

Preliminary Ranking
Critical Habitat Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	47.3	20-1225 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Simcoe	\$4,000,000		\$4,000,000
2	45.4	20-1227 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Wenas-Cleman Mountain	\$1,875,000		\$1,875,000
3	44.6	20-1220 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	McLoughlin Falls West	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
4	44	20-1509 A	Columbia Land Trust	Grays River Watershed West Fork Conservation Area	\$2,000,000	\$3,162,572	\$5,162,572
5	39.9	20-1222 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Rendezvous Additions	\$1,275,000		\$1,275,000
6	37.7	20-1219 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Hunter Mountain	\$650,000		\$650,000
7	36.1	20-1487 A	Chelan-Douglas Land Trust	Chafey Mountain	\$590,000	\$609,450	\$1,199,450
8	33.5	20-1816 A	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Leland Conservation Easement	\$770,050	\$770,050	\$1,540,100
9	33.4	20-1669 A	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Wolf Fork Conservation Easement	\$496,800	\$496,800	\$993,600
10	32.4	20-1217 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Golden Doe	\$1,900,000		\$1,900,000
11	31.6	20-1436 A	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Allen Family Ranch Conservation Easement	\$423,800	\$423,800	\$847,600
Total					\$15,480,650	\$5,462,672	\$20,943,322

Evaluation Scores

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2021-2023

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-3	
1	20-1225 A	Simcoe	18.09	8.73	13.55	4.36	2.55	47.27
2	20-1227 A	Wenas-Cleman Mountain	17.36	8.82	12.91	4.00	2.27	45.36
3	20-1220 A	McLoughlin Falls West	16.82	8.18	13.00	4.09	2.45	44.55
4	20-1509 A	Grays River Watershed West Fork Conservation Area	16.09	8.91	12.09	4.27	2.64	44.00
5	20-1222 A	Rendezvous Additions	14.64	7.36	12.18	3.55	2.18	39.91
6	20-1219 A	Hunter Mountain	13.82	7.00	11.64	3.64	1.64	37.73
7	20-1487 A	Chafey Mountain	13.82	6.27	11.55	3.27	1.18	36.09
8	20-1816 A	Leland Conservation Easement	13.55	6.55	10.27	2.00	1.09	33.45
9	20-1669 A	Wolf Fork Conservation Easement	14.00	6.64	10.00	2.18	0.55	33.36
10	20-1217 A	Golden Doe	11.36	6.18	10.18	3.00	1.64	32.36
11	20-1436 A	Allen Family Ranch Conservation Easement	13.45	5.73	9.55	2.18	0.64	31.55

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Simcoe Mountain

Grant Requested: \$4,000,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 5,112 acres in the Simcoe Mountains. This unique, large-scale landscape includes mixed conifer trees, Oregon white oak, white alder, shrub steppe, grasslands, cliffs, and 26 miles of stream bank along Rock Creek, which is a tributary to the Columbia River, and its tributaries. The land and streams are used by steelhead trout, which is a species listed as at risk of extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act; by western gray squirrel, which is a species listed as threatened with extinction by the State; and by mule deer, rainbow trout, northern goshawk, and western toad. The purchase of this land will allow nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking and hunting. This is the sixth phase of a multiphase project to conserve 20,000 acres. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1225)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Land Next to the Wenas Wildlife Area

Grant Requested: \$1,875,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 1,100 acres of shrub steppe and stream bank on the Cleman Mountain to conserve habitat for an extraordinary diversity of species. The land borders the Wenas Wildlife Area on two sides and connects to important shrub steppe core habitats. It also contains imperiled shrub steppe, stream, floodplain, aspen groves, and talus habitats. The diversity of bird species in this area is breathtaking. About 25 percent of the bird species that occur in the lower 48 states has been identified in this watershed. In addition, a significant component of the Yakima elk herd winters next to this land. The land is near Yakima, Selah, and Naches, and is a popular area for bird watching, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1227)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving McLoughlin Falls West

Grant Requested: \$1,500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 730 acres of critical sagebrush-steppe habitat in north central Okanogan County. Protecting this unique property will benefit several important sagebrush-steppe species such as mule deer, sharp-tailed grouse, and various migratory bird species. The land borders the Okanogan River for nearly 2.5 miles and conserving the land will help protect Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, both of which are species listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. Widespread community support exists for preserving this last wild segment of the Okanogan River. The land also contains a number of cultural resources, unique low-elevation ponderosa pine stands, and expansive talus and cliff habitat supporting golden eagles, peregrine falcons,

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and other species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1220)

Columbia Land Trust Conserving Land in Grays River Watershed

Grant Requested: \$2,000,000

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to conserve 1,623 acres and 10 miles of salmon streams in Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties in southwest Washington. The wet and almost entirely forested Grays River watershed is essential to the recovery of species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, including marbled murrelets, eulachon smelt, and lower Columbia River chum, coho, and fall Chinook salmon. The land is in the upper watershed and includes mature Sitka spruce forests, productive stream bank habitat, and wetlands. The purchase will create a corridor connecting two large blocks of state-owned land where murrelet conservation efforts in southwest Washington are concentrated. In addition, the purchase will enable more than 5 miles of river restoration to occur to support the most significant chum salmon population remaining in the lower Columbia River basin. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$3.1 million in a private, state, and federal grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1509)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Land in the Methow Wildlife Area

Grant Requested: \$1,275,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 210 acres in the Rendezvous Unit and next to the Big Valley Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area. The purchase will protect state imperiled intermountain basins, big sagebrush steppe, ponderosa pine woodland, and savanna ecological systems. In addition, the land contains important Quaking aspen stands, a wetland where a number of amphibian species have been observed, a crucial mule deer migration corridor, and stop-over habitat for animals migrating to and from the higher elevations of the Okanogan National Forest. Development pressure is constant in the Methow Valley and preserving connections between habitats for wide-ranging species is critical. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1222)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Land on Hunter Mountain

Grant Requested: \$650,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy about 400 acres of sagebrush-steppe habitat on Hunter Mountain near the town of Methow in the lower Methow Valley. The land also includes stream bank and ponderosa pine-Douglas fir sites used by several species of concern including Lewis and pileated woodpeckers. Conserving the land will protect and enhance critical habitat for wintering mule deer and other animals dependent on sagebrush. Protecting the land from development will bolster the north-south wildlife corridor connecting state and federal lands used by a variety of animals. These lands are popular for hunting, hiking,

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and wildlife watching and conserving them will provide a better experience and make it easier to access bordering public lands. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1219)

Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$590,000

Conserving Land on Chafey Mountain near Wenatchee

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, on 600 acres of high-quality wildlife habitat near Wenatchee on Chafey Mountain. The land has been owned by the same family for more than 100 years, and the family is committed to protecting this unique property from the development that has spread into the canyons and foothills just outside Wenatchee and bordering this property in recent decades. Three sides of Chafey Mountain border land already protected from development, and this purchase would add corridors for animals to move to the larger protected lands. Habitat on the land includes stream bank, shrub steppe, and mixed conifer forests, and actively supports a healthy mule deer population, golden eagles, and migratory songbirds, as well as many others. The land trust is donating an additional 21 acres in the same canyon as part of this grant. Both properties also protect important viewsheds that enhance the recreational experience for users of local popular trail systems. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust will contribute \$609,450 in donations of cash and land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1487)

Blue Mountain Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$770,050

Conserving the Blue Mountain Ranch

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to conserve 2,025 acres of critical wildlife habitat on the Blue Mountain Ranch. The ranch is between Stevens Ridge, Pataha Creek canyon, and the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area. About 1,100 acres are fenced for summer cattle grazing. The land encompasses 2 miles of Dry Pataha and Pataha Creeks, forestland, grassland, and riverine habitats. It also is important winter rangeland and calving grounds for Rocky Mountain elk and winter rangeland for mule deer and Northwest white-tailed deer. The Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$770,050 in a federal grant and donations of land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1816)

Blue Mountain Land Trust

Grant Requested: \$496,800

Conserving Habitat on the Wolf Fork Ranch

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to conserve 1,253 acres of critical wildlife habitat on the Wolf Fork Ranch. The land contains 3.25 miles of four freshwater streams that flow year-round and are home to steelhead and bull trout, and spring Chinook salmon. The

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1,300-acre ranch has forest, grassland, shrub-scrub, and riverine habitat at the headwaters of Wolf Fork Creek, southeast of Dayton. The land borders the Umatilla National Forest and is important winter rangeland and calving grounds for Rocky Mountain elk and winter rangeland for mule deer and Northwest white-tailed deer. The Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$496,800 in private and federal grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1669)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$1,900,000**

Conserving Land Near the Methow's Golden Doe Unit

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to conserve 110 acres of sagebrush-steppe and grasslands surrounded by the Golden Doe Unit of the Methow Wildlife Area. The land is home to large, year-round populations and seasonal concentrations of mule deer as well as black bears, coyotes, and golden eagles. The potential for development here is high. The Golden Doe Unit has little public access. This purchase would provide much and improved access to the area. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1217)

Blue Mountain Land Trust **Grant Requested: \$423,800**

Conserving the Allen Family Ranch

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, to conserve 1,064 acres of critical wildlife habitat on the Allen Family Ranch that includes 1.4 miles of north Patit Creek and the Patit Creek watershed. The ranch consists of habitat at the headwaters of north Patit Creek, straddling the ridge between the Patit Creek and Tucannon River basins. The land borders the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area, and includes forestland, grassland, and riverine habitats. Conserving the land will protect important winter rangeland and calving grounds for Rocky Mountain elk and winter rangeland for mule deer and Northwest white-tailed deer. The Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$423,800 in private and federal grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1436)

Preliminary Ranking
Natural Areas Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	41.33	20-1335 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	\$2,622,472		\$2,622,472
2	41	20-1423 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Methow Rapids Natural Area Preserve	\$2,594,003		\$2,594,003
3	40.67	20-1334 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	\$2,910,430		\$2,910,430
4	40.42	20-1422 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Kennedy Creek Natural Area	\$277,278		\$277,278
5	38.33	20-1336 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Washougal Oaks Natural Area	\$2,805,920		\$2,805,920
6	38.25	20-1426 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Onion Ridge Proposed Natural Area Preserve	\$1,618,496		\$1,618,496
7	37.42	20-1338 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area	\$2,260,263		\$2,260,263
8	36.83	20-1294 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Cypress Island Natural Area	\$1,148,179		\$1,148,179
Total					\$16,237,041		\$16,237,041

Evaluation Scores
Natural Areas Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	0. Project Introduction	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Species and Communities with Special Status	3. Manageability and Viability	4. Public Benefit and Community Support	5. Multiple Benefits	Total
		Point Range	0-0	0-20	0-10	0-15	0-5	0-3	
1	20-1335 A	Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve	0.00	16.00	9.00	11.42	3.58	1.33	41.33
2	20-1423 A	Methow Rapids Natural Area Preserve	0.00	16.67	7.08	12.08	3.58	1.58	41.00
3	20-1334 A	Lacamas Prairie Natural Area	0.00	14.67	7.75	11.83	4.08	2.33	40.67
4	20-1422 A	Kennedy Creek Natural Area	0.00	15.17	6.83	11.50	4.33	2.58	40.42
5	20-1336 A	Washougal Oaks Natural Area	0.00	14.50	7.17	11.25	3.50	1.92	38.33
6	20-1426 A	Onion Ridge Proposed Natural Area Preserve	0.00	16.17	6.50	11.67	2.75	1.17	38.25
7	20-1338 A	White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area	0.00	14.50	6.67	10.75	3.42	2.08	37.42
8	20-1294 A	Cypress Island Natural Area	0.00	13.50	6.17	11.33	3.75	2.08	36.83

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Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,622,472**

Expanding the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve to Protect a Rare Plant

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 2,161 acres about 10 miles south of Wenatchee to expand the Upper Dry Gulch Natural Area Preserve. The preserve was established in 1989 to protect a rare endemic plant species, Whited's milkvetch, the entire global distribution of which is known only to live in less than 9 square miles centered around the preserve. The purchase will allow the department to conserve the land containing virtually all the plants, increasing the potential for the plant's long-term survival. There is great public support from the community in expanding the preserve and protecting this rare plant community. This expansion of the preserve also will offer exceptional research opportunities to study the population, biology, and ecology of an extremely rare species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1335)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,594,003**

Buying Land in the Methow Rapids Natural Area Preserve to Protect Rare Plants

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 569 acres of shrub steppe for inclusion in the Methow Rapids Natural Area Preserve, conserving a rare plant community. The land is along the Columbia River, just downstream from its confluence with the Methow River. The land contains the largest of only three intact examples of the smooth sumac/bluebunch wheatgrass community in the state and the largest of only nine intact examples of the antelope bitterbrush/bluebunch wheatgrass community in the state. Several species of birds found on the land are listed as Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife State Wildlife Action Plan. The land also will improve public access from Starr Road and State Route 97. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1423)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,910,430**

Conserving the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 218 acres of oak forest, farmland, stream bank forest, and wetland for inclusion in the Lacamas Prairie Natural Area, northeast of Vancouver. The purchase will conserve a key part of a watershed that feeds a protected, rare remnant of Willamette Valley wet prairie, which is the only example of its size and quality in Washington. This plant community, designated a priority one plant community by the Natural Heritage Program, is seriously threatened by one of the most rapidly urbanizing counties in the state. The department will restore the oak and stream bank forest and wet prairie and will enlarge the protected habitat and its buffers. The greater Lacamas Prairie Natural Area Preserve protects the second largest of 20 known populations of Bradshaw's

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Lomatium, a globally critically imperiled, federally endangered plant species. It also contains habitat for seven state sensitive plant species and one rare animal species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1334)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Preserving Kennedy Creek Natural Area

Grant Requested: \$277,278

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 4 acres of creek and uplands for inclusion in the Kennedy Creek Natural Area. The purchase will protect the creek and its banks and enhance protection of the smaller Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve, which contains one of Washington's few remaining high-quality salt marsh communities. The purchase also will expand the highest quality salmon education trail in southern Puget Sound. The 1,461-acre Kennedy Creek Natural Area, located between Olympia and Shelton, includes both the Kennedy Creek Natural Area Preserve and the Kennedy Creek Natural Resources Conservation Area. The Natural Area provides key habitat for migrating shorebirds and salmon and protects water quality vital to the health of the regional shellfish economy. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1422)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Buying Land in the Washougal Oaks Natural Area

Grant Requested: \$2,805,920

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 196.4 acres east of Washougal at the western edge of the Columbia River Gorge for inclusion in the Washougal Oaks Natural Area. This project is part of an ongoing effort to acquire land encompassing the largest, high-quality, native oak woodland remaining in western Washington. The woodland is of major conservation concern due to historic losses and ongoing degradation. In addition, a fish-bearing stream inside a steep forested ravine runs through the heart of the site. The land supports two state sensitive plant species and four rare or threatened animal species: slender-billed nuthatch, and lower Columbia River steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1336)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Creating the Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve

Grant Requested: \$1,618,496

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 700 acres, 16 miles north of Colville, which will establish the Onion Ridge Natural Area Preserve. The preserve supports numerous forest, bald, and wetland communities identified as priorities in the Washington Natural Heritage Program plan. The land contains freshwater wetlands, Idaho fescue/parsnip-flowered buckwheat grassland, western red cedar/wild sarsaparilla forest, and

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ponderosa pine, Douglas fir/bluebunch wheatgrass woodland. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1426)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$2,260,263**

Buying Land in the White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 140 acres to for inclusion in the White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area, in the lower White Salmon River valley. The land contains a mixture of oak woodlands, mixed conifer-oak forests, and open grassland balds. In addition, the land supports a population of two state sensitive plant species and provides valuable habitat for the western gray squirrel, a state threatened species. The land also includes about 0.7 mile of the Weldon Wagon Trail used for hiking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1338)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$1,148,179**

Buying Land for the Cypress Island Natural Area

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 25.55 acres on Cypress Island. The department owns about 95 percent of the island and manages it as the Cypress Highlands Natural Area Preserve and the Cypress Island Natural Resources Conservation Area. In combination, these natural areas are unique because of their ecological diversity and their size relative to other undeveloped areas in the San Juan Islands. As the fifth largest and most undeveloped island in the San Juan archipelago, Cypress offers nearly 18 miles of undeveloped marine shoreline, old-growth forest stands, undisturbed wetlands, springs and lakes. It provides by far the largest protected area of contiguous habitat in the San Juan Islands and there is no other site like it. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1294)

Preliminary Ranking
Riparian Protection Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	60.09	20-1347 A	Columbia Land Trust	Wildboy Forest and Kwoneesum Dam Acquisition	\$1,036,200	\$2,189,400	\$3,225,600
2	57.36	20-1421 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Dabob Bay Natural Area	\$2,265,532		\$2,265,532
3	55.45	20-1512 A	Whatcom Land Trust	Skookum Creek Acquisition 2 Upper Skookum Creek	\$875,000	\$2,268,000	\$3,143,000
4	54.09	20-1226 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Twin Rivers Nearshore and West Twin	\$500,000		\$500,000
5	52.82	20-1333 A	North Olympic Land Trust	Hoko River Watershed Conservation Phase 1	\$566,020	\$566,248	\$1,132,268
5	52.82	20-1337 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Washougal Oaks Natural Area	\$2,100,343		\$2,100,343
7	51.82	20-1216 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Chehalis River Davis Creek Expansion	\$1,600,000		\$1,600,000
8	48.18	20-1513 A	Whatcom Land Trust	Stewart Mountain 1 Deming Main Stem	\$568,000	\$568,000	\$1,136,000
9	47	20-1785 A	Forterra	Lake Kapowsin Protection	\$1,613,087	\$1,613,088	\$3,226,175
Total					\$11,124,182	\$7,204,736	\$18,328,918

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Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
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Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Acquisition Benefits	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Stewardship	5. Threats to the Habitat	6. Community Benefit and Public Access	7. Matching Share	8. Matching Share Bonus	9. Growth Management Act	Total
		Point Range	0-20	0-15	0-16	0-5	0-10	0-3	0-1	-1-0	
1	20-1347 A	Wildboy Forest and Kwoneesum Dam Acquisition	17.64	14.00	13.27	4.45	8.73	1.00	1.00	0.00	60.09
2	20-1421 A	Dabob Bay Natural Area	17.82	13.73	14.45	3.73	7.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.36
3	20-1512 A	Skookum Creek Acquisition 2 Upper Skookum Creek	16.27	13.00	11.91	3.36	6.91	3.00	1.00	0.00	55.45
4	20-1226 A	Twin Rivers Nearshore and West Twin	16.73	12.73	13.36	3.36	7.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	54.09
5	20-1333 A	Hoko River Watershed Conservation Phase 1	16.45	12.82	13.18	2.82	6.55	0.00	1.00	0.00	52.82
5	20-1337 A	Washougal Oaks Natural Area	15.45	12.73	13.45	3.18	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.82
7	20-1216 A	Chehalis River Davis Creek Expansion	15.73	12.73	12.55	3.64	7.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	51.82
8	20-1513 A	Stewart Mountain 1 Deming Main Stem	15.00	11.73	11.91	2.91	6.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.18
9	20-1785 A	Lake Kapowsin Protection	13.36	11.27	11.82	3.36	6.18	0.00	1.00	0.00	47.00

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Columbia Land Trust **Buying Wildboy Forest and Kwoneesum Dam**

Grant Requested: \$1,036,200

The Columbia Land Trust will use this grant to buy the 1,288-acre Wildboy forest including Kwoneesum Dam to enable dam removal and restoration of the forested watershed. The land encompasses 0.5 mile of the West Fork Washougal River, 2.5 miles of Wildboy Creek, and 0.9 mile of Texas Creek, all in the Washougal River watershed. The waterways are used by lower Columbia River steelhead trout and coho salmon, both of which are species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. Set within the west slopes of the Cascade Mountains, the steep, forested land was owned by a timber company and actively marketed for sale as a house site with the reservoir as a recreational amenity. The land trust partnered with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe with the shared goal of removing Kwoneesum dam, restoring Wildboy Creek, and opening 6.5 miles of tributaries above the dam. The dam will be the largest removed in Washington State since the Elwha dams in 2014. In addition, the purchase will protect a 7-acre beaver constructed wetland, prevent future rock mining, and open the entire property to the public. The Columbia Land Trust will contribute more than \$2.1 million in private and state grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1347)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Conserving a Coastal Ecosystem at Dabob Bay**

Grant Requested: \$2,265,532

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 381 acres of the most threatened and ecologically important shoreline and forested uplands in the Dabob Bay Natural Area. Located in rapidly growing eastern Jefferson County, Dabob Bay is one of the most ecologically diverse and intact estuarine bays remaining in Puget Sound. The land includes property on Thorndyke Bay, which is a high-quality estuary identified within the Dabob Bay Natural Area for conservation by the Washington State Natural Heritage Program, and property along Anderson Creek, which is the last private land remaining within a high-priority restoration site along Dabob Bay. With this grant, the department can ensure protection and restoration of natural ecological processes and water quality at this site before further development greatly increases the costs and challenges of conserving this exceptional coastal ecosystem. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1421)

Whatcom Land Trust **Conserving Land Along Upper Skookum Creek**

Grant Requested: \$875,000

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy 990 acres along upper Skookum Creek, a major tributary to the South Fork Nooksack River. The purchase will protect 2.24 miles of Skookum Creek, adding to the 1,100 acres already conserved along lower Skookum Creek. The purchase will create a nearly uninterrupted protected corridor from the South Fork Nooksack

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River to its headwaters on Twin Sisters Mountain. Conserving the land will allow the growth of mature creekbank forests that will shade and cool the water for salmon. Finally, the land provides vital habitat for a range of wildlife including golden eagle, Nooksack elk, Townsend's big eared bat, and the state-endangered marbled murrelet. The Whatcom Land Trust will contribute more than \$2.2 million in cash, Conservation Futures,¹ and a private grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1512)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Habitat on the Strait of Juan de Fuca

Grant Requested: \$500,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 216 acres of habitat for fish and other wildlife along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, about halfway between Port Angeles and Seiku. The land includes shoreline, river, coastal wetlands, and forested uplands. Conservation will allow the department to protect the natural processes in one of the last remaining functional ecological systems in western Washington. The East Twin River and West Twin River reach has some of the most complex shorelines of the Salish Sea and the near-shore one of the most diverse. The waterways are used by bull trout and Chinook salmon, both of which are species listed as at-risk of extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act, and by forage fish, steelhead and cutthroat trout, and coho salmon. In addition, the area has intact eelgrass and kelp beds, which are vital to salmon. The land also provides rich shorebird and migratory bird habitat and includes a flight corridor for marbled murrelet, which is a species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1226)

North Olympic Land Trust Conserving the Hoko River Watershed

Grant Requested: \$566,020

The North Olympic Land Trust, in collaboration with the Makah Tribe, will use this grant to buy 151 acres in the Hoko River watershed to conserve wildlife habitat. The land includes grazing habitat, mature forests, a large wetland complex, and 1.65 miles of streambank habitat. The waterways are used by Chinook, chum, and coho salmon and steelhead and cutthroat trout. In addition, the area is used by a wide variety of animals including river otter, small mammals (mice, chipmunks, squirrels, etc.), small mustelids (weasels, skunks, etc.), birds (hawks, eagles, waterfowl, heron, corvids, songbirds, migratory birds, etc.), deer, elk, coyote, bobcat, bear, and pollinators (bees, butterflies, and moths). There likely will be access for low-impact recreational activities such as bird watching and fishing. The North Olympic Land Trust will contribute \$566,248 in a local grant and a grant from the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration

¹Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Riparian Protection Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



program. Program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1333)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Expanding the Washougal Oaks Natural Area

Grant Requested: \$2,100,343

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 149 acres at the western edge of the Columbia River Gorge for inclusion in the Washougal Oaks Natural Area. The land includes important streambank forest, oak forest, and salmon habitat. A fish-bearing stream inside a steep forested ravine runs through the heart of the site. This project is part of an ongoing effort to acquire land encompassing the largest, high-quality, native oak woodland remaining in western Washington. The woodland is of major conservation concern due to historic losses and ongoing degradation. The land also supports two state sensitive plant species and four rare or threatened animal species: slender-billed nuthatch and lower Columbia River steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, and coho salmon. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1337)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Expanding the Buffer Around the Davis Creek Wildlife Area

Grant Requested: \$1,600,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy up to 416 acres of mostly floodplain habitat along the Chehalis River, near Oakville. The purchase will help expand the buffer around the department's Davis Creek Wildlife Area Unit and will connect two habitat corridors. It will connect about 4 miles of Chehalis riverbank to other habitat (including off-channel habitat and wetlands) that extend another 1.2 miles downstream and 1 mile upstream to a bridge. It also creates a permanent and near continuous north-south link between the Capitol State Forest and the Lower Chehalis State Forest. The land contains remnant oak woodland and historic prairie habitats. Bordering lands are known to support waterfowl, elk, beaver, salmon, band-tailed pigeon, wood ducks, and the Olympic mudminnow. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1216)

Whatcom Land Trust Conserving the Nooksack River on the North Slope of Stewart Mountain

Grant Requested: \$568,000

The Whatcom Land Trust will use this grant to buy about 420 acres, including about 2 miles of shoreline on the upper Nooksack River and its forested south bank near Deming. The river is used by Chinook salmon, which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. This area of the river is important to salmon because it provides places for them to rest and grow. Unfortunately, the land also is contributing substantial sediment, which can bury spawning gravel, to the river. The purchase will allow for restoration of the site. In addition, it will allow trees to grow along the stream, correcting past logging practices. Trees

Riparian Protection Category

Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



and bushes along a river shade the water, cooling it for salmon. They also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects salmon eat. The branches also slow the river, creating places for salmon to rest and hide from predators. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water. The land trust plans to allow low-impact recreation and trails for non-motorized activities at the site. The Whatcom Land Trust will contribute \$568,000 in a grant from the salmon recovery program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1513)

Forterra

Grant Requested: \$1,613,087

Protecting Lake Kapowsin

Forterra will use this grant to buy nearly 176 acres primarily on the north and west sides of Lake Kapowsin, including about a half-mile of the lake's shoreline, conserving its habitat and environmental benefits. The land is comprised of wetlands, shoreline, and forests, which provide homes for salmon species, waterfowl, amphibians, cavity-nesting birds, and other wildlife. The purchase will remove the possibility of development, clear-cutting, and other harmful land uses along the largely undeveloped lake shore. Because of the lake's healthy ecology, it is a popular fishing location. The lake hosts some of the best warmwater fishing in western Washington for yellow perch, largemouth bass, black crappie, and other fish. Acquisition will open another public access to the shoreline. Forterra will contribute more than \$1.6 million in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1785)

Preliminary Ranking
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	48.91	20-1521 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	South Sound Prairie, Bald, and Oak Restoration	\$485,850		\$485,850
2	47	20-1575 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration	\$80,000		\$80,000
3	45.64	20-1592 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Rare Prairies Restoration	\$56,000		\$56,000
4	45.55	20-1638 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	West Foster Creek Riparian Restoration	\$119,100		\$119,100
5	45.45	20-1689 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Oak Creek Wildlife Area Forest Restoration	\$427,600		\$427,600
6	45.27	20-1353 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area Oak Restoration	\$80,000		\$80,000
7	45.09	20-1586 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Sand Verbena Moth Habitat Restoration	\$136,741	\$44,340	\$181,081
8	44.45	20-1304 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Lower Crab Creek Restoration and Enhancement	\$195,100		\$195,100
8	44.45	20-1629 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Puget Lowland Forest Restoration	\$144,750		\$144,750
10	44.18	20-1640 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Pygmy Rabbit Habitat Enhancement	\$161,850		\$161,850
11	43.82	20-1587 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Prairie Restoration on San Juan Islands	\$107,400		\$107,400
11	43.82	20-1613 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Kennedy Creek Floodplain Forest Restoration	\$192,000		\$192,000
13	43	20-1417 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Elk River Unit Habitat Enhancements	\$96,200		\$96,200
14	42.82	20-1287 R	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Okanogan County Shrub Steppe Restoration	\$122,931		\$122,931
15	42.36	20-1591 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Hope Island Natural Area Preserve Restoration	\$91,144		\$91,144
16	42	20-1354 R	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve Shrub Steppe Restoration	\$70,000		\$70,000
17	38.64	20-1590 R	State Parks and Recreation Commission	Bald Restoration at Beacon Rock State Park	\$92,000		\$92,000
Total					\$2,658,666	\$44,340	\$2,703,006

Evaluation Scores
State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	0. Project Introduction	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Need for Restoration or Enhancement	3. Project Design	4. Planning	5. Public Benefit and Support	Total
		Point Range	0-0	0-15	0-15	0-15	0-5	0-5	
1	20-1521 R	South Sound Prairie, Bald, and Oak Restoration	0.00	13.91	13.00	13.27	4.45	4.27	48.91
2	20-1575 R	Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune Restoration	0.00	12.91	13.45	12.91	3.91	3.82	47.00
3	20-1592 R	Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve Rare Prairies Restoration	0.00	12.27	12.55	12.45	4.18	4.18	45.64
4	20-1638 R	West Foster Creek Riparian Restoration	0.00	12.27	13.09	12.45	4.09	3.64	45.55
5	20-1689 R	Oak Creek Wildlife Area Forest Restoration	0.00	11.82	12.18	13.09	4.27	4.09	45.45
6	20-1353 R	White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area Oak Restoration	0.00	12.36	12.09	12.64	4.27	3.91	45.27
7	20-1586 R	Sand Verbena Moth Habitat Restoration	0.00	12.27	12.27	12.91	4.00	3.64	45.09
8	20-1629 R	Puget Lowland Forest Restoration	0.00	12.82	12.18	11.82	4.00	3.64	44.45
8	20-1304 R	Lower Crab Creek Restoration and Enhancement	0.00	12.09	12.27	12.09	4.00	4.00	44.45
10	20-1640 R	Pygmy Rabbit Habitat Enhancement	0.00	12.82	12.64	11.55	3.82	3.36	44.18
11	20-1587 R	Prairie Restoration on San Juan Islands	0.00	12.45	11.64	11.91	4.09	3.73	43.82
11	20-1613 R	Kennedy Creek Floodplain Forest Restoration	0.00	12.64	11.36	11.64	3.82	4.36	43.82
13	20-1417 R	Elk River Unit Habitat Enhancements	0.00	11.09	11.82	12.00	4.18	3.91	43.00
14	20-1287 R	Okanogan County Shrub Steppe Restoration	0.00	11.45	11.73	11.91	3.73	4.00	42.82
15	20-1591 R	Hope Island Natural Area Preserve Restoration	0.00	13.00	10.55	11.82	3.45	3.55	42.36
16	20-1354 R	Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve Shrub Steppe Restoration	0.00	11.91	10.91	11.91	3.45	3.82	42.00
17	20-1590 R	Bald Restoration at Beacon Rock State Park	0.00	10.73	10.18	10.91	3.00	3.82	38.64

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Department of Natural Resources Restoring South Puget Sound Region Habitats

Grant Requested: \$485,850

The Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to restore 800 acres of outwash prairie, grassland bald, and oak woodland habitat at five of the most significant conservation sites in the southern Puget Sound region: Bald Hill, Mima Mounds, Rocky Prairie, Scatter Creek, and West Rocky Prairie. These sites harbor some of the last remaining populations of plants and animals listed as threatened with extinction or as endangered as well as the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Species of Greatest Conservation in the region. The departments will get native seeds and transplants, prepare restoration areas for seeding through prescribed burning and controlling invasive plants, and then seed and replant the areas. In addition, the two departments will remove invasive species in some of the areas and enhance habitat for Oregon spotted frog at Rocky Prairie. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1521)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Restoring the Leadbetter Point Coastal Dune

Grant Requested: \$80,000

State Parks will use this grant to restore 55 acres of open dunes and 100 acres of shrub-dominated dunes in Leadbetter Point State Park. Leadbetter Point, the northernmost end of Long Beach peninsula, is the largest undeveloped coastal dune system in Washington. The dunes are a critically imperiled dune ecosystem and are used by endangered pink sand verbena and bear's foot sanicle and by western snowy plover and streaked horned lark, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction under the federal Endangered Species Act. This work will build on the 500 acres of dune restored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the adjacent Willapa National Wildlife Refuge. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1575)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Rare Prairies in the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve

Grant Requested: \$56,000

The Department of Natural Resources, partnering with the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, will use this grant to restore rare coastal prairie and endangered plant habitat in the Admiralty Inlet Natural Area Preserve, 2.5 miles south of Coupeville in the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve on Whidbey Island. The department will remove invasive and non-native species and then reseed and plant native dominant prairie species, including golden paintbrush. The rare prairies contain 2 of the only 12 naturally occurring populations of golden paintbrush, which is a species listed by the federal government as threatened with extinction under the Endangered Species Act and designated as endangered by the State. The department will restore more than

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



2 acres in two portions of the preserve. The work will help preserve and perpetuate the last native prairies in north Puget Sound, including one that is extraordinarily rare. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1592)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$119,100** **Restoring West Foster Creek**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to place structures to mimic beaver dams in west Foster Creek in the Well Wildlife Area to help restore the creek. Beaver dams create ponds in fast-moving water, giving fish a place to rest. They also block and slow the water, keeping it at a stable level, even in drought. This reach of the creek has a deeply carved channel and the mock beaver dams will help reduce the erosion and improve water quality. In addition, the department will remove invasive Russian olive trees and plant native plants along the creekbanks. Planting trees and bushes long a creekbank helps shade the water, cooling it for fish. The plants also drop branches and leaves into the water, which provide food for the insects fish eat. Finally, the roots of the plants help keep soil from entering the water. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1638)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$427,600** **Thinning the Forest in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to thin the forest in the Oak Creek Wildlife Area. The department will thin 667 acres of forest south of the Tieton River and do a controlled burn of 593 acres in the Oak Creek drainage in previously thinned areas. The work will improve habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species, promote forest health, and improve ecological integrity so treated areas are resilient to stressors. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1689)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Grant Requested: \$80,000** **Restoring the White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore Garry oak woodlands and mixed conifer-oak forests in the White Salmon Oak Natural Resources Conservation Area. Restoration work will include thinning, snag creation, prescribed burning, and invasive species control. This work will restore the critically imperiled east cascade oak-ponderosa pine forest and woodland and will benefit two priority species: western grey squirrel and Surkdorfs desert parsley. Along with the benefits to these species, this work will increase climate change resiliency and fire resiliency. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1353)

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Grant Requested: \$136,741 **Restoring Moth Habitat**

State Parks will use this grant to restore habitat for the sand-verbena moth by reducing invasive plants, increasing the abundance of sand-verbena, and redirecting recreational users away from critical habitat. The work is designed to restore habitat for the sand-verbena moth, a critically imperiled species known to live in fewer than 11 locations in North America, two of which are Fort Worden State Park and Deception Pass State Park. The sand-verbena moth only occurs in sand dune habitats with relatively high cover of yellow sand-verbena and few exotic plant species. Surveys suggest the moth populations in the two state parks are harmed by an increase in exotic plants and, potentially, trampling of sand-verbena. Trails through the restoration area will give the public an excellent opportunity to observe rare native species and communities and keep them from trampling the plants. State Parks will contribute \$44,340 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1586)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Grant Requested: \$195,100 **Removing Russian Olive Trees in the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to remove the highly invasive Russian olive trees and restore native species in the Lower Crab Creek Unit of the Columbia Basin Wildlife Area. The Columbia Basin Wildlife Area supports what is suspected to be the most significant monarch butterfly summer breeding site in the state and a natural area preserve established to protect an exemplary saltgrass-greasewood vegetation community. About 1,600 acres of the unit are infested with Russian olive trees, which are an aggressive noxious weed. Russian olive can transform relatively open streambank and wetland areas into forests, outcompeting native vegetation, including flowers used by monarch butterflies. The trees also hinder recreation because of their dense, thorny branches. The department will remove the trees and restore native species at a site next to the core monarch breeding site and on 30 acres of the preserve. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1304)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Grant Requested: \$144,750 **Restoring Puget Lowland Forests**

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore the structure and composition of lowland forest communities in two natural areas—Dabob Bay Natural Area and Schumacher Creek Natural Area Preserve. The department will thin young, artificially regenerated forest stands; plant underrepresented tree and shrub species; and control of key invasive plants that threaten both the restoration areas and neighboring forests. These efforts will allow more natural development of the forests and faster development of important habitat

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



features such as large trees, snags, and fallen trees. This will greatly enhance the diversity of these forests, improving the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1629)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Improving Pygmy Rabbit Habitat

Grant Requested: \$161,850

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to improve 150 acres of shrub steppe habitat in the Sagebrush Flat Unit of the Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area. The wildlife area is managed to recover three species: the endangered Columbia basin pygmy rabbit and the sage grouse and sharp-tailed grouse, both of which are listed as threatened with extinction by the State. The department will remove invasive plants, reseed areas with native vegetation, and do controlled burning. The unit is at increasing risk of high intensity wildlife because of climate forecasts, nearby housing development and agricultural practices, and sagebrush that is mature. Without proactive intervention to diversify the age of the sagebrush and efforts to alter the understory plants, pygmy rabbits face extinction. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1640)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Restoring San Juan Island Prairies

Grant Requested: \$107,400

State Parks will use this grant to restore 120 acres of grassland balds and prairie habitat in Moran State Park on Orcas Island and Jones Island Marine State Park. The native prairie communities at both parks are threatened by tree encroachment and invasive species. State Parks will remove encroaching trees, control invasive plants, and restore treated areas with seeding and planting of native prairie species. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1587)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring the Kennedy Creek Floodplain Forest

Grant Requested: \$192,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore 110 acres of floodplain and forest habitat in the 1,461-acre Kennedy Creek Natural Area, about 10 miles from Olympia. The department will plant trees on 88 acres and control weeds on 110 acres. In addition, the department will assess, design, and permit future projects to restore 22 acres of floodplain. The previous owner had logged the forest, graded the land, and removed the stumps, and now the land is infested with nonnative weeds. This project will energize a long-awaited effort to restore the area and improve floodplain and forest habitat connectivity. The Kennedy Creek Natural Area protects estuarine habitat, including rare salt marshes, mud flats, migratory shorebird habitat, and important salmon habitat. More than half the lowland floodplain forests in the

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



north Pacific region are estimated to have been lost, and they are considered an imperiled ecosystem. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1613)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$96,200** **Improving Elk River Unit Habitat for Marbled Murrelets**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to remove Scotch broom, reed canary grass, and other weeds in the Elk River Unit of the Johns River Wildlife Area to make the habitat more hospitable for marbled murrelet, dusky Canadian geese, and other wintering waterfowl. Murrelets need nesting sites near saltwater with trees tall enough to provide cover from predators. The extensive Scotch broom has prevented existing trees from growing tall enough and in greater number. In addition to removing Scotch broom, the department will plant trees in some areas. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1417)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife **Grant Requested: \$122,931** **Restoring Okanogan County Shrub Steppe**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to convert about 212 acres of agricultural fields to native shrub steppe vegetation in the Methow and Sinlahekin Wildlife Areas. This project is part of an ongoing effort to preserve the northernmost shrub steppe habitat in Washington. These two wildlife areas provide vital habitat for species dependent on shrub steppe such as sage thrashers, sagebrush sparrows, loggerhead shrikes, sagebrush lizards, and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Additionally, these areas are used by the state's largest migratory mule deer herd due to the high-quality winter range habitat present. Once restored, the shrub steppe habitat will provide opportunities for recreation including hunting, wildlife and wildflower viewing, and hiking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1287)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **Grant Requested: \$91,144** **Restoring the Hope Island Natural Area Preserve**

State Parks will use this grant to remove invasive plants in the rare and high-quality forest and grassland habitats in the 176-acre Hope Island Natural Area Preserve. The natural area is dominated by two Douglas fir-western hemlock forest communities and a rare Pacific madrone forest community. These forests have been recognized as some of the best examples of lowland, old-growth forest in the Puget Trough ecoregions. Infestation of English holly and spurge laurel threaten the integrity of the ecosystems on the island. State Parks also will remove invasive plants encroaching on the globally rare grassland and bald plant community around the

State Lands Restoration and Enhancement Category Project Summaries (In Rank Order)



southwest coastline. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1591)

Washington Department of Natural Resources Restoring Selah Cliffs Habitat

Grant Requested: \$70,000

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to restore native plants on 30 acres of shrub steppe and 10 acres of creekbank habitat in the 300-acre Selah Cliffs Natural Area Preserve. The preserve was established in 1993 to protect the largest known population of basalt daisy, a species listed as threatened with extinction by the State and as a federal species of concern. This species is known to exist in only a 10-mile stretch of the Yakima River canyon and Selah Creek. The department will remove nonnative species and plant native grasses and forbs in the meadow and treated areas along the valley bottom. The preserve includes the rocky floodplain of Selah Creek at the foot of the cliffs and areas of shrub steppe habitat. The cliffs, much of which are covered by colorful lichens, provide nesting and roosting habitat for raptors including prairie falcons, golden eagles and kestrels. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1354)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Restoring Balds at Beacon Rock State Park

Grant Requested: \$92,000

State Parks will use this grant to restore 11 of the 32 acres of balds along the Hamilton Mountain Trail in Beacon Rock State Park in the Columbia River Gorge. The Washington Natural Heritage Program lists the north Pacific herbaceous balds and bluffs as vulnerable. They are characterized by rich and unusual collections of plant species and often support populations of special status species. The balds along the trail have been damaged by trampling, erosion, and weeds. State Parks will restore the balds during a project to redevelop the trail. State Parks will control invasive plants, close social trails, and seed and plant the area with native bald species. State Parks also will develop management plans for special status species and interpretive signs and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1590)

Preliminary Ranking
Urban Wildlife Habitat Category
Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program
2021-2023

Rank	Score	Project Number and Type	Grant Applicant	Project Name	Grant Request	Applicant Match	Total
1	98.18	20-1241 A	Spokane County	Antoine Peak Phase 4 Etter Ranch	\$1,061,380	\$1,071,052	\$2,132,432
2	91.55	20-1212 A	Capitol Land Trust	Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Conservation Phase 2	\$630,000	\$692,000	\$1,322,000
3	85.73	20-1258 A	Issaquah	Harvey Manning Park Expansion	\$2,658,961	\$7,985,603	\$10,644,564
4	84.64	20-1742 A	Kitsap County	Illahee Preserve Kitsap County Heritage Park	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
5	83.91	20-1427 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Stavis Natural Resource Conservation Area	\$611,073		\$611,073
6	83.36	20-1754 A	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Rockaway Bluff Preserve Acquisition	\$1,374,552	\$1,382,370	\$2,756,922
7	82	20-1424 A	Washington Department of Natural Resources	Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area	\$1,338,671		\$1,338,671
8	81	20-1283 A	Jefferson Land Trust	Quimper Wildlife Corridor Additions	\$610,400	\$610,401	\$1,220,801
8	81	20-1514 A	Forterra	Saint Edward State Park Arrowhead Property	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000
10	80.45	20-1843 A	Newcastle	DeLeo Wall Conservation	\$450,000	\$851,205	\$1,301,205
11	79.18	20-1637 A	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Ebey Island Wildlife Area Addition	\$950,000		\$950,000
Total					\$12,685,037	\$15,592,631	\$28,277,668

Evaluation Scores

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

2021-2023

Rank	Project Number and Type	Project Name	1. Ecological and Biological Characteristics	2. Planning and Community Support	3. Community Benefits and Public Access	4. Management and Stewardship	5. Growth Management Act	6. Population of Urban Area	7. Proximity to Urban Area	Total
		Point Range	0-40	0-15	0-35	0-15	-1-0	0-5	0-5	
1	20-1241 A	Antoine Peak Phase 4 Etter Ranch	32.64	12.82	31.00	12.73	-1.00	5.00	5.00	98.18
2	20-1212 A	Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat Conservation Phase 2	32.18	12.36	27.09	11.91	0.00	4.00	4.00	91.55
3	20-1258 A	Harvey Manning Park Expansion	24.27	12.27	26.82	12.36	0.00	5.00	5.00	85.73
4	20-1742 A	Illahee Preserve Kitsap County Heritage Park	27.64	11.91	25.82	10.27	0.00	4.00	5.00	84.64
5	20-1427 A	Stavis Natural Resource Conservation Area	30.00	12.00	22.36	13.55	0.00	4.00	2.00	83.91
6	20-1754 A	Rockaway Bluff Preserve Acquisition	26.00	11.55	24.55	11.27	0.00	5.00	5.00	83.36
7	20-1424 A	Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area	25.45	12.09	24.64	12.82	0.00	2.00	5.00	82.00
8	20-1283 A	Quimper Wildlife Corridor Additions	25.55	11.73	26.55	11.18	0.00	1.00	5.00	81.00
8	20-1514 A	Saint Edward State Park Arrowhead Property	24.55	11.09	23.27	12.09	0.00	5.00	5.00	81.00
10	20-1843 A	DeLeo Wall Conservation	22.00	12.27	24.55	11.64	0.00	5.00	5.00	80.45
11	20-1637 A	Ebey Island Wildlife Area Addition	26.91	9.45	22.45	10.36	0.00	5.00	5.00	79.18

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Spokane County

Grant Requested: \$1,061,380

Expanding the Antoine Peak Conservation Area

The Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf Department will use this grant to buy 231 acres to expand the Antoine Peak Conservation Area, preserving critical winter habitat for white-tailed deer, elk, moose, and other animals. The purchase also will extend the conservation area to the City of Spokane Valley's doorstep. In addition, the purchase will preserve nearly 1 mile of streambank habitat. The site will provide an outdoor classroom for nearby schools and a possible location for trailhead parking and trails. Spokane County will contribute more than \$1 million in Conservation Futures,¹ equipment, and staff labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1241)

Capitol Land Trust

\$630,000

Conserving Lower Henderson Inlet Habitat

The Capitol Land Trust will use this grant to buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement, for 94 acres on Henderson Inlet, the largest parcel in the area not under conservation. The land has diverse habitats, from estuary and near-shore habitats to agricultural fields, to forests with trees up to 70 years old. It also includes 43.6 acres of wetlands, 39 acres of which are nationally decreasing wetlands, and more than a half-mile each of Meyer's Creek shoreline and Henderson Inlet shoreline. The area supports Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead trout as well as multiple animal species listed as at risk of extinction on state and federal lists. Washington State University, which owns the land, plans to use it for field research and environmental education for its students and faculty as well as local schools and nonprofit education organizations in Thurston County. The Capitol Land Trust will contribute \$692,000 in federal and local grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1212)

Issaquah

Grant Requested: \$2,658,961

Expanding Harvey Manning Park

The City of Issaquah will use this grant to buy 33.53 acres to expand Harvey Manning Park, protecting Cougar Mountain from deforestation. The land contains a mature forest, 6 streams, 12 wetlands, and 31.5 acres of upland habitat. The forest contains a variety of tree species, varied understory plants, and many habitat structures, including snags and logs. The purchase will expand the park to 43.53 acres. The land is next to more than 5,000 acres of conserved land in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Squak Mountain State Park, and Cougar-Squak

¹Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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corridor. The land serves as a gateway to Cougar Mountain and connects to the regional transit station parking garage serving as a weekend trailhead. This project is widely supported by the Trust for Public Land, King County, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Save Cougar Mountain, Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Save Lake Sammamish, and Washington Trails Association. Issaquah will contribute nearly \$8 million in cash, Conservation Futures,² and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1258)

Kitsap County

Grant Requested: \$1,000,000

Expanding the Illahee Preserve, a Kitsap County Heritage Park

The Kitsap County Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to buy up to 46 acres bordering Bremerton to expand the 587-acre Illahee Preserve Heritage Park. The Illahee Preserve is a mature forest with deeply incised canyons and areas so pristine and wild it has been called "The Lost Continent." The preserve includes the nearly self-contained watershed of Illahee Creek, a wildlife preserve, and a system of trails for non-motorized uses. The land sought for purchase includes a homestead property with a pond, much of the South Fork Illahee Creek, and a planned commercial development. The purchase will save Steele Creek wetlands and the wildlife corridor connecting the preserve with Illahee State Park. These acquisitions will bring the Illahee Preserve, a Kitsap County heritage park, to within 95 percent of its preservation goals. Kitsap County will contribute \$1 million in Conservation Futures,³ a local grant, and a grant from the state Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1742)

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Grant Requested: \$611,073

Buying Land in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy about 27 acres for inclusion in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area. The purchase will protect forests along the forks of Stavis, Seabeck, and Boyce Creeks, which are used by chum and coho salmon on Hood Canal. The purchase also will protect rare forest communities in one of the most important corridors for biodiversity conservation in the Puget Trough. Both the conservation area and Kitsap Forest Natural Area Preserve, which is within the same conservation envelope, provide high-quality and rare wildlife habitat, making up a crucial part of a larger landscape of forests on the western Kitsap peninsula. The department will allow low-impact public use in the area, which provides stunning views of the Olympic Mountains and Hood Canal. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1427)

²Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

³Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

Urban Wildlife Habitat Category

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Bainbridge Island Land Trust **Buying the Rockaway Bluff Preserve**

Grant Requested: \$1,374,552

The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will use this grant to conserve permanently the 35-acre Rockaway Bluff Preserve, an exceptional forest lying above Rockaway Beach on Bainbridge Island. The preserve forms the core of an extraordinary intact, but unprotected, forest. It features diverse habitats and is refuge for many species, particularly birds. The purchase would protect one of the last remaining intact and unprotected parcels more than 20 acres in size on the Island, preserving an important mature forest, a complex habitat network, watershed functions, and a wildlife corridor between Pritchard Park and Blakely Harbor Park. Left unprotected, the land is zoned for up to 17 homes. The land trust plans to allow low-impact public use. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust will contribute more than \$1.3 million in cash, Conservation Futures,⁴ staff labor, and donations of cash, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1754)

Washington Department of Natural Resources **Buying Land in the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area**

Grant Requested: \$1,338,671

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to buy 167.4 acres of privately owned land for inclusion in the Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area in east King County. The land is highly threatened by residential development and provides crucial wildlife habitat in an urban area. The land is a part of the Mountains to Sound Greenway, a 100-mile corridor of forests, wildlife habitat, and open spaces along Interstate 90, which is a National Scenic Byway and National Heritage Area. Distinctive features of this site include mature Douglas fir forests, pockets of old-growth forests, snag-rich wildlife habitats, numerous streamside systems, cliffs, steep slopes, and wildlife corridors. The quality of this site is high due to the habitat diversity, remote character, and wildlife connections it provides in the surrounding region. The area is used by a variety of wildlife including northern spotted owls, pileated woodpecker, peregrine falcon, black bear, Roosevelt elk, bobcat, cougar, fox, coyote, osprey, black-tail deer, and a variety of other mammals, birds, insects, and amphibians. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1424)

Jefferson Land Trust **Conserving Missing Links in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor**

Grant Requested: \$610,400

The Jefferson Land Trust will use this grant to buy 41.1 acres in the Quimper Wildlife Corridor in Port Townsend. Since the mid-1990s, Port Townsend, Jefferson County, the land trust, and the community have worked to conserve a 3.5-mile greenbelt of forest and wetlands stretching

⁴Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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across the north Quimper peninsula along the city's largest drainage basin. To date, the partners have permanently preserved more than 245 acres. Recent outreach to remaining landowners resulted in interest from more than 40 people who wish to sell some of the missing links in the corridor's public ownership. The corridor is home to more than 130 bird species, including pileated woodpecker and bald and golden eagles, as well as to amphibians, mountain beaver, bobcat, cougar, deer, and elk. The corridor also has a beloved and extensive network of trails used for hiking, horse riding, biking, connecting neighborhoods, bird watching, school nature programs, and educational activities. The grant also will be used to support an update of the shared management plan and an inventory of rare, old-growth trees. The Jefferson Land Trust will contribute \$610,401 in Conservation Futures,⁵ local and private grants, and donated land or property interest. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1283)

Forterra **Grant Requested: \$2,000,000**

Conserving Lake Washington Shoreline Next to Saint Edward State Park

Forterra, in partnership with the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, will use this grant to buy nearly 13 acres, conserving one of the last undeveloped yet unprotected parcels of wildlife habitat on Lake Washington. This land is next to Saint Edward State Park and includes 288 feet of lake shoreline and more than one-third mile of streams in the Cedar River-Lake Washington watershed. The purchase will protect permanently a forest of Douglas fir, western hemlock, western red cedar, and madrone trees used as a wildlife corridor by coyote, bobcat, long-tailed weasel, river otter, mountain beaver, pileated woodpeckers, and many other smaller mammals, amphibians, and birds. State Parks will buy the land and Forterra will buy a voluntary land preservation agreement, also called a conservation easement. Forterra will contribute \$2 million in Conservation Futures.⁶ Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1514)

Newcastle **Grant Requested: \$450,000**

Conserving Part of the DeLeo Wall

The City of Newcastle will use this grant to buy more than 35 acres of undeveloped, high-quality forest next to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, preventing the land from being clear-cut. Preventing logging will preserve the forest wildlife habitat and protect essential habitat for Chinook and coho salmon. This land is significant because it contains a large portion of the DeLeo Wall, a distinctive geological feature that contributes to this unique habitat. At the top of

⁵Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

⁶Conservation Futures are a portion of property taxes used by local governments to buy land or development rights to protect natural areas, forests, wetlands, and farms.

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the wall is a viewpoint overlooking May Valley and Mount Rainier, which is accessible by well-used trails. Newcastle will contribute \$851,205 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1843)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Conserving Land on Ebey Island

Grant Requested: \$950,000

The Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to buy 63 acres from willing landowners on Ebey Island, near Everett. The land is next to the department's more than 1,200-acre Snoqualmie Wildlife Area. The land includes 25 acres of wetland, 20 acres of forested wetland, and 5 acres of a residential property that will become a parking lot. The parking lot will connect to a county road, which will provide new access to more than 300 acres of department land that is accessible only by boat. The land is used by amphibians, shorebirds, raptors, and waterfowl. The land will be used for bird hunting, wildlife viewing and photography, and hiking. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot for [more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1637)