020 |
| 16-2511M | South Cascades Snowmobile Trail Program | Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission | Recreational Trails Program, General | 2/7/2020 |
| 16-2675M | Maintaining Forest Service Trails | Backcountry Horsemen of Washington | Recreational Trails Program, General | 3/11/2020 |
| 16-2714M | Maintaining Non-Forest Service Trails | Backcountry Horsemen of Washington | Recreational Trails Program, General | 2/28/2020 |
| 16-2724M | Statewide Volunteer Trail Maintenance 2017-19 | Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance | Recreational Trails Program, General | 2/20/2020 |
| 16-2794M | Jones Creek Off-highway Vehicle Trail Maintenance | Jones Creek Trail Riders Association | Recreational Trails Program, General | 3/10/2020 |
| 16-1939A | Whatcom County Cougar Creek Ranch Acquisition | Whatcom County | WWRP Farmland Preservation | 3/16/2020 |

| Project Number ⁱ | Project Name | Sponsor | Program ⁱⁱ | Closed On |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 18-1376A | Mountain View Dairy, Pierce County | Pierce County | WWRP Farmland Preservation | 3/4/2020 |
| 14-1751D | Heller Bar Access Site Improvements | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | WWRP State Lands Development | 2/4/2020 |
| 14-1170C | Sultan River Access | Sultan | WWRP Water Access | 3/16/2020 |
| 15-1302D | Central Park Field #1 Multipurpose Sports Field | Issaquah | Youth Athletic Facilities, Renovation | 2/11/2020 |
| 16-1845D | Memorial Field Lighting Replacement | Jefferson County | Youth Athletic Facilities, Renovation | 2/28/2020 |

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

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Carbon Credit Financing and RCO Funded Projects

Prepared By: Ben Donatelle, Natural Resource Policy Specialist

Summary

This memo presents a preliminary discussion on developing a policy related to carbon finance projects on lands acquired in fee with Recreation and Conservation Funding Board funding assistance. The concepts of carbon credits and carbon finance projects are discussed, as well as the legal and policy framework by which a carbon finance project intersects with the board's funding programs.

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

In October 2019, the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board adopted a policy statement that explicitly encourages applicants to consider the challenges and opportunities climate change poses to their projects.¹ At the same time, the board adopted evaluation criteria for the Urban Wildlife Habitat and Riparian Protection categories that include references to climate change impacts, adaptation, resiliency, and greenhouse gas mitigation.² The board adopted these policies while recognizing that climate change issues are dynamic and evolving. With that, the board also requested RCO staff continue bringing forward opportunities to engage in climate-related issues. Carbon finance projects are one such issue.

¹ RCO Climate Change Policy. See [Manual 10B](#): WWRP Habitat Conservation Account, pg. 33

² Manual 10B, pgs. 73-85

In a 2018 report, the United Nations Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stressed that active carbon dioxide removal (CDR) techniques must be part of the portfolio of strategies to prevent global average temperature from rising above 1.5°C.³ In a follow up report, the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group concurred with the IPCC's recommendations, comparing global warming at 2.0°C to the extreme weather experienced in 2015. That year, temperatures in Washington were 1.9°C warmer than average; 50,000 Columbia River sockeye died; Stevens Pass Ski Area had a 42 percent shorter ski season; over 1,000,000 acres burned while suppression costs exceeded \$253 million; and the agricultural sector lost more than \$633 million.⁴

Most recently in the 2020 legislative session, the Legislature passed HB 2311, which updates Washington's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals to align with current scientific recommendations.⁵ In addition to new standards, the law specifically directs RCO to, "seek all practical opportunities...to cost-effectively maximize carbon sequestration in their nonland management agency operations, contracting, and grant-making activities."

RCO has received requests from project sponsors interested in developing carbon sequestration projects on lands acquired with RCO funding. This memo briefly describes carbon credits, carbon finance projects, compatibility with the board's programs and strategic priorities, and possible next steps for developing a carbon finance policy.

Introduction to Carbon Offsets

Carbon offsets, carbon credits, carbon markets and carbon finance projects are how active CDR techniques account for and monetize carbon sequestered from the atmosphere. The advent of carbon and other ecosystem service markets has created

³ IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, H. O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P. R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J. B. R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M. I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, T. Waterfield (eds.)]. World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, Switzerland. pgs. 17-19. Available: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>

⁴ Snover, A.K., C.L. Raymond, H.A. Roop, H. Morgan, 2019. "No Time to Waste. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and Implications for Washington State." Briefing paper prepared by the Climate Impacts Group, University of Washington, Seattle. 12 pgs. Available: <https://cig.uw.edu/resources/special-reports/no-time-to-waste/>

⁵ Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2311. Available: <http://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2019-20/Pdf/Bills/House%20Passed%20Legislature/2311-S2.PL.pdf#page=1>

expansive opportunities for municipalities, nonprofits, and private landowners to realize and receive compensation for the ecosystem services their lands provide. In many cases, these markets are driving the global expansion of initiatives that plant trees, restore land, capture methane and other greenhouse gases, and protect agricultural or forested lands from development. So, what are carbon finance projects, and how do they intersect with RCO funding programs? A simplified explanation follows.

A *carbon credit* represents one metric ton of carbon dioxide (or equivalent greenhouse gas) sequestered or avoided as the result of a specific action. A credit is generated by *carbon offset projects*, such as tree planting, that result in a quantifiable reduction of carbon in the atmosphere. The number of credits generated by an offset project is accounted for through statistical modeling and the methodologies to do so are prescribed by *protocols*, or the rules governing a carbon finance program. The protocols are developed with significant public input by *carbon registries*, which are typically an incorporated 501c(3) nonprofit organization or government agency that manages the issuance and retirement of carbon credits. In addition to carbon dioxide (CO₂), some protocols account for other greenhouse gasses, such as methane, and convert them to an equivalent of CO₂ emissions. The registries serialize the credits, which allow them to be sold on the open market as unique, verifiable reductions in atmospheric carbon (or carbon equivalent).⁶

Carbon registries, in part because of the advance of California's cap-and-trade program, have worked diligently over the past decade to strengthen the integrity of carbon markets and expand opportunities in the United States for carbon sequestration projects and credit trading. The three most robust registries are the [American Carbon Registry](#), [Climate Action Reserve](#), and [Verra](#). Each of these registries offer a range of protocols on both the voluntary market and California's more stringent compliance market. Examples that are most relevant to the board's investments include protocols for afforestation and reforestation (tree planting), improved forest management (e.g. extending rotation periods or transitioning to selective harvest rather than clear cutting), and avoided conversion of land use (e.g. permanently protecting forest or agricultural land rather than developing for residential or commercial use). Other protocols value carbon sequestered or avoided through methods as diverse as active capture of emissions from agriculture, energy development, or waste management activities; improved industrial processes;

⁶ A good article summarizing the basics of carbon offsets is available at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkobayashisolomon/2020/03/13/want-to-understand-carbon-credits-read-this/#6934277b71aa>

converting from fossil fuel-based energy production to renewables; and improving energy efficiency in buildings and construction activities.⁷

A carbon credit project is generally initiated through a contractual agreement between the project sponsor and the carbon registry. The project area is designated by the sponsor and may consist of a single property or many dispersed properties. Before carbon credits are issued, the project must submit to a rigorous validation and third-party verification process. This process objectively ensures, 1) the project generates a real, net carbon benefit; 2) the project creates *additionality*, meaning it results in carbon sequestration or avoidance beyond the business-as-usual scenario; 3) each ton of carbon is unique and verifiable; 4) the carbon reduction is permanent; and 5) the project generally complies with the rules and regulations outlined in the protocol.⁸

Upon validation and acceptance by the registry, the project sponsor is issued a share of carbon credits and able to market them. The amount of carbon credits generated varies depending on myriad factors including vegetation and ecosystem type(s) present on the property, zoning and land use potential, baseline conditions, proximity to urban areas, etc. which are all detailed in the protocols.

Most credits on the voluntary market are purchased by companies seeking to reduce their greenhouse gas footprint as a part of a sustainability initiative. A smaller number may be purchased by individual citizens to offset things like car rentals, their at-home greenhouse gas footprint, or airline trips. Carbon finance projects that take extra measures to register through a compliance market, such as the California Air Resources Board, have the opportunity to sell to regulated entities that are required to offset their emissions in some way, either through emissions reduction and efficiency efforts, purchasing allowances from the regulating authority, or investing in offset projects.

As important as it is to understand what a carbon credit is, it's equally important to understand what a carbon credit is not. First, as noted previously, carbon credits are generated as the result of a specific action that sequesters or avoids emissions of greenhouse gases. Carbon credits, themselves, are not a property right, even if in some

⁷ See <https://verra.org/methodologies/> for an example of the variety of protocols Verra Carbon Registry offers.

⁸ See Verra's *VCS Program Guide, Version 4*. Published September 2019. Available: https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/VCS_Program_Guide_v4.0.pdf. See also, Climate Action Reserve's *Reserve Offset Program Manual*. Published November 2019. Available: https://www.climateactionreserve.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Reserve_Offset_Program_Manual_November_2019.pdf

cases a deed restriction may be a requirement or provide an additional benefit to a carbon finance project. Second, carbon finance projects are not mitigation projects. Carbon finance projects are developed, registered and credits are issued before any specific buyer is identified. Credits are then sold on the open market only after the activity generating the credit is complete. RCO's grant award could aid in generating carbon credits but is not used to satisfy any specific mitigation requirement. Finally, carbon credits are real, measurable, permanent reductions in or avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions that are additional to any regulatory or mandated land management activities. The carbon registries work diligently to ensure credits are conservatively estimated and not double counted. Activities used to generate carbon credits are highlighted by the IPCC and the UW Climate Impacts Group, among many others, as critical to preventing global warming above 1.5°C.

How do carbon credit projects intersect with RCO funding?

An RCO project sponsor who acquires property with RCO funding assistance could take advantage of carbon markets in a variety of ways. For example, a habitat conservation project may generate measurable carbon benefits by protecting the land acquired from being converted to residential or commercial uses. This type of project could be enrolled in an *avoided conversion* protocol. Once acquired, there is typically a narrow window of time, commonly one to three years, to enroll the property in a carbon finance project.

In another scenario, a project sponsor could conduct a tree planting project on property previously acquired with RCO funding assistance. Calculated under an *afforestation* or *reforestation* protocol, carbon credits could be realized from the carbon sequestered as the newly planted trees grow. The carbon is considered additional to the baseline scenario (i.e. had the trees not been planted) if the trees were not required to be planted by a regulatory or other legal mandate.

These are two simple examples of how carbon finance projects could intersect with lands acquired with RCO funding assistance. They are also likely to be the most common. However, there are myriad ways in which CDR techniques can generate carbon credits and any policy should be flexible enough to accommodate future innovations. The major RCO policy considerations are discussed below.

Legal and Board Policy Considerations

Acquiring property with RCO funding is guided by legal mandates and policies to ensure the board's investments are used as intended, maintained for their useful life, and remain available for public use. These obligations originate from the laws creating both the board and the accounts the board administers. Further, the board has adopted

policies, set forth in the grant manuals, to guide the agency and programmatic operations. The RCO project agreement, which is the contract signed by project sponsors when they are awarded grant funds, also stipulates these obligations. The legal requirements and policies that have the most potential to intersect with carbon finance projects are:

- Income generation and use policies
- Compliance policies and Sponsor's long-term obligations
- RCO's deed of right
- Complementary covenants
- Allowable uses framework; and
- Mitigation policy

Income and income use

RCO explicitly allows sponsors to generate revenue from a project completed with RCO funding assistance. The policy is codified in Washington Administrative Code⁹ and repeated in several grant manuals.¹⁰ The policy is broad but requires income generated be used to offset:

- The sponsor's matching funds.
- The project's total cost.
- The expense of operation, maintenance, stewardship, monitoring, or repair of the facility or program assisted by the funding board grant.
- The expense of operation, maintenance, stewardship, monitoring, or repair of other similar units in the sponsor's system.
- Capital expenses for similar acquisition, development, or restoration.

Past projects have generated revenue from diverse sources such as parking receipts, use and rental fees, grazing fees, forest health and stewardship activities, utility corridors, and more. Any revenue generated from enrolling a property acquired with RCO funding assistance in a carbon finance project must be used in accordance with the same prescribed purposes above.

Compliance and long-term obligations

RCO's compliance policies rest on several laws and rules that prohibit the project area from being converted, "without prior approval of the board or director...to a use other

⁹ See WAC [286-13-110](#)

¹⁰ See full policy in Manuals [7 \(p.7\)](#), 3 and 4. Policy also referenced in Manuals 9, 10, 14, 16.

than that for which funds were originally approved.”¹¹ This prohibition is reinforced by the RCO project agreement and, if the sponsor is acquiring property, the deed of right.

The board has adopted policies that further explain a conversion and guide the process for granting the board’s approval. This conversion policy is critical to protecting the board’s investments as they were set forth in the project agreement. Specifically, a conversion is determined if:

- Property interests are conveyed for non-public outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses.
- Property interests are conveyed to a third party not otherwise eligible to receive grants in the program from which funding was derived.
- Non-outdoor recreation, habitat conservation, or salmon recovery uses (public or private) are made in a manner that impairs the originally intended purposes of the project area.
- Non-eligible indoor facilities are developed within the project area.
- Public use of the property or a portion of the property acquired or developed/restored with RCO assistance is terminated, unless public use was not allowed under the original grant.
- If a habitat project, the property or a portion of the property acquired, restored, or enhanced no longer provides the environmental functions for which RCO funds were approved originally.

Section 25 of the RCO Project Agreement stipulates a project sponsor’s long-term obligations. This section contains four clauses. The first two clauses refer to the Washington Administrative Code, discussed above, prohibiting a conversion without prior approval of the board. The third clause requires the project continue functioning as intended in perpetuity. The last clause discusses conversions and states, “Conversion includes, but is not limited to, putting such property to uses other than those purposes for which funds were approved or transferring such property to another entity without prior approval via a written amendment to the Agreement.”

¹¹ See RCW [79A.25.100](#); RCW [79A.15.030\(9\)](#); WAC [286-13-160](#), [170](#), and [180](#)

Deed of right

As a condition of funding assistance, RCO's deed of right is recorded on the title of all projects that acquire property in fee. A similar "assignment of rights" is recorded for conservation easements. The deed of right conveys to RCO explicit rights to inspect the project area and enforce the terms of the grant agreement. Section four discusses the sponsor's long-term obligations and provides that, "the [sponsor] shall not use or allow any use of the Real Property (including any part of it) that is inconsistent with the [recreation, conservation, or salmon recovery] purposes herein granted and as stated in the Project Agreement. The [sponsor] shall also not grant or suffer the creation of any property interest that is inconsistent with the [recreation, conservation, or salmon recovery] purposes herein granted and as stated in the Project Agreement."

Complementary covenants

The long-term obligations and compliance policies clearly require the preservation of the board's investment. Generally conveying a property right that is inconsistent with the intended purpose of the grant funding purpose is prohibited. However, in specific situations, board policy allows a deed restriction or other compatible, complementary interest to be recorded on a title alongside RCO's deed of right. Examples might include a *notice of grant* or encumbrance from another funding entity, or underground utility easements that do not interfere with the purpose of the grant funding. RCO's policy reserves the right to review the complementary deed restriction for consistency with RCO's deed of right and the project agreement. The policy explicitly states, "As long as the encumbrance from the other funding source is consistent and compatible with RCO's funding, no conversion will occur..."¹²

This is an important policy for carbon financing projects. In most cases, the carbon registry and a carbon finance project sponsor have a simple contractual relationship which requires no encumbrance of the property. However, in some cases, the carbon registry may ask for a deed restriction to protect the resource generating the carbon credit, the trees on the property for example.¹³

¹² [RCO Manual 3](#): Acquisitions, p. 59

¹³ For its Urban Forest Preservation protocol, City Forest Credits requires a deed restriction that states, "Removal of Trees. Grantor shall not cut down, destroy, or remove trees located on the Protected Property, except as necessary to control or prevent hazard, disease or fire or to improve forest health. Recreational non-motor-use trails have negligible or de minimis impacts on biomass and carbon stock and are permissible." In another example, a project developed by Nisqually Land Trust (not on RCO funded property) could have received a bonus allocation of

Allowable uses framework

The allowable uses framework¹⁴ establishes a process for allowing unique, site-specific uses of an RCO funded project that are not addressed by existing rules or policy. For example, the City of Spokane's request to locate combined sewer overflow (CSO) tanks under RCO funded park developments was the latest project the board approved under the allowable uses framework. This policy is intended to provide flexibility for the board to consider unique opportunities without setting a broad policy to deal with every new situation. However, the policy also provides some guidance for the board should it wish to develop a policy for an emerging issue or use of project sites. The policy states:

For the use to be approved by RCO or the funding board it must meet all of the following criteria:

- *The use must be consistent with the essential purposes of the grant (i.e., consistent with the grant agreement and grant program)*
- *All practical alternatives to the use, including the option of no action, must have been considered and rejected on a sound basis*
- *The use must achieve its intended purpose with the least possible impact to the habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat resource*
 - *If the use impacts the type of resource the grant is designed to protect (habitat, outdoor recreation, or salmon habitat), it also must provide at least equivalent benefits to that type of resource so there is no overall impairment.*

The policy concludes by stating that the project site must continue as approved and any income generated on the project site must be managed according to the income and income use policies.

Mitigation policies

RCOs policies on mitigation are also important to consider as carbon credits could potentially be used in a compliance market to offset regulated entities' greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements. Generally, RCO prohibits using grant funds to fulfill

carbon credits had they included the California Air Resources Board as a third party enforcer on an easement held by Washington Department of Natural Resources. The land trust ultimately did not include CAB on the easement for reasons outside their control.

¹⁴ [RCO Manual 7](#): Long Term Obligations, p. 6

third-party mitigation requirements.¹⁵ However, RCO explicitly allows the use of mitigation money (e.g. cash payments from a mitigation fund, impact fees) as match if, “the board’s grant does not replace mitigation money, repay the mitigation fund, or in any way supplant the obligation of the mitigating entity.”¹⁶ Even in a regulated market, an entity could purchase carbon credits as one of many possible solutions to achieving emissions goals. However, an entity regulated under a greenhouse gas emissions reduction scheme is not explicitly required to protect habitat, wetlands, or plant trees. Therefore, developing a carbon finance project on property acquired with RCO funding does not supplant any funds that would otherwise be used to protect habitat.

Taken together, the policies, rules, and laws identified above are clear in their direction: the board’s investments are to be safeguarded as a part of the public domain and, in general, maintained in perpetuity for the purpose in which they were originally funded. The laws and policies also allow flexibility for the board to be innovative in addressing emerging issues or opportunities that are compatible with the purpose of the grant funding.

Issues and options for the Board to discuss at a later time

In response to early inquiries about developing carbon finance projects, RCO staff consulted with our assigned assistant attorney general. Based on that consultation, staff developed preliminary guidance to advise inquiries on existing policy in advance of bringing this issue to the board. The guidance has five provisions:

1. Sponsor must inform RCO in advance which properties will be subject to the carbon finance project and demonstrate the activity generating the credits is consistent with the purpose of the RCO funding.
2. The mechanism securing the carbon credits should not be recorded on title.
3. Income realized from the sale of credits generated on RCO assisted properties must be used in accordance with RCO’s income use policy.
4. RCO will amend into the project agreement a special condition noting the project is also part of a carbon finance project and generating carbon credits is not to interfere with the primary purpose of the grant award.

¹⁵ RCO [Manual 3](#): Acquisition Projects, p. 32

¹⁶ RCO [Manual 10B](#): WWRP Habitat Conservation Account, pg. 47. See also Manuals 9, 10A, 14, 15, 17 & 21.

5. For future RCO project applications, the sponsor must, to the extent possible, explicitly state if the proposed property acquisition will be included in a carbon finance project and give the grant evaluation committee an opportunity to consider that as a factor of the project.

The legal and policy framework described in the section above is critical to envisioning how carbon financing opportunities intersect and can be compatible with some RCO funding programs. There are also situations in which a carbon finance project may not be compatible. For example, an RCO project funded by the Youth Athletic Facilities program to build soccer fields could not suddenly be used for a tree plantation to generate carbon credits. That is clearly an incompatible use of the grant assisted site.

The guidance (above) has been helpful as new inquiries come forward, but there are a few outstanding issues for the board to consider. Questions for the board to consider include:

- Considering the guidance described above, does the board feel the need to develop a distinct policy to guide carbon finance projects?
- Does the board want to pilot a policy in selected grant programs or decide initially which programs are compatible with carbon financing projects and which others may not be compatible?
- Would the board consider a complementary covenant placed on a property to secure a carbon finance project a conversion if the project is compatible with RCO's deed of right and the primary purpose of the grant funding?
- Does the board want to retain or delegate to the director the authority to review carbon finance projects that seek to use properties acquired with RCO funding assistance?
- What other sideboards would the board want to consider in developing a carbon finance policy?

Strategic Plan Link

This issue intersects with several of the board strategic plan objectives, including:

Objective 1A Provide leadership to help our partners strategically invest in the protection, restoration, and development of habitat and recreation opportunities.

Objective 2A Ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities.

Objective 2B Support activities that promote continuous quality improvement.

Next Steps

Subject to the board’s discussion, RCO Staff will begin to develop policy guidance for carbon finance projects and bring the issue back to the board for further discussion.

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Compliance Briefing

Prepared By: Myra Barker, Compliance Specialist

Summary:

Following the briefing at the January 29, 2020 board meeting on the RCO compliance and inspection program, the board requested a briefing on the high-risk sponsor policy which was adopted in 2007. This is the primary tool available to leverage sponsors to address unresolved compliance issues.

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 |

Board Compliance Policies

A sponsor acknowledges the long-term obligation that comes with grant funding through two formal actions. The first is during the application phase when a sponsor's governing body adopts a resolution authorizing the grant proposal. The second is when a sponsor signs a grant agreement that includes a section that specifies the long-term obligation for the project.

Our compliance outreach notifying sponsors of the obligation is an ongoing effort. The notice serves as a reminder of the grant obligations and includes a list of a sponsor's projects. Notices were sent beginning in 2014 and continue to date. These reminders have been sent to about 68% of sponsors representing approximately half of the projects in the agency's compliance portfolio.

Changes to the use of a project area are reviewed and addressed through the board's compliance policies. Board policy identifies the changes that create a conversion and the changes that may be considered as exceptions to conversion.

The conversion policy¹ is based on statutory and administrative code requirements. It provides the mechanism for approving a change to the project area that creates a conversion. The policy requires prior approval and replacement that provides equivalent value² and reasonably equivalent usefulness.

Staff apply the board's conversion policy when a sponsor plans a change to the project area ownership and/or use that is inconsistent with the intended purpose of the grant funding and not otherwise allowed by policy. A timeline for resolving a conversion is often more aggressive when a third-party action is creating the conversion. For example, a federal, state, or local funded transportation improvement project, or an inconsistent use funded through state, local, or private means, such as a YMCA or utility structures (water and wastewater treatment buildings).

A conversion that is not resolved before the change happens often remain unresolved for a long time. This occurs especially as time passes and the sponsor is no longer engaged with RCO in seeking new grant funding. Examples include total closure of the project area due to the surfacing of a sports facility, tennis court, or field has become worn and unsafe for use. In addition, there are changes in sponsor staff over time and knowledge of the grant obligation is lost.

High Risk Sponsor Policy

In June 2007, the board adopted a policy that created a consequence for a sponsor who had not made good faith efforts to resolve an outstanding conversion. The policy outlines the conditions when a sponsor could be designated as a high-risk sponsor. (Attachment A)

The policy went into effect approximately two years later (on July 1, 2009) to give sponsors time to make efforts to resolve pending conversions.

Currently, there are a few sponsors who meet the conditions described in the policy. The board expressed a desire not to use or expand this tool during previous discussions on changes to the compliance policies that included incentivizing resolving compliance issues.

¹ RCW 79A.15.030; RCW 79A.25.100; WAC 286-13-160, 170, 180

² Equivalent value is required for conversion of property acquired with a grant. Value is not a factor for replacement for a conversion of a project area that is developed or restored with a grant, however, a new project area not previously funded by a grant is required.

Next Steps

Staff will add a discussion about the high-risk sponsor policy to a future board meeting to determine whether this tool still provides an incentive to ensure compliance with board conversion policy.

Attachment A: High Risk Sponsors Policy

The director may recommend to the funding board that a sponsor with unresolved conversion projects be designated as a "high risk sponsor." A sponsor may be designated as high risk if it meets the following tests:

- Has one or more unresolved conversions of which the combined Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board dollar total exceeds \$1 million or 25 percent of all Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and Salmon Recovery Funding Board funds received by that sponsor, whichever dollar amount is less (NOT including local match or contribution) OR
- Has a conversion of any size or amount that has been unresolved for 2 or more years after notification by the RCO, AND
- Has no record of substantial progress towards resolving outstanding conversion(s).

Substantial Progress

After recommendation by the director, the funding board will make the decision of whether a sponsor has a record of substantial progress.

Substantial progress is indicated when a sponsor has (1) expressed, in writing, a willingness to replace the converted property or remedy the conversion and (2) has taken specific and timely actions as stipulated by RCO. These actions may include, but are not limited to, identifying potential replacement property, convening a task force or assigning staff, demonstrating an adequate public involvement process, ordering appraisals or appraisal reviews, or other relevant actions.

Notice to Sponsors

Before making a recommendation to the funding board, the director will notify a sponsor in writing that it is responsible for one or more unresolved conversions and that the director is recommending that it be designated as high risk.

- The funding board, as appropriate, shall consider the director's recommendation in an open public meeting.

- Sponsor notification will occur at least 30 days before the board meeting and will include the date and time of the meeting, specific project references, and actions that will constitute substantial progress.
- If the board chooses to designate a sponsor as “high risk,” the director will notify the sponsor in writing.

Applying for New Grants

A “high risk” sponsor still may apply and compete for additional grants for one grant cycle or calendar year from the date of designation (whichever is longer). After that time, the RCO will not accept grant applications from the sponsor until the high-risk designation is removed.

If a high-risk sponsor’s new application is successful, the sponsor will be given a 90-day time period following the funding board’s funding meeting to have the high-risk sponsor designation removed pursuant to “Removal of Designation” Section below.

If, after the 90-day period, the sponsor has not been successful at having the high-risk sponsor designation removed pursuant to the “Removal of Designation” Section below, the RCO will not issue the project agreement and the funds will be redistributed pursuant to board policy.

Removal of Designation

If a sponsor believes that it should no longer be designated as high risk, it may petition the director to remove the designation.

The director shall have authority to remove the designation if he or she determines that the conversion has been fully resolved.

In cases where the conversion has not been fully resolved, the director shall refer the decision to the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board or the Salmon Recovery Funding Board if the director concludes that the sponsor has made substantial progress toward resolving the conversion or has other legitimate reasons why the high-risk designation might be removed.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Overview of the Next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Other Affiliated Plans

Prepared By: Katie Pruit, Policy and Planning Specialist

Summary

This memo summarizes the timeframe and process for updating the 2018-2022 Recreation and Conservation Plan for Washington State (also known as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan or SCORP).

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

What is SCORP?

SCORP is the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Each U.S. state or territory must have one to receive Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) federal assistance¹. Washington state also has a law, and the board has adopted rules and polices, that expand on the federal SCORP requirement. For example, Washington's SCORP is named the "Washington State Recreation and *Conservation* Plan 2018-2022" (*emphasis added*) to include the board's mission to conserve habitat. The plan also provides a statewide vision for a 20-year planning horizon and includes other state recreation plans required or recommended by state law. Additionally, as part of the 2015 review of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the various state

¹ Section 6(d) of the LWCF Act of 1965, as amended.

agencies agreed to incorporate a statewide unifying strategy². This unifying strategy is incorporated as an appendix to SCORP.

It is under the Recreation and Conservation Office Director's authority to prepare and update the statewide plan³. The plan is developed in coordination with stakeholders and broad public input, and the board is briefed throughout the process. (A draft project schedule is within this memo.) The board makes a recommendation to the governor before the final plan is submitted to the National Park Service for approval. Once approved, the state is eligible to receive LWCF assistance for five years.

Federal requirements

The LWCF Act of 1965 requires each SCORP to include supply and demand for recreation facilities, a program for the implementation of the plan, and ample opportunity for public participation⁴. In addition, each state is encouraged to conduct outdoor recreation planning beyond the minimum federal requirements⁵. States may consider the needs and opportunities for establishing recreation and historic trails, and wild, scenic and recreational river areas. Currently, the National Park Service requires the plan to be updated every five years, although this is a requirement that is likely to change in the coming year. The fifty states have asked that it be updated only every 10 years, but the National Park Service is evaluating a more flexible schedule.

State requirements (RCW 79A.25.020)

The Washington state legislature enacted additional SCORP requirements beyond the federal requirements. A focus on habitat conservation, inclusion of programmatic recreation plans, and a description of good public participation⁶ are some of the ways the legislature has expanded the SCORP requirements.

2018 SCORP

The [2018-2022 SCORP](#) can be found on the RCO web site. It is organized by the state plan priorities, recreation plans, interactive maps, and other resources.

² RCW 79A.25.005(1)(a)

³ RCW 79A.25.020(3)

⁴ LWCF Federal Financial Assistance Manual Volume 69, October 2008

⁵ Planning grants are available.

⁶ Includes a broad-scale public and information gathering process that is further clarified by who should participate.

State Plan Priorities:

1. **Sustain and Grow the Legacy** of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
2. **Improve Equity** of Parks, Trails, and Conservation Lands
3. Meet the Needs of Youth (i.e. **Get Youth Outside**)
4. Plan for Culturally Relevant Parks and Trails to **Meet Changing Demographics**
5. Assert Recreation and Conservation as a **Vital Public Service**

Goals for addressing SCORP priorities are found in the **Unifying Strategy** which meet the federal requirement for implementation of the 2018 SCORP.

State Recreation Plans

Washington state law requires including any other elements necessary to qualify for federal outdoor recreation funding. For that purpose, the following [recreation plans](#) are updated with each SCORP:

- State trails plan (RCW 79A.35.040)
- State athletic facilities plan (RCW 79A.25.820)
- Nonhighway and off-road vehicle plan (RCW 46.09.370 and WAC 286-04-020)
- Recreational boating plan

Interactive Maps

The 2018 SCORP includes three [interactive maps](#). The first is a **mapped inventory** of existing facilities. The second is a **grant application data tool** that provides data on population demographics and health indicators. Applicants use this tool to answer specific evaluation questions for ALEA, WWRP, and LWCF programs. The third is a **level of service analysis** to display the distribution of parks, trails, and natural areas across the state.

Other Resources

Several studies informed the development of the plan. These include:

- Measures and metrics for a **match reduction or waiver policy** (Hardcastle 2016)
- State of Washington **assessment of outdoor recreation demand** Report (EWU 2017)
- Washington State recreation and conservation plan **provider survey results** (Hedden 2017)
- *Draft* Washington State **trails data strategic plan** (McQueen 2017)

- Strategy for state recreation and conservation **land acquisition and development** (Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group 2017)

2023 SCORP Update

Integration of recent reports and studies

RCO staff has published the following [reports and studies](#) since the adoption of the 2018 SCORP:

- RASS: Recreational assets of statewide significance in Washington State (RCO 2019)
- Economic and health benefits of walking, hiking, and bicycling on Recreational Trails in Washington State
 - Economic, environmental, & social benefits of recreational trails (ECONorthwest 2019)
 - Health benefits of contact with nature (Perrins and Bratman 2019)

The five-year update (i.e. 2023 SCORP update) is the best time to incorporate and integrate new information. This will maintain the elements of the 2018 comprehensive plan that are integrated and build on one another. Plans are a “living” document because they are updated periodically to address changing demands and needs, but they are also approved at a point in time and not meant to be altered before a formal update process.

Project Schedule

Staff are in the initial phases of drafting a project management plan. The anticipated board review schedule is included in the table below.

2023 SCORP review schedule

| RCFB | Planning phase | Date |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| Briefing | Project management plan | November 2020 |
| Briefing | Progress update | April 2021 |
| Direction | NPS agreement | July 2021 |
| Briefing | Provider survey | October 2021 |
| Direction | Survey results and public input process | January 2022 |
| Briefing | Progress update | April 2022 |
| Direction | Public draft | July 2022 |
| Decision | Final plan recommendation | October 2022 |

Strategic Plan Link

<https://rco.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/RCFB-StrategicPlan.pdf>

The 2023 update to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan meets goals one and three of the board's strategic plan. The first goal is to help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, wildlife, and ecosystems (through such actions like a comprehensive planning effort that identifies gaps and future priorities. The public engagement process that SCORP entails meets the third goal of the strategic plan: to deliver successful projects by inviting competition and by using broad public participation and feedback, monitoring, assessment, and adaptive management.

Next Steps

Staff anticipate briefing the board at the November 2020 meeting on the project management plan including plan elements, stakeholder engagement, provider survey, and public input process.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program: Applications Overview and Opportunity for Public Comment

Prepared By: Karl Jacobs, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager

Summary

This memo summarizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, provides an overview of applications submitted for the 2020 grant cycle, and provides an opportunity for review of the project proposals in an open public meeting. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board permanently delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office director to approve projects for submittal to the national competition following review and ranking by the LWCF advisory committee, and an opportunity for public comment (Item 4, July 2018).

Board Action Requested

This item will be a:

- Request for Decision
- Request for Direction
- Briefing

Background

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to states to preserve and develop quality outdoor recreation resources. The National Park Service (NPS) distributes funding to the states by a formula based on population and land area. Congress has also set aside an appropriation for its nationally competitive Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program and this year each state has been given an opportunity to submit up to four projects for consideration.

The ORLP Program funds projects designed to acquire or develop outdoor recreation sites that are located within or serve large urban areas (population of 50,000 or more). The goal is to fund projects that are directly accessible to neighborhoods or communities that are underserved in terms of parks and recreation resources and where there are significant populations of people who are economically disadvantaged. When evaluating grant proposals, a national panel will prioritize projects that:

- Address recreational deficiencies for urban neighborhoods;
- Demonstrate unique features that are innovative and transformative;
- Engage residents in the project’s development;
- Have experienced sponsors or partners who have successfully completed similar projects;
- Improve recreation service to minorities, youth, or low to moderate income individuals or families, while also creating jobs and spurring economic development;
- Involve partnerships that leverage non-public resources that exceed the 1:1 match level;
- Provide clear and detailed budgets with secured match; and
- Will be implemented and open to the public within two to three years.

In addition to the objectives listed above, projects must clearly advance the goals or meet needs identified in their respective State’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). In 2018, Washington state submitted three ORLP applications to NPS and one, Seattle’s South Park Renovation, was selected for funding.

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Policies

Rules governing the LWCF program are in the [Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Financial Assistance Manual](#). Additional guidelines for Washington’s LWCF program are in [Manual #15, Land and Water Conservation Fund Program](#). The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program follows the same policies as those for LWCF, but places emphasis on funding projects for urban underserved populations. The table below provides a summary of the requirements for this grant cycle.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Eligible Applicants | State and local governments (cities, counties, park districts, port districts, special purpose districts) and federally recognized Native American tribes. |
| Eligibility Requirements | <p>Eligible applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish planning eligibility • Represent a jurisdiction of at least 50,000 people, and • Be named as one of the 497 urbanized areas delineated by the Census Bureau or be a jurisdiction that lies geographically within one of the delineated urbanized areas. <p>If the project sponsor is a state agency, the project must serve one or more of the urbanized area jurisdictions as described above.</p> |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Eligible Project Types | Acquisition, development, and renovation projects. |
| Match Requirements | At a minimum, grant recipients must provide a 1:1 match from state, local or private sources. |
| Fund Limits¹ | <p>Minimum grant request: \$300,000 per project Maximum grant request: \$1,000,000 per project, less RCO's indirect rate</p> <p>The cost estimate defines the maximum federal share. This policy is to prevent scope changes that might alter the competitive nature of the project. In other words, no cost increases.</p> |
| Public Access | Required for the whole (e.g., entire park) project area. |
| Other Program Characteristics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property acquired must be developed within three years. • Project sponsors must record language against the title of the assisted property stating that it must be preserved for public outdoor recreation uses in perpetuity. • The conversion rules found in the Land and Water Conservation Act applies. |

2020 Grants Cycle

The National Park Service is now accepting grant applications for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program. The federal deadline is July 10, 2020. To ensure applicants from the state of Washington have an opportunity to participate in this competition, RCO staff solicited grant proposals last fall. Eligible applicants provided their preliminary proposals and must now submit their complete applications by May 1. Following RCO staff and LWCF advisory committee review, applicants will be given an opportunity to make revisions before the June 15 technical completion deadline.

Analysis/Discussion

The board delegated authority to the director to submit ORLP applications to the NPS at its July 2018 meeting. Each grant cycle staff must provide an update to the board along with a summary of the grant applications submitted for review in an open public meeting. This meeting serves that purpose.

¹ The federal limits exceed the board-approved grant limits for the stateside LWCF program.

Strategic Plan Link

Consideration of submitting projects for this federal funding opportunity supports the board's strategy to provide funding to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance recreation opportunities statewide. The grant process supports the board's goal to achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to it.

Projects considered for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program support board adopted priorities in *Washington State Recreation and Conservation Plan 2018-2022*.

Next Steps

Typically, Washington's LWCF advisory committee would use the federal evaluation criteria to rank and recommend projects for consideration. The director would then submit the highest ranked projects to the National Park Service for the national completion. This year however, we received only four applications and may submit all to NPS. The advisory committee will review the grant proposals, using the federal evaluation criteria, and make a recommendation to the director about whether the projects should be submitted to NPS for consideration. The advisory committee may make a "do not fund" recommendation if they have significant concerns about any of the proposals.

Attachments

- A. Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Project Proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2020

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Project Proposals for Federal Fiscal Year 2020

| Number | Name | Sponsor | Grant Request | Match | Total Cost |
|--|---|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| 19-1740 Development | Wards Lake Park Revitalization | City of Lakewood | \$720,323 | \$723,495 | \$1,443,818 |
| | <p>Description: The Wards Lake Park Enhancements project is for development of an underutilized 26-acre urban park. As a remnant natural area, most of the site has degenerated due to expansive growth of invasive plant species, and sedimentation from storm water systems. The park is in the northeast quadrant of the City of Lakewood adjacent to the I-5 corridor in an area deficient in park and recreational amenities. In addition, the surrounding community is economically distressed and ranks significantly below state averages in median household income, and above the state averages for persons of color population, disabled population, body mass index, and mortality rate. The City's comprehensive park and recreation "Legacy Plan", has identified Wards Lake Park as a high priority for improvements and upgrades to implement a recently completed Master Plan Update.</p> <p>The site is characterized as a natural area with a 2-acre lake, extensive emergent wetlands, upland forest, rare Gamble oak prairie, and open lawn areas. The proposed upgrades will expand and improve the critical wetland areas; provide new play amenities with a new pump-track; develop a 3 acre off-leash dog park; enhance upland forest and native oak-prairie habitat areas; create a 1 mile ADA accessible loop trail around the lake; and enhance pedestrian safety improvements at the main entry that connects to the Skip Vaughn trail corridor.</p> | | | | |
| | <p>North Rainier Park</p> | | | | |
| 19-1746 Development | Development – Land-Banked Site | City of Seattle | \$720,323 | \$750,000 | \$1,470,323 |
| | <p>Description: The North Rainier Land Bank (NRLB) site is a development project that will create a 1-acre park in the Rainier Valley of Southeast Seattle: one of the most demographically diverse regions in the nation. In support of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) research (2017 Parks and Open Space Plan) SPR places a high priority on NRLB for its limited proximity to parks resources, limited "walkability feature", and low representation within the equity, health,</p> | | | | |

income, and poverty parameters of Seattle. The project goal is to enhance this dense urban, under-represented, residential and commercial neighborhood by create a community recreation and gathering space. The SPR has engaged in extensive community outreach efforts as it relates to NRLB and is enthusiastically responsive to these community and equity needs.

This collaborative park will provide multi-use and generational activities, including picnicking, exercise and play, a Fitness Zone with exercise equipment for teens and adults, and ADA access. The park will have open space in the form of a lawn, paths, planted areas, and trees that will provide some habitat, heat island mitigation, and climate resiliency. Green storm water infrastructure will be incorporated in the park. NRLB represents an enormous community effort and responsive public process to the under-represented needs of Seattle’s most diverse community in providing a well-rounded, multi-use park that serves the highest number of park users.

Maple Wood

[19-1732](#)

Development

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Playfield | City of | | | |
| Renovation | Seattle | \$720,323 | \$850,000 | \$1,570,323 |

Description: Maple Wood Playfield (MWP) is an existing 15.7-acre park in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Southeast Seattle: one of the most demographically diverse regions in the nation. In support of Seattle Parks and Recreation (SRP) research (2017 Parks and Open Space Plan) SRP places a high priority on MWP for its limited proximity to parks resources, limited “walkability feature”, and low representation within the equity, health, income, and poverty parameters of Seattle. The MWP is widely used by multiple park users, schools, and leagues. The playfields are scheduled by several public and private high schools, and a variety of organizations for baseball, softball, soccer, and football.

This design project will implement much needed facility improvements for the playfield, play area, and accessibility improvements throughout the park. The improvements will include new drainage and irrigation, regrading of the fields, new grass playing surface, new backstops, new dugouts, new bleachers, and adjustments to the fields to allow for a wider variety of sports to be played. The renovation will include new play equipment and reconfiguration of the play area layout to optimize play value, accessibility, and opportunities for enhanced safety and parental

supervision. The accessibility improvements will bring the accessible parking space up to current ADA standards and regrading pathways to provide access to the comfort station, dugouts for both fields, and the play area.

[19-1752](#)

Development

Riverfront Park

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| South Suspension | City of | | | |
| Bridge | Spokane | \$698,500 | \$698,500 | \$1,397,000 |

Description: This development project at Riverfront Park in Spokane Washington will renovate an essential pedestrian bridge in the City's most popular urban park. Originally installed as part of the Expo '74 World's Fair, this bridge provides an unparalleled viewing experience over the lower falls of the Spokane River, serves as a major north south connection for walkers, runners, cyclists, and sightseers for recreational enjoyment, and is a crucial companion for interpretive information about the river. With help from the RCO, the goal of this project is to extend the bridge's useful service life for continued recreational and educational experiences of future generations. The primary outdoor recreation opportunity provided by this project will be continuing north south pedestrian access across the river for sightseers, walkers, runners, and cyclists, providing unparalleled views of the Spokane River and important context for interpretive information.

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Pandemic Response Match Relief for 2020

Prepared By: Adam Cole

Summary

This proposal is in response to concerns raised by applicants about the economic downturn and its impact on their ability to provide required matching resources. Staff is asking the board to adopt a new policy that would reduce match requirements where the board has authority to set or reduce match. These programs are the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's (WWRP) Local Parks, Water Access, and Trails Categories, the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), and the Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF). This proposal only applies to the 2020 grant cycle, in response to the federally approved major disaster for the COVID-19 pandemic

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2020-09

Purpose of Resolution: Provide match relief in specific grant programs and categories for the 2020 grant cycle (round one) only.

Background

The entire State of Washington is a federally approved [Major Disaster Area](#) due to the corona virus pandemic.¹ Response at all levels of government is putting pressure on funds previously dedicated to parks and recreation investments. Similarly, parks and recreation programs and personnel are being repurposed and/or reassigned to pandemic response efforts. Many jurisdictions are laying off their recreation staff. The

¹ Incident Period: January 20, 2020 and continuing. Major Disaster Declaration declared on March 22, 2020

[Governor's State Home, State Healthy Proclamation](#) likely means reduced revenues for grant applicants for the foreseeable future.

As government agencies at all levels experience severe changes in programs, personnel, and budgets, and reductions in revenues over the mid to long-term, this policy proposal aims to provide relief in match requirements to make parks and recreation investment less burdensome to governments and non-profit organizations at this time. Trends that are seen often when a jurisdiction does not have the ability to raise match for parks is reallocation of funds to other community infrastructure needs, a reduction in the levels of service for maintaining existing park infrastructure, and increasing political asks for legislators to provide direct appropriations and fully fund projects in their communities outside of a competitive grant processes.

Staff believes that while changing match requirements could temporarily reduce the number of overall state investments in outdoor recreation, meaning fewer projects funded than if minimum match requirements were higher, the benefits of helping communities invest their limited resources in priority projects will contribute to economic recovery through job creation and other economic activities, and contribute to other pandemic recovery goals such as supporting public health outcomes for the state. The construction of parks, sport fields, trails, water access and associated facilities will likely be viewed as job creating and favored during the recovery period.

The Board's Authorities to Set Match

Requiring matching resources is a long-held principle of the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (board) policies as matching resources, in part, show applicant commitment to their project. Match requirements in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) are statutory. The statute gives the board authority to reduce or waive match for "communities in need", as defined by the board.² The match requirements for the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) and Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) programs are not statutorily prescribed, so set at the discretion of the board.

Policy Intent

The intent of this policy proposal is to utilize the board's authority to provide relief to agencies and organizations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic so they can continue

² RCW 79A.15.070 (4) The board may not approve a project of a local agency where the share contributed by the local agency is less than the amount to be awarded from the outdoor recreation account. The local agency's share may be reduced or waived if the project meets the needs of an underserved population or a community in need, as defined by the board.

their parks and recreation investments in support of public health, community development, and economic development goals.

Applicable Programs

This policy proposal is limited to the following programs during the first half (summer) of the 2020 grant round: 1) WWRP-Local Parks, Water Access, and Trails categories, 2) the Youth Athletic Facilities program, and 3) the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account program. These are the programs where the board has the authority to reduce/adjust minimum match requirements. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) programs are also available in the summer 2020 grant round, but federal rules do not allow flexibility to reduce match in these programs at this time.

Grant sponsors (those with funded projects) have asked whether the board would consider revising the match requirements for previously approved grant projects. This proposal does not address that request. Staff will present statutory requirements and board policies that prohibit such actions at the April 21 board meeting. Staff will also discuss these policy and funding considerations with our program advisory committees, stakeholders, and sponsors and provide their feedback at the meeting. Staff will evaluate match requirements for applications expected in the fall grant round of 2020 (including Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA), Boating Facilities Program, and Firearms and Archery Range Recreation (FARR), and will bring recommendations to the board at their July board meeting.

Existing Match Reduction Policies

In 2016, the legislature changed statutes in the WWRP to allow the board to reduce match from a statutory minimum of no less than 50% for local agencies if these applicants were a “community in need” or an “underserved population” as defined by the board. The board responded by adopting a match reduction policy for WWRP and extended it to YAF where the board has the ability to set match limits. The four match reduction “pathways” the board adopted and applied to these programs in 2018 are the [“Communities in Need,” “Underserved Populations,” “Counties in Need,” and “Federal Disaster”](#).³ The board has the authority to set minimum match requirements in the ALEA program and to date that amount has been 50% for all sponsors with no consideration of match reduction due to different realities for applicants.

³ See [Manual 10a Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Outdoor Recreation Account](#), pages 37 – 46, and [Manual 17 Youth Athletic Facilities](#), pages 25-32.

Policy Proposal

The following policy proposals shall only be in effect for applicants and projects submitted in the summer 2020 grant round. This policy proposal is in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Strike the Existing Federal Disaster Match Reduction Pathway in WWRP and YAF

The policy proposals for WWRP and YAF discussed below shall replace the current federal disaster policy pathway in those programs for the following reasons:

- a) For the pandemic declared disaster, It is doubtful that applicants can meet the requirements for this reduction in match pathway because of the duration of time and vast amount of data needed to demonstrate need, and be submitted by the June 1 deadline. Many applicants tell us that their staff resources have been allocated to other priorities or laid off.
- b) Because the entire state is now a pandemic major disaster area and the match reduction proposed below is the same amount as the existing federal disaster pathway (down from 50% to 25%), there exists no practical reason or advantage for a local government to pursue the existing federal disaster pathway match reduction.

2. WWRP (Local Parks, Water Access, and Trails Categories)

- a) All applicants in the WWRP local parks, water access and trails categories are considered a "community in need" as defined by the board via its authorization per RCW 79A.15.070(4). The minimum match for local governments⁴ shall be adjusted from 50% to 25%. No change for state agencies, who currently do not have a match requirement in these programs where they are eligible.
- b) The existing Match Reduction policy pathways for "Communities in Need," "Counties in Need," and "Underserved Populations" remain unchanged. Because these pathways allow minimum match below a 25% reduction, for eligible applicants where these apply, their minimum match may be as low as 10%.

⁴ The WWRP statutory definition for local agencies includes federally recognized Native American tribes. RCW 79A.15.010(7)

3. YAF

- a) The minimum match for all applicants (local governments, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations) shall be adjusted from 50% to 25%.
- b) The existing RCO staff-scored Matching Shares evaluation criterion in place for the 2020 grant round will be suspended.

i. Question 8. Matching Shares: Is the applicant providing the minimum required match?

- 1. 0 points = 0-5 percent greater than the minimum required match
 - 2. 1 point: 5.01-14.99 percent greater than the minimum required match
 - 3. 2 points: 15 percent or greater than the minimum required match
- c) The existing Match Reduction policy pathways for “Communities in Need,” “Counties in Need,” and “Underserved Populations” remain unchanged. Because these pathways allow minimum match below a 25% reduction, for eligible applicants where these apply, their minimum match may be as low as 10%.

4. ALEA

Per board authority to prescribe match requirements for the ALEA program:

- a) The minimum match for all applicants (local governments, Native American tribes, and state agencies) shall be adjusted from 50% to 25%.

5. Additional Policy Proposal Details

For this Pandemic Response Match Relief for 2020 policy, the following shall further apply:

- a) The maximum reduced match dollar amounts, from the previous 50% to the 2020 grant round 25% minimum match, shall not exceed \$500,000 per project.
- b) The minimum 10% non-state/non-federal match requirement shall be eliminated. All match may be provided in the form of a state or federal contribution.

- c) If a project is sponsored by more than one organization, minimum match shall be assigned based on the primary sponsor of the application.
- d) Grant requests where these minimum match policies apply shall be limited to two per applicant per program.

RCFB Strategic Plan

This policy proposal is consistent with and supports the board's goals in its Strategic Work Plan in the following ways:

1. We help our partners protect, restore, and develop habitat and recreation opportunities that benefit people, fish and wildlife, and ecosystems.

Next Steps

If approved, staff will update the applicable grant manuals and other materials to reflect these new policies for the 2020 grant round.

Attachments

Attachment A – *Resolution 2020-09*

**Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board Resolution 2020-09
Pandemic Response Match Relief for 2020**

WHEREAS, the Chapters 79A.15 and 79A.25 Revised Code of Washington authorize the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for the grant programs which it administers, including setting match requirements; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic and "Stay Home – Stay Healthy" directive for Washington State have put pressure on sponsors' and applicants' capital funds dedicated for continuing parks and recreation infrastructure investments in the state; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff have worked with stakeholders and the advisory committees for the affected Washington and Wildlife and Recreation Program Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories, and the Youth Athletic Facilities, and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant programs to propose some match reduction efforts for the 2020 grant round for the above programs; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff recommended reducing match requirements for certain grant applicants to help encourage continued investments in parks and recreation infrastructure through the period of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the match reduction and other adjustments as described in Item 6 for the summer 2020 applications in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program's Local Parks, Trails and Water Access categories, the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account program and the Youth Athletic Facilities program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO staff is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these revisions in the 2020 grant round for the above programs and incorporate these changes in its outreach to prospective grant applicants.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted Date: _____

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Briefing Memo

APPROVED BY RCO DIRECTOR KALEEN COTTINGHAM

Meeting Date: April 21, 2020

Title: Delegation of Authority to the Director for any Necessary Changes for Implementation of Funded Projects

Prepared By: Scott Robinson, Deputy Director

Summary

This memo summarizes the need for additional decision-making authority for the Recreation and Conservation Office director to address emerging issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Government officials are making some very impactful decisions to stop the spread of the coronavirus. These decisions are affecting sponsors and their ability to move forward with funded projects. Staff is asking the board to give the director the ability to modify or waive policies or procedures that are inconsistent with direction from the Governor and state health and safety officials. This delegation will provide the flexibility needed to help our sponsors with project implementation.

Board Action Requested

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

Resolution: 2020-10

Purpose of Resolution: Delegate authority to the director to approve policy or procedural changes for project implementation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background

On February 29, 2020 Governor Inslee made his first [proclamation](#) regarding COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus. Since his original proclamation the virus has continued to spread, and the governor has now ordered the closure of many businesses, public offices and public resources across the state.

Impact of the Proclamations

Many of the closures throughout the state are impacting entities that have active grants with the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). The *Stay Home, Stay Healthy* proclamation has changed the way our sponsors do business. Most restoration or construction projects are halted. Pre-construction work, such as cultural resources surveys, environmental assessments, project design, and permitting is now restricted. Conducting appraisals or hazardous substance assessments for property acquisition is delayed for an indeterminate amount of time. Many sponsors are working from their homes and are doing their best to keep things moving forward. Others have been reassigned to more pressing tasks and still others are “out of work” until restrictions are lifted.

While some sponsors have asked for additional time to meet program policy requirements others have submitted requests for policy waivers to address time-sensitive issues. Staff expects more sponsors will find themselves in similar situations and will be looking for options to help them fulfill the terms of their grant agreements.

Analysis

In light of this rapidly changing environment RCO needs to be nimble and have the ability (within reason) to quickly adjust timelines, to work with sponsors on project changes, to grant needed time extensions, and to address emerging non-conforming uses. Rather than wait until one of the upcoming board meetings, staff believes a little leeway and flexibility will provide several economic and health benefits during these uncertain times. Delegating additional authority to the director for timely decision making will:

- Reduce some of the stress associated with implementation of a funded project,
- Put a stopgap to the loss of matching resources before they are allocated to other priorities,
- Maintain and provide jobs and help stimulate economic recovery, and
- Continue protection of the state’s natural and outdoor recreational resources.

Here are a few examples of issues or challenges project sponsors are facing that we would under normal circumstances bring to the board for consideration:

- Closing out a development or restoration project without the traditional final inspection.
- Extending maintenance and operation and education and enforcement projects beyond two years.
- Extending park closures due to a lack of resources.

- Modifying or changing the review or evaluation process from in-person to written.
- Modifying or moderately reducing a project scope.
- Modifying the required conferral processes for scope changes.
- Other acquisition variances, e.g. interior inspections when appraising residences or handling closing documents.
- Waiving the field inspection requirement for appraisal reviews.
- Reducing sponsor match for programs that do not require match or where an applicant has an overmatch.
- Reducing the non-state, non-federal matching share for a funded project.

The authority delegated would cover these kinds of time-sensitive changes resulting from the COVID-19 and related economic downturn. The director may choose to delay a decision and still bring it to the board under certain circumstances.

Strategic Plan Link

Approving this proposal supports the board’s goal to achieve a high level of accountability in managing the resources and responsibilities entrusted to us. The objective is to ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently, with integrity, in a fair and open manner, and in conformance with existing legal authorities. A strategy under this goal and objective is to “monitor progress in meeting objectives and *adapt management to meet changing needs.*”

Staff Recommendation

To proactively respond to the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic has on sponsors working to implement funded projects, staff recommends the board approve Resolution 2020-10, which delegates authority to the RCO director to make appropriate and time-sensitive policy or procedural changes as they arise to ensure that our sponsors have the flexibility needed to complete their active projects.

Attachment A

Note: The resolution will be distributed, via email, before the upcoming board meeting.

Resolution 2020-10, *Delegation of Authority to the Director to Address Emerging Issues Associated with Implementation of Funded Projects*

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-10**

**Delegation of Authority to the Director to Address Emerging Issues Associated
with Implementation of Funded Projects**

WHEREAS, Chapters 79A.25 and 79A.15 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for the grant programs it administers; and

WHEREAS, the board has adopted policies and procedures for all board-administered grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Proclamation for Washington State has presented challenges for complying with a few board-adopted policies or procedures for sponsors in the implementation phase of funded projects; and

WHEREAS, the board's meeting schedule to consider various anticipated sponsor requests may result in delayed or failed implementation, loss of matching resources and additional expense; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuously evolving recommendations from governing authorities and health officials that require timely decision-making in response to sponsor inquiries and requests; and

WHEREAS, the board has in previous years delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director to make specific project decisions or waivers based on rules and policies on its behalf; and

WHEREAS, delegation of additional authority supports the board's objective to ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently and in conformance with existing legal authorities; and its strategy to regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board delegates additional authorities to RCO's director to make project specific decisions, through July 21, 2020, that are necessary for project implementation, provided the decisions made are consistent with the program purpose, the intent of adopted policies, and meets statutory requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the director may hold any request for full board consideration, as needed, and present the request along with staff's report on the decisions made at the next board meeting.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Deeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

DRAFT

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-11
Changing the Date of October 2020 Board Meeting**

WHEREAS, the unanticipated effects of COVID-19 has delayed the grant timeline; and

WHEREAS, the October Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Meeting is currently scheduled for October 7-8, 2020, which is now too soon for the approval of projects; and

WHEREAS, the board has been polled to select a new date and the best available option is on November 5, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board is officially changing its October 7-8, 2020 meeting date to November 5, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board liaison notify the code reviser of the date change in a timely manner.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____

**RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARIZED MEETING
AGENDA AND ACTIONS**

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

| Item | Formal Action | Follow-up Action |
|---|--|--|
| OPENING AND MANAGEMENT REPORTS | | |
| <p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum B. Overview of online meeting procedures C. Review and Approval of Agenda D. Remarks of the Chair | <p>Decision</p> <p><u>Approval of April 2020 Agenda</u></p> <p>Moved by: Member Milliern</p> <p>Seconded by: Member Shiosaki</p> <p>Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>1. Consent Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Board Meeting Minutes: January 28-29, 2020 B. Time Extensions C. Scope Changes D. Cost Increases E. Technical Corrections F. Volunteer Recognitions | <p>Decision</p> <p><u>Resolution 2020-08</u></p> <p>Moved by: Member Gardow</p> <p>Seconded by: Member Milliern</p> <p>Decision: Approved</p> | |
| <p>2. Director's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Director's Report B. Legislative Update C. Partner Updates on Legislation and Budget D. Grant Management Report E. Grant Services Report F. Performance Report G. Fiscal Report | | <p>Task: Agency Designee members are encouraged to pass on agency news releases and media coverage of the COVID-19 situation for historical context</p> |

BOARD BUSINESS: BRIEFINGS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 3. Overview of the Next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and Other Affiliated Plans | | |
| 4. Land and Water Conservation Fund Legacy: Applications Overview and Opportunity for Public Comment | | |
| 5. Overview of Grant Cycle Timeline and Procedural Changes | | |

BOARD BUSINESS: DECISIONS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 6. Proposed Policy Changes for the 2020 Grant Cycle- Round One- In Light of COVID-19 | Decision <u>Resolution 2020-09</u> Moved by: Member Shiosaki Seconded by: Member Milliern Decision: Approved | |
| 7. Delegation of Authority to Director for any Necessary Changes to Grant Processes in Light of COVID-19 | Decision <u>Resolution 2020-10</u> Moved by: Member Milliern Seconded by: Herzog Decision: Approved as amended | Follow-up: Incorporate the language "subject to extension" in Resolution 2020-10. Bring list of decisions to July board meeting. |
| 8. Changing the Date of October 2020 Board Meeting | Decision <u>Resolution 2020-11</u> Moved by: Member Gardow Seconded by: Member Shiosaki Decision: Approved | |

ADJOURN

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting July 21, 2020- Online

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION FUNDING BOARD SUMMARY MINUTES

Date: April 21, 2020

Place: Online

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Members:

| | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|---|
| Ted Willhite, Chair | Seattle | Shiloh Burgess | Wenatchee |
| Kathryn Gardow | Seattle | Brock Milliern | Designee, Department of Natural Resources |
| Michael Shiosaki | Seattle | Peter Herzog | Designee, Washington State Parks |
| Henry Hix | Okanogan | Joe Stohr | Designee, Department of Fish and Wildlife |

This summary is to 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.

Call to Order

Chair Ted Willhite called the meeting to order at 9AM, noting that alternative guidelines created by **Director Kaleen Cottingham** would be followed during the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board's (RCFB) first online meeting. These guidelines were laid out by Board Liaison, **Wyatt Lundquist**. Roll was called by staff, determining quorum but both Member Stohr and Member Hix were experiencing technical difficulties that were later resolved.

Motion: Approval of April 21, 2020 Agenda

Moved by: Member Milliern

Seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Decision: **Approved**

Closing, Chair Willhite recognized the impact that COVID-19 had taken on everyone world-wide and he expressed gratitude for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff, those serving in the front lines, and all meeting viewers and attendees.

Item 1: Consent Agenda

Chair Willhite encouraged a motion for Resolution 2020-08, which would approve the January 28-29, 2020 meeting minutes, the requested time extensions, a scope change for the South Fork Manatstash project, approve four cost increases, technical corrections

to the sustainability criteria for several grant programs, and recognize the service of several volunteers.

Motion: Resolution 2020-08

Moved by: Member Gardow

Seconded by: Member Milliern

Decision: **Approved**

Following the motion, Chair Willhite thanked Nicole Sedgewick, Dave Bryant, Brad Case, and Hanna Waterstrat for serving on RCO's volunteer advisory committees.

Item 2: Director's Report

Director's Report

Director Cottingham gave a briefing on RCO happenings, including staff updates, the catastrophic server failures at RCO, and the streamlining of PRISM's grant application process.

Giving more detail on staff updates, Director Cottingham relayed that Rory Calhoun, RCO Grant Manager, had retired, and Michelle Burbidge had taken his place. RCO had expected to fill two more positions, but in light of COVID-19 and possible funding cuts, this will no longer be possible.

Legislative Update

Wendy Brown, Policy Director, relayed the outcome of the 2020 legislative session. This included the 2020 final budget and the Governor's vetoes. Following the vetoes, RCO was able to keep the Orca Recovery Implementation position, the Hood Canal bridge project, funding to implement HB 2311 (carbon sequestration bill), new Trails category projects funding from remaining funding in the RCO Recreation Grants program, and the Community Forest proviso.

Two vetoes highlighted by Ms. Brown included the additional \$500,000 funding to the No Child Left Inside (NCLI) grant and \$50 million in funding to the Climate Resiliency Account. Notably, policy direction from the Climate Resiliency Account did remain.

Closing, Ms. Brown updated the board on the economic analysis of outdoor recreation in Washington being done with the assistance of Earth Economics. A final report will be complete in May 2020.

The board entered discussion and Member Gardow inquired whether the economic study would include data from the decline of outdoor recreation during the pandemic.

Ms. Brown clarified that data would not be included; the study is simply an update from the 2015 version using new data through 2019.

Before moving forward, Director Cottingham relayed that Member Stohr could now communicate within the online platform and that Member Hix was able to properly join the meeting.

Partner Updates on Legislation and Budget

Peter Herzog, Washington State Parks and Recreation Coalition (State Parks), gave an update on funding and operations. From the legislative session, State Parks was able to gain \$3 million dollars in the operating budget and \$1.4 million from the capital budget. Member Herzog did note that 80% of the State Parks budget comes from earned revenues associated with the Discovery Pass and overnight State Parks passes, with 70% of that funding made between the months of April and September. Unfortunately, due to the Stay-In-Place order, these avenues of funding are not being realized.

Fortunately, State Parks employees can telecommute except park rangers, those who operate or work with the sewer and water systems, and a limited number of other necessary staff.

Brock Milliern, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Member Milliern noted the limited general fund money coming to DNR. Instead, most funding comes from RCO grants, Discover Pass sales, and the gas tax, which cannot currently be counted on due to the pandemic. Because some funding will never be recovered, Member Milliern relayed that DNR has ceased hiring for any programs that are funded by the previously named avenues.

After Member Milliern ended his briefing, Member Gardow expressed interest in funding for firefighting. Member Milliern relayed that firefighting funding comes from general fund dollars as well as insurance that large forest landowners pay into.

Joe Stohr, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), gave his briefing, noting teleworking, a legislative budget update, and revenue collection. While most people are working from home, Member Stohr clarified that WDFW essential workers are still working out in the public.

From the 2020 legislative session, WDFW obtained \$27 million, which erased their general fund deficit. Yet, the agency continues to face financial turmoil due to the current economic situation. According to Member Stohr, approximately 65% of the agency's revenue is collected from April to June through hunting and other licensing fees. Unfortunately, hunting is not currently available.

The Chair requested all partners to pass along news releases concerning the impacts that COVID-19 has had on each agency for historical record.

Grant Management Report

Marguerite Austin, Grant Section Manager, gave an update on 2020 grant applications, news about additional federal funds for Washington parks and trails programs, and a status report on the waiver request for the Steptoe Butte project

With the grant application deadline approaching on June 1 she relayed that there were 219 grant proposals entered for the 2020 grant cycle as of April 2020. In comparison to the 2018 grant cycle, the most notable differences in submission quantity applied to the following grant programs or categories: Aquatics Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) , Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Local Parks, and Trails categories, and Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) Large category projects.

Moving forward, Ms. Austin highlighted the \$6.5 million in additional federal funds coming into RCO with \$1.8 million coming from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and \$4.6 million coming from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

Closing, Ms. Austin updated the board on the DNR's waiver request for the Steptoe Butte property where purchasing and keeping a communications tower is not consistent with the terms of the WWRP Natural Areas category awarded grant. DNR is working with State Parks, who owns the neighboring property, in hopes of negotiating the move of the tower onto State Parks land.

Grant Services Report

Kyle Guzlas, Grants Service Manager, briefed the board on three items: an update on the use of electronic signatures, information on the NCLI grant program, and an update to the advisory committee appointments.

In late 2019, Mr. Guzlas' team had worked to create an electronic signature policy. The pilot projects occurred in January of 2020 utilizing Adobe sign. Due to the COVID-19 and remote working situations, electronic signatures have been fully implemented into RCO's grant process as of April 2020.

Mr. Guzlas was sad to inform the board that the \$500,000 NCLI supplemental appropriation was vetoed by the governor. On a positive note, Mr. Guzlas highlighted the February 2020 advocacy event held by the NCLI coalition, which included Washington State Parks, RCO, and the Governor's Office.

Closing, Mr. Guzlas highlighted the 57 newly appointed advisory committee volunteers. He thanked Tessa Cencula, RCO Volunteer and Grants Process Coordinator, for her hard work in bringing these volunteers onto 16 of RCO's advisory committees. Director Cottingham reported that the Community Forest Program has an appointed advisory committee as well.

Item 3: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation (SCORP) and Other Affiliated Plans

Katie Pruitt, Planning and Policy Analyst, gave an overview of Statewide Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This plan is updated on a 5-year basis to qualify for the Federal LWCF and takes approximately two years to complete. Although, it is possible that the update may be moved toward a 10-year update.

Ms. Pruitt gave an in-depth depiction of SCORP's content, highlighting the five top priorities, information on the unifying strategy, and the interactive mapping tools. She also noted that the upcoming SCORP will include the Recreational Assets of Statewide Significant study, the Hiking, Biking, Walking study and Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State.

Closing, Ms. Pruitt displayed a timeline of the next three years, predicting SCORP to be complete in October of 2022.

When opened for discussion, Chair Willhite encouraged the implementation of information coming from the results of COVID-19 to ensure that natural resource agencies are viewed as a vital public service. Member Burgess expressed concern for Chair Willhite's suggestion. Director Cottingham reminded the board that funding for the SCORP planning comes from a grant from the National Park Service, with matching state funds. Those funds are generally used to fund the surveys and outreach, relying on contractors.

Break: 10:29-10:35

Item 4: Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Legacy: Applications Overview and Opportunity for Public Comment

Karl Jacobs, Senior Outdoor Grants Manager, gave an update on the LWCF's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program.

He opened with a brief history of the LWCF and specifically that the Outdoor Legacy program focuses on projects that are located in dense urban areas with an emphasis on serving communities that are underserved by parks and recreation resources.

Mr. Jacobs relayed that four applications can be submitted by Washington this year. He described program policies, clarifying eligibility requirements, eligible project types, funding limits and match requirements.

The four projects approved for submittal by RCO Director Cottingham include Lakewood's Ward Lake Parks, Seattle's new park known as North Rainier Park, Seattle's renovation of Maple Wood Playfield, and Spokane's renovation to the Riverfront Park South suspension bridge.

After the Chair opened for board discussion, Member Shiosaki expressed that the North Rainier project would be an exceptional choice, as the area is truly underserved.

Item 5: Overview of Grant Cycle Timeline and Procedural Changes

Marguerite Austin and **Kyle Guzlas** gave an update on the 2020 grant cycle.

Ms. Austin explained the modified grant schedule, which was changed after the director approved extending the application deadline to June 1st. All applicants and sponsors were notified of the extended application deadline and the RCO communications team also pushed out the information through social media platforms.

In this cycle, Ms. Austin highlighted that RCO intends to be flexible and understanding during the pandemic. Some of the changes include using a written evaluation format for WWRP State Parks category grant applications, versus hosting an online presentation process.

Moving forward, Mr. Guzlas clarified that all meetings will occur virtually, including technical reviews, evaluations, and grant results meetings. Recently, RCO finished development of a PRISM Online review and evaluation module, which will provide all application materials and provide a platform for electronic scoring. Because this is a new process, training will be provided for all applicants and volunteers.

After closing the briefing, the board began discussions. Member Gardow expressed concern about soliciting applications if there were fewer grant dollars and requested information on the capital budget, to which Director Cottingham responded that during the 2008 recession, capital funds were looked to stimulate the economy, but it is too early to tell what will occur.

Item 6: Proposed Policy Changes for the 2020 Grant Cycle- Round One- In Light of COVID-19

Adam Cole, Policy Specialist, explained the proposed match policy change from 50% match to 25% match in the following grant programs: WWRP Local Parks, Trails and

Water Access categories, Aquatic Land Enhancement Account (ALEA), and Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF). This is being suggested for this upcoming grant cycle only in order to assist sponsors struggling with the COVID-19 situation. To gain feedback on this possible policy change, Mr. Cole noted that RCO sent out a survey to stakeholders, reached out to the advisory committee members and participated in a statewide park directors conference call with over 100 participants. Overall, there was strong support of the possible match change.

During the board presentation, Mr. Cole presented an overview of this proposed policy applied to the previous list of approved projects. Mr. Cole noted that the number of projects funded in WWRP Local Parks category mostly remained the same, but there were somewhat fewer projects funded in the other affected programs. Mr. Cole also reiterated that each jurisdiction is limited to two 25% match reduced projects per program/category. Director Cottingham noted that it is typical to see some applicants apply to two different grant programs for a single project, with one providing match to the other. For example, they may apply for both a WWRP parks grant to match a YAF grant.

Public Comment:

Doug Levy, Washington Recreation and Park Association, expressed gratitude for the 25% match reduction, as he believes that it will help the smaller jurisdictions.

Christine Mahler, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, highlighted the inequity displayed in some jurisdictions and expressed how the match reduction would benefit these communities.

Mike McCarty, City of North Bend, thanked staff for the opportunity to speak and relayed that the small jurisdiction he helps run will be applying for a WWRP Trails grant, noting that 33% match would be provided even though the jurisdiction is suffering financially due to less funding provided through residential building tax.

Roxanne Miles, Pierce County, expressed appreciation for the application deadline extension and the flexibility that RCO has provided. When looking at long term stability, Ms. Miles expressed that having to commit less funding to a project than normal will be beneficial to the Pierce County community.

After comment, RCO board members and staff provided clarifying remarks. Ms. Austin explained that flexibility for match funding is a possibility if a project loses match but has the capability to replace it through a different source. Mr. Cole also clarified that

applicants can chose which projects will receive reduced match if they submit more than two.

Motion: Resolution 2020-09

Moved by: Member Shiosaki

Seconded by: Member Milliern

Decision: **Approved**

Item 7: Delegation of Authority to Director for any Necessary Changes to Grant Processes in Light of COVID-19

Scott Robinson, Deputy Director, explained that in order to provide more flexibility for sponsors to implement funded projects, RCO is seeking a time limited delegation of authority for the director. This delegation would extend until July 21st and allow for the director to approve policy and recommended changes for funded projects that may normally come to the board.

Mr. Robinson provided a list of possible grant change processes that may come up and ensured the board that any changes made would be tracked and thoroughly documented.

When discussion was opened to the board, the board took interest in what type of changes could happen under the director's authority. These included projects requesting cost increase and the extension of reduced nonstate match toward state entities. Member Milliern also clarified that extending the date past July 21st would be essential as requests may continue to come in before the Board is able to take any action.

Closing, Mr. Robinson and Director Cottingham clarified that all grant process changes would be presented to the board by Ms. Austin in the Grant Management Report at the next RCFB meeting.

Motion: Resolution 2020-10

Moved by: Member Milliern

Seconded by: Member Herzog

Decision: **Approved as amended** with addition of "July 31, 2020 sunset and subject to later extension"

Item 8: Changing of the Date of October 2020 Board Meeting

Director Cottingham explained the need to change the date of the October board meeting. Extending the application deadline required discussions with OFM about providing them the list of projects later than the November 1 statutory deadline. They gave RCO until November 21st to get them the ranked lists. This required moving the board meeting into early November (November 5.)

Motion: Resolution 2020-11

Moved by: Member Gardow

Seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Decision: *Approved*

Closing:

Chair closed the meeting at 12:10 pm

The next meeting will be July 21-22, 2020, but due to COVID-19 it is subject to change.

Approved by:



Theodore Willhite, Chair

7-21-2020

Date

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-08
April 21, 2020 - Consent Agenda

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following April 21, 2020 Consent Agenda items are approved:

Resolution 2020-08

- A. Board Meeting Minutes: January 28-29, 2020
- B. Time Extensions:
 - Capitol Land Trust, Nelson Ranch ([RCO 14-1629](#))
 - Methow Valley Ranger District, North Summit Recreation Area ([RCO 14-2111P](#))
 - Tacoma Metro, Point Defiance Loop Trail ([RCO 14-1694D](#))
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Taneum Creek Riparian ([RCO 14-1092A](#))
 - Washington Department of Natural Resources, Dabob Bay Natural Area Shoreline 2014 ([RCO 14-1249A](#))
 - Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Klickitat Trail ([RCO 14-1634D](#))
- C. Scope Change:
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Heart of the Cascades: South Fork Manastash ([RCO #16-1343A](#))
- D. Cost Increases:
 - Town of Twisp, Twisp Sports Complex Renovation, Phase 1 ([RCO #16-2084D](#))
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Boating Facilities Program Cost Increases:
 - Blue Lake Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2443D](#))
 - Lake Campbell Access Redevelopment ([RCO #16-2266D](#))
 - Liberty Lake Redevelopment ([RCO #18-2461D](#))
- E. Technical Corrections:
 - Sustainability Criteria to Balance Scores for Acquisition Projects: Boating Facilities Program (BFP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) – Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access Categories
 - Official Adoption of Resolution 2020-03 – Conversion Request: Dungeness Valley Creamery ([RCO #06-1849A](#))
- F. Volunteer Recognitions (4)

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Milliern

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Approved Date: 4-21-2020

**Recreation and Conservation
Funding Board Resolution 2020-09
Sustainability Evaluation Criteria Changes**

WHEREAS, the Chapters 79A.15 and 79A.25 Revised Code of Washington authorize the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for the grant programs which it administers, including setting match requirements; and

WHEREAS, the current COVID-19 pandemic and “Stay Home – Stay Healthy” directive for Washington State have put pressure on sponsors’ and applicants’ capital funds dedicated for continuing parks and recreation infrastructure investments in the state; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff have worked with stakeholders and the advisory committees for the affected Washington and Wildlife and Recreation Program Local Parks, Trails, and Water Access categories, and the Youth Athletic Facilities, and Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant programs to propose some match reduction efforts for the 2020 grant round for the above programs; and

WHEREAS, RCO staff recommended reducing match requirements for certain grant applicants to help encourage continued investments in parks and recreation infrastructure through the period of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the board adopts the match reduction and other adjustments as described in Item 6 for the summer 2020 applications in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s Local Parks, Trails and Water Access categories, the Aquatic Land Enhancement Account program and the Youth Athletic Facilities program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the RCO staff is directed to take the necessary steps to implement these revisions in the 2020 grant round for the above programs and incorporate these changes in its outreach to prospective grant applicants.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Resolution moved by:</i> | Member Shiosaki |
| <i>Resolution seconded by:</i> | Member Milliern |
| <i>Adopted Date:</i> | 4-21-2020 |

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-10**

**Delegation of Authority to the Director to Address Emerging Issues Associated
with Implementation of Funded Projects**

WHEREAS, Chapters 79A.25 and 79A.15 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) to adopt policies and rules for the grant programs it administers; and

WHEREAS, the board has adopted policies and procedures for all board-administered grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Proclamation for Washington State has presented challenges for complying with a few board-adopted policies or procedures for sponsors in the implementation phase of funded projects; and

WHEREAS, the board's meeting schedule to consider various anticipated sponsor requests may result in delayed or failed implementation, loss of matching resources and additional expense; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuously evolving recommendations from governing authorities and health officials that require timely decision-making in response to sponsor inquiries and requests; and

WHEREAS, the board has in previous years delegated authority to the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director to make specific project decisions or waivers based on rules and policies on its behalf; and

WHEREAS, delegation of additional authority supports the board's objective to ensure funded projects and programs are managed efficiently and in conformance with existing legal authorities; and its strategy to regularly monitor progress in meeting objectives and adapt management to meet changing needs; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board delegates additional authorities to RCO's director to make project specific decisions, through July 31, 2020, that are necessary for project implementation, provided the decisions made are consistent with the program purpose, the intent of adopted policies, and meets statutory requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the director may hold any request for full board consideration, as needed, and present the request along with staff's report on the decisions made at the next board meeting.

Resolution moved by: Member Milliern

Resolution seconded by: Member Herzog

Adopted/*Defeated/Deferred (underline one)*

Date: 4-21-2020

**Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
Resolution #2020-11
Changing the Date of October 2020 Board Meeting**

WHEREAS, the unanticipated effects of COVID-19 has delayed the grant timeline; and

WHEREAS, the October Recreation and Conservation Funding Board Meeting is currently scheduled for October 7-8, 2020, which is now too soon for the approval of projects; and

WHEREAS, the board has been polled to select a new date and the best available option is on November 5, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the board is officially changing its October 7-8, 2020 meeting date to November 5, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board liaison notify the code reviser of the date change in a timely manner.

Resolution moved by: Member Gardow

Resolution seconded by: Member Shiosaki

Adopted/~~Defeated~~/~~Deferred~~ (*underline one*)

Date: 4-21-2020



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Nicole Sedgwick

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2020, Nicole Sedgwick served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) 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 NOVA 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. Sedgwick'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. Sedgwick.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite", written over a solid black horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Dave Bryant

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2012 to 2019, Dave Bryant served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Trails 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 Trails 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. Bryant'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. Bryant.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite", written over a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Brad Case

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2019, Brad Case served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Water Access 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 Water Access 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. Case'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. Case.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020



Ted Willhite, Chair



A Resolution to Recognize the Service of

Hanna Waterstrat

To the Residents of Washington State and the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

WHEREAS, from 2016 to 2019, Hanna Waterstrat served the citizens of the state of Washington and the Recreation and Conservation Office by participating on the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) Water Access 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 Water Access 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. Waterstrat'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. Waterstrat.

Approved by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board
in Olympia, Washington
on April 21, 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Willhite", written over a horizontal line.

Ted Willhite, Chair



STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

March 9, 2020

Reema Griffith, Executive Director
Washington State Transportation Commission
2404 Chandler Ct. SW, Suite 270, 2nd Floor, Chandler Plaza Bldg.
Olympia, WA 98502-6052

RE: Road Use Charge (RUC) Pilot Project Recommendations

Dear Director Griffith:

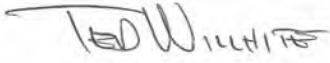
The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (board) thanks you for the work on the Road Usage Charge (RUC) Pilot Study Report and Recommendations recently submitted to the legislature. Our board members express gratitude for you being responsive to Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff requests for information and taking in our comments, as well as those of other state agencies and recreation stakeholders. Our board administers the state's Boating Facilities Program and the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicles Activities grant program, which each receive about 1% of the state's current fuel tax revenue. This revenue is also directly appropriated to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Natural Resources, and the State Parks Commission for the maintenance of their nonhighway roads and associated recreation areas. Each of these agencies have a seat on our board.

The board would also like to thank you and the RUC Steering Committee for including the recommendation to continue to fund "nonhighway activities" in any future per-mile revenue and expenditures system. As the RUC effort goes forward with the Washington State Transportation Commission (Commission) and the legislature, we want to reiterate our previous recommendation to include nonhighway road users and recreationists, recreational boaters, and land managers that build and maintain our state's system of nonhighway roads and recreation areas in the Advisory Committee on this effort. This should include at least one recreationist and one "nonhighway road" land manager to provide "in-house" expertise to the RUC project. Including these perspectives would also represent the stakeholders of a per-mile system of transportation revenue. Similarly, forming a nonhighway road technical advisory committee composed of such stakeholders would also be a good idea to vet policy proposals and provide technical insight for the Steering Committee and the Commission.



The board and RCO stand ready to help the RUC Steering Committee and Commission move forward in a way that includes all stakeholders. Please contact RCO's Director, Kaleen Cottingham, anytime with questions. She can be reached at Kaleen.cottingham@rco.wa.gov. We may ask you or a Commission member to attend one of our future board meetings to describe the latest accomplishments and upcoming activities related to the RUC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Willhite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name.

Ted Willhite
Chair, Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

cc: Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Recreation and Conservation Office

From: tncallison@q.com
To: [Robinson, Scott \(RCO\)](#)
Cc: [Cottingham, Kaleen \(RCO\)](#); [Lundquist, Wyatt \(RCO\)](#); [Sellers, Kim \(RCO\)](#)
Subject: Re: Project Agreement #03-1156, RCFB Resolution 2018-05
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:39:36 PM

Mr. Robinson

Thank you for your response. I do honestly appreciate the calibration check. Having spent a lifetime in the military I still tend to want to believe that folks who have influence beyond themselves generally will have a considered reason for making decisions affecting others and then will make at least some effort to follow their own rules.

I acknowledge that in the case of the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Club I have been more than a bit naïve in wanting to believe that the RCO and Funding Board really intended Resolution 2018-05 paragraph 4, and the final paragraph of Amendment 7 to Project Agreement 03-1156 to have any meaning beyond being a mere place-holder.

I recognize that since RCO has been aware of KRRC's non-compliance with the Project Agreement and the permitting issues with Kitsap County for more than 15 years now that a few more months delay in the final inevitable attempt to recover the public funding provided to KRRC under the grant is relatively insignificant. Delay is almost always easier than action.

The quality and usefulness of the required bimonthly reports is a somewhat subjective evaluation. However, RCO has been provided with copies of County documents and Court findings of fact that clearly and unequivocally state that the KRRC has consistently failed to "show diligent pursuit and good faith progress in obtaining any permits.." since 2012. One would have thought that objective evidence would suffice to support the conclusion that KRRC is in fact not in compliance with Amendment 7 and Resolution 2018-05 and result in initiating the process to discontinue subsidizing the for-profit company that has deprived the public of the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the FAAR program. That does not seem to be the case.

So I have been recalibrated. I now understand that at least in the case of Project Agreement 03-1156, provisions containing the word 'shall' really mean 'should' and there is no penalty for non-compliance without intervention from the Courts; that the scope and purpose of a grant can be changed by the sponsor with little effort and by using the justification that they refuse to comply with County Code; that RCO seems to equate using grant funding to support the for-profit business of a commercial entity with making facilities available for use by the public; that public input identifying violations of the Project Agreement are ignored or answered with platitudes instead of investigation or evaluation; and that the prohibition against a sponsor charging for hunter safety and other classes really isn't. The list continues, but enough.

I think that it is common knowledge that the for-profit company that has had complete control of the range since the late 1990s has run the Club so far in debt with legal costs trying unsuccessfully to defend their unlawful development and expansion that there is little to no chance that the range will be brought into compliance with Code and Court orders to allow reopening or that grant funds will be recovered.

I project this grant will be written off as an unrecoverable loss, or alternatively, that the rules/policy/procedures will be changed again to forgive the debt. I estimate that the fiscal cost to the communities and neighbors, former members, tax-paying public, and others affected in our

efforts to retain a lawful and safe range available to the shooting public of the County will far exceed \$400,000. The costs to all involved in time, effort, frustration, and coping with local conflict is immeasurable.

In all sincerity, I wish RCO good luck in recovering the \$46,965.16 that has been so instrumental in enabling the chain of events that has brought us to this point.

Terry Allison, CWO4 USN, ret.

Mr. Lundquist, please forward this email to the Funding Board. Thank you.

----- On Feb 25, 2020, at 8:32 AM, Scott Robinson <scott.robinson@rco.wa.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Allison-

I received your email and attached documents. I apologize for not responding sooner as I was out of town on family business and am just now getting through all of my messages.

As to your request to know exactly what RCO and the Funding Board would consider to be adequate and convincing evidence to prove that KRRC has failed by any reasonable standard to demonstrate diligent pursuit and good faith effort in resolving the permit issues. The club essentially has until November 2020 to get the features of the facility that the RCO grant paid for up and running. As long as the club keeps having conversations with the county, submitting documents and/or using legal means in pursuit of its permits RCO and our board will consider them in diligent pursuit of resolving the issues.

This has been our measuring stick thus far and after listening to the comments at the recent Recreation and Conservation Funding Board meeting we have no reason to alter this thought process.

Sincerely,

SCOTT ROBINSON ▪ **DEPUTY DIRECTOR**
O: 360.902.0207 ▪ **C: 360.867.8784**
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE



Washington
**Wildlife &
Recreation**
COALITION

HONORARY FOUNDING
CO-CHAIRS

Gov. Daniel J. Evans
Gov. Mike Lowry*

OFFICERS

Chair

Steve Seward

Vice Chair

Hannah Clark

Secretary

Lincoln Bormann

Treasurer

Paul Kundtz

Board Affairs Chair

Hannah Clark

State Policy Chair

David Patton

Philanthropy Chair

Karen Daubert**

DIRECTORS

Cathy Baker

Marc Berejka

Tom Bugert

Bill Chapman

Exec. Dow Constantine

Mary Dodsworth

Mark Doumit

Mark Eliassen

Clayton Graham

Jon Hoekstra

Joe Hyer

Andrea Imler

Martin LeBlanc

Mamie Marcuss

John McGlenn

Joe Mentor

Adrian Miller

Alexis Oliver

Michael Orbino

Charlie Raines

Tom Reeve

T.C. Richmond

Jon Soine

Wendy Tyner

Tom Vogl

Rachel Voss

Fred Wert

EX OFFICIO

Laura Blackmore

Kaleen Cottingham

Comm. Hilary Franz

Don Hoch

Rep. Drew MacEwen

Sen. Christine Rolfes

Carol Smith

Kelly Susewind

Rep. Steve Tharinger

Sen. Hans Zeiger

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Christine B. Mahler

*Deceased

**Non-Board Member

April 17, 2020

Recreation and Conservation Funding Board

1111 Washington Street SE

Olympia, Washington 98501

To the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board,

Thank you, especially in this time of great need, for your steady leadership to ensure equitable access to recreation and to protect critical habitat for wildlife. As we confront an international, national and statewide crisis, your leadership and dedication to Washington's great outdoors is more important than ever. The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition ("Coalition") shares your goal of ensuring all Washingtonians have access to our outdoors. We likewise share your belief that programs such as the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) are important ways of achieving this goal.

For the record, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition led the creation of the WWRP thirty years ago and remains the bipartisan independent nonprofit partner to this day. Our founders launched the efforts to create the Program because they were afraid the best of Washington's natural places would be lost in the name of progress without enough planning and funding provided to both protecting those places and establishing close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. Those concerns are as pressing today as they were thirty years ago—if not more so.

Washington has learned a lot this year. We've learned how to social distance and work from home. We've learned what really is "essential." We've learned to support our neighbors and to simplify our lives. And, critically, we've learned that our outdoors is a sanctuary for many Washingtonians—so many that our public lands were overwhelmed in many places. But we've also learned that not all communities have equitable access to the outdoors.

With these lessons becoming more apparent every day, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition ("Coalition") enthusiastically supports the Recreation and Coalition Office ("RCO") staff's thoughtful recommendations for responding to this crisis. The core of the staff recommendations is extending the farsighted match reduction policy to all communities throughout the state. This recommendation recognizes the statewide breadth of the disaster declarations and will bring welcome relief and hope in the face of enormous challenges. It also recognizes the current staffing limitations in many communities, and updates the policy to reduce the burden of documentation and data collection that otherwise would have been required for access to match reduction via this pathway.

Some Coalition members expressed concern that this has the potential to decrease the number of WWRP projects that may eventually be funded—potentially to the detriment of

Unifying voices for Washington's great outdoors

WildlifeRecreation.org

some of our smallest and most underserved communities. However, our analysis is that impact in terms of projects funded, will be fairly minimal, due to the maximum reduction limitations the staff recommends. Additionally, we also believe this reduction will encourage more communities to participate and submit applications, which will in turn demonstrate to the Governor and the Legislature the importance and demand for the program, helping to grow the eventual funding level from where it might have been if fewer communities submit applications due to financial constraints.

Several members also expressed a regret that the policy does not extend to nonprofits applying for grants in other WWRP categories. The Coalition recognizes that our land trust partners do critical work and are facing their own significant financial impacts from COVID19. However, we also recognize and understand the limitations on the RCFB's authority in this matter, and realize that such match reduction discussions would necessitate discussions around a change in statute.

Finally, we applaud the staff's recommendation to eliminate the requirement that at least 10% of an applicant's project match come from non-state/non-federal funding. This update will allow communities to blend funding opportunities from a variety of sources, making more projects possible for cash-strapped local governments. Given current congressional interest in including LWCF funding as part of a future COVID stimulus package, this change offers the prospect of combining state and federal funding in especially meaningful ways for some communities.

These projects will play a critical role in the state's economic recovery. When we are again able to emerge safely from our homes, our most pressing collective need will be overcoming the damage the pandemic has done to Washington's economic well-being. By the very nature of the grant application process, WWRP projects are some of the state's most fully-planned and shovel-ready job creation tools. This year's grant cycle creates an immediate opportunity for a much-needed economic stimulus. The economic impact is both short- and long-term: immediate construction jobs and local spending combined with multi-generational boosts in property values, tourism and other outdoor recreation-driven activity, and improved health and quality of life. In the event they are helpful and of interest, I am attaching a few case studies done by Earth Economics that document the social, environmental, and economic benefits of past WWRP projects. The analysis clearly demonstrates the possibilities presented by the next round of WWRP applications for communities across the state.

The WWRP and the Coalition have a shared and braided history. Our founders succeeded in creating a grand and practical compromise meeting both a long-standing, deep-seated desire for more parks, shoreline access and trails to benefit people coupled with a need to protect critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including game species and endangered species. Together, we have made impressive gains in the intervening 30 years. Yet, those original concerns are no less pressing today; as our current crisis demonstrates, perhaps even more so. We thank you and the RCO staff for your unrelenting efforts to support communities across the state in protecting our natural world for the benefit of the people and wildlife who live here.

Sincerely,



Christine B. Mahler

Executive Director

OUTDOOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

WASHINGTON STATE

Our connection to the outdoors is embedded in the culture of the Pacific Northwest. The splendor of our natural environment beckons us, defines us, and sustains us. The outdoors are a fundamental part of our unique identity.



WWRP PROJECT CATEGORIES

Critical Habitat • Farmland Preservation
Forestland Preservation • Local Parks • Natural Areas
Riparian Protection • State Lands Development & Renovation
State Lands Restoration & Enhancement • State Parks
Trails • Urban Wildlife Habitat • Water Access



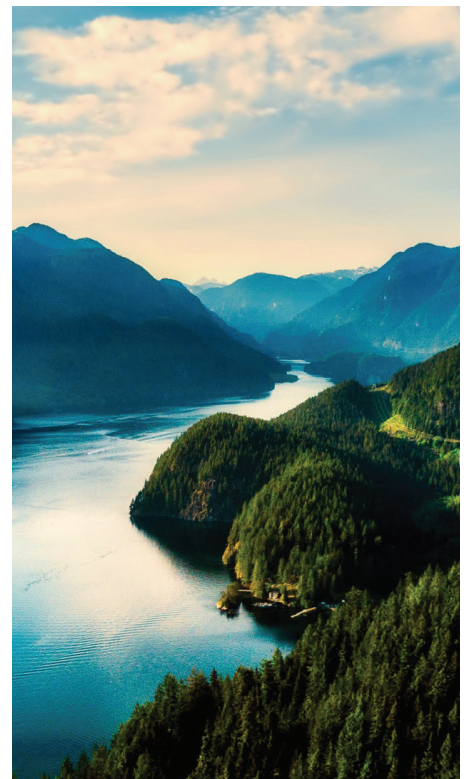
OVERVIEW

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC) is a catalyst for conservation and recreation projects across Washington state. For nearly 30 years, it has been the steadfast champion for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), the state's largest public funding source for outdoor community projects. Since 1989, the WWRP has contributed over \$1.4 billion to more than 1,300 projects statewide, creating not only parks and wildlife habitat, but also jobs, revenue, and increased quality of life throughout the state.

Residents from every corner of our state have felt the direct impact of WWRC's efforts to educate and advocate for the grant program. Because of the Coalition, new parks are created, wildlife habitat is preserved, and working lands are protected. Driven by a commitment to inclusivity and collaboration, the Coalition fuels the visions of local communities. WWRC propels the conservation of the outdoor places that improve the quality of life for all Washingtonians.

To help demonstrate the social, environmental, and economic benefits that outdoor community projects can provide, WWRC partnered with Earth Economics to value the public benefits provided by WWRP funded projects. The projects selected come from various project categories and intend to show the diverse range of benefits that can be realized for local communities throughout Washington.

Earth Economics' work was supported by funding provided by The Bullitt Foundation.



The ecosystem services values in this document are preliminary estimates. They are intended for awareness-building, education, and making the case for a more comprehensive valuation. They should not be cited in litigation, official project evaluations, or policy development.

47.8477° N, -120.7076° W

HEART OF THE CASCADES

CHELAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)'s Heart of the Cascades project protects over 10,000 acres of diverse Central Cascade forest and shrub. Adjacent to the Wenatchee National Forest and the LT Murray Wildlife Habitat Area, these lands are key to the habitat connectivity of the region.



Forests and scrublands acquired through this project provide an estimated \$29 million in ecosystem service benefits every year.



In addition to land acquisition, this project directs funding to habitat restoration for improvements to northern spotted owl foraging areas and salmon spawning streams.

BENEFITS

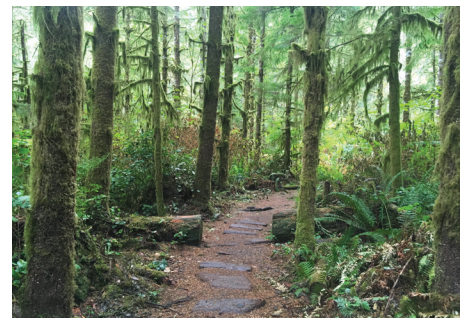
Abundant wildlife, including grey wolf, deer, elk, and spotted owl call Heart of the Cascades home. There is immense value in the presence and quality of habitat provided by natural areas—whether for endangered species protection, hunting and fishing, or wildlife viewing. Lands acquired through Heart of the Cascades contribute an estimated \$404,000 annually in habitat benefits for endangered species, particularly the spotted owl.

Funding from WWRP and the continued commitment of WDFW ensures that the \$29 million in annual ecosystem service benefits provided by the Heart of the Cascades can be enjoyed into the future. This value represents nature's ability to provide services to surrounding populations, including water filtration, aesthetic value, and air quality improvements.

Not all ecosystem service benefits can be captured in economic terms; landscape connectivity, for example, is critical to the ecological and economic health of the region, but not yet considered through valuation of ecosystem services.¹

Additionally, with the city of Ellensburg nearby, acquiring legacy checkerboard parcels ensures habitat connectivity and opens up opportunity for additional recreational use of the land, while also protecting key natural assets for a growing population and economy.

¹ Krosby, M., J. Tewksbury, N.M. Haddad, and J. Hoesktra, 2010. Landscape connectivity for a changing climate. *Conservation Biology* 24:1686-1689.



The ecosystem services values in this document are preliminary estimates. They are intended for awareness-building, education, and making the case for a more comprehensive valuation. They should not be cited in litigation, official project evaluations, or policy development.



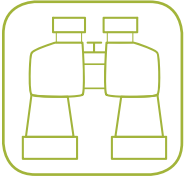
47.722410° N, -117.182621° W

ANTOINE PEAK CONSERVATION AREA

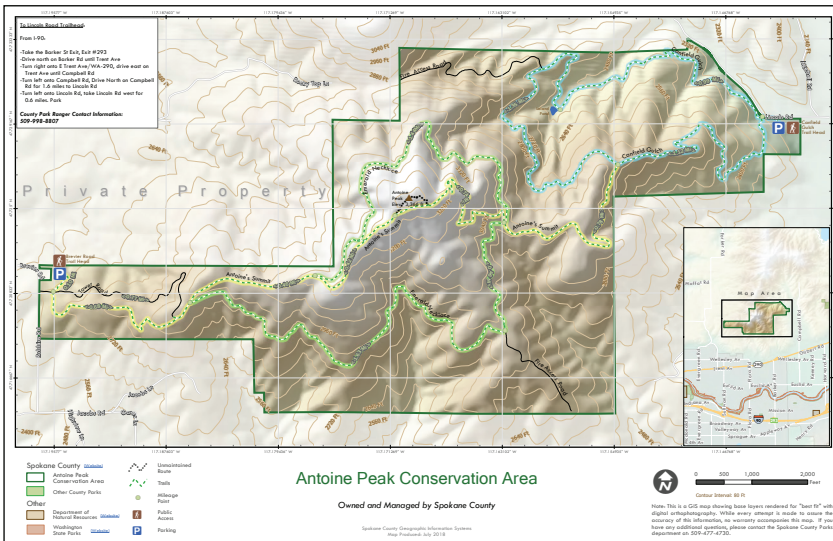
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

On the outskirts of Spokane, Antoine Peak is a refuge for wildlife and people alike. Spokane County used a combination of WWRP and local funding to create the 1,100 acre Antoine Peak Conservation Area.

WWRP FUNDS \$4,680,000 | MATCH FUNDS \$4,680,000 (ALL AMOUNTS ROUNDED)



With such close proximity to the city of Spokane, residents can visit Antoine Peak regularly to enjoy the expansive views, trail network, and wildlife viewing opportunities made possible by this project.



BENEFITS

Often the services provided by nature are taken for granted, particularly as urban population growth increases the demand for development of natural lands surrounding cities. Yet, forests, shrublands, and other ecosystems are the basis of economic activity and a thriving urban environment. They provide clean water, breathable air, nourishing food, flood risk reduction, waste treatment, climate stability, and other critical services. Antoine Peak Conservation Area's ecosystem services provide at least \$3.8 million in benefits to surrounding populations each year.

Uniquely situated not only in close proximity to Washington's second largest city but also in key habitat corridor and watershed headwater areas, Antoine Peak undoubtedly provides value beyond the services identified here. Spokane County's establishment of this hilltop conservation area creates space for wildlife to find shelter and the public to enjoy nature within view of the urbanizing Spokane Valley below.

The ecosystem services values in this document are preliminary estimates. They are intended for awareness-building, education, and making the case for a more comprehensive valuation. They should not be cited in litigation, official project evaluations, or policy development.



Antoine Peak supports **\$3.8 million** in annual ecosystem service value.



47.9129° N, -122.0982° W

BAILEY FARM

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

With funds from the WWRP, PCC Farmland Trust has conserved 270 acres of farmland in Snohomish County, including Bailey Farm. Bailey Farm is a fifth generation farm, and a beacon of the region's productivity and rich agricultural history.



Farmland conserved through the WWRP is not only a source of locally grown food, it's also an important part of Washington's carbon cycle.



Each year, the 270 acres of farmland conserved in Snohomish County can sequester over 350 metrics tons of atmospheric carbon, a service valued at \$16,000.



WWRP is the **only source of farmland preservation** funding in the Washington state budget.

BENEFITS

Farmland preservation protects valuable farmland; preserves critical habitat for salmon, birds, deer, and elk; and allows families to continue farming the land they have worked on for generations. But the cultivation of farmland that supports a healthy local food economy is also an important part of our region's carbon cycle. Each year, an acre of cultivated land in Washington can sequester over 1.5 metric tons of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Based on current estimates for the value of sequestering carbon, this service is worth over \$16,000 each and every year. And, because this land is preserved in perpetuity, the public will continue to receive these benefits for generations to come.

Now, visitors at Bailey Farm can buy fresh raspberries, harvest their own lettuce, view the surrounding wildlife, and enjoy a breath of fresh air. Investments from the WWRP recognize that the generations of farmers at Bailey Farm are doing a lot more than just growing food for our community, they are also improving the environmental quality of our region.

The ecosystem services values in this document are preliminary estimates. They are intended for awareness-building, education, and making the case for a more comprehensive valuation. They should not be cited in litigation, official project evaluations, or policy development.



47.8021° N, -123.6044° W

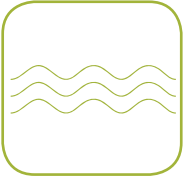
CLEARWATER RIPARIAN

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Spearheaded by The Nature Conservancy, this multi-phase project aims to protect critical riparian areas along the Olympic Peninsula's Clearwater River. When complete, the acquired parcels will conserve the riparian corridor from the Clearwater Corridor Natural Resources Conservation Area upstream to the confluence with the Queets River downstream.



WWRP FUNDS \$3,420,000 | MATCH FUNDS \$3,350,000 (ALL AMOUNTS ROUNDED)



This project protects over 45 miles of the Clearwater River and its tributaries.



Investing in the river's restoration ensures the public will continue to benefit from ecosystem services provided by the river system.

BENEFITS

Riparian forests and wetlands are key to thriving salmon populations—they help produce clean, cold, woody debris-filled streams needed for migration and spawning reaches. In addition, riparian areas provide a range of ecosystem services that benefit people of the region. Every year, lands acquired along the Clearwater River contribute an estimated \$17 million in ecosystem service benefits.

This project engages stakeholders from federal, state, and county agencies, tribes, NGOs, and private landowners around the shared goal of riparian protection. As climate change and population growth place pressure on land use and resource tradeoffs, WWRP-funded investments in Clearwater River riparian areas ensure protection of the immense public value of these ecosystems.

¹ Supported by: USFWS, WDRW, WDNR, Jefferson County Commission, Quinalt Indian Nation, Hoh Tribe, Hoh River Trust, Wild Salmon Center, Trout Unlimited



The Clearwater river system supports bull trout and a diverse wild salmon population, including: chinook, coho, chum, pink, sockeye, steelhead, and cutthroat.

The ecosystem services values in this document are preliminary estimates. They are intended for awareness-building, education, and making the case for a more comprehensive valuation. They should not be cited in litigation, official project evaluations, or policy development.



47.4157° N, -120.2931° W

EAST WENATCHEE 9TH STREET ACQUISITION

DOUGLAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

The East Wenatchee 9th St Acquisition supported the purchase of 2.3 acres of land to serve as the location for a new neighborhood park, the first new park in the Eastmont Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District park system since 1969.



WWRP FUNDS \$250,000 | MATCH FUNDS \$250,000 (ALL AMOUNTS ROUNDED)



Once complete, the new park is expected to reduce the burden of healthcare costs for the surrounding community by roughly \$650 every year.



The acquisition of 2.3 acres of land in East Wenatchee will serve as the future home of a neighborhood park in an undeserved area.

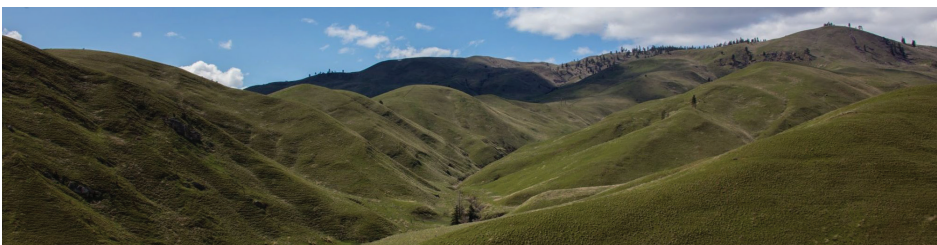
BENEFITS

The Eastmont Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District will use this grant to buy 2.3 acres for a neighborhood park, the first new park in district's park system since 1969. The land is off 9th Street Northeast in an underserved neighborhood of East Wenatchee, in Douglas County. Once an orchard, the land was cleared, to create an open space fit for a new park. The new park would serve an area where 41% of households are poor, 26% of residents are Latino, 15% are senior citizens, and 29% are children.

Neighborhood parks support healthy communities. By filtering air pollutants like particulate matter, the natural landscapes in a park can reduce mortality, hospital admissions, and respiratory symptoms for individuals suffering from asthma. In fact, the reduction of particulate matter provided by one acre of trees can reduce a community's healthcare costs by \$650 each year. These savings are amplified in areas where local parks, including the new one on 9th street, also provide dedicated areas to exercise. In an underserved area like East Wenatchee, a local park is more than just a place to play, it's an investment in happier and healthier communities.

¹ Zupancic, T. (2015). The impact of green space on heat and air pollution in urban communities: A meta-narrative systematic review. Vancouver, BC: David Suzuki Foundation.

A local park on 9th Street would support a healthy Wenatchee, **benefiting senior citizens and children in an undeserved community.**



48.4734° N, -120.1811° W

WINTHROP RINK

OKANOGAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Critical funding from the WWRP supported the acquisition of land and construction of a permanent ice rink and outdoor sports court in Winthrop, Washington. The Winthrop Rink was recently named one of the top 10 ice rinks in the west by Sunset Magazine.



WWRP FUNDS \$380,000 | MATCH FUNDS \$430,000 (ALL AMOUNTS ROUNDED)



On average, each visitor receives \$4 worth of consumer surplus, a measure of consumer well-being, with each visit. In total the ice rink supports some \$40,000 worth of consumer surplus each year.



The Winthrop Rink is one of the few ice rinks in the west that does not operate at a loss, meaning the rink is a sustainable community asset that will continue to provide benefits to users into the future.

BENEFITS

The Winthrop Rink seeks to build community through the joy of outdoor skating. As a community asset with programs for every age, the rink attracts over 10,000 visitors each year. Whether on a school field trip, participating in a hockey tournament, or enjoying a skate with the family, visitors and locals alike enjoy the Winthrop Rink.

Individuals who use the rink pay a small fee to use the facility, providing enough revenue to cover operating costs. But a trip to the Winthrop Rink is worth more to consumers than what they pay. Economists use a measurement called consumer surplus to understand the value a person realizes from engaging in a recreational activity. Consumer surplus is simply the difference between what a person is willing to pay to participate in a recreation activity, minus the costs they actually incur. For the average Winthrop Rink user, a visit to the rink is worth \$11, but the average cost of admittance is only \$7, meaning that each visitor receives \$4 worth of consumer surplus per trip. In total, the Winthrop Rink supports over \$40,000 in consumer surplus for rink users every year. While measuring consumer surplus is different than measuring direct expenditures, it provides insights into the value that rink users place on their ability to use the facility. And, because the rink is able to operate sustainably, Winthrop residents and visitors can experience the joy of outdoor skating time and time again.

Winthrop Rink supports variety of community programs, **attracting roughly 10,000 visitors each year.**

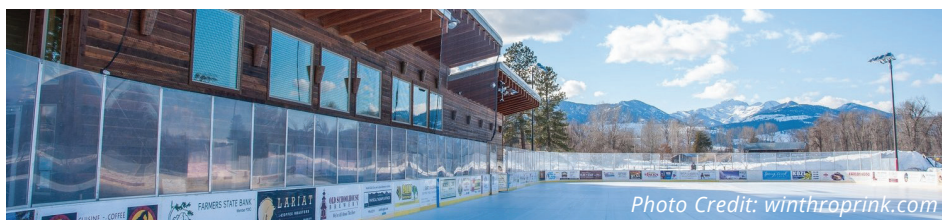


Photo Credit: winthroprink.com



Photo Credit: winthropwashington.com



46.3043° N, -119.3614° W

YAKIMA RIVERSHORE AND TRAIL

BENTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

With funds from the WWRP, the City of West Richland was able to acquire and develop a riverfront property to provide public access to the Yakima River for non-motorized recreation activities. The riverfront park also includes trails and walking paths, scenic picnic areas, and educational kiosks that tell the story of the area's native species and natural areas.

WWRP FUNDS \$1,300,000 | MATCH FUNDS \$460,000 (ALL AMOUNTS ROUNDED)



Surveys have found that in 2013 alone, Washington residents spent over \$1 billion on equipment and travel related expenses to swim in natural water and enjoy non-motorized boating activities.¹



The development of the Yakima Rivershore and Trail stands to boost recreation related spending in West Richland, making a positive contribution to the region's economy.

BENEFITS

Located along the rolling Yakima River, the City of West Richland is known for its wide-open spaces and access to recreation. Area residents are known for their love of water-skiing and boating, however, the vast majority of this activity takes place beyond city limits in the nearby Columbia River. But, thanks to the WWRP, West Richland residents will now have the opportunity to enjoy water activities right in their backyard.

The development of the Yakima Rivershore and Trail provides unprecedented access to the Yakima River and will serve as a major attraction for locals and visitors alike. And, because water recreation activities, including swimming in natural waters and non-motorized boating, have been shown to be a huge economic driver for our state, the City of West Richland can expect to receive a significant economic return from this project.

¹ <https://www.rco.wa.gov/documents/ORTF/EconomicAnalysisOutdoorRec.pdf>



The development of **the Yakima Rivershore and Trail** will unlock **opportunities** for recreation activities for area residents.

