

No Child Left Inside Grant Summaries



Chelan County

Cascade Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Engaging Students in Watershed Stewardship

Grant Awarded: \$24,930

Cascade Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to support outdoor experiences for 215 students in 38 field experiences as part of its Watching Over the Watershed (WOW) program. The program instills in participants a lifelong appreciation of the outdoors and an active role in protecting threatened and endangered fish and their habitats. Through a partnership with Quincy Innovation Academy and Icicle River Middle School, this program combines classroom learning with stewardship. This partnership provides year-round outdoor experiences and enhances the science and math curricula, creates self-led project learning, and exposes participants to real-world career experience. During this 2-year project, the enhancement group will provide 5,970 student hours of youth outdoor programming with 86 percent of that time spent on stewardship activities. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2238)

Cascadia Conservation District Supporting Watershed Wonders Programming

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

The Cascadia Conservation District will use this grant to support its Kids in the Creek and Kids in the Forest programs. These programs provide 3,600 middle and high school students from Chelan, Douglas, and Okanogan Counties with a full day outdoors investigating forest and streams of north central Washington. The district also will use the grant to create a new program, Ridge to River, which will give 160 students the chance to spend an additional 4 days investigating the Wenatchee River and Entiat River watersheds during different seasons. The goal is to increase student understanding of the local environment and create a positive attitude towards the outdoors. These programs serve highly vulnerable and marginalized populations of low-income families, English language learners, and Hispanic ethnicity. The Cascadia Conservation District will contribute \$25,000 in cash, a state appropriation, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2177)

Washington State University Extension, Chelan County Providing Equipment and a Teacher for the Eco-Stewardship Program

Grant Awarded: \$26,904

Washington State University Extension in Chelan and Douglas Counties will use this grant to hire a teacher and provide equipment for its 4-H Eco-Stewardship program, which is a year-round,

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hands-on, outdoor, environmental science program for youth aged 12-19 years. The program's goals are to cultivate lifelong outdoor recreation habits in youth and foster their development into educated environmental stewards. The youth join natural resource science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) professionals from community-based organizations to complete outdoor service-learning projects, data collection, and recreational activities including backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, snowshoeing, and ropes courses. The grant will buy protective equipment, such as helmets, provide incentives to complete surveys, and pay for computing technology, travel, and the salary of an experiential educator. Washington State University Extension will contribute \$296,093 in donated equipment. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1969)

Wenatchee River Institute

Grant Awarded: \$69,904

Expanding the Traveling Naturalist in the Classroom Program

The Wenatchee River Institute will use this grant to expand its Traveling Naturalist in the Classroom program to a new grade level, benefiting 500 youth over 2 years. The institute's naturalist staff will visit schools monthly and each fifth-grade class will participate in a yearly field trip to the institute or public land near their schools for a day of outdoor learning. At schools, outdoor activities will be environmental education lessons, including nature journaling, observation, and educational games. On the field trip, outdoor activities will include hiking as well as place-based environmental, outdoor education lessons. The goal of the Traveling Naturalist in the Classroom program is to help students develop their sense of place in their community, their skills and knowledge of the natural sciences, their interest in science careers, and their appreciation, wonder, and curiosity for the natural world. Wenatchee River Institute will contribute \$81,306 in staff labor, a private grant, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2088)

Wenatchee School District

Grant Awarded: \$24,882

Teaching Mountain Biking to Underserved Youth

Wenatchee High School will use the grant to introduce 176 underserved youth to mountain biking. With 51 percent of students coming from low-income families, the high school will begin offering biking as part of its school fitness program. The course will begin by teaching students basic skills. Students then will learn introductory mountain bike skills at a new skills park within biking distance of the school. To culminate, students will receive instruction from Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance instructors at Squilchuck State Park just outside of Wenatchee where students will spend the day riding park trails. Wenatchee School District will contribute \$23,220 in cash, staff labor, and a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2226)

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Clallam County

Boys & Girls Clubs of Olympic Peninsula

Grant Awarded: \$57,646

Supporting the Exploring the Great Outdoors Summer Program

The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula will use this grant to support the Exploring the Great Outdoors (EGO) summer education project for youth in Clallam County. EGO combines the Olympic National Park's Jr. Ranger program with additional weekly outdoor excursions giving participants hands-on learning with outdoor recreation experiences in the national park and other locations around the peninsula. EGO's goal is to provide underserved youth with engaging outdoor experiences that teach them about nature conservation, environmental stewardship, and local flora and fauna, while also allowing them to gain familiarity with outdoor activities that support a healthy lifestyle, such as hiking, fishing, beachcombing, and kayaking. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Olympic Peninsula will contribute \$33,184 in donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2380)

Naturebridge

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Providing Scholarships for Environmental Education in Olympic National Park

NatureBridge will use this grant to provide scholarships to 650 underserved kids, primarily ages 9 to 17, to attend an overnight, environmental science program in Olympic National Park, over 2 years. NatureBridge provides experiential outdoor exploration and environmental education for youth to increase their understanding of the Olympic region's natural ecological processes, local habitat restoration, and stewardship. Students use NatureBridge's Olympic National Park campus as home base during 3- to 5-day adventures, exploring trails, snowshoeing, paddling canoes, and conducting real-world scientific research projects. Of the underserved kids, 53 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch, 30 percent are youth of color, and 5 percent are learning English. Naturebridge will contribute \$25,000 in donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2042)

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Clark County

Camp Hope of Southwest Washington Expanding Camp Hope

Grant Awarded: \$22,350

Camp Hope of Southwest Washington will use this grant to expand its outdoor programs during the next 2 years by adding a nature photography class, providing food and camping improvements, buying supplies, and hiring up to five part-time staff to allow more kids to attend. Camp Hope sits on 107 acres along the southern banks of the East Fork Lewis River in Battle Ground. It was created to help combat the rise of teen suicides, substance abuse, and low academic performance in southwest Washington. Camp Hope provides creative ways for youth to connect with caring adults and other youth, helping them feel valued and accepted. Camp Hope seeks to empower youth and provide them with skills to overcome life's challenges through various methods including outdoor recreation, nature-based education, and mentoring. Camp Hope of Southwest Washington will contribute \$95,664 in staff labor, a private grant, and donations of cash, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2045)

Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group Supporting the Hope for Salmon Program

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

The Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group will use this grant to pay for teaching and safety equipment, paid internships, and staff time for its Hope for Salmon program. This program provides teens with field experience and exposure to careers in the conservation field, while also increasing their understanding of the salmon life cycle and healthy watersheds. Teens from Legacy High School, Rocksolid Teen Center, and Camp Hope will conduct field experiments in rivers and on streambanks in Baz River Front Park and Lewisville and Lacamas Regional Parks. The enhancement group also will partner with Clark College's Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement program and League of United Latin American Citizens to offer paid internships to help implement the Hope for Salmon program. The program's goal is to create better salmon stewards who will play a role in helping increase salmon populations in southwest Washington. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1971)

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Cowlitz County

Mount Saint Helens Institute Offering a Volcano Outdoor School

Grant Awarded: \$30,000

The Mount Saint Helens Institute will use this grant to offer an outdoor, science-based education project on Mount Saint Helens, a National Volcanic Monument. The institute will offer day, overnight, and virtual educational programming to 4,600 underserved youth in schools in Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties. Students will come face-to-face with geologic forces and discover the amazing stories of plant and animal life in the heart of the volcano's blast zone. Outdoor recreational opportunities primarily will take place at the monument's Science and Learning Center and at Seaquest State Park's Mount Saint Helens Visitor Center. Activities will include guided hikes, immersed learning using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, journaling, inquiry discussion, and field studies. Youth will acquire an appreciation of the dynamic wilderness in Washington, gain social and emotional learning skills, and benefit from place-based learning that prepares them for academic success and careers in tourism and natural resources. The Mount Saint Helens Institute will contribute \$67,039 in a federal appropriation, a private grant, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2276)

Jefferson County

A Warm Current Providing Access to Surfing Gear Year-Round

Grant Awarded: \$22,100

A Warm Current will use this grant to buy a trailer, surfing gear, beach cleanup supplies and literature, safety equipment, and instructions on how to surf the Hoh River mouth safely for youth in the Hoh Tribe. Due to the remote location of the Hoh Reservation and barriers to recreational activities for youth there, it is critically important to provide the gear and the opportunity for tribal youth to exercise year-round. The trailer will allow A Warm Current to safely store surfing equipment and move it easily when the beach floods. A Warm Current will contribute \$5,440 in donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2287)

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Northwest Maritime Center Getting Duwamish Valley Kids All Aboard

Grant Awarded: \$146,909

The Northwest Maritime Center will use this grant to support its All Aboard-Duwamish Valley education program, which serves 620 students in grades 6 through 12 with 21,440 hours of outdoor discovery. The center will offer students at Maritime High School, a project-based learning school, five, 5-day sailing expeditions. During the week, students take ownership and by expedition end, they are setting sails, charting courses, and conducting science investigations. Five, 2-day sailing and camping expeditions and 16 half-day kayak and walking tours are designed for middle school students and their families from South Park. The center will offer 28 teachers at Highline Public Schools 32 hours of training, including an overnight, boat-based training and hands-on learning with their students on sailing expeditions. Highline schools are some of the most diverse in the state, with 80 percent of students people of color and more than 60 percent eligible for free and reduced lunches. The goals of these programs are to provide career pathways to maritime and ocean sciences jobs and engage youth in solving the region's environmental challenges. The Northwest Maritime Center will contribute \$48,971 in staff labor and donations of cash and equipment. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2247)

Northwest Watershed Institute Providing an Environmental Science and Leadership Course

Grant Awarded: \$60,000

The Northwest Watershed Institute will use this grant to provide a 2-week-long, summer environmental science and leadership course that explores marine, freshwater, and forested environments to 20 teens from east Jefferson County for free. The Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Program gives the teens high school credit. Ten participants go on to complete mentorships with natural resource experts during the school year for additional high school credit. The teens work with professional mentors from Northwest Watershed Institute, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, and other groups who introduce important local natural places and techniques, local environmental issues, solutions, and career paths. The Northwest Watershed Institute will contribute \$20,690 in equipment, and donations of labor and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2346)

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King County

Auburn

Grant Awarded: \$22,890

Teaching Mountain Biking to Elementary School Kids

The Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation Department will use this grant to create a program for elementary students that introduces them to mountain biking. Using Cedar Lanes Park, which is being developed as a bike park with a pump track, dirt track, and skills park, this program will offer free, after-school programming that includes mountain biking skills and techniques and a social-emotional curriculum. The program also will offer camps and field trips to ride local trails during school breaks. Through a partnership with a local nonprofit, participants will be able to earn a bike and helmet of their own for home. The program promotes physical activity through biking and environmental stewardship through trail maintenance projects at the park. Mountain biking is used as a catalyst to promote healthy living, self-esteem, and youth empowerment to students at a high-need elementary school. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2371)

Bike Works

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Engaging Youth in Bicycle Riding and Bike Repair

Bike Works will use this grant to engage 1,170 youth in its bicycle program that includes bike repair community service projects and bike riding clubs and camps. For example, in its Earn-A-Bike Repair Classes, youth earn community service hours and a bike for themselves by fixing up bikes to give away to kids in need. Bike Riding Clubs & Camps give youth access to mountain biking, cyclocross, BMX bikes, and road biking. Bikes-for-All! gives bikes and helmets to 600 youth who cannot afford them, and the BikeMobile has youth apprentices offer free bike repair to neighborhoods without bike shops. Youth also can participate in the Youth Advisory Committee, which helps make decisions at Bike Works, volunteers at events, serves as peer mentors, and represents Seattle at the National Youth Bicycle Summit. Finally, in the Job Readiness Training program, youth learn bike mechanic and other job skills to prepare them for future employment. Bike Works will contribute \$429,128 in and a private grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2290)

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Burien **Supporting Burien's Outdoor Explorers Program**

Grant Awarded: \$68,869

The City of Burien will use this grant to support its Outdoor Explorers Program, an environmental education summer camp for youth ages 10-14. Held in the city's Seahurst Park, the summer camp offers hiking, survival skills, team building, creative art projects, wildlife tracking, and environmental awareness about salmon habitat, native plants and species, climate change, deforestation, and the impact people make on the outdoors. The program is designed to build skills for leadership and a variety of outdoor recreational activities and create environmental awareness, appreciation of nature, and feelings of safety. Participants will be inspired to become the next generation of outdoor education and recreation leaders with the opportunity for future employment. Burien will contribute \$29,162. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2284)

Environmental Science Center **Fostering Stewardship Through Beach Explorations**

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

The Environmental Science Center will use this grant to take 4,000 students in kindergarten through third grades to a local beach during low tides. The Fostering Stewardship Through Beach Explorations program integrates environmental issues into marine organism science units to help students connect with and better understand the fragile near-shore environment. The kids will have a classroom lesson and spend 2 hours at Seahurst Park in Burien. Students will learn about animal adaptations, food web dynamics, and the largest seawall restoration project in Puget Sound. They also will do a beach clean-up. Older students will participate in a shoreline monitoring science project. At the end of the program, all students take a pledge committing to protecting and conserving Puget Sound. The Environmental Science Center will contribute \$68,582 in a private grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2372)

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance **Introducing Youth to Mountain Biking**

Grant Awarded: \$57,500

The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will use this grant to provide equipment, transportation, and training to youth in Wenatchee and south King County who want to try mountain biking. The alliance will work with Shifting Gears, which is an education program for underserved youth. Through this program the alliance hopes to provide youth with an experience they may not have otherwise had, increase their confidence, build an appreciation for the outdoors, and provide a positive outlet for challenges they may face. The Youth Experiential Training Institute (YETI), King County Department of Public Defense, Community Passageways, Wenatchee School District, and

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Pinnacles Prep school will work with the alliance to identify and reach out to participants, provide transportation to the trails, and maintain the equipment. The alliance will provide the education and coordinate the partners' activities. The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will contribute \$19,500 in equipment, staff labor, and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2315)

King County Supporting the Get Out and Learn Program

Grant Awarded: \$17,400

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks' White Center Teen Program will use this grant to introduce 50 youth to outdoor education and recreation opportunities in its Get Out and Learn (GOAL) Program. The youth will participate in activities such as hiking, backpacking, cycling, kayaking, rock climbing, and wildlife watching in the 12-acre park surrounding the White Center Community Center and in national, state, King County, and city parks. GOAL integrates the educational concepts of recreating responsibly, leadership, problem solving, teamwork, water safety, nutrition, environmental awareness, and the ecology of local marine, freshwater, and forest environments. The primary mission of GOAL is to introduce White Center youth to experiences that foster environmental awareness, build recreational skills, develop leadership, and reinforce healthy lifestyles. The teen program estimates that 95 percent of the outdoor experiences of participants were first-time encounters. King County will contribute \$20,000 in equipment, staff labor, materials, and donated materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2397)

Mountains to Sound Greenway Offering Environmental Internships

Grant Awarded: \$68,820

The Mountains to Sound Greenway will use this grant to support two projects that equip teens with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration they need to pursue conservation careers. The Clean Water Ambassadors program provides a paid, year-long internship that gives interns valuable field experience, the ability to hone leadership and communication skills, and a chance to make professional connections in the environmental community. Through field trips and interviewing environmental professionals, interns learn about urban and natural water systems, including the key role of salmon and humans on water quality. In the Equitable Green Opportunities for Youth in Highline program, students participate in a 6-week summer course while earning both school credit and a stipend. Students will work with Greenway Trust staff to restore sites in King County, including Lake Sammamish State Park and Camp Waskowitz. The Mountains to Sound Greenway will contribute \$22,940 in cash and staff labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2154)

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Nepal Seattle Hiking Community Sharing Washington's Outdoors with Himalayan Youth

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Nepal Seattle Hiking Community will use this grant to for year-round day trips, campouts, and stewardship activities for 120 underserved Nepali youth ages 10 to 18. The group will offer seven mentored trips to state parks and national parks and forests. Proposed activities include day hikes exploring salmon habitat, wildflowers and wildfires, and snowshoeing. The group also will offer stewardship activities on Earth Day and campouts where participants will pick berries, hike to an alpine lake, star gaze, and see glacier melt and climate change in action. The participants will reflect on their experiences through photography, voice, storytelling, music, and art. The program will share the culture and stories from the Himalayas about nature's sacredness and human's responsibility to protect it, and relate that to the ecosystem of the Cascade Mountains and the Native Americans' stewardship of these lands and waters. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2257)

Seattle Providing Youth Outdoor Leadership Opportunities

Grant Awarded: \$70,524

The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department will use this grant to provide its year-long Youth Outdoor Leadership Opportunities (YOLO) program. The City will train and mentor racially and culturally diverse youth in the field of outdoor recreation and then hire 9 of them as interns during the spring and summer of 2022. The interns will work alongside staff to lead outdoor programs for youth and gain valuable job experience. The City will recruit both interns and participants from underserved black, indigenouness, and people of color communities, expecting to reach more than 1,400 underserved youth to participate in the programs during 2022. YOLO programs will happen in low-income neighborhood parks and at state and national parks around Washington. Programs will include hiking, camping, boating, conservation activities, environmental education classes, nature walks, team building exercises, and challenge courses. The program strives to remove barriers to the enjoyment of public lands that communities of color face and to engage youth in memorable outdoor experiences with leaders that look like them. The City of Seattle will contribute \$96,576 in local and private grants, staff labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2220)

The Mountaineers Offering Mountain Workshops for Puget Sound Area Kids

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Mountaineers will use this grant to expand its Mountain Workshops program, which is a wellness-based program that empowers youth with experiential outdoor education and

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recreation opportunities. The Mountain Workshops will serve at least 3,000 youth through 200 program days and more than 15,000 hours of time outside. About 79 percent of students are youth of color and 74 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch. Through partnerships with more than 30 schools and nonprofits in King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties, Mountain Workshops support the needs of youth who traditionally face significant barriers to accessing outdoor programming. The goal of the program is to deliver single- and multi-day outdoor experiences that inspire youth to build a lifelong connection with nature. Participants enjoy year-round activities on public lands, including rock climbing, hiking, backpacking, snowshoeing, camping, and more. The activities take place on a number of public lands, including six state parks, one Department of Natural Resources' land, Mount Rainier National Park, and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The Mountaineers will contribute \$164,650 in staff labor, a private grant, and donations of cash, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1970)

The Nature Conservancy Getting Kids to Nature Preserves

Grant Awarded: \$63,630

The Nature Conservancy will use this grant to grow its Partners to Preserves program by supporting 40 trips for almost 400 youth to preserves across Washington. The Partners to Preserves program works with organizations serving youth to bring their outdoor programs to conservancy preserves in Douglas, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Kittitas, Okanagan, Pacific, San Juan, and Snohomish Counties. Youth will participate in science and learn natural and cultural history, art, hiking, and camping. This grant will cover transportation, supplies, meals, development of educational toolkits, and stipends to trip leaders. The Nature Conservancy will contribute \$21,214 in donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2224)

The Service Board Supporting Outdoor Recreation Programs for Youth

Grant Awarded: \$97,890

The Service Board will use this grant to support two of its outdoor recreation programs. The youth-led Core Program and the Summer Leadership Impact Program run collectively for 8 months with virtual or in-person workshops, outdoor service-learning projects, and small-group snowboarding, snowshoeing, hiking, and surfing trips. The Service Board provides mentorship, outdoor adventure, environmental and social justice education, and public service opportunities for high-school aged youth from marginalized communities (low-income, people of color, immigrant, refugee, homeless, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) across King County. The vast majority of students face significant financial barriers and have physical and mental health limitations. The organization's goals are to address these barriers, diversify the outdoors, and increase opportunities for participation at the intersections of social,

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environmental, and civic life. The Service Board will contribute \$32,630 in donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2406)

Tiny Trees Preschool Providing Outdoor Preschool in King County

Grant Awarded: \$74,570

The Tiny Trees Preschool will use this grant to provide equipment and staff support at the first, full-day outdoor preschool program at Dottie Harper Park in Burien. Tiny Trees children are outdoors every day, year-round. That means by the time a child leaves Tiny Trees at the age of 5, they will have spent a majority of their waking lives learning and playing outside, stewards of the nature in their own neighborhoods. Each day, 80 children attend Tiny Trees preschool in one of six locations in city and county parks across King County. Half of the children enrolled receive free or reduced tuition. The grant will ensure access to culturally responsive, outdoor education programs in communities where these opportunities are out of financial reach. The Tiny Trees Preschool will contribute \$38,240 in a private grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2359)

Unleash the Brilliance Expanding the Outside Experience for King County Youth

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

Unleash the Brilliance will use this grant to expand its 3-year-old outdoor program. Working with partners and five high schools in south King County, the program will provide 100 middle and high school students with outdoor, cross-cultural, enrichment activities totaling 24 full days and 40 half days in two summers. Each youth will spend 6 days at Cedar Springs' 62-acre basecamp lodge and 40 half days on public lands in 14 parks in King and Skagit Counties. The grant will allow the group to increase the number of participants from 30 in past years to 100 now, and add an additional 30 hours of programming. Ninety percent of the participants are students of color on free or reduced lunches. Activities include journaling, kayaking, rafting, camping, hiking, water quality monitoring, restoring land along waterways, removing invasive plants, macroinvertebrates waterway sampling, and pollution prevention monitoring. The goals are to increase the executive functioning and emotional maturity of youth exposed to extremely adverse childhood experiences and trauma, re-engage them academically, and provide healing opportunities through an outdoor experience with credible mentors representing a caring community. Project partners include Puget Soundkeeper, King County Water and Land Resources Division, Duwamish Native Veterans Program, Forterra, The Austin Foundation, and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Unleash the Brilliance will contribute \$85,267 in private and state grants and donated equipment. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2352)

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World Relief Seattle

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Supporting Refugee Youth Summer Academy Recreation Trips

World Relief Seattle will use this grant to support five recreation trips a year over 2 years for refugee youth participating in its Refugee Youth Summer Academy program. The trips will include local state parks, preserves, and adventure parks where students will have the opportunity to explore tidal flats and botanical gardens, hike, try challenge courses, rock climb, and more. The five-week program for newly arrived refugees in the Kent School District supports children as they transition into a new home and school system. The academy provides trauma-informed, hands-on learning opportunities that facilitate English practice; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) learning; confidence-building; peer relationships; and a more grounded sense of place. World Relief Seattle will contribute \$189,254 in a private grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2263)

YMCA of Greater Seattle

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

Taking Kids Beyond City Limits

The YMCA of Greater Seattle will use this grant to support its BOLD & GOLD (Boys & Girls Outdoor Leadership Development) Beyond City Limits project. This project provides a three-tiered, outdoor adventure progression that will serve 2,500 youth during 2 years. The YMCA will offer new, single-day hiking, boating, climbing, and snowshoeing programs and front country camping experiences as a gateway to 1- to 3-week wilderness backpacking trips. Beyond City Limits will take place outdoors and on public lands including state parks, state Department of Natural Resources areas, and federal lands. Participants will develop community awareness, emotional intelligence, self-confidence, courage, and wonder for the natural world. The YMCA of Greater Seattle will contribute \$1.1 million in a private grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2073)

Young Women Empowered

Grant Awarded \$75,000

Getting Urban Teens Outside in Nature Connections Program

Young Women Empowered will use this grant to support Nature Connections, a year-round education program serving primarily women ages 13-18. Along with adult mentors, the teens learn about the natural world as they hike, rock climb, backpack, camp, snowshoe, kayak, and garden. This Seattle-based group serves teens, 80 percent of whom are of color and who have few opportunities to explore the natural world. The overall goal of the Nature Connections program is to create youth who are engaged learners with a personal connection to nature, a commitment to healthy living, and increased awareness of ways to access nature and outdoor

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recreation activities. Young Women Empowered will contribute \$25,152 in, staff labor, materials, a private grant, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2117)

Youth Experiential Training Institute (Y.E.T.I.) Adding a Youth Kayaking Program

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

The Youth Experiential Training Institute (Y.E.T.I.) will use this grant to begin a youth kayaking program on Puget Sound and inland lakes. The program will include collaborations with other area nonprofits, including the Seahurst Environmental Science Center, to help students learn about the Salish Sea, salmon life cycle, and more. The grant also will provide the resources to plan and staff these activities. For more than a decade, Y.E.T.I. has worked with the Highline School District and with other community partners in south King County to invite young people to build deep connections with wild places through outdoor recreation. On these adventures, students refine their social-emotional skills, like grit, to help them be successful on trips and in life. The Youth Experiential Training Institute will contribute \$26,100 in a private grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2318)

Kitsap County

Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe Investing in S'Klallam Strong Outdoor Ventures

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe will use this grant to support its Strong Outdoor Ventures program, which serves 48 children in its Early Childhood Education program and involves about 34 youth mentors (elementary to high school aged) from its Youth Service Program in environmental and cultural education, including stewardship. Project elements include the creation of outdoor education stations that will support active, hands-on learning, such as outdoor mud kitchens, natural circle time gathering areas, and active documentation stations with magnifiers, binoculars, identification books, and clipboards. Other program goals include expansion of outdoor exploration areas to beaches, trails, and wooded areas, providing the opportunity to explore and learn about plants, birds, shellfish, sea life, and other wildlife. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2317)

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Kittitas County

Washington Outdoor School Enhancing Kittitas County Environmental Education

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Washington Outdoor School will use this grant to support scholarships, teacher salaries, educational supplies, healthy snacks, and camp materials as part of environmental education program for 800 preschool to middle school children in Kittitas County. The program helps promote a sense of place, awaken curiosity, and create healthy minds and bodies through active educational experiences while developing community environmental stewardship.

Environmental education destinations will include the Roslyn Urban Forest, Olmstead State Park, and Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail. The Washington Outdoor School will contribute \$5,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2214)

Klickitat County

White Salmon Valley Schools Expanding Summer Camps for White Salmon Youth

Grant Awarded: \$23,800

The White Salmon Valley School District will use this grant to support outdoor activities for about 650 children by expanding two programs: A-List Adventures Summer School and Outdoor School. Over 2 years, about 250 kids will attend a summer day camp in Gifford Pinchot National Forest and about 400 students in grades 6-8 will attend Outdoor School at Brooks Memorial State. With about 58 percent of students from low-income families, students will learn about the local natural world as they camp, hike, and engage in outdoor educational activities. White Salmon Valley Schools will contribute \$33,730 in donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2174)

Mason County

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group Supporting Hood Canal Watershed Environmental Education

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

The Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group will use this grant to support its four environmental education programs. The grant will help the enhancement group update its

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curriculum, increase outdoor experiences and stewardship projects, and add more schools to its 10-school Salmon in the Classroom program. The enhancement group also will be able to expand its Students in the Watershed program, which is a partnership with North Mason High School and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources regional office. The Explore the Fjord summer program immerses students in the local environment through experiential learning in state parks, national forests, and on the water. Finally, the Union River Estuary Interpretation Program will revitalize the adjacent Theler Wetland exhibit hall and classroom, and include the rest of the property and its trail system in outdoor education programs. The ultimate goal of these programs is to increase environmental understanding and stewardship in the Hood Canal watershed, particularly as it relates to healthy salmon habitat, clean water, and the local effects of climate change. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2347)

Hood Canal School District

Grant Awarded: \$137,248

Supporting Recreation and Education Programs Along Waterways

The Hood Canal School District will use this grant to support its BOOTS and Riparian Enhancement program. This program consists of three separate programs. The Jr. BOOTS program provides opportunities for 24 students to participate in a 45-day course that includes outdoor team-building, hiking, habitat enhancement, trash removal, and trail maintenance. The BOOTS and Riparian Enhancement program provides opportunities for 40 students to participate in 90 days of hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, team-building initiatives, career education, environmental science field work, habitat enhancement, salmon recovery, trash removal, and trail maintenance. The Advanced Summer Wilderness program provides opportunities for six students to participate in a week-long session including an intensive backcountry trip that includes climbing and kayaking. The goals of these programs are to increase educational attainment, build self-esteem, foster stronger student-to-school connections, and promote environmental stewardship. All activities take place in or near habitats along waterways and are intended to positively impact plant and animal species there. The Hood Canal School District will contribute \$113,256 in a state appropriation and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2065)

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Pierce County

Child and Family Hope Center

Grant Awarded: \$60,800

Expanding Tacoma Outdoor Learning Opportunities

The Child and Family Hope Center will use this grant to expand the opportunity for underserved youth in the childcare program to engage in outdoor education, recreation, and restoration experiences. The expansion will focus on three groups: low-income youth, children of parents in substance abuse recovery and mental health services, and preschoolers, including those in foster and kinship care. The project connects these students to local, regional, and state parks for ecological activities and activities focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, along with physical education through hikes and park clean-ups. The Child and Family Hope Center will contribute \$20,450 in staff labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1961)

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Enhancing Environmental Justice Camps for Girls from Underserved Communities

Citizens for a Healthy Bay will use this grant to support operations, curriculum development, camper recruitment, camp facilitation, and equipment for its Environmental Justice Camps. The project also will include stipends for women of color in the natural sciences industry to join the camps as co-leads. The camps are designed to reach girls from underserved communities in Tacoma by providing experiential outdoor education about the local environment, environmental justice, and environmental advocacy. Low-income and communities of color are severely underrepresented in the natural science fields, and women are underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Young women in these communities have little access to quality environmental education and experiences and therefore are less connected to environment and less likely to become environmental stewards. The camps aim to close this gap by sparking the next generation of environmental stewards. Camp activities include patrolling Commencement Bay, visiting tidepools, installing raingardens at the campers' schools, visiting the Puyallup Tribe's hatchery, and other experiences. Citizens for a Healthy Bay will contribute \$112,216 in local and state grants and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2253)

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Foss Waterway Seaport

Grant Awarded: \$59,612

Teaching Kids to Kayak on the Thea Foss Waterway

The Foss Waterway Seaport will use this grant to teach 104 underserved youth to kayak and improve their knowledge of the marine environment. Many students don't have the opportunity to recreate on the water and don't understand the Sound, its health, the benefits it provides, and its connection to the region's well-being. This experience will combine recreation and learning that enhances their classroom science learning. This work will extend a pilot program that targeted under-resourced youth in Tacoma schools by combining kayaking instruction and experiences with marine environmental education. The program demonstrated that youth improved their academic performance, self-esteem, personal responsibility, and personal health. Foss Waterway Seaport will contribute \$183,125 in equipment, materials, and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2279)

Horse Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers

Grant Awarded: \$22,500

Providing a Summer Program Exploring America's First National Park Rangers

The Horse Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers will use this grant to offer a 1-week summer program that explores the history and significance of America's first national park rangers. During the program, students will visit sites of historical and natural significance—Buffalo Soldiers Museum in Tacoma, Buffalo Soldiers Bivouac Site in DuPont, 25th Infantry Band Site at Fort Lawton in Seattle's Discovery Park, American Lake Maneuvers at Sequelitchew Creek at the Nisqually delta, and National History Park at Fort Vancouver. Participants will engage in a variety of outdoor activities, hands-on environmental protection, and other learning that includes preservation of wildlife and water systems, Native American culture and heritage, historic trails, survival skills, and music, skits, and plays. The overall objective is to present factual lessons in American history and experience in the outdoor setting that set the stage for many of the concepts students will explore. Project partners include the 9th and 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers Museum, Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma, Fort Vancouver, Fort Lawton, and Tacoma Public Schools. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2123)

Lakewood

Grant Awarded: \$17,350

Supporting Lakewood's Outdoor Environmental Education Program

The City of Lakewood's will use this grant to offer a year of day-long outdoor adventures and events. The grant will be used for staffing, supplies, and program needs to ensure the adventures are low or no cost and accessible to all. The events will include orienteering, geocaching, fishing, non-motorized water sports, environmental education, bird watching,

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camping and survival skills, nature photography, art, and gardening. The outdoor adventures are designed to bring youth ages 8 to 16 outside to try activities they might not have experienced. The activities will be in parks in and around Lakewood. Lakewood will contribute \$5,900. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2086)

Pierce County

Grant Awarded: \$87,306

Supporting Outdoor Experiences for Pierce County Rural Teens

Pierce County Parks and Recreation Services will use this grant to support the Pierce Outdoor LIFE (Leadership Instruction and Field Experiences) Program for rural teens living in Pierce County whom Juvenile Court determined need access to outdoor adventure experiences for social-emotional benefits. One day a week for 6 weeks, 10-12 teens receive nature-based experiential learning and leadership development, hands-on natural stewardship projects with environmental education lessons, and outdoor sport and leisure activities. Five days are held in a regional park and one day is an outing where the teens practice the skills learned in a state park. The participants will be introduced to a variety of activity providers and environmental education specialists who can help them pursue outdoor recreation after the program. Pierce Outdoor Life is a collaborative project with Juvenile Court, which refers the teens; Pierce County, which developed and manages the program; and Washington State University Cooperative Extension, which provides training and evaluation. Pierce County will contribute \$57,260 in equipment, staff labor, materials, and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2342)

San Juan County

Boy Scouts of America Troop 90 Irrevocable Trust

Grant Awarded: \$24,999

Supporting San Juan Island Camping for Inner City Kids

The Boy Scouts of America will use this grant to fund scholarships for 40 to 80 youth to travel to San Juan Island for 2 or more nights of camping as part of its Putting Outing In Scouting for Inner City and Economically Disadvantaged Youth program. This program will identify scouting units throughout Washington with a majority of low-income youth and provide funding for food, transportation, and materials for skills building such as pocketknives, compasses, t-shirts, and patches. In addition, campers will have the chance to go whale watching, earn the Pig War Military Road Trail National Historic Award, sea kayak, mountain bike, and visit two national parks. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2144)

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Salish Sea Sciences

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Unleashing Students' Brilliance with Salish Sea Sciences

Salish Sea Sciences will use this grant to expand its 2-week, residential, summer Ecology & Conservation program for 20 Unleash the Brilliance and Rainier Scholars students with a demonstrated interest in the environment. Participants are all low-income students of color. Students will hike, canoe, sail, camp, comb the beach, and have mentorship experiences in the field with experts in marine and environmental sciences, maritime training, naturalism, conservation, restoration, advocacy, and law. All activities take place outside in national, county, and state parks, county and University of Washington biological preserves, and San Juan Islands channels. Students gain knowledge of watershed and estuarial systems and public, private, and tribal mitigation and advocacy efforts. Students return home with a fresh appreciation for the shared water system, enabled with knowledge and skills to engage with their home environment as leaders. Salish Sea Sciences will contribute \$20,000 in a private grant and donations of equipment and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2416)

San Juan Island Conservation District

Grant Awarded: \$40,000

Expanding the San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corps

The San Juan Islands Conservation District will use this grant to recruit economically and culturally under-resourced youth to the Youth Conservation Corps, create field-focused internships for high school students, and provide updated curriculum on ecological sciences research. The Youth Conservation Corp will expand services for middle school students in the summer and develop an internship program for 10 high school students year-round. Youth will work on stewardship and restoration projects, inquiry-based experiential outdoor education, technical field skill-building, and professional development. Students will do trail maintenance, forest stand analysis and data collection, endangered species restorations, beach litter cleanup, public outreach and education, noxious weed removal, and other environmental stewardship activities on federal, state, county, and preservation lands in the San Juan Islands. In addition, youth ages 12-18 will be engaged in curriculum provided in partnership with Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University. The goal is to connect students to meaningful stewardship activities and promote technical expertise in land management. The San Juan Island Conservation District will contribute \$19,000 in a private grant and donations of labor and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2381)

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Skagit County

Camp Korey

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Providing Outdoor Camps for Children with Medical Conditions

Camp Korey will use this grant to provide therapeutic recreational camp programs for 520 children living with serious medical conditions and their family members. From March through November, participants will explore the 200-acre campus at the foothills of the Cascade Mountains, and join in archery, arts and crafts, horseback riding, cycling, kayaking, Stage Night and Silly Olympics, and fishing, boating, and swimming in nearby Lake McMurray. The camps help children living with serious medical conditions experience the simple joys of childhood, increase their confidence, and discover new strengths that help them build resilience. Camp Korey will contribute \$277,021 in local and private grants and donations of cash, equipment, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2041)

Fidalgo Nature School

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Offering Full Day Classes Outside to Preschoolers

The Fidalgo Nature School will use this grant to add full-day classes, serve meals, and provide outdoor clothing and gear to its students. The preschool serves children aged 3-6 and offers them 8 hours a day outside, 1 to 5 days a week, from September to June. The kids explore the forest, beach, trails, and campground of Bowman Bay in Deception Pass State Park. They are immersed in the rich coastal landscapes, old-growth forests, and Coast Salish cultural heritage of the park. As the only fully outdoor preschool in Skagit and Island Counties, this grant will help remove barriers for under-resourced families who want to pursue outdoor education. The school also will offer free tuition for 24 Samish Indian Nation children from the tribe's Head Start Program to the full-day outdoor preschool for 1 day a week over 2 years. Fidalgo Nature School will contribute \$40,258 in donations of cash and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2013)

Mount Vernon Parks Foundation

Grant Awarded: \$6,500

Taking Fifth Graders on Mountain Hikes

The Mount Vernon Parks Foundation, in partnership with local schools, will use this grant to provide transportation, a booklet, a hiking etiquette guide, and a trail map for 700 fifth graders on their 5-mile hike on Little Mountain in 2021 and 2022. The students will learn hiking and trail etiquette and about the variety of trails and natural wonders in the park. Lead-up lessons make

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connections with academic content and fitness concepts. During the hike students will pause for learning activities and lunch at the top. About 65 percent of the students are people of color, 83 percent are poor, and 35 percent are English language learners. The goal of the hike is to provide an outdoor learning experience to many students that might not otherwise have the opportunity. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2373)

North Cascades Institute Offering Youth Leadership Adventures

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The North Cascades Institute will use this grant to offer Youth Leadership Adventures, which is an environmental education program that provides 8- and 12-day backpacking and canoe camping courses for high school students in Skagit and Whatcom Counties. Each student will spend 12 to 16 hours building and maintaining trails, bridges, and backcountry campgrounds in North Cascades National Park or Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Students also are connected to a climate activism, after-school program called Youth for the Environment and People! This allows them to put their ideas for protecting the environment into practice. Throughout the 12-week program, students gather in state parks to conduct stewardship projects, gain skills in civic engagement, and network with other environmental agencies and businesses. The goals of Youth Leadership Adventures are to increase access to outdoor recreation, normalize conversations about climate change and environmental justice, and empower local youth to envision and build a just and sustainable future. By engaging in immersive wilderness experiences, the teens build leadership and communication skills that give them the confidence to engage in collaborative action. The North Cascades Institute will contribute \$184,930 in local and private grants and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2332)

Swinomish Tribe Supporting Swinomish Tribe's 13 Moons Curriculum

Grant Awarded: \$35,802

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's Community Environmental Health Program will use this grant to expand the Swinomish 13 Moons informal curriculum to children from preschool through high school. Thirteen Moons is the traditional seasonal harvest calendar of the Coast Salish peoples. The curriculum teaches environmental health and sustainability through outdoor activities that focus on Coast Salish first foods, technologies, culture, and language. The curriculum is taught on the Swinomish Indian Reservation to Swinomish and other Native American youth who live in the community. Participants learn plant identification, English and Lushootseed names, Coast Salish stories associated with the species, harvest, preparation, and use. The Swinomish Tribe will contribute \$12,950 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2364)

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Swinomish Tribe

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

Supporting the Swinomish Youth Program: Between Two Worlds

The Swinomish Tribe will use this grant to pay for teachers and program needs for a youth education program called *Between Two Worlds*. Swinomish people call themselves the “People of the Salmon” and their culture relies on water-dependent livelihoods in the Salish Sea, centered on the Swinomish Reservation near La Conner. A common saying at Swinomish is “When the tide is out, the table is set.” Without tribal youth having meaningful experiences of the interconnectedness of nature and a sense of stewardship over the land, the tribe’s natural resources and traditional ways of life may be threatened. *Between Two Worlds* is designed to give Swinomish high school students an appreciation of the land and provide them with the cultural and scientific tools to be good stewards. Each teaching unit includes field activities that integrate science and culture. These occur at local beaches, forests, and estuaries of historic and cultural value to the tribe. The program’s goals are to provide experiential, outdoor learning in indigenous science, foster the next generation of stewards, and expose youth to tribal role models and tribal careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. The Swinomish Tribe will contribute \$50,006 in staff labor. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2209)

The Salish Sea School

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Providing Outdoor Marine Conservation Leadership Programs

The Salish Sea School will use this grant to provide its year-round marine conservation leadership programs both on shore and on the water. The leadership programs cultivate an outdoor-based student community that works to restore the health of the Salish Sea. Programs include outdoor adventures, place-based lessons, field research, underwater drone exploration, listening to orca calls on a hydrophone, local marine state park hikes, tribal land acknowledgements, animal surveys, lessons on mindfulness in nature and natural history of marine life, leadership mentoring, and participation in service projects such as planting trees for salmon. More than 200 youth, from kindergarten through high school, participate annually. Of those, 42 percent are low income, 40 percent are youth of color, 40 percent are first-generation college-bound students, and 16 percent have a disability. The Salish Sea School will contribute \$147,968 in staff labor, local and private grants, and donations of cash and equipment. Visit RCO’s online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2298)

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Skamania County

CultureSeed

Grant Awarded: \$95,967

Expanding a Outdoor Immersion and Mentoring Program

CultureSeed will use this grant to expand its flagship Year-Round Outdoor & Engagement Youth Cohort and Outdoor Mentorship Program to serve 96 kids, year-round for 2 years. Youth attend full-day monthly outings with seasonal recreation opportunities, a 7-day summer backpacking trip, and weekly peer circles. All of the youth qualify for free and reduced lunches and up to 90 percent are youth of color. CultureSeed is in southwest Washington and the only organization in the Columbia Gorge region offering year-round outdoor immersion and outdoor mentorship for historically underserved and low-income youth. CultureSeed engages youth in long-term contact through consistent outdoor adventure, environmental education and stewardship, and a focus on prevention and behavioral health. All of CultureSeed's staff are bilingual and they coordinate with probation officers, judges, and court administrators to be an alternative to incarceration. Staff work with low-income youth to navigate barriers, be it incarceration, transportation, fear of deportation, or crippling anxiety, that keep youth locked in their homes. CultureSeed will contribute \$31,990 in donation of labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2286)

Friends of the Columbia Gorge

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Supporting the Explore the Gorge Education Program

The Friends of the Columbia Gorge will use this grant to support its Explore the Gorge program. Launched 14 years ago, the program brings every sixth grader in the Washougal School District to Beacon Rock State Park for 2 days of an immersive outdoor education experience. Explore the Gorge fosters students' innate curiosities with the natural world through lessons in geology, ecology, cultural history, interpretive hikes, and presentations from a diverse group of conservation leaders. The goal is to strengthen the students' sense of place and connection to their unique home and to provide powerful memories that will encourage a lifetime of recreation and conservation. This year, the Friends of the Columbia Gorge will provide videos for use in the classroom after the outdoor experience to ensure outdoor education continues. The Friends of the Columbia Gorge will contribute \$16,100 in staff labor, a local grant, and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2266)

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Lifeline Connections

Grant Awarded: \$74,627

Teaching Kids Hiking and Trail Building at Camp Mariposa

Lifeline Connections' Camp Mariposa program will use this grant to provide education on hiking, trail building, and trail mapping for kids ages 9-12 affected by substance use disorders of family members. The program's objective is to give kids the knowledge, tools, and coping skills to prevent them from developing a drug or alcohol abuse disorder of their own. The camp convenes over six weekends at Camp Wa-Ri-Ki in Skamania County, with day activities held between camp weekends at outdoor locations in Clark County. The kids will learn about trail mapping and how to use Global Positioning System (GPS) navigators from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees. They will help convert the trails at Camp Wa-Ri-Ki into educational nature trails and develop trail maps. The kids will receive free hiking boots and socks and bus transportation to camp weekends. Camp Mariposa was started to support youth in the region during the opioid epidemic. A key factor in reducing the drug abuse is early intervention and prevention. Lifeline Connections will contribute \$37,400 in a local grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2178)

Play Frontier

Grant Awarded: \$24,931

Buying Bunch Bikes for a Nature Playschool

Play Frontier will use this grant to buy two Bunch Bikes, supplies, and staff time to expand the outdoor adventures of its nonprofit nature playschool. The grant will allow Frontier to provide at least 200 preschooler and toddler bike trips each year for 2 years. The electric-assisted, six-seat cargo bunch bikes will allow trips into Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Trout Creek area. More than 33 percent of participating youth qualify for free or reduced lunch. Youth will explore the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Pacific Crest Trail, and Beacon Rock State Park. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2300)

Snohomish County

Glacier Peak Institute

Grant Awarded: \$117,591

Promising Outdoor Adventures for Youth

The Glacier Peak Institute will use this grant to provide gear, coordination, knowledge, transportation, and mentorship for marginalized youth to experience outdoor adventures. The PROMISE (Promoting the Outdoors: Momentum in Snohomish & Skagit Outdoor Education) program's goals are to build a growth mindset and lifetime passion to explore the full beauty of Washington's outdoors. This grant will serve rural, tribal, low-income, and youth of color. A

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portion of the grant goes to training alumni of these programs to become volunteer raft, hike, and bike guides for participating youth to see adults with similar backgrounds persist in the outdoors. Based in the north Cascade Mountains, the Glacier Peak Institute was created after the tragic Oso mudslide to combat youths' limited access to the outdoors, marginalization, cuts to school programs, and adverse conditions. The Glacier Peak Institute will contribute \$252,772 in donations of cash, equipment, and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2366)

Sound Experience Launching and Growing Everett at Sea

Grant Awarded: \$32,685

Sound Experience will use grant to launch its Everett at Sea program in 2021 and grow it in 2022. Everett at Sea will provide 60 youth ages 12-18 from the Casino Road community of Everett with on-the-water programs aboard the National Historic Landmark schooner Adventuress. The Everett at Sea program stems from a successful 2019 pilot where Everett teens participated in a multi-day voyage aboard Adventuress, guided by a crew of educators and community mentors, including police officers. Everett at Sea will launch with teens participating in week-long programming that culminates in sailing the tall ship as crew members in-training. Teens will explore environmental science topics such as ocean acidification, plankton, marine life, and marine debris and microplastics in the Salish Sea as well as learn the maritime skills needed to sail the ship. Sound Experience will contribute \$10,895 in a private grant and donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2415)

Spokane County

Camp Fire Inland Northwest Council Expanding Outdoor Camps for Spokane's Urban Youth

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

Camp Fire proposes will use this grant to pay fees and provide transportation to summer camps for 300 youth who are experiencing poverty, who are Native American, or who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning. The goal of the program is to remove barriers to outdoor education for Spokane's urban youth. Most of these youth lack safe outdoor spaces to play and are experiencing homelessness, trauma, and hunger. Children will attend a week of Camp Fire summer camp, either day camp at Camp Dart-Lo on the Little Spokane River or overnight camp at Camp Sweyolakan on Lake Coeur d'Alene. There, they will participate in hiking, boating, swimming, fishing, archery, pacing, orienteering, knife safety, whittling, fire building, and camp cooking. Camp Fire Inland Northwest Council will contribute \$25,000 in local

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and private grants and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2356)

Spokane Conservation District Creating Portable Outdoor Learning Labs

Grant Awarded: \$18,500

The Spokane Conservation District will use this grant to fund Outdoor Learning Labs, which are portable kits that contain tools to engage in outdoor learning and investigations, information for educators, printed materials for students, and activities aligned with state learning standards. The lab themes include forestry, pond ecology, wildlife, orienteering, soils, gardening, and insects and pollinators. The kits will be designed to outfit groups of 30 students but there will be smaller labs in backpacks for families to check out at the district's outdoor learning campus, which is free and open to the public. The grant also will pay for transportation to facilitate using the labs at Riverside State Park. The overall goal of this project is to provide quality outdoor learning experiences for urban youth in Spokane County. The Spokane Conservation District will contribute \$5,000. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2208)

STIX Diabetes Programs Supporting Summer Camps for Diabetic Youth

Grant Awarded: \$75,000

STIX Diabetes Programs will use this grant to support its summer camps. The vision of STIX was to provide a traditional outdoor summer camp experience while empowering youth with diabetes to rise above their illness and achieve their full potential in life. Having campers step outside their comfort zones, take positive risks, and learn to manage their diabetes while experiencing new outdoor activities was paramount in the planning process. Outdoor time inherently encourages movement, which is vital for physical, mental, and emotional health. The camps will be at YMCA Camp Reed, which sits on 555 acres along the banks of Fan Lake, 30 miles north of Spokane. The camp provides hiking, swimming, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, rope courses, archery, outdoor crafts, games, and adventuring. STIX Diabetes Programs will contribute \$40,000 in donations of cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2374)

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Thurston County

Garden-Raised Bounty Expanding Farming Programs for Youth

Grant Awarded: \$140,000

Garden-Raised Bounty (GRuB) will use this grant to expand its outdoor youth farm and garden programming. Along with partners Tumwater FRESH, Eatonville GRITS, and Muckleshoot Tribal Schools, GRuB will engage more than 850 kindergarten through high school students in 136,000 hours of outdoor learning. About 75 percent of the kids are people of color, 65 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch, and 25 percent have a physical, behavioral, or cognitive challenge. Activities will include farming and gardening, hiking, identifying plants, harvesting and preparing wild foods and medicines, restoring habitat, learning science, and creating art. Activities will occur in state parks, on tribal lands, in school gardens, and at youth-led farms. Titled "Cultivating Youth, Food, and Ecosystems," the curriculum lifts Native American voices, revitalizes knowledge, and promotes culturally-responsive teaching practices. The primary goal of this project is to engage youth in outdoor learning experiences that provide meaningful connection to land, nutritious food, culture, and community. Garden-Raised Bounty will contribute \$216,400 in donations of cash, a local grant, and a private grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2085)

Nisqually River Foundation Supporting a Nisqually Tribal Youth Outdoor Education Program

Grant Awarded: \$95,638

The Nisqually River Foundation will use this grant to provide an outdoor education program for up to 100 students in its Youth Services Program and up to 40 students in the Wa He Lut Indian School. Meeting monthly, the students will gain new exposure to outdoor recreation, traditional foods, outdoor survival skills, the power of their treaty rights, and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. The program will connect youth with place-based learning throughout the Nisqually River watershed, from the source of the river at the Nisqually Glacier on Mount Rainier; to the confluences of the Mashel River, Ohop Creek, and Nisqually River at Nisqually State Park; to the estuary at Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge; and to Puget Sound at Tolmie State Park and Anderson Island. The program combines service and recreation, with activities including hiking, camping, kayaking, horseback riding, snowshoeing, and exploring traditional ecological knowledge and food sources. The Nisqually River Foundation will contribute \$52,927 in staff labor and donations of equipment, labor, and materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2186)

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Puget Sound Estuarium Providing Environmental Education Field Trips

Grant Awarded: \$54,626

The Puget Sound Estuarium will use this grant to provide four field trips for more than 1,000 kids from kindergarten through high school. These trips serve kids predominantly from poorer communities across three school districts in Mason and Thurston Counties. The field trips bring students to the Estuarium facility, on a charter boat tour of Budd Inlet, on a walking tour of Olympia's shoreline, and to estuarine habitat restoration sites in the Oakland Bay and Henderson watersheds. Students learn about landforms and geology, water quality, estuarine and marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and human impacts including the effects of climate change on the south Sound and greater Salish Sea. The primary objective of the Estuarium's Education Program Field Trips is to foster the next generation of stewards of southern Puget Sound. The Puget Sound Estuarium will contribute \$18,600 in a private grant and donations of equipment and labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2270)

Wa-Ya Outdoor Institute Supporting the Wa-Ya Outdoor School

Grant Awarded: \$24,700

The Wa-Ya Outdoor Institute will use this grant to support its summer camp, including staffing, camping and kayaking equipment, and scholarships and transportation for low-income kids. The camp engages 200 youth, ages 6-14, and high school leaders in a program that combines science, technology, engineering, art, and math curriculum with indigenous culture, outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship in the southern Puget Sound region. Summer programs are entirely outdoors and include teachings by tribal community members and elders focused on indigenous ecological knowledge, stories, and art. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Capital Land Trust professionals also provide lessons during field trips. Program activities will take place on tribal, local, state, and federal lands throughout Thurston County. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2143)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Teaching Kids Paddle Safety

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

The Washington State Parks' Boating Program will use this grant to create its paddle safe program for 960 kids ages 11-14. The kids will learn the principles of paddle safety and environmental stewardship while on the water. The program will provide a 4-hour outdoor experience with 3 hours of on-water training. About 70 percent of participants will be low-income youth of color and 40 percent will be English language learners. Program activities will take place on public lands throughout the state. State Parks will contribute \$42,420 in a state

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appropriation and donated labor. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2396)

Wild Grief Supporting the Healing Power of Nature

Grant Awarded: \$25,000

Wild Grief will use this grant to maintain and expand its outdoor grief support programming for youth. Wild Grief will provide 100 grieving youth with camping, backpacking, and hiking experiences, creating the space for sharing, connecting, and healing in nature. About 55 percent of Wild Grief participants are youth of color and 55 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch. Wild Grief offers a rare program of peer grief support combined with the healing power of nature that aids grieving youth and serves to bond participants to nature in an innovative and transformative manner. Wild Grief programming includes 4-day backpacking trips for grieving teens, 3-day campouts for families, and day hikes throughout the year. Programs take place on public lands throughout western Washington. Wild Grief will contribute \$40,302 in a private grant and donated cash. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2151)

Walla Walla County

Blue Mountain Land Trust Supporting Access to Nature Kids Programming

Grant Awarded: \$17,865

Blue Mountain Land Trust will use this grant to support its outdoor environmental education program: Nature Kids. This program engages about 1,100 youth ages 4-18 with environmental education, outdoor recreation, and conservation experiences. About 31 percent of participants are Latin American and 85 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch. Nature Kids programming explores environmental education subjects through hands-on activities, field research, and presentations by science educators and experts. Program activities will take place at community spaces, local parks, and public lands in the Blue Mountain region in southeast Washington. Blue Mountain Land Trust will contribute \$10,980 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2291)

Touchet School District Teaching Kids about Salmon Restoration

Grant Awarded: \$17,000

The Touchet School District will use this grant to provide outdoor physical education classes to students in 4th through 7th grades in a variety of area parks, such as Sacajawea State Park, Lewis

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and Clark Trails State Park, Bennington Lake, Fort Walla Walla, The Whitman Mission, and Camp Wooten State Park. The students will hike to restoration projects completed by the Tri-State Steelheaders. Students will learn about restoration techniques, why they are needed at each location, what makes good fish habitat, what is riparian habitat, and why land along streams are important to wildlife. In addition, students will restore land along waterways by planting willow cuttings. Students also will be introduced to a variety of places in the Walla Walla area to pursue hiking, orienteering, fishing, camping, and survival techniques. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1988)

Whatcom County

Community Boating Center Teaching Youth How to Boat

Grant Awarded: \$14,650

The Community Boating Center will use this grant to help 100 underserved youth between the ages of 5 and 18 participate in weeklong Adventure Camps during the next two summers. It also will also support a 200-hour Junior Instructor training program for 15 youth ages 14-18. During the camps, students will sail, kayak, row, and participate in stewardship work while receiving training in cold-water safety, science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. These camps are designed for students with outdoor experience to build a lifelong passion for small boat recreation and marine biology. The Community Boating Center will offer complimentary season passes to all youth who complete the program. The Community Boating Center will contribute \$29,960 in materials. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2232)

Lummi Nation Supporting Lummi Youth Living and Protecting Schelangen

Grant Awarded: \$99,185

The Lummi Nation will use this grant for an environmental science program that provides tribal youth with culturally relevant environmental science activities and hands-on education. "Schelangen" is a Lummi word meaning "way of life." It is the living identity of the Lummi people and their collective, shared cultural knowledge. The program integrates environmental science and schelangen in the classroom for 175 students in third through eighth grades at the Lummi Nation School. The students participate in intertidal beach surveys, water quality testing, habitat restoration, traditional spring fishing, nature walks, and salmon and shellfish hatchery tours. The program's two goals are to engage Lummi Nation students in stewardship activities and to connect tribal youth with Lummi elders, natural resources managers, Lummi fisheries commissioners, and community leaders who can provide traditional knowledge and stories, and the Lummi history of fishing, hunting, and gathering. The Lummi Nation will contribute \$35,840

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in equipment. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2328)

Whitman County

Palouse Conservation District Cultivating Conservationists in the Palouse

Grant Awarded: \$43,000

The Palouse Conservation District will use this grant to implement an outdoor environmental education program for high school students. At Steptoe Butte State Park, students will develop an understanding of the biological diversity of the Palouse Prairie, including the threatened Spaldings Catchfly, and witness an example of private land transitioning into public hands. Standing along the banks of an eroded and restored corridor at Klemgard County Park, students will gain an understanding of the ecological purpose these corridors play in healthy watersheds. Where the Rocky Mountains break east at Mount Spokane State Park, students will observe the transitional zone from prairie to forest and the challenges land managers face in a changing climate. Guided by natural resource professionals, students will engage in scientific inquiry through hands-on natural resource assessments and experiential learning opportunities at these three parks. Students also will develop a sense of place as they carry out assessments of plant diversity, soil health, water quality, effectiveness of conservation practices, and other indicators of ecosystem health and change. The Palouse Conservation District will contribute \$14,334 in federal and local grants. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-2274)

Yakima County

Yakima Valley Farm Workers Supporting an Outdoor Adventure Program

Grant Awarded: \$150,000

The Yakima Valley Farm Workers will use this grant to support the Outdoor Adventure Program, which is an after-school program that aims to provide meaningful outdoor experiences for youth who have little or no access to Washington's state and national parks. In the lower Yakima Valley, the program will provide services to 980 low-income youth, of which 92 percent are youth of color, 66 percent are English language learners, and 94 percent qualify for free and reduced lunch. The goals are to engage students in learning experiences that promote personal responsibility and improve academic performance through a variety of activities, including hiking, camping, swimming, backpacking, outdoor cooking, and environmental outdoor education. The program's adventures will take place on public lands throughout Yakima County

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and its surrounding state and national parks, and are the culmination of a place-based curriculum emphasizing physical health and academic, social, and emotional growth. Yakima Valley Farm Workers will contribute \$55,215 in a federal grant. Visit RCO's online Project Snapshot [for more information and photographs of this project](#). (20-1960)